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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 25 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nellie and Thomas Knotts House  
other names/site number 8

2. Location

street & number 1021 26th Street  not for publication  
city, town Des Moines  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50311

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Drake University and Related Properties in Des Moines, Iowa, 1881-1918  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
James E. [Signature] DSHPO Date July 15, 1988  
Signature of certifying official  
Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
James M. [Signature] Date 9/8/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood/weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood/shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The 2-story house is a good example of the Gabled Ell Type. The chamfered front section has gable-end detail, simple brackets, two paired windows surrounded by a semi-circular shape, and fishscale shingle. The small hipped porch (partly enclosed) has turned columns, brackets, and knobs arrayed in a curved pattern. There are reeded Stick Style panels along the base, in the gable end, and between the first and second stories, an attractive feature. Along the north (left) side are heavily moulded lintels and unusual sill detail. Windows are not original.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education/college

Period of Significance

1881-1913

Significant Dates

by 1894

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This property is significant because it directly illustrates the effect of Drake University's innovative financing techniques upon settlement in one of the ten plats around the campus. It is significant under Criterion A: properties related to the financial development of Drake University, 1881-1913. The property is located in one of the ten plats owned by the University Land Company or Drake University and its construction dates from within fifteen years of when the plat was filed. See the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "The Successful Beginnings of Drake University."

University Land Company stockholder Adam Howell received three lots, including this one, in 1886. The property was platted in 1882. In 1891 he sold this lot to Harold R. Howell. Nellie J. and Thomas H. Knotts owned the property from 1893 until at least 1907. They were listed at this address in 1894, ten years after platting. Thomas H. Knotts was president of Iowa Printing Company and later a manager of Union Mutual Life Insurance Company. The house is one of only two on the east side of the block on the 1901 Sanborn map.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Des Moines City Directories, 1894.  
Auditor's Office Records.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1901.  
Long, Barbara Beving. Multiple Property Documentation Form, "The Successful Beginnings of Drake University." 1987.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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4	4	5	7	1	0
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4	6	0	4	8	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 215, University Land Company's 1st Addition. See map (site #8) for Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Drake University and Related Properties in Des Moines, Iowa, 1881-1918."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that portion of the city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Barbara Beving Long, Historian  
organization Midwest Research date 3/1/1988  
street & number 3140 Easton Blvd telephone 515/266-4964  
city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50317