

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

SEP 12 1985

date entered

OCT 10 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Taylor-Van Note House

and/or common Blairs Ferry Wayside Inn/Vanesther Place

2. Location

street & number 4600 Blairs Ferry Road _____ not for publication

city, town Cedar Rapids _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Linn code 113

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Laurence N. Van Note

street & number 4600 Blairs Ferry Road

city, town Cedar Rapids _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Linn County Courthouse

city, town Cedar Rapids _____ state Iowa 52401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Taylor-Van Note House is a two story, heavy timber framed house located near Cedar Rapids. Constructed in 1846, it exemplifies what is traditionally known as an "I" house, and also Vernacular Greek Revival architectural styling. It is the oldest house in its area and despite a rear addition, has been well preserved.

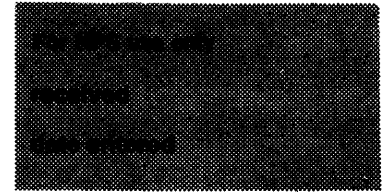
The main (south) facade of the Taylor-Van Note House features a central door on the first floor and two windows that are balanced on either side. The second floor fenestration consists of five windows evenly spaced across the facade. The entire facade is also symmetrically organized on a vertical axis. All of the windows are double-hung sash with 6/6 panes. The small open porch looks as it did in the earliest known photographs. A simple transom and side lites surround the door. The transom is a long narrow band of clear glass that is divided by muntins into five evenly sized panes, and the side lites are also plain bands of glass that are divided by muntins into four evenly sized panes. The transom spans both the door and the side lites, giving the impression that the small panes of glass wrap around the door's opening. Any other decorative features are minimal, and the trim is very basic. Two small colonial fixtures flank the doorway and are the only noticeable changes that have been made to the front facade, although the building also featured shutters at every window historically.

The house is what is typically referred to as an "I" house, in that the main portion of the house is two stories high, one room deep, and two rooms in length. At one time, chimneys were located at each end of the building at the ridge. The gables are open to the side, and the entry hall is centrally located. The two first floor rooms are 14'-0" x 16'-0", which is deep for an "I" house by most standards. It is a "T" plan, although the rear portion of the house is only one story in height. Because the heavy timber framing is found throughout the main portion of the building and the one story rear portion, it is assumed that they were constructed at the same time. On the interior, much of the original woodwork remains in the front four large rooms and the entryway. Pine panel doors, butternut door and window trim, and a walnut stair rail are intact.

STRUCTURAL

The Taylor-Van Note House is located at 4600 Blairs Ferry Road N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The house faces south and is located to the west of the pump house, bee house, tool shed and barn. However, because of a lack of documentation, only the house is included in this nomination. The foundation of the house is stone, and the structural system is heavy wood frame. The house has a very unusual framework which consists of hand hewn framing members with bracings that are similar to those often found in barn

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Continuation sheet

Physical Description

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construction. The builder used a tongue-in-groove framing method. The sizes of the framing members used are also worth noting. The sills are 10" x 10", beams 8" x 8", plates 6" x 8", and corner posts 8" x 8". The exterior of the house is covered with clapboards and the gable roof is covered with wood shingles. One brick chimney is located on the west end of the roof at the ridgeboard in the main part of the house, and the chimney that was once opposite this has since been capped under the roof. The house's owner hopes to restore this chimney at some time. Another brick chimney is located at what was the rear of the house prior to the building of an addition.

ALTERATIONS

In the period between 1957 and 1961, a series of alterations were made to the house, including a rear addition by Lawrence Van Note, the present owner of the house. This addition is located at the rear of the original structure. The original structural system of the one story rear portion of the house, as well as its exterior shell, were retained when this area was remodeled and the addition was constructed. The addition consists of a den, which is 14'-0" x 16'-0", and a garage, which is 24'-0" x 30'-0". It cannot be seen when viewing the main facade, but is readily visible from the side. Changes were also made to one of the original first floor rooms, by converting it from a buttry, closet and bedroom to a utility room. The original kitchen-dining room walls were previously plaster, but now that has been replaced with vertical ponderosa pine car siding on the side walls and the ceiling is covered with celotex tiles. The four front rooms now have oak flooring instead of the original 1" x 6" pine floorboards. On the exterior, new siding, roofing and windows were applied, although these alterations match the original historic materials that they are replacing.

PHYSICAL CONTEXT

The Taylor-Van Note property is 4 acres in area. The other buildings and structures on the property include a barn (1850), a bee house (1850), a tool shed (1915), and a pump house (1912). In general, because of its close proximity to the Cedar Rapids city limits, it is in an area that is a mixture of acreages, new housing developments and farms. The Taylor-Van Note House is the oldest house in the neighborhood, and is one of the oldest houses in the county. Because it is located in what has always been a farming area, there are several older houses near the property, although most of the houses in the area have been built during the last twenty years.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1846

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Taylor-Van Note House exemplifies a simplified mid-western interpretation of the Vernacular Greek Revival architectural style. Its heavy timber framing is intact and is well preserved. Throughout its history, only two families have owned the house since it was built in 1846.

The Taylor-Van Note House was built by Charles Taylor, whose family occupied it for 42 years. It is a documented example of the type of early settlement construction that was used during the era when balloon framing was the dominant mode of building. All of the original sills, beams, plates, corner posts, floor joists, studs, rafters and corner braces are hand hewed framing members. The floor joists are round logs which have been blazed on one side to provide a nailing surface for the floor. Many of the joists still have their bark intact. All of the framing with the exception of the rafters features the mortise and tenon type of joinery. The method of construction was thoroughly examined during the remodeling and addition phase of 1957-61, and the original framing was retained when the changes were made.

Another facet of the Taylor-Van Note House history is the legend of its use as a wayside inn for overnight travelers. Though otherwise undocumented, there is a strong oral tradition that suggests that as westward covered wagon migration increased, the Taylor family lived in the back part of the house and rented the front four rooms to travelers. Apparently, as an added convenience, Mr. Taylor built a large corral from wooden rails to confine the traveler's horses and oxen for the night. Remnants of this corral and a long row of hitching posts were still standing when Mr. Van Note's grandfather, Lazarus Van Note, purchased the property from the Taylor family in 1888. Both families who have occupied the house, as well as other early settlers in the neighborhood, have always referred to the house by the name of "Blairs Ferry Wayside Inn". This name came about because of the house's proximity to the ferry boat operation run by James Blair across the Cedar River. The house is located one mile from the point where Blair's Ferry ran, beginning in 1854, and is on the road that leads to directly to it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cedar Rapids North

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

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4	6	5	5	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification A part of the N.E. quarter of the SW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 36, T-84N, R-8W. The precise area included being defined by the subject property, beginning at the north edge of Blair's Ferry Road, a line 30' east of the house and 140' south from the SE corner. Thence north and around the house with a 30'

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries buffer area and back to the road with a 100' wide
state N/A code county code frontage.

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Text by Ms. Mary Anne Beecher, Summer Intern
Form prepared by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa HPO, State Historical Department date August 22, 1985

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Towell G. Lohr*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 26, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

Melores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

date 10-10-85

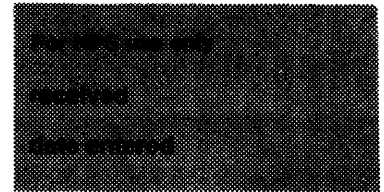
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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1. Brewer, Luther and Wick, B.L., A History of Linn County, Iowa. Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1911.
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3. Laurence, Charles A., Pioneer Days in Cedar Rapids, 1860-1880. Laurence Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1936.
4. Lazell, Frederick, Down the Cedar River. Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1908.
5. Cedar Rapids Democrat 1856-57.
6. Cedar Valley Times 1859-64.