

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 5 - 1982

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Billingsley - Hills House

AND/OR COMMON

Veatch Residence

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

629 Melrose Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Iowa

CODE

19

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

103

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- N.A. ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. & Mrs. M.A. Veatch

STREET & NUMBER

629 Melrose Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Johnson Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Clinton Street

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

N. A.

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N. A.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Billingsley-Hills House, situated in a residential area on the west side of Iowa City, is a well-preserved example of the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate mode so popular in Iowa in the years immediately preceding and following the Civil War. Erected in 1870, this northwardly-facing, two-story edifice is of wood frame construction. Its walls rest on stone foundations over a full basement and are sheathed in white painted wooden clapboards. The Greek Revival influence is apparent in the low pitched gable roof, pilastered corner boards, entablature with dentils and returns along the roofline, and the rectangular transom over the front door which is broken by engaged piers flanked by sidelights that surround the door. The Italianate is evidenced by the wide eaves with heavy carved brackets along the roofline; the two-story bay window on the east side; the bayed entrance; and floor length windows. Windows are generally of the two-over-two wood sash variety and are set in rectangular surrounds.

The L-shaped front porch is of later vintage but compatible with the older portion of the house. Supported by five Roman Doric columns, it features a plain entablature and cornece capped with a flat roof. Exterior alteration over the years appears to have been minimal. In the early 1930's pendants were removed from the roof brackets and a deteriorated porch and shed at the rear were taken down. Adjoining the house on the west is a one-and-one-half story carriage house and servants' quarters. Erect between 1920 and 1932, this edifice is of wood frame construction and is sheathed in white painted wooden clapboards similar to those on the house. It is capped with a medium pitched gable roof, featuring a plain boxed cornice with returns and pierced by gabled dormers.

Inside, the house follows a side hall plan with parlor, living room, dining room, kitchen, and sun room on the first floor and six bedrooms plus a sleeping porch on the upper level. The house has had numerous owners over the years, and many alterations have been made to its interior. In the front portion, however, are several features which appear to be original. These include eleven inch baseboards with grooves and scrolls; a staircase with walnut spindles and balustrades and featuring fancy wood cutouts; a black iron fireplace with leafy scrolls and grape clusters and framed by black and white ceramic tiles; and paneled wood doors.

The Billingsley-Hills House is unique in its immediate neighborhood. The oldest house in this area, it is one of seven architecturally distinct residences around Melrose Circle. Across the street from it is the neighborhood's newest home.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1870-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Billingsley

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Billingsley-Hills house is one of a dwindling handful of transitional Greek Revival-Italianate houses still extant in Iowa City. Dwellings like these were extremely popular in Iowa and Iowa City immediately preceding and following the Civil War, but rather numerous, but over the years the vast majority have either been demolished or so extensively altered beyond recognition. This house is particularly noteworthy because of its high degree of integrity. Although the porch is a replacement, it dates from the late 19th or early 20th century and is compatible with the house.

William Billingsley erected this house in 1870 on a 38 acre tract he had purchased the previous year. In 1881 he sold the property to a Mr. Custer, and before the turn of the century the property had at least three other owners. By the time William A. Kettlewell, son of Iowa City's pioneer blacksmith, purchased the house in 1901, the original 38 acre tract had shrunk to the present day 90 by 120 foot lot. In 1912 Kettlewell sold the house to grocer George Barth who owned it only for a short time. By the time Dr. Orton, head of the Psychiatric Hospital, bought the property in 1920, it had changed hands four times.

In 1952 a university of Iowa business professor, bought the house from Dr. Orton. He lived there until 1974, far longer than any previous owner. Hills, who was active in many important university and community activities and functions, served for 10 years Vice Dean of the College of Commerce and later head of the Department of General Business. He sold the house to the present owners, who currently are renovating and restoring it.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet Item Number 9)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Iowa City West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 620880 4612440

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet page two, on back

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N.A.			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ralph Christian, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

October 1980, December 1982

STREET & NUMBER

East 12th and Grand Avenue

TELEPHONE

515/281-3306

CITY OR TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa

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

Adrian H. Anderson

TITLE

Director

DATE

12/10/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Linda McClelland

DATE

1-21-83

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 5 - 1962

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE two

Atlas of Johnson County, Iowa (Davenport: Huebinger Survey
and Map Publishing Co., 1900).

Portrait and Biographical Record of Johnson, Powesheik, and
Iowa Counties (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1893).

Thompson and Everts, Combination Atlas Map of Johnson County,
Iowa (Geneva, Il.: Thompson and Everts, 1870).

Item 10

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the South line of Snooks Grove Road 33 feet South $2^{\circ} 38'$ East of a point 567.96 feet East of a stone at the center of said Snooks Grove Road, said stone being located at the Northwest corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 16, Twp. 79 N., R. 6 West of the 5th P.M.; thence South $2^{\circ} 38'$ East 300 feet; thence due West 100 feet; thence North $2^{\circ} 38'$ West 300 feet; thence East 100 feet to the point of beginning.