

914

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Bassnett/Nickerson House
other names/site number T. K. Nickerson House

2. Location

street & number 116 S. Vermont not for publication
city, town Maquoketa vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52060

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, Iowa
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.
David [Signature] 6/10/92
Signature of certifying official Date
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. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 7/24/92
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

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)

Mid-19th Century

Vernacular Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Limestone

roof Composition Singles

other Wood Frame

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bassnett/Nickerson house (c.1875) is located on the west side of Vermont Street, just one block south of West Platt Street, and one block west of the West Pleasant Street Historic District. Of limestone construction, it is rectangular in shape (the main block measuring 24' x 34', and a rear wing measuring 19' x 18'), two stories high, with a low pitched hip roof. Although the roofline and broad eaves show the influence of the Italianate style, there are no brackets, nor signs of brackets, beneath the eaves. The stonework here is extremely rough, both in terms of surface texture, and in the size and shape of the stones used. Many of the stones are large, approximately 15" square, while others are very narrow and long, or quite small. It can best be described as random rubble. On the facade there was an attempt made to lay the stones in more regular courses, and at each of the corners large stones are used to create a quoined effect. Openings throughout the house are segmental arched. Dressed stone is used for the sills and watertable. The front entry on the east elevation is offset to the right of center. A polygonal bay of wood frame construction is located near the front of the south wall. There are two interior brick chimneys, one in the main block and one in the rear. At the southwest corner of the house is a porch (now screened in) with turned porch posts. The steps leading to the front entry are not original.

Immediately to the south of the Bassnett/Nickerson house is the Sacred Heart School and Church complex. With this exception, the neighborhood is completely residential in character. The houses in the block range in construction date from c.1890 through 1930. All are of wood frame construction except the house in question.

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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1875

Significant Dates

c.1875

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.

The Bassnett/Nickerson house (c.1875) is significant under Criterion C as a good example of an uncommon residential design (hip roof rectangle) executed in limestone.

This two story house is one of 217 limestone structures recorded in Jackson County, and one of 101 houses identified. Only twelve of the 101 houses have hip roofs, the others all being gabled. Of the twelve, five are located along the Paradise Valley Road in Bellevue Twp., and date to the late 1840s and '50s. Several of the others appear to date c.1900 and do not fall within the period of significance for limestone architecture in Jackson County. The Bassnett/Nickerson house is the only one of the hip roof houses which appears to date from the 1870s and shows the influence of the popular Italianate style. The pitch of the roof and width of the eaves are representative of Italianate houses of the period, but it lacks the brackets normally associated with the style. The stonework on this house is unusual. It is much rougher in both texture and technique than is seen on other buildings. Rather than blocks of cut stone laid in courses, here we find walls of random rubble. Another somewhat unusual feature is the use of segmental arched openings. Throughout the eastern part of Iowa limestone and heavy timber lintels were used in masonry construction until c.1860. After that date we find a greater use of segmental or round arches. The majority of the limestone houses and buildings in Jackson County feature lintels of dressed stone above the doors and windows because they were built prior to c.1860.

The date of construction of the Bassnett/Nickerson house has not been documented but has been estimated based on design elements (low pitched hip roof, broad eaves, segmental arched openings, and the polygonal bay). In addition, examination of the abstract of title shows transfer from Schuyler Eddy (who had owned the land since 1855) to Thomas Bassnett in November 1875 (\$400), and from Bassnett & wife

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title, Eddy 2nd Addition, Lot 78 & S 10' Lot 79, City of Maquoketa.
Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.
History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879, p 648.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1886, 1892, 1899, 1906, 1914, 1927.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	9	2	5	0	0
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4	6	5	9	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

City of Maquoketa, Eddy 2nd Addition, Lot 78 and S 10' Lot 79.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743

organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1992

street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181

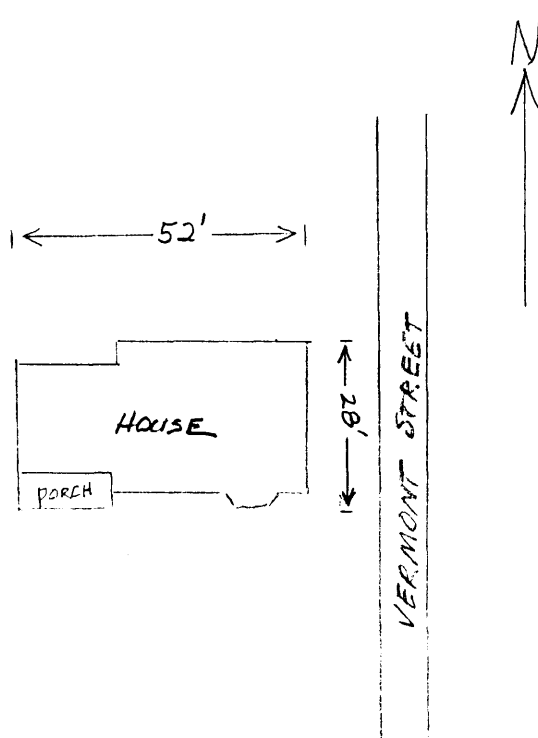
city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

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CFN-259-1116



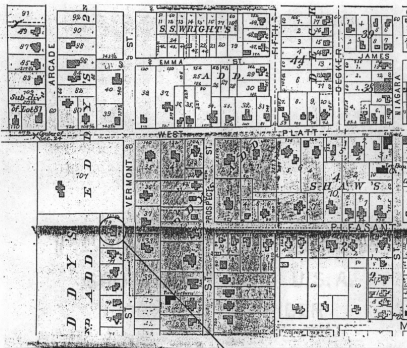
Bassnett/Nickerson House, 116 S. Vermont, Maquoketa.

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CFR-209-1118



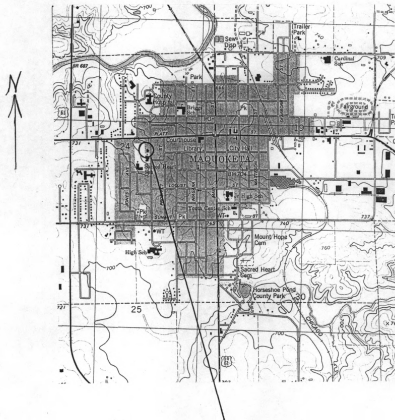
1893 Plat Map of Maquoketa showing Bassnett/Nickerson House.

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CFN-258-1116



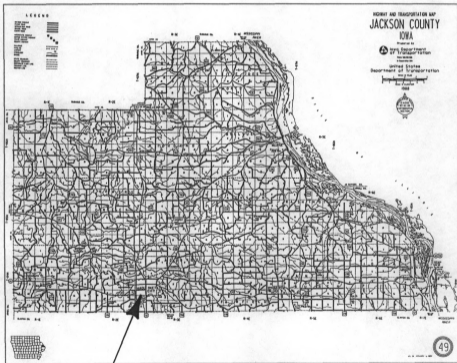
U.S.G.S. Map of Maquoketa showing location of Bassnett/Nickerson House.

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CFN-259-1116



Location of Bassnett/Nickerson House, Maquoketa, South Fork Twp.

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to Helen Wilbur in March 1876 (\$1), and then to T.K. Nickerson in October 1886 (\$2500). The transfer from Bassnett to Wilbur stressed "land and appurtenances" leading to the conclusion that the house was added at that time. This is logical stylistically. The identification of the house as the Nickerson house is based on common local usage. Nickerson was a very prominent businessman in the Maquoketa community. Until purchasing this house in 1886 he had lived on his 320 acre farm one and one-half miles west of the city on the Maquoketa River. There he ran a successful saw mill, flouring mill, and woolen mill. In 1876 he began quarrying limestone on his property. After the mills burned in 1883 he turned to the production of burnt lime. While he was never the major lime producer that Hurstville and Joinerville were, he played a significant role in the industry locally. This house remained in his family until 1917.

Due to the abundance of limestone in the Maquoketa area it had been anticipated that a number of limestone houses and buildings would be recorded in the city. The Bassnett/Nickerson house is the only one in the community which can be readily identified as being of stone construction, though there may be others which have been covered with new materials. Originally there was one stone commercial building at the SW corner of Platt and Main streets. Known as the "Stone Store" it was replaced in the early 20th century. Although there were eleven stone masons residing in Maquoketa according to the 1870 census, no determination has been made as to the mason responsible for this house.