

PH 0663778

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 23 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1978

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  
Albright House  
AND/OR COMMON  
"Betsy Ross House"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
716-718 Avenue F  
CITY, TOWN  
Fort Madison  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF  
COUNTY  
Lee  
CODE  
111  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Aileen Gates Mustell  
STREET & NUMBER  
104 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 807  
CITY, TOWN  
Chicago  
STATE  
Illinois 60603  
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Lee County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Avenue F  
CITY, TOWN  
Fort Madison  
STATE  
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Albright House is a double Italianate "suburban" residence. It is three stories high, built of brick laid in 8-course common bond. The watertable, only slightly above grade, is of stone, as are lintels and sills. Trim is wood. Roofing material is now composition shingle; original roofing is unknown.

In overall plan, the house is a Greek cross, with blunted stems; each unit is thus T-shaped in plan, with the stem of the T constituting a shallow projection (one bay in depth) in the center of the side facade.

Windows on the first floor are consistently finished with stone lintels. Those of the front stem of the cross are floor length, and double hung, with 6/12 lights. The two windows of the front facade of the stem are tripartite, also floor length, with 2/4 and 6/12 sash. Each of these opens onto a shallow porch. The porches vary in height and are probably not original. The front windows of the second floor (all the windows of the front stem and the windows of the front-side faces of the side stems) are finished with semicircular brick arches laid in a double order. Those of the front face of the front stem are floor length French casements opening onto balconies atop the front porches. The remainder of the second floor windows are rectangular, finished with stone lintels, and, although quite tall, are not floor length. Windows of the third story are consistently square, finished with stone lintels and sills and double-hung (2/2).

The cornice is widely overhanging and decorated with large dentils and paired brackets with pendants. (In the center of the front facade, two pairs of brackets are joined to express the dual nature of the residence.) The roof is hipped, extremely shallow, and hardly visible from the street. At the apex is a deck, which may have been meant for an observatory which was never built.

Entrance to each of the units is from porches built into the front angles. The rear angles of each unit were at some later date filled in with one-story frame additions which now serve as small kitchens.

The house is on the south side of the street, and the lot slopes off to the rear. This allowed a walk-in kitchen at the rear of the house in the basement. Two brick stables behind the house have long since been demolished. The front of the lot is terraced to raise it approximately 4' above street level.

# 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      1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Albright House is an uncommon example of the direct importation of Eastern high styles into Iowa, at an early period in the history of the state. It was erected in the late 1850's (1858, according to the Fort Madison Democrat, 26 Jan. 1952), for brothers Jacob and William Albright, who came to Fort Madison from Philadelphia in 1839 (Fort Madison Democrat, 26 Jan. 1952). Perhaps significantly, in view of the brothers' origins, the house was patterned after a design in Samuel Sloan's The Model Architect (Philadelphia: E.G. Jones and Co., 1852) for a double Italianate residence (Design V, Plates XVIII, XIX, and XX), which, according to Sloan, "displays finely that half-town and half-country expression so essential to handsome suburban dwellings".

The house follows Sloan's pattern quite closely in floor plan and dimensions. Changes to the exterior resulted in a house of greater simplicity than the original. The Albright house was executed in brick, instead of the "stone covered with mastic" specified by Sloan, and the stone quoins of the pattern were eliminated. Other significant changes involved the doubling of the windows on the second story of the front face of the front stem, which makes the house seem somewhat more monumental than the pattern, the lowering of Sloan's basement, and the rearrangement of brackets into pairs. Porches were substituted for the bay windows of Sloan's design (although the fenestration pattern was used), and Sloan's observatory was eliminated, in apparent disregard of his admonition that the "bay windows... and observatory are highly ornamental features, and could not be omitted without doing violence to the tasteful appearance of the building".

The Albright House has long been known locally as the "Betsy Ross House", because Jacob Albright, one of the original owners of the house, in 1840 married Rachel Wilson, a granddaughter of Betsy Ross.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sloan, Samuel. The Model Architect. Philadelphia: E.G. Jones and Co., 1852.  
 Fort Madison Democrat, 26 January 1952.  
 Campbell, Erma K., "Betsy Ross and her Fort Madison Descendants", in Glimpses of First Settlers in Lee County, Jean Espy Chapter, D.A.R. (1976).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	4	2	8	6	0	4	4	9	9	0	3	0
ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

B 

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 438 and 439, original town of Fort Madison.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Aileen Gates Mustell

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

104 So. Michigan Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois 60603

# 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

*Alan B. Anderson* (MB)

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

11.11.78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Alan B. Anderson*  
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Alan B. Anderson*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William Cole*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7.24.78

DATE 6.29.78