

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 1 1979

**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

Levi P. Grinnell House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1002 Park Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Grinnell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Poweshiek

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

OTHER: student housing

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grinnell College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Grinnell

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50112

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Poweshiek County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Montezuma

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

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 Levi Grinnell house is a temple-form Greek Revival building, erected about 1860. It is located near the east edge of Grinnell's business district, in a residential area of frame 19th and early 20th century houses.

The Grinnell house is of wood frame construction on a low foundation and basement of stone, now faced with concrete. The main block is a small, 1½ story rectangle, with large corner pilasters and broad, plain cornice with partial returns. The main entrance, to the right of center, is set within a simple, aedicular frame. 6/6 d.h.s. windows have flat surrounds with diminutive dog-ears at the upper corners.

Dormers (two on the north side, one on the south) have gable roofs and 4/4 d.h.s. windows. The dormers do not appear to be part of the original construction, and are probably of late 19th century vintage.

At the rear is a one-story addition, with dormers like those of the main block. On the south side, a portion of the addition's gable roof is extended to cover a small "sunporch" lighted by three 6/6 d.h.s. windows. A portion of the roof is also extended, lean-to fashion, over a small rectangular projection of the addition on the north side. At the extreme rear is a small attached garage, with hipped roof and opening to the south.

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 c. 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is locally significant as a good, and fairly well-preserved example of temple-form Greek Revival residential architecture, and is perhaps the oldest extant structure in Grinnell. This style of architecture is relatively uncommon in Iowa, as settlement here was just beginning during the decades when the Greek Revival flourished further east. Although rather small in scale, the house preserves the proportions and clean, crisp detail characteristic of vernacular Greek Revival domestic architecture of the small towns and rural areas of the upper midwest. The main block is clearly articulated by the stout corner pilasters and wide plain cornice frieze, which set it off from the lower-scaled additions at the rear. The doorway, with its flanking pilasters and entablature, is of course another distinctive feature.

Historical information about the house is rather limited, but from available sources the house was probably built by (or for) Levi P. Grinnell, who owned the property from 1857 to 1863. Levi Grinnell was one of three brothers, born in Vermont, who came to this area in the 1850's. Levi eventually went into farming outside of town. Josiah Bushnell Grinnell, a political activist and social reformer, founded both the town and the liberal arts college there that bear his name, and went on to become an ardent abolitionist and man of influence before losing his reputation in the intricacies and corruption of post-Civil War national politics.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract of Title (Treasurer's Office, Grinnell College)
 History of Poweshiek County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1880.
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: July 1893, Nov. 1898, Feb. 1906, Nov. 1911, Sept. 1922

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Des Moines

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 52281010 46213010
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 and south one-half Lot 2, Block 16, Original Town Plat of Grinnell, Iowa.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

For Carol Shull

DATE

10-1-79

ATTEST:

William H. Bramham

DATE

9.27.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION