

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 28 1984
date entered SEP 27 1984

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

1. Name

historic Martin Hughes House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 903 3rd Street ~~Street~~ not for publication

city, town Council Bluffs vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Pottawattamie code 155

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 Peter Lloyd Hildebrand and Elizabeth Ann Hildebrand

street & number 127 Keeline

city, town Council Bluffs vicinity of state Iowa 51501

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Pottawattamie County Courthouse

city, town Council Bluffs state Iowa 51501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Jan Jennings & Herbert Gottfried has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Iowa SHPO

city, town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Martin Hughes House (1887-8) represents an eclectic combination of the Queen Anne, and Gothic architectural modes along with some stick and Neo-Classical influences. The house has suffered minimal alteration. It features a rich array of decorative art glass and terra cotta, and retains a well-preserved and richly appointed interior.

This two story red-orange brick house has an irregular plan (54 by 30) being basically a square central mass with front gabled wing, gabled side pavilions with chamfered bays, and a rear wing. The front roof portion is steeply hipped, that on the rear wing is a hip and deck combination. A raised wrap-around porch on brick piers dominates the main facade. Three chimneys with corbelled caps project from the roof, all of which are staged along a longitudinal center line, the last being an in-wall flue on the rear wall.

The house exterior is of red-orange brick, and the wall planes are visually treated with an array of special brickwork. Window surrounds including rubbed brick jack arches, are rounded on the north bay and on various terra cotta panel surrounds. Horizontal bands of angled soldier bricks with projecting upper and lower stretcher courses trace the two floor levels just below each lintel level. Solid stone belt courses similarly mark the water table and window sill levels. A corbelled brick belt course marks the break between floors. A heavily corbelled cornice with side brackets supports the pedimented gable on the north bay. Terra cotta insert panels a diamond honeycomb shaped pattern (which substitutes for the soldier course on the main facade) and other turned column pieces further decorate the exterior. Elaborate coil and rosette patterned panels fill the front gable. A band of projecting spheres trace the uppermost paneled band on the front. A large sun mural panel with elaborate terra cotta surround is inserted into the main facade above the wrap around porch.

Queen Anne elements include the chimney cap treatment, the roof line, the irregular plan, irregular fenestration, the roof top eyebrow window, and the elaborate brickwork treatment. The Gothic influence is limited to a large triangular stair landing art glass window with an ornate carved keystone (possibly asbestine?) on the south wall. The Neo-classical influence consists of the wheat and flower tin molding which trims the eaves of the side bays. The rich use of pedimented gables also provides a Neo-classical feeling.

An ell shaped wrap-around porch with heavy and simple decorative elements fills the remainder of the house front. A corner verandah with shed roof originally sat atop this porch. An angled square bay projects to the northwest from the front wing. The house rests on a high raised foundation and exhibits a number of basement windows as a result. Six rich arch glass windows form transoms, the first floor south bay windows, and the gothic window on the house. An ornate door hood survives just east of the north bay. The house retains its original built-in gutters which project above the roof plain.

Alterations to the house have included the replacement of the original porch foundation screens with the present ones of simpler and later design, the loss in 1976 of a hipped roof two story carriage house of brick (1889) formerly located just south of the house, the construction of an enclosed single story porch alongside the

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887–88 **Builder/Architect** S. E. Maxon, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Martin Hughes House (1887–8) represents an eclectic combination of the Queen Anne and Gothic architectural modes along with some Stick and Neo-Classical influences. The house has suffered minimal alteration. The house features a rich array of decorative art glass and terra cotta, and retains a well preserved and highly decorative interior.

Martin Hughes (1836–1920) settled in Council Bluffs in 1856 and developed a reputation as a notable mason. Beginning in 1868 he worked in partnership with James and O. P. Wickham, local contractors. Hughes operated a brick yard which employed sixty-five hands as of 1889. An 1891 biography noted his major commissions as including local schools, business blocks, the Episcopal Church, and many buildings in Omaha, just across the Missouri River to the west. "...He is one of the oldest contractors and builders in the city, and has been one of the most successful. He has an elegant brick residence, No. 903 Third Street, which was erected in 1888, at a cost of some \$25,000, and is one of the finest houses in the city." Martin was a large urban and rural landowner in the area. After 1881 he operated under the title of Martin Hughes and Son, with George F. Hughes, one of his eleven children.

Hughes acquired his double lot parcel in February 1887 and used it as collateral for a mortgage with which to construct this house. The Daily Nonpareil on 29 October 1887 announced "Work has commenced on Martin Hughes' new brick residence on Third Street." Another article in January 1888 noted that local architects were busily preparing plans for a host of new residences and buildings in the city, indicating that this project was part of a general building boom. The late start in 1887 was unusual, but by 10 August 1889 the same source noted "One of the finest barns in the city is being erected by Martin Hughes on his residence lot, 903 Third Street." As a builder, Hughes used his own residence to advertise building materials, building skill, and a variety of fashionable stylistic elements.

Architect S. E. Maxon produced the house plan. Noted c. 1890 as the principal architect of the city. His commissions by that date included twenty area schools, the Fremont County courthouse, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a range of business blocks as well as a \$12,000 house for Martin Hughes. "Previous to Mr. Maxon's coming to Council Bluffs everything was on the plain order of architecture, but he has changed the whole order of architecture and the city will compare favorably with any of her sister cities."

Martin Hughes died in 1920, aged 86, sixteen years after the death of his wife Mary. The house was transferred to Mary Hughes in 1895, and passed to Sarah E. Children in 1902.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ~~less than one acre~~

Quadrangle name Council Bluffs North, IA-NBR

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	6	1	3	7	0	4	5	7	0	5	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots Six and Seven, Block Three, Park Addition, Council Bluffs, includes only the house and its original lot boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO

date 22 August 1984

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

Adrian D. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department

date 23 August 1984

For NPS use only

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

Jayne M. Sammons
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-27-84

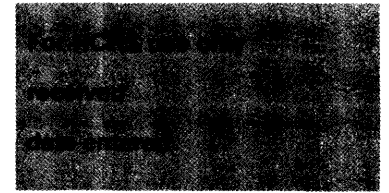
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Physical Description

Item number 7

Page 2

rear of the house (pre-1926), and the loss on the main facade of the second floor verandah (after 1957). After 1957 the original porch posts were replaced and the slate roof was shingled.

Inside the house presents a striking array of original features. These include a paneled oak staircase, three single or paired pocket door sets, a coffin corner turn at the staircase base with two windows of fixed art glass, oak wainscoting, carved oak front parlor fireplace with a large mirror and porcelain surround, and two similar fireplaces in the dining room and back parlor. The floor plan has six first floor and five second floor rooms. The house received bathrooms c. 1926, and was altered for apartment use in the early 1940's with minimal interior impact. The present owners are restoring the house and have eliminated the apartment alterations. The kitchen on the first floor will be enlarged, and a second floor bath added. The house retains eleven foot ceilings (some of which are being resurfaced). The back stairway remains and is lit by a porthole window. Floors are of oak except in the kitchen and on the third floor.

The house is located on a double lot (130' by 135') at the base of a bluff at the southwest corner of 3rd Street and 9th Avenue near the eastern central business district. The house predated neighboring houses and differs visually from them in terms of its size, style and setting. The lot consists of an upper tier with brick retaining wall which is above and behind the house along the alley. The front of the lot slopes to the street exposing the house foundation. A six foot stone wall traces the alley boundary. Ninth Avenue to the north is still a paved street. A two foot ashlar wall with coping borders the front of the property.

Ongoing restoration efforts at this property include reroofing, the complete replacement of roofline and guttering, the removal of the overgrown landscaping, front porch repair, and art glass window work. Period double doors have been placed in the front entrance. Planned work includes restoration of the missing second floor front porch and possible construction of a period carriage house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

Bibliography:

Field, Homer and Joseph R. Reed. History of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Volume I.
Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1907, pp. 117, 376-7.

Biographical History of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company,
1891, pp. 459-60, 642-3.

Jennings, Gottfried, Cheek & Associates. "Council Bluffs, A Settlement History and
Survey Findings, September 1982.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1928.

Daily Nonpareil, 25 August, 29 October 1887, 19 January, 21, 28 July 1888, 12, 21, 31
July, 22, 25, 20, 10 August, 7 September, 17 October, 31, 14, 11, 5 December 1889,
1890 clipping (no specific date), 5 June 1904, 25, 26 October 1920, 26 July 1936,
14 January 1944.

Interview, Elizabeth Hildebrand with Tharsilla Tex Kohleway, October 10, 1893.