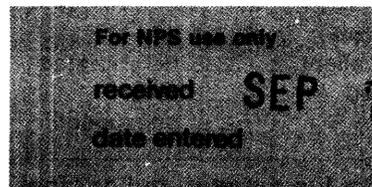


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Thomas Arthur House

and/or common Thomas Arthur House

2. Location

street & number 322 ~~North~~ 8th Avenue East not for publication

city, town Newton vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ 4

state Iowa code 19 county Jasper code 099

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Irene Harvey

street & number 322 North 8th Avenue East

city, town Newton vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jasper County Recorder's Office

street & number Jasper County Courthouse

city, town Newton state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title CIRALG Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977-79 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town Des Moines state Iowa

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 Arthur House is the only elaborate house in the Gothic Revival style in Newton and among the handful of such dwellings in central Iowa. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Newton, which is already listed on the National Register, is also in this style, an appropriate occurrence since Thomas Arthur numbered among the founders of the congregation.

Through the use of bays piled atop one another, steeply pitched rooflines and dormers, and the large tower, the painted brick house achieves the picturesque quality of the Gothic Revival. Windows and door openings are slender and round arched, with most having a tripartite configuration. The south entry has its original red glass in windows flanking the arched double doors. The bays are four- and five-sided; one retains pairs of wooden brackets. Inside, wide elliptical wood arches having inset panels nicely separate these bays from the interior. Similar archways, now painted, occur throughout.

The most distinctive feature of the house, both inside and out, is the three-story round tower topped with a flaired, conical roof. When the sun glints on the tower as it rises through the mature oaks of the property, the house is particularly noticeable in this quiet residential neighborhood. The Arthur House occurs at the T-intersection of two relatively quiet streets. Equally commodious houses, some of them quite remarkable, share the area. Most are on good-sized lots and date from post-Civil War to the 1920s. Despite the presence of a now little used railroad line along the rear of the property, there are no visual intrusions.

The round tower provides the only access to the second floor, and there is no attic. The original, high, and open ceilings thus reflect the outline of the roof, and the circular outline of the tower is likewise repeated on the interior. An especially fine walnut balustrade and newel post accentuate the undulating staircase. One of the bedroom doors, wood with panels, also conforms to the shape of the curved interior wall of the tower.

The plan of the Arthur House reflects Gothic Revival principles of picturesqueness through curvilinear outline and detail. There are three entrances and numerous doors connecting the rooms. The rectangular south entrance, and round corner tower, a small west room, and two bay windows deny the basic L-shape of the main rooms. A kitchen, with two later additions behind, is to the rear of one arm of the "L." The Arthur House seems to be an American adaptation of the Gothic Revival, despite local legends that the design is literally based on the actual manor house in London, England.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 ca. 1865–present **Builder/Architect**** Thomas Arthur

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In 1864 Thomas Arthur held two county posts, those of treasurer and recorder. During this period of active settlement in Jasper County, he was a land agent and may have operated a private bank, although this is unsubstantiated local lore. Arthur's name does not appear in an 1878 history of the establishment of Newton's more longlived banks.

Authur was active in community affairs and was one of the incorporators of St. Stephen's parish, an Episcopal church organized in 1867 and incorporated in 1868. Arthur also participated in the construction of the church building around 1871, when he either donated or, acting in behalf of the church, acquired the church lot for \$825.

It appears that Arthur took his family to Oakland, California around 1876 and sold his Newton house to Joseph Evans Ryan, Rector for St. Stephan's from 1880–95 and 1897–1900. (Ryan was not the first rector of the church as some accounts state.) The son of Ryan's wife, J.C. Hawkins, later inherited and lived in the house. Hawkins was locally known for his invention, a clipless paper fastener, which he tried unsuccessfully to market. Newton of the turn of the century was a seeming mecca for inventors, having washer and agricultural equipment inventors such as Fred Maytag and his associate Mr. Bergman among its residents. The Maytag and Bergman families reportedly invested money in Hawkins' company. The house is thus an indirect link with the town's continuing prosperity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuance sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Newton

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	4	9	5	8	7	0	4	6	1	7	0	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Part of Lot 3 of Block 11 of North Addition to Newton as shown in plat book C, page 8. Commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 3 of Block 11 and running thence 100 feet; thence north parallel to east line of said lot to the right-of-way of the C.R.I. & P. Railway; thence, in a southwesterly direction to the northwest corner of the lot to follow said lot line to the place of beginning subject to easement of record for ingress and regres;

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 Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Office of Historic Preservation date August 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue telephone 515/281-5111

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 A. Anderson

title Director, Iowa State Historical Department date September 1, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 10/7/82

Keeper of the National Register

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

Bibliography

Item number 9.

Page 1.

History of Jasper County, Iowa, (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1878).

James B. Weaver, Past and Present of Jasper County, Iowa, 2 vols., (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1912).

Mrs. Roy Loven, copier, "The Official Record of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Before 1900." Located at Iowa Historical Building.

L.J. Jordon, "Thomas Arthur House." Heritage Tour of Jasper County, (Newton: News Printing Co., 1980).

Separate interviews with Mrs. Irene Harvey, Henry Efnor and Katherine Altman, Newton, August 6, 1981.