

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **DEC 15 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic H. A. White ^{House} (General Store and ~~Residence~~)
and or common

2. Location

street & number 10 West Cherry St. not for publication
city, town North Liberty vicinity of
state Iowa code 019 county Johnson code 103

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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 Dorothy I. Anderson, Delma Dale Dever
street & number 120 Post Road
city, town Iowa City vicinity of state Iowa 52240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office
street & number Johnson County Courthouse
city, town Iowa City state Iowa 52240

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good **330**

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Henry A. White's General Store and residence is a well preserved example of a small town late Nineteenth Century vernacular commercial building. As North Liberty's first general store, and as one of few surviving commercial buildings in that community, this building is noteworthy. The building calls attention to the early commercial development of North Liberty.

The original one and a half story rectangular frame store building (18' by 30') was built c. 1876, and was enlarged by as many as three side additions. The entire building with gable roof stands on a raised stone foundation. The shed-roofed addition on the west side continues the same roof pitch to the first floor eaves level, while the addition on the east side interrupts the roof pitch, but runs parallel to it.

The westernmost addition, probably completed in two phases, measures 10' by 36' overall and is offset towards the rear of the central mass of the store. The rearmost half was the kitchen, and contains a chimney in the northwest corner (visible as a metal flue in the 1890 photograph). Fenestration includes a door and window in front, two 6/6 light (this double hung sash pattern is consistent throughout the building, and has a flat surround, projecting sill, and pedimented cap) windows in the west wall (west addition), two paired 6/6 light windows in the west wall of the rear half of the west addition, and a single door beneath a 6 light fixed attic window on the north wall.

The warehouse room addition (which is extant by 1900 and which postdates 1890) was built alongside the original building (measures 30' by 10') and had a board and batten exterior. Fixed 6 light single sash windows pierce each half gable end. A single door is centered in the south wall, and a double door is placed towards the rear of the east wall, to the north of a 6/6 sash window. A 6 light fixed sash window in on the north end.

The main facade has a central door flanked by 6/6 light windows. Two identical windows are on the second floor, forced closer together than their first floor counterparts by the eaveslines. A shed roof porch is cantilevered above the door and a c. 1961 cement porch and steps. Two square side windows are set alongside the east side of the door.

In the rear of the store, a centered door is between and below two second floor 6/6 light windows. A short rectangular fixed window, consisting of two 2/2 lights is east of the door.

The original store was sheathed in board and batten siding, had a chimney centered on its roof ridge, and a shed-roofed front porch supported by square corner posts, which were supported in turn by parts of a stone wall. Since sometime after 1890, the main facade has been clapboarded, with the removal of the earlier battens only. The original siding survives on the east and north walls. In the rear of the kitchen a raised wooden deck, above a cistern, facilitated the drawing the direct drawing of water for kitchen use. Due to street widening, the front porch was removed in 1906. The wooden stoop as replaced by a cement one in 1961. The house originally had a dugout cellar with front storm cellar entrance. A cement basement floor was added in 1937. In 1916 the shed roofed porch on the west addition front was added. The store was wired for electricity in 1937 and major

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interior modifications were made in the years 1944 and 1948. The present owners are interested in replacing the existing roof with wooden shingles, and in replacing the concrete stoops with wooden ones. The yard retains an identical picket fence (see 1890 photograph). The original pair of front doors remain in the store and retain the scars which were created by the hanging entry bell.

Two outbuildings in the rear of the property, a garage (1950) and shed (1940) are excluded from this nomination. At one time a wood shed, smoke house, butcher shop, ice house, and carpenter shop stood in a continuous north-south row behind the store and formed an "L" with a barn on the northeast corner of the lot. These several buildings, all linked to H. A. White's various commercial enterprises, are all non-extant.

North Liberty lacked a central business district during the Nineteenth Century. The subject property stood in the middle of the original town plat, next to a school, and just off of Front Street, a main thoroughfare, also called the "Red Ball Road." A focused commercial district was to develop after 1927 due to the construction that year of a paved highway to the northeast of this site.

An inspection of the building failed to reveal the use of large scale timber in its construction, but the roof rafters consist of reused wood, which are pierced for tenons. Floor framing around stairwells indicates the lavish use of mortise and tenon construction in the floor beams. In the kitchen a suspended chimney hood of brick is of interest. The house retains much of its original door hardware, and several of the built-in store chests with ornate iron handles. Floor levels differ from that of the original building on both side additions, with a 1 1/4' drop on the west, and a 2 1/2' drop on the east.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	XX architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
XX 1800–1899	XX commerce (rural)	XX exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
XX 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1876–1924 **Builder/Architect** H. A. White

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The H. A. White General Store and residence is an uncommon surviving example of of a Nineteenth Century vernacular commercial storefront. It is the first general store in North Liberty, and was the residence and focal point for the many and varied commercial enterprises of H. A. ("Harry") White (1847–1924), a North Liberty businessman.

The town of North Liberty, in Penn Township, Johnson County was first settled in 1838. Henry Alexander White, boot and shoemaker, carpenter, and merchant, settled in the town in October 1876, purchased a lot and constructed this store in the fall of that year. He was appointed postmaster 11 April 1877 and served in that role through January 1888. Between 1876 and 1880 his was the only general store in this small town of 100 population. His store does not appear in state gazeteers between 1889 and 1891, but there is no reason to believe that the store was discontinued. After 1892, the store was operated by various partnerships involving White and several individuals who most likely played largely a financing role. Henry A. Lackey, the first partner, died in 1894. James Bridenstine (1824–1925) was the second partner in the years 1897 through 1902. By 1903, White had joined in partnership with Daniel Green at a different store just to the east. As many as two other stores opened after 1889, reflecting North Liberty's slow commercial growth. The coming of the Interurban in 1903 tripled the town's population by 1909, and a local bank was founded. White dropped out of the store business soon after 1903 and concentrated on his other commercial activities.

White's general store operations were only a part of his overall commercial operations. In addition to cobbling, White operated the local post office in his store, provided rural "huckster" sales service, operated a livery stable, custom butchered and smoked meats and produced "North Liberty Sausage", provided Notary Public service, was township clerk, provided local credit to his customers, and after 1893 became a local contractor/builder. He constructed Madison Township School #2 and many local notable homes in the area. For forty nine years; White was a central figure in North Liberty's commercial and community life.

White developed several unpatented devices, including an automatic gate opener, and a self feeder for hogs. His wife, Elizabeth Alloway White, provided "laying out" services for local undertakers during the 1890's and her 6' by 18" caned laying out board survives as an unusual antique.

White's store also housed a doctor's office c. 1879–91, when Dr. James Polk Von Stein roomed and boarded there. It is thought that the first telephone in town was located in the store. Messages were delivered to those who had received calls. As has been noted, a whole complex of buildings filled the rear of the property, and reflected the initiative and wide ranging commercial involvements of White. The surviving building, used as a residence after 1903, and presently serving as a rental property, represents the many years during which the building served as the "hub" of activity in North Liberty.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ely

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	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

Beginning at the southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 4, North Liberty, thence north 75 feet, thence west 100 feet, thence south 75 feet, thence east 100 feet, including only the original store and house, excluding recent outbuildings to rear.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization	<u>Iowa SHPO</u>	date	<u>6 December 1983</u>
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street & number	<u>Historical Bldg. E. 12th & Grand Ave.</u>	telephone	<u>515-281-8152</u>
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city or town	<u>Des Moines</u>	state	<u>Iowa 50319</u>
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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national
 state
 ^{XXXX} 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

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department

date 6 December 1983

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

for
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 1/2/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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BOSCHEE'S GERMAN SYRUP.

GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER.

GREEN'S AGUE CONQUEROR.

Drugs, Medicines

GROCERIES,
PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, DYE-STUFFS,
PURE SPICES,
DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES, SHOULDER BRACES, LENSES,
AND ALL GOODS USUALLY KEPT IN A
→ **FIRST-CLASS DRUG STORE** ←
Physicians' Prescriptions Carefully Compounded
PURE WINES AND LIQUORS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Also, Groceries, Spices, Tea, Coffee, Coal Oil, and a full
line of Grocers' Drugs.

H. A. WHITE
North Liberty, Iowa.

LARGEST SALE OF ANY MEDICINE IN THE WORLD.

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Iowa State Gazeteer and Business Directory. Des Moines, R. L. Polk & Company, 1880/81, 1884/85, 1887/88, 1889/90, 1891/92, 1892/93, 1897/98, 1901/02, 1905/06, and 1908/09.

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