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
Augustus Caesar Dodge House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
829 North 5th Street
CITY, TOWN
Burlington
STATE
Des Moines

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDINGS
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Leon and Dorothy Kemp
STREET & NUMBER
829 North 5th Street
CITY, TOWN
Burlington
STATE
Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Des Moines County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Burlington
STATE
Iowa

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Historical Survey of Burlington, Iowa
DATE
1977
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
SHPO, Iowa City IA
CITY, TOWN
STATE

This vernacular Italianate house was built in two phases, the first probably in the early-to-mid 1860's, the second, under the supervision of Dodge himself, in 1868-69.

The house is L-shaped in plan, and built solidly of brick on a massive limestone foundation, with additional support provided by brick pillars in the basement. The earlier portion of the house is an 18' x 26', 2-story side-gable block, with the principal facade divided into three bays and entrance to left of center. The eaves of this portion are bracketted. The brackets and molded frieze board were restored in 1973. The windows and entrance of the front elevation have large flat stone lintels, while window openings in the south side do not. A porch across the front was removed in 1961.

The 1868-69 addition, also two stories, measures 18' x 44'. The side elevations are divided into five bays by segmental-arched window openings. The cornice is not bracketted, but does feature a simply-molded frieze. A doorway at the west end has been sealed.

Along the south side of the rear addition is a veranda, now with concrete floor. The wood columns support an enclosed sleeping or sun porch over the east end of the veranda. The west end was in earlier years an arbor or pergola, now covered with corrugated fiberglass.

A 1900 fire insurance map indicates a two-story frame structure (perhaps a summer kitchen) attached at the west end of the house. This was removed by 1931. Beyond that is a 1-story wood frame garage which appears to date from early in this century.

The ceilings have been lowered on the first floor, but otherwise the interior room arrangement is not known to have experienced major alterations.
c. 1865; 1868-69 (personal papers, A.C. Dodge).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building helps focus attention on the important role that Burlington and its citizens played in early Iowa politics and government through its association with Augustus C. Dodge. Dodge was the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party which dominated Iowa politics prior to the Civil War. He was also a vocal exponent of Iowa interests at the national level during the territorial and early statehood years.

A. C. Dodge came to Burlington in 1838 as a political appointee of President Van Buren to the post of Registrar of the Land Office in that city. Holding such a job as this in the capital of the territory ensured that Dodge would become well-known. This local fame contributed to his election as territorial delegate to Congress in 1840. Dodge served in this post until 1846 carrying the views of the Territory on such issues as boundaries, statehood, internal improvements, and Indian treaties to Congress. Dodge was recognized as the foremost man of the Democratic party in Iowa by 1846 when Iowa became a state. (Sage, A History of Iowa, p.88).

From 1848 to 1855 Dodge remained in the national political sphere as U.S. Senator from Iowa. As a states-rights, anti-abolitionist Dodge represented the attitudes of his constituents. Other issues he involved himself with included homestead legislation, railroad land grants, and Mississippi River improvements.

By 1855 a Whig majority prevailed in Iowa government and Dodge's bid for re-election was not supported by the Iowa Senate. For the next four years, Dodge served as the U.S. Minister to Spain. These years proved frustrating to Dodge as negotiations to purchase Cuba proved fruitless. Dodge resigned his post in 1859 and returned to Iowa just in time to represent the Democratic party in the gubernatorial election of that year. Dodge was vulnerable on his slavery position, and as a result, the growing anti-slavery sentiment of Iowa voters favored the Republican candidate. After this defeat, Dodge retreated from state level politics during the war years and afterwards.

Dodge retired to Burlington at this time, though he had kept a residence in that city for some years. Except for a term as Burlington mayor in 1874-75, Dodge's political activity remained confined to a non-elective role as a speaker.

As one of Dodge's biographers put it, Dodge's career "represented and reflected the life of a western frontier community which without historic traditions or settled political

(See Continuation Sheet)
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


A.C. Dodge Papers, Iowa State Historical Society, Ms. Department. Ledger Accounts, 1866-79. (See Continuation Sheet).

GEOPHYSICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one.

QUADRANGLE NAME Burlington, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 686, Original Plat, Burlington, Iowa.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE M. H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of Historic Preservation

DATE September 1979

STREET & NUMBER 26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE 319-353-6949

CITY OR TOWN Iowa City

STATE IOWA 52240

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

DATE December 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-25-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1-17-80
formula had a free and natural growth." (Pelzer, Augustus C. Dodge, p. x, in Preface).

Architecturally, the house is a well-kept representative of Burlington's mid-19th century architecture. It is not a pure style, but can be classified generally as vernacular Italianate. The form is very traditional, and the house may be termed "Italianate" simply due to the bracketted eaves.
Interview, J.C. Jacobsen with owners, 13 July 1979 (included inspection of house).