

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received 30 15
date entered JUN 27 1985

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

1. Name

historic Elbert-Bates House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 106 Second Avenue West not for publication

city, town Albia vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Monroe code 139

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 Ms. Ann Miletich

street & number 106 Second Avenue West

city, town Albia vicinity of state Iowa 52531

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Monroe County Courthouse

city, town Albia state Iowa 52531

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Area XV Architectural/Hist. Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-3 federal state county local

depository for survey records Iowa Historic Preservation Office, E. 12th & Grand Ave.

city, town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Benjamin F. & Helen ("Nellie") Elbert built this house between 1873-1875. Interpolation provides date. The builder's name is unknown and the house might be architect designed. A two-story solarium was added 1917-18 during the ownership of D. W. & Verna D. Bates.

The Elbert-Bates House is two-storied with hipped roof and deck. It faces north. The main block measures 36'x27' with narrow elevation was facade. Main block is massed two units deep and two units wide. Facade is asymmetrical and three ranked. West elevation has a two story, partial room projection measuring 7'x19'. South elevation has a two story wing measuring 18'x30'. It is two rooms deep. East elevation has a one story bay window. Two story solarium measures 12'x30' and is located southeast.

The foundation of main block is stone, rock faced, and laid regular ashlar. A stone water table surrounds the original house. Solarium foundation is concrete but only brick is visible at ground level.

Exterior walls are brick, laid running bond. Metal ties unboutedly supply with bonding. Rear wing is American bond, generally with eleven stretcher courses for one header course, but variation exists. Solarium has three brick, load-bearing columns.

Windows have stone sills and heavy, stone cast hoodmolds with impressed designs and false keystones. Sash are 2/2 with wood surrounds in rope design. Main entry is inset with double doors and transom. Hoodmolds on rear wing are brick. solarium has ribbon windows. Sash are 5/1. There is a double door on east. All exterior mill and stonework is painted white.

There are three brick chimneys of interior construction, all in main block. Northeast chimney retains original crown.

Main block has a hipped, low-pitched roof with deck. Hipped roof and deck of west project ties directly into main roof. Roof of rear wing and solarium is hipped with deck and independent of main roof. These roofs are standing seam metal.

Concerning porches, the facade has a full-width, wooden deck 11'x27' with balustrade. The original, full-width front-porch is non-extant. Wooden molding now is situated horizontally on facade between 1st and 2nd floor to mask cavities for porch rafters. The one story, west porch measures 6'x29' and is original. It has spindle columns with brackets. There are dentils under porch eaves. The porch is now enclosed.

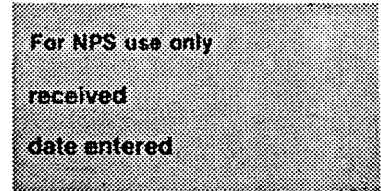
The one story bay window is a bisected octagonal in shape. It has three windows. Sash and surrounds match main block. There are brackets and dentisl under eaves. Roof is standing seam metal in concave shape with deck and metal cresting.

Carriage House (now a garage) is brick, one and one-half story, and laid in American bond. The structure has undergone numerous alterations including construction of a lean-to addition on north. Most alterations affected interior floor plan and the structure retains sufficient integrity to make a positive contributio to the architectural significance of the property.

The quarter block lot features honeysuckle shrubbery planted in the 1920s. Shubbery borders north and east sidewalks. The present diagonal walk from sidewalk to front porch

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Physical Description Item number 7 Page 2

replaced in the 1920s an older walk which led perpendicularly from Second Avenue West to the front porch.

Land is about level on the property and the neighborhood borders the Albia central business district.

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 1870's

Builder/Architect J/

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elbert-Bates House is a fine example of vernacular architecture employing Italianate stylistic details. The exuberant hoodmolds are of a rare design in Monroe County. The use of running bond brick construction is also unusual for the period. The building retains good integrity and the property's full quarter block lot protects the house from intrusion.

Benjamin F. Elbert (1844-1905) was Cashier and member of the board of directors of the First National Bank of Albia from its organization in 1871 until 1885. Elbert was also a capitalist farmer specializing in cattle. He later moved to Des Moines and continued successful business. His accidental death headlined the front page of the Des Moines newspapers.

David W. Bates was an Albia attorney and bank director. He served as Iowa State Superintendent of Banking (1930-1941) during the Great Depression and exercised great power. Bates resided at 2838 Forest Drive, Des Moines, throughout this tenure. That building remains extant and calls more direction attention to Bates' important state career than his residence in Albia.

The Elbert-Bates House obtains merit primarily for its architectural significance. The overall massing of the building; the low-pitched, hipped roof with deck; and the paired brackets reflect Italianate taste.

The building employs materials rarely used in Monroe County. Window treatment is particularly noteworthy in this regard. Elaborate holdmolds of cast stone feature impressed, foliated details and a false keystone. Window surrounds have a rope design similar to the Perry-Townsend Opera Block (1874/NRHP) in Albia. Sash have 2/2 lights in keeping with Italianate design and use of the so-called flattened arch for the upper sash is unusual.

The Elbert-Bates House is one of Four Sisters, houses in Albia from the last century, each a brick showplace. These buildings employ a running brick bonding for exterior walls, an unusual feature in southern Iowa for the period. This exceptional brick bond suggests a unity of architect and/or brickmason.

Concerning the Four Sisters, the T. B. Perry House (1874/NRHP) has a documented, eclectic design by Charles A. Dunham, architect of Burlington, Iowa. The J. H. Drake House (circa 1878/non-extant) shared a floorplan similar to the Elbert-Bates House, albeit larger. The fourth sister, the Doctor William Gutch House, is probably the earliest and was built as a suburban residence. It is extant, Italianate in feeling with details more restrained than the Elbert-Bates House.

Future discovery might positively connect Charles A. Dunham's name with each of the Four Sisters. Dunham helped design the Monroe County Courthouse (1858/non-extant) and served as architect for Vermilion (1870/NRHP), an Italianate, country residence outside Centerville in adjacent Appanoose County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2+

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Albia

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	6	0	1	0	4	5	4	1	3	4	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

Lots 1 and 2, Block 5, Second Survey of Albia, Iowa. Includes only subject property.

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

Text prepared by William C. Page, Public Historian
name/title Form prepared by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa State Office of Historic Preservation date April 29, 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 *Ronell J. Soika*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 13, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 6/27/85

for Melores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**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 Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

The Elbert-Bates House has sustained relatively few alterations. The addition of a two story solarium employed compatible building materials including brackets from the original building. The solarium is Prairie Style in feeling. It is non-intrusive. Extensive wood rot prompted removal of the front-porch in 1917/18. Wood molding now masks the rafter cavities and effectively repeats the horizontal line of the porch.

A one and one-half story brick carriage house is also included in this application. It is contemporary with the house. A non-extant, brick privy stood slightly east of the carriage house and featured multiple stalls and cupola. One stall featured two seats, one for a child and one for a parent.

Comprehensive cultural resource surveys exist for Monroe County and Albia. They corroborate the recommendation of this application to nominate the Elbert-Bates House to the National Register of Historic Places.

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

PRIMARY SOURCES:

- Abstract of Title; Property Ann Miletich; Albia, IA.
Albia, Montroe County, Iowa; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company; New York; 1907 (first neighborhood FIM) and 1922 (shows solarium).
Hickenlooper, Frank; Illustrated History of Monroe County, Iowa; Albia, IA; Privately printed; 1896; pp 149, 161, 169, 170.
*"Bird's Eye View of Albia, Monroe County, Iowa," A. T. Andreas Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa; Chicago; 1875; p. 243. Lithograph pictures house w/original one story, full width front porch.
Standard Atlas of Monroe County, Iowa; Chicago; George A. Ogle & Co; 1919. Plat, City of Albia, IA.
Who's Who in Iowa; Iowa Press Association; Des Moines, IA; 1940; pp 861, 864. Biographical concerning D. W. Bates & Hugh Lundy.
Polk's Des Moines City Directories; R. L. Polk, Inc.; Des Moines, IA; 1929, 1930, 1935, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944. D. W. Bates residence 1930-1942 at 2838 Forest Drive, Des Moines, IA.
"B. F. Elbert; Victim of Accident;" The (Des Moines) Register and Leader; 24 August 1905; p 1 c 7. "Known All Over Iowa Mr. Elbert was Prominent in Business Circles of State. Resided at 1030 West 21st Street, Des Moines.
"ELBERT'S DEATH Due to Drowning By An Accident;" The Des Moines Capital;" 24 August 1905; p 1 c 3. Includes front page photo-portrait.
"Benjamin F. Elbert" (obituary); The Des Moines Capital; 25 August 1905; p 5 c 1.
"Mrs. Elbert, 85, Dies Here" (obituary); Des Moines Register; 19 October 1933. Resided at 1030 Twenty-first Street, Des Moines.
*Deed Record Book M, p. 477; Recorder's Office; Monroe County Courthouse; Albia, IA. B. F. Elbert buys Lots 1 and 2, Block 5 on 19 August 1873.

SECONDARY SOURCES:

- Area XV Cultural Resources Survey; Ottumway, IA: Unpublished; 1879-1984. Naumann, Molly M.; "Architectural Survey; Albia, IA." Page, W. C.; "Monroe County, Iowa; An Historical Survey of Buildings."
Page, W. C.; T. B. Perry House; Albia; Iowa; An Application for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; Unpublished report; Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State Historical Dept.; 1983.
Page, W. C. & Naumann, Molly M.; Albia Historic Commercial District; An Application for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; Unpublished report; Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State Historical Dept.; 1984.
"Historic Houses;" Nick Baldwin photo feature; Des Moines Tribune; 4 July 1962. Pictures Elbert-Bates House with several other Albia houses.
"The Four Sisters" is an epithet of the application preparer's coinage.

**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 3

ORAL HISTORY SOURCES:

- * Ruth Fall Hollingshead; Informant Interview with W. C. Page; Albia, IA; December 1984. Hollingshead is a nonagenarian. She was the first woman to receive nomination for United States House of Representative from Iowa's former 5th district. Hollingshead's father was partner in a livestock business with Benjamin F. Elbert. She knew Elbert personally as a girl and says Elbert built the Elbert-Bates House.
- Robert T. B. Bates; Informant Interview with W. C. Page; Albia, IA; December, 1984. Bates is septuagenarian. He retired from a career as an interior designer on the West Coast and presently serves on the Terrace Hill Authority. Bates lived in the Elbert-Bates House as a boy. He supplied detailed information about his parents' improvements to the house and grounds and has several photographs picturing them in the 1920s.

*Asterisks indicate sources to interpolate the Elbert-Bates House date of construction.