

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, James J. and Anna J. (Linean), House #2

other names/site number D.L. and Margaret (Craig) Boyd House

Name of Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 201 2nd Avenue NW ☐ not for publication

city or town Mount Vernon ☐ vicinity

state Iowa county Linn zip code 52314

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		site
		structure
1	1	object
2	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

This two-story brick house sits on a large corner lot at the northwest corner of 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street NW in Mount Vernon. Despite the large lot, the house is sited close to both street frontages. The original section of the house, built circa 1864, is a two-story front gable. The two-story, side-gabled brick section on the north side was the first addition (1875-1876) and the two-story, front-gabled brick section on the rear (west side) was the second addition (1898). Overall, the house exhibits Mid-19th Century stylistic influences. The foundation is built of locally-quarried, rough-cut limestone blocks. The walls are built of locally-manufactured, reddish-orange soft mud bricks. The bricks are laid in a 6:1 common bond, or six stretcher courses to every single header course. Significant features on the original house include the moderate pitch to the roof, a moderate eave overhang under which is a wide frieze board, and the flat window lintels made of brick soldier courses, with the sills on the first story being dressed limestone and those on the second floor being wooden planks. Significant features on the north-side addition include the segmental-arched windows, with lintels made of two rowlock courses of bricks and sills of wooden planks. A wrought-iron hitching post is a contributing object located along the 2nd Avenue frontage of the property on the city-owned right-of-way between the sidewalk and the street. A concrete mounting block next to the hitching post is counted as noncontributing only because it was constructed after the period of significance but likely replaced a stone mounting block at this same location. A detached garage at the southwest corner of the property behind the house is a noncontributing building because it is modern in construction. The house retains good historic integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, and the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**.)

This two-story brick house is a vernacular cross-gabled house showing Mid-19th Century stylistic influences. It is located on a large corner lot at the northwest corner of 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street NW. The lot is actually two house lots combined, with the north lot now a large open lawn with shade trees. A row of mature arborvitae planted in early 1970s is along the interior edge of the south sidewalk. The front of the house has an iron fence that was added in the early 1970s and is from an Iowa cemetery (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 30, 1975). There are concrete sidewalks lining the street frontages, with a large concrete mounting block aligned with the front door of the house and at the street curb.¹ This block is at its original site and would date from the early 20th century. It probably replaced an older, deteriorated stone block at this location. To the south of this block is another original object, an iron hitching post that was made to look like rod with a rope or harness strap wrapped around it. This hitching post is a unique object in Mount Vernon and is notable that it is still in place. The hitching post is considered a contributing object to this property, but the mounting block is noncontributing because it was added after the period of significance. A detached garage at the southwest corner of the property behind the house is a noncontributing building because it too was built after the period of significance.

The house is built of reddish-orange soft mud bricks. The bricks are laid in a 6:1 common bond. The foundation is built of rough-cut limestone blocks. The original section of the house, built circa 1864, is the two-story, front-gabled section (Figure 1). According to oral history and the Sanborn fire insurance maps, the two-story, side-gabled brick section on the north side was the first addition (1875-1876) and the two-story, front-gabled brick section on the rear (west side) was the second addition (1898). The front-gabled

¹ This mounting block is one of four such blocks, all made of concrete, on either side of 2nd Avenue in the block between 2nd and 3rd Streets NW.

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orientation of the original section of the house suggests influence from the Greek Revival style of architecture but this is certainly a vernacular expression of that style. The front gable has a moderate pitch and moderate eave overhang under which is a wide frieze board. This section has flat window lintels made of brick soldier courses, with the sills on the first story being dressed limestone and those on the second floor being wooden planks. The windows on the north-side addition are segmental arched formed by two rowlock courses of bricks. The sills are wooden planks. All of the 1/1 windows are wooden-sash windows that likely include some later replacement windows. The windows all have non-functional shutters that were added by the 1970s. The front-gabled addition to the west side of the north addition is set back from the north wall of that addition and slightly overlaps the west wall of the original front-gabled section of the house. This addition is covered with the same reddish-orange soft mud brick but laid in a running bond as a veneer or hollow cavity wall construction; however, the west gable peak is laid in a 7:1 common bond indicating some brick wall structure to this addition. Therefore, a cavity wall construction appears to be indicated.



Figure 1. Smith House looking West. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

This area of Mount Vernon was not mapped on the Sanborn fire insurance maps until 1906 when that map showed the two-story brick house in its current configuration but lacking the rear porch that was added in the 1970s (Figure 2). In 1906, the house had the front-gabled section, the north side-gabled addition, and the rear front-gabled addition, all shown as a single ground plan and two stories in height. A one-story bay window was represented on the south side of the house. In 1906, the entire front of the house had a one-story wooden frame porch that wrapped around the northeast corner and exhibited Queen Anne stylistic details including a distinctive rounded extension. This porch would have been added or enlarged circa 1898 since it extends across the east wall of that addition. There was a “wood house” and a “shed” at the west side of the lot behind the house in 1906 (Sanborn 1906). This configuration continued through 1921, with a small privy structure also then depicted north of the wood house (Sanborn 1921). By 1941, the front porch had been removed and the shed to the rear was now an automobile garage. The wood house and the privy structure were gone by 1941 (Sanborn 1941) (see Figure 2). Figure 3 is a newspaper photograph of the house in 1907 showing the Queen Anne porch.

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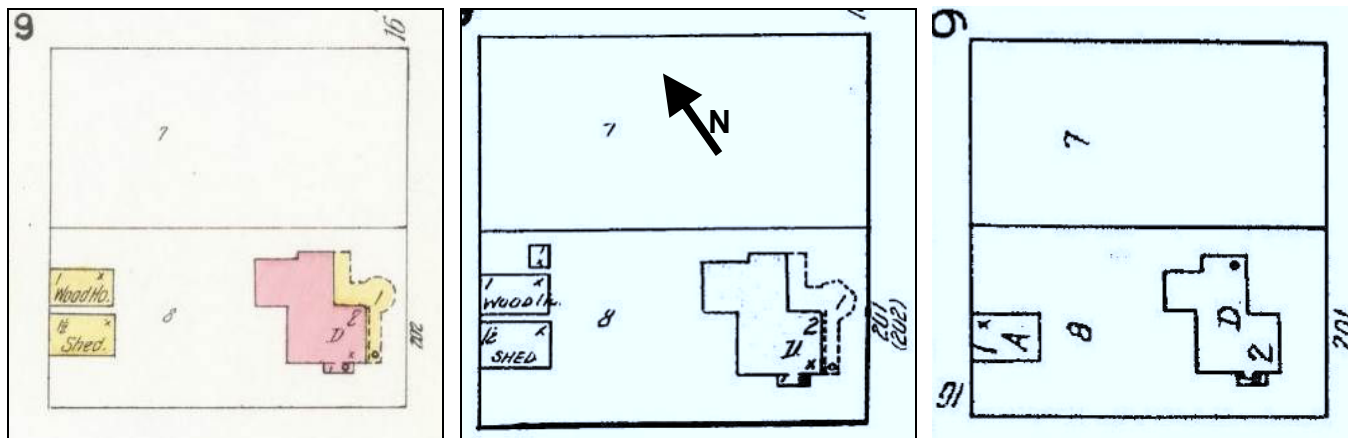


Figure 2. Sanborn fire insurance maps showing 201 2nd Avenue NW in 1906 (left), 1921 (center) and 1941 (right). Source: Sanborn 1906, 1921, and 1941.

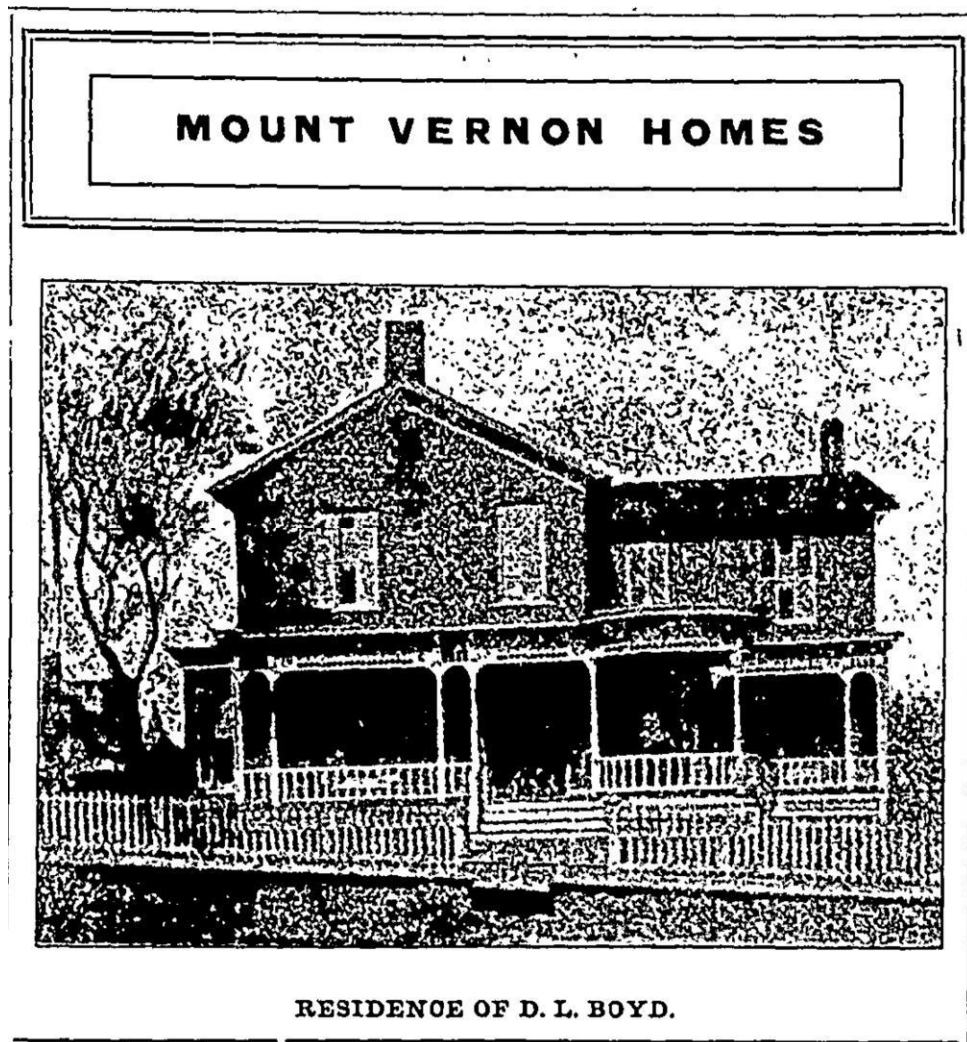


Figure 3. 201 2nd Avenue (then the Boyd House) in 1907 showing the Queen Anne porch added across the entire facade. Note the mounting block is visible out front, and the yard had a picket fence at this time.
Source: *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, February 8, 1907

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Façade (East Side)²

The east side of the front-gabled original section of the house has symmetrical two-rank fenestration consisting of a front entry door to the right on the first story and a single 1/1 double-hung window to the left (Figure 4). Directly above these openings are two single 1/1 double-hung windows on the second story. There is a mark on the façade at the first/second floor break that appears to have been from a hip-roofed porch that sheltered the front door and left-side window but could also have been from the porch added circa 1898 (see Figure 3). Currently there is no porch, with the front door sheltered only by a slight overhang created by a cornice with cove molding that forms the lintel of the door. The profile of this cornice molding is similar to the cornice on the south-side bay window and may be original. The door itself has a storm door with sidelights, with the wooden interior door having 15 glass panes and sidelights having five glass panes vertically stacked. There may have been a transom window that is now covered. The door is recessed into the wall providing further shelter from the elements. The current interior front door is a historic door that was salvaged from a home in Cedar Rapids and installed here in the 1970s (Janet Budack, personal communication 2018). A set of red-tinted concrete steps leads up to a concrete stoop that is flanked by a brick railing, with brick railings also flanking the steps. The railings are capped with red-tinted concrete. Two concrete lion statues are placed on top of the step railings and were added after the 1970s. The front steps and railings were added before the 1970s perhaps as part of the remodeling by previous owner Dr. Rahn for his medical office on the first floor circa 1948. The front door enters into a vestibule where the formal front door is located.



Figure 4. Façade of Smith House looking NW. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

² In this area of Mount Vernon, the streets are oriented on a southwest to northeast angle. Therefore, in this narrative, “east” is actually southeasterly, “north” is northeasterly, “west” is northwesterly, and “south” is southwesterly.”

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The east side of the north-side addition has two single 1/1 double-hung windows symmetrically placed on the first and second stories (see Figure 4). These windows have segmental-arched, double-rowlock brick lintels and wooden-plank sills. The limestone blocks of the basement level are exposed above ground at the northeast corner and north side of this window, with the rest of the stone foundation not visible above the current ground surface to the south.

South Side

The south side of the house has three evenly spaced single 1/1 windows across the second story of the original section of the house, with a large rectangular three-sided bay window occupying the north half of the first story of this side of the house (Figure 5). This bay window is covered with a veneer of the same reddish-orange soft bricks laid in a running bond and appears original to the house construction. The roof of the bay window is a low-pitched hip with moderate eave overhang that features a cove cornice molding like that above the front door. The bay has single 1/1 double-hung windows, one on each side and two on the south side. The lintels on the windows are the same flat brick soldier-course lintels as on the facade, with the sills appearing to be dressed stone. There are non-functional shutters on the outer edges of the two windows on the south side of the bay window and on both sides of the second-story windows, although one shutter is missing. It is assumed that the bay window has a limestone foundation but it is not visible above the current ground surface. There is an exterior basement entry to the left of the bay window that is covered by slanted doors. There is a single 1/1 double-hung window with non-functional shutters directly above the basement entry and directly below the westernmost window on the second story. A brick chimney is on the roof ridge towards the rear of the front-gabled section of the house. This appears to be a rebuilt chimney with a tile liner insert and metal cap. An identical chimney is towards the center of the roof ridge to the east.



Figure 5. South side of Smith House looking NW. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

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Rear (West Side)

The rear of the original front-gabled section of the house has two single 1/1 double-hung windows on the second story that have the flat soldier-course brick lintels and wooden-plank sills (Figure 6). The first story has a French door inserted where a single window or door used to be and was added in the 1970s. The French door now functions as a fixed window. The brick soldier-course lintel for the original opening is still intact above the French doors, which also have non-functional shutters. The left side of the first story of this section of the house is now covered by a wrap-around enclosed porch added in the 1970s. The extension of the front-gabled, west-side addition has a single segmental-arched window opening with a 1/1 double-hung window flanked by non-functional shutters on the second story on both the south side and rear (west side), with the first story covered by the added enclosed porch. This two-story brick addition was built in 1898 (see Figure 2). Based on two newspaper items, it appears that the north addition was made in 1875-1876 when the original owner, James J. Smith enlarged his house with a new addition (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, 10-22-1875 and 06-16-1876). It was during the Boyd family's ownership (1887-1923) that the rear (west) addition was made (Janet Budack, email communication, June 4, 2018; Property Abstract). It appears to be referenced in a September 2, 1898 *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* news item when it was noted that "D.L. Boyd is finishing up some extensive improvements [including] a two story addition." There is an exterior brick wall exposed on the interior between the kitchen and the dining room indicating that the two additions were made at different times.



Figure 6. Rear of Smith House looking ENE. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

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The enclosed porch is shed-roofed on the sides and over the rear entry (Figure 7). The walls are covered with channeled, vertical wood-paneled siding painted gray. The windows consist of rows of casement windows that provide a lot of light into the enclosure. There is a single entry door to the right on the west side of the porch. There is a brick-paved patio and sidewalk system that extends out from the porch and extends out to the street to the south, to the garage to the west, and curves around the south side of the house. This patio area is landscaped and steps to the north down to the expansive side yard.



Figure 7. Rear and North sides of Smith House looking South. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

North Side

The enclosed porch addition wraps around the first story of the rear addition and abuts the north addition of the house (see Figure 7). The north side of the rear addition has a single segmental-arched, 1/1 double-hung window with non-functional shutters to the left side of the second story. The north side of the north gable end also has a single 1/1 segmental-arched window with non-functional shutters on the left side of the second story directly above a window on the first story, with a door to the far right on the first story that was added in the mid-20th century (probably 1950s) when Dr. Gordon Rahn owned this house (Figure 8). The door provided access to the Rahns' second-floor living quarters without the family having to enter through his medical office on the first floor (Janet Budack, email communication November 26, 2018). The doorway was cut into this wall and has a rowlock-course of bricks for a lintel, with the bricks painted white for a door surround effect. This door is reached by a set of concrete steps that rise up from a sidewalk from the east of the door, with the steps also having a closed brick railing around the concrete stoop and along the north side of the steps. The railings have concrete caps. The window to the left of this door is a modern insert that is also a reduction of the original opening, which may have been a side door originally. This opening has no exposed lintel or sill and has a non-functional shutter on the left side only. This opening is above a basement-level window that has a rectangular window with three vertical and side-by-side window panes and two courses of segmental-arched, rowlock-bricks as the lintel. The north side of the original front-gabled section of the house is a solid brick wall with no window or door

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openings. A staircase to the second floor once stood just inside the solid brick wall in the original front-gabled section of the home, but it was later removed.



Figure 8. North and East sides of Smith House looking SW. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

Interior

Upon entering the front door one enters into a long hallway with the current stairs to the second floor now towards the rear of the hall along its north wall. Originally, the stairs were towards the front of the hall. From the hall one enters the parlor to the left which contains the bay window. The dining room in the side-gabled addition is entered through the north wall of the hallway, with the enclosed staircase to the second floor (entered from the exterior door on the north gable end) in the northwest corner of the room. The parlor has double doors that enter into the room now on the west side of the parlor. The wall between was added after 1988. There is now a long hall that runs the north-south width of the house that is entered from both the west-side room and from the dining room. The rooms to the rear now function as a modern kitchen, enclosed porch/dining area, bathroom, and family room. The original cistern is still underneath the floor of the modern kitchen. The original cellar door was at the rear of the front-gabled section, with the exterior entrance to that door covered when the 1972 addition was made to the rear.

The second floor now has an L-shaped hall from which five bedrooms and a modern bathroom are accessed. The master bedroom also has its own bathroom. The current configuration of the second floor would not be original given all the additions through the years and the reorienting of the original staircase location. At least one original bedroom was subdivided into two after 1980.

The interior was refurbished in the 1970s using antique finishes and furnishings (Figures 9-10). Since the original front staircase had been previously removed, the current walnut staircase was built from pieces of three staircases salvaged from historic houses in Cedar Rapids. The 9-foot, built-in oak buffet is from the old Singmaster Mansion in Keota, Iowa. A thousand feet of woodwork, an ornate floor-to-ceiling

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fireplace, and several French doors are also from that mansion. An oak fireplace in the master bedroom was salvaged from the Mount Vernon Depot, and 2,000 bricks in the rear patio were salvaged from old streets in Mount Vernon, although some of these have been replaced with red-tinted concrete pavers in recent years (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 30, 1975). The interior front door was also salvaged from a house in Cedar Rapids. The staircase in the circa 1898 north addition to the house is original to that construction (Janet Budack, email communication November 26, 2018). At one time there was a gravity water tank in the attic that is no longer there, but an original cistern is underneath the floor of the kitchen addition that was built between 1898 and 1906 (Janet Budack, personal communication 2018).

During their ownership, the Rahns gutted the front of the first floor taking out the staircase and setting up a medical office on the first floor. As noted above, the entry door on the north side of the house was likely installed in the 1950s so that the Rahns could access their living quarters upstairs without having to go through Dr. Rahn's medical office (Janet Budack, personal communication 2018).



Figure 9. Interior features in Smith House (left to right): front door/vestibule, staircase and French doors in front hallway, oak wood paneling. As noted above, some of these features were added in the 1970s from historic materials salvaged from homes being demolished in Cedar Rapids and eastern Iowa. Photographs taken November 2018.

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Figure 10. Interior features in Smith House (left to right): fireplace and mantelpiece, original exterior brick wall exposed in kitchen addition, and wooden-paneled door on second floor with glass knob. As noted above, some of these features were added in the 1970s from historic materials salvaged from homes being demolished in Cedar Rapids and eastern Iowa. Photographs taken November 2018.

Garage (noncontributing building)

The garage is a single-story, wooden-framed structure with the same type of channeled, vertical wood-paneled siding painted gray as on the rear porch addition on the house (Figure 11). The building has a low-pitched, front-gabled roof and has a single double-wide overhead garage door on the south side. A short concrete paved driveway extends from the garage to the street to the south. There are small rectangular windows on the sides of the garage and an entry door on the east side facing the house. The garage was built in 1974 on the site of an "old barn," which was still standing into the 1970s (Janet Budack, personal communication 2018). The Sanborn maps labeled that building as a shed on the 1906-1921 maps and as an automobile garage by 1941 (see Figure 2).



Figure 11. Noncontributing garage on Smith House property looking ENE. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

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Hitching Post (contributing object)

The contributing object is handwrought iron hitching post located along the 2nd Avenue frontage of the property and is sited on city-owned right-of-way between the sidewalk and the street (Figure 12). The hitching post is a unique feature in Mount Vernon and has the appearance of a buggy whip, with the whip wrapped around the handle. The hitching post is located near the concrete mounting block, the distance between the two being approximately the length from a horse's halter to the point at which a rider dismounted (see Figure 12).

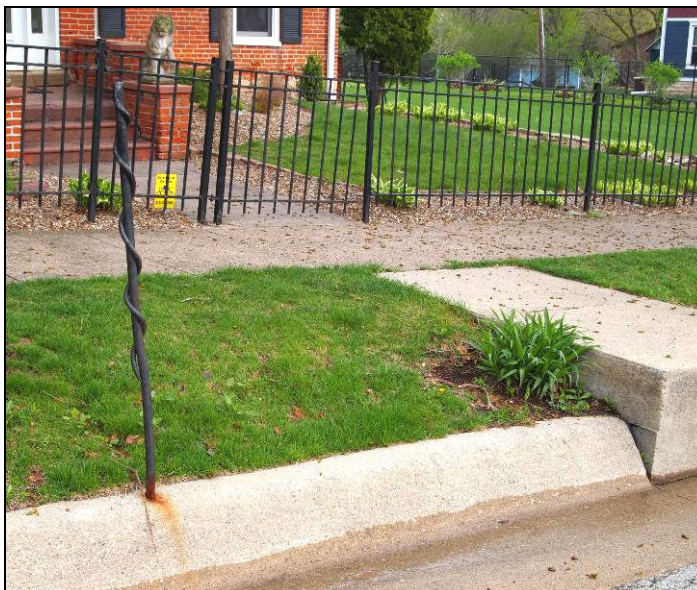


Figure 12. Hitching Post and Mounting Block in front of Smith House. Top photo is looking NW; bottom photo is looking South. Photographs taken May 4, 2018 and March 30, 2019.

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Mounting Block (noncontributing object)

This concrete block is located just north of the hitching post (see Figure 12). It is likely at the location of an original stone mounting block but represents an early 1900s replacement. It is one of four such concrete mounting blocks on both sides of the street in this block. The mounting block and hitching post are within the city-owned right-of-way; however, the city has taken care to leave both objects in place during street improvement projects. They even laid the current concrete curb on either side of the mounting block rather than cutting through it. The mounting block is a concrete slab that extends between the outer edge of the sidewalk and the street pavement (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Mounting Block in front of Smith House looking NW. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

Statement of Integrity

Overall, the Smith House retains good historic integrity in all seven aspects of integrity. The house retains integrity of location being the original site for the construction of this house and its historic additions.

The house also retains good integrity of materials in the use of locally-manufactured soft mud bricks in all of its brick construction and locally-quarried limestone in the foundations.

The house also retains good integrity of design, with the house reflecting the influence of Mid-19th Century architectural styles but being a vernacular front-gabled expression of that period, with the later additions continuing to honor the tradition of brick building in Mount Vernon and complementing the design of the original section of the house. Important is the retention of the original footprint, form, fenestration, and symmetry of a Mid-19th Century early front-gabled house design.

The integrity of workmanship is also good and is reflected in the brick and stonework of local masons in the construction of the original house and its later additions. This is also seen in the two types of brick lintel and sill designs used in the various sections of the house construction.

The integrity of association is good, with the evolution of the house's construction and changing functions identifiable in both the interior and exterior construction and remodeling of this house.

The integrity of setting is good, with the house still occupying a larger corner lot and surrounded by other historic homes along both sides of the street. The side lot was vacant at least in the 20th century

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according to the Sanborn maps and may always have served as a spacious side yard to this house. The yard areas are landscaped with shade trees, evergreen shrubbery, and flower gardens, with the objects of the mounting block and the hitching post enhancing the historic setting of this house.

These objects also enhance the integrity of feeling, with this house presenting a strong sense of time and place of an early brick house in Mount Vernon.

Modifications include updates and additions in the late 20th century including: some rear and side door inserts and/or infill; the addition of non-functional shutters; brick-railed concrete steps to the front entry and north side entry; the addition of an enclosed wrap-around porch on the rear of the house; and likely the replacement of most of the windows but with 1/1 wooden-sash windows appropriate to the house. However, most of these modifications are to the side and rear of the house, with the street-facing front and south side still largely intact except for the removal of the large porch once across the façade. That porch in its full extension across both the original section and the north addition was also an addition made to the facade in the late 1890s. The front-gabled orientation of the original section of the house suggests that it might have had a portico porch over the entry or no porch at all as it does now.

The interior has been modified to a much greater extent, first in the changing function of the house to include a medical office. The alterations to accommodate that change included removing the original staircase and inserting a new one at a different location in the house and adding or removing some interior walls and shifting doors in the process. Additional change came in the late 20th century when the interior was refurbished with stylish items, such as doors, mantelpieces, and wooden wall paneling, salvaged from historic homes that were then being demolished in Cedar Rapids and other Iowa towns. Modern bathrooms and a modern kitchen were also added along with the large rear enclosed porch.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1864-1876

Significant Dates

c.1864

1875-1876

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The James J. and Anna J. (Linean) Smith House #2 is locally significant and eligible for listing under the "Military Road-era Buildings, Structures, and Objects, c.1840-70" context and the "Mt. Vernon Local Brick Buildings, c.1840-93" context of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa*. This Smith House is significant under Criterion C of the Military Road-era context as a property "that displays vernacular building techniques and traditional building materials, such as locally produced brick and locally quarried stone." The Smith House is also significant under Criterion C of the "Mt. Vernon Local Brick Building" context as a property "that contribute[s] markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon" through its "wall covering of locally produced brick" and its Mid-19th Century stylistic influences. The Smith House, built circa 1864, meets these registration requirements under Criterion C of both historic contexts through its display of local building traditions and materials, namely locally-quarried limestone and locally-manufactured red-orange brick, during the Military Road era, and through the workmanship of the town's masons. This is the second of two brick houses the Smiths had built. The house dates to the later years of Mount Vernon's Military Road era and was most likely built using bricks manufactured locally about 1864. Smith had a substantial addition to house built in 1875-1876, again making use of the local brick most likely from the Robinson brick yard. Although its significance is primarily architectural, as the registration requirements of the Multiple Property Document set forth, the Smith House also calls attention to the early settlement period of Mount Vernon, and its construction illustrates the effect the Military Road had on settlement in the Mount Vernon area. The period of significance extends from circa 1864 when the house was built by James J. Smith to 1876, when Smith completed the north addition. The period of significance falls within the "Military Road-era Buildings, Structures, and Objects, c.1840-70" and the "Mt. Vernon Local Brick Buildings, c.1840-93" contexts of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa*.

This property is one of a group of 11 historic brick houses in Mount Vernon being nominated under the *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa* Multiple Property Submission in 2019.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

Criterion C: Architectural Significance of the James J. and Anna J. (Linean) Smith House

Under the registration requirements for Criterion C of the "Military Road-era, c.1840-1870" context, the James J. and Anna J. (Linean) Smith House #2 is a property "that display[s] vernacular building techniques and traditional building materials, such as locally produced brick and locally quarried stone" (Long 1991:F2). According to the description of the Military Road-era housing property type:

The houses for this property type are built of deep red-orange local brick. Rooflines vary and include gable-side (the dominant shape), gable-front, crossed-gable, upright-and-wing, mansard, and hipped. Later examples are more likely to be hipped and early examples tend to be gabled. Most are two-story. Foundations are of locally quarried limestone (generally rubble or roughly dressed). Some lintels and sills are also stone. Brick is sometimes used decoratively for cornices, cornice returns, and more elaborate lintels. With the earliest examples, the use of brick with simple details and form results in a simplicity that contributes markedly to the charm of the community. Good representative examples are: 113 and 201 2nd Ave N, 417 A Ave S, 224 1st St SW, 600 and 601 1st Ave S. Stylistic influences include Greek Revival, the principal influence), Italianate, and Gothic Revival. The earliest examples often exhibit no strong stylistic influence but have a Federal stylistic simplicity and arrangement. (Long 1991:F3).

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The Smith House is also significant under Criterion C of the “Mt. Vernon Local Brick Buildings, c.1840-93” context as a property “that contribute[s] markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon” through its “wall covering of locally produced brick” and its Mid-19th Century stylistic influences. According to the description of the significance of the Local Brick Building property type:

Buildings of locally produced brick and stone are a key visual element defining the nature and character of Mount Vernon, and their primary area of significance is architectural. Because of the key visual importance of this property type, most examples from the period c. 1840-1893 which retain their integrity are likely to be significant (Long 1991:F3-F4).

James J. “J.J.” Smith built this house not long after acquiring the property in 1864, after amassing a considerable fortune through his livery and sale barn during the Military Road era. Smith was born in 1836 in Ohio. In 1848, he moved to Mount Vernon and “began life at the bottom of the ladder.” He married Anna J. Linean about 1858 and built his first brick house on 3rd Street.³ Smith immediately started the first livery stable, an apparently lucrative business in the newly platted town dependent on the Military Road. An early advertisement of the business noted it was operated in connection with the College Hotel (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, July 22, 1887; *Mount Vernon News*, March 1, 1861) (Figure 14). According to his partner in the livery business, J.T. Rice:

Mr. J.J. Smith. . . started the first livery stable in the town with a stock of two “crowbait” horses and an old “rickety” buggy or wagon. With this stock he commenced his horse trading career, and made that a business for some time, then commenced on a more general trading business, and has kept it up until the present time, and has become one of our most wealthy citizens (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, January 19, 1872; also see *Western Historical Co* 1878:559).

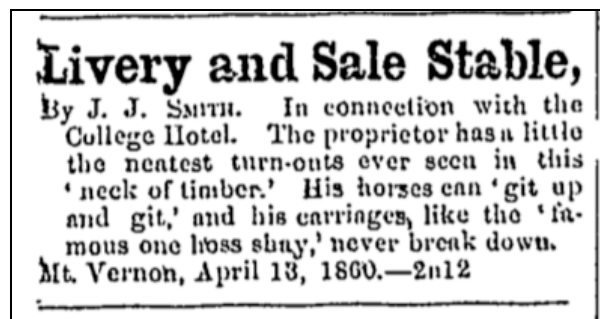


Figure 14. Advertising card for J.J. Smith's Livery and Sale Stable, 1861.
Source: *Mount Vernon News*, March 1, 1861

By 1860, Smith had amassed a small fortune, owning \$4000 worth of real estate and \$2000 in personal wealth. By 1870, he owned \$29,500 in real estate and \$8000 in personal wealth. According to the 1870 census, the Smith household included their three young children, a domestic servant, and several apparently non-family members living with them, including a hardware merchant and a tinner, who may have been boarders. The 1875 map of Linn County shows J.J. Smith as the owner of considerable tracts of land nearly surrounding Mount Vernon (Figure 15). The 1878 county history lists Smith in the directory as a “speculator,” and he was known even among students at Cornell College as a “famous character” and above all a successful horse trader. By the early 1880s, Smith's land and personal wealth was worth \$75,000 (US Census 1860, 1870, 1880; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, July 22, 1887; Andreas 1875; *Western Historical Co*. 1878:718; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, February 5, 1920).

³ The Smiths also built the brick house at 316 3rd Ave SW in 1859. In 1927, Smith's eldest son, Elmer T. Smith, recalled being born in the house in father built, however, since he was born in 1862, he was likely referring to the 1859 house on 3rd Ave and not the subject house at 201 2nd Ave NW. See “Personal and Local,” *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record And Lisbon Herald*, May 12, 1927.

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Figure 15. Plat map of Linn County, 1875, reflects the peak of J.J. Smith's prosperity, when Smith owned more than 400 acres of land around Mount Vernon. This was the year Smith built the addition to his house on Jefferson Street (aka, 2nd Ave NW). Source: Andreas 1875

Smith built his brick, side-gabled house with Mid-19th Century stylistic influences not long after purchasing the property in 1864 using locally-made bricks. Although the builders of the house are unknown, brickmakers in 1860 Mount Vernon included Silas Bowls and Christopher Conrad and brick masons included Gilbert M. Tadford, Hiram Soper, David Lutz, and George Clement (U.S. Census 1860). George W. Robinson, the longtime proprietor of the Robinson brickyard (1865-1889), did not arrive in Mount Vernon until the close of the Civil War, about 1865, after this house was built.

J.J. Smith reached the peak of his prosperity in 1875, at which time he greatly enlarged his house by building an addition to the house, likely the north addition. As the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* noted: "Mr. James J. Smith, Esq. intends to build an addition to his dwelling house on Jefferson [street]. Work will commence at once" (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, October 22, 1875). By the following summer, the newspaper observed, Smith was "just now putting on the finishing touches to the new addition he has just built to his residence" (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, June 16, 1876). Therefore, it would appear that the addition was started around October 1875 but was not completed until June 1876. This addition was most likely built with bricks from Robinson's brick yard.

George W. Robinson was born in 1833 in Wayne County, Ohio. He came to Iowa in 1856, and to Mount Vernon after serving three years in the Civil War (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, June 14, 1889; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 30, 1888; US Census 1870, 1880; Iowa State Census 1885). By 1869, Robinson was manufacturing bricks and lime at the same location as the Albright brothers had a decade earlier. After a storm damaged the brickyard, the *Linn County Hawkeye* provided a glimpse of Robinson's brickyard in its first years of operation:

The storm on last Saturday, was very damaging, destroying some four to five thousand green brick for Mr. G. W. Robinson. But at the rapid rate which Mr. R. makes brick, and good weather, the kiln will not be delayed much. He turns out some seven thousand per day. We also learn that there has been some one hundred and thirty five thousand brick shipped to Clarence [Cedar Co], from this yard this spring. The brick made here, has a good reputation at home and abroad (*Linn County Hawkeye*, June 18, 1869).

Robinson's brick was undoubtedly used to build many of Mount Vernon's brick houses and other buildings. By 1875, the year Smith began his additions to his house, Robinson had "a double lime kiln turning out 7,000 bushels annually" and "a brick yard making each year 200,000 brick" (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 12, 1875). George Robinson built his own brick house near his brickyard in 1887, but he died just two years later.

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His son, J.W. Robinson, took over the brickyard operations after his father's death (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, May 27, 1887; June 14, 1889).

After the additions to his house were complete, J.J. Smith's life began a long downward spiral as he "led a dissipated, wreckless [*sic*] life, wasting much of his property." He began driving over to Lisbon, where he known as "Jocky Jim," to drink, gamble, and brawl and was arrested and fined for intoxication at least once. Legal troubles seemed to plague him, and in 1884, his wife was granted a divorce and a generous settlement that included the house. Three years later, Smith's mental and physical health were failing, and he was committed to the mental hospital in Independence for a brief time. He eventually died at Bowman Hall on the Cornell College campus in Mount Vernon in 1887 at the age of 51 (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, June 1, 1883; November 7, 1884; June 10, 1887; March 11, 1887; and July 22, 1887).

Just a few months before J.J. Smith's death, Anna J. Smith sold the house to D.L. and Margaret (Craig) Boyd. D.L. Boyd was a native of Ireland, and by 1887 a wealthy lumber, grain and stock dealer. The Boyds made a number of improvements to the house including the addition of the large Queen Anne style front porch and the rear addition to the north wing in 1898. They also made a number of interior improvements as noted in a September 2, 1898 news item that stated:

D.L. Boyd is finishing up some extensive improvements at the home residence on Jefferson St. A two story addition has been built, a handsome new front stairway put in and considerable remodeling throughout the house, which will contain when completed the modern conveniences of bath room, city water, and electric lights. These improvements make the home one of the most pleasant and desirable in a town noted for its beautiful homes (*Mount Vernon Hawk Eye*, September 2, 1898).

Unfortunately, except for the rear addition and perhaps some of the interior improvements, other elements of their 1898 remodel were later removed including the front staircase and the front porch.

The Boyds' long ownership of the house on 2nd Avenue NW seemed to erase the sad history of the original owner from local memory. The Boyd family home, as the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* noted in its obituary of D.L. Boyd, had by then "so long stood as one of the community's representative family circles." Born in Ireland in 1841, D.L. Boyd came to Mount Vernon in 1868, where he started in the lumber business with Robert Smyth, also an Irish immigrant. Within a year, he had purchased a partnership in the lumberyard near the depot. He married Margaret Craig in 1870. Later, Boyd became sole owner of the lumber business and continued in that business until 1900, when he became cashier and vice president of the Mount Vernon Bank. He was active in civic affairs and served as mayor, member of the town council and board of education, and trustee of Cornell College. He was also an active member of the Presbyterian church. So esteemed was Boyd, that on the day of his funeral in 1919, "the business houses of the town, in respect of the memory of one who had so long and honorably been a part of its past, were all closed during the hour of service" (Abstract of Title; Western Historical Co. 1878:707; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, April 3, 1919).

Subsequent owners made their mark on the house as well, with the most notable changes having been the removal of the Queen Anne style front porch by 1941 and the remodeling of the first-floor interior into Doctor Gordon Rahn's medical office, with his family's living quarters shifted to the second floor. In the 1970s-1980s, R. Fred and Janet L. Dumbaugh owned and occupied this house, with Janet refurbishing the house using historic materials and items salvaged from historic houses being demolished in Cedar Rapids and elsewhere at the time.

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Figure 16. Photograph of the Smith House in 1972 looking North.
Source: Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission Archives



Figure 17. Photograph of the Smith House in 1975 looking North. House was then owned by Janet Dumbaugh, with the arborvitae now planted along the south side yard and the iron fence now in place.
Source: Cedar Rapids Gazette, March 30, 1975

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Archaeological Assessment

The potential for any prehistoric or historic archaeological remains within the property boundary was not evaluated as part of the present National Register nomination. The large yard space associated with this house suggests some potential for evidence of earlier outbuildings once on this lot.

Acknowledgements

The completion of this nomination was made possible by the assistance of members of the Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission, who compiled the floor plans, conducted on-site photography, conducted historic research, and reviewed the various drafts of the nomination. The property owners also assisted with the compilation of floor plans, photography, and historical materials and reviewed the draft versions of the nomination. The City of Mt. Vernon provided support for the project and cash match towards the grant.

Disclaimer

The activity that is the subject of the National Register nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

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National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Andreas, A.T. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*. Chicago: W.T. Andreas, 1875.

"Died: Smith," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, July 22, 1887.

"Historic Jottings of Mount Vernon," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, January 19, 1872.

Iowa State Census, 1885.

"James J. Smith (Jocky Jim)," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, June 8, 1883.

Long, Barbara Beving. "Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1991.

"Mount Vernon Homes," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, February 8, 1907.

Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye, October 22, 1875, June 16, 1876, June 1, 1883, March 11, 1887, June 10, 1887.

"Obituary Record: D.L. Boyd," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, April 3, 1919.

Sanborn fire insurance maps of Mount Vernon, 1906, 1921, 1941.

"The Case of Anna J. Smith vs. J.J. Smith," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 7, 1884.

"This Is The 'House That Janet Built,'" *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 30, 1975.

U.S. Federal Census, 1860, 1870, 1880.

Western Historical Co. *History of Linn County, Iowa, A History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc.* Chicago: The Western Historical Company, 1878.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.923790</u> Latitude	<u>-91.417340</u> Longitude	3	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude
2	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude	4	_____ Latitude	_____ Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property consists of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 9 of the Original Town Plat of Mount Vernon. A noncontributing concrete mounting block and a contributing iron hitching post are both located at the street curb. These objects are included within the nominated boundary even though they are located on city-owned property because they are both associated with the history of this property.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These lots encompass the property historically associated with the Smith House. While including two house lots, it appears that there never was a house built on Lot 7, with the two lots together forming the Smith House property from its construction in the 1860s to the present day.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Jennifer A. Price, PhD/Consultant and Leah Rogers/Volunteer</u>	date	<u>March 1, 2020</u>
organization	<u>Price Preservation Research</u>	telephone	<u>(319) 594-9513</u>
street & number	<u>P.O. Box 5201</u>	email	<u>jenniferprice1311@icloud.com</u>
city or town	<u>Coralville</u>	state	<u>IA</u> zip code <u>52241</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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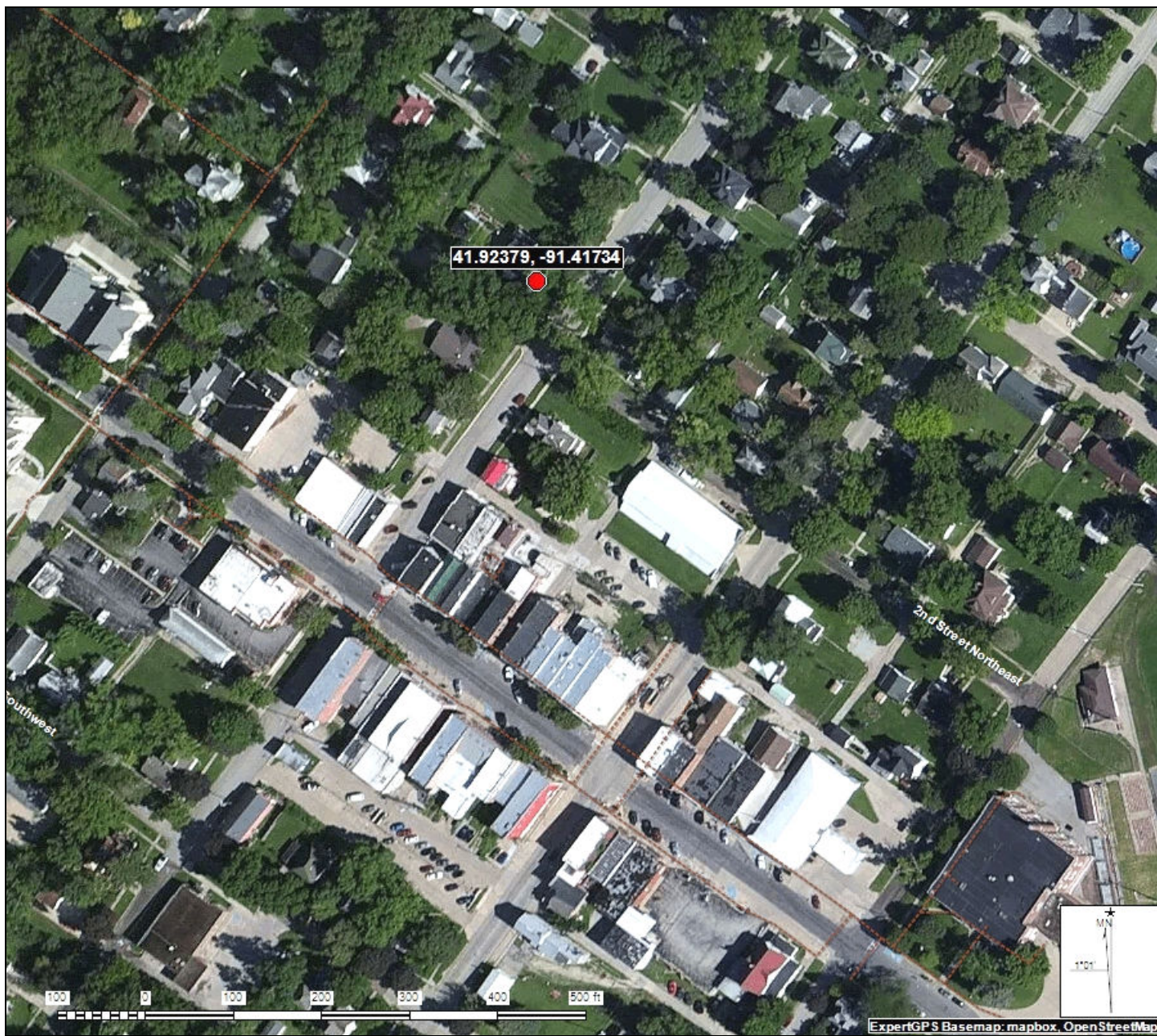


Figure 18. GIS and Local Location Map for 201 2nd Avenue NW.
Source: ExpertGPS mapping software, 2018.

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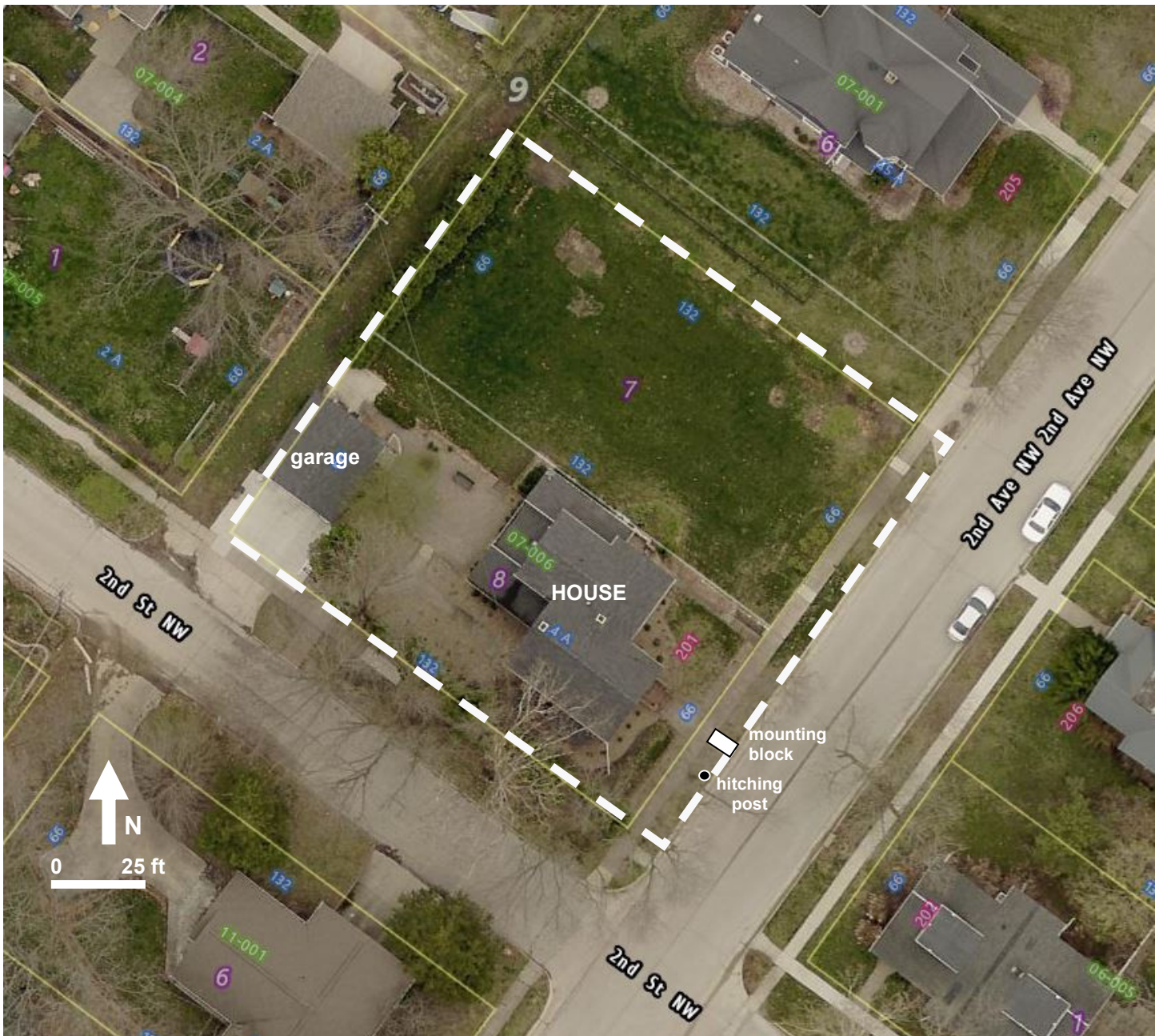
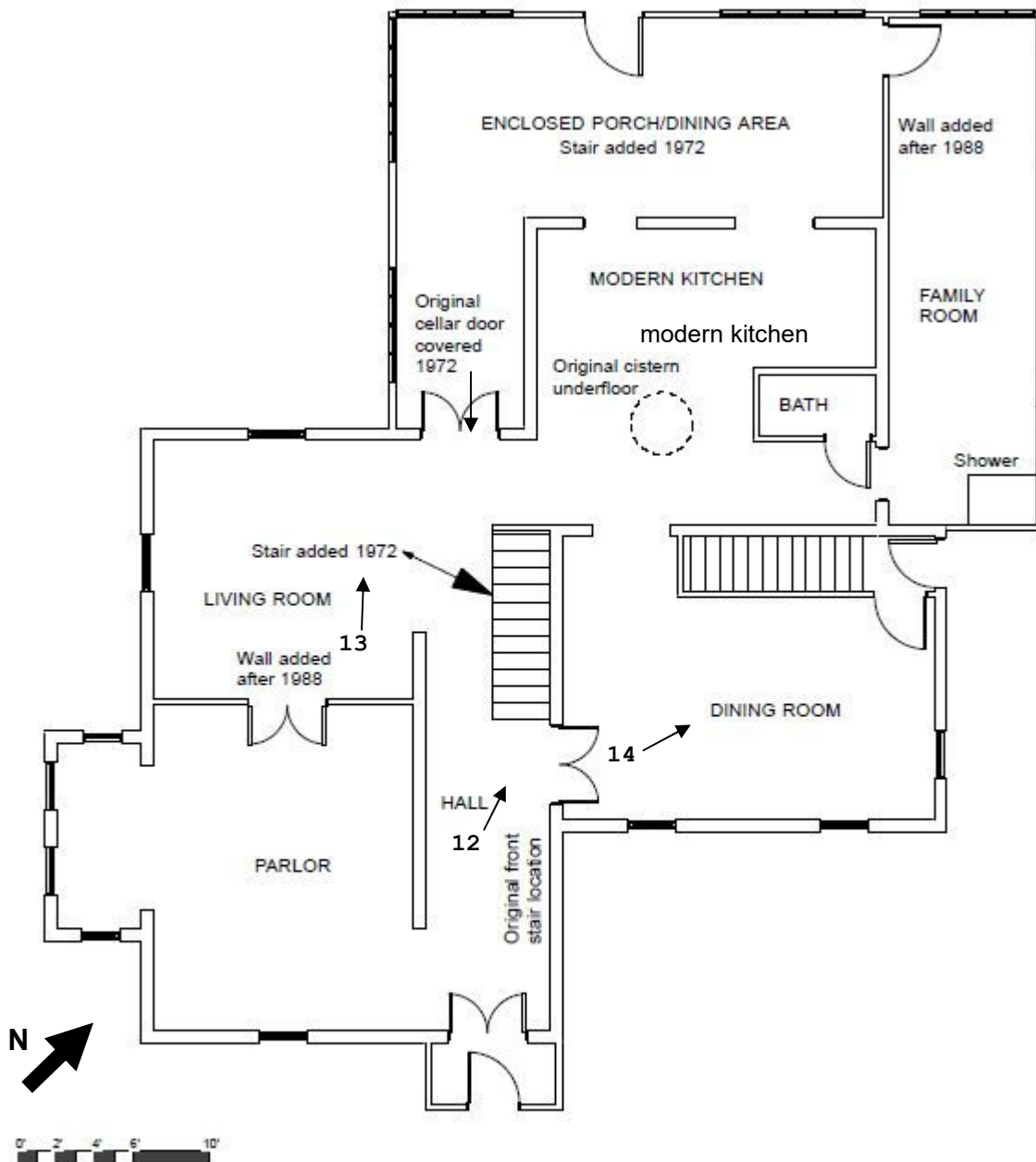


Figure 19. Site Plan Map showing NRHP boundary (white dashed outline), the location of the house and garage (labeled), and the location of the contributing object (black dot) and noncontributing object (white rectangle). Map obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS, 2018.

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201 2nd Ave NW - MAIN FLOOR

Figure 20. Floor plan of First Floor and showing direction of photos #12-14
Compiled by Ed Sauter, Mt. Vernon, 2018.

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201 2nd Ave NW - UPPER FLOOR

**Figure 21. Floor plan of Second Floor.
Compiled by Ed Sauter, Mt. Vernon, 2018.**

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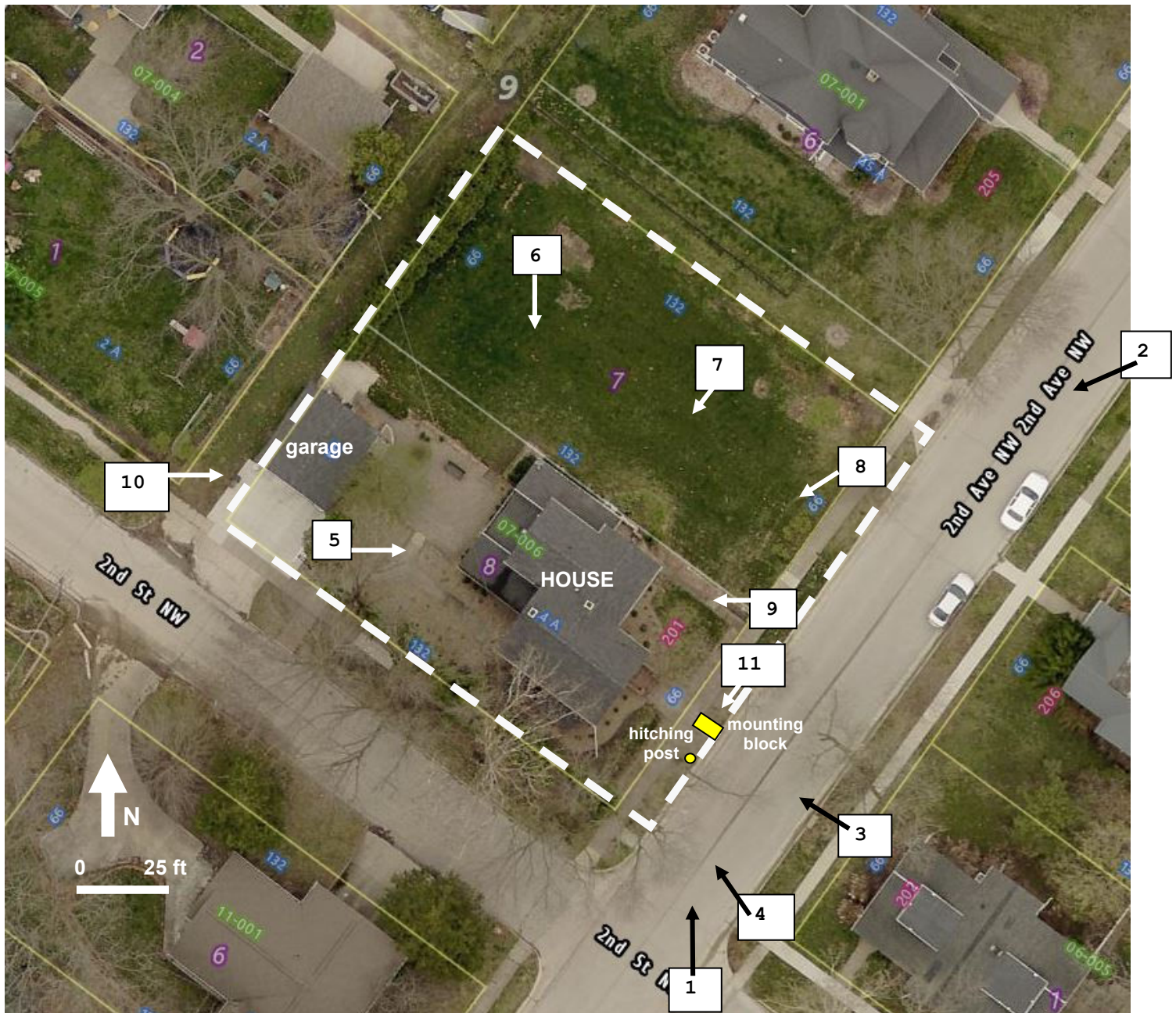


Figure 22. Site Plan Map showing direction of photographs #1-11.
Map obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS, 2018.
NRHP boundary is white dashed outline.

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: James J. and Anna J. (Linean) Smith House #2
City or Vicinity: Mount Vernon
County: Linn County **State:** IA
Photographer: Leah D. Rogers and John Harp
Date Photographed: March 30, 2019 (#1-11) and November 24, 2018 (#12-14)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 14: General view of Smith House looking North
Photo 2 of 14: General view of Smith House looking WSW
Photo 3 of 14: Façade of Smith House looking NW
Photo 4 of 14: Façade and south side of Smith House looking NNW
Photo 5 of 14: Rear of Smith House looking East
Photo 6 of 14: Rear and north side of Smith House looking South
Photo 7 of 14: North side of Smith House looking SW
Photo 8 of 14: North side and façade of Smith House looking WSW
Photo 9 of 14: Façade and north side of Smith House looking West
Photo 10 of 14: Garage behind Smith House looking East
Photo 11 of 14: Hitching post and Mounting block in front of Smith House looking SW
Photo 12 of 14: Interior of front hallway looking NNW towards staircase
Photo 13 of 14: Interior of living room looking NW
Photo 14 of 14: Interior of dining room looking NNE

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.