

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 Albright, Henry D. and Juliana (Wortz), House

other names/site number Dr. Francis F. and Jeanette L. Ebersole 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 224 1st Street SW

☐

not for publication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: X 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	0	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

### 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

HEALTH CARE/medical office

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/professional

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/Limestone

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 occupies a large lot at the southeast corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 3rd Avenue SW, between two NRHP-listed historic districts in the city of Mount Vernon, Linn County, Iowa. This house is banked into the sideslope of a distinctive landform, known as a paha, which overlooks the broad valley of the Cedar River to the south and Abbe Creek to the northwest.<sup>1</sup> Nearby to the west is Cornell College which was built on the highest elevation of this paha, with the historic commercial area of Mount Vernon built on the spine of the paha as it extends to the east of this house. Built in 1853 by the town's earliest masons and brickmakers, the Albright brothers, the exterior walls are made with bricks manufactured at their brick yard with the foundation of locally quarried limestone. The house is a vernacular two-story, side-gable that displays Early Republic stylistic influences exhibited in the cornice returns in the gable ends, the half-round vents in the attic level of the gable peaks, and the symmetrical three-rank fenestration of the facade. The windows on the original section of the house have a distinctive brick lintel design that may be specific to Henry D. Albright's designs in Mount Vernon. Several notable additions were made to east and south (rear) sides of the house, with a 1927 addition consisting of a 1.5-story side-gabled, brick-veneered wing set back from the main façade and attached to the east gable end of the original house. The addition was designed in the Colonial Revival style but complements the Early Republic style of the original house. It was also built of soft reddish-orange bricks that closely match those of the original house. As a result, the 1927 addition complements rather than detracts from the original style of the house. Overall, the house retains excellent historic integrity in the aspects of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, with good integrity of feeling and fair integrity of setting.

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**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, side-gabled brick house with Early Republic stylistic influences occupies a large lot at the southeast corner of 1st Street and 3rd Avenue SW. It is across from the Methodist Church, which is on the southwest corner of this same intersection, and diagonal from the Presbyterian Church, which is on the northwest corner. A late 19th century house is on the southeast corner of the intersection. The two churches are within the boundary of the Cornell College Historic District, the east boundary of which is 3rd Avenue. To the east of the house is a small park, parking lot, and a modern bank building on the south side of 1st Street and a late 20th century former fire station, parking lot, and city hall/commercial block on the north side of 1st Street. The west boundary of the Commercial Historic District is along 2nd Avenue one block east of the subject property. The house lot slopes to the south, with the dwelling banked into this slope with the façade at ground level and the basement level fully exposed on the south side. The lot also slopes gently to the north down to the street curb on the north side of the sidewalk parallel to the street. Two concrete sidewalks extend out from the façade of the house to this parallel sidewalk providing access to the formal front door in the original side-gabled section of the house and to the more commonly-used entry door in the smaller side-gabled addition off the east gable end of the house.

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<sup>1</sup> Pahas are "the last topographic and stratigraphic remains of uplands that were once part of a higher, older, continuous Pre-Illinoian glacial plain" (Prior 1991:73). These erosional remains are comparatively narrow ridges oriented in a northwest-southeast direction.

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The original section of the house was built in 1853 by Henry D. Albright and his brother William D. Albright using reddish-orange soft mud bricks manufactured in the Albrights' brickyard. The brick walls are laid in a 5:1 common bond, or five courses of stretchers for every single course of headers. The rough-cut limestone blocks used in the foundation were also quarried locally. The house displays Early Republic stylistic influences as exhibited in the side-gabled orientation, the cornice returns in the gable ends, the half-round vents in the attic level of the gable peaks, and the symmetrical three-rank fenestration of the facade. The 6/6 double-hung, wooden-sash windows on the original section of the house have distinctive brick lintels formed by a brick soldier course capped with a single course of brick stretchers that peak slightly in the center (Figure 1). The lintels also extend slightly below the soldier course on either side of the window with several courses of brick headers as a drip mold. This type of lintel design may be specific to Henry Albright's designs and is seen on other buildings that he is known for, and those he is suspected to have built, including the Old Seminary building at Cornell College and the Augustus Baumann House at 601 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE.



**Figure 1. Detail of front window showing the distinctive brick lintel that appears to be a hallmark of Albright's designs.**

The additions to the east side and rear of the house were made in 1927 and built with materials (soft brick and rough-cut limestone) that closely match those in the original section of the house. Other repeated details in the 1927 addition design are the peaked brick lintels like those on the original house and the cornice returns on the gable end of the east side addition. The windows in this addition include paired 6/1 wooden-sash casement windows that open outward by using a hand crank on the interior. There are also three distinctive window/doors that open in three sections depending on the level of ventilation and exterior access needed. All but two of the windows on this house appear to be original either to the 1853 construction or the 1927 additions. The only replacements are two paired 1/1 vinyl replacement windows in the gabled dormer on the front roof slope of the 1927 addition.

### **Façade (North Side)<sup>2</sup>**

The façade of the original two-story section of the house has a side-gabled roof that has a slight eave overhang with cornice molding and a wide frieze board below the eaves (Figure 2). The façade has three-rank symmetrical fenestration consisting of three 6/6 windows evenly spaced across the second story and a centered front door flanked by two 6/6 windows. These double-hung, wooden-sash windows all have working wooden shutters and the distinctive brick lintels as described above. The second-story windows have wooden plank sills, while the two first floor windows have brick rowlock sills. The front door is a wooden four-paneled door with brass hardware. There is a transom above that has three rectangular panes of glass end to end. The front door is sheltered by a small portico porch that has a closed-pediment gabled roof supported by two round Tuscan columns made of wood on concrete bases sitting on a concrete stoop with a single concrete step. The columns have simple molded capitals, with the porch roof having frieze boards under the closed-pediment

<sup>2</sup> In this area of Mount Vernon, the streets are oriented on a southeast to northwest angle. Therefore, in this narrative, "east" is actually southeasterly, "north" is northeasterly, "west" is northwesterly, and "south" is southwesterly."



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overhang. There are pendant corbels at the walls under the porch roof. There is a small fan light window that has three panes of glass in the peak of pediment. This porch was added during the 1927 enlargement and remodeling of this dwelling; therefore, the concrete bases and stoop are original to that construction.



**Figure 2. Façade, north side.** Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

The 1927 east-side addition is a 1.5-story, side-gabled brick addition set back from the main façade and attached to the east gable end of the original house. It was noted at the time to have been designed in the “Colonial” style, which complements the Early Republic style of the original house. It was also built of soft reddish-orange bricks that closely match those of the original house. However, on the addition, the bricks are a veneer laid in a running bond over a frame structure, while the walls in the original section are structural brick walls. The façade of the addition has an entry door to the right and a distinctive casement window to the left on the first story and a gabled wall dormer on the upper story. The dormer has a front-gabled roof and paired 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. It appears that the windows have a concrete sill, and the sides of the dormer are clad with wood lap siding. The casement window on the first floor is a type of that consists of two long windows that have six panes in the upper half and two panes in the lower half that open into the interior. Each window also has a lower wooden panel that also opens to the interior giving the option of becoming a door opening if desired (Figure 3). Above the window and the door are half-round transom areas that are covered and may never have had windows. Both transom areas have a single, rowlock course of bricks for lintels.

The front porch on the addition has three round wooden Tuscan columns at the east and northeast corner that match those on the pedimented front porch. The porch on the addition has a hipped roof, a concrete slab floor, and brick-veneered foundation. There is a single concrete step up to the porch at the front door and a single wooden railing on the west side of the step.

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**Figure 3. Three-part casement window/doors from the interior in the 1927 addition.**  
Photograph provided by Guy Booth, December 2018.

## East Side

The east side of the original two-story section of the house shows the low pitch of the side-gabled roofline, cornice-molded eaves, wide frieze board, and cornice returns (Figure 4). There is a half-round vent in the attic level of the gable peak. There is a 6/6 window to the right side of the east wall with an identical window directly below on the first story. To the left of the first-story window is an entry door that is underneath the 1927 porch addition. This door has a screen door and a wooden-paneled door with a vertical row of small window panes along the left side of the door. This doorway has a flat brick soldier-course lintel. The rest of the east gable end is covered by the 1927 addition.

The east side of the addition has cornice returns like on the original portion of the house (Figure 5). The addition has a rough-cut limestone block foundation that is partially exposed along the slope, with two windows in the foundation providing light into the basement interior. The windows on the east gable end of the addition consist of two sets of paired 6/1 wooden-sash casement windows on the first story and a one pair of 6/1 casement windows in the upper level. These windows have non-functional shutters but they also have brick lintels that complement those on the original portion of the house and consist of the brick soldier course with the brick stretcher cap that is slightly peaked. As noted above, the wall construction of the east-side addition is a brick veneer over frame walls.



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**Figure 4. East and north sides (façade).** Photograph taken May 4, 2018.



**Figure 5. East side.** Photograph taken May 4, 2018.



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### Rear (South Side)

The rear of the house consists of additions to the original house that are a variety of ages (Figure 6). To the east side is the rear of the 1927 east gable-end addition. This section has a gabled wall dormer centered on the roofline and a pair of 6/1 wooden-sash casement windows. On the first story below are two casement window/doors of the same type as on the north façade of the 1927 addition (see Figure 3). These window/doors have the same round-arched transom areas with no windows. They open onto a wooden porch that is supported by a round wooden Tuscan column. A modern wooden deck has been added to the southeast corner of the porch and has a set of wooden steps that descend along the east wall of the addition. There is a corbelled brick chimney on the slope of the roof of the original section of the house. On the rear of the original section is a shed-roofed addition that links the east addition and the front-gabled addition that extends off the southwest corner of the original house. The connecting addition has wooden lap siding and a large fixed four-pane window that was probably added after 1927. Immediately below this window is a three-sided bay window that is covered with a brick veneer and has paired 6/1 casement windows on the angled sides and a tripled window on the south wall of the bay window that consists of a centered 8/1 casement window flanked by 6/1 casement windows. The front-gabled addition off the southwest corner of the house has wood lap siding on the sides of the upper floor and gable peak below which is a squat 8/1 double-hung window with functional wooden shutters. There is a pair of double-hung windows to the right side of the north upper wall of the addition set close to the rear wall of the house. There is an opening on the right side of the first story of this addition that was later filled with dark red bricks. This was probably a door that provided access to the nearly level roof of the garage addition below.



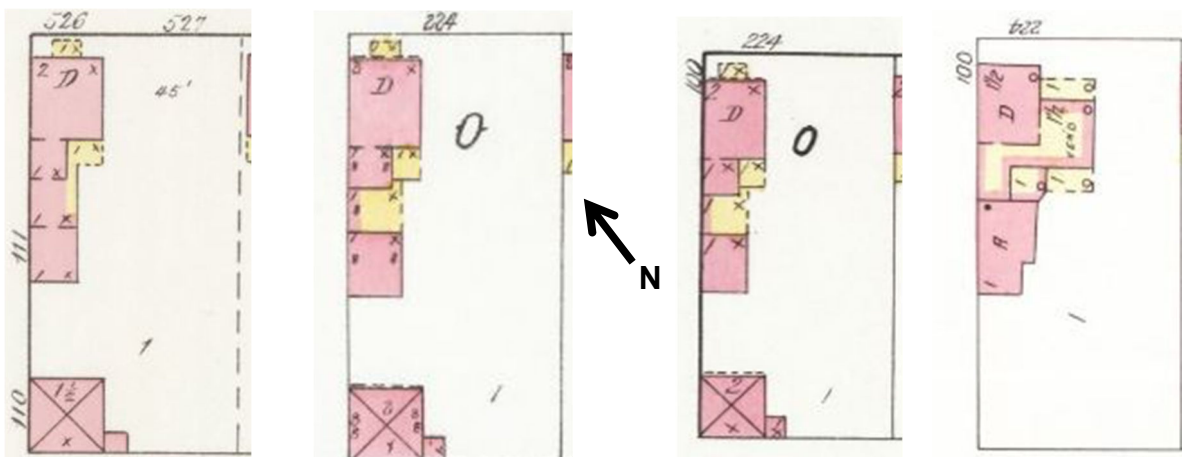
**Figure 6. Rear (South Side) showing garage and other additions. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.**

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The garage addition extends south from the house and is banked into the hillside (see Figure 6). This addition has a nearly level roofline, 6:1 common bond brick walls using reddish-orange bricks, and rough-cut limestone block foundation. There is a 6/6 double-hung window on the south wall and a 6/6 double-hung window on the east side. These windows have brick-header sills and wooden-plank lintels. The rear window has functional wooden shutters. Just below this window, the stone foundation is coated with stucco. Half of the south wall bumps out towards the alley from the rest of the addition. In this portion, the limestone foundation is uncovered. There is a single fixed six-pane window centered on this wall just under the eaves.

Examination of the Sanborn fire insurance maps for this property shows three one-story brick additions to the rear of the original two-story house by 1894 (Figure 7). A small frame porch was inset at the southeast corner of the two-story section, and a frame portico porch was centered on the facade. The 1906 map showed the center addition as frame with an exterior brick veneer on the west wall. This remained the configuration through the 1921 map. By 1941, the additions to the rear and east side had been made, including the brick automobile garage. The 1941 map did not depict a front portico porch on the façade; however, a photograph of the house in the 1947 centennial book for Mount Vernon showed the current porch then in place, and it is suspected that it was there in 1941 just not depicted on the map. The 1941 map depicts the east side and rear additions (between the house and garage) as frame construction with brick veneer. The detached outbuildings shown at the south end of the lot in 1894-1921 are nonextant.



**Figure 7. Albright House as shown on Sanborn maps (left to right): 1894, 1906, 1921, and 1941.**  
Source: Sanborn 1894-1941.

## West Side

The west side of the garage addition has a curved and stepped brick parapet that rises above the roofline and appears to have been repointed along with portions of the rear addition on the southwest corner of the house (Figure 8). The west side of the garage has a modern overhead door and has a short curving concrete driveway that connects to 3rd Avenue. The foundation on this side of the addition is exposed rough-cut limestone blocks. The west side of the southwest corner addition has a single 6/1 double-hung window with functional shutters centered on the west wall and just below the eaves on the second story. The windows on the first story of this addition include three different-sized windows, the center one of which is a regular-sized 6/1 double-hung window with functional shutters with smaller versions of that same window but without shutters flanking the center window. There appears to have been a tall doorway to the left and extending below these windows into the basement level. This opening is now filled in with a darker red brick but retains the distinctive brick lintel present on the rest of the original section of the house. The windows on the first story of this addition also have the same lintel design. The exposed limestone foundation extends only to the mid-section of this addition, with the rest of the lower section being covered with brick but also has a square window at basement level. The brick cladding on the southwest addition is a running-bond veneer. The



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transition from the 5:1 common structural bond of the original house section to the veneer of the southwest addition is staggered along the west wall rather than an abrupt line and used soft mud bricks of the same reddish-orange color as the original construction.



**Figure 8. West and south sides (rear) and garage addition.** Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

The west gable end of the original section of the house has three 6/6 double-hung windows evenly spaced on the first and second stories (Figure 9). All but one of these windows have functional wooden shutters. There is a half-round vent in the gable peak identical to that on the east side of the house. There are two fixed-pane three-light windows in the foundation on this side of the house. The west gable end has the same cornice returns and brick lintel design as previously described on the east gable end and façade of the original portion of the house.



**Figure 9. West side of house.** Photograph taken May 4, 2018.



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## Interior

The interior retains many historic components of note including: hardwood floors, base boards, and door and window surrounds; 4-paneled wooden doors with molded corner blocks; a fireplace mantle with built-ins in the east addition; French doors between the east-side front room and the hallway; the former doctor's office and waiting room in the front half of the original portion of the house; the wooden staircase to the second story of the original portion of the house; and a dining room with built-ins in the rear addition to the house.

Upon entering the front door of the original section of the house, one enters directly into the vestibule created during the remodeling of the house for Dr. Ebersole's medical office, with his office being the one room that can be accessed from the vestibule and is to the right (west side) of the vestibule (Figure 10). There is a door in the east side of the vestibule that enters the main center hallway of the house, which can also be entered from the west-side door of the east front porch, through double-doors from the main front room of the 1927 addition, and from the door to the dining room at the rear of the house. Also accessible in the hallway are the open wooden stairs to the second floor, which are at the south end of the hallway, and a small vestibule that is entered from the hall next to the stairs and provides access to the only bathroom on the main floor. That bathroom was used by the doctor's office and the doctor's patients. The "waiting vestibule" provided a more private access from the hallway into the bathroom, which would also be directly accessed by a door from the doctor's office. Because of the tight quarters between the stairs and the small vestibule door, a curving wall provided additional space to move in and out of the bathroom area without bumping into the lower curving steps at the base of the stairs (see Figure 10). From the doctor's office, there is access to a closet in the southwest corner and to the kitchen via a passage underneath the second-floor stairs (see Figure 10).



**Figure 10. From the waiting room looking into the former doctor's office (Left) and hallway stairs to second floor showing the curving steps at the base of the stairs (Right).**

Photographs provided by Jennifer Price, March 2019 (left) and Guy Booth, December 2018 (right).

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The 1927 addition on the east side has a large open room that is entered from either the front or back porches, with multiple entry possibilities including the regular front door and the three-sectioned window/doors that can also be used as egress into and out of that room to the exterior. Of note in this room is the fireplace with a wooden mantle with crown molding and built-in cabinets with glass-pane doors to either side (Figure 11). The fireplace surround is a distinctive yellowish-veined stone. From this room, one can enter the hallway as noted above or one can enter the dining room in the back of the house to the west. This dining room has a distinctive angled "bay window" with built-in window seat and a corner china cabinet (Figure 12). The kitchen in the southwest corner can be entered from the dining room and from the doctor's office passage underneath the staircase as noted above.



**Figure 11. Fireplace mantle and built-in cabinets in front room of the 1927 addition.**  
Photograph provided by Guy Booth, December 2018.



**Figure 12. Bay window and built-in window seat in dining room.**  
Photograph provided by Guy Booth, December 2018.



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The second floor has a centered hall that has doors to the sunroom and three bedrooms: one large and one small at the front of the two-story section of the house, one small room off the south side of the hall, and one larger room in the second floor of the 1927 addition. This bedroom has reduced ceiling height because the roof slopes in this section providing only a "half story" on the upper level. Space for a bathroom was later made off the west side of the center hall. Because this bathroom is not original, it is likely that the original upper hallway extended the full width of the 1853 house east to west. The closets and built-in cabinets are also later additions to the second-floor interior. The sunroom is accessed off the south side of the hallway and provides access to the southwest corner room, which can be used a bedroom or as storage space. There is a step down from the sunroom into this rear room.

### Statement of Integrity

This house retains fair to excellent integrity, with the many additions to the house being historic-age enhancements rather than detractions from the overall integrity. These additions were built using similar colored and types of bricks and repeating elements such as the distinctive brick lintels and the cornice returns that are present on the original house. The Colonial Revival style additions made in 1927 to the façade and east side of the house complement rather than detract from the original Early Republic style of the house. Modifications have included: the brick infill of two doors on the southwest corner addition, a modern overhead door on the garage in the south addition; and a modern wooden deck added to the rear porch on the east-side addition. These later modifications do not detract from the overall historic look and feel of this building.

The house retains excellent integrity in the aspects of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The house retains integrity of location because it is built on its original site at the southeast corner of 1st Street and 3rd Avenue. The integrity of design is reflected in the comparatively intact Early Republic house to which a Colonial Revival addition was made in 1927. The addition was specifically designed to complement the style of the original house and repeats elements from that house in the cornice returns and the design of the brick lintels on the windows. The integrity of materials is reflected in the use of locally-manufactured reddish-orange bricks and locally-quarried rough-cut limestone blocks not only in the original 1853 house but the 1927 addition as well. The 1853 portion of the house was built using bricks manufactured at the Albrights' brick yard, with the stone obtained from the nearby quarry. The integrity of workmanship is reflected in the retention of the distinctive elements of the original house design by Henry Albright, particularly the distinctive brick lintels on the windows, a design that is repeated in the 1927 addition. Since this was a house that Henry Albright built for himself, it can be used as a reference to help identify other houses and buildings that he built. The integrity of association is reflected in the direct association of this house with local builder and brickmaker, Henry D. Albright, who built this house as his own home.

The integrity of feeling is good since this house still presents a sense of time and place of one of the earliest houses built in Mount Vernon. It certainly would be recognized by Albright as his home even with the 1927 addition, which reflects the evolution of this property from a private residence to a residence combined with a professional office. In the modern era, the building has come to have a commercial use but still maintains the look of a historic home. The building is now used by the owners, Ann and Guy Booth, for Ann's retail shop and for Guy's local law office. The second floor is used by a retail tenant.

The integrity of setting is fair given the loss of historic buildings to the east where now a modern bank, small park, and parking lot are sited. However, there are historic buildings to the west, northwest, and north that have been present at the intersection of 1st Street and 3rd Avenue since the late 19th century. However, to the northeast is a late 20th century former fire station, a parking lot, and the late 20th century city hall block, all of which were added after a fire burned down the older buildings on that block. The setting around the house is enhanced by a landscaped lawn on the front and east side with shade and pine trees, flowerbeds, and flowering bushes.

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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

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

### Period of Significance

1853-1870

### Significant Dates

1853

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

### Architect/Builder

Albright, Henry D.

Albright, William D.

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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 Henry D. and Juliana (Wortz) Albright House 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*. The Albright House is significant under Criterion A of the Military Road-era context as a property “that illustrate[s] the effect the Military Road had on Mount Vernon settlement and is directly associated with important events of the period” and under Criterion C of that context as a property “that displays vernacular building techniques and traditional building materials, such as locally produced brick and locally quarried stone.” The Albright House is also significant under Criteria A and C of the “Mt. Vernon Local Brick Building” context as a property that has “associations with settlement patterns,” and “that contribute[s] markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon” through its “wall covering of locally produced brick” and its Early Republic stylistic influences. The Albright House meets these registration requirements under both Criteria A and C of both historic contexts through its association with the Military Road and its role in the settlement of Mount Vernon, through its display of local building traditions and materials, namely locally quarried limestone, locally manufactured red-orange brick, and through the workmanship of the town’s earliest masons. The Military Road brought the Albright brothers to Mount Vernon during its settlement phase, and once there the brothers made use of the natural building materials available, as well as the building traditions they brought with them from Pennsylvania, to build this house. The Albright House dates from the founding of the community and retains sufficient integrity to be considered significant to understanding Mount Vernon’s development.

The period of significance for the Albright House is 1853 to 1870, from the year Henry Albright and his brother built the house to the end of the period of significance for the “Military Road-era Buildings, Structures, and Objects, c.1840-70” context of *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa* Multiple Property Submission.

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.

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## 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 A: Historical Significance of the Henry D. and Juliana (Wortz) Albright House**

Under the registration requirements for Criterion A of the “Military Road-era, c.1840-70” context, the Albright House is a property “that illustrate[s] the effect the Military Road had on Mount Vernon settlement and is directly associated with important events of the period” (Long 1991:F2). According to the description of the significance of this property type:

Significant properties call attention to the establishment of the Military Road and illustrate the effect the route had on settlement in the Mount Vernon area. The Military Road was a key ingredient in fostering area settlement. Significant examples reveal an important architectural period and building tradition in Mount Vernon. Through their use of local building materials, these resources show how early settlers took advantage of natural resources to provide shelter during the Military Road era. They also represent the effects of a specific period of local efforts to capitalize on the presence of a major transportation route, the Military Road. Finally, significant properties illustrate a specific and influential period, the early settlement of Mount Vernon. In short, they date from the founding of the community.

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Surviving properties from this pivotal period in the history of the community are so rare that examples from prominent building types, such as houses, that retain sufficient integrity are considered significant to understanding Mount Vernon's development (Long 1991:F2).

Under the registration requirements for Criterion A of the "Mt. Vernon Local Brick Building, c.1840-93" context, the Albright House is also a property that has "associations with settlement patterns" although the primary significance for this context is under Criterion C (Long 1991:F4). According to the description of the significance of this property type:

Although their significance is primarily architectural, many examples also call attention to the early settlement period of Mount Vernon. Their construction is associated with the establishment of the Military Road around 1840 and they illustrate the effect the route had on settlement in the Mount Vernon area (Long 1991:F3-F4).

Built in 1853 by pioneer mason Henry D. Albright, the Albright House is associated with the settlement period and Military Road era of Mount Vernon. Noted in the town's centennial history as the first brick house built in Mount Vernon, the Albright House, built by Henry D. Albright and William D. Albright with bricks from the Albright brothers' own brickyard, represents the early development of Mount Vernon along the Military Road.

Henry D. Albright was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania, in 1820. In 1842, he married Juliana Wortz, a Baltimore native, and 10 years later the couple, along with Henry's brother William D. Albright, moved to Iowa. Henry was a carpenter by trade and his brother William was a mason. First settling in Iowa City in 1852, the Albrights "were persuaded to go to Mt. Vernon to work on the building of Cornell College," which was founded in 1853. The Albrights would have traveled the Military Road from Iowa City, then the state capitol, to Mount Vernon. Once there, William Albright started a brickyard located east of the ridge (or paha) on which Mount Vernon was platted, thus supplying the needed building materials. In 1853, the Albright brothers built the Seminary building ("Old Sem"), the first building on the Cornell College campus. That same year, as noted in the centennial history of the town, the brothers built the Albright house on the corner of Main and Franklin streets (now 1st Street SW and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW). William Albright lived with his brother and family at least until 1856, then returned to Hanover, Pennsylvania, around 1860, while Henry and Juliana Albright lived in their brick house in Mount Vernon for most of the rest of their lives (*Hanover Herald*, February 15, 1913; Western Historical Company 1878:456; *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 20, 1927; Iowa Census 1856; US Census 1860; Long 1991:E1-E2; Abstract of Title; *Hanover Evening Sun*, April 18, 1969; September 25, 1948).

As described in the *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald* in 1927:

The house was the first to be built seventy-five years ago following homes of log cabin type. The home sheltered a family who were prominently identified with town and college affairs and was built in 1853, the same year in which the first Cornell college seminary building was completed. H.D. Albright, a building contractor erected the home which was considered the finest in this vicinity for many years, and from which the occupants extended hospitality to many prominent visitors and notables, including bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church, state political celebrities, and college officials (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 20, 1927).

By 1860, Henry D. Albright had quit the building trades and become a general store merchant. Mr. and Mrs. Albright were the parents of seven children. The Albrights had been members of the German Reformed Church, but united with the Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, which was directly opposite their home on Main Street. Henry D. Albright was a primary benefactor of Cornell College, the institution he helped build, and served as its treasurer and trustee from 1857-1864 and served again as trustee from 1865-1867. (*Hanover Herald*, February 15, 1913; The Centennial Committee 1947:213; Long 1991:3; Cornell College 1904:94; Cornell College 1908:v; Luther and Wick 1911:207).

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In 1868, the Albrights transferred their property to their daughter and son-in-law, Louise C. and Samuel H. Manley, and then moved to California, where they resided from 1868 to 1871. In 1880, the Manleys sold the property back to the Albrights. After Henry Albright's death in 1894, Juliana Albright lived in the house until her death in 1913. The house then passed to the Albrights' son, William H. Albright. In 1926, W.H. Albright sold the house out of the family for the first time to Blossom Kirk, who just a few months later sold it to Dr. F.F. Ebersole, a Mount Vernon physician (Abstract of Title; *Hanover Herald*, February 15, 1913; *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 20, 1927 and February 3, 1927).

Immediately after purchasing the property, the Ebersoles began remodeling the residence into a combination home and doctor's office. As the *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald* explained after the purchase:

In the near future Dr. Ebersole will reconstruct the place into office and residence quarters, using the entire lower floor of the old house for office accommodations. Architects are now at work on plans.

Additions will be of brick and throughout the entire reconstruction an attempt will be made to follow as closely as possible the Colonial type of architecture now so quaintly shown in the old buildings on this ideal site (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, February 3, 1927).

Six months later, the Ebersole's new doctor's office was completed:

The office equipment of Dr. F.F. Ebersole was moved on Tuesday into his fine new quarters in the rebuilt office and house at First Street and Third Avenue. . . . The outside of the structure is all finished and with the brick wall around the back of the lot presents a fine appearance and is a decided improvement and fine addition to First Street (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, August 11, 1927).

Finally, in late September, the Ebersoles were able to move into their newly remodeled home:

Dr. and Mrs. F.F. Ebersole moved their household goods last week into the attractive remodeled residence and office property on First Street. . . .

The newly rebuilt and enlarged office and resident quarters of Dr. Ebersole present a very pleasing appearance as they near completion. The building is an excellent improvement to Main street (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, September 8, 1927).

In 1951, the Ebersoles died in an automobile accident. Having no children, and after one brother, Prof. William S. Ebersole of Cornell College, died the following year, the property ended up in the hands of the executor and trustee, Guaranty Bank and Trust Company in Cedar Rapids, which then conveyed the property in 1955 to Cornell College, per Dr. Ebersole's will, for the purpose of The Ebersole Memorial Foundation for Student Health. Cornell College owned the property until 1978, when it sold the parcel to Roy R. and Patricia M. Bowman (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, August 9, 1951; Abstract of Title).

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**Figure 12. View southeast of the Albright House, 1947, after the Ebersole remodeling and additions in 1927**  
Source: Centennial Committee 1947

***Criterion C: Architectural Significance of the Henry D. and Juliana (Wortz) Albright House***

Under the registration requirements for Criterion C of the “Military Road-era, c.1840-1870” context, the Albright House 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

The Albright 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 Early Republic 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.

Although their significance is primarily architectural, many examples also call attention to the early settlement period of Mount Vernon. Their construction is associated with the establishment of the Military Road around 1840 and they illustrate the effect the route had on settlement in the Mount Vernon area (Long 1991:F3-F4).



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The Albright House, known locally as “First Brick,” was likely the first house built of locally made brick on a locally quarried stone foundation. The house was built by the Albright brothers, Mount Vernon’s earliest masons and brickmakers, and exhibits a vernacular Early Republic influence that dominated early Military Road-era and local brick housing in Mount Vernon.

The Albright House, built in 1853, is a two-story, side-gabled vernacular house with Early Republic and Federal style influences. Its foundation is locally quarried limestone and its exterior walls are the deep red-orange locally produced brick that is the hallmark of Mount Vernon’s Military Road era housing. As Janet Dumbaugh observed in her survey of brick buildings in Mount Vernon in 1978, the early pioneers of Mount Vernon “depended on craftsmen to build their new dwellings, which usually reflected styles of homes from communities left behind.” Not only were an “unusually high number of brick homes” built during the Military Road era, Dumbaugh notes, but also “a high proportion of settlers were from the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area” (Dumbaugh 1980:2).<sup>3</sup>

The Lancaster area is world famous for its brick domestic and barn architecture. The [Pennsylvania] Dutch settlers in the early 1700s were ingenious in putting to use the native lime and muddy soils needed to make bricks. These same resources were available in the Mt. Vernon locale. Clay was easily extracted from the sides of the hills, limestone was plentiful, and the Cedar River banks supplied the sand. . . The craftsmen of Mt. Vernon probably did not use pattern books and most certainly were not guided by city codes. They brought their skills and ideas with them and were limited to repeating the same designs with little variation until perhaps ten years later. These men usually built double brick walls with the bricks laid lengthwise in two parallel rows joined by crosswise bricks in various patterns. . . . Because of the resources available to make the bricks and the talented craftsmen from Pennsylvania it was natural and fortunate that Mt. Vernon should reflect this heritage (Dumbaugh 2; 4).

The house was built by Henry D. and William D. Albright. The Albright brothers were born and grew up near Hanover, Pennsylvania, which is near Lancaster. They arrived together in Mount Vernon in June 1852, attracted by the founding of Cornell College, and for the next few years they worked as brickmakers and builders for early settlers, but are specifically known to have built Old Sem and College Hall at Cornell College and the house in which Henry and his wife Juliana would reside for most of the rest of their lives. According to Dumbaugh, all three buildings feature similarities:

All are basically rectangular, with the entrance centrally located on the long side, and windows placed symmetrically beside the door on each side and in the same position on the second or more stories. It is still domestic architecture that has been adapted in the case of the college buildings, for another purpose. The Home and College Buildings share another feature that seems to be quite a common feature in this era of vernacular design and that is the inverted square U of raised brick forming the lintel and extending a short way down the side of the window. . . . Another common design is the use of a semi-circular window or vent at the gable (Dumbaugh 1980:5).

As with other houses of this antebellum period, the brick of the Albright House is set in the common bond pattern, in which every sixth row is turned to form a tie between two rows of brick in a brick wall, creating a double wall. The double wall strengthened and supported the structure in addition to providing insulation and fire protection.

William Albright supplied the needed building material – bricks and lime – at his brickyard at the bottom of the ridge on land just northwest of Mount Vernon cemetery. He may also have made some of the bricks on site using a temporary kiln, a common practice. The *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald* gave a description of the house when Henry Albright’s son, W.H. Albright, sold it out of the family for the first time in 1927:

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<sup>3</sup> The Pennsylvania Dutch, also known as Pennsylvania Germans, are descendants of early German immigrants to Pennsylvania.  
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The entire building consisting of living apartments, store rooms and stable was built of brick, and the fine condition of the walls today testify to the careful and permanent manner in which pioneer workmanship was done (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 20, 1927).

When Dr. F. F. Ebersole enlarged and remodeled the house in 1927, he hired an architect to keep the additions to the house in harmony with the original "Colonial" (i.e., Early Republic) style (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, February 3, 1927). Even so, the exterior of the original Albright House to this day remains distinct from its later additions.

### ***Archaeological Assessment***

The potential for any prehistoric or historic archaeological features and deposits within the property boundary was not assessed as part of the present National Register nomination. It is known that the original south end of the lot was truncated for the construction of a driveway and parking lot in the modern era.

### ***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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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.)

Abstract of Title to Lot 1, Except the SW-ly 28 Feet thereof, Block 1, The Town of Mount Vernon, Linn County, Iowa.  
United Title Services, Inc., 1979.

Brewer, Luther A., and Barthinius L. Wick. *History of Linn County Iowa: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*. Volume I. Chicago: The Pioneer Publishing Company, 1911.

"Buys Albright Homestead," *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, February 3, 1927.

Centennial Committee. *A Centennial History of Mount Vernon, Iowa, 1847-1947*. Mount Vernon, Iowa: Centennial Committee, 1948.

*Cornell College, 1853-1903: A Record of the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the College*. Mount Vernon, Iowa: Cornell College, 1904.

"Dr. and Mrs. F.F. Ebersole Die In Accident," *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, August 9, 1951.

Dumbaugh, Janet. "A Survey of Brick Buildings in Mount Vernon, Iowa, 1850-1859. Unpublished typescript prepared for Nineteenth Century Architecture, University of Iowa, November 1980.

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.

"Moves into New Office," *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, August 11, 1927.

"Move into New Quarters," *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, September 8, 1927.

Obituary of Juliana Wortz Albright, *Hanover Herald*, February 15, 1913. Obtained from Find A Grave website <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90922504/Julianana-anna-albright> on 11/7/2018.

"Pioneer Property Sold," *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 20, 1927.

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

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### 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

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☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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>41.923200</u>	<u>-91.419110</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

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

The nominated property is a parcel defined as Lot 1 Block 1 in the Original Plat of Mount Vernon located at on the southeast corner of 1st Street SW and 3rd Ave SW The north and south boundaries are each 66 feet and the east and west boundaries are each 104 feet.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Henry D. and Juliana (Wortz) Albright House at 224 1st Street SW in Mount Vernon, Linn County, Iowa.

## 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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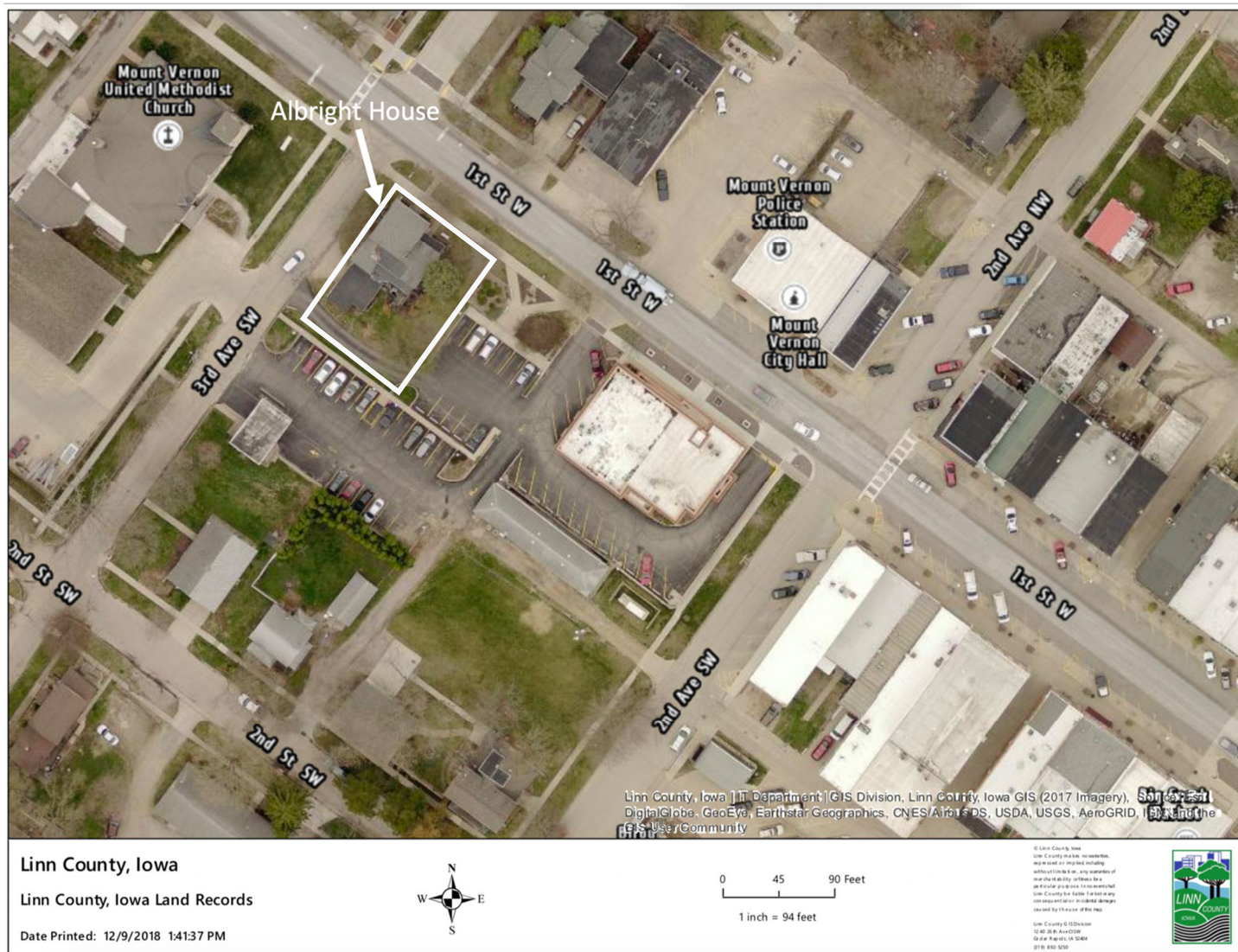


**Figure 13. GIS Location Map.**  
Source: ExpertGPS mapping software, 2019.



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**Figure 14. Local Location Map.**  
National Register boundary is shown as white outline.  
Source: Linn County, Iowa GIS, 2018.

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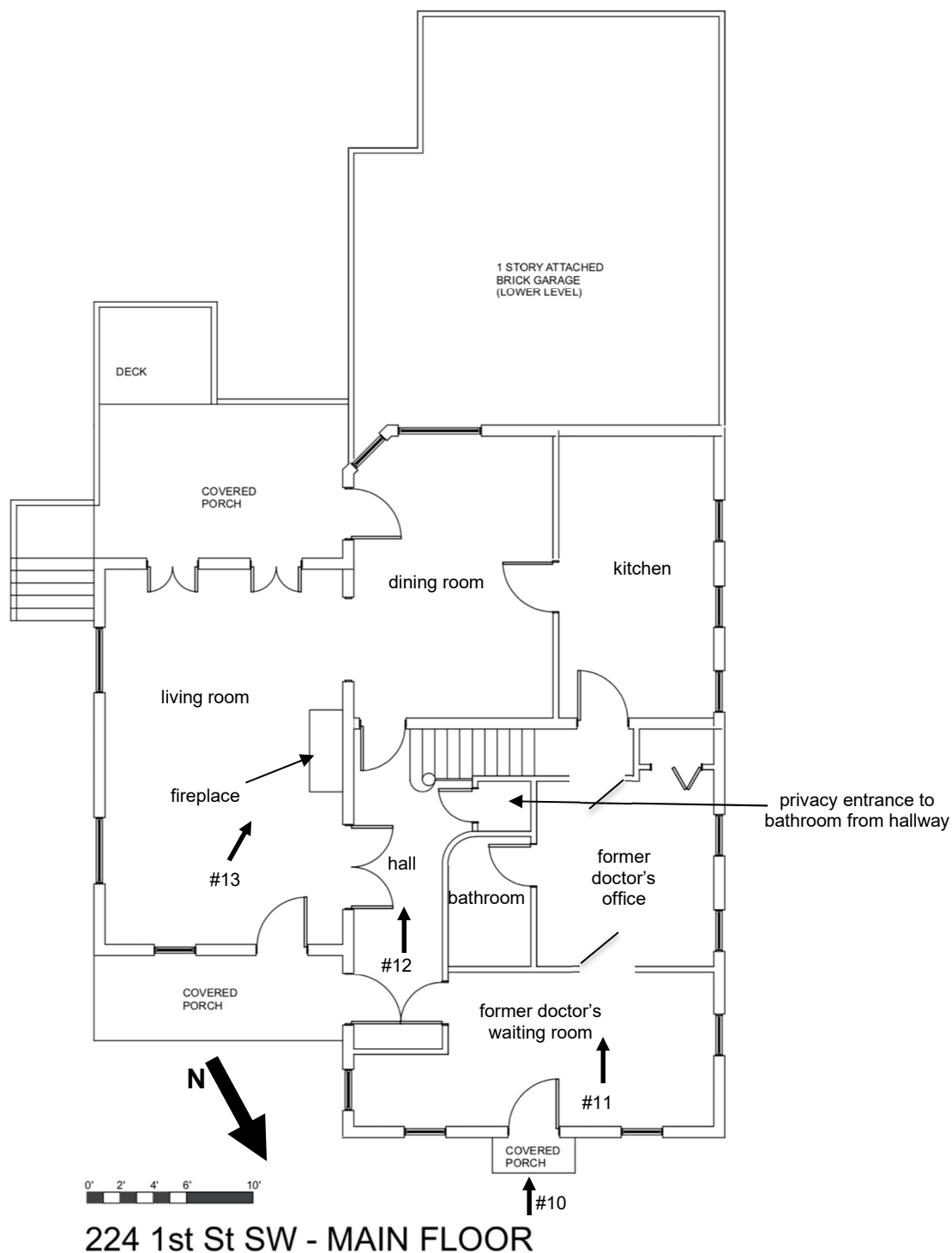
Linn County, Iowa  
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**Figure 15. Site Plan.**  
National Register boundary is white outline.  
Source: Linn County, Iowa GIS, 2018.

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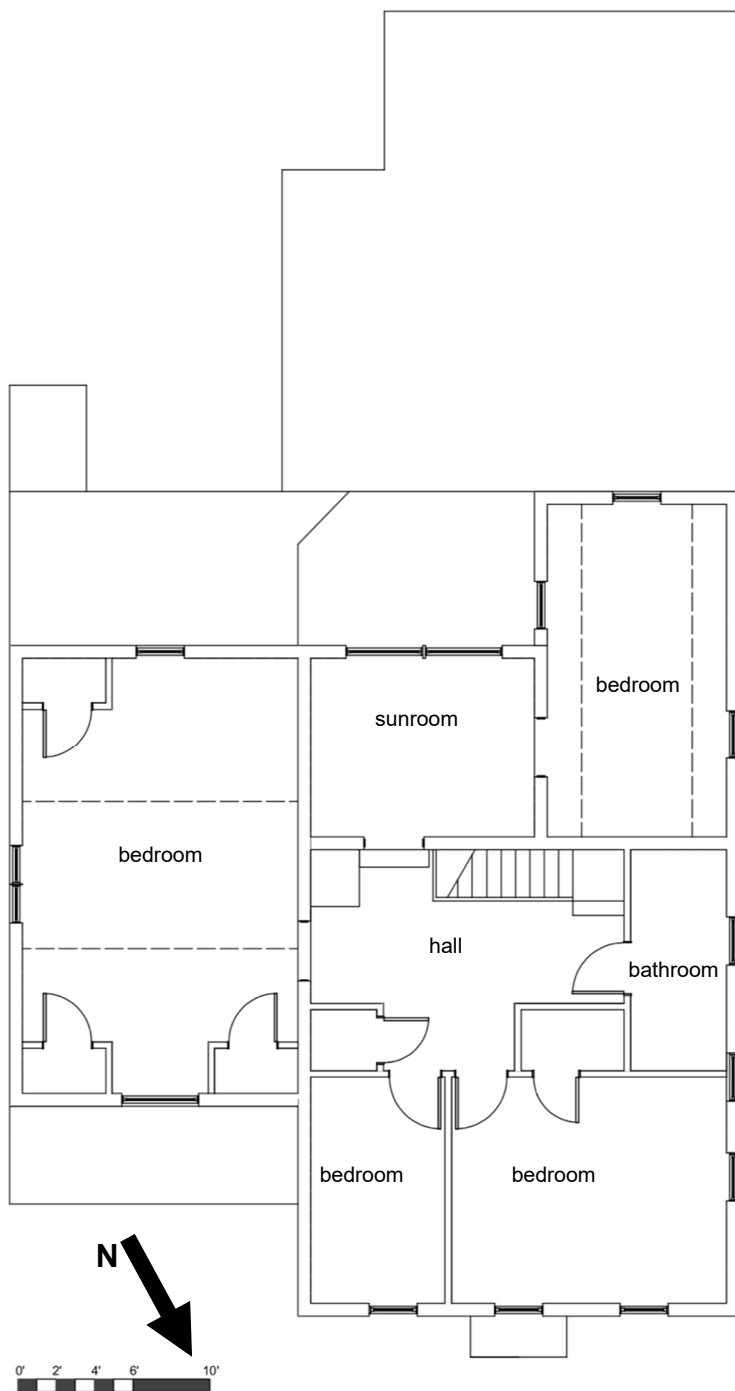


**Figure 16. Main Floor Plan and Direction of Photos 10-13**  
Drawn by Ed Sauter, Mount Vernon, Iowa



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224 1st St SW - UPPER FLOOR

**Figure 17. Upper Floor Plan**  
Drawn by Ed Sauter, Mount Vernon, Iowa

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**Figure 18. Site Plan showing direction of photographs #1-8.**  
Source: Linn County, Iowa GIS, 2018.



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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**

<b>Name of Property:</b>	Albright, Henry D. and Juliana (Wortz), House		
<b>City or Vicinity:</b>	Mount Vernon		
<b>County:</b>	Linn County	<b>State:</b>	IA
<b>Photographer:</b>	Leah D. Rogers		
<b>Date Photographed:</b>	March 30, 2019		

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

Photo 1 of 13: Albright House looking West  
Photo 2 of 13: Albright House looking South  
Photo 3 of 13: Albright House closer view looking South  
Photo 4 of 13: Albright House looking SW at façade  
Photo 5 of 13: Albright House closer view looking West  
Photo 6 of 13: Albright House looking North at rear (south side)  
Photo 7 of 13: Albright House looking NNE at rear (south side)  
Photo 8 of 13: Albright House looking NE at rear and west side  
Photo 9 of 13: Albright House looking ESE at west side  
Photo 10 of 13: Albright House looking SW at front porch  
Photo 11 of 13: Interior waiting room looking SSW into former doctor's office  
Photo 12 of 13: Interior hallway looking SSW at staircase  
Photo 13 of 13: Interior of front room of 1927 addition looking SW towards dining room

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**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.