

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 Waln, Elijah D. and Mary J. (Adams), House

other names/site number C.P. and Gertrude E. Whittemore 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street & number 323 3rd Street NE not for publication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.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	1	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	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

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

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 vernacular Greek Revival style brick house is a landmark in the Mount Vernon community. Built c.1856, the house sits on a high hill overlooking the town from the east end of 3rd Street NE. The house was actually built in two sections, the first having been the two-story, side-gabled front section that faces west. The second addition built in 1900 consists of the rear section that housed the kitchen, dining room and two upstairs bedrooms. The exterior brick walls on the original side-gabled portion of the house are laid in a 5:1 common bond, or five stretcher courses for every single header course. However, the façade is laid in a running bond, with all courses laid as stretchers. All of the brick is locally-made, reddish-orange soft mud bricks. The foundation is built of locally-quarried limestone blocks that have been painted white on the exterior. Significant features include: the original two-story, side-gabled portion of the house that has brick pilasters at each corner that bump out slightly from the walls, cornice returns on the gable ends, and scroll-cut wooden brackets under the eaves. The windows all have U-shaped, brick soldier-course lintels with corbelled-brick drip molds. This type of lintel design is seen on other historic properties, notably College Hall on the Cornell College campus, built by the Albright brothers (Henry D. and William D) and who built the original portion of this house. The sills are wooden planks. The property retains good to excellent historic integrity on both the exterior and interior.

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 vernacular Greek Revival brick house sits on the east edge of the town of Mount Vernon and was a suburban farm acreage historically. It was built c. 1856 on a high hill overlooking the town and is surrounded by an expansive lot with mature shade trees and other landscaping. A driveway curves into the property from 3rd Street NE and circles around the north and east sides of the house. There is a long concrete sidewalk extending out from the front porch to the southwest angling towards and eventually meeting this driveway. Additional concrete sidewalks extend out from the rear door to the northeast and southwest and one wraps around the south side of the house. The large rear yard features a gabled barn that was built c. 1900. This property is a landmark in the Mount Vernon community and is recognized as among the earliest of the houses built in this community. The house was actually built in two sections, the first having been the two-story, side-gabled front section that faces west. The second addition built in 1900 consists of the rear section that housed the kitchen, dining room, and two upstairs bedrooms. Both the original section and addition have cellars underneath.

The exterior brick walls off the original side-gabled portion of the house are laid in a 5:1 common bond. However, the façade is laid in a running bond where all the courses are laid as stretchers. The bricks are locally-made, reddish-orange soft mud bricks. The foundation is built of locally-quarried limestone blocks that have been painted white on the exterior. The stone on the original portion of the house has also been coated with cement stucco and the type of stone (dressed or rough-cut) is not readily identifiable. The original two-story, side-gabled portion of the house has brick pilasters at each corner that bump out slightly from the walls. The windows all have distinctive U-shaped, brick soldier-course lintels with corbelled-brick drip molds (Figure 1). This type of lintel design is seen on other historic properties, notably College Hall on the Cornell College campus, built by the Albright brothers (Henry D. and William D) and who built the original portion of this house. The sills are wooden planks. The windows are all double-hung, wooden-sash windows but include 1/1, 2/1, and 2/2 windows reflecting the later addition to the

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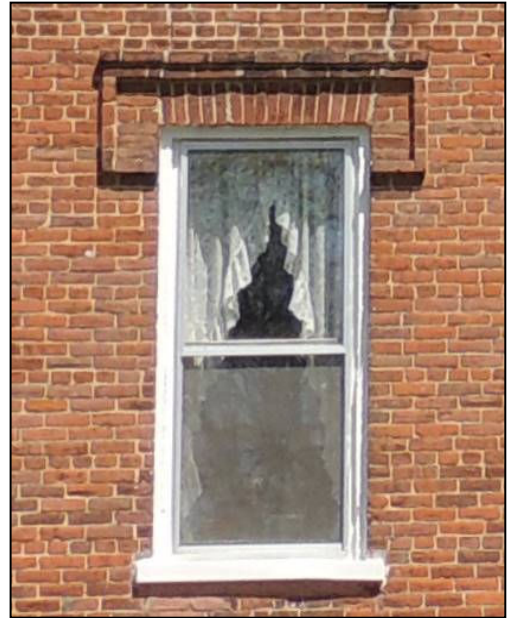
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house and some window replacements through the years. However, most of the windows are of historic age.

The side-gabled roof has a moderate pitch, wide eave overhang, and cornice returns on the gabled ends. There are scroll-cut wooden brackets evenly spaced under the eaves in the gable ends and in pairs under the eaves at the corners above the pilasters. The eaves also feature cornice moldings and wide frieze boards. There is a band of corbelled brick under the eaves and a band of corbelled brick at the 1st/2nd floor break on the gable ends, which altogether with the corner pilasters and the corbelled hood molds gives the appearance that the main walls are recessed panels further imparting a very classical effect to the design.

Figure 1. Detail of brick lintel on windows seen on other Albright-built properties in Mount Vernon.

Photograph taken May 4, 2018.



There is a two-story, hip-roofed addition on the rear of the house that was added in 1900. The walls of this addition have a brick veneer laid in the same running bond as the façade of the house. The foundation is also made of local limestone that is painted white on the exterior. The blocks used in this portion of the foundation are rough-cut or quarry-faced blocks. The windows and doors on the addition have segmental-arched brick lintels laid in two rowlock-courses of bricks.

Façade (West Side)¹

The façade of this house features three-rank fenestration, with centered doors on both the first and second stories each flanked by single windows (Figure 2). These double-hung, wooden-sash windows include 1/1, 2/1, and 2/2 windows. The doors are sheltered by a two-story porch that projects out from the façade and is enclosed with brick on the first story but is open on the second story.² The door on the second floor has a flat transom window and side lights. The transom windows have decorative diamond-shaped muntins. The open porch has a low-pitched, front-gabled roof that is supported by three-quarter height, fluted wooden posts on square wooden-paneled piers. The columns at the façade are half-round pilasters. The wooden railing has flat balusters with decorative cut-outs. The first story of the porch is covered with the same type of brick as the main body of the house and laid in the same bond and was enclosed in 1900. There is a single window centered on the façade of this brick vestibule, with the exterior entry door on the south side. This door has a modern storm door, but the interior door is a historic wooden door that has four horizontal panels below a clear rectangular pane of glass in the upper half. The door has a transom window above. The door is now reached by a set of concrete steps that ascend to a concrete stoop that has a wrought-iron railing painted white.

¹ 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.

² The façade and porch configuration are echoed in the façade of the Adams R., Frederick L. and Martha (Taylor) Knott House (also a Military Road era brick house in Mount Vernon), suggesting a common builder, most likely the Albright brothers.

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Figure 2. Façade (west side). Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

South Side

The south gable end has two single windows symmetrically placed on each story and flanking the brick pilaster of a former chimney centered on the wall and extending up to the frieze board (Figure 3). There are two smaller single attic windows flanking the center pilaster on this gable end. The windows on this side include two 2/1, one 1/1, and one 2/2 wooden-sash, double-hung windows. The attic windows appear to be 2/2 or 4/2 wooden-sash windows but could be fixed-pane or casement-type windows. The attic windows have wooden sills and brick-rowlock lintels. There is an exterior basement entry on the south side that is covered with a slanted wood-paneled door. Iron tie rods are placed in several locations at the floor level of the attic and 2nd story that are structural elements likely added to maintain the structural integrity of the brick walls. Cracks in the wall have been repaired.



Figure 3. South side. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

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The south side of the rear addition is set back to the north from the south wall of the original section of the house (Figure 4). The addition has three windows across the second story but the windows are placed as pairs on the right half of the wall and as a single window set closer to the left side of the wall. This fenestration is repeated on the first story, with the left opening being a door and the paired windows to the right. The windows are all 1/1 wooden-sash, double-hung windows. A modern wooden deck was added to this side of the rear addition and extends out to south slightly beyond the south wall of the main house section. A set of three wooden steps leads down to a concrete sidewalk. A simple wooden railing surrounds the south and east sides of the deck.



Figure 4. Southeast corner of house. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

Rear (East Side)

The rear of the main body of the house shows a bricked-in door opening on the left (south) side that retains its brick sailor-course lintel (Figure 5). Above this former opening is a 2/2 double-hung, wooden-sash window with brick sailor-course lintel and wooden-plank sill. This window is partially covered by the eave and gutter of the rear addition further substantiating that the rear ell is an addition and not original to the main house design. The east side of the rear addition has two segmental-arched, 1/1 wooden-sash windows with brick-rowlock lintels and wooden-plank sills. These windows are evenly spaced on either side of the rear door, which is covered with a projecting hip-roofed, clapboard-sided porch that has a single door with a small, fixed four-pane window to the right side and the same type of window centered on the north side of this enclosed porch. To the left of this rear entry porch are two 1/1 wooden-sash windows on either side of a small rectangular window set just under the level of the segmental-arched brick lintels. This small window is a fixed pane of decorative stained glass. To the right of the rear entry porch is a single window that has been covered over with a wooden panel but has the same brick-rowlock lintel and wooden-plank sill as the rest of the rear addition windows. There is a cistern off the northeast corner of the house that has a circular concrete cap and is probably open on the interior even though it is no longer in use. The age of this cistern is uncertain; therefore, it is not counted as a contributing structure in this nomination and is considered part of the archaeological potential of the yard area around the house.

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Figure 5. Rear (east side) of house. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

North Side

The openings on the north side of the rear ell have the same segmental-arched lintels of rowlock bricks and wooden-plank sills as on the rest of this addition (Figure 6). The north wall has one window to the left side on the first story and a door that extends into the basement level on the right side. The window on the left is reduced in the lower portion by a wooden panel to half of the window's original size but the original window opening remains intact and is infilled around the window. The second story of the rear addition has two regular-sized, segmental-arched windows to the left and right sides, with a narrower window to the left of the right-side window. The second story windows are 1/1 wooden-sash, double-hung windows, with the reduced window being fixed panes of three stacked vertically to one side and a long single pane to the other side.

The north gable end of the original section of the house is identical to the south gable end except that the windows on this side are all 2/2 double-hung, wooden-sash windows on the first and second stories.



Figure 6. North side. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

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Interior

The interior retains many original and historic components including: 4-paneled wooden interior doors with transom windows above the doors; the wooden front door which has four horizontal panels below a clear rectangular glass pane; the paneled wooden casements at the door openings; brass and porcelain door knobs, some boxed metal door locks; peaked lintel boards with prominent crown molding; the open staircase that has a turned newel post, turned spindles, and curving railing; the brick fireplace with native walnut mantle and flagstone hearth; and built-in cabinets/drawers in the upstairs hallway (Figures 7-8). The woodwork in the original section of the house is native walnut largely painted white (Doebel 1962). Notable examples on the main floor include the doorways that have distinctive casings that flare towards the top and at the bottom and are capped by peaked lintel boards with complex crown moldings. The moldings have concave-fillet-convex profiles. These surrounds as a whole impart a temple look to these doorways. Other notable interior features include the flagstone floor in part of the basement and the exterior lead weights for the double-hung windows as opposed to the weights being boxed inside of the window casements (see Figure 8). The Wolfe family added beams to the ceiling and bookshelves to the living room in the 1950s-1960s. They also carpeted most of the hardwood floors because the floors were in poor condition when they purchased the house in the 1950s. Some of the plaster walls had to be repaired as well (Doebel 1962). One of four bedrooms in the original structure was converted to a bathroom.

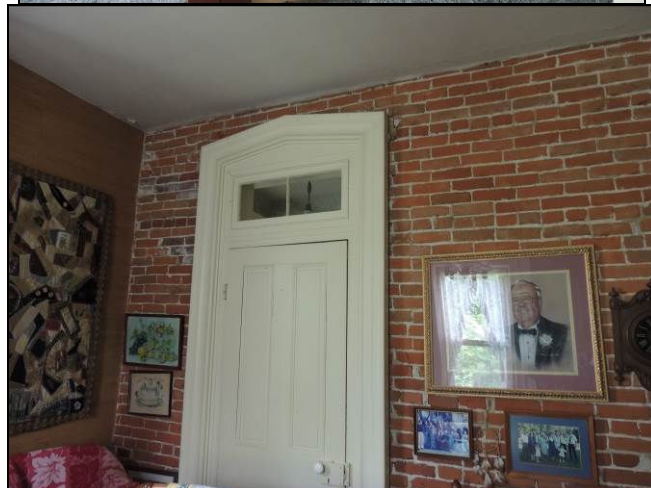
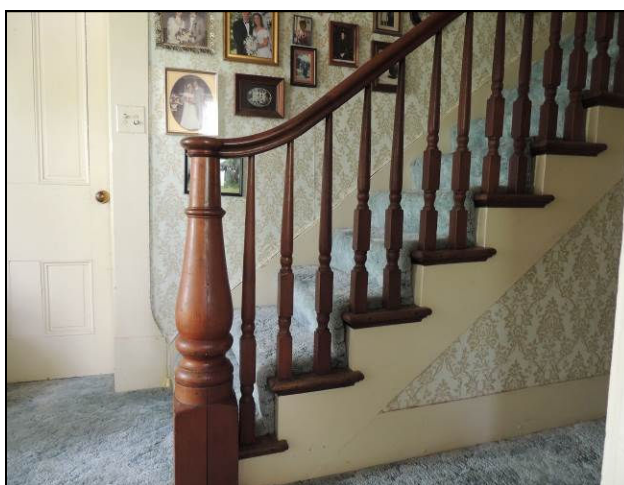


Figure 7. Interior views (clockwise from top left): door molding and transom; curved stair bannister; fireplace; and interior brick wall. Photographs taken May 2018.

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Figure 8. Interior views (clockwise from top left): flagstone floor in cellar; sash weight on outside of window casing on the interior; built-in cabinet/drawers in the upstairs hallway; and balcony door (to left) and door with peaked lintel just inside balcony door (to right). Photographs taken May 2018.

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The main floor plan shows the front door enters into a hall that extends in depth to the center of the side-gabled section and not its whole depth. The staircase to the second floor is on the left side of the hall with an entry door into the front room to the immediate right side of the front door. Entry into the room on the south side of the hallway is from the rear living room, and one has to go through the hall into the living room in order to gain access to the south front room, now used as a TV room. The living room occupies the south corner and center of the rear of the side-gabled original section of the house. The space in the north corner is now a laundry room that is accessed from the rear kitchen addition. The fireplace is located on the wall of the living room between the door to the hallway and the wide door opening into the front room. The upper floor of the original side-gabled portion of the house retains the original floor plan having a long central hall that spans the depth of the building with the staircase along the north wall of the hallway. Four equally-sized bedrooms flank the hall with two on each side. The bedrooms can only be accessed from the hallway. The door to the upper balcony is off the hallway.

The main floor of the rear additions has the kitchen to the north and the dining room to the south, with the dining room entered from the living room and from the exterior porch deck. The kitchen can be entered from the dining room and the rear porch and has access to the laundry room and a bathroom. The stairs to the basement and the second floor above are along the north wall of the kitchen and have an exterior access at the lower landing. The second floor of the rear additions has a long but irregular-shaped hall along the wall that abuts the original house. From this hallway, one can access two bedrooms of different sizes.

Barn (Noncontributing Building)

This small barn is located to the east of the house. It has a side-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles, vertical wooden board-and-batten siding, and a concrete foundation (Figure 9). The building has a ground floor with a hay loft above. The interior construction shows sawn posts and beams with wooden pegged mortise-and-tenon joinery. This type of construction was typical of the late 19th and early 20th centuries; therefore, the estimated c.1900 date of construction may be close to its actual build date. The south side of the building has three wooden doors across with a door at either side and the third slightly off-center between the two outer doors. There is a one-story, shed-roofed structure on the south gable end that has wooden plank open-out doors on the west side and the same vertical board-and-batten siding as on the main body of the barn. The south gable end of the barn has a small square window or vent opening in the gable end that is now covered with a metal sheet. The south side of the shed-roofed section also has a single window set towards the right side of the wall. This window is rectangular and has two vertical panes of glass. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east side of the barn has a single door to the left side, double open-out doors to the right side, and two square windows between the two doors (Figure 10). These windows are single-pane windows. The foundation of both the barn and its addition appears to be poured concrete. The east side of the shed-roofed section of the barn has an addition that also has a shed roof and projects out to the east. The roof of this addition is covered with corrugated metal. This addition has a door on the north side, square window openings on the east side, and rectangular windows on the south side. These windows are screens rather than glass windows.

The north gable end of the barn has two rectangular windows with single panes of glass (see Figure 10). The barn is now adjacent to a large vegetable garden where originally there was probably a horse paddock. The size of this barn suggests that its original function was to house horses and likely a milk cow. The loft would have been used for hay storage. There are now concrete pads on the east and west sides of the barn, which is being used for storage and as a utility shed.

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Figure 9. Barn, west and south sides. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.



Figure 10. Barn, east and north sides. Photograph taken May 4, 2018.

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Statement of Integrity

The Waln House retains good to excellent historic integrity in all seven of the aspects of historic integrity.

The house is at its original location on a prominent elevation overlooking the town of Mount Vernon.

The house retains good integrity of design as a well-preserved local example of the Greek Revival style as represented by the original side-gabled section of the house. This design is reflected in the orientation and form of the house, the symmetrical three-rank fenestration, the cornice returns in the gable ends, the corbelled-brick pilasters at the corners, the wide eave overhang with brackets under the eaves, and the distinctive corbelled-brick lintels.

The house further retains excellent integrity of materials in the use of locally-manufactured bricks and locally-quarried limestone in the house construction. The limestone was used in the foundation and the bricks for the exterior wall construction and corbelled design details on the original section of the house. This house was located not far from the brick kiln and stone quarry from which the materials used in its construction were obtained.

The excellent integrity of workmanship is reflected in the masonry work of the original section of the house, most notably including the distinctive U-shaped, brick-corbelled lintels that are a design associated with the Albright brothers' early brick buildings seen elsewhere in Mount Vernon. The interior woodwork including the staircase also showcase local carpentry skills and workmanship.

The setting of this property also retains excellent integrity, with the large parcel still associated with this property remaining a suburban/rural property to the present day. The house commands attention in the community because it is sited at the summit of a prominent hill overlooking the town. The curving driveway leads one into the property and around the house. Mature shade trees, ornamental bushes and hedges, flower beds, and other landscaping features enhance this setting. The presence of a historic barn on the property reflects the suburban farm acreage function of this property.

The excellent integrity of association is reflected in this house as a local landmark in the community representing an important home and property in Mount Vernon's early settlement. The retention of the circa 1900 horse barn, although noncontributing because it was built outside of the period of significance, does enhance the overall integrity of the property in its association with the town's early suburban settlement.

The integrity of feeling is also excellent, with this property imparting a strong sense of time and place because it retains such high integrity in all respects.

The main modification to this house was the construction of the rear brick addition in 1900. However, this addition is considered an enhancement rather than an impact to the historic integrity of this dwelling because it is compatible in materials and design with the original section of the house and yet is identifiable as a later addition. Interior remodeling resulted in some changes to the ground floor plan but left intact the significant features of the original woodwork, doors, and windows. The lower story of the front porch was also enclosed in 1900 but was done so with brick to match the main body of the house. The only modern modification has been the addition of a wooden deck to the rear.

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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

c.1856-1870

Significant Dates

c.1856

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 Elijah D. and Mary J. (Adams) Waln 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 Waln 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 Waln 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 Greek Revival style. The Waln House, built c.1856, 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 and locally-manufactured, red-orange brick, and through the workmanship of the town’s earliest masons. Built for prominent pioneer Elijah Dick Waln, the Waln House bears a strong resemblance to College Hall, built in 1856 by the Albright brothers with bricks from his brickyard just southeast of town. The period of significance for the Waln House is c.1856 to 1870, from the time E.D. Waln had the house built 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.

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 Elijah D. and Mary J. (Adams) Waln House

Under the registration requirements for Criterion A of the “Military Road-era, c.1840-70” context, the Elijah D. and Mary J. (Adams) Waln 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.

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).

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Under the registration requirements for Criterion A of the "Mt. Vernon Local Brick Building, c.1840-93" context, the Waln 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).

The Waln House illustrates this specific and influential period, not only as an example of a distinctive building tradition, but also as the home of Elijah D. Waln, prominent and beloved pioneer settler. Elijah Dick Waln was born in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, in 1814, the eldest of nine children. After losing his father when he was 15, E.D. Waln and the family moved to Ohio, where he farmed for three years before starting work in the mercantile business and eventually owning his own dry goods store in New Lexington, Ohio. He married Mary J. Adams in 1837, and the couple would eventually have nine children. In 1841, the Walns moved to Iowa, buying land first in Bertram Township, Linn County. There, the Walns lived in a log cabin and farmed. In 1848, Waln moved his family to the newly platted town of Mount Vernon, and soon after opened the first general variety store, where the town's first election for Justice of the Peace was held. As Rev. C.A. Hawn recollected in 1906:

Waln came to Mount Vernon in the spring of 1849 and put up a frame house 40x40 feet, two and one-half stories high, in the south-west corner of first street and First avenue . . . He opened up a general store and a hotel. He kept a large stock of dry goods, groceries and some hardware. He also kept a hotel in this building. His sign, painted in large letters over the door, was very pretentious. It read: "Great Western Emporium," E.D. Waln." In 1855 [or 1851], Mr. Waln built the two story brick on the northeast corner of First street and First avenue, when he engaged for several years in the mercantile business (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 9, 1906).

The Walns and their three oldest children were converted to Methodism during the great revival of 1850 and were baptized in the brook where the Albright brothers' brick kiln would be built just a few years later. Waln became the first Sunday School Superintendent for the early Methodist church, and was one of the founders, long-time trustee, and generous benefactor of Cornell College. He was also a charter member of the Masonic lodge in Mount Vernon. About 1856, not long after the Albright brothers arrived in Mount Vernon, Waln had a brick residence built on his farm on the northeast edge of Mount Vernon (Figure 11). The Greek Revival style house shares many stylistic features with College Hall, which the Albrights built in 1856. Apparently, Waln "suffered a financial reversal during the hard times of 1857-1860," although in 1858, he was elected state representative to the Iowa Legislature from Linn County. In 1860, Waln retired from his mercantile business and returned to farming on the northeast edge of town. He was the first to ship cattle from Mount Vernon on the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad (precursor to the Chicago & North Western), which reached the town in 1859 (American Biographical Publishing Company 1878:640-641; Chapman Brothers 1887:620; Centennial Committee 1948:18, 23-24; 28-29; 33; 118; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 9, 1906; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, September 22, 1899).

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Figure 11. The Waln House shown on the 1859 map of Mount Vernon (red arrow).
Source: McWilliams and Thompson 1859

In 1889, when the Walns held a family reunion at their home, the event was described by the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* as “a very pleasant affair and the home coming of the children and grand children – a total of 67 people – gathering at ‘the old homestead’.” The newspaper also took the opportunity to wax eloquently about the beloved pioneer couple, their pleasant home, and their positive influence on the community:

This community, this county, this commonwealth are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Waln for the healthful and invigorating moral and social influence that has radiated from their home. . . Such marriages create the State. Such homes make the perfect commonwealth one of the possibilities of the future. . . We who know you best and most intimately know how worthily you have lived, with what industry, frugality, and wise forethought you have built up and established this home and have reared your children to honest and useful manhood and womanhood. Homes such as you have builded [sic] are the true foundation of a free government. The only guarantee we have of the perpetuity of our free institutions is founded in our homes, our schools and our churches. Long may this aged and honored couple be spared to their family and friends, and may their last days be peaceful and happy (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, August 30, 1889).

In 1892, the Walns sold their house to C.P. Whittemore and moved to a house across the street. E.D. Waln died in 1896, and Mary J. Waln died in 1899 (*Abstract of Title*; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, July 24, 1896; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, September 22, 1899). The Whittemores built the rear addition and enclosed the lower portion of the front porch in 1900 (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, August 3, 1900). The next owners, the Walter-Biderman family, resided in the house for the next 33 years (Brooks 1964).

Criterion C: Architecture of the E.D. and Mary J. (Adams) Waln House

Under the registration requirements for Criterion C of the “Military Road-era, c.1840-1870” context, the Elijah D. and Mary J. (Adams) Waln 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 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 Waln 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 (Long 1991:F3-F4).

The Waln House is a two-story, side-gabled Greek Revival style house. It was built c.1856. Its foundation is locally quarried limestone and its exterior walls are the deep reddish-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 1980, 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).³

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 1980:2, 4).

The Waln House was most likely built by Henry D. and William D. Albright about 1856, the same time the brothers were building College Hall, the second building completed on the Cornell College campus. 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 the college and the town's early settlers. The brothers are specifically known to have built Old Sem (1853) and College Hall (1856), the first buildings on the Cornell College campus, as well as the Henry D. Albright House, locally known as "First Brick," where Henry and his wife would reside for most of the rest of their lives. According to Dumbaugh, all three buildings feature similarities in style, materials, and building methods:

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. . . (Dumbaugh 1980:5).

Although the Waln House was not included in Dumbaugh's survey, it shares similarities with all three known Albright-built buildings, and most particularly with the 1856 College Hall building with its brick pilasters and scrolled brackets. Moreover, its façade resembles the Knott House, which also may have been built by the Albrights, with its front porch portico and second floor balcony. As with other houses of this antebellum period, the brick of the Waln House is set in the common bond pattern, in which every fifth 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

³ The Pennsylvania Dutch, also known as Pennsylvania Germans, are descendants of early German immigrants to Pennsylvania.
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the structure in addition to providing insulation and fire protection. William Albright likely 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 and just south of the Waln property. He may also have made some of the bricks on site using a temporary kiln, a common practice. As Barbara Long notes: “By 1856 brickmaking was a considerable local industry. In her letters home Mrs. Benjamin Ford noted that her four boarders “are making brick and burning lime and they earn \$1.25 a day” (Dumbaugh 1980:12; Long 1991:E3).

In 1892, the Walns sold the property to C.P. and Gertrude E. Whittemore. In 1900, Whittemore completed a remodel and addition to the brick house. As the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* noted:

C.P. Whittemore is extensively remodeling his residence in the East end. He is adding well arranged kitchen facilities in place of the old open addition in the rear, and is also enclosing the lower story of the front porch as a vestibule (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, August 3, 1900).

The Whittemores owned the house until 1912, when Gertrude Whittemore sold the house to the Walter-Biderman family.

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. However, the large open spaces of this suburban parcel and the retention of a historic-age horse barn indicates a high potential for archaeological features and deposits such as privies and other nonextant outbuildings. It is known that there is a concrete-capped cistern off the northeast corner of the house, which needs further research to assess its archaeological potential.

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.

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Washington, D.C. 20204

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- "Obituary, Death of Mrs. E.D. Waln," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, September 22, 1899.

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 4.2 acres

(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>41.9228</u>	<u>-91.41217</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 28 Irregular Survey of Mount Vernon located at the east end of 3rd Street NE. The north boundary is approximately 1,455 feet; the east boundary is approximately 1,028 feet; the south boundary is approximately 626 feet; and the west boundary is approximately 335 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Elijah D. and Mary J. (Adams) Waln House at 323 3rd Street NE in Mount Vernon, Linn County, Iowa.

11. Form Prepared By

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

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 12. GIS Location Map – 323 3rd Street NE, Mount Vernon, Iowa, 52314.
Map obtained from Google Earth, 2018.**

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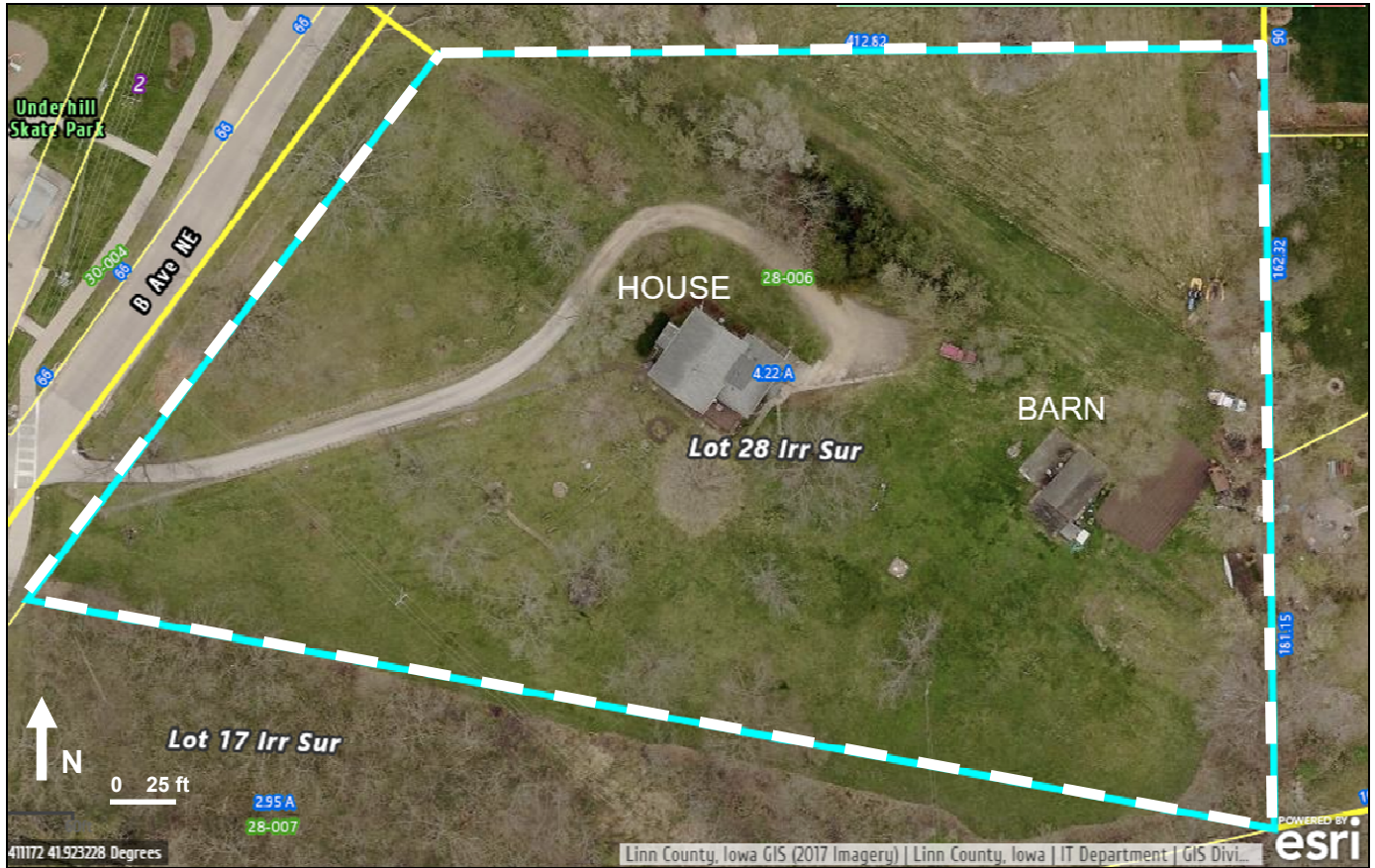
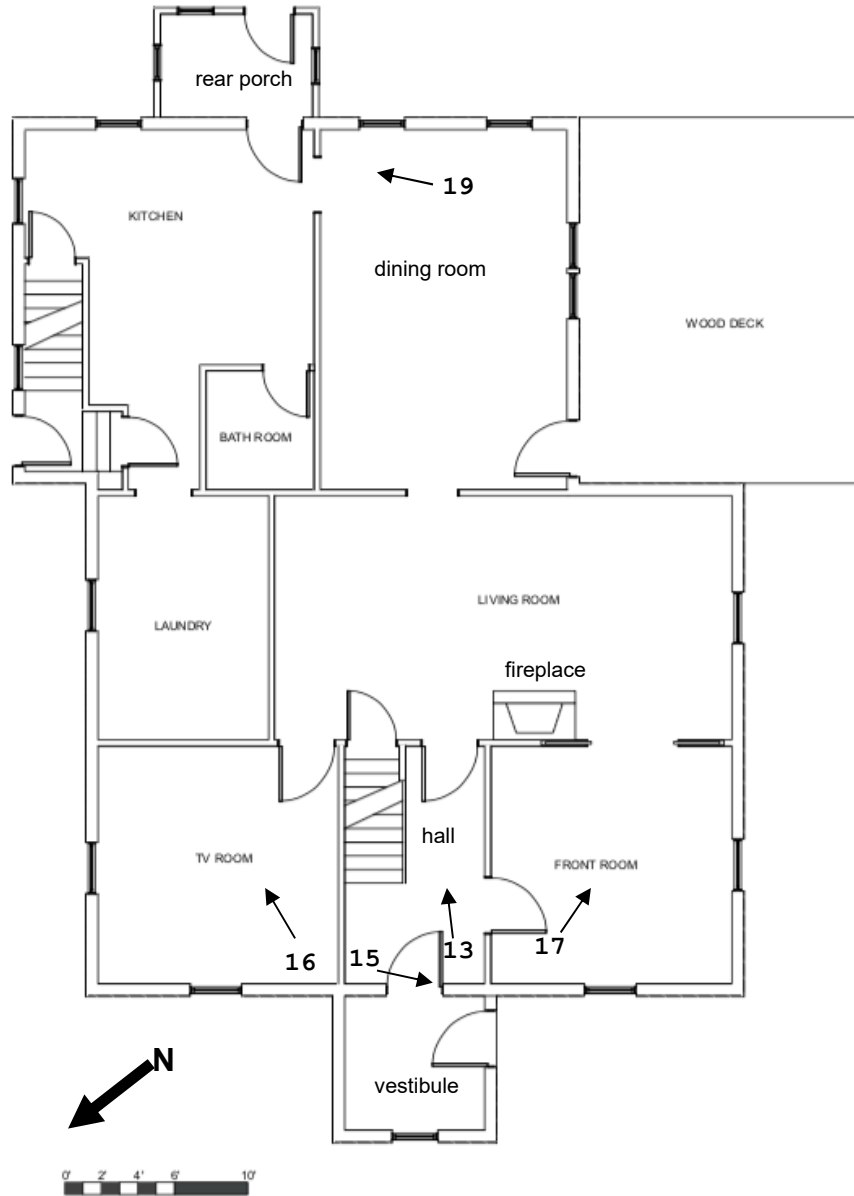


Figure 13. Site Plan showing NRHP boundary as white dashed outline.

Base map: Linn County, Iowa GIS-2017 Imagery

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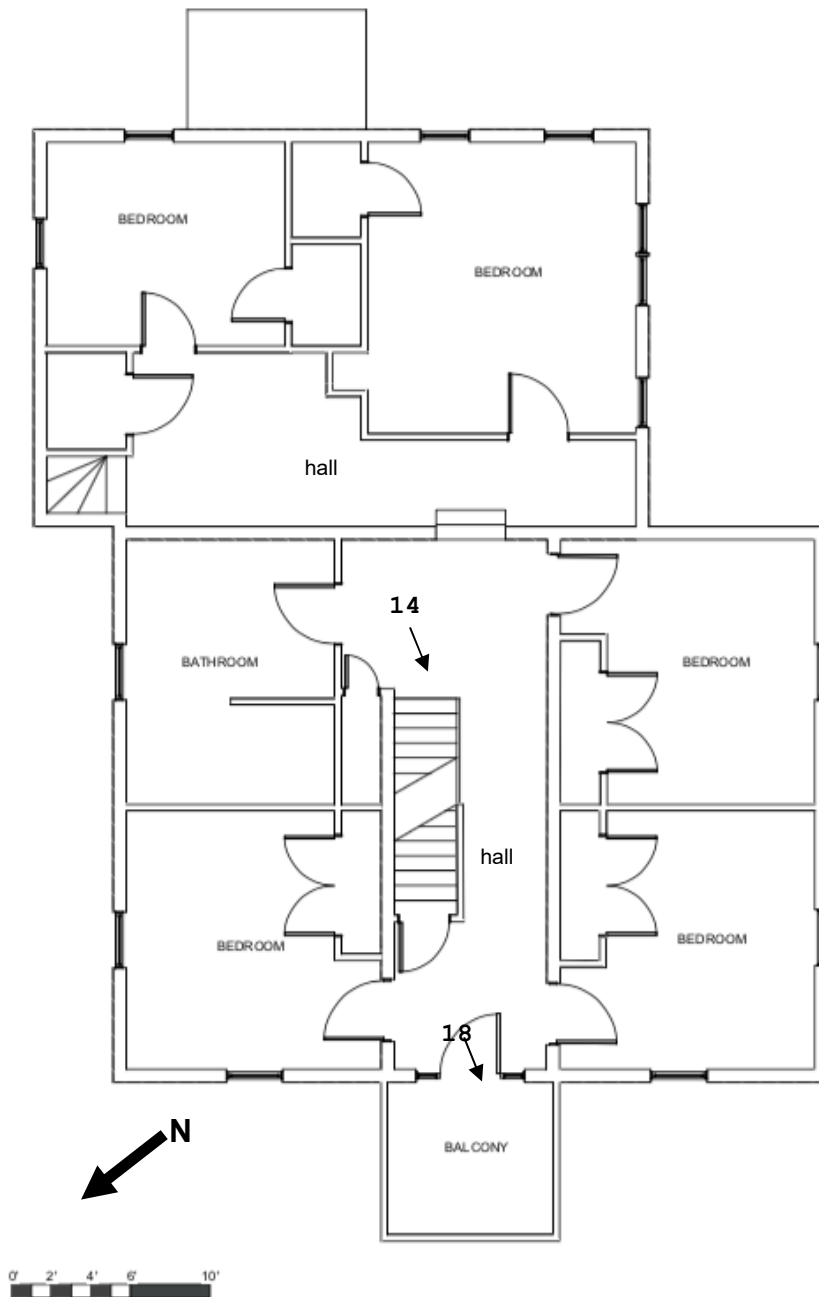


323 3rd Ave NE - MAIN FLOOR

Figure 14. Main Floor Plan and showing directions of photos #13, 15-17 and 19
Drawn by Ed Sauter, Mount Vernon, Iowa

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323 3rd Ave NE - UPPER FLOOR

Figure 15. Upper Floor Plan and showing direction of photos #14 and 18
Drawn by Ed Sauter, Mount Vernon, Iowa

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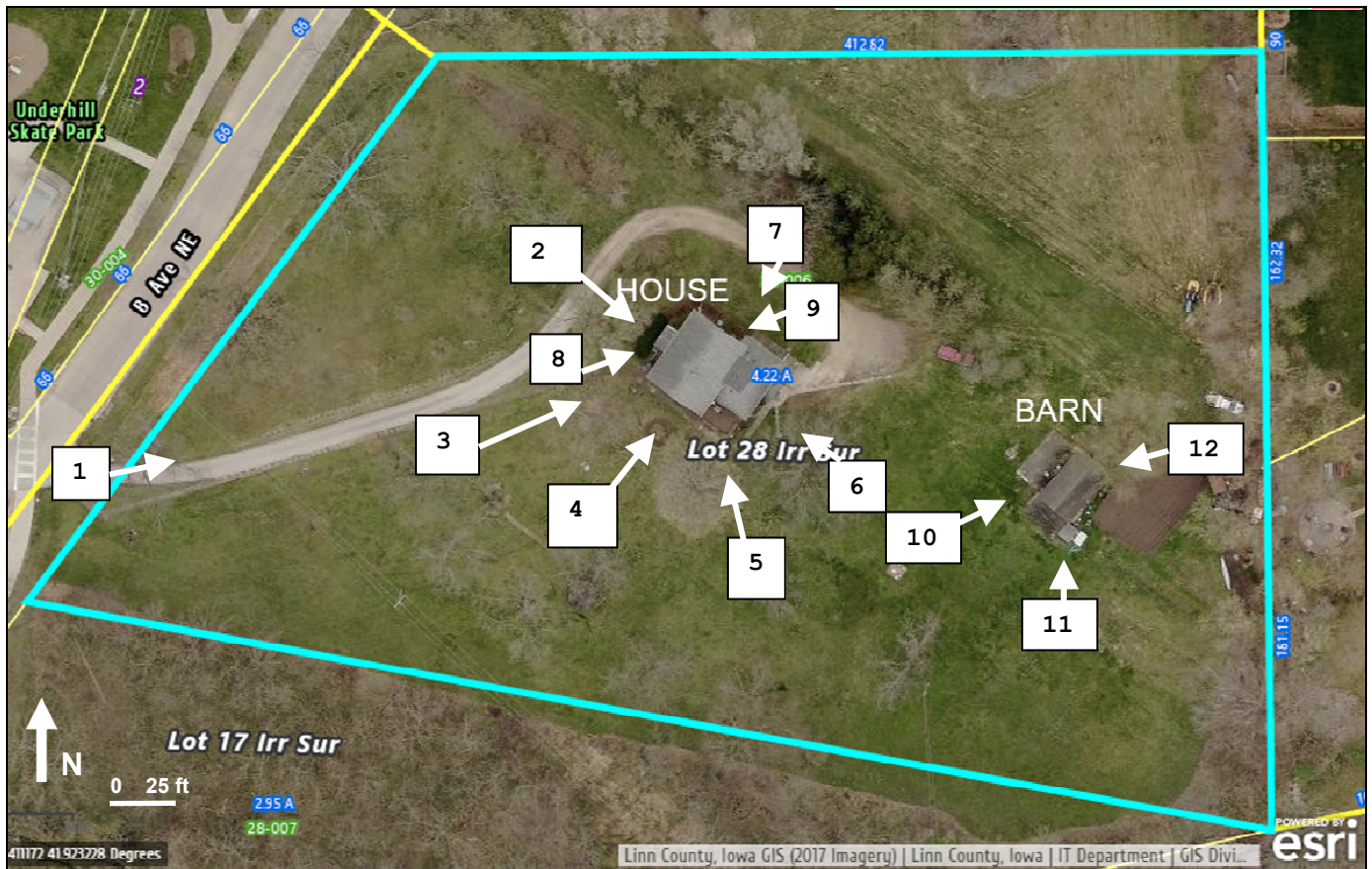


Figure 16. Site Plan showing exterior photo directions.
Base map: Linn County, Iowa GIS-2017 Imagery

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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: Waln, E.D. and Mary J. (Adams), House
City or Vicinity: Mount Vernon
County: Linn County **State:** IA
Photographer: Mary Evans
Date Photographed: May 4, 21, and 22, 2018

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

- Photo 1 of 16: General view of Waln House looking ENE from 3rd Street NE
- Photo 2 of 16: Front of Waln House looking ESE
- Photo 3 of 16: Front and south sides of Waln House looking ENE
- Photo 4 of 16: South side of Waln House looking NE
- Photo 5 of 16: South and east sides of Waln House looking NNW
- Photo 6 of 16: Rear (east side) of Waln House looking NW
- Photo 7 of 16: North side of Waln House looking SW
- Photo 8 of 16: Closer view of upper front porch of Waln House looking NE
- Photo 9 of 16: Closer view of bracketed eaves of Waln House looking SW
- Photo 10 of 16: Barn on Waln House property looking ENE
- Photo 11 of 16: Barn on Waln House property looking North
- Photo 12 of 16: Barn on Waln House property looking WSW
- Photo 13 of 19: Staircase looking SSE from front interior door
- Photo 14 of 19: Staircase looking West from second floor landing down to front door
- Photo 15 of 19: Detail of interior front door casement looking SSW
- Photo 16 of 19: Interior of NE front room off of stairs looking East
- Photo 17 of 19: Interior of SE front room off of stairs looking SSE
- Photo 18 of 19: Second floor open porch on façade looking West from second-floor hallway
- Photo 19 of 19: Detail of built-in wooden cabinet on first floor of addition in dining room looking ENE into kitchen

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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.