

✓
101726 Fourth Avenue
Victorian Eclectic — 1884

For nearly 60 years, the Victorian Eclectic house at 1726 Fourth Avenue was owned by the Davis family. It was built in 1884 for Harrison I. Davis and his wife Emily, at a cost of \$5,000. (At the time of construction, the only other house in the area would have been what is now 1807 Fourth Avenue — also on today's tour.)

A veteran of the Civil War, Davis returned after the war to farming interests in Poweshiek County. He later built this house for his large family. The property originally included land to the east, south and west. It was subdivided in 1892, and lots were sold off until 1984.

From 1943 until 1984, the house was used as apartments. It was restored to a single-family residence in 1984 by Ken and Becky Wallace.

The roofline has hip-on-gables with decorative vergeboards on both the front and back. Other notable exterior features include long, narrow windows topped with simple crowns and small brackets, and two-story bays on both the west and the east.

The home likely once had a wraparound front porch, but no porch details (or even a photo) remain. Inside the home, look for original light fixtures and the tall stained-glass windows on the staircase.

The present owner, Susan Ferguson, bought the house in 2002. She has focused her efforts on landscaping and also added a two-car garage.

11

1807 Fourth Avenue
Second Empire-Italianate — 1882

The home at 1807 Fourth Avenue has elements of both Second Empire and Italianate styles. It was built in 1882 by Luke Sherman, who suffered heat stroke fighting a fire and was forced to sell his substantial acreage in Chester and relocate in Grinnell. The family moved in on New Year's Day 1883. The property originally included several acres of land dotted with orchards and outbuildings, including a storage shed for buggies. The buggy house is gone, but the original buggy step is still in place in front.

After Sherman's death in the early 1890s, the house was purchased by the Preston family, who owned a local clothing store. A son, "Stub," literally left his mark on the house. The buggy step has "Stub" carved into the limestone, and the entrance door to the basement cellar has "Stub's wine cellar" painted on it.

In ensuing years, the house served as a facility for the elderly and was later converted into two apartments. During that time, the belvedere was removed due to a fire, the buggy house was torn down, and the house deteriorated.

Local architect Dan Tindall and his wife Kathy bought the house in 1989. They installed new windows and a new heating system. They also opened up and rebuilt a back staircase that had been closed off, restored the hardwood floors and installed new lighting. Like most owners of old houses, "We have been working on the home and grounds ever since we moved in," Dan says.

From "Tour of Historic
Homes Sunday, October 8, 2006

presented by Grinnell Home
Neighborhood Association