

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 9 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Kellow House

AND/OR COMMON  
Howard County Historical Society Museum

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
324 4th Ave. West

CITY, TOWN  
Cresco

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

--- VICINITY OF  
Third

STATE  
Iowa

CODE  
COUNTY  
Howard

CODE  
07

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Howard County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER  
723 East 3rd Street

CITY, TOWN  
Cresco

--- VICINITY OF

STATE  
Iowa 52136

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Auditor's Office, Howard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Cresco

STATE  
Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN  
STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kellow House was built 1879-1880 in Second Empire style. It is basically rectangular in plan, with a slightly protruding pavilion in the center of the east side, and measures 52' x 27', including the porches. It is two stories high, of red brick laid in stretcher bond on a dressed stone foundation. All windows are 1/1 with segmental arches, capped with elaborately-carved and bracketted wood hoodmolds. The gabled dormers in the slightly overscaled mansard roof also feature decorative elements. There are two corbelled chimneys, and a finely-wrought iron cresting at the roof edge. The roof is covered in composition shingle of a diamond pattern.

There are three porches. All are supported by square wood columns. The front porch (main entrance) and a smaller porch in the angle formed by the pavilion on the east side have bracketted eaves. The door beneath the latter porch features two long windows with rounded tops, and decorative panels below. A larger, plainer porch extends around the northeast corner.

Main hallways and stairs on both floors are on the west side of the house, with rooms opening off one side and at the end. There are four rooms on the first floor (livingroom, dining room, library and kitchen) and three bedrooms on the second. When the Howard County Historical Society purchased the house in 1969, it was being used as an apartment building. The Society has restored the interior to its original room arrangement and has preserved the original pine flooring and walnut staircase. The house is located in a residential area of the town.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1879-80

BUILDER/ARCHITECT ASSOCIATE William Kellow, Jr.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kellow House brings together a variety of stylistic features in an attractive vernacular expression of Second Empire house architecture. It is also a significant landmark in this small (population around 4000) rural county seat, both visually and as an artifact from Cresco's early history.

The house was built by William Kellow, Jr., the son of a Cornish farmer and stonemason who came to Iowa in 1854. Kellow, Jr. went into the grocery and merchandise business at age 17, soon establishing his own firm. Ten years later he built this house, as a home for his new wife and future family, and as a symbol of his success as a typical Gilded-Age "self-made man".

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, W.E. History of Chickasaw and Howard Counties, Iowa. Decorah: Western Publishing Co., 1883.  
 Fairbairn, Robert Herd. History of Chickasaw and Howard Counties, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1919.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	570120	4800270	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West 69' of the East 119', Lots 4-5-6, Block 12, Baldwin's Addition to Cresco, Iowa; and the North 10' of Lot 4, Block 12 of Baldwin's Addition to Cresco, Iowa

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George R. Laub (deceased)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Howard County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

217 North Elm

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cresco

Iowa

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rethig*

DATE

11/22/77

ATTEST:

*Charles Edmund*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-19-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER