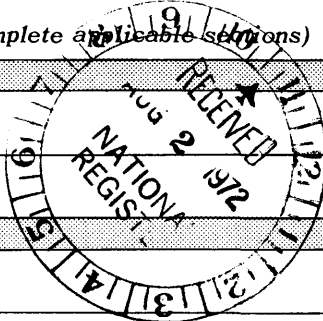


PH 0077054

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Iowa	
COUNTY: Cerro Gordo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 14	DATE SEP 1972



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Park Inn Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Park Inn Hotel

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
15 West State Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Mason City

STATE Iowa	CODE 14	COUNTY: Cerro Gordo	CODE 033
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Claire Ellingson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1309 8th Street SE

CITY OR TOWN: Mason City	STATE: Iowa	CODE: 14
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Courthouse, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

STREET AND NUMBER:  
220 North Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Mason City	STATE: Iowa	CODE: 14
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER 14
DATE SEP 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

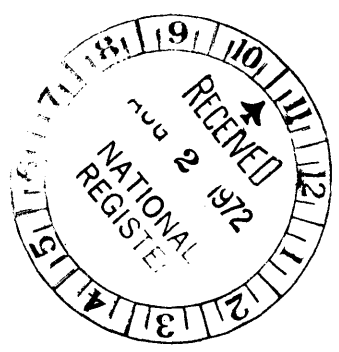
The Park Inn Hotel is located at 15 West State Street in Mason City, Iowa. It was built in the Prairie School style by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1909 and was one part of a larger architectural complex. Like the other part of this complex, the former City National Bank, the Park Inn Hotel was primarily constructed of Roman brick, but it is a more dynamic structure. The different features of the two buildings were a result of Wright's concept of architectural honesty which stated that separate interior functions should be clearly expressed on the exterior.

The ground floor of the hotel covered the lot area and contained a lobby in front, with a cafe and kitchen behind. On either side of the lobby were shops with large windows facing State Street. Between these shops in the center of the facade were the entrances to the hotel.

As the cafe was lit by a skylight, a U-shaped plan for the two upper floors was required. On the second floor were the legal offices of Blythe, Markley, and Rule to the east and about fourteen guest rooms to the west. Between these areas, over the entrance was a loggia which gave a view of Central Park across the street to the north. The top floor of the hotel contained about twenty-four additional guest rooms arranged in a deep U-shaped plan giving most a view of the park.

Neon signs and other features have considerably changed the exterior appearance of the Park Inn Hotel. Inside some partitions have been moved but there have been no extensive structural alterations. Nonetheless, the structure is deteriorating and needs attention.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | Frank Lloyd Wright                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | Architect   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

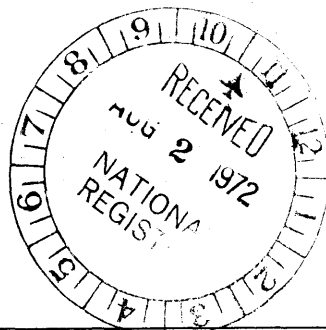
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Park Inn Hotel in Mason City, Iowa, was designed by one of the foremost architects of the United States, indeed of the twentieth century world, Frank Lloyd Wright. It is significant as an example of his work, and also for the unity of its design and structure with the former City National Bank building.

Within the context of Wright's oeuvre this structure, and the bank with which it was created in one architectural commission, is of a particular importance. Created during the architect's early years, the building is an example of his style now called the Prairie School, in which open floor plans, low overhanging eaves, and horizontal planes are essential features. The Prairie School is the chief indigenous American style of architecture to emerge in the twentieth century and is a uniquely American contribution to the architecture of the world. In the hands of Wright and his followers, the Prairie School style was primarily used for private residences (as for example, the 1908 Robie House in Chicago, Illinois).

As it was used infrequently for commercial buildings, the Prairie School style of the hotel is in itself of interest. In addition, however, the Park Inn Hotel is the sole hotel by Wright still standing, and has further unique interest in the elements of its conception which preceded and influenced the design of the now destroyed Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

In spite of deterioration and neon signs which conceal much of the facade, the Park Inn Hotel retains the original design by Wright to a considerable extent. It stands, then, as a unique example of a great architect's work.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ausgefuehrte Bauten und Entwurfe von Frank Lloyd Wright. Berlin: Wasmuth, 1910. Facsimilie edition. New York: Horizon, 19 Plates 93 & 94  
 McCoy, Robert E. "Rock Crest/Rock Glen" Prairie School Planning in Iowa," The Prairie School Review, V (Third Quarter, 1968), 5-39, esp. 10-12.  
 Mason City Commercial Club. Souvenir Book. August 10, 1912.  
 Hitchcock, Henry Russell. The Nature of Materials. New York: Sloan and Pierce, 1942  
 Wright, Frank Lloyd. A Testament. New York: Bramhall House, 1957.  
 Manson, Grant. Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910; the First Golden Age.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

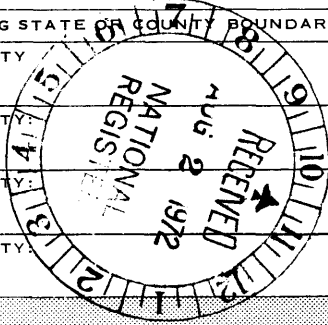
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CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 9 ' 05"	93 ° 22 ' 04"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

No  
 100M  
 00

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mrs. John M. Crosman, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Mason City Historic Sites Committee DATE: March 9, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
651 South Tennessee Place

CITY OR TOWN: Mason City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 6 July, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Utey  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

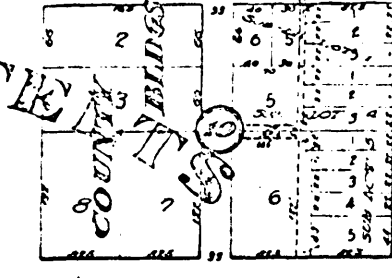
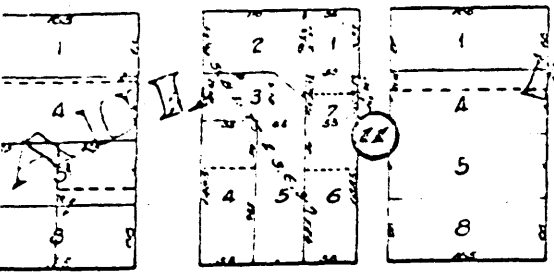
Date 9/14/72

ATTEST:

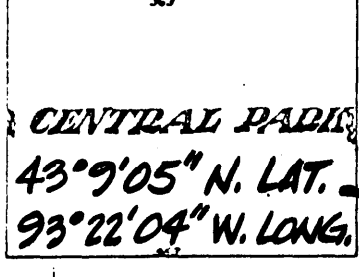
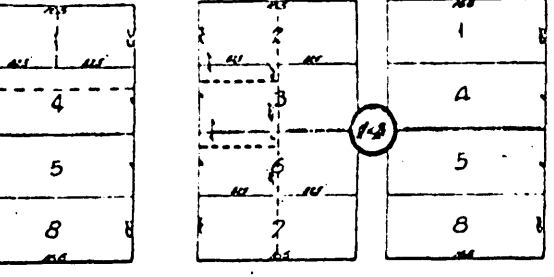
J. M. Crawford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9/13/72

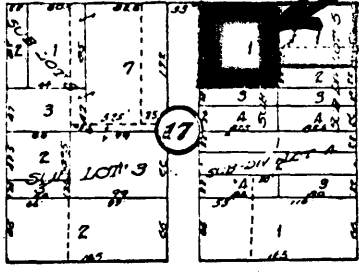
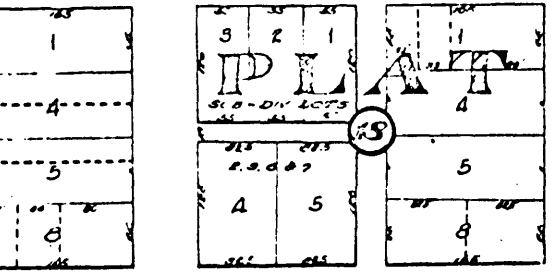
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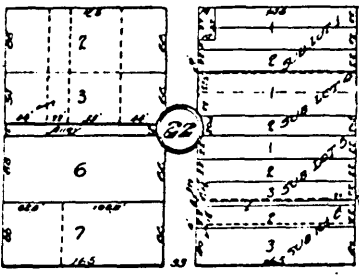
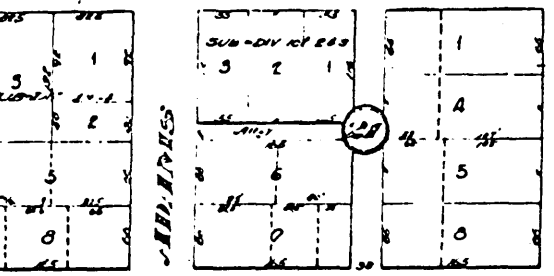
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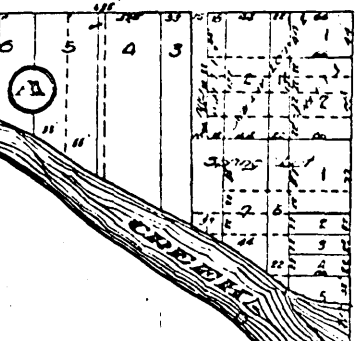
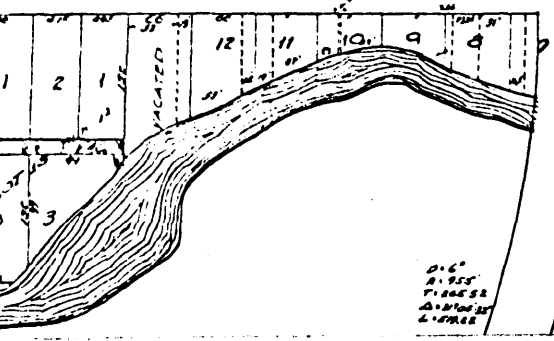
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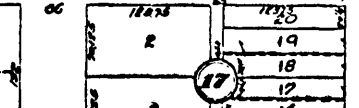
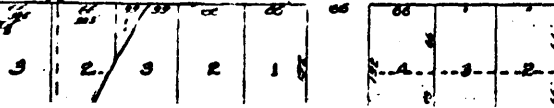
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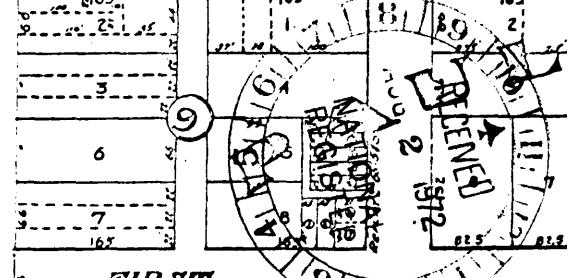
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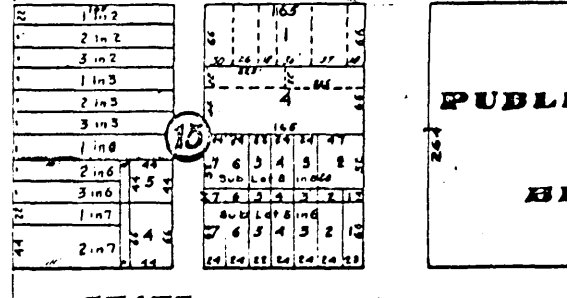
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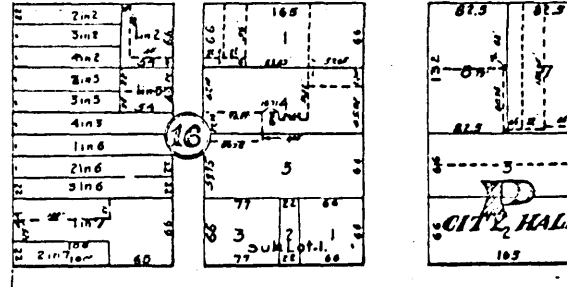
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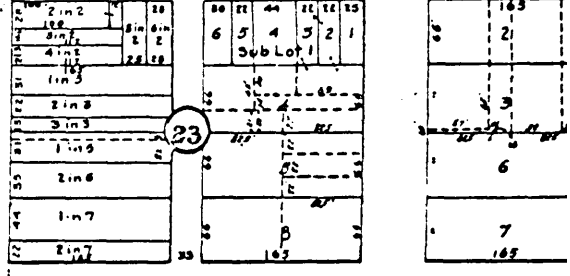
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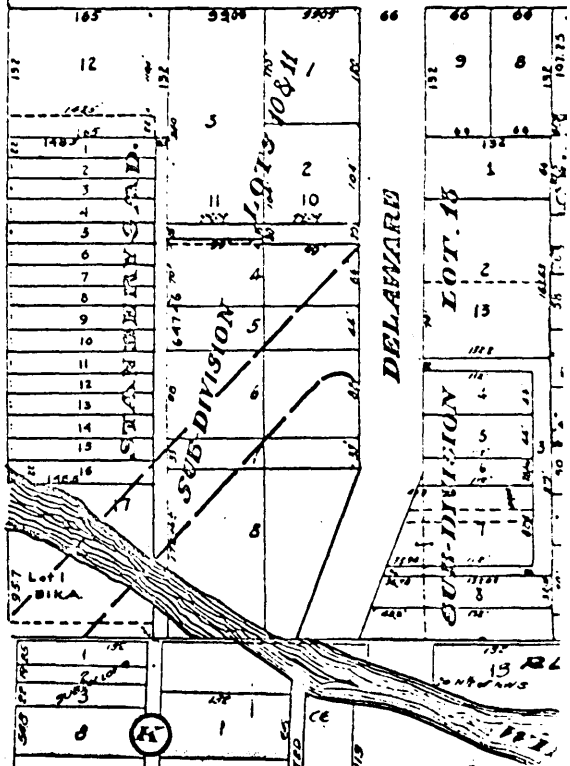
STATE



FIRST



SECOND



Latitude and Longitude Coordinates of  
Park Inn Hotel Building  
by FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT  
in Central Business District  
MASON CITY, IOWA  
Scale 1" = 200'