

PH036094X

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 29 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  
Ormsby-Kelly House W.  
AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 2403<sup>W.</sup> 7th Street  
CITY, TOWN: Emmetsburg  
STATE: Iowa  
VICINITY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY: Palo Alto  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth  
CODE: 147

### CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Thomas M. Kelly  
STREET & NUMBER: 2403<sup>W.</sup> 7th Street  
CITY, TOWN: Emmetsburg  
STATE: Iowa 50536  
VICINITY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Palo Alto County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, TOWN: Emmetsburg  
STATE: Iowa

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ormsby-Kelly house is a two-story private residence in a vernacular Italianate style. It is made of red brick laid in stretcher bond. The shallow, hip roof ends in wide eaves above a wide wood cornice. The double hung sash windows and front entrances feature heavy stone drip molding with keystones. There is one exterior brick chimney on the west side, and two other interior chimneys, also brick. Square wood piers support the one-story, almost flat-roofed front porch.

The rectangular main block of the house was built in 1876. It included the front porch and a smaller, screened porch at the west rear. Because of deterioration of the wood, both porches have been replaced in the past 25 years, but in keeping with their original design. A one-story kitchen and servants' quarters was also part of the original construction. This section is on the east side of the main block; modern windows have been installed.

In 1890 two additions were made by Ormsby, the original owner. A two-story wing for a library and extra bedroom was added at right angles to the rear of the house. The brick, window shapes, ornamentation and cornicework conform to that of the main block. Also, to the right of the front porch, a solarium was built, with long rectangular windows topped with square panels of stained glass. A single window in the house wall was replaced by a wide arch that connects the living room with the solarium.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Journalism
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES b. 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, commissioned by A.L. Ormsby, an early Emmetsburg banker, Civil War veteran, and landowner both in Iowa and Canada, is significant chiefly for its association with two contemporary journalists, Bruce Bliven and Thomas Kelly.

Bliven was born here 27 July, 1899, while his mother, a sister of Ormsby, was visiting Emmetsburg. Although the Bliven family later built their own house in town, Bruce Bliven spent many hours of his youth in the Ormsby house with his uncle's family. After leaving Emmetsburg in 1917, Bliven went to college at Stanford. He later served on the staffs of the San Francisco Bulletin and the New York Globe, and for 20 years was New York correspondent for the Manchester Guardian. He also was editor of the New Republic for some years. Bliven is now in retirement in California.

The second journalist, Thomas Kelly, has owned the house since 1940. He, too, was born in Emmetsburg; his parents rented the house soon after his birth and Kelly spent much of his boyhood here. Kelly received degrees in journalism from the State University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota, financing his education by playing jazz piano with campus groups and later "Big Band" era orchestras. In 1945, Kelly purchased the Emmetsburg Reporter and Democrat, which he edited until his retirement in 1969. As a weekly columnist, Kelly was widely quoted in state and national publications. He was the first Master Columnist selected by the Iowa Press Association in 1945. Many of the columns from his "Scratch Pad" were circulated by national press associations. Readers' Digest and a number of metropolitan publications were regular users of his columns.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Palo Alto Reporter, 16 September 1876; 23 May, 1980.  
 Emmetsburg Democrat, 15 July, 1976  
 McCarty, Dwight. History of Palo Alto County.  
 Biographical materials supplied by John and Thomas Kelly.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	3 6 0 3 0 0	4 7 7 0 4 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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: Thomas M. Kelly

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER: 2403 West 7th Street TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Emmetsburg STATE: Iowa 50536

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:  
 NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE X 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. Pulanus*

TITLE: Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE: 11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: *W. M. Kelly*

ATTEST: *Charles Adams* DATE: 7/29/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 7-22-77