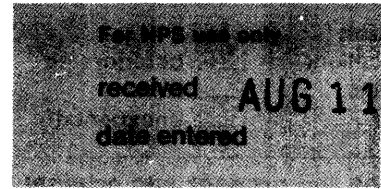


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 ~~Francis M. Rogers/Clarence and Hazel Knutson House~~ Rogers-Knutson House  
and/or common Rogers/Knutson House

2. Location

street & number 315 North 3rd Street not for publication  
city, town Clear Lake vicinity of congressional district 3  
state Iowa code 19 county Cerro Gordo code 033

3. Classification

<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n.a. in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name E. Howard and Francie E. Sonksen  
street & number 315 North 3rd Street  
city, town Clear Lake vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds Office  
street & number Cerro Gordo County Courthouse  
city, town Mason City state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date N.A.  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records N.A.  
city, town N.A. state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Rogers/Knutson house is an excellent example of late Victorian residential architecture. Its virtually original appearance, including delicate porch detail, fancy chimneys, cresting and finials, further elevates the structure's architectural significance.

Located but two blocks from the shores of Clear Lake, the house sits on a large (3½ lots) yard dotted with shade trees. The neighborhood contains houses of similar style and age, although the spacious setting and pristine appearance of the Rogers/Knutson house set it apart from the others.

Built in 1895 according to county records, the house exhibits a combination of late Victorian motifs, ranging from Eastlake incised bargeboards and porch fretwork to Queen Anne leaded, etched and colored windows to decorative "stickwork" applied to some gable ends. Despite the abundant display of decorative details, the most distinctive feature of the house is its irregular outline. The roofline is an exuberant jumble of additional gables, gabled dormers, and jerkin-headed dormers atop multi-sided two-story bays. Sandwiched among these outbursts are unusual curved portions of the main body of the house. The rounded corners occur at both front sides, although their sizes differ. One is topped with an ornate bracket and then a large gabled projection while the other continues its roundness through to the roof itself. Below, the veranda wraps around this curve and emphasizes the circular shape. Small simple modillions outline the eaves and thus delineate the houses's changing shape.

There are no alterations visible from the street but in fact a three-car garage was added to the rear by excavating the original basement, probably in the 1920s when C.A. Knutson bought the house. The cobblestone piers of the deck over these garages could date from that period. The only other addition appears to be some circular metal stairs next to the deck.

Only minor changes have been made to the interior. Many, if not most, original architectural elements remain, including the original electric brass chandeliers (Clear Lake acquired electrical power in 1894), oak floors—one of them parquet, and an exceptional wood staircase. Three superb tall stained glass windows light the staircase. The attic, finished and partly made into a playroom in 1920, is now an apartment.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce - banking	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government (republican)	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1895-present **Builder/Architect** Francis M. Rogers

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rogers/Knutson house points out the financial success Rogers achieved in his banking career. It is also associated with the banking hardware and insurance activities of C.A. Knutson. Further, it calls attention to the highly visible political and social contributions of both Mr. and Mrs. Knutson.

Francis M. Rogers engaged in several occupations before settling on banking in Clear Lake in 1889. He had farmed, served in the Union Army, been clerk of court and ran a clothing store in Mason City. In 1889 he purchased the private First National Bank of Clear Lake. He served on the board of education and city council and was mayor of Clear Lake at the time he built this house, having purchased six lots on the block to provide nearby housing for his sons.

Clarence A. and Hazel Knutson bought the house from Rogers in 1920. A local boy, Knutson was by this time president of Clear Lake Bank & Trust Company, known as First National Bank of Clear Lake before its reorganization. Knutson got his start in his father's hardware store, a venture in which he participated from 1905 to 1934. The hardware business led to another of his investments, the Iowa Hardware Mutual Insurance Company. He was its president from 1931 to 1960, when he became chairman of the board.

Besides his financial undertakings, Knutson was involved in politics. Mayor from 1916-1920, he served as a representative in the Iowa legislature from 1923-1929. In 1934 he was candidate for the Republican nomination for governor, but was defeated in the primaries.

Hazel Knutson played a complementary role in her husband's political efforts. Described as a "prominent state and Clear Lake Clubwoman" in her obituary, she was active in no less than fifteen clubs and organizations at the state, local and national level in 1926, the heart of her husband's political hopes. In that year, she was also president of the Iowa League of Women Voters. Her service continued throughout her life, including as a delegate to Herbert Hoover's inaugural, consultant to the Iowa Conservation Department and delegate to the National Watershed Congress. The Knutson house was scene for numerous lawn parties, Civic League flower shows, and also for several years (undoubtedly Republican ones), the Governor's Day Tea.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clear Lake West Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	4	6	8	6	8	0	4	7	7	6	0	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Beving Long and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historians

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1982

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue telephone 515/281-5111

city or town Des Moines state 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 *John A. Anderson*

title Director, State Historical Department date July 29, 1982

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>John A. Anderson</i></u>	Entered in the National Register
for Keeper of the National Register	date <u>9/9/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. Town Lot Transfer Record. vol. 3, (1850-1914), pp. 81 and 113.

Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. Town Lot Transfer Record of Clear Lake Corp. vol. A-B, (1915-1944).

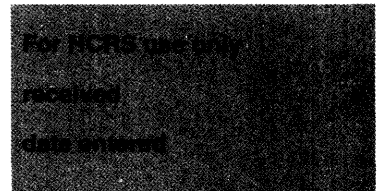
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa Town Lot Transfer Record of Clear Lake Corp. vol. A-C, (1945-1973).

Herker, Beth A. White Clouds - Blue Waters, The Story of Clear Lake. Lake Mills, Iowa: Graphic Publishing Co., Inc. 1976, p.26.

Statement by Ross Rogers, personal interview by Beth A. Herker, Clear Lake, Iowa, April 18, 1972.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9.

Page 1.

\*Mason City Globe-Gazette, 22 March 1926, 28 September 1960, 8 August 1968 and 9 June 1967

Clear Lake Mirror Reporter, 6 September 1978.

Notations on the abstract of the property

Various interviews with Phoebe Rogers, granddaughter of Francis Rogers, and other Clear Lake residents.

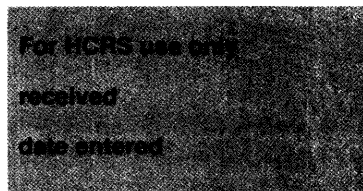
Photo albums of the Rogers family.

Beth A. Herker, White Clouds, Blue Water, the Story of Clear Lake (Lake Mills: Graphic Publishing Co., 1976), passim.

\*County Records

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page one

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1&2; E. 26' Lots 3&4; NE 52' Lot 8; vac. alleys between Lots 1&3, 2&4, 2&8; E. 26' vac. alley between Lots 4&6; vac. alley between Lots 6&8 except NE 1/2 of SE 14'.