

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clark House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 829 Kirkwood Avenue not for publication

city or town Iowa City vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Johnson code 103 zip code 52240

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Oshenking 4-10-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Elson A. Beall 5/16/96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "NA" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1874

Significant Dates

1874

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Clark House
Name of Property

Johnson, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 6231940 46111650
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth B. Swenson

organization Interactions-Planning, Design + Development Revised: March 23, 1996
date March 3, 1995

street & number 829 Kirkwood Avenue telephone (319) 337-3855

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52240

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Elizabeth B. & Leslie R, Swenson

street & number 829 Kirkwood Avenue telephone (319) 337-3855

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52240

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description - Historic and Current Condition

Victorian/Italianate, the The Walter Eckel House consists of a two and one half story, L-shaped main block; a one and one half story, rectangular shaped rear wing and a single story addition behind the rear wing. The central house is 30'x30' with a hip roof over its two story entry and attic space. Gable roofs mark the front and sides with beautiful oculus windows centered on the east and west attic walls. A covered wraparound veranda on the northeast side focuses attention on both the main and study entries. There appears to have been screens that once closed in a part of the veranda.

The main house has a living room with the entry hall to the east and a study behind the entry hall. There are large bay windows on the north and south ends of the living room. The second floor has three large bedrooms, one bedroom with a north bay window and a staircase to the attic where there are finished but unheated rooms one on the east; the other on the west side of the attic each with an oculus window.

The second part of the house continues for 20' behind the first part and appears to be an addition because its joining the central house is clearly demarcated except in the cellar where the stone foundation appears to be continuous and the brick is matched on the exterior. It appears to reflect the way the builders handled the transition from three to two stories. This section is two stories with one room downstairs and another upstairs connected by a back staircase. The downstairs room, once the original dining room, is now the kitchen. The upstairs room was divided into a small bedroom and one half bath in the 1950's.

The third section of the house is a single story addition behind the second part with a tile foundation and a shed roof. Originally a kitchen and small back porch, it was made into a family room in the 1950's. The fireplace between the current kitchen and family room was removed and replaced with a wood stove facing the family room.

The house is 1,800 sq.ft. on the first floor; 900 sq. ft. on the second floor and just 500 sq.ft. on the third floor. There are oak floors throughout. A fireplace in the living room has had its original mantle removed. Ceiling heights on the first floor are 10 feet; on the second floor 8 feet 10 inches. The upstairs ceiling was covered with tile in the 1950's. Except in the family room where it was removed, there is beautiful fluted 6" molding around all doors and windows.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa

Deterioration/Current Conditions of the Property

The house has seriously deteriorated.

Exterior: All roofs need replacing. There are leaks in several places. Some of the exterior brick needs repointing. Wooden gutters in some areas have rotted. Metal gutters in some places no longer meet their connecting pieces which causes water to drain in irregular patterns. One bracket has fallen off from the top of the house. Some windows are broken and need replacing. All shutters need replacing and all trim and the shutters need painting. Flooring on the veranda needs replacing because it is unsafe. Some exterior columns need replacing because the wood is rotting.

Yard/Landscaping: Once a beautifully planted yard with groupings of bushes, trees, and flowers, it has become overgrown. The new owners have cleaned out the yard, are replanting the gardens, and are reseeding the lawn, which is overgrown with ground cover that has overtaken the grass. An 10' cast iron lamp post toppled to the ground when the current owner attempted to change the light bulb. A single car garage at the southeast corner of the lot was turned into an artist studio in the 1960's. It is also in disrepair needing a new roof and interior electrical work. The house is located on a corner lot and its general deterioration and disrepair are evident from many views.

Interior: Structurally the house is sound. All second floor ceilings are covered with insulated tiles and need replacing. A new electrical service must be brought in. Additional electrical work needs to be completed on the third floor because it is unsafe. The one-half bath on the second floor needs replacing. It is leaking down to the first floor. The beautiful entry hall staircase banister, newel post and ballustrades need to be tightened. Currently loose, they represent a safety hazard. All the oak floors need to be refinished. All interior walls and trim need repainting. Poor quality cabinets in the living room and upstairs bedrooms need replacing. Kitchen cabinets are falling off their hinges and the oven is unrepairable. The current kitchen will become the dining room once again. The kitchen will be moved to the porch between the study, dining room and family room. The porch walls and the east family room wall will be replaced to allow for better insulation and to open the family room to views of the back gardens. These east and south walls represent attempts by the previous owner to insert 1950's, Frank Lloyd Wright sensibilities into a Victorian house.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa

8. Significance of the Property

The Clark House, according to local historian Lawrence LaFore, "illustrates the transition from America's Georgian Colonial tradition, so handsomely embodied in Plum Grove, to the Victorian idea of "richness" that supplanted it. It was built in the 1870's, a generation later than Plum Grove. The basic forms are familiar, with the red brick and gables, but elaboration and distortion is already well-advanced. The height of the ceilings and accordingly of outside walls, has begun to rise. Heavy lintels have appeared. Bracketing still quite modest has appeared on the eaves. A veranda and bay windows have been added. The floor plan has become more complicated. Symmetry has been abandoned. The determinates of the first stage of the Victorian house are all there, although in rudimentary and dignified form".1.

The Clark House is a part of a small but architecturally significant group of Italianate-Victorian style houses in Iowa City that have not been razed. On Kirkwood Avenue, within four blocks of Plum Grove and two blocks on either side of historic Summit Street are three additional examples showing variations of the Italianate style. The large, red brick Gotch House at 1110 Kirkwood (1880), the wood Kirkwood-James House (1864) at 1101 Kirkwood and the wood Lovelace House at 820 Kirkwood (1880).

History of the Clark House:

Located at the intersection of Kirkwood Avenue and Keokuk Street, on what was originally part of historic Plum Grove, the property was deeded to the Honorable Robert and Friendly Lucas, the first Territorial Governor of Iowa, in 1844, just four years after Iowa City was first sited along the Iowa River. The property was sold in 1857, to Daniel and Mary Ham and again in 1869, to C.F. and Sarah Lovelace. C.F., a well-known architect, sold the property to Walter Eckel in 1869. In 1870, the property was sold to Florence A. Clark, a granddaughter of Governor Lucas. With her husband, Augustus L. Clark, a direct descendent of Abraham Clark, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey, they built 829 Kirkwood Avenue, in 1874. They lived in the house with their five children. After A.L.'s death in 1898, Florence continued to live in the house until 1914, 44 years altogether. The house was purchased by Kate and Richard Baker who lived in house with their daughters. Richard was a mathematics professor at the University of Iowa. He died in 1937. His widow, Kate, continued to live in the house until 1952, a total 38 years. The house was sold to Elizabeth and Raymond Bunge and their four children. Raymond, a urology professor at the University of Iowa, continued to live at 829 Kirkwood, for 41 years until the house was sold to Elizabeth and Rev. Leslie R. Swenson. Elizabeth is an architectural designer and rehabilitation specialist. Leslie is a Lutheran minister. They live in the house with their daughter, only the fourth owners of this 120+ year old house.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa

The Clark House, originally Block 14, Lots 3,4,5,6, of Plum Grove, had a barn in its southeast corner. In 1955, the south parts of Lots 5,6 were sold. The barn was demolished and replaced with two 1950's ranch style houses. The current lot is 150'x150' with the house rambling along approximately 60' on Keokuk and fronting 30' on Kirkwood. The property is one-half city block wide and sits back 70' from Kirkwood, at approximately the same distance from the street as its block mate, and early 1900's painted brick house originally the home of the Moffets, a well-known Iowa City builder. Together these two houses and two across Kirkwood form a fine quartet of grand old houses set back from the street and surrounded by old trees and beautiful gardens. The three other members of this quartet have been restored and very well maintained emphasizing even more the discordant notes of the very deteriorated Clark House.

Footnotes:

1. Lafore, Laurence, American Classic, p. 42.
2. Aurner, Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa History, Vol. 2., p.731.

9. Bibliography

1. Aurner, Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa History, Vol. 2., Cedar Rapids Western Historical Press, 1913., p. 730-732, 852-853.
2. Lafore, Laurence, American Classic, Iowa State Historical Department/Division of the State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa, 1975, p. 42.
3. Land Deed, Block 14, Lots 3.4.5.6.
4. Keyes, Margaret, Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City, University of Iowa, Iowa City, 1993, p. 79.
5. Mansheim, Gerald, Iowa City, An Illustrated History, The Donning Company, 1989.

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Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa

10. Verbal Boundary Description:

Block 14 Lots 3, 4. North 5,6.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Boundary includes entire parcel.

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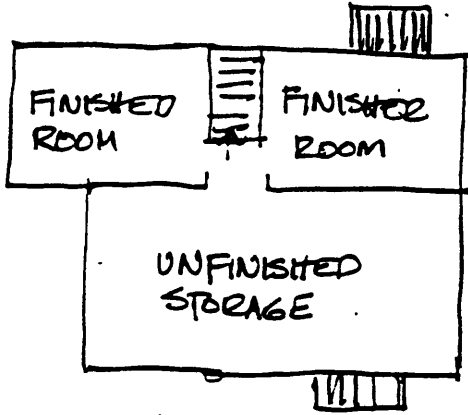
Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa



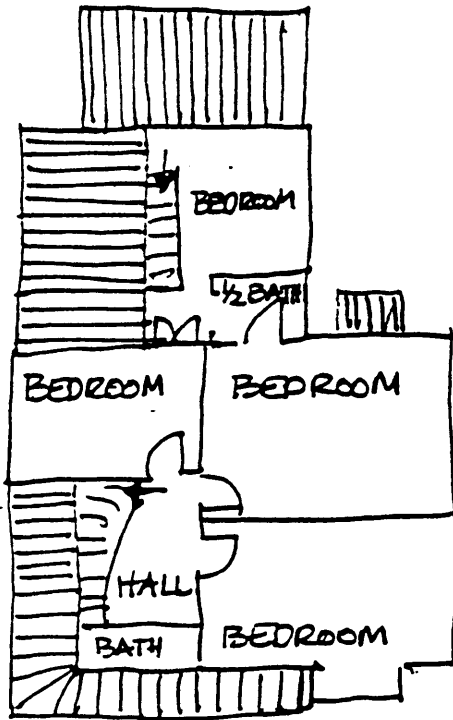
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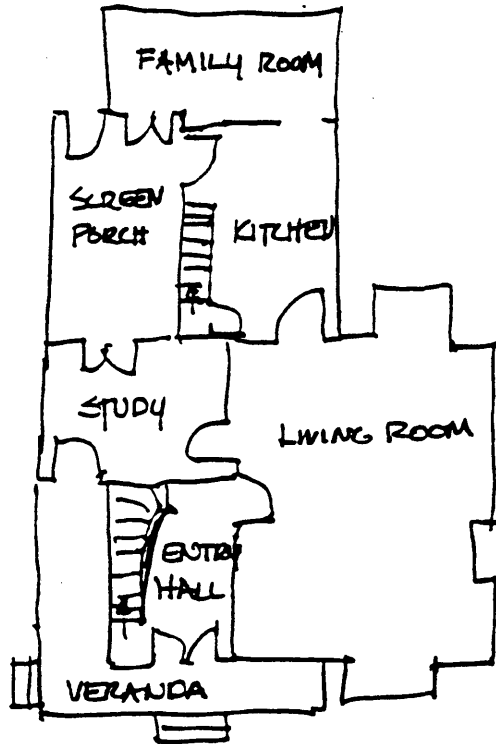
Clark House
Johnson County, Iowa



THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

KIRKWOOD AVENUE

