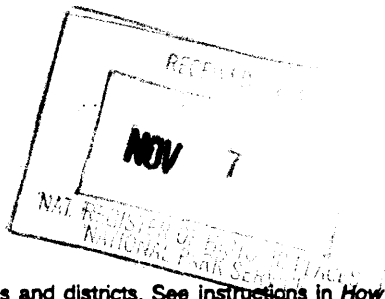


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

File



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 Keerl-Decker Residence

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 119 2nd Street SE N/A Not for publication

city or town Mason City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cerro Gordo code 33 zip code 50402

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.)

Rowell J. Soike October 31, 2002
Signature of certifying official Title Date

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:)

Edson H. Beall 12/20/02
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	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/Trade/Restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Hotel/Bed & Breakfast

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th/EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVAL:
Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD/Weatherboard
roof ASPHALT SHINGLES
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Keerl-Decker Residence
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo County, IA
County and State

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

c. 1902

Significant Dates

c. 1902

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Boyardus, E.R.

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:

Keerl-Decker Residence
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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4	83	8	8	0
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4	7	7	7	2	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant

organization _____ date January 2002

street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone 641-682-2743

city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

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 Mason City Foundation

street & number P.O. Box 518 telephone 641-421-7893

city or town Mason City state IA zip code 50402

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

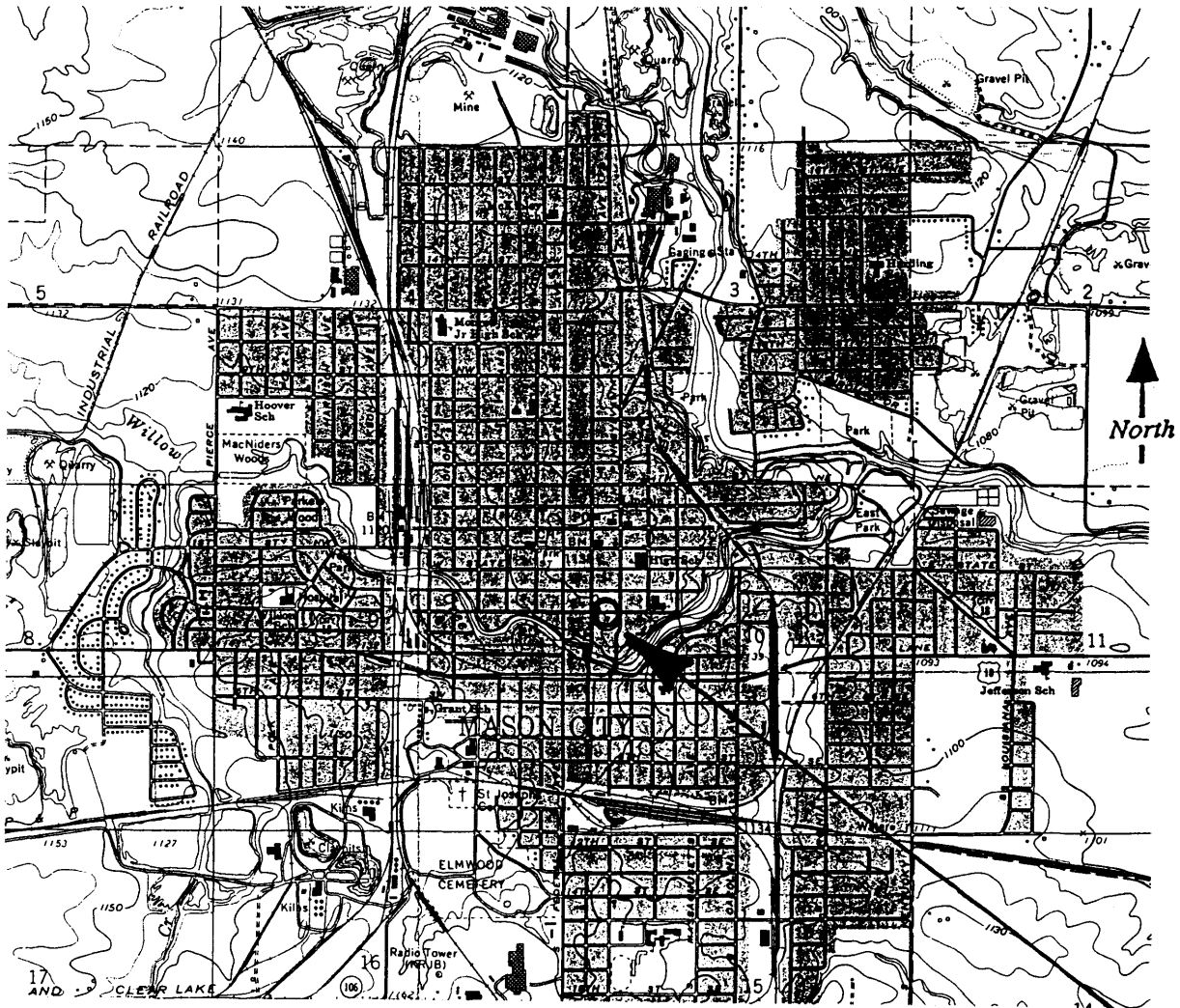
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION:

The Keerl-Decker Residence (c.1902) is located just southeast of the Mason City central business district at 119 2nd Street SE. The house sets on a level lot in the middle of the block, facing due north. Another large turn-of-the-century residence (converted into a funeral home) is located next door to the east on the corner lot. Today these two houses mark the division between commercial and residential neighborhoods. To the south of these houses are resources associated with Meredith Willson and the Music Man Square.



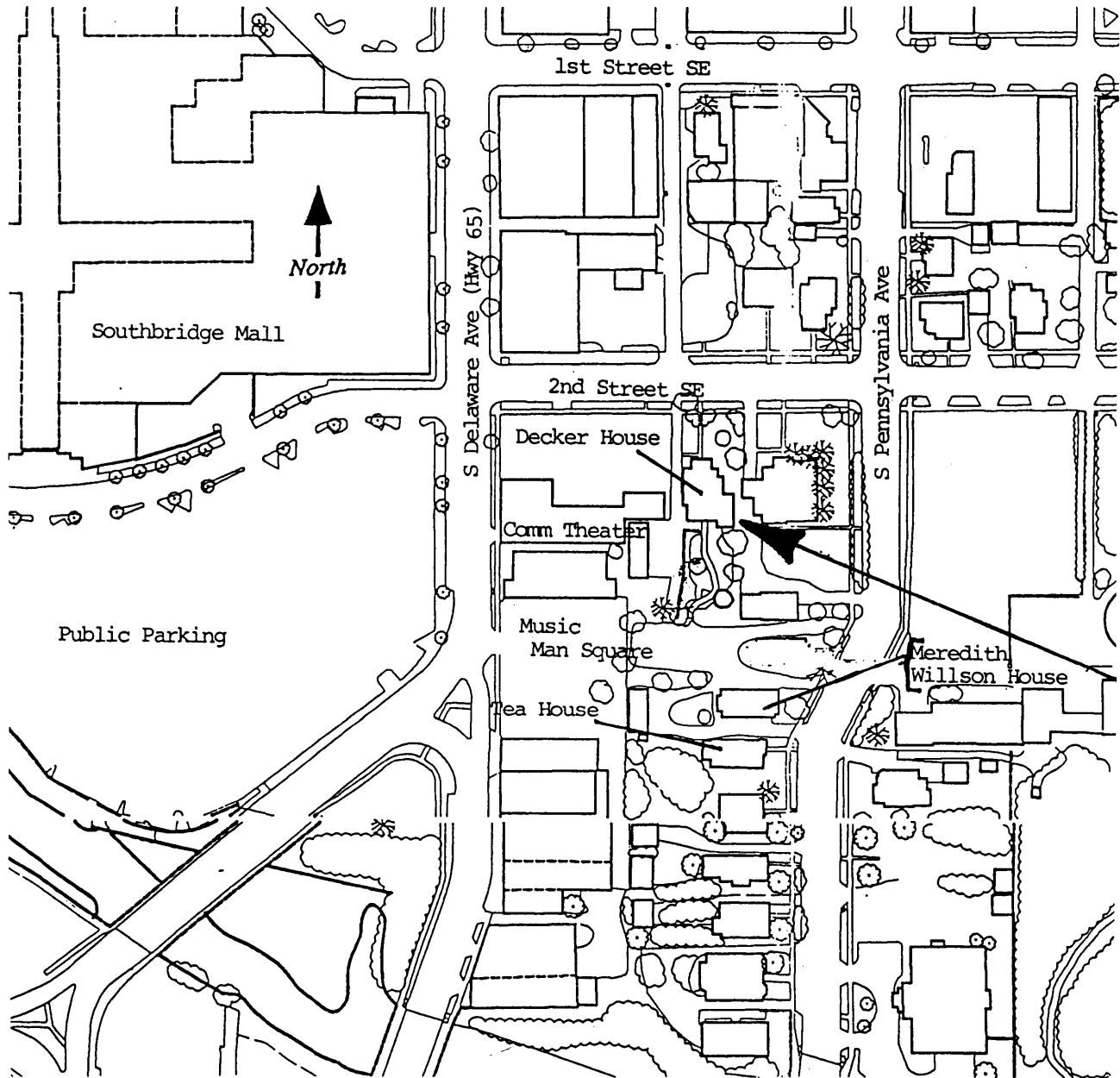
U.S.G.S. Map of Mason City (reduced)
Location of Keerl-Decker Residence indicated by arrow

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 2



Site map showing relationship of Keerl-Decker Residence to other resources
Location of Keerl-Decker Residence indicated by arrow
(Map provided by the City of Mason City)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA**

Section number 7 Page 3

This two story hip roof Neo-Classical Revival house was designed by Mason City architect E.R. Bogardus. The main block measures 32' x 34' with a kitchen wing to the rear measuring 17' x 24'. The front portico is 10' deep while the wrap-around porch is only 8' deep. There is a 16' x 32' addition (1977) at the southeast corner. The house rests on a foundation of rusticated stone blocks, and the exterior is clad in narrow clapboard, flaring slightly at the bottom to create a watertable. The roof is flared at the eaves and features gabled dormers on the north, east, and west, with a hipped dormer on the south (rear) roof elevation. The gabled dormers have cornice returns and Palladian windows while the rear dormer contains a simple rectangular double window. The addition continues the clapboard siding and has a flat roof. A two story front portico features monumental clustered Ionic columns on massive stone bases supporting the flat roof. Fluted Ionic pilasters flank the entry. A single story porch on the east elevation repeats this design. Originally the roofs of both porches and the flat deck of the hip roof on the main block featured wooden balustrades.

The façade is symmetrical with a central door flanked by a single broad window on each side. The front entry projects out, forming a curved vestibule on the interior. This curved area supports a balustraded balcony at the second floor level. The entry door itself is quite simple, without transom or sidelights.

The monumental portico has a flat roof with a broad cornice highlighted by generous swags, or festoons. Just below the roofline is found a row of dentils, with evenly spaced modillions supporting the roof. These dentils and modillions continue around the house under the eaves and are also found on the gabled dormers. The festoon motif is repeated above the paired windows on the stairway landing on the west elevation. The front porch continues to the east along the façade and wraps around the east elevation. This porch has a wooden balustrade and is an unroofed terrace until it reaches the side entry porch on the east. A second floor doorway opens onto the upper level of this porch.

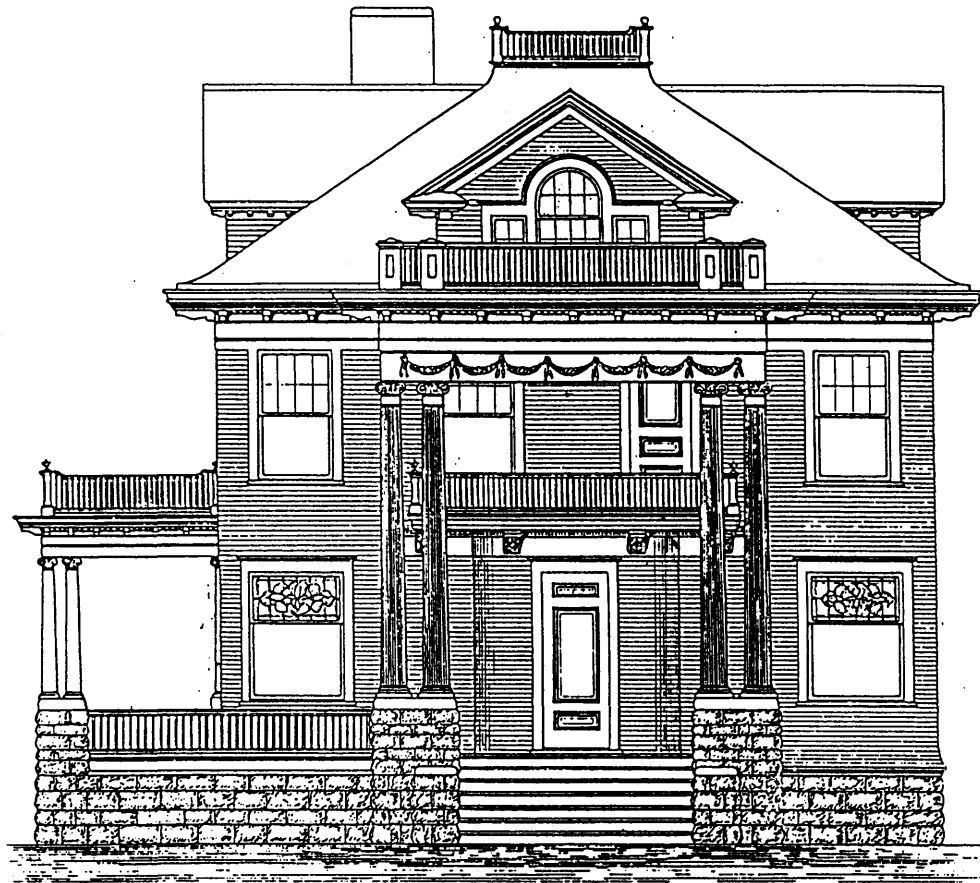
Several of the first floor windows contain transoms (upper panels) of leaded or stained glass. The front window in the living room has a sunburst motif of leaded, beveled glass, and the triple window in the dining room (west elevation) has leaded side sash. On the second floor windows have double hung sash in an 8/1 pattern. On the east elevation the oval window above the porch is typical of Neo-Classical Revival design. The Palladian windows in the dormers are double hung with multi-light sash.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 4



*Front Elevation.
Residence For S. W. Keerl.
Mason City, Iowa.*

*E. R. Bogardus,
Architect and Superint.
Mason C.*

E.R. Bogardus drawing of front (north) elevation (no date)
(Courtesy of the Lee P. Loomis Archive, Mason City Public Library)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 5



*Side Elevation.
Residence For E. W. Keerl*

*E. R. Bogardus,
Architect and Superintendent.*

E.R. Bogardus drawing of side (east) elevation (no date)
(Courtesy of the Lee P. Loomis Archive, Mason City Public Library)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 6



*Rear Elevation.
Residence For J. W. Keerl.
Mason City, Iowa.*

*C. R. Bogardus,
Architect and Superintend-
Mason City.*

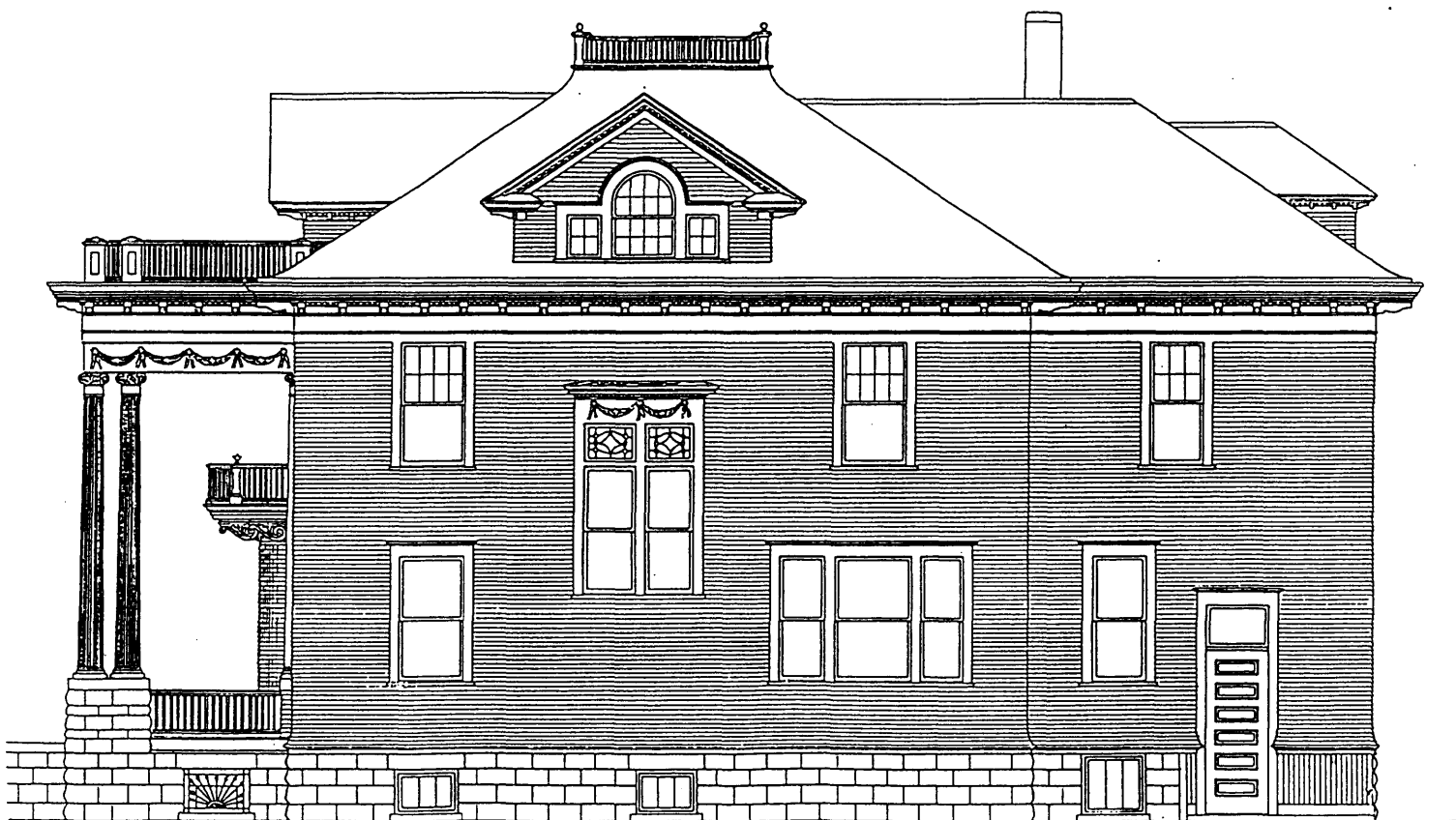
E.R. Bogardus drawing of rear (south) elevation (no date)
(Courtesy of the Lee P. Loomis Archive, Mason City Public Library)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 7



E.R. Bogardus drawing of side (west) elevation (no date)
(Courtesy of the Lee P. Loomis Archive, Mason City Public Library)

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA**

Section number 7 Page 8

On the interior, there are four rooms on each floor of the main block and the rear wing contains a kitchen, pantry and stairs on the main floor, with a small (servant's?) bedroom, bath, and stairs on the second floor.

The first floor vestibule opens into a large entry hall with a beamed oak ceiling and a massive oak staircase along the west wall. This entry hall is separated from the front parlor by simple pilasters. Woodwork throughout is oak with Neo-Classical Revival detailing. Doors and windows feature cornices with an egg and dart motif. The only fireplace is in the library and it too features a cornice with egg and dart for the mantel plus a terra cotta rope motif around the fireplace opening. This fireplace is flanked by built-in bookcases. In the dining room the oak is used for paneled wainscoting and the built-in sideboard. Major first floor doorways have pocket doors. On the second floor the oak woodwork is continued with the same Neo-Classical Revival motif above doors and windows. The bedrooms in the northwest and southeast corners have doors opening onto the second floor balconies. Ample closet space and bath facilities were part of the original design. The original portion of the house has both a full basement and a full attic.

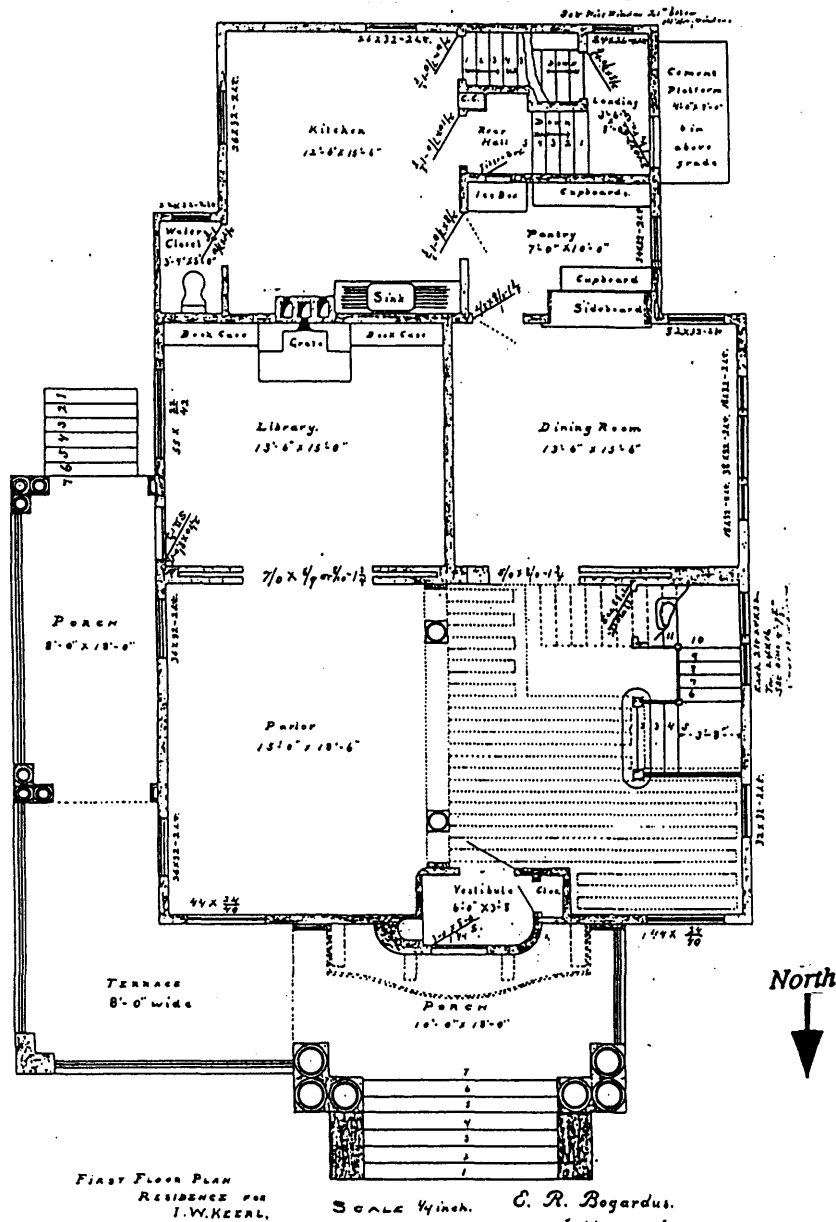
From 1975 to 1991 this residence was used as a restaurant. At that time the single story addition housing a commercial kitchen was made to the southeast corner, and a stairway to the basement was cut into the floor of the front entry hall to allow access to a bar/lounge. The house was vacant from 1991 to 1995 and was purchased by the Mason City Foundation in 2000. In recent months it has undergone a substantial rehabilitation under the direction of Mason City architects Bergland and Cram. During the rehab, the front portico was restored, the side porch was rebuilt, and the single story addition was given windows and doors sympathetic to the original design. A ramp was constructed across the rear of the house, providing handicapped accessibility. The main roof and porches again boast wooden balustrades. The interior was generally upgraded to meet 21st century codes. The Foundation will operate the residence as a bed and breakfast in conjunction with Music Man Square. The Keerl-Decker Residence is within walking distance of the business district, the Mason City Public Library, MacNider Museum, and the Rock Glen-Rock Crest Historic District.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 9



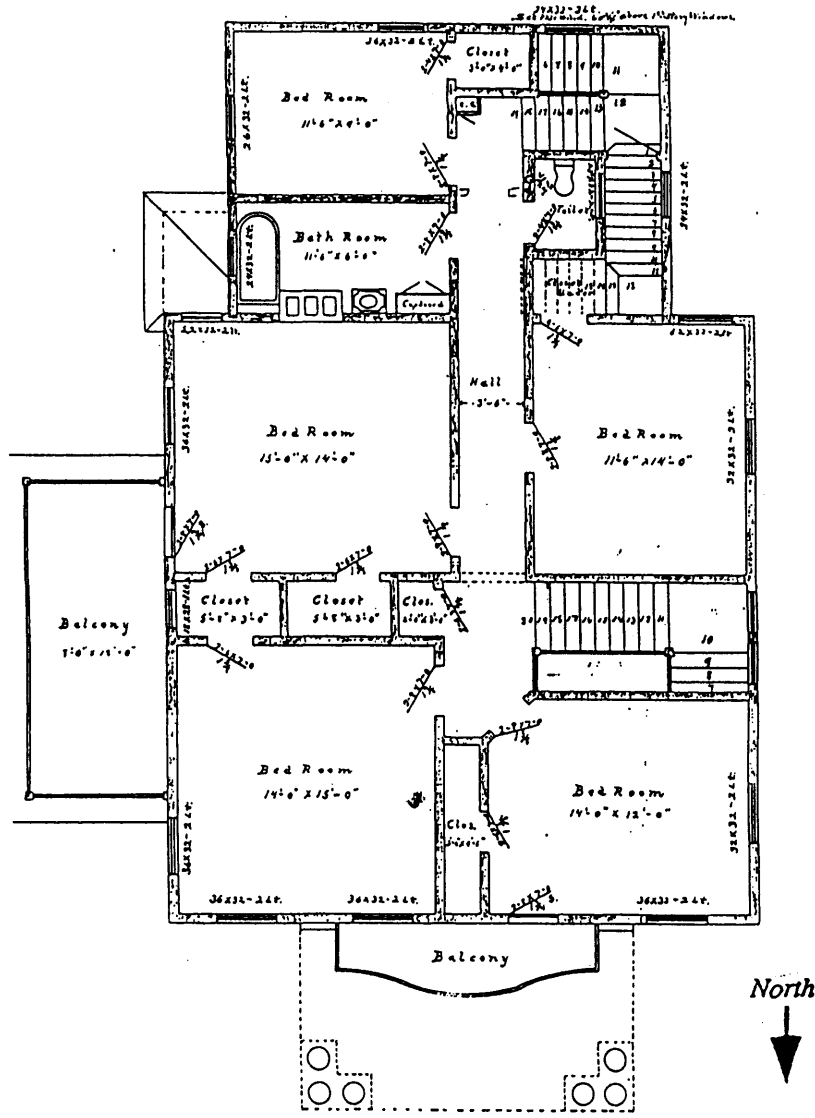
Plan of main floor, E.R. Bogardus drawing (no date)
(Courtesy of the Lee P. Loomis Archive, Mason City Public Library)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 7 Page 10



Plan of second floor, E.R. Bogardus drawing (no date)
(Courtesy of the Lee P. Loomis Archive, Mason City Public Library)

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA**

Section number 8 Page 11

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Keerl-Decker Residence (c.1902) is locally significant under Criteria C as a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival design by a noted Mason City architect, E.R. Bogardus, and is of local interest for its association with two important Mason City families, the Keerls and the Deckers.

This two story frame residence is representative of a popular early 20th century style, the Neo-Classical Revival. Interest in Neo-Classical design was stimulated by the Columbian Exhibition of 1893 in Chicago. Many of the major buildings at the exhibition were designed in the classical style. Photographs of the buildings and activities at the Chicago event were widely circulated, and the style became popular across the country, not just for public buildings, but for private residences as well. The term "Neo-Classical" is used because the style uses classical elements in a new way, very different from the treatment given by the Greeks and Romans. Key Neo-Classical Revival elements found on the Keerl-Decker Residence include a monumental two story portico that is supported by clusters of three fluted Ionic columns, with matching pilasters flanking the entry. This portico is echoed in the single story side porch. The house features the hip roof with dormers that was common to early (c.1900-20) examples of the style. The denticulated cornice with modillions that encircles the house, the frieze with embossed festoons, Palladian windows, cornice returns, and egg and dart motifs continue the Neo-Classical design.

Two blocks east of the Keerl-Decker Residence, at the corner of 2nd Street SE and Connecticut, is another Neo-Classical Revival House, the Moore-Markley Residence. This was designed by architect F.A. Gutterson in 1901. Gutterson practiced in Mason City briefly before moving to Des Moines in 1898 and forming the firm of Smith and Gutterson. Unfortunately, Gutterson died in 1901 before his true talents could be realized. The Keerl-Decker and Moore-Markley houses are the best examples of Neo-classical Revival residential design in the city.

Architect Edward R. Bogardus (1850-1927) arrived in Mason City with his parents as a nine year old. After working in his uncle's lumberyard he became a building contractor in 1873. As time went on he began designing buildings as well as constructing them, and from 1894 on he worked solely as an architect. His son Raymond R. Bogardus joined his office in 1904. E.R. Bogardus was said to have been responsible for many buildings along Federal Ave and a number of residences within the community. Two houses in the 700 block of E. State are known Bogardus designs. 718 E. State is a Queen Anne style house designed in 1898 for Wesley Longnecker, and the George Vermilya House at 704 E. State was remodeled shortly after 1900 into the present Neo-Classical Revival residence. (Vermilya appears to have been the uncle for whom Bogardus worked in the 1860s & early '70s.) Bogardus is probably best known for his design at 321 2nd Street SE for attorney Duncan Rule. The Rule house (listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 1979) is a fine example of the somewhat rare American Shingle Style.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA**

Section number 8 Page 12

The Lee P. Loomis Archive of the Mason City Public Library has a collection of plans by Bogardus, some of which may never have been built. Included in the Loomis collection are plans for twelve houses, six schools, three M.E. churches, the Cerro Gordo County Jail, two office buildings and two commercial buildings. In addition to his work in Mason City, Bogardus is said to have prepared designs for properties across northern Iowa, the Dakotas and Pennsylvania.

Bogardus designed the house at 119 2nd Street SE for I. (Irving) W. Keerl. Keerl purchased the lot in 1902 from Emily W. Long. It is this date of purchase that has been used to establish an approximate date of construction for the house, as the plans are not dated. This house is not shown on the 1897 Sanborn map, but is shown on the 1909 Sanborn. Keerl was born in Cerro Gordo County and raised in Mason City. His father was the postmaster, and at age sixteen Irving left school to serve as a postal clerk. He later became the Clerk of Courts for Cerro Gordo County, and in 1900 was one of the organizers of the Iowa State Bank of Mason City. Keerl served as cashier of the bank for many years and was very active in the Mason City Commercial Club. Overall, he was known as a strong civic supporter.

The house is more closely associated with the Decker family who owned the property from 1919 until 1965 (46 years). It was purchased in 1919 by Jay E. Decker, son of Jacob E. Decker who had established the Jacob E. Decker & Sons meat packing plant in Mason City in 1899. Born in 1876, Jay went to school in Chicago and graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business College. His involvement with meat packing began with his father's Decker & Unrath Packing Company in Chicago (1892-96), followed by three years with the George Hormel Packing Company. When his father opened the Mason City facility, Jay immediately began working there. He served as vice president in 1920-21. He became president in 1922, a position he held until 1935. Jay and his wife Angie raised three children in this house. Long-time Mason Citians remember the huge Christmas trees which decorated the Decker home each year. During the Depression the Decker Meat Packing Plant was Mason City's largest employer with 1200 men and women employed, providing an annual payroll of almost \$1,800,000. The meat packing plant continues in business today as Armour Food Company (ConAgra).

The house remained a private residence until it was sold in 1975 and remodeled into a restaurant. It was in the 1970s that the single story wing at the southeast corner was added to house a commercial kitchen.

In spite of its use as a restaurant and lounge for over a decade, the house retains a high degree of integrity. Prior to the recent rehabilitation by the Mason City Foundation, it appears that the only changes had been the kitchen addition, new stairway to the basement in the front hall, and loss of a few architectural details such as the roof balustrade. The recent rehab has restored the house to its original design, and made sympathetic changes to the addition to help it co-exist with the original part. The rehab of the Decker House and its re-opening as a Bed and Breakfast in 2002 are viewed as positive steps in Mason City's plan to promote the community's "Music Man" heritage, and as an example of historic preservation and economic development working hand in hand.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA

Section number 9 Page 13

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA**

Section number 10 Page 14

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Auditor's Plat of the S ½ SW NW and the N ½ NW SW Sec 10, T96N R20W.
Lot 3 except the S 30', the E 7' of Lot 4, and the E 7' of N 24.75' of lot 5.

Boundary Justification:

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Keerl-Decker Residence
Cerro Gordo County, IA**

Section number Photos Page 15

Photographs #1-#6 submitted with this nomination were taken by Terry Harrison in May 2002. Photograph #7 was taken by Molly Myers Naumann in May 2001. The negatives are on file in the Lee P. Loomis Archives of the Mason City Public Library.

- 1) Façade looking due S
- 2) Façade and east elevation looking SW
- 3) Façade and west elevation looking SE
- 4) West and south (rear) elevations looking NE
- 5) Rear (south) elevation showing 16' x 32' addition at SE corner, looking NNW
- 6) Detail: Front entrance looking S
- 7) Interior showing front hall, beamed ceiling, staircase, and paneling in dining room, looking SE