United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

2

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Name 1.

historic	Hillside				
and/or common	Charles Sc	huler House			
2. Loca					
street & number	1 Prospect Dr	ive (Previou	s Address 1	516 E. River Drive)	not for publication
city, town	Davenport		vicinity of	congressional district	lst
state	Iowa	code	county	Scott	code
3. Clas	sification	7			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisitic in process being conside	on Access _X_yes redyes	occupied rk in progress	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park _X_ private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	perty			
name	Judith Bel	fer		terretaria a secondaria a	li de la companya de
street & number			a transmission and the		
city, town	Davenport		vicinity of	state	Icwa 52803
5. Loca	ation of L	egal De	scriptio	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Scott Co	unty Courth	ouse	
street & number		416 West	4th Street		
city, town		Davenpor	t	state	Iowa 52803
6. Repi	resentati	on in Ex	isting s	Surveys	
	y Preservation Village of East			y perty been determined ele	gible? yes no

City of Davenport, Community depository for survey records Development Department, City Hall 226 West 4th Street

city, town

Davenport

state Iowa 52803

7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
_X good	ruins	X altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one _X_ original site ____ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Exterior

The residence is constructed of slightly glazed, reddish brown brick in a running bond pattern with very tight mortar joints. The lentils and window sills are of Joliet limestone.

Expansive porches surround the house on all sides. The main porch (60') faces south and is pierced by four fluted Greek Ionic Columns which rise above the second story for a total height of 30'. Columns on the remaining porch areas are not fluted and are 15' high with Greek Ionic capitals. A second large porch starts midway on the west side of the structure and wraps around to the middle of the north side forming a porte cochere. These porches have terrazo mosaic tile floors and the porte cochere has stone buggy steps. The third porch is a small service porch off the kitchen and has a wooden deck. All porches have intricately turned balusters (similar balustraders existed on the porch roofs; their removal has not damaged the architectural lines of the structure, together with the enclosing of part of the second story porch between the columns, this is the only physical change that has occured to the house since its original construction.

Bay windows forming bows are to be found on the east and west sides rising up from the first and second story. All glass in the house is of heavy lead plate. The main outside doors are 11' high and flanked by richly beveled leaded designs. The cornice work is copper and forms a walkway of 30" around the entire roof with straight modillion under supports. The roof is flat on top with gambrel roofs coming down in slate to the bracketed copper cornices. All nine dormers are arched. The exposed area of fondation is of Joliet limestone as is a retaining wall running along the southern border of the property on River Drive.

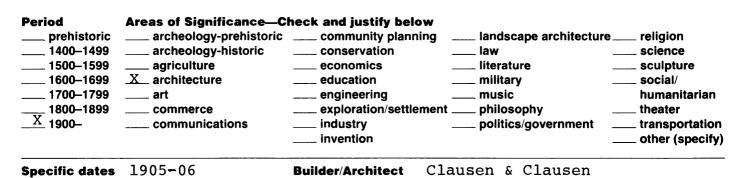
First Floor

There are three entrance vestibules of which two have beveled, leaded glass panels and all three of which have mosaic tile floors. Floors in the remainder of the house are oak except for mosaic tile in the kitchen and bathroom. The formal parlor has mahogany woodwork, bay windows with curved plate glass and two sets of built-in sliding doors of oak and mahogany.

The dining room contains a coffered ceiling of oak beams, oak wainscoating with plate shelf, bay windows with curved plate glass and windowseats containing radiators. The floor-to-ceiling fireplace has three beveled, silvered mirrors. There is a built-in china cabinet with leaded glass doors. Tapestries above the wainscoating depicting pastoral scenes rise to the full height of the ceiling. The Czechoslavakian crystal chandelier and dining room set were reputedly made for this room. Both remain.

Another grand room is the informal parlor or study. Greek Ionic, fluted columns and pilasters are at the entrance to this room. The columns appear to support capitals which appear to be wood carving but which in fact are impressions of

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hillside is not only an outstanding example of the fine architectural work executed by local architects Fritz and Rudolph Clausen, but it is associated with one of Davenport's leading businessman in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The house was erected by Charles Shuler (1856-1948), a local entrepreneur who decided to build after amassing a fortune in coal, construction, lumber, and banking. The river bluff site was chosen partly because of its commanding view of Rock Island Arsenal and partly because of its reputed historic associations as the site of the signing of the Black Hawk Treaty of 1832 which opened the Upper Mississippi Valley to settlement.

Shuler selected the german-born and trained architect Fredrick (Fritz) G.M. Clausen of the firm Clausen and Clausen to design his residence. Clausen already had designed numerous public and commercial buildings in the bi-state area. They included Pierce School*, First Presbyterian Church, U.N. Roberts and Company Block, Central Turnhalle, Max Petersen Mansion*, Scott County Jail, Saengerfest Halle, St. John's Methodist Church, Davenport High School, "Overview," and Davenport Outing Club*. His career spaned the period 1871 to 1907. Fritz Clausen was joined by his son Rudolph Clausen, a M.I.T. graduate, in 1904. The Shuler House may have been a combined effort by both Clausens.

The design of this residence contains fewer of the drivative architectural features commonplace in contemparary Victorian houses. Instead, it incorporates ideas which presaged the Beaux Arts and Art Nouveau movements later in the century.

Like Pierce School (1899) and "Overview" (1901), the Shuler House has a blockish mass uncharacteristic of its Prospect Terrace neighbors. Its stately design is enhanced by its unparalleled bluff setting.

*National Register Properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet Item Number 9)

Attest:

Chief of Registration

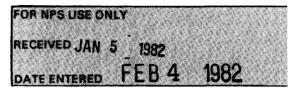
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10. Geo	ographical Dat	a
Acreage of nomin	1 5	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>
A <u>115</u> 701 Zone Eastin	4 1 14 10 4 16 0 10 1 14 10 g Northing	B Zone Easting Northing
C]		
Lots one (1)	y description and justification and two (2) of Block on cott County, Iowa.	ne (1) of Prospect Terrace in the City of
List all states a	nd counties for properties o	verlapping state or county boundaries
state	code	county code
state	code	county code
11. For	m Prepared By	/
name/title	Ralph J. Christian, Ar	chitectural Historian
organization D	ivision of Historic Pres	Servation date January 12, 1981
street & number	26 East Market Place	telephone 353-6949/353-4186
city or town	Iowa City	state
12. Sta	te Historic Pre	servation Officer Certification
The evaluated sign	nificance of this property within t national state	he state is:
665), I hereby nom according to the c	inate this property for inclusion	ter for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.
title Director	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	date 12/10/81
For HCRS use of I hereby cert Multiple Keeper of the Na	ify that this property is included	in the National Register Entered in the National Register date 2/4/82

date

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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plaster molding. As elsewhere, the bay windows have curved plate glass. A glazed brick fireplace with a carved oak mantel and mirror adorns one wall flanked on bothe sides by bookshelves with leaded glass doors. There is a stained glass window on one wall.

The main hall is L-shaped with 5' wainscoting and has a curved archway to the main staircase. Other rooms on the first floor include a great bathroom; a large kitchen with maple woodwork; a butler's pantry which connects the kitchen to the dining room and which has floor-to-ceiling cabinets and a solid copper sink set in marble and a gas/electric light; and a laundry room which previously served as an ice box.

Second Floor

The second floor is reached by a large oak central stairway which has a half turn landing. There is a striking 10'x10' stained glass window on the landing above oak window seats which enclose radiators. This landing extends as a balcony over the first floor. The central hall contains columns of fluted Greek Ionic design, together with a fireplace of green glazed brick. There is a sitting room situated above the porch and framed by the exterior columns. Enclosure of this space was made after 1938 and is one of two alterations to the original structure. There is a master bedroom with large bay windows and radiator window seats. A master bath has mosaic tile floors and most of the original bathroom fixtures. Four additional bedrooms and two additional bathrooms complete the second floor plan.

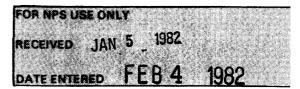
Additional Levels

The third floor was originally designed as a ballroom with $7\frac{1}{2}$ ' dormered windows. The wood work is maple with pine floors. There is a 5' crawl attic above the 9' ceiling of the finished section of the third floor area. The balance of the floor is unfinished. This floor serves as a residential apartment today with modification confined to one closet adapted as a kitchen. The remainder of the space is unchanged.

The basement has 9' ceilings also. The southwest corner once contained a formal billiard room with curved glass windows and mahogany woodwork. The southeast corner of the basement is a workshop area. In addition, the basement contains a wine cellar fitted with slanting wire storage shelving a gentlemen's toilet and laundry room with many original fixtures; and a coal bin and boiler room.

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Conversations were held as follows:

- Mrs. Anne Chalberg, Nov. 1979 (great grandaughter to Charles Shuler)
- Mr. Wm B. Waterman, Mar. 1980 (attorney for Charles Shuler, Jr.)
- Mr. J. O. Cummins, Feb. 1980 (insurance man for Charles Shuler, Jr.)
- John Park, Jan. 1980 (interior decorator for the Shuler Residence while Anne Rendleman (Mr. Shuler's daughter) was lady of the house and his Aunt.)
- Mrs. Minnie Fregin (girlfriend to the Shuler maid.)

Newspapers:

Davenport Daily Times, Golden Jubilee Centennial ed., July 11, 1936

- Morning Democrat Centennial Edition covering 1855-1955 dated Oct. 4 and 5, 1955 (in particular 13 Oct 55 "Graf Zeppelin" passed over Shuler house at 2 pm Aug 28, 1929)
- Times-Deomcrat, Oct. 3, 1965 Legend of Prospect Park
- The Davenport Times, 27 May 1948, (Mr. Shuler dies)
- The Davenport Democrat 10 Oct. 1934, (Mrs. Shuler dies)
- The Davenport Democrat and Leader, 23 Oct. 1927 (announcement of Shuler open house for 50th wedding anniversary)
- The Daily Times, 25 Oct 1927, (description of 50th wedding anniversay open house)

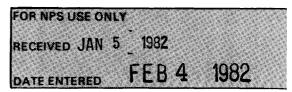
Other Sources:

Iowa Journal of History and Politics Vol. 13, p. 416ff, Sept. 1915

Annals of Iowa, 3d Vol. VII, 1905-07

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- The Polimpset, John Ely Briggs, ed Vol. Xiii, 1932, P. 74ff
- Davenport Illustrated, 1898
- Davenport Past and Present (1858) by F. B. Wilkie
- Davenport Past and Present, Sept. 1967
- Picturedque Tri-Cities (1901) published by C.J. Martin
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- Mississippi Valley Beginnings (1922) by H.E. Chambers
- History of Davenport and Scott County (1910) by Harry Downer
- Architectural History of the Quad Cities (1976) by B.C. Spergo
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- Early Days of Rock Island and Davenport (1942) edited by MM Quaife
- Who's Who in Davenport 1929
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- The Upper Mississippi River-Nine-foot Channel, (1980) The US Army Corps of Engineer
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- Index of Clausen and Clausen jobs as provided, 7 Jan. 1980, by John Gere of Charles Richardsen and Association - Architects
- A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport Iowa (1979), by Philippe Oszuscik
- A Community Preservation and Revitalization Study for the Village of East Davenport (Dec 1977) by John Milner