

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

and/or common Charles Schuler House

2. Location

street & number 1 Prospect Drive (Previous Address 1516 E. River Drive) not for publication

city, town Davenport vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Iowa code county Scott code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Judith Belfer

street & number 1 Prospect Drive

city, town Davenport vicinity of state Iowa 52803

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number 416 West 4th Street

city, town Davenport state Iowa 52803

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

"A Community Preservation and Revitalization Study
title for the Village of East Davenport" has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1977 federal state county local

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

city, town Davenport state Iowa 52803

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearanceExterior

The residence is constructed of slightly glazed, reddish brown brick in a running bond pattern with very tight mortar joints. The lintels 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 occurred 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 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 foundation 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 Czechoslovakian 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

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1905-06

Builder/Architect Clausen & Clausen

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 spanned 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 derivative architectural features commonplace in contemporary 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)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Davenport East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	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

Lots one (1) and two (2) of Block one (1) of Prospect Terrace in the City of Davenport, Scott County, Iowa.

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 Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date January 12, 1981

street & number 26 East Market Place telephone 353-6949/353-4186

city or town Iowa City 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Adrian A. Andersen

title Director date 12/10/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Delores Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	FEB 4 1982

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 both 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 7½' 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 granddaughter 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-Democrat, 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 anniversary 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
- Three Cities (1888) by B.F. Tinninghast
- 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
- Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased (1956) by Henry F. Withey
- Davenport of Today - A picturesque and description account of (1912)
- Biographical History and Portrait Gallery of Scott County Iowa (1895)
- Early Days of Rock Island and Davenport (1942) edited by MM Quaife
- Who's Who in Davenport 1929
- Iowa's Great Rivers Region (1980)
- The Upper Mississippi River-Nine-foot Channel, (1980) The US Army Corps of Engineer
- A history of Navigation Improvements on the Rock Island Rapids (Apr. 1980) US Army Corps of Engineers
- 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