

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 12 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name AUGUST H. BERGMAN HOUSE
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 629 First Avenue East [] not for publication
city, town Newton [] vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jasper code 099 zip code 50208

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Arch. Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Ia
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official David L. ... Date 5/25/87

State or Federal agency and bureau Bureau of Historic Preservation
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See cont. sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Alamy ... 7/13/89
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Commerce/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mission Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stucco

roof ceramic tile

other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 7, page 1.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
 nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1909

1909

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Proudfoot & Bird

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

[X] See continuation sheet, section 8, page 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet, section 9, page 1.

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

Specify repository:
Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>4962110</u>	<u>461161140</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet, section 10, page 1.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Barbara Beving Long, consultant		
organization	Midwest Research Co.	date	February 25, 1989
street & number	3140 Easton Boulevard	telephone	(515) 266-4964
city or town	Des Moines	state	Iowa zip code 50317

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Designed by Iowa's pre-eminent architectural firm at the turn of the century, Proudfoot & Bird, the August H. Bergman House in Newton is a distinctive, unusual, and virtually unaltered example of the Mission Style. Mission Style elements include the hipped red tile roof, stucco wall covering (over brick), stone trim, striking belvedere, Mission-shaped dormers, broad overhanging open eaves with shaped rafter ends, and a facade-spanning one-story porch with pergola, large square piers, and single rounded column. Limestone steps, sills, lintels, and coping contrast with the painted stucco and clay tile. The raised corner belvedere, dormers, four large chimneys with pairs of chimney pots, and the porch parapet provide a lively outline and are also Mission features. Built in 1909, the Bergman House is a rare example of the Mission Style of architecture in Iowa by Proudfoot & Bird.

The house is basically one-story but the belvedere and raised basement alter an otherwise low profile. Small basement windows have smooth limestone lintels that light storage space or maid's quarters as well as the billiard room and den with fireplace along the north end. These areas have been converted to lodging for a bed and breakfast facility that accompany the restaurant and apartment of the first floor.

First floor windows are narrow casement (especially flanking the fireplaces) and also double hung. A grouping of four high windows beneath the Mission dormer is found on the east side (Photo #5). All windows are wood frame; many retain their original numbered copper screens and heavy plate glass storms. Belvedere lintels are curved unlike any others on the house; a narrow door provides access to the porch roof.

An important feature of the Bergman House are the many leaded and stained glass windows and light fixtures, especially in the dining and living rooms and the atrium. All original brass light fixtures remain (both ceiling and wall) and are different for each major room (dining room, living room, atrium, library, foyer, billiard room, and den). Most feature various combinations of heavy glass prisms or teardrops, stained glass, and heavy brass.

Leaded glass patterns in a diamond pattern are used for the main facade windows and also side lights for the main entrance. On the front door a stylized fleur-di-lis contrasts effectively with geometric diamond pattern. In the dining room grape vine and floral motifs are repeated not only for windows (Photo #9) but also for the central light fixture (Photo #10) and three pairs of immense glass and oak doors between the dining room and the atrium (Photo #8). Similar glass panels with stylized floral motifs occur on doors in the bedroom wing (now an apartment) and for service doors off the atrium.

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The atrium's splendid skylight is outlined in heavy wood and features stylized grape leaves in a pattern different from those of the dining room. Picked out in vivid leafy green and sky blue colors, among others, the grape leaves are of similar proportion to rigid geometric patterns also displayed in the skylight. (Glass tiles in the same shape and size as the red clay tile on the roof bring natural light to the skylight.)

In addition to the wealth of stained and leaded window glass and elaborate ceiling and wall fixtures, three distinctive fireplaces, ceramic floor tile (some in elaborate patterns), and fine woodwork contribute further to the rich and varied interior throughout the house. Dark oak woodwork is used throughout the principle living areas, with birch and pine in other locations. The woodwork is especially notable in the dining room where nine closely spaced beams, a high plate rail, and moulded vertical strips adorn the ceiling and walls. The living room has a small nook beneath a stained glass window overlooking the atrium, and there is also seating under the front windows.

The plan for the house is centered around the atrium, with access available to it from the main hallway, bedroom wing, service or kitchen area, and of course the three prominent pairs of doors opening into the dining room. The huge stained glass panels on the doors are arched at the top and have stylized twining floral designs. Off the main entrance hallway are narrow steps leading to the belvedere. A rather solid balustrade is pierced with a grape leaf motif. Eleven windows and a door with lights lend the room a particularly airy and sunny appearance.

The house site is on a corner and raised eight steps from the sidewalk, providing an imposing setting. First Avenue East is the major east-west route in Newton, and there is considerable traffic. Although the blocks west of the house are strongly residential, commercial encroachment begins at East Seventh Street North and continues in scattered fashion to the east. Immediately adjacent to the Bergman House is a large brick Italianate house; other houses on the street are similarly large and costly but are from the early twentieth century like the Bergman House. Two garages, likely dating from the 1910s or 1920s, occupy the rear of the rather long and narrow Bergman site (Photo #6). The double garage matches the house (stucco with hipped roof) and is therefore considered a contributing element while the smaller one is gabled, clapboard, and noncontributing.

Alterations to the house have been few and are not intrusive, and the house is in excellent condition. The following repairs date from after 1983 when the current owner bought the house for use as a gourmet restaurant: small

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one-story gabled rear addition (expanded kitchen), rebuilt chimney, rebuilt steps, new porch roof to solve chronic leak, additional restroom, and repairs to stucco and stonework. The previous owner continues to live in a small apartment (former bedrooms) in the house, but little change was necessary, save placing opaque panels and curtains in the atrium for increased privacy.

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The August H. Bergman House is among the most distinctive residential designs by the important Iowa architectural firm, Proudfoot & Bird, et al.¹ It is the only known example that Proudfoot & Bird, the founders of the firm, executed in the Mission Style. The house may also carry historical significance for its association with Bergman and his role in state politics, especially his leadership role in paving Iowa roads and getting the state "out of the mud." In addition, Bergman was involved in the development of the washer industry, still the most important industry in Newton. The house is being nominated under Criterion C; see multiple properties nomination, "The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940."

Proudfoot & Bird, et al. received thirteen commissions in Newton between c. 1898 and 1928. Among them were the present Jasper County Courthouse, Carnegie Library, an office building for the Parsons Band Cutter and Self Feeder Company, and a swimming pool for L.B. Maytag, according to records with the present successor firm, Brooks Borg & Skiles. About half of the commissions Proudfoot & Bird, et al. received were in Des Moines, and the firm gained approximately 338 more commissions in 117 Iowa communities and around ninety more in eleven states outside Iowa between 1885 and 1940. The largest and most significant body of non-Iowa work is in Kansas, and their Richardsonian Romanesque designs are discussed in *The Spirit of H.H. Richardson on the Midland Prairies*. Unlike the Bergman house, most known residential examples of the firm's early twentieth century work exhibit a Tudor Revival influence.

Born on a Jasper County farm north of Newton in 1872, August H. ("Gus") Bergman was a major investor and officer in two pivotal companies in Newton. The One Minute Washer Company was the first in Newton to successfully market a hand-operated clothes washer.² Bergman was the company's first president. The triumphs of the One Minute Company touched off a chain of washer inventions and refinements by Newton residents hoping to repeat that venture's success, especially between 1906 and 1912. Because of its specialized woodworking equipment, the company supplied cedar wash tubs to these fledgling washer companies. In 1908 the One Minute Company began to market an electric powered washer, three years

¹The term "et al." is used to refer to the entire firm, which had several names over its long history, while "Proudfoot & Bird" refers to the period when Proudfoot and Bird were the sole partners (before 1910).

²According to some accounts, notably WPA reports, it was the first to build washers as well.

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before the Maytag Company.³

Bergman was also instrumental in the establishment of the Maytag Company. This Newton business remains a leader in the washer industry but traced its beginnings to agricultural machinery. With his brother William, Gus invested in the Parsons Band Cutter and Self Feeder Company in 1893, along with Fred L. Maytag and inventor George W. Parsons.⁴ The company was a success at the turn of the century. But as the larger national farm equipment manufacturers turned to building their own feeders for their threshing equipment, the Parsons Company turned, like other Newton concerns, to washers. In 1909 the name was changed to the Maytag Company to reflect this shift from agricultural implements.

In addition to investing in and operating washer companies, Bergman was a politician. He served in the state senate, between 1922 and 1930, and was seriously mentioned as a gubernatorial candidate in 1930. Bergman had begun his senatorial reelection campaign when he was stricken with paralysis and died in 1933. At his death he was lauded in a Newton *Daily News* editorial for his "leading part in developing the modern road system which serves our state today."

During his senate career, Bergman introduced the first bill, one that became law, creating the gasoline tax in Iowa. An obituary in the Newton *Daily News* noted that he was "known as the father of the gasoline tax in Iowa" and that he was keenly interested in "laws to hasten the advent of good roads in Iowa and his most important work in the state legislature concerned matters pertaining to the state highway system." In the early years of the twentieth century, the question of paving and caring for Iowa's roads was a hot political issue, one that pitted urban and rural interests against one another. Farmers feared, initially with justification, that the financial burden for road improvements would fall to them. Through legislation such as the Bergman Act of 1929, however, a more equitable means (a gasoline tax) developed that insured that Iowa's numerous primary and secondary roads would be well designed, paved, and properly maintained.

³The Maytag Company's vault to leadership in the washer industry came in the 1920s with their introduction of distinctively designed one-piece aluminum tubs.

⁴When one of the Bergman sisters married Fred L. Maytag, it was felt that it was Maytag who had married into a socially prominent family, not the reverse.

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Another important issue was the design and maintenance of state roads. Again Bergman was influential, for legislation he introduced gave the state the power to direct counties to use trained county engineers. The shift from township or road district control to a statewide sponsorship of a more unified system of roads continued through a series of laws passed during this period. Bergman was a leader in introducing laws that both sought to accomplish reforms and, as important, were actually enacted.

The Bergmans had moved into their distinctive home on First Avenue by 1911, the first year it is shown on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. (The 1906 Sanborn did not include Southeast Addition, the location of the Bergman House.) A plaque on the main facade of the house over the entry gives "1909" as the construction date. Year-end building reports for 1909 listed the Bergman house, with R.P. Rasmussen as the builder. Costing \$17,000, it was by far the most expensive house constructed in Newton in 1909. August Bergman lived in the house during his most influential years in statewide politics, until his death in 1933. The unusual design and materials of the Bergman House reflected the progressive willingness to seek solutions to problems that characterized Bergman's career in business and politics. It is an excellent example of Proudfoot & Bird's residential work.

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- "The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940." Multiple properties nomination.
Long, Barbara Beving. "Proudfoot & Bird, et al., Iowa's Pre-eminent Architectural Firm." 1987. Draft multiple properties nomination for Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation.
Proudfoot & Bird, Architects. Blueprints, House for A.H. Bergman, Esq. Drawer 103, #12. Brooks Borg & Skiles, Des Moines.
Newton *Journal*, December 29, 1909. (Improvements in Newton for 1909.)
"August Henry Bergman." *Annals of Iowa* 19 (January 1934): 238-9.
"A.H. Bergman," Editorial. *Newton Daily News*, November 3, 1933.
"Former Senator A.H. Bergman Dies: Death Overtakes Newton Leader Thursday Night." *Newton Daily News*, November 3, 1933.
"Hundreds Gather to Pay Respects to A.H. Bergman." *Newton Daily News*, November 6, 1933.
"Bergman Dies at Newton, Iowa: Known as Father of Gasoline Tax." *Des Moines Register*, November 3, 1933.
May, George S. "The Good Roads Movement in Iowa." Five articles in *Palimpsest* XXXVI (January 1955): 1-64.
"The Legislation of the Forty-First General Assembly of Iowa." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 23 (October 1925): see p. 536.
"The Legislation of the Forty-Second General Assembly of Iowa." *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 25 (October 1927): see p. 535.
Woodrow, Ivan F. "A Century of Industrial Progress in Newton, Iowa." 1961. State Historical Library.
Funk, A.B. *Fred L. Maytag. A Biography*. Cedar Rapids: By the Author, 1936.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Newton. 1906, 1911. State Historical Library.
Newton City Directory, 1910, 1916, 1920.
"History of Newton and Jasper County." 7 vols. Information gathered during 1930s Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration. Newton Public Library.
"Maytag Silver Anniversary Jubilee Convention, 1894-1919." State Historical Library.
Chamber of Commerce. "The Workshop of Iowa. Newton. The Washing Machine Center of the World." 1928. State Historical Library.
Longstreth, Richard. "Richardsonian Architecture in Kansas." in *The Spirit of H.H. Richardson on the Midland Prairies*. Ames: ISU Press, 1988.
Interview with Kay Owen, present owner, July 24, 1988.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies city lot 68 in block B of the South East Addition.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

Note: The house was undergoing needed repairs in July 1988; see Photo #5 for January 1989 appearance.

1.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
July 1988
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing south
Photo #1

2.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
July 1988
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing southeast
Photo #2

3.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
July 1988
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing northwest
Photo #3

4.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
July 1988
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing west

Photo #4

5.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
January 1989
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing north
Photo #5

6.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
January 1989
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing southwest
Photo # 6

7.
August H. Bergman House (two
garages)
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
January 1989
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Camera facing west
Photo # 7

8.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
January 1989

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Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
atrium looking toward dining
room
Photo # 8

9.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
January 1989
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
Window on east wall of dining
room
Photo # 9

10.
August H. Bergman House
Newton, Jasper County, Iowa
by BJB Long
January 1989
Neg: Iowa Bureau of Historic
Preservation
ceiling light fixture in dining
room
Photo # 10