

PH036149X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 17 1977

DATE ENTERED JUL 13 1977

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

Bix Beiderbecke House

Beiderbecke, Lew Bernstein (Bix), Home

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1934 Grand Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

Scott

CODE

123

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dan Newby

STREET & NUMBER

1934 Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

VICINITY OF

Iowa

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder, Scott County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Davenport

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 APPEARANCE

The Beiderbecke house is a straightforward, late-Victorian frame dwelling, located in a residential neighborhood of similar vintage. It is set upon a terrace which rises about 5 feet from street level, and across from a small neighborhood park.

The house is 26' wide and 57' deep, with a basically rectangular plan. It has two brick chimneys above an irregular gabled roofline. A shed-roofed porch, supported by square, bracketted wooden posts, extends across the front. Above the north end of the porch at the second floor level is a small, semicircular turret-like porch with a conical roof, which is entered through the second-floor bedroom window. Another 5-sided projection with a conical roof extends from the north wall, and forms part of the stairwell to the second floor. On the south wall is a bay window, projecting from the dining room. Over the entrance to the front porch is a decorative wood pediment with two wooden columns on each side. Cornices and trim are also wood. To the rear (west) is a small, L-shaped addition (date unknown), enclosing a family room and back porch. Generally speaking, the exterior facades are unmodified, except for the application of painted, asbestos siding over clapboards.

The interior is divided by a central wall, into a living-dining area on the west and the entrance hall, stairwell, and kitchen on the east. On the second floor are three bedrooms and a bath. Hardwood and pine flooring, as well as stained pine woodwork (some with decorative carving) date from the original construction of the house. A fireplace in the entry hall features a decorative glazed tile surround topped by a plain, dark-stained wood mantle.



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 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 checked="" 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 built ca. 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Leon Bismarck "Bix" Beiderbecke, a now-legendary cornet player and jazz composer and musician of the 1920's, was born in this house 10 March 1903. He lived here until September, 1921, when he left for Lake Forest Academy near Chicago and the beginning of his relatively brief, but important musical career in Chicago, New York, St. Louis, and elsewhere around the United States. From then until his death in 1931, he returned periodically to visit his parents. During one such visit, in December 1924-January 1925, it is believed that Beiderbecke composed "Davenport Blues" (recorded 26 January 1925).

"During the first part of his 10-year career, Bix Beiderbecke played or 'sat in' with most of the jazz bands then playing in Chicago, and on river boats and excursion boats on Lake Michigan. (During his entire career, whenever he was home, he played with bands in Davenport and the surrounding metropolitan area.) Later, he was a regular member of the Wolverines, Jean Goldkette's band led by Frank Trumbauer, and Paul Whiteman's orchestra. It was while he was playing with the Wolverines in 1924 that Beiderbecke cut his first record for the Gennett Recording Co, in Richmond, Indiana, which launched him on the 6½ prolific years of recording work that produced (aside from his own jazz compositions, "Davenport Blues," "In a Mist," "Candlelights," "Flashes", and "In the Dark") the only remaining material evidence of his enormous talent.

"Bix's grace, subtlety, and harmonic sophistication influenced his contemporaries in the jazz medium, such as Red Nichols, the Benson Orchestra of Chicago, cornetists Rex Stewart and Bobby Hackett, and Hoagy Carmichael, and have been influencing jazz musicians ever since. He established the basic principles for playing Dixieland in a new way that have endured to this day." ¹

¹"Biographical Information", compiled by Pat Miller, Scott County (Iowa) Historic Preservation Group, pp. 1-2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berton, Ralph. Remembering Bix. New York: Harper and Row, 1974.
 Hadlock, Richard. Jazz Masters of the Twenties. New York: Macmillan, 1965.
 Sudhalter, Richard M., and Philip R. Evans, with William Dean-Myatt. Bix, Man and Legend. New Rochelle: Arlington House, 1974.
 Ulanov, Barry. A Handbook of Jazz. New York: Viking Press, 1960.
 See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	7 0 3 1 0 0	4 6 1 0 1 2 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 50' x 110'

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

Pat Miller

ORGANIZATION

Scott County Historic Preservation Group

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1718 Middle Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bettendorf,

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/5/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William M. Myer

DATE

7/13/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

7-13-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 17 1977

DATE ENTERED

JUL 13 1977

Bix Beiderbecke House, Davenport, Scott County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

Avakian, George. The Bix Beiderbecke Story, Vol. II, "Bix and Tram", Columbia Records, CL 845 (record cover).

Billboard Magazine, March 5, 1977, p.65

Quad-City Times, July 27, 1975; February 27, 1977.

Davenport City Directories, 1890-1907.

Interviews by Pat Miller with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Newby (2 March 1977) and Don O'Dette (1 March 1977)

Bix Beiderbecke Room, Davenport Public Library.