

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 12 1976
DATE ENTERED

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

****** August Beresheim House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

621 Third Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

19

COUNTY

Pottawattamie

CODE

155

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: empty

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Council Bluffs Investment Co.

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Council Bluffs Savings Bank, Broadway at Pearl

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pottawattamie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

228 Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The residence is a three-story wooden structure very symmetrical in appearance on the northeast corner of Fairview Ave. and 3rd St. It is placed high in the bluffs with only a few homes and then the tall bluffs rising behind it. Facing west it commands a sweeping view of the town and Missouri River floodplain all the way across the river to Omaha.

The dominating feature of the exterior is the spacious porch which is wrapped around three sides of the house. The front porch columns are original but there are no railings at present. Old photographs do show the original porch. The front porch roof does not wrap around the house, but is placed on the north, west, and south leaving the porch corners exposed. Railings outlined the porch roof on each side of the house and along the flat crown of the roof at the top of the house. Two of the chimneys have new brick-work but the original number of three remain. An extension of the third floor's north room has resulted in an asymmetrical appearance to the third floor which is not original. The original wood siding has been covered with aluminum.

The grounds are basically unchanged. The tall retaining wall of brick center covered with stucco is probably original. A garage at the back was added in the early 1900's. It is a simple one-car garage. Its most interesting feature is a turntable floor so the car never had to be backed out. The new change to the grounds is the addition of a walkway from the Dodge House next door.

The interior reflects the symmetry of the exterior. On both the first and second floors, the major rooms are in the corners of the floor, the main staircase is in the middle of the house and smaller rooms are in the front (east) center and back (west) center areas. The basic shape of the rooms and details is square.

After coming ^{through} ~~thru~~ a small vestibule, there is a large entrance hall that is dominated by an impressive oak staircase. The staircase is built around a square so there is a large central open area to the third floor. The newel posts are square with egg and dart moldings and applied trim; the hand railings are shaped with a deep groove for the fingers and a shallower groove for the thumb. The staircase has two landings to reach second floor and one from second to third floor.

The entrance to the north and south rooms off the hallway are outlined with Ionic pilasters of oak and across the top with a classically-detailed beam. To the north is the music room which contains one of the two fireplaces in the home. It has a mirror built in over the mantle, white tile around the fire opening and a white tile hearth. The ceiling is ^{the} only one in the house which has the original plaster work forming a design around the perimeter. The room to the south of the entrance hall was the library. Its fireplace is similar to the one in the music room with the exception that the tile around the fire opening is brown.

The southeast corner of the first floor was the dining room. It was separ-

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Neighborhood relationship to other landmark
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899, built

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The August Beresheim House is significant because of its physical relationship to the Historic General Dodge House next door and because it is a spacious home of a well-to-do Council Bluffs family of that period.

The Historic General Dodge House is a National Historic Landmark and has been open as a fine quality house museum since 1964. The physical relationship between the Beresheim House and the Dodge House is important to both. They are the only homes on the east side of 3rd St. in their block. Together they help preserve the tradition that this neighborhood is one of fine homes where many influential families of Council Bluffs resided. The Dodge House would have been the oldest home in the neighborhood, but many well-to-do families built residences on large lots nearby. At the present time to the north and west of the Dodge House are vacant lots where once were large homes. The Beresheim House is one of the few large homes near the Dodge House. The preservation of the Dodge House has been very important to Council Bluffs and the region but its neighborhood context is also worthy to note and maintain.

The Beresheim House is a spacious home of a well-to-do old family of Council Bluffs. Its design was influenced by several architectural styles but always with care taken so that fine materials and quality workmanship were used to create a gracious home. Stebbins A. Teal, a master mechanic, gentleman farmer and Beresheim's father-in-law, designed the oak staircase and supervised other details to make this a fine home. The Beresheims were an old and influential Council Bluffs family. John, August's father, came to Council Bluffs in 1855 when this was the raw frontier. After working in several mercantile establishments, he joined the Pacific National Bank which merged with Gen. G. M. and Nathan Dodge's banking office to form the Council Bluffs Savings Bank in 1870. August was born and educated in Council Bluffs and joined the bank in his teens. John Beresheim became president of the bank in 1902 and on his death in 1909, August succeeded him in that office. The home on 3rd Street was the first and only home of their own that August and his wife, Clara, had and it stayed in the family until the early 1950's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Council Bluffs Nonpareil" - newspaper articles, obituaries
 Council Bluffs City Directories 1867-1902
 Property Abstracts
 Recollections of family members

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15,000 sq. feet

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	26,14,0,0	4,57,07,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2, 6 Turley's Subdivision of Outlot 7 Jackson's Addition

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Penelope B. Chatfield, Director

ORGANIZATION

Historic General Dodge House

DATE

March 8, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

605 Third Street

TELEPHONE

(712) 322-4545

CITY OR TOWN

Council Bluffs

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Historic Preservation

DATE

5/3/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

8/13/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles Oberly

DATE

8.13.76

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Iowa	
COUNTY	
Pottawattamie	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 19 1976

7. Description, Beresheim House, con't.

ated from the library by bookcases and sliding doors. The bookcases and doors have been removed and the two rooms are now one large room. At the back of the entrance hall, another door lead to the butler's pantry. It is a good size room and is the center room on the east side of the house. The kitchen was in the northeast corner. It is a spacious room with a built-in cupboard intact. The back door is in this room. The back porch has the original railings and turned columns. A modern bathroom has been added in the small room just off the northeast corner of the kitchen. This area was originally the basement entrance. Two other doors are in the kitchen. One is the entrance to the full-size basement. The other leads to the back-stairs which go to second floor.

The second floor is also very symmetrical. The elaborate staircase takes up the center of the floor. A large bedroom is in each of the corners. A small sitting room is in the center on the west side, just above the entrance hall. Three windows are clustered in the center of the wall with the middle window extending almost to the floor so the family could walk out on the porch roof which was enclosed by railings. A bathroom is in the center on the west side. A marble-topped sink and bathtub with claw feet still remain.

The staircase extends to the third floor with one landing. Three rooms which open off a small center hall are there. The two rooms on the north and south were originally maid's rooms and the west room was a playroom for the Beresheim's daughter, Theda. The central heating system did not extend up to the third floor. A window in the north room overlooking the staircase probably helped to warm the room.

The future plans for the Beresheim House are for it to serve as an orientation center for the Historic General Dodge House next door. A pre-tour slide presentation will give a brief introduction on the history of the General, his home and the area before the visitor goes on to the Dodge House itself. The rooms on first and second floor will also be used for office, employee room, public restroom, gift shop and several display rooms. All the services can be removed from the Dodge House to an area that has much more space for them and the museum can be more completely part of the 19th century. The basement can be used as storage area and the third floor as a director's apartment. All of this can be done by finding new uses for the rooms while not destroying any of the original spaces or detailing. Part of the staircase had been removed and it has now been restored to match the original. Restoration of the exterior is hoped for and maintaining the beauty of the parts of the interior that are original is essential.

The change to the plan... the removal of the second floor... of the upper deck...