

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 30 1985

date entered JUN 27 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Kegler-Gonner Store and Post Office

and or common Gonner's Store

**2. Location**

street & number 100 East Main \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Springbrook \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Jackson code 097

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Ms. Alverda Gonner

street & number 100 East Main

city, town Springbrook \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Iowa 52075

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Jackson County Courthouse

city, town Maquoketa state Iowa 52060

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Kegler-Gonner Store (c. 1874) is a large and well preserved stone commercial building in the state. It survives as a local landmark on the site of what was for many decades a small yet significant crossroads community.

This two story stone building in its present plan, represents a series of construction phases. The original portion, dated to c. 1874, consisted of the west half. It is indeed likely that three major sub-components are now linked in one structure. The original west ell, with hip roof and ridge measures (60' x 20"). A tee plan side wing (40' x 20'), centered on the east side, has a gabled roof. The resulting plan is "squared off" by the addition of a shed roofed storefront component (40' x 20'). Four more recent rear additions, executed in stone and concrete block.

The building is constructed of coursed ashlar limestone. The stonework is vernacular in its origin, the courses being of varied widths, resulting in an irregular horizontal patterning even on the main front. This is most apparent on the west wall where upper level windows are of varied length due to these wandering coursings. Solid stone lintels and sills frame the windows. Local masons, Peter and John Weis, builders of other local buildings including the Catholic Church (c.1864) are naturally presumed to have built this building as well but documentation is not available.

The building has a basement with interior cistern. The basement is beneath the original west part (cistern in the north end) and the centered "tee" east wing (adding weight to the argument that these were two distinct additions). The interior support system appears to consist of load bearing walls, being largely the original exterior walls, which are now enclosed within the present building. Fenestration on the facade consists of two storefronts with a basic symmetry or balance occurring within each. The west storefront has a double entrance down and a single one above, both of which are flanked on either side by single double hung windows (1/1). The east storefront has a broader actual store front area, which consists of a double entrance with large flanking display windows and transoms above. On the second floor above a single door is flanked by two windows, these being located in an irregular fashion across the front (this irregularity is caused by the presence of two in-wall flues). A tin cornice with end finials, supportive brackets and dentils and modillions trims the front. A balcony, with a tin awning below, covers the entire front. The building is set above the descending roadway and a stone sidewalk and steps lead to the front. Fenestration on the other walls is irregular and minimal, and is confined for the most part to the second floor. A secondary storefront is found at the rear of the west side on original part of the building. One of its side windows retains the original 6/6 glass. The single door entrance has a double stone lintel.

The interior ground floor plan consists of two open store areas, that on the west end, rectangular in plan, and that on the east, being square in plan. Two stone arched openings in the intervening wall connect the two. A series of special use rooms are across the back (refer to alterations). The ceiling in the west storefront area is of pressed tin. On the second floor, two apartments are arranged around a central bath. A rear interior entrance,

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	xx architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
xx 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1874 **Builder/Architect** Not known

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kegler-Gonner Store (c. 1874) is a large and well preserved stone commercial building in the state. It survives as a local landmark on the site of what was for many decades a small yet significant crossroads community.

Christian Kegler (1812- ? ) was a successful farmer and operator of a general store in Spring Brook, Jackson Township, Jackson County, locating there from Germany in 1853. The original village of Springbrook, or old Springbrook was in Townships 13 and 24, a few miles east of where New Springbrook developed. The new community appeared in the late 1850's. The newer community was largely Catholic, while the original village was Methodist and Baptist. Various sources date the construction of the Kegler-Gonner store to the early 1860's through 1868. An 1867 county map shows the old Springbrook but not the new community, indicating only C. Kegler's large land holdings in Section 15. The Catholic Church is extant at new Springbrook however. The probable date of construction of the store is 1872 when the post office was relocated from old Springbrook to new Springbrook, since C. Kegler was the first postmaster and his store housed that service. Local stone masons Peter and John Weis, builders of the Catholic Church at Spring Brook, are probable candidates for having built the store. The building was extant in 1875 according to the A.T. Andreas Atlas of The State of Iowa. In 1878 a local directory described Springbrook. "The principal business of the place is carried on by C. M. Kegler, who carries on a general merchandise business and occupies one of the finest stores in the county, occupying an area of 40 x 60 feet, two stories, and built entirely of stone."<sup>1</sup>

C. M. Kegler was Christian Kegler's son (1848-1902), who took over the business, added a creamery, and developed a reputation as a veterinarian.

Springbrook (originally Spring Brook) was throughout its history a rural village, and provided vital services to the surrounding farms. The railroad never reached the town, so the village was relegated to a secondary role. A sampling of state gazeteers provides glimpses of the range of services and its population size over time. In 1884 the village offered the services of a wagonmaker, two shoe and boot makers, two saloons, a plow manufacturer and blacksmith, the Kegler general store and creamery, and the Roling Brothers Flouring Mill. Despite this array of firms, the population was sixty. A semi-weekly mail was provided by the stage route between Bellevue and Higginsport. The village shipped produce and livestock to nearby railheads. By 1897, population was ninety, the community could be reached by express mail, United States Telegraph and Western Union. Business firms included Kegler's store and creamery, two saloons, a blacksmith, carpenter, and the flour mill. 1908 found a community with 125 persons, reached by daily mail and telephone service, with firms which included John Gonner's general store, two saloons, a blacksmith shop, an agricultural implements business, and one hardware store. By 1918 population was 185 persons, John Gonner was operating dealership along with the store, but only two other firms persisted, a hardware

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Springbrook Iowa-Illinois

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	7	8	0	4	7	0	4	6	7	0	8	8	0
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

Lot 67, Plat of Springbrook. Contains only the subject building (lot measures 180' square).

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

Office of Historic Preservation

organization Iowa State Historical Department date 30 April 1985

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

# 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 *Rowell G. Sike*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 13, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 6-27-85

*J. Alcorn Bryer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Physical Description

Item number 7

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centered in the plan, houses the stairs which connect the second floor. A north-south running hall follows the east side wall of the original (west half) building, along a bank of rooms. It turns to the east and joins with a central hall, also running north-south in the east half. In wall flues remain at two locations. An interior flue is centered at the rear of the west end.

Alterations are numerous and difficult to date to some extent. The very growth of the building itself cannot be precisely dated and appears to have occurred in at least two and perhaps three stages as was noted above. By the turn of the century, the building had assumed its overall rectangular plan but it lacked the smaller rear additions. The present building was extant by 1933. Sometime prior to 1933 a two story rear entryway, an adjoining two story corner addition, and a single story shed roofed rear addition were in place. A shed roof porch on the rear of the west wing was sometime after 1933 filled in with concrete block to add a processing room.

By the turn of the century the building had a line of six trees immediately in front of it, and a line of vertical hitching posts. Two in wall chimneys projected above the cornice line from the east storefront. Two gabled pediments were centered above the two entrances. Between that time and the present, the two pediments were removed, the chimneys on the facade removed, and one window on the east wall filled in. The rear additions were painted.

The Kegler-Gonner Store is the sole stone building still standing in Springbrook. Springbrook is a one-intersection community, the store being located on a prominent rise just at the northeast corner of that intersection. It is and was visually a local landmark due to its size and visibility.

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Continuation sheet Significance

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and paints store and a blacksmith and agricultural implements firm. These services would typify the community through World War II. During this period the creamery burned, and the store operations included that of a boarding house (east half of second floor). At present the store still retains the post office and two second store apartments. The store is still known as Gonner's store. Gonner obtained a part interest in the store in 1904.

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Continuation sheet

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