

1-0-16777 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1975

DATE ENTERED OCT 29 1975

**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 Star-Clipper-Canfield Building and  
Winding Stairway

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
534 Second Street

\_\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Traer

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Third

STATE  
Iowa

CODE  
14

COUNTY  
Tama

CODE  
171

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Winding Stairs Associates, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Traer

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Iowa

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tama County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Toledo

STATE  
Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
HAFR 9-4-75

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The cast iron Traer Winding Stairway twists its way from the outer edge of the street sidewalk up and over to the second story entrances of a brick commercial building. The resulting T-shape catwalk that extends from the top stair across to two second story doorways is made of cast iron and has a wood floor. Aside from the ornamental iron brackets, tha may have been added at a later time, the few "turner posts" in the bannister and the graceful curve of the staircase itself, the structure is quite functional in appearance.

The stairway was stabilized and remodeled somewhat several years ago. The building to which it is attached (included in this nomination), the Star-Clipper-Canfield Building, was constructed in 1894 and served as a newspaper office until 1953 when it was converted into a store. It is brick building with a stamped metal cornice, and now houses a doctor's office and a hobby shop on the first floor, with the plans being to convert the second floor into a museum.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Traer Winding Stairway is believed to be the only <sup>✓</sup>uncovered outside winding stairway leading to a second story office in the U. S. Once featured on a U. S. commemorative stamp, the stairway has stood next to the 1888 Star-Clipper Newspaper block (including the Canfield Building) since that office building was rebuilt in 1894.

E. E. Taylor, from Traer, designed the stairs to accomodate the narrow proportions of the building to which it is attached. Apparently there was no space on the interior of the building for a stairway. Built by the Burlington Iron Works in Burlington, Iowa, this stairway is being restored by the Traer Chamber of Commerce.

Much admired by the citizens of Traer, it is the meeting place for periodic rituals in its honor. One noted person associated with the structure is James W. (Tama Jim) Wilson, the Star-Clipper's first farm editor and Secretary of Agriculture under Presidents McKinley, T. Roosevelt and Taft.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chicago Tribune, November 21, 196\_?

Those Were The Days 1873-1973, Traer Centennial Book,

Conversation with Harry Taylor of the Traer Star-Clipper, son of E. E. Taylor designer of the stairway.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 4 4 0 5 5	4 6 7 1 1 8 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mike Reuman, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Traer Chamber of Commerce

DATE

11/14/73

STREET & NUMBER

105 South Main

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Traer

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 A. Anderson*

TITLE

*Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*8/11/75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Sam R. Rogers*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*10/29/75*

DATE

**OCT 28 1975**