

MASON CITY, IOWA  
Cerro Gordo County

HISTORIC BUILDINGS &  
SITES FIELD SURVEY

Environmental Planning and Research, Inc.  
Surveyed by: Ronald Schmitt, Architect  
Survey Date: 11-16-76  
Research by: R.S. & T.T.

INFORMATION

- 1. Present Owner Donald A. Giesen
- 2. Owner's Address 37 River Heights Drive
- 3. Use: Original house  
Present house
- 4. Construction Date 1910 \*
- 5. Accessible to Public? Yes \_\_\_ No
- 6. Zoning District B-SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- 7. Maintenance: Excellent Good Fair Poor  
 Structure  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
 Site  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
 Adjacent Buildings  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
 Adjacent Property  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
 Vicinity  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION \* (P.S.) NUMBER 80001443 SE-32

- 1. Common Name Donald Giesen House
- 2. Historic Name Curtis Yelland
- 3. Address 37 River Heights Drive
- 4. Subdiv. River Heights Addition Blk. 1 Parcel 6
- 5. UTM: 157483240 4777120 Acreage: less than one



NATURE OF SITE

- Building
- District \_\_\_
- Site \_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_

SOURCE OF INTEREST

- History \_\_\_
- Architecture
- Other \_\_\_

ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY

- Exceptional \_\_\_
- Excellent
- Good \_\_\_
- Fair \_\_\_
- Poor \_\_\_

URBAN DESIGN VALUE

- Exceptional \_\_\_
- Good \_\_\_
- Moderate
- Minor \_\_\_

SIGNIFICANCE

- Neighborhood \_\_\_
- City \_\_\_
- State \_\_\_
- National

CONDITION

- Sound
- Min. Def. \_\_\_
- Maj. Def. \_\_\_
- Substandard \_\_\_

Points \_\_\_ Group 1

DESCRIPTION

- 1. No. of Stories: a) one \_\_\_ b) two  c) three \_\_\_ d) other \_\_\_
- 2. Building materials: a) ext. walls wood siding & stucco  
 b) foundation N.V. c) roof asphalt shingle d) porches \_\_\_  
 e) other \_\_\_
- 3. Integrity: a) original site  b) moved \_\_\_ c) when \_\_\_ d) from \_\_\_  
 e) major alterations (dates if known) for exterior, none known except for painting of different color from original, street address letters & railing @ sidewalk steps
- 4. Threats to Site: none known
- 5. Significant Features: see back

ADDITIONAL REMARKS Architect: (probably) William Drummond A  
irregular lot size. Presently painted in colors inconsistent with the original.  
 SOURCES McCoy, Robert E., "Rock Crest/Rock Glen Prairie Planning in Iowa," The Prairie School Review, Vol. V no. 3, 3rd Quarter, 1968, pp 14 & 15. \* City Sewer Records dated 4-23-10  
 Photos Q-11/11 & 12 Mapped \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ See back of page

\* State

5. SIGNIFICANCE: SE-32

Located in Melson's River Heights addition, the house is believed to have been designed by William Drummond, an architect with Frank Lloyd Wright, and who supervised the construction of Wright's City National Bank and Park Inn buildings (see CBD-34 and CBD-35). The small house is a handsome Prairie School design with a strong horizontal emphasis achieved by broadly overhanging hip roofs, horizontal board and batten siding and stucco upper-story ribbon. Other design features are the centrally located fireplace and chimney, about which the open, free-flowing plan evolves, and the side entry which evokes a sense of drama and surprise when entering the house.