

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chris Larsen House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4215 Main Street N/A not for publication
city, towns/site number Elk Horn N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Shelby code 165 zip code 51531

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. ... Signature of certifying official
8/13/91 Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed for the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Beth Poland _____
10/3/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Gabled Double-Pile House Type

Materials

foundation concretewalls wood/weatherboard

roof asphaltother glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Chris Larsen House is situated on an open lot on a rise overlooking the Main Street of Elk Horn. The house faces west toward the commercial buildings of Main Street. The building is defined as a gabled double-pile house type by the present ethnic survey. It rises 2.5 stories from a rusticated concrete block foundation, the blocks of which were likely manufactured at the local cement block factory. The ground plan is basically square. The walls are clad with narrow-width lapped board. The broad eavefront gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has broad, centrally-placed gabled wall dormers on the front and rear facades. The side walls of the dormers extend slightly above the eaves of the main roof. Both dormers have shingled cornice returns, while the front dormer also has an oval window in the gable peak. A brick chimney rises from the front roof slope at the intersection with the gabled wall dormer.

The fenestration of the front facade is symmetrical with a central entry flanked by fixed-light cottage windows with leaded glass headers. The front dormer has two double-hung sash windows on the second floor above the entry. The entry is covered by an open, full-width, one-story porch which has a low-pitched hipped roof, round columns, and a turned balustrade. The front entry of the porch is marked by an extended closed gable roof. A one story rounded bay window is present on the south side. Oval windows are also present in the gable ends on the south and north sides of the house. The only modifications to the house exterior have been the enclosure of a portion of the rear porch and the blowing of insulation into the walls.

Notable interior components include: egg-and-dart molding on the lintel boards throughout the entire house including the built-in pantry cupboards; hardwood floors; the decorative woodwork on the front and rear doors; and an oddly angled wall at the northwest corner of the kitchen. The latter is similar to other oddly angled walls noted in the design of several houses in the Danish settlement area. The only modification to the house interior was minor fire damage to the attic.

A small garage building located 165 feet off the northeast corner of the rear of the house on the property lot is considered a noncontributing building to this property, with the house being the only contributing building. The garage is a low, rectangular building with a gabled roof, drop siding, and two garage door bays. It is of unknown construction date and is therefore noncontributing to the property's significance. Because of its distance from the house, coupled with its position downslope and to the rear of the house, this garage does not intrude upon or detract from the contributing dwelling. The yard area surrounding the house consists of a well-manicured lawn with shrubbery around the base of the porch and large shade trees at the edges of the lot to the south and north. The yard slopes gradually to the west and south.

_See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	_nationally	_statewide	<u>X</u> locally				
Applicable National Register Criteria	_A	_B	<u>X</u> C	_D			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	_A	_B	_C	_D	_E	_F	_G
Areas of Significance			Period of Significance	Significant Dates			
<u>ETHNIC HERITAGE/European</u>			<u>c. 1908-mid 1910s</u>	<u>c. 1908</u>			
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>							
			Cultural Affiliation				
			<u>N/A</u>				
Significant Person			Architect/Builder				
<u>N/A</u>			<u>Unknown</u>				

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Chris Larsen House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C within the multiple property historic contexts of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Building Trends and, potentially, Ethnic Influence on the Architecture of Shelby and Audubon Counties, The Danish Immigrant Case Study: 1865-1924 because it embodies the characteristics and distinctive elements of a building trend that was common to the Danish settlement area of Shelby and Audubon counties, specifically that of the Gabled Double-Pile house type. This type was common to this area from the mid-1890s to the mid-1910s, with most known examples were built between 1908-1910. The Larsen House is significant because it is one of the best examples of the frame manifestation of this house form in the Elk Horn/Kimballton area. The end date of the mid-1910s for the period of significance for this property is latest period when the Gabled Double-Pile house type was popular in the Danish settlement area of Elk Horn and Kimballton, while the beginning date of c. 1908 is the approximate year in which the nominated property was likely constructed.

The distinctive characteristics of the Gabled Double-Pile house type include the ground plan which is two rooms wide by two rooms deep; a broad eavefront gabled roof with a broad centrally-placed gabled dormer; and symmetrical fenestration on the facade. This type may be significant as a reflection of a Danish influence upon the region's architecture. Previous surveys in the area, coupled with the results of the present ethnic survey, have indicated that the gabled double-pile house resembles a common Danish house form and, while not an imported Danish form, may have been selected by Danish immigrant settlers because of its resemblance to houses they had known in Denmark.

The house was built for Danish immigrant, Chris Larsen, c. 1908. Larsen was born in Denmark in 1870 and immigrated to the United States in 1890. He was living in the Elk Horn vicinity by 1900 when he was listed as a boarder in the Thomas Bruhn household in Clay Township. He was further identified as a merchant. In 1907 Larsen purchased the lot upon which the nominated property was constructed for \$17.00. When he sold it to Wilhelm C. Wiges in 1910, the sale price of \$2500.00 indicated that the house had been built in the intervening years.

The 1907-1908 newspapers noted that Larsen purchased the lot in July of 1907,

XSee continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Property Abstract on file at Home Federal Bank in Harlan, Iowa.

United States. 1900 and 1910 Population Censuses: Shelby County.

White, Edward S. Past and Present of Shelby County, Iowa, Volumes I and II.
Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915.

Wittrup, Burt, editor. "Elk Horn's First Fifty Years," Elk Horn-Kimballton Review, June 1966.

1883 Plat Map of Shelby County.

1907-1908 issues of the Shelby County Republican.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual
listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the
National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency

 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository:
Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 328340 4606370
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the property abstract on file at Home Federal Bank, Harlan, Iowa: Lot 3, Original Town of Elk Horn, Shelby County, Iowa.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah Rogers, Project Director

organization Preservation Partnership Phase III

street & number 520 Franklin

city or town Center Point

date June 30, 1991

telephone 319-849-1271

state Iowa zip code 52213

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 3 Page 1

Name of related multiple property listing:

The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

but there was no mention of a house being constructed during the remainder of that year. Unfortunately, the 1908 newspapers rarely included Elk Horn news items; however, it is likely that the house would have been constructed in the spring or summer of 1908.

The 1910 census listed Chris Larsen's household as including his wife, Amanda, and three sons. In addition were eight boarders including one German immigrant and two Danish immigrants. The remainder were Iowa-born but of Danish parentage. Occupations represented included the manager of the elevator, a pump dealer, a railroad laborer, a salesman, two who did odd jobs, a house painter, and a carpenter. The latter was Carl C. Nielsen, a 30-year-old Dane who had recently immigrated. Because the census would have actually been taken in 1909, it seems likely that Larsen was then residing in this house which would certainly have been large enough to house a number of boarders. It remains questionable as to whether or not Carl C. Nielsen worked on the house construction.

Chris Larsen was a community influential serving among the first city councilmen in Elk Horn beginning in 1910. In 1908 he was operating an implement store, but by 1915 he had a drugstore known as the Larsen Drug Company.

Wilhelm Wiges and his family owned the property from 1910 to 1932. Wiges was a German immigrant who came to the United States in 1883. His wife was Danish, having immigrated in 1892. The 1916 business directory indicated that Wiges then operated a pool hall in Elk Horn.

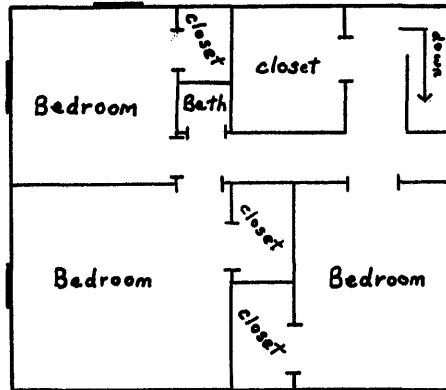
According to the 1883 plat of Elk Horn, the lot on which the nominated property was built was then occupied by a house and a rectangular general store operated by P. Jenson. These buildings were situated at the west edge of the lot adjacent to the street. It is interesting that at that time, there were no buildings on the west side of the road in the area that would later become the commercial district. It is not known whether the 1883 buildings were still standing in 1907 when Larsen purchased the lot, although the \$17.00 purchase price would suggest they were non-extant. There is some possibility that an archaeological component remains from this earlier occupation on the house lot; however, the west edge of the lot has been cut back through the years as the street was widened and sidewalks and retaining walls constructed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

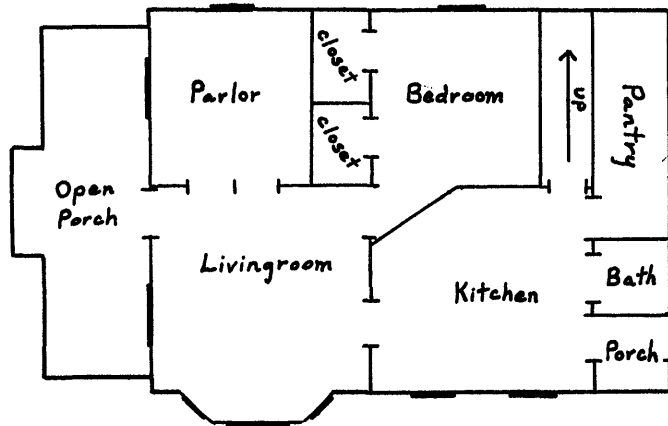
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Floorplan Page 1

Chris Larsen House, Elk Horn, Iowa.



Second Floor



First Floor



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

Chris Larsen House
Elk Horn, Iowa
Leah Rogers, photographer
Original negatives, Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
#1	House 5/23/90 view to NE		
2	House 2/22/91 view to SE		
3	House (rear) 2/22/91 view to NW		
4	same as #3		