

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 4 1980
DATE ENTERED	FEB 8 1980

**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

James F. Clarke House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

500 S. Main St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Grace M. Barwise

STREET & NUMBER

500 So. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52556

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fairfield

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

HABS

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Clarke house is a two-story brick structure with two low-pitched gable roofs. The rectangular house measures 30' 4" x 72', with a single-story square projecting porch, approx. 18' x 18', on the south side. The house sits on a base formed by a band of concrete, and has a partial basement. The red-brown brick of the house is highlighted by the projecting bands of grey concrete that frame the casement windows, the dark painted cornice ends and bargeboards, as well as the grey-green of the roof. The second story porch at the intersection of the livingroom and main entrance (east end) is painted an ultramarine blue.

The main elevation is marked by a large arched window on the street level and a band of five casement windows above. The casement windows are ornamented with leaded glass, with the two end windows smaller than the remaining recessed windows. There is an attached garage on the west side. The arched window is repeated in the garage and in the stairway to the cellar.

The color scheme of the exterior is carried through in the interior to a fuller degree. The fireplace brick is a golden buff. Over the mantel the colors range from ultramarine blue to ivory and gold. Pilasters and pier capitals are painted blue. Furniture and room accents were designed specially for the house, and fit within the color scheme planned by the architect, Barry Byrne, and his interior consultant, artist Alfonso Ianelli.

The interior plan is formed by two interlocking rectangular wings, with only the projecting sunporch deviating from this tight plan. It has been described by Allen Brooks (p. 290), as a "bold and heavy example of massing with precise geometric shapes of broad, unbroken surfaces and crisp, clean, edges."

Alterations to the house include modest kitchen remodelling and the addition of central air conditioning. The bas relief placed above the fireplace was also removed by a subsequent owner.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1915-16

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Francis Barry Byrne

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clarke house is a good example of the mature work of Francis Barry Byrne. It has been described as one of Byrne's best works, for its clean, geometric massing of interlocking rectangles, and for its simplicity and greater independence from the influence of the Prairie School.

Studying for 6 years in Frank Lloyd Wright's Oak Park Studio, Byrne received his Prairie School training between 1902 and 1908. In 1913 he assumed the practice of Walter Burley Griffin, and worked in the final stages of the development of Rock Crest/Rock Glen, a planned residential project in Mason City, Iowa. It is in the Page house, built by Griffin in 1912, that the seeds of the Clarke design are found.

The arched windows, reminiscent of Richardson's Romanesque motif, originate from the Page design. The intersecting one- and two-story sections also come from the earlier work. The plan from the Franke house, built in 1914 by Byrne, seems to have influenced the Clarke design.

The Clarke house plan grows out of the Prairie School idiom of open and flowing plans. The continuity of space is evident in the first floor plan. The living room, dining room and entrance hall share a single space subdivided by screen walls and the fireplace. Screen walls do not stretched the entire height of the rooms, but leave an open space at eye level in each room, further adding to the sense of continuity. This motif is most evident in the built-in bookcase in the living room and its relation to space in the dining room.

Byrne's forms are deeply rooted in the indigenous American forms of the Prairie School, as seen in his organic use of ornament. His integration of structural elements into the formal design stems from his Prairie School training. In his handling of decoration, however, Byrne moves away from the school of Wright by using simpler forms. Doors are simple flushed planes, and trim for the windows, doors and baseboards are plain and flat. Byrne's color scheme also deviates from earlier Prairie School projects and uses European De Stijl-like colors in favor of the natural earth tones popularized by Wright. Brooks (p. 328) sees Byrne's Clarke house design as moving away from the formal expressions of the Prairie School, although not from its ideals.

See continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972. (hardcover ed.)
 Shank, Wesley I. "The James Kresdric Clarke House" Studies of Historic Iowa Architecture, Engineering Research Institute, Iowa State University, Ames (1972).

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Davenport, Iowa; III.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 5, 8, 6, 9, 0, 0 4, 5, 3, 9, 7, 0, 0

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION A part of Block 26 of the SW Addition to Fairfield, described as: beginning NW corner Block 26, S on W line of said Block 132 feet; E on a line parallel to N line of said block to center of public highway, which is an extension of the street running N and S on W side of public square in Fairfield, NWly to a point

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (see continuation sheet)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

former

Muffy Mitchell (art historian, and volunteer at SHPO, Iowa City, IA)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Spring 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o Fong, 1102 Alewa Drive

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Honolulu

Hawaii

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Skelton

DATE

2-8-80

ATTEST:

William H. Bralham

DATE

2-4-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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James F. Clarke House, Fairfield, Jefferson County, Iowa

8 1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10 PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description, cont.:
where an extension of the N line of Block 26 would intersect center of highway,
W on N line of Block 26 to beginning.

Significance, cont.:

Also interesting is the presence of an attached garage in such an early design. Dr. Clarke owned one of the first automobiles in Jefferson County. The garage is separated from an upstairs bedroom by a fireproof ceiling. Also innovative are the 4-foot-wide eaves, cut to form built-in gutters.