

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received DEC 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Starker-Leopold Historic District

and/or common Starker-Leopold Historic District

2. Location

street & number 101, & 111 Clay and 110 Grand Streets, not for publication

city, town Burlington vicinity of

state Iowa code 19 county Des Moines code 057

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Multiple - see Continuation Sheet, Item #4, page 1.

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Des Moines County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Burlington state Iowa 52601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Burlington Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Iowa SHPO

city, town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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 checked="" 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

INTRODUCTION

The Starker-Leopold Historic District is composed of a group of three houses and surrounding grounds, all occupied for extensive periods by the Sterker-Leopold family. The architecturally significant Charles Starker House was built c. 1868-1874 and has been lived in by the family from approximately 1878 to the present resident, Marie Lord, daughter of Carl A. Leopold. It is located at the end of Clay Street and faces the Mississippi River on the East. The Carl A. Leopold House was built c. 1893 by Charles Starker for Clara, his daughter, and her husband, Carl A. Leopold. This home is still occupied by their son, Frederick Leopold. It is located on Clay Street, which it faces to the north and behind the Starker House. The Carl S. Leopold House was built c. 1922 by another son of Carl A. Leopold. This house is no longer in family ownership. It faces Grand Street on the south. The property was divided into three distinct ownerships; but the lawn areas have remained open with interior sidewalks serving a centrally located garage. The grounds immediately surrounding the Starker House and along the bluffline are a part of the original development by Charles Starker in the 1870's. The character of the site is represented by the imposing Starker House on the blufftop with its river view through the trees, and situated amidst the pastoral landscape. The site exemplifies the philosophy of the Starker-Leopold family so persuasively argued by Starker's grandson, Aldo Leopold - that man should co-exist with the rest of the natural world.

1. Charles Starker House (101 Clay) c. 1868-1874

Style -- The Starker home is a large, Italianate frame house with clapboard siding and an extensive Georgian Revival porch, all on a limestone block foundation. The expansion of the attic to a useable third floor and the addition of the wrap-around porch in c. 1907 have made some changes in the exterior appearance of the house.

Identifying the present style of the house is difficult because of the exterior changes. As intended by the builder, General James Isham Gilbert, the original appearance was dramatic on the blufftop and formal in the Italianate style with East-lake detailing. However, the Starker-Leopold family viewed the house as more a part of the site. In c. 1907 many of the very formal, decorative items which contrasted with rather flat-fronted buildings were removed partly due to deteriorated condition. The addition of the one-story spacious, wrap-around porch which was done in the Georgian Revival style popular at that time, created a more picturesque house similar to those of the Queen Anne style. The Starker family's strong emphasis on the natural style landscape was complimented by the inviting porch addition constructed c. 1907 by Carl and Clara Starker Leopold (Charles Starker's daughter and her husband). The broad porch provides a transition from the still rather formal house to the naturally laid out grounds and is representative of the family's philosophy.

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CONTINUATION SHEET OWNER OF PROPERTY ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

1. Charles Starker House (101 Clay) Marie Leopold Lord and Frederick Leopold, 101 and 111 Clay Street.
2. Carl A. Leopold House (111 Clay) Frederick Leopold, 111 Clay.
3. Carl S. Leopold House (110 Grand) Mr. & Mrs. Gary Brotherson, 110 Grand

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The expansion of the third floor changed the roofline and prompted the local description of the house as Steamboat Gothic, because the third floor projection over the circular east side bay suggested the appearance of a pilot house. However, this is not the usual use of the "Steamboat Gothic" term. The Starker House is still best described as in the Italianate style with a Georgian Revival porch.

Roofline - The house sits on the top of the bluff at the end of Clay Street, overlooking the Mississippi River. The front entry and two-story circular bay both face the river on the east. The roof was originally hipped above the second story, with a flat section on the top bordered by ornate wood cresting and finials that also decorated the tops of the two projecting bays. Adding large dormers to create a useable third floor necessitated altering of the hip shape and the removal of the wood cresting on the roof. Although a good deal of ornamentation has been removed, the house still features a large entablature with monitor windows in the frieze and eave brackets. There is ornate brickwork in the original double chimneys.

East and South Sides - The east facade has an off-center (to the north) double door entryway and arched glass transom. Originally the entire entryway was heavily hooded in the Eastlake style with incised ornamentation and ornate brackets. There was a balcony with spindlework and finials on the top of the hood that could be reached through a second floor window. This ornate entryway was removed when the present porch was added. To the south end of the east facade is a two-story, projecting round bay with curved glass and arched window tops. There is a second two-story bay with a three sided projection on the south side rear which looks into the large common yard. First floor windows are tall and narrow. All windows in the house are one over one. These large panes are visible in the c. 1878 photos of the home. Shutters have been removed and one south side side second floor window has been made smaller.

Windows on approximately the front half of the house have heavy hoods supported by ancones. Some of the original gingerbread has been removed from the hoods. The hoods of the front two first story windows on the south side originally supported ornate balconies. Below these was an unroofed porch along the south side with low rail, more Eastlake trim and four steps leading down to the east side. The two balconies and porch were removed for the addition of the c. 1907 porch.

North Side - On the north side the house originally had two projecting two-story wings, one at the center and one at the rear of the house. There was a one-story, roofed porch on the north side front with rectangular posts and trim simpler than that on the east and south sides. There was a one-story, rectangular projection on the rear of the house. The north side wings and porch were enclosed into a broad three-sided bay in c. 1907.

C. 1907 Porch - The one-story, wrap-around porch constructed in c. 1907 was built of limestone block similar to the house foundation for both the porch foundation and low wall. The porch begins at the northeast corner of the house and wraps around the circular bay to the south side bay. The porch wall has a capstone and raised limestone columns supporting paired round pillars that give the porch a Georgian

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Revival character. Four side steps lead to the yard on both the southeast and northeast corners of the porch.

The house is well-maintained and in good condition. It has been lived in by the Starker-Leopold family from approximately 1878 to the present.

Grounds - The grounds around the Starker House and the bluffline were developed by Charles Starker in the natural or picturesque style in the late 1870's, a time when formal Victorian landscape styles were more popular in the U.S. He planted many of the large, old trees that can still be seen today.

Only one formal Victorian flower bed was on the grounds. (The roses from that bed are still existing and have been transplanted to along the edge of the bluff.) It contained a fountain and was located off the southeast corner of the house. The larches, spruces, and pines in this area were a part of that arrangement. Starker also maintained a greenhouse in the rear south side yard, and large potted plants were removed to various places around the grounds for summer variety.

He also developed the two and a half block long bluffline path just over the brow of the bluff that was used and enjoyed by the entire neighborhood. This was in contrast to the typical approach of clearing the bluff to open up a wide, unrestricted view. From Burlington's earliest periods of development, many of the hillsides were stripped for this reason. The portion of the path on the Starker-Leopold property has been maintained by the family over the years and is still in use today.

Along the bluffline, above the path, Starker planted groundcover plants such as vinca minor, a very early use of groundcovers in the area. Also the black maples on both sides of Clay Street were one of Starker's later plantings before his death in 1900.

The west side of the property in the vicinity of the two Leopold houses, was originally a more utilitarian space -- including the orchard, ice house, chicken house, wood shed and cow shed. Of these, only a remnant of the orchard remains in the southwest yard. The very old apple tree there was existing on the site when Starker purchased the property in c. 1878.

Next to the greenhouse was the centrally located barn, connected to the three houses by interior sidewalks. Today this is the site of the one-story, three bay garage.

Carl A. Leopold managed the grounds until his death in 1914. Because of deterioration, he razed the one-story greenhouse in c. 1907 and erected a second greenhouse in its place. The two pin oaks on the south side of the property were brought over by him with his sons from the Crystal Lake Club, just across the river in Illinois, the same club that Starker had helped to found.

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The grove of white oaks dedicated as the Peace Oaks in 1918 and the group of hemlocks were planted by Clara Starker Leopold, who took over the maintenance of the grounds after her husband's death in 1914. She also expanded on her father's use of ground-covers, planting large beds of vinca and lily of the valley interspersed with native Columbine. The picnic spot along the pathway was developed by Clara. It includes a rustic picnic table with stone steps and fire pit.

Later, the care of the homes and extensive developed grounds went to Clara's son, Frederick Leopold. He began a program of bluffline management, maintaining the river view through selective pruning of tree branches and establishing shrubs and ground-covers along the bluff edge that stay at a height allowing a person to see over them. Fred is also one of the foremost experts in the nation on wood ducks and the property is dotted with their nesting boxes. In the border plantings around the houses and under the shrubs are numerous wildflower species seeded in by Fred.

2. Carl A. Leopold House (111 Clay) c. 1893

The Carl A. Leopold House is a two and one-half story, rustic Queen Anne with a multiple gable roofline and central chimney. The foundation and first floor are rough faced, cut limestone laid in a random manner. The roof is wood shingled. The second floor and gable ends are narrow clapboard with decorative areas of fish scale, diagonal boards, sunbursts, and bargeboards. The plan of the house is a basic rectangle with two-story bays projecting from approximately the center of both the east and west sides. The east side bay looks into the common yard. Both bays have decorative leaded glass. Windows are two over two throughout the house with shutters intact. A window has been added to the second floor of the east facing bay which is compatible in materials and style. The front entry is on the north side facing Clay Street, with a sloping porch roof across approximately one half of the facade. Originally, the porch extended across the entire north side with another set of steps on the east end leading into the common yard. There is a porch on the east side rear of the house with the rails and upper spindle work remaining and steps leading to the common yard. Originally there was also a roofed work area behind the house with similar rails and upper spindles. It was on the ground level with a brick floor and enclosed the well. The tallest gable on the north side of the house has been cut back to a clipped gable. This change probably occurred c. 1920's when the current wood shingled roof was put on. This may also be the time of front and rear porch removals.

There is a one-story shed roofed, wooden garden structure behind the house. The Carl A. Leopold House has been continuously owned and lived in by the Leopold family. It is well-maintained and in good condition.

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3. Carl S. Leopold House (110 Grand) c. 1922

This is a one and one-half story, brick Colonial Revival with a gambrel roof and flared eaves. The side of the gambrel faces south, where the main entry door is located. Long roof dormers facing Grand Street flank both the north and south sides of the gambrel. There is a chimney on the east end of the main structure. The house has a rather symmetrical appearance, with a one-story, centrally placed portico of Corinthian columns and arched roof. The windows are multiple panes over one large pane. A one-story, wood frame addition was added onto the east end of the house in the 1970's. The house is well-maintained and is in good condition. It is no longer in the Starker-Leopold family.

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Early Background - Charles Starker was born in Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, Germany. He attended the Beale School and the Polytechnical School where he studied architecture and landscape engineering. He spent four years with the Bavarian government supervising the erection of bridges and canal locks. For a time he was an engineering architect for his uncle who was the chief engineer in charge of the building of the Donau-Main River Canal. In 1848, Starker decided to immigrate to the United States.

He worked his way west to Chicago where he soon went to work in the office of Chicago architect T. Knudson. In 1850 when James W. Grimes (soon to be governor of Iowa) went to Chicago to find an architect to design his new home in Burlington, he was advised to hire Charles Starker. Grimes was also a member of the School Board and no doubt approached Starker with the possibility of working on plans for new schools and other buildings for Burlington. Starker accepted the commission and went to Burlington in the fall of 1850, making him the earliest known, trained architect practicing in Burlington. Along with the Grimes home, Starker designed both North Hill and South Hill Schools, the first public school buildings in Burlington. He then went on to do the plans for several other buildings in town, one of which was the home of the longtime pastor of First Congregational Church, noted historian, and another School Board member, the Reverend Dr. William Salter.

In 1852 Starker developed the plans for Burlington University (a Baptist affiliated college). In addition to the building design, his proposal included the first known designed public grounds in Burlington. The local newspaper supported the project, noting that the character and location of the site were superior and recommending that the grounds be appropriately laid out and planted. In reviewing the project the paper claimed the college would give an intellectual character to the city which would elevate it at home and give it a wide spread reputation. The article inferred that having a college with imposing architecture would result in the improvement of society. Architecture and tasteful development were linked to morality and society. Early projects such as this indicate Starker's commitment to community development.

During late 1851 and early 1852, Starker advertised his services in the newspaper as architect and landscape gardener furnishing designs for houses, grounds, and giving lessons in architecture and drawing. Not knowing what the future market for architectural services would be or of the mobility that new modes of transportation would bring, Starker was probably still unsettled in regard to Burlington as a permanent home -- especially if architecture and landscape gardening were his only means of making a living. However, "he was enamoured with the view of Burlington"¹, from his first site of it, later saying that "it reminded him of his homeland in Germany".² "He was tired of the Chicago mud flats"³ and so decided to locate in Burlington.

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Starker's Business Influences

By 1852 when Burlington was a gateway to the west with various roads being developed, Starker felt that a more promising livelihood in such a growing town would be the mercantile trade, and so he entered the grocery business. Throughout his early years, Starker lived on North Hill, serving as an alderman for that area. During this period he designed North Hill Park, which along with his work at Aspen Grove Cemetery (mentioned later), was his only known community involvement of this time.

The grocery business was sold in 1875, but Charles Starker was not the sort of man to be content with retirement. Interested in banking (he had been a director of the First National Bank since 1862) he formed the Iowa State Savings Bank in 1874 with E.D. Rand, J.C. Peasley, and Edward Hagemann. Becoming the bank's first president, he retained that office until his death in 1900. During this period Starker also served a lengthy term as the vice-president of the National State Bank of Burlington. He also had been the president of the Burlington Loan and Building Association since 1868. By 1878 he had made several return trips to Germany (one in 1873) and influenced about 300 families (approximately 1,500 people) to immigrate to the Burlington area. This was at least in part related to his business and banking interests. More importantly, it has had a long lasting influence on the community because of the nature of the ethnic development to which this group of people would contribute. The influx of these 1,500 people made quite an impact on the percentage of Burlington's foreign born population. Along with other new arrivals (mainly the Germanic, Swedish, and Irish), these immigrants helped to concentrate Victorian architecture in Burlington by building in the gothic style so familiar to them in their European homelands. The old world quality of stone churches and buildings close together, stairstepping up the hillsides is still evident today.

Shortly after he entered the banking field, Starker moved his family to the spacious home on Prospect Hill (1878). Starker's friends criticized him for buying the home; there were local fears of plague and folks thought it was too dangerous to live on the bluff so near the "miasmatic mist rising from the river".⁴

The Starker House and Grounds

The Starker House was built shortly after the close of the Civil War, somewhere between 1868 and 1874, by the adventurer and entrepreneur General James Isham Gilbert. Gilbert's father had been a pioneer lumberman in Wisconsin. After excursions into lumbering, fur trading, the mercantile business, land speculation and town development, James Gilbert joined the Union Army and was promoted to the rank of General following the battle of Nashville. After the war he came to Burlington and entered the lumber business again, this time with his two brothers. Established in 1851, the company was originally known as J.W. & W.D. Gilbert Company. Later the name was changed to Gilbert, Hedge, & Company. They were an important lumber and contracting firm until the northern forest reserves were exhausted after the turn of the century, manufacturing twenty-seven million board feet in 1888 alone.

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General Gilbert, in association with the company, constructed and occupied several fine homes in Burlington, the culmination of which was the imposing house on Prospect Hill. He always kept a stable of fine horses, and Dandy, his old war horse, resided in the large stable-barn that was part of the original construction of Prospect Hill. Despite this seemingly comfortable situation, the lure of western mining soon became too strong to resist. After occupying the estate for only a short time, Gilbert sold it to Charles Starker in 1878.

The site was developed by Starker with its beautiful views and setting in a manner sympathetic to the natural landscape. He planted many of the large old trees that can be seen today, and developed the bluffline path that was used and enjoyed by the entire neighborhood. The newspaper of the day called the grounds "a bird's paradise", saying that this was an "effort to preserve some of the gifts of nature . . . Birds that were daily visitors in the long ago, and now but rarely seen, are found nesting on this idyllic spot, returning with the seasons, with the knowledge of security for themselves and their young."⁵ Starker's development of the Prospect Hill grounds is significant because of the natural or picturesque style he used at a time relatively early in the history of the American landscape movement in picturesque design. The style of this landscape illustrates his versatility and insight toward different types of development projects.

Starker's Impact on Community Development

During his years on Prospect Hill, Charles Starker devoted a great deal of his time and talent to the community. He was a stockholder in most of the roads coming into the city. He served on the storm sewer committee with city engineer, Charles DeHass, developing a sophisticated drainage and sewer plan and bringing the noted Chicago sanitation engineer C.E. Cheesbrough to Burlington as a consultant. It is interesting to note that one of the five points of the overall plan was to preserve the natural water courses as far as can be done without harm to the public. These ravines which were used for the storm sewer trunk lines are still in a quasi-natural state today, partly as a result of this insight.

Starker was the longtime president of the Cemetery Association (1875-1900), and had been a director since 1863. He laid out a large portion of Aspen Grove Cemetery himself in a naturalistic style, preserving as much of the native woods as possible. The layout of the roadway and plantings exemplifies a sensitivity to the existing landforms, a concept which was popularized by noted landscape designers in the rural cemetery movement in America.

He was deeply involved in the planning of two of the most imposing structures of his day. Starker was the chairman of the building committee for the Opera House and is given much of the credit for the development of the building. He was responsible for bringing in Chicago architect Col. S.V. Shipman, for the commission and coordinated the construction activities in 1880-82. Later he served on the advisory

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committee for the Odd Fellows Building (1887) designed by prominent Burlington architect, Charles A. Dunham. Starker is presumed to have partly funded the building since it also housed his Iowa State Savings Bank. Along with these buildings, Starker worked with city engineer William Steyh and reportedly Starker's son Arthur, on the design and layout of Snake Alley (1894). Starker also consulted on the layout of the 1887 park for the Union Depot.

In addition to these development projects, he was active in many other aspects of Burlington society. Starker was a charter member of the Crystal Lake Club (1885) a private shooting club and preserved natural area which is located just across the river in Illinois. He served in various positions with both the German-American and the public schools, and was the longtime treasurer of the school board. And for a time, he was a director of the Des Moines County Agricultural Society and chairman of the art committee.

However, the philanthropic activity that Charles Starker is best remembered for is his role in the development of Crapo Park. Working closely with Philip Crapo, Starker conducted the delicate negotiations with the German farmers for the sale of lands for the park. Starker was understandably popular with his fellow Germans, while Philip Crapo was regarded as strong willed and difficult to work with. Following the design of Earnshaw & Punshon, Landscape Engineers, Starker took charge of some detailed layout. He expanded and altered the original pathway system and designated the adjacent plantings. The change in the paths was necessitated by the fact that the Coliseum for the Iowa Territory Semi-Centennial Celebration was not built in the location originally designated in the plans, and the major pedestrian circulation was from the Coliseum to the lake.

Starker's advice was sought on the building of the Cascade Bridge to reach the new park. He had experience with the "new" concrete bridges in Germany and advised that concrete be used for the bridge foundation but not the pillars.

Crapo and Starker often did not agree on road construction and other matters concerning the park. One family story relates that Crapo wanted to terrace the Blackhawk Springs Ravine into more formal beds of salvia and cannas. But Starker persuaded him to keep the ravine more in its natural state. The naturally styled lake in the park was named Lake Starker for him on the original landscape engineers' design. And he also served on the original board of park commissioners, seeing the park through its difficult formative years and the Semi-Centennial Celebration.

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Starker was generally inclined to favor more naturalistic landscape arrangements; on the grounds at Prospect Hill he had only one formal Victorian flower bed. His sensitivity to natural qualities in the development and care of his grounds provided a unique home environment for his children and grandchildren, establishing a family tradition of appreciation for the natural world.

The Leopold Family

Charles Starker's daughter, Clara, married local businessman and outdoor enthusiast, Carl Leopold in 1885. For a while they lived in the Starker home with her parents, and their first three children were born there. Later, Starker constructed a separate home for them on the property. They moved into the Carl A. Leopold home in about 1893. After Charles Starker's sudden death in 1900 and his widow Marie passed away in 1901, Clara and Carl Leopold moved back into the larger house and here they raised their four children: Aldo, Marie, Carl, and Frederic. The Leopold home was rented for awhile and the care of both homes and the highly developed grounds fell to Carl Leopold.

In 1886 Carl formed the Rand-Leopold Desk Company with C.W. Rand and they began producing the newly developed rolltop desks. They shipped desks from coast to coast, a major part of the extensive wood industries so important to Burlington. Shortly after the turn of the century, these rolltop desks (highly priced in their prime and again today as classics) began to decline in popularity. Originally designed so that a businessman could quickly leave his desk by closing and locking it, the rolltop desk as a self-contained unit was made obsolete by the development of the filing cabinet. In the early 1900's Carl Leopold took over sole ownership of the business (employing approximately 100-150) and the company continued to manufacture high quality office furniture until the family interests were sold in the late 1960's.

Like his father-in-law, Carl Leopold was active in community affairs. But most importantly, he was an outdoorsman, a hunter and conservationist who instilled in all his children a respect and love for the natural world. Although he greatly enjoyed the sport of the hunt, he shot only what his family would eat. In the Leopold family "wild game was considered as a special privilege . . . and was always served sparingly".⁶ There was no killing a "boatload of ducks" as was quite literally done by some hunters of the day. Carl Leopold's sensitive approach to hunting is recalled by his son, Frederic: "Father had stopped spring shooting before my earliest memories. What I recall as days of high duck population (1903-1904) he looked upon with the eye of a man who had been a hunter since boyhood in the 1860's, who had observed a great decline in the duck population and realized that we had better reduce our kill or inevitably we would lose our sport."⁷

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When Carl passed away in 1914, the care of the estate was left to Clara. Facing her responsibility, she developed quite an interest in plant materials, studying nursery catalogs and learning the operation of the greenhouse. Clara planted the white oaks and hemlocks and many of the smaller plantings that can be seen today. Living until 1948, she became the family matriarch. Establishing a continuous line of family tradition, Clara was responsible for carrying the German heritage and romantic philosophy from Charles Starker to her children.

Close to his parents and grandfather and the oldest Leopold child, Aldo was intensely influenced by the natural surroundings Starker had provided for his family. He had already begun his own career far from home when Carl died, so the responsibility of the family business fell on the young shoulders of Carl S. and Frederic. Also Leopold, who studied for a career in land management, was part of a long line of family intent on the study and conservation of the natural environment. He became a forester in the Southwest, developing an approach to timber management and wildlife preservation and influencing the establishment of the first designated wilderness area in the U.S. In 1924 he moved his family to Madison, Wisconsin. From here he conducted studies in a nine state area that led to his book, Game Management. Published in 1933, it is still used as a basic text in wildlife management study. In that same year, Aldo was made Professor of Game Management, a chair newly created for him at the University of Wisconsin. He remained with the University until his untimely death in 1948. His international recognition, however, is for his writings on conservation. A keen observer, Aldo's journal entries of his experiences in the field not only contain valuable scientific information, but are also enjoyable reading for the lyrical way he was able to turn a phrase. More philosophical writing, his mature conservation thought and explanation of the "land ethic" has become a testament for those concerned with preserving the quality of life. His books A Sand County Almanac and Round River have been continually appreciated and popular since their posthumous publications.

Aldo's brother, Carl S., remained in Burlington, building his own colonial style home on the southwest corner of the family property in 1922. Sometime after the death of Carl S., in 1958, the house and its lot were sold out of the family estate. Marie Leopold Lord returned to the Starker House to raise her children and still resides there.

In the early 1920's Frederic Leopold moved into the house constructed for his mother and father; he resides in the house in which he was born. He is widely respected as one of the foremost experts on wood ducks. His studies began at the Crystal Lake Club in 1939. Then in 1943, uncertain whether the birds would nest there, he moved three boxes to the grounds of the Starker-Leopold property on the bluff high above the river. The results were so successful that he has continually increased the number of nesting boxes. He has kept continuous careful records and his scientific experiments have yielded a most definitive study of the duck's nesting habits. In the process he has developed a number of modifications on the standard wood duck nest box which increase both the safety for the birds and the ease in checking the boxes.

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Over the years Frederic has cared diligently for the homes, grounds, and plant materials so beloved by all his family. He has experimented with a number of plant species and wildflower seeding. It was Fred who introduced the bald cypress to the Burlington area. And his spring wildflower display on the Starker-Leopold grounds is magnificent, done sensitively and largely in the natural style.

The four Leopold children have in turn given the legacy of the great outdoors to their many children and grandchildren, the majority of whom have gone on to establish themselves as professionals and noted experts in the various aspects of conservation and the natural world. The property and its development by Starker and subsequent family members has evolved, but remains in character similar to the days when Charles Starker was so extremely committed to the development of Burlington. The estate represents his ideal of the way the community should look. The homes and grounds where this family has been reared in symbolic not only of their interests, but also of their attitudes and philosophy of life.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" 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 1868–1922 **Builder/Architect** James Isham Gilbert, builder.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

INTRODUCTION

The estate of the Starker-Leopold family is a lasting, physical representation of the family's lifestyle, interests, and the effect Charles Starker and his descendents have had on the development of Burlington. Starker's choice of a homesite and efforts to serve the young community where his children and grandchildren would be raised have had a profound impact, not only on his own family, but also on the present cultural environment of the Burlington area. The physical character of the site reflects a layering of history, encompassing the lumber baron who originally built the Starker House; Charles Starker, the German immigrant architect who became a successful capitalist and directed the developing character of Burlington with his sensitivity to the natural and cultural environment; Clara Starker-Leopold, who carried Starker's philosophy on to her children; and Carl Leopold, part of the wood working industry so important to Burlington's economic well being, who taught his children the sportsmanship and conservation that are so well conveyed in Aldo Leopold's writings.

Charles Starker was a successful businessman, a driving force who was concerned with more than the financial and social well-being of the community. He realized that the physical and cultural qualities were also important, and indeed were related to the community's economic well-being. Starker's activities in Burlington with public building and park development projects paralleled movements in the East which were the beginning of modern American park design and urban planning. In 1850's New York City the call was made for a more humane concern for community growth. This led to the establishment of Central Park and further designation of public open space and design of related buildings. The activity culminated in the popular City Beautiful movement so enthusiastically supported by philanthropists after the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago.

The variety of Starker's influence on the Burlington environment corresponds to the distinct phases of his business career. During his early years (1850–1875) as an architect, engineer, and merchant, he was an active builder and designer. After he entered the banking world (1875–1900) he acted as an advisor and promoter, coordinating projects. His advice was sought on many projects not only because he was an influential banker, but also because of his insight to both the aesthetic and practical aspects of building and development. Starker's popularity stemmed from his background in the arts, which along with his even disposition enabled him to work well with others. Because of his background in architecture and engineering, he could communicate the concepts and needs of a project in a way that few others in town were qualified to do.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet, Item #9, page 1-2.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.5
Quadrangle name Burlington, Iowa-Illinois

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	6	0	5	4	0	4	5	1	7	5	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	5	6	6	0	6	9	0	4	5	1	7	5	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	5	6	6	0	6	9	0	4	5	1	7	5	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	5	6	6	0	5	4	0	4	5	1	7	4	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see Continuation Sheet, Item #10, page 1.

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

state Iowa code 19 county Des Moines code 057

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date December 9, 1982

street & number Historical Building, East 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 Adrian H. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 24 November 1982

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

for Linda McClelland date 2-2-83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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NOTES

1. Frederic Leopold and Marie Lord on their grandfather, Charles Starker, interviewed by Steven Brower, March, 1980.
2. Marie Lord on her grandfather, Charles Starker, interviewed by Steven Brower, March 28, 1978.
3. Frederic Leopold on his grandfather, Charles Starker, interviewed by Steven Brower, May 30, 1975.
4. Frederic Leopold on his father, Carl Leopold and grandfather, Charles Starker, interviewed by Steven Brower, April, 1972.
5. "A Bird's Paradise", undated newspaper clipping attached to a Hawkeye article dated June 24, 1894, in the Leopold family files.
6. Leopold, Frederic, Recollections of an Old Member, (at the Burlington Public Library), March 1977.
7. Leopold, Frederic, Recollections of an Old Member, op. cit.

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Brower, Steven, "Charles Starker: A German Immigrant Contributes to Burlington's Development", unpublished report on the Starker-Leopold family prepared for the Aldo Leopold Community Tribute, April 15, 1980.

Burlington Weekly Telegraph, (Baptist College article), April 3, 1852.

"Charles Starker 1826-1900", Hawkeye, February 11, 1900.

Flader, Susan, "Aldo Leopold, A Historical and Philosophical Perspective", Keynote Address for the Aldo Leopold Community Tribute, April 17, 1980.

Leopold, Frederic, "A Study of Nesting Wood Ducks in Iowa", The Condor, Vol. 53, Sept.-Oct. 1951, p. 209-220.

"Mrs. Leopold, 89, is Dead", Hawkeye Gazette, July 7, 1948.

Photographs from the files of the Burlington Public Library and the Leopold Family.

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"The Record of Charles Starker", Burlington Democrat Journal, Feb. 10, 1900.

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U.S. Biographical Directory and Portrait Gallery -- Iowa Volume, Chicago: American Biographical Publishing Co., 1878, p. 557-558.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the north side of Clay Street directly opposite the west boundary of the alley which runs between Clay Street and Grant Street (point A);

thence along the north edge of Clay Street, around the east edge of the carriage circle, extending 15-20 feet south to a point in line with the centerline of Clay Street;

thence east along the Leopold property line to the west edge of the railroad track right of way (point B);

thence south running along the railroad track right of way to the southeast corner of the Leopold property (point C);

thence west along the Leopold property line to join the Brotherson property line and continuing west along the north edge of Grand Street to the west edge of the alley (point D);

thence north along the west edge of the alley to the point of beginning (point A).