

MASON CITY, IOWA

Carro Gordo County

HISTORIC BUILDINGS & SITES FIELD SURVEY

Environmental Planning and Research, Inc.

Surveyed by: Ronald Schmitt, Architect

Survey Date: 11-3-76

Research by: R.S.

IDENTIFICATION

* (P.S.) NUMBER SE-15

1. Common Name Mrs. Evangeline Skarlis House
2. Historic Name Dr. G.C. Stockman House
3. Address 311 1st St. S.E.
4. Subdiv. Paul Felts Blk. 101 Parcel E. of 2 & 3
5. UTM: 15/483090 4777380 Acreage: less than one

INFORMATION

1. Present Owner Mrs. Evangeline Skarlis
2. Owner's Address 311 1st St. S.E.
3. Use: Original house
Present house
4. Construction Date 1908
5. Accessible to Public? Yes No
6. Zoning District E-APARTMENT
7. Maintenance: Excellent Good Fair Poor
 Structure
 Site
 Adjacent Buildings
 Adjacent Property
 Vicinity



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 1 Group 1

DESCRIPTION

1. No. of Stories: a) one b) two c) three d) other
2. Building materials: a) ext. walls stucco
 b) foundation stucco c) roof asphalt d) porches stucco & wd
 e) other wood trim
3. Integrity: a) original site b) moved c) when d) from
 e) major alterations (dates if known) none except believe entry roof supporting posts added to relieve original cantilever; one alum. storm added 2nd fl. front
4. Threats to Site: deterioration, unfavorable zoning district, rumors of church expansion/parking
5. Significant Features: SEE BACK

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright
contractor: Chris Rye

SOURCES

Ref. #31 p. 13 & 14.

Photos R-2 Mapped Other See back of page

* State Inventory

5. SIGNIFANCE: SE-15

This is an outstanding example of the skills of the great American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, as applied to a small house. Appearing very much as originally built, the house exhibits many of the Wrightian features that revolutionized architectural design. These include the strong horizontal lines created by the hovering hip roofs with wide overhangs, the grouping of windows as ribbons, and the use of casement windows with specially designed window lights. The visual weightlessness of the exterior walls is created by the window opening groupings and by the use of stucco, panelized by decorative wood strips.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Stockman, Dr. G. C., House (Prairie School Architecture in Mason City TR)

REMOVAL APPROVED

Beth Boland 8/4/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stockman, Dr. G. C., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 530 - 1st. St. N.E. not for publication

city or town Mason City vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cerro Gordo code 033 zip code 50401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

David Carson
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/27/92
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

for Guym. Rapsley
Signature of the Keeper

entered in the National Register 9/17/92
Date of Action

Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Prairie School Architecture in Mason City TR

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th. and Early 20th. Century
American Movements/Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco

roof Asbestos
other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1908

Significant Date

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Frank Lloyd Wright

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [115] [48] [47] [510] [47] [7] [7] [5] [2] [0]
Zone Easting Northing

2 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing

3 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

4 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jo Brandt, Consultant Edward Wineinger, Architect

organization River City Society for Historic Preservation date March 12, 1992

street & number 4 Regency Lane telephone (515) 423-8681

city or town Mason City state Iowa zip code 50401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name River City Society for Historical Preservation

street & number P.O. Box 565 telephone (515)424-5568

city or town Mason City state Iowa zip code 50401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Name of PropertyCerro Gordo Iowa
County and State

Description:

Built in 1908, the Stockman House was a modest house constructed of wood and stucco and designed for the middle class by Frank Lloyd Wright in the Prairie School style. The house exhibits a truly Wrightian Prairie School vocabulary with its open floor plan, horizontal emphasis in the massing and detailing, both interior and exterior, and its broad overhanging low-pitched hip roofs. A central cubic two story mass houses the primary functions with a veranda and an entry appendage at opposite sides, presenting a balanced composite. The house remained basically unaltered, and is being restored to its original period of construction by its owners, the River City Society for Historic Preservation. Originally constructed as a residence near the picturesque Rock Glen-Rock Crest area, a National Register Historic District, it was moved in 1989 to a new site directly across the street from the area to serve as an architectural interpretive center for the area. The Rock Glen-Rock Crest area, designed by Walter Burley Griffin, is the only known executed Prairie School subdivision in the world. Previously, in 1977 the Stockman House, as well as the Rock Glen-Rock Crest district, was put on the National Historic Register. Originally constructed on a lot in the middle of the block, the house's new site is a corner lot with East State Street to the south and First Street Northeast curving towards the south, forming its western boundary. Willow Creek, which bisects Rock Glen from Rock Crest upstream, flows under East State bridge and forms the house's eastern boundary. A nondescript residence lies to the north.

In 1950, blasting for the basement of the neighboring First United Methodist Church caused cracks in the plaster ceiling of the main level. Adhesive applied acoustic ceiling tile was installed to conceal the damages. In 1977 the Stockman House, as part of the Prairie School Architecture in Mason City thematic nomination, was put on the National Register of Historic Places. After her husband's death in 1959, Mrs. Skarlis continued to live in the house until 1985 when she sold it to Ernest Nutting and Sally Cottingham for \$72,000.00. Within two years, both had died and Sally Cottingham's daughters inherited the property.

In 1988, the First Methodist Church, cramped for space, purchased the Stockman House for \$65,000.00. The church board debated whether to save or to demolish the house. They considered utilizing it for church functions, but disregarded this option upon realizing that the costly alterations would be required to meet local building codes. A local industrialist intervened, donating \$20,000.00 to the church with ownership transferred to the city. In October 1989, the house was moved a quarter mile away to a city lot directly across the street from Rock Glen-Rock Crest. A new poured concrete foundation/basement was provided. Months later with a newly elected city administration and a diminishing budget, the city sold

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Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo Iowa
County and State

the house for \$12,500.00 to the River City Society for Historic Preservation (RCSHP). The society is currently restoring the house to its period of construction. It will be open to the public and utilized as an interpretive center for the surrounding Prairie School architecture.

The building was moved as a unit using conventional moving techniques. Since the basement and foundation were necessarily lost, a new basement was poured at the new site. The only loss to historic fabric during the move was some stucco around the foundation. All porches, eaves and chimney were moved intact.

The wooded Rock Glen-Rock Crest area lies to the east of the downtown, with East State Street, a major east-west residential thoroughfare, forming its northern edge. Willow Creek, bending between the lower Rock Glen and higher Rock Crest, organizes the area. Houses lining Rock Crest, with its creek cut limestone cliffs, overlook Rock Glen. The Rock Glen houses, situated along the perimeter streets, look inward at a central, common landscaped area, and to the creek and limestone cliffs beyond. Many notable Prairie School architects have designed residences in this area, including: Walter Burley Griffin, Mary Mahoney Griffin, William Drummond, and Barry Byrne. These homes were built between 1910 and 1917. The area around Rock Glen-Rock Crest is rich in architectural heritage with residences built in various styles, including: Stick Style, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Prairie School, Greek Revival, English Tudor, Bungalow, and Eclectic styles. Also, the footbridge, made famous in Meredith Wilson's musical "The Music Man", spans Willow Creek in this area.

The original building site was a small, flat, confining lot located in the middle of the block. The building movers had but one available and acceptable site for the relocated building. This new site, while larger and a corner lot, fronts on the Rock Glen-Rock Crest area immediately to the south. This new location keeps the house within its historic surroundings. The new site was previously in public ownership and the move required no demolition of any pre-existing structures. Over time, the new site has been largely built up prior to the move.

Originally the long front facade of the Stockman House faced north. On the new site, the same facade is oriented to the west. Being a corner lot, bounded by East State Street on the south and First Street Northeast on the west, two facades are readily seen by passers-by. A nondescript residential property lies to the north. Willow Creek, after flowing through Rock Glen-Rock Crest and under East State Street bridge, forms the site's rear, eastern boundary with its heavily wooded, steep bank.

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Name of PropertyCerro Gordo Iowa
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The Stockman House exemplifies Wright's radically innovative spatial design concept. The floor plan was based upon the popular foursquare vernacular type, and its cubic shape made it inexpensive and efficient to construct and to heat. Unlike the traditional foursquare plan with its closed-off boxy rooms, Wright opened up the interior by leaving out walls, allowing spaces to flow together, presenting a spacious feeling and extending the occupants views. The lack of a wall between the living room and dining room creates an L-shaped living area. A massive fireplace between the dining room and living room anchors the central living area. The veranda and entry appendages, at opposite sides, extend the living spaces beyond the central cubic mass. Even in this modest house, as he accomplished in his larger houses for the affluent, Wright was able to combine interior openness and visual privacy. Also, Wright has cleverly and efficiently provided privacy with a passage off the kitchen which allows access to the kitchen, upper level stair, basement stairs, front entry, and rear entry.

The Stockman House encompasses features, both interior and exterior, truly characteristic of Wright's Prairie School Style. Frank Lloyd Wright's larger houses for the affluent had sprawling appendages, extending from the central mass, reaching out, integrating building and nature. The Stockman House, being affordable housing, is compressed down to the basics with minimal appendages. The central, two-story, cubic mass houses the basic residential living spaces--the main level living room, dining room, and kitchen, the upper level bathroom and four bedrooms. The veranda and entry foyer reach beyond the central mass at opposite sides of the house. A massive fireplace chimney anchors the central cube. Low pitch hip roofs with broad overhangs drape the house. Typically Wrightian, entry is gained at the side of the house. A bold, far-reaching cantilevered hip roof, along with an elevated, typical Wrightian vase, emphasize the entry. Wright fragmented the house mass into horizontal elements: window bands, stucco panels and hip roof. The corners of the central mass appear as vertical stucco panels. A horizontal band of casement windows spans between the solid, pier-like stucco corners of the central mass at both the main and upper levels. A horizontal band of casement windows wraps around the main level veranda and entry appendages. A skirt board, running at the base of the house tapers to join the ground. The window banding and its accompanying wood trim, the layering of the broad low pitch roofs with its wide fascia, and the skirt board gives horizontal emphasis to the house. The massiveness of the pier-like corners is broken by two rectangular wood bands which wrap around the corner. The original drawings reveal a different decorative treatment where there was a single, unconnected rectangular band on each side of the corner. It is unknown who initiated this change, but it was not uncommon for Wright to modify his design while in the course of construction.

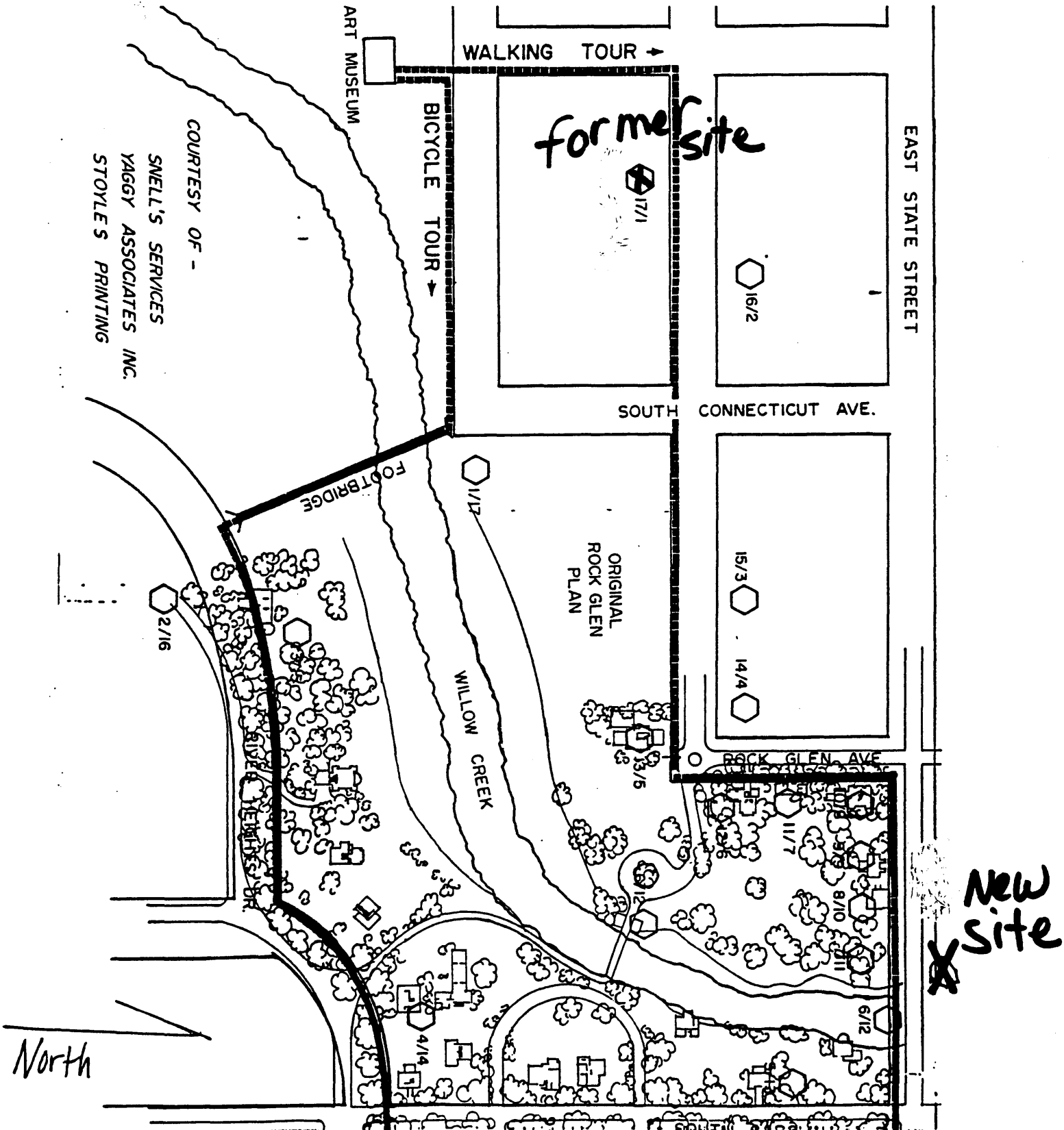
United States Department of the Interior
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Name of PropertyCerro Gordo Iowa
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The interior of the Stockman House reveals many of the basic Prairie School treatments employed by Wright. Upon entering at the side entry foyer, access to the living room is gained by traversing four rising steps. Also, access to the basement and the back stairs to the kitchen area is gained at the entry. This is a technique Wright used in many other houses. A massive fireplace of Roman brick at the center of the house echoes Wright's ideas about the hearth being the heart of the family home. A decorative wood band at the door head height extends around both the living room and dining room. The bands create a concealed soffitted incandescent light fixture at the connecting opening of the two rooms. Also, the wall band divides the casement windows below, and the transom windows above at the dining room and living room. The wall band is extended to the veranda acting as the window head trim and abutting the lower ceiling. Complementing this wall band are two wooden ceiling bands, set-in corners, running parallel to the wall band. The ceilings are at the same height as the exterior soffits at the windows in the veranda, entry, and living/dining room window overhangs. This technique presents a continuous ceiling, piercing the exterior skin and extending to the outside. The wooden base, wall band, ceiling bands, and windows create harmonious, horizontally emphasized space. Three adjacent, glass-pane double doors extend the living room/dining room space into the veranda. Flanking the veranda doors are Wright designed built-in bookcases with windows above to the veranda. A built-in china cabinet and bookcase doors have glass panes, divided by wood muntins, arranged in a pinwheel fashion. This pinwheel arrangement was used in other Wright projects, both in details and floor plans. The kitchen, the only room not exhibiting its original appearance, is closed off with walls from the rest of the main level. An efficiently designed passage provides access to the kitchen, upper level stairs, basement stairs, and stairs to the outside. The upper level, in its' unaltered state, has four bedrooms and one bathroom. The smallest bedroom, immediately off the stairs, has a small balcony cantilevered from the central mass.

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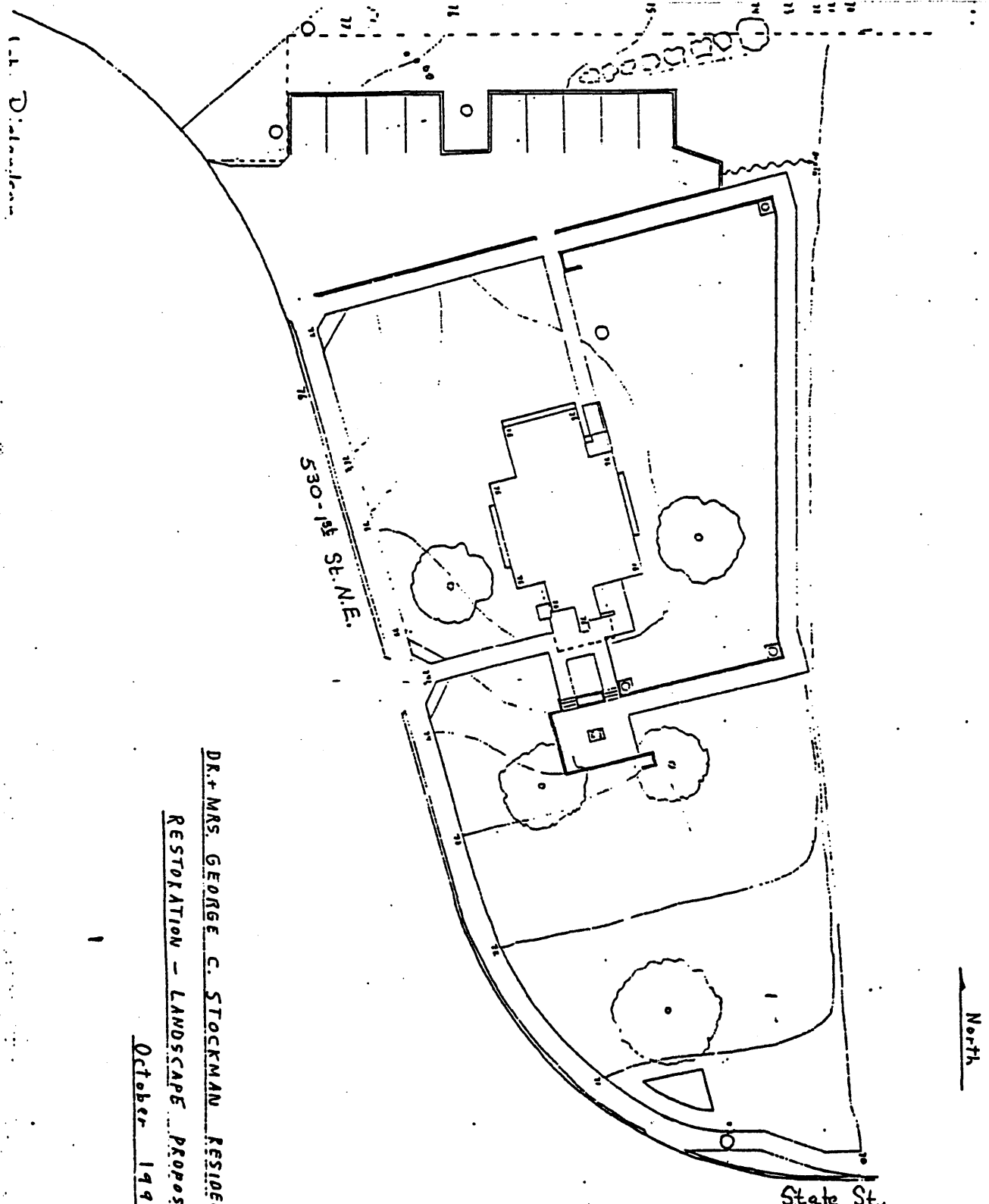


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CFN-258-1116



1st. D. ...

DR. + MRS. GEORGE C. STOCKMAN RESIDENCE
RESTORATION - LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL
October 1990

State St.

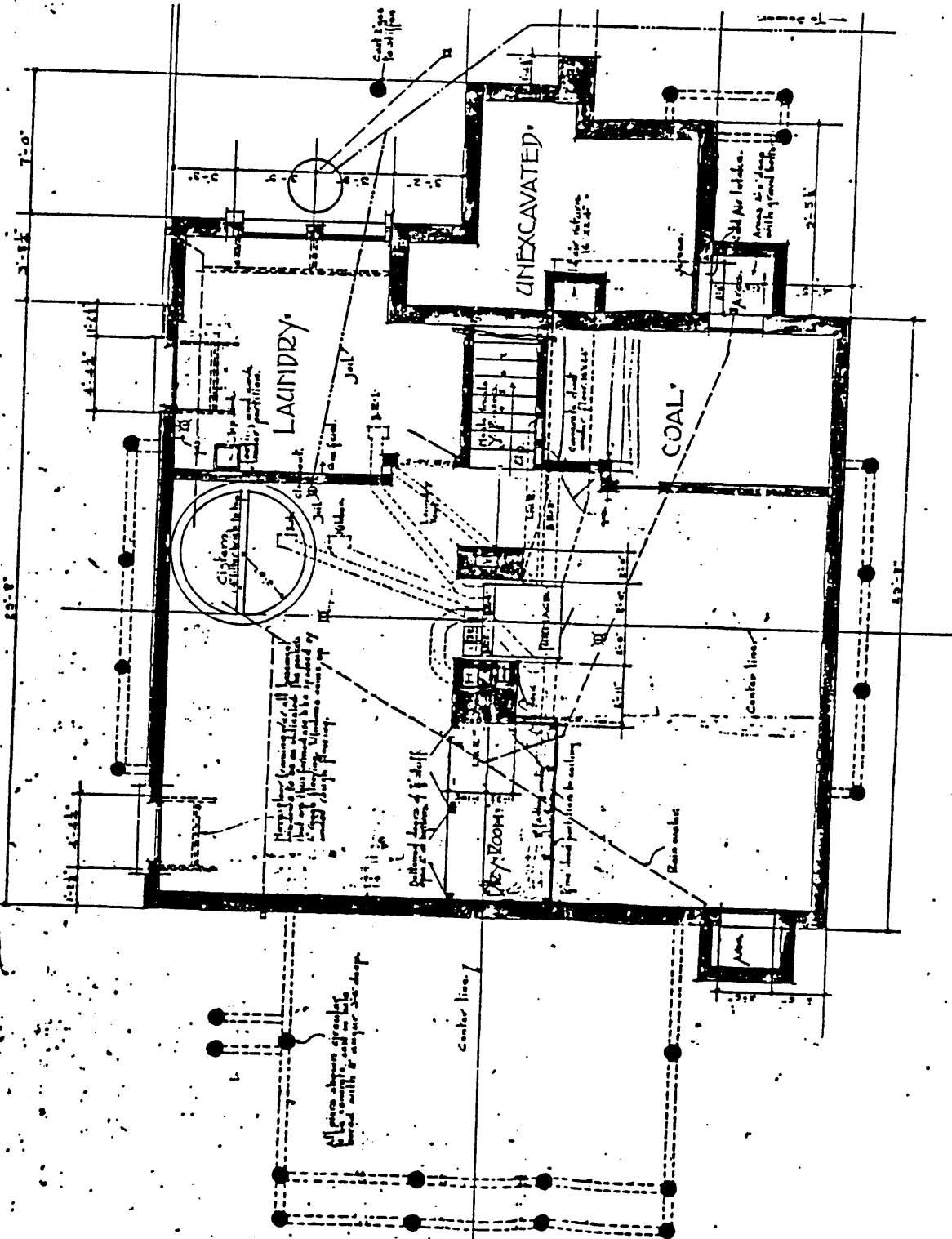
North

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Section number 7 Page 7 Dr. G.C. Stockman House, Cerro Gordo, Iowa

CFN-259-1116



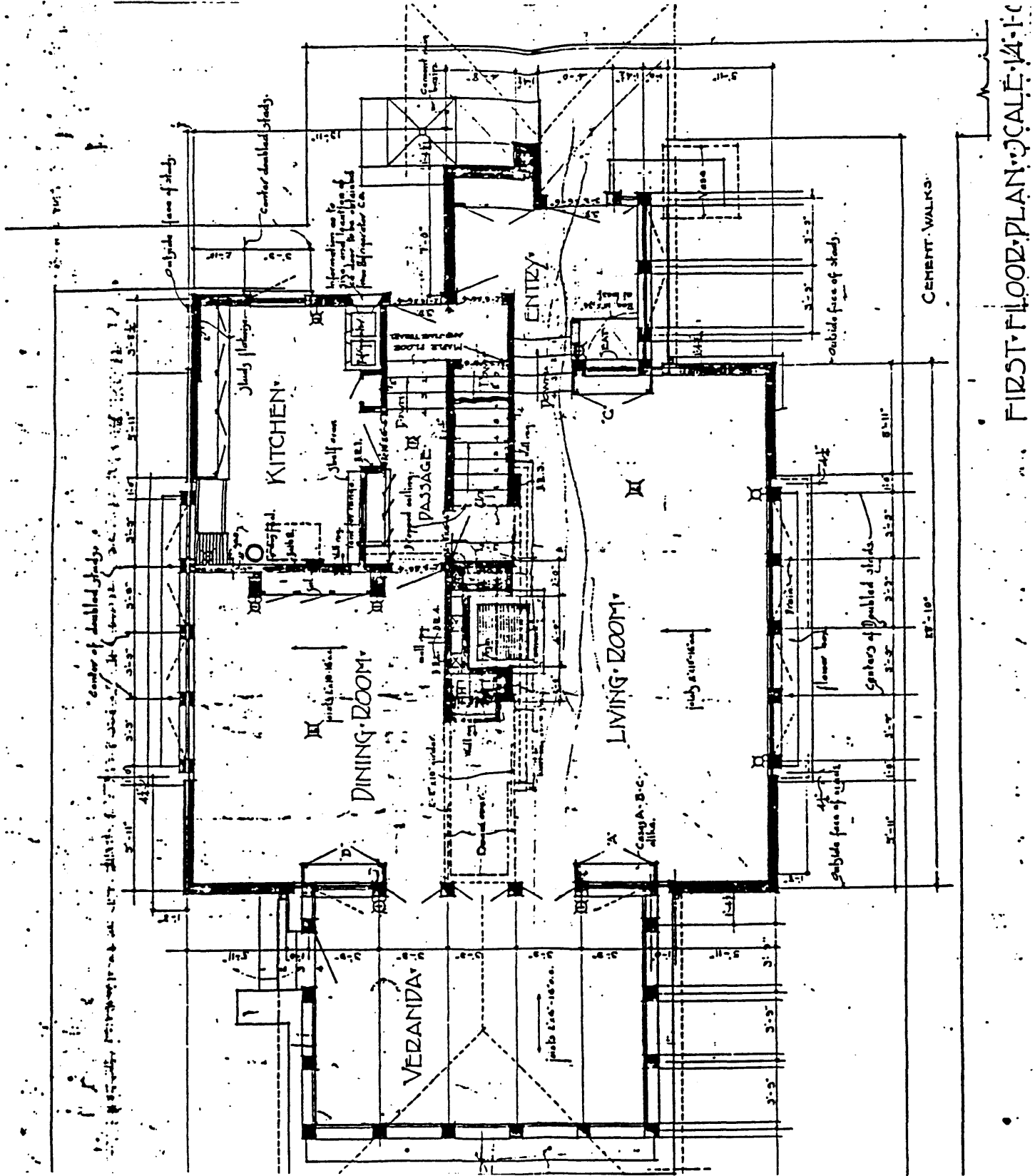
BASEMENT PLAN SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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Section number 7 Page 8 Dr. G. C. Stockman House, Cerro Gordo, Iowa

CFN-259-1116

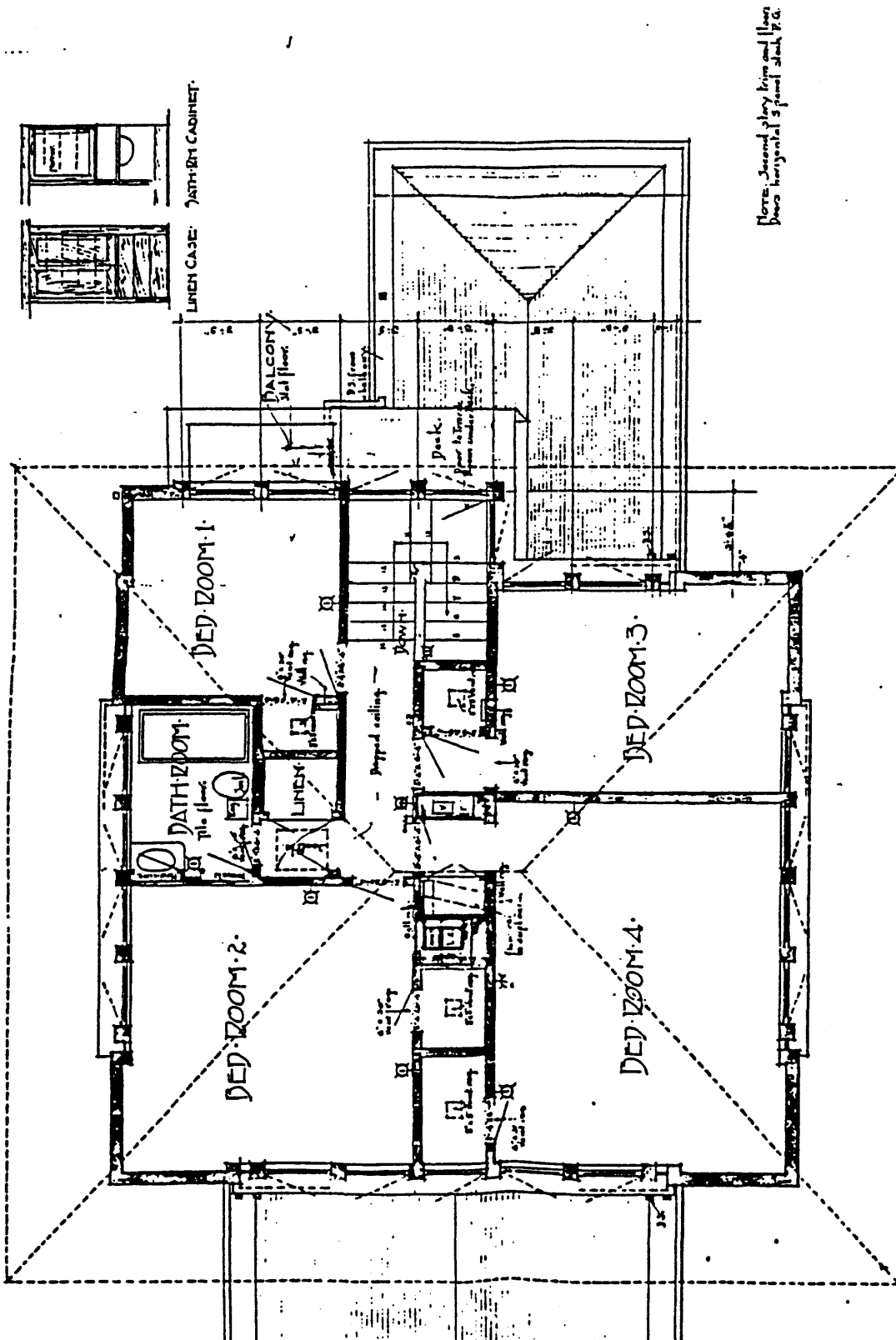


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CFN-259-1116



SECOND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1/4" = 1'

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Name of PropertyCerro Gordo Iowa
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Significance:

The Stockman House is historically significant under National Register Criterion C because it is a good example of Prairie School Architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright and the only known Prairie School residence design by Wright in Iowa. The Stockman House falls under Criterion Consideration B as a building removed (1989) from its original location. Because of the move, potential criterion A associations are lost, but the building retains sufficient architectural integrity to qualify under criterion C.

At the turn of the century until about 1920, a group of Midwestern architects developed the Prairie School Style of architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright was the foremost compelling leader of this group, which included: Walter Burley Griffin, Mary Mahoney Griffin, William Drummond, George Elmslie, William Purcell, and Barry Byrne. This truly American style of architecture was based upon traditional values, vernacular building types, and indigenous natural material use. Frank Lloyd Wright's Stockman House, although a small inexpensive house, contains all the essential features representative of the Prairie School Style. This design exemplifies his early sensitivity to designing affordable housing for the middle class. In order to accomplish this, Wright produced some revolutionary and innovative ideas. The Stockman House design did not only influence Wright's contemporary Prairie School architects, but has greatly influenced subsequent future architecture. The house's new site and its use as an architectural interpretive center for the surrounding Prairie School Style houses, will provide the public a glimpse of our architectural and historical past.

At the turn of the century, Mason City, Iowa was expanding from a railway transportation and distribution center, based on agriculture, to include major industry. Locally abundant clay and limestone deposits fostered a booming brick/tile and cement industry. The accelerated economy of the city produced a rapid growth in population. The population increased from 6,746 to 11,230 in the decade from 1900-1910. By 1920, the population grew to 20,065. It was an opulent period when some local men amassed a great fortunes and wielded far-reaching power.

One such man, J.E.E. Markley, a highly successful lawyer and banker, and his wife wished to have their daughters educated by someone sympathetic to their religious views. In 1902, his oldest daughter entered Hillside Home School near Spring Green, Wisconsin, operated by Jane and Ellen C. Lloyd-Jones. During their visits to the Hillside Home School, J.E.E. Markley came into contact with Frank Lloyd Wright, the nephew of Jane and Ellen C. Lloyd-Jones, and was impressed with the new, revolutionary Prairie School style school building designed by Wright in 1902. A friendly relationship grew between Markley and Wright. Later, Wright would design Markley's Prairie School Style City National Bank Building and Hotel,

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Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Name of Property

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constructed in downtown Mason City, Iowa, in 1910.

In 1907 and 1908, Frank Lloyd Wright was a frequent guest of Markley's. On one of these visits, Wright was commissioned to design a modest home for Dr. G. C. Stockman, a neighbor of Markely's. Wright's design for Stockman was based upon his earlier design of "A Fireproof House for \$5,000", which appeared in the April, 1907, issue of the Ladies Home Journal. From 1908 until 1987, the Stockman House, virtually unaltered, served as a residence. Dr. Stockman lived in the house until 1919 when he sold it to Mr. & Mrs. Andrew O'Lear for \$11,000.00. In 1922, Joseph T. Laird, a retail shoe businessman and Mason City's mayor during the Great Depression, purchased the home from the O'Lears. In the early 1940's, the cantilevered roof at the entry began to sag and posts were installed to support it. Mr Laird died in 1947, and subsequently Tom and Evangeline Skarlis bought the house for \$13,000.00.

Constructed in 1908, the Stockman House is the only known Prairie School residence designed by Wright in Iowa. Later in the 1940's and 1950's, seven Wright designed Usonian Houses would be constructed in Iowa. Wright's design of the Stockman House exemplifies his early sensitivity of designing affordable housing, within the Prairie School idiom, for the middle class. This early development of affordable housing led to his Usonian housing designs and has strongly influenced subsequent affordable housing. In the April 1907 issue of the Ladies Home Journal appeared Wright's "A Fireproof House for \$5,000." In this design, Wright intended to provide both a fireproof and an affordable house. In order to accomplish this, he compressed the house to its basic functional spaces--first level living room, dining room, kitchen, entry, and upper level bathroom and four bedrooms. Wright eliminated previously incorporated spaces such as: attic, butler's pantry, and back stairs to the upper level. Although this house was never constructed, the Stockman House was based upon this design, having a near identical, mirror-image floor plan, with the addition of a veranda. The roofs of the two houses were treated differently, with the Fireproof House having a flat, concrete roof and the Stockman House having a wood shingle hip roof. In the Stockman House design, Wright has efficiently improved the fireproof house design by eliminating the kitchen door to the outdoors and utilizing the passage and its accompanying stairs to the entry to acquire access to the rear of the house.

The floor plan, based on the foursquare vernacular type and its cubic form, made it inexpensive and efficient to construct and heat. Unlike the traditional foursquare plan with its closed-off, boxy rooms, Wright opened up the interior by leaving out walls, allowing spaces to flow together, presenting a spacious feeling and extending the occupants views. By eliminating the wall between the living room and dining room, Wright creates an L-shaped living area with a

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fireplace at the center. This revolutionary L-shaped plan not only became a prevalent plan utilized by other contemporary Prairie School architects, but also allowed Wright to combine interior openness with visual privacy.

Affordable housing entails the ability/flexibility for the same, or nearly same, house design to be subsequently constructed on various types of sites. Like Wright's Fireproof House, the Stockman House, being an affordable housing prototype, was designed for site flexibility. Originally constructed on a lot in the middle of the block facing north, the Stockman House now rests on a residential corner lot with two facades facing their respective streets--the original front facade oriented to the west. Also, the new site gently slopes to the south, whereas the original site was relatively flat. The house's new site seems appropriate as supported by the Wasmuth Portfolio, a 1910 German publication featuring a collection of Wright's works. In this publication, the Fireproof House design, which the Stockman House design is a modification of, presents two different entry facades oriented to the street. This was simply accomplished by rotating the floor plan 90°. These same two entry facades of the Stockman House, with its new corner site, face their respective streets. Thus, passers-by can appreciate both street facades as Wright envisioned.

The Stockman House contains all the essential features and ideas representative of the Prairie School style. These same features and ideas had a profound influence on his Prairie School contemporaries. The basic Prairie School characteristic of the Stockman House can be readily seen with its interior openness yet visual privacy, its horizontal emphasis, both interior and exterior, of space, mass and details, and its broad overhanging low-pitch roofs. The bold, far-reaching cantilevered entry roof is an early example of Wright's later extensive use of cantilevered roofs and plans. Wright's basic Prairie School idiom is deeply rooted in the Stockman House. The massive fireplace at the center of the house echoes Wright's ideas about the hearth being the center or heart of the family and home. His "organic architecture" ideas--cohesively combining building and nature, inside and outside--are seen in his massing and details. The central fireplace, growing out of nature, protruding through the roof, anchors the exterior mass. The exterior mass is layered, with the central, cubic mass stepping down to the veranda and entry appendages. Further, the mass is broken-down with his treatment of window bands, wood trim, hip roofs, and stucco panels. The original, unaltered windows reveal Wright's early use of casement windows along with his characteristic Prairie School wood muntins. The skirt board, tapering to the ground, visually allows the house to grow out of the ground. Wright's effective use of wide expanses of window bands and the ceiling plane continuing through the window to form the soffit, allows a transitional uniting of inside and outside. Also, central to the Prairie School idiom was the use of natural,

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Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo Iowa
County and State

indigenous materials. The stucco and wood used in the construction of the house were locally acquired.

Although the Stockman House is architecturally significant, it is also historically important in the development of Mason City, Iowa. Architecture is an outward, material expression of society's values, ideas and condition. At the turn of the century, Mason City was a rapidly expanding, affluent city with a strong, diversified agriculture and industry base. It was a time when some wealthy, powerful men were seeking an expression of their Mason City identity. Their needs were fulfilled with the Prairie School architecture, a new developing Midwestern vernacular architecture emanating from Chicago. Thus, between 1908 and 1917, ten such buildings, designed by notable Prairie School-Chicago architects, were constructed. These Mason City buildings comprise approximately half of the existing Prairie School style buildings in Iowa. Local, competent architects, influenced by this movement also, designed within the Prairie school idiom, creating a multitude of houses, some quite unique. It seems appropriate for the Stockman House, designed by the Prairie School Style's foremost leader, Frank Lloyd Wright, to be utilized as an architectural interpretive center for the surrounding, rich Prairie School architecture. The house on its new site will be readily seen and appreciated by passers-by and open to the public. It will stand not only as a fine example of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie School movement, but also as a reminder of our rich local history.

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Dr. G.C. Stockman House, Cerro Gordo, Iowa
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Dr. G. C. Stockman House, Cerro Gordo, Iowa

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Dr. G.C. Stockman House, Cerro Gordo, Iowa

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Dr. G. C. Stockman House, Cerro Gordo, Iowa

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

In the city of Mason City and from an imaginary point at the intersection of First Street Northeast and State Street, the point of beginning is 112 feet north to the southwest corner; proceeding 67 feet north to the northwest corner; then continuing 36 feet east to the northeast corner; then 67 feet south to the southeast corner and concluding 36 feet west to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The above description of boundaries includes only the Stockman House and does not include any part of the land surrounding the house.

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Dr. G. C. Stockman House
Name of Property

Cerro Gordo, Iowa
County and State

Property: Stockman, Dr. G. C., House
Location: Mason City
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa
Photographer: Unknown
Date: 1909
Negative: River City Society for Historic Preservation

Photo Number

1. View: Living Room Interior, SE
2. View: Living Room Interior, NE
3. View: Living Room Interior, SW
4. View: Dining Room Interior, NW
5. View: Kitchen Interior, SE
6. View: Upstairs Bedroom, NW
7. View: Exterior, to South
8. Photographer: Elwin Musser
Date: September, 1990*
Negative: Elwin Musser
View: New Location, to NE
9. All info same as photo # 8.
View: New Location, to E
10. Photographer: Mason City Globe-Gazette
Date: 1988
Negative: Mason City Globe-Gazette
View: Previous Location, to SE

* The house appears the same in 1990 as it does today (1992), except that sod has been laid in the yard.