

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received APR 28 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic Elks-Rogers Hotel

and/or common Park Hotel of Clear Lake

2. Location

street & number 223 Main Avenue

not for publication

city, town Clear Lake

vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ 3

state Iowa

code 19

county Cerro Gordo

code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 Park Hotel, Ruth S. Fordyce, Incorporator

street & number 223 Main Avenue

city, town Clear Lake

vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Cerro Gordo County Courthouse

city, town Mason City

state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? NA yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This turn of the century resort hotel is one of the last in the state of Iowa; it is also the last remaining resort hotels in the Clear Lake area. The building has three stories, each individualized by its windows. The first floor is distinguished by its large fan windows, the second floor is fitted with conventional windows of rectangular shape common to that day, and the third floor is outfitted with arched windows. The windows in themselves make the hotel a period piece of late Victorian architecture.

The north face of the building is graced with a large open porch which looks out on the city park and from which one can see the lake. The building itself is constructed of a soft brick native to the area. It has been painted to aid in protecting the brick from deterioration.

The interior of the hotel is graced by a lobby which measures thirty-eight feet by twenty-nine feet. The floor is constructed of hand inlaid quarry tile of deep red, brown, and beige. The ceiling is covered with white designed tile of the early 1900's. A major attraction in the lobby is the large five foot wide grand staircase leading to the upper floors. In the early years, much of the lobby was used as a dining room lighted by hanging gas lights which have since been removed. The large kitchen has also been dismantled. The hotel has twenty rooms in the two upper floors. The manager's apartment is on the first floor off the lobby. Remodeling of the rooms and lobby was undertaken in 1950, but no work other than general upkeep has been carried out since that date.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation
Specific dates	1901–present	Bullder/Architect	E.C. Schrader	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Park Hotel of Clear Lake is a classic piece of late Victorian architecture often found in the trans-Mississippi West. The three story structure is made of soft brick native to the area. Distinguishing features of the building include the fan windows and large porch with Doric columns supporting the roof above the porch. The hotel is the last of its type in the state as most resort hotels of this period have been razed.

Historical significance is associated with the building since its foundation was built by James Dickerson, one of the founders of Clear Lake. In 1857, Dickerson built a wood boarding house hotel called the Lake House on this site. Town Lot Deed Transfer Records of Cerro Gordo County indicate that Adeline and E.C. Schader purchased Lot 1 of Block 12, Clear Lake Addition to the City of Clear Lake in April of 1900; at that time they moved the Lake House to the back of the lot. Discovering the original 1857 foundation to be sound, it was reinforced where needed and the Park Hotel building was constructed during the winter of 1901 on the old Lake House site.

Initially, the hotel was known as the Elks. In 1916, it was changed to the Rogers as the First National Bank of Clear Lake, incorporated by the Rogers family, owned the hotel. The current name of Park Hotel was given to the building in 1944.

In addition to the importance linked with the building since its foundation was built by one of Clear Lake's founders; additional historical significance is associated with F.M. Rogers of the First National Bank of Clear Lake, which owned the hotel for a time, who was Clerk of Circuit Court for Cerro Gordo County and the State of Iowa from his election in November of 1868 through 1874.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clear Lake West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 46819.60 47757.30
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 1 of Block 12, Clear Lake Addition to the City of Clear Lake

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

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Ann Herker Schumacher and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1982

street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 319/353-4186

city or town Iowa City, state Iowa

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 A. Anderson

title Director date April 16, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 6/21/82

Melrose Byers
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration