

PH036124X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 19 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 21 1976

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

Stemmer, J.C. House

AND/OR COMMON

Marmann, Ray, home

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

113 Oak, N.W.

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Elkader

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

19

Clayton

22

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

Pearl and Ray Marmann

STREET & NUMBER

113 Oak Street, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Elkader

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clayton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Elkader,

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This red brick home in "Victorian Gingerbread" style is located in a residential area at the foot of Kramer's Hill. It measures 40' x 50' at its widest part, the front dimensions being 15' x 30'. An elaborate, white-painted wooden porch extends across the front facade and around the side of the sitting room. Similar latticework is found on the bargeboards on the side gables. There is a double front door that opens into a hall from which a stairway rises to the second floor, and continues to the attic, with ornate oak grillework in the bannisters and neavy newell posts.

From the hall on the first floor a door opens to the left into a sitting room; further down the hall is a door leading into the dining room, beyond which is the kitchen. To the left of the dining room is another sitting room, which has a large bay window area decorated overhead by an ornamental latticework of oak. There is a corner fireplace in this room, the mantel and frame of oak. It has an ornate iron enclosure which opens for use. This in turn is surrounded by a grouping of 2" brown tile. The fireplace is still in use. To the back of this room is another, now used as a bedroom. Between it and the kitchen is a former pantry area, now divided to make a bathroom and utility room. The upstairs has a long hall from which doors open into three rooms on each side, one of these now a bath.

There is a 12" panel of stained glass over the front doors. At the foot of the stairs is a four-foot built-in coatrack of oak with a 3' x 4' curved-top stained glass window above it. Along the stairway, there are three small stained glass windows that have a rectangular framework on the inside but are arched on the outside. There are also 12-inch panels of stained glass at the top of the windows in the front sitting room and in the dining room.

The woodwork roughout the house is either oak or hard pine. Door and window trim is fluted, with corner blocks. The dining room and kitchen have 32" high wainscoting. The woodwork has a dark varnish finish, much of it original, with the exception of the kitchen which has been painted white.

A few years ago an attached garage was built onto the house to replace the old buildings at the rear of the property, which were badly deteriorated.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1889

BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Henry Behnke

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J.C. Stemmer house is an exceptionally well-preserved example of an interesting Victorian architectural style. Carved woodwork and stained-glass windows recreate in the interior the elaborate theme of the porch and the painted wood and white-brick decoration of the facade. The few alterations made, to make the home more acceptable to modern living, have interfered neither with the original design nor the living atmosphere of the structure. The present owners fully intend to preserve the architectural and decorative feature of their home.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records, Clayton County Assessor's Office  
 Interviews (May, 1974): Lina Stemmer Reiner, Mrs. Ray Marmann

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 3, 0, 0, 8, 0	4, 7, 4, 5, 5, 7, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

At the foot of a bluff, at the head of Cedar Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. L.J. Ehrhardt

June 1974

ORGANIZATION

Elkader Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

608 North Main

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Elkader

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 S. Anderson*

TITLE

*Director, Div. of Historic Preservation*

DATE

*April 14, 1976*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*10/21/96*

ATTEST:

DATE

*10-18-76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	SEP 28 1976
DATE ENTERED	OCT 21 1976

J.C. Stemmer House, Elkader, Clayton County, Iowa

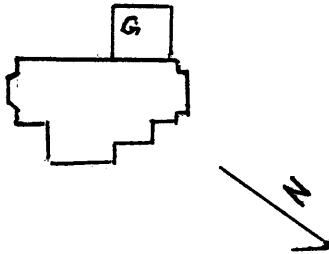
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Addenda to #7:

The shape of the house is rather irregular, due to various projecting wings and pavilions. The roof is basically hipped, but over the wings is gabled, which allows more room for bargeboarding and stone decoration. A one-story bay window juts out from the left side. The garage, a large shed-like affair with a metal roof, attaches at right angles to the rear of the house, and is partially dug into the sloping ground. There are two corbelled chimneys at the center and rear of the roof. Windows are segmentally arched, except for three small widnows on the stairway and one in the right gable end which are round-arched.



Addenda to #8:

The principal significance of this house lies in the extraordinarily elaborate woodwork, on both the exterior and interior. This extensive decoration gives a certain distinction to an otherwise undistinguished, though attractive, structure, and provides a fine example of the 19th-century "jigsaw" art.