

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 9 1977

**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

Gerome Clark House

AND/OR COMMON

"Old Stone House"

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

T98N R36W, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milford

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Dickinson

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jacob L. Williams III

Mrs. Robert Leigh

STREET & NUMBER

1502 Princeton

4 Webb Drive

CITY, TOWN

Midland, Texas

VICINITY OF

Marion, Indiana

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dickinson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Spirit Lake

STATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clark House is an L-shaped structure made of multicolored glacial boulders found in the immediate area. It was built in two sections, the first begun in 1869, the second completed in 1888. Both sections are rectangular, with gable roofs and a central chimney on each. The wall stones were originally held in place by mortar; since then cement has been laid on in some places. Walls are 2 feet thick throughout.

The earlier portion is two stories high, set into a slight incline. Windows are for the most part 6/6 lights in double hung sash, and an entrance is at the south-east end. There are two small square windows on the southwest face (first floor), their shape dictated by the rise of ground outside.

The later portion is one story high, but its location on ground higher than that of the early section causes it to seem higher. Windows here are 2/2 lights in double hung sash, with a small square opening on each end at attic level. There are entrances on the northeast, southeast, and southwest facades.

The interior of the house originally had plaster walls and ceilings, and 6" hardwood floors. A staircase at the far end of the earlier section led to bedrooms on the second floor. Room arrangement has varied over time.

There is a small, gable-roof frame porch off the corner formed by the southwest and northwest walls. It has small windows with 6/6 lights, and the roof ridge extends to the bottom of a gable-end opening in the wall of the house itself. This porch is not contemporary with the house, but no date is available for it.

The house has been uninhabited since 1967. Neglect and vandals have contributed to the general deterioration of the house. Except for a very few trees near the house, the surrounding area is wholly open. The house sits on a small grassy area in the midst of corn and soybean fields. There are two small modern agricultural structures nearby; older, frame barns and outbuildings have been razed.

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 checked="" 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 1869-1888 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gerome Clark

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gerome Clark house is a fairly unexceptionable example of Iowa pioneer architecture, whose significance lies chiefly in the creative adaptation of unusual building materials (glacial rock) in its construction.

The house was built by Gerome Clark, a native of New York who came with his family to the area about 1867. The use of uncut rock in building was probably known to him from experiences in his former home; as he cleared land for planting, he and his sons collected the many small boulders which dotted the area. Construction went slowly, and the entire house was not completed until 1888.

The house remained in the Clark family until 1905, when Frank Clark sold it to Jacob L. Williams, grandfather of the present owner.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records, Dickinson County Courthouse, Spirit Lake.
 Arnold, Vinton C., "Greeley's Advice let Pioneer to Lakes," in Sioux City Journal,
 5 November 1973.
 Written communication from Jacob L. Williams, Jr., 5 February 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	3	3	2	3	7	0	4	7	9	9	4	0	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jacob L. Williams III

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1502 Princeton

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Midland

STATE
Texas 79701

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

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

1/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W.D. [Signature]

DATE

1/19/77

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/14/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

16-70713
11-10-74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	NOV 9 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Jerome Clark House, Milford vicinity, Dickinson County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The use of glacial till as construction material in this house contributes substantially to the significance of the property. The property is located at the extreme western edge of the Des Moines Lobe, the only landform region in the state exhibiting surface characteristics of glacial occupation.

Iowa experienced four glacial occupations, Nebraskan, Kansan, Illinoian (though only in the southeast portion of the state) and Wisconsinan. Evidence of the first three has been modified by later actions of wind and water. Thus, only in the Des Moines Lobe (an extension of the Wisconsinan glacier into central Iowa) are the residual characteristics of glacial activity, such as knob and kettle topography and the indiscriminate scattering of glacial erratics, found.

Given, then, the ready availability of glacial till for construction, it is interesting to note that its use has been extremely rare. Although no comprehensive survey has been conducted along these lines, the general impression given by persons familiar with the area is that structures such as the Clark House are quite unusual. Several factors may have contributed to this, including the relative difficulty (particular for early settlers) in working with this material, and the preference of these people for more familiar construction materials. Generally speaking, early dwellings were probably of sod construction, and of timber in the few areas where it was readily accessible. Limestone, another natural construction material used widely in the state, was rarely, if at all available in the region, due to its geologic history. Finally, the railroad, which came into the Dickinson County area in the 1880's, brought alternative construction materials, brick or precut lumber for frame dwellings.

Jerome Clark's preference for glacial boulders, then, may be considered very unusual in this area, and his house an interesting and uncommon illustration of a pioneer building technique.