

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 27 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic John L. Etzel House

and/or common Etzel-Brindley House

2. Location

street & number 214 North Third Street

not for publication

city, town Clear Lake

vicinity of

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 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 Mary & Robert Brindley

street & number 214 North Third Street

city, town Clear lake

vicinity of

state Iowa 50401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cerro Gordo County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Mason City

state Iowa 50401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 John L. Etzel House is a well-preserved example of a modest late Victorian eclectic house. The combination of site, various architectural stylistic elements, and an irregular plan make the house unique.

The house occupies a corner lot which is near the town center, and offers a fine view of Clear Lake two blocks to the southwest. The ground slopes down to the lake from the house. Because the streets in the immediate area run diagonally to the cardinal directions, the house facade faces southwest.

The house plan is roughly an "ell" in shape. The roof is side gabled, but paired gabled rear extensions interrupt what would otherwise be a broad medium pitched roof in the rear of the house. The roof pitch is continued in a symbolic form by the presence of an inlaid diagonal strip of wood in the side of the house. A gabled front wing projects from the right hand side of the front. Its second story is cantilevered beyond the first story facade, and is supported by four ornate brackets. The second story base is ornamented with a paneled belt course. The gable ends on the front wing and north-east side are sheathed in fishscale wooden shingles. Two square half windows are placed below a sunburst motif in the gable crest. A gabled corner porch, with well-preserved turned posts and gingerbread ornamentation, extends beyond the side of the house. It is recessed beneath the slope of the main roof pitch, and a hipped roof dormer is centered above the porch.

The house is placed upon a stone foundation of ashlar blocks which, according to local tradition, were quarried on the island in Clear Lake. The house on all sides is divided vertically by a flared belt course. A similar belt course defines the bases of the gable ends. A sun porch with sun deck and balustrade is centered on the southeast face. The eastern corner of the house originally featured a single story circular solarium with a low pitched conical roof. Sometime after 1916, this was altered into a long side-porch with rounded end, connected to the sun porch. The sun porch was enclosed.

The house has a single central chimney with fireplaces on two sides of its triangular base. The two fireplaces are framed with decorative ceramic tile. Two art glass half windows overlook the front porch. Other interior details include multicolored parquet floors laid in complex patterns, oak and cherry woodwork, a staircase with turned spindles, and a parlor ceiling medallion. The only significant interior change was the replacement of a servants' stairway with a bathroom.

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 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 1894–1919 **Builder/Architect** Frank Rogers?

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John L. Etzel House was first owned by "one of the most successful and progressive citizens identified with every movement in the upbuilding and growth of Clear Lake." John L. Etzel (-1919) was an important Clear Lake merchant and financier. The house is a fine example of a modest late Victorian eclectic design.

The house was apparently one of seven houses of similar style and quality which were built by a local banker, Frank Rogers, during the years 1890–1910. This house was built in 1894, and a single story tile garage with rectangular plan was added c. 1909–1916.

John Etzel studied pharmacy as an intern in Iowa City and came to Clear Lake in 1876 where he established the "Red Front Drug Store", a firm that he operated for forty-three years. In 1891 he built a new store building where he continued to operate his firm. He was the original owner of the new house at 214 North Third Street and occupied that house until his death. He purchased a winter home in Sunny Vale, California in 1918 and intended to retire to that home in late 1919. He lived in the Clear Lake house for twenty-five years. Etzel was an incorporator and served as President of Cerro Gordo State Bank from 1895 on. He founded, with his brother George, the Clear Lake Electric Light and Power Company and served as its president. He was appointed local postmaster in 1885.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet, Item #9, page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clear Lake West

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	6	8	8	6	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 7 and 8 except the northeastern two rods thereof in Clear Lake Village, Iowa.

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

state Iowa code 19 county Cerro Gordo code 033

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date December 9, 1982

Historical Building

street & number East 12th and Grand Avenue 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 W. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 24 November 1982

For NPS use only

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

date 1/27/83

for Stelous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET BIBLIOGRAPHY ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Wheeler, T.H. The History of Cerro Gordo County. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1910.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Clear Lake, Iowa. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1899, 1909, 1916.

Clear Lake Mirror Reporter, 3 July 1919, p. 1.

Interview with Mary Brindley, 14 November, 1982.

Taped interview with E.B. Stillman, undated.