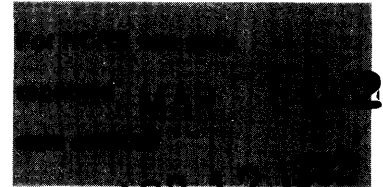


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



APR 14

1. Name

historic

The Kirk

and/or common The Kirk

2. Location

street & number 206 North Federal Ave. ___ not for publicationcity, town Mason City ___ vicinity of congressional district 3state Iowa code 19 county Cerro Gordo code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ed Kent

street & number 1 South Federal

city, town Mason City ___ vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Mason City state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Mason City Architectural and
Historical Inventoryhas this property been determined eligible? yes nodate 1976-77 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Iowa State Historical Department, Division of Historic Preservation

city, town Iowa City state Iowa

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 Kirk apartment building, designed and built in 1903, contained three floors and a basement and measured 105' by 104' on plan. The building was clad in pressed brick with sandstone trim and sheets of copper. In the original design there were twenty-five single and eleven double rooms, many of them with private baths, with the rest having access to five bathrooms off the main halls. There were also twenty-one apartments of three, four, five, and six rooms. The apartments were finished in oak trim, with maple floors; halls and entrances had a mahogany finish. Both entrances had wainscoted walls and tile floors. Each apartment had a private bath and a balcony.

The building was serviced by a freight and a passenger elevator, both of which were hydraulic. Air shafts penetrated all floors and each apartment and bath had access to the shafts. Shafts were capped with skylights. A modest parapet screened the skylights and the flat roof. The building had a steam generating plant, an electric light plant, and a deep water well with a steam pump.

Stylistically The Kirk is an eclectic design organized into integrated horizontal and vertical elements. Horizontally the building spreads across the site in two wide brick bands--the first story and the second and third stories and a narrow band--the attic. Vertical organization derives from the copper-clad bay windows that tie the second and third floors to the cornice. Four bays, of equal width, carry the Main Street facade, and four bays, not all the same width, carry the side street facade. The bays are strong edges for the entire building and define its shape. The main corner of the building uses the bays in a different manner in that the visual effect of joining two bays with a narrow strip of brick, which is seemingly supported by a marble column on the first floor, tends to spread the corner and project the walls evenly across the site. The result is a well conceived and orderly building that reflects in massing the kind of compact, multi-family, modern housing unit The Kirk was intended to be.

The ornamentation is varied but relies upon pattern in the cornice to create visual textures. The entrances have Romanesque arches with carved sandstone panels. There are brick pilasters at the street level, iron balcony rails and brackets on the main facades, and a general concern for polychromy: yellow and brown bricks, brown sandstone trim and foundation caps, and green copper bays. While the attic treatment, yellow brick, and iron work suggest a general Mediterranean influence, the high contrast bays and walls, and the gestures toward classical detail suggest that the style derives from buildings in New England, buildings which owe much of their scale and massing to nineteenth century buildings in western European cities.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903

Builder/Architect** Horace P. Kirk

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kirk, built in 1903, was Mason City, Iowa's first luxury apartment building. Its local significance centers upon its eclectic design accomplished through good scale and massing and its fine use of materials, color, and detailing, and its long commercial history.

Horace P. Kirk, The Kirk's president and manager, was a pioneer Mason City businessman, photographer, and civic leader. By the end of the Civil War, he and his three brothers were well established businessmen in Mason City. In 1867 H.P. Kirk opened a photography gallery; he continued to identify himself as a photographer even after the Kirk was built. He organized the Commercial Exchange Bank in 1880 and became its first president. In 1896 he was one of the Directors of the Mason City School System. Kirk built at least two commercial buildings in addition to The Kirk; these included: the 1892 H.P. Kirk Building (immediately north of The Kirk), a wholesale house and office building; and Kirkland Flats, a 1902 four story apartment building. Both the 1892 building and Kirkland Flats were destroyed by a fire in September 1902.

The three story Kirk was built on the site of Kirkland Flats; parts of The Kirk's stone foundation and north wall may be from the 1892 H.P. Kirk wholesale building. The Kirk was considered prestigious, because of its downtown location at Main and what was then Seventh Streets, and for its modernity. The building supplied heat, light, and water for the apartments from its own steam generating plant, electric light plant and water well with a steam pump. Although The Kirk lost its original self-sufficiency when it acquired city utilities, the building is virtually intact. The original floor plan has not been altered and changes to the exterior have been minimal.

Although the Mason City Building Inspector condemned The Kirk in 1980 a new owner will rehabilitate the building by using the Department of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. It will continue to function as an apartment building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Mason City, Iowa

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UMT NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

1	5	4	8	3	6	0	0	4	7	7	7	6	8	0
Zone			Easting			Northing								

B

Zone			Easting			Northing								

C

Zone			Easting			Northing								

D

Zone			Easting			Northing								

E

Zone			Easting			Northing								

F

Zone			Easting			Northing								

G

Zone			Easting			Northing								

H

Zone			Easting			Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

South 49.5' Lot 5 and Lot 8 Block 7 Paul Felt's Addition

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Jennings and Herbert Gottfried
 organization Jennings, Gottfried, Cheek/Preservationists date 1 July 1981
 street & number Box 1890 telephone 515-292-7192
 city or town Ames 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Adrian D. Anderson

title Director, Division of Historic Preservation date February 11, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Delores Byrum</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/12/82</u>
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	MAR 8 1982

APR 12 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

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