

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 14 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Noble-Kendall House

and or common Kendall Place

2. Location

street & number 209 ^{E.}Benton Avenue East ~~East~~ not for publication

city, town Albia vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Monroe code 135

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: club

4. Owner of Property

name Albia Woman's Club

street & number 209 Benton Avenue East

city, town Albia vicinity of state Iowa 52531

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Monroe County Courthouse

city, town Albia state Iowa 52531

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 Noble-Kendall House (1907) demonstrates an unusual use of concrete as a building material. The large scale of the building further enhances the feeling of permanence. In the Albia context, many buildings employ concrete block for foundations and one cottage (1109 Fourth Avenue East) uses the material for exterior walls; but the Noble-Kendall House is the only residence to employ concrete fabrications so extensively. The concrete block is a local product. The house is also noteworthy as the home of Nathan E. Kendall, Governor of Iowa 1921-1925.

The Noble-Kendall House is a 2 1/2 story building, in a vernacular style with Neo-Classical details. Main block measures 50' x 25'7". Poured concrete forms the foundation. The building employs gray concrete block in several sizes and finishes. Smooth faced block, beveled at top, form a water table surrounding the house. Rusticated block with margins are laid regular ashlar and provide load-bearing walls. Sills and lintels are smooth faced block, as is a belt course which surrounds the house between first and second floors. Mortar joints are beaded. Stucco covers the pediment of the facade portico. The variety of concrete materials provides the wall surface with texture. Some masonry deterioration is evident throughout the exterior.

The slate, compound hipped-roof is laid in an imbricated pattern. Unglazed terra cotta tile form ridge lines. There are two hipped-dormers with shingle siding and one central chimney.

A two-story portico with free-standing columns forms the central feature of the facade. A Palladian window and cornice returns on the portico provide further Neo-Classical details. Columns are rusticated block with poured concrete capitals. Screened windows on second floor are non-extant; the deck is reinforced concrete. Balustrade on first floor porch is rusticated block canted inward from base to cap. Cap is poured concrete. The overall effect of the portico is heavy, but in keeping with the building generally.

Interior floor plan is central hall, three-rooms deep. First floor alterations have converted four small rooms and entry into one large meeting room. Woodwork is oak. Front stairway is open, two-flight with one landing. Two leaded windows with clear, beveled glass are stepped along stairway and have a Georgian style. Second floor reflects basically first floor plan. Woodwork is soft and painted white. Alterations convert two bedrooms into one room and porch entry into toilet. There is an unoccupied apartment in the rear. Still, second floor is basically unaltered.

Directly west of the house, a marble bench and flagstone walk (1936) mark the site of the inurnment of Kendall's ashes.

Benton Avenue East was, for many years, primary entrance into Albia from the east. Moderately large homes line the street, many dating from the same period as the Noble-Kendall House. The neighborhood is situated on ground level.

The Noble-Kendall House stands in the second block east of the Albia public square in an

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Continuation sheet Physical Description Item number 7 Page 2

area of transition between commercial and residential buildings. Institutions like the Carnegie-Evans Library (1907), United Mine Workers of America Hall (1914), and Dr. C.B. Powell House (circa 1910) give the immediate neighborhood particular dignity. The Noble-Kendall House adds to this feeling. The portico of the house projects beyond the facade line of other buildings on the north side of the block and contributes to the strong impression the building makes within the neighborhood.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907-24

Builder/Architect A. E. Noble

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Noble-Kendall House (1907) demonstrates both the unusual use of concrete block for residential construction, as well as the willingness of Alvis E. Noble, its builder, to advertise this building material in his own house. Nathan E. Kendall, Iowa governor and politician, lived in this house between 1916 and 1921, and his ashes are inurned on the property.

Alvis Emmett and Cordelia Noble built this house in 1907 to replace their home fire had destroyed. Noble was an Albia businessman and building contractor. He operated a concrete block factory in Albia. The large scale of the Noble-Kendall House made a social statement and showcased the concrete products of Noble's business.

The Noble-Kendall House is closely connected with Nathan E. Kendall. Kendall (1868-1936) began his political career in Albia as an attorney. In 1899 he was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. Kendall served as Speaker of the House during the 32nd and 32nd extra sessions and successfully spearheaded the drive in that chamber to enact Governor A.B. Cummins' progressive reforms.* In 1908, Kendall, a Republican, won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was reelected in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Kendall returned to Albia and private life in 1912 so he might recover from heart disease. They rented 421 Clinton Avenue South until 1916 when the Noble-Kendall House was purchased. In 1921, Kendall launched his successful bid for the governorship from Albia. Governor Kendall served two terms. "Retrenchment rather than expansion" keynoted his 1921 campaign. Kendall believed that the rapid deterioration of farm prices following World War I would improve if state government remained "completely and splendidly solvent, unembarrassed by a single dollar of bonded indebtedness, and holding a comfortable unencumbered balance in its treasury."† It was not until his second administration that the General Assembly accepted Kendall's program and enacted legislation for budgetary reform and rationalization of state boards and committees. Ill health plagued Kendall's second term, forced a long absence from office, and, finally, a decision to retire from public life in 1925. Kendall enjoyed a reputation for public speaking. In 1916 he placed A.B. Cummins' name in nomination for the presidency before the Republican Convention in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendall lived at many locations. During his governorship, they lived in Des Moines, first at the Hotel Fort Des Moines (1921-23). Entertaining a second term, Kendall bought the home of his old colleague, the A.B. Cummins House, 2404 Foest Drive, Des Moines. This National Register property calls attention to Cummins' career. Mrs. Kendall, the former Belle Wooden of Centerville, Iowa, then presented the Noble-Kendall House to the Albia Woman's Club as a gift. The building has been known as "Kendall Place" since that time and used as club house and community meeting center.

Kendall always considered Albia home. The Noble-Kendall House calls most direct attention to this career. ("He always retained his voting place in Albia, and except for the last election (1936) and only a few others, here cast his ballot in person").** The Noble-Kendall House has a dignity commensurate with a high state official. The Kendall burial on the property is a point of interest.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Albia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	6	3	9	0	4	5	4	1	5	9	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

Lot 12, Block 6, Second Survey, City of Albia.

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

Research, text by Mr. William Page, Public Historian, SIEDA
name/title Form by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 6 March 1984

street & number Historical Building
E. 12th & Grand Ave. 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 A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 3/6/84

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

for Melvyn Byers Entered in the National Register date 4/12/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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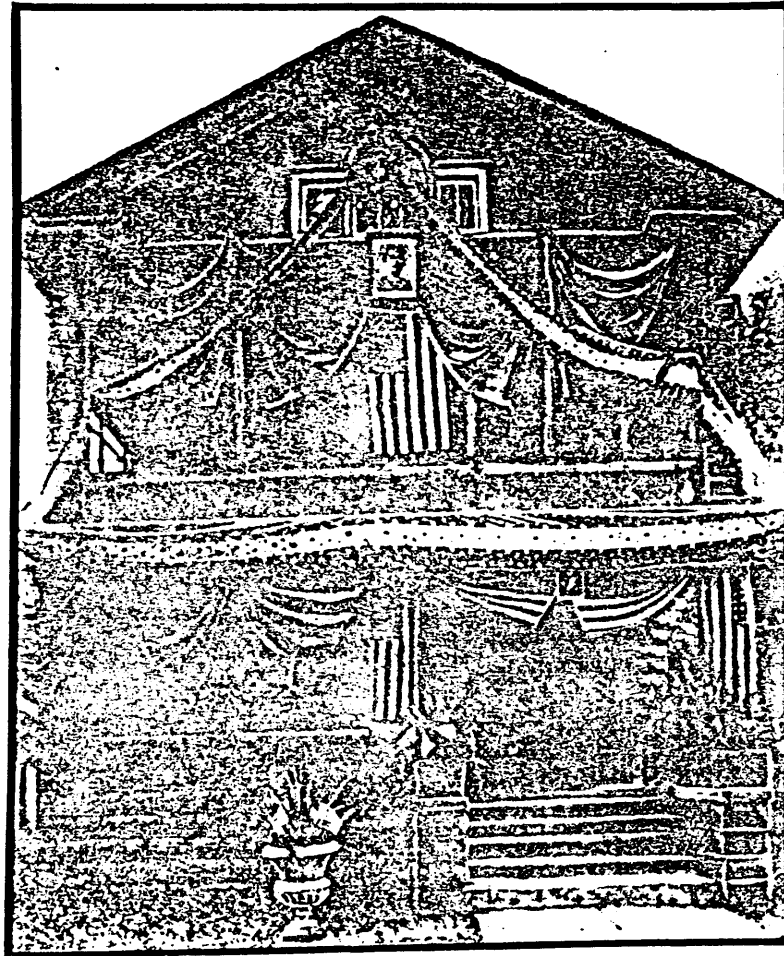
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Continuation sheet Historical Significance

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"Above is former home in Albia, Ia., of former Gov. N.E. Kendall decorated for a reception there at time of one of his political victories." Interpolation dates image between 1920-1922.

Photographic image reproduced in Des Moines Tribune; 4 November 1936; p 15 c 2-4.

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- "Albia, Iowa;" Sanborn Map Co; New York, NY; 1907.
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- The Albia Union-Republican; 20 December 1923; p 1 c 1: "Nothing So Fine As This. The Kendalls Donate Their Albia Home to Local Woman's Club."
- Albia Union-Republican; 3 January 1924; p 4 c 3: Club discusses new property.
- Albia Union-Republican; 18 March 1926; p 1 c 1: "Mrs. Kendall is Stricken by Apoplexy."
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- Des Moines & Valley Junction Directory; R L Polk & Co; Des Moines, IA. City directories 1920- 1936.
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- Albia Union; 5 July 1907; p 3 c 2: N E Kendall one of 3 city library board members.
- Albia Union Republican; 5 November 1936; p 1 c 1-2, p 4 c 1: "Funeral Will Be Friday Afternoon for N. E. Kendall. Former Iowa Governor Died on Wednesday."
- Albia Union Republican; 12 November 1936; p 1 c 1: "Ashes of Kendall Interred in Lawn of Former House. Urn Placed in Concrete Block West of Kendall Place."
- Des Moines Tribune; 4 November 1983; p 1 c 4: Headline: "N. E. Kendall Found Dead." P 15 c 1-8: "Former Gov. N.E. Kendall Found Dead in Chair at Home Here. Heart Attack Proves Fatal." Includes photograph of Kendall Place decorated for election victory of 1920 or 1922.
- Material Culture; 4 nonferrous digits are imbedded in stoop of side porch; Kendall Place, Albia, IA: "1907."
- #"Biennial Message to the 40th General Assembly" (1923); reprinted in: Grand Lodge Bulletin; Grand Lodge of Iowa, AF&AM; Vol 39; No 1; Jan 1938; p 397.

O R A L H I S T O R Y

Informant Interview: Mrs Ruth Hollingshead (3½ Benton Avenue East; Albia, IA 52531) with W C Page; December 1983. Mrs Hollingshead is a nonagenarian with a formidable knowledge of Albia business and society.

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