

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only  
received APR 28 1982  
date entered

# 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 Elks-Rogers Hotel

and/or common Park Hotel of Clear Lake

## 2. Location

street & number 223 Main Avenue

not for publication

city, town Clear Lake

vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

3

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 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                      | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         | <input type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input checked="" 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    |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Park Hotel, Ruth S. Fordyce, Incorporator

street & number 223 Main Avenue

city, town Clear Lake

vicinity of

state Iowa

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Cerro Gordo County Courthouse

city, town Mason City

state Iowa

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? NA! yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This turn of the century resort hotel is one of the last in the state of Iowa; it is also the last remaining resort hotels in the Clear Lake area. The building has three stories, each individualized by its windows. The first floor is distinguished by its large fan windows, the second floor is fitted with conventional windows of rectangular shape common to that day, and the third floor is outfitted with arched windows. The windows in themselves make the hotel a period piece of late Victorian architecture.

The north face of the building is graced with a large open porch which looks out on the city park and from which one can see the lake. The building itself is constructed of a soft brick native to the area. It has been painted to aid in protecting the brick from deterioration.

The interior of the hotel is graced by a lobby which measures thirty-eight feet by twenty-nine feet. The floor is constructed of hand inlaid quarry tile of deep red, brown, and beige. The ceiling is covered with white designed tile of the early 1900's. A major attraction in the lobby is the large five foot wide grand staircase leading to the upper floors. In the early years, much of the lobby was used as a dining room lighted by hanging gas lights which have since been removed. The large kitchen has also been dismantled. The hotel has twenty rooms in the two upper floors. The manager's apartment is on the first floor off the lobby. Remodeling of the rooms and lobby was undertaken in 1950, but no work other than general upkeep has been carried out since that date.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                                  |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)<br>recreation |
| <b>Specific dates</b>                     | 1901–present                                    | <b>Builder/Architect</b>                        | E.C. Schrader                                   |   |

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Park Hotel of Clear Lake is a classic piece of late Victorian architecture often found in the trans-Mississippi West. The three story structure is made of soft brick native to the area. Distinguishing features of the building include the fan windows and large porch with Doric columns supporting the roof above the porch. The hotel is the last of its type in the state as most resort hotels of this period have been razed.

Historical significance is associated with the building since its foundation was built by James Dickerson, one of the founders of Clear Lake. In 1857, Dickerson built a wood boarding house hotel called the Lake House on this site. Town Lot Deed Transfer Records of Cerro Gordo County indicate that Adeline and E.C. Schader purchased Lot 1 of Block 12, Clear Lake Addition to the City of Clear Lake in April of 1900; at that time they moved the Lake House to the back of the lot. Discovering the original 1857 foundation to be sound, it was reinforced where needed and the Park Hotel building was constructed during the winter of 1901 on the old Lake House site.

Initially, the hotel was known as the Elks. In 1916, it was changed to the Rogers as the First National Bank of Clear Lake, incorporated by the Rogers family, owned the hotel. The current name of Park Hotel was given to the building in 1944.

In addition to the importance linked with the building since its foundation was built by one of Clear Lake's founders; additional historical significance is associated with F.M. Rogers of the First National Bank of Clear Lake, which owned the hotel for a time, who was Clerk of Circuit Court for Cerro Gordo County and the State of Iowa from his election in November of 1868 through 1874.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clear Lake West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 15 46819.60 47957.30  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 1 of Block 12, Clear Lake Addition to the City of Clear Lake

### 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

name/title Beth Ann Herker Schumacher and Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date April 1982

street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 319/353-4186

city or town Iowa City, 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 A. Anderson

title Director date April 16, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Melvin Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 6/2/82

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

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. Town Lot Transfer Record. vol. 3, (1850-1914), pp. 81 and 113.

Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. Town Lot Transfer Record of Clear Lake Corp. vol. A-B, (1915-1944).

Cerro Gordo County, Iowa Town Lot Transfer Record of Clear Lake Corp. vol. A-C, (1945-1973).

Herker, Beth A. White Clouds - Blue Waters, The Story of Clear Lake. Lake Mills, Iowa: Graphic Publishing Co., Inc. 1976, p.26.

Statement by Ross Rogers, personal interview by Beth A. Herker, Clear Lake, Iowa, April 18, 1972.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

82002611

Property: Elks - Rogers Hotel  
State, County: IA, Cerro Gordo  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 4/28/82-1270  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 5/27/82 - 6/12/82  
Action:  ACCEPT  
 RETURN 5/19/82  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

photos ✓  
maps ✓

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Public Acquisition Ownership \_\_\_\_\_ Status \_\_\_\_\_ Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Accessible \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in, if not applicable mark "NA"*

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

*Please fill in, if not applicable mark "NA"*

7. Description

Condition  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  
Check one  unaltered  altered  
Check one  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

for NPS use only

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *Delores Byers* Date 5/19/82 Phone: 202 272-35

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

82002611

Property: Elks-Rogers Hotel  
State, County: KA IA, Cerro Gordo  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 4.28.82-1270

Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983

Date Due: 7/19/82

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Action:  ACCEPT 6/21/82  
 Entered in the  RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 National Register  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
 photos   
 maps

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

|          |                    |            |             |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

|                                    |                                       |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Condition                          |                                       | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

---

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

## **11. Form Prepared By**

---

## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Site \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 1  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: facing SW



PARK

Coke

FOR SALE  
Schubert  
367-6288

Elks-Rogers Hotel

223 Main Ave.

Clear Lake, Iowa

Photo No. 2

By: Mark Schumacher

Date: July 1981

View: facing south



PARK

BEV'S  
BEAUTY BAY

PEPSI LAKE PARK  
COCKTAIL & DINING DANCING  
ONE HOUR  
DANCING  
NO PARKING  
8:00 - 11:00 PM

PEPSI

COKE

COKE

PEPSI

BEV'S  
BEAUTY BAY

Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 3  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: facing SE



Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 4  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: facing NW



PARKED ON RETIRED CARS  
WALL OF TOWER PARK  
AT HOTEL  
EXPENSE THE MANAGEMENT  
PARK HOTEL  
PARKING  
GUESTS ONLY

CHEVROLET

Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 5  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: facing north



Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 6  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: detail of north face



Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 7  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: second floor windows



Elks-Rogers Hotel

223 Main Ave.

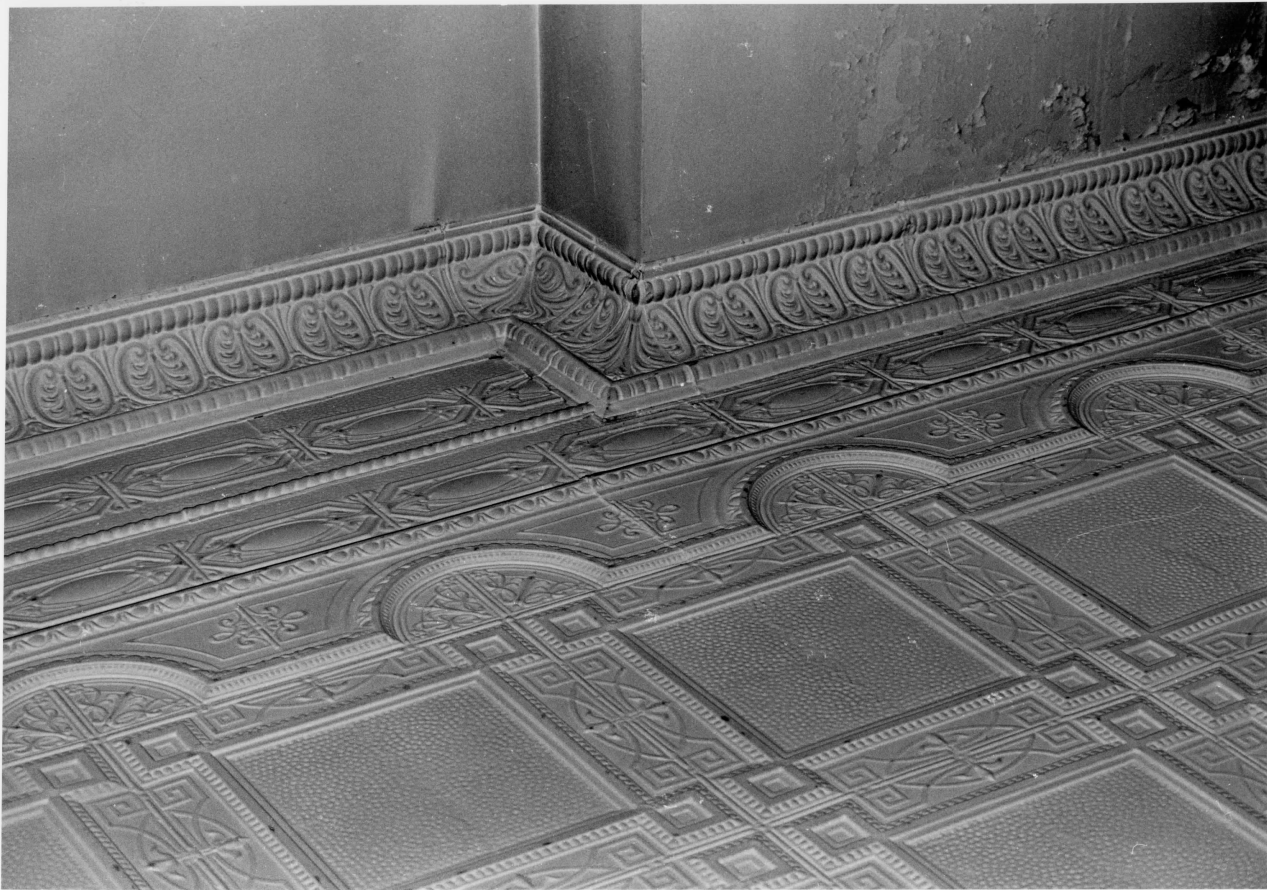
Clear Lake, Iowa

Photo No. 8

By: Mark Schumacher

Date: July 1981

View: detail, first floor fan  
windows



Elks-Rogers Hotel

223 Main Ave.

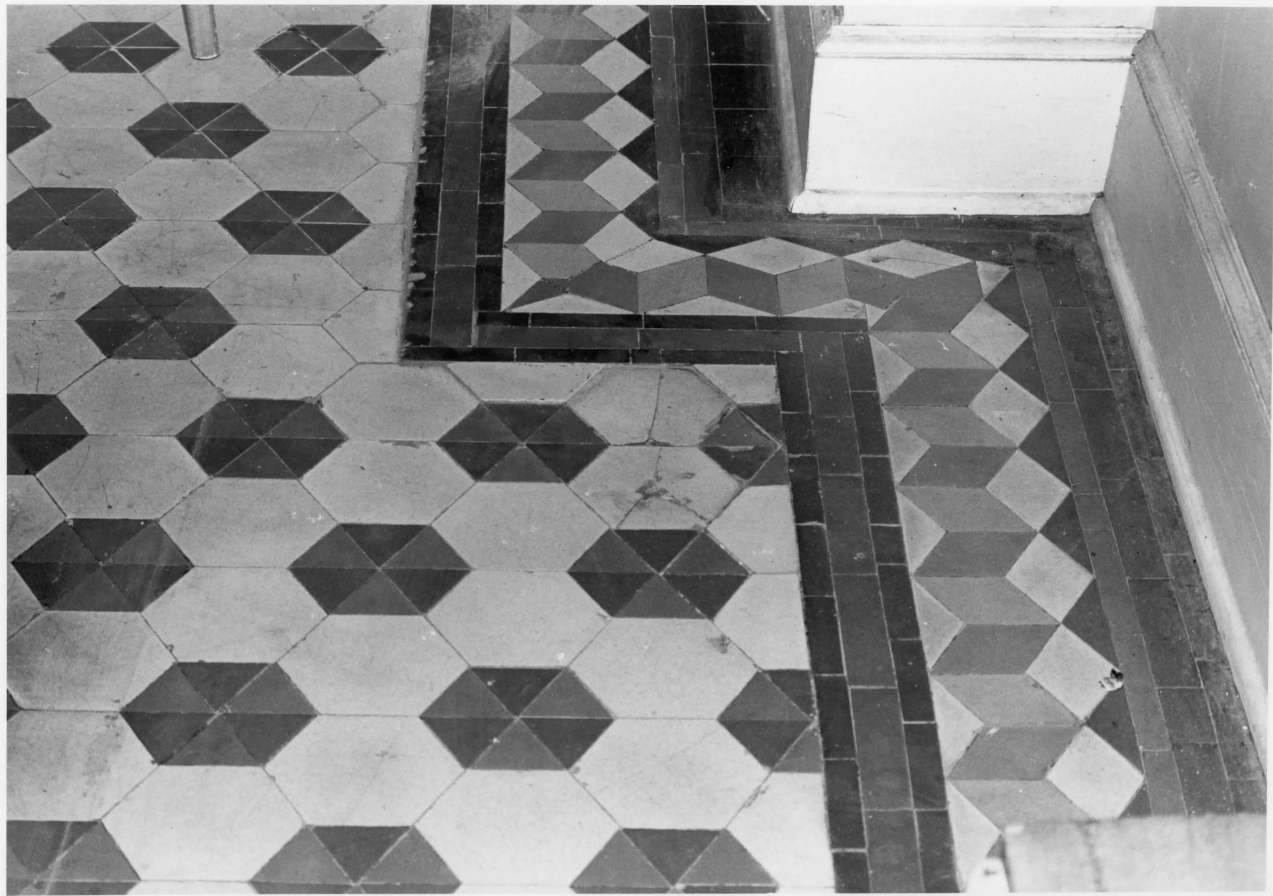
Clear Lake, Iowa

Photo No. 9

By: Mark Schumacher

Date: July 1981

View: detail of lobby ceiling



Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 10  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: detail of lobby floor



Elks-Rogers Hotel

223 Main Ave.

Clear Lake, Iowa

Photo No. 11

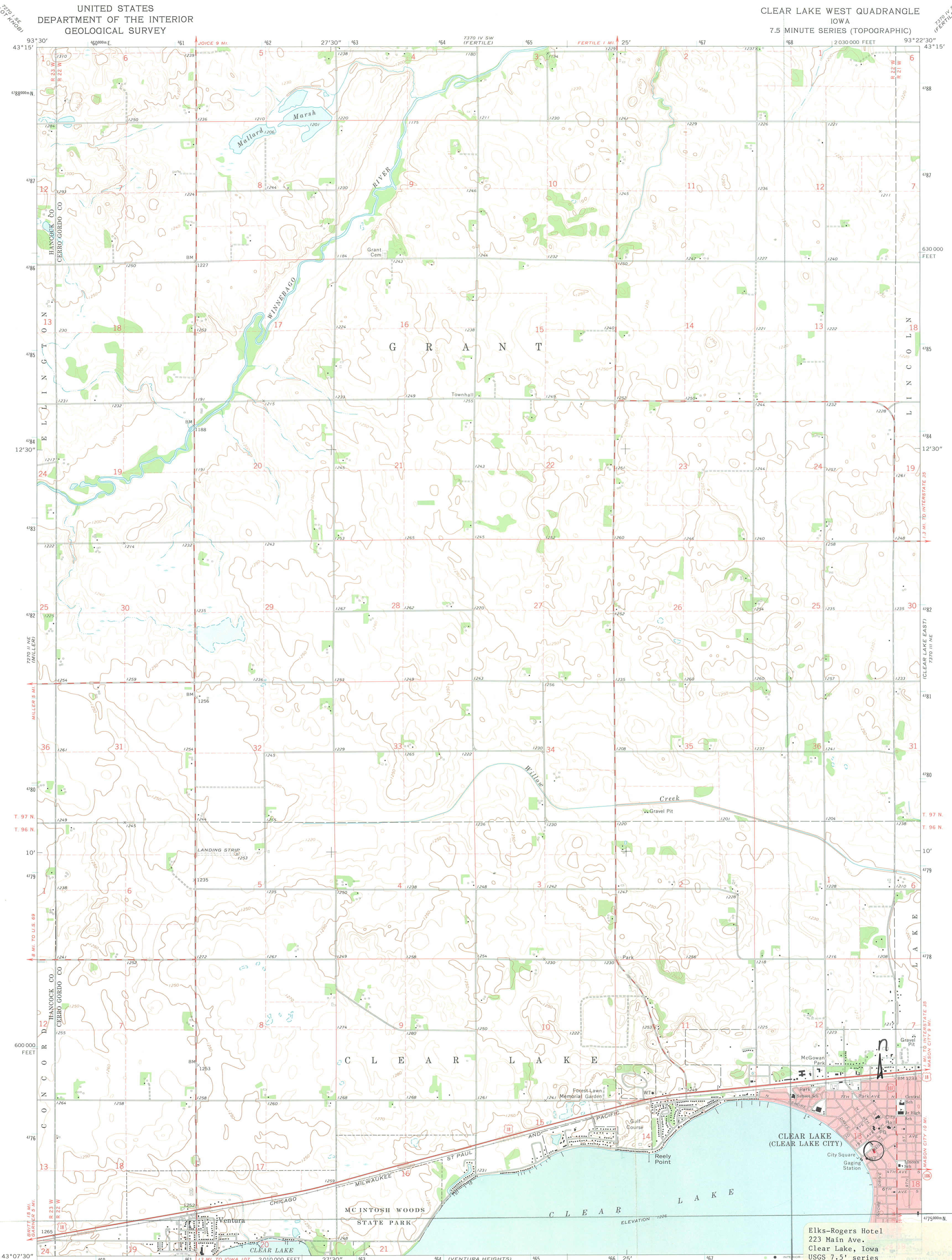
By: Mark Schumacher

Date: July 1981

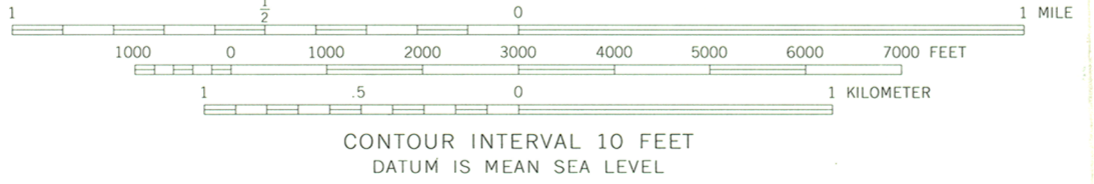
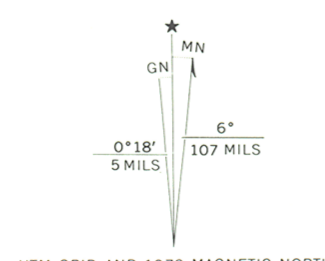
View: lobby looking to the SE



Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
Photo No. 12  
By: Mark Schumacher  
Date: July 1981  
View: detail of staircase to  
upper floors



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1972  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

Elks-Rogers Hotel  
223 Main Ave.  
Clear Lake, Iowa  
USGS 7.5' series  
Clear Lake West Quad.  
Zone 15  
468,960/4,775,730

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CLEAR LAKE WEST, IOWA  
N4307.5-W9322.5/7.5

1972

AMS 7370 III NW-SERIES V876

IOWA STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

---

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

April 20, 1982

Bill Brabham  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
W434  
Washington, D.C. 20243


RECEIVED  
APR 28 1982  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Dear Bill:

Enclosed are National Register nomination materials for the following Iowa properties: Webster City Post Office, Webster City, Hamilton County; Henderson Lewelling House, Salem, Henry County; Elks-Rogers Hotel, Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County; Albert B. Cummins House, Des Moines, Polk County; Knapp-Spencer Warehouse, Sioux City, Woodbury County; Larned Case House, Des Moines, Polk County; Marston Water Tower, Ames, Story County; Margaretta Franz House, Sioux City, Woodbury County; James Fellows House, Riceville, Howard County; and Lowell Walter House, Quasqueton, Buchanan County.

If you have questions about any of these properties, please call or write.

Sincerely,

  
Ralph J. Christian  
Architectural Historian

enclosures  
RJC/bb