

**IDENTIFICATION:**

SITE NAME formerly, Norden Hall

LEGAL LOCATION (description) Lot 3 Greens Subdivision

OWNER(S) NAME Patrick Monohon

OWNER(S) ADDRESS 709 East Locust, Des Moines IA 50309  
(street address) (city) (state) (zip)

CATEGORY: STRUCTURAL/ARCHITECTURAL  (check one)  
 LANDSCAPE   
 ARCHEOLOGICAL

COMPONENTS \_\_\_\_\_

USE (present) Residence (past) Lodge hall

**DESCRIPTION:**

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1880 ARCHITECT/BUILDER \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDING TYPE:  
 Single-family dwelling  Industrial  Other institutional  Religious   
 Multiple-family dwelling  Educational  Public  Agricultural   
 Commercial

EXTERIOR WALLS: clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  other   
Brick front. brick with concrete overlay on sides and back.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: wood frame with interlocking joints  masonry load-bearing walls   
 wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls   
 reinforced concrete  other \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION: excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

INTEGRITY: original site  moved--if so, when \_\_\_\_\_  
 from where \_\_\_\_\_

Information on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building/site:  
 Remodel, 1951. Total restoration, 1996-2000. Exterior: new roof, brick tuck-pointing, restored building front and original skylight, removal of bricked over windows, replacement of original size windows and doors and new retaining wall leading to basement. Interior: removal of walls, stairway built over windows, dropped ceilings and asbestos floor tile from 1951 remodel. Restored walls, doors, trims, ceilings, floors and added new heating/cooling system.

RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY: barn  other farm structures  carriage house   
 garage  privy  other \_\_\_\_\_

SURROUNDINGS OF THE SITE: open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  commercial   
 industrial  residential  densely built-up  other \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by Patrick Monohon Date 1/9/00  
 Address 709 East Locust, Des Moines IA 50309 Telephone (515) 288-4327  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE:** (Indicate all sources of information for all statements)

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Built in 1880, the building is one of the oldest structures in the East Village Neighborhood. Located on Capitol Hill near the front entrance to the State Capitol building, it pre-dates the Capitol that was constructed from 1884 to 1886. The two-story structure is one of Des Moines' last representations of this type of architecture.

The building front has been completely restored. It is made of brick with colored concrete lentils. Dimension is given with three brick pilasters, a patterned brick crown and contrasting window and door trim.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Theme(s) Social History - Scandinavian

The building was the home of three Scandinavian groups, the Danish Brotherhood, Danish Sisterhood and the Norden Singing Society. Their presence called attention to the desire among immigrant groups to establish their own separate social and fraternal institutions, continuing practices from the old country.

The Norden Singing Society was organized in 1896 through the efforts of Norwegian born John Story, who was then the Labor Commissioner. Both Swedes and Norwegians sang in the group. They operated sporadically over the years, disbanding when Story moved away, then reorganized only to disband due to anti-foreign sentiment.

**SOURCES** (for primary and secondary sources give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

O. M. Nelson, Swedish Settlements in Iowa, n.p. 1931-1936, p. 65. Thorvald Hansen, Reflections, The Story of Luther Memorial, Askov, Minn., American Publishing Co., 1974, p. 13. Des Moines City Directory, 1911.

Map

Photo

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*.....or use separate sheets*





