

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 8 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

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

Hoyt Sherman Place

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1501 Woodland Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Des Moines

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

Polk

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Women's Club

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Des Moines, Parks and Recreation Board

STREET & NUMBER

E. 1st and Des Moines Street

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50309

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

500 Mulberry Street

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Des Moines' Heritage, A Survey of Significant Architecture

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Des Moines Planning and Zoning Commission, Des Moines, Iowa

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

This facility is a complex structure erected around the remains of Des Moines businessman Hoyt Sherman's house, which was built in 1877. The house, originally an elaborate mansion with the usual Victorian profusion of porches, bracketting, bargeboards, and window hoods, was stripped of these details and refaced with brick to conform stylistically to the Mediterranean/Spanish Renaissance aspect of the large auditorium built on the east side in 1922. An art gallery on the west side, added earlier in 1907 was also enlarged to house a special collection.

The three sections (gallery, house, and auditorium) differ from one another in scale and massing, but their brick facades, low-pitched roofs and round-arched windows provide continuity. The gallery section is the smallest and simplest, one story high, its large windows with stone imposts and keystones separated by squat brick buttresses. The two-story house section has the most complex mass, featuring a hipped-roofed central pavilion flanked by gables (One of which has been altered). Beside the entrance, which has an elaborate, granite surround, is a one-story bay. A pair of round-arched windows above the door were replaced by a single rectangular window during the remodelling, and a brick-walled terrace built across the front.

The auditorium is the strongest, stylistically, as well as the largest of the three sections. The Spanish Renaissance influence is clearly delineated in the tiled, hipped roofs of the main block and corner pavilions, use of the round arch, and ornamental granite surrounds. Also characteristic of the style are the irregular size and asymmetrical placement of windows (including two Palladian windows). A pseudo-loggia across the recessed central pavilion, beneath which are five transomed doors, is a conspicuous feature.

The interiors of the house and auditorium sections merit some discussion. Although the house has been adapted to club use over the years, much of the original woodwork is intact. A variety of woods are used here: walnut, oak, walnut burr and maple in particular. The parquet floor of the dining room is laid in cherry, maple, walnut and oak. Some vintage lighting fixtures are also extant, but decorative ceiling and wall stencillings have been painted over.

The auditorium is reminiscent of movies palaces of its era, with an immense, curved balcony and lavish use of Adamesque detail in the plasterwork and wall grilles.

Hoyt Sherman Place is located in an older urban area of mixed land use. Immediately surrounding facilities include a hospital, apartment buildings, some commercial buildings, and a selection of older dwellings which may comprise a "Sherman Hill" historic district in the future.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1877; 1922-3

~~BUILDER~~ ARCHITECT (1922 sections: Vorse, Kraetsen and Kraetsch, Des Moines)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hoyt Sherman Place presents an interesting characterization of the Mediterranean/Spanish Renaissance architecture of the post-W.W. I period. Although the core of the complex is actually the Victorian house in the center, the architectural tenor of the place derives from the auditorium, which is the strongest expression of the style, and from which details were borrowed to bring the earlier sections into at least partial conformity with the design theme. Contributing to the significance of the complex is the extremely well-preserved interior of the auditorium; the house interior, although somewhat subdued in contrast to its originally lavish Victorian appearance, retains many excellent examples of fine woodworking.

The development of Hoyt Sherman Place as a city cultural facility was the result of many years' effort by the Des Moines Women's Club, which included the establishment of the city's first public art gallery there in 1907. The Club was started in 1885 by five local women as an affiliate of the Association for the Advancement of Women, an organization founded in the mid-19th century in New York. Soon designated the Des Moines Women's Club, the city group's first intent was largely literary, "to create an organized center of thought and action among women". The first elected officers were Dr. Margaret Cleaves, Lana Abdill, Sara Mills, and Mrs. S.M. Dickinson. In 1888, the club decided to establish and maintain an art gallery in Des Moines, with acquisitions (funded at first by subscriptions) begun in 1893.

In 1907 the City of Des Moines purchased from heirs the house built for Hoyt Sherman in 1877. Sherman, among whose siblings was brother William Tecumseh, was the archetype of the Victorian-era self-made "prominent businessman". Born in Ohio in 1827, Sherman arrived in Des Moines in 1848, and promptly embarked upon a varied career in law, banking and politics which resulted in the fortune necessary to build and maintain his elegant estate. The property, to be known by terms of the 1907 sale as Hoyt Sherman Place, was turned over to the Des Moines Women's Club, and the city's first art gallery built and opened the same year.

An auditorium had been considered for some years as a desirable addition to the Women's Club facility, but a building fund (created through sale of debenture bonds) was not begun until about 1912. The advent of W.W. I delayed construction until 1922-3. At this time, an addition was also made to the art gallery to house the Byers Collection of art and antiques, acquired in 1911.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Des Moines and Polk County, Iowa, II. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911.
 Art Treasures and Possessions Catalogue, published by Des Moines Women's Club, 1952.
 History of the Des Moines Women's Club, 85th Anniversary. 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 1/2 acre (58,590 sq. ft.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,4,6,9,0,0	4,6,0,4,1,4,0	B	1,5	4,4,6,9,1,5	4,6,0,4,0,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,5	4,4,6,7,8,0	4,6,0,4,0,2,0	D	1,5	4,4,6,7,8,0	4,6,0,4,1,4,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel 4673 in 3rd District: Park Commission Lots 1 to 7 and 18 to 25, Des Moines, Iowa

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William J. Wagner, FAIA; Martha Green

ORGANIZATION 1106 High, DM 50309 520 12th St., WDM 50265 DATE

Des Moines Women's Club TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER 1501 Woodland Ave.

CITY OR TOWN Des Moines STATE Iowa 50309

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 Merlin D. Anderson HBS

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE 8/5/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>Charles [Signature]</u>	DATE <u>9/19/77</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>9.16.77</u>