

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED APR 19 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 8 1976

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 * * * The (Norris Miller) House
AND/OR COMMON The Stovewood House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 118 North Mill Street
CITY, TOWN Decorah
STATE Iowa
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Winneshiek
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
CODE 19

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Norwegian-American Historical Museum
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Decorah
STATE Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office, Winneshiek County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Decorah
STATE Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1976</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller Stovewood House is a simple one and one-half story dwelling with a vernacular Classical cornice and exterior window and door trim. The original portion of the house measures 22 x 26 feet and has a gable roof. The gabled end of the house presents a symmetrical appearance with a door flanked by two windows on the ground floor and a window above the door for the second floor. There are also two windows on either side of the house. The house has a full basement with walls of native limestone. The structure is of oak split in the manner of stovewood laid up with a mortar composed of ash and lime. The exterior walls are furred and covered with clapboards. They range from 16 to 18 inches in thickness.

The interior of the house is simple. There are four rooms on the first floor with simple cut wood floors and six over six double hung sash windows for light. A steep narrow stair leads to the second floor which has two rooms. The interior walls are of a traditional frame construction. The house was originally heated by wood stoves vented to a central chimney. The chimney is still extant below the roof line.

There are two additions to the house: both of frame construction. One to the rear of the house and the other to the rear portion of the south side.

The Stovewood House was moved in April of 1976 to the grounds of the Norwegian-American Historical Museum where it will be restored as a museum and house of the mid 1800's. The move was the only way to preserve the building after a developer began construction of a series of condominiums on the original site.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Norris Miller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miller Stovewood House is one of three known dwellings of this type in the United States. At one point there were two other known houses of similar construction in Decorah, one was torn down twenty years ago, the other little over a year ago. The other two existing dwellings are located in Wisconsin.

Norris Miller, a carpenter, came to Decorah from Ohio in 1855 and purchased a townlot. A year later he built his house of stovewood. Miller's choice of oak stovewood as a building material is understandable. One hundred and twenty years ago large forests of oak surrounded Decorah, and oak stovewood was probably much more readily available and certainly less expensive than sawed boards. The existence of at least two other houses of similar construction built roughly at the same time, perhaps by Norris Miller, tends to confirm this.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States Census, manuscript schedules for 1860 and 1870.

Kniffen, Fred and Henry H. Glassie, "Wood Construction in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective," Geographical Review, 56:1 (January, 1966).

Title abstract (Security Bank Decorah) for Block 17, lot 3, West Decorah
~~Telephone interview with Henry Glassie, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn., April 9, 1976.~~

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	590790	4790500
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Darrell D. Henning

ORGANIZATION

Norwegian-American Museum

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

319 382 3856

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Decorah

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

Decorah, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

April 14, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

William D. Switzer

DATE

6/8/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

6-8-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER