

Historic Name: Opera House Block		County: Goodhue												
Common Name: Opera House Block		Community: Pine Island City												
Owner's Name and Address: Ralph Carter P.O. Box 206 Pine Island, Minnesota 55963		Address/Legal Desc.: Main St., Pine Island City												
Classification: Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure _____ Object _____ District _____		Acreage: less than one acre												
Condition: Excellent _____ Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair _____ Deteriorated _____		Verbal Boundary Desc.: Part of lot 9, block 2 of Auditors' Subdivision of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 32, T109, R15; beginning at a point 594 ft. south and 61 ft west of the northeast corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, thence south 24 ft. thence west 40 ft. thence north 24 ft., thence east 40 ft. to the beginning.												
Open to the Public: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____	Visible from the road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____													
Occupied: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____	Present Use: Offices/Apartments													
History: Date Constructed: 1895 Architect/Builder: unknown														
		UTM Reference: Pine Island Quadrangle 15 / 528280 / 4894060												
Description: The Opera House Block is located on the west side of Main St., in the middle of the block between 2nd st. SW and 3rd St. SW, in Pine Island City. The Opera House Block is a brick building measuring 24 by 40 feet that is three stories tall for its front three bays but only two stories tall for its rear three bays. It has an ornate facade with different fenestration and decorative trim on each floor. The first floor has two bays that are clearly outlined by stone pilasters and lintels. The bay to the south is nearly filled with a large, round-arched entryway, with sidelights and a fan light surrounding the doorway, while the bay to the north is equally filled by a large, round-arched window opening whose arched section has been filled in. Both the arches of the doorway and window are delineated in stone and have decorative keystones. A bracketed stone cornice separates (cont.)		Level of Significance: Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State _____ Nation _____												
Significance: Pine Island's Opera House Block is significant as an outstanding example of the type of commercial and recreational facilities that appeared in the booming towns of southeastern Minnesota by the end of the 19th century. The Opera House Block was built in 1895 by one of Pine Island's leading entrepreneurs, Loomis F. Irish. From the start, it served two purposes: the first floor provided spacious, elegant quarters for the private bank (later the State Bank of Pine Island) that Loomis had founded in 1882, while the upper floors housed the opera house that gave the building its name. All segments of the community farmers, merchants, and manufacturers - had a great need for credit, with the result that banks sprang up at an early date throughout the region. It was only later, once all the essential commercial and manufacturing facilities needed to service the agricultural hinterland were provided for, that communities such as Pine Island could indulge in structures of a cultural or recreational nature. Thus		Status: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Survey</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Local</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State</td> <td>5/78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nat'l. Reg.</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nat'l. Land.</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HABS/HAER</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Survey	Date	Local	_____	State	5/78	Nat'l. Reg.	_____	Nat'l. Land.	_____	HABS/HAER	_____
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		Theme/s: Primary <u>Banking</u> Secondary <u>The Arts</u> Other _____												
		Local Contact/Org.: Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Iwen Pine Island, Minnesota 55963												
		Prepared by and date: B. Michael Zuckerman August 1978												

(continued)

Description:

the first floor from the second. The second floor contains two window bays within brick pilasters running up to the third story cornice line. Each of the second floor windows is tall, narrow, double-hung, and has narrow side lights on each side. Each is crowned with a stone segmental pediment linked with stone moldings that cap the side lights. Separating the second floor from the third is a decorative brick border topped by a continuous stone band forming the sill of the five windows on the third floor. These windows are in the Palladian style, with a large round-arched window in the center flanked by pairs of shorter, narrower, flat-topped windows. The central arch is delineated in stone and is connected with continuous stone bands that form lintels for the windows on either side. Sitting on top of each lintel is a smaller stone arch with a glass panel. Above these arches, a decorative brick border rises to a false front capping the facade. Made of pressed metal, this front is in the Italianate Commercial Style, with a bracketed cornice, a raised central panel inscribed with the words "L.F. Irish - 1895," and a round-arched pediment crowning the whole affair.

Significance:

Irish's erection of such a magnificent building as the Opera House Block to house both a bank and an opera house signified Pine Island's emergence as a mature community, offering a full range of services to both its own inhabitants and the surrounding countryside.