

80002160

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JAN 29 1980

date entered APR 17 1980

1. Name

historic Hooper - Bowler - Hillstrom House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Court and Cedar Streets _____ not for publication

city, town Belle Plaine _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district - Second

state Minnesota code 22 county Scott code 139

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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Belle Plaine

street & number

city, town Belle Plaine _____ vicinity of _____ state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Scott County Courthouse

street & number 428 S. Holmes

city, town Shakopee _____ state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society, 240 Summit Avenue, Hill House

city, town St. Paul _____ state Minnesota 55102

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered original site
 altered moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hooper-Bowler-Hillstrom House occupies an entire city block in a residential neighborhood northeast of downtown Belle Plaine. It is oriented towards a city park off of Court and Cedar Streets.

The two story frame house is sheathed with white clapboard siding. The design is simple and representative of nineteenth century Scott County residences. The three sections of the house form a "T." The original house, dating ca. 1871, is designed in a simplified version of the Italianate style; its cube-like form, low-pitched hip roof, and tall narrow windows are characteristic features. A large bay window is located on the south side of this part of the house. The 1½ story section on the north side was added shortly after the house was built. A large front porch supported by turned posts runs across the entire east facade of the house and successfully joins these two sections. The section forming the leg of the "T" was added by the house's second owner during the late 1880's; this section has a gable roof and is four bays wide. The two-story outhouse was also constructed at this time.

Other structures on the property include a brick smokehouse, the base of a windmill, and a small frame barn. A larger barn was recently removed.

The house is in an excellent state of repair and has recently been restored for use as a house museum by the Belle Plaine Historical Society. Its design integrity is unspoiled; the house has not even been altered by the addition of plumbing or a modern kitchen.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1871 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hooper-Bowler-Hillstrom House is significant both for its representative vernacular design and construction and for its association with prominent early Belle Plaine families. Simple frame dwellings, once a common element on Scott County's landscape, are fast becoming a rare sight. The Hooper-Bowler-Hillstrom House is perhaps Scott County's best preserved and least altered nineteenth century frame dwelling. Its vernacular design and construction are representative of the county's architecture in general and Belle Plaine in particular. The major characteristics of residential architecture in Belle Plaine are clearly demonstrated in its frame construction, modest proportions, and simplified version of a traditional style. Commodore S.A. Hooper built the house ca. 1871 and lived there until 1883. One of the town's early settlers and promoters and a very successful businessman, Hooper was one of the most talked-about men in early county newspapers. Samuel Bowler, another prominent local businessman and large landholder, lived in the house from 1886 to 1904. The Hillstrom family were twentieth century occupants, living there between 1904 and 1975. With the nation's 1976 Bicentennial celebration, the house entered a new phase of its life as a house museum telling the story of the community's history and the families who lived there.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albrecht, Harold, This is Our Town, Belle Plaine, Minn., Shakopee: Suer Publishing Co., 1954.
Albrecht, Harold, This is Our Town, LeSueur, Minn.: 1977.
Jordan Independent.
Belle Plaine Herald.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2 acres
Quadrangle name Belle Plaine Quadrangle scale 15

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 115, lots 1-12, original plat to the city of Belle Plaine.

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 Britta Bloomberg, Research Historian - Survey
Minnesota Historical Society
organization State Historic Preservation Office date July 1979
street & number 240 Summit Avenue - J.J. Hill House telephone (612) 296-0101
city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
title Russell W. Fridley, State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-9-80

For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: date
Chief of Registration