

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Perry C. and Mattie Forrest Holdoegel House
other names/site number none

2. Location

street & number 504 Eighth Street not for publication
city, towns/site number Rockwell City vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Calhoun code 025 zip code 50579

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Conservation Movement in Iowa Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7/16/92
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed for the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] 5/6/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single family residence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Same

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof slate

other wood detailing

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Conservation
Architecture
Politics and Government

Period of Significance

1917-1925

Significant Dates

1917

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Holdoegel, Perry C. (1870-1940)

Architect/Builder

Damon, Edward Orne Jr. and O'Meara,
Patrick M.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5	3	6	5	2	0	0
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4	6	9	4	6	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

legal lot boundaries

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard and Marlene Ambrecht
organization PHR Associates date May 30, 1991
street & number 275 Crescent Park Dr. telephone 712/657-3347
city or town Lake View, Iowa state Iowa zip code 51450

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Section 7: Physical Description

The Perry C. and Mattie Forrest Holdoegel House is sited on a large double corner lot in an older residential section west of Rockwell City's downtown business district. It is of solid masonry (red brick) construction. The structure consists of a center-gabled two-and-one-half-story rectangular main block that rests on a raised basement story; an attached one-story garage and two-story sun porch at the rear; and a two-story, centered portico on the front facade. The main block is capped with a side-gable roof of medium pitch covered with slate that features exterior end chimneys; gabled dormers flank the center gable. The porches and garage are flat-roofed. Designed by the Fort Dodge architectural firm of Damon and O'Meara (Edward O. Damon, Jr. and Patrick M. O'Meara), the house exhibits a strong Colonial Revival influence in both its exterior and interior decorative treatments. In addition to form, massing, and materials, exterior manifestations of this stylistic influence include the segmentally arched entryway with fanlight and sidelights; six-over-one wood sash windows with flat keystone lintels; functional wood shutters; the shallow, molded and unadorned cornice; the narrow gable dormers with arched, twelve-light sashes and triangular pediments; and the two-story entrance portico supported by a trio of thin Doric columns at each corner and topped with a balustraded balcony. On the interior, the house has a central hall with four-room plan. Interior woodwork and finishes, executed in mahogany and oak, exhibit a high degree of Colonial Revival influence. These features include coved ceiling molds, stepped doorway molding, paneled dados, parquet flooring, and a stairway bannister with a curved cluster of balusters forming the newel post. Except for remodeling in the kitchen and back entry, there have been no noticeable modifications to the house since its completion in 1917. Even many of the original lighting fixtures remain, centrally placed in the ceiling of each room. A full basement story contains a central heating unit, a central vacuum system, a twenty-line telephone and internal communication system, storage rooms, and additional living quarters.

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary

The Perry C. and Mattie Forrest Holdoegel House is significant under National Register criteria B and C. As a State Senator, Perry C. Holdoegel was the political figure most responsible for 1917 legislation authorizing a state park system, which was the first significant conservation law in Iowa. The Holdoegel House is also an outstanding local example of Colonial Revival architecture.

Criterion B

Under criterion B, the house is associated with a key political figure in the history of conservation in Iowa, Perry C. Holdoegel (1869-1940). During the same year that P.C. and Mattie Holdoegel built their new home in Rockwell City, 1917, he was elected to the Iowa State Senate, where he served until 1925. His arrival in the state capitol coincided with an effort by conservationists to find a sympathetic ear among politicians. Either by chance or design, Holdoegel was appointed chair of the Senate Fish and Game Committee in 1918. Early in the legislative session, the Iowa Conservation Association (ICA) appointed a committee of five -- Louis H. Pammel, G.B. MacDonald, Bohumil Shimek, Thomas H. MacBride, and C.F. Curtiss -- to meet with the Fish and Game Committee and a similar committee of the House in order to discuss legislation for the purpose of creating a state parks system. Holdoegel expressed a greater interest in the request than the Iowa Conservation Association expected, based on past rebuffs by politicians, and he even took it upon himself to call a meeting at his room in the Savery Hotel. The meeting, which included several ICA representatives as well as State Senator Byron W. Newberry and Representatives Orville Lee and B.J. Horchem, turned out to be a working session at which tentative provisions were outlined. Holdoegel then took the draft provisions and worked with the attorney general to draft a bill, which he introduced. The Holdoegel bill quickly passed both houses and was signed by Governor Harding in 1918.

It is uncertain whether Holdoegel saw the state parks movement as a convenient issue on which to build his political career or whether he was genuinely concerned about resource issues. In any case, once he took hold of the state parks bill, he proved to be a constant friend to park promoters and sportsmen throughout his term in office. Senator Holdoegel was intimately involved in the creation of Twin Lakes State Park in his home county, Calhoun. He first

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suggested that a state park be established at Twin Lakes in a 1919 communication to the Board of Conservation. After investigating the site, the board concurred and requested that local citizens assist with the purchase of shore acreage. Delegates from various organizations and cities in Calhoun County finally banded together in 1921 to promote the park, at which time Holdoegel pledged to do everything in his power make the effort a success. After a fifteen-acre site was selected, he made good on his promise by personally appearing before the State Board of Conservation and the State Executive Council in April 1923, where he succeeded in securing a immediate resolution setting forth a \$3500 appropriation for land acquisition. Within three months, the land was condemned, appraised, and purchased for state park purposes. The board appointed Senator Holdoegel honorary custodian in November 1923, in which capacity he worked to see that the park was landscaped, fenced, and developed with other improvements to enhance its use as a camping and picnicking spot. He also helped to secure five additional acres in 1924. When Louis H. Pammel, Chairman of the State Board of Conservation, delivered the park dedication speech in October 1926, he paid great tribute to Senator Holdoegel for his role in securing the state parks law.

Holdoegel was also a charter member of the the Calhoun County chapter of the Isaak Walton League, organized in June 1923. His membership appears to have been more than obligatory since he also was selected as a chapter delegate to the state convention that year. The local chapter worked to secure better enforcement of game laws in Calhoun County and to prod the State Fish and Game Department into maintaining the fishing waters of Twin Lakes. Holdoegel seems to taken a special interest in seeing that the lakes were maintained for sport fishing and hunting for he used his influence to see that the Fish and Game Department stocked fish in the waters and to enhance the marshy areas in order to attract more waterfowl.

Louis Pammel, one of the leading lights of the conservation movement in Iowa, signed the guest book at the Holdoegel's home in Rockwell City on at least two occasions. On the latter occasion, May 1, 1924, he jotted, "Never shall I forget how many lunches put up for me, and I have so enjoyed your unexcelled hospitality." There is no formal correspondence to inform the relationship between Pammel, the conservationist, and Holdoegel, the politician, but it would appear that they had an ongoing friendship, probably cultivated during the years that Twin Lakes State Park was being promoted and developed.

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Criterion C

Under criterion C, the Perry C. and Mattie Forrest Holdoegel House is significant as an outstanding local example of Colonial Revival architecture. The house is one of two examples of the style in Rockwell City, the other being the Miller House at 517 Richmond St. Both are nearly identical in plan, although the Holdoegel House, with its exaggerated front portico, is the grander of the two. The design was carefully planned and executed both inside and out to include all the modern efficiency features then in vogue: a central vacuum system, an elaborate phone and bell system with twenty lines, and an attached garage. The Fort Dodge architectural firm of Damon and O'Meara which designed the Holdoegel House presumably designed the Miller House as well. Records compiled by the Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation indicate that Damon and O'Meara cultivated a rather extensive architectural practice in Fort Dodge and the surrounding area during the late 1910s and early 1920s.

Future studies may indicate that the Holdoegel House is historically significant under additional contexts addressing commerce, education, or politics/government. Hoedolgel is credited with being a prominent pioneer in the independent telephone company business in Iowa. In 1893 he reportedly played a major role in the installation of an independent telephone line extending from Logan to Missouri Valley. Two years later, in 1895, he organized the Central Mutual Telephone Company in Rockwell City. Apparently he remained in control of Central Mutual until 1927, when he sold the company to Iowa Continental Telephone Company. Holdoegel was also active in trade associations for independent telephone companies, serving as president of the International Independent Telephone Association for one year and reportedly serving in a similar capacity in other organizations. Further research is needed to establish whether he was a leader in promoting business practices or favorable state legislation that shaped the history of telephone commerce in Iowa. During the early part of his career, P.C. Holdoegel taught school for fourteen years. For seven of those years he served as superintendent of the Rockwell City schools, and for five years he was in charge of the Calhoun County Normal School. He also served as superintendent of the Manson school for three years. Pertinent research questions to be addressed include whether he established important programs or policies in his capacity as an educational leader, or whether, as a state senator, he worked on behalf of legislation benefitting public schools.

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Section 9: Bibliography

"Death Claims Holdoegel, 70: Former Teacher and State Senator," *Des Moines Register*, August 1, 1940.

Deering, Charles C. "The Telephone in Iowa." *Annals of Iowa*, 3rd series, 23:4 (April 1942):287-308.

Iowa Conservation Commission Minutes, passim 1919-1926

Iowa State Parks Bulletin 2 (November 1925): photograph and caption on p. 11

Pammel, L.H. Dedication speech for Twin Lakes State Park. Undated TS, Louis H. Pammel Papers, Iowa State University.

Past and Present of Calhoun County, Iowa, Vol. II. Chicago: The Pioneer Publishing Company, 1915. Biography of Perry C. Holdoegel appearing on pp. 253-255.

Ridge, Ruth. "U.S. President Slept Overnight in This Home." *Fort Dodge Messenger*, June 2, 1971. President William Howard Taft also signed the Holdoegel's guest book. While he was State Senator, Holdoegel succeeded in bringing the former president to speak in Rockwell City on April 15, 1919. Taft then stayed as an overnight guest in the Holdoegel home.

Rockwell City Advocate

Issues of April 26, 1917 and February 7, 1918 contain news items describing the design and construction of the Holdoegel House.

"More Fish Coming; To Plant Rice Seed," August 4, 1921

"Definite Move on for Memorial Park," August 11, 1921

"Twin Lakes State Park is Assured," May 17, 1923

"Organize to Enforce Iowa Games Laws: Sportsmen of Calhoun to form County Chapter of Isaak Walton League," June 14, 1923

"Sandy Point State Park Now Assured: Ramsay Accepts Terms of Sheriff's Jury and Tract is Public Property," August 30, 1923

"Calhoun Sportsmen in Session Friday," October 11, 1923

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"Twin Lakes State Park is Popular: Hundreds of Iowa People Daily are Enjoying
Calhoun's Pleasure Resort," July 17, 1924

"More Game Fish Placed in Lakes," November 6, 1924

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Section 10: Geographical Data

Boundary Description: The property measures 132'x 131', encompassing the east 32 feet of Lot 18 and all of Lots 19 and 20 of Tolliver's Irregular Survey of the N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 36, T88N R33W of the 5th P.M., City of Rockwell City, Iowa.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are the same as the legal property boundaries.

