

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99000123

Property Name: Louden Whirl-Around

County: Jefferson State: Iowa

Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Sandra McClelland February 22, 1999
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

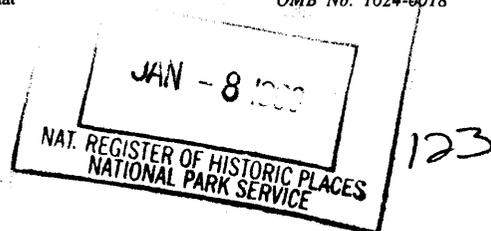
Section 5: Classification: The Number of Resources within Property is, hereby, amended to read "one contributing object" to reflect the nature of the property as an example of playground equipment.

Beth Foster of the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name LOUDEN WHIRL-AROUND

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 905 East Harrison Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Fairfield N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Jefferson code 101 zip code 52556

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally statewide locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia O'Connell DSPD 12-30-98
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 from the National Register.
 Other, (Explain) _____

Signature of Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

Louden Whirl-Around
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa

**Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls _____

roof _____

other Metal

Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Louden Whirl-Around
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

Circa 1930

Significant Dates

Circa 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Louden Machinery Company

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository _____

Louden Whirl-Around
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	5 8 8 1 8 0	4 ⁵ 3 8 9 0 0	
Zone		Easting		Northing
2				
Zone		Easting		Northing
3				
Zone		Easting		Northing
4				
Zone		Easting		Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate
organization Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission date January 15, 1998
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740 (Page)
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs - Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items - (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Fairfield Golf & Country Club
street & number 905 East Harrison Avenue telephone 515-472-9691
city or town Fairfield state Iowa zip code 52556

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127: and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Louden Whirl-Around, Jefferson County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Erected on the grounds of the Fairfield Golf & Country Club circa 1930, the Loudon Whirl-Around is a playground apparatus constructed of steel pipe, malleable iron couplings, and wood fashioned together in a superstructure of octagonal shape. It is supported by a central pole and anchored to the ground in a concrete foundation. This apparatus looks and works like a Merry-Go-Round and provides recreational entertainment for children. When the country club built a new clubhouse in 1955, the organization preserved this whirl-around. The apparatus was removed from its site during the building's construction and subsequently reinstalled with new concrete footings.

APPARATUS

This apparatus consists of several component parts. They include a central pole from which the apparatus is suspended; an upper horizontal ring from which a lower horizontal ring is suspended by vertical hangers; and concrete footings to anchor the apparatus to the ground. The lower horizontal ring provides seating for the apparatus users. (See attached photographs.) Children can push the whirl-around in either a clock-wise or an counter-clock-wise direction and stand or sit on it while riding in a circular motion.

The best way to describe the structural system of this apparatus is to say that its resembles an unfolded, eight-sided umbrella. The central pole of the superstructure is fabricated of steel and stands about 12' in height above grade. A series of eight arms radiates from this pole. These arms are fabricated of steel pipe and are anchored to the top of the central pole by a metal coupler. The other ends of these arms are attached to the octagonal-shaped upper ring, which is constructed of steel pipe. Eight guy wires, which are also fixed to the top of the central pole, are also attached to this ring and provide further support to it. Additionally, a series of eight spokes are attached to the central pole about 4' from its top. These spokes are attached at their other ends to the upper ring. A series of eight steel pipes hangs from this ring to hold the lower ring of the apparatus in position. These vertical hangers are about 7' in length. The seats of the whirl-around conform to the octagonal shape of the lower ring. They are fabricated of wood. Larger children can stand or sit on these seats as they play. Smaller children can sit on them. Handrails, constructed of steel pipe and couplings, are situated about 2' above the lower ring and to the inside of the apparatus.

All the metal and wooden parts of the Loudon Whirl-Around are painted. The apparatus is mounted in a poured concrete slab.

Presently, the Loudon Whirl-Around is in fine condition.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CFN-259-1116

Louden Whirl-Around, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SITE

This apparatus is situated on the grounds of the Fairfield Golf & Country Club, a large tract of land in the southeast quadrant of Fairfield. These grounds are accessed by an entrance near the intersection of East Harrison Avenue and South Highland Street. A clubhouse building is situated parallel to East Harrison Avenue, and the apparatus is located directly to the south of this building. The remaining tract of land is given over to a 9-hole golf course.

Other recreational facilities are also located near the whirl-around. An outdoor swimming pool is situated directly to the north, while a set of swings is situated a little to the south. The swimming pool is fenced off from its surroundings, while the playground equipment is not.

The surrounding topography features gently rolling hills. The golf course is situated to the east, south, and west of the clubhouse and the apparatus. The land directly south of the whirl-around gently slopes into a ravine. The view from the clubhouse and the whirl-around to the south is picturesque.

This area is located in the southeast quadrant of Fairfield. Its natural environment, which includes rolling topography and first-growth trees, has attracted many people over the last thirty years, and a number of large, single-family dwellings have been constructed in the vicinity.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

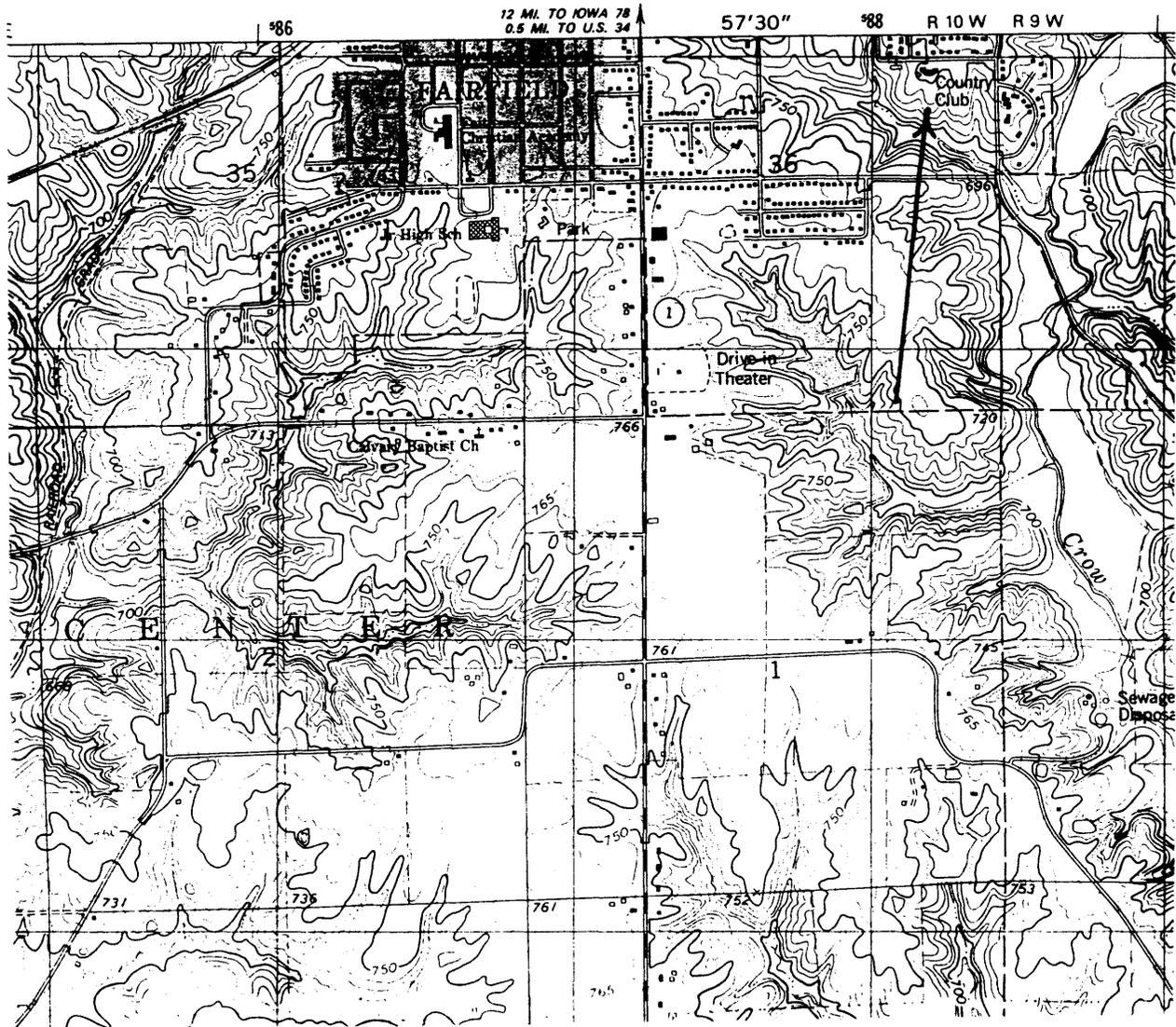
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Louden Whirl-Around, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Fairfield South Quadrangle, 1980.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CFN-259-1116

Louden Whirl-Around, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Installed on the grounds of the Fairfield Golf & Country Club circa 1930 and fabricated at approximately the same time, the Loudon Whirl-Around possesses historical significance, under National Register Criterion A. The introduction of playground equipment to the Loudon product line stemmed from the firm's need to acquire certain patent rights critical for the development of its overhead material handling systems. Because the J. C. Porter Company of Ottawa, Illinois, a manufacturer of playground equipment, held those rights, Loudon acquired that firm to obtain them. This purchase illustrates the burgeoning growth of the Loudon Machinery Company as an industrial manufacturer in the 1920s. The Loudon Whirl-Around provides a surviving reminder of that growth and the company's presence in the everyday life of Fairfield. (See Chapter III in the cover document.) Several generations of Fairfield children came to know the Loudon Manufacturing Company through its line of playground equipment. Under the Loudon name, the firm continued to manufacture that line, which it had acquired from the J. C. Porter Company. From the 1920s through the 1950s, most of Fairfield's public schools featured Loudon apparatus on their playgrounds. For many children in Fairfield, their first contact with the Loudon Machinery Company was through recreation.

The period of significance, under Criterion A, for the Loudon Whirl-Around is circa 1930, the time when it was fabricated and originally installed on the grounds of the Fairfield Golf & Country Club.

The property contains one contributing resource for this nomination--the whirl-around itself.

BACKGROUND

The Loudon Whirl-Around is located on the grounds of the Fairfield Golf & Country Club. Golf as a sport has a long history in Fairfield, beginning with the first playing in 1892 and the establishment of the Kahgahgee golf club in that same year. During the early years, the golf links were informal layouts on pastureland on the outskirts of the community. The property owner allows the club to play on the land. The club was reorganized in 1900 with a membership set at 40. Then, in 1921, the club purchased the land on which it played. (Welty:247-258) The club was subsequently reorganized as the Fairfield Golf & County Club. In December 1954, the clubhouse burned, and the present building was erected the following year to replace it. This facility includes an outdoor swimming pool, cabana deck, and a playground area where the Loudon Whirl-Around is located.

INDUSTRY

The Loudon Whirl-Around at the Fairfield Golf & Country Club calls attention to the historical development of the Loudon Machinery Company and its business dynamics as a firm. The J. C. Porter Company of Ottawa, Illinois, owned certain patent rights strategic for the Loudon Machinery Company's overhead handling systems. Loudon purchased the Porter Company in the 1920s to acquire those patent rights but also continued to manufacture that firm's line of playground equipment,

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Louden Whirl-Around, Jefferson County, Iowa.

its chief product. The acquisition of the Porter Company illustrates the burgeoning strength of the Loudon Machinery Company in the 1920s.

Louden continued to produce Porter's playground equipment for some time. The Loudon firm provided a similar planning service to prospective playground equipment customers as it did to its agricultural clients. According to one Loudon brochure:

This service is at your disposal without charge. If you will send us a rough sketch of your grounds giving dimensions, and the number of children to be accommodated, we shall be glad to give you our suggestions. (*Louden Playground Equipment* advertisement, circa 1923)

RECREATION

From the 1920s to the 1950s, most of Fairfield's city parks and school playgrounds featured Loudon playground apparatus. Rarely missing an opportunity to promote its business, Loudon playground equipment often bore the corporate name. For example, "Louden" was embossed into the rungs of the ladders, by which children mounted playground slides. At every step of the way, children could read the name "Louden." Today, many adults recall this equipment from childhood in Fairfield and how they associated it with Loudon. For example, Frank Stever says that "for me as a child, Loudon meant playground equipment. I was surprised later on to find out they made farm equipment." (Frank H. Stever informant interview)

Although it is not presently known to what geographic extent this playground equipment was marketed and installed, given the transitory nature of children's toys and play-things, it is likely that few of these whirl-arounds remain extant today. This certainly has been the case in Fairfield. The many examples of Loudon playground equipment, which were installed at Fairfield's city parks and school playgrounds, are now nonextant. The Loudon Whirl-Around at the Fairfield Golf & Country Club remains extant because it was a present from the Loudon family.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

This playground apparatus was surveyed in 1996 as part of the "Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa" hybrid reconnaissance and intensive surveys of that historic context within Jefferson County, Iowa. As one resource within that survey, this apparatus was evaluated as individually eligible, under Criteria A, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historical Society of Iowa was informed of this determination through the survey report and an Iowa Site Inventory Form.

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Louden Whirl-Around, Jefferson County, Iowa.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for historic archaeology is, as yet, unevaluated, the site identification of other ancillary structures associated with this property is slight. No structures are known to have stood on this site.