

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 9 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 2 1977

**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

Denmark Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Academy Avenue and 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

Denmark

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

Lee

COUNTY

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ

STREET & NUMBER

Academy Avenue and Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Dnemark

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

701 Avenue F

CITY, TOWN

Fort Madison

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Denmark Congregational Church is a two-story structure of brick laid in stretcher bond. Its most prominent feature is the truncated, crenellated square tower, which rises out of the pedimented vestibule. Fenestration at ground level features paired, 4/4-light windows with heavy, flat, rectangular stone lintels. All other openings have round arches. Windows in the three-bay side elevations on the upper (sanctuary) level feature paired lights, tall, slender and round-arched, with a round window above, and wooden hoodmolds. Smaller-scale versions of these are repeated in the sides of the entrance pavilion. The round arch theme is found again in the louvred openings on each face of the belltower, with brick hoods.

In 1871, the tower was finished with a tall, slender spire. A windstorm took it down in 1953 and it was not replaced. Instead, the base was crenellated at the top. A small frame vestibule on the east side was replaced (date unknown) with a brick vestibule of about the same size; it is crenellated to match the top of the tower. One of two brick chimneys, located at the southwest and southeast corners, has also been removed.

To the west side is a one-story brick education wing, built in 1958. Like many additions of this type, it is strictly functional, having no design relationship to the church itself.

The interior of the church is extremely plain, with plastered walls and low, modern ceiling panels. The only decorative elements are the round-headed window shapes. Wooden pews are original, painted white with dark trim.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1863-4

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure was the last church of the Reverend Asa Turner, Jr. (1799-1886), known as the "Founder of Iowa Congregationalism" and a follower of the Jacksonian-era reform sentiments most notably expressed through the temperance and abolitionist movements. The present structure, built 1863-4, is the third to house the Congregationalist parishioners of Denmark, Iowa since the denomination's establishment here about 1836. The first church was erected at this site in 1845, replaced later by a brick building which burned in 1861.

Asa Turner's early missionary experiences, as a graduate of Yale Theological Seminary and agent for the American Home Missionary Society, were in Illinois, to which he came with other Yale seminarians in 1830. His first congregation was formed in December of that year, in Quincy. However, as an outspoken abolitionist, Turner gradually became unpopular in southern Illinois; in 1838 he answered the call of the Congregational Church at Denmark, which he then served for thirty years.

Turner combined home missionary work and social reform with his local ministry. From 1840 to 1845, he travelled around his "territory", which then included both the Black Hawk (1832) and Second (1837) Purchases. Turner's frequent requests to the American Home Missionary Society for more ministers was answered most notably in 1843, when nine young men from the conservative Congregationalist Andover Theological Seminary arrived in Denmark. Known in Iowa history as the "Iowa Band", in emulation of the earlier "Yale Band" in Illinois, these missionaries established churches around eastern Iowa, using Turner's Denmark church as their model.

In 1838, a temperance society was formed at Denmark in celebration of the 4th of July. The following year, Asa Turner successfully urged the establishment of a state temperance society at the then territorial capital of Burlington. In abolitionist matters he was extremely active: anti-slavery resolutions promulgated in 1843 and 1846 by the General Assembly of Congregational Churches and Ministers in the State of Iowa numbered Turner among their authors. Extending the struggle for social reform into government, Turner worked energetically for Whig gubernatorial candidate James M. Grimes in 1854. As chairman of the platform committee for that year's convention of "Abolitionists, Liberty Party men, and Free Soilers", he ensured Grimes' selection by a group which was to form the nucleus of the Republican Party in Iowa a few years later.

Turner retired from the ministry in 1868. His retirement was spent in California, and then in Oskaloosa, with his daughters.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Houf, Walter R. (ed.) "American Home Missionary Letters from Iowa", Annals of Iowa (3) #37 (summer, 1963): 45-6, 37; (fall, 1963): 95-120.
 Magoun, George F. Asa Turner: A Home Missionary Patriarch and his Times. Boston: Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society, 1899.
 Johnson, P. Adelstein. The First Century of Congregationalism in Iowa, 1840-1940. pp. 68, 75-7, 87-8, 97, 108.

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	6,4,0	7,1,0	4,5	1,1	2,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 and 6, and east half of lots 2 and 5, Block 12, original plat of Denmark, Iowa.

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

Edith J. Hamm

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

725 Kilbourn Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Denmark,

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 Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Monte L.

DATE 12/2/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles H. ...*

DATE 11/30/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Denmark Congregational Church, Denmark, Lee County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Adams, Ephriam. The Iowa Band. Boston: Pilgrim Press.

Sage, Leland L. A History of Iowa. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1974

Christensen, Thomas P., "Denmark: An Early Stronghold of Congregationalism,"
Iowa Journal of History and Politics XXIV (January 1926), pp. 108-143.