

1-00-7101

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	DALLAS
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAR 3 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dexter Community House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
707 Dallas Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Dexter

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

COUNTY:
Dallas

CODE:
049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Dexter

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Dexter

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dallas County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Adel

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

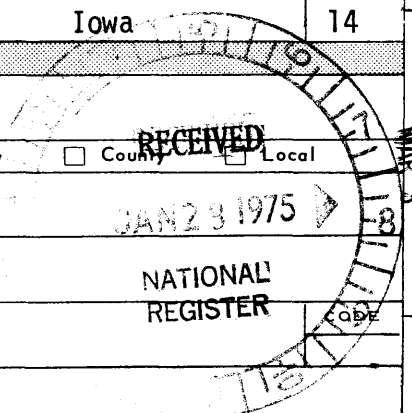
STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

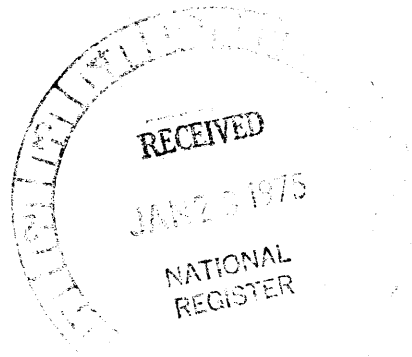
Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dexter Community House is a large round brick building with a diameter of approximately 145 feet. Constructed of tile its dome shaped roof is supported by steel girders. Windows are evenly spaced and marked by simple brick lintels and sills. The ceiling, once plastered, is now covered by a modern false ceiling. On the interior the walls are finished with sandstone. Opposite the main entrance is a large stage beneath which are three dressing rooms, two coal bins and a library room. Modern additions include bleachers, a wood floor and a false acoustical ceiling.

Once intended for a variety of community activities including revival meetings and theatre events, the Community House is now used as a school gymnasium.

The building is set among low profile residences in a small rural community. Neither its approaches nor its immediate environment set it apart as a pivotal structure in the community. And yet, it is a vital part of it purely for the interior shelter which it provides.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1917**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

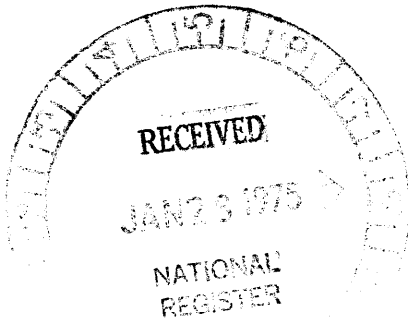
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Dexter Community House, built in 1917, is an unusual round brick building with an elliptical roof and internal steel girders. Its designer, an aviation inspector for Midwestern Cantonments, (armyquarter) was an engineer by the name of Major Matt King. Since its construction the Dexter Community House has been used for important community activities. Now the building is used for the Dexter-Redfield Community School as a gymnasium.

The Dexter Community House is an early twentieth century example of functional architecture designed with adaptive uses in mind. It was built by local stockholders as a multipurpose facility.

It is regarded with great pride by citizens of Dexter and a like structure has not yet been found elsewhere in the state. Although not considered the handsomest structure to be found, it does teach us something about the varying roles of taste and function in rural America. A building such as this may not be considered as aesthetic as many barns, but for local groups needing a meeting place, it is quite functional.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Dexter, Iowa, the Dexter Centennial Inc., 1967
Community House advertising flyer, February, 1917

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

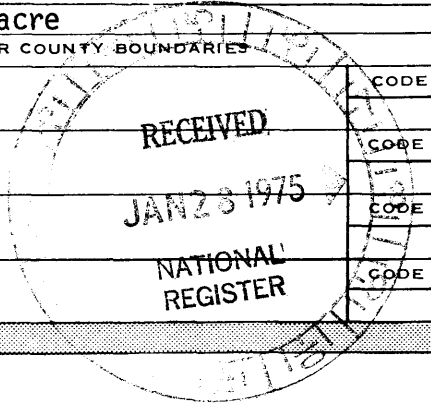
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	31'	2"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	94°	13'	36"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

UTM
 15/397650
 11596000
 (D)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Marjorie Weesner, President

ORGANIZATION: Twentieth Century Club DATE: November 13, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 318 Marshall Street

CITY OR TOWN: Dexter STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 8 Jan. 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Wooten
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/3/75

ATTEST:

Charles A. Starnes
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-25-75