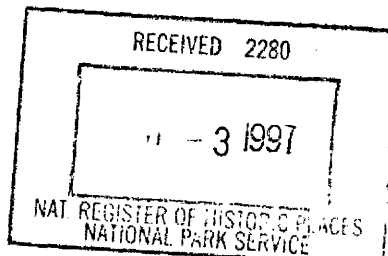


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1293

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" in the appropriate box 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 Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery

other names/site number Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center

2. Location

street & number 814 Court St. NA not for publication

city or town Sioux City NA vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51105

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 Chenkin DSHP 9-22-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State of 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 of 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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

10-30-97

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Name of Property

Woodbury County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical 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):

- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926-1947

Significant Dates

1926

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Raven, Jurgen A,

The Lytle Company

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center archives

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Name of Property

Woodbury County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 11S 711410.00 471083.20
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

See continuation sheet

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 Timothy T. Orwig

organization SiouxLandmark Corp. date 18 January 1997

street & number 30 Stewart Ave. telephone (712) 274-5104

city or town Sioux City state Iowa zip code 51104

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 Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center

street & number 814 Court St. telephone (712) 258-1605

city or town Sioux City state Iowa zip code 51105

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

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 1

Descriptive Summary The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is a 2-story reinforced-concrete fireproof building, 50' x 66', with face brick walls and concrete fascia, sills, and detailing, designed and built in 1926 by J.A. Raven of the Lytle Company in the Italian Renaissance style with Prairie influences. The building has an ell plan with two two-story towers; hipped roof with center ridge, pyramidal tower roofs; triple-arched recessed front portico with 4 Doric concrete column supports; triple band 4/4 double hung windows in recessed entry, and a rear porch. The interior contains much of the original flooring, painted woodwork, and plumbing fixtures, and some of the original furniture. At the southeast corner of the property is a 2-story concrete block garage and playhouse designed by Knute E. Westerlind and built in 1940. The rest of the property is fenced playgrounds, with original brick retaining walls and later concrete and concrete block retaining wall additions. The property is located on a hill in a residential/light commercial neighborhood on the northeast edge of downtown, near schools, a hospital complex, and the Mary Treglia Community Center. The building fronts on Court Street, a wide arterial street, and the hill slopes down abruptly in the rear, so that the playhouse on the second story of the garage is at playground level. The property is in good condition and has had little alteration since its construction.

Architectural Description The building is substantially raised above the surrounding landscape, emphasizing its height and dimensions and allowing plenty of light into the half-basement with its original living and child-care areas. The ground floor is set above the basement on a molded belt course. The large ground floor windows are surmounted by decorative brick arches with a concrete diamond inset, while the second floor windows are smaller. The front facade is reached from the street by a narrow flight of five stairs and a wide flight of four stairs. Two two-story towers frame a single-story triple-arched recessed front portico with 4 Doric concrete column supports and a concrete name block with the inscription "Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery" bracketed by rosettes. The lower stories of the towers contain triple band 4/4 double hung windows, while the upper story is a square-framed porch, more reminiscent of Prairie style than Italian Renaissance. In the recessed entry, two pairs of 8 lite French doors flanked the central entry allowing direct entry into the north tower (south tower doors were converted to windows by 1930). A large concrete scallop arch with brick edging, surrounded by stucco, tops the front door (a later metal replacement). Decorative brickwork and molded concrete detailing characterize an open second-floor balcony. On the balcony, central French doors are flanked by paired 4/4 double hung windows in towers, while the central double-hung windows are flanked by 8/8 folding casement windows.

The rear has an asymmetrical plan, with an indented southeast corner; rear facade windows are 6/6 double hung. The rear flat-roofed wooden porch has square triple and paired column and pilaster supports. A door opens from the rear of the second floor onto the porch roof; a rear balcony with a balustrade may have existed. The north and south facades have five window

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 7 Page 2

openings each (single or paired) irregularly spaced on both levels (with the additional window and balcony in the front tower). The north facade has wooden storm sheds added to cut wind entering side and basement doors. The structure has a low-pitched hipped roof with center ridge, pyramidal tower roofs, and gutters with downspouts. The roof has asphalt shingles, although it originally may have been tiled; there is a brick chimney. The slight eave overhang is boxed, with no adornment except a wide concrete fascia. This may be a late Prairie Style influence, along with the treatment of the balcony area of the upper level towers. Some of the Prairie elements are absent from the original rendering by J.A. Raven.¹

The clearest picture of the interior arrangement and use comes from a 1942 evaluation:

On the first floor are the office and the reception hall way. On the south side are the infants' nursery with adjoining sun room, play room and service room which includes the toilets and a raised tub. The kitchen and dining room unit are also on the first floor. The dining room is furnished with about ten high chairs, a low table for preschool age children and a larger extension table for the older children. . . . The kitchen is small but is well arranged and has sufficient equipment. . . . On the north side of the first floor is the children's entrance which leads directly to the locker and wrap rooms, one for the younger children and another for the older. The assembly or school room for the older children and the adjoining toilet rooms for boys and for girls are also on this floor. Each toilet room has four basins and three stools, also hooks for individual towels. The assembly room has two large tables with chairs and has cabinets for materials.

In the basement are the play room and school room for the preschool group, the storeroom for canned fruits and supplies and also for old clothing and furniture which is donated to the institution; the laundry, the furnace room and living quarters for the janitor. The basement rooms are light and well ventilated and free from excess moisture.

On the second floor are the living quarters for the Superintendent, consisting of a bedroom, sitting room, and bath; two other rooms which are used by other staff members who live in the building; the hospital or

¹ "Excavation Work to Be Started Next Week for New Nursery Building," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 19 Sept. 1925, pg. 16. This article features a photo of the architect's rendering of the building which differs in a number of ways from the completed building, including a higher-pitched roof and enclosed rooms with standard windows in second floor of the front facade towers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 7 Page 3

isolation room which has three beds and adjoining bath; and a small service room or sewing room. The sleeping room for the children above the infant group is also on this floor.²

There is also an attic area under the hipped roof. The original staircase doubles back from first to second floor, and a second flight goes to the attic, which will be partly finished for storage once the current re-roofing of the building is finished. Roofers had just begun stripping old roofing materials off on the day documentation photos for this nomination were taken, replacing the latest (possibly fourth layer) of blue asphalt shingles with red asphalt shingles which should appear closer to the original roofing material.

Early Alterations to the Day Nursery Building As with any new building, there were adjustments to be made in the first few years to make it a workable space. The 1927-28 annual report notes, "Many small improvements have been made in our building during the past year."³ Besides additional shelves and cupboards, they floored the front veranda off the second floor dormitory so it could be used for airing bedding, added 317 feet of radiation to halls and five rooms, and built a storm shed over the north entrance and basement stairs to cut the icy winds. The 1930 Annual Report noted changes which had been made to the original front rooms which bracket the main, recessed door:

The door from the office to the front porch has been converted into a window. The northwest sun porch has been connected with the small children's playroom and windows placed in the porch, so that it can be used in winter as well as summer. . . . To eliminate water standing on the floors of the two upper verandas, new conductor pipes were installed.⁴

Besides the usual appliance and furnace repairs, the staff also had a small room in the basement plastered to give "the little girls a fine playroom for their dolls." In 1934, the unemployed fathers of the Nursery children painted the woodwork inside and outside the buildings; interior woodwork has been repeatedly painted.

² *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery: Evaluations*, Carboned 11-page report ca. 1942, Mary Elizabeth archives.

³ *Annual Report of the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery, For the Year November 1927-1928*, carboned typescript in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

⁴ *Annual Report of the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery*, carboned typescript with "1930" written in pencil at the top, Mary Elizabeth archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 4

Building Changes Within the Last Sixty Years Very few substantive changes have been made to the interior of Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center since the period of significance. Gerkin Company installed Eagle-Pitcher Insulation in 1943. The kitchen configuration of today dates back to a 1951-52 remodeling by W.A. Klinger Co., the blueprint and bills for which are in the Mary Elizabeth archives. The coal furnace was converted to gas in 1954. In 1962, the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery was licensed as an official Fallout Shelter, without any apparent physical alterations. All the windows in the building appear to be original. The small-scale plumbing fixtures for the children are still in place, including a pedestal tub and raised claw-foot tubs. Some of the original staff furniture remains in the second-floor superintendent's apartment area, now the board room and break room, along with some of the toys, carriages, etc. The exterior has had few changes either, according both to the materials used and views of 3 facades provided in the newspapers at the time of its opening.

The Garage and Play House In the 1935 annual report, the Matron noted the need for an enlarged playground and outside playhouse. In April 1938, Mary Elizabeth Toy secured the neighboring lots for a playground. Within the next few years, H. Eybers sketched a new playground and playhouse, and architect K.E. Westerlind drew up the blueprints for the utilitarian two-story concrete block building, both sets of which are in the Mary Elizabeth archives. The building may have been built by Soren Hansen, contractor and builder; a letterhead price quotation from him (\$745), dated 4 September 1940, is also in the Mary Elizabeth archives. The structure was finished by June, 1941. Matron Emma Anderson wrote in a monthly report, "The children are surely delighted; and how they do enjoy the freedom in play and arrangement of the ideas and imaginations." The playground is considered as one contributing site.

This 20' x 20', 2-story, unadorned concrete block building has concrete footings. The garage is not currently used, although the two raise-up wooden garage doors remain in the lower level of the front (south) facade. A reinforced-concrete slab floor line is visible between the first and second floors. There are 2 single or paired 1/1 windows with screens and concrete sills on the second level in all 4 facades. A 4-inch concrete coping lines a flat tar and gravel composition roof. The first floor is below ground on the west and north facades; a door is in the middle of the west second-floor facade. The playhouse has deteriorated and is currently used for the storage of tricycles and other outdoor equipment, but the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery staff would like to refurbish it.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 5

Architect/Builder

Westerlind, Knute E.

Statement of Significance The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is of statewide significance under Criterion A as the oldest day-care facility in the state of Iowa and Iowa's second-oldest preschool;⁵ its history parallels the history of the child-care movement nationwide for this century, and is also important in documenting the history of women and families. The day nursery movement in the United States dates back a hundred years to the settlement house movement, as civic-minded women set up community centers to help the flood of new immigrants survive and assimilate into American society, particularly as the wave of immigration shifted from northern and western Europe to southern and eastern Europe. The Sioux City Day Nursery began in 1914 as a ministry of the Wall Street Mission, a Sioux City settlement house, and moved into this structure, Iowa's first building designed as a day nursery, in 1926. As immigration was restricted and economic conditions worsened in the 1920s, day nurseries shifted their services to helping the children of the poor. Government assistance through the W.P.A. supported this work in the 1930s. As WWII started, the W.P.A. phased out, to be replaced by Lanham child care centers. Since WWII, Mary Elizabeth has continued to respond to the varying needs of working families. The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is also of significance under Criterion C as the only known remaining Sioux City work of architect and builder Jurgen A. Raven, and also as a reinforced concrete structure by the regionally significant Lytle Company. The period of significance begins with the erection of the Italian Renaissance-style day nursery building in 1926, and continues for 21 years until the end of WWII. A second significant date is 1940, when a garage and playhouse designed by prominent Sioux City architect Knute E. Westerlind was erected.

Criteria A

Geraldine Youcha described a general trend in schooling and child care in the United States: "In a persistent pattern, responsibility for children has shifted from home and family to society and

⁵ In an untitled typescript carbon (possibly notes for a radio address) in the Mary Elizabeth archives, dated 23 Jan. 1939, Emma Anderson noted, "Conducted a Pre-school for the last 12 years, the preschool being the first one in Iowa, except at the University. The Pre-school has had an average daily attendance of 27 with about 40 registered each month in the past year. Our Nursery school has been highly complimented by visitors from other cities and states." Anderson also noted, "Our aim is not only to care for the child but to help the whole family and aid them to make a home. Assist them with their domestic problems, obtain work for them, Medical care, Hospitalization, secure doctors in emergency cases, etc."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 6

government."⁶ This shift is evident in the history of the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery. While parents have always paid at least part of the care of their children there, the first outside funding for the Sioux City Day Nursery came from religious institutions, private associations, and individuals. With the Depression, the state and federal government began to become involved in funding and licensing child care. In the first half of the century the groups who were provided child care shifted from new immigrants to the working poor to the general population.

The Day Nursery Movement in the United States According to two comprehensive histories of U.S. child care (Steinfels & Youcha⁷), the popularity of the day nursery grew out of the settlement house tradition, although many churches and charitable organizations had begun day nurseries previously, and Boston's Infant School was chartered in 1828. Other forerunners can be found in the communities planned by British philanthropist and social reformer Robert Owen, in the kindergarten movement brought to America by German emigres beginning in 1848, and especially in the Paris *creche*, the model for a day nursery which opened in Philadelphia in 1863. But the explosion in numbers of day nurseries late in the century was a response to pressing problems facing urban areas:

The popularity and rapid growth of the day nursery in the United States during the 1880's and 1890's was the result of two evolving factors. The social dislocations caused on the one hand by the rapid industrialization and urbanization of the country, and on the other by a massive influx of immigrants, brought about a wholesale breakdown in the normal socialization processes of the family, particularly child-rearing. How to meet these unprecedented problems?⁸

The day nursery was seen as a compromise; like the orphan trains and foster care, it was a middle ground between impossible home conditions and the horrors of institutions like county farms and orphanages. Combined with other social welfare services, it provided care for children while allowing families to stay together.

⁶ Youcha, pg. 324.

⁷ Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, *Who's Minding the Children?: The History and Politics of Day Care in America* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1973), and Geraldine Youcha, *Minding the Children: Child Care in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (New York: Scribner, 1995).

⁸ Steinfels, pg. 37.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 7

Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago took in one child on a temporary basis, shortly after it opened in 1889, and soon had volunteers watching children in various bedrooms. In 1890, an entire apartment was reserved for a day nursery, then a nearby cottage, and finally an entire building. Youcha explained the conditions in Chicago which made the day nursery necessary, and a preferable alternative to institutionalization in orphanages, with their high mortality rates:

The nursery was seen as a substitute for institutionalization by making it possible for a family to stay together even if the mother worked. It was an answer to a new need, as old family institutions crumbled under the pressure of immigration and industrialization [and] made it possible for a needy mother to find work outside the home. And mothers had to work, since no public assistance was available to feed or clothe children whose parents could not support them. . . . For women who were forced by necessity to be breadwinners, the day nursery was a savior.⁹

Societal Changes Brought about by Day Nurseries Day nurseries provided comprehensive child care, including meals, education, and health care to children ensnared in poverty, and supported the mother through education and job referrals. Steinfels called the early years of this century a "modest Golden Age" in the history of day care. "In 1910, for example, New York City had eighty-five nurseries serving more than five thousand children daily, at an annual expenditure of \$358,897. Nationwide there were four hundred and fifty centers known to the Association of Day Nurseries."¹⁰

The organization of day nurseries was an important step for two classes of women: the working poor who depended on them, and the well-off society women who supported them:

Motherhood had become popular as the rationale for the entrance of women into public life, and what was more redolent of motherhood than the day nursery. It was, in fact, motherhood writ large. The day nursery women were usually married, the wives of wealthy men, with the leisure time to attend board meetings, to supervise the matron and staff of the nursery, to plan fund-raising events like balls, fairs, and concerts, and to cajole their peers into donating food, bedding, and toys.¹¹

⁹ Youcha, pg. 142.

¹⁰ Steinfels, pg. 34.

¹¹ Steinfels, pg. 41.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 8

Youcha noted, "The philanthropic day nurseries of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, supported by private contributions, were criticized as the condescending meddling of well-meaning wealthy women in the lives of the poor."¹² But Steinfels argued, "In retrospect their creation seems flexible, practical and, above all, genuinely responsive to the needs of working mothers."¹³

Some also saw day nurseries as essential in making citizens out of their largely immigrant populations:

The nursery was not just a place where babies could be held and mothers could be helped. It was also the first step on the road to Americanization. Children were to be introduced to good hygiene, good manners, and proper eating habits and helped to shed the foreign, superstitious, unhealthy attitudes of their peasant backgrounds. . . . Obviously, parents (read "mothers") had to be educated, too--and parent education was built in from the beginning. As [Jane] Addams wrote, "The chief objective of our parent education is to raise the standards of living and especially child care through mediums that are comprehensible to our types of parents."¹⁴

The ultimate effect of the day-nursery youth education and adult education programs was to help entire immigrant families assimilate into their new American culture.

The Preschool Movement in the United States Contemporary with the rise of the day nursery was a complementary educational movement: the preschool. The preschool traces back to the work of Friedrich Wilhelm Froebel (1782-1852), originator of the kindergarten (1837), in Germany; Maria Montessori (1870-1952) and her "Children's House" (1907) in Italy; and Margaret McMillian (1860-1931) and her "nursery school" (1911) in London.¹⁵ Elizabeth Peabody founded the first English-speaking kindergarten in Boston in 1860; there were 2500 of them by 1892. Eva McLin founded the first U.S. Montessori school in 1915. In 1913 Caroline

¹² Youcha, pg. 142.

¹³ Steinfels, pg. 42.

¹⁴ Youcha, pg. 145.

¹⁵ George W. Maxim, *The Very Young: Guiding Children from Infancy through the Early Years* (5th ed.; Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice-Hall, 1997).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 9

Pratt started what may have been the first nursery school in America; the concept was popularized by Abigail Eliot when she moved to Ruggles Street in Boston in 1922 and transformed a day nursery into a nursery school. As more wanted to learn her techniques, she founded a training school for nursery workers; the Ruggles Street Nursery School and Training Center eventually became the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study at Tufts University. Maxim noted, "The distinction between a 'day nursery' and a 'nursery school' now became clear. Both offered full-day services, but Eliot's nursery school supplemented the basic health care with schooling--a sound educational component."¹⁶ By 1931 there were more than 200 nursery schools; through W.P.A. funding the number rose sharply to 1,900 by 1935.

The first training program nationwide at a land grant university, Bird T. Baldwin's Iowa Child Welfare Research Station Preschool Laboratory, began at the University of Iowa in 1921.¹⁷ The Station began as an experimental laboratory, with two groups of children, 2-3 years of age and 3-4 years of age. It added a third group of 5-6 year olds in 1922. The university chose its subjects from the upper echelons of society, however. They were mostly children whose parents were connected with the university, or were business people, while "a few [were] from good working class homes."¹⁸ Baldwin and Stecher did note that the two movements were beginning to share goals and techniques:

In America the development resulting from the establishment of the Sunday schools and nurseries, infant schools, day nurseries, and kindergartens has fused

¹⁶ Maxim, pg. 65.

¹⁷ D. Keith Osborn, *Early Childhood Education in Historical Perspective*, (Athens, GA: Education Assoc., 1980), pp. 117-132. Osborn detected a definite line between the services of a day nursery and those of a nursery school. But these distinctions which education historians like Osborn and Maxim draw seem artificial when applied to a well-run facility like Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery. First, many nursery schools arose from day nurseries. Furthermore, many day nurseries had trained staffs, extensive programming, and attractive facilities, qualities Osborn assigned solely to nursery schools. Finally, Osborn denigrated day nurseries as places where "Parents HAD to send children," and identified nursery schools as places where "Parents WANTED to send children." Although nursery schools were often better funded, the scope and goals of well-run day nurseries were just as ambitious.

¹⁸ Bird T. Baldwin and Lorle I. Stecher, *The Psychology of the Preschool Child* (New York: Appleton, 1927), pg. 17. This book provides an in-depth description of the preschool laboratory at Iowa City, including a number of pictures of children in the facility, and an exterior photograph and floor plan of the building. Another view of the daily routine at the laboratory can be found in Harriet Arnold, "Two-Year-Olds Go to College," *The Iowa Magazine Section*, 1925: (5) 165.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 10

with the nursery school movement, so that we are beginning to see the growth of numerous nursery schools, a few of which provide for experimental work.¹⁹

Such class distinctions as Baldwin made in his subjects were a luxury which places like Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery neither enjoyed nor sought. Exactly when Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery began functioning as a preschool is difficult to determine, and it probably did so on an incremental basis. Matron Emma Anderson dated the start of the preschool to the opening of the new building in 1926.²⁰ Children from 2 to 5 years old were taught at the preschool. Preschool education is still a central part of the Mary Elizabeth philosophy.

Immigrant Assistance in Sioux City Sioux City was swept by the same tidal wave of immigration which hit cities like New York and Boston. Sorensen and Chicoine noted:

Sioux City, mirroring the nation, rolled into 1910 on a crest of optimism, with a sound economy and a seemingly bright future. Packinghouses, railroads, and wholesale firms buzzed with activity, and the city's population swelled from 47,828 in 1910 to 71,227 in 1920. Sioux City's public school system, flooded with enrollments, more than doubled the size of the Sioux City High School in 1913-14. Although the rate of population increase slackened during the 1920's, Sioux City maintained its ranking as Iowa's second-largest city. . . . Industries in the stockyards district were the major employers of the multitudes of southern and eastern Europeans who flocked to Sioux City each year. Most of these new arrivals--Greeks, Syrians, Lithuanians, Poles, and others--resided in the "bottoms" south and east of downtown. Little was done to help these immigrant groups during the 1910's, and an unfair stigma was attached to these new Siouxlanders.²¹

¹⁹ Baldwin and Stecher, pg. 16.

²⁰ In an untitled typescript carbon (possibly notes for a radio address) in the Mary Elizabeth archives, dated 23 Jan. 1939, Emma Anderson noted, "Conducted a Pre-school for the last 12 years, the preschool being the first one in Iowa, except at the University. The Pre-school has had an average daily attendance of 27 with about 40 registered each month in the past year. Our Nursery school has been highly complimented by visitors from other cities and states."

²¹ Scott Sorensen and B. Paul Chicoine, *Sioux City: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, VA: Donning, 1982), pp. 133-34.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 11

As the trickle became a torrent, traditional charities strained to make their programs cover the new immigrants. Established charities like the Wall Street Mission expanded. A second important agency for immigrants was the Community House, founded in 1921, a settlement house which traces its origins back through Jane Addams to Toynbee Hall.²² Under the dynamic 33-year leadership of its second director, Mary Treglia (1897-1959), the Community House moved from its second floor quarters on Fourth Street to its own new building (since razed) in 1933. Sorensen & Chicoine noted that "the primary goal of the institution was to assist in "Americanizing" the new residents--teaching English, offering classes in citizenship, and helping the immigrants adjust socially and economically--while still maintaining the flavor of the old country culture."²³ Other agencies helped, too:

Churches also played a major role in protecting and advancing the ethnic interests of their new members, and the number of ethnic churches increased significantly. The eastern and southern Europeans joined with Sioux City's Scandinavians, Germans, Russians, Italians, blacks, Jews, and countless others in creating a homogeneous and dynamic community.²⁴

The Mary J. Treglia Community House continues to support new immigrant groups today, such as Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Africans, Ecuadorians, and Hispanics, from its third home at 900 Jennings Street, 2 blocks away from Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery.

The Wall Street Mission The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery grew out of a pioneering Sioux City social agency: The Wall Street Mission. A pamphlet in the Mary Elizabeth files described the Mission in the year of the day nursery's origin. Its motto was "Save the Child." The Wall Street neighborhood was a desperately poor area of 5000 people of 14 nationalities:

A quarter of a century ago many of our pioneer residents were living in what is now known as the Bottoms District, but as the Packing House

²² Toynbee Hall, named after the British economist Arnold Toynbee (not historian Arnold Toynbee), was founded in London's impoverished East End in 1884 by Canon Samuel Augustus Barnett. He urged students from Oxford and Cambridge to join him in studying and supporting the neighborhood's residents through services and education. The idea quickly spread throughout Europe, Japan, and southeast Asia. One of the earliest and probably the most influential U.S. versions was Hull House, founded by Jane Addams in Chicago in 1889.

²³ Sorensen & Chicoine, pg. 176.

²⁴ Sorensen & Chicoine, pg. 134.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 12

Industry increased and the great influx of foreigners continued, these original property owners disposed of their homes and moved out. A continued change has been taking place so that today the entire population is in the process of becoming foreign. In the homes where the American and English speaking people formerly lived we have now a mixture of tongues and races, that are as cosmopolitan as may be found in any city of this size in the United States. These people come and go continually with the exception of the Polish people, who are buying in this neighborhood, so that there is almost an entire change in residents every six months to a year. This is at once a discouraging feature of our work and yet a great opportunity.²⁵

The Mission was started by Methodist Episcopal Church missionaries in the summer of 1890 as a Sunday school which met in an old dance hall in the Bottoms. It moved a small chapel onto a lot on Wall Street in 1897, the start of a complex which it periodically enlarged. The Wall Street Mission incorporated in 1898. In a decaying neighborhood crowded with shacks made of "scrap lumber, tar paper, tin signs, etc.," the Mission was a beacon of hope. While the religious elements were central, the Mission operated like a classic settlement house. Its outreach was substantial: men's, boy's, girl's, and women's clubs, ladies' aid society, game room, shower baths, kindergarten, sewing school, housekeeper's class, industrial training, vocational training, night school, summer school, citizenship classes, elocution training, piano lessons, used clothing store, gymnasium, library, employment bureau, medical dispensary, clinic, legal aid, and penny savings bank. Superintendent M.E. Levit argued in the pamphlet,

A little clothing, a little food, a place to sleep does not develop men and women; even the lowest animals have all that. It takes more than this to create men and women out of boys and girls--it takes ideals, ambition, vision, good home environment, religious influence. These are the character builders, and this is the work Wall Street Mission is trying to do.²⁶

²⁵ *Wall Street Mission--1891-1914: Industrial School and Social Center* (Sioux City: Wall Street Mission, 1914), 28 pp. (unnumbered).

²⁶ *Wall Street Mission* pamphlet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa**

Section number 8 Page 13

Its "Purpose," or what might today be called its "mission statement," was "To provide a center for higher civic and social life. To initiate and maintain religious, educational and philanthropic enterprises, and to investigate and improve conditions in the River Bottom Districts of Sioux City."

In 1923 the Wall Street Mission affiliated with Goodwill Industries and in 1960 it began implementing programs to rehabilitate disabled workers. It continues that mission today. Other programs begun by the Mission which continue are the visiting nurses program and WACO, which provides employment to disabled people. The Bottoms neighborhoods and the 1933 Mary Treglia Community Center were obliterated in the 1960's by three developments: the building of Interstate 29, the Floyd River Rechannelization Project, and the ironically-named Mary J. Treglia Urban Renewal Program. After the neighborhood changed, the Mission moved from its original location on the edge of the Bottoms to new quarters on West Fourth Street. The original Wall Street Mission buildings were razed years ago; the brick buildings of the Wall Street Mission complex which remain on South Floyd Boulevard (the subsequent name for Wall Street) date from 1946, 1952, and 1964. The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is the only original building remaining that can be linked to the settlement house movement in Sioux City.

Child care provided by the Wall Street Mission in 1914 included occasional day nursery facilities and a baby's camp and pure milk depot in the summer. Consistent with the state of child care nationwide, however, staffing was a constant problem for the Mission. The 1914 brochure noted that a formal drive to establish a Day Nursery Association was underway.

While this organization is separate from the Mission work, yet there will be co-operation from the Mission people. This organization is being composed of some of the best known philanthropists and social workers in Sioux City, and no doubt will prove to be a blessing to the community. It is expected to be in active operation after May 1, and will afford an opportunity for the mothers who are compelled to wash and work by the day for the support of themselves and their children to have their children taken care of, properly fed and clothed. The need of this day nursery has been felt for some years and the Mission feels grateful to the great hearted women of Sioux City who have undertaken to supply this need.²⁷

²⁷ *Wall Street Mission* pamphlet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 14

Thus the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery was born. A second day nursery, the Harriet Ballou Day Nursery, was started by the Wall Street Mission later on.

Founding of Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery The Sioux City Day Nursery was set up in a tent in the yard of the Wall Street Mission on June 10, 1914, by the Sioux City Women's Club, and served 8 children.²⁸ It is the oldest continuing child care center and the second oldest preschool in the state of Iowa.²⁹ On May 26, 1914, the organization formed and elected a board of 15 directors, after listening to remarks by school superintendent M. G. Clark. Clark was concerned because some children were bringing younger siblings to school with them. A 1936 history, presumably by a board member, noted, "Rev. Maurice Levit, of the Wall Street Mission, offered the use of the Mission yard and large tent, and spoke of the need of a Nursery in his neighborhood."³⁰ In the winters, the Day Nursery moved into the Sunday school room at the Mission. As the numbers of children increased, the Board bought a house at 1021 Jones Street in 1921 to house the Nursery. The Sioux City Day Nursery Association incorporated in 1922.

A ledger in the Mary Elizabeth archives profiled the families who sought out the services of the Day Nursery in 1915-16. Of the 10 families who left children on an ongoing basis, 7 women did "day work," 1 worked at Davidson Bros. department store, 1 at Seymour's Laundry, and another at the Day Nursery. Four husbands had deserted, three were employed (at Cedar Rapids Oil Co., the nearby railroad round house, and as a painter), while 1 each were deceased, divorced, or unemployed. In its first decade, Sioux City Day Nursery charged mothers 10 cents a day, but they paid whatever they were able, on a sliding scale determined by the staff.

The Sioux City Day Nursery saw itself as part of the national day nursery movement, as is evident from the monographs³¹ and periodicals (*The Child Welfare Graphic*, January

²⁸ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Association 1914-1939*, tri-fold pamphlet.

²⁹ The first preschool in the state was at the University of Iowa.

³⁰ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery History 1914-1936*, carbon of typescript in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

³¹ Helen McKee Brenton, *A Study of Day Nurseries* (Chicago: Chicago Association of Day Nurseries, 1918); Helen Glenn Tyson, *The Day Nursery in its Community Relations: A Study of the Day Nurseries of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Philadelphia Association of Day Nurseries, 1919); *Thirty-First Annual Report of Jewell Day Nursery, Incorporated 1907, No. 20 Macdougall Street, New York*, January 1920 (The discrepancy in numbers may be due to Jewell having incorporated a number of years after its founding).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 15

1918, and the *Day Nursery Bulletin of the Mid-West Center*, 1919, later retitled *The Day Nursery Bulletin of the United States*, 1920) in its archives. These documents give a picture of a wide-open discussion, with women from a number of cities debating the future of the movement. The Sioux City Day Nursery staff and board attended numerous conferences and may also have toured other day nurseries; each annual report tallied the traffic in visitors through Mary Elizabeth: "Received 472 visitors, many of them Professors, Teachers, Ministers, Nurses, and Social workers from the larger cities in America, also foreign countries."³²

Funding the Day Nursery During its first three years, the Sioux Day Nursery survived entirely on fees paid by parents and money raised by its Board:

From 1914 to December 1917, the Nursery was financed by soliciting money from business firms, banks, churches, clubs, lodges, and our friends, the Board of Directors making two drives a year--spring and fall. We had rummage sales, a large ball, dressed dolls to sell, to finance the Nursery.³³

Beginning in December, 1917, much of the money to support the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery came from community-wide fund raising campaigns, including the Organized Welfare Bureau (incorporated October 11, 1918), the Community Chest, the United Community Fund and War Chest (during WWII), the United Fund, and the United Way. The Sioux City Day Nursery was one of 19 agencies supported by the 1925 Community Fund, including the Boy Scouts, Community House, Family Welfare Bureau, Free Dental Clinic, Jewish Federation, St. Monica's Home (for "deserted infants"), Visiting Nurse Association, and the Y.W.C.A. A 2-page Community Fund newspaper appeal, complete with a photo of Day Nursery children and staff, described the work of the Day Nursery:

The Day Nursery serves the needs of mothers who must work and who must have care for their children while they are away from home. 'Tis a pity that any mother of a small child must go out to work, but neither the economic machinery, nor all homes in the city can be adjusted to prevent it. And little children must be cared for. They can't be hung up on hooks with their mother's hats and coats, or left at home with the family cat. Food is

³² *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Annual Report for 1941-1942*, typescript in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

³³ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery History 1914-1936*, carbon of typescript in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 16

necessary, and washing and sleep, and play--and sanitation--while the mothers work!³⁴

Apparently the level of public support for the Sioux City Day Nursery was unique nationwide. Steinfels wrote that during the 1920s, "Only in Cleveland were day nursery funds given through the Community Chest; elsewhere there was little or no public funding of the day nursery."³⁵ That spirit of public support in Sioux City was essential for the building the new Day Nursery.

Need for a New Building Whatever people nationwide thought about the advisability of day care, there were hard choices faced by many families in a society without any kind of government public assistance. For Sioux City in 1925, a strong day nursery was a social necessity:

There comes a time in the life of many poor mothers left widowed by death, desertion or other cause, when they must go to work. They have small children, they are faced with two possibilities. They may leave the children in an orphanage, or with some one to care for them while she earns them a living. The day nursery has provided that place. . . . Perhaps it is a hard life for the mother, but it keeps her little family together.³⁶

It made sense from both humanitarian and economic standpoints, and city leaders supported it strongly. At the original Wall Street Mission facility, only five children could be cared for. It expanded into the Sunday school rooms, but had to move its equipment out every Saturday and back early Monday, and had no playground facilities. The Jones Street building cared for 30 children daily and many more on an occasional basis, with a potential for only 50. With a new facility, "permitting badly needed expansion,"³⁷ the Day Nursery could serve twice as many. "These 100 children will find clean comfortable

³⁴ "Give Once for All, and Enough for All: Community Fund 1925," *Sioux City Journal* 30 October 1925, pp. 10-11.

³⁵ Steinfels, pg. 65.

³⁶ "Day Nursery Lends Helping Hand to Mothers Who Must Earn Living," *Sioux City Sunday Journal* 25 October 1925, pg. 28.

³⁷ "Day Nursery to Have New Home As Gift," *Sioux City Spirit of Progress* 22 Oct. 1925, pg. 318.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 17

surroundings, nice playrooms, and a glorious playground during their hours in the nursery."³⁸

The New Building The Sioux City Day Nursery Association began seriously planning to build a permanent home in 1925. Association member Mary Elizabeth Toy and her husband James F. Toy, a banker, acquired parts of two lots in the 800 block of Court Street, 6 blocks away from the Jones Street facility, for about \$15,000. The neighborhood around 8th and Court was described in 1942 as being a "district of small houses, light housekeeping rooms, and lower priced apartment houses. Employment accessible to those living in this district would include the downtown business section as well as the factory and packing house districts."³⁹ The Toys also paid for the erection of the building, and some of the furnishings. Mrs. Tom Black, president of the Association, told the Tribune, "We have been trying to care for as many as 55 children a day in our present inadequate quarters, and Mrs. Toy's generous gift will make possible a much needed expansion of the work."⁴⁰

The Day Nursery relied on the funding that members of its board could secure, so when the new building opened, it made not only the news sections of the papers, but the society pages as well, which publicized it extensively.⁴¹ Various clubs, businesses, school classes, and society women donated furnishings for each of the rooms. While some might view this publicity as a bit of society posturing, it served two very specific purposes. First, it helped the Sioux City Day Nursery board gather donations and recruit new members. Less tangibly, it showed middle and upper class women how they could support poor

³⁸ "Sioux City Day Nursery Has Grown from Tent to \$60,000 Building in 12 Years; Will Open in New Quarters Tuesday," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 11 Sept. 1926, pg. 6. This article is accompanied by a photograph of the completed building, showing the southern and western facades.

³⁹ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery: Evaluations*, Carboned 11-page report ca. 1942, Mary Elizabeth archives.

⁴⁰ "Excavation Work to Be Started Next Week for New Nursery Building," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 19 Sept. 1925, pg. 16.

⁴¹ "Donor of New Day Nursery Will Be Guest of Honor at Reception and Open House" *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 11 Sept. 1926, pg. 9; "Formal Opening of New Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Building, Gift of Mrs. J.F. Toy, to Be Held Tuesday," *Sioux City Journal* 12 Sept. 1926, pg. 9 (This article is mostly a caption for a photograph of the northern facade of the building); "New Day Nursery Building, Gift from Mrs. James F. Toy, Will Open with the Board as the Hostesses," *Sioux City Journal* 12 Sept. 1926, pg. 28; "Open New S.C. Nursery Today," *Sioux City Journal* 14 Sept. 1926, pg. 14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 18

women, and, like the women who joined Jane Addams at Hull House, find some meaning and purpose in lives constricted by society and custom.

Excavation on the site was scheduled to begin in September, 1925. Construction began in May of 1926, and the building opened to the public September 14, 1926. It cost \$43,280.⁴² Over one thousand people attended the grand opening, and a second reception was planned for those turned away. Thirty new members joined the Association, bringing the total to 150. The Day Nursery moved in the next month. The name was officially changed from the Sioux City Day Nursery Association to Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Association on May 25, 1937. Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery was officially licensed as a Boarding Home for Children by the Iowa Dept. of Social Welfare on April 14, 1943. In 1990, it changed its name to the Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center.

Settling In The 1926-27 annual report noted, "It has been a very busy year--moving into the new building and getting settled, making some necessary changes and improvements." It gives an interesting picture of the Sioux City Day Nursery's programs in its new home:

⁴² Carbon of a typescript letter from U.H. Bunkers to A.M. Davis, dated 17 June 1947, in the Mary Elizabeth archives. Davis needed a valuation of the building for insurance purposes, and Bunkers had contacted the original architect and contractor, Jurgen A. Raven for the precise figure. Raven estimated the 1947 replacement cost at double its initial cost: \$86,000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 19

The Nursery is open for week days for 12 hours daily. We serve breakfast from 7:30 to 9:00, milk lunch for pre-school children at 10:30, dinner from 11:45 to 12:45. After dinner all pre-school children are put into sleeping gowns for their regular daily nap. At 4:15 all the children are given a lunch. We send from 30 to 35 children to the various schools and those between 4 and 5 years have kindergarten work at the Nursery. This generally leaves from 10 to 12 children under 4 years old to be cared for by the regular Day Staff of the Nursery. We average from 5 to 8 babies who are bottle fed, on a regular schedule, with often six different formulae to be prepared for them by the Nursery.

During the past year the Nursery has given 10,984 days' care, including the preparation and serving of 32,950 meals to 180 children, from 94 homes. The Youngest child was 3 months old and the oldest 11 years. 102 children were taken to the Clinics. [Twenty-seven] were immunized with diphtheria toxin-anti-toxin. 24 were vaccinated against smallpox. 3 were taken to the hospital for tonsil operations, and afterward cared for day and night at the Nursery, until fully recovered. During the epidemic of measles and chickenpox we had 1 or 2 patients in our Hospital room 12 consecutive weeks, who were cared for by the regular Day Staff, in addition to their regular schedule of work. We have also cared for children, both day and night, while the mothers have been ill or in the hospital. In some cases mothers and children have been kept in the Nursery until rooms could be found in which they could be established.

We have helped 44 mothers to obtain clothing for 95 children; provided bedding for 3 destitute families; sent food to 12 families, where there was sickness; secured 1254 days' work for mothers, and 48 sick calls were made, to different parts of the city. All these activities have been cared for by the regular Day Staff of the Nursery, in addition to their routine daily work.⁴³

Mary Elizabeth Toy The principal benefactor of the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery, Mary Elizabeth (Brubacher) Toy (1855-1940) was born in Freeport, Illinois and died in Hollywood, California.⁴⁴ She married James F. Toy (b. 1850, Wilmington, Delaware) in Waterloo in 1875. James, a graduate of St. Mary's College, worked as a clerk in Waterloo before moving to Storm Lake in 1873, where he sold lumber and farm implements. He helped organize the Storm Lake State Bank in 1877, and founded his own bank shortly

⁴³ Untitled typescript of annual report marked "1927" in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

⁴⁴ "Mrs. J.F. Toy Taken by Death," *Sioux City Journal*, 6 June 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 20

afterwards. By 1889 he controlled 19 banks throughout Iowa. He organized the Farmer's Loan and Trust Company in 1883 and moved it to Sioux City in 1889.⁴⁵ He built the Toy Block, Sioux City's largest brown-stone office building, which was destroyed in the Pelletier fire in 1904. Two subsequent downtown office buildings were named after him. Toy was president of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company (known later as the National Bank of Commerce), the Toy National Bank, and numerous other banks. He died in California in 1937, leaving behind "a chain of 23 banks, 19 of them in Iowa, near Sioux City."⁴⁶ Mary Elizabeth Toy was active in a number of civic organizations besides the Sioux City Day Nursery.

Superintendent Emma Anderson Although Nettie Beach (sister of Sioux City architect Wilfred Beach) was briefly its first matron, Emma V. Anderson, a practical nurse, helped establish and then headed the nursery for its first 36 years. Anderson was born March 19, 1867 in Sweden, and came to the U.S. at age 16, settling near Alta.⁴⁷ She worked at the Samaritan Hospital and Wall Street Mission, helping start the Day Nursery and filling in on an occasional basis from August 1914 to September 1915, through the tenure of three unsuccessful matrons, when she became the full-time matron, a post she held until her death January 1, 1951. A slight woman with white hair, she had a hearing impairment and raised an adopted son, Ronald, in her quarters over the Nursery. She was responsible for solving any day-to-day problems. She single-handedly cared for 39 patients at the Day Nursery during the influenza epidemic of 1918. She reminisced to a *Journal* reporter about the time that the stovepipe had fallen, and she set a stepladder up on a table, trying to fit the heavy pipe back in place.

"The smoke was pouring out," she laughed as she described the scene. "My face was as black as pitch. All at once I heard a sound. I turned around and there looking up at me was President F.E. Mossman of Morningside College and a group of ministers."⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Arthur Francis Allen, "James F. Toy," *Northwestern Iowa: Its History and Traditions 1804-1926* (Chicago: Clarke, 1927), III: 1510-12.

⁴⁶ "Career Ends: Was at Head of Iowa Chain," *Des Moines Tribune?* 4 March 1937, article in Sioux City Biography scrapbook, Sioux City Public Library.

⁴⁷ "Miss Emma Anderson," Obituary, *Sioux City Journal*, 2 Jan. 1951, pg. 2.

⁴⁸ Untitled article, *Sioux City Journal*, 6 Feb. 1938, Sioux City Public Library vertical files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 21

But she felt it was her calling from God to run the Day Nursery, she told the reporter, and so she weathered the embarrassments and adversities.

The scope of her daily work can be seen from this job description to fill the position after her death:

One must be a good housekeeper, be able to plan meals and in an emergency, cook for from 50 to 75 children a day. We have from 30 to 40 for breakfast, then the big noon meal. . . . Be able to buy not only groceries, but supplies for the house. In the office the Supervisor must be able to run 3 or 4 sets of books, interview all applicants, keep application cards in good shape, have an understanding of people's problems and be able to get information out of the applicant and record the same, not only superintend the children's work and play, but be able to teach the children, plan the work for the teachers, working out what material we must have for class room and play ground.⁴⁹

Despite this description, they were able to hire Acting Supervisor Alice Jones to succeed Anderson as matron. As a child, Jones had been cared for in the Day Nursery.

Early Struggles The annual reports of Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery from the 1920s and 1930s are a chronicle of hard work, long hours, short funding, and daily challenges for the female staff members. Anderson noted in the 1926-27 Annual Report:

In the spring the health of Miss Jackson became impaired so much as to render it impossible for her to take up her usual work for many weeks. This has left a place difficult to fill. She has now sufficiently recovered to be able to help out when I collapsed. . . . Not yet have we reached our goal or our ideals, but we hope the coming year will bring us nearer the standard of the National Federation of Day Nurseries--an 8 hour day for the workers, instead of 10 to 16 hours, as it now is.

The staff relied on the donations from the society matrons on the board, and donations of goods, services, and time from local schools, churches, clubs (particularly the Elks), and

⁴⁹ Carbon of Letter from Mrs. R.H. Burton-Smith to Community Chest Board, July 16, 1951, Mary Elizabeth archives. Mrs. Smith was elected treasurer of the Day Nursery Board in 1914 and again held that post in 1951.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 22

businesses including Armour & Company, Capitol Laundry, Cascade Laundry, Davidson Bros., Galinsky's, Hanford Produce Company, Ideal Laundry, Johnson Biscuit Company, and Swift & Company. Major funding came from the Community Fund Campaign.

The 1930s--Responding to the Great Depression Conditions worsened as the Great Depression deepened. The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery clientele shifted from children of mothers raising children alone to children of families where both parents worked. In November 1931, the annual report noted:

Another Day Nursery year, with its joys and sorrows, is past, but we are still "carrying on" as usual, in spite of the general depression of the whole world. . . . We have felt the result of unemployment in many ways. We have not had as many children as usual the past year on account of this and a good many of the mothers have been unable to pay the small fee required of them and this, with the reduced apportionment from the Community Fund the last few months, has made our collections small and our income less for running expenses.⁵⁰

The phrases "joys and sorrows" and "in spite of" appeared frequently in the early 1930s reports. In November 1932, the annual report noted, "In spite of a great amount of unemployment in the city, we have secured 765 days' work for quite a number of our mothers." In November 1933, Anderson wrote: "In spite of the Depression, we cannot but believe the Nursery will continue to do its part, thanks to the many good friends who have aided us in the past." The Nursery was particularly thankful for the bacon fat which board members were able to donate, along with the used clothing, dishes, and fruit jars.

In the 1930s, children from 6 months to 10 years were cared for by the Day Nursery, although it accepted children as young as 3 months under special conditions.⁵¹

The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is notable in even surviving the 1930's. Steinfels believed that, starting in the 1920s, the pervasive influence of social workers changed the goal of many large-city day nurseries. The day nursery was no longer seen as a service for working mothers from families torn apart by external forces; it became a social welfare agency in the business of caring for children from "broken" families until the families could

⁵⁰ *Annual Report Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery*, Nov. 10, 1931.

⁵¹ "Day Nursery Takes Care of Children While Mothers Work for A Living," *Sioux City Journal*, 8 Jan. 1934.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 23

be "fixed" and the mother returned to her "appropriate" place in the home. Day nurseries in larger cities were seen as a place of last resort. Steinfels noted, "With rising costs and rising standards, and, perhaps, declining gratification, fund-raising became more and more of an onerous task. The [already] dwindling number of day nurseries was widely decimated by the Depression."⁵² The National Federation of Day Nurseries (founded in 1898) and its monthly bulletin both folded in 1931.

Federal Help The hard years at the Day Nursery began to change with the massive infusion of federal money that the Roosevelt administration gave to support agencies, and new thinking about the role of the day nursery. The Federal government funded nurseries through the W.P.A. from 1933 to 1943.

The program was a landmark, the first comprehensive support and funding of child-care by the federal government, but it was in the tradition of "for the poor only," serving young children whose families had inadequate incomes or were on welfare.⁵³

The 1935 Mary Elizabeth annual report told of the establishment of a Government Emergency (Nursery) School. Funding for W.P.A. workers at Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery began in April, 1935.⁵⁴ The 1936 annual report praises the donations from the Emergency Relief Administration and the help from W.P.A. workers. Most of the W.P.A. workers were drawn from the relief rolls, so despite 3 months training they received, the quality of their work varied greatly, and the program was dogged with the image of a make-work program for unemployed teachers. But as Youcha noted:

By the 1930s, when immigration had waned and immigrant children were no longer a focus of concern, day care and child-rearing advice were offered to the poor in an effort to lift them out of poverty and provide their children with the opportunity to move into the mainstream. . . . The WPA centers provided the first long-term, large-scale demonstration of how group child care coupled with parent

⁵² Steinfels, pg. 65.

⁵³ Youcha, pg. 309.

⁵⁴ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Association 1914-1939*, tri-fold pamphlet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 24

education could improve the lives of children and smoothed the way for what came later.⁵⁵

Another form of federal help came from N.Y.A. (National Youth Administration) workers, although both groups were withdrawn by 1941-42. The W.P.A. was finally liquidated in Iowa on February 1, 1943.

WWII In WWII, Sioux City was a Federal Government Defense Area, the location of an Army Bomber Training Site, and the site of an Army Aviation Cadet Training program (1943-44 at Morningside College).⁵⁶ According to documents filed in the Day Nursery's Lanham funds application, over 5000 soldiers were stationed at the Air Base, including 480 "negroes." (Here and there in the documents of the Day Nursery are indications that it served the Sioux City African-American community without discrimination; serving that segment of the community was repeatedly stressed in the Lanham funds application.)⁵⁷ Among the defense industries prominent in Sioux City were Aalfs-Baker (uniforms; 70% of its 250 employees female), Albertson & Company (tools; 15% of its 650 workers female), and Wincharger (airplane engines; 60% of its 2500 workers female). The defense plants operated on 3 8-hour shifts 6 days a week, but tried to concentrate working mothers on their day shifts to enable them to secure day care. Including the women working in packing plants (Sioux City was sixth in the industry at this time), 2500 women were working in defense industries, and many of them needed child care. As many as 6000 children had parents working in defense industries:

Matron Emma Anderson was clearly distressed by the onset of WWII, as many of the children she had raised went off to war. She mused in the annual report:

On the threshold to enter the 29th year, we wonder: what has this next year in store for us all, and the work of the Nursery for these children and mothers? It is

⁵⁵ Youcha, pg. 310.

⁵⁶ Timothy T. Orwig, *Morningside College: A Centennial History* (Sioux City: Morningside College Press, 1994), pp. 122-124.

⁵⁷ "Application for Contribution for Providing Community Services, Under the Lanham Act," and "A. Community to Be Served," untitled, undated document carbons in the Mary Elizabeth archives. As WWII progressed, new standards for group child care were developed. Some publications of the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Labor found in the Mary Elizabeth archives include *Standards for Day Care of Children of Working Mothers* (Children in Wartime #3, Bureau Publication 284), and Barbara Hewell, *The Health of the Young Child in Group Care* (rpt. from *The Child--Monthly Bulletin* 7.9 (March 1943).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 25

extremely difficult for me to write this report. . . . It seems that a spoke in the wheel is missing and can never be fully replaced. . . . It gives us a queer sensation when we learn of so many of the young men and some nurses also, now in the war work, some officers in the Army, etc. having received their start in life at the Day Nursery. It makes us wonder, is it worthwhile? Little did we realize during the last war that some of our Nursery children then--would be in the service now. It is truly a challenge for us to put forth every effort to take part in the Defense work in every way possible.⁵⁸

As the war escalated, the services of the Day Nursery became critical, as more and more mothers, with their husbands away to war, worked to raise their families, often in war-related industries. The women worked many of the same jobs in the factories as men, but despite the National War Labor Board's policies, they earned only 65 cents to the dollar paid the average working man.⁵⁹ The October 1944 report noted that many children were turned away, not because of lack of space, but because of lack of trained help. Some of the refused mothers broke down and cried, while others became angry:

The mothers need to work, to save something to start a home when their husbands and fathers return. Most of them live in a one room apartment, while others had started to buy a home on the installment plan before their husbands left, and must work to keep it up. Others have loans or other debts to pay.⁶⁰

A 1945 letter recorded that 92 of the 233 families served had husbands in the armed forces:

Some [mothers] worked from necessity, others on doctors' orders to prevent a nervous breakdown caused by worry and lonesomeness. We also have taken care of some babies born out of wedlock whose young mothers have been destitute. The young soldiers they hoped to marry were transferred from the Base here, and they never heard from them anymore.⁶¹

⁵⁸ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Annual Report for 1941-1942*, typescript in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

⁵⁹ Youcha, pp. 311-12.

⁶⁰ *Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Annual Report October 10th, 1944*, carboned typescript in the Mary Elizabeth archives.

⁶¹ Carbon of a letter to Mary S. Hughes, Community Fund, Court House, 23 August 1945, presumably by Emma Anderson.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 26

The Nursery even put up soldiers stranded in Sioux City without rooms. Other WWII child care centers in Sioux City were located at the (Mary Treglia) Community House, Wall Street Mission, the Booker T. Washington Center, and in the North Riverside neighborhood.

Lanham Centers As the country geared up for war, it was clear that quality child care would need to be available for all mothers, not just the poor.

In what is today a nearly forgotten social experiment, the federal government subsidized nationwide child care for working mothers of young children during WWII. It was the first time in the nation's history that day care for children who were not poor was supported by public funds. . . . Eight months after Pearl Harbor, federal funds were made available to maintain all-day care, before and after school, and vacation care for the children of women working in the war effort. The children ranged in age from two to sixteen. The Lanham Act Centers, as they were called, received 50 percent of their support from the federal government, with states, localities, and parents matching that amount. . . . During the two and a half years of their existence, the centers received 52 million dollars of federal aid to help run 3,102 centers nationwide.⁶²

The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery hosted a Lanham Nursery School from July 1943 to March 1944, and possibly longer. At the Lanham Center's national peak in July 1945, "1.6 million children were in federally funded nursery schools and day-care centers."⁶³ As many as 600,000 children received care at the centers. The last federal Lanham Centers closed in February, 1946, although California continued funding some of them. While day care on a large scale and federal funding to pay for it would not re-emerge until Head Start and other Great Society programs of the mid 1960s, places like Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery would continue.

Today The Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center is currently licensed for 84 children, ages 2 to 10. It has a waiting list, and serves over 200 children each year. It is open between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The facility is licensed and employs certified staff. Its preschool curriculum includes development of small and large motor skills, socialization, self help skills, language and cognitive abilities. The program includes frequent field trips, guest speakers, and summer programs including swimming lessons. It gets the largest percentage of its income from parent fees, with 10 different payment

⁶² Youcha, pp. 307-08.

⁶³ Youcha, pg. 312.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 27

plans and a sliding scale based on the family's resources. Mary Elizabeth receives monthly allocations from the United Way. The Federal Food Program pays for meals: nutritious breakfast, lunch, and two snacks daily. It works with the Department of Human Services for grants, special child care funding programs and licensing requirements. It holds frequent fund raising events.

Criteria C

The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is a 2-story reinforced-concrete fireproof building, 50' x 66', with face brick walls and concrete fascia, sills, and detailing, designed and built in 1926 by J.A. Raven of the Lytle Company in the Italian Renaissance style with Prairie influences. The building has an ell plan with two two-story towers; hipped roof with center ridge, pyramidal tower roofs; triple-arched recessed front portico with 4 Doric concrete column supports; triple band 4/4 double hung windows in recessed entry, and a rear porch. The interior contains much of the original flooring, painted woodwork, and plumbing fixtures, and some of the original furniture. At the southeast corner of the property is a 2-story concrete block garage and playhouse designed by Knute E. Westerlind and built in 1940.

The Lytle Company was one of Sioux City's leading firms of the 1920s; the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is the only building in Sioux City currently known to have been designed by the company's highly-respected president and general manager, Jurgen A. Raven. Raven's firm was one branch of the Lytle Construction Company; together the firms were regionally prominent in bank building and bridge, dam, and road construction during the first six decades of this century. The prominence of Raven's Lytle Company in 1920's bank construction was such that a full-page article in the statewide newspaper pictorial *Iowa Magazine Section* featured photos of 8 Lytle Co. banks (Estherville, Guthrie Center, Iowa Falls, Manchester, Mapleton, Maquoketa, Remsen, and Valley Junction) under the title, "Banks Set Architectural Pace on Iowa Main Streets."⁶⁴

Italian Renaissance Style in Sioux City While never a dominant style, Italian Renaissance was commonly used by Sioux City architects, particularly in the Morningside College Historic District, from Wilfred W. Beach's Lewis Hall (1900) to William Beuttler and Ralph Arnold's Dimmitt Residence Hall (1926).⁶⁵ Sioux City's most well-known architect, William L. Steele, used it on several occasions. One of his earliest commissions was as supervising architect for the Edward Tilton-designed Carnegie Library, an Italian Renaissance design.⁶⁶ Steele's Holy Trinity Greek

⁶⁴ "Banks Set Architectural Pace on Iowa Main Streets," *The Iowa Magazine Section*, 1924, pg. 150).

⁶⁵ National Register nomination. Morningside College Historic District, Sioux City, IA.

⁶⁶ National Register nomination. Sioux City Free Public Library, Sioux City, IA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 28

Orthodox Church (1925) has Italian Renaissance elements,⁶⁷ and a number of his prairie houses have Italian Renaissance influence, particularly in their ceramic tile roofs. Usually well-constructed and substantial, these buildings have stood the test of time longer than other Sioux City buildings, and most have survived the wrecker's ball.

Jurgen A. Raven and The Lytle Co. J.A. Raven was the architect for the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery and his Lytle Co. the builder.⁶⁸ Raven was born in Oyens, Iowa, April 14, 1879, and died in Sioux City on February 10, 1962 (architect William L. Beuttler was a pallbearer at his funeral).⁶⁹ He was a deputy sheriff in LeMars (where he married his wife, Hermena Reichmann (1884-1983))⁷⁰ before coming to Sioux City in 1910. His obituary listed him as a plumbing and heating contractor before his retirement in 1959, but the Sioux City directories tell a different story. He first appeared in the 1912 directory, as a bookkeeper for Lytle Construction Co, general contractors. He worked his way up through the company, becoming secretary and treasurer in the 1915 directory, and vice president the following year. A 1915 advertisement noted that Lytle had moved to new offices at 101 Masonic Bldg. and vowed, "Service in designing and erecting buildings is the kind of goods we have to sell and is the kind we deliver."⁷¹ By 1916 the title of the business had changed to the Lytle Co., with Leonard Lytle (brother of C.F.) president and J(ennie) M. Lytle secretary/treasurer, and it was listed as "designers and builders." In 1917 listings, Raven was president & general manager of The Lytle Co., designers & builders, with Andrew Kloster vice president and Hermena Raven secretary. That same year marked the re-emergence in the directories of the separate Lytle Construction Co., general contractors, with C. F. Lytle as its president.

Other sources complicate this history. The Lytle Company as some sort of separate entity was established by 1911, as the caption to a photo of the Lytle Block noted: "The Lytle Company and the Lytle Construction Company, occupying and owning this building, are among the recognized

⁶⁷ National Register nomination. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Sioux City, IA.

⁶⁸ "Excavation Work to Be Started Next Week for New Nursery Building," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 19 Sept. 1925, pg. 16.

⁶⁹ "Jurgen A. Raven," Obituary, *Sioux City Journal* 12 Feb. 1962, pg. 10.

⁷⁰ "Mrs. Hermina (sic) Raven," Obituary, *Sioux City Journal* 28 Jan. 1983, pg. A8.

⁷¹ "Service," advertisement for The Lytle Construction Co., Leonard Lytle President, J.A. Raven Vice Pres., *Sioux City Tribune* 22 May 1915, pg. 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 30

Construction Co. continued after the demise of its spin-off, under the leadership of the Lytle family.

The Lytle Construction Co. Charles Franklin Lytle started the Lytle Construction Co., parent of the Lytle Co., in 1903 by purchasing the general contracting and building business of R.F. Baker after Baker's death.⁷⁶ Born in Johnson Co., Iowa, 11 September 1869, Lytle lived on an Iowa farm near Storm Lake until 15, when he entered his father's grain trade. After various sales jobs he came to Sioux City in 1899 selling real estate and then "plumbing . . . and the installation of heating and steam and hot water plants."⁷⁷ In his first year he erected the Deering and Swasey (razed) blocks, the latter "in opposition to all the labor unions of Sioux City."⁷⁸ His 3-story, \$65,000 Lytle Block (razed) followed in 1904. He began contracting sewer systems and paving projects in Sioux City and other cities in Iowa and Nebraska. By 1911, Lytle Construction had built the Y.M.C.A. (razed), Crane Co. Warehouse (razed; architect William L. Steele), the Auditorium (severely altered), and was "a notable builder of banks."⁷⁹ The Lytle Company's expertise made it a natural contractor for the Motor Mart in Sioux City, a 1912 building designed by E.J. Henriques, chief architect for Lytle, and built by Lytle. The building used the Turner Mushroom system:

It was one of the first reinforced, poured concrete buildings in Sioux City and the first to incorporate the innovative plans of Claude A.P. Turner of Minneapolis who had patented a new flat slab system of framing in 1908 that was best suited to the type of building Mr. Bennett [Ralph A. Bennett, the owner, an automobile dealer] wanted.⁸⁰

According to the Northwest Architectural Archives, in addition to homes, churches, and apartments, the firm designed and/or built over 20 banks in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota

⁷⁶ Constant R. Marks, "Charles F. Lytle," *Past and Present of Sioux City and Woodbury County* (Chicago: Clarke, 1904), pg. 568 (includes a photo of Lytle). Another biographical note on Lytle can be found in *Who's Who in Iowa 1920-21 ed.*, published at Sioux City, pg. 92.

⁷⁷ Marks, pg. 568.

⁷⁸ Marks, pg. 568.

⁷⁹ *One Hundred Peeps at Sioux City: A Souvenir of the Best Town on Earth* (Sioux City: Biddison, 1911), n.p.

⁸⁰ National Register nomination, The Commerce Building, Sioux City, IA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 31

between 1913 and 1923. The firm built a bank in Royal, Iowa,⁸¹ and the state architect files list banks in Sioux City, Iowa Falls, and Estherville. In 1915, their advertising listed a bank project, for the Farmers State Bank in Larabee, Iowa, as their 50th bank.⁸² In 1922, *Building Age* featured photos and floor plans from two Lytle Company banks.⁸³ In their comprehensive overview of Iowa architecture, Gebhard and Mansheim noted that most of the Lytle banks statewide were in the Beaux Arts Classical tradition (e.g., First National Bank, Maquoketa), with a significant number of Prairie Style (e.g., Fremont County Savings Bank, Sidney) banks. Moville has the distinction of two Lytle banks, one in each style.⁸⁴

By 1915 the Lytle Construction Company employed over 1000 men each season and did over a million dollars worth of contracts annually. A 1915 biography proclaimed:

Mr. Lytle has probably built and sold more buildings and homes on the installment plan in Sioux City than any other man and this without foreclosing a single mortgage. His activities have thus not only contributed largely to the city's growth and expansion, but have been important factors in developing architectural beauty and a tendency towards better construction.⁸⁵

The firm's largest known Sioux City building is the William L. Steele-designed Davidson Building. This six-story brick building with an elaborate cornice and terra cotta with "solid-gold"

⁸¹ "Many New Building Are Being Erected," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 15 May 1915, pg. 12.

⁸² "Business Is Good: We Have the Following Work at This Time," advertisement, *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 22 April 1915, pg. 11. Also listed in this intriguing snapshot of 15 projects are banks in Ayrshire and Casey, IA, and Colman, SD; stores in Bayard, Casey, and Larabee; residences in Primghar, IA, and Centerville and Menno, SD; a lodge building in Jolley; a church in Castlewood, SD; and an "Opera House and Salesroom" in Remsen. The projects were in all stages: demolition of the old building, making plans, buying materials, excavating, working on foundation, and "nearly finished." The ad also noted, "Our constantly increasing business proves the efficiency of our organization and the success of the COMMISSION BASIS, the system under which we design and erect buildings."

⁸³ "Artistic Design of Modern Building for Bank" (May 1922, pg. 52) and "Dignity and Convenience Features of this Bank" (October 1922, pg. 41), *Building Age and The Builders' Journal*.

⁸⁴ David Gebhard and Gerald Mansheim, *Buildings of Iowa* (New York: Oxford UP, 1993), pp. 121, 486-487, 495.

⁸⁵ "Charles Franklin Lytle," *Iowa: Its History and Its Foremost Citizens*, (Chicago: Clarke, 1915), Vol. III, pg. 1015.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 32

embellishments is also of reinforced-concrete construction utilizing the "Kahn System."⁸⁶ The C.F. Lytle Construction Company worked with Steele again on one of his well-known Prairie-style designs, the First Congregational Church in Sioux City, which is known today as Sioux City Baptist Church and is listed on the National Register.⁸⁷ The Lytle Company worked with Steele on at least one other project, the single-story "day-light" factory buildings of the Hawkeye Truck Company (1918, altered) at 2700 Hawkeye Drive.⁸⁸

No area of construction seemed out of the scope of the company. In 1914, Leonard Lytle wrote an article on the proper construction of grandstands.⁸⁹ Lytle Construction Co. had "... built practically all of the paved roads of Woodbury County," according to a 1923 advertisement.⁹⁰ One of C.F. Lytle's obituaries noted, "With the exception of 7 miles of Highway 75 between Sioux City and Sergeant Bluff, Mr. Lytle laid every inch of concrete paving in Woodbury County outside of Sioux City."⁹¹ By 1922, the Lytle Construction Co. had also begun its work in other parts of the country, landing a million-dollar contract for paving 43 miles of road near Jacksonville, Florida. Lytle told the *Journal*:

"This is the first highway of any consequence to be undertaken in Florida, which may let contracts during the year for 800 miles of hard roads," Mr. Lytle continued. "Our contract calls for about \$23,000 a mile, which is less than concrete paving would cost in Iowa. This difference is due to the fact that the Florida paving is only 16 feet wide, while in Iowa it would be 20 feet. In Florida

⁸⁶ Untitled, undated *Sioux City Tribune* article filed under "Buildings--Davidson," in the vertical files, Sioux City Public Library.

⁸⁷ "Lay Congregation Cornerstone on First Anniversary of Fire," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 13 January 1917, pg. 11.

⁸⁸ Sorensen and Chicoine, pg. 162; "Charles Lytle Dies at Wheel of Automobile," *Sioux City Tribune* 10 May 1938, pp. 1-2.

⁸⁹ Leonard Lytle, "Play Ball! The Planning and Construction of Grandstands for Base Ball Parks and Fair Grounds," *American Carpenter and Builder* June 1914, pp 39-40.

⁹⁰ *Three Quarters of a Century of Progress* (Sioux City, Verstegen, 1923), pg. 189.

⁹¹ "Charles Lytle Dies at Wheel of Automobile," *Sioux City Tribune* 10 May 1938, pg. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 33

the concrete layer will be only six inches deep, while in Iowa the standard calls for eight inches."⁹²

Another of the Lytle Family of companies was the Lytle Investment Co., incorporated in 1915, which,

On January 30, 1923, had a fully paid-up capital of \$685,000. The authorized capital is \$1,000,000. The principal business of the company is the owning and leasing of real estate and the buying and selling of investment securities. The company specializes in the handling of municipal bonds of Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska.⁹³

C. F. Lytle was president. C.F. Lytle served as a Republican in the state senate in the 37th general assembly (1916), and died May 9, 1938.⁹⁴ He left the Republican Party in the Harding administration, and ran unsuccessfully in the primary for Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in 1932. Possibly the strangest chapter in the puzzling history of C.F. Lytle was his relations with Sioux City mayor W.D. Hayes. Hayes filed a countersuit against C.F. Lytle, his investment company, and the Inter-Ocean Reinsurance Company in 1935, charging "conspiracy to remove him from office in an effort to halt pending suits against allegedly corrupt paving contractors."⁹⁵ Whatever the outcome of the legal actions, the Lytle Company completed its largest Sioux City project, the Grand Avenue Viaduct (with later extensions, this is the largest bridge in Iowa (not counting the spans over the Mississippi River)) in Hayes' term. Ironically, when Mayor Hayes attempted to win a fifth two-year term in 1938, he was defeated "by local attorney David F. Loepp [who] claimed that the bridge 'began nowhere and ended nowhere' and used the viaduct as an example of waste in government."⁹⁶

⁹² "Lytle Gets Big Contract," *Sioux City Journal* 11 Feb. 1922, pg. 11.

⁹³ *Three Quarters of a Century of Progress* (Sioux City, Verstegen, 1923), pg. 189.

⁹⁴ Lytle's death, of a heart attack while speeding with a business associate in a new auto near Council Bluffs, made the front page of both Sioux City newspapers. The Journal ran a front-page full-banner headline, C.F. LYTLE DIES IN CAR ACCIDENT. The Tribune had more time to compose its story, and published a more detailed account of Lytle's life ("Charles Lytle Dies at Wheel of Automobile," *Sioux City Tribune* 10 May 1938, pp. 1-2.). Numerous articles followed in both papers, detailing his funeral at the Masonic Temple and his \$500,000 estate.

⁹⁵ "Mayor Charges 'Conspiracy': Lytle Named in Answer to Ouster Action," *Sioux City Tribune* 7 August 1935, pg. 1-2. On the same pages is a report that Lytle officially notified the *Tribune* that they would be sued for libel unless they retracted statements about him. The *Tribune* refused.

⁹⁶ Sorensen and Chicoine, pg. 182.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 34

Francis Kemp Lytle, C.F.'s son, was born in Sioux City 27 February 1904 and graduated from Iowa State College (Ames) with a B.S. in civil engineering in 1926. He began that year as a construction superintendent in the southern states with the "C.F. Lytle Company,"⁹⁷ becoming a vice president of the firm in 1928 and president in 1938, on his father's death. According to C.F. Lytle's obituary, the company had been an early participant in oil exploration in Texas, built a million-dollar bridge over the Manatee River in Florida and the seawall in Gulfport, Mississippi, paved over a hundred miles of roads in both Texas and Florida, and built the sewer systems for three cities in Texas and Fort Peck, Montana.⁹⁸ In 1944 the C.F. Lytle Co. purchased Petersen & Haecker, Ltd., a boat building company in Blair, Nebraska. "One of the oldest construction firms in the Midwest," Lytle "several years ago . . . had several river work contracts and had one of the first contracts for river revetment on the Missouri River north of Blair."⁹⁹ The C.F. Lytle Company began operations in Alaska in 1940 and carried on oil explorations there for the Navy in 1945 after the Seabees were withdrawn.¹⁰⁰ It ultimately took part in constructing the Al-Can Highway.

In 1957, C.F. Lytle Co. moved its headquarters from Sioux City to Aransas Pass, Texas. At that time the company "was authorized to do business in 18 states of the midwest and Rocky Mountain areas,"¹⁰¹ particularly Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. It had also worked on the Oahe dam and reservoir project near Pierre, South Dakota. One of its last Sioux City projects was an interchange off the Combination Bridge (razed). A 1958 article noted the scope of the firm's jobs: the Potholes dam in Washington, the toll road from Kansas City to Wichita, a bomber base in Alaska, the Falcan dam on the Rio Grande, the Cedar Bluff dam in Kansas, and the Glendo dam in Wyoming. The company employed 700-800 persons yearly.¹⁰²

⁹⁷ "F.K. Lytle, President, C.F. Lytle Company," by the Citizens Historical Association, Indianapolis, 27 April 1940, 2-page typescript biography in the vertical files, Sioux City Public Library. This biography lists him as a member of the Citizens Historical Association, so he may have supplied the information for it.

⁹⁸ "Charles Lytle Dies at Wheel of Automobile," *Sioux City Tribune* 10 May 1938, pg. 2.

⁹⁹ "Lytle in New Partnership," *Sioux City Journal* 20 Jan. 1944, pg. 2.

¹⁰⁰ "Lytle Firm to Take Part in Exploration for Oil in Alaska," *Sioux City Journal* 23 December 1945, pg. 2.

¹⁰¹ "Reveal Lytle Firm Change," *Sioux City Journal* 14 Dec. 1957, pg. 1.

¹⁰² "Lytle Firm's Major Jobs Span Globe," *Sioux City Journal* 2 Feb. 1958, pg. VI 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 35

Despite its long history and obviously important contributions to Sioux City and national history, we know of few structures remaining in Sioux City that were built by the Lytle companies. Besides the Grand Avenue viaduct, there remain the Wasson Flats (1909),¹⁰³ Motor Mart Building (1913), the Davidson Building (1913), the First Congregational Church (1917), the Hawkeye Truck Factory (1918), possibly two homes, and The Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery.

The clearest picture of J.A. Raven's character as a builder and businessperson comes from an article in *Common Clay*, the house organ of the American Terra Cotta Company of Chicago. American's first dealing with Lytle had been about 1913; it may have supplied the terra cotta for the two 1913 buildings. Since then the two companies had worked together over twenty times:

Not only is he a business man of character, but . . . he is a friend worth having. Our relations with him and his organization have been such as are dearly prized by all business men; that close relation between buyer and seller which comes when both are working in harmony for the best possible results. . . . Many of the banks for which we have furnished the material have been unstinting in their expressions of appreciation of the work of Mr. Raven. . . . While chiefly specializing in banks, they are equipped to handle any kind of a building, from the first preliminary sketch until the key is turned over to the owner, all in one contract.¹⁰⁴

The article followed this with pictures of several Lytle Banks using their terra cotta. Although Raven's structures dot the Midwest, the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is the only known Raven building remaining in Sioux City.

Knute E. Westerlind While the utilitarian cement-block garage and playhouse designed by K.E. Westerlind for Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery is not a substantial building, it does show the day-to-day work of an architect who also designed impressive buildings on a large scale. Like Matron Emma Anderson, Westerlind was born in Sweden, at Gothenburg in 1889. He graduated in engineering and architecture from Boros Technical College in 1909 and moved to Chicago to work in the office of his brother Carl, also an architect.¹⁰⁵ He came to Sioux City for engineering

¹⁰³ "The Wasson Flats, Ninth and Nebraska," *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 17 Sept. 1909 (Harvest Festival Ed., no page number).

¹⁰⁴ "The Lytle Company," *Common Clay*, Jan. 1921, pg. 2.

¹⁰⁵ "Architect Dies at 71," *Sioux City Journal* 19 June 1960.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 8 Page 36

work on the Midland Packing Co. (National Register listed), stayed to design the Sioux Apartment block, and moved permanently to Sioux City in 1921. In 1919 he established the firm of Colby & Westerlind with Paul W. Colby, specializing in "the designing of modern public buildings of every description."¹⁰⁶ Besides numerous schools in Nebraska and South Dakota, they designed homes in Sioux City and the Argonaut, Stellart, Nyol, and Castle Apartment buildings, the War Eagle building (razed), the Albertson & Co. factory, and the Rustin Ave. Methodist Church. They also designed the Palladian-windowed roof garden addition to the Lytle designed-and-constructed Motor Mart Building.¹⁰⁷

Around 1926 Westerlind started a separate practice, designing Shaare Zion Temple as one of his first projects.¹⁰⁸ Westerlind designed residences in Prairie style, such as the Albertson home (1927), and may have worked in William Steele's office.¹⁰⁹ Westerlind is best known for two large Art Deco buildings, most prominently the 12-story stone and terra-cotta Badgerow Building (1929). His brick Sioux City Municipal Auditorium (1938; not completed until 1950) is Moderne in style with Deco detailing. Both used Native American motifs, particularly in the Badgerow's terra-cotta ornamentation designed by Westerlind's brother. Other buildings credited to Westerlind in his obituary include the Bellevue, Sydney, and Parkview apartments, St. John's and St. Paul's Lutheran churches, and the Singing Tower in Memorial Park Cemetery.

¹⁰⁶ "Colby and Westerlind, General Practice of Architecture," *Three Quarters of a Century of Progress* (Sioux City, Verstegen, 1923), pg. 143.

¹⁰⁷ "Roof Garden is Planned" *Sioux City Journal* 3 Jan. 1922, pg. 7.

¹⁰⁸ "To Commence Work on S.C. Synagogue Soon," *Sioux City Journal* 21 Sept. 1926.

¹⁰⁹ Richard Guy Wilson and Sidney K. Robinson, *The Prairie School in Iowa* (Ames: Iowa State UP, 1977), pg. 25, and *Sioux City, Iowa: An Architectural View* (Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 1983), pg. 42.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 9 Page 37

- Allen, Arthur Francis. "James F. Toy." *Northwestern Iowa: Its History and Traditions 1804-1926*. Chicago: Clarke, 1927. III: 1510-12.
- Annual Report. Sioux City Day Nursery, Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery, 1926-1954. Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center archives. Various other letters and reports found only in the archives are listed in the footnotes, but not here.
- Arnold, Harriet. "Two-Year-Olds Go To College." *The Iowa Magazine Section* 1925: (5) 165.
- "Artistic Design of Modern Building for Bank." *Building Age and The Builders' Journal* May 1922: 52.
- Baldwin, Bird T., and Lorle I. Stecher. *The Psychology of the Preschool Child*. New York: Appleton, 1927.
- "Banks Set Architectural Pace on Iowa Main Streets." *The Iowa Magazine Section*. 1924: 150.
- Brenton, Helen McKee. *A Study of Day Nurseries*. Chicago: Chicago Association of Day Nurseries, 1918.
- "Career Ends: Was at Head of Iowa Chain," *Des Moines Tribune?* 4 March 1937, article in Sioux City Biography scrapbook, Sioux City Public Library.
- "Charles Franklin Lytle." *Iowa: Its History and Its Foremost Citizens*. Vol. 3. Chicago: Clarke, 1915. 1012-16.
- Children's Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Labor. *Standards for Day Care of Children of Working Mothers*. Children in Wartime #3, Bureau Publication 284.
- City Directories. Sioux City. 1900-1970.
- "Dignity and Convenience Features of this Bank" *Building Age and The Builders' Journal* October 1922: 41.
- "F.K. Lytle, President, C.F. Lytle Company." The Citizens Historical Association, Indianapolis, 27 April 1940. 2-page typescript biography in the vertical files, Sioux City Public Library.
- Gebhard, David, and Gerald Mansheim. *Buildings of Iowa*. New York: Oxford UP, 1993.
- Hewell, Barbara. "The Health of the Young Child in Group Care." *The Child--Monthly Bulletin* 7.9 (March 1943). Rpt. by Children's Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Labor.
- "The Lytle Company." *Common Clay* Jan. 1921: 2-6.
- Lytle, Leonard. "Play Ball! The Planning and Construction of Grandstands for Base Ball Parks and Fair Grounds." *American Carpenter and Builder* June 1914: 39-40.
- Marks, Constant R. "Charles F. Lytle." *Past and Present of Sioux City and Woodbury County*. Chicago: Clarke, 1904. 568-71.
- Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Association 1914-1939*, tri-fold pamphlet.
- Maxim, George W. *The Very Young: Guiding Children from Infancy through the Early Years*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice-Hall, 1997.
- National Register nomination, The Commerce Building, Sioux City, IA.
- National Register nomination, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Sioux City, IA.
- National Register nomination, Morningside College Historic District, Sioux City, IA.
- National Register nomination, Sioux City Free Public Library, Sioux City, IA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, IowaSection number 9 Page 38

- One Hundred Peeps at Sioux City: A Souvenir of the Best Town on Earth.* Sioux City: Biddison, 1911.
- Osborn, D. Keith. *Early Childhood Education in Historical Perspective.* Athens, GA: Education Assoc., 1980.
- Orwig, Timothy T. *Morningside College: A Centennial History.* Sioux City: Morningside College Press, 1994.
- Sioux City Daily Tribune and Sioux City Tribune*: "The Wasson Flats, Ninth and Nebraska," 17 Sept. 1909; "Business Is Good: We Have the Following Work at This Time," advertisement, 22 April 1915; "Many New Building Are Being Erected," 15 May 1915; "Service," advertisement for The Lytle Construction Co., Leonard Lytle President, J.A. Raven Vice Pres., 22 May 1915; "It's the Man Behind That Counts," advertisement for The Lytle Company and The Lytle Construction Company, 21 June 1916; "Lay Congregation Cornerstone on First Anniversary of Fire," 13 January 1917; "Excavation Work to Be Started Next Week for New Nursery Building," 19 Sept. 1925; "Sioux City Day Nursery Has Grown from Tent to \$60,000 Building in 12 Years; Will Open in New Quarters Tuesday," 11 Sept. 1926; "Donor of New Day Nursery Will Be Guest of Honor at Reception and Open House," 11 Sept. 1926; "Mayor Charges 'Conspiracy': Lytle Named in Answer to Ouster Action," 7 August 1935; "Charles Lytle Dies at Wheel of Automobile," 10 May 1938; "History of Long Service in City to Mothers Cited," 13 June 1939.
- Sioux City Journal and Sioux City Sunday Journal*: "Roof Garden is Planned," 3 Jan. 1922; "Lytle Gets Big Contract," 11 Feb. 1922; "Gives \$60,000 Day Nursery," 19 Sept. 1925; "Day Nursery Lends Helping Hand to Mothers Who Must Earn Living," 25 October 1925; "Give Once for All, and Enough for All: Community Fund 1925," 30 October 1925; "Formal Opening of New Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Building, Gift of Mrs. J.F. Toy, to Be Held Tuesday," 12 Sept. 1926; "New Nursery to Be Opened," 12 Sept. 1926; "New Day Nursery Building, Gift from Mrs. James F. Toy, Will Open with the Board as the Hostesses," 12 Sept. 1926; "Open New S.C. Nursery Today," 14 Sept. 1926; "Day Nursery Is Open to Public," 15 Sept. 1926; "To Commence Work on S.C. Synagogue Soon," 21 Sept. 1926; "Day Nursery Takes Care of Children While Mothers Work for a Living," 8 Jan. 1934; Untitled, 6 Feb. 1938; "C.F. Lytle Dies in Car Accident," 10 May 1938; "Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Its Founding Here," 15 June 1939; "Mrs. J.F. Toy Taken by Death," 6 June 1940; "Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Board Pays Honor to Memory of Founder," 13 June 1940; "'Home Away from Home' for Children Here," 5 May 1942; "Lytle in New Partnership," 20 Jan. 1944; "Lytle Firm to Take Part in Exploration for Oil in Alaska," 23 December 1945; "Miss Emma Anderson," Obituary, 2 Jan. 1951; "Renovation Program Marks 38th Anniversary of Day Nursery, Maintained to Aid Working Mothers," 11 May 1952; "Architect Dies at 71," 19 June 1960; "Jurgen A. Raven," Obituary, 12 Feb. 1962; "Mrs. Hermina (sic) Raven,"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 9 Page 39

Obituary, 28 Jan. 1983; "Mary Elizabeth Day Care Makes Families Its Focus," 23 Sept. 1989; "Historic Day Care," 22 April 1993.

Sioux City Spirit of Progress: "Day Nursery to Have New Home as Gift," 22 October 1925.

Sioux City, Iowa: An Architectural View. Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 1983.

Sorensen, Scott, and B. Paul Chicoine. *Sioux City: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: Donning, 1982.

Steinfels, Margaret O'Brien. *Who's Minding the Children?: The History and Politics of Day Care in America*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1973.

Thirty-First Annual Report of Jewell Day Nursery, Incorporated 1907, No. 20 Macdougall Street, New York. January 1920.

Tyson, Helen Glenn. *The Day Nursery in its Community Relations: A Study of the Day Nurseries of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Association of Day Nurseries, 1919.

Wall Street Mission--1891-1914: Industrial School and Social Center. Sioux City: Wall Street Mission, 1914. 28 pp.

Who's Who in Iowa 1920-21 ed.

Wilson, Richard Guy, and Sidney K. Robinson. *The Prairie School in Iowa*. Ames: Iowa State UP, 1977.

Youcha, Geraldine. *Minding the Children: Child Care in America from Colonial Times to the Present*. New York: Scribner, 1995.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 10 Page 40

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 131, Sioux City East Addition.

Boundary Justification

This quarter block was purchased for the Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery in two installments by Mary Elizabeth Toy and includes the main building, garage, playgrounds, and landscaping. All surrounding land has other uses.

Photographs

Tim Orwig was the photographer for all views and has the negatives. All photos date from 3 January 1997, and depict the Mary Elizabeth Day Care Center, 814 Court Street, Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa.

1. Front (west) facade. Looking east.
2. South facade. Looking north.
3. East facade. Looking west.
4. North facade. Looking south.
5. West and south facades. Looking northeast.
6. Detail: Scallop over front door. Looking east.
7. Garage and Play House: South and west facades. Looking northeast.
8. Garage and Play House: West facade. Looking east.

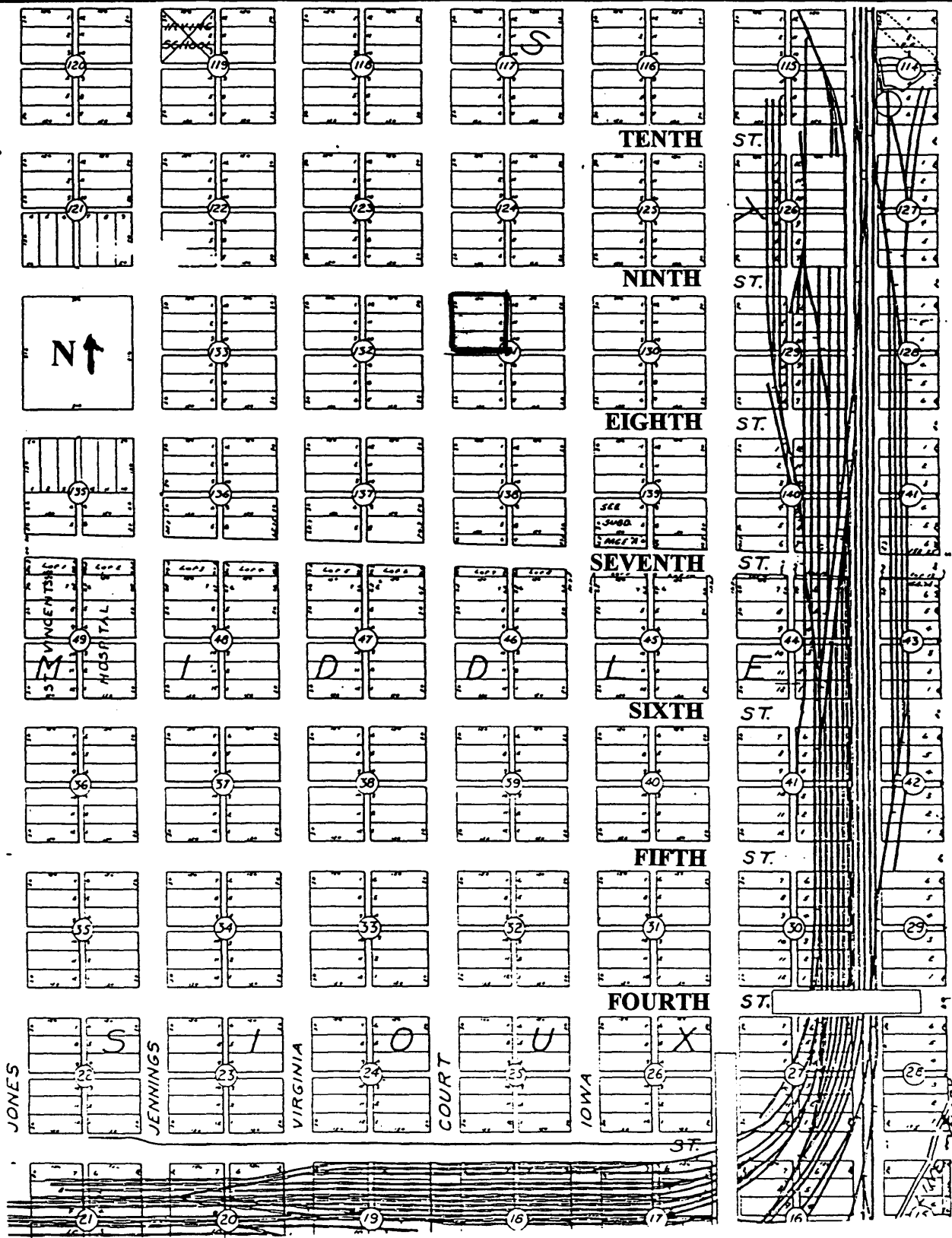
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 11 Page 41

Finlay and Rath Map of Sioux City, Iowa, 1977;
Schieur Surveying, P.C., Sioux City, 1981.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mary Elizabeth Day Nursery
Woodbury County, Iowa

Section number 11 Page 42

Footprint from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1924 (1952 rev.)
An apartment house on Ninth Street, since removed, also appears on the Sanborn Map.

