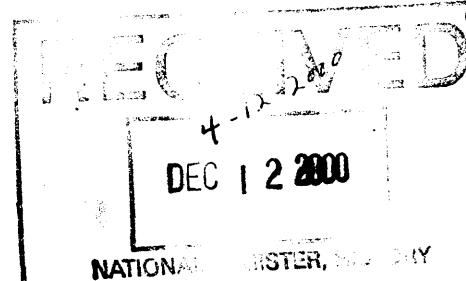


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" 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 Bennington #4

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Intersection Bennington and Sage Roads N/A not for publication
7 miles north and 2 miles east of Waterloo

city or town Waterloo vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Black Hawk code 013 zip code 50703

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 Omlenkina 05/11/00 12-6-00
 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 commenting official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other. (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 1-16-01
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Bennington #4
Name of Property

Black Hawk 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education - School
Social - Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture - Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th
Century Revivals

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood/weatherboard
roof Wood/shingles
other Brick

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____

Architecture _____

Social History _____

Period of Significance

1911-1950 _____

Significant Dates

1911 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>175</u>	<u>557655</u>	<u>4716416</u>
	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 Robert Neymeyer

organization _____ date 3/01/00

street & number 801 4th Avenue telephone 319-346-2048

city or town Parkersburg state IA zip code 50665

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 Steve Sage

street & number 7101 Sage Road telephone 319-233-5340

city or town Waterloo state IA zip code 50703

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**

Bennington #4
Black Hawk Co., Iowa

Section number _7/8 Page __1__

Narrative Description

The Bennington School is on approximately one acre of land and located at the intersection of Sage Road and Bennington Road. There is only 6 feet of land between the back of the school and the line fence for the neighboring farm. The privy is not original to the site. The coal shed, moved to a nearby farm after the school closed, is to be returned to the site in 2001.

Germans came to Bennington Township to farm the rich soil and raise their families. The rich soil brought prosperity and most farmers had large families to help run the farm. But they also valued education and established schools throughout the area. Their affluence led to building more substantial schools with features that most parents found unnecessary or too expensive. Most notable was the ornate belfry and the large 30-gallon cast iron bell. There had been a school at the crossroads of Sage and Bennington since the 1880's, but in 1911 the directors, flush with the wealth from the most prosperous era in farming, decided to construct a new school. In order to demonstrate their success, and in response to other schools with bell towers, the directors adorned the building with a tower, a tin ceiling and an attic. There was another unique feature. The north side of the building had no windows, but did have two windows on both the east and west ends. The school, built on the crest of a gentle slope, was vulnerable to the cold northwestern winter winds and the lack of windows on that side helped to reduce the cold.

Apart from these features, the building is of standard school construction. Built by local carpenters and farmers, it has a gable roof with trim at the wall line. There is an interior brick chimney on the east end of the building. The foundation, made of decorative block, has deteriorated and, in the 1940's, 3 anchors were added. The windows, replicas, are 2 over 2 double hung and all but the front (west) side are covered with plywood for protection. The roof has cedar shingles, as does the bell tower. The hardwood floor had been replaced at some earlier time. The clapboard siding has been repaired.

A restoration effort was settled in 1997 when it became clear the building was deteriorating. The interior plaster and lath walls, determined to be too damaged to repair, were removed to the studs. The wainscoting was removed and preserved. The present plan will use drywall as a replacement. The tin ceiling is also in poor condition but nothing has been done with that to date. Work on the interior is expected to start in the spring of 2000. At this time all interior walls are removed, including the wall that separated the cloakroom from the classroom. A local 4-H club is doing some of the work.

Statement of Significance

The school is locally significant under Criteria A Education and Social History for its association with a prospering German-American settlement, and Criteria C for Architecture as a good example of the country school style. The school's interior is presently being renovated.

The school was opened in 1911 and served a four-section district. During the 1910's and 1920's, the class sizes were often 30 or more. While the quality of education was always considered to be high, the proof was when Bennington graduates attended East Waterloo and became the top students in their class. Because of their proximity to Waterloo, graduations from 8th grade were held at the Cedar Park Chautauqua. Most of the graduates in the 1920's and 1930's went on to high school in Waterloo.

The predominantly German-American community made use of the school for social events and programs. However, the presence of Mt. Hope Methodist, one mile to the south, meant the school was never used for

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bennington #4
Black Hawk Co., Iowa

Section number 8/9/10 Page 2

church services. Box socials were particularly popular, both for raising funds for the school and encouraging young single adults to interact.

The height of the building, approximately 4-6 feet higher than most, and the bell tower made the game of 'anny anny over' more difficult. Likewise the narrow passage at the back of the school restricted the movement of students during their recess and lunch breaks. But it also made Bennington #4 somewhat special. When students from other schools visited, or when others used the grounds, only the local students knew how to take advantage of the unique features. Whether it was the games, the visits from skunks, the harassment of the teachers or Christmas programs, the students who attended through the 8th grade developed a close bond. Even after high school and employment off the farm, most would maintain their ties to their country school classmates.

By the late 1940's, Bennington #4 began to experience some decline in numbers. But the closure of the school in 1955 was the result of the state mandate to consolidate the country schools into the nearby town districts. Since Bennington was nearly equidistant from Denver and Dunkerton, families were given a choice where their children would attend. That resulted in the neighborhood also being somewhat fragmented. However, in the past 5 years the restoration work at the school has served to draw the community closer.

The school and land were sold in 1958 to a member of the Sage family who had lived in the area for over a century. Many of the family had taught school and all the children had attended Bennington #4. The bell was moved to their farm until it was returned in 1999.

Bennington #4 is somewhat atypical of country schools in that it has a bell tower. While most schools preferred, usually for financial reasons, to use a hand bell, the successful farmers in the area likely believed the tower would add prestige to the school. But the other principal features of country schools are present in Bennington #4: gabled roof, clapboard siding, common window alignment, and simple exterior. Located on the prairie and on a rise, the outline of the building was recognizable as a school from any distance or angle.

Bibliography

Area 7 Education Agency records

Black Hawk County Courthouse records.

Hartman, John C. *History of Black Hawk County and its people*. Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1915. 2 volumes.

Kramer, Jo Ann. Historical packet.

Van Metre, Isaiah. *History of Black Hawk County and its representative citizens*.
Chicago: Inter-State Publishing, 1886, 2 volumes.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Bennington #4
Black Hawk Co., Iowa

Section number 10 Page 3

The school is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Sage Road and Bennington Road, Section 17, Bennington Township, Black Hawk County.
SW 1/2 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 17, Township 90, range 12 West.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the school, which contains one privy not historically associated with the school.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

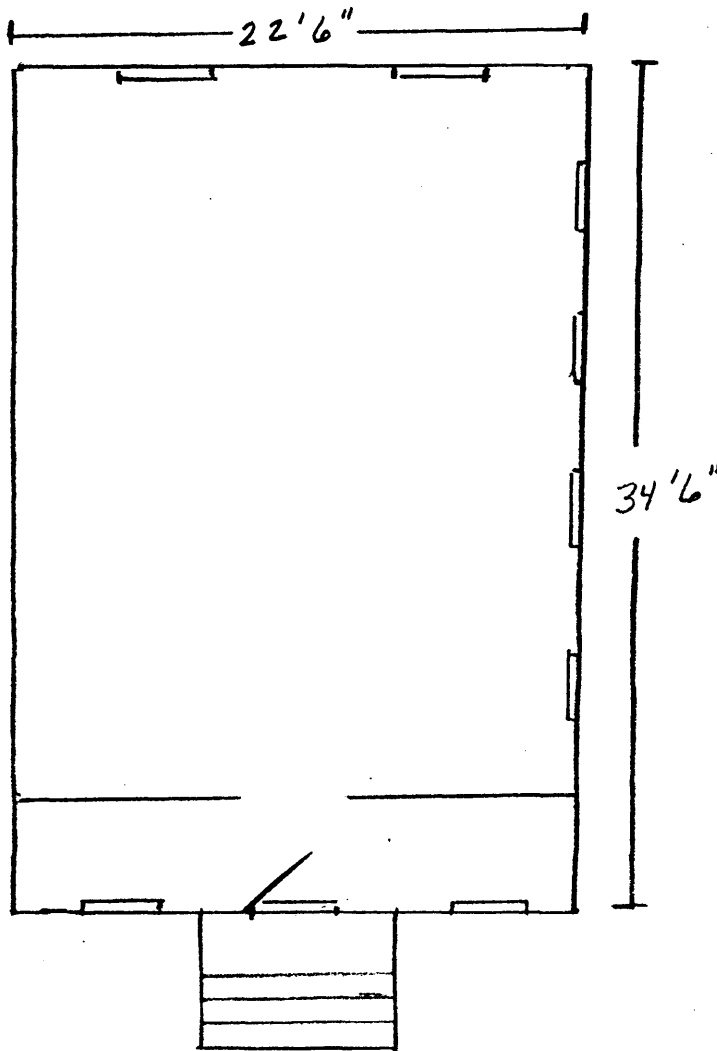
Section number Add'l Page 4

Bennington #4, Black Hawk County, Iowa

Bennington #4
Black Hawk County, Iowa



Privy



Bennington Road

1/2" = 4'

Sage Road

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 5

Bennington #4, Black Hawk County, Iowa

Bennington #4, Black Hawk County, Iowa
Waterloo North Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series 1963

