

# DATA SHEET

PH 0678678

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

3.6.

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 6 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 19 1979

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC Edgewood School of Domestic Arts (*Edgewood Community Center*)  
 AND/OR COMMON Edgewood Community Center

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 719 River Street  
 CITY, TOWN Iowa Falls VICINITY OF Third  
 STATE Iowa COUNTY Hardin CODE  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Third  
 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

### CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: COMMUNITY CENTER, apartments

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Edgewood Board of Trustees  
 STREET & NUMBER 719 River St.  
 CITY, TOWN Iowa Falls VICINITY OF STATE Iowa 50126

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hardin County Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN Eldora STATE Iowa

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
 DATE  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN STATE  
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Edgewood, originally a school for domestic arts for young women, and since 1937 an Iowa Falls community center, was built 1909-1910. It is situated on high ground east of the Iowa River, and overlooking the Iowa Falls community.

The building is of heavy frame construction on a rock-faced stone foundation, with exterior walls faced with dark red brick. The main block is approximately 60 feet long, with table roof ridge parallel to the front. At either end (and at right angles to) the front facade are gable-roofed projecting pavilions which give the building a U-shaped plan. These pavilions have eaves slightly flared at the edges, and full cornice returns. The gable ends are covered with diamond-shaped shingles. A large frame roof dormer, centered above the front facade, has partially-returned cornices and scalloped shingling in the gable end. A large, one-story flat-roofed porch, supported by short square posts on high brick pedestals, shelters the area between the pavilions. The original porch, balustraded, did not extend beyond the front walls of the pavilions, and the brick pedestals were topped with small urns.

There is a central main entrance, and basement entrances on the sides and rear. Windows are of varying sizes, with broad, flat concrete sills and lintels. Fenestration is symmetrical on the front, irregular on the sides and rear. There is a single, centrally-located frame roof dormer with a pair of small windows, on the rear. Two brick chimneys are symmetrically situated toward the center of the main roof ridge.

The interior of the building has been remodelled and redecorated several times over the years. It is now used as a community center, with small apartments on the second floor for elderly persons.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1896-35

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Edgewood School of Domestic Arts presents a local manifestation of late 19th and early 20th century Progressive reform activity in the U.S. Founded by Eva Harrington Simplot in 1896, the school expressed several elements of the social reform movement of the time: individual philanthropy, concern for the status and condition of women, and course of instruction designed to "help people help themselves". Eva Simplot's concern was somewhat broader, but in the tradition of, many other local Iowa philanthropists, the best-known of whom (George Musser, C.J.A. Ericson, Kendall Young, for example) funded public libraries in their communities. Unlike many social reformers of the Progressive era, however, Eva Simplot had had personal experience with the conditions her school was planned to ameliorate.

Eva Harrington was born in 1856 near Hazelton, the oldest of ten children. Her family earned a precarious existence at farming, and thus, in her teens, she was forced to support herself as a seamstress. Following a brief marriage to a man named Smale, Eva went alone to Iowa Falls, and in 1880 opened a small dressmaking shop, at which she made her living until her marriage to Walter Simplot in 1886. Several years later, she survived a severe illness, and her life took on "a new meaning". She "began to study different lines of philanthropic work, and was convinced that 'to help others help themselves' was the truest benevolence" (letter from EHS to Mrs. Ira Nichols (n.d.) quoted in Hardin County Times, June 14, 1955).

Acting upon this impulse, Eva Simplot attended courses at Chicago's Armour Institute in dressmaking and other domestic arts. With this formal training, and her own experience, she opened her Iowa Falls school, in two houses on a large lot overlooking the Iowa River, in 1896. Over the next 35 years, over 900 girls and young women received instruction here.

The large brick building, "Edgewood", was begun in 1909, funded both by the Simplots and by community donations of cash, furniture, and equipment. Edgewood School of Domestic Arts was incorporated in 1910, and formal departments of sewing, cooking, laundry, millinery, "fancy work", and music were established. Edgewood operated successfully until Eva Simplot's death in 1935. In her last years, she realized the declining need for schools of this kind, as the domestic arts gradually became regular parts of public school curricula, and the importance of a high school education, for girls as well as boys, was given statewide recognition. In her will, Simplot have the Edgewood property to "the women of Iowa Falls", for use as a community center -- a function it continues to serve today.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hardin County Times, 14 June 1935.  
 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, from Edgewood scrapbooks, mostly undated, from 1909-10, 1935, 1937; Iowa Falls Sentinel, June 1, 1926, June (n.d.) 1928.  
 Mowry, George E. The Progressive Era, 1900-1920: The Reform Persuasion. Washington, D.C. : The American Historical Association, 1972.  
 Wiebe, Robert H. Businessmen and Reform: A Study of the Progressive Movement. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 1/2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Waterloo, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 478000 4707600

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Block 42, Original Town of Iowa Falls.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 E. Market St.

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL   X  

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian A. Johnson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

2/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles Peterson*

DATE

4-19-79

ATTEST: *William H. Abraham*

4-19-79

DATE

~~CHIEF OF REGISTRATION~~