

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 30 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 14 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Frankville School

AND/OR COMMON

Frankville Museum

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

State Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Frankville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY  
Winneshiek

CODE

191

**3 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 checked="" 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 RESIDENC
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Winneshiek Co. Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Luther College Library

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52101

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Winneshiek County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

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

The Frankville School was built in 1872, and is constructed of rock-faced ashlar limestone, the stones more carefully dressed on the front facade than on the other walls. Dimensions are approximately 30' x 40'. The school is two stories high, with a gable roof and single brick chimney at the rear. Lintels and sills are massive blocks of rock-faced stone, except on the front facade. On the front, the round arch is used for the main entrance and window above, formed by carefully dressed stone voussoirs and keystones.

Modifications to the school have been minor. About 10 years ago, the original bellchamber was badly damaged in a storm, and the wreckage removed. The roof has composition shingles, and the wood stoves have been replaced by a furnace (thus the recent brick chimney). Electricity was installed early in the 20th century, running water in the 1930's. A fire escape on the south side is also a 20th century feature.

The Winneshiek County Historical Society has owned the school since 1963. It is now a local museum which contains the usual assortment of artifacts of interest to people from the area. Also found here is a collection of items related to Laton Huffman, a native of the Frankville area who specialized in photographs of the Montana frontier during the 1880's.

The school is located in a rural area, in the unincorporated town of Frankville. The road which runs by it was once a popular stage route between Decorah and MacGregor.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

PECIFIC DATES      1872      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      W.H. Hooper

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Frankville School is a well-preserved example of vernacular stonemasonry. It is simple in form and aspect, but its austerity is relieved by the keystone round arches in the front facade. Stone school houses were relatively rare in 19th-century Iowa: the great majority were of frame or log construction, or of brick. The number of stone schoolhouses in the state, at their peak in 1874, was only 268, compared with some 8000 frame schools and about 650 school buildings of brick (Parker, p. 47).

The Frankville School of 1872 replaced an earlier school building erected in the mid-1850's. Unlike most local schools of its time, this school provided adequate facilities for area students until 1962. This primarily due to the fact that the town of Frankville never had a railroad, which discouraged settlement in the community. With the village remaining relatively small, the two-story stone school provided ample facilities for local students, even when a high school was established on the second floor in 1920. In later years, the high school and elementary grades were removed to Decorah; from 1958 until its closing in 1962, the school housed only kindergarten and 7th and 8th grades.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Parker, Leonard F. Higher Education in Iowa. Bureau of Education, Circular of Information No. 6, 1893. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1893.  
 Sparks, Charles H. History of Winneshiek County, Iowa. Decorah: Jas. Alex. Leonard, 1877  
 Brown, Mark H. and William R. Felton. The Frontier Years: L.A. Huffman, Photographer of the Plains. New York: Bramhall House, 1956.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
 QUADRANGLE NAME LaCrosse, Wisc.; Iowa; Minnesota QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	6 1 2 0 0 0	4 7 8 2 6 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 58 and 60 (Spring Street) and Lots 57 and 59 (State Street), in the village of Frankville, Section 25, T79N R7W.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mary Klimesh, Historic Sites Researcher  
 ORGANIZATION Winneshiek County Historical Society DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET & NUMBER Luther College Library TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY OR TOWN Decorah STATE Iowa ZIP 52101

# 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. Anderson  
 TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE 5/19/78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER Charles H. ... DATE 11-14-78  
 ATTEST: Marvella ... CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE 11-8-78