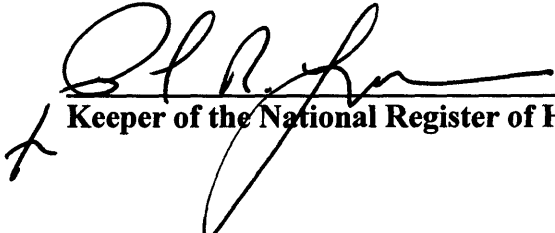


1.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Holland, Ora, House in Dubuque County, Iowa, reference number 86001613, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 08/14/1986, as evidenced by FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of August 22, 1986. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.



Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

8/22/09
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Ora Holland House

and or common Holland-Viner House

2. Location

street & number 1296 Mt. Pleasant Street _____ not for publication

city, town Dubuque _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Dubuque code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. John Viner

street & number 1296 Mt. Pleasant Street

city, town Dubuque _____ vicinity of state IA 52001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Dubuque County Courthouse

city, town Dubuque _____ vicinity of state IA 52001

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title historic Sites Field Survey of Dubuque has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 1973 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town Des Moines _____ vicinity of state IA 50319

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The majestic Ora Holland home (1855-1857), situated on a half-acre lot, reigns over a quiet residential neighborhood on one of Dubuque's Seven Hills. The two-story brick with ten spacious rooms, adequate closets and baths, is ideal for gracious family living. Reminiscent in form of the Adamesque, or Federal style, the entry, heavy window cornices and parapets atop the walls reflect the Greek tradition. The Holland House is one of the earliest brick homes built west of the original settlement and is the only structure of the design in the City.

Composed of two rectangular offset sections and a one-story cubicle on the north, this massive, dignified structure is approximately 40' x 70' in size. The double massing increases the over-all complexity and richness of both plan and elevation. The height above street level and expanse of lawn contribute to the home's visibility.

With no early building records available, it cannot be determined if the unit on the north was original. Legend tells us that this unit was used as kitchen and pantry, opening into the present dining room. At some undetermined time, this entrance and fireplace (dining room) were closed, the half-flounder converted to a guest bedroom and bath.

Fenestration of the west facade is symmetrical; that of the south wall of the front section suffered the intrusion of a casement window on first floor, while windows of the upper floor are symmetrical. All these windows (except casement) have 4/4 panes and are capped by heavy wooden, recessed cornices. Windows of the rear section, south and north facade, are symmetrical except where an inner wall or stairway intrudes. These are all 6/6 with wooden lintels imbedded flush with the brick wall, sills slightly protruding.

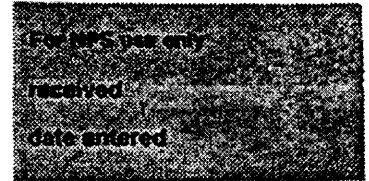
Composed in the Greek Revival manner, the recessed entry of the three bay front is distinguished by four pilasters enclosing colored glass sidelights and a clear glass transom bearing the builder's name (painted) and date of construction along with name of present owner and date of occupancy. Three rows of bead/reel surround the center panel of the heavy door. A heavy wooden cornice caps the unit.

Originally, a covered veranda swung across the front and around to the north entrance. The porch roof with its spindled balustrade over the frieze featuring dentils and brackets was supported by slender columns. It is thought this porch was removed about 1890. Today, the southeast, or side, porch duplicates the dentils and brackets shown in the 1882 photo of the encircling veranda. The metal railings on the stoop and terrace stairs are recent alterations.

In 1979 the open porch above the rear garage (1910?) was enclosed, the side porch screened (1980) and 1984 saw the addition of an unattached three-car garage at the east end of the driveway, north side of the house.

This irregular lot, 110' wide at the street, 190' at the deepest point east-west, and 150' across the back, is situated 6'-8' above street level. A white picket fence stretches from the southwest corner of the house to the south lot line. A chain link fence encloses the remainder of the property to the northwest

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Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	Page
	<p>corner of the new garage. An ancient pine tree graces the front lawn near the house, three large red maples are located on the south lawn, low plantings near the base of the house, numerous trees and bushes across the rear of the lot. A flagstone patio abuts the side porch, equipped with wrought iron furniture.</p> <p>Street furnishings consist of an antique hitching post at the curb, heavy iron railing on the step approach from the street with an iron lamp post at the top.</p> <p>The variety of residential architecture is a graphic illustration of a neighborhood's history. Mt. Pleasant Street is a wide, quiet residential area inhabited by middle class citizens. The gamut of architectural styles predominating are several large vernacular frames, Queen Anne, Second Empire, Dutch Colonial, brick ranch and bungalow styles. Several of the larger homes have metal or composition siding and some are multi-family. Well kept lawns, trees and plantings abound. The homes in this two block area are well kept, but the Holland House is paramount due to its stature and siting.</p> <p>As in many early mansions in the City, a rear section or block was built to house the family during construction of a more imposing unit toward the street. Thick walls between the two sections indicate this procedure in the Holland House. Heavy cross beams and timber supports are of hand-hewn oak with many square nails in evidence. Exterior walls are 10" thick, of triple brick construction; plastered interior walls are 10" thick, except the 20" walls between the two sections. No supportive work is apparent, indicating structural soundness.</p> <p>Interior features reflect the artistry of Mr. Holland. Fireplace faces, doors, including pocket doors, bear the bead/reel decor of the front entrance. All windows and doors throughout the house are framed in wide, molded pine with large eared cornices. Keyhole escutcheons are of silver plate with porcelain knobs. Eight inch cove moldings appear in the front block of the house and the dining room. The grand staircase has walnut spindles with maple railing. While embellished with superb, but restrained, ornamentation, the interior conjures an aura of grandeur. The 12' windows accentuate the 14' ceilings.</p> <p>The current owners applied oak flooring over the original 6" pine; converted the dressing room of the front bedroom to a nursery and recently to a linen closet; converted the bath between the two sections to a laundry and the small bedroom of the rear section to a bath, all with no structural alterations. Air conditioning was also installed.</p> <p>The richness of decor, authentic antique furnishing and chandeliers, all appropriate to the period of the home, are attributes of an "open house" facility. Since 1980 the Viners have graciously entertained local group, tours during DubuqueFest which bring many out-of-town guests, Friendship Force groups (international visitors), and hosted receptions for visiting celebrities, such as our Governor.</p>	7	2

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1882 Photograph of Holland House by photographer Robert W. Smith,
reproduced courtesy of Dr. John Viner.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1855-57 **Builder/Architect** Ora Holland, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ora Holland House is among the oldest and most unusual examples of early brick residential construction in Dubuque. Local contractor-builder Ora Holland erected this two-story edifice between 1855 and 1857 as a testament to his considerable prominence in the City's material growth. Stylistically, the house, which features stepped brick parapets along its roofline, represent a variation of the Greek Revival that was fairly common in 19th Century Dubuque but has become increasingly rare.

The Holland House is situated approximately thirteen blocks west of the 200' bluff that defined the western boundary of the 1833 settlement of Dubuque. This upper land was originally dotted with lead diggings and miners' huts. In the middle 1850's, four Langworthy brothers and a sister built prestigious homes (3 extant) on this prairie, utilizing the land as gardens, extensive orchards and brick making. It was during this era the Hollands acquired their first parcel of land. Indications are that construction consumed some two years (1855-1857) while Mr. Holland was engaged in building for contemporaries.

This massive building is among the oldest and most unusual examples of early brick residential construction in the City. The two-story edifice stands as a testament to Mr. Holland's considerable prominence in the City's material growth. Stylistically, the house represents a variation of the Greek Revival style fairly common in the 19th Century but has become increasingly rare. It is a singular example of the style in Dubuque. Decorative features, interior and exterior, reflect the artistic bent of the builder, as manifested in other buildings constructed by Mr. Holland.

Mr. Holland (1825-1910) came from Vermont to Dubuque in 1846 after stopping in Jacksonville, Illinois where he learned the building trade. He is reputed to have excelled in mathematics and related sciences and was listed in Dubuque directories as builder and/or architect. Married in 1852 to a sister of attorney and entrepreneur Platt Smith, the couple soon established their home on the hill. Apparently, they shunned public life but had many friends who were entertained in the home. White canvas spread on the Brussels carpet and an orchestra was an invitation to a dance. Mrs. Holland was talented in the arts. One son, in insurance, reared his family in the home with the parents. Another son attained prominence as a doctor.

Of the numerous buildings constructed by Mr. Holland, the following should be mentioned:

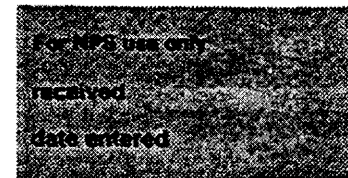
The Camp Union Barracks (1861), six buildings 20' x 60'. Demolished 1870.

The Octagon House (1854), HABS and National Register 1975. Edward Langworthy.

The James Marsh home (1854) (Langworthy sister). Ornate Italian Villa w/eight Carrara fireplaces, French window glass, intricate carving throughout and on heavy entrance doors. Home demolished 1960 for school playground. All building elements taken to Ohio for reconstruction but still in storage.

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Frank Byrne home, 24th/Main, (18??). No record. Demolished.

Judge J. W. Kintzinger home, 563 West 11th. Second Empire, no exterior alterations. Now multi-family.

Attorney Louis Hurd home, 1234 Grove Terrace, Italiante, encircling veranda, rear additions, multi-family.

The William Ryan House, 1389 Locust, Second Empire, (1870), architect Van Osdel of Chicago. Multi-family.

The Andrew-Thompson-Ryan home (1873) Second Empire, National Register 1985.

The Simplot Building (1878), 4th and Main Street, South Main Historic District.

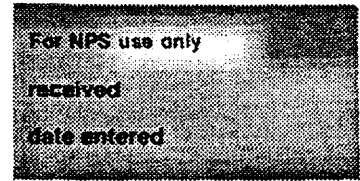
St. John's Episcopal Church, 24th/Main, (1878) High English Gothic constructed of Farley limestone (Dubuque County).

In 1929 the surviving son sold the Holland home to Walter Carey, M.D., whose family occupied it until 1945. Insurance man and State Representative (1969-1972) Ted Ellsworth owned the property 1952-1966. Friends Richard Bissell and Stewart Alsop, national columnist, were often guests. The latter friendship spanned in a German POW camp, from which they escaped.

Dr. John Viner is an outstanding Internist, an Infectious Disease Specialist, and the Dubuque Area Counselor for AIDS. Mrs. Viner is a Medical Technician practicing in nursing/retirement homes under auspices of the Visiting Nurse Association.

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical

Item number 9

Page 2

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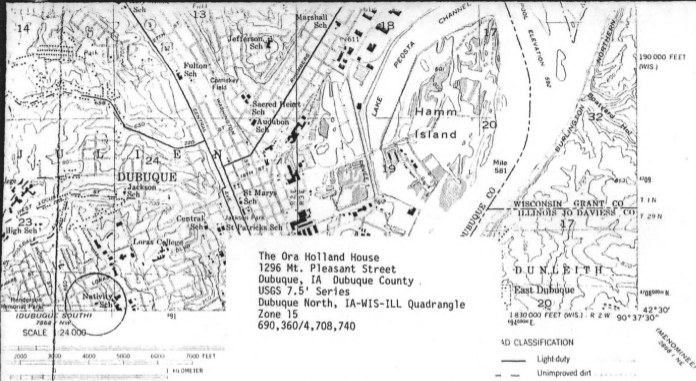
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The Ora Holland House
 1296 Mt. Pleasant Street
 Dubuque, IA Dubuque County
 USGS 7.5' Series
 Dubuque North, IA-WIS-ILL Quadrangle
 Zone 15
 690,360/4,708,740



contour interval 10 FEET
 LINES REPRESENT 5 FOOT CONTOURS
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

CONFORMS WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 NATIONAL TRIANGULAR SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240,
 NATIONAL BUREAU OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706,
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
 GEOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

- ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- Light duty
 - - - Unimproved dirt
 - U.S. Route
 - State Route

DUBUQUE NORTH, IOWA—WIS.—ILL.
 N4230—W9037.5/7.5

1956
 PHOTO REVISIED 1972
 AMS 7809 II SW—SERIES V876







Holland House
Dubuque, Iowa

Photographer - Robert W. Smith
Reproduction of 1882 photo
Negatives - Dr. John Viner
West elevation

Photo # 7.

Photography
By
Bob Smith