

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 9 1982  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic           Dominie Henry P. Scholte House          

and/or common           Scholte House          

2. Location

street & number           739 Washington Street                      not for publication

city, town           Pella                      vicinity of           congressional district          

state           Iowa           code           19           county           Marion           code           125          

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>          NA          </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name           Pella Historical Society          

street & number           507 Franklin Street          

city, town           Pella                      vicinity of            state           Iowa          

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.           Marion County Courthouse          

street & number           

city, town           Knoxville                      state           Iowa                     50138          

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title           None           has this property been determined eligible?            yes            no

date                       federal            state            county            local

depository for survey records           

city, town                       state

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## 7. Description

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**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**

As the only Pella home of H.P. Scholte, the founder of that city and its most important early leader, the house is of primary historical significance. It is located on the north side of the town square, the only house there. Many commercial buildings have had pseudo-Dutch architectural features applied to them in the past few years, and those American Greek Revival elements of the Scholte House show that the Dutch immigrants used local materials and American styles. A modern garage and a "garden house" with a thatched roof (probably for tool storage) share the good-sized Scholte site, whose backyard extends for three blocks. Originally the Scholtes planted a formal garden in the rear, apparently not extant.

The Scholte house is a warren of small and large additions built since its construction in 1847-48. A file of materials and labor bills fixes the date. It appears that the original house, considered immense in its times, was long and gabled with the long portion facing the street. There are still cornice returns and a simple cornice on this portion; later additions have also been of clapboard. The original house sported a long two-story porch along the east end. (Around 1900 the double decker solarium filled in part of the porch.) A sketch accompanying Leonora Scholte's memoirs, A Stranger in a Strange Land, shows a large porch as well as a small flat-roofed porch (not extant) over the west entrance. The house appears to be a combination of Greek Revival motifs and Dutch gingerbread rendered in wood. The east gable end has a semi-circular louver and a nonfunctional balcony and canopy adorning the sole window on the second floor.

Two additions extend to the rear on the east end of the house. The two-story portion date from 1903 while the one-story curator's quarters were added in 1980. Several large additions occur to the west as well. The largest, two-story, is recessed slightly from the original house facade so that the original side windows remain. This section which does not appear on the Scholte book sketch, houses the dining room and kitchen, with a stucco bath at the rear. The owners say that there has been no change in the rooms, but, if the early sketch is at all accurate, then there has been some re-arrangement of use and space. Indeed, throughout the house, new openings have been made and others closed off. The house once included rental apartment space, and the library and east living room were sealed off from one another.

The interior features many items belonging to the Scholte family. Reportedly the original carpet and wallpaper ordered from Paris in the 1860's still exists in some parts of the house. Much of the woodwork including the staircase, is walnut.

# 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 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 checked="" 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** 1847-48      **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

H.P. Scholte was the founder of Pella and the spiritual, practical and formal leader of the Dutch Emigration Society that planned and carried out migration of several hundred people to Pella. The immigrants sought both increased prosperity and religious freedom. The Scholte family house was an early showplace in the region, one of the first constructed by the Dutch after their arrival in 1847.

Scholte was significant in the religious history of the Netherlands, being a primary leader of the Secessionist movement from the organized church in the 1830s. He continued to be religiously and politically active in Iowa, to the point of delivering a seconding speech for Abraham Lincoln at the 1860 Republican convention. He also was chief commercial leader in early Pella, investing heavily in early mills, assorted developmetn ventures and land. In 1855 Scholte founded the first permanent newspaper in town, the Pella Gazette, the only one in the region at that time. He was one of three founders of the first and largest bank in town (later named Pella National Bank.) He was a leader in acquiring Baptist Central College for Pella in 1853 and served as president of the college trustees. Later events, especially his switch from the Democratic to the new Republican party and his participation in highly emotional church schism issues, diminished Scholte's influence. But his initial contribution to Pella's existence and growth remains.

After Scholte's death in 1868, his widow and her second husband, R.R. Beard, lived in the house. Beard carried on Scholte's commercial leadership through the end of the nineteenth century.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Pella

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UMT References

A 15 506930 4583880  
Zone Easting Northing

B              
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 24 & 25, Block 17, Original Town: Beg. at pt. 60' E of SW cor. Lot 24, east 186', north 252', east 44', north 16', west 140', south 65', west 150', south 110', east 60', south 93' to pt. of beg.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Iowa code 19 county Marion code 125

state    code    county    code   

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Co ordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date October 26, 1982

Historical Building

street & number East 12th and Grand Ave. telephone   

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national xxx state    local

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 Executive Director Iowa State Historical Dept date November 1, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 12/10/82

Keoper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet    Bibliography    Item number    9.    Page    1.

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Des Moines Tribune, 6 November 1978.

Pella Chronicle, 22 April 1937.

"The Scholte Home, Pella, Iowa," pamphlet.

The Booster Press, Souvenir History of Pella, Iowa (Pella: G.A. Stout, 1922).

K. Van Stigt, History of Pella, Iowa and Vicinity (Pella: Weekblad Print Shop, 1897).  
Manuscript of translation by Eliaza Kempfes.

Leonara R. Scholte, A Stranger in a Strange Land (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Erman's Publishing Co., 1942).

George Lucas, "Beginnings of Dutch Immigration in Iowa," Iowa Journal of History and Politics, October 1924.

Cyrenue Cole, "A Bit of Holland in America," Midland Monthly III (February 1895), pp. 115-128.

CIRALG Historic Sites Survey Form.

Muriel B. Kooi, "Pella's Unusual Old Homes," The Iowan (December-January, 1960-61), pp. 31-33.