

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 5 1987
date entered

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

FEB 5 1987

1. Name

historic Eldridge Turn-Halle
and or common Tomberg's Turner Hall

2. Location

street & number 102 West LeClaire Street not for publication
city, town Eldridge vicinity of
state IA code 019 county Scott code 163

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Leo Tomberg
street & number 102 West LeClaire Street
city, town Eldridge vicinity of state IA 52748

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office
street & number Scott County Courthouse
city, town Davenport state IA 52802

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>c. 1905 (west wing only)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building complex as it presently exists represents a number of discrete buildings, all of which were directly associated, in their present form and configuration, with the Turnverein in Eldridge beginning in 1905.

The Original Turn Halle (pre-1894, originally located on Block 3, relocated c. 1905-07) (the Dance Hall):

A single story side wing (79' x 36' hall, 20' x 36' west end addition), with steeply pitched gabled roof, forms a right angle with the two story section and is connected by means of a single story enclosed hallway. This method of joining has preserved the original double transomed entrance on the east end. This wing runs east and west. The westernmost twenty feet of the plan is a one and a half story stage housing with flat roof and parapet-cornice surround. This surround suggests its addition following the move, since this matches that on the saloon.

Five symmetrically placed 2/2 double hung sash windows originally pierced each side wall, all five remain on the north side, four are left on the south side, the easternmost being covered by the saloon. Matching double doors flank the west end of the dance hall in front of the stage. The stage area has a basement, single side door exits and an exterior chimney flue on the west wall. A 6" raised platform rises above the dance hall floor on the north, south and east sides. A second 6" platform, on top of the first, adjoins the two side walls.

The foundation is rough coursed limestone, with little if any bonding material. Framing is undetermined. Exterior clapboard is four inch pine. Trussed rafters support the roof and composition shingle covers the roof. The building interior is supported by two east-west running 8" x 8" beams which rest on rubble stone-cement foundation.

Horizontal wainscoting covers the walls and arched ceiling. A high transomed entrance is centered on the east end.

The Boecken House (1880-81):

The original two story frame hotel (40' x 78') had a tri-partite broken pediment surmounted by a low pitched rising arch. The heavy projecting cornice line, which is supported by a parapet on both side walls, was interrupted by the facade treatment. A tall flagpole was centered on the roof ridge and a sign proclaimed the

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1905-1936 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A; Social History, German Ethnic Settlement
Contributing Resources: 1

What is locally known as Tomberg's Turner Hall today, is significant for its service as the Eldridge Turner Hall or "Turn Hall" during the period 1905-1936. The Eldridge Turner Bund served as a central community focus for the community of Eldridge. As such, it provides an important example of rural-small town Turnerism, an organization of great importance to German immigrants within the context of the settlement and development of the upper Mississippi River Valley. Iowa's eastern river cities were favored by German settlers. The Turner Society, a voluntary German educational, cultural and athletic organization, was the social center of a predominately German community in Eldridge between the late 1880's and well into the present century. Scott County, with its very large German population, saw the full development of this movement in its major city, as well as in its outlying areas.

Emigration to Scott County from the German States of Holstein and Schleswig began as early as 1836. It first peaked in the early 1850's after the failure in 1848 to liberate these states from Danish domination. The Turner movement as it developed is associated with the German free-thinkers who left these areas to maintain their personal civil rights. German emigration continued through the 1880's, motivated primarily by economic factors.

By 1880, approximately one-quarter of the Scott County population, totaling 28,460, originated from the German Empire. As Iowa experienced considerable population growth in the following twenty years this proportion although high fell to one sixth of the population by 1900. Scotch-Irish emigres at first dominated Sheridan Township, original settlement by Germans having begun around Eldridge only by 1860.

As a result of this high German immigrant concentration in the county, numerous organizations normally associated with this ethnic group emerged. For example in the City of Davenport, the Turnverein, a fraternal gymnastic organization; the Schuetzen Gesellschaft, a shooting club; the Claus Groth Circle, a literary club; the Maennechor Saengerband and Harmone, musical groups; Deutsche Theater; and Deutscher Kampfgenassem, veterans of the Schleswig-Holstein and later wars, all emerged after 1850. Germans tended to dominate business and politics in Davenport and the county.

The German Turnverein or Turner Bund in Davenport was established

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Eldridge

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	0	1	2	5	0	4	6	1	4	0	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Beg. at the NW corner of West LeClaire and Front Streets, thence 160' west, thence 275' north, thence 160' east, and thence south to place of beginning.. This is a portion of the south one half of the southwest one fourth of Sec. 11, Township 79 North, Range 3East.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Research and basic text by Joyce McKay, Private Consultant

name/title Form prepared by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa State Historical Society, Bureau of

Community Programs, Office of Historic Preservation date November 13, 1986

street & number Historical Building, E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state IA 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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 *David Crossen*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/10/86

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

James E. Jacobsen Kept in the National Register date 2/5/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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building's purpose, "TURN-HALLE". A shallowly pitched gabled parapet has replaced the original arrangement prior to 1923. The roof is otherwise flat.

This building remains on its original site, and its plan runs north and south, fronting on LeClaire Street. The main facade fenestration, on the second floor, is symmetrically arranged. That on the side and rear walls, while generally in vertical alignment, consists of an assortment of window sizes. The widest windows are found on the facade and on the two southernmost bays of each side wall. A full-length front porch of undetermined height once graced the hotel facade.

The present interior plan incorporates a restaurant (front) and banquet room (rear center) on the main floor. Stairs to the second floor are set in a hall which runs across the plan, east and west with single door exits at either end. A small shed or entry porch is found on the northwest corner of the building.

The foundation is limestone rubble covered with a heavy cement coating both inside and out. The building employed balloon frame construction (2" x 6" main framing members), exterior walls are sheathed in 5" pine clapboard. The flat roof is supported on 2" x 6" pine rafters, the roof covering is composition tar.

The hotel interior treatment matches that of the saloon, with dark narrow wainscoting, pressed tin ceiling in most rooms, especially downstairs, and matching woodwork. The banquet room can be separated by a folding room divider.

The Boecken House Saloon (c. 1905):

A single story frame tavern, rectangular on plan (19' x 72') completes the set, fusing the two earlier buildings at the base of the right angle. This flat roofed building, again with parapet and corniceline, has a cut corner entryway. A Neoclassical stylistic influence predominates, reflected by the angled front entry and the recurring cornice line patterns.

The foundation is poured concrete. The building employs balloon framing (regular dimensioned lumber), its flat roof is based on 2" x 4" rafters and is covered with a composition tar roof. The interior floors rest on 2' x 4" beams.

The interior finishing of the saloon includes narrow dark

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wainscoting which covers half of the walls, the turn-of-the-century woodwork. The bar, dark stained with tiling along the floor, is original. The saloon retains its pressed tin ceiling.

Ice House:

This one story frame structure has a gable roof, a shed roofed side addition (north side) and a double door entrance (east end). The building pre-dates 1894 and appears in its present configuration as early as 1936.

Alterations:

The original hotel was constructed 1880-81 on its present site. A full length front porch, of one or two story height, was on its facade as late as 1904 (Bennett Insurance Map). The saloon was added, c. 1905, certainly by 1907, and the original Turn Halle was moved in c. 1905. The connecting hallway, while absent on a 1936 Insurance Map, appears on all other maps beginning as early as 1919.

Ca. 1905, in conjunction with the construction of the saloon, the interior of the hotel was remodelled. The hotel's main facade was altered in 1905 with the saloon addition and the hotel roofline was changed between 1919 and 1923. Asbestos siding was added to the saloon and the hotel in the 1930's when the buildings were still in use by the Turnverein.

The hotel building has seen the addition of the rear service shed, and some minimal window and door alterations. A door and window were added to the west end of the tavern. Two new double doors were added to the southwest end of the dance hall. The stage area in the dance hall was recently paneled and a small bar was added to the northeast corner.

Landscaping and Physical Context:

The present complex is surrounded by a lawn on the north and west sides. There is a sparse covering of trees. In 1894 the property buildings included a single story stable, due north of the hotel, the ice house, hotel and four other buildings. The Boecken home (not included) on the southwest corner of the block and a summer garden filled the space between house and hotel. The outbuildings occupied a north-south line between the hotel property proper and the Boecken household. Some of the buildings

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were associated with the latter. By 1904 the property included a bowling alley (set east-west, connected to the north side of the ice house and running west from its northwest corner about 120' x 15'), ice house, a rectangular stable (south half two story, north half one story, hipped roof, present in 1894) set north and south, due north of the ice house, and a stable-like structure (labeled "Hotel", 50' x 80', just behind the hotel, also present in 1894). A 1905 source locates the largest stable and the bowling alley on the lot. By 1919, the summer garden lies behind the complex, no outbuildings are indicated. By 1936 the present day plan is in place, the ice house is however labeled a dwelling. The hall is termed a "Public Hall", the hotel and tavern are so identified.

The town depot, located in what was Front Street, just west of the railroad, was immediately east of the hotel/hall, and present as early as 1894. Generally speaking, the downtown of Eldridge was located one block north, focused on the intersection of Franklin and Second Streets. Residences occupied the blocks due west of the Turner site.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the SE corner of the intersection of West LeClaire and Front Street, thence 160' west, thence north 275', thence east 160', and thence south to place of beginning. This area equals just less than one acre. Included are the Turner Hall, ice house and a grassed park-like area which surrounds the building.

Criteria Considerations:

The inclusion of a moved building in this nomination does not violate the criteria consideration on moved buildings. The relocation of the original Turn-Halle, while eliminating or weakening the historical associations with the Turners prior to the move, does not effect the current site or the integrity of its theme association. The period of association post-dates this move. The moved building provides historical continuity and is integral to the historical process of remodeling the second Turner complex to meet the needs of that organization. The moved building provided the auditorium or dance hall/gymnasium space for both Turner periods.

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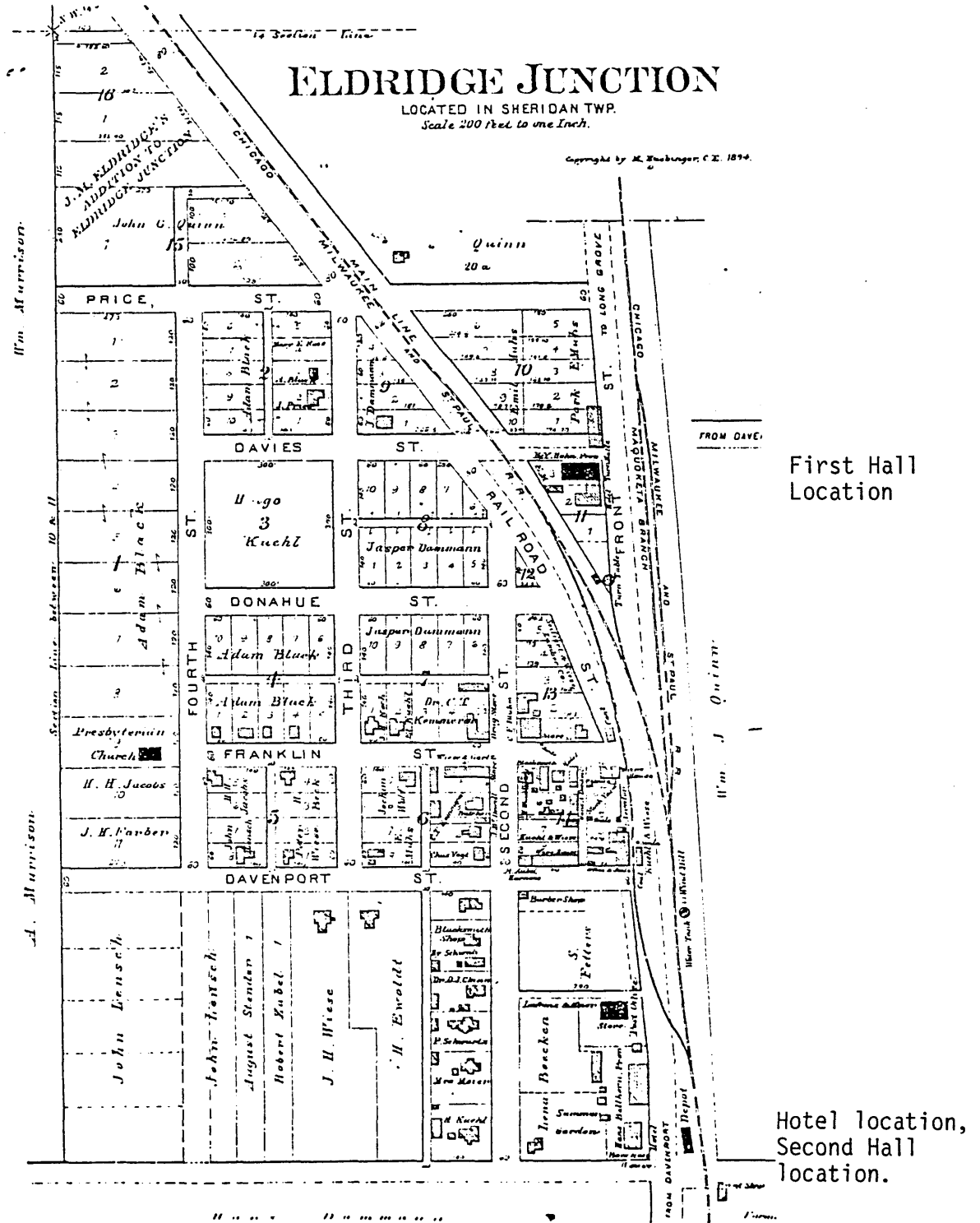


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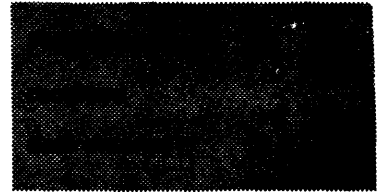
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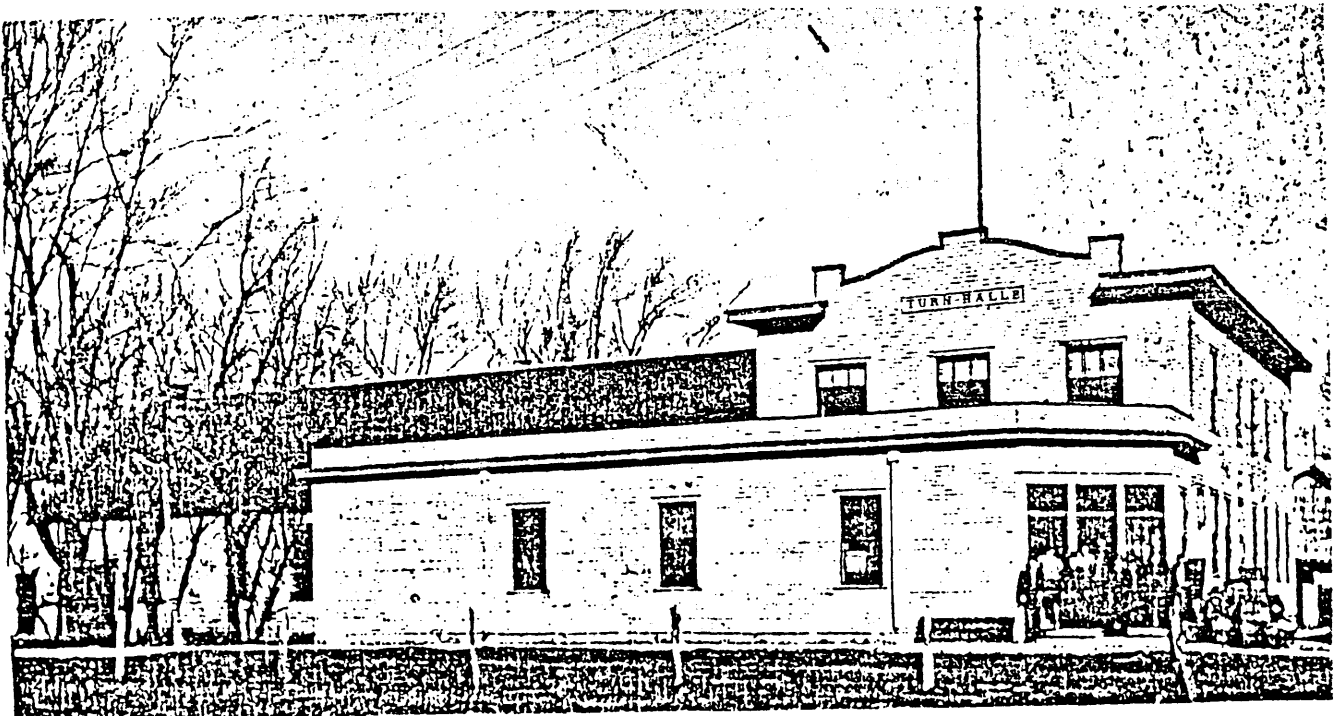
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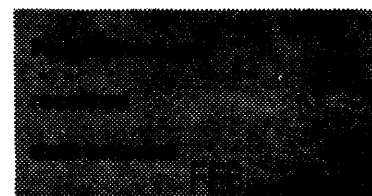


Turn Halle

view of original Turn Halle.
Building on right was relocated.



C. 1919 view of second and final Turn Halle site. Former hotel is two-story structure to right. Relocated Turn Halle from first location is wing to left. Saloon addition is in foreground.

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lecture and debates on a wide range of social issues. The Turners also utilized the surrounding grounds, planted as gardens in the early twentieth century, for a meeting place, picnics, celebrations, circuses and birdshoots. In 1905, they maintained a single lane bowling alley (Eldridge, City of, 1971:83; Helzinger, oral interview 1986; Edna Spies, same; Ewoldt, same; Brockman, same; Wiese, same; Tank, same). The Turn Halle also served the general public. It rented sleeping rooms to travellers on the second floor of the hotel, rented its hall to other groups such as the Farmer's Institute (Eldridge, City of, 1971, 15; Tank, oral interview, 1986; Ewoldt, same; Brockman, same).

The Turnverein Buildings in Eldridge:

The Boecken House (Hotel):

The original 1880 Boecken House or Hotel was extensively altered following its purchase by the Independent Malting Company, the latter an apparent business vehicle for the Eldridge Turners. This building still on its original site, provides a direct linkage with the earliest commercial eras of what was once a thriving railroad-based community. Between 1890 and 1905, the complex assumed its present-day appearance with the addition of the tavern, the west hall relocated from the original Turn Halle, and a range of interior modifications. The completion of this work c. 1905 marks the beginning of the period of direct and significant association of buildings with the Turner organization. Alterations subsequent to this date include the addition of asbestos siding and the alteration of the cornice prior to 1923.

Matthias C. J. Boecken purchased the present Turn Halle site (S1/2 of SW1/4 of SW1/4, Sec. 11) from Jacob Eldridge on August 26, 1880. He mortgaged this property for \$2,000 on January 29, 1882 (Scott County, 48LP:513, 2TLM:383). The C. Boecken Hotel is listed in the R. L. Polk State Directory 1880-81 (page 251). The Interstate Publishing Company described M.C.J. Boecken as proprietor of the Boecken House, indicating that it was constructed in 1880 opposite the railroad depot (Interstate Publishing Company, 1882:1239). The original building was therefore constructed during the years 1880-81. Mr. Boecken owned the hotel until 1888 when he died (Scott County, Recorder, 14LP:583, 48LP:497, Probate #2740, Docket 4:479) His wife Lena ran the establishment until its sale in 1905 to the Independent

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there as early as 1852. Membership in this organization rose from 65 in 1865 to 283 thirty years later, peaking at 805 members in 1905 in three Turner organizations. The membership in rural areas remains untabulated, however these figures and interviews with present Eldridge residents clearly indicates the importance of the movement in German-dominated small towns.

The Settlement of Eldridge:

Primarily prairie, Sheridan township, including Eldridge, was not settled until after 1866 (Iowa Publishing Company, 1882:137). Jacob Eldridge platted his name-sake in 1871 as a railroad community on the Davenport and St. Paul Railroad (Maquoketa branch). The main line eventually travelled from Davenport to Fayette. Upon changing hands in 1877, the railroad built shops and an engine house in Eldridge. However, after being absorbed by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul in 1879, these facilities were removed to Oxford Junction. Prospering for a short while, Eldridge slumped economically until it revived as a agricultural trade center, probably in the late 1890's (Eldridge, City of 1971: 3,7; Downer, 1910: 372-5; Interstate Publishing Company, 1882: 1237-38; Parker, 1942:49).

The town plat for "Eldridge Junction" was a small square of some sixteen variously-shaped blocks. The railroad bordered the east edge of the plat with a branch line running northwest across the plat from the plat's eastern midpoint. As of 1894 the town boasted three general stores, three hotels, two blacksmiths, a drug store, creamery, elevator, livestock yards, meat market, lumber yard, a farm implements dealership and a brick yard. These firms all located west of the railroad on the east side of town. Curiously, the depot occupied the extreme southeast corner of the town plat, adjacent to the primary hotel, the Boecken House.

Although originally settled by Scotch-Irish and American-born settlers from the Northeast in the 1870's, Eldridge eventually became dominated by German immigrants. In 1880, nineteen households or thirty seven percent of the population were German. The population then totalled ninety-seven persons. By 1900, twenty five of fifty one households or forty-nine percent were German. Another one fourth had parents born in Germany. Thus, those of German descent composed seventy-four percent of the population which then totalled two hundred and seven.

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German proprietors eventually dominated the business community. Of the eight businesses advertised in 1877, only two or three had German owners. This profile altered little through the years 1880-81 and 1884-85. But by 1890 and as late as 1895, nine of the thirteen businesses or sixty-nine percent were German-owned. By 1900, the number of businesses reached thirty five and their German proprietors totalled twenty-nine or eighty-three percent. Although dipping to seventy-six percent by 1905, by 1920 the number of German proprietors had risen to ninety percent (City Directories, 1877-1919).

Many current residents noted the prevalence of the German language and culture traits during the first three decades of the twentieth century (Brockman, oral interview, 1986, Tank, same, 1986). However, a commonly associated institution, the German Lutheran Church, was not established until 1959. The government of the German States of Holstein-Schleswig had dictated church attendance. Thus, the Holstein-Schleswig Germans of Eldridge in part relied upon the Eldridge Turner Bund to preserve aspects of their Germanic tradition (Brockman, oral interview, 1986, Downer, 1910:876).

Although the German community at Eldridge experienced harassment and federal investigation during the First World War (oral interviews, Tank, 1986, Ewoldt, 1986), the Turner Society remained a strong organization through the 1930's. In many areas, such as in Davenport, the Turners suffered immediate decline by 1914 (Svendson 1982:1-9). The German communities in Iowa generally experienced strong incentives to divorce themselves from their German ancestry (Wiede, 1979). The Turners survived primarily as an American gymnastic organization in the 1920's, becoming the American Gymnastic Union in 1922. However in Eldridge the Ladies Auxilliary to the Turner Society was founded in 1920. It remained a strong organization until the introduction of physical education in the public schools in the early 1940's (oral interviews, Tank, 1986, Helzinger, 1986). By the time of the sale of their property to the Tombergs (present owner's father) in 1945, the group had probably disbanded. However, no precise record for this dissolution can be found (oral interviews, Tank, 1986, Ewoldt, 1986, Tombergs, 1986).

The Turnverein, Purposes and Activities:

Richter, a local historian of German descent, characterized the purpose of the Turnverein in his newspaper writings: "...It was

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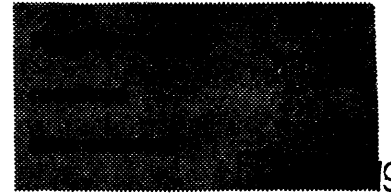
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established to promote and develop [sic], the physical man, and also for the improvement of the mind" (Richter, 1905). It was said that 'in a strong body lived a strong mind' (Ewoldt, interview, 1986). Each Turnverein was divided into several sections. The "Physical Section" sponsored gymnastics training as well as other competitions such as bowling and shoots. Teachers received very specific training for education of the body. The "mental training section" promoted free thinking and encouraged political, religious and social reforms. Such topics as prohibition, conscription, slavery, nativism, the presence of religion in schools, woman suffrage and labor and health reforms became the topics of lecture and debate. "Their meetings were not secret, and their members were at all times willing to listen to suggestions or opinions of those not belonging to them" (Richter, 1905). Singing and musical sections, as well as theater groups were also important. The Turners provided financial assistance for its members during sickness and death. It was thus also a mutual aid society (Richter, 1905; Helzinger, interview 1986; Johnson, 1946; Metzner, 1911; Ewoldt, interview, 1986; Gruber, 1986). The Turnverein served in many ways as the social center for the German communities.

Research failed to pinpoint the date and circumstances of the organization of the Eldridge Turnverein. Frank Ewoldt, resident of Eldridge since 1923, recalls that his uncle assisted its organization in the late 1880's or early 1890's. Such a date coincides with the growth of German population in Eldridge. The Eldridge Turnverein officers included not only a president, secretary and treasurer, but a teacher and turn wards or assistants to provide proper physical training. The Articles of Incorporation of the Turner Holding Company which was formed to oversee the Turn Halle referred to the athletic, social and benevolent functions of the organization (Scott County, Book K, Incorporations, p. 244).

The diverse activities of the Eldridge Turn Halle coincided with the general purposes of that organization. The tavern and surrounding gardens served as a meeting place for the Turners and the general public. In the hall on the west end of the building, instructors taught gymnastics to children and adults once a week. At least in later years, they held basketball and volleyball competitions there. The Turners sponsored a dance every two weeks, organized a band, and held masquerades in their hall. They became active promoters of political candidates and issues at election time and held political rallies as well as sponsoring

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Malting Company (Scott County Recorder, 67LT:607). State and county directories clearly indicate its use as a hotel and saloon until 1905 (R.L. Polk & Co., 1880-81, 1884-85, 1889-90, 1895, 1900-02, 1903-06, U.S. Dept. The Interior Census Office 1880-1900, Interstate Publishing Company: 1894, Ebel 1886:79, M. Huebinger 1882:32,104; McCoy 1900:543; Iowa Publishing Company 1905:60). Between 1890 and 1896, Lena Boecken consumated four mortgages, totalling \$5,050, suggesting either financial difficulties or considerable construction or remodeling activity. (Scott County, Recorder, 51LD:580, 39LM:42, 45LM:347, 39LM:175, 45LM:512). The addition of the tavern apparently ocured c. 1905 since it fails to appear on insurance maps up to 1905, and it was in place just after the relocation of the old Turner Hall from the north end of town by 1907. Hans Ballhorn was proprietor of the hotel in 1894 (M. Huebinger, 1894:32). By 1904, the hotel included a saloon, a second floor dance hall, and its outbuildings including most of those later associated with the Turn Hall, a bowling alley, stable and ice house (H. Bennet, Insurance Map, Eldridge, Iowa, 1904).

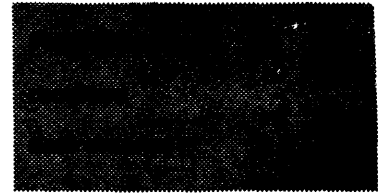
The Independent Malting Company, existing since 1895 for the apparent purpose of conducting business transactions for the Eldridge Turner Bund, purchased the hotel in 1905 (Scott County, Recorder 67Lt:607;E Inc.:113). It sold the property to the Independent Real Estate Company for one dollar in 1906 and continued the same building use, of hotel and saloon (Scott County, Recorder, 75Lt:120, H Inc.:102). Ida Brockman recalls the Turner's ownership of and presence in the hall by 1907. By this time, a wing of the original Turn Halle had been added, forming a west wing within the complex.

References to the Boecken House as a hotel end in state directories by 1905-06 (R.L. Polk & Co. 1905-06). Thus, sometime between 1905 and 1907 the buildings began their Turn Hall function. In 1917, the Independent Real Estate Company sold the property for one dollar to the Eldridge Turner Holding Company. Its Articles of Incorporation state that its business is to run, operate and maintain the building and grounds of the Turner Bund for athletic, social and benevolent purposes. These Articles were renewed for twenty years in 1937 (Scott County, Recorder, 95Lts:161, K Inc.:244, Q Inc.:295).

After 1945, Henry Tomberg ran the complex as a tavern, restaurant and boarding house, renting the west hall for community gatherings. He sold the property to his son, Leo O. Tomberg five

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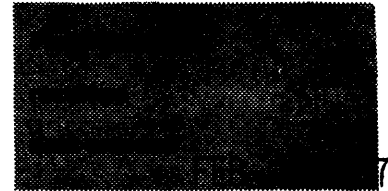
years later. Leo continues to own and operate the buildings as did his father.

The Original Turn Hall:

The first Turn Halle in Eldridge stood three blocks due north of the subject site, nestled on a triangular block set between the two railroad lines diverging from the east center of the town. The construction of the original Turn Halle (Lot 3, Block 11) is not so readily dated. The 1894 plat and the town business directory of that date locate the building at its site, three blocks north of the present hall site. Henry Y. Hahn appears as proprietor of the "Hotel Turn Halle" (M. Huebinger & Co., 1894:32, 104). State directories fail to list the hall at that site until 1901-02, well after it had been erected (R. L. Polk & Co., 1901-02:625). It was probably built for use as a Turn Halle prior to 1894. The original Turner buildings formed a U-shaped configuration. A two story, south rear wing containing a stage and dressing room was linked to the single story hall. It was this hall which was brought south. A number of sources note its relocated presence by 1907 (Brochman, oral interview, 1986, Tank, same, Wiese, same; H. Bennet 1904, Iowa Pub. Co. 1905:60).

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