

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 30 1976
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC



Thedinga, J.H. House

AND/OR COMMON

Thedinga House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

340 West Fifth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

VICINITY OF

STATE

Dubuque IA

CODE

14 19

COUNTY

Dubuque

CODE

061

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leo Meier, Trust Office American Trust & Savings Bank

Robert A. Sullivan Estate:

STREET & NUMBER

Ninth and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dubuque County Courthouse, County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

720 Central Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Dubuque, Iowa, Original Survey of City Lots

DATE

2/4/1840

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Land Office, Iowa Territory; State of Iowa 1897; Department Interior, General Land Office, Washington, DC 1897

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thedinga House is a rectangular two and one half story red brick structure with dark wood trim. It has crowstepped gables, symmetrically placed windows with six lights over one, stone lintels and sills and a limestone foundation. Tax records indicate that it was built about 1855 as an addition to the frame house originally on the lot. At the time it was built it provided a library and parlor on the first floor, two bedrooms on the second floor and a full basement. The basic brick structure measures approximately 36' x 26'.

Somewhere between 1885 and 1900 the frame structure was razed and the brick house was altered by changing the library into a kitchen and dining room, dividing the parlor into two sections, and adding the lower and upper porches to the south side. Windows were also added on the west side and an open, gable roofed porch was attached to the southeast corner.

Mr. Robert A. Sullivan, a restoration consultant and a member of the Governor's Restoration Committee to restore the Hubbell Mansion in Des Moines, purchased the home in 1973. The only exterior alteration by Mr. Sullivan was the addition of a new roof and enclosure of the gabled porch as a continuation of the lower side porch. Floor joists and bearing walls were stabilized in the basement, but the quarter-sawed oak floors, original pine woodwork and the original plaster were retained. Mr. Sullivan died in 1974, but the restoration of the interior has since been finished. Estate managers plan to lease the house to qualified tenants with written stipulation that no alterations are to be made without consent of the trustees, who have urged application for National Register status since the City's 1975 street program calls for the widening of Fifth Street and demolition of this house.

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"/> [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> CULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> [REDACTED]	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thedinga House is considered significant in Dubuque because of the contributions of its builder and first owner to the city of Dubuque. Mr. Thedinga was one of the early settlers in Dubuque and was a leading citizen during the city's early years.

J. H. Thedinga, 1814-1876, was born at the family estate, "Kloster Theding" near Leer, Ostfriesland, Hanover. Although he received a classical education toward law, he renounced plans for health reasons, came to American in 1835, settled permanently in Dubuque in 1839 and engaged in retail business. During the remainder of his life in Dubuque he held the following positions: 1844-elected alderman; 1847-one of a committee to settle all land claims in the mining district before land sales; 1850-elected county commissioner; 1852-1854-Justice of Peace; 1858-1876-Board of Education; 1861-Chairman of Board of Supervisors; 1862-1866-First German Mayor; 1864-Organizer and President of German Bank.

When he died the entire city paid tribute by closing banks, schools and business firms and through published resolutions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Correspondence with granddaughter and family scrapbook: Miss Elinor Williams, 2108 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201
 Child's History of Dubuque County, 1880, pages 886-887.
 The Dubuque Daily Telegraph - December 19, 1876.
 The Dubuque Daily Times - December 19, 1876.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	6,9,16,5,0	4,7,0,7,4,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

bounded by W. 5th St. on north (front)
 Bounded by Bluff St. on west

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

Mrs. Kenneth Mercer, Curator

ORGANIZATION

Dubuque County Historical Society

DATE

August 12, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

1198 Mount Loretta Avenue

TELEPHONE

(319) 583-4360

CITY OR TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

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

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

4-22-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

John P. ...

DATE

11/9/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. ...

DATE

11/1/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER