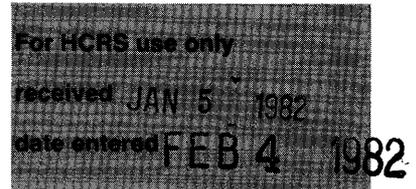


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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

**1. Name**

historic August F. Poehler House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 700 Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Henderson \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Second

state MN code 22 county Sibley code 143

**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"/> 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 checked="" 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 Sibley County Historical Society

street & number 700 Main Street

city, town Henderson \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state MN

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number

city, town Gaylord \_\_\_\_\_ state MN

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1973 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - 240 Summit Ave. - Hill House

city, town St. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ state MN

## 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 August F. Poehler House is located on the north side of Main Street at the foot of the bluff on Henderson's west side. The prominent house occupies a spacious lot overlooking downtown Henderson. The former Sibley County Courthouse is located to the east and the public school to the north, atop the hill.

The stately residence was designed in the Queen Anne style by Mankato architect George Pass and constructed in 1883-84 at a cost of \$39,000. The large brick house consists of two units, a large two-and-a-half story section of an irregular plan and a one story summer kitchen on the west side. The two story section features high gabled roofs with towering fluted chimneys. Windows are both rectilinear and arched. Decorative cut wood transom panels are utilized over some windows while hoods with keystones and dripstones adorn others. Half round and quarter round windows are located in the gable ends. An angled two-story bay is situated on the southeast corner of the building flanked by a first-level entry on either side. The brick surfaces are broken by continuous stone sills on both floors and relief brickwork on the exterior end chimneys and on a checkerboard frieze beneath the bracketted cornice. The large porch which wraps around the southeast corner of the house replaced the original porch and balcony after the turn-of-the-century. The summer kitchen utilizes similar but simpler design features.

The house retains excellent interior as well as exterior integrity. The well preserved building presently houses the Sibley County Historical Museum.

## 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/ 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 checked="" 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** 1884

**Builder/Architect** George Pass

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The August F. Poehler House is significant both for its association with a prominent and influential early Henderson settler and as a well preserved example of the residences constructed by area entrepreneurs in the more successful communities during the mid to late nineteenth century. August F. Poehler emigrated to Henderson from Germany in 1856 to join two older brothers, Fred and Henry, who had started a mercantile business in the fledgling community of Henderson, which had been platted on the Minnesota River the previous year. August, at 18, took charge of the fur trading end of a business based on a trading post, fur trading, and government contracts. The Poehler Brothers business prospered and branched into lumber, grain, and milling, becoming a major commercial interest in the area. August Poehler became the sole owner of the business in 1887. He contracted with Mankato architect George Pass to design the family residence in 1883, at a time when the family business had achieved a great deal of success and the Minnesota River town of Henderson had become a flourishing center in the county, serving as the county seat and an important center of trade and commerce. The building remains a prominent element in the now quiet river town, reflective of an earlier period of prominence and of the success achievable by area entrepreneurs during the late nineteenth century.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Poehler, James Armin, "The Story of the Poehler Brothers," The Henderson Independent, Centennial Editor, July 25, 1952.  
 Sibley County Historical Society, miscellaneous historic photos located in museum.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .8 acres

Quadrangle name Belle Plaine

Quadrangle scale 15

**UMT References**

A 

1	5
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4	2	7	7	5	0
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4	9	3	0	7	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Block 97, City of Henderson

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Britta Bloomberg Research Historian/Survey

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date November 1980

street & number 240 Summit Ave. - Hill House

telephone (612) 296-0101

city or town St. Paul

state MN

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Russell W. Fridley*

title Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/2/81

**For HCRS use only**

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

*Alana Byers*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register    date 2/4/82

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration