

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (December 1, 1999)

State Inventory No. 22-02134 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 22-01381
 Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries
 National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE
 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance Number _____
 Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name Methodist-Episcopal Church/Friedens Evangelical Church/Modern Woodman of America Hall
 other names/site number Cedar Street Suites

2. Location

street & number 111 Cedar Street NW
 city or town Elkader vicinity, county Clayton
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town _____ Block(s) 4 _____ Lot(s) W. 45 FT. LOT 8

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
	If Non-Eligible Property Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of: Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	1 _____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ Total	1 _____ Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).
 Title Arch. & Hist. Resources of the Elkader Downtown Historic District MPD Historical Architectural Data Base Number 22-030

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>06A01 Church</u>	<u>01B02 Apartment Building</u>
<u>03A04 Hall of Fraternal organization</u>	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>04B Gothic Revival</u>	foundation <u>03 Brick; 04C Stone/limestone</u>
_____	walls <u>03 Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08A Asphalt</u>
_____	other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Clayton
City Elkader

Address 111 Cedar St. NW

Site Number 22-02134
District Number 22-01381

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

27 RELIGION

13 ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Significant Dates

Construction date
1869 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates
1898 (moved)

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc.

organization City of Elkader

date 7/2011

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telephone 715/469-3300

city or town Sarona

state WI

zip code 54870

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or non-contributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

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Methodist-Episcopal Church/Friedens Evangelical Church/Modern Woodman of America Hall	Clayton
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7. Description:

This building was originally built in 1869 as a frame church and was located at 308 First Street NW. In late May and early June 1898 the church was moved south two blocks to the southeast corner of First Street NW and Cedar Street NW. By June 25, 1898 the building was in place. The building was not in place on the 1895 Sanborn Map but was in place by the time the 1902 map was published. The two dates are confirmed by numerous published sources correcting the 1890 date of the Clayton County Assessor.

The Methodist-Episcopal Church/Friedens Evangelical Church/Modern Woodman of America Hall at 111 Cedar Street NW is an example of a Gothic Style Center-Steeple form. Originally built as a clapboard-clad frame building, it was given a rock-faced limestone foundation and brick veneer finish after it was relocated during the summer of 1898. The building retains both the brick and stone finishes though the brick is painted in 2011. The church's center-steeple form, which projects slightly from the front, originally extended a full story before terminating in a low-pitched hipped roof with a finial for the spire. Sometime since the move, the third level section was removed and the current roof line was installed. It has a gable profile that matches that of the main roof.

Fenestration changes are the most significant alteration for the building. It originally had pointed or Gothic arched windows on the side facades with similarly arched windows flanking the center-steeple, above the entrance, and in the third level of the tower (nonextant). The double-wide entrance had a Gothic arched opening as well. All of the windows were multi-light double-hung windows. At an unknown date the windows were modified when a second interior floor was added. Now all of the windows are 1/1 double-hung windows in singles and pairs with shorter windows on the upper level, center bay. In the center-steeple, a flat arched entrance is in place on the main level and the former Gothic window above has been bricked in. Flat-arched windows are in place to either side of the center-steeple bay – one window on the main level and a pair on each side on the upper level.

The other primary change is the elimination of a massive three sided set of steps extending across the front of the church building. It has been replaced with a narrower single flight set of steps and wide landing. A balustrade with horizontal boards lines the east and west sides and the railings.

8. Significance:

The Methodist-Episcopal Church/Friedens Evangelical Church/Modern Woodman of America Hall at 111 Cedar Street NW was built as a church, moved to its present location in 1898, continued to be used by the Methodist-Episcopal Church, subsequently used by another congregation, and later used as a fraternal hall. The building occupies a prominent site along First Street NW and is a contributing resource in the Elkader Downtown Historic District. The district derives significance under both Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the district's commercial buildings are associated with the historic contexts developed for the downtown in the "Architectural and Historical Resources of the Elkader Downtown Historic District" Multiple Property Documentation form covering the years 1846 to 1960. Under Criterion A, the building is a contributing resource as the only example of a church and the only extant example of a freestanding fraternal building in the downtown. Because of the occupancy of this building by three successive users whose histories are tied to the history of the downtown's growth and

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development during the period after the building's physical move, the building is considered a contributing resource despite its move in 1898.

Elkader Downtown Historic District Background:

The town of Elkader was laid out in 1846 along the banks of the Turkey River approximately 16 miles upstream from the Turkey River's confluence with the Mississippi River. The town was surveyed and laid out in 1846 with the Original Town Plat filed in June 22, 1846 by Timothy Davis, Chester Sage and John Thompson, friends and business partners, who began operating a sawmill on North Front (Main) Street in 1845 before the town was even platted. By 1849 they had a successful flour mill in operation. The new town was named for Abd el-Kader, an Algerian freedom fighter and world figure who was admired by Davis. The principal building stimulating development in the 1840s and 1850s was the Elkader Mill. After 1860 when the Clayton County voters selected Elkader as the permanent county seat, the downtown saw a variety of merchants set up shops, several hotels open, a number of newspapers begin publication, and small manufacturing concerns get underway in the city center. Elkader numbered 440 residents in 1860.

The new county court house saw its first section completed in 1869 opposite the downtown. New limestone buildings were erected along both North and South Main Street with public halls frequently located on upper floors. During the 1870s and 1880s 2-story brick buildings began replacing frame business houses. A permanent railroad connection was completed by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul RR in 1886 but service remained poor as Elkader was located at the end of a spur rather than along a main line route. A more important transportation improvement during the 1880s was the completion of the Keystone Bridge across the Turkey River in 1880. Its completion prompted a period of economic vitality and community investment. The community was officially incorporated two years later in 1891 and a new waterworks system and city well were completed in 1896. Electricity was rejected by locals until the end of the decade in 1900, however. In the meantime, new churches were built in 1897 for the Congregationalists on the east side of the river and in 1897-1899 for the Catholics on the west side of the river. Coupled with a series of major fires during the 1890s, the downtown saw a period of rebuilding with a new hotel and bank at the entrance to the business district at the turn of the century. The new opera house was completed on North Main Street while other 2 and 3-story brick blocks appeared both north and south of Bridge Street.

By 1900, Elkader's population stood at its peak of 1,321 – an increase of 77 percent during the decade of the 1890s. Development continued in the downtown before and after World War I but at a much slower pace. Floods and fires damaged the Elkader Mill in 1902, 1906 and 1908, but it was nevertheless rebuilt by Schmidt Brothers & Co., retaining a key employer and anchor for Elkader's downtown. The business district began to extend to the west before and after the war with the principal changes seen along West Bridge Street. Here livery stables and wagon shops were replaced by automobile dealerships, implement companies and filling stations. Five stations eventually located along West Bridge with a sixth one block to the south along First Street SW. The national economic depression of the 1930s was coupled by the closing of the Elkader Mill in 1939 following a major fire. Natural disasters after World War I included major floods in 1922, 1947, and 1958 with a tornado destroying section of South Main Street in 1958 as well.

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Despite these natural and human made disasters, Elkader saw steady but modest population growth from 1,223 in 1920 to 1,526 in 1960. The impact of the automobile was seen in traffic patterns, parking patterns, and traffic signs and the introduction of electricity saw several generations of street lighting come and go. The popularity of the opera house waned and the first floor became the municipal fire station while two movie houses came and one stayed in the downtown drawing evening crowds for entertainment and shopping. As many as 130 people resided in downtown flats during this period. A good system of inter and intra-state highways connected Elkader and its downtown to other parts of the state and country in a way that railroads had never served the community. By 1960, downtown Elkader was well-established as one of several geographically dispersed retail centers serving Clayton County. Virtually every storefront was filled with start-up businesses or multi-generational family stores as Elkader's downtown achieved a stable and healthy status for local and countywide residents.

Historic Background for the Methodist-Episcopal Church/Friedens Evangelical Church/Modern Woodman of America Hall at 111 Cedar Street NW:

This building was originally constructed in 1869 for use as the Elkader Methodist-Episcopal Church. It stood at 308 First Street NW before it was moved two blocks south to its present location in late May and early June 1898. By June 25, 1898 the building was in place. The Methodists occupied the church under the leadership of several ministers until 1906 when the church and adjacent parsonage were sold to the Friedens Evangelical Church, frequently referred to as the "German Church" and the "Peace Church." It was occupied by Friedens Evangelical Church until 1923 when a new building was completed for the congregation two blocks away in the 300 block of North Main Street. In 1925 the former church was taken over for use as a fraternal hall by the Modern Woodmen of America, one of several fraternal organizations that occupied hall space in downtown buildings. The Modern Woodmen continued at this site until at least 1951 according to Sanborn Maps published that year.

A summary of newspaper articles related to the two churches from 1898 to 1923 taken from research compiled by the Elkader County Historical Society/Carter House Museum volunteers appears below:

1898 – March 3: Unknown source

Law suit between Henry Schoch and George W. Schoch; referred by Anton Kramer. Property sold for \$1200 to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Lot 8, minus a strip 20' wide off the east end, parallel to the alley. Possibly could be 107 Cedar NW across from the Register office, the original school house on the west side.

May 12: Regular services were held at the church.

May 19: Memorial services were held at National and Farmersburg.

May 26: M.E. Church being moved.

June 2: "There will be no session of the Union Sunday School owing to the Methodist Church is on the move."

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June 23: "Mr. Davis expects to have the Methodist Episcopal Church on its new location by Saturday, (June 25th). It has been a heavy burden for his outfit."

December 15: Elkader Register

Methodist Episcopal secured first building in 1869 – a schoolhouse. But the present building was started in 1869 and took several years to complete; moved the summer of 1898; added a basement and was brick veneered.

1905 – October 5: Paper Unknown

Rev. E. Leonhard of Shelby, Iowa, arrived here Sat., and is to have charge of the Lutheran Congregation at Elkader. He will hold services every Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock in the M.E. Church. Mr. Leonhard has rented Mrs. Borman's new house.

October 12: Paper Unknown

Rev. G. W. Durham, the new pastor, will occupy the M.E. church pulpit next Sunday evening at 7:30 – all are cordially invited to attend.

October 26: Paper Unknown

Chas. Scovel has moved into the M.E. parsonage.

December 31: Ruth Grau's *History of Peace Church*

Friedens Evangelical Church of Elkader organized.

1906 – April 5: The Register

The officers of the German Church are making an effort to raise about \$2500 for the purpose of purchasing and improving the M.E. Church and parsonage. We learn that they are meeting with success thus far, having secured pledges for nearly \$1500. It is thought they may build if they do not secure the M.E. Church.

April 19: The Register

At a meeting of the members of the M.E. Church last evening it was unanimously voted to accept the proposition of the trustees of the Lutheran Society to purchase the M.E. Church and parsonage at \$2000. The sale is to be arranged by the trustees.

May 17: The Register

On Monday, the Methodist Church property was transferred to the trustees of the German Evangelical Society by Mr. Preston – paid a portion of the \$2000.

May 31: Paper Unknown

Wm. Walter is painting the German Church.

October 4: Paper Unknown

Rev. F. Leonhard is moving into the parsonage of the German Church.

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October 18: The Register

The German congregation is having the large basement of the church building fitted up for a S.S. room and Rev. Lionhard expects to start a confirmation class soon.

October 25: The Register

Basement completed.

1908 - June 4: The Register and Argus

Rev. Lionhard, pastor of the German Church, left for Colorado. He left for health reasons.

July 2: Register and Argus

The parsonage of the German Church is being fitted up for the new pastor, Rev. C.H. Franke of Burlington, Iowa. Mr. Franke expects to be here with his family and to occupy the pulpit of the church on the 19th.

1909 – May 20: Paper Unknown – Register and Argus?

The trustees of the German Church have purchased the Argus building opposite this office for \$800. It adjoins the church property and they expect to use it for school purposes.

1909 – The bell from the round church was purchased and installed in the German Church. Ruth Grau's *History of Peach Church*.

1911 – January 15: Ruth Grau's *History of Peace Church*

Old organ replaced by new.

1915 – Ruth Grau's *History of Peace Church*

Confirmation class taught in German, but confirmed in English – first to do so.

1917 – Ruth Grau's *History of Peace Church*

Site of present church purchased for \$1500.

1919 – January: Ruth Grau's *History of Peace Church*

Congregation voted to hold two services in English each month.

1923 - December 22: Ruth Grau's *History of Peace Church*

Dedication services held. Total cost of church equaled \$31,271.23

9. Major Sources:

1984 *History of Clayton County*. Clayton County Genealogical Society, Elkader, Iowa: Griffith Press, 1984.

Anderson, David C. *Reconnaissance Survey of Elkader Clayton County, Iowa*. Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission and Main Street Elkader, March 1, 1994.

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Andreas, A.T. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.

Appraisal Records for Elkader Downtown Properties, Clayton County Assessor's Office, 1949 – 1965.

"Bird's Eye View Map, Elkader, Iowa, 1871." Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Doniat and Zastrow.

Elkader Historical Society/Carter House Museum research file for 111 Cedar Street NW; files focusing on downtown Elkader buildings, businesses, civic leaders and related information. Compiled by Marge Costigan and other museum volunteers. Research files contain hundreds of historic photos, newspaper articles, publication transcriptions, property ownership records, and information from interviews. Digital copies of some research files were loaned to Marlys Svendsen, October 2010 and others were made available in March 2011 for duplication.

Census of State of Iowa for the years 1856, 1867, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925 as printed by various State Printers.

Clayton County, Iowa, Memories & Heritage from the Photo Albums of Clayton County. Elkader, Iowa: The Clayton County Register, 1997.

Downtown Building Survey (73 surveyed buildings) records including survey questionnaires, draft Iowa Site Inventory Forms and digital photographs. Main Street Elkader, 2009.

Downtown Elkader Business Questionnaires completed by property/business owners, 2010.

Downtown Elkader Individual Property Site Maps compiled by Eli Garms, Clayton County GIS, Engineer's Office, Elkader, November 2010.

Elkader Building Survey (62 surveyed buildings). Main Street Elkader, 1994-1996.

Elkader Historic Photograph Collection (digital). Elkader Public Library, Elkader. Digital files loaned to Marlys Svendsen, December 2008.

"Elkader, Iowa 1846-1971, the Past, the Present the Future." 125th Anniversary Edition, *The Clayton County Register*, Elkader, Iowa, July 21, 1971.

Elkader Telephone Directories, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1932, 1933, 1960 and 1966.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1985.

Grau, Ruth. *History of Peach Church*, undated.

Griffith, Katherine. "Elkader Opera House." Elkader, Iowa: Elkader Main Street, ca. 1992.

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Insurance Maps for Elkader. New York: The Sanborn Company, 1895, 1902, 1913, 1930, and 1951.

“Keystone Bridge Centennial Edition.” *The Clayton County Register*, Elkader, Iowa, July 26, 1989.

Olson, Edward W. *Look What you Started Mr. Davis...Elkader, Iowa: History, Facts and Folklore about Elkader, Iowa U.S.A.*, ca. 2010.

Plat Book of Clayton County, Iowa, Minneapolis: Warner & Foote, 1886.

“Plat of Elkader, June 22, 1846.” Recorder’s Office, Clayton County, Court House, Elkader, Iowa,.

Powell, Harry. “The Elkader Story.” unpublished first draft, December 1980; copy available at Elkader Public Library.

Price, Realto E., editor. *History of Clayton County, Iowa from the Earliest historical Times Down to the Present, Volumes I and II*. Chicago: Robert O. Law Company, 1916.

Property Transfer Records for Blocks 3 – 10 and Fractional Blocks 3-6 in Town of Elkader, Clayton County Auditor’s Office and Recorder’s Office, Clayton County Court House, Elkader, Iowa.

Shank, Wesley I. *Iowa’s Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*. Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1999.

Standard Atlas of Clayton County, Iowa. Chicago: George A. Ogle & Co., 1902.

United States Census, 1850-2010. (population figures provided by State Library of Iowa, January 2011 and City of Elkader, March 2011).

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Additional Information:

Full Legal Description: Original Town of Elkader, W. 45 ft. Lot 8 Block 4.

Address: 111 Cedar St NW



Map Created By:
Eli Garms
Clayton County GIS
2010

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Photographs: historic views of Methodist Episcopal Church-Friedens Evangelical Church, ca. 1910(Elkader Public Library collection) and ca. 1915 (Elkader Historical Society/Carter House Museum Collection).



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Photographs; 111 Cedar Street NW, looking south and southeast (Elkader Downtown Survey Photograph, 9/16/2010, Marlys Svendsen, photographer)

