

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

WASHINGTON

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 Stolp Woolen Mill Store

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 2 West Downer Place

N/A not for publication

city, town Aurora

N/A vicinity of

state Illinois

code

012

county Kane

code

089

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered
N/A

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Cornelia V. Johnson

street & number 1050 Northfield Dr.

city, town Aurora

N/A vicinity of

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kane County Courthouse

street & number 719 S. Batavia Ave.

city, town Geneva

state Illinois

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

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 type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stolp Woolen Mill Store building is a two story 80' by 25' brick structure located on Stolp Island on the southwest corner of Downer Place and Stolp Avenue in downtown Aurora. The woolen mill to the west closed in 1887 and the building burned in 1906. The glazed brick structure that replaced it was built to the sidewalk, blocking views of the store's western facade. The southern facade is obscured by a one story frame building just south, and by a wooden fence that protects pedestrians from a steep eight foot drop in grade to the west. This facade's segmental arched windows, two on each floor, are unadorned. A metal louvred vent pierces the gable.

The Downer Place (northern) facade dates from 1889, when Stolp had E.D. Briggs build a front extension. A modern wood and glass version has replaced the 1889 storefront, but most of the second story's detailing is intact. Two flat arched windows with rock faced limestone sills and lintels flank a central projecting oriel bay. The three sided bay has scallop and knob ornamentation and shallow cornice brackets above the windows. A floral-patterned pressed metal tympanum fills the bay's central pediment. Above, the end gable features an edged brick panel, while a stylized anthemion tops the apex. Slightly projecting corbelled brick corner piers are detailed with fluting and a flower medallion. A 1906 photograph shows that a spherical ornament once capped the pier.

On the Stolp Avenue (eastern) facade, the southerly three windows were removed when the modern glass storefronts were added. An exterior iron stair originally ran from the center second floor opening toward the north. While the northernmost window, dating from the 1889 addition, has a rock faced limestone sill and lintel, the other irregularly spaced openings have decorative brick window hoods. Paired brackets support the broad roof overhang. The building is currently painted yellow. Little remains of the original interior trim, except a pressed tin ceiling exposed in the southernmost storefront. The same ceilings may exist under the drop-ceiling tiles throughout the rest of the ground floor.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1860–61; 1889 **Builder/Architect** 1860–61: Unknown/1889 E.D. Briggs (builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stolp Woolen Mill Store was built between 1860–1861 by Joseph G. Stolp. His wool carding and dressing business started in a small frame building at the north end of Stolp Island (now the core of Aurora's central business district) in 1837, three years after the first settler arrived in Aurora. In 1849, he built a brick woolen mill on West Downer Place (then named Mill Street), and in 1858 built an addition. Between 1860–1861, Stolp built a free-standing salesroom for his Aurora Woolen Mill. The only Aurora industries that predated Stolp's Aurora Woolen Mills were McCarty's sawmill and grist-mill, and Zaphna Lake's two sawmills, all of which are long gone. Either the store or the Aurora Woolen Mill's dye house to the far west is the oldest surviving building on the island. As commercial and governmental uses came to occupy the island, the mill race was filled in and the mills demolished. The Stolp Woolen Mill Store building is a physical reminder of the island's early industrial development.

Increased competition forced Stolp to close the mill in 1887, and other industries occupied the mill building until 1906, when it was destroyed by fire. When the woolen mill shut down in 1887, the mill store was occupied by C.C. Hinckley & Co. a producer of watch-makers' tools, and J.D. Rice & Sons, a decorating and painting firm. Stolp had a front extension added (clearly visible on the eastern elevation) and completely rearranged the interior. E.D. Briggs was the builder and L.H. Waterhouse the contracting mason for the work. Rice was the decorator for many of the most prestigious commercial and residential buildings in the area.

The mill's owner, Joseph Stolp, is a key figure in Aurora's history. He settled in Aurora in 1837 after having learned the wool manufacturing business in Marcellus, New York. Stolp's uncle, Frederick, had taken claim to the island for him and Stolp focused on developing the island named for him. In addition to the woolen mill complex, Stolp built a number of commercial buildings on the island (now demolished or remodeled beyond recognition), was a promoter and the largest stockholder in the Aurora Silverplate Company on the island, and donated land on the island for a city hall and post office.

Since Stolp's house has been demolished, his woolen mill store is the most significant extant structure linked with his name and career. As one of the earliest buildings on the island, it serves as a visible link to the island's early development, while its 1889 extension reflects the island's shift from industrial to commercial and governmental uses. Despite its modern storefronts, the Stolp Woolen Mill Store still maintains enough of its integrity to convey its architectural and historical significance, and thus serves as an important Aurora landmark in the central business district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aurora Beacon 8-21-1889
Aurora City Directories 1868, 1887-1890, 1890-93
Aurora Historical Society Collections
Vernon Derry, Aurora in the Beginning, 1953
New Combination Atlas of Kane County, IL 1871

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property under one acre

Quadrangle name AURORA NORTH

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

16	390	560	46	23	420
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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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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Supervisors Assessment Plat of Plat of library Subdivision & part Lot 13 of assessor map of Stolp's Island, Lot F, excluding southern sixty (60) feet. City of Aurora, Kane County, IL

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

name/title Patricia J. Casler, Executive Director

organization Aurora Preservation Commission

date February 15, 1983

street & number 44 E. Downer Pl.

telephone 892-8811 Ext. 267

city or town Aurora

state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

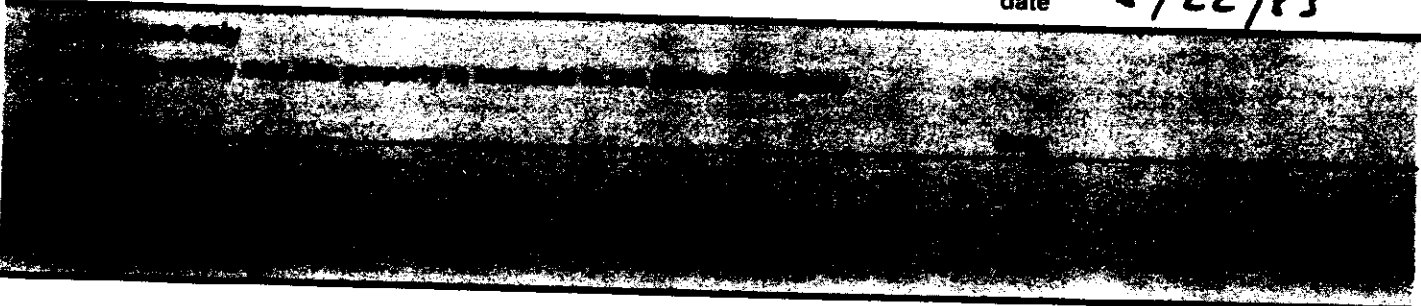
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

Director

date 6/22/83



GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Fisher House (Lavonia MRA), 221 Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Keese House (Lavonia MRA), 4 Burgess St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Kidd House (Lavonia MRA), 222 Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Lavonia Carnegie Library (Lavonia MRA), Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Lavonia Commercial Historic District (Lavonia MRA), Jones, Augusta, Vickery, Grogan, and Bowman Sts. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Lavonia Cotton Mill (Lavonia MRA), Main St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Lavonia Roller Mill (Lavonia MRA), E. Main St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, McMurray House (Lavonia MRA), Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, **Pure Oil Service Station (Lavonia MRA), 56 West Ave. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Queen House (Lavonia MRA), Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Southern Cotton Oil Co. (Lavonia MRA), W. Main St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Stevenson House and Brickyard (Lavonia MRA), Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Stovall-Purcell House (Lavonia MRA), 110 West Ave. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Vandiver House (Lavonia MRA), Main St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Vickery House (Lavonia MRA), Grogan St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Vickery Street Historic District (Lavonia MRA), Vickery St. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, West Avenue-Roberts Street Residential Historic District (Lavonia MRA), between Mason and Jones Sts. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Franklin County, Lavonia, Yow House (Lavonia MRA), 109 Hartwell Rd. (09/01/83)
GEORGIA, Gwinnett County, Buford, Bona, Allen, House, 395 Main St. (09/01/83)

IDAHO, Shoshone County, Wallace, Wallace Historic District, Roughly bounded by Oak, Silver, C, Mullan, Canyon, Fir, and First Sts. (09/01/83)

ILLINOIS, Kane County, Aurora, Stolp Woolen Mill Store, 2 W. Downer Pl. (09/01/83)

INDIANA, Allen County, Ft. Wayne, Keplinger, Harry A., House, 235 W. Creighton Ave. (09/01/83)
INDIANA, Clark County, Charlestown, Watson House, 1015 Water St. (09/01/83)
INDIANA, Howard County, Greentown, Hy-Red Gasoline Station, 203 E. Main St. (09/01/83)
INDIANA, Huntington County, Huntington, Moore/Corlew Building, 400 and 410-418 N. Jefferson St. (09/01/83)
INDIANA, Jay County, Portland, Floral Hall, W. Votaw and Morton Sts. (09/01/83)
INDIANA, Miami County, Peru, Brownell Block/Senger Dry Goods Company Building, Broadway and 5th Sts. (09/01/83)

KENTUCKY, Barren County, Glasgow, **Southwest Glasgow Residential District (Barren County MRA), Green St. between Cottage and College Sts.; Leslie Ave., Liberty, Brown, and Washington Sts. (08/30/83)
KENTUCKY, Hopkins County, Madisonville vicinity, Munn's School, Princeton Rd. (08/30/83)
KENTUCKY, Jefferson County, Louisville, Clifton Historic District, Roughly bounded by Brownsboro Rd., William and E. Main Sts., Frankfort and N. Ewing Aves. (08/29/83)
KENTUCKY, Woodford County, Troy, **Guyn's Mill Historic District, Mundy's Landing and Pauls Mill Rds. (08/29/83)

MARYLAND, Garrett County, Mountain Lake Park, Mountain Lake Park Historic District, Roughly bounded by Alleghany Dr., Oakland Ave., D and N Sts. (09/01/83)
MARYLAND, Hartford County, Churchville vicinity, Webster's Forest, 500 Asbury Rd. (09/01/83)