

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jesse J. and Mary P. Allee House
other name/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 20006 640 St not for publication
city, town Newell vicinity
state Iowa code Ia. county Buena Vista code 21 zip code 50568

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 2/19/92
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

[Signature] 3/26/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Queen Anne

Queen Anne Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: granite

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Patterned Wood shinglework

Stained Glass Windows

Ceramic Tile - Interior Trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located a short distance from the town of Newell in rural Buena Vista County, the Jesse J. and Mary E. Allee House is a 2 1/2 story wood frame edifice, whose clapboard and shingle covered walls rest on stone foundations over a partially raised basement and is capped with a cross gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Constructed in 1891, the house was designed in the Queen Anne mode, perhaps by the renowned mail order architectural firm of George F. Barber and Company. The Queen Anne influence is most evident in the building's asymmetrical form; complex roof treatment; three-story, shingle-clad, projecting turret capped with a conical roof; its exterior wall treatment which uses cutaway bay windows, patterned shingle work, and projecting trim to avoid a smoothwall appearance; and the spindlework detailing and bracketwork on porches which was common on houses of this mode prior to the Columbian Exposition which ushered in the free classic approach to porch detailing. On the interior, most of the original materials and finishes survive, including stained glass windows, ornate woodwork, and fireplace with decorative tiles. The most significant alteration was the removal of a rear wing which housed the kitchen, but this section may have been a surviving portion of the pre-1891 residence. Cross referenced anecdotal information indicates that the house with the removal of the rear wing was the original construction with a wood constructed back porch. The foundation under that section of the house would also indicate that the kitchen was not part of the original construction, but was moved into place and attached to the original house at a latter date. The Newell Historical Society, which holds a 99 year lease from the owners, Iowa State University, plans to reconstruct the kitchen attachment in the near future, as well as the missing elements on the front porch.

As stated above, the exterior of the home has been changed in the following manner. Early on, the separate kitchen with two small bedrooms in a second story, was attached to the east side of the original structure. During the 60's following the death of George Allee, the kitchen was removed from the house and replaced with an attached garage. The original plans have not been found, however, blueprints were drawn prior to the removal of the original kitchen attachment. (see Attachment 1 Photocopy).

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The Newell Historical Society plans to remove the attached garage and rebuild the back portion of the house in accordance with the first alteration as seen in a early photograph and the blueprints mentioned above. The Society is currently gathering appropriate building materials from condemned houses in this area to use in this restoration.

The original porch on the north side of the home has also been altered in past years. The original roof with ornate woodwork still exists however, the newell posts and porch deck have been removed and replaced with wrought iron posts and a concrete deck and steps. The Society intends to restore this porch in accordance with photographs that exist showing the original materials and design.

Architectural changes exist in the interior as well as the exterior of the house. At the time that the garage was built, the kitchen was moved further into the house taking the place of a back parlor. The back stairway was walled off at that time but was not destroyed. The entrance and stairway still exist from the second floor and will be reopened as restoration progresses.

An additional change from the original design also exists in the area now used as a bathroom. Unsupported heresay tells that this is the space that was used for an indoor toilet and wash area. However, it is reported the Mary Allee was not comfortable with an indoor toilet and had it removed to an outdoor unit. The space was then converted into a pantry. Further renovation at an undetermined time saw this changed once again into a modern bathroom with a toilet, sink and bathtub. This bathroom will be removed and the space converted into a pantry/staff powder room again as restoration progresses. Another toilet and sink for the main floor has been installed in the front hall closet under the main stairway.

The balance of the interior is believed to be original with the exception of the hardwood floors that were laid during the 1960's. It is believed that originally wide plank flooring was covered with wall to wall carpet with an elaborate floral pattern. This carpet was removed to the attic and the narrow plank hardwood oak floors were laid in the front hall, front parlor, great room and dining room. The narrow oak floors found upstairs are original to the house and were sanded and refinished during the 60's renovation.

The interior of the home is rich in detail. The woodwork is in excellent condition and is known to be the handwork of Newell townsfolk, J.F. Cheney and T.M. Richardson. The front parlor (north) is accented by the 6 foot diameter furret with curved glass windows. A stained glass transom clearly picks up the colors chosen for wall paper in the current restoration. The Society found evidence of similar border print and large pattern design when this room was stripped of six layers of existing wallpaper. Large oak pocket doors framed in ornate woodwork also set this room off. As the west doors open off the parlor, a splendid view of the handcarved stairway can be seen. The stained glass windows in and around the front door are original as is the unusual convex stained glass window at the foot of the staircase.

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The great room features a beautiful oak and ceramic fireplace. The ceramic tile shows a hunting motif which has been carried out in the wall and ceiling coverings chosen for this room. The stained glass transom over the east by window area draws the eye towards the beautiful east lawn with its very old maple tree.

The west diningroom sees a change in type of wood from the oak found in the major rooms to a cherrywood with it's reddish hue. this room is located directly behind the original pantry that was positioned between the diningroom and the kitchen on the south side of the home. A doorway leads directly to the front hall from this room. This was a typical consideration in traffic planning in many Victorian homes.

The back parlor currently supports a modern kitchen which hides the entrance to the back stairway. A small storage cupboard is also encapsulated behind the modern kitchen facade. This kitchen will be removed and this room restored according to the blueprints when the addition is reconstructed on the south side of the home.

The landscaping around the home is simple and includes at least one large maple tree that is believed to be original to the home. The north perimeter of the lawn is edged by a decorative wrought iron fence. In addition to the rarity of the Queen Anne design in our area the fence also presents a rare sight. This fencing is original and a portion containing a gate still stands. This fencing is scheduled for restoration as a community service project by local Boy Scout, Scott Monson as partial requirement for an Eagle Scout Badge. The fence is considered a contributing.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1891

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect Unknown/Possibly J.F. Cheney &
Tim Richardson Builders

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Jesse J. and Mary E. Allee House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as one of the finest and most elaborate examples of the Queen Anne style not only in Newell and vicinity but in Buena Vista County. With its assymetrical massing, complex roof form, multi-textural wall treatment, and three-story projecting, shingle clad turret capped with a conical roof, this residence is one of a very small number of what could be considered "textbook examples" of the Queen Anne mode in the county. Constructed in 1891, the house may have been designed by George F. Barber and Company of Knoxville, Tennessee, one of the leading late 19th century mail order architectural firms. Although no hard documentary evidence has been found to prove the firm's involvement in its design, this house bears a striking resemblance to Design No. 51 found in George F. Barber's Cottage Souvenir No. 2.

Although application for placement on the National Register is being solicited based on Criteria "C", the significance of the home is further empowered by the family that constructed and lived in it for their entire lives from the time of completion in 1891 to the death of George Allee, only son of Jess and Mary Allee in 1958. Jesse was one of the early settlers who can be said to have viewed the Newell area in it's virgin state prior to the building of any structures having travelled in this area in 1863. Jesse Allee returned to Newell in 1876 and remained to build his elegant mansion and to raise his family, Hannah P. Allee, (Oct 3, 1874 to May 16th, 1952) Sarah Rose Allee and George M. Allee. None of Jesse's children married and the family line ended with the death of George.

George M. Allee, however, dedicated his life to the science of hybrid and self-pollinating seed corn. One year following his graduation from Harvard University in 1904, George began to experiment with the development of an earlier corn for this territory. His experiments proved to be successful and he was soon recognized by Iowa State College as having a fine strain of corn and was consulted frequently in this regard. In 1909 G. Allee held the first corn show in Storm Lake, Ia. He continued to host the Corn Show through the Newell Farmers Institute for over 40 years. Statewide George Allee was known for his involvement in the State Corn Show and was known to have served as a judge many times although the Newell Corn Show was thought by some to be equal to if not better than the State Corn Show.

See continuation sheet

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George Allee left a legacy that lives on in the Newell Community as well as other area communities including Sioux City, with contributions being made to help with the building of the Legion Building and the Methodist Church in Newell and many more.

Following the death of George Allee in 1958, the ownership of the home was assumed through the Last Will and Testament by Iowa State University. From that time until December 1990, the home was occupied by the employees of Iowa State University hired as managers of the Allee Experimental Farm located adjacent to the property in this nomination.

A 99 year lease was signed by the Newell Historical Society in June 1989. The lease gives the Society leave to carry out restoration efforts and passes to the Society physical responsibility for the house. This is the current status of the house.

Further plans includes physical restoration of the house as outlined in Section 7. This restoration is scheduled to be finished by the summer of 1994 at which time a celebration of the 125th birthday of the Town of Newell is being planned. Upon completion, the house will see limited use as a Bed & Breakfast and will be available to the community as a location for business meetings, weddings, receptions and other special events. In addition, it is the Newell Historical Society's intention to have the Mansion play a central role in numerous educational and cultural programs. (See Attachment 2).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Two (2) acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	3	5	1	4	5
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4	7	1	6	9	6	5
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are those set by Iowa State University and the Newell Historical Society when the initial lease agreement was drawn in 1989. At that time a fence was constructed by ISU to clearly define the property line between the leased property and the Research Station. This fence encloses the house and the lawns adjacent to the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia L. Collins, Board of Directors Member
organization Newell Historical Society date October 2nd, 1991
street & number 309 S. Nelson telephone 712-272-4446 (or 3317)
city or town Newell, state Ia zip code 50568

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- George F. Barber and Company, Modern Dwellings and Their Proper Construction (Knoxville, Tenn.: S.B. Newman and Co., 1899)
- George F. Barber's Cottage Souvenir Number Two. Knoxville, Tenn.: S.B. Newman & Co., 1891; reprint ed., Watkins Glen, New York: American Life Foundation, 1982
- George F. Barber's Cottage Souvenir No. 2, One Hundred and Twenty Original Designs Knoxville, Tenn.: S.B. Newman & Co., 1891
- Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms 1600-1945 John J.-G. Blumenson (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. New York)
- Newell Mirror Newspaper, November 28th, 1946. Article on Jesse Allee settling in Newell
- Newell Mirror Newspaper, December 1st, 1949. Article on History of Corn Show & George Allee involvement
- Iowa Crop Improvement Association: The Story of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association and It's Predecessors, Joe L. Robinson, Oliver A. Knot
- Des Moines Register Newspaper, May 24, 1971. Article on George Allee, his research & accomplishments
- Unpublished Survey on Architectural Styles in Newell & Storm Lake, June 1991, Newell Historical Society
- Last Will and Testament of George Matthew Allee, of Buena Vista County, Iowa

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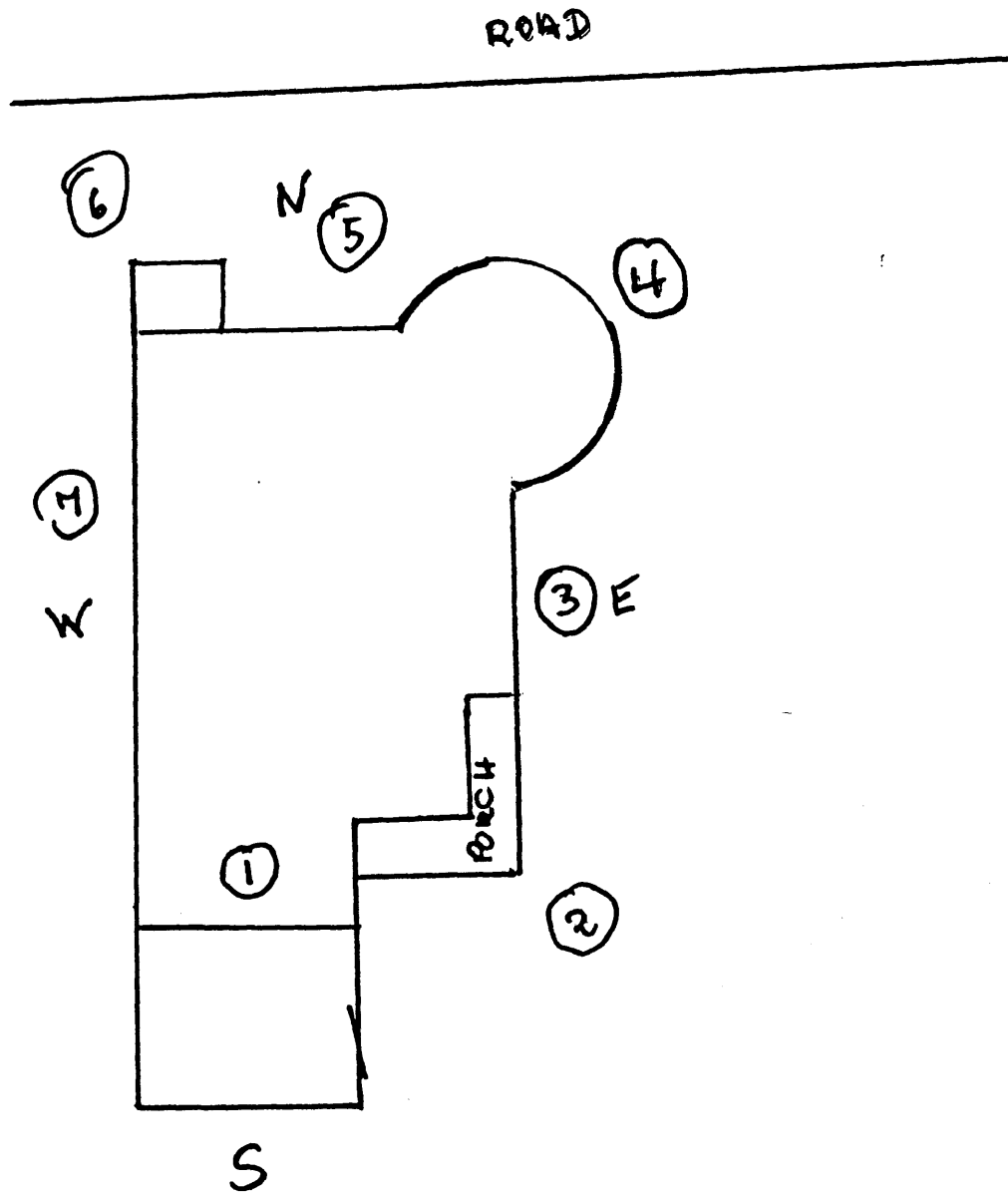
BEGINNING AT THE CENTER OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE COUNTY ROADS THAT CROSS AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) OF SECTION TWENTY-NINE (29), TOWNSHIP NINETY (90) NORTH, RANGE THIRTY-FIVE (35) WEST OF THE FIFTH P.M. IN BUENA VISTA COUNTY, IOWA, AND THENCE PROCEEDING DUE EAST FROM SAID CENTER POINT A DISTANCE OF 735.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 258.00 FEET, THENCE DUE EAST A DISTANCE OF 217.00 FEET, THENCE DUE NORTH A DISTANCE OF 45.00 FEET, THENCE DUE EAST A DISTANCE OF 146.00 FEET, THENCE DUE NORTH A DISTANCE OF 213.00 FEET, THENCE DUE WEST A DISTANCE OF 363.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONSISTING OF TWO ACRES.

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SKETCH # 1

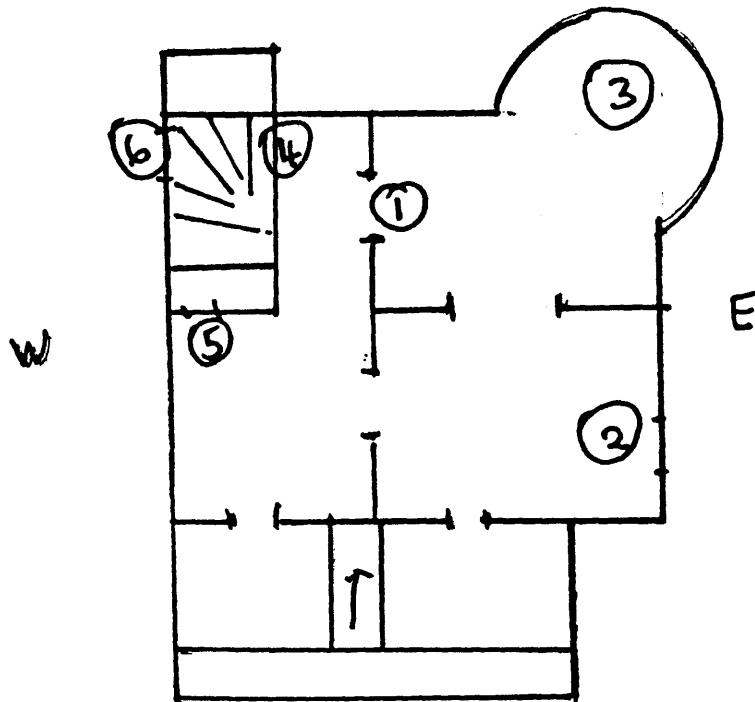
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IV
ROAD



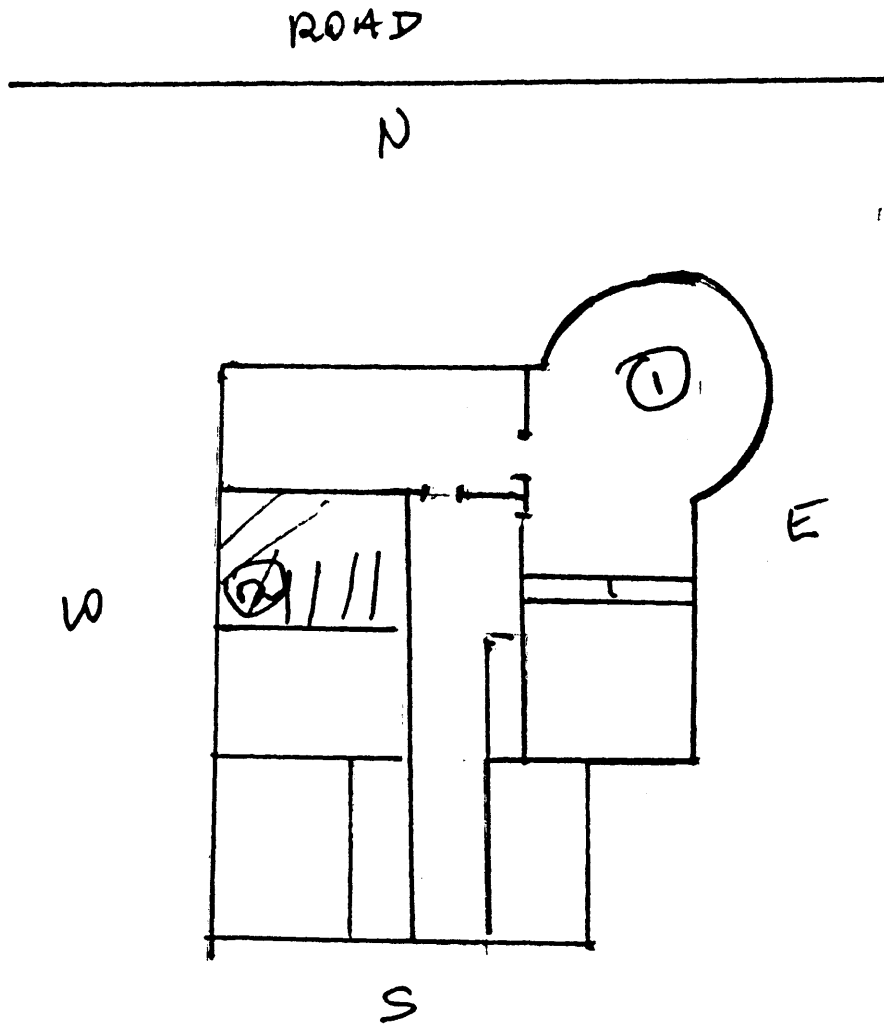
1st FLOOR
SKETCH #2

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2ND FLOOR
SKETCH # 3

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Section number Photographs Page 1

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This information is the same for all the photographs listed:

1. Jesse J. and Mary E. Allee House
2. Newell, Iowa
3. Virginia Collins
4. September 25th, 1991
5. Negatives located with Newell Historical Society

Photographs By Number:

1. South side of house, second story: Sketch 1, 1
2. South/East corner of house, Sketch 1, 2
3. South/East corner of house, Sketch 1, 3 Detail
4. North/East corner of house, Sketch 1, 4
5. North/East corner of house, Sketch 1, 4 Detail
6. North side of house, Sketch 1, 5
7. North side of house, porch detail, Sketch 1, 6
8. North/West corner of house, Sketch 1, 6
9. West side of house, Sketch 1, 7
10. North side of house, Fence detail, Sketch 1, 7
11. North side of house, Fence detail, Sketch 1, 7
12. West pocket doors to hall entry in North parlor, Sketch 2, 1
13. East window in great room, Sketch 2, 2
14. North/East turret of North parlor, Sketch 2, 3
15. North/East turret of North bedroom Sketch 3, 1
16. West pocket doors open to hall to show main front door, Sketch 2, 4
17. North closet door in west-side dining room, Sketch 2, 5
18. West wall stained glass at bottom of foyer stairs, Sketch 2, 6
19. North doors from second floor, Sketch 3, 2
20. Door knob on closet of west-side dining room, Sketch 2, 5
21. North doors, Sketch 2, 4
22. Folding Bathtub, original to house (Found in basement) Restored by Paul Monson

Photocopy of picture of back addition to
Jesse & Mary Allee house, Newell, Ia

Attachment 1

This shows the kitchen with small room on
second floor. This is believed to be an
early addition to the original home. This
addition was removed during the 1960's and
replaced with a garage and back laundry room.

At that time, a back parlor, part of the original
structure was redesigned into a kitchen.



CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PLANS

The Newell Historical Society was formed in 1988 for the purpose of preserving the history of Newell and our state as well as to develop and promote the educational and cultural heritage of our region. A multi-faceted plan has been established to facilitate this endeavor.

On July 1st, 1989, the Newell Historical Society signed a 99 year lease with Iowa State University for the use of the Allee Mansion located on the University's Research Farm. It is the Society's intention of have the Mansion play an central role in the educational and cultural programs herein listed.

The following is a list of activities and programs we will be developing to carry out our objective of promoting our past while benefiting our future:

Living History Day - to be attended by surrounding schools for grades 4-5. This day will involve many skilled people who will be sharing their expertise in various areas dealing with the past, be it a broommaker, blacksmith or a story teller.

Iowa Artists Fair - to be held in conjunction with other activities in the area as scheduled by a networking committee established to coordinate such events in the area to attract more tourism. This event would promote quality craftsmanship and artistry with the help of the Iowa Arts Council.

Architectural Tour of the Victorian Mansion - Developed in conjunction with the Iowa Architects Society, this tour would introduce American architecture to area 5th graders studying American History and American Art History. The tour could also be available for interested civic groups and the general public.

Educational and Cultural Speakers - programming and educational seminars drawing upon the Iowa Arts Council's and the State Historical Society's established list of individuals available for such quality programming.

Promotion of Iowa's Agricultural Heritage - through the recreation of "Corn Days" and its promotion of Iowa as the breadbasket of the world by focusing publicity on Iowa food products as well as a look at the future of agriculture with the aid of Iowa State University.

Creation of jobs - under the Green Thumb Program sponsored by the National Farmers Union. We plan to employ qualifying individuals to serve as tour guides, educational coordinators, promotional coordinators, office staff and maintenance personnel.

Development of educational programs integrated with regional school systems to include elementary, high school, college and adult education components.