

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

917

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2000

RECEIVED 2280
OCT 30 2000
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For additional entries and subcategory classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and subcategory items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Noah Odell-House

other names/site number Gilbert Rider House, "Wayside Inn"

2. Location

street & number 1245 240th^t Street

city or town Nodaway

[N/A] not for publication

[] vicinity

state Iowa

code IA

county Adams

code 002

zip code 50857

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally, [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Patricia (Chris) Km
Signature of certifying official/Title

7-10-06
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Jana McClelland

11/30/00

Noah Odell House
Name of Property

Adams, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/I-House

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls wood/weatherboard

roof wood/shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1858

Significant Dates

c.1858

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Odell, Noah

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1

Property Name: Noah Odell House

Location: Adams County, Iowa

Narrative Description:

This well preserved variation of the I-house vernacular house type, constructed during the winter of 1858, has a native walnut and oak heavy frame, and a mortared soft red brick partial cellar and foundation wall. The I-house form is, in this instance, combined with the use of a heavy or braced-frame form of construction. All of the lumber, including the exterior clapboard, was locally cut and milled. The Noah Odell house is located in southwest Adams County, Iowa, one mile northeast of the town of Nodaway. The house is surrounded by farmland and there is a township cemetery located a quarter mile to the west. The property rests on a ridge that borders the north bank of the East Nodaway River. That river flows westward between this property and the town of Nodaway.

The house is classified as an I-House because its upper floors and the main west room downstairs are structurally single rooms. Cross walls, which divided the upper floor, were not structural but were simply dividing the structural unit into smaller sleeping chambers. The I-house vernacular house type is defined as a transverse gabled rectangular with central hall, flanking main floor rooms, and rooms of a single room-depth. There is no formal hall in the main floor plan. The side front entrance enters directly into a front parlor room. The two-story height of the plan, unusual for this southwestern part of the state, is more in keeping with the "I-House" vernacular type.

The I-house can be built in frame, brick, stone or logs. Chimneys if present can be internal or external, paired, central, or placed on an endwall. Floor plans are very variable. Lateral and rear appendages can be present. The constants to the type are the paired side gables, two rooms in length, a single room in depth and two full stories high.

The overall plan consists of the two-story side-gabled core and a single story rear kitchen/dining room wing. The core plan measures 32.5x22 feet on its perimeter. The rear wing, set with its western side wall in line with the west side wall of the core, measures 28x15.4 feet.

A heavy (or braced-frame) walnut timber frame supports the core of the house and the corners and foundation of the kitchen wing. These sawn members measure 5.25x6.5 in section at the main corners, and the intervening vertical studs measure 4.75x7.25 in section. The frame on each floor level consists of the corner posts, middle posts, and cross beams that divide each level into four rectangles. A centered beam (9x9 in section) runs length wise across each level, dividing each floor. It is placed off-center, 8.5 feet in from the rear wall. The front rooms consequently are an additional two feet wider than are those in the rear of the plan. The north/south center beam are also unequal, with the east rooms being two feet wider (16.5 feet) than those in the west half. This arrangement allows for a nearly centered door (upstairs) and window (main floor) on the house front. The basement main beam was rough finished with the adze and shows the marks of that tool. All of the other framing material appears to have been circular sawn. Heavy vertical studs alternate with lighter members to support the wall planes. Corner bracing was employed at least in the upper corners at each level and likely is present at the lower ones as well. The interior beams are mortised into the perimeter beams and are pegged. The floor joists, which run north/south, are in turn mortised into the longitudinal center and the perimeter beams. These measure 8.5x2.5 in section and are placed 18 inches on center.

The side beams that cap each floor level are mortised into the corner posts at a point a foot below the juncture point of the front wall cap beam. The attic rafters that measure 4x4 in section are placed 24 inches on center and there is no ridgepole of any sort. The roof sheathing, forming an interrupted surface, is covered with the untrimmed edge cuts from the sawmill. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

The presence of heavy walnut timber corner posts and a sill in the kitchen wing argues that that part of the plan is original to the house and this is logical given the need for a kitchen. The connecting door to the kitchen is framed by walnut scantling measuring 4x4 inches in section. The walls and rafters of the wing appear to have been

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

substantially rebuilt with dimension lumber, probably when the present paired 4/4 window sets were placed in the east and north walls. The brick/concrete foundation likely dates from that same rebuilding effort, c.1920s. The kitchen wing gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles that overlay a wood shingle roof.

The house is clad in varying sizes of weatherboard. That on the front and east walls has a 5.25-inch exposure while that on the west wall has a seven-inch exposure. Remnants of what is likely the original square cut clapboard, with a five-inch exposure, survives along the upper reaches of the north wall. Four inch wide corner boards are affixed with square nails.

The original soft red brick cellar is located in the southwest corner of the plan and measures 10x15.4 feet. It is reached by an interior stairway. An additional cellar was dug north of this one and measures 8.5x20. It has concrete and concrete block walls and is accessed by a west end store cellar exterior entrance. That entry has a soft red brick base and concrete cap on its side walls. It is probable that a storage cellar predated the larger cellar. The brick basement wall is just two bricks thick in the interior walls and three bricks thick on the exterior ones. The rest of the house is set above a two-foot high crawlspace. A mortared soft red brick foundation wall supports the house. The brickwork consists of stretcher courses with a top rowlock course.

The facade fenestration consists of two doors and a centered window on the ground floor, and two windows and a middle door on the upper level. These are aligned vertically but are slightly shifted to the east in the overall plan. Side fenestration is irregular. Originally both walls had two sets of closely spaced windows set into each floor level with a vertical alignment. This arrangement was altered on the west wall when two first floor windows were combined into a single picture window. A pair of west wall side doors enters the dining room and kitchen. The dining room has a second picture window in its west wall. The rear wing has three sets of paired 4/4 narrow windows, two on the east wall and one on the north wall.

The front porch dates from the turn-of-the century and measures 10x17.5 feet. It was originally flat-roofed and four turned wooden columns supported it. One column is gone and the porch frame is largely lost, and the crumbling brick supports have allowed the porch to sag ominously. Three sections of a decorative frieze also survive.

The exterior windows have been sealed with plywood sheets to secure the vacant building. The window frames exhibit a projecting sill and an upper concave lintel molding. The existing windows are single pane double sash (spring pin supported with no sash weights) with very thin frames. The three front doors have two lower panels and single rounded upper window openings.

The exterior of the house features corner boards and the original walnut thin clapboard on the facade, a masonite sheathing on the east side, and an asbestos siding on the rear wall. Side fenestration is symmetrical with four windows, two per floor. In the rear of the plan a long single story kitchen wing projects from the west rear. Two windows, centered, one per floor are the only openings on this north face. The kitchen wing is sheathed in narrow clapboard and has a central stack on the ridgeline.

There are two suspended chimneys in the plan, one in the parlor and the other in the kitchen at the center of its south end wall. The flooring consists of six-inch wide tongue and groove hardwoods that are said to be original. The interior trim work consists of square cut boards and open joints. The baseboard measures 8 inches and has a quarter round base. Four-inch wide trim boards frame the doors and windows. No original plaster survives inside. Drywall covers the wood lath and plaster.

What appears to be the original two raised panel doors survive on the upper floor. A broader, four-paneled door, allegedly containing the marks of a shotgun blast, has been removed from the center partition in the front of the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Property Name: **Noah Odell House**
Location: **Adams County, Iowa**

plan. All of the door hardware consists of box locks and surface mounted door stops. An elaborate exterior late Victorian door has been removed to the west storm cellar entrance.

Of some particular interest is the corner stairway that connects the two floors. The sharply turned stairs with no landing terminate just behind the parlor entrance door. The open stairs lead to an upstairs bedroom. A simple balustrade tops the stairway exit. The plain trim work around the stairs is affixed with square nails and appears to date to the original building. The basement stairs descend in what originally was a similar turned arrangement, running parallel and beneath the upper stairs. The present stairs end four feet above the dirt floor in the cellar but there likely was a landing originally.

A faux wooden fireplace mantel is mounted on the west wall of the parlor, just behind the main entrance. It is of undetermined date and its origin is not known. Most likely it is a salvage from another house and has been placed here. One newspaper article references "the original walnut woodwork including a walnut framed fireplace, now closed off, and the six-inch flooring laid upstairs when the house was built." The same source notes "walnut furniture built by [Gilbert] Rider and his father [William Rider] ("Rider House reeks with history").

Location:

The house and farmstead are located a mile north and half a mile northeast of Nodaway. The present property is part of what was a 196-acre farm. Eighty acres is located north of the road and the remainder south of it. The East Nodaway River flows just southeast of the property and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad follows the river valley from the northeast to the southwest.

The house is set fairly close to the county road, and stands 80 feet back from the actual edge of the road.

Farmstead Notes:

The house, smokehouse, two garages of recent date and a large birm of earth comprise the above-ground components of the current farmstead. The more recent farmstead also included buildings which were located south of the road. These included two metal grain storage bins and a barn. This barn was built prior to World War I and was constructed around the original stagecoach-era barn; the latter being taken down after the new one was finished. This barn was demolished in 1998. The area south of the road is excluded from this nomination because there are no standing structures or buildings having any historical associations on the property.

The underground brick smokehouse is included in the boundary with the house in this nomination as a non-contributing property. It stands immediately northeast of the main house core. It was originally a brick cistern. It measures eight feet in diameter and the same in height. Its side walls consist of a double layer of soft red bricks, laid vertically on their sides. At some more recent date, a door was cut into the south sidewall. Remnant bricks were used to form the seven steep steps and sidewalls. Concrete was also used to arch the entryway. A round concrete plug was cast in place to close off the cistern top. Four metal meathooks project downward around this cap and a metal pipe functions as a chimney for meat smoking purposes. The whole has a storm cellar entryway and covering.

Two garages, not included in this nomination, are of very recent date stand in a north/south line just west of the house. One is a larger two-door garage with vinyl siding. The other is a single car garage that likely dates to the 1920s. These are aligned with a treeline and a large pile of dirt which are immediately west of the house. All of these are excluded from this nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

A 1994 site investigation revealed broken soft red brick, broken glass and whitewear fragments in the cornfield located immediately east of the house. The stage line is said to have approached the house on this same ridgetop. The fragments may represent a separately owned house.

Alterations:

The house was remodeled c.1896 and received modern plumbing c.1900. It is probable that the porch and window replacements occurred at this time. A side porch measuring 10x17.5 feet, set on a concrete slab, dating to c.1930, was demolished this year. It adjoined the dining room to the west of the main house and provided a "mud-room" entrance.

A great number of changes have been made quite recently. The ground surrounding the house to the rear and sides was removed to allow for termite treatment of the house. This dirt is now piled to the west of the house. During the present year the masonite siding was removed from the east and north walls of the house. The exposed north sidewall reveals broad replacement bare wood planking and weatherboard.

The house interior and exterior has deteriorated severely just in the past few years. The kitchen ceiling has completely collapsed and all of the wall surface down to the wainscoting has been pulled down. This work is probably due to vandalism or treasure seekers. Several large sections of flooring in the east half of the house have been sawn out as has a large ceiling section in the southeast corner of the upper floor.

Originally the upper floor contained four bedrooms. The main support beam, visible in the west room, retains the mortise marks for the studs that supported a partition wall. These multiple sleeping rooms appear to support the hotel claim made for the house, that it was in fact more than just a farm residence. Multiple sleeping rooms also filled the east end of the main floor. A bath and two connected rooms now fill that area.

The floor in the western upstairs room has partly collapsed due to the failure of the west end of the main center support beam. The damage is attributed to the dances that were said to have been held in this room. The collapse is also attributed to the shrinkage that resulted from the original use of green walnut timber for the floor beams.

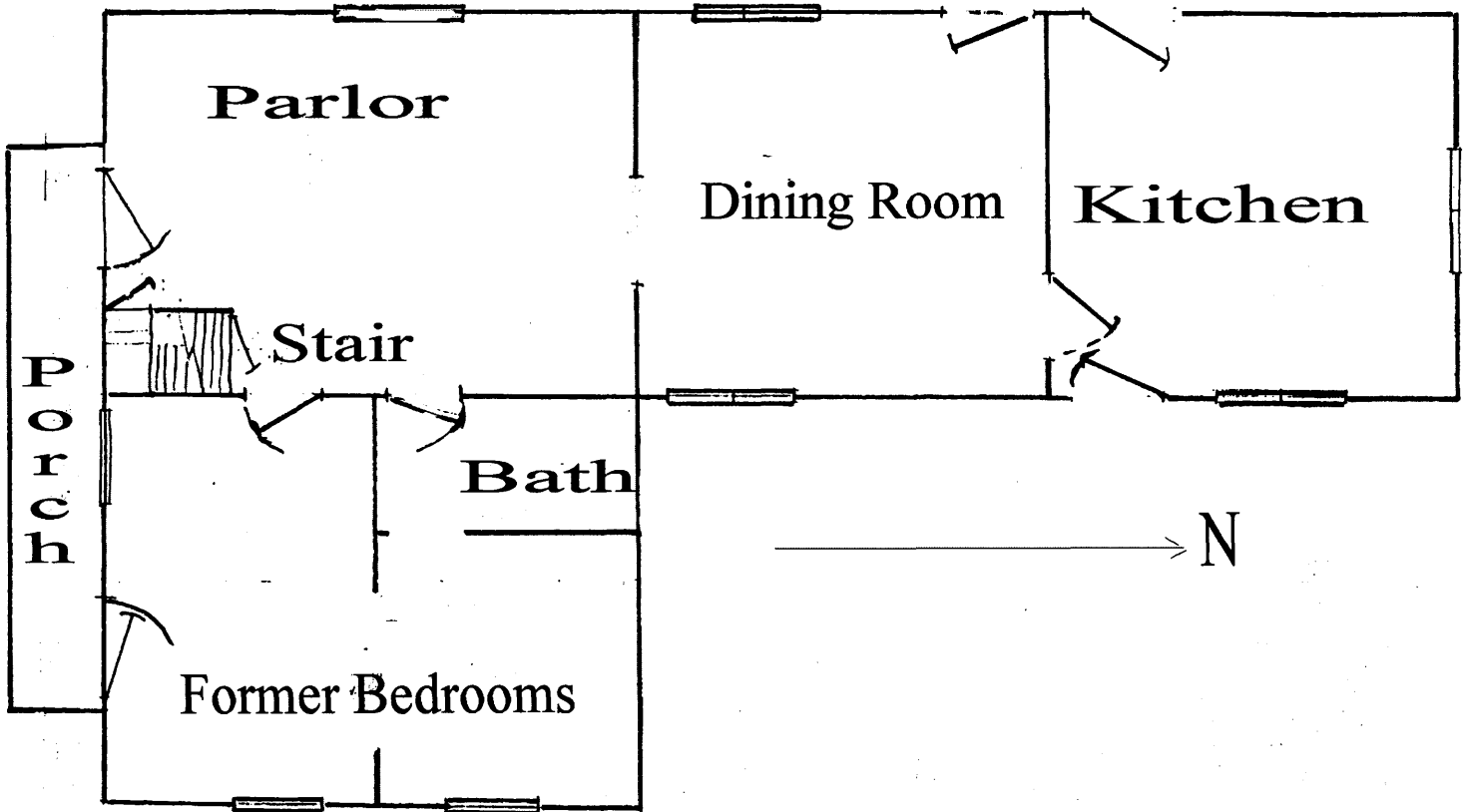
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 5

Property Name: Noah Odell House

Location: Adams County, Iowa



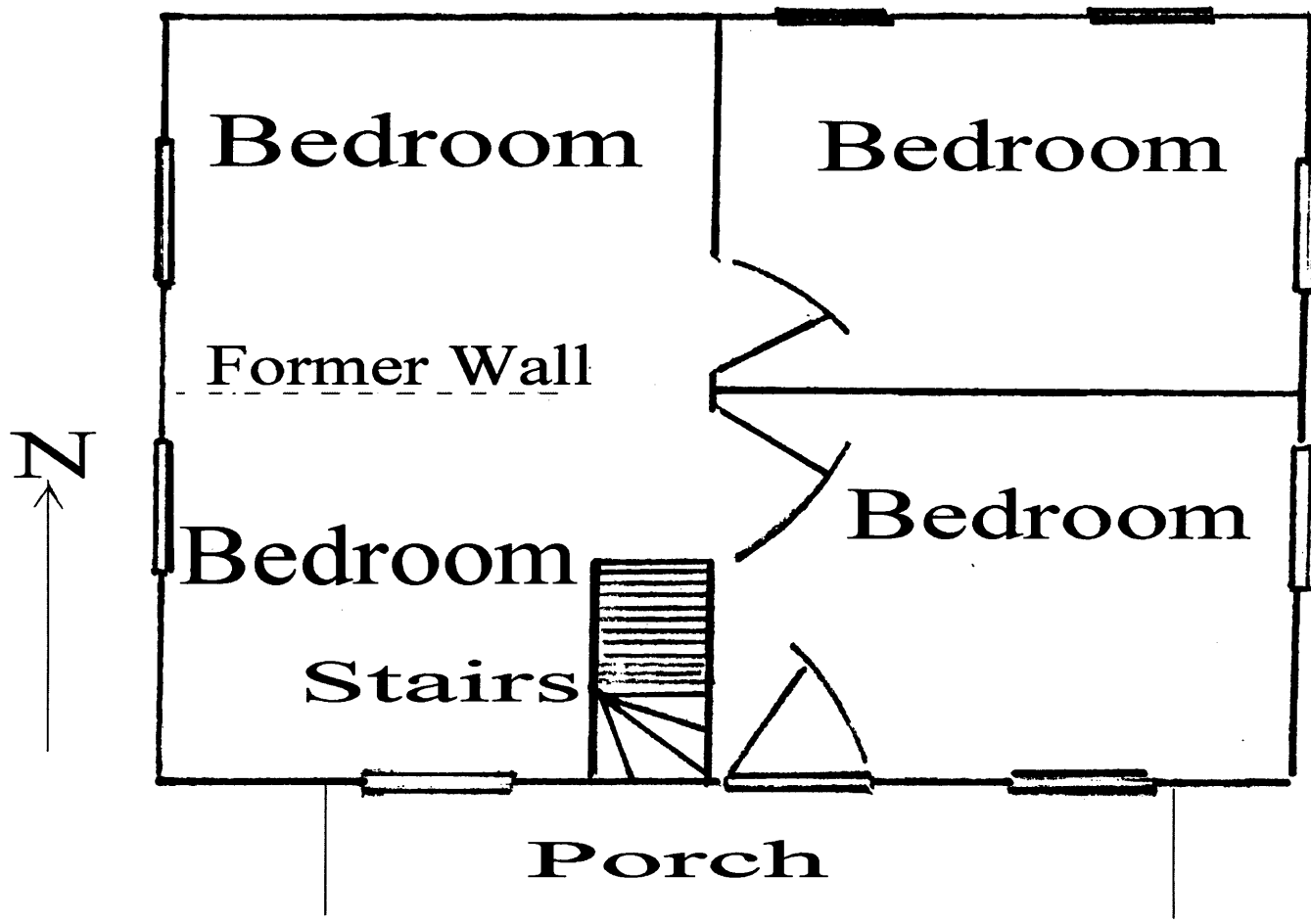
Main Floor Plan (Sketch plan by Jim Jacobsen, December 1999)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 6

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa



Second Floor Plan (North to Right)
Floor plan sketch by Jim Jacobsen, December 1999

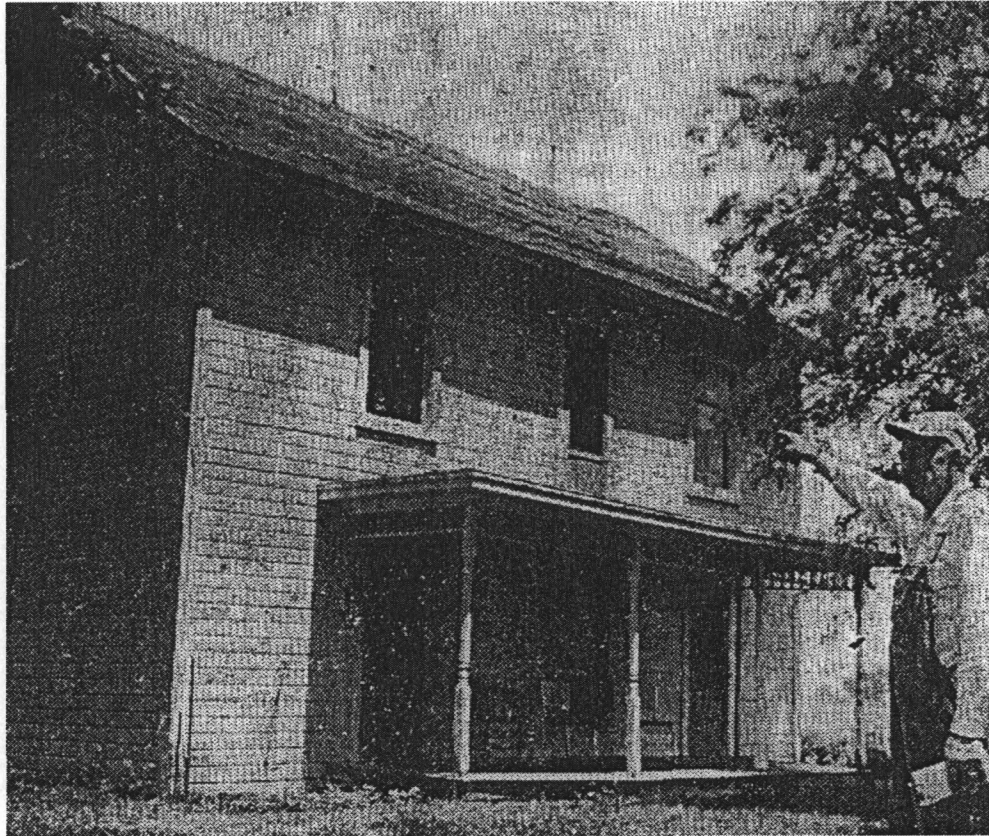
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

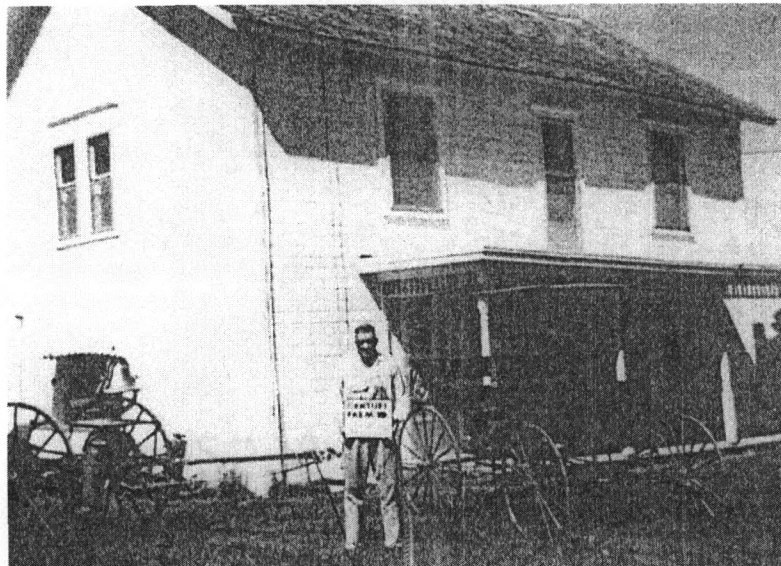
Page 7

Property Name: Noah Odell House

Location: Adams County, Iowa



1963 Photo of House Front, view to the northeast, Gilbert Rider to Right
(*Omaha World Herald*, June 23, 1963)



Gilbert Rider holding Century Farm Certificate, 1976, with house and antiques, view northeast
(*Nodaway Past and Present*, p. 3)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa



Joe Cook (left) and Ron Kamerer inspect porch deterioration, note fenestration details, view to northwest
Adams County Free Press, August 26, 1994



July 1975 photo of Odell House, view to northeast
Note side porch extant to left rear of main house (photo by William Pumphrey)

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 9

Property Name: **Noah Odell House**

Location: **Adams County, Iowa**



July 1975 photo of Odell House, view to northwest
Note extensive overgrowth (photo by William Pumphrey)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Significance Statement:

The Noah Odell House, c.1858, is locally historically significant under Criterion C as the only Adams County example of a very early heavy frame I-house type residential construction type. Future research may show that the property is historically significant under Criterion A for its direct association with the overland stage transportation context, c.1858-72. The house is also purported to have served as a station on the Underground Railroad during the latter half of the 1850s.

Pending the results of further investigation, the significance claims remain inconclusive and both are appended to this nomination at this time in anticipation of a later-date amendment. Additional research efforts will pursue both historical claims. Odell descendant Lois Odell Havens, writing in 1979 stated "The Odell house was used as a stage coach stop. Noah helped the Underground Railroad, also and one time the Rebel Soldiers came thinking there were slaves in grandpa's house and shot through the bedroom door. Marks of the shot are still there (Nodaway Past and Present, p. 3)."

The I-House vernacular house form dates back to the late 1600s, having as its original form an elongated English single-pen house with a chimney. In the Mid Atlantic Tidewater region it evolved into a longhouse form without a central hall. The type was recognized by the 1930s and folk architectural historian Fred Kniffen coined the "I-House" term for this Anglo-American house type. The type migrated out of the Mid Atlantic region spreading northwest into Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois although variations found their way into North Carolina and Louisiana. Kniffen's descriptive term for the type was due to its appearance in substantial numbers in the Midwestern states with names starting with the letter "I" (Iowa, Illinois and Indiana). It coincides with the pre-railroad settlement movement west although it can postdate the Civil War and commonly appears in a fancier Folk Victorian form in the later part of the 19th Century. The pre-Civil War I-house is uncommon in Adams County if only because full houses required lumber dimensions that exceeded the readily available local supply of native timber. This house is the only known county example of the type and it nicely coincides with the pre-railroad settlement that anticipated the imminent arrival of the iron rails (Kniffen, 51-70).

The Noah Odell house is a rare survivor of pre-Civil War rural residences. It has always been locally appreciated by those who are interested in promoting the county's history. It was this house that encouraged county historic preservation advocates to prepare a county historic preservation plan and to sequentially complete two major county-wide surveys of transportation and commercial historical contexts. It was originally intended to use this property to implement the transportation multiple property document titled "Movers And Shippers: A Transportation History of Adams County, Iowa 1853-1945, prepared by consultant James Jacobsen in 1997. It is hoped that additional research will prove the transportation linkage. In the meantime, local efforts will proceed to preserve and interpret this property.

Adams County was first substantially settled during the 1850s but development was greatly hindered by the delayed arrival of the railroad in the county until 1869. Few houses survive from the pre-war years and no I-house example dates to this period. Smaller story and a half I-houses, of regular balloon frame construction, are found in the county and these date to the final phase of the vernacular type, the 1870s and 1880s. The Noah Odell house is the only example that combines the I-house form and a heavy timber framing.

Howard Marshall termed this type "the farmer's mansion" and credited its construction to "prosperous and ambitious farmers." Despite the focus on the elongated rectangular core, virtually every I-house example also has a rear addition as does the Noah Odell property. Marshall notes that numerous rectangular plan footprints qualify as I-

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Property Name: **Noah Odell House**
Location: **Adams County, Iowa**

houses. In its simplest form it is a double-pen plan, while at its most complex, it possesses a central hall which separates the two lower chambers. The Odell house lacks a central hall. Examples lacking the central hall usually have a boxed in staircase, as is true with the Odell house plan. Marshall, in his investigation of Northern Missouri I-house examples, also found that ground level rooms were frequently subdivided to create extra rooms. These subdivisions, being interior additions, are invisible to the outside viewer. Marshall attributes the form to the Piedmont and Upland South and states that New Englanders, like Odell, preferred the saddlebag I-house variant with a central chimney with paired back to back fireplaces. Perhaps Odell abandoned this northern climate form, relying instead upon a rear kitchen wing. Several of Marshall's examples present a deeper single-room plan with centered and fairly minimal side wall fenestration, usually single double-hung openings (Marshall, pp. 62-71).

Early Property History:

The original patent holders on this land were John and Susan Bixler. They obtained title on June 29, 1854. They sold the farm to B. W. Harlow on October 23, 1856. The farm consisted of a quarter-quarter section (the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 9, T71N, R35W) or 55 acres. Delancy Parcher purchased the land by contract, paying off a mortgage to the Bixlers, on February 3, 1859. Parcher previously sold the farm to Noah Odell on March 30, 1858 for \$400 (Property Abstract).

Noah N. Odell (1827-1892) was the son of Eli Odell and Asenath (Parcher) Odell. Father Eli Odell brought his Vermont family to New York, Canada and then to Crawford County, Ohio, in 1822. Twenty-two years later in 1854, the Odell's came to Winterset, Madison County, Iowa. Noah had a brother and five sisters, all of whom came to Iowa with the family. A Solomon Odell of Jasper Township, Adams County, also Ohio-born as was Noah, was likely an older brother and might have influenced his final location decision. Noah came from a family of some means and he was able to establish a substantial farm of 240 acres just northeast of Nodaway. It is said that the family first occupied a log house prior to building this house either during the winter of 1856 or 1857. The Biographical History of Montgomery And Adams Counties gives the arrival date in the county as November 1856 and this accounts for their absence from the 1856 state population census. Noah married Lydia Field in 1847 in Ohio. The family first resided on Section 16, just south of the subject property's section. Three children were born prior to the move to Iowa (Gaylor N., b. c.1850, Allici, b. c.1852, and Hunter F., b. c.1854) (Biographical History of Montgomery And Adams Counties, p. 407).

Noah immediately (1856) established the first steam-powered sawmill in Adams County, apparently in Section 16. This was the first such mill in the county and it was purchased new at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, from which point it was shipped to Adams County. It was certainly this mill that was used to cut the walnut lumber for the subject house. The wood bears the marks of a circular saw. The mill was relocated east to nearby Brooks in 1859 and in 1863 he sold it to Christian Harader who moved it to Washington Township. That township, in north central Adams County included the town of Mt. Etna. The moving of the sawmill was apparently preparatory to moving the family as well, and a farm in Section 2 was purchased just west of Brooks in 1860. The new house constructed by Noah Odell employed a heavy timber frame of native black walnut lumber, cut and sawn on site in 1858. He later turned solely to house and barn building in Adams and Montgomery counties. The obituary for Jacob Odell, Noah's son, makes considerably more of his father's saw milling operations, stating

His father, Noah O'Dell [sic], built the first ferry boats on the Mississippi at Clinton and in 1852 moved a sawmill from Maine to western Iowa where he cut the lumber to build more than 500 sets of buildings for homesteaders.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

If accurate this is an important claim. The date does not agree with other sources and the scale of lumbering operations is questionable given the available tree cover in Adams County and the difficulties of hauling so large a number of pre-cut houses within the region (Ibid. Obituary, Rev. Jacob Odell,).

Noah Odell is listed as a farmer and carpenter in the 1870 federal census. The county history notes the following concerning his carpentry work:

Mr. Odell has carried on farming ever since his mill experience, but in connection therewith was also engaged in carpentry and building for many years. His father was a carpenter and he very naturally learned that trade. He has done much building in Adams county, having built the first frame barn of any importance; this was on what is known as the 'Billy Wilson' farm in Quincy township. The largest barn he built was on the Vernon place near Corning. In fact he has erected a large number of both dwellings and barns in Adams and Montgomery counties... (Biographical History of Montgomery And Adams Counties, p. 407, this information is copied verbatim from Noah Odell's obituary).

Noah Odell was of some community stature from the onset of his arrival in the township and county. He was one of the earliest township clerks and was paid in that capacity by the County Commissioners in June 1861 and again in June 1862. In September 1861 he petitioned the Commissioners to relocate the Quincy & Hawleyville Road and the Queen City, Brookville and Montgomery County Road that followed the same route. This road relocation moved that road away from its original survey, squaring it off in the southeast corner of Section 9. The present mile roads use the same route and this was one and the same with the claimed stage line that is discussed later in this nomination form. Odell also possesses impressive Republican Party credentials which are described below (Minutes Book, County Commissioners, Vol. 2, June 3, 1861 term, September 1861 term, p. 20, and the June 2, 1862 term, p. 75).

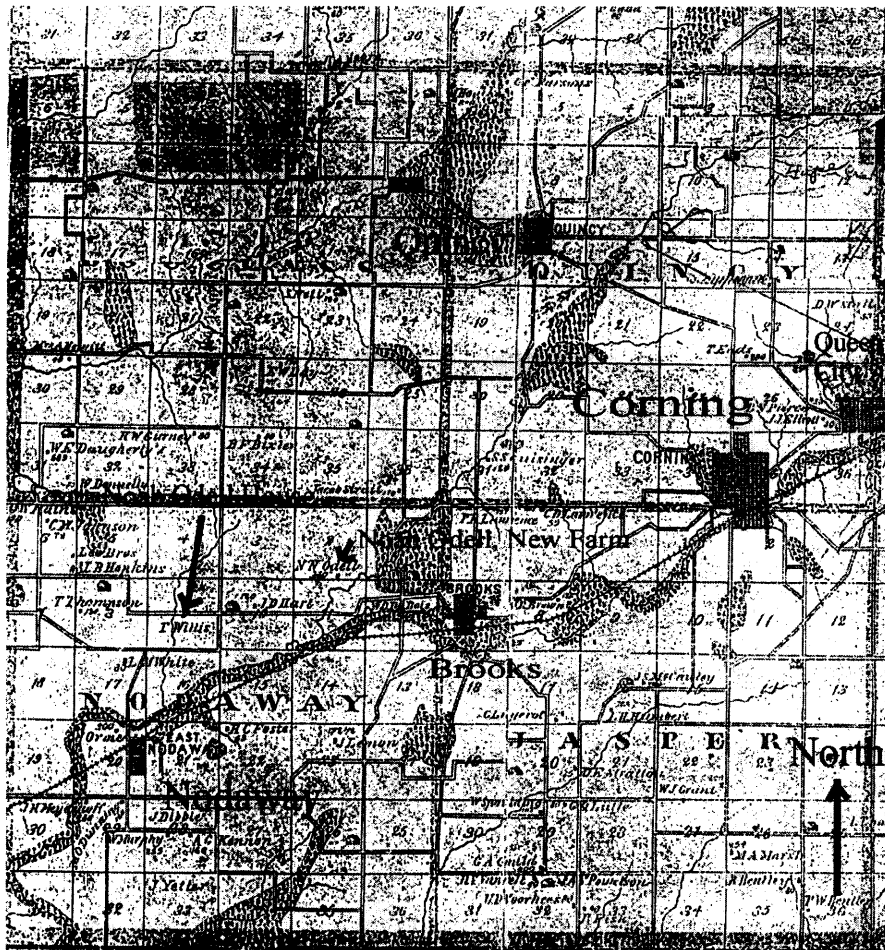
The 1860 federal population census likely found the Odell family at its new home near Brooks. This might explain why no reference is made in the census to any use of the property other than a farm. By the time of the enumeration of the 1860 federal census, three additional children had joined the family (Huldah, b. c.1855-1860; Homer I., b. c.1858, and Freeman, born c.1859-60). Noah was a wealthy man in comparison to his neighbors with \$2,000 in real estate holdings and \$1,800 in other wealth. Reflective of his station, Noah employed and housed two farm laborers, Tripp Smith, and Jesse Ellis, both aged 20. Smith was from New York, Ellis from Ohio. Strangely there is no agricultural census listing for the family. Did the moving that year negate the gathering of this information? (1856 Iowa State Census, 1860 Federal Census, p. 67, Entry 516; 1860 Federal Agricultural Census).

It is Noah Odell who is credited with building the house according to the oral history and the property abstract corroborates this claim. Granddaughter Adda Odell Anderson wrote in August 1955 "It was during the year 1856 that they moved to Adams Co, and settled near Nodaway, where Grandpa farmed and did carpenter work in summer (always building their own homes) and ran a sawmill during the winter." Odell was certainly the house builder given the increase of \$600 in the sale price for the farm between his purchase in 1858 and his sale two years later. Unfortunately the property abstract shows Odell to have been a short-term property owner. Odell bought the farm in early 1858 but sold it on June 4, 1860, to Alfred and Elizabeth White. It was White and not Odell who first donated a half-acre located in the southwest quarter corner of the section for use as a township cemetery. The Odell family had a total of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, at least four of whom died before adulthood. The large family, combined with the several hired hands, partly explains the need for the large house and its many bedrooms (Memoir, Anna Odell Anderson, August 1955).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa



1875 Adams County Plat Map, Nodaway Township
(left arrow marks house site, center arrow marks site of next Odell residency)
(Andreas Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, 1875, p. 14)

Curiously Noah Odell's obituary indicates that the Odell's moved to their Section 7 residence in 1866 rather than 1860 as the property abstract indicates. That source states "he resided on his farm in Sec. 7 since 1866. He has a fine farm of 200 acres, and has also given land to his sons" (Noah Odell obituary).

Alfred White (1822-1887) settled northeast of Nodaway with his brother Dennis White (1818-1883). White owned the subject property from 1860 until 1870. No obituary has been found for him but his oldest son's biography appeared in the first county history. Alfred White was of English ancestry and was born in Pennsylvania. He had two marriages. His first union, to Elizabeth B. Devol (c.1826-1867) produced five children and his second marriage to Elizabeth [surname unknown] brought eight more children into the growing household. James K. White (c.1845-?) was his eldest child. White was already away from the parental home when the family moved to the subject property. James White was "always... a Democrat" so it is probable that his father was of the same political persuasion. When Alfred White died in 1887, he named his second wife his administrator. He distributed land to the children of his first marriage and cash payments to those of his second marriage (Biographical History of Montgomery and Adams Counties, p. 419: Probate File #336, Adams County, Iowa).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Property Name: **Noah Odell House**
Location: **Adams County, Iowa**

The Whites sold the farm to Joseph C. Rider on May 21, 1870 for \$12,600. The 1870 Federal census lists the Odells, the Whites and the Riders. Census day was June 28, 1870, so the Riders were the occupants of the subject property. Joseph C. Rider was aged 36 years, was a farmer, and possessed considerable wealth with real estate worth \$13,583. His wife Lucinda White was aged 37 and there were three young children in the household (Harriett E., aged 14; Anna L., aged 11, and Cornie H., a 4-year old female). Alfred White was apparently enjoying the fruits of his land sale to Rider and appears with personal wealth worth \$14,904. Noah Odell, was living near Brooks, and as noted earlier, is listed as a farmer and carpenter (1870 Federal Census, Adams County, Iowa, pages 67, 82, 84).

Joseph and Lucinda Rider departed New York state in the early 1860s and relocated briefly to Illinois and then to Adams County. Rider family history states that Joseph Rider farmed the subject property for 20 years until his failing health necessitated the calling westward of his brother William in 1894. The property abstract, however, indicates that Joseph's brother Wakeman Rider purchased the farm with an eight-month mortgage on April 1, 1876, paying off the debt on December 1, 1876. Nephew William Rider purchased the farm from Wakeman and Hannah E. Rider on March 30, 1888. Curiously the sale price in 1888 was just \$3,000 while Wakeman Rider had paid \$8,619.75 for the farm 12 years previously. Neither Joseph nor Wakeman Rider appears in the 1880 federal or the 1885 Iowa censuses. His brother William A. Rider (1836-1923) was born in Cedar Lake, New York. He came to Adams County with his second wife, Helen T. Rider (1841-1923) and son Leon Wakeman Rider (1870-1944).

Joseph Rider died soon after his brother arrived and William purchased 340 acres of land and the house. Son Leon married Louise Kernan in December 1896 and they had a son, Gilbert Wakeman Rider, who was born February 2, 1900. The births of Florence (1901), Ruth (1904), Paul (1909), and Albert (1917) followed this birth. Leon Rider served on the Nodaway school board and worked with others to build a new school building in 1923.

The Leon Rider family occupied the house as of 1896. That family owned the house until c.1995 when it was purchased by the Narigon family to be preserved as a historic stage coach site. The house was then associated with 340 acres of farmland and included the barn site immediately across the road to the south. The land spanned the East Nodaway River with its southern boundary line adjoining the railroad right of way. Thirty acres were lost to erosion along the East Nodaway River. The family barely survived the hard economic times of the early 1920s and the Great Depression. William and Helen Rider both died in early 1923. Son Albert was killed in North Africa during World War II and Leon Rider died in August 1944. Still the family emerged from the postwar years with 310 acres of land.

Gilbert and Paul Rider ran the farm and the house was occupied by their mother, Louise Rider. Gilbert Rider served as a county supervisor for three terms during the 1950s, was a Nodaway mason, and took care of the Nodaway Cemetery. Paul Rider was killed in an auto accident in 1961 leaving Gilbert to manage the farm. He married Leota M. Shires in 1963 but lost her to a stroke just three years later. Gilbert then joined his mother at the house. She died in 1970.

Gilbert Rider retired from active farming in the mid-60s. He assumed full ownership of the farm in 1969, buying out the interests of his two sisters. He sold off the land lying south of the East Nodaway and leased the remainder. In 1977 he sold some land to a cousin Henry Kernan Jr. of Montgomery County. The house was the scene of several very large antique and farm equipment sales. Gilbert Rider was a long-term area farm antique collector. He relocated to a Villisca retirement home in 1980 and died there on November 15, 1985.

In 1973 and 1976 Rider submitted applications for both the 50-Year Certificate and the Century Farm designation programs offered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture in commemoration of the American Bicentennial. Fifty Year Certificates honored farms which remained in the same family ownership for half a century,

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 **Page** 15

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

while Century Farm certificates signified 100 years of same-family ownership (List For 50-Year Certificates, June 19, 1973, Adams County, Iowa; Century Farms Application, 1976).

The Friends of Wayside Inn Inc. plan to restore and perhaps interpret this property as a key historical site in Adams County. Immediate efforts have focused on treating termite infestations in the lower levels of the house framing. The property has been re-graded and the earth pile west of the house has been leveled. The two garages, not included in this nomination, are infested with termites and will soon be gone.

Recent Odell House History:

The house was the subject of an interagency site visit (State Historical Society, National Trust For Historic Preservation Midwest Office, Iowa Main Street/Department of Economic Development, and other) and study in February 1994. National Register eligibility was recommended in the report generated by that study and visit. It has been a priority property in the county's historic preservation plan. Author and historic preservation consultant Molly Myers Naumann acknowledged the stagecoach context and strongly recommended its National Register listing under the transportation context (Naumann, pp. 5, 10, 12, 16).

The house has been vacant since 1988. It was owned by Junior and Margaret Kernen and was sold to Don and Cheryl Narigon who formed a non-profit corporation and the house was donated to this corporation.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 16

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Major Bibliographic References:

A Brief History of Corning & Adams County, Iowa: 1857-1957, Corning: Centurama Publication Committee, 1957 (cited herein as Centurama).

Adams County *Free Press*, "Rider Farm reeks with history," c.1980.

Adams County Tax Lists: 1855, 1858, and 1860.

Adjutant General Papers, Southern Border Brigade, Correspondence (Box 68), Muster Rolls (Boxes 82-86); Monthly Statistics, Box 1, State Historical Society of Iowa.

Anderson, Adda Odell, typed memoir August 1955 (provided by Mrs. Bill Pumphrey, Pueblo, Colorado)

Andreas, A. T., A. T. Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, 1875, Chicago: Chicago Lithographing Company, 1875.

Atlas of Adams County, Iowa: Chicago: George Ogel & Company, 1905.

Berrier, G. Galin, "The Underground Railroad In Iowa," forthcoming chapter in Outside In: African American History in Iowa, 1838-1998 (editors Tom Morain, Marv Bergman, Loren Horton and Dorothy Schwieder).

Bicentennial Strand-Lincoln Center-Carbon-Mt. Etna-Quincy [History] 1776-1876, n.p. 1977.

Biographical History of Montgomery & Adams Counties, Iowa, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1892.

Boatner, Mark M., The Civil War Dictionary, New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1988.

Connelley, William Elsey, "The Lane Trail," Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1913-1914, Vol. XIII, pp. 268-279.

Current, Richard N., Encyclopedia of the Confederacy, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993 (four volumes, "Kansas-Nebraska Act" by William W. Freehling, Vol. II, pp. 875-76; "Howell Cobb" by Horace Montgomery, Vol. I, pp. 358-62, "Missouri," by William P. Parrish, Vol. III, pp. 1052-55; and "Guerrilla Warfare," by Thomas Goodrich, Vol. II, pp. 718-725).

Department of Agriculture, Century Farm List, Adams County, March 1999.

"Early History of Adams County, Iowa," Unattributed Adams County history placed in the 1890 court house cornerstone, typed manuscript.

Eldon Roberts, "Freedom Road 1830-1860," History of Adams County, Iowa, Corning: Corning Departmental Club & Civic Department, 1984.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 17

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Ellis, J. Loran, The Story of Nevin: An Historical Narrative of The Early Days of the New England Colony of Iowa, n.p. 1901.

“Fund drive for Wayside Inn,” *Free Press*, August 26, 1995.

Gue, B. F., “John Brown And His Iowa Friends,” *Midland Monthly*, Vol. 7, Part 2, February 1897, pp. 103-113.

Harris, Ransom Langdon, “John Brown And His Followers In Iowa,” *Midland Monthly*, Vol. II, Part4, October 1894, pp. 262-68).

Hawthorne, Francis E., “African American Pioneers In Iowa—A Historical Overview: Presentation for Iowa Civil Rights Conference, Des Moines, May 12, 1995,” published in *Celebrate Iowa’s History of Diversity—A Compilation of Manuscripts, Overheads, and Articles From The May 12, 1995 Conference “Celebrate Iowa’s History of Diversity, Des Moines: Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 1995.*

“Historic Wayside Inn is for sale,” *Free Press*, c.1997.

History of Adams County, Iowa, Corning: Corning Departmental Club 7 Civic Department, 1984.

History of Washington Township, Adams County, Iowa, A Project of the Riverside Garden Club of Mt. Etna, Iowa, from February 1936 to February 1937, Corning: Free Press Printers, 1937.

Hoskinson, Jack, “Memories,” typed manuscript, letter to Sandra Leininger dated November 29, 1999.

Iowa Freedom Trail Program Proposal, Des Moines: Department of Cultural Affairs, December 1999.
Iowa State Historical Archives, Record Group 101, Adjutant Generals Department, Military Records, Southern Border Brigade, Des Moines.

Iowa State Register, December 15, 1872, p. 4., col. 4-5.

“Iowans mark trail: Historians document Underground Railroad,” *Des Moines Register*, June 28, 1999.

“Iowa’s antislavery role to be highlighted,” *Des Moines Register*, April 2, 1999.

Jacobsen, James E., “Movers and Shippers: A Transportation History of Adams County, Iowa, 1853-1945,” Corning: Adams County Tourism and Historic Preservation Network, 1967.

Kirkpatrick, Inez E., Stagecoach Trails In Iowa, Crete, Nebraska: J-B Publishing Company, 1975.”

Kniffen, Fred, “American Cultural Geography and Folklife,” American Folklife, Austin, University of Austin Press, 1976.

Fred Kniffen, Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion,” Annals, Association of American Geographers, Vol. 69, No. 1, March 1979, pp. 59-63.

Marshall, Howard Wright, Folk Architecture In Little Dixie: A Regional Cultural In Missouri, Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1981.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 18

Property Name: **Noah Odell House**

Location: **Adams County, Iowa**

National Park Service, *Exploring A Common Past, Researching And Interpreting the Underground Railroad*, n.p., History Office of the National Park Service, 1997.

Naumann, Molly Myers, "A Report On A Planning For Preservation Project For Adams County, Iowa," Corning: Adams County Historic Preservation Commission, 1995.

Nodaway Iowa: Past & Present, Nodaway: Compiled by the Nodaway Bicentennial Committee [Vol. I], 1976, p. 3.

Obituary, Noah N. Odell, "Death of a Pioneer," undated but from a local Adams or Montgomery county newspaper, provided by Mrs. Bill Pumphrey, Pueblo, Colorado.

Obituary, Rev. Jacob D. Odell, undated (post-1927) but from a local Adams County newspaper, provided by Mrs. Bill Pumphrey, Pueblo, Colorado.

Omaha *World Herald*, "History Lives in House, Antiques," September 4, 1981.

Osterholm, Richard, "Entering House Like Visiting Past," Omaha Sunday *World Herald*, June 23, 1963.

Osterholm, Richard, "Stagecoach Gone, Station Remains," Omaha *World-Herald*, March [specific date unknown], 1957.

"Overland Staging Industry in Minnesota, 1849-1880," Minnesota Historical Society Multiple Property Documentation Form, n.d.

Population of the United States in 1860 Compiled From the Original Returns of the Eighth Census, Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1864.

Todd, Rev. John E., Early Settlement And Growth of Western Iowa or Reminiscences, Des Moines: The Historical Society of Iowa, 1906.

Underground Railroad Resources In The United States Theme Study, September 1998, Washington: National Historic Landmarks Study, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1998.

Union Republican, October 30, 1907, obituary, Mrs. Lydia Ann Odell.

United States Congressional Series Set: 33rd-37th Congresses, 1854-1862, Volumes 860, 909,957, 1013, 1057, 1101, 1139, 1164.

"Wayside Inn 'falling apart.'" *Free Press*, July 20, 1998.

Interviews:

Connie White and Sandra Leininger, December 8, 1999.

Nancy Jaekel and Jim Jacobsen, December 12, 1999 (Ms. Jaekel is transcribing the papers of Rev. John Todd, of Tabor, an Underground Railroad activist. She advises that the papers do not even address that topic and consequently they do not mention Adams County activities)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 19

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northern edge of the county road at the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 9, Township 71 North, Range 35 West, running west 75 feet, thence north 200 feet, thence east 75 feet, thence south 200 feet to the place of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

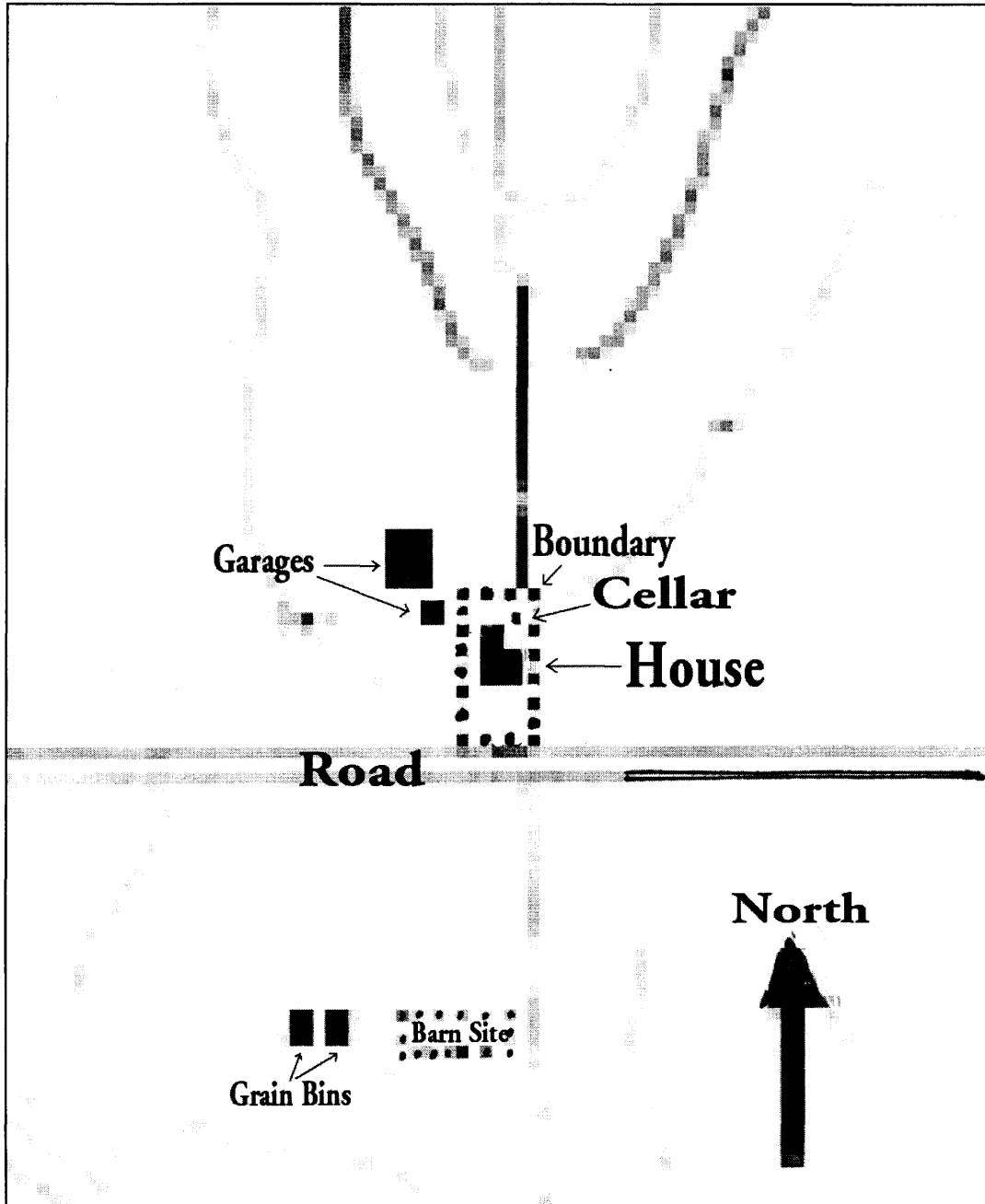
The nomination boundary includes only the house, the former cistern, the immediate frontage and a minimal perimeter of land around the house. A pile of dirt and two modern garages that are immediately west of the house are excluded because they have no bearing on the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 21

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Site Map:



Site map based on USGS Basemap

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Section number 10 Page 22

Photo Identification List:

The following information applies to all of the photographs included with this nomination.

Photographer, James E. Jacobsen

Photo Date: October 26, 1999

Location of Negatives: Adams County, Iowa Tourism and Historic Preservation Network, 710 Davis Avenue,
Corning, Iowa 50841

Film: TMAX ASA 400

Photo Number:	Direction of View:	Description
1	northeast	General view of house, excluded garages, treeline
2	northwest	General view of house, treeline
3	north	Front of house
4	northeast	Front of house, porch and fenestration detail
5	northeast	west side of house, front of house
6	south	north side, rear of house, rear kitchen wing
7	southwest	detail, rear kitchen wing, east side wall and rear wall
8	southwest	east side wall, rear wall of house, east side wall of kitchen wing
9	west	east side wall of house
10	north	cellar/smokehouse entrance
11	southeast	interior, main floor, main floor, front door detail and base of stairway detail (fireplace to right)
12	west	interior, main floor, "fireplace" front
13	southeast	interior, main floor, interior, first floor framing detail, joists and subflooring, studs detail
14	southeast	interior, upper floor, head of stairs
15	southeast	interior, upper floor, head of stairs

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 23

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Appendix A: Potential Historical Association With The Western Stage Company:

Documenting historical stage route associations is problematic at best. It is best to begin with fundamental questions to determine if the subject property could reasonably have had such an association. The house itself is certainly of the appropriate age, a remarkable feat given the rarity of pre-Civil War rural residences. The house was large enough to have been used for this purpose. It appears to have possessed an unusually large number of bedrooms so it is conceivable that it could have been an overnight stage coach stop. It is also claimed that an associated large barn, located south across the county road, was used to shelter teams and coaches. The house is directly on the route of a purported stage line.

There is a direct link between Noah Odell and the alleged route that ran from the northeast to the southwest past the subject property. Odell, as township clerk, petitioned the county commissioners in September 1861 to adjust the road's route. He presented a petition signed by his neighbors concurring with the change. He referenced the road as the "Quincy & Hawleyville Road" (also the route for the "Queen City, Brookville & Montgomery [County] Road"). His petition fixed the route to north/south section line that ran between Sections 9 (Odell's land) and Section 10 to the east. The route then ran east/west from the southeast corner of Section 9 (the present county road) to the half section line (Odell's southeast corner) "where it intersect[ed] with the original [road] survey." It appears that the petition squared off the route, moving it south and east from a diagonal route across the southeast corner of Section 9. Gilbert Rider later stated that the route was still discernable at points along the ridge tops, running northeast from his house. Unfortunately Odell had by this time sold the farm and house to Alfred White. It appears that Odell was simply serving in his clerk's capacity in this instance. A March 1957 Omaha *World Herald* newspaper article titled "Stagecoach Gone, Station Remains" showed Gilbert Rider pointing from the house toward the stage coach route. He is shown pointing southeast, but it was a staged photo requiring Rider to be standing in front of the house for the photograph (County Commissioners Minutes, Vol. II, p. 20, September 1861 Term; *World Herald*, March [exact date unknown], 1957).

A wealth of oral history accounts make the linkage but none of these took on written form until after World War II. Still both the Rider and Odell family oral histories are in basic agreement regarding the claim. The oral history claim is strengthened by the persistence of those claims. Mrs. Leon Rider, owner of the house since 1896, could attest to a four-generation ownership of the house by the late 1970s. That claim was acknowledged by the Century Farm designation received by the Riders in 1963. She then recalled that the house "looked more like a hotel than a house when my husband and I moved in. There were five bedrooms upstairs and downstairs there were about four bedrooms and a fairly large lobby with a large fireplace." To the Rider family the stagecoach associations were more tangible and Gilbert Rider posted signs on a nearby telephone pole that proclaimed the stage coach link to the house (these signs remain in place). Inez Kirkpatrick repeated these claims in her 1987 work *Tavern Days in the Hawkeye State* (n.p., p. 9; Omaha *World Times*, June 23, 1963).

Son Gilbert Rider, c.1957, described the association between the house and the stage coach service that it is said to have serviced for some undefined period of time:

The stagecoach line did not go from Corning to Villisca. It came from St. Joseph, Missouri, and crossed the East Nodaway River, southwest of Nodaway and to the west and the northeast to Quincy. The trail still can be seen on my farm and to the east 1/4 mile. My farm has been in the family since 1868. At one time there was an Indian camp close by the coach line.

As Gilbert notes, the stage route's destination point was not Council Bluffs as many local accounts state, but rather St. Joseph, Missouri. Council Bluffs was too far north given that the trail was headed southwest. Inez Kirkpatrick maps the route in *Stagecoach Trails In Iowa*. She depicted four main routes all hubbing into Quincy, and includes this one,

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 24

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

which connects southwest to Clarinda and a route linking Bedford and Shenandoah. She also summarizes mail route contracts. The Western Stage Company was awarded an early 1859 contract for a Eddyville-Nebraska City route that included this route. The Clarinda-Sidney stage route is mentioned in the Page County *Herald*, March 23, 1860, when it was reported that Mr. Banks, the stage operator, had sold out his business to Mr. Matthews, who was referred to as “the Prince of Landlords” (Kirkpatrick, pp. 165, 167; Page County *Herald*, March 23, 1860).

An entirely separate family oral history claim is found in the White family. Connie White of Creston recalls her grandfather, Arthur White, telling her and her siblings that the property was associated with their family and saw use as a stagecoach inn. The children were urged to imagine how hard it was to bake bread early each morning in anticipation of the arrival of anywhere from five to 35 stage passengers during the day. The memory was attributed to Grandma Bryson, this being the same as Elizabeth White, second wife of Alfred White. This White family memory was never publicized in the county histories however and it was confirmed only after the White connection with the subject property was belatedly recognized (Interview, Sandra Leining and Connie White).¹

What was called the “Blue Grass Trail” (not to be confused with the Blue Grass Road, the name for the Highway 34 route) is said to have passed this property. The route followed ridgelines southwest from Quincy and then followed the regular miles roads prior to entering Nodaway. It skirted along the northern edge of the East Nodaway River drainage.

No historical period documentation firmly proves the claimed trail route or its purported use for stages. Stage lines ceased to carry the mail for free in 1854 and the first postal mail route contracts were awarded that year. Between 1857 and 1858 stage companies could even pre-empt land by constructing swing stations on unclaimed land. A search of federal mail contracts listings for 1854-1862 produced no contracts for routes through Nodaway which were in operation when the house was constructed. Some very early (1854) mail contracts document a Nodaway to Table Creek (Nebraska Territory) stage run. Ira Cumming had the contract to run a weekly 52.5-mile route. Cumming also ran mail to Sidney, Iowa, from Nodaway, a 40-mile journey. That contract was approved November 8, 1853. A 50-mile route from Nodaway to Macedonia, Iowa, attracted four bidders but no contract was let. Philip Banks won the contract to run a weekly mail from Nodaway to Maryville, a 30-mile long trip (U.S. Congressional Series Set, 33rd Congress, Second Session, pp. 382, 723, 778, 786-87; Overland Staging Industry in Minnesota, p. E-10).

Quincy had its earliest mail-stage contract by this same time. John Miller had the contract for a weekly mail supply service from Johnson, Iowa, 25 miles distant from the county seat. The contract was approved February 22, 1854 for a six month period. Absent from the mail contract records are references to any major mail feeder routes to the southwest, specifically Nebraska City. All primary contracts were running due west to Council Bluffs. E. S. Alvord ran the mail from Oskaloosa to Council Bluffs as of the period July 1854 through the end of June 1858 (Ibid., pp. 377, 741).

The sole mail contract for the years 1855-56 is one awarded E. Curtis which involved a weekly service between Quincy and Sidney. This contract was briefly extended to Canaan City in late 1856 (Ibid., Vol. 957, 35th Congress, First Session, pp. 516-17).

W. F. Davis carried the mails between Quincy and Greenfield until the service was stopped September 7, 1858. He won a new contract for service between Quincy and Fontanelle, which began August 1, 1858. Jephtha and J. W. Jones had the contract to carry mail from Quincy to Lewis, Iowa. That contract was initiated November 23,

¹ Connie White had noticed local notices about efforts to nominate the Odell property and intended to communicate this information to those preparing the nomination. She never got around to it but the preparers instead came to her.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 25

Property Name: **Noah Odell House**
Location: **Adams County, Iowa**

1858 and continued into mid-1862. Jephtha Jones was also low-bidder on a proposed Quincy-Bedford mail route but it is not clear if a contract was actually awarded. E. S. Alvord was awarded two contracts which ran from Fairfield via Chariton to Platemouth, Iowa. Both were awarded July 1, 1858 but he failed to initiate the service. There was by 1858 a thrice-weekly mail service between Nebraska City and Sidney, Iowa. P. F. Frost won the contract. A Des Moines-St. Joseph, Missouri, contract was put out for bids in 1858 but there is no record that a contract was awarded (Ibid., Vol. 860, 34th Congress, First Session, pp. 344, 479, 504-05, 530-32, 550-51).

Quincy continued to be the county mail contract focus when new contracts were issued in late April 1858. William F. Davis shunted the mails between Quincy and Winterset and between Quincy and Greenfield. Philip Banks did the same to Sidney (Ibid., Vol. 1013, 35th Congress, Second Session, pp. 793-95).

The record is silent for the county until April 1862 when five Quincy mail contracts were let. John Hunter was awarded three of these, linking Quincy and Fontanelle, Lewis and Winterset. James H. Burch ran the mail between Quincy and Bedford, and Joseph Martin did the same to Clarinda, Iowa (Ibid., Vol. 1164, 37th Congress, Third Session, pp. 258-61).

These records do not appear to document the existence of a Nodaway stage route after 1856. There was no Nodaway postoffice until 1869. It must be noted that these records are very general as to routes of travel and do not provide interim stops unless there was a scheduled overnight stop at a major town. Apparently some routes did not carry the mails because the Fort Des Moines to Nebraska City stage route, running twice weekly via Quincy, Clarinda, and Sidney, was established by the Fifth Iowa General Assembly. The few southwest routes ran via Quincy and no routes were identified as directly linking Des Moines and Nebraska City, the claimed destination point for the Blue Grass Trail.

The name "Wayside Inn" that is now associated with the property is not a historic name. It represents a generic term that has evolved into a more specific one. The Rider family history notes that Noah Odell "erected a Wayside Inn on this stage line in 1856." The 1976 Nodaway Past and Present (p. 3) repeats that same language, as does the 1976 Century Farm application. Gilbert Rider himself caused the confusion by placing a small "Wayside Inn" sign on the pole as noted above but that is the earliest indication that the name had been formalized. That sign remains in place today.

The Rider family history states that the stagecoaches ceased operation in 1872 and this is probable. The transportation context associated with this nomination describes how the stage companies provided vital communications and transportation to the west of the Afton railhead throughout the late 1850s and Civil War Years. The rails finally advanced across the state between 1869 and 1870 and the coach companies were reduced to providing feeder line services to the railroad. While local stage and drayage services continued into the early 20th century, the larger stage companies were eliminated. The historical record appears to show that the stage route was first established in early 1869 and likely was discontinued c.1872. Some confusion surrounds the property purchase of the Odell house by Joseph Rider and the Rider family history states "In the year 1872 the Wayside Inn closed. The Civil War was over. From that time on the Inn became the home of Joseph and his wife, Lucinda." Read too literally perhaps, this seems to say either that the transfer came with the closing of the inn function or that the Riders operated the inn but didn't live there until the inn was closed.

The Noah Odell House and the Underground Railroad:

As was the case with the stage coach association, proving a link with a particular property starts with determining if there is a substantial probability that there could be a historical association. The house itself is certainly of the right period given its construction materials and techniques and the larger building, with its many

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 26

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

bedrooms argues that this is a larger than average property. Unlike many Underground Railroad claims, this one fails to include a claimed underground cellar, dungeon or hiding place. Commonly it is the presence of such a mystery space that fuels or even starts the “rumor” of a link with this theme. It is true that some claim the existence of a tunnel and a backyard storm cellar but the Odell and Rider oral accounts make no such claim.

It could be the case that Noah Odell himself and not necessarily the house itself had the Underground Railroad linkage. The 1984 county history account simply states that he was involved in this work, the usual implication being that both he and his residence had to be involved. The emerging historical picture of the Odell household argues against the use of the house in this manner. The homestead was simply way too busy for a quasi-secretive operation to stay hidden very long. The family had eleven children as well as three orphans under its care. Not only was the house presumably serving as a stage coach hotel but Odell employed two farmhands and appears to have always hired extra labor. In addition his was a very large family and Odell was a rather prominent and public man with community responsibilities as township clerk (obituary, Lydia Ann Odell, *Union-Republican*, October 30, 1907).

The next question is whether Odell fit the profile as an Abolitionist. He clearly fits the profile of a Republican political activist. He was a Midwestern-born Yankee, he was of the Methodist faith, and he had county-wide ties through his sawmill operation. Nodaway had its own Methodist church as of 1864. The Quaker, Methodist (particularly Wesleyan Methodists) and the Congregational churches were most likely to support anti-slavery sentiment and activism. Curiously his relocation of his sawmill to Washington Township, admittedly in 1863 in the midst of the war, potentially put him in direct communication with the Dunkard congregation in Mt. Etna. He otherwise was in the right place at the right time. He was also in the right township. The 1860 census found just 24 families in Nodway Township and just two of these were of Southern origin. In theory Odell had no antagonistic neighbors to monitor his claimed activities (Berrier, pp. 20-21; Centurama, p. 69).

The oral history claims for a linkage of the house and the Underground Railroad are consistently general in nature and they fail to include the expected physical link between the house, secret compartments and the theme, that is apart from the bullet holes in the door. It is possible that the accounts derive from the Biographical History of Montgomery and Adams Counties which credits Noah Odell with being “reared in the Abolition school of politics, his father having belonged to that party, and in his early days in Ohio helped many an escaping slave on his way to freedom.” The anti-slavery activism referred to could be either Noah Odell or more likely his father Eli Odell. At any rate Noah Odell was of the proper political persuasion and was a member of the Christian Church. The problem with the Odell House is that while Odell clearly built it, he was only in residence for two years and that residency was fairly late relative to the most active period of Underground Railroad operations. If Odell was actively involved in helping escaped slaves, his assistance was likely offered from each of his three residences, which his family occupied between 1858 and 1865. The available information about successor owner Alfred White appears to make him an unlikely candidate to have continued Odell’s alleged operations. An unattributed newspaper obituary for Odell’s son Jacob states that Noah Odell was appointed Provost Marshal for the Department of Missouri in 1862 by President Lincoln. The federal Department of Missouri was first established November 9, 1861 and embraced the states of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Arkansas and part of Kentucky. It was merged into the Department of the Mississippi on March 11, 1862 but was reestablished September 19, 1862 and comprised Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, and eventually the territories to the west. The department was reduced to the state of Missouri by the creation of the departments of Kansas and Arkansas in early 1864. This clearly indicates that Odell had some stature in his party. Adda Odell Anderson, granddaughter, recalled that Noah Odell “was an imposing looking man, tall and straight, and a natural leader...he had a flowing white beard” (Biographical History of Montgomery and Adams Counties, p. 408; Rev. Jacob Odell obituary; Boatner, p. 556; Adda Odell Anderson memoir).

The Noah Odell House and the Civil War:

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 27

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

There are few extant Southern Iowa properties having Civil War associations. The Noah Odell House is associated with a Civil War tale and if it could be documented, the property. Mrs. Leon Rider described the wartime incident as follows:

The story was that two men stopped at the inn one night and were found to be Confederate soldiers. Officers came to get them and fired a shotgun at the locked door. When they got inside the room was empty. The two rebels had escaped through the window.

This version appeared in a newspaper account in 1963. A 1957 version dates the incident to 1864 and states

According to Mrs. Rider, a patrol of Union soldiers tried to capture two rebels who had wandered too far north. The rebels escaped. A shotgun blast into a bedroom in which the rebels were hiding sent the two scurrying into the darkness of night.

A 1980 version appeared in a *Free Press* article:

During the Civil War two men stopped at the inn one evening to spend the night. They were discovered to be Confederates and Union army officials were notified. In the attempt to capture the two a shotgun was fired at the locked door of the downstairs bedroom and that door bears the scars of the pellets to this day. The Confederates reportedly fled through the bedroom window and escaped.

This story nicely speaks both to the stagecoach inn as well as Civil War themes. Numerous other versions have subsequently appeared and these attempt to link the Underground Railroad and inn themes. In one version, two Rebels journeyed too far north and were in some manner hiding at the inn. These variously identify the quarry as two escaped slaves and the pursuers as Confederate soldiers, the quarry as pursued Confederate soldiers and the chasers as Federal soldiers. The story comes complete with the imbedded shotgun pellets in the still-preserved bedroom door (*Omaha World Herald*, March [specific date unknown], 1957; June 23, 1963; "Rider House reeks with history").

The actual event awaits documentation and it is possible that area newspapers might make reference to it. The best that can be offered is to explore the probability that such an event could have occurred. The Civil War period experience of the southern Iowa counties is poorly explored or appreciated.

An initial question is were there Federal or Confederate troops in Adams County during the war? There was no Federal (Iowa volunteer units) operating along the Iowa/Missouri during the war. Instead a series of state troop organizations and local home guards and militia filled the defense needs of Southern Iowa. There were bonafide defense concerns from a number of quarters. At first pro-Confederate elements in Northern Missouri effectively drove pro-Unionists across the border. In Northwestern Missouri Kansas Jayhawkers continued their raids and caused primarily pro-Confederate Missourians to transfer their horses and other property across the state line to protect it. At first the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard achieved dominance across Northern Missouri and drove pro-Unionists into Iowa. These fairly large armed forces on numerous occasions caused Iowa military officials to organize substantial raids into Missouri to relieve beleaguered Federal Missouri State Militia units. As the war progressed Iowa military and civil leaders struggled to prevent recruiting incursions by Federal Missouri recruiters. Every man taken was one less Iowan to be counted against growing draft calls and as a credit to Iowa's headcount. Finally Missouri Confederates and to a greater extent irregulars repeatedly entered the state to raid, recruit and to otherwise create mischief. As formal Confederate raids and invasions penetrated northward into Missouri, these irregulars expanded into Iowa. This was particularly true during Confederate Major General Sterling Price's September-October 1864 invasion. Price never got across the Missouri River but Southern Iowa was purportedly full of Confederate agents.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 28

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

There were many militia units scattered across Southern Iowa. As of October 1864 there were 123 militia companies in the lowermost ten Iowa counties, 43 of which were armed. The vast majority were in Central and Southeastern Iowa but 21 were stationed in Ringgold, Taylor, Page and Fremont counties, and 11 of these had arms. In 1861 Adams County was placed in the state's "Western Division" and four militia regiments were organized. Several as yet unidentified Adams County companies served in the First Militia Regiment commanded by Col. Jno. R. Morley. The General Assembly authorized the formation the "Southern Border Brigade" of four cavalry battalions in September 1862. Companies were stationed at Sydney, Clarinda, Bedford and Mt. Ayr. Adams had at least one militia company as of late November 1863. This was Captain E.Y. Burgan's "Quincy Light Guards." The unit had 87 muskets. Burgan's unit dated back to 1857 and was organized by Frank M. Davis. This was during the heyday of forming such companies. Burgan was the original commander and a Mr. Davis was first lieutenant, with H. G. Ankeny as second lieutenant. Both subalterns later commanded the company. The unit camped just east of the courthouse and drilled in the town's streets. Farmers later found "U.S." buckles from cavalry harness and gold dollars in the vicinity of Quincy. Burgan's company was involved in the notable Iowa militia campaign that liberated St. Joseph, Missouri, from Confederate control in the fall of 1861. Another Quincy militia company, Company M, 1st Iowa Militia Regiment, was commanded by Capt. H. D. Welch (R. F. Brown, first lieutenant, B. F. Waters, second lieutenant). Its nickname was the "Prairie Boys" and numbered 79 men rank and file. Finally Queen City organized the "Queen City Guards," officially designated Company C, 1st Iowa Militia Regiment. It was commanded by Captain H. A. Smur (Jno. Colvin, first lieutenant, E. Mourat, second lieutenant). A number of its 33 rank and file were Icarian Colony members (*Bicentennial Strand-Lincoln Center-Carbon-Mt. Etna-Quincy [History] 1776-1876*, p. 60; State Historical Society of Iowa, Adjutant General Records, Southern Border Brigade, Muster Rolls, Box 86).

There were therefore plenty of militia units in proximity to Nodaway and it is possible that at some time Nodaway had its own company. The visitors to the inn might have been Confederate recruiting officers who were traveling incognito. Most of these had been sent into Northern Missouri to recruit but had been forced north into Iowa when Confederate Major General Sterling Price's invasion of Missouri had faltered south of the Missouri River during late September. Others saw an opportunity to combine recruiting with small-scale raiding. The most serious of these incursions was the Davis County rampage by several dozen guerrillas in October 1864 that left five Iowans dead. Other "agents" were coordinating with Copperheads within the state if one believes Federal military and civilian rumors to that effect. In short, Southern Iowa was replete with these mysterious personages during September and October 1864.

Adams County was by no means fully behind the national war effort. A September 1862 vote to pay a \$5 enlistment bonus to county soldiers passed by a five to three vote for example. That same board however protested to the governor on January 7, 1862 that a "sense of injury [was] felt by the people of this County at their [sic] being published as defaulters on the number of volunteers asked for by the Federal government and threatened with the consequences of a Draft." Fears of or opposition to the military draft could coincide with opposition to paying bonuses to the soldiers. The county did meet its enlistment goals through the war and provided the bulk of two infantry companies (Company H, 4th Iowa Infantry and Company D, 29th Iowa Infantry) and these suffered 23 combat deaths and 50 deaths to disease. Dr. Alfred Rawson supervised the county draft as County Enrolling Officer. Some men journeyed west to Pike's Peak as an alternative to donning a uniform (Board of Commissioners Minutes, Vol. II, p. 96, September 1862 Term; State Historical Society of Iowa, Adjutant General Records, Southern Border Brigade, Correspondence, Box 68, Memorial of the Board of Supervisors of Adams Co. Iowa to his Excellency Governor Kirkwood, January 7th, 1862; *Adams County History*, p. 15).

Appendix B: Underground Railroad and Civil War Historical Associations:

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 29

Property Name: Noah Odell House

Location: Adams County, Iowa

Paralleling the stagecoach stories are claims that Noah Odell was involved in the Underground Railroad and further that the house was the scene of a wartime altercation during the Civil War. The 1984 Adams County History simply states that “Noah [Odell] helped the Underground Railroad.” The White family oral history also repeats the claimed Underground Railroad function but offers no details. The earliest county history clearly establishes an association between Odell and the Abolition movement and the earlier activism of his father in that same cause:

In his political affiliations Mr. Odell has been a Republican ever since the organization of the party. His first presidential vote was cast for Martin Van Buren. He voted for General Fremont in 1856 and for General Harrison in 1888, and all Republicans between those two. He was reared in the Abolition school of politics, his father having belonged to that party, and in his early days in Ohio helped many an escaping slave on his way to freedom. He and his wife have long been faithful and consistent members of the Christian Church (Biographical History of Montgomery and Adams Counties, pp. 407-08).

The available documentation fails to clearly link Odell and more important the subject property to the operations of the Underground Railroad in Adams County. Clearly countywide anti-slavery activism was more widespread than was previously thought. This investigation of these operations in the county and findings relative to Odell and this property are included as an appendix to this nomination, given the possibility that there is a historical association. Further research may well make the conclusive linkage.

A second claim is that the inn was the scene of a Civil War encounter between Rebel and Federal soldiers. Each claim will be treated separately. An excellent national summary of the Underground Railroad context was developed in 1998 by the National Historic Landmarks Survey, a part of the National Park Service, and was titled *The Underground Railroad in American History*. The “railroad” was simply defined as the “sometimes spontaneous, sometimes highly organized [effort] to assist persons held in bondage in North America to escape from slavery.” The relatively recent and fast-growing historical interest in this context reflects the broader trend in American history and more specifically the Civil War period. It wasn’t until after World War II that historians began to depart from a consensus view that the Civil War was a tragic and unnecessary sectional conflict between regions of the country that were essentially more alike than they were different. It wasn’t until the late 1930s, beginning with Bell I. Wiley’s *Southern Negroes*, that the African American role in conflict began to draw the attention of Civil War historians. Increasingly the importance of slavery as a fundamental cause of the war and a distinctive difference between the sections emerged. With the onset of the Civil Rights movement during the 1960s the importance of “self-emancipation” on the part of some slaves (and the assistance provided by free African Americans in particular) was added to the historical milieu. Current historical “consensus,” while acknowledging the symbolic importance of the Underground Railroad to the broader Abolition movement, discounts its actual accomplishments. It was the war that caused the collapse or disintegration of slavery. What is not readily recognized is the singularity of the American solution to its slavery dilemma. In many ways the painful racial and economic legacies of emancipation are rooted in the manner in which the institution died. Historian Peter Kolchin observed that

“southern slavery’s violent end created a more decisive break with the past than that typical in other countries, and thereby paved the way for a more radical effort to remake the social order; in international context, the South’s sudden, uncompensated emancipation—together with the far-reaching if incomplete Reconstruction effort that followed—was highly unusual (McPherson, pp.241-60; Berrier, p. 12).”

Aiding and abetting the escape of slaves represented the principles and actions of a more radical part of the Abolition movement. Actually stealing slaves and employing violence in so doing, as John Brown did, was supported by only the most stalwart abolitionists. Needless to say, the Underground Railroad functioned in a largely hostile

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 30

Property Name: **Noah Odell House**
Location: **Adams County, Iowa**

public environment, regardless of how far north slaves were being removed. Its operators were violating Federal law (The Fugitive Slave Act of 1854) and frequently state laws as well. Many interpreted the Underground Railroad as destabilizing and threatening the peace and a challenge to what was considered established property rights. Much Midwestern antagonism to the freeing of slaves was as much economic as it was racially based. The working class was fearful that African Americans, freed from slavery, would enter the job market and lower prevailing wage rates. The point should not be lost that escaped slaves could expect no welcoming arms if they attempted to settle in the Northern states. This changed somewhat with the onset of war as labor shortages drew many "Contraband" African Americans into agricultural and other work. The final goal for the Underground Railroad "loads" was Canada, where British law promised legal security. Even most abolitionists, while socially prescient in their opposition to slavery and in their willingness to take action for its elimination, were loathe to support the "anti-Chaste" tenets of racial equality. The elimination of slavery was simply the first small step in the still largely unrealized quest for that dream (Berrier, p. 12).

The actual underground railroad was far more nebulous than its "railroad" analogy would suggest and its cumulative efforts were more symbolic than actual. Iowa historian G. Galin Berrier considers it "more folklore than history." Reflective of current historical thinking, Berrier thinks that it was the inability of slaves to escape in any significant numbers that led to the war. The 1860 federal census report took pains to estimate the scale of the fugitive slave "problem." The report concluded that the number of fugitive slaves had declined by half between 1850 and 1860 and that just one fiftieth of a percent, or 1/5,000, of all slaves were unaccounted for. There is no indication of how the figures were developed. The same report even reported a decline in the total number of free African Americans in the country (Berrier, pp. 1-2; The Eighth Census... p. xv).

Berrier dates the first appearance of the term "Underground Railroad" to an article in the Chicago Western Citizen, dated December 23, 1842. While self-emancipation efforts ala Harriet Tubman and assisting escaping slaves dated back to the institution's establishment, the heyday of the system postdated the 1854 passage of the federal Fugitive Act which threatened a penalty of a \$1,000 fine and a six-month jail sentence if one was convicted of aiding an escaped slave.

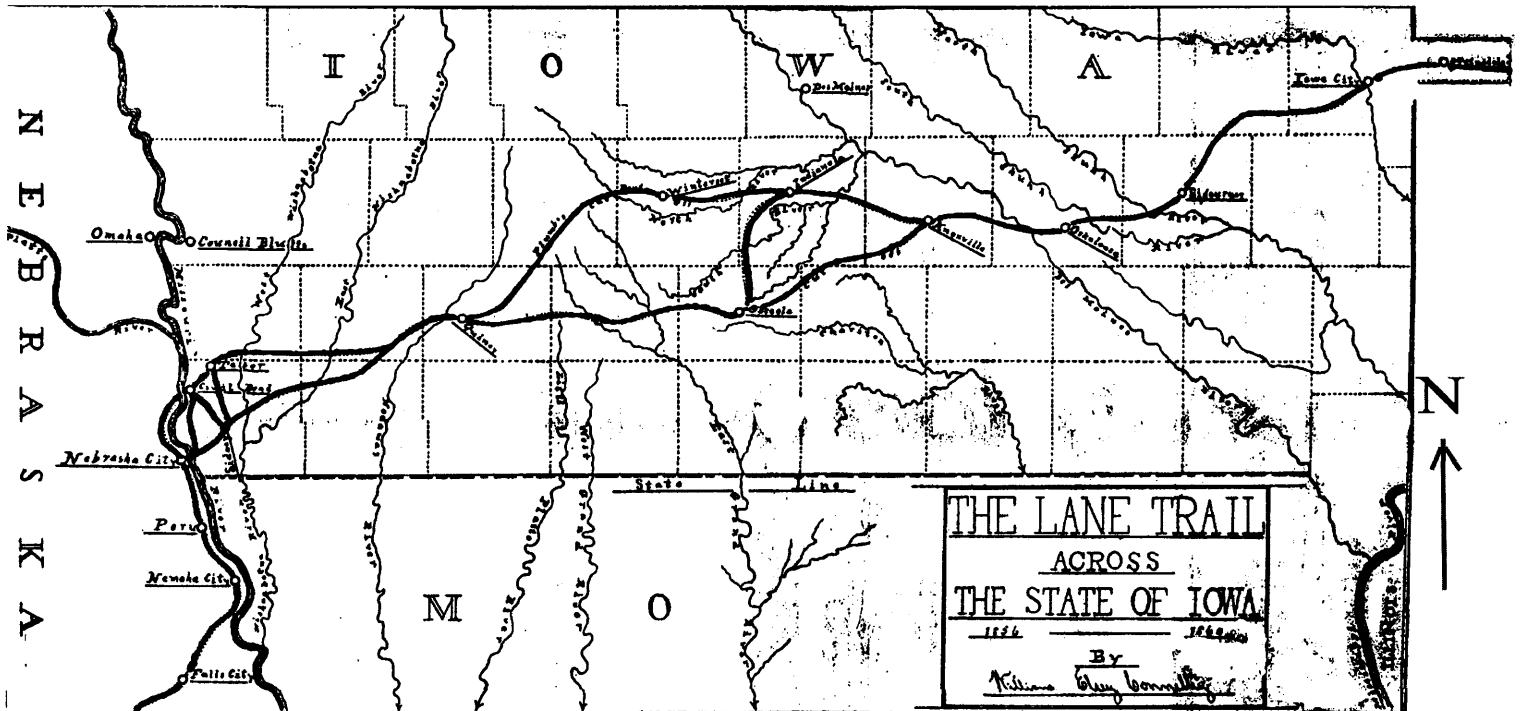
The Iowa Underground Railroad Context:

The Iowa Underground Railroad story is closely intertwined with Abolitionist efforts to oppose the extension of slavery to the Kansas Territory and the related emergence of John Brown as a national figure in the Abolition movement. All of these themes intermingled along the same general route, one that in turn tended to overlay existing transportation routes. The "Lane Trail," named for Indiana-born "General" James Henry Lane (1814-66), leader of the "Free State" movement for Kansas. He was also called the "Liberator of Kansas." In his final years he served as a pro-Lincoln United States senator from Kansas, 1861-66 (Boatner, p. 471).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 31

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa



The Lane Trail, Connelley, n.p. (the trail has been highlighted and Adams County labeled)

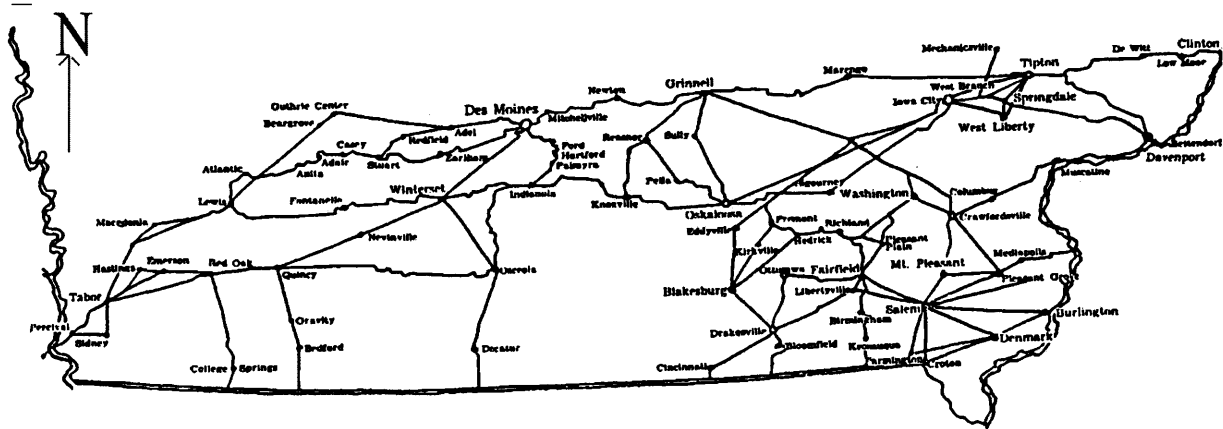
The Iowa towns along the route, from west to east, were Civil Bend (crossing point), Sidney and Tabor, Quincy, Winterset and Indianola (northern branch) or Osceola (southern branch), Knoxville, Oskaloosa, Sigourney, Iowa City and Springdale.

The 1820 Missouri Compromise fairly successfully guided the westward expansion of slavery for 34 years, prohibiting slavery within states that were formed from the Louisiana Purchase located north of the 36°30'. While all of Missouri was exempted (thus the compromise) Kansas Territory would be "free labor" unless Congress took action to amend the 1820 act. Senator Stephen Douglas, of Lincoln-Douglas debate fame, masterminded a national fix to the slavery extension issue by working to pass the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. That act repealed the 1820 prohibition based on longitude and allowed the new territorial populations to self-determine their stance on slavery. Missouri pro-slavers felt particularly threatened by any chance that "free-staters" would live just west of their state. The Kansas-Nebraska initiative was driven by a late-date Southern embracing of the federal government as a means of preserving and indeed extending slavery. A slavery-friendly Supreme Court issued favorable rulings and Congress made the federal government the enforcing agent for the institution with the 1854 passage of the Fugitive Slave Act. Douglas' hopes for continued peace and toleration were dashed by the ensuing "horse race" wherein each side worked to settle Kansas with their own adherents. Pro-slavery interests initially prevailed and established the Lecompton Constitution. A late 1854 election selected a Congressional delegate and a March 1855 vote selected a legislature. The first free labor settlers passed into Kansas via Iowa beginning in July 1854. The free labor interests challenged the election results claiming that as many as two-thirds of voters were not territorial residents. They formed their own government in July 1855 and held their elections that fall. Initially the federal government supported the Lecompton government. Congress eventually backed the challengers and Senator Douglas and the Democratic Party lost southern support for his acquiescence. The 1860 presidential vote followed and the Republicans elected Abraham Lincoln, their first successful candidate, who won with a minority of total votes cast, the presidential slate being fragmented by two Southern candidates (Boatner, pp. 244-45).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 32

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa



The Iowa Underground Railroad "Map"

This map was drawn by Curtis Harnach and appeared in *The Iowa Magazine* (Vol. 4, June-July 1956, pp. 20-21)

The Iowa Underground Railroad "map" presented above clearly indicates the northeast direction of the route. Chicago was commonly the direction of travel for the passengers. The system was more developed in Southeast Iowa, presumably because the adjacent Missouri counties of Scotland and Clark had the highest concentration of slaves in Northern Missouri. Even there the numbers were small, with just 131 slaves in Scotland County and 405 in Clark. The numbers, at least in the former case, were in decline since 1850, perhaps reflecting a tendency on the part of slave owners to remove their slaves further south, particularly in the late 1850s as the national situation became more unsettled. The trunk route, provided a route for slaves who had fled west into Kansas while the feeder lines more likely assisted individual slaves who were fleeing from more southerly areas in Missouri. Historian Berrier believes that many fugitive slaves received assistance on a hit or miss basis, some even refusing any aid out of distrust (Berrier, p. 14).

There is no way to even estimate the number of escaped slaves who traveled through the Iowa part of the system. Estimates by participants range from several hundred to over a thousand. The Iowa African American population increased from 333 in 1850 to 1,069 in 1860 but this increase cannot be linked to the Underground Railroad in particular. Curiously by 1873 Nodaway in Adams County had 41 African-Americans among its residents. By 1882 there were 115 African-Americans in Corning. There was a Corning Colored Band and Bedford, the Taylor County seat community due south from Adams County, was hosting an annual Emancipation Day celebration each August 1. The 1882 celebration brought people from Bedford, Corning, Creston, all in Iowa, and Savannah and Maryville, in Missouri. Maryville sent its Missouri Light Guard Band as well (Ibid., pp. 13, 17; *The Colored Advance*, August 1, 1882).

It is also hard to date the period of operations for the Underground Railroad. Berrier believes that the year 1854 marked the emergence of a more formalized system, that date marking the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act. Those few county histories that treat the theme also collectively confirm this starting date. In Iowa the Underground Railroad and the Free Kansas themes were directly interrelated so the 1854 date is a useful one. In Southwestern Iowa, at least in the more inland counties, substantial settlement was just taking place as of the mid-1850s. Berrier offers no ending date for the Underground Railroad. Slavery didn't officially end until the war's end, and in the non-seceding Border States (but not Missouri) emancipation came only in 1865-66 with ratification of the 14th Amendment. An 1872 source, treated below, dates the last slave "train" to just after the beginning of the war. The disruption and large-scale removal of much of the population in Northern Missouri during the war would have hindered but not prevented slaves from escaping into Iowa but other agents, the federal army in particular, increasingly interceded to protect both free African Americans and refugee slaves (Berrier, pp. 8-9).

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 33

Property Name: Noah Odell House

Location: Adams County, Iowa

Three Davis County wartime incidents are illustrative of the precarious status of even free African Americans who lived in the southernmost tiers of Iowa counties. In early February 1863 an armed mob of 54 local citizens converged on the house of one D. B. Pugh “and forcibly abducted a man of color and carried him to Missouri.” By the time Pugh asked for help from the local state troops, the captain could only contact the governor. The final determination by the attorney general was to prosecute the mob’s ring leaders using the grand jury process. Just three days later three armed Missourians abducted and attempted “to carry into slavery a colored man, who, for some time had been employed at a Hotel [in Bloomfield, Iowa]...” They fired a gun to convince the man of their serious intention and took him south. This time an unspecified authority, likely a civil one, pursued the party and brought them back for trial. It was reported “These proceedings caused intense excitement—some of our citizens siding with the Missourians and some taking sides against them.” The local state troops commander posted extra men to keep the public order. Five months later a repeat mobbing was threatened against two African Americans who were employed at the Thompson farm. This time a public meeting attended “by all classes” determined to take no action and the two men were left unmolested. A similar incident took place in Fremont County in 1860 when a group of free African Americans was kidnapped to St. Louis. They were released however when it was proven that they were not fugitive slaves (Record Group 101, Adjutant General Papers, Military Records—Civil War, Southern Border Brigade, Box 71, Letter, Capt. H. B. Horn to Adjutant General N. B. Baker, February 9, 12, and July 2, 1863; Todd, p. 66).

Adams County and the Underground Railroad:

A strong county link with the theme is generally accepted in the contextual literature. As early as 1872 the Iowa role was publicly extolled. The *Iowa State Register* recounted “the Underground Railroad had many branches in Iowa, but the directest [sic] and best patronized route was by way of Clarinda through Adams County, Nevin, Winterset, Indianola, and then on to Grinnell.” The county was on the route for what was said to be the last “train” of six fugitive slaves:

The last train that passed through that route came up from Ray County, Missouri, starting just after the war commenced. They came through Page County, stopped over a day at Quincy and the next day halted at Mr. Samuel Ainsworth’s at Nevin. That night they started for the Winterset station... This was the last train, and a few weeks later the blacks began to pass through Iowa without a guide, and none molested them. The rails on the track were taken up, and the conductors handed in the records of their doings...

The unmolested reference is likely a bit optimistic but this early general account appears to date the shutdown of the system to c.1861 (*Iowa State Register*, December 15, 1872, p. 4., col. 4-5).

The earliest and most comprehensive summary of anti-slavery activities in Adams County was the stridently pro-Union “Early History of Adams County, Iowa,” an unattributed manuscript history that had been deposited in the courthouse cornerstone in 1890. That source makes a linkage between stage coach lines and the Underground Railroad. It identifies Henry Reese of Osceola as being the operator of a stage coach stop on the Lockwood & Graham stage line as well as serving as a conductor on the slave escape route (“Early History of Adams County, Iowa,” p. 7)

The principal institutional support for the fugitive slave network in Quincy was the First Methodist Church which was founded in the summer of 1854. E. Y. Burgan, noted as a militia commander and strong Unionist was the carpenter who built the church. The congregation’s first minister was described in the 1890 history:

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 34

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Rev. Isaac [Burns] was the first stated minister of that church, had been publicly flogged and kept in jail till he was nearly dead, by the slave holders in Missouri, for uttering anti-slavery sentiments in that state. He died shortly afterwards, both a patriot and a martyr.

There was also an academy at Quincy, operated by a Rev. Stanley. It closed with the start of the Civil War. The same source explained why Quincy's setting lent itself for hiding fugitive slaves:

The dense woods and brushy gorges were convenient and secure places of retreat, in pleasant weather, whilst the first Court House was used in stormy weather, and for little babies and their mothers, who sometimes came, while the food of the fugitives was always forthcoming from the good people and the church of Isaac Burns...It was in this Court House that James H. Lane made his headquarters with the First Massachusetts regiment of Kansas deliverers which marched on foot from Iowa City to Lawrence, Kansas, camping for a rest at Quincy. Here also was a station of John Brown and his men, which was well known by the citizens of the town. And here also Senator Howell Cobb of Alabama, traveling in the north as a Southern Spy, made a speech in the Court House, and Lane replied, wherein hot words almost ended in bloodshed. From 1855 on, there was a constant set of special patrols which passed day and night along this highway, kept up by pro-slavery and anti-slavery adherents in Missouri and Kansas (Ibid., p. 9).

Howell Cobb (1815-1868) was a Georgian and not an Alabamian, but regardless he was a key Southern leader. Cobb as presiding officer of the Montgomery convention, the birthplace of the Confederate States of America, was the first "national" figure to be elected by the delegates of the seceding states. Howell Cobb was quite busy during the 1850s serving as Georgia Governor, Congressman and finally Secretary of the Treasury during the Buchanan Administration. Still, if any substantial Southern entourage visited the county for any length of time, documentation will surface in any number of surviving state and regional newspapers (History of Adams County, p. 19; Boatner, p. 160).

Under the Fugitive Slave Act a specific legal procedure had to be followed in order for an owner or bounty-hunter to attempt to retrieve a runaway slave. The first step was to prove ownership of the runaway and this was achieved in the home county of the owner and slave. Armed with these papers, the slave catcher went to the Commissioner in the county where the fugitive slave resided and obtained an order that required the sheriff to secure the slave and to arrest those who were violating federal law. Each county appointed a commissioner and these appear to have been justices of the peace. The challenge of proof in the second county was that the captured runaway was the specific slave who was sought by the pursuers. There are of course numerous Iowa court cases or situations where slaves were legally or illegally forcibly returned South. The most significant incident took place in Salem, Henry County, in July 1848, when a very large force of armed Missourians literally besieged that town while searching for a party of runaway slaves and their conductors. The Federal court case *Daggs vs. Frazier* developed out of that bloodless incident. South-central examples are less common and hint that Abolitionist activities were more active in the two southern corners of Iowa. Clarinda, in nearby Page County experienced a forcible return of a slave in September 1854. Glenwood in Mills County was the scene in March 1860 of an impressive local struggle to capture a party of four fugitive slaves. Squire Cramer, Justice of the Peace, issued the necessary papers for local apprehension and a cross-country sled chase resulted in the party's capture along with its two conductors. Taken to Tabor, the slaves were secreted away while the captors enjoyed their breakfast, freed by their own request from having to dine with the slaves. The key point here was that the captors were local residents rather than Missourians (Berrier, pp. 27, 36; Todd, p. 63).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 35

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Quincy and Nevin (formerly Nevinville) were the main hubs of the Adams County route. Roberts adds Mt. Etna to that list. Mt. Etna, in the north central part of the county was on the Quincy-Nevinville route. A Dunkard religious community (Church of the Bretheren) was established there in 1855. Two properties, a house located two miles east of town, and a barn, located just northeast from the mill and bridge that were south of town, were said to have sheltered runaway slaves. John Morton owned the barn and it was the scene in 1856 of the congregation's first "love feast," an eating and foot-washing tradition, on the arrival of Minister Christian Harader. Merrill Spark's mother recounted many years ago her fear of sleeping in the house because she feared the spirits of former slaves still hidden in the attic. Both structures are non-extant (In Nevinville the cellar of the former creamery was linked to the Underground Railroad as was the Bobby Dunn house, said to have a hidden basement). The creamery is non-extant. The Underground Role of both Quincy and Nevinville is also treated in Centurama and in J. E. Ellis' the Story of Nevinville. In the latter work, two conductors asked a Nevin householder to allow them to "warm their load" during a December 20, 1857 journey. The slave in question had gotten himself to Quincy before finding assistance. This example shows that Missouri fugitive slaves could and did journey north until they linked up with the fugitive slave network (Interview, Merrill Sparks, October 26, 1999; *The Story of Nevin*, pp. 54-55; Centurama, p. 21).

The late Eldon Roberts used the 1890 county history as his principal source for his account of the county's Underground Railroad and Free Kansas history in the 1984 county history. Roberts listed Nodaway as a county Underground Railroad station but he failed to offer any details. Likely he was simply including the locally known oral history claim to the Odell property. Roberts also states that John Brown had Nodaway connections amongst those across the county but offers no specifics. Historian Berrier repeats Roberts claim for Nodaway in his study (Adams County History, p. 19; Berrier, p. 35).

Queen City is also said to have harbored an Underground Railroad station. Jack Hoskinson, of Indianola, Iowa, recalls an underground cellar with trap door that was in the Queen City "South Store Building." The property fronts on County Road N-53 and there is a barn a hundred feet to the west. Hoskinson's family lived in the former store building while he was of school age. The trap door led to a three-foot deep dugout. The entrance was located behind the store counter (Hoskinson, Typed MS, letter same to Sandra Leininger, November 29, 1999).

Curiously absent from the Abolitionist movement is Adams County's Icarian Colony. This brand new research question is being investigated. Surely a liberal intellectual movement such as this fostered pro-Abolitionist sentiments and should have led to a role in actively aiding escaped slaves? Many Colony members saw service in the Civil War. Also absent is any Mormon role in the movement. The main Mormon Trail runs immediately north of the county. The literature clearly indicates that the Salt Lake City, Utah, Mormon Colony was a point to which slaves were taken and that there was no refuge offered there for escaped slaves.

The principal Nebraska/Iowa crossing point on the Missouri River was at Percival, formerly called Civil Bend, south of Nebraska City. The more traditional Nebraska City ferry crossing was avoided because of stronger pro-slavery sentiments at that point (said to include half of the population). Tabor, in northwest Fremont County just south of the Mills County line, was a colony effort settled en masse from Oberlin, Ohio. Its residents were very representative of the non-violent segment of the Abolitionist movement and they would reject John Brown once he turned to pro-active slave raids into Missouri. Despite claims relative to Quincy's importance, Tabor was deemed in its time to be the leading support center for the Free Kansas movement outside of Kansas. It was the closest settlement to Kansas and played a vital role as a forward support base. The first Free Stater convoy of emigrants reached Tabor during the summer of 1856. Substantial armed and mounted quasi-military bodies, led by Jim Lane, stayed at Tabor for substantial lengths of time (Todd, pp. 49-50; Harris, p. 264).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 36

Property Name: Noah Odell House
Location: Adams County, Iowa

Abolitionist leader John Brown (1800-1859) is credited with formalizing the Lane Trail/Iowa Underground Railroad main route across the state. Some sources termed the route the "John Brown Line." Brown was born in Connecticut but started his Underground Railroad work in Ohio. In 1855 he and his sons became involved in the Free Kansas movement. He imported arms and played a military role in the new territory. The Pro-Slavery burning of Lawrence in 1856 radicalized him and he emerged nationally as an aggressive and murderous opponent of slavery in Kansas. Shunned in Kansas because of his growing fanaticism, he developed his plans for an assault on slavery on the national stage. His planning began in 1857 and would result in the Harpers Ferry, Virginia, raid on a federal arsenal. Six Iowans comprised a large portion of his 26-man assault force at that place on October 16-18, 1859. Brown turned to raiding into Western Missouri to secure large numbers of slaves. These he guided across Iowa in his first of several larger-scale convoys, in early February 1857. As a result of his Osage River raid in early 1859, the State of Missouri placed a \$3,000 reward on his capture. He and his party were refused shelter in Tabor in February 1859 due to his extreme actions but he found ready assistance in Quincy and other points. Brown's national prominence and the scale of his operations represent the more substantial example of the Underground Railroad "train." His train consisted of multiple substantial wagons, and a heavily armed and well mounted escort. Many other period accounts similarly depict fairly boldfaced daytime journeys by large wagons and substantial guard parties. The early 1859 trip was Brown's last one through Iowa (Boatner, p. 91; Gue, p. 106; Berrier, pp. 48-55).

Several sources described heavily guarded fugitive slave parties. The Detroit Advertiser, an account that was reprinted in the Page County Herald on November 18, 1859, noted Brown's final journey:

The Underground Railroad, a principal branch of which runs through this city, is doing a thriving business [26 former Missouri slaves were safely landed here into Canada]... Their conductor was a gentleman well known to most of our readers for his exploits in Kansas, and his connection with certain exciting events in Missouri. They were taken through Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois to Chicago, and then to Detroit. The gentleman who escorted the procession to this city, had about fifty thousand dollars worth of property stolen from him, or destroyed, in Kansas, by the Border Ruffians, and he is now practicing the law of retaliation upon his plunderers.

The original Detroit account pre-dated the Harpers Ferry raid given the lack of a reference to that recent event. Brown would be executed the following December 2. John P. Beatty, of Newton, Iowa, penned an 1860 description of a late fugitive slave party in a letter dated August 21, 1860:

There was quite a number of slaves passed through Newton a few days since. I believe there were 18 slaves escorted by 8 white men and all were heavily armed. Each man carrying a Sharps Rifle, Saber, Bowie [knife] and plenty of small arms, they were traveling openly and above board. The good folks of Newton gave them a hearty welcome and sent them on their way rejoicing. This was but a fragment of the whole company there being about one hundred in all, they had divided into three or four companies in order to attract less attention. Some of our Slavery loving Democrats gnashed their teeth a little but kept at a safe distance from the troupe [sic] doubtless think it that prudence is the better part of valor (Letter, John P. Beatty to John Beatty, August 21, 1860, transcribed November 1942 from the Beatty and Beery Journal, then owned by Avanelle P. Reed of Des Moines, Clippings File, State Historical Society of Iowa).