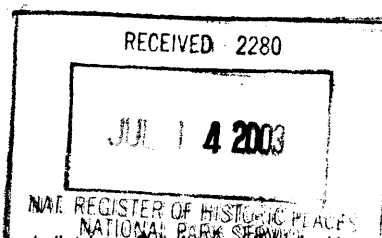


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations 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 functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative 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 John and Lavina Bangs Residence

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2759 Old Highway 34 not for publication

city or town New London vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 52645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Rowell G. Lorke July 10, 2003
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

 State of 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

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

AUG 28 2003

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	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY: Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other WOOD/Weatherboard

Narrative Description

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

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

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. 1865

Significant Dates

c. 1865

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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6	3	6	4	6	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	3	0	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant
organization Henry Co. HPC date March 2003
street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone 641-682-2743
city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Gerald & Caroline Lehman
street & number 2759 Old Highway 34 telephone 319-367-5403
city or town New London state IA zip code 52645

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

This two story brick farm house (c.1865) is located on the north side of the historic Burlington to Mount Pleasant diagonal road (now known as Old Highway 34), facing due south. It is about three-quarters of a mile southeast of New London, near the Des Moines County line. Italianate in style, it consists of a main block measuring 27'2" x 34' with hip roof, and a gable roof wing at the northeast corner measuring 15'3" x 27'6". A single story porch (20'8" x 10'3") stretches across the front of the gable wing. A single story frame addition to the northeast corner does not impair the integrity.

Exterior:

Exterior walls (15" thick) are of orange-red brick laid in common bond. There is a watertable of dressed limestone above a foundation of large limestone blocks. Sills and lintels throughout the house are of dressed limestone. The low pitched hip roof has broad eaves with simple wood Italianate brackets evenly spaced (five on each elevation) that appear to support the roof. The pitch of the roof appears to have been changed slightly, adding a pyramidal peak, when asphalt shingles replaced the original wood shingles sometime in the 20th century. Originally there were four brick chimneys on the main block (two on the east side and two on the west) and a single chimney in the rear (kitchen) wing. Only the two east chimneys on the main block remain.

The façade (south elevation) features a narrow front entrance with neither transom nor sidelights. The door is off-set to the left, with two long narrow windows to the right. There is no indication that there was ever a porch across the front of the house. That is, there are no historic photographs, and there are no shadows or other signs that any type of porch was ever attached to the brickwork. Windows on the second floor are located directly above the first floor openings. The west (side) elevation contains only two windows on the second floor and a single window on first. This is due to the placement of the stairway along the west wall. On the east side, there are two windows on the second floor and two windows plus a door on the first floor. The north (rear) wall contains a single window on each floor, plus a door into the rear wing. All windows have four over four double hung sash. Original shutters were removed in the early 1940s. The front entrance has the original lock and key with a patent date of July 21, 1863.

The rear wing appears to be original to the construction of the house and has side gable entrances on both the north and south. The west end has no windows on the second floor, and a large triple window on the first. Although this is a new window (1991), care was taken to use a stone sill and lintel to match those on the rest of the house. A doorway leads from the kitchen to the south porch, and a single window looks onto the porch. This enclosed porch replaced the original two story frame porch (note door on second floor) in the early 1940s. The north elevation has a single window on the second floor, and a window and door on the first floor. The gabled screened-in porch on the north side was added in 1991. There have never been brackets on this rear wing.

In 1991, shortly after the present owners purchased the property, they added a single story frame wing at the northeast corner containing a bath, office, and two car garage. They were careful to differentiate between the original residence and the new addition by using a different material and making it a single story. The garage doors open to the side rather than the front, thereby alleviating the common problem of a new garage with "yawning double doors" opening toward the street. This new addition does not impair the integrity of the original structure.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA**

Section number 7 Page 2

Interior:

Interior walls are of load bearing masonry construction 9" thick. The main block contains three rooms per floor plus the entry hall and staircase. A wide doorway between the front parlor and dining room appears to have had hinged double doors, not pocket doors due to the masonry walls. Other interior doors remain in place, those on the first floor having transoms. Except for the walnut staircase which has never been painted, woodwork throughout has been painted for decades, and appears to be either pine or poplar. Framing around the doorways is 6 1/2" wide, and the baseboard measures 9" high. Although the first floor ceilings were lowered in the 1940s, they were not damaged. The present owners removed the false ceilings and found all the original plaster, including a lavish center medallion in the parlor. Walls retain the original plaster except the east wall of the dining room. This plaster was severely deteriorated and was removed, leaving the brick wall exposed.

The door from the northeast corner of the dining room leads into the kitchen in the rear gabled wing. The kitchen interior has been altered more than the other rooms. The original stairway to the second floor was located against the west wall. This was removed in the 1940s. A wall dividing the wing into two rooms was removed by the present owners in 1991 to make a larger kitchen, and a stairway to the second floor was built along the east wall. The kitchen has all new cabinets, flooring, etc.

The second floor of the main block consists of two bedrooms and a large (10' x 10') bath. This bath replaces the third bedroom. The front bedroom connects to a small nursery or sewing room located above the front door. The second floor of the kitchen wing contains the master suite which connects with the main block of the house by a doorway in the northeast corner of the back bedroom, and is also accessible by stairs from the kitchen. All woodwork and flooring appears original. The doors feature four panels, two long above two short. Original hinges and knobs are found on all doors.

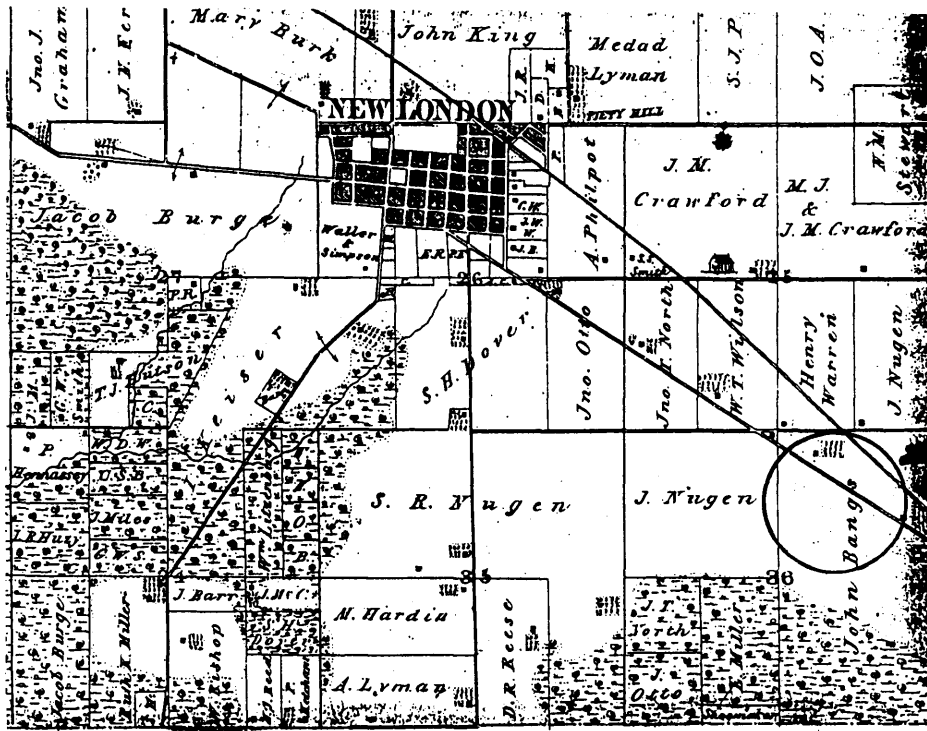
The 1870 Combination Atlas of Henry County, Iowa shows a grove of trees immediately east and north of this house. These would appear to be an orchard, but no other documentation has been located to verify this. Today, a modern Ranch style house is located on a lot to the east, and level open fields surround the brick residence.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 7 Page 3



1870 map showing Bangs Residence with orchard
(Combination Atlas of Henry County, Iowa)

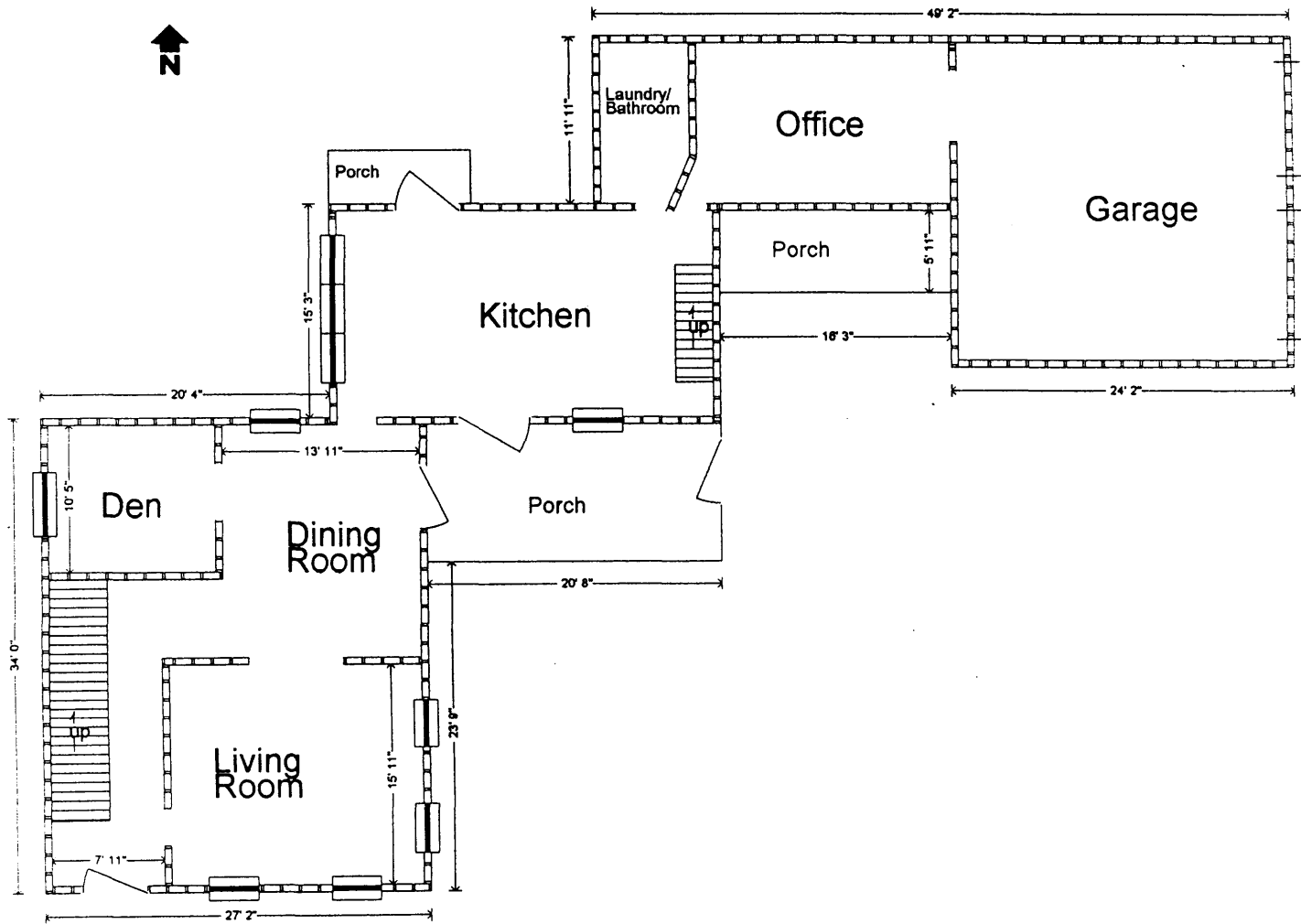
The diagonal road located immediately south of the residence has been known as the Territorial Road, Plank Road, Burlington to Mount Pleasant Road, Blue Grass Road, Harding Highway, U.S. Highway 34, and now as Old Highway 34.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 7 Page 4



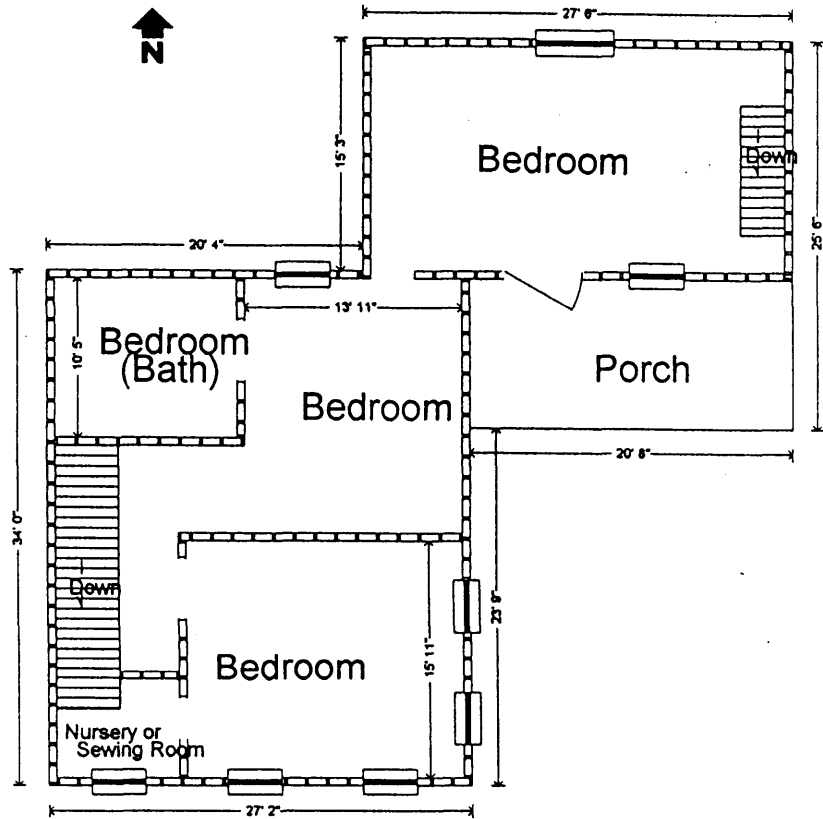
Plan of first floor
(Computerized plan based on drawings and measurements
provided by the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission, 2003)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 7 Page 5



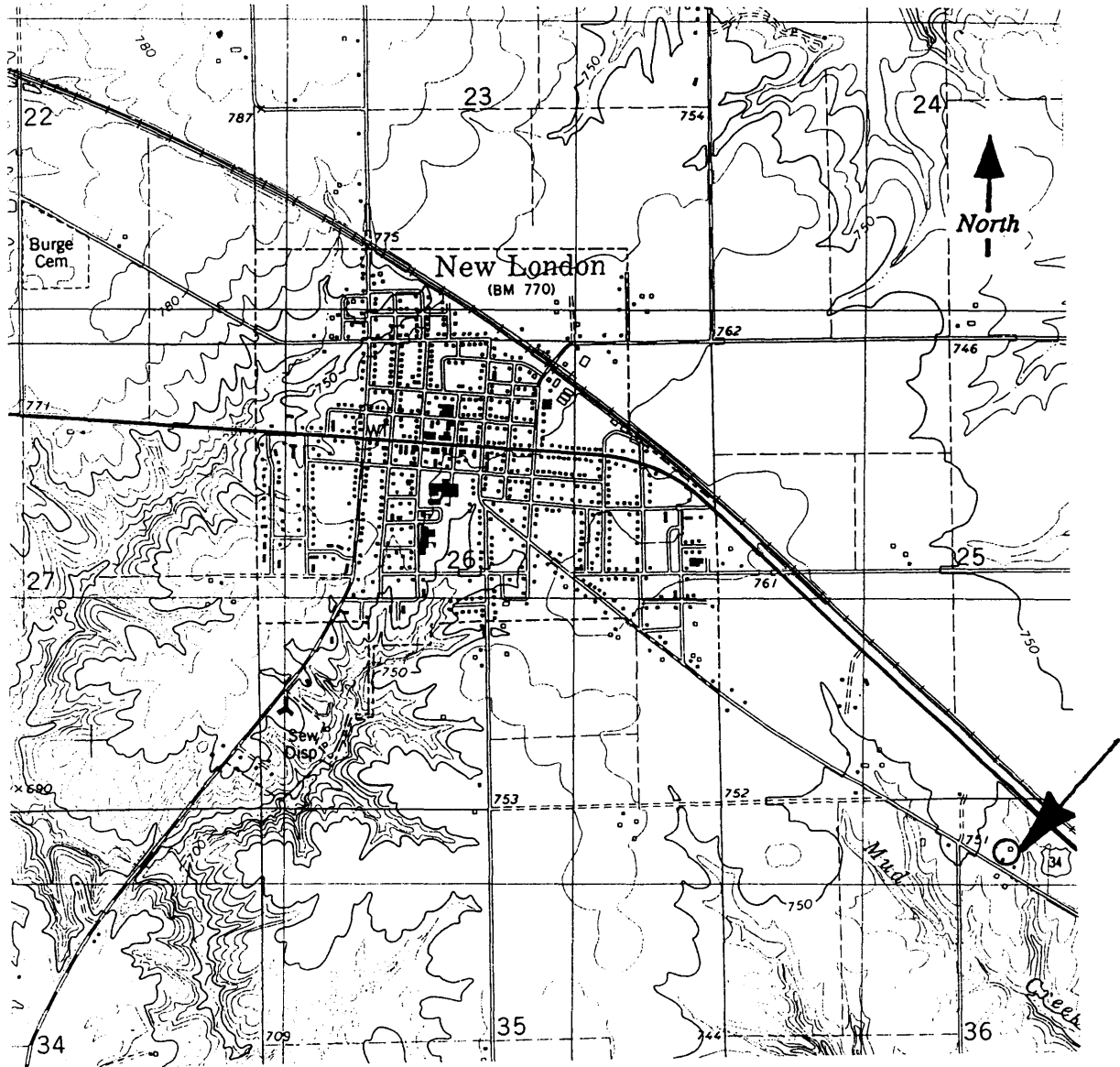
Plan of second floor
(Computerized plan based on drawings and measurements
provided by the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission, 2003)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 7 Page 6



U.S.G.S. Map of New London Quad (1981)
Location of Bangs Residence indicated by arrow
Note again the diagonal road in front of the residence that follows
the historic route established in 1841

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA**

Section number 8 Page 7

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The John and Lavina Bangs Residence (c.1865) is locally significant under Criterion C as a fine, well preserved example of an Italianate style residence executed in brick. It is of local interest because it is located on a major early thoroughfare through southeastern Iowa, now known as "Old Highway 34."

In the 1830s the two "gateways" into the Iowa Territory were Dubuque in the north, and Burlington in the south. Between 1839 and 1841 the Territorial Legislature reviewed and refined a territorial road extending westward to the Indian boundary line. Basically the Territorial Road ran from Burlington west through New London and Mount Pleasant. From Mount Pleasant roads radiated out like spokes on a wheel, leading north to Iowa City, south to Keosauqua, and west to Fairfield. The Burlington to Mount Pleasant Road provided the means for growth and development across southeast and south central Iowa prior to the Civil War. From territorial days on, the major roadway, and later the railroad, would follow this route, eventually all the way to the Missouri River.

The decade of the 1840s was one of rapid settlement and growth. Dissatisfaction with the roads, often impassable during rainy seasons, reached the point that discussions were held on how to build an all-weather, "plank" road. The General Assembly actually approved plans for fourteen plank roads, but only the Burlington-Mount Pleasant road was completed. When the road was new, it was a joy. However, wet weather in the fall and spring, added to the freezing conditions of the winter months caused major deterioration on the Plank Road. The end of the Plank Road Era was hastened not only by effects of weather and lack of maintenance of the road, but by the introduction of a totally new form of transportationthe railroad.

On January 15, 1852 articles of incorporation were drawn up for the Burlington and Missouri River Rail Road Company. By May 1856 the tracks extended west to Burlington Danville, and in June the tracks arrived in New London, running parallel to the Territorial/Plank (Burlington) Road. Following the Civil War both the railroad and the Burlington to Mount Pleasant Road continued to carry heavy traffic to the west. At some point after the Civil War the Burlington Road assumed the name Blue Grass Road, a designation that would be used well into the 20th century. Shortly after 1900 a new mode of transportation began to be seen on the streets and roads of Henry County, the automobile. The importance of the Blue Grass Road/Harding Highway was shown in 1927 when the State Legislature called for its' early paving from Burlington west to Council Bluffs, basically following the original route from Burlington through New London to Mount Pleasant. Today U.S. Highway 34 follows much the same route across the state.

The John and Lavina Bangs Residence (c.1865) is the second dwelling on the site. This fine two story brick Italianate style residence illustrates the prosperity that was achieved by this pioneer family.

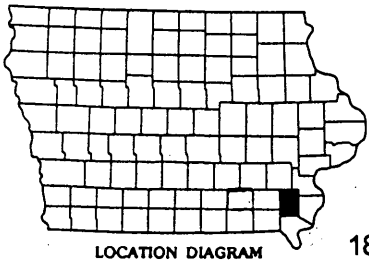
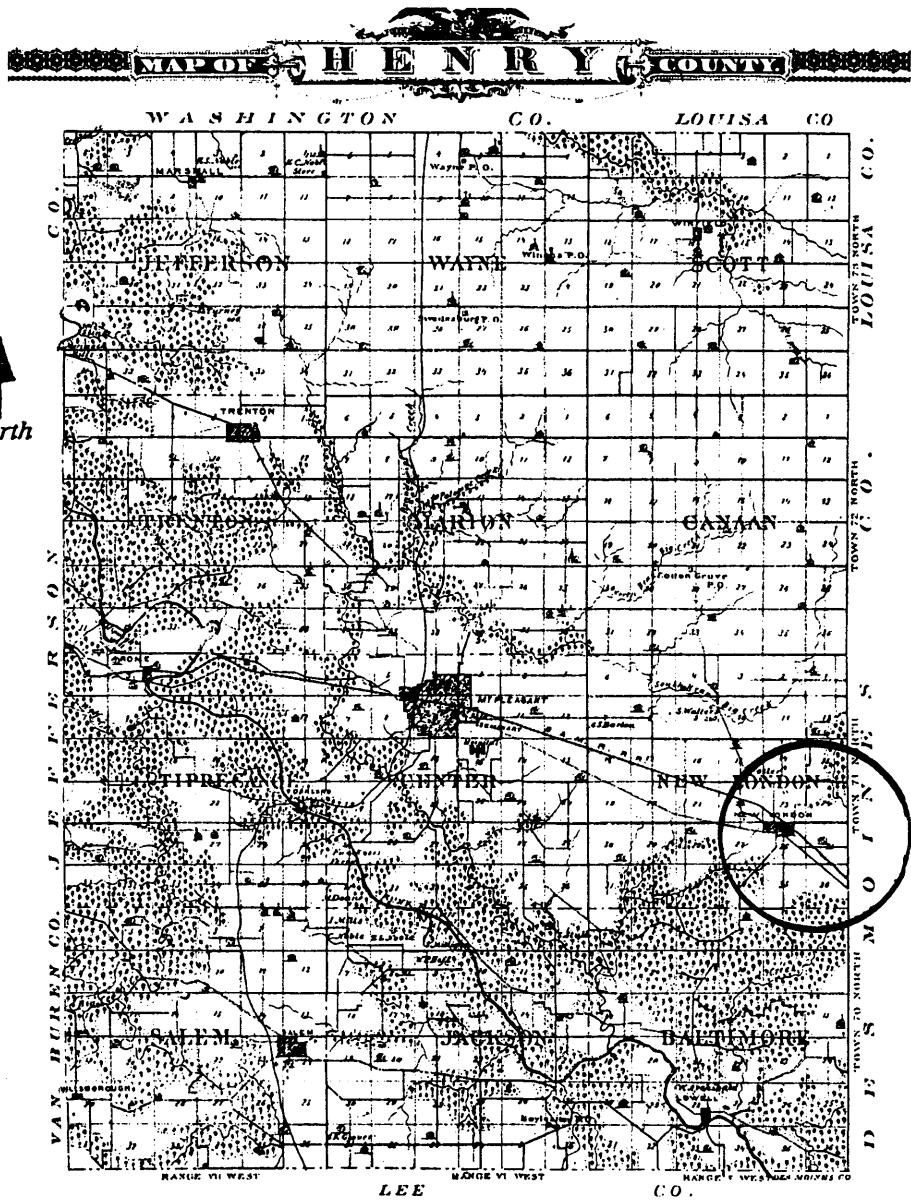
The Bangs residence was built in the most popular style of the period, Italianate. To build such a "high style" house on a farm was not unheard of, but it was fairly rare. This seems to indicate that John Bangs was a prosperous farmer, and it may have been built as a wedding gift for his bride. Also, since this residence was located on a major thoroughfare, this style may have been selected to make a statement that this area (or at least the owner) had passed the pioneer stage and had become settled and "cultured."

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 8 Page 8



LOCATION DIAGRAM

1875 map showing the railroad and Burlington wagon road running parallel at the far east side of the county (Andreas Atlas, 1875)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 8 Page 9

In 1838 the John Bangs family moved from Massachusetts to New London Township, settling in the NE ¼ Sec 36, T71N R5W. The family, consisting of the parents and five children, moved into a tiny log cabin that had already been built on the site. The 160 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 36 were transferred from the United States to John Bangs in 1841. In 1858, Bangs granted a Quit Claim Deed to the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad for "so much of the NE ¼ Sec 36 T71N R5W as lies within 50' of the center line of the track of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad." (The railroad right-of-way continues to appear in the abstract with each transfer of title, and mention is also made of land being either north or south of the New London-Burlington Wagon Road.) John Bangs Jr. and his brother James inherited the farmstead following their father's death in 1860, and James sold his share to John Jr. for \$500 that same year. In 1864 John Jr. married Lavina Cresap of nearby Danville.

Around 1865 John Bangs Jr. had this fine two story brick residence constructed on the north side of the Burlington Road in Section 36, New London Township, Henry County, just west of Sater's Crossing. The present owner has been told that the orange/red brick were actually made on the site, but no documentation has been located. It is known that there were at least two brickyards in New London immediately after the Civil War: Cox and Stevens operated one just northeast of the city park; and John Barr operated one south of town on the Lowell Road (*New London Journal Centennial Edition*, pp 46-48).

This house is a simplified version of the Italianate style, which exhibits all the major design elements. The main block is a simple hip roof rectangle, with a three bay façade. This is "the most common subtype, making up about 1/3 of Italianate houses." (McAlester, p 211) Individual Italianate brackets are evenly spaced below the eaves, and the front door features large windows in the door itself rather than in a transom and sidelights. Many Italianate houses, especially those following the Civil War, featured arched windows, either segmental or full arched. The Bangs residence reflects a somewhat earlier trend that used limestone lintels above the tall slender windows. The gable roof rear wing appears to have been original as the limestone foundation and brick walls are identical to those of the main block. It was not uncommon to place the kitchen in a separate, service, wing which would not be give the same decorative elements found on the main block. The simplicity of the design, pitch of the roof, and use of stone lintels, indicates that this house is a fairly early example of the style and a date of c. 1865 is appropriate.

Although no builder has been identified for this house, the use of the Italianate style was not that unusual. Plans for Italianate style houses were readily available through pattern books such as A.J. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences* (1842) and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), and Henry Hudson Holly's *Holly's Country Seats* (1863). Probably of greater importance to the builder of the Bangs house however, was the opportunity to view, and visit, any of a number of fine brick Italianate style residences in the nearby city of Burlington. Italianate style houses, some dating to the mid-1850s, were built on the hills surrounding Burlington's business district. Today a number of good examples can be seen in the Heritage Hill Historic District (NRHP, 1982). Two houses at 620 and 622 Seventh Street are very similar to the Bangs house, being two story hip roof cubes with the entrance off-set to the left, limestone sills and lintels, and a simple bracketed cornice. With the arrival of the railroad, mass produced decorative elements such as brackets and doors were as readily available in southeast Iowa as in Chicago. Local builders could reproduce the most elaborate designs, or, could add details from popular styles to the simplest vernacular dwellings.

The 1888 *Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa* provides a picture of John Bangs Jr. on page 179.

Mr. Bangs has passed nearly half a century in Henry County as a resident of New London Township, during which time he has contributed his share to the improvement and development of the county. His residence, a fine brick structure, occupies the site of the pioneer cabin of 1838. Mr. Bangs is a Democrat in his views, but not an office-seeker never having held office except as Supervisor, etc. He is a member of Charity Lodge No. 56, I.O.O.F., of New London.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA**

Section number 8 Page 10

His "fine brick structure" is shown on all plat maps of the township from 1870 on.

According to local histories there were at least four other brick farmhouses in the New London area prior to 1870. Solomon Dover (founder of the community) built a simple brick I-house south of town c.1843. This has been covered with modern non-wood siding. Three brick houses west of town owned by the three Brown brothers, James, David & Thomas, were often noted in the newspaper. All three of these have been demolished. These must have been constructed after 1860 because they were located on the relocated New London-Mount Pleasant Road that ran south of the railroad tracks. The Bangs residence appears to be the only remaining dwelling from this period on the Burlington-Mount Pleasant Wagon Road.

The evolution of the Bangs house can be detailed very simply. The present owners (Gerald and Caroline Lehman) are only the fourth owners of this resource. Since they purchased the property in 1990 they have had the opportunity to talk with members of the Timmins family who bought the farmstead in 1942. When the Timmins family purchased the property it appears to have been relatively unaltered, perhaps even to the lack of plumbing and electricity. The Timmins family updated the house by replacing the original two story porch across the front of the kitchen wing, removing the back stairway in the kitchen, removing the exterior shutters, and lowering the ceilings on the first floor. The replacement of the original wood-shingled roof, and the slight change in pitch, is believed to date from this same period. It was probably at this time that the bath was added on the second floor, and electricity was installed as it became available.

When the Lehmans purchased the house in 1990, they began a planned restoration/rehabilitation of the house, with the thought of opening a bed and breakfast. They removed the lowered ceilings, replaced the exterior shutters, and modernized the kitchen. They also added two new areas to provide more leisure space and business space: a screened-in porch off the north side of the kitchen; and a single story wing containing a bath, office, and two car garage off the northeast corner of the kitchen. The additions to the Bangs house follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (p 58) which recommends "Locating the attached exterior addition to the rear or an inconspicuous side of a historic building" and "Designing new additions in a manner that makes clear what is historic and what is new." Both of the additions to the Bangs house were made to the rear (and side), and were purposely made of a different material to differentiate the "new" from the original. The Lehmans operate a successful bed and breakfast in this residence today.

Summary:

In summary, the Bangs house is fine, well maintained example of the most popular architectural style in Iowa between 1855-1880, the Italianate, and it is the only "high style" residence along this historic road between Burlington and Mount Pleasant. The Bangs Residence is considered locally significant under Criterion C.

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Continuation Sheet

John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA

Section number 9 Page 11

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA**

Section number 10 Page 12

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Less than one acre of land located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 36, T71N R5W, on the north side of Old Highway 34, beginning 10' south of the southwest corner of the brick residence; thence 10' west; thence north 81'; thence east 108'; thence south 81'; thence west 108' to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This is the area historically associated with this residence, plus a 10' buffer zone on all four sides.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**John & Lavina Bangs Residence
Henry County, IA**

Section number Photos Page 13

The photographs included in this nomination were taken by members of the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission in November 2002 and March 2003. The negatives are stored in the files of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, Des Moines, IA.

1. Façade and west elevation looking NE
2. Rear view showing north and west elevation of the main block and rear wing looking SE
3. Rear (north) elevation with screened porch and part of NE addition looking S
4. Façade showing original house and frame addition to N
5. Detail: Front door looking N
6. Detail: Cornice brackets