

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Mc Clung, J.J., House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Main and Vine  not for publication  
city, town Garden Grove  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Decatur code 053 zip code 50103

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] 10/23/90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the  
National Register**

[Signature] 12/6/90

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

residence

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The J.J. Mc Clung House is sited on a large corner lot near Garden Grove's business district. Erected in 1908-09, this 2 1/2 story house has been one of this small town's most visible landmarks. The exterior walls are sheathed in narrow clapboards, supported by a structured balloon frame which rests on a partially raised stone foundation. The end walls are capped with a gable roof of medium pitch. The lot also contains a gas station which is considered non-contributing.

Stylistically, the house is a skillful combination of Classical and Colonial Revival elements. The Classical Revival influence is most evident in the full height entry front porch supported by paired fluted Corinthian columns that support a plain entablature and triangular pediment, the second story porch treatment, architrave window trim, and fluted pilaster corner boards. The Colonial Revival is less evident, but nonetheless in the Palladian windows in the gable ends, the lunette in the porch pediment, and the scalloped brackets under the eaves.

The design motifs are carried over into the interior which features a virtually unaltered interior plan and all original finishes and materials.

The main floor is elaborately finished in oak; above the lower stairway hangs a rod and ball lattice across the width of the Reception Hall supported by half columns. Other columns with Corinthian flourishes embrace the entrance into the living room. The main feature here is a fireplace with an oak mantle, that is detailed with more columns. Alterations are visible in this room, ie; repainted walls and acoustical tile on the ceiling. The only alterations on this floor are those of the living room and the walls and ceiling of the kitchen.

The walls and ceilings of the other rooms are decorated by the original paint and detailed stenciling. The Reception Hall and lower floor bedroom are decorated in garden roses with the signatures of the artisans displayed. The stenciling in the dining room entwines various fruits and foliage. The stenciling throughout the house is a remarkable preservation of the type of decoration that was used in the post Victorian period of a middle class rural America home.

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1908-09

Significant Dates  
1908-09

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Church, Charles F., Architect  
Sells, Wiley, Builder

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

The J.J. Mc Clung House possesses local architectural significance under Criteria C because it is Garden Grove's best extant example of a large scale residence that combines Classical and Colonial Revival design influences. Early 20th Century houses of this scale and degree of detailing were more common in cities and county seat towns and are relative rare in rural areas and small towns like Garden Grove. The only other residence in Garden Grove of similar scale and degree of detailing is the Queen Anne style C.S. Stearns House and Carriage House, which is already on the National Register. The Mc Clung House possesses what must be considered a remarkable degree of integrity, especially on the interior where virtually all original materials, finishes, and systems have been retained.

The architect for the house was Charles F. Church of Lamoni, Iowa. Charles F. Church was self taught in the art of design and drafting. He was employed as a millwork salesman by the Rock Island Sash and Door Company of Rock Island, Illinois. Mr. Church travelled by train across Iowa and Northern Missouri selling millwork and lumber. As an incentive for a customer to do business with his employer, Mr. Church would draft plans for the project. The original blueprints as drawn by Charles Church were left with the Mc Clung House. These are not construction plans, but they do detail all the exterior and interior features.

The carpenter-builder of the house was Wiley Sells of Leon, Iowa. The interior painter and decorator was T. Ross Sanders also of Leon. An apprentice, Glenn Vail of Garden Grove learned painting and the art of stenciling from Sanders as they worked on the Mc Clung House. Glenn Vail eventually became a professional interior painter and decorator.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Name of Architect: Charles F. Church, from interview of Charles F. Church III, Lamoni, Iowa; grandson. Date: January 29, 1990.

Name of Builder: Wiley Sells; Leon, Iowa, from interview of Nadine Mc Clung Morgan; Leon, Iowa, daughter of J.J. Mc Clung. Date: February 26, 1990.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than One (1) acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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4	4	8	5	6	4
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4	5	1	9	5	5	2
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

LOTS Four (4) and Five (5), and West 1/2 of Lot Six (6) Block Two (2), Stearns Addition to Garden Grove, Iowa

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The verbal boundary description is the legal description of the J.J. Mc Clung property used to identify such property on the Warranty Deed and Abstract of Title. The boundaries encompass the house and surrounding lots which have been the property of the Mc Clung family for 100 years.  See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paul Gunzenhauser, President  
organization Garden Grove Historical Society date March 8, 1990  
street & number Main and Vine telephone (515) 443-2161  
city or town Garden Grove state Iowa zip code 50103

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

The overall condition of the house is good. The house sits well on the 24 inch wide exterior limestone walls and the interior partition walls have maintained a good support. The English style basement allows the floor to be above the water table. The exterior wood needs priming and painting. The roof is sound. The rear and front porch floors need rebuilding.

The interior walls have cracks and loose plaster that will require attention to prevent further deterioration. The wiring is being replaced utilizing safe standards and meeting the local code. Interior wood finishes are adequate in most areas but the wall and ceiling finishes show the effects of age.

The house has presently been used for meetings, Open House, tours, special events at Halloween and Christmas and a classroom example for the High School housing class.

The additional future uses are: limited Bed and Breakfast, elegant evening meals, luncheons, receptions and other beneficial community uses.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

GFN-259-1116

James Johnson Mc Clung came to Garden Grove in 1879 having been raised in Republic, Ohio. His lifetime occupation was that of owning and operating a livery and dray business. J.J. Mc Clung carried the mail from the trains to the postoffice for 53 years. When automobiles came into the area he built the first auto service station (1925) in Garden Grove and Decatur County. This service station is still on the site and operated until 1954.

The house was built in 1908-09 and has been the home to two generations of the Mc Clung family until it was sold in 1989. J.J. Mc Clung and his wife Sarah had two daughters, Mable and Nadine. Nadine who is 95 years old resides at Leon, Iowa. Sarah Mc Clung died in 1932, J.J. in 1949 and Mable in 1963.

The house was built purposely large with five bedrooms to accomodate the many travelling salesmen, schoolteachers, and others who needed a place to stay while in Garden Grove. The Mc Clung family was well respected in the Garden Grove area and they contributed to the community for 110 years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   8   Page   2  

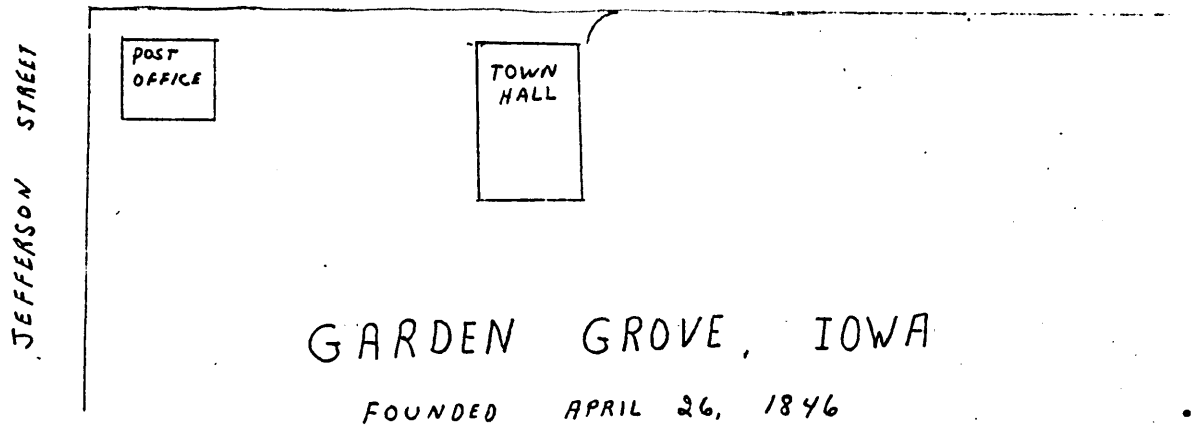
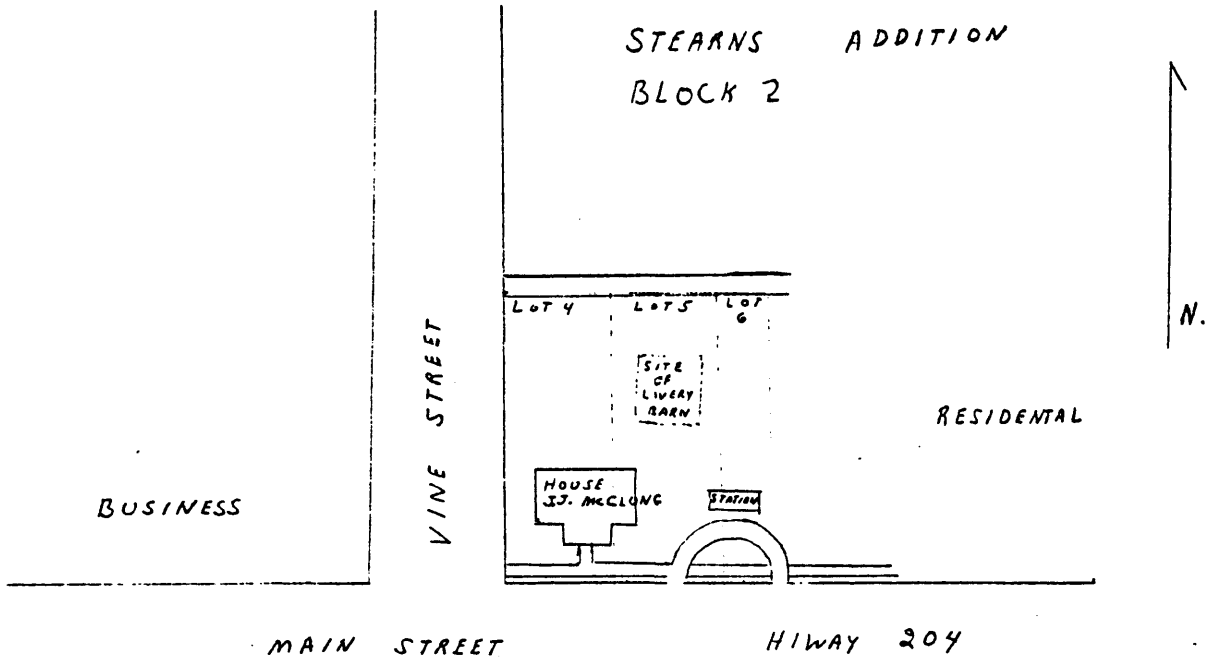
CFN-259-1116



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section number photo Page 1

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J. J. McClung House  
Main and Vine Sts.  
Garden Grove, Iowa  
Decatur County  
Date: 1990  
Photographer: Paul Gunzenhauser  
Negatives: Garden Grove Historical Society  
View:

- 1 S
- 2 E
- 3 N
- 4 W
- 5 1st floor blue print
- 6 gas fixtures
- 7 above dining room door
- 8 hall and stairway