NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 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 any 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 Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

other names/site number Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

2. Location not for publication N/A street & number 751 King Avenue vicinity X city or town Tipton zip code 52772 state Iowa code IA county Cedar code 031

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

arbara Mitcher Signature of certifying official

December 15 2009

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Cedar County, Iowa Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery _____ 4. 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): Date Signature of Keeper of Action 5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s) district site structure object Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing ____ buildings 1 1 1 objects 1 Total 3 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0 Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A 6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Sub: religious facility Cat: RELIGION FUNERARY cemetery

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery	Cedar County, Iowa
Current Functions (Enter categories Cat: RELIGION FUNERARY SOCIAL	from instructions) Sub: religious facility cemetery meeting hall
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY RE	categories from instructions) VIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL
Materials (Enter categories from ins	structions)

foundation brick roof metal / steel walls stucco other wood

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

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The rural Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery are situated on 10.461 acres in Section 11 of Red Oak Township (T-81N, R-2W), Cedar County, Iowa. The land is relatively level, with some gently rolling hills. Surrounding the church and cemetery are farms and smaller holdings, known locally as acreages. Less than a quarter-mile southwest of the church is the wooded, seven-acre Red Oak Park, owned and maintained by the Cedar County Conservation Board. The church is built in the Classical Revival Style. It stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of two county gravel roads, King Avenue, which runs north-south, and Red Oak Park Road, east-west. (Red Oak Park Road terminates at King Avenue, and 175th street continues to the east.) The cemetery is adjacent to, and south of, the church. A small stream, Rock Creek, runs near the west boundary of the church and cemetery property, and a loop of this creek lies within the property line. A strip of natural woodland lies along the west boundary, enhancing the park-like setting of the church and cemetery.

The Church

The present Red Oak Grove Church was built in 1920-1921. The building is 30 feet by 69 feet, with the long dimension oriented east to west. There is a raised basement with a foundation of red brick. Exterior walls are gray stucco, window frames are white painted wood, and the roof is steel. The gabled east and west ends have broken pediments, which are echoed in the pedimented projections at each end of the two long sides. The windows are arguably the most distinctive architectural feature of Red Oak Grove Church. A large oculus in the east gable is repeated by four smaller ones set high in each of the four projections. Centered on each side are three large, Palladian windows, with a smaller rectangular window in each of the pedimented projections.

The front door, located in the east end, has side lights and a rectangular transom with four equal-sized panes. The entrance is sheltered by an 8 x 10.5foot porch. The porch has a gabled roof echoing the broken pediments of the main roof and the pedimented projections, with a fan-shaped gray stucco front defined by white painted woodwork. Two white metal columns with decorative openwork support the porch roof. A flight of four concrete steps ascends from ground level on both the north and south sides of the porch. The cornerstone is on the north edge of the east wall. A concrete sidewalk runs along the east and south sides of the church. The basement door is on the south side of the church, at the extreme west end. It opens onto a landing which has steps going down to the basement and up to a door at the front of the sanctuary. On the outside west wall, a red brick chimney runs up the center from ground level past the gable's peak.

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

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		name of property
		Cedar Iowa
		county and State

Inside the front door of the church is a lower vestibule, 7 feet wide by slightly over 4 feet deep. On the south wall is a door that opens onto a landing from which steps go down to the basement. On the right side is a coat rack. Four steps ascend to a smaller upper vestibule, 6.75 feet wide and 2.75 feet deep. A glass door opens from this vestibule into the sanctuary, which is 28.75 feet wide and 56.5 feet long. There are 14 rows of oak pews facing west, on each side of a center aisle about 3.5 feet wide. Along the north and south walls are aisles slightly more than 2 feet wide. The chancel is a 21.5 by 10.5foot platform about 2 feet higher than the floor of the nave. It contains an altar table, an ambo, three oak armchairs with leather seat and back upholstery, an electric organ, and a large, framed traditional print, "Christ Knocking at the Door." Steps lead to the platform on both sides and in the center.

A balcony measuring 29 by 13 feet runs across the back of the church. It is reached by a narrow staircase immediately to the left as one enters the nave from the upper vestibule. Located under the balcony are two small rooms. In the southeast corner of the church is an 8 by 10-foot office with a sliding wooden door. In the northeast corner is a 12 by 10-foot room with a large open door frame, which in the past was covered by curtains.

A low-nap carpet in a soft gray-green color covers the floor of the lower and upper vestibules, the nave (except under the pews), and the chancel. The walls and ceiling are painted a soft green. Window frames are natural oak, darkened with age. The round-headed windows are echoed by three round-arched recesses at the chancel end of the church. The center and right hand recesses (as seen when facing the front) extend from the floor of the platform nearly to the ceiling. The left hand recess is abbreviated due to the fact that it is above the basement stairwell enclosure.

In the church basement, a dining/social room measuring 35 by 45 feet occupies the greatest amount of space. The basement also contains a small, narrow kitchen opening off the west side of the dining/social room, a furnace room 11.5 by 16 feet, a storeroom 4 by 9 feet, s small restroom, and a short hallway. The church is heated by an oil furnace (converted from the original coal stoker in the early 1950s). As there is no well, water is piped from a neighboring farmhouse (the former church manse) across Red Oak Park Road from the church.

Changes in the original appearance of the church: Red Oak Grove Church originally had a belfry at the east end of the roof, but this was removed after 1966. A steel roof was installed in 1990 to replace the asphalt shingle roof. Other changes which have been made include replacement of the original wooden front door with an all-glass door, and replacement of the two original round wood pillars supporting the porch roof with white metal open-work supports.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

The Cemetery

Red Oak Grove Cemetery lies west of King Avenue. Graves are located in two separate areas, referred to as the North Cemetery and the South Cemetery. The entire cemetery contains nearly 1,000 graves. The oldest graves are in the North Cemetery, closer to the church. Nine of the ten founding members of Red Oak Grove Church are buried in the North Cemetery. The North and South cemeteries are connected by a large, open swale covered with bluegrass and four or five trees. This swale, which ranges from 175 to 200 feet wide, is mowed along with the rest of the cemetery. It is lower than the north and south ends of the cemetery, and is tiled to prevent moisture accumulation. To date, the swale has not been used for burials because there is still an ample number of unused lots in the rest of the cemetery. The cemetery is partially enclosed, with a chain link fence on its east side and part of the north side. Along the south side, a fence of woven wire and barbed wire separates the cemetery from a farm field.

The cemetery was founded in 1848. The first burial was that of Robert Pirie, who had died in 1846. This apparent discrepancy is explained by the fact that the original grave (which was approximately opposite the present-day Hughes gate) was moved from across King Avenue into the new cemetery. A few other burials were also relocated from the same area in which Pirie was first interred.

Two gates, presented by the descendants of Red Oak Grove pioneers, are located in the fence along King Avenue. One of these gates provides the main vehicle entrance to the South Cemetery. Constructed of white painted steel flanked by red brick pillars, it was a gift in 1999 from Dwight W. and Hazel Safley Hughes (both now deceased) of Cedar Rapids. It is considered non-contributing for this nomination. A small pedestrian entrance is at one side. The other gate is about midway between the north and south ends of the cemetery, and is considered a contributing structure for this nomination. The gate is seldom used for access. It was a gift in 1905 from Robert G. Cousins, a native of the Red Oak Grove community who served eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. This gate is black wrought iron surmounted by an ornamental arch of the same material, in which are set white letters spelling "Red Oak Cemetery." (The original names are Red Oak Grove Church and Red Oak Grove Cemetery; these are sometimes shortened by omitting "Grove.") Vehicle access to the North Cemetery is a driveway from Red Oak Park Road into the unfenced portion.

Outbuildings

The only other building located on the Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery property is a non-historic, blue corrugated steel maintenance shed, 10 by 10 feet, used for storage of a riding lawnmower and related equipment. This shed, which is about 25 years old, stands near the southwest corner of the South Cemetery. At one time, a horse shed and privy stood west of the church.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

The horse shed was torn down in the late 1920s, and the privy in about 1965.

Integrity Statement

The historic integrity of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery is good. The church stands in its original location, the distinctive design virtually unchanged except for removal of the belfry. Also, a steel roof was installed in 1990, a glass entrance door replaced a wooden door, and wooden pillars supporting the porch was changed to all steel supports. The rural setting of the church and cemetery is very much the same as it was in 1921, free of encroaching urbanization. Materials and workmanship of the church have withstood well the test of nearly 90 years, and contribute definitely to the historic aura. The feeling of a past time and place is strong at Red Oak Grove. Portions of Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard" are poignantly evocative of Red Oak Grove Cemetery. The poet could have been thinking of departed Cedar County pioneers when he wrote, "Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield, Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke; How jocund did they drive their teams afield! How bowed the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!" One almost expects to hear the creak of harness and the clop-clop of hooves as bygone farm families arrive for church services. Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery are truly redolent of history.

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

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)

- X 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. X 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.
- X D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history potential for archeological signicance under criterion D.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. XA
- removed from its original location. B
- a birthplace or a grave. C
- X D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- a commemorative property. F
- less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the G past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE SOCIAL HISTORY EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance 1921 - 1959 1848 - 1959

Significant Dates 1848 1921

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

Cedar County, Iowa

Architect/Builder Rugh and Zalesky

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Cedar County Historical Society Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.461 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 15 652,992 4,633,380 3 15 652,856 4,633,168 2 15 652,992 4,633,164 4 15 652,860 4,633,292 X See continuation sheet.

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.)

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery meet Criterion A and Criterion C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance. The present building is the lineal descendant, so to speak, of a pioneer church established during the earliest settlement of Cedar County by European-Americans. Iowa was still a territory when a group of ten Scots Presbyterians, most of them recent immigrants, gathered in 1841 to found this church. It became a religious and social center of the pioneer rural neighborhood called Red Oak Grove (so named for the large number of red oak trees that grew in the area). The cemetery was established in 1848, and is the final resting place of nine of the ten founding members of the church (the tenth moved to California), as well as scores of other Red Oak Grove pioneers and their descendants. The present church building, constructed in 1920-1921, possesses distinctive architectural features that are quite unusual among Iowa country churches. These features include its large, attractive, round-headed windows and its gray stucco exterior, as well as the large oculus in the east gable end, above the main entrance. The fact that two architects from Cedar Rapids, considerably farther afield than Tipton, were engaged to design the new church is testimony to its high level of importance in the lives of the small rural congregation. The church is being nominated under Criterion A for its association with the history and development of Red Oak Township and under Criterion C as an outstanding example of Classical Revival design and as such satisfies the requirements of Criteria Considerations A and D. Further research may provide information regarding the potential for archeology.

The founding of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church March 1, 1841, predated Iowa statehood by more than five years. The first permanent European-American settler, Washington A. Rigby, had arrived in the Red Oak area just four and a half years earlier. Red Oak Grove was the first Presbyterian church in Cedar County and the twelfth in Iowa Territory. (The first in Iowa Territory was founded at West Point June 24, 1837.) From the original church record, no longer in existence but quoted in a 1941 history: "Resolved - That a church be now organized in this place according to the directions in the form of government of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to be denominated the Presbyterian Church of Red Oak Grove." As available land was taken up by settlers, and farms established, Red Oak Grove developed a strong identity as a close-knit rural community with the church as its focal point. Red Oak Grove was never a town or village, but it did have a post office from 1857 to 1875.

By November 1847, Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church had 22 members. During its first ten years, the church had no building and no regular pastor. It was served by traveling missionaries, including the Rev. Michael Hummer, who had officiated at its founding. In 1851, the Iowa Presbytery approved a decision to move the congregation to the fledgling town of Tipton, about five miles south

Form 10-900-a (8 - 86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Secti

ion 8 Page 6	Page 6	Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property
		Cedar Iowa
		county and State

east of Red Oak Grove. At this date, there were 30 members. Existing sources do not give a specific reason for the move, but it may have been a desire to attract more members. The name was changed to First Presbyterian Church of Tipton. In 1854, a church building was completed in Tipton. However, the members from Red Oak Grove obviously continued to feel a strong pull to their home area, where they had first worshiped in homes and a one-room school. In July 1859, a small frame church building was completed immediately north of the present church site. It was built by John Chappell and Jacob Snyder at a cost of \$1,000. On September 27, 1859 - some two months after the first service had been held in this building - the Iowa Presbytery granted the Red Oak Grove people's petition to organize a separate church.

From 1859 to about 1865 or 1866, two separate groups of Presbyterians held services at Red Oak Grove Church on alternate Sundays. Before 1859, Red Oak Grove residents who adhered to the Reformed (Covenanter) doctrine had traveled by horse-drawn conveyances 15 miles to the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Mount Vernon. After the church was built at Red Oak Grove, the Reformed Presbyterian minister from Mount Vernon, the Rev. J. H. Cooper, went there to conduct services. Few other details have been located about this shared arrangement.

At the same time they were occupied with re-establishing the church at Red Oak Grove, a few area residents were also quietly engaged in another pursuit that flouted the law of the time. They were part of a secret network, the Underground Railroad, which helped runaway slaves from the South escape to Canada. Three of the known stations on this clandestine line were the barn of John Safley (a founding member of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church), the granary of Samuel Yule, and the farm of James Cousins. Cousins was hiding runaway slaves on his property as early as 1853. Since persons participating in the Underground Railroad were risking imprisonment and fines for breaking a federal law, the vast majority wrote nothing down about this activity. However, Yule noted in his account book that Cousins took three escaping slaves to Fairview in Jones County northwest of Red Oak Grove. Safley was outspoken in his Abolitionist views, but even his children knew virtually nothing about his efforts on behalf of the Underground Railroad. However, they remembered seeing baskets of food being carried out to the barn.

In the 1860s, many sons of Red Oak Grove pioneers went off to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Fifteen Civil War veterans are buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery. The cemetery also contains a monument to two brothers, Robert L. and Socrates T. Safley, who are buried in National Cemeteries far from Red Oak Grove. Robert died of typhoid fever on a hospital ship and is buried at Vicksburg; Socrates fell in the Battle of Atlanta and is buried there.

In November 1870, a group of the area's original pioneers gathered informally to establish the Red Oak Old Settlers Association. Among those present were several of the founding members of the church, including John Ferguson, who hosted the gathering at his home. According to the 1878 History of Cedar

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

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	1 1 1 T	name of property
		Cedar Iowa
		county and State

County, Iowa, Mr. Ferguson announced that he had called the meeting to "properly recognize and more fully appreciate the kindness and beatitude of the Great Giver of all good to the community; for after a lapse of more than thirty long years, while the ruthless sickle of time had stricken down friends and neighbors on all sides, not one of the little band of settlers before 1840 had been removed by death, but singularly enough, all were living and had been blessed by surroundings of comfort and elegance and a goodly share of this world's property."¹

The Red Oak Grove residents, first in the county to honor their pioneer heritage, provided the impetus for the 1872 formation of the Cedar County Old Settlers Association. Its organizational meeting was held Sept. 4, 1872, at the Cedar County Courthouse in Tipton. A constitution, prepared in advance by a committee, was unanimously adopted. Article V, Section 1, stated: "All persons of good moral character, who were residents of Cedar County on or before the 31st day of December, 1841, and the wives or husbands of such persons, are eligible to membership."

A number of Red Oak Township pioneers were active in the Cedar County Old Settlers Association. John Ferguson and John Safley were on a three-member committee chosen to find a speaker for the 1873 meeting. John Ferguson was elected the second president of the group on Sept. 3, 1873. On Oct. 6, 1874, John Safley and Samuel Yule were among six men chosen as vice presidents. At the 1874 meeting, "in view of the gradual but certain dimunition of the members of the Society, which is now beginning to be felt" (1878 History of Cedar County), the constitution was amended to grant membership to anyone of good moral character who was a resident of Cedar County before Iowa became a state (Dec. 28, 1846). Over the years, the time element in the membership requirement obviously had to be changed. The Cedar County Old Settlers existed for a total of 62 annual meetings. Their final gathering took place June 10, 1933.

The original Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church building served for 62 years, bridging the 19th and the 20th centuries. The years claimed their toll of the ten founding members. The youngest one, and final survivor, died April 20, 1916. She was Sarah Dallas Carl, widow of Elza Carl, who was a single woman of 18 when she helped to make Red Oak Grove history March 1, 1841. She is buried in Red Oak Grove Cemetery, as are eight of the other nine founding members: John Chappell, Robert Dallas, John and Isobel Sturrock Ferguson, Robert and Elizabeth Pirie, John Safley, and Samuel Yule. The tenth founding member, Elizabeth Sturrock Dallas, moved to California with her husband, Charles, before 1870.

Probably about 1919, fund raising began for a new, larger church. Copies exist of five undated subscription lists on which members' names and pledges are written. A total of sixty-seven individuals, couples, and family groups, plus the Red Oak Grove Ladies Aid Society, are named on these lists. Each list

1878 The History of Cedar County, Iowa. (Chicago, Western Historical Company), Pg. 419-420.

Form 10-900-a (8 - 86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

ction 8	Page 8	Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property
		Cedar Iowa
		county and State

contains a typewritten heading: "SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR NEW CHURCH BUILDING AT RED OAK GROVE. We, the undersigned, agree to pay the sum set opposite our names for the construction of a \$12000. -- church building at Red Oak Grove, said building to conform to plans approved by the congregation of said church. One third of this subscription is to be paid when work begins on the new building, one third on the day of dedication, and one third one year from the date of dedication." Pledges ranged from \$5.00 to \$1,000.00. The Presbyterian Board of Church Erection, based in New York City, appropriated \$2,000 from its general fund for the building project. The final cost of the building was \$28,000 - not the \$12,000 figure originally stated.

On a Page 1 article on April 1, 1920, the Tipton Advertiser announced:1 "RED OAK PRESBYTERIANS WILL BUILD NEW CHURCH. The people of the Red Oak community are engaged in financing a new church in the grove to replace the present structure, which is one of the oldest country churches in Iowa. The committees engaged in raising the \$15,000 which is the estimated cost are meeting with fine success and we have been told already have around \$12,000 of the amount pledged. They have had some exceptionally generous subscriptions. One farmer in that neighborhood has given \$1800. The spirit behind the project is such as to afford ample assurance that it will be carried through to completion."

The "Red Oak Grove Church News" published Friday, April 16, 1920, in the weekly Tipton Advertiser stated, "Next Sunday will probably be the last Sunday we will hold services in the old church building at Red Oak Grove, and we plan to have a service fitting to the occasion." In the following week's church news was the statement, "We don't know what day we will move the furniture of Red Oak church to the (Red Oak) park building, but we will be ready for service at either place it happens to be next Sunday." No information has been found about the disposition of the original, 1859 church. It might have been sold and moved for use as a farm building, or dismantled so its lumber could be reused. Whatever happened, the old church was apparently gone by late April 1920. Under the Red Oak News in the Tipton Advertiser of May 7, 1920, is the sentence "A few men worked Wednesday (May 5) at getting the cellar of the new church ready for the foundation." On June 11, 1920, the Red Oak Grove Church News issued this invitation: "Any time you have a day off and want to work on the church, come on over - there's always something to do."

In our opinion, Red Oak Grove Church is somewhat larger than the average Iowa country church; its exterior dimensions are 30 feet by 68 feet. No written explanation of its unusual size has been found. It is possible that the congregation simply outgrew the little 1859 church. In the Tipton Advertiser of December 12, 1919, the Red Oak Church News contains this report: "Last Sunday was a record day at Red Oak Grove. 166 present at Sunday School and 123 present at church services."

Form 10-900-a (8 - 86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9		Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property
		Cedar Iowa
		county and State
-		

According to an undated newspaper clipping, Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church as designed by "architects Rough (sic) and Zalesky of Cedar Rapids." No other sources have been located to corroborate that statement. No copy of the church blueprints is known to exist. Herbert B. Rugh (1879-1924) and Charles B. Zalesky (1889-1980), both natives of Cedar Rapids, were in partnership from 1920 to 1922, which spans the period Red Oak Grove Church was built. The partnership was announced October 29, 1919. Their other joint projects included Franklin, McKinley and Roosevelt junior high schools in Cedar Rapids, built in 1920, 1921 and 1923, respectively.

Rugh graduated from the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago, where he studied architecture. He then worked for the firm of Josselyn & Taylor in Cedar Rapids before moving to Racine, Wisconsin, where he practiced in the firm of Guilbert & Rugh from 1902 to 1903. Relocating to Montreal, Canada, he was associated with the architectural firm of Ross & McDonald from 1905 to 1914. After World War I service with the Canadian Army, Rugh returned to Cedar Rapids in 1918. Following dissolution of the Rugh-Zalesky partnership, the former practiced as Bert Rugh Architects. The list of buildings he designed (some completed after his death) includes Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, the Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette Building, a residence for Dr. J. C. Petrovitsky, and a store/office for William King. Rugh was 45 when he died in an auto accident July 11, 1924.

In 1905, when he was 15 or 16, Zalesky began working for Charles A. Dieman, continuing until 1907. He then took courses at the University of Pennsylvania in 1907-1908 and again from 1910 to 1912. He worked for various architects in Boston, Indiana, and Canada. Zalesky began practicing solo in 1916, joining the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1919. In 1930, he was registered to practice by oral examination, and maintained registration up to 1961. Among Iowa buildings designed by Zalesky were a rectory for the Catholic church at Parnell in 1918; the First Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg, 1929 or earlier; the Ladora Savings Bank (National Register listed), and the Cedar Rapids residence of Dr. W. J. Neuzil. He was listed as living in Sanford, Florida, in the "Members Emeritus" section of the publication Iowa Architects: The Face of Architecture in Iowa, Vol. XII, No. 1, January-February-March 1965. Zalesky's last residence was in Virginia. He died at age 91 in December 1980.

The date of the Red Oak Grove Church's cornerstone laying has not been located, nor has a list of the contents. However, it is known that one item included was the name of the first baby baptized in the new church. She was Marie Alma Eilers (later Mrs. LeRoy Shaull), third child of August and Martha Penningroth Eilers. Marie was born December 20, 1919, and is currently (July 2009) living at Sunbury in Cedar County.

Dedication of the new church had to be postponed twice, as severe snowstorms occurred on March 13 and April 17, 1921, the first two dates scheduled. The

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

church was ultimately dedicated May 8, 1921, during the pastorate of the Rev. C. E. Thomas. A gift of \$1,000 from Mrs. Jeanette Cook of Tipton paid off the final indebtedness.

Red Oak Grove Church had an active Sunday school for many decades. At least as early as about 1880, and possibly earlier, Sunday school picnics were a popular event. The Sunday schools of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian and Red Oak Grove Methodist annually held a joint picnic in a timber owned by farmer William McCune, near the hamlet of Wald (east of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian). However, Mr. McCune appeared at the 1883 gathering and forbade any more Sunday school picnics in his timber because he did not want the horses "barking" his trees (chewing the bark off them). The people of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian responded by purchasing a five-acre timber with a spring and a creek. Located about onefourth mile west of the church, it was named Red Oak Park and was open to the public. The church paid \$125 for this land. In May 1963, the church deeded this park to the Cedar County Conservation Board, and it remains a public access area, with two acres having been added to the original five.

Besides the Sunday school, groups that were affiliated with Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church were the Missionary Society, organized in 1895; the Ladies Aid Society, and the Christian Endeavor Society. For many years, the church had a choir. A Kings's Daughters women's circle was founded in 1937 and continued up to 1991. In the 1940s, two Red Oak Grove ministers, the Rev. Otis Moore and the Rev. Bone Grussing, facilitated a youth group known as "The Friendly Five," whose members were from Red Oak Grove and four other Cedar County churches: Sugar Creek Presbyterian, Bennett, South Bethel Methodist, and Rochester. There were youth meetings, summer camps, and the popular "Full Moon Parties," held each month for nearly ten years on the night of the full moon.

Among fund-raising events in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s was an annual summer ice cream social, with men of the church providing the cranking power for the ice cream freezers on the lawn outside, then handing the finished canisters of ice cream through an open basement window to women, who served the frozen delicacy along with slices of homemade pie and cake. Another popular fundraiser was a Lord's portion auction, held each October on the church lawn. Farm families would contribute crops, garden produce, and homemade baked goods, which were sold to the highest bidders by an auctioneer who donated his time. A light lunch was prepared in the church basement.

The church basement served many community-related purposes. It was the polling place for Red Oak Township for a number of years. One of the men who served as a poll watcher at the church, retired farmer Cecil Mathias, remembers the experience as very pleasant -- "a day of vacation from corn picking, and a chance to see and visit many friends and neighbors." Another of the poll watchers, John Sauer, used to bring ingredients for chili and cook up a batch in the church kitchen, so he and his cohorts (who could not leave their post for meals) enjoyed a hot supper. "He was a good cook," reminisced Mr. Mathias.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

Red Oak	Grove	Church	and	Cemetery
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Over the years of the 20th century, the Red Oak Grove congregation experienced numerous ups and downs. The Depression years, coming so soon after the hopeful dedication of the new church building, were especially hard. In the fall of 1931, members voted to close the church. However, Presbytery approved the plan of the Rev. Louis Penningroth, a Red Oak Grove native, to conduct a nonsectarian School of Religion at the church. During this time, as recalled by former member Alfred Gustafson, two plays (one of them titled "The Red-Haired Man") were produced, and an Ice Cream Festival was held. By the time the Rev. Mr. Penningroth left in November 1934 to accept another call, the people who had been active under his leadership were ready to keep the church going. Continuity was difficult, because many ministers stayed for only a year or two. Sometimes the pulpit was vacant, and services were conducted irregularly by supply pastors. Still, the church endured. Membership in 1941 was 80, and the Sunday school was thriving. Post-World War II membership declined steadily, and finally - on December 17, 2006 - Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church held its final worship service, conducted by the Rev. Carol Lamp of Tipton. Membership by that time had dwindled to 18 persons, several of them inactive.

What would become of the church building? The Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, under the leadership of President Robert Rickard of Tipton, conferred with the Red Oak Grove Church Session and with officials at the Presbytery of East Iowa regarding the future of Red Oak Grove Church. The Cemetery Association had assets considered sufficient to assume the on-going care and preservation of the church building. On May 20, 2007, in an official ceremony held at the Cemetery Association's annual meeting in the church basement, ownership of the church and its remaining assets was formally transferred to the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association. Mission and vision statements are now being developed for the church, as is a master plan for maintenance and upkeep of the 88-year old structure. The sense of community is being nurtured and strengthened by annual Red Oak Grove Reunions, which are open to the public. These began in May 2007, and are held on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day each year. They include a service in the church, followed by a potluck luncheon in the church basement and then the annual business meeting. The 2008 event also included a Historic Cemetery Walk, in which costumed actors delivered first-person biographical narratives of selected persons buried in the cemetery. It is hoped to repeat this Cemetery Walk at future Red Oak Grove Reunions. The church is also available for rental as a site for weddings, family reunions, and other occasions.

Red Oak Grove Church is Red Oak Township's only existing church. Once there were three churches in the township. The Red Oak Grove Methodist Church was built in 1867 near the settlement of Wald, about a mile east of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian. It served until 1910, when the building was purchased by a nearby farmer (August Schroeder) and most of the members transferred to Stanwood Methodist. A United Brethren church was built in the 1870s in the settlement of

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

Shiloh, a quarter-mile north of Red Oak Grove Presbyterian. Services were conducted until the 1890s. One source says the building was moved to the farm of William Rickman near Shiloh, while another claims it was moved to Lisbon in Linn County. No photographs have been found of either church. Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 13

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- 1921 Program. Dedication Services, Presbyterian Church, Red Oak Grove, Iowa. The program is dated March 13, 1921, but the dedication was actually held May 8, 1921.)
- 1941 History of Early Presbyterian Churches in Cedar County. Article, Tipton (Iowa) Advertiser, October 16, 1941.
- 1944 Church bulletin. Stanwood United Presbyterian Church dedication service, including brief history of the congregation, May 7, 1944.
- 1959 The Cedar County Historical Review. Tipton, Cedar County Historical Society. Pp. 2-4.
- 1965 Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. Unpublished reminiscences by Martha Penningroth Eilers, Tipton, Iowa: February 23, 1965.
- 1968 Leaflet. Stanwood United Presbyterian Church 100th anniversary, June 2, 1968.
- 1972 The Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. Unpublished paper by Gordon Smith.
- 1982 An Iowa Girl. Self-published autobiography of Martha Penningroth Eilers (1887-1985). Pp. 21-23. Tipton, Iowa: December 1982.
- 1984 The Cedar County Historical Review. Tipton, Cedar County Historical Society. Pp. 60-114, July 1984.
- 2007 Unpublished letter, Alfred Gustafson to Cecil Mathias and Bob Rickard, Vinton, Iowa: May 8, 2007.
- 2007 Cedar County Recorder's Office. Warranty Deed, Presbyterian Church of Red Oak Grove, Cedar County, Iowa, to Red Oak (Grove) Cemetery Association. May 20, 2007.

Various dates: Tipton Advertiser, weekly newspaper.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 14

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

SECONDARY

Architects; Files: State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, Iowa.

Hinkhouse, Rev. J. F., ed. And pub. One Hundred Years of the Iowa Presbyterian Church, published by direction of the Synod of Iowa of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Laurance Press Company (printer), 1932.

Poppeliers, John C., et al. What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture. Somerset, N.J.: Preservation Press, revised edition, 2003.

- Shank, Wesley I. Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999.
- Stout, Donald Franklin and Dorothy Jean Miller Stout. Cedar Land: A History of Living, 1836-1980, Vol. I. Tipton, Iowa: Cedar Land Librarie (sic), 1980.
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ORAL HISTORY

Mathias, Cecil, with Karen Taylor, various times during Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. Mr. Mathias, a member of Red Oak Grove Church from 1956 through 2007, discussed his memories of the church and cemetery.

MAPS

Cedar County Historical Society Museum, Tipton, Iowa. Map of Cedar County, State of Iowa, compiled by Wells Spicer, 1862.

Andreas Historical Atlas of Iowa, 1875. Map of Cedar County.

History of Cedar County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1878. Map of Cedar County in front of book.

United States Geological Survey. Tipton (Iowa) West Quadrangle, 1965.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 15

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

Iowa Department of Transportation.

Highway and transportation map, Cedar County, Iowa, 2007.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Cedar County Assessor's Office, Tipton, Iowa. Aerial photograph with boundaries of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery marked. 1991.

United States Department of Agriculture, Cedar County Farm Service Agency. Aerial view showing Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery and environs. 2008.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 16

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

UTM References continued: 5. Zone 15 - Easting 652,944 Northing 4,633,372

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the warranty deed for the property:

Lot K in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter as shown in Plat Book A on Page 136 in the Cedar County Recorder's Office and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter all in Section 11, township 81 North, Range 3, West of the 5th Principal Meridian, Cedar County, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Contains all land historically associated originally with the resource.

Cedar County, Iowa Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery 11. Form Prepared By _____ ______ e-mail address bbrick@iowatelecom.net name/title Robert Rickard organization Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association date 7/13/09 street & number 700 Plum Street, PO Box 452 telephone 563-886-6018 zip code 52772 city or town Tipton state Iowa 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 the SHPO or FPO.) Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, % Robert Rickard name street & number 700 Plum Street, PO Box 452 telephone 563-886-6018 state Iowa zip code 52772 city or town Tipton 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 17

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

The following information applies to all photographs:

1. Name of photographer: Karen Taylor (except Photos No. 14 and No. 15: photographer unknown)

2. Location of original negative: Karen Taylor, 2318 Springville Rd., Springville, IA 52336. (Photo No. 14 is a CD scan of original; Photo No. 15 is from a copy negative.)

IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Following is the description of each view, indicating direction of camera.

- Photo No. 1: South side of church and part of North Cemetery. Direction: North. Date: November 2008.
- Photo No. 2: East end of church, showing front (main) entrance. Direction: West. Date: November 2008.
- Photo No. 3: Interior of church as seen from balcony. Direction: West. Date: November 2008.
- Photo No. 4: Cousins gate and arch. Direction: West. Date: November 2008.
- Photo No. 5: Church, showing west end with chimney. Direction: Northeast. Date: November 2008.
- Photo No. 6: Church, North Cemetery, and part of swale. Direction: Northnortheast. Date: November 2008.
- Photo No. 7: Interior of the church as seen from front. Direction: East-Northeast. Date: May 2009.
 - Photo No. 8: North side of church. Direction: South-Southeast. Date: May 2009.
 - Photo No. 9: 1999 Hughes gate, from King Avenue. Direction: West-Southwest. Date: May 2009.

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 18

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

Photo No. 10: 1999 Hughes gate, from inside cemetery. Direction: East. Date: May 2009.

Photo No. 11: Metal maintenance shed in south end of cemetery. Direction: Southwest. Date: May 2009.

Photo No. 12: Former manse where ministers of Red Oak Grove Church lived. Direction: Northwest. Date: May 2009.

Photo No. 13: Men of the Red Oak Grove Cemetery Assn. Straighten a tombstone at the annual cemetery work day. Direction: North. Date: May 1979.

Photo No. 14: Group picture of Bible School attendees outside church. Direction: West. Date: Summer (probably June) 1953.

Photo No. 15: First Red Oak Grove Church building, constructed in 1858-1859. Direction: Southwest. Date: Unknown (Estimated between 1910 and 1919). Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 19

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

SITE MAP arrow locates property



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 minute_series), Tipton West, Iowa Quadrangle, 1965

OMB No. 1024-0018

Form 10-900-a (8 - 86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 20

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

AERIAL VIEW OF CHURCH AND CEMETERY, 1991

This photograph includes a drawn boundary of the property



Source: Cedar County Assessor's Office, Tipton, Iowa

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 21

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

Church Sketch Plan (main floor)



Source: Karen Taylor and Bob Rickard April 12,2009

OMB No. 1024-0018

Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 22

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State







OMB No. 1024-0018

Form 10-900-a (8 - 86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 23

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery name of property Cedar Iowa county and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

Church Sketch Plan (basement)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Cemetery NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Cedar

DATE RECEIVED: 12/24/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/19/10 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/03/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/07/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001302

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	Ν	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	Ν	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	Ν	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	Ν	SLR DRAFT:	Ν	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

CCEPT

2-3 10 DATE REJECT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RETURN

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA		
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE	
TELEPHONE	DATE	

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.


























Cedar Co., IA Photo No. 4 Red Oak Grove Church + Cemetery







Photo No. 9 Red Oak Grove Church + Cemetery Cedar Co., IA



Photo No. 70

Red Oak Grove Church + Cemetery

Cedar Co., IA



Cedar Co., IA Photo No.11 Red Dak Grove Church + Cemetery



No. 12 Red Oak Grove Church + Cemetery Cedar Co., IA







1778363 Pks # 15 0811024borders-11 Noritsu 3 52009 HALL'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo No 14 Red Oak Grove Church + Cometery Cedar Co., IA



No. 15 Red Oak Grove Church + Cemetery Cedar Co., IA





A Division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

November 19, 2009



J. Paul Loether, Chief National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Sacred Heart Hospital, 110 6th Avenue NE, LeMars, Plymouth County, Iowa
- Miller, Alex and Ola (Viola) (Babcock), House, 429 S. Marion Ave., Washington, Washington County, Iowa
- Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, 751 King Ave., Tipton vicinity, Cedar County, Iowa

Sincerely,

Calizabeth Faster Hill

Elizabeth Foster Hill Tax Incentive Programs Manager/ National Register Coordinator