

# Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
East 12th & Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Site Number 74  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # 74

## Identification

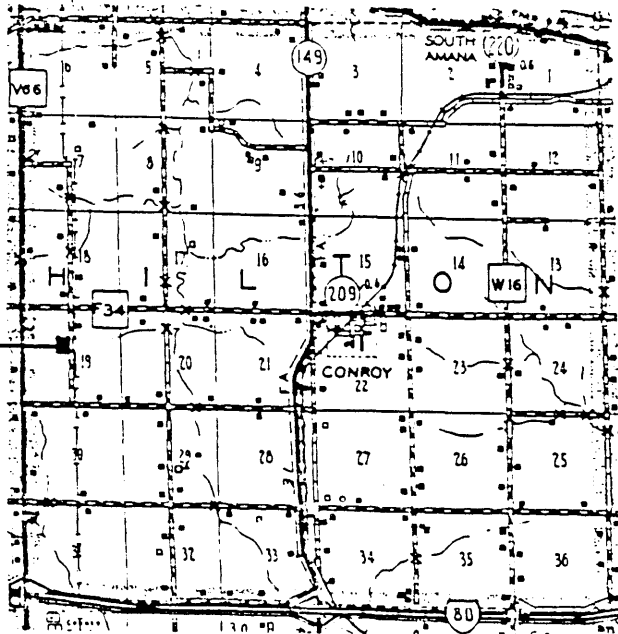
- Site Name Plagmann Round barn
- Village/Town/City Conroy vic. Township Hilton County Iowa
- Street Address Off IA 209
- Legal Location 80 N 10 W 19 SE 1/4 of NW 1/4  
Urban: subdivision block range parcel section Rural: township 1/4 section of 1/4 section
- UTM Location: zone 15 easting 578,760 northing 4,619,470; Acreage less than one acre
- Owner(s) Name Carl Schnebke
- Owner(s) Address R. R. #1 Box 138 Marengo Iowa 52301  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
- Use: Present \_\_\_\_\_ Original \_\_\_\_\_

## Description

- Date of Construction 1912 Architect/Builder Charles and Richard Plagmann
- Building Type:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> single-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other institutional	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> multiple-family dwelling	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agricultural
<input type="checkbox"/> commercial			
- Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other clay tile
- Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- Integrity:  original site  moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
See reverse side.
- Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Map



19. Photo Roll 1539 Frame 19 A View \_\_\_\_\_

VBD: A circle 120' in diameter, based on center point of barn, including barn only. Excludes adjacent modern silo.

MAY 27 1986

# Significance (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

## 20. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

N/A

Three levels, 100'diameter. Hay chutes, trap doors from main to ground floor. 16' interior silo of clay tile. Concrete floors. Asphalt shingles. Cone, foundation carpenters paid \$9 a day.

Special Function; Cattle type.  
True-Round Specialty Contractor; Clay  
Tile Supplier.

Theme(s) True-Round ; Iowa/King type; Supplier (Unknown

## 21. Historical Significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

See Continuation Sheet.

## 22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

See Continuation Sheet.

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## For Office of Historic Preservation Use Only

### 1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Determination of Eligibility

### Review and Compliance Project:

- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Subject Traces

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Photo Images \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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## Continuation Sheet

### Item Number(s)

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This barn is one of the largest Iowa Agriculture Experimental Station / Matt King type barns in Iowa. The central clay tile silo, circular interior arrangement, and clay tile exterior wall characterize it as being of this type. The use of structural clay tile was an improvement to the design of round barns - an improvement developed at the Iowa Ag. Exp. Station in the early 20th century. The supplier of the clay tile for this barn is unknown.

Charles and Richard Plagmann, the original owners who built this barn, were highly regarded farmers, praised for their commitment to agricultural progress and to the improvement of their land. The Plagmanns were livestock farmers who built the barn to house and feed cattle. The loft was used for hay storage, the main floor for horses and work space, and the ground floor for feeding cattle. The ground floor is open with the silo in the center and hay bunks in circular arrangement.

Karlene Kinglerly, 220 Myrtle, Creston, IA 50801

Carl E. Schnebbe, RR 1, Marengo, IA 52301

"Plagmann Brothers, Farmers and Live Stock Feeders." The Register and Leader (May 25, 1916): 10.

Swegle, Al. "Barns built in all shapes." Cedar Rapids Gazette (October 22, 1977): 6D.

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.