

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 Insane Asylum at the County Poor Farm  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number East side County Road Y61 (250th Ave)  not for publication  
city, town Andrew  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52030

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</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>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, Iowa  
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.

David [Signature] 6/10/92  
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. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. Alonzo Byers 7/24/92  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE/Hospital

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Limestone

roof Composition shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This two and one-half story limestone building is located on the east side of County Road Y61, across from the county care facility. Rectangular in shape with a gable roof, it measures 26'2" x 30'4" with the axis of the building parallel to the road. Although it was built specifically as an insane asylum, from the road it does not appear that different from the stone houses in the county that have an entry on the gable end. The north elevation has a central door at the first and second levels with an attic window centered in the gable, the west elevation has three symmetrically placed windows on each floor, and the south elevation features a single window in the center at each level. All but one of the windows on these three elevations are 6/6 double hung. A departure from symmetry is found on the east elevation. On that side a door and a 6/6 double hung window are located at the first floor level in a seemingly random arrangement. At the second floor are found three small windows covered with iron grates. A similar grate is found on the attic window on the south end. Stonework here is of coursed cut stone of varying size and shape. Larger blocks are used on the corners and on the eave sides. Windows and doors are segmental arched with dressed stone sills. A wooden cornice is located just below the roofline. Wood panels presently cover some of the windows. The limestone architecture survey did not address interiors.

In the past two years changes have been made in the area around the building. A fence separated it from the road, and the building was used for storage purposes. Today the area has been cleared of this debris and is part of a demonstration farm. A new county care facility on the west side of the road replaces the original wood frame and brick buildings of the 19th century county poor farm. The limestone insane asylum is the only remaining building from the original complex. While the physical condition of this building is a concern due to deterioration, there is strong local interest in the restoration of this building.

**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  
1872

Significant Dates  
1872

Cultural Affiliation  
N.A.

Significant Person  
N.A.

Architect/Builder  
Strasser & Schlecht, contractors  
John Weis, stone mason

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

This limestone building is significant under Criterion C as a good example of the use of local limestone for a variety of building types in 19th century Jackson County.

The insane asylum (1872) is one of 217 limestone structures recorded during a county-wide survey. While most of these were houses (101), there were schools, churches, commercial buildings, barns, farm outbuildings, and "other." The asylum falls under "other" along with mills and lime kilns. It follows the pattern of vernacular stone buildings in the county: rectangular with a gable roof, with stones of various sizes and shapes laid in courses, in this case with segmental arches rather than lintels. However, since it is a public building, public records exist concerning its construction. In the 1879 Jackson County history there was a discussion of the poor farm which included

In 1870 and 1872, there was a stone building, 26 x 30 feet, two and one-half stories, erected by the county, in which might be accommodated the incurably insane returned from the State Asylum. Each floor is divided into rooms or cells, with doors of iron grating, opening into the halls, by which means the cells are heated in winter from stoves located in the halls. In this department are nineteen insane persons, eleven of whom have been pronounced incurable.

The minutes from the Jackson County Board of Supervisors' meetings from 1870 are missing, but throughout 1871 there was discussion concerning the insane asylum. The July meeting noted that the auditor was authorized to draw a warrant on the insane fund favor of Strasser and Schlecht for one hundred dollars for work on the insane asylum, to pay J.H. Merritt for two hundred and twenty perches of stone which he

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Architecture of Andrew. A Sesquicentennial Project by the Sixth Grade of 1991 (the Class of 1997). Printed by Mississippi Bend AEA 9.

A.T. Andreas Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa. 1875, p 443.

Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.

History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879, pp 343-4.

Proceedings of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors July Term 1871.

See continuation sheet

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:

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

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

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	5
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6	9	7	3	3	0
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4	6	7	4	4	2	0
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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

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes only the limestone building noted above. Other buildings associated with the Jackson County Poor Farm were located on the west side of the road and are non-extant.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

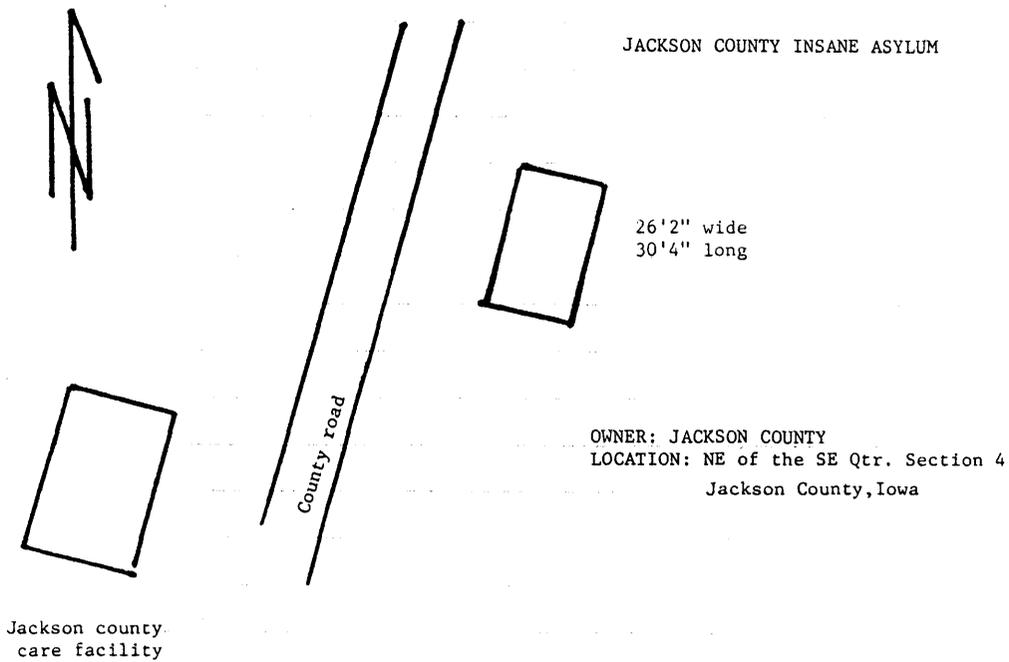
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1992  
street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181  
city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

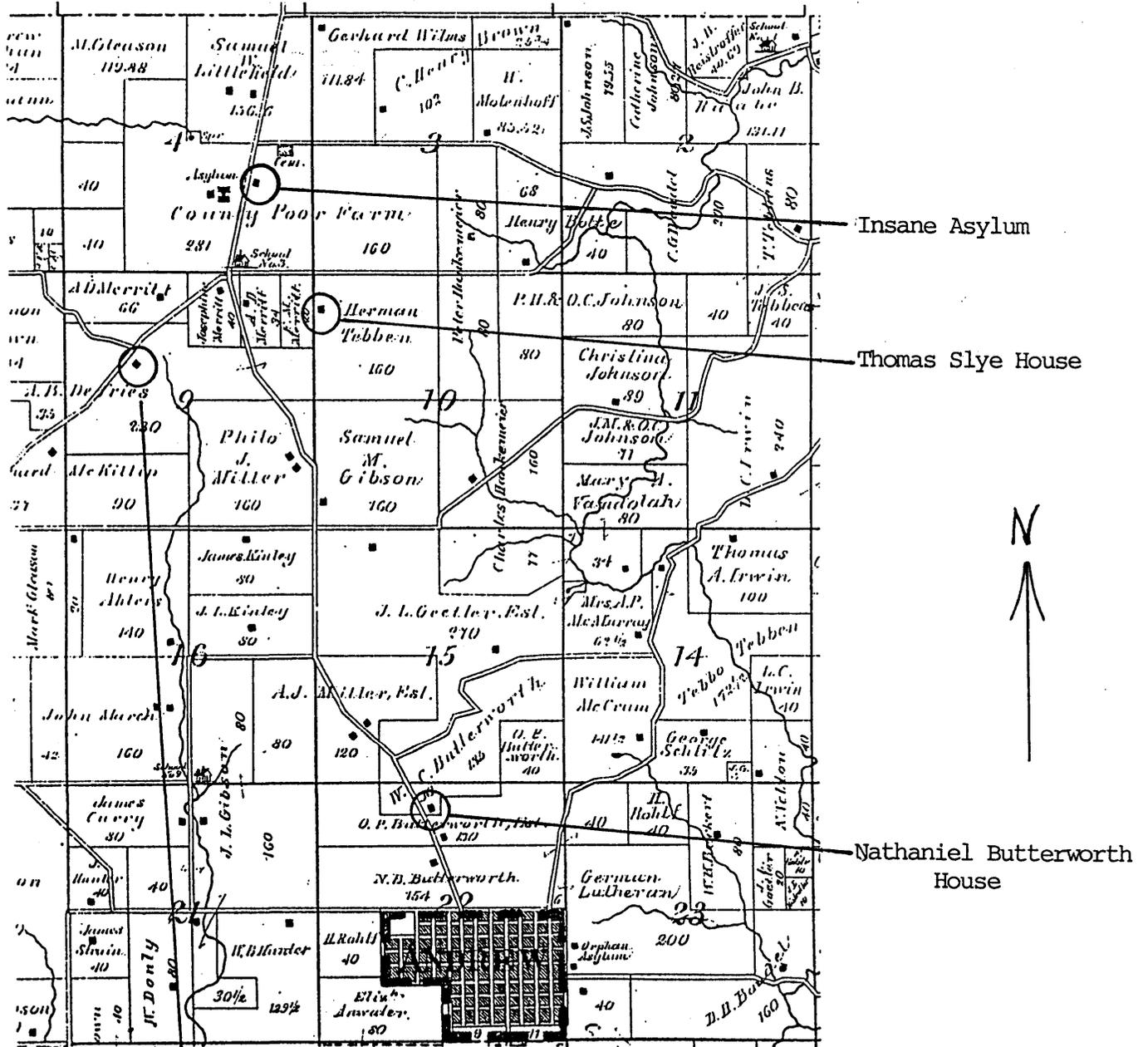


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CFN-259-1116



DeFries House, Barn & Carpenter Shop

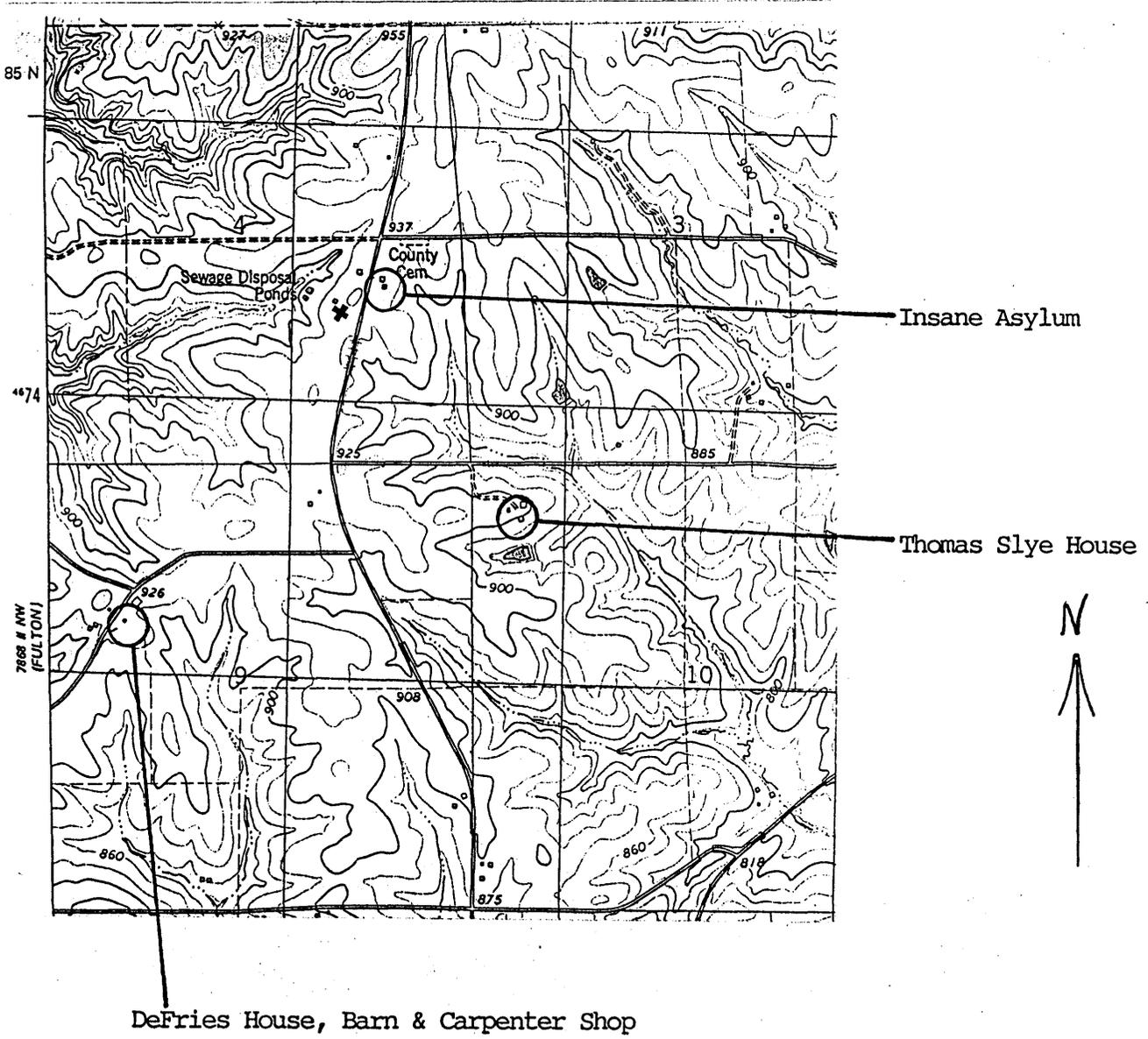
Perry Twp., 1893 Jackson County Atlas

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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CFN-259-1116



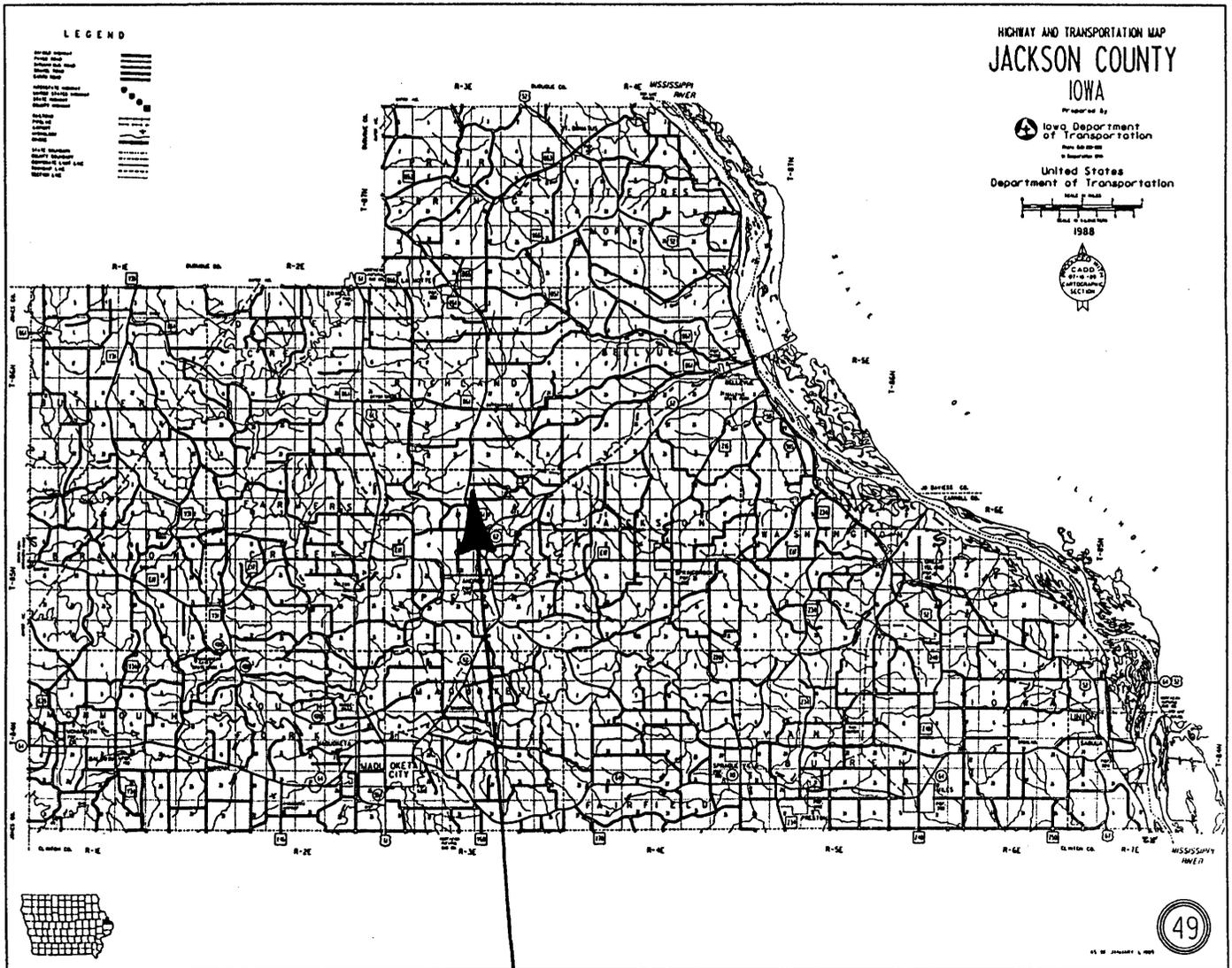
U.S.G.S. Map

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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CFN-259-1116



Location of the Insane Asylum, Perry Twp.

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had provided for the asylum (at 45¢ per perch), plus \$2.00 for sills furnished by him, and to pay John Weis the balance of \$61.50 due him for mason work on the insane building. In the September minutes we find Wm. Buchanan being paid for plastering the asylum and another \$5.00 for building the chimney. Strasser and Schlecht received \$92.05 in September, and \$13.75 in October 1871 for their work on the asylum. With these minutes the major craftsmen involved with the building have been identified. Adam Strasser and Frank Schlecht were contractors, builders and lumber dealers from Bellevue who were involved with the construction of most of the major buildings in that area. John Weis is listed in the 1860 census as a Luxembourgian stone mason living in Bellevue. No information has been located about Wm. Buchanan. J.H. Merritt owned the farm just south of the county poor farm. Since he provided the stone for the insane asylum from his farm, it is possible that this was also the source for the stone used in the neighboring Thomas Slye house and nearby A.B. DeFries house (see map from 1893 atlas).

It is interesting that the Supervisors chose limestone as the building material for the asylum at a time when limestone construction had reached its peak and was starting to decline in the county. The majority of the houses, farm buildings, and commercial buildings were built during the 1850s and '60s. Most of the limestone buildings constructed during the late 1860s and '70s appear to have been public buildings such as schools, the jail, and this asylum. The cost difference between brick and limestone has not been determined, but the ready availability of the stone was probably a major factor.

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Section number 10 Page 2

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### Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land located on the east side of County Road Y61 in T85N R3E Sec 4 NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ . The parcel is rectangular in shape with a N/S axis, slightly off the cardinal points. Beginning at a point 10' north of the NE corner of the building, thence west to the public right of way along Y61, thence south along right of way 50'4", thence east to a point 10' south of the SE corner of the building, thence east an additional 10', thence north 50'4", thence west 10' to the point of beginning.