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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 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 Sherrill Mount House

other names/site number Fries Hotel, Moundside Apartments, The Inn at Sherrill

2. Location

street & number 5259 SOUTH MOUND ROAD not for publication N/A  
city or town SHERRILL vicinity N/A  
state IOWA code IA county DUBUQUE code 061  
zip code 52073

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Donna G. Soltz, DSHPO*

Signature of certifying official

*November 29, 2001*

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson R. Boell* 7/11/02

*RP*

Signature of Keeper

Date  
of Action

**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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Sherrill Mount House  
Dubuque County Iowa

\_\_\_\_\_ sites  
\_\_\_\_\_ structures  
\_\_\_\_\_ objects  
  1     0   Total

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)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  HOTEL  </u>
<u>  COMMERCE  </u>	<u>  RESTURANT  </u>
<u>  RECREATION AND CULTURE  </u>	<u>  MUSIC FACILITY  </u>
<u>  AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  </u>	<u>  STORAGE  </u>
<u>  GOVERNMENT  </u>	<u>  POST OFFICE  </u>
<u>  HEALTH CARE  </u>	<u>  CLINIC  </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  MULTIPLE DWELLING  </u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

  Mid 19th Century    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE/LIMESTONE    
roof   WOOD/SHINGLE    
walls   STONE/LIMESTONE    
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Statement of Significance

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Sherrill Mount House

Dubuque County Iowa

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1856-1930

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1856

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_(UNKNOWN)\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Fries, Peter\_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography

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  
\_x\_ Local government  
\_x\_ University  
\_x\_ Other

Name of repository: DUBUQUE CITY LIBRARY, LORAS COLLEGE LIBRARY

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than one

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>681085</u>	<u>4719025</u>	
2	___	___	___	___
	___ See continuation sheet.			

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark W. Maiers

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 15 November, 2000

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Sherrill Mount House

Dubuque County Iowa

city or town Colorado Springs state Co zip code 80906

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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PROPERTY OWNER

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name: Mark W. Maiers

street & number: 3310 Club Heights Drive telephone: 719-440-0121

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city or town: Colorado Springs State: Colorado zip code: 80906

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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.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7, Page 1

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The Sherrill Mount House  
Dubuque County, IA

### Narrative Description

The Sherrill Mount House was constructed in 1856<sup>1</sup> as a commercial structure astride the stagecoach<sup>2</sup> route which traveled north along the Mississippi River. The Inn has 3 main stories, attic area and viewing cupola. The building was constructed of native limestone, quarried approximately 2 miles distant, which was transported by immigrants, in the block form, by wheelbarrows to the construction site.

A ramp of wood scaffolding was built to support the construction of the building, which allowed the workers to transport the stone to the top of the walls for placement. This ramp, built by hand, extended some 1000 feet to the north during construction and was removed after the structure was completed.<sup>3</sup>

When the building was completed it housed a tavern, beer garden, restaurant and kitchen on the first floor, dance hall and family quarters on the second floor, and overnight rooms on the third floor.<sup>4</sup> It would also serve the town of Sherrill as a post office and meeting hall. Except for the modernization of plumbing and mechanical systems and the lack of shutters along with modern aluminum window frames, the main structure retains its original appearance. The kitchen and washroom, also of native limestone construction, have been covered with steel siding in the recent past.

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<sup>1</sup> "SHERRILL THEN AND NOW", Schmitt, James H., Dec 1995, p. 48.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p.48, Telegraph Herald Newspaper Article describes a driver of a stagecoach delivering passengers to the inn on a cold winter night.

<sup>3</sup> Construction method described in a personal interview with longtime Sherrill resident Mrs Opal Christiansen.

<sup>4</sup> "SHERRILL THEN AND NOW", Schmitt, James H., Dec 1995, p. 49.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7, Page 2

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The Sherrill Mount House  
Dubuque County, IA

With the exception of the kitchen room, the building exterior is totally of limestone, some 4.5 feet thick (as seen in the depth of the first floor window casements) at the foundation level. The exterior was plastered over at the time of construction to cover the limestone rock. The primary exterior plaster was then patterned with a block print to look like squared block construction.<sup>5</sup> This type of exterior plaster decoration is known and is "schitcherei" and is typical of larger public buildings in east central Europe. Examples of "schitcherei" from the same period are found in the eastern regions of the German state of Bavaria as well as on many government buildings in the city of Prague in the Czech Republic. This style is a probable throw-back to the eastern Bavarian origins of the builder, Mr. Peter Fries. Only traces of this original plastering and schiterei treatment is evident today. The primary outward appearance today is of rough limestone block mortared in place with a hand mixed cement mixture. All exposed wood areas to include the eaves, fascia, window and doors and trim work are painted.

The basement contains two vaulted limestone wine cellars used to store beer and wine for the tavern operation. Both cellars are in original condition with partial wine barrel racks still in existence, as well as the original wooden doors. The roof shape is of a hip design, with a large viewing cupola mounted on the upper most section of the roof. The eaves of the main building are decorated in fancy wood support angle scroll work and circular designs.

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<sup>5</sup> "RECONNAISSANCE/HISTORICAL SURVEY OF DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA; A Report Prepared by the Dubuque County Historic Preservation Commission, Anderson, David C. PH.D>' July 1991, p.51 (describes the stone walls construction of the area, covered with stucco with lines incised to imitate regular courses)



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7, Page 3

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

The interior of the building is of native timber in a post and beam construction. The rock exterior walls were plastered over and in turn covered during subsequent renovations with framing and plasterboard to accommodate modern electrical wiring and other fixtures.

The building was converted to apartments in the 1930's and served for a time as a local doctor's office. In the 1970's further updating and modernizing were completed. Additional bathrooms were added during these renovations as well as a second stairwell to accommodate the occupants of the back half of the building that was serving as a two-story apartment. Sometime during these renovations, the shutters were removed and the original windows covered with aluminum storm windows. The building was occupied until 1993 when the property was vacated as part of a divorce settlement between the owners. During that same settlement process, the property suffered severe water damage throughout the structure when the heat was turned off and all water pipes and bathroom fixtures froze and burst. The property remained vacant for the next several years suffering weather damage due to lack of repairs and general upkeep.

In 1999 renovation work began with upgrades to electrical, water and heating systems and the rebuilding of a cupola on the upper roof to replicate the original cupola, which was removed earlier. In September of 2000 the renovations were completed and the property rented as a multi-family 3 plex. Renovations continue today on the 3rd floor apartment with long term plans to fully renovate the structure back to a commercial inn operation.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 4

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

### Statement of Significance

The building is of local and statewide significance under Criterion C as one of a very small number of pre-Civil War era hotels surviving in the State of Iowa. It is a locally significant example of stone construction of the time and is one of the largest buildings of this material surviving in rural Dubuque county. The property associated with the building at time of construction covered over 40 acres in what would become the town center of Sherrill. The inn included several outer buildings and agricultural operations, including a substantial orchard and vineyard along with two barns. Farmers in the area used to haul barley and other grains to the brewery in Potosi, Wisconsin, just across the Mississippi River from Sherrill. They would travel to the inn, remain overnight and make the river crossing with their grains the next day at the adjacent Finley's Landing, where a ferry to the Wisconsin side was located. Upon delivering their grains the farmers would re-cross the river and stay a second night at the inn before returning home.

The beer garden, tavern and dance hall on the second floor the inn was the social center of the entire community for a significant period of time until it's demise with the arrival of prohibition in 1919, at which time the building was first converted to a multi-family home.

Eventually the road, on which the building is located, was designated as "The Great River Road;" one of the more popular tourist trails in the tri-state region.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

The building dominates the center of the town of Sherrill and was the center of the town's social life for its first 100 years of existence. It has served many families since being converted to apartments and serves today as key example of buildings which have played a key role in the history of the region.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

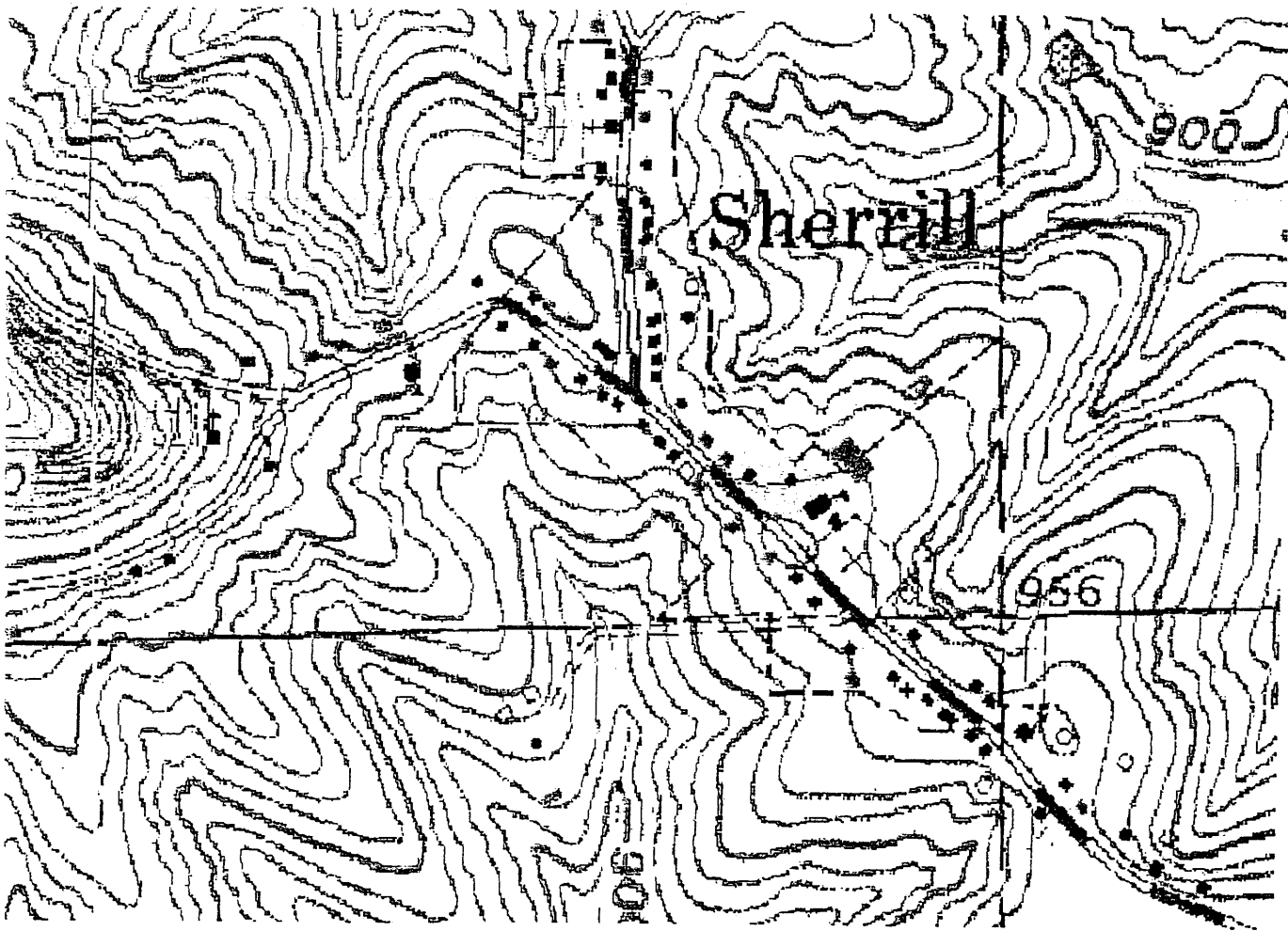
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

USGS AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, JUL 1991

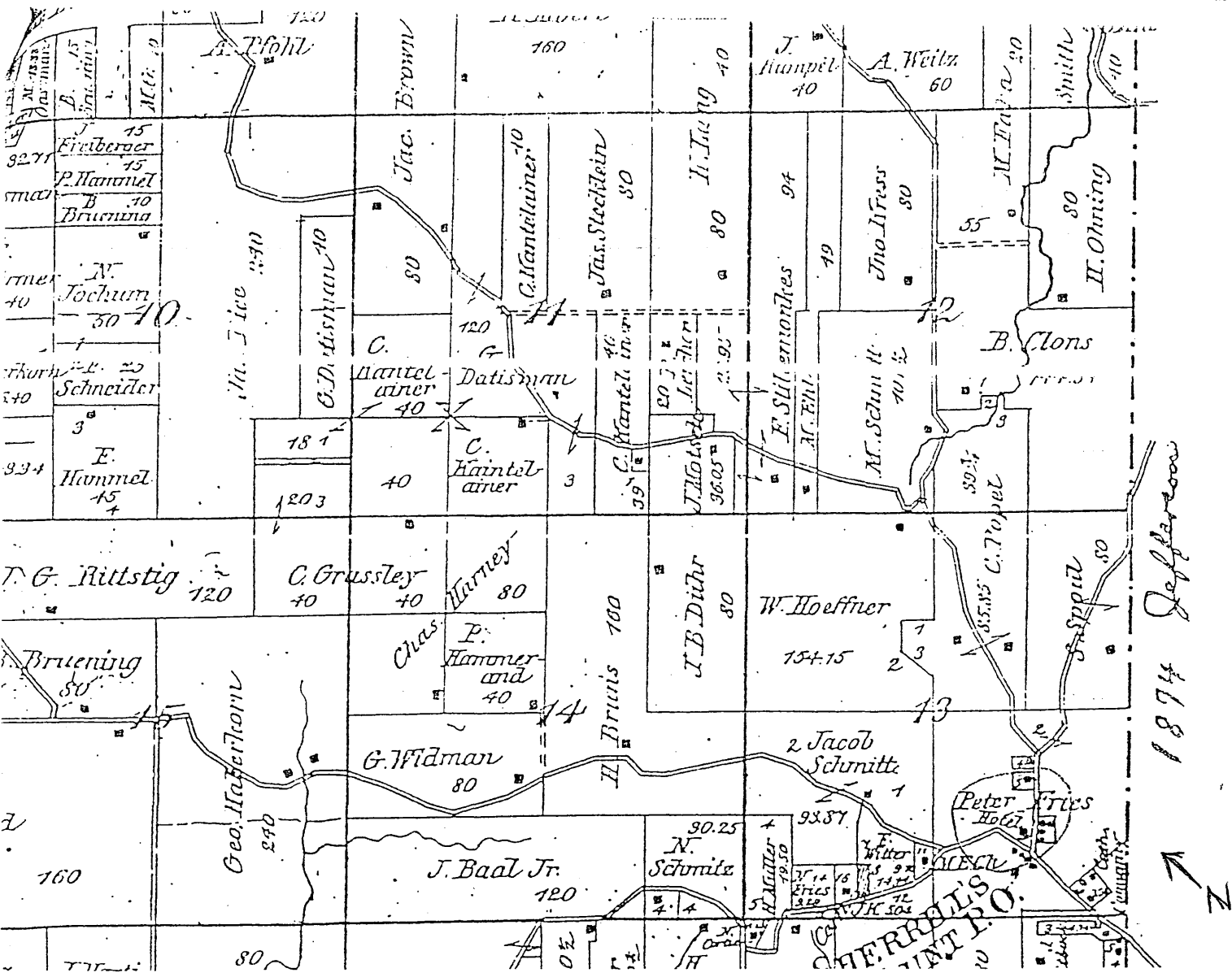


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

HISTORICAL MAP dtd 1874, Source: "SHERRILL THEN AND NOW", Schmitt, John H., December 1995, p. 16.

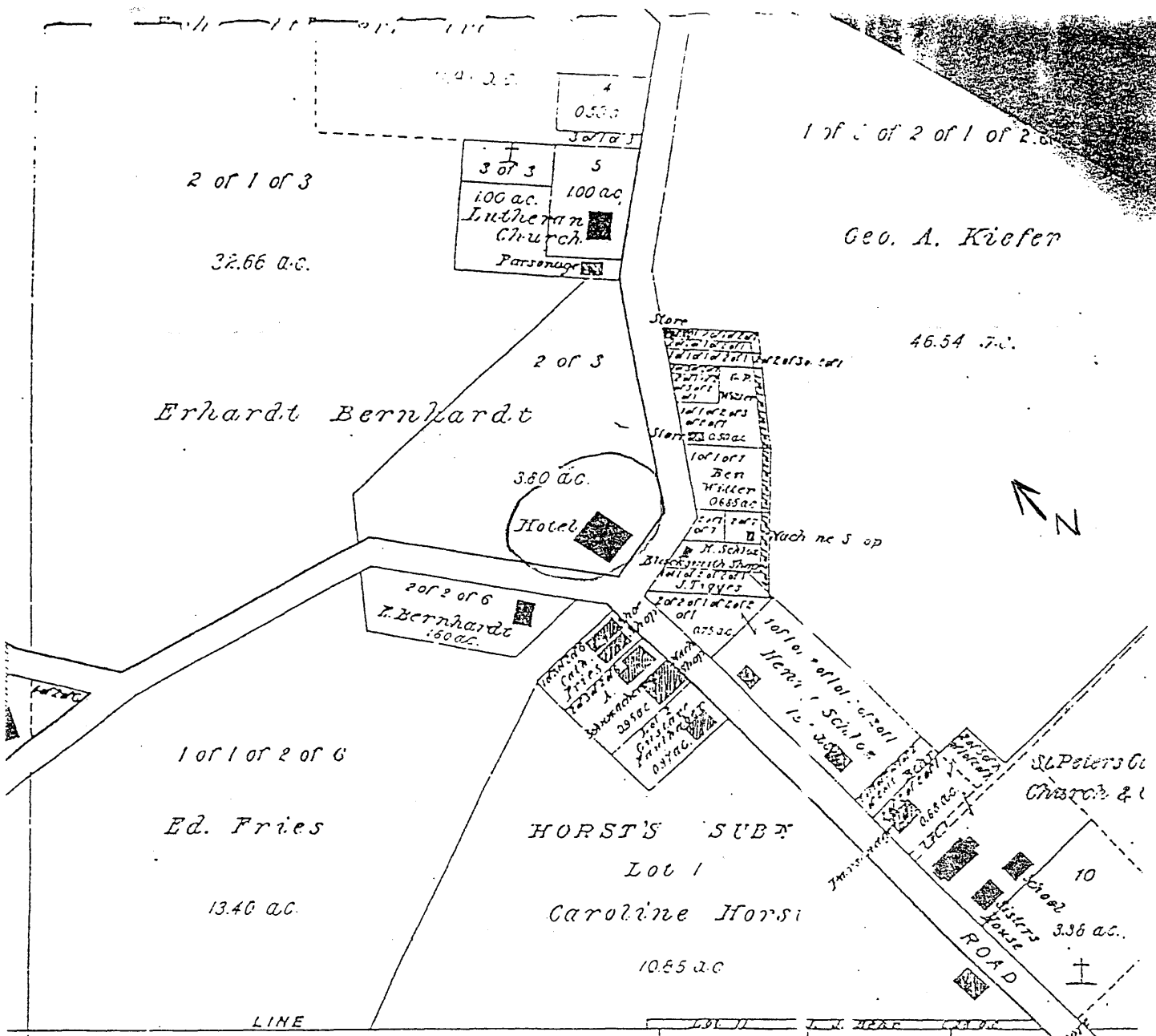


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

HISTORICAL MAP dtd 1892, Source: "SHERRILL THEN AND NOW", Schmitt, John H., December 1995, p. 35.



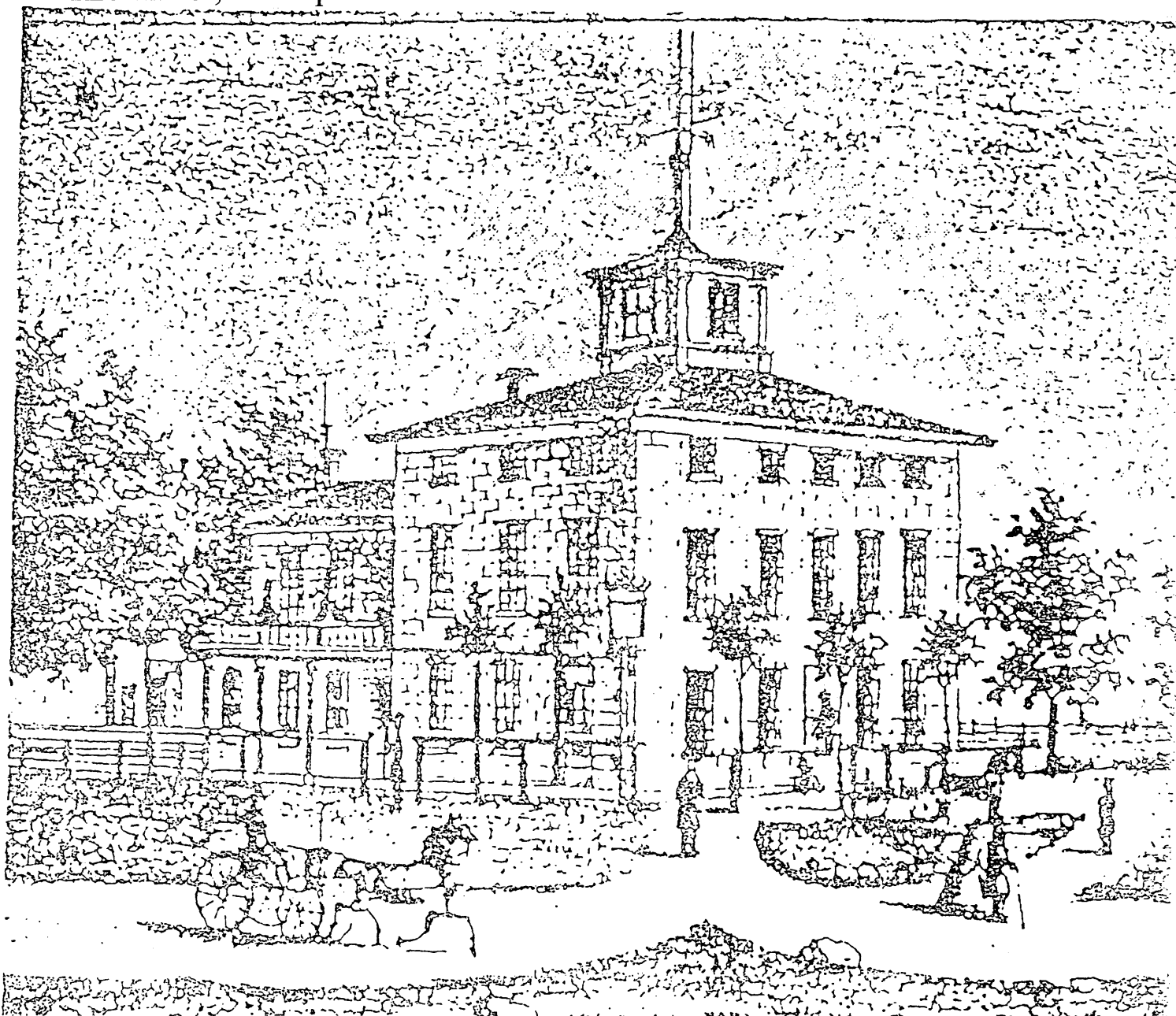
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

Lithograph Engraving dtd 1856, Source: From a collection of F.H.  
Kretchmer, Dubuque Iowa.



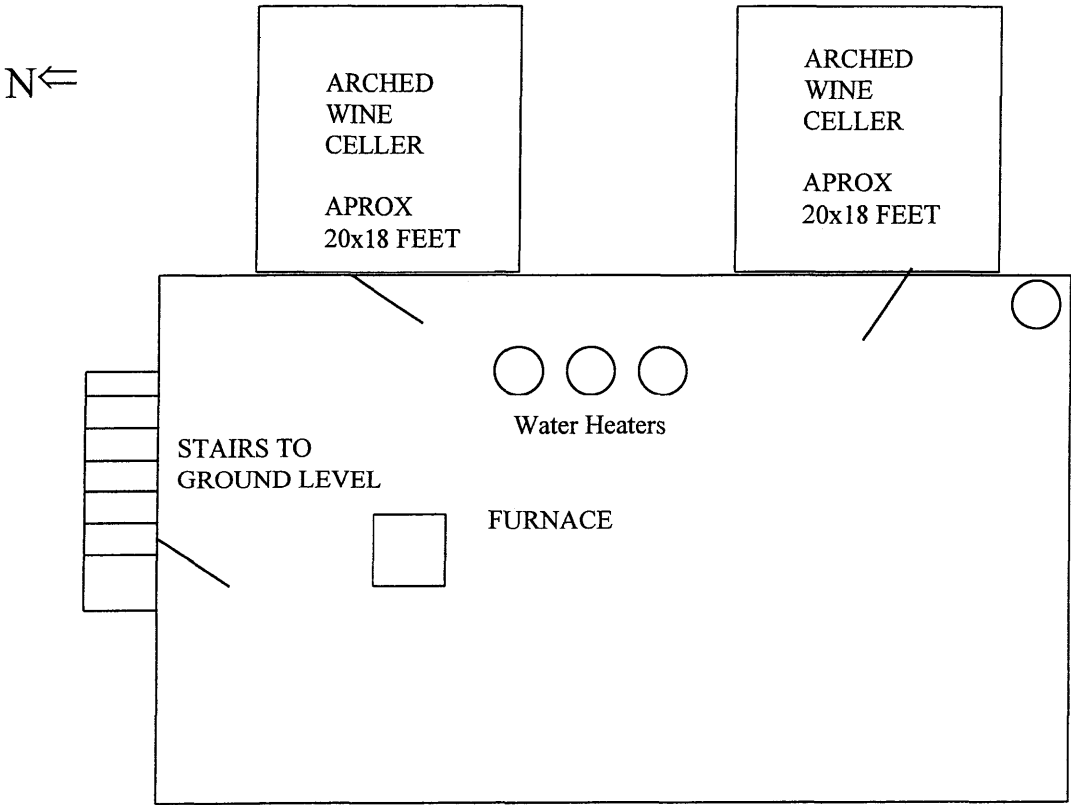


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 11

The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

Basement Floor Plan of the Sherrill Mount House, 25 May 2001, drawn  
by the owner, Mr. Mark W. Maiers.



BASEMENT APROX 40X25 FT (NOT  
INCLUDING WINE CELLARS)

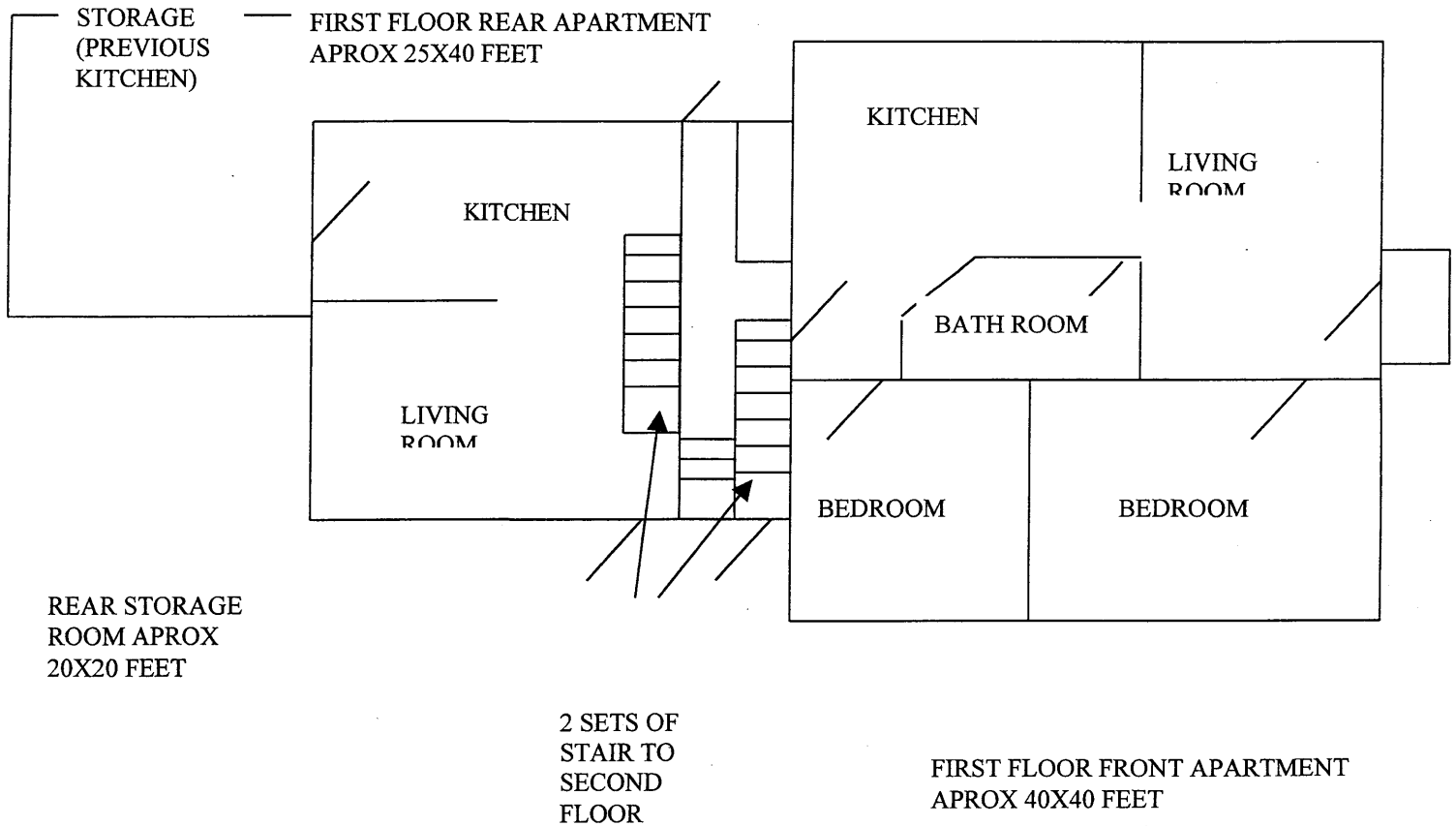
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

Ground Floor, Floor Plan of the Sherrill Mount House, 25 May 2001,  
drawn by the owner, Mr. Mark W. Maiers.

N ←



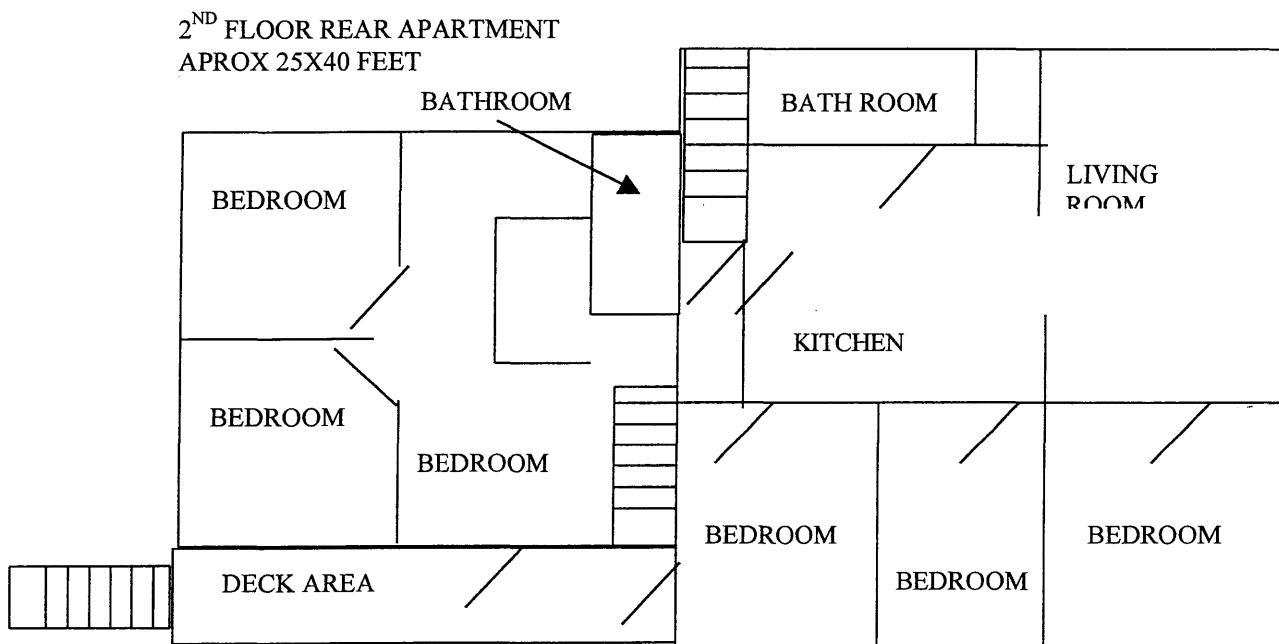
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 13

The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Floor Plan of the Sherrill Mount House, 25 May 2001, drawn  
by the owner, Mr. Mark W. Maiers.

N ←



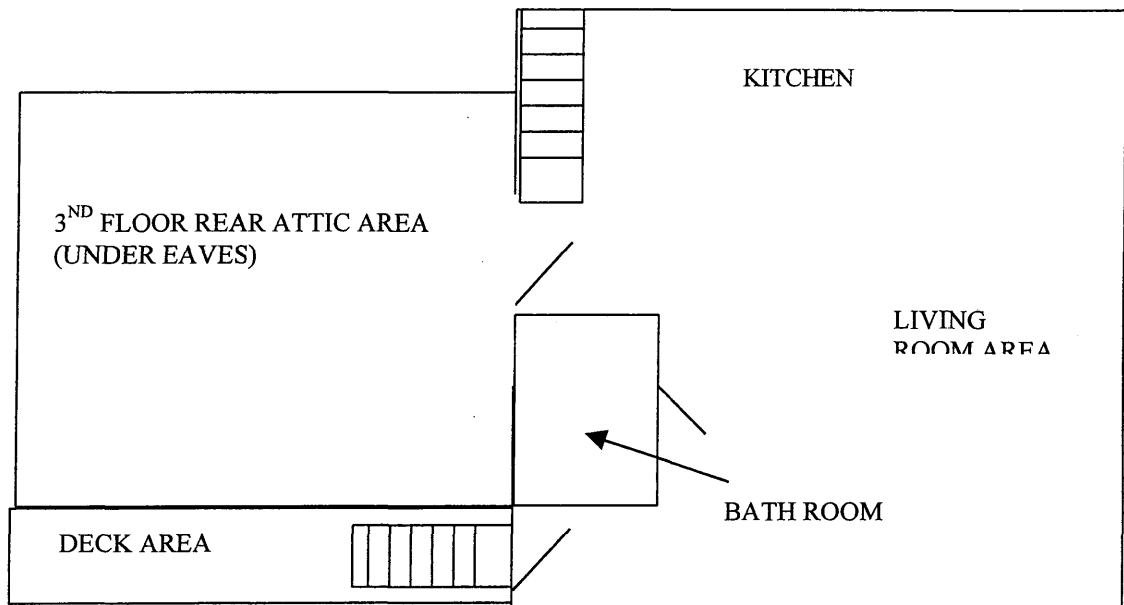
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Floor Plan of the Sherrill Mount House, 25 May 2001, drawn  
by the owner, Mr. Mark W. Maiers.

N ←



3<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR APARTMENT APROX 40X40  
FEET (OPEN SPACE)

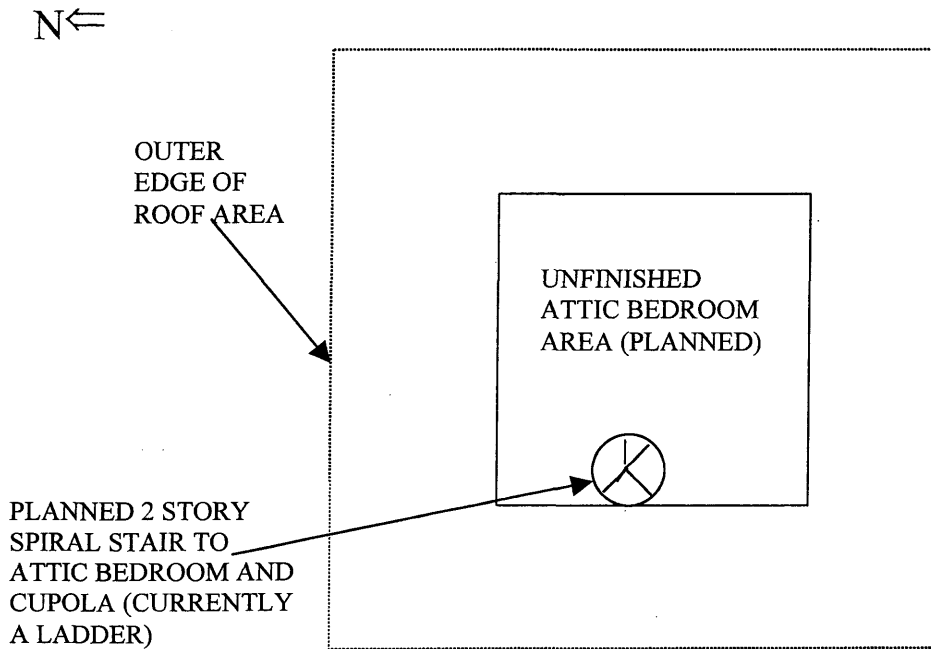
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

Attic Area Floor Plan of the Sherrill Mount House, 25 May 2001, drawn  
by the owner, Mr. Mark W. Maiers.



ATTIC BEDROOM  
APPROX 15 x 15 FEET

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

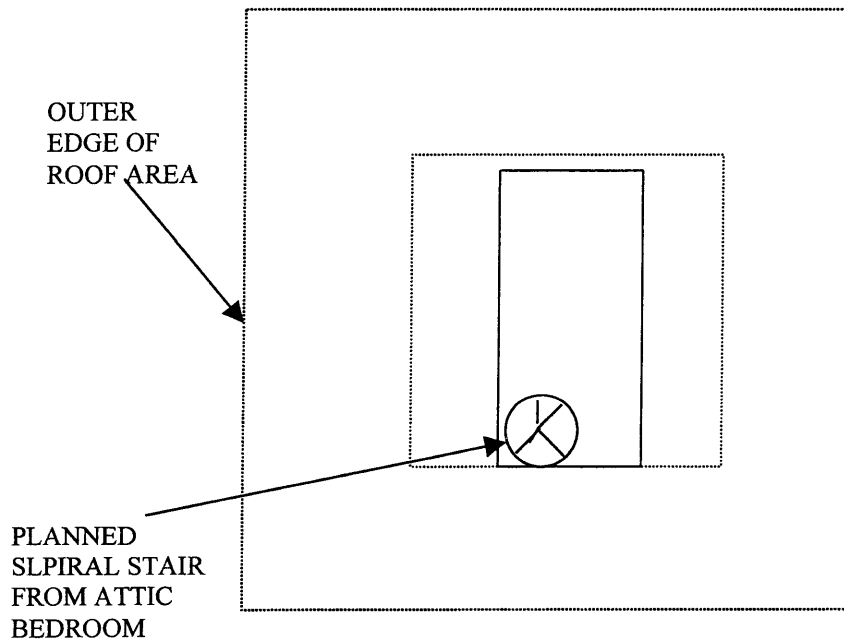
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The Sherrill Mount House at Sherrill  
Dubuque County, IA

Observations Cupola Floor Plan of the Sherrill Mount House, 25 May  
2001, drawn by the owner, Mr. Mark W. Maiers.

N ←



OBSERVATION  
CUPOLA AREA  
APROX 6X10 FEET