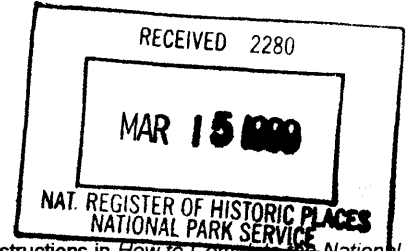


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1999

Handwritten initials



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 an 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 Marsh, E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 833 East Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Grinnell [n/a] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Poweshiek code 157 zip code 50112

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Patricia Chalkins DSHAD 3-8-99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 H. Beall 4/15/99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Name of Property

Poweshiek County, Iowa
County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

_____ n/a _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ n/a _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ DOMESTIC/single dwelling _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ DOMESTIC/hotel _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Late Victorian/Queen Anne _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ LIMESTONE _____

walls _____ WOOD/Weatherboard _____

_____ WOOD/Shingle _____

roof _____ ASPHALT _____

other _____ BRICK _____

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- 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.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1893

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Name of Property

Poweshiek County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1][5]	[5][2][2][9][3][0]	[4][6][2][0][5][2][0]	2	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][]	4	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][]

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Bode Baxter, Architectural Historian
organization _____ date October 1, 1998
street & number 5811 Delor Street telephone (314) 353-0593
city or town Saint Louis state Missouri zip code 63109-3108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name James R. and Linda Paulson
street & number 1332 Broad Street telephone (515) 236-6782
city or town Grinnell state Iowa zip code 50112

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description

Built in 1892-93, this Queen Anne residence dominates the southwest corner of two major residential streets in this Late Victorian neighborhood on the east side of Grinnell. Located at the intersection of two of Grinnell's main arterial streets, Fourth Avenue and East Street, the house is only four blocks east of the central business district, where Marsh had his store. It also faces East Street, the artery connecting Grinnell College (three blocks away) at the north end of town with the fairgrounds on the south end of Grinnell.

This two-story clapboard house with a rock-faced coursed ashlar limestone foundation with beaded mortar joints has a steeply pitched hipped roof with lower cross gables, a corbelled brick interior chimney and a corner tower with conical roof, a distinctive feature of many Queen Anne designs. Due to its corner location, both gables form dominant front-facing gabled bays, one facing the East Street (the front and east) facade and the other facing north toward Fourth Avenue. As is common to Queen Anne designs, the house utilizes an exuberant variety of patterns, textures, and materials on wall surfaces as well as asymmetrical facades and a variety of projections, overhangs, and roof line treatments, all designed to avoid unadorned, smooth wall surfaces. Typical of the free classic variation of the Queen Anne style, this house utilizes classical details, such as the pedimented gable on the shed roof of the front porch, the broken pediment-like gable returns, classical columns as porch supports, round arched windows, bracketed dentils, decorative friezes and crown molding lintels. Despite the variety of decorative treatments, the design of the house is unified by certain common features, repeated throughout the exterior design, especially the use of wider clapboards with corner boards on the first floor facades, very narrow clapboards on the second floor facades (often flared at the base and divided from the lower level by a flat board stringcourse), decorative shingles in gable ends, the boxed eaves with frieze-like courses that serve as lintels for second floor windows, the simple crowned molding lintels, the paired columns, and the coursed ashlar limestone foundation.

FRONT FACADE (East Elevation, Facing East Street):

The primary or east facade consists of a second story porch over the corner porch sandwiched between the large, two story, gabled bay on the south and the recessed, conical roofed two story tower on the north. The shed roofed main entry porch with its wood porch floor and beaded board ceiling has short, paired, stylized Doric columns resting on a rock-faced course ashlar limestone vertically vented half-wall that serves as the porch railing and foundation. Since the tower is recessed on this main elevation, the porch details extend around the corner on the north with three columns clustered at the corner. The elaborately raised panel door with its original brass knob and plate has a beveled and etched glass window that is shaped in line with the double ogee arched moldings. To the north of the entry door is a large, single paned with leaded glass transom window (the original leaded and colored glass transom had been too severely damaged to be saved during the renovation and this salvaged leaded glass window was installed in its place). The entablature supporting the shed roof of the porch has the distinctive three part classical design utilizing Late Victorian decorative details: a simple architrave separated from the frieze by simple molding and scalloped shingles laid below a dentil course at the base of the cornice. The porch steps are currently concrete, but were probably wood originally. Above the steps is a small, pedimented gable with chisel pattern shingles in the tympanum and a raked cornice with small dentil-like brackets. The triangle formed on the north side of the porch by the shed roof also utilizes chisel pattern shingles and a raked cornice.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description (continued)

Above the main entry porch is a second floor porch that forms a projecting bay with a slight shed roof extension of the main roof. The porch opening is cut into the bay walls, which are clapboard, flared at the base above two rows of chisel pattern shingles. Above the opening is a series of small, raised panels just below the roof line which repeats the panel treatment in the front door. The opening to this porch is supported by smaller, paired versions of the stylized Doric columns utilized on the main entry porch with spindlework spanning like a narrow raised banister between the opening and behind the columns, a treatment repeated on the north attic window. Within this porch is a double hung sashed window offset to the south end of the wall.

The gabled two story bay on south end of the main (east) facade dominates the front of the house, with a false overhang created by the flared base of the second floor facade and the dentilled brackets. As is consistent with classical designs, the bay is symmetrical, with the windows on each level placed in the middle of the east facade and getting gradually smaller with the first floor window having the most elaborate treatment of all the windows in the house. This window is a simple single pane with a transom consisting of a pair of round arched, leaded and stained glass windows. It is framed by spindle-like columns, one either side of the main window pane and three framing the arched window transom and supporting a heavy, projecting lintel. The second floor window is very modest and slightly narrower by contrast, being a simple, double hung sashed window with a crown molded lintel. The gable end with its broken pediment design has raked cornices and the tympanum of fishscale pattern shingles separated from the second floor clapboards by sawtooth pattern shingles, a design repeated in the triangular section of the gable that extends forward at the peak and serves as a lintel course for the attic window, a twelve over one sashed window.

THE TOWER (At the Junction of the East and North Facades):

The two story conical roofed, polygonal tower on the northeast corner of the house is a feature that is recessed from both the front and north facades, helping to round the corner. Above the coursed ashlar limestone foundation, it utilizes the same basic wall materials as the wall elevations (wider first floor clapboard with corner boards and narrow clapboards on the upper levels, flared where the two levels join). The dentilled brackets and flared base of the second floor walls that is used on the front gabled bay is an even more prominent feature on the false overhang of the tower. The first floor facade has only one double hung sashed window in the center section while the upper floor has double hung sashed windows in each of the three facets of the tower, although the center window was added recently matching the others closely in all details. The area below the conical roof has a series of recessed, clapboard rectangular panels and is separated from the second floor level by sawtooth pattern shingle stringcourse.

SECONDARY STREET FACADE (North Elevation, Facing Fourth Avenue):

While the tower flanks the east end of the north facade, this facade is primarily a wide, two story, gabled bay that projects out from the main hipped roof section of the house with a small section of wall facing east and connecting to the tower. Unlike the front bay, this is more simply treated although it continues the clapboard pattern with wider clapboard and corner boards on the first floor level and narrow clapboards on the second floor. The junction between the two levels is a simple flat board stringcourse. Spaced near each corner of the first floor facade is a simple, double hung sashed window with crown molded lintel, while a single, double hung sashed window is centered in the second floor facade. The lintel for this window is part of the frieze course below the boxed eaves of the gable end.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

**E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa**

Narrative Description (continued)

The most distinctive treatment on this elevation is the pedimented gable, with its raked cornice molding that gives the appearance of a false overhang. The tympanum of this gable is covered with chisel pattern shingles flared at the base of the wall with a row of sawtooth pattern shingles. The triangular section in the top of the gable has the appearance of being extended slightly forward by repeating this shingle pattern. The attic window, within the gable pediment is recessed in a T-shaped porch opening that has a spindlework banister and pairs of columns in each end of the T.

SOUTH FACADE (Side-yard Elevation and Facing Neighboring House):

Although simply treated, the design of this elevation with its cantilevered gabled bay incorporates many of the basic design features which unify the building, especially the use of wider clapboards and cornerboards on the first floor levels and narrow clapboards flared at the base on the second floor level. East of this bay are two, narrow, double hung sashed windows, one on each level and in line vertically with each other. The first floor also has two other double hung sashed windows on the first floor level, one centered behind the gabled bay and a smaller version tucked under the notched out section of the gabled bay to provide light to the back (or maid's) stairs. On the second floor level, the rear section, west of the gabled bay, originally had no windows (probably a factor of being the maid's quarters), but a horizontal, leaded, and stained glass window has been installed at the upper back corner to provide additional light into the room which now serves as a bathroom. Within the gabled bay and offset toward the front or east is an elaborate leaded and stained glass window with a round arched transom cut into a rectangular opening with a crown molded lintel. Below both sections of the stepped overhang are a series of decorative brackets. The gable end forms a broken pediment that nearly replicates the front gable end in detail except that the area above the attic window is only framed with a crown molded lintel rather than additional shingles.

BACK FACADE (West Elevation Facing the Backyard and Alley):

Again, this long facade repeats the wall treatments used elsewhere on the house, the wide clapboard and corner boards on the first floor with the narrow clapboard flared at the base for the second floor level. On this facade, the coursed ashlar limestone foundation is most visible, partially due to the youth of the landscape materials near the foundation. The first floor walls are visually broken up by only two small windows, a horizontal leaded and stained glass window with crown molded lintel near the north end and a small doublehung sashed window with a crown molded lintel that is north of the rear entry porch. This gabled roofed porch has a simple pediment facing west and square porch corner posts on top of clapboard half-wall banisters, which stylistically appear to have been built in the early twentieth century. The porch has a wooden floor and beaded board ceiling with a simple screened door and half lighted, paneled wooden door that provides access to the kitchen. The wood steps are flanked by turned balustraded railings with square newel posts which were added for security during the recent renovation. Sloping toward the south and just south of the porch is the outside entry to the basement. The upper level is broken into three sections by the projecting, cantilevered, gabled bay in the middle of this wall. The boxed eaves either side of a small cantilevered gabled bay has a frieze that serves as a lintel for the upper level's double hung windows, one centered in the wall either side of the bay. The pediment of the gabled bay repeats the decorative details of the bay on the front facade, including the broken pediment, chisel and sawtooth pattern shingles, the twelve over one sashed attic window, but only has a simple crown molded lintel.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description (continued)

EXTERIOR INTEGRITY/ALTERATIONS:

When the current owners purchased the house, it had fallen into serious disrepair and they recently completed a certified historic rehabilitation utilizing the historic tax credits to recoup some of the expense of restoring the building to its original splendor. Prior to beginning their project, the structure has been seriously neglected with water damage due to holes in the second story porch roof and leaks in the main roof and tower, with severely stressed, collapsing, and shifting structural members on all levels, and with damage to the substructure due to a fire in the basement. Gutters and downspouts which had been added to the building during the early twentieth century spidered the walls, detracting from the original design. The exterior portion of the chimney had been shortened, its cap removed, and its surface stucco coated.

As part of the historic rehabilitation of the exterior, all wooden surfaces and structural members were carefully repaired and missing shingles hand cut to match the originals. The chimney was rebuilt above the roof line, utilizing design elements found on other Late Victorian houses in this area as a guide. The roof has had asphalt shingles for many years (probably wood shingled originally) and was reroofed again with asphalt shingles. After having been painted white for many years, the exterior of the Marsh House now has a multicolored paint scheme more appropriate to the Queen Anne style, even though the shades of green with pale grey and burgundy highlights are not documented as original to the building. Although there was no physical evidence, the prominence of the corner tower, facing a major intersection, had seemed odd without a center window on the second floor and one was added during the renovation. The gutters were removed and new gutters installed, discretely placed to follow building lines and painted to blend with wall surfaces. Numerous storm window designs had been applied to the house over the years, and during the rehabilitation the most severely deteriorated were replaced so that most of the windows now have aluminum combination storm windows or stationary panes (where the window is not sashed), but the visual impact of the aluminum frames was minimized by painting them to match the windows. Unfortunately, the structural stresses in the building destroyed one of the ornate leaded and colored glass transoms (the east window of the parlor), enough so that its original pattern could not be repaired or even replicated, so a salvaged leaded glass transom of the same dimensions was installed in its place. Besides the railings on either side of the back porch stairs, the only other exterior modification was the addition of a horizontal, stationary window (with a salvaged leaded glass window) on the south facade, second floor, at the rear -- an area not visible from either street and only barely visible from the neighboring backyard.

DETACHED GARAGE

Between 1911 and 1922, a single car, detached garage was built on the northwest corner of the property, paralleling the alley and facing Fourth Avenue. It is a simple, gabled structure with clapboard walls and cornerboards on a concrete slab foundation. The roof has composition shingles and the joists are exposed on the roof overhang. The garage door faces north and has a crown molded lintel and a wooden overhead door with four by four panels, the second row from the top being glass instead of wood. On the back (south) facade is a single, double hung, two over two sashed window. A similar window is placed on the east facade, north of the access door which is a wood paneled door. The garage door is probably a replacement; it was probably added in the 1950s, given its style and construction. The only other alterations to the garage are the addition of gutters on each side and the placement of decorative gingerbread across the peak of the roof. The end.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description (continued)

INTERIOR

The interior of this Late Victorian house has an asymmetrical floorplan which closely mirrors the exterior divisions except on the north wall where the rooms are divided, not at the edge of the tower, but, in the middle of the large gabled bay. Both floors utilize a large central hallway with a canted fireplace that spans between the open stairway on the south end of the house and the bathroom and secondary hallways at the rear (west side) of the house. This hallway, large enough to serve as a separate room on both levels, provides direct access to each room in the house. The four main rooms on each level are positioned in the corners of the house. On the first floor, two parlors flank the front entry, with the sitting room in the southeast corner and the main parlor in the northeast corner. The dining room is located behind the main parlor on the northwest corner of the house with the kitchen, separated by a small half-bath and small back hall, on the southwest corner of the first floor. From the kitchen, paralleling the main staircase, is the maid's staircase to the second floor and the stairs to the basement. On the second floor, bedrooms were positioned in each corner, with the maid's bedroom in the southwest corner next to the back hall behind the fireplace (which screens the maid's room and staircase from the family's view). The upper level bathroom is positioned in the center of the back wall (west side), incorporating a small staircase to the attic. As is typical of Late Victorian floor plans, the central hallways provide spatial continuity with access to all or almost all of the rooms and the first floorplan's circulation is enhanced by additional passages between rooms (main parlor to dining room to back hall to kitchen) without having to re-enter the central hallway or foyer.

As is also typical of Late Victorian designs, the interior utilizes extensive decorative detailing to provide the visual variety that is endemic in this style as well as the continuity which unifies the interior through the repetition of decorative treatments. The same raised face, pilaster casing trim pattern surrounds window and door frames throughout the house, only altering the pattern between floors by changing the simple, crown molded lintel and small, bull nose corner blocks on the first floor trim to quarter-round corner blocks on the second floor window and door openings. Both levels have a three member molded baseboard, but the first floor utilizes a plain, but very high, base block (wainscot height) while the second floor base blocks match the raised face, pilaster casings. The interior doors on the first floor (both hinged and pocket doors) consist of six cross panels while the upper floor doors have two long vertical panels over two shorter vertical panels. Simple picture moldings surround each of the main rooms and central halls on each level, approximately 18 inches from the ceilings (which are 10 feet high on the first floor and 9 feet high on the second floor). In most areas of the house, the floors are narrow, oak, tongue and groove boards. The two parlors and the dining room on the first floor have the ceiling and walls connected with a smooth plaster concave curve rather than perpendicular joints. Other common elements used throughout the house include the hot water radiators and the push button switchplates, both of which served practical purposes but were decorative features in Late Victorian interiors.

On the first floor, the front entry vestibule and the central hallway, called the foyer, is the most elaborately detailed room in the house. The front door is positioned at the east end of the central hall with a separate vestibule so that it has doors on both the east and west walls, providing for greater thermal efficiency, a common practice in Grinnell's larger, Late Victorian homes. The outer door (see the exterior front facade description), is more elaborate than the interior door since the light in the interior door is a simple rectangle, but both doors are varnished oak with a series of small raised panels both above and below the glass panel. In addition, both side walls of the vestibule utilize the same oak, square and vertical, raised paneled wainscoting as the foyer. There are only small spans of wainscoted walls in the foyer since most of the wall surfaces are actually doorways to the adjacent rooms which are made of oak, but the doors are laminated on the non-foyer side with the wood to match the trim of that particular room. One of the most striking features of the vestibule and foyer is the striped floor boards, which alternate light and dark, made of maple and walnut boards.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description (continued)

The most ornate decorative feature in the foyer, and in the house, is the canted fireplace in the foyer. It has a rectangular, iron liner with a ventilating grate surrounded by rose hued embossed ceramic tiles and an ornate, oak mantel. Both the iron liner and the face tiles are embossed with leaf patterns and the upper corner tiles depict the heads of a man and woman (left and right, respectively) embossed to resemble Roman sculptures (one of the few evidences on the interior of the free classic variant of the Queen Anne style). The hearth of the fireplace has smaller rose hued ceramic tiles bordered with a row of square tiles embossed vine and leaf pattern and surrounded by the seven rows of the striped maple and walnut floorboards which visually expand the hearth. The mantel consists of a wood surround around the hearth with a coved shelf spanning above and visually supported by decorative turned posts on either side of the hearth. Above this shelf is an overmantel with a large rectangular, beveled glass mirror flanked by additional turned posts that support a smaller shelf and a narrow cornice, which is capped by a small shelf supported by tiny turned posts. On either side of the overmantel are additional shelves midway up and on top of the turned posts and, between these two shelves, the back of the overmantel is slotted and curved, reminiscent of a harp design. The wood on the mantel is grooved, carved, and capped with decorative spindlework.

Another distinctive feature of the foyer and one that adds to the sense of height, the dog-legged, open staircase with a half-landing is made of oak with closed stringers and raised panels below. A small closet with a five cross panel door is positioned under the staircase landing. An oak, turned spindle, grille spans across the ceiling opening to the stairway. The banisters have bead-and-reel turned balusters, straight rails, a main newel post of four clustered columns with a high plinth-like base and a Corinthian capital and ornamental headpiece (another one of the few evidences on the interior of the free classic variant of the Queen Anne style), and secondary paneled newel posts with fancy turned caps at the landing and at the top of the stairs. It has a circle end step at the base of the stairs. The railing continues across the opening at the top of the stairs on the second floor with the same decorative banister and newel post treatment. At the landing is one of the elaborate, colored and leaded glass windows that make the house so distinctive.

The main parlor at the northeast corner of the house and the dining room on the northwest corner are separated by a set of pocket doors but seem to flow easily into each other, partly due to this wide opening and partly due to the shared use of cherry wood trim. The parlor opens into the hallway with a pair of pocket doors and on its east wall is a large stationary window with a leaded glass transom (salvaged replacement of the original colored and leaded glass transom damaged beyond repair or replication by the structural problems addressed during the recent rehabilitation). Since the parlor's layout incorporates the corner tower, it has a window at the outer corner as well as one in the niche on the north wall that is spanned by a turned spindle grille (an original element returned to the house during its recent rehabilitation). The dining room has two additional doors, a hinged door that opens into the foyer and a swinging door that provides access to the small back hall that leads to the bathroom and kitchen. On the north wall of the dining room is a double hung window and on the west wall is a high, horizontal colored and leaded glass window that is original to the house.

To the south of the front entry is the smaller parlor or sitting room which is distinguished for three key features. The wood trim of this room is birdseye maple. It has one of the few remaining original light fixtures in the ceiling as well as the original wall sconces. Its highlight is the large single paned window on the east wall with the round arched paired colored and leaded glass windows in the transom. Besides these distinctive features, the room has an additional double hung window on the south wall.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description (continued)

At the back of the house is the kitchen and what may have originally been a small butler's pantry, but which currently is divided into a small hall and half bath connecting to the kitchen. The kitchen had been renovated, probably in the 1930s or 1940s after the Marsh family had sold the house, but it utilized inferior materials (i.e., metal, painted tiles mimicking glazed tiles) that were in a very poor state of repair, and the kitchen was refurbished with hand made, oak, built-in kitchen cabinets and beaded board wainscoting. The kitchen retains its original openings and trim, with its quarter-round corner blocks (like those used upstairs): a double hung sashed window on the south wall, the rear entry door on the west wall, the hall door on the north wall, and two doorways to the maid's stairs and basement stairway on the east wall. The trim on the door openings between the back hall and the dining room and kitchen also have the same quarter-round corner blocks and throughout this back area of the house the trim is made of fir, stained dark. The small half-bath has sheetrock walls, rather than the plaster used elsewhere in the house, one indication that it was enclosed later, but the sliding door appears original, matching the decorative detail of the house. The beaded board wainscoting was installed in the recent renovation but the corner sink at least dates to a previous renovation. The bathroom has a hexagonal ceramic tile floor and a double hung sashed window.

Upstairs, the decorative treatment is much simpler with fir trim and oak floors throughout. The only distinctive treatment was kept in the large central hallway which serves as a sitting room for the bedrooms. Besides providing direct access to the stairs, each of the four bedrooms, the attic and the bathroom, its asymmetrical layout includes an alcove between the east bedrooms and a slightly less ornate fireplace. This fireplace is also oak with a ceramic tile hearth (a darker purple color but with a similar vine border tile treatment) and it has an iron liner with a ventilating grate surrounded by rose hued embossed ceramic tiles. Turned posts also support the shelf over the hearth of this fireplace and there is an overmantel, but it is much simpler in design with a large rectangular, beveled glass mirror flanked by small shelves supported by brackets and capped by a curvilinear cornice.

Previously, the second floor bathroom had been "modernized" with a built-in recessed tub with glass shower doors, a feature that was not changed during the recent rehabilitation (although new tile and shower doors were installed). Instead of trying to restore the bathroom's appearance to the 1890s, it was decorated with materials, such as the sink cabinet and beaded board wainscoting, that compliment the 1890s house decor. During this recent renovation, what appears to be the original sink and backsplash were found in the basement and retrofitted into a new base cabinet. The floor is covered in sheet vinyl. The bathroom appears to retain its original configuration with an alcove providing direct access to the northwest bedroom (probably the original master bedroom).

Although not structurally modified, the southwest bedroom was originally the maid's room, but it has been converted into a second bathroom with freestanding fixtures, including a footed bathtub. The horizontal, fixed, leaded glass window on the south wall was added during the recent renovation to provide additional light in the room.

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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Description (continued)

INTERIOR INTEGRITY/ALTERATIONS

The house retains most of its original interior features, including: stained glass windows in the dining room, parlor and stairway landing; different woods used to trim the parlor, living room, dining room, and foyer; over-mantles on both fireplaces; pocket doors; decorative hardware; narrow board floors; radiators; ceiling lights in sitting room and three of the bedrooms (not the southeast bedroom), wall sconce lights in the foyer and sitting room, and high ceilings with rounded plaster joints merging the ceilings and walls in the living room, parlor, and dining room.

Because of extensive water and structural damage, as well as years of dirt and prior redecorating, the recent historic rehabilitation of the house incorporated numerous repairs, extensive cleaning, major plaster repairs, and cosmetic application of fresh varnish, paint and wallpaper, but fortunately made few changes to the original decorative detail which was basically intact throughout the house. Ceiling joists on the second floor and the floor joists for the first floor both had to be reinforced, but these structural repairs are not visible from the living areas of the house. Where original features were missing, great care was taken to match the period and style of the house, especially in the light fixtures and switch plates. The only interior alterations were to the kitchen and bathrooms, including the conversion of the maid's quarters into an additional bathroom, as described above, while the main rooms of the house remain unaltered. Because of community enthusiasm for this historic rehabilitation project, one of the original grilles (that had been removed from the house years earlier) was returned to be put back in place in the parlor. Where the window was added to the corner of the second floor (tower corner), it was carefully trimmed with materials salvaged from the inside of the closet. New mechanical systems (air conditioning equipment) was installed in the attic where it was the least intrusive to the original interior decorative treatments and wall surfaces while the boiler system and radiators were refurbished and retained to heat the house.

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Section number 8 Page 9

E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Statement of Significance

Built in 1892-1893 as the residence for one of Grinnell's leading merchants, jeweler, E. A. Marsh, this house is significant (under Criterion C) as one of the best examples of Queen Anne house designs found in Grinnell. Given the rapid growth in Grinnell, Iowa during the late nineteenth century, Late Victorian houses continue to define the architectural character of much of the town, especially the many fine Queen Anne residences, most of which were built as homes for college faculty and community leaders, such as E. A. Marsh.¹ Of these many Queen Anne designs, only nineteen known structures in Grinnell utilized the feature of a corner tower, a distinctive feature commonly associated with Queen Anne designs. Fourteen of the nineteen known Queen Anne houses with towers in Grinnell are concentrated in the nine square blocks west of the Grinnell College campus. Since the Marsh House is one of only five located elsewhere in town, and one of only two in the neighborhood east of the downtown and south of the college, it is especially significant. It is also one of the most elaborate and one of the larger examples of the towered Queen Anne houses in Grinnell and one of only five to retain a high degree of historic integrity.²

The E. A. Marsh House is located on what has always been a highly visible corner at the intersection of two major residential streets: Fourth Avenue, which connects the residential area to the central business district to the west, and East Street, which connects the north side of town (residential areas and the eastern boundary of Grinnell College's campus) with the industrial sector and fairgrounds on the south end of town. It is a key structure in this neighborhood, the one area outside of the college neighborhood with large stately homes built during the late nineteenth century. The Marsh House's neighborhood, south of Sixth Avenue (the southern boundary of Grinnell College and the state highway bisecting the community), extends east to Summer Street and west and south to the railroad tracks, but the largest and nicest designs concentrated in the two city blocks between High and East Streets and between Third and Fifth Avenues, the blocks north and south of the Marsh House. This neighborhood includes numerous Italianate, Queen Anne, and Folk Victorian houses, designs popular in the late nineteenth century. Most homes are larger two story designs, but only one other house has the distinctive Queen Anne tower feature and most are not nearly as ornate as the Marsh House, one of the most elaborately decorated Late Victorian designs in Grinnell.

In 1891, Rebecca Marsh purchased the corner lot at Fourth Avenue and East Street for \$550 from the trustees of Iowa College (now called Grinnell College) who had received the property as a donation from the founder of the community, J. B. Grinnell. Rebecca Penrose Johnson, the daughter of the successful Grinnell merchant, J. G. Johnson, had married E. A. Marsh in 1887 and it appears that she came from a local family of considerable wealth, probably the reason that the purchase was made in her name, rather than by E. A. Marsh. In 1892, the foundation for their new home was laid by Grinnell's premier mason, R. G. Coutts, who laid the masonry on Grinnell's best homes and built several stone buildings downtown (including one bearing his name) as well as the United Methodist Church, all utilizing limestone quarried at LeGrand, Iowa. Although the architect or designer of the house is unknown, Coutts is known to have completed the foundation, the stonework on the front porch, the brick fireplaces and the plastering for the Marsh House. That same year, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh took out a loan for \$1,500 to build their new home, although the house probably cost considerably more before it was completed since it was listed in the annual building review of the *Grinnell Herald* in January 1893 along with the homes that ranged between \$3500 and \$5000, all of which are known to be of about the same size and quality. The price of the Marsh house was left blank, possibly because it was unfinished, but it does not appear in the 1894 building survey. The Marshes only had one child, a daughter, who was already five years old when they moved into their new home along with their maid, another indication of the social standing of the family since the house was designed for a live-in servant with a separate stairway to the maid's quarters. The Marsh family lived in the house until 1926 when they sold the property back to the college.

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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Finished in 1893, the Marsh House is only four blocks east of Grinnell's central business district where E. A. Marsh had his store. He was an early merchant in Grinnell who promoted himself as "Grinnell's diamond man" and Grinnell's "only exclusive jeweler." His store was originally in the north side of Ames Block, which was midblock between Fourth Avenue and Commercial Street on Broad Street. He was in business, at least, by 1888 in this location, but moved to the old Grinnell Block on Fourth Avenue in 1889 (west half of the building; the east half of which was demolished when the Louis Sullivan designed bank was built in 1914) where Marsh continued as a jeweler for over twenty-five years, probably retiring in 1914 at the age of 55.

Of the nineteen towered Queen Anne residences in Grinnell, the E. A. Marsh House is especially important to Grinnell's architectural heritage both because of its distinctive design and because of the loss of historic integrity of most of the other local examples. Fourteen of the extant, towered Queen Anne residences have had major alterations or additions, including: two which have had their conical tower roofs removed; six which had substantial additions (including two attached garages), six which have altered the porch details or replaced the original front porch completely; and at least three which have utilized replacement vinyl or aluminum siding, camouflaging the original decorative detail. Of the remaining five towered Queen Anne residences which retain their historic integrity, four are free classic design subtypes (including the Marsh House) and one is a Spindlework subtype. There also are only five elaborate decorated, large, towered Queen Anne houses in Grinnell, including the Marsh House, and one of these has had a major addition attached to the house. Eight of the nineteen houses appear to be of the style subtyped as free classic, but only half of these (including the Marsh House) still retain most of their original architectural integrity and of these four, the Marsh House is the largest and most elaborate example. It is also one of the rare examples of the towered Queen Anne houses to utilize decorative limestone on the front porch, especially important considering the significance of the mason, Coutts in Grinnell's architectural development and it is an excellent example of the free classic subtype of the Queen Anne style, as well as the only known towered Queen Anne in Grinnell with a small corner porch.

The E. A. Marsh House is also Grinnell's largest and most elaborate example of the hipped roof with cross gables and corner tower shaped Queen Anne houses, a popular design feature locally. Its asymmetrical facades have the characteristic secondary gables as well as a second story porch over the entry's partial porch to heighten the front facade between the gabled bay and the two-story polygonal corner tower. Another typical Queen Anne feature, the decorative gable end treatments of the Marsh House extends beyond the common use of wood shingles by including the T shape opening in the gable end to form the elaborate attic porch on the north facade. The design utilizes a variety of textures and decorative detailing commonly identified with Queen Anne designs, most notably: clapboard walls in two different widths, decorative fish-scale, chisel pattern and sawtooth wood shingles in the gable ends and porches, rock-faced coursed ashlar limestone foundation and porch supports, brackets accentuating real and false overhangs, ornate leaded and colored glass windows, recessed panels in the tower, and decorative stringcourses between levels. On the interior, the use of a variety of woods on the trim of the house (including oak, cherry, birdseye maple, and fir) as well as the use of walnut, maple, and oak floor boards provide visual variety with contrasting materials, features frequently associated with more elaborate Queen Anne houses. Another distinctive interior feature of this style, the use of a central hall, often referred to as a living hall because of its size, was utilized not only on the first floor on the Marsh House, but upstairs as well, incorporating elaborate fireplaces into their designs. In this house, the sense of space and volume commonly associated with the Queen Anne interior designs is achieved by the use of the large central halls which open directly into all the rooms of the house, as well as the use of large pocket doors on the first floor and the continuous circulation pattern with doorways directly connecting the parlor, dining room, and kitchen area.

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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Typical of the free classic variation of the Queen Anne style, the E. A. Marsh House uses a variety of classical details, rather than delicate spindlework detailing and turned posts. On the exterior, this is seen in the small pedimented gable over the entry and the three part entablature supported by clustered classical columns (a stylized Doric design) raised on limestone pedestals (like plinths) that are integrated into the limestone banisters and porch foundation. Other classical details found on the building include: the use of additional small classical columns on the second floor porch, the north attic porch, and the front window (south of the porch on the east facade), the dentil-like treatment of brackets under the gable overhangs, the pediment-like gable returns, the transomed windows, the crown molded lintels, the round arched windows on the stairway landing (south facade) and the paired arched windows in the transom of the front window. On the interior, the round arched leaded and stained glass windows, the clustered column and paneled newel posts, the pocket doors, the grilles and paneled wainscoting are all associated with the classical aesthetic popular at the turn of the century and utilized on the free classic subtype of Queen Anne houses. In addition, the millwork of the Marsh House reflects this classical aesthetic with its crown molded lintels which resembled an entablature in design, the cross paneled doors, the three-part baseboards, and the pilaster casings. Although the fireplace design and balusters on the stairs appear to be of a design more commonly associated with spindlework, the decorative fireplace tiles, including sculpted reliefs of a Roman-like man and woman, are distinctly influenced by the classical aesthetic.

The only major alterations to the house on the exterior have been very limited in comparison with other Queen Anne houses in Grinnell and recent modifications have carefully complied with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings* as part of a recent historic tax credit project. At some point in the past, the roof had been converted to asphalt shingles and concrete steps installed at the front entry, although these are camouflaged by the flanking shrubs. Also, the back porch support structure appears to be more Craftsman in design, a possible modification in the early twentieth century and now part of the building's history. Also, a one car, detached, clapboard garage was added at the alley of the property between 1911 and 1922, while the Marsh family still resided in the house, and it is non-contributing to the architectural significance of this property. During the recent rehabilitation project, the owners added a center window on the second story of the tower, replaced the shattered colored and leaded glass transom in the parlor, reconstructed of the chimney cap (which had previously been removed), and installed an additional leaded glass window on the second floor at the rear of the south facade (an alteration not visible from public thoroughfares). On the interior, the major rooms were carefully refurbished to their original grandeur, but the kitchen and bathrooms which had already been modified from their original designs, were redesigned to meet modern needs while blending decorative details with the other areas of the house. In comparison with other Queen Anne houses in Grinnell, these modifications are minor and a sympathetic to the original design.

The E. A. Marsh House, built in 1892-1893, is a product of the Late Victorian era and the popularity of the Queen Anne style in Grinnell. It is one of the largest and most elaborate examples of the towered Queen Anne houses in Grinnell and one of the few remaining examples to retain its original architectural integrity. Its use of the classical aesthetic defines its interior decorative detail and the classical elements on the exterior associate this design with the free classic subtype of Queen Anne designs, a popular choice both in Grinnell and elsewhere. The home meets the National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as one of the best residential examples of the towered Queen Anne style in Grinnell.

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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

ENDNOTES

¹In 1988, Molly Myers Naumann completed a reconnaissance survey of Grinnell, identifying sites potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as part of a Certified Local Government grant. Her report, listed in the bibliography, *An Architectural and Historical Sites Survey of Grinnell, Iowa*, encouraged the community to complete an intensive survey of residential areas in preparation for nominations of both districts and individual properties to the National Register of Historic Places precisely because of the high number of late nineteenth century houses she identified. She especially noted the number of Queen Anne style houses and their concentration west of the college. Both her study and the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Listing prepared by William C. Page in 1990, "Architectural and Historical Resources of Grinnell, Iowa," provide a good historical overview of the community. Page's document, however, concentrated on commercial development and the historic contexts may vary for the residential development of Grinnell. To date, no surveys have followed up on her recommendations and her study is the only available documentation of the residential architectural styles and legacy in Grinnell.

²Given the lack of documentation of residential styles in Grinnell, in July 1998, Linda Paulson (one of the Marsh House property owners) conducted a photographic survey of Queen Anne residences in Grinnell. Later that month, architectural historian, Karen Bode Baxter (author of this nomination) and her survey assistant, Maxine McConnell, completed a windshield survey of Grinnell to specifically examine all of the towered Queen Anne residences as well as the more ornate Queen Anne residences without towers. This discussion is based upon the findings of these surveys.

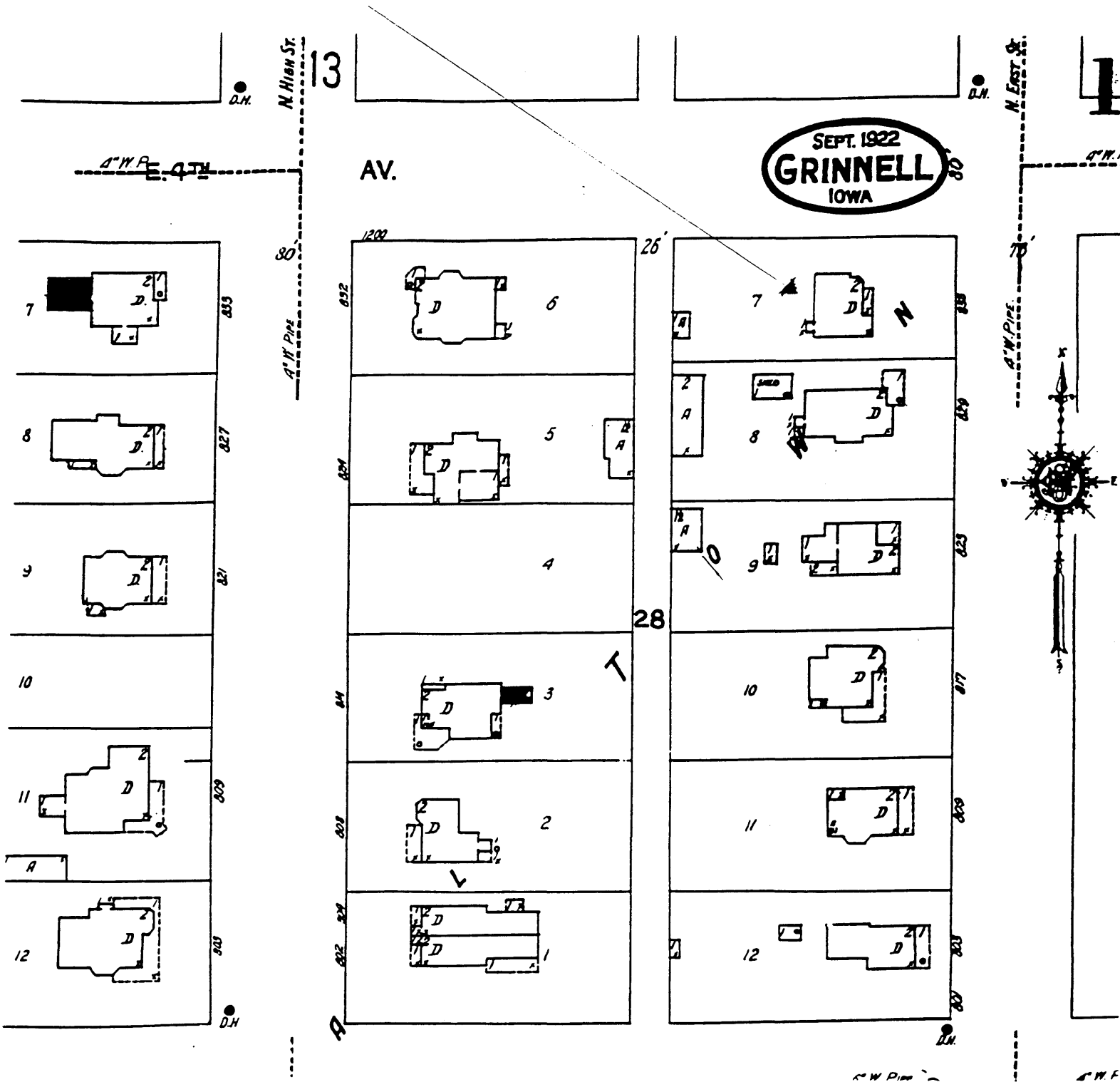
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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Sanborn Map Company, "Grinnell, Iowa,"
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1922, p. 19.



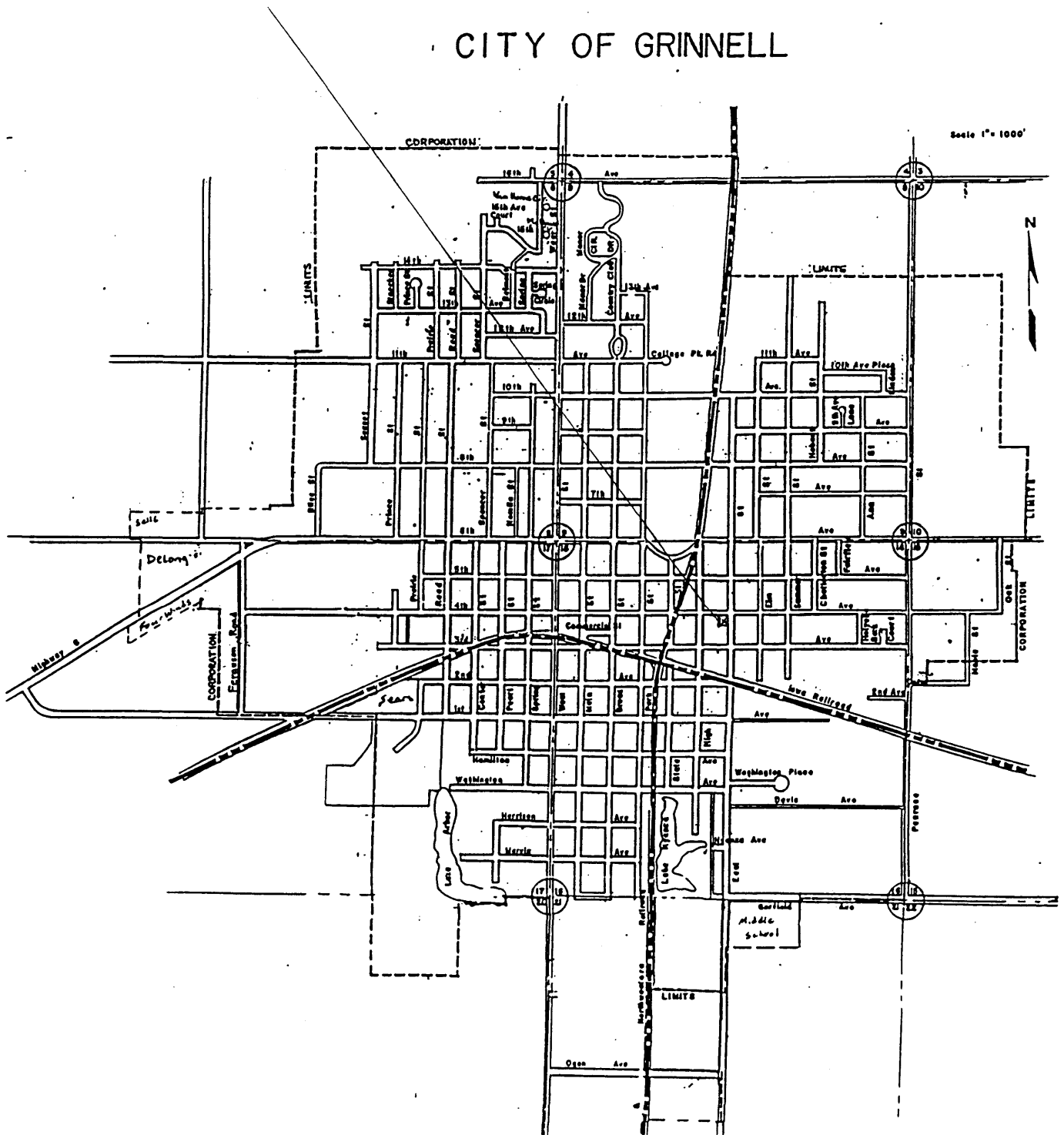
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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

Map of City of Grinnell, Iowa
Locating Property



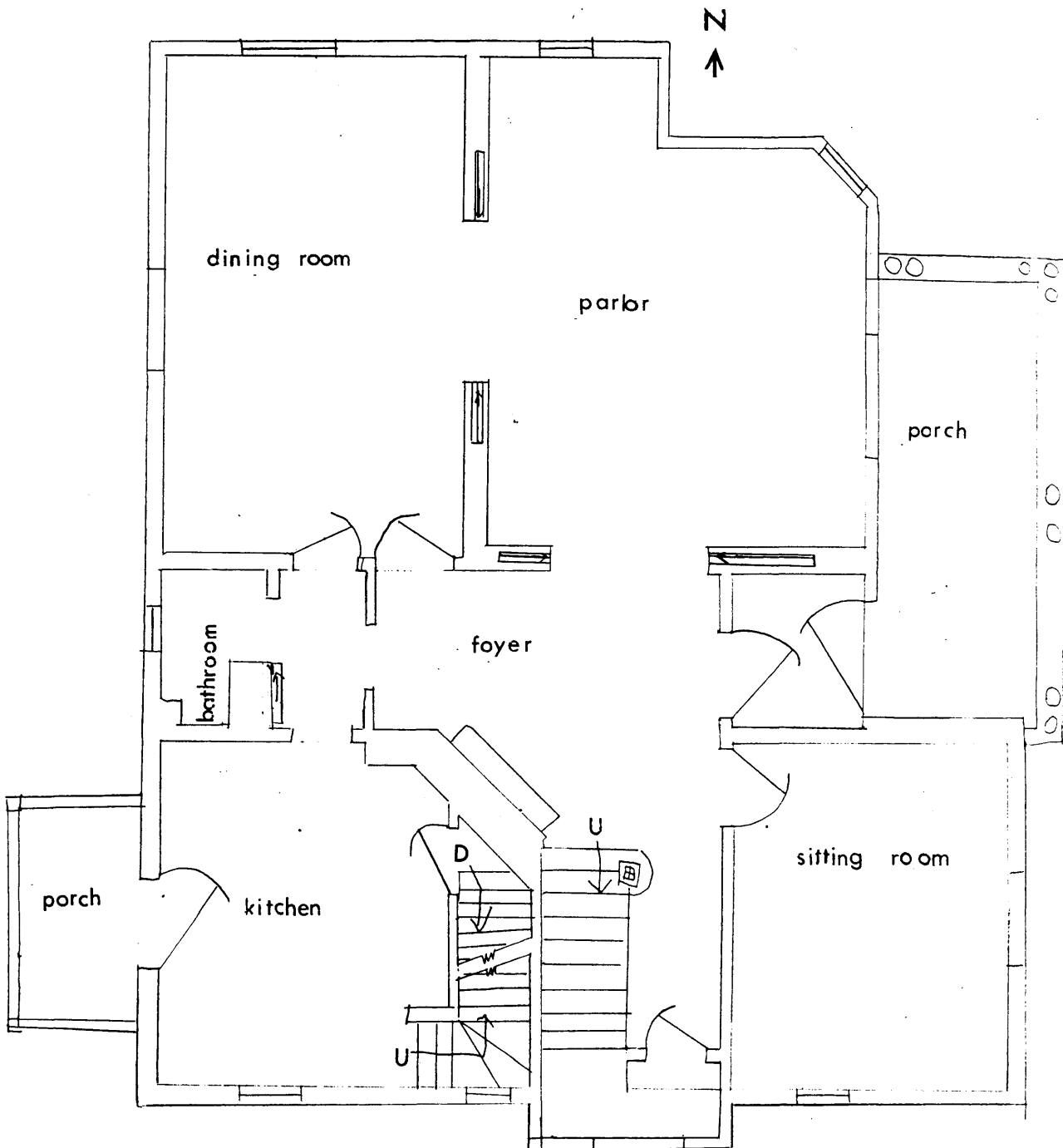
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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

1995 Floor Plans
First Floor



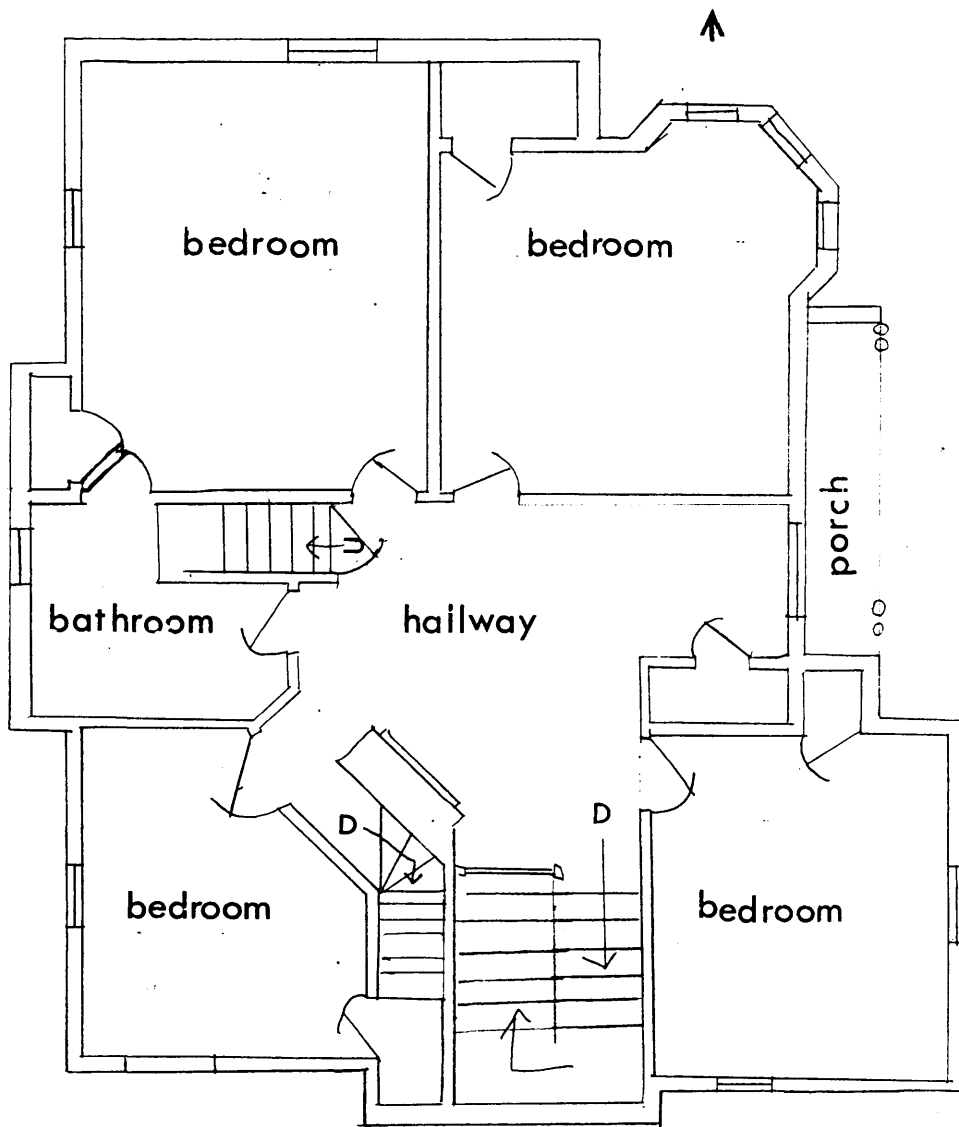
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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

1995 Floor Plans
Second Floor



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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

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E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa

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Verbal Boundary Description

North 65 feet of Lot 7 in Block 28 in the Town of Grinnell, Poweshiek County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

These are the historic boundaries of the property which still retains its historic integrity as a distinct residential property.

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**E. A. and Rebecca (Johnson) Marsh House
Poweshiek County, Iowa**

Photo Log

Photographer: Steve O'Connor
October 1997

Negative with property owners Steve O'Connor, O'Connor Photography, 811 Fifth Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, 50112

Photo #1: Exterior--Front (East) and North Facades facing Southwest from the corner of East Street and Fourth Avenue

Photo #2: Exterior--Front (East) and South Facades facing West Northwest

Photo #3: Exterior--Rear (West) Facade facing East

Photo #5: Interior--Front Entry as viewed from Foyer, facing East Northeast

Photo #6: Interior--First Floor Foyer facing South Southwest

Photo #7: Interior--First Floor Sitting Room facing Southeast

Photo #8: Interior--First Floor Parlor facing North

Photo #9: Interior--First Floor Dining Room facing Southeast

Photo #10: Interior--First Floor Dining Room facing Northwest

Photo #11: Interior--Second Floor Looking at Landing Window and Staircase from Central Hall facing South Southwest

Photo #12: Interior--Second Floor Central Hall facing West Southwest

Photo #13: Interior--Second Floor Northwest Bedroom facing Northwest

Photographer: Linda Paulson
July 1998

Negative with property owners Linda and James R. Paulson, 1332 Broad Street, Grinnell, Iowa, 50112

Photo #4: Exterior--Detached Garage facing South