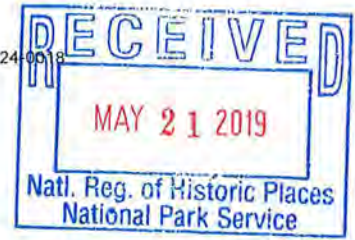


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District

other names/site number Ryan, Thomas J., Farmstead; Escher, Charles Jr. and Earl Ryan Farm

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

2. Location

street & number 1933-1935 Road M36 not for publication

city or town Irwin vicinity

state Iowa county Shelby zip code 51146

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 at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Steve King 17 MAY 2019
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Allyson 1/3/2019
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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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	
8	4	buildings
1	0	site
1	7	structure
0	0	object
10	11	Total

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
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE/storage
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE/storage
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Other: American Foursquare
- Other: transverse-frame barn
- Other: monitor-roof feeder barn
- Other: three-portal barn
-
-

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: WOOD/weatherboard
- METAL/steel
- roof: METAL/steel
- other: OTHER/clay tile blocks
- ASPHALT/shingles

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District is located at 1933-1935 Road M36 in the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 34 of Greeley Township, in the northeastern part of Shelby County, Iowa. It sets on the east side of the road, with the primary buildings all facing west. The primary contributing buildings include two houses and three barns, with the contributing secondary buildings and structures including: three garages and one windmill structure. These buildings and structures reflect the uses and changing technologies of this farm over the years. The smaller house, situated at the north end of the farmstead is an 1884 gable-front-and-wing, single-story, frame dwelling. The main farm house, built in 1913, is a variant of the American Foursquare vernacular house type. The three large barns are aligned north to south along the east edge of the farmstead. These barns include (from north to south): a circa 1910 monitor-roof hay and feeder barn; a circa 1880s-1890s three-portal barn that also functioned as the cattle show barn in the early 20th century; and a circa 1900s-1910s transverse-frame barn with wing additions to form an uncommon T-shape. Though each of these barns have been clad, at least in part, in modern metal siding, their original wooden siding appears to be largely in place and their internal historic integrity is high. The other buildings and structures reflect both domestic use of this farmstead (i.e., the three automobile garages) and agricultural-related uses through the years (i.e., the windmill). The non-contributing buildings and structures include: two machine sheds, a tool shed, and seven metal grain bins. The contributing site encompasses the majority of the historic farmstead that retains good integrity. It is known that there was once a third house that housed hired hands, a water tower, two tile block silos, a large corn crib, and a subterranean root/storm cellar (located on the north side of the 1913 house). All of these former buildings and structures are non-extant; however, archaeological evidence of their foundations and features may still exist as part of the historic landscape of this farmstead. The barns also had feed lots surrounding their rear and side areas, some of which are still evidenced by concrete pads and foundations. These features are considered part of the contributing site of this farmstead district. Despite some building loss and modifications, the farmstead still retains good integrity and possesses very high historical significance.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**, and any future plans for the property under the subheading **Future Plans**.)

The Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District is located on a high upland divide between two intermittent streams that drain to the south-southeast into the West Nishnabotna River approximately two miles from the farmstead. This farmstead has mature shade and evergreen trees surrounding the two dwellings but is otherwise open to the east and south where the view is one of rolling fields, now largely in row-crop cultivation. Historically, this view would have been dominated by prairie grasslands and livestock pastures. The three historic barns form the east boundary of the farmstead, with the two dwellings fronting the road to the west. The farmstead is accessed from that road via a gravel driveway that enters south of the main dwelling and then circles around to the east and then turning north between this house and the two northernmost barns before turning west back to the main road. The smaller dwelling is north of this driveway and the main house.

This property was first and foremost a homestead, on which the Ryan family made their home and operated their farming business. The property was originally purchased by Thomas J. Ryan on May 20, 1879, after he brought a herd of cattle to the area for summer grazing on what was then open prairie. In 1882, he brought his family from Grinnell, in Poweshiek County, Iowa, and continued operations here full time. The buildings

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constructed from that point on have come and gone, but several very significant buildings stand today, including the two farm houses and the three barns.

Houses

1884 Single-Story House and circa 1920 Garage (2 contributing buildings)

The oldest among these is the single-story farm house that was built in 1884, after Thomas Ryan purchased the 80 acres on which the entire farm sits and moved his family to the farm full time. It was not the first house on this property; that one was replaced by this larger home in 1884 and converted into a granary (Dunbar & Co. 1889:564-566). The extant 1884 house was, in turn, replaced as the main farm house in 1913 (see below). After that time, this older house likely functioned as one of the hired hands' houses known to have been on this farmstead.

The extant, one-story, frame house was built in a gable-front-and-wing vernacular form (Figures 1 and 2). It is clad in wide vinyl siding that may be covering the original wooden weatherboard siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The original foundation is not visible from the exterior but can be identified as masonry, most likely stone. The foundations of the various additions to this building sit on concrete foundations and would have been added in the 20th century. By the late 1930s, the ground plan of the house included the north-south, side-gabled section and the east-west, front-gabled ell to the rear. This was likely the late 19th-century form of the house. The rear north-south, front-gabled ell was added by the early 1980s, with the front-gabled, porch/vestibule added by the 1990s. The windows are primarily modern replacement windows that include: two-part sliding windows, a row of four 1/1 windows on the gable ends, and an elongated octagonal window in the front entry vestibule. There are some single 1/1 sash windows that are older but may not be original. The front-gabled vestibule is a later addition that now has a modern, wooden deck with railing, the octagonal window, and a modern entry door. The rear, south-side, shed-roofed porch is a modern enclosure that has sliding windows and a modern door. Assessor photographs of this house show that the row of four 1/1 windows on the south gable end is a modern replacement of a three-part Chicago-type window (i.e., centered square fixed picture window flanked by narrow 1/1 windows but built as a single window unit). The Chicago-type window would have been added in the mid-20th century. The rear of this house was originally a small, side-gabled summer kitchen that extended off the east, rear side of the main body of the house. It has a porch (now enclosed) on the south side. A chimney is centered on the roof ridge of the summer kitchen portion of the original house. A larger addition now adjoins the house on its northeast corner.

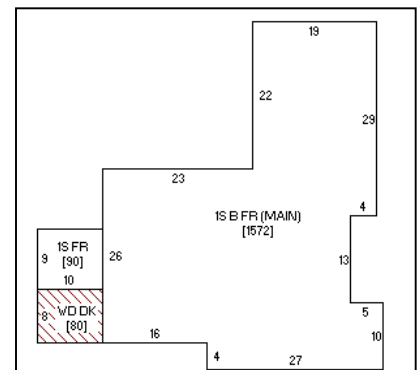


Figure 1. 1884 house footprint. Source: Shelby County Assessor website (accessed April 2018).



Figure 2. Gable-front-and-wing house built in 1884 to left and single-stall garage built circa 1920 to right looking NE. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

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A concrete sidewalk extends from the wooden deck south towards a circa 1920 single-stall, front-gabled automobile garage. A second concrete sidewalk extends from the rear enclosed porch south towards the farm buildings. Both sidewalks intersect with another east-west sidewalk that curves south at its west end to the front of the garage and driveway (see Figure 2). The frame garage is built on a poured concrete foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the walls are clad with the original, wooden board-and-batten siding. The garage door is now a modern overhead door. There are three small, fixed-pane windows just under the eaves on the north and south sides of the building.

This modest farm house has been modified on the exterior but is still recognizable as the older gable-front-and-wing house on this farmstead and is one of the oldest extant buildings on the farmstead. The garage retains good integrity having been modified only by a modern overhead door installation.

1913 American Foursquare (Variant) House (contributing building)

The second farm house still standing on the farmstead was built in 1913 by Earl Ryan (Thomas J. Ryan's son) and his wife, Bertha (Sessions) Ryan. Recollections of the farm indicate that the financing and building of the house was not solid, and may have been held up for a time, as cash flow ebbed and flowed with the volatile farm economy and precarious business of selling on margin (Barratt 1996:15), as will be discussed below. While not finished entirely as originally planned, the executed design was stylish and well-appointed inside and out. It stood out in this rural neighborhood and reflected the wealth of the owners (Figure 3).



Figure 3. 1913 farm house looking NNE. Notice the west-facing front porch with brick detailing, west- and south-facing dormers, the two-story rounded bay window on the south side and the two single-story rounded bay windows above the front porch; and the denticulated board separating the first and second stories on the exterior of the house. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.*

The American Foursquare was a popular house type in the Midwest in the 1910s-1920s. It is so-called because the classic form of this type is four rooms square (2 by 2) and two-stories in height. This example is a variant of the classic form having a rectangular ground plan and a two-story rear extension that housed a sleeping porch on the second level and a rear entry porch on the first level. The house also features two

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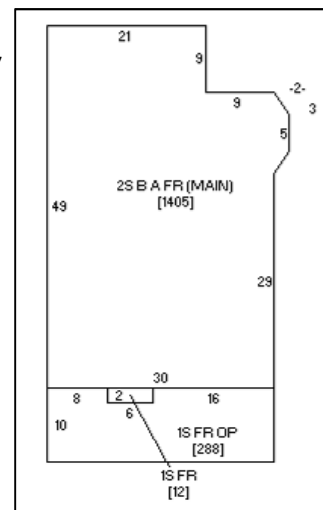
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three-sided, two-story bay windows on the southeast corner, two three-sided bay windows on the second story of the façade (west side) above the front porch, and a rectangular, cantilevered bay window at mid-story level of the north side of the house, marking the location of a staircase landing with a bay window seat. Other distinctive exterior design features include: the use of two board-widths of clapboard siding, with narrow siding on the second floor and normal-width clapboard on the first floor with a wide denticulated board separating the first and second story that wraps around the sides and rear of the house; the flaring out of the siding around the house just above the denticulated board; the frieze board under the wide eave overhang; the flared hipped roofline; the corbels under the north-side bay window eaves; and the Classical Revival/Craftsman stylistic details of the open front porch. Overall, this house is a representative example of a home built on a successful farming operation in this region.

The two-story house faces west with a front porch. The house has a rectangular footprint, 30 feet wide and 49 feet deep (Figure 4). The full-width front porch extends ten feet out from the facade. The first floor features the main living quarters while the second story houses the bedrooms, a bathroom, and a now-enclosed sleeping porch. A large third-story attic provides storage space, and the utilities are in the basement.

Figure 4. 1913 Foursquare House footprint. Source: Shelby County Assessor website (accessed April 2018).



There are several features surrounding the home of note. The first is a sidewalk along the east face of the house that turns due east, slopes downward toward the farm buildings and driveway, then extends through a mature set of large, planted evergreen trees and down a step. This sidewalk leads to what was originally used as the main entrance to the home, from what could be called the “farmyard” side rather than the formal entry facing the road. The formal entry likely saw little practical use. To the north of the house, in a grassy yard surrounded by mature trees, is a depression. The owners spoke of a large, subterranean detached cellar in that location. What was often called a “cave,” this root/storm cellar was dome-shaped, had a chimney or vent that extended from its roof, and was covered in sod. It was described as a “dirt cellar” that had no masonry walls (Shelly Christensen and Milton Barry Interview, 2018). This structure was pushed in with heavy machinery and the surface leveled out in recent years.

West Side/Facade: A concrete walkway runs from the road to the front steps of the porch. Five concrete steps ascend onto a concrete porch with a brick-veneered foundation (Figure 5). The brick is dark red in color and forms the square piers of each of the three posts across the porch. These piers support the square wooden columns that, in turn, support the low-pitched, hipped roof which overhangs beyond the edge of the porch. Wrought-iron railings were added between the supports and the house as well as along either side of the front porch steps. These railings were likely added in the mid-to-late 20th century. The wooden posts have flat capitals and bases, with dentils and small corbels just under the capitals on each post. The faces of each post have inset panels.



Figure 5. Front porch of 1913 house looking NNE.

Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

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The first-floor of the façade features two large windows flanking the front door, which is in an entry vestibule that bumps-out from the house onto the porch. The window to the right (west) side of the door is a modern replacement window consisting of four rectangular panes, some of which may slide or open out. The window to the left (east) of the front door is a two-pane window of similar style and vintage as the west windows. The second story of the façade features two single-story, three-sided bay windows that provide extensive light for the two bedrooms on that end of the home. The bay windows are spaced symmetrically on the façade and meet the roofline of the porch (see Figure 5). The windows in each bay consist of a wider 1/1 window at center, with narrower 1/1 windows to either side. Finally, a front-gabled dormer is centered on the front roof slope and has been clad with vinyl siding of a “clapboard” width similar to the first story clapboard width. The dormer also has a row of three square, fixed-pane windows that are modern inserts.

South Side: The south side of the home features the same style as the front of the house (see Figure 3). The primary feature of the south side is the two-story bay window at the east side of the wall. This bay window is similar in style to the front bay windows, with the second story having the same windows as on the front bays. However, the first-floor portion of the two-story bay window has a centered window that has been replaced with a rectangular glass pane, but the flanking windows appear to be the original 1/1 sash windows. The other windows across the first story of the south side include a single 1/1 sash window at left, with a modern, four-pane replacement window, like the same window on the façade under the porch. The second floor has an original 1/1 sash window to left and a paired 1/1 sash window in the center. There is a gabled dormer on the south-side roof slope of the same type as the front dormer and also is clad with vinyl siding and a two-pane, replacement window insert. The southeast corner of the house is set back nine feet from the rest of the house and extends nine feet eastward. Six carpet-covered concrete steps rise to a small landing enclosed in a wrought-iron railing. There is a modern door off this landing that provides access to the home’s kitchen. Historically, this would have been the access point for employees and family members onto the back porch. Reportedly this porch had a tin floor, likely to make cleaning up after muddy boots easier and to save wear and tear on wooden floors. Above the porch, was a second-story porch that had screened windows and was used as a sleeping porch. The modern door on the south side of the rear ell has a side window and the second story on the south side features one single-pane, rectangular window. Originally, the first-floor rear porch was entered from the east (rear) side; therefore, the south-side entry, porch stoop, and sidewalk to the garage are additions.

East Side: The rear (east side) of the house is dominated by the 21 feet wide by 9 feet deep ell that extends eastward from the building’s largely rectangular footprint (Figure 6). One long rectangular window is to the left towards the top of the first floor on the main body of the house, with a single 1/1 sash window above it on the second story of the house. The rear ell has a single set of paired, rectangular-pane, open-out or sliding windows on the left (west) side of the first floor and two sets of the same type of windows symmetrically placed across the second story. These windows are modern inserts. The original rear entry on the east side is now enclosed with clapboard siding but a vertical board frames the former opening. A concrete sidewalk extends east, down a single concrete step from the former back door, and through a planting of what have become large, mature pine trees. Evergreen shrubs have grown up at the former back door entry masking this former entry.

North Side: Two sets of semi-clear glass blocks break up the brick foundation on the north side of the farm house providing light into the basement of the home (Figure 7). A door provides direct access into the basement of the home and is slightly off-center on the north side of the house. The cantilevered, rectangular bay window is directly above the basement door and provides light into the interior staircase landing at the first/second floor juncture. It features a window seat on the interior and has a single pane of glass that is a replacement window. The bay window has an asphalt-shingled hip roof overhang that has corbels under the eaves. The bay window is clad in narrow siding at the second level and the normal-width clapboard on the first level. The main body of the house has a modern two-pane window (like those on the rear ell) to the left

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side and a modern four-part window (two tall rectangular panes over two short rectangular panes) in the center on the first story. To the right of the basement door is an original, rectangular 1/1 sash window. The second story of this side retains original single 1/1 sash windows, one just left of center and the other directly above the single 1/1 window on the right side of the wall. A small, rectangular, single-pane window just under the frieze board to the left of the bay window provides light into a bathroom on the second floor. A shed-roofed dormer clad with vinyl siding and a modern, two-part, square-pane window is on the north roof slope. A tall, brick chimney rises from the roof peak on the north side of the roof.



Figure 6. Rear (east side) of 1913 house looking WNW with garage and windmill to the left.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.



Figure 7. Rear (east) and north sides of 1913 house looking SSW. Note the windmill structure to the left side of photo.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

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Interior: The home maintains good historic integrity throughout the interior of the home. Essentially, the lower level aligns with more typical foursquare farmhouses featuring four rooms: living room, parlor, dining room, and kitchen. Walking in the front door, one enters the living room where the design plans originally called for a fireplace. In the northeastern corner, an open staircase rises toward a landing with a window seat that looks out to the north. From the landing, the staircase descends eastward toward the kitchen or ascends southward to the second floor. A decorative colonnade separates the entry living space from another living or parlor area (Figure 8). The woodwork and doors in the front rooms of the house are the original oak and retain the original unpainted finish. Beyond this area is the dining room with what is now a small den in the southeast corner of the home. A bathroom next to this den was installed in the late 20th century by the current owner. The kitchen, with an informal eating space is in the far northeast corner of the home and has a fireplace, which is a late 20th-century addition. While the kitchen has been updated by the homeowners, it was always located in this area of the home. The basement access from the first floor is just behind the fireplace, underneath the main staircase.



Figure 8. Left: staircase to second floor from the living room; Right: front door and colonnade. Note the original oak woodwork and trim.
Photographs taken by Nathan Buman, West Des Moines, Iowa, 2017.

The second story contains five bedrooms, all accessed by a central, L-shaped hallway (Figure 9). Each bedroom has a closet. The enclosed sleeping porch now serves as an upstairs den area at the end of the hallway on the east end of the home. The interior of the sleeping porch has been covered with wood paneling added when the sleeping porch was enclosed. A bathroom can be found at the top of the staircase immediately to the left while attic access is gained through a doorway immediately to the right at the top of the stairs. The second-floor features three bedrooms with large bay windows, and most of the rooms maintain their original trim, doors, and fixtures. Many of the rooms on the first and second floors have wall-to-wall carpet over what is assumed to be the original hardwood floors.

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Figure 9. Interior views of the second-floor hallway and the northwest bedroom showing original woodwork, trim, and doors.

Photographs taken by Nathan Buman, West Des Moines, Iowa, 2017.

The large basement is typical of most farmhouses of this period. Descending the open wooden steps from just behind the kitchen, one comes to a landing that leads three directions: outside toward the north (straight ahead) or down into the basement (left and right). The basement contains five painted but unfinished rooms. The furnace and two tanks occupy a central room, while the laundry room is located in the northeast corner of the house. The former furnace room in the southeast corner and two mixed-use, storage rooms make up the west end of the basement. The basement flooring consists of carpet on concrete while the walls are entirely painted brick.

The owners have made a concerted effort to maintain the original woodwork and trim throughout the house as well as the original siding outside. The only modifications that they have made to the house include: the enclosure of the sleeping porch and rear entry porch on the east side; the application of vinyl siding to the dormers; the replacement of thirteen exterior windows; the repositioning of the rear entry door and the addition of a rear porch stoop and steps; the application of aluminum soffits, gutters, and downspouts; and the addition of wrought iron railings on both the front and rear porches. The modifications to the interior space have consisted primarily of the modernization of the kitchen, the installation of a fireplace, the installation of a first-floor bathroom, the addition of wooden paneling to the interior of the sleeping porch, and the addition of wall-to-wall carpeting throughout. The current owner's father re-plastered much of the interior because it had remained empty for several years and fallen into disrepair when the original owner lost his cattle fortune (Milton Barry Interview). The footprint of the home has remained the same since its initial construction and the current owner remembers many of the original features of the home and some of the plans that its initial builder had for the farmhouse. The family had initially planned to install a fireplace in the northwest corner of the home. They ordered it but never picked it up from the lumberyard in nearby Irwin. The fireplace sat in its original crate for over 20 years. Additionally, the families planned to include an underground complex that would feature a billiard room and bedrooms for many of the farm's employees. The current owner remembers an old water tower intended to supply water to the bathroom upstairs, but it was removed many years ago due to its condition and the dangers that it posed. The electricity to the house ran on battery power and a small engine in the basement from which exhaust was piped outside.

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Barns

The three barns are well-preserved examples of large barns in the region. At the time that this area was initially settled, it was a wide, open grassland with natural prairie plants and very few trees except along streams and rivers. Animals could be freely ranged, as there were few settlements and almost no fences.

The barns trace the history of the farm from its establishment in the 1880s through its evolution into a large-scale, commercial business that was renowned for the raising and marketing of purebred Angus cattle in the early 20th century. This is not in-and-of-itself rare in this county or surrounding counties; however, the integrity of the barns and the unique physical features of the center and south barns, in particular, help tell the story of local settlement and local agricultural trends in a way that few others can. The association with the nationally-known Angus bull sire, Earl Marshall, who spent the majority of his reproductive life on this farmstead (1916-1924) and whose progeny are still carrying on his lineage, certainly adds to the significance of this farmstead.

The South Barn is unique in that it is a T-shaped barn. However, this barn appears to have begun as a front-gabled, transverse-frame barn to which two side-gabled, one-story additions or wings were made off the east gable end of the original barn. This is confirmed by the presence of exterior siding on the east end of the front-gabled barn, which is exposed on the interior of the open loft of the wings. If the barn had been built originally as a T-shape, then there would not have been exterior barn siding on the east end of the front-gabled section. The original section of the barn is oriented west to east and is two stories tall, with the upper floor being an open loft. The lower ground level housed the farm operation's draft horses, with the stalls and a wood-sided grain bin still intact on the interior. Also intact are the wooden chutes down which hay was conveyed from the loft to the stalls below. With the addition of the side wings, the barn took on a unique T-shape similar to that of what was essentially a cross-shaped barn on Charles Escher, Jr.'s Long Branch Farm in Shelby County. That unique barn was lost to fire in 2010, making the survival of the Pleasant View Stock Farm T-shaped barn all the more significant. The wings were added to the Pleasant View barn to accommodate the developing cattle breeding operation based on the famous Angus sire, Earl Marshall, which the Escher & Ryan firm acquired in 1916.

The Middle Barn is the oldest extant barn on the property and demonstrates the important history of the property, because it was used to hold cattle shows on site, which were festive occasions and somewhat unique to the Pleasant View experience. The North Barn, the newest of the three, is a monitor-roofed barn that is representative of that style and function in this region. Its primary role was for hay storage and feeding cattle. All three are standing and largely in good condition. Some have been clad in replacement materials, and there are some instances where age-related deterioration is taking place, but these barns are significant to the local history of agriculture and this farmstead. Each of the barns are to be discussed here in the order in which they were believed to have been built.

Late 19th-Century Middle Barn (Show Barn) (contributing building)

This is the middle of the three barns and is believed to have been built in the late 19th century, probably in the 1880s-1890s. It is an extended-gable, three-portal barn with rear shed and a gabled hay-mow dormer on the west roof slope (Figures 10-11). The barn is clad in the original, wooden board-and-batten siding but has been covered over or replaced with metal siding in a few places. It has a corrugated metal roof. The original foundation was made of stone, which has been repaired with concrete in several places. The floors are both dirt and poured concrete. In addition to being a feeder barn, this building served as a show area for prospective buyers coming from across the United States at the peak of the Pleasant View cattle operation. This barn is a traditional shape that adheres to standard of this style but features an unusual dormer facing west where hay could be put into the loft. Three alleyways create a U shape around the central space with three pens alongside this area. The three alleys and central space are entirely open; the hay mow is open as

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well. To the north end of the barn adjoins a hipped, single-story shed, clad in the same roofing and siding as the main barn.



Figure 10. The south face of the late 19th-century Middle Barn looking NNW. It is called the show barn because it was used to provide cattle shows for prospective buyers who would visit from around the state and country. Show days at the Pleasant View Farm were festive events. The original stone foundation is visible through the concrete on this side of the barn (white arrow).

Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

At one time there were bleachers in this building from which the stock shows could be watched. Prospective buyers were invited from around the country to come and see the shows. Brochures were produced, and advertisements were purchased in a variety of periodicals. When the shows were held, the visitors were given lodging in nearby towns such as Harlan, and large meals and musical entertainment were provided. The main attraction, of course, was the livestock shows, many of which took place in this very barn, while some others—if larger—were held at the county fairgrounds in Harlan. The visitors would see the livestock and make purchases based upon the animals that they saw here.

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Figure 10. The Middle Barn looking SE showing hay mow dormer.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

South Facade: This barn is banked into a slight slope but does not have a true basement level; rather, the east side of the barn has an interior ramp that is lower than the west side of the barn. Both have entry doors at ground level, but the east entry is about two feet lower than the west. The west entrance has a small, steeply-pitched overhang with wood shingles and is smaller in width than the east entrance. Neither entrance currently has a door, but both probably had sliding doors originally. Between these two primary entrances are three unevenly-spaced doors, that serve as entrances to the central alleys of the barn's interior. Above them is the centered hay mow door, which is a large slide-down door. This door is flanked by two rectangular, open portals that likely had windows originally. The board-and-batten siding is painted white, though it is weathered, and white metal siding has been used to patch it in a few places. A triangular hay track hood overhangs the hay mow door.

West Face: The west face of this barn is dominated by the large, front-gabled dormer off-center on the roof slope. This dormer has a metal roof and is also clad in wooden board-and-batten siding, painted white. Centered on the dormer is a loft door that consists of two board-and-batten sided wooden doors (Z-braced on the interior) that open into the loft. The dormer also has a triangular hood that extends out over the doors. Three lightning rods are evenly spaced along the roof ridge. The main floor of the west face has four fixed, four-pane, rectangular windows along the length of the barn. Two of the windows flank a wide opening that is covered by a wooden sliding door. This door enters into the aisle formed by the rear shed (see Figure 10).

North Face: There is a single, fixed, 4-pane window situated near the center of this side. There were once three door openings on this side, one a regular entry door on the west side of this wall, one a small animal-sized opening immediately to the left of the regular entry door, and the third a larger opening that had a sliding door that now appears to be fixed in place. The hipped roof over the shed is covered in corrugated metal roofing and extends upward towards the gabled end of the main barn. The board-and-batten siding is painted white and has been patched in places with metal siding. Above the shed roof, the gable end of the main barn is clad with white metal siding (see Figure 10).

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East Face: This roof on the east side is uninterrupted, having no dormer or other details. The wall on this side is a patchwork of the same board-and-batten siding, other added wooden siding, and a grey, corrugated metal siding that does not appear to match any other siding materials on this barn. This wall is in poor condition and is bowing outward, in part because the concrete portion of the foundation is broken into pieces. There is one fixed, four-pane window near the center of the barn and an open portal to the right of it that originally would have had a sliding door. The open doors of this barn are contributing to its deterioration, with the wind, which is unobstructed on this side of the farmstead, blowing freely through and likely lifting the barn in places.

Interior: The ground floor of this barn is covered in poured concrete on three sides of the barn, creating a U-shaped, concrete floor along the west, north, and south exterior alleys. The south ends of the two east and west alleys are accessed by entrances without doors. The east alley slopes downward to about two feet below the west alley. The central area is a patchwork of frame supports and wooden partitions that provided subdivided holding pens for cattle during the shows. For that reason, the central area has a dirt floor. Loose hay is still present in some places. The interior framing is heavy timber frame using sawn posts, beams, and cross bracing (Figure 11). The joinery is pegged mortise and tenon. The lower level has some vertical posts that are debarked poles (Figures 11-14). Some of the cross bracing added to the ground level is nailed to the posts. These braces were likely added because the hay in the loft grew heavy and additional floor support was needed (Figure 12). This type of heavy timber frame construction is consistent with a late 19th-century date of construction, with the sawn elements indicating that sawmills were present locally or sawn timbers were available via the railroad in nearby Irwin.



Figure 11. Interior view of the Middle Barn's west wall and alley looking north. The vertical posts along the exterior of the alley walls are debarked poles. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

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Figure 12. One of the interior alleys of the Middle Barn, where animals were often showed. A variety of joining methods were used in the construction of this barn. Mortise-and-tenon can be seen with some of the heavier framework, whereas simple nails hold some of the cross-beams together, here to add support to the loft floor from underneath. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*



Figure 13. The north alley of the Middle Barn, with an exit to the east side of the building. The farthest alley, along the East wall leads to another exit. Interior alleys all connect to this section. A ladder leading up to the large hay mow can be seen as well at left. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*

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Figure 14. Another photograph of the Middle Barn's interior alleys showing the partitions for pens and chutes.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

It is suspected that the wooden bleachers on which prospective cattle buyers would sit during the shows were in the north aisle-section of the barn. This area would allow for movement of the cattle into and out of the barn via the east concrete ramp and west alley and into the central holding pens without interfering with the audience.

The hayloft is accessed by a wooden ladder near the north end of the barn. The upper framing shows five bents: two end bents and three interior bents (Figures 15-16). The wooden floor boards are still covered in a thin layer of loose hay. To the south, the gabled end of the barn is open in three locations and a door covers what is the main access to the hay mow. To the north, the hipped roof of the lower shed area ascends quickly to meet with the south gable of the barn. The west-facing dormer creates a large area for additional hay storage and has another primary access covered by a door. The heavy timber framing in the loft area shows the long beams were spliced with a simple angled Z-splice. There is at least one middle cross beam in the framing that is missing indicating some deterioration or purposeful removal to make more head-room in that location (see Figure 15).

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Figure 15. Interior framing of the loft in the Middle Barn's looking NW. Note the gabled dormer at the left in this photograph. White arrow points to a location where the cross beam is now missing between the center set of posts.

Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.



Figure 16. Interior of the gabled dormer in the Middle Barn's hay mow. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*

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Circa 1910 South Barn (T-shaped) (contributing building)

The South Barn is an interesting and rather unique building on the Pleasant View Stock Farm that reflects the evolution of this farmstead in the early to mid-20th century. This barn has a T-shaped plan and is impressive in size, condition, and historic integrity. The floorplan of this barn remains largely intact. The wings of the barn extend north and south from the main barn section that extends to the west. The main barn is the original part of this barn and is a front-gabled, transverse-frame barn that is oriented west to east. The two one-story, side-gabled wings were added at an early date to the rear (east) gable end of the larger barn. These additions are significant because they reflect the commercial expansion of the Pleasant View Stock operation in the first two decades of the 20th century. The front-gabled portion of the barn housed teams of workhorses, who entered from the west and into their stalls on either side of a central alleyway. The oats granary is still intact in the southeast corner, as are the hay chutes along the sides of the barn that connect to the loft where the hay was fed down into each stall. A wooden ladder in the main body of the barn leads upward to a portal into the hay mow above the winged section of the barn. This portal was probably a window prior to the addition of the wings. The loft one reaches from this ladder/portal is the open loft above the wings that extends their entire length (128 feet) from the southern end to the northern end of the side-gabled wings of the barn. The floor of the hay mow above the main front-gabled portion of the barn sets several feet higher than that of the winged section and is reached from the wing loft by a small ladder. The long hay mow of the winged section and that of the main body connect as though they are a single, large, T-shaped room. The current owners and their children used to host roller skating parties in this loft area due to its size (Milton Barry Interview).

Sometime in the 1920s, a two-room section, with a perpendicular open alley on the east side leading to an east ramp and south steps, was excavated under the east half of the front-gabled portion of the barn. This excavated section has tile block walls as opposed to the poured concrete foundation of the original barn, which can still be seen under the west half of that barn. [The winged sections also have poured concrete foundations.] The basement rooms were added originally to hold cattle during the birthing process or if they required special attention. After the cattle operation ceased in the 1930s, these rooms were used for the same purpose but for hogs. The interior of the side-gabled wings were also somewhat modified on the interior for later use in the hog farrowing operation, with metal farrowing pens extant in the north wing from that operation. The metal vents inserted in many of the former window openings in the side-gabled wings also date from the change-over to the hog operation after the 1930s.

The exterior of the T-shaped barn is now clad with faux "board and batten" metal cover-up siding of various types and vintages. The roof of the front-gabled and side-gabled sections are all clad with corrugated metal roofing of the same type.

West Face: The western elevation of this barn reveals the three main sections of this unique barn: the original main body of the barn that extends to the west and the two perpendicular wings that extend north and south off the rear (east end) of the main barn, respectively (Figure 17). The main body of the barn is clad in metal "board and batten" siding, which covers over some of the original window and door openings. There is a sliding double-door centered on the west end of the gabled barn and a small portal above to the hay mow, and a larger portal higher up to reach the upper portion of the loft. The original mow door is covered in metal siding and no longer opens. The highest portal is the only portion of the barn covered in grey metal siding. The roofline is capped with a classic Midwestern hay track hood. The two wings of the barn have several features in common. Each is covered in white metal siding, each has vents and fans inserted from the hog raising operation, and each has a west-facing gabled wall dormer, each with a small double door that accesses the loft above these wings from the exterior. The south wing has two fixed, four-pane windows on this side, though the north wing no longer has exposed windows, having been covered with metal siding or having vents inserted.

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Figure 17. West elevation of the circa 1910 T-shaped South Barn. Notice the hooded hay mow and gabled dormers centered on each of the north and south wings. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.*

South Face: The south side of the main barn has a single door to the hay mow and three fixed 4-pane windows on the main level. The south side of the south wing has a single walk-in door near its west side and a large fan mounted near the center. This fan would have been added during the hog operation in this barn.

East Face: The east (rear) side of the barn is covered in grey and white metal siding and has a large sliding door near its center on the ground floor. Several metal vents and fans are spaced intermittently along with several broken and boarded-up windows; a single walk-in door is near the north end. A small door that leads to the hay mow is centered above the large sliding doors. As noted above, the fans and vents were installed for the later hog operation in this barn.

North Face: The north face of the main barn has three fixed, 4-pane windows but is otherwise simple with white metal cover-up siding. The north face of the north wing of the barn has a boarded-up window and utility connections.

Interior of Front-Gabled Section:

The original, front-gabled barn is of heavy, timber-framed construction using sawn square posts and beams with sawn angled bracing. The ground level is supported by square sawn posts that are capped with short, angle-cut, horizontal sections that impart a T-shape to each post. A vertical plank rests on the tops of these caps to which the perpendicular plank floor joists of the loft above are attached. These elements are all nailed in place (Figures 18-19). The granary in the southeast corner has horizontal board siding to keep vermin out of the grain and is entered via a single door built of vertical boards and hinged to open out (see Figure 18). The horse stalls in the west end of the barn are formed by wider-spaced, horizontal boards nailed to vertical posts. There is a set of wooden stairs in the far southeast corner of this section of the barn between the granary and the south wall. These steps descend to a landing where one can either go straight into the rear, winged sections of the barn or turn to the north and descend a second set of steps into the basement alley. A concrete ramp is in the east wall of the alley that leads up to the center room of the winged sections of the barn (Figure 20).

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Figure 18. Main level of the South Barn's front-gabled original section looking WSW. Four rows of posts support the hay mow above. The oat bin is to left, with horse stalls to the west. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.



Figure 19. Another view of the South Barn's main floor in the front-gabled original portion of the barn looking NE. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

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Figure 20. Ramp that descends into the basement alley below the main barn connecting to the middle room of the winged east sections of the barn. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

Below the east half of the main barn are the added subterranean rooms that are walled with clay tile blocks and are reached by the alley described above (Figures 20-21). This basement level consists of two rooms that have open doorways into the perpendicular alley that is reached either by the ramp (see Figure 20) or the stairs noted above (Figure 22). These rooms have dirt floors with the lower part of the exterior walls being poured concrete up to the ground level where five courses of clay tile blocks are laid. The west wall is made entirely of clay tile blocks, while the north outer wall is entirely poured concrete (see Figures 20-21). There is now an opening in the upper part of the south wall that was not there originally (see Figure 21). The ceilings of the basement rooms are poured concrete that had board forms for the pouring that were later removed.



Figure 21. Interior of one of the two rooms in the central lower level below the front-gabled barn section. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

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Figure 22. Interior of basement alley looking south at the wooden stairs and landing that lead down to the basement alley and up to the ground level of the main barn. Note the brick pier that supports the concrete ceiling above and to which the staircase is fixed.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

Interior of Wing Additions:

Between the added wings is a center room off the east gable end of the main barn that has a rear, sliding-door entry. There is a regular door from the landing of the stairs off the main barn and an animal access via the ramp to the basement. There are two regular doors that lead to the north and south wings (Figure 23). The construction of the east addition shows lighter framing than the front-gabled section but still has square outer posts that are sawn. However, the center supports are round metal posts that sit on concrete pads in the north wing and round wooden posts also on concrete pads in the center room and south wing (Figures 24-25). The floors are concrete as well, with the ceilings covered with metal siding and the upper walls covered with gypsum board. The foundation is poured concrete, with toe-kick walls extending 2-3 feet above the floor level in all three rooms (see Figure 25).

Loft area of South Barn:

The loft above the main, front-gabled section of this barn shows tall, sawn square posts that extend from the loft floor to a cross beam under the rafters of the roof. There is angled bracing nailed between the posts and the cross beams for additional support but there are no horizontal beams between the vertical posts. This provides a very open loft space for piles and bales of hay (Figures 26-27). The loft above the winged addition is open, primarily because of its narrow width. The roof is supported in this wing by board rafters nailed at the roof peak and nailed to narrow cross beams along each side wall. Additional support is provided by angled bracing from the base of the cross beams out onto the wooden floor of the loft (Figures 28-29).

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Figure 23. Center room of the South Barn off the east end of the front-gabled barn and connecting the north and south wing additions looking west. Beyond that wall is the main part of the barn, the north and south wings can also be accessed from this room, to the right and left of this room. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*



Figure 24. Main level of the north wing of the South Barn looking south. The wing is lined with metal farrowing pens for the later hog operation. Here the center poles are metal. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*

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Figure 25. Open interior of the south wing of the South Barn looking south. Here the center poles are wooden.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.



Figure 26. Hay mow above the main body of the barn looking west into the loft from the lower loft of the wings. The small portal visible in the east wall just below the loft opening is the current access from the ground level of the front-gabled barn to the loft.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

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Figure 27. Interior framing of the front-gabled section of the barn looking east. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.



Figure 28. Loft above the south wing looking south. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

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Figure 29. Loft of South Barn where the north wing (right) meets the main body of the barn (left) looking NW.

Some vertical posts are placed at several locations in the loft space over the north wing for additional support but may have been added later.

Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

Circa 1910 North Barn (Monitor Roof Hay and Feeder Barn) (contributing building)

According to the current owner, this is the most altered of the three barns on the farmstead. A large roller door and a garage door have been installed on the west end of the building for larger equipment storage and a new metal roof protects the top of the building (Figure 30). The barn has been completely covered in metal siding as well. The large central area in the barn is open to the roof and was once used to store large quantities of hay for the farm's large cattle herd. The barn once had a feed room and individual pens for cattle. The barn has some poured concrete floors that extend about two feet above ground level around most of the perimeter.

West Face: The west face is the facade of this barn and is dominated by a large central entrance covered by two modern sliding doors. Two walk-in doors are at the north end and near the south end of the façade, with a modern overhead garage door covering the wider opening at the south end of the façade (see Figure 30). A hay track hood extends over the mow entrance at the peak of the barn. The mow door appears to have been hinged at the base so that it would open out and down. It is covered with metal siding on the exterior. Extending out from the northern portal on the facade is a modern fence creating a kennel for a dog to go inside and outside of the northwest corner of the building (see Figure 30).

South Face: Two walk-in doors are the few features exposed on this side of the building. White metal roofing rises up to the monitor portion of the roof, also clad in metal roofing. Two lightning rods are placed on the roof ridge at the west and east ends of the roof. Poured concrete pads extend outward from the south side of the barn over to a concrete form foundation, both features once part of the cattle yard (Figure 31). The form foundation might have been part of a feed bunk or watering trough system.

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Figure 30. Façade (west end) of North Barn looking East. Taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.



Figure 31. This circa 1910 barn is clad in modern metal siding but characterized by its distinctive monitor roof. It was originally a calving and feeding barn, but, much like the other buildings at Pleasant View, it is currently used for equipment storage.

Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

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East Face: The concrete pad for the cattle yard extends around the east side of the barn as well (see Figure 31). The majority of the east face of the barn is covered in grey metal siding. Much like the west face, there are two portals at the north and south ends of the ground floor. The south door is a wider opening like the one opposite on the west face but is covered with a sliding door rather than an overhead door (see Figure 31). The north door is a regular entry door that has a metal fan inserted to the left of the door (see Figure 31). This door and fan are part of an interior room in the northeast corner that was later used for the hog operation.

North Face: The north face differs from the rest in that half of the ground-floor wall has the original wooden board-and-batten siding exposed along with two four-pane, fixed windows placed near the center of the wall (Figure 32). The east window still retains its original peaked lintel board and wooden sill and surrounds, while the west window has lost all but one piece of its surround (see Figure 32). The rest of this wall appears to be clad with modern, vertical board siding painted white into which a large, metal fan and a metal vent were inserted for the hog operation in the southeast interior room.



Figure 32. Monitor roof barn looking ESE at the façade and north side of the barn. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

Interior: The inside of this barn has a large center aisle that is open from floor to ceiling. This aisle has a dirt floor, while the single-story sections along the north and south sides have poured concrete floors. Most of the single-story section along the north side has been framed up to provide two separate rooms. One of these rooms still holds a number of hog stalls from a previous use; the other room is currently being used as a dog kennel (Figure 33). The hog room has the same metal-sided ceiling and gypsum board siding as seen in the winged sections of the South Barn, which were features added after the cattle operation and use of these interior rooms had ceased. The south side is only partially subdivided into stalls or cattle loading areas that

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are not equal in size; one being longer than the other (Figure 34). The ceiling above each lower section forms the floor of the loft spaces above, which are open to the center aisle (Figure 35).



Figure 33. Metal stalls for hogs in northeast interior room in the North Barn looking east.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.



Figure 34. Interior of south section of North Barn. Note the former window openings now covered over by exterior metal siding.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

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Figure 35. Interior framing of North Barn looking NW towards the loft space on the north side of the barn.

Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

The framing consists of square, sawn posts extending from the floor to the roof with two planks set vertically nailed to either side of the vertical posts to form cross beams that extend across the center aisle just below the vertical section of the monitor roof (see Figures 35-37). Square angled bracing provides additional support from the cross planks to the lower part of the vertical posts and set on wooden stops or blocks about two feet above the loft floor. There are also square, angled braces on the opposite side of the vertical posts and also resting on wooden blocks that extend from around the same spot on the posts over to meet the lower slope of the roofline (see Figure 36). There are nine bents (including two end bents and seven interior bents) that support the high ceilings; however, only three of the interior bents have the cross planks and angled bracing, while all of the bents have the angled bracing over the side loft areas. Of the three bents, one no longer has the cross planks and angled bracing. It may be that these were removed to allow vertical space for larger machinery in later years. To add further support for the loft floors, there is a row of round wooden posts that are set a few feet out from each of the square posts. These posts also form the outer wall supports for the two rooms on the north and side and the pen framing on the south side of the barn. All of the interior framing is nailed.

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Figure 36. Interior bent and framework on the interior of the North Barn looking east. Note the two windows in the gable end of the barn that are now covered over with exterior metal siding. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*



Figure 37. Interior of North Barn looking west in the center aisle and showing the two full interior bents. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.*

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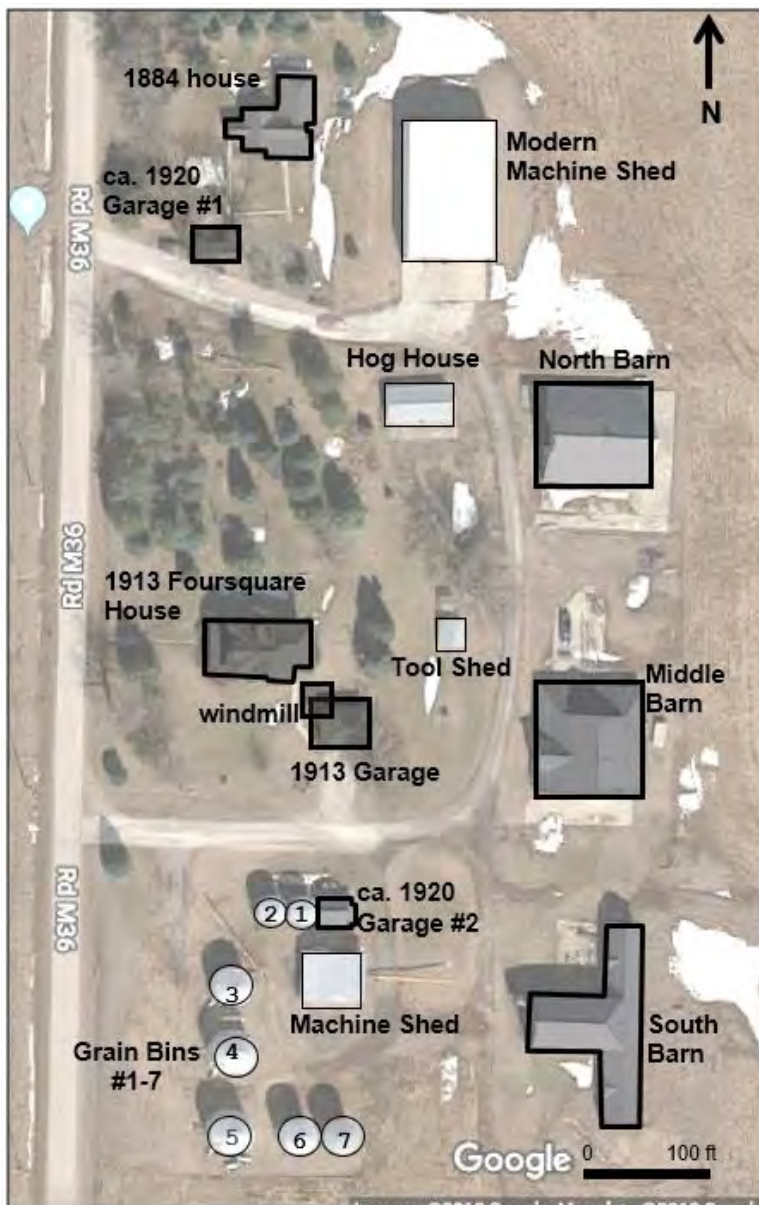
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Outbuildings and Landscape

The rest of the buildings and structures and the landscape of the farm contribute to the context and significance of this farm district. These buildings reflect various stages of development on the farmstead. The contributing buildings consist of three garages; the contributing structure is the metal windmill (Figure 38). Non-contributing buildings include: a tool shed, two machine sheds, and a circa 1940 hog house, with the non-contributing structures consisting of the seven modern metal grain bins. The non-contributing buildings and structures post-date the period of significance for this district (see Figure 38).

3 Contributing Buildings and 1 Contributing Structure



1913 Garage: This square, two-stall garage sits southeast of the foursquare house. It was built at the same time as that house and was originally intended as an automobile garage but was used more as a shop historically. The current owners indicated that the garage doors are reoriented from their original, east-facing direction to the south. The garage has four windows and two garage doors with a walk-in door between them. The pyramidal, hipped roof with exposed rafter ends is clad in asphalt shingles that match the home. The garage is clad in vinyl siding, and two modern, overhead garage doors have also been added (Figure 39).

Circa 1913 Windmill: A four-legged, metal windmill structure is off the northwest corner of the 1913 garage. The fourth leg of this structure is actually shortened and sits on the northwest slope of the 1913 garage roof (see Figure 39).

Circa 1920 garage #1: This 12 ft. by 24 ft. single-stall, front-gabled garage sits to the south of the older, gable-front-and-wing house. It has white-painted siding and grey shingles that appear to match those on that house. It has a modern, overhead garage door on its west end and three windows on each of its north and south sides (see Figure 2).

Circa 1920 garage #2: This broad, front-gabled, frame garage is roughly 13 ft. by 16 ft. The front (east side) has a small section that juts out for an overhead garage door. It has metal siding and metal roofing (Figure 40).

Figure 38. Contributing (gray shaded) and non-contributing (white shaded) buildings and structures in the district. Base aerial: Google maps, 2018 imagery.

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Figure 39. Windmill and 1913 garage looking east (right) and looking WNW (left) with the old concrete driveway (white arrow) indicating where the original garage entry door was located. Photographs taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.



Figure 40. Circa 1920 garage #2 looking WNW. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

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4 Non-Contributing Buildings and 7 Non-contributing Structures

Machine Shed: This machine shed was built circa 1960 according to the Shelby County Assessor; however, the outer metal-sided and roofed machine shed is built over an older frame machine shed that is still largely intact on the interior of the shed. It is visible from the exterior on the east side of this building when the two metal sliding doors are open (Figures 41-42). The frame machine shed is sided with horizontal drop siding and has a poured concrete form foundation. It has a side-gabled roofline from which the cladding material has been removed the framing left in place (see Figure 42). This machine shed could date from the district's period of significance; however, the late 1930s aerial shows no building at this location. Therefore, it was either an older building moved to this spot or was built after the late 1930s. As such, it is considered non-contributing because of its uncertain age and associations.



Figure 41. Machine Shed looking WNW and showing the older frame machine shed on the interior of the outer metal shed shell.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology, 04/12/2018.



Figure 42. Older frame machine shed on the interior of the metal-sided/roofed machine shed looking west.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

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Tool Shed: This 16 ft. by 14 ft. front-gabled building has been covered in vinyl siding and has a corrugated metal roof (Figure 43). It was constructed circa 1940 and is considered non-contributing because it was built outside of the district's period of significance. It sits to the east of the 1913 house near the circular drive that extends through the farmstead (see Figure 38). There is a small prefabricated shed to the north of this tool shed that is not counted as a component of the district because of its small size and modern construction.



Figure 43. Tool Shed looking NNW.
Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

Hog House: The hog house was constructed circa 1940 and lies to the northeast of the home toward the northernmost barn. This side-gabled, one-story building has been covered with metal siding and metal roofing (Figure 44). There is a cement pad to the south of the building. The building measures 20 ft. by 40 ft. It is considered non-contributing because it was built after the period of significance for the historic district and was not associated in any way with the significant cattle operation of Pleasant View Stock Farm in the early 20th century.



Figure 44. Hog House looking NNE. *Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.*

Metal Machine Shed: This front-gabled machine shed was built in 1999 (Figure 45). It is a modern, prefabricated, pole-frame building with metal siding and a metal roof. A large door is on the south end, with the building housing large, crop-raising equipment. It is 90 ft. by 54 ft. in size. It is considered non-contributing because it is modern in construction (i.e., less than 50 years of age) and unrelated to the historic period of the Pleasant View Stock Farm.

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Figure 45. Modern machine shed looking NW. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/13/2018.

Seven grain bins: These steel grain bins are placed in a three-sided, roughly U-shape configuration in the farm's southwest corner. Numbers one and two form the north side of the U-shape; numbers three through five form the west side; numbers six and seven form the south side of the U-shape (see Figure 38). These are steel cylindrical bins with metal cone-shaped tops (Figure 46). The table below is a summary of their manufacturing brand name, their diameter, and the year built according to the Shelby County Assessor.

<u>Bin#</u>	<u>Brand</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Year Built</u>
1	Butler	17	1962
2	Butler	17	1962
3	Chief	25	1973
4	Chief	28	1979
5	Chief	27	1983
6	n/a	21	1991
7	Eaton	21	2000



Figure 46. Metal grain bins in southwest corner of farmstead looking NNE. Photograph taken by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 04/12/2018.

Non-Extant Structures

Historical aerial photographs from the late 1930s through 2010s and oral history indicate the removal of several other agricultural buildings and structures that were once situated to the east and south of the current farm buildings. A large number of trees once graced this area as well, but as with the buildings and other features, they were removed slowly over time. Informants indicate that a water tower, two tile block silos, and a large corn crib were removed by the late 20th century. In addition, there may have been at least one or two more hired hand's houses that were removed (Milton Barry Interview).

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The aerial photographs show the following changes from the late 1930s aerial of this property: one small outbuilding east of the 1884 house near the north edge of the property (possibly one of the non-extant hired hand's houses?); two silos north of the Middle Barn (probably the tile block silos); the water tower ENE of the 1913 house; the large corn crib on the south edge of the property just west of the South Barn; and two long, narrow sheds perpendicular to the east edge of the farmstead east and southeast of the Middle Barn (Figure 47). Other buildings may be present in the late 1930s image but are obscured by the tree cover. In addition to these removals, it appears that fenced-in animal areas and other smaller objects have been removed. A number of trees along the north and west boundaries of the farm site have been removed as well.



Figure 47. Left: Late 1930s aerial photograph with buildings and structures that appear to have been removed outlined in white. Right: 2017 aerial photograph with buildings that have been added since the 1930s outlined in black. Maps obtained from the Iowa Geographic Map Server 2018.

The fate of the original house built by Thomas J. Ryan circa 1882 and noted in his 1889 biography is unknown (Dunbar & Co. 1889:564-566). Reportedly, the original house was converted into a granary and could potentially be one of the smaller buildings still extant on this farmstead but was moved and modified. This remains for future research but is likely to remain uncertain.

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Statement of Integrity

Overall, the integrity of the Pleasant View Stock Farm is quite good. Although changing functions resulted in new constructions and some building removals through the years, the farmstead retains much of its historic identity from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The location and design of this farmstead are very good. It is located at the same place that it was at its inception and many of the buildings feature their original designs, even when functions changed over time. One notable missing feature is the bleachers that once stood inside the Middle Barn. The plans and footprints of the barns are largely the same, as is their arrangement in relation to each other and within themselves. The design of the 1913 house is largely the same, with many interior woodwork features and external details such as siding and dentils still intact. The overall form and plan of the 1884 house remains intact. The floor plan and façade designs of the barns are intact. Although some outbuildings and houses have been removed from this place, the location remains set-up much to its originally-intended design.

Although function of the buildings has changed somewhat over time, and land usage has as well, there seems to be good integrity of setting. The surrounding environment is no longer rolling prairies. Rather, it has been replaced first with pasture land, and most recently with row crop and livestock feed production. However, it is still a rural, open, rolling landscape with viewsheds unobstructed by modern intrusions. With the elimination of the prairie, and hence fewer natural grass fires, large trees have been allowed to grow. This occurs mainly along fence lines and on building sites such as this one. The Nishnabotna River is a prominent natural feature in this area, still largely unchanged, as are the iconic rolling hills that give this area its topographic setting. Apart from a few newer farm sites nearby, the Pleasant View Stock Farm is still situated in a somewhat remote rural area, about three miles from the small town of Irwin, with a population of around 300 people.

The integrity of the materials and workmanship are largely good. Although the barns have been clad with cover-up metal siding it is apparent that their original wooden siding is extant underneath. The 1913 house, although largely intact, has some modern replacement windows. Some original craftsmanship, especially with the dentils, porch carpentry, and interior woodwork, is extant. The 1884 house has only marginal integrity of materials and workmanship.

As with setting, the integrity of feeling is good. When on the farm, one can get a sense of what it was like to be on a productive farm operation in the rural areas of Western Iowa. The three barns and two houses demonstrate the capacity of this farm to produce cattle and signify the success they had in doing so. Although some of the bins and other buildings are newer and take away slightly from this feeling, the farm overall still imparts a sense of time and place.

Finally, the integrity of association is sufficient. The farm is still owned by the family who has owned it since the 1930s. The descendants of the Escher family, who owned it from 1905 to 1924, have a vested interest in the preservation and history of the place.

Archaeological Assessment

No archaeological assessment was done in conjunction with this project. Although there may be a potential to yield information around the historic buildings and to the east and south of the property where former farm buildings once stood as well as around the two house yards where additional hired hand's houses and the root/storm cellar once stood. There are likely privy features around some of these house sites. It is also likely that there were privy accommodations for the large crowds that attended the sales. These may be downslope and outside of the current district boundary.

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1882-1924

Significant Dates

1884

circa 1910

1913

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District is eligible at the local level under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A for the significant association of this property with the world-famous Aberdeen-Angus sire bull, Earl Marshall. This bull lived the majority of his reproductive life on this farmstead and is the traceable ancestor to over 99.9% of all purebred Angus cattle registered by the American Angus Association between 2000 and 2010. In other words, of the 3,072,429 cattle registered during that period, all but 964 have pedigrees that can be traced to Earl Marshall. The farm is further significant under Criterion A for its association with the purebred Angus cattle operation of Charles Escher Jr. and Earl Ryan (as the firm of Escher & Ryan). Under their management, the farm produced a disproportionately-high number of national and international purebred Angus champions. They were leaders in the transition of American agriculture to commercialization, helped increased the national awareness of the breed overall, and propagated the breed's most significant genes. The district is also locally significant under Criterion C for the architectural significance of the extant residential and agricultural buildings that reflect the peak of this cattle raising operation and its success overall until felled by farm crisis of the 1920s and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. The period of significance for this district is 1882 when the farmstead was established by Thomas J. Ryan and 1924, when the property was lost and the farm was no longer associated with the raising of Angus cattle. Significant dates include: 1884 when the extant gable-front-and-wing house was built by Thomas Ryan and the oldest extant barn built soon after; circa 1910 when the two other extant barns were built; 1913 when the foursquare house was built; and 1916 when Escher & Ryan purchased the Angus herd that included the bull Earl Marshall.

Narrative Statement of Significance

 (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

Criterion A - Historical Significance - The rise of purebred Angus cattle, the bull Earl Marshall, and the Pleasant View Stock Farm

History of Aberdeen-Angus, from Scotland to Iowa

The Angus breed, formally referred to as the Aberdeen-Angus breed, originated in the counties of Aberdeen and Angus, in Scotland.¹ Formal recognition of the breed originated in the 16th century, though it took quite some time—over 200 years—for selective breeding to make it a better and more popular breed in that area. Predominant breeders who led these efforts included Hugh Watson (1789-1865) of County Angus from whose cattle Earl Marshall is descended and William McCombie (1805-1880) of County Aberdeen. By the mid-19th century, the breed was more prevalent throughout Britain and Ireland. They were also beginning to make appearances at livestock shows on the European continent, namely agricultural conventions in cities such as Paris, and making passage to Australia and North and South America (Ross 1951:71-76; Burke et al. 2013; MacDonald 1910:389)

The first Angus cattle to reach the United States—four bulls—were brought by George Grant to central Kansas in 1873. Being only males, these specimens were only used for crossbreeding with breeds previously established in the United States. But it was within the next decade that small importations of both males and females made their way from Scotland to the American Midwest. The American Angus Association (originally called the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association) was founded in November 1883, in Chicago, Illinois (Burke et al. 2013:10). In 1884, Angus cattle won "Sweepstakes Cow" over all other breeds at the

¹ Throughout this document the terms Angus and Aberdeen-Angus will be used interchangeably.

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Kansas City Livestock Show, as judged by a panel of Kansas City butchers (Burke et al. 2013:51). The breed's reputation was slowly growing, and even by 1900 their production was generally limited to a number of stock farms throughout Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois (MacDonald 1910:389-393).

W.A. McHenry and the Pedigree of Earl Marshall

The history of Pleasant View Stock Farm revolves around the story of a single, Aberdeen-Angus sire bull named Earl Marshall, who was bred on the farm of William Alexander (W.A.) McHenry near the town of Denison, Iowa, about 16 miles northeast of the Pleasant View Stock Farm. W.A. McHenry was born in Almond, New York on March 6, 1841 (Figure 48). As a boy, his family moved to Milton, Wisconsin, in the south-central region of that state. He attended public schools and took courses at Milton Academy for a short time, but then moved to Ogle County, Illinois around age 20 to work as a farm hand. Within a year, the US Civil War broke out. McHenry served in the Union Army as a member of the 8th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. With the Illinois 8th, he saw many of the war's bloodiest battles, helped track down the Lincoln assassination conspirators, and accompanied the Lincoln funeral train back to Illinois. This history was surely a mark of pride for him and his family, as he followed in the military tradition of his father, a veteran of the War of 1812, and his grandfather, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War. After the Civil War, he moved westward into Iowa with little more than \$300 (Burress Interview, 2018; Burke et al. 2013:130-135)². He established several businesses in Denison, Iowa, including a bank. He formed his Aberdeen-Angus cattle herd in 1887.

As with many of his business ventures, McHenry absorbed himself with information. He studied the breed and the family pedigrees within it. In 1887, he joined the American Angus Association which was only four years old at that time and served three consecutive terms as that group's president (1891, 1892, and 1893). McHenry is known to have travelled to Scotland, the home of the breed, to personally inspect the cattle he wished to import. He would then accompany them on a ship during their transportation to the United States, by train to Harlan, Iowa, and then overland by foot to his farm.

He also purchased cattle from prominent herds in the United States. In 1900, McHenry acquired part of the esteemed Wallace Estill Woodland Angus herd, including the bulls Gay Lad and the 10th Earl of Estill (Earl Marshall's great-great-grandfather and great-grandfather respectively). At the time of this sale, McHenry hired John Brown to come live with him in Denison and serve as his farm manager. Brown was born in Boone County, Missouri and raised in Howard County, Missouri. He was assistant herd manager of the Wallace Estill Woodland farm, and McHenry knew he could depend on his knowledge of the breed. John's brother Robert (Bob) would later serve as herdsman for Escher & Ryan.

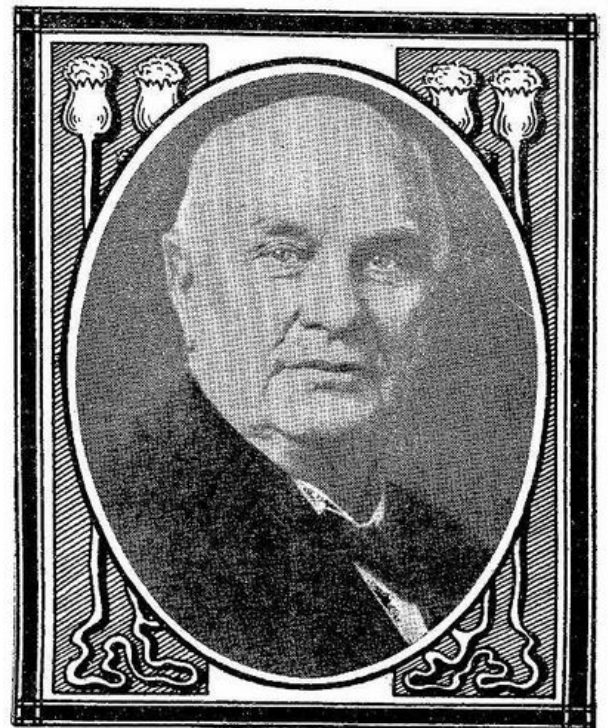


Figure 48. Photo of McHenry, published in the January 30, 1916 edition of the *Iowa Homestead*, with a report of his sale to Escher & Ryan.

² Brown's autobiography is reprinted in Burke et al. 2013, pages 130-135.

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McHenry was a demonstrably competent student of the breed and won many accolades with cattle that he selected and bred on his Iowa farms. His herd showings earned him numerous accolades, including: 1900, 1904, 1908, 1909, 1911, and 1912 First Prize Get-of-Sire, 1909 International Grand Champion Bull, 1909 International Grand Champion Female, 1910 Grand Champion Female, and 1913 International Grand Champion Female. These awards all came at the annually-held International Livestock Shows in Chicago, Illinois which began in 1900. Get-of-Sire is a category in which exhibitors show a representative sampling or entire group of a specific bull's offspring for that year. Of the years he won first prize of that category, he showed Gay Lad (Earl Marshall's paternal great-great-grandfather) in 1900 and 1904, and he showed Baden Lad (Earl Marshall's paternal grandfather) in 1908, 1909, 1911, and 1912 (Burke et al. 2013:10).



Figure 49. Earl Marshall at two years of age, about the time of his sale to Escher & Ryan.
American Angus Association photo.

In late 1912, McHenry bred two carefully selected Angus cattle, the bull Protine and the female Erica McHenry 12th. Earl Marshall the male offspring of this breeding, was born on September 4, 1913 and went on to become the most influential Angus bull in the history of this breed in the United States (Figure 49). The competent work of W.A. McHenry and his farm manager John Brown ensured this, although neither of them knew the extent of it at that time.

Brown later wrote that Earl

Marshall was “no freak accident. He was bred to be great. He came from a great line of bulls and cows... Bred the way he was Earl Marshall should have been a good bull. But not even the most incurable optimist would have predicted that he was to go on to become the Sire of Sires...” (Burke et al. 2013:32-135). Brown later served on the American Angus Association board and was elected its president in 1943.

In the early months of 1916, McHenry officially dispersed his cattle herd to the partnership of Escher & Ryan, who operated the Pleasant View Stock Farm and other farms in the area. The sale included 210 head of cattle of which Earl Marshall was a part. By this point, McHenry's health was beginning to fail. He was showing his animals less frequently and desired to downsize his business activities, especially those as strenuous as raising and showing cattle. Escher was also on the American Angus Association board at this time, surely contributing to how the two's working relationship began. Because Escher & Ryan were held in high esteem in the Angus world, McHenry entrusted the future of his cattle's lineage with this firm. Though still young, Earl Marshall became a renowned sire producing top quality offspring for Escher & Ryan. Under the direction of Escher & Ryan, his progeny and the future of the breed flourished (American Angus Association, *I am Angus* documentary series accessed online, April 2018; Burke, et al. 2013:130-135).

At the peak of his farming empire, McHenry amassed over 10,000 acres of land in Iowa and nearly twice that amount in Canada. He built an impressive financial situation for his family. McHenry built the entire operation from the meager \$300 he had to his name in the late 1860s (American Angus Association, *I am Angus* documentary series accessed online, April 2018). W.A. McHenry died in November 28, 1921 at his Denison,

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Iowa, home. Today, the McHenry House in Denison, Iowa is open to the public and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Mesenbrink 1974). In 2013, Gov. Terry Branstad declared September 4th "W.A. McHenry Day" for his services to the country and his importance to the agricultural economy of the state (Burke et al. 2013:253).

Escher & Ryan and the Pleasant View Stock Farm

The history of Pleasant View Stock Farm begins with Thomas J. Ryan and Charles Escher Sr., two men from eastern Iowa who independently started beef-raising operations in the vicinity of Irwin, Shelby County, in western Iowa (Figure 50). Thomas Ryan originally raised cattle near Victor, Iowa, in Poweshiek County. In 1879, he loaded two carloads of yearling steers and rode with them to Harlan, Iowa, where he drove them across what was then open prairie. Apart from a few nearby towns such as Harlan and Irwin, there were few settlements, no fences, and very few farmsteads in this area. He was able to range these animals along an uninterrupted, three to four mile-long stretch along the Nishnabotna River. The grasses and other plants of the fertile, open prairie made this a suitable place to summer a herd of cattle. Family tradition states that Tom Ryan brought with him a riding horse, a driving horse, and a small cart for the duration of the summer. The cart was apparently sheltered, as to keep a living and sleeping area dry (Barratt 1996). At the conclusion of the ranging/grazing season, Ryan decided to purchase 80 acres of land in this area (in section 34 of Greeley Township, Shelby County) then returned his cattle to Poweshiek County. This purchase included the land on which the Pleasant View Stock Farm would eventually be developed (Shelby County Assessor's records).

According to his 1889 biographical sketch, Thomas Jefferson Ryan returned to Shelby County in 1882 to develop a homestead. This time he brought his family with him: his wife, Mary, and four children (Myrtle,

Herbert, Earl, and Sara). He continued to work this land, raise Shorthorn cattle, and care for his family here. Family tradition states that Tom Ryan claimed to have Shelby County's first farm to be fenced on all four sides (Barratt 1996). In 1884, he built "a fine frame residence to take the place of a smaller one" that was then converted into a granary (Dunbar & Co. 1889). By 1884 he purchased an additional 80-acre farm adjacent to the town of Irwin and abutting the railroad line that came through in 1881. Ryan was selling Shorthorn cattle as early as 1886, when he transported several carloads to Chicago; several of his cattle won prizes in Chicago as well, although this was before the time of the International Livestock Shows, which were not held until 1900. That same year, the firm now called T.J. Ryan & Sons held one of their sales of Shorthorn cattle on their "Pleasant View Farm" (Figure 51) (Burke, et al. 2013: 10, 130-135; Ryan Diaries 1881). It was noted in 1889, that Ryan also had "large and convenient buildings for stock and grain, and a system of water-works supplying water for domestic purposes and livestock. These various improvements [had] cost upward of \$3,200" (Dunbar & Co. 1889).

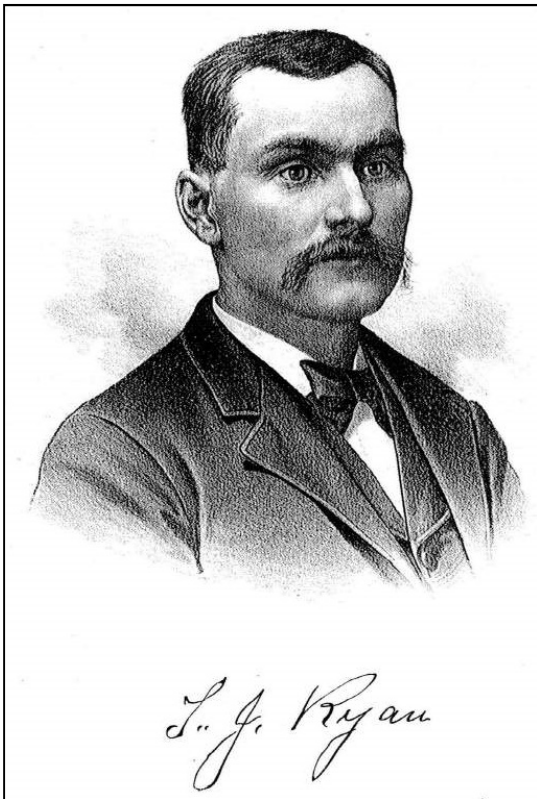


Figure 50. Portrait of Thomas J. Ryan in 1889. Source: Dunbar & Co. 1889:565-566.

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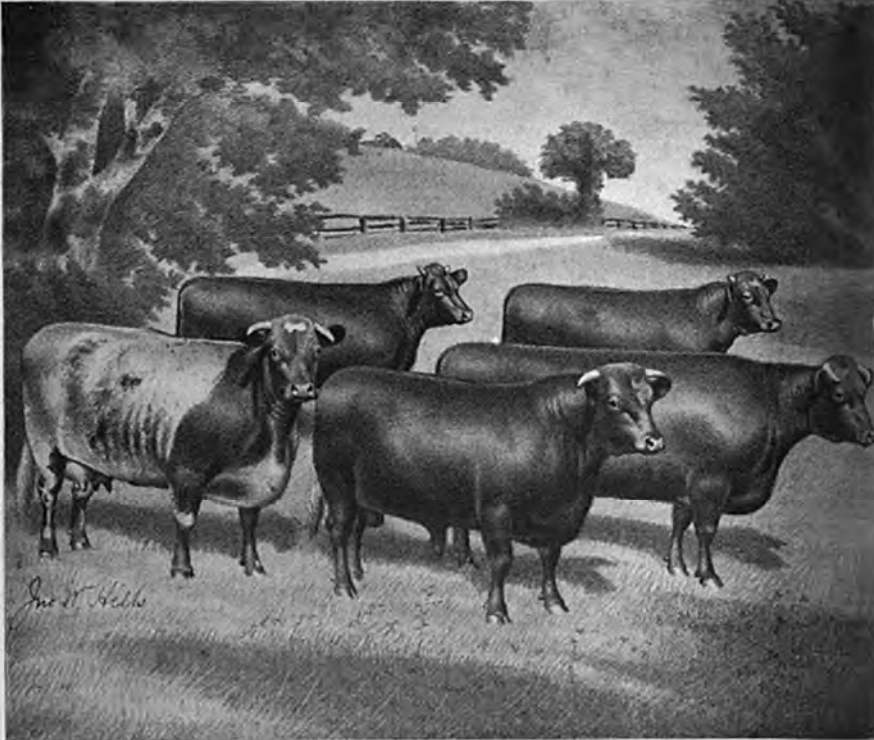
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8 THE LIVE STOCK REPORT. March 15, 1900

REMEMBER RYAN'S SHORTHORN SALE

AT IRWIN, IOWA, Thursday, March 29, 1900.

60 HEAD:—35 BULLS.....25 FEMALES.



The above picture represents a group of Pleasant View Shorthorns.

Sale will be held on our PLEASANT VIEW FARM, three miles west of Irwin, Iowa, on the C. & N. W. Ry., and seven miles south of Manilla, Iowa, on the C. M. & St. P. Ry. For catalogue address

GOL. F. M. WOODS,
Auctioneer.

T. J. RYAN & SONS, Irwin, Ia.

Figure 51. This full-page ad for "T.J. Ryan & Sons" features their 1900 Shorthorn breed sale. It says that the "sale will be held at our Pleasant View Farm, three miles west of Irwin, Iowa, on the C&NW." Taken from the March 15, 1900 issue of *The Livestock Report*.

Charles Escher Sr. came to this area in 1876. He settled first on a farm in Lincoln Township west of Harlan. He called the farm "Lincoln Park." He worked the land and raised livestock there for about seven years. That is, until his wife, Louisa, died suddenly in 1884, at which point he retired from the farm, sold it to his brother Henry Anson Escher, and moved into Harlan. In 1891, Charles Sr. returned to farming and relocated to his farm named Long Branch northeast of Irwin. His farming operation grew as he amassed more than 6,600 acres throughout Shelby County and the contiguous counties Audubon and Guthrie (Burke, et al. 2013). In 1892, needing additional help, Charles Sr. called upon his son Charles Jr. to assist him in managing the growing operations. Charles Escher Jr. left Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa to do so. Charles Escher Sr. and his son, Charles Escher Jr., became partners in a firm called Escher & Son, and started to breed Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Henry Anson Escher imported the breed from Scotland in 1897, and they were being bred by Escher & Son by 1900.

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In 1894, Charles Escher Jr. married Earl Ryan's sister, Myrtle. Earl was only 10 at the time of the wedding. Eight years later, in 1902, Charles Escher Sr. retired and Charles Escher Jr. and Earl Ryan (now 18 years old) became partners in a joint firm called Escher & Ryan. This firm was founded with Angus cattle bred by Charles Escher Sr. & Son and Henry Anson Escher (Burke et al. 2013:154). Escher & Ryan went on to have success commercially and in the show ring.

After 1902, the new firm of Escher & Ryan, now also operating Pleasant View Stock Farm, began to narrow their focus operationally, by selling off Ryan's Shorthorn herd and diligently working with their Angus herd, which was slowly becoming a more popular breed (Figure 52). Between 1902 and 1910, they imported 160 head of Angus from Scotland, doing so in at least three separate importations (Burke et al. 2013:10), while also watching for sales across the United States (Barratt 1996).



Figure 52. Charles Escher Jr. (left) and Earl Ryan (right).

Published in the January 20, 1916 edition of the Iowa Homestead in an article reporting on their purchase of the McHenry herd.

The success of the Escher & Ryan Angus operation was widely recognized. They received a number of accolades at shows and fairs for their Angus cattle. Even before acquiring Earl Marshall and McHenry's herd, they were producing champions, winning the International Grand Champion Carload in both 1911 and 1913 (Figure 53). Their success was important in its own right.

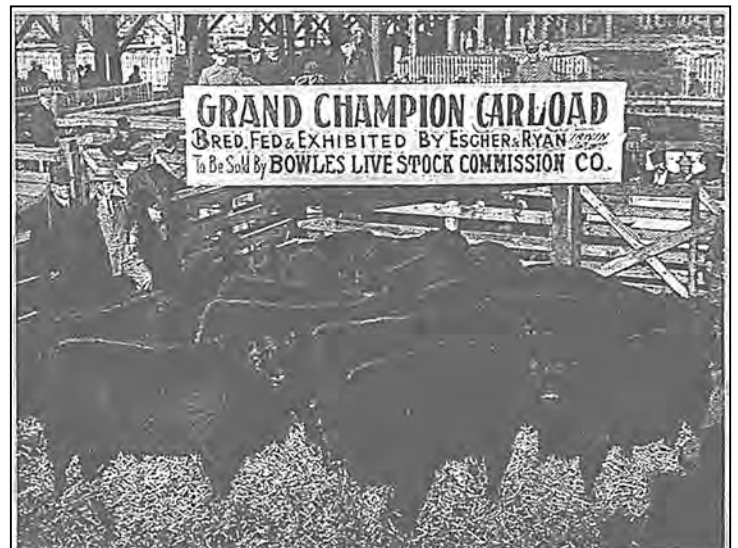


Figure 53. Circa 1915 photograph of an Escher & Ryan "Grand Champion Carload."

Source: White 1915:675-678; digital copy obtained from <http://iagenweb.org/shelby/1915bio/1915.htm>, July 2018.

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In 1912, Charles Escher Jr. was elected to the American Angus Association board and was elected its president in 1917 (Burke et al 2013). He helped establish the Iowa Beef Producers' Association serving as its president for many years and was appointed by Governors L.M. Shaw and Albert B. Cummins as Iowa's representative to the National Livestock Association conventions of 1901 and 1905, respectively (1925 *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*). Charles Jr. was also an Angus judge for the 1909 annual International Livestock Show, in Chicago and likely others. Earl Ryan was known for his judging abilities too and was elected to the American Angus Association board in 1924.

Throughout this period, grazing areas decreased and were replaced by the cultivation of row-crops, the technology for which had advanced so much that an operation could grow enough feed for their livestock while still selling some commercially. What was once an area of wide-open prairie grasslands was becoming increasingly tilled soil, fenced off and managed. This was a part of a noticeable, nationwide transition from self-sustenance and small-scale farming to larger-scale commercial farming. Escher & Ryan were pioneers in the field of marketing cattle at a national level, taking full advantage of the burgeoning commercial farming transition. They were known for advertising their award-winning herd in national and regional periodicals, they produced cattle catalogues to showcase their animals, and they brought in buyers by rail from around the country to the operations at Pleasant View Stock Farm. They helped these buyers arrange local accommodations and held for them private cattle shows on site in the Middle Barn (Show Barn) still standing on this farmstead. They were leaders in the capitalist, commercial movement, and they were apt at demonstrating that their product—Angus cattle—were worthy of being flaunted (Figure 54).



Figure 54. This 1915 photograph shows Chicago & Northwestern rail cars loaded with Escher & Ryan cattle en route to the International Livestock Show in Chicago. Notice men standing on top of cars. Source: Steven Burress historical collection.

Always interested in building upon their success, they purchased the local, but also widely-known Angus herd of W.A. McHenry. In a deal that was formalized on January 1, 1916, Escher & Ryan bought McHenry's herd including the 2-year-old bull Earl Marshall. They were now in possession of a large, combined herd of

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notoriety and they capitalized on that. On November 1, 1916, just ten months after the purchase from McHenry, they held a sale of 55 head of Angus Cattle, averaging a sale price of \$593 each (Burke et al. 2013: 39).

According to Myrtle (Ryan) Escher, her husband, Charles Escher Jr., and her brother and Charles' partner, Earl Ryan, often spoke of Earl Marshall being a good sire. Once purchased, Earl Marshall became the breeding sire for the Pleasant View farm since the Long Branch herd was already established (Burke et al. 2013:96) (Figure 55). Earl Ryan managed the bull's breeding program.

It was a decision that cemented the place of Escher & Ryan and the Aberdeen-Angus breed's place in U.S. agricultural history. Earl Marshall sired five International Grand Champion sons and one daughter. They won First Prize Get-of-Sire at the Chicago International Livestock Show for seven consecutive years from 1918 to 1924 (Burke et al. 2013:242-243). No other Aberdeen-Angus bull has achieved these accomplishments in the history of the breed. Many of his offspring were excellent show cattle, which only helped to bolster the prestige of this operation and the rising popularity of the breed in general. Earl Marshall's first son, Bar Marshall, was born in 1917. Bar Marshall won the Senior Bull Calf Class at that year's International Livestock Show in Chicago and later became the International Grand Champion Bull in 1922. Thus began an era of success and increased renown for the progeny of the "King of Sires" or "Sire of Sires", Earl Marshall.

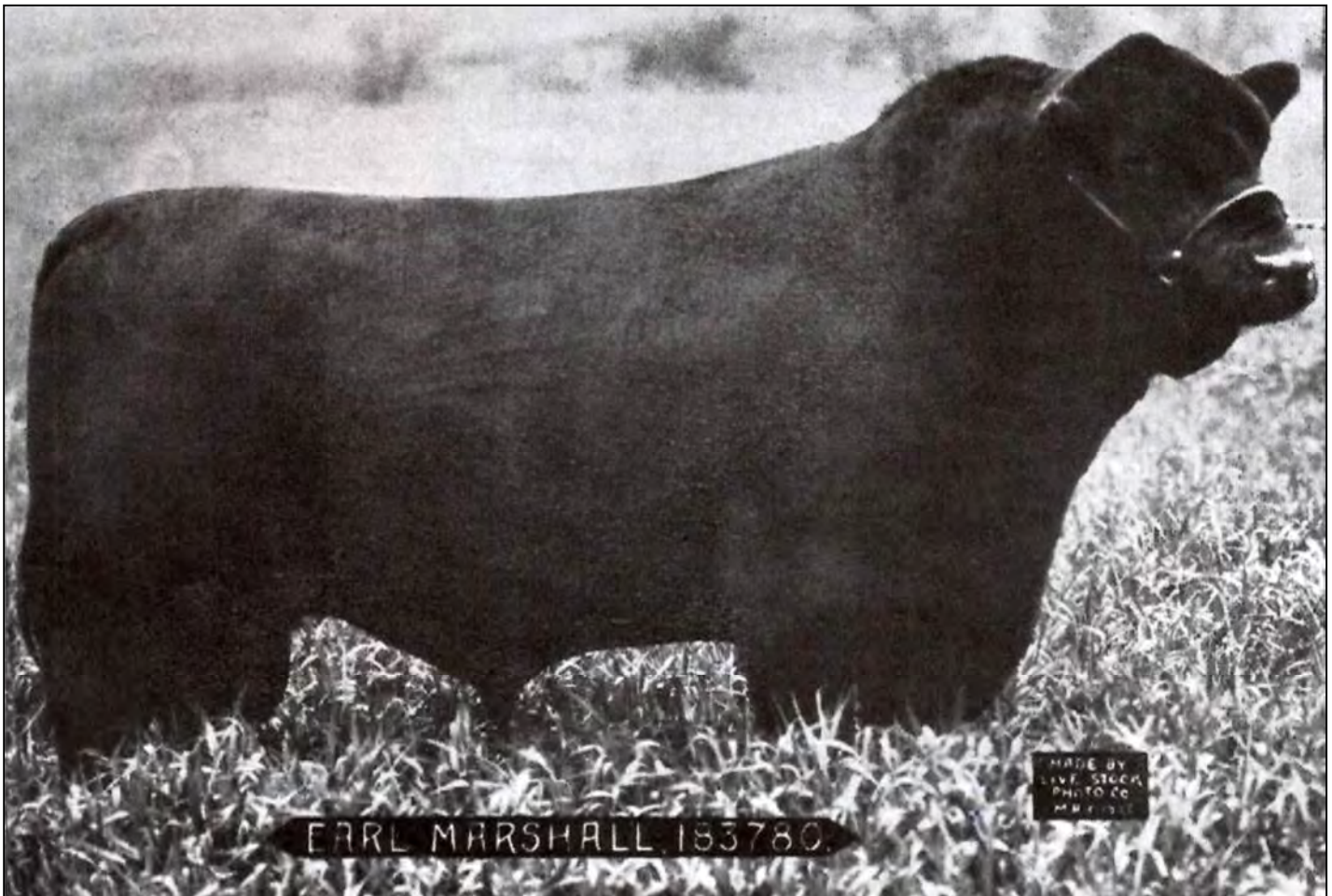


Figure 55. Earl Marshall as a mature bull, circa 1925. American Angus Association photo.

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A sale in 1917 by Escher & Ryan advertised their herd and also noted three of their farms - "Longbranch," "Pleasant View," and "Manning Farm," with sales held at each farm on three consecutive days in June. Among the offerings were "a number of good sons of Earl Marshall" (Figure 56).

AMERICA'S GREATEST OFFERING
OF
Aberdeen-Angus Bulls and Females
190 Head
36 BULLS
154 COWS AND HEIFERS.
106 CALVES GO FREE
WITH THEIR DAMS.

88 Blackbirds, comprising every strain of America's greatest cattle. 25 Blackcaps, also Blue Ribbon and Balledaloch Blackbirds and many others of the second, third and fourth branch. Never before have so many of these choicely bred matrons been offered. 56 Trojan-Ericas, every strain is listed that is known to Scotland's greatest tribe, included are the Evergreen, Enchantress and Chieftain Trojan-Ericas. Many of these are direct descendants of animals imported by the Eschers. 25 K Prides never before have so many of this Balledaloch strain been offered; also 10 Prides of Aberdeen and Queen Mothers.

AT LONGBRANCH FARM, BOTNA, IOWA, JUNE 5.
AT PLEASANT VIEW FARM, IRWIN, IOWA, JUNE 6.
MANNING FARM, MANNING, IOWA, JUNE 7.

An array of "dodds" excellence that for individual merit and richness of pedigree is unparalleled in any section of the breed in America. Results of

ABOUT A FEW OF THE BULLS

There will be a number of them are **Black Nig C.**, a bred Blackbird sire Black Woodlawn 15th. A good Boman, one of the great-noted Black Poor. He is a twenty-month-old calf and for his age to be found anywhere, his sire is imp. Euratas of Finlaring and his dam is imp. Enzora, a cow that recently sold in Cooper's sale for \$1,125. **Black Capper of Leaside** is one of the smoothest three-year-old bulls to be offered for some time. He weighs better than a ton, a double-bred Blackcap and a real Angus bull. **Elmo**, a double-bred Enchantress-Trojan-Erica, sire imp. Euratas of Finlaring and out of Ebright of Cherokee, sire by imp. Edward R. This is a good bull that will weigh a ton in breeding condition. **Kilum** is one of the great junior yearling show prospects of the offering. He is a great bull of the K Pride family and his sire is the champion Prince Felzer. Another great young bull is **Black Bertram E.**, a February calf by the great sire Blackcap Bertram. This is a great show prospect and his pedigree on both sire and dam's side is full of champion and grand champion winners. **Also a number of good sons of Earl Marshall.** Another one is **Eric H. 4th**, his sire is Eland E. by imp. Eston of Eshott; his dam is Erica Elm 10th. He is a tried sire and a good bull.

Participate in this great event, for it is an opportunity to make admirable selections for breeding purposes in an event that should be a history-making occasion of the breed. Signed, FRANCIS T. MARTIN, Guide to Remembrance.

The selling is one of the most attractive game of livestock ever held in any of the breed. CATTLE, sheep, swine, from prices of nearly every animal in the sale. 13 Grass Hare white chickens and will be ready to sell the whole lot and a pair of The Breeder's Guide to **CHAS. ESCHER, JR., BOSS, IOWA.**

AUCTIONEERS, COOPER, BRADSHAW, 100 ALLEY AND KINGSTREET, IOWA CITY, IOWA.

Boys to whom Corn, and Barley are C. & M. R. and C. G. W. You.

CHAS. ESCHER, JR., BOSS, JR., 100 ALLEY AND KINGSTREET, IOWA CITY, IOWA, June 5. ESCHER & RYAN, Auctioneers, 100 ALLEY AND KINGSTREET, IOWA CITY, IOWA, June 6. ESCHER & RYAN, Auctioneers, 100 ALLEY AND KINGSTREET, IOWA CITY, IOWA, June 7.

Figure 56. This two-page Escher & Ryan ad from 1917 heralds "America's Greatest Offering of Aberdeen-Angus Bulls and Females" and the event "a history-making occasion of the breed." Note the mention of "a number of good sons of Earl Marshall" for sale (highlighted in yellow). Taken from the 1917 issue of *The Breeder's Gazette*.

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The farm was an important part of the local population and economy. Twelve to fifteen hired hands worked at each Pleasant View and Long Branch farms, often times living on site (Milton Barry interview). The Pleasant View laborers formed a softball/baseball team, managed by Earl Ryan, and played games against teams from surrounding towns (Barratt, 15). Velma Murray Newell and Mrs. Earl Ryan produced meals for the workers and up to fifteen buyers each day. On sale days, they prepared for up to 100 people (Barratt, 12). They helped arrange local accommodations for potential buyers who would come visit the farm from around the nation, coming to Harlan by train via either Des Moines or Omaha. The students of Pleasant View School, which got its name from the Pleasant View farm, located southwest of the school, were known to largely be the children of families who worked on the farm (Figure 57).

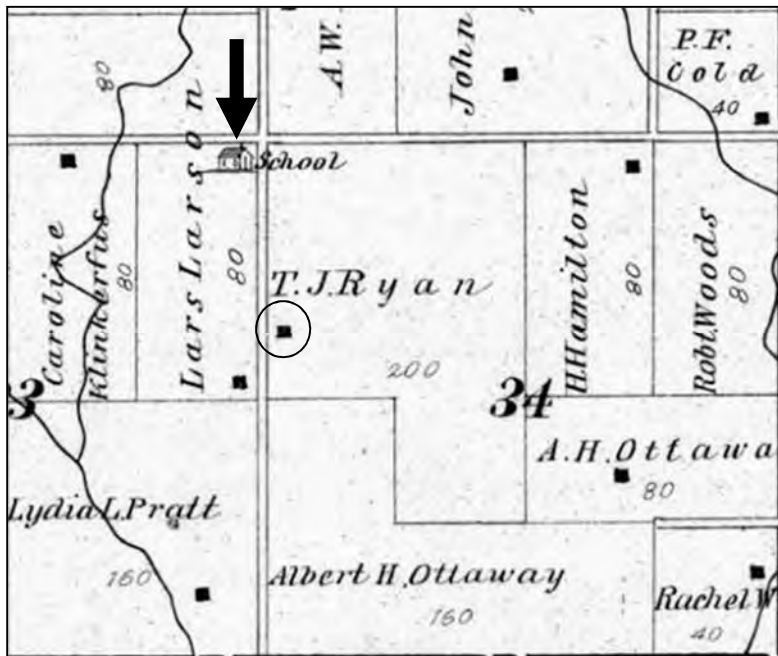


Figure 57. The Pleasant View School, now gone, sat in the extreme northeast corner of section 33 of Greeley Township not far from Pleasant View farm (circled). Source: Ogle and Co. 1899.

Sale days at Escher & Ryan farms were usually held at either Pleasant View or nearby Long Branch Farm and were very special occasions. The sales attracted up to 100 buyers from around the country. They were exciting and festive shows (Barratt 1996:11-12). The sales were advertised nationally, and the firm produced attractive sale catalogues to further entice potential buyers. Their particularly big shows would be held at the county fairgrounds in nearby Harlan. Between articles, calendars, and purchased advertisements, the *Iowa Homestead* mentioned Escher & Ryan over a hundred times between 1917 and 1921. Stories and bought ads touted the success and financial benefits of raising Angus cattle (Figure 58).

Pleasant View Aberdeen-Angus

Pleasant View Aberdeen-Angus. The Get of Sire Class, at the International Live Stock Exposition, won by the get of the undisputed king of Aberdeen-Angus sires, Earl Marshall 193780 for five consecutive years, an unequalled record by any sire in America.

1922 International Grand Champion Bull Bar Marshall 299185, Grand Champion Cow, Pride Protest 6th 321847, the 1922 Canadian Grand Champion Bull, Blackcap Revolution 287269, are the get of the "king of sires" Earl Marshall 183780, as well as a score of Champions of leading State Fairs and Expositions. Sires in service—Earl Marshall 183780 and five sons. Young bulls for sale.

ESCHER & RYAN, - - Irwin, Iowa

Figure 58. This small ad for Escher & Ryan's Pleasant View Aberdeen-Angus Sale was placed in the April 2, 1923 edition of the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*. Earl Marshall and several of his offspring were listed as "sires in service."

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The following table details the number of times Escher & Ryan’s cattle operation was mentioned in the *Iowa Homestead* during the five-year period of 1917 and 1921:

Small purchased ads (roughly business card size)	17
Quarter-page or similar purchased ads	2
Half and Full-page purchased ads	11
Column/Story mentions	57
“Dates Claimed” and “Upcoming Shows” style mentions	18
Report of Sales style mentions	18
Photo Captions (not part of ad or column)	4
TOTAL	127

Iowa Homestead was among the most competitive periodicals for wide-spread reading throughout Iowa. It underwent a number of ownership sales and publication locations, including Dubuque and Des Moines. Apart from *Wallace’s Farmer*, it was perhaps the most-read publication of this type at this time (Seaman 1942), though it is unique in that it is mostly Iowa-centric. The dates of 1917 to 1921 were selected because it was the period when the firm was very active. “Small Purchased Ads” are those that were purchased by the Escher & Ryan business and were roughly the size of a quarter-page ad, half-page ads, and full-page ads are those that were purchased by the Escher & Ryan business and were at or near that size as a percentage of the total page on which they were printed. “Column/Story Mentions” are instances in which the Pleasant View Farm, either one or both of Escher and Ryan, or their business was mentioned in an article written by *Homestead* staff or contributors. “Dates Claimed” was a section in which a list of dates—often far in advance—were published for prominent stock showings, indicating to others that those days would not be good for sales of their own; “Upcoming Shows” was a section in which a list of dates would inform potential buyers of stock shows that were to be held in the coming month. Often times, significant purchases would be listed in a “Report of Sales” section, with information regarding buyers, sellers, products, and costs; Escher & Ryan appeared in these sections from time to time, sometimes as buyers and more commonly as sellers. Photo captions include printed photographs that included images of Escher & Ryan cattle. This report does not include any mentions of Escher & Ryan’s hog or sheep business or of their Long Branch operation. Such numbers would increase these results, though not significantly.

As the business grew, they sent their own travelling shows around the country to places like Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Fort Worth (Barratt 1996 13). They eventually started selling at shows in St. Paul, Minnesota and Mitchell, South Dakota. This was all in addition to the annual shows, conventions, and fairs at which they participated. Their reputation was sterling.

Many advertisements for these spectacular show days included the name of Nelson G. Kraschel, auctioneer. Kraschel was a reputable auctioneer and master of his craft. He was well-known for these services across Iowa and the Midwest and did the most prestigious sales. This popularity carried him to election as Lt. Governor and eventually Governor of Iowa. Kraschel was a New Deal Democrat and was well-known for working with farmers to rescue them from the farm crisis of that era (Burke et al. 2013:49).

Despite Escher & Ryan’s commercial successes, the farm economy was still somewhat volatile after World War I. The farm economy was strong prior to the war, and the increased demand for foodstuffs only added to that strength. However, when the war came to a quicker-than-expected end in November 1918, a void was left that farmers and their bankers were not prepared to handle (Sage 1983:93-95). When the farm economy weakened throughout the 1920s, some creditors were unable to pay their bills after buying cattle, equipment and other goods on margin when the good times seemed to not have any end in sight.³ One Escher & Ryan

³ Buying on margin was a financial practice used in the early 20th century, the overuse of which contributed greatly to the Great Depression. The buyer would make a down payment “margin” to the bank and borrow money from them to pay the rest, while the title

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sale of \$96,000 on margin only yielded a down payment of \$500 cash, so cash flow was low (Burke et al. 2013:130-135). During the particularly bad year of 1923, Escher and Ryan went into a meeting with bankers and lawyers at Escher's Long Branch home. When they exited the meeting, Charles Escher Jr. declared to the cook, Velma Newell, who was present there that day, that he had entered the meeting a millionaire and came out flat broke (Barratt 1996:16; Burke et al. 2013:130-135; Burress Interview 2018). Following this meeting, Long Branch Farm was possessed by the creditors, but they allowed Charles Jr. and wife, Myrtle, to stay in the house until Charles' untimely death in 1925 of cancer.

Then, in November of 1924, the Shelby County Sheriff seized Pleasant View Stock Farm and it was auctioned to repay a balance of \$68,000 that the business still owed to People's Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago. It was purchased by J. Earle Martin who transferred it to the T.S. Martin Real Estate Company the following spring. Earl Ryan maintained ownership of 200 head of cattle, including Earl Marshall and moved the entire herd to Pingrey Ranch near Coon Rapids, Iowa (Barratt 1996:18, Burke et.al 2013:78, 80). Pingrey Ranch was an extensive property just west of Coon Rapids. The Ranch once included thousands of acres and encompassed a number of farmsteads, one of which would have been where the Ryans lived and managed their herd for a time (Kent Munsfeldt, interview with Ray Werner, 2018). However, Earl and Bertha Ryan were still living in Greeley Township, likely at Pleasant View, at the time of the January 1925 Iowa State Census. This was only a couple of months after the seizure of the farm and auction, and it appears that they too were allowed to stay on at their property for a time as well. Then in April of 1925, the property was transferred from J. Earle Martin to the T.S. Martin Real Estate Company. It is likely at this time that the Ryans moved to the Pingrey Ranch property. It appears that the Pleasant View Farm was then either rented out or the house left vacant for a time after the Ryans left. The house was in poor condition when Ransome Barry purchased the farm in the 1930s.

On August 10, 1925, Charles Escher Jr. died at his Long Branch Farm. His obituary stated that "Escher & Ryan have raised, recorded, bought and sold more registered Aberdeen-Angus cattle than any other firm in business today" (1925 *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*). It went on to say that their work should "remain unequalled for time to come." Escher's widow, Myrtle (Ryan) Escher, moved then to Manning, Iowa. The couple did not have any children (Barratt 1996:16).

On July 10, 1927, it was announced that the remaining Escher & Ryan Angus herd, now managed solely by Earl Ryan, would be merged with Harrison Stock Farms. H.O. Harrison had also served on the American Angus Association board since 1924, the same year Earl Ryan joined it. Mr. Harrison became president of the new Harrison & Ryan partnership, with Earl Ryan the manager (Burke et al. 2013:10). A 1927 Harrison & Ryan ad touted the following winnings:

Harrison & Ryan
A Ten Year Summary of Winnings at the Chicago International, 1918-1927

1 st Prize Get-of-Sire	9
Grand Champions	8
Senior Champions	9
Junior Champions	5
First Prizes Won	65
2 nd Prizes Won	33
3 rd Prizes Won	37

6 out of 10 Shows – Grand Champion Bull: 3 of which are now in use in one herd.

9 out of 10 Shows – 1st Prize Get of Sire (Burke et al. 2013:53).

to the item being purchased would remain in the bank's possession (as collateral) until the loan and interest were paid in full. It is not unlike the mortgage or bank loan processes of today.

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Earl Marshall himself died on July 2, 1928. He was almost 15 years old, and surely slowing down, yet was still servicing cows three months prior to his death (Burke et al. 2013:37). Earl Marshall sadly died after getting stuck in the mud during a rainstorm. Despite that likely emotional setback, it was not an operational setback, with the business successes continuing for a few more years. Harrison & Ryan continued to show Earl Marshall’s descendants and others with good results. The Ryans had moved back to Shelby County with the combined Harrison & Ryan herds and were now living near Kirkman in Douglas Township. It was on the Kirkman-area farm where Earl Marshall died.⁴

In 1930, the Harrison & Ryan partnership ended. Their business model still relied on selling cattle on margin, despite knowing its problems. The Great Depression finally claimed the Harrison & Ryan operation, with many of their buyers unable to pay back their debts. Harrison & Ryan collapsed. In the latter half of 1930, the entire herd was sold to Fred Hahne who moved them to Strathmore Farms, near Webster City, Iowa. That firm dispersed its entire herd at auction on October 15, 1936 (Burke et al. 2013:10; Barratt 1996). Earl Ryan moved to California in 1931. In 1934, Pleasant View was purchased by H.A. and Lena Wetmore, who sold it to Ransome Barry the following year. Barry then moved his family from Woodbine, Iowa, to Pleasant View farm. His son, Milton Barry took over the property in 1972 along with his wife, Ruth Ann. They operated the farm and raised their family here. Milton and Ruth Ann no longer live at Pleasant View, with both houses on this farm now rental properties. Their daughter, Shelly, and her husband, Lamont Christensen, continue to operate the farm and live just north of the Pleasant View farmstead.

Property Transfers and Recent History of Pleasant View Farm					
GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE	AMT.	NOTES/QUESTIONS	
U.S. Government	Dixwell / Riddle	May 1, 1860	-	<i>(for Riddle’s service in War of 1812)</i>	
Trustees of Dixwell	T.G. Ryan	May 20, 1879	\$800	<i>(actual sale)</i>	
Trustees of Dixwell	Thomas J. Ryan	June 18, 1883	\$1	<i>(just a correction of name to 1879 sale)</i>	
Thomas J. Ryan	Herbert Ryan	May 2, 1903	\$24k	<i>(This sale fell through)</i>	
Thomas J. Ryan	Charles Escher Jr	Feb 21, 1905	\$5	<i>(actual sale)</i>	
Charles Escher Jr	Earl G. Ryan	Aug 19, 1922	\$1		
Earl G. Ryan	Charles Escher Jr	March 7, 1923	\$1		
Oscar Hanson, Sherriff	J. Earle Martin	Nov 8, 1924	\$70k	<i>(seized and auctioned to repay \$68,000 plus interest to People’s Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago)</i>	
J. Earle Martin	T.S. Martin Realty Co.	April 11, 1925	\$1		
T.S. Martin Realty Co.	H.A. & Lena Wetmore	June 26, 1934	\$1		
H.A. & Lena Wetmore	Ransome Barry	June 27, 1935	\$35.5k		
Ransome Barry	Milton Barry	August 1, 1972	\$1	<i>(current owner)</i>	

Earl Ryan died in California on July 14, 1952. His family in California, including his son Charles and others, raised Angus cattle of their own. His children and grandchildren raised and showed the breed throughout California and the country. His granddaughter Abbie (Ryan) Nelson was the first woman elected to the American Angus Association Board and was named the president of the American Angus Association’s Foundation in 2002 and 2003. As of 2011, the Ryan-Nelson family was still raising purebred Angus cattle in California: their herd being known descendants of Earl Marshall (Burke et al. 2013:10).

⁴ This farm is located at 1424 Street F32 approximately two miles west of Kirkman and four miles southwest of Pleasant View Stock Farm (Larry Knudson, personal communication with JoLynn Escher Thorson, November 2018). In 2013, the 100th birthday of Earl Marshall was honored with a celebration at the farm at 1424 Street F32 now owned by Carl Nielsen.

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Earl Marshall's Extensive Lineage and His Relevance Today

To fully understand the historical significance of this farm, the story of the world's most famous Aberdeen-Angus bull, Earl Marshall, is a requisite. He was the most important bull in the history of the Angus Breed in the United States, if for no other reason than the fact that he is the traceable ancestor of over 99.9% of all purebred Angus cattle registered by the American Angus Association between 2000 and 2010. Of the 3,072,429 cattle registered in that time frame, all but 964 have pedigrees that are traced to him. From the time they started the pedigree registry in 1883 to 2010, 15,040,919 of the 16,832,114 individual cattle can trace their pedigree through him (Burruss Interview 2018)⁵. Escher & Ryan made the conscious effort to keep Earl Marshall back for breeding, while many of the bull's extended family members and descendants were used for shows, fairs, and commercial sale. Escher & Ryan had a seemingly unbelievable success rate in showing both the male and female offspring of Earl Marshall. This included—in the period of only ten years—seven International First Prize Get-of-Sire prizes, six International Grand Champions, and many more awards and accolades.

This statistic is in large part due to the work of McHenry, Escher & Ryan, and Harrison & Ryan, in successfully breeding him, marketing him, and marketing his breed, as well as the work they did to breed and market his offspring. It is a statistic that justifies Earl Marshall's title as the "Sire of Sires" or "King of Sires." The fact that he spent most of his siring life on the Pleasant View Stock Farm is significant.

A more recent technological advancement that has greatly impacted this statistic is artificial insemination. Through the selection of the best cattle—mostly descendants of Earl Marshall to begin with—farmers can use artificial insemination to propagate the best genes in quick order with a high rate of success. This means that fewer cattle are required to produce the number of calves needed to supply demand. Selection of Earl Marshall's kin for widespread diffusion via artificial insemination is a trend that has amplified the proliferation of his genes across the country for use in Angus beef production (Burruss Interview 2018).

Today, Angus is the most common type of beef cattle raised in the United States. Beginning in the 1970s the American Angus Association led a campaign to introduce a certified Angus label to meats in grocery stores, markets, and at restaurants (Figure 59). Their system of criteria and marketing of a "Certified Angus" label have increased awareness and knowledge of the breed and successfully increased demand for the breed which was continued to be seen as a superior meat product compared to other breeds. By the 21st century, after seeing the successful paradigm shift of American meat consumers to the Angus product, fast food companies and other restaurants began marketing a switch to predominantly angus beef for their hamburger products, furthering the trend begun by of the "Certified Angus" label (American Angus Association website, accessed April 2018).

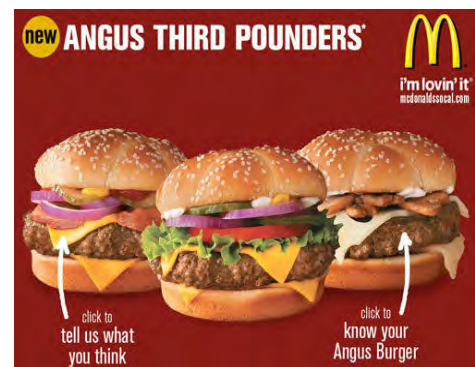


Figure 59. A McDonald's online ad emphasizes that its hamburgers are made with Angus and tells the viewer to "know your Angus Burger." Accessed on Google Images, online, April 2018.

Angus beef is especially prevalent in American culture and cuisine today, a product whose history is deeply rooted in the efforts undertaken at Pleasant View Stock Farm, via the purchase, breeding, and marketing of the bull Earl Marshall, and successfully marketing Angus as an American product. The prolific genetic makeup of all these cattle and the meat they produce for consumption around the country is likewise dependent on this historic farm.

⁵ This information was researched by Steven Burruss in 2010 from the American Angus Association Purebred Angus Database.

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Criterion C - Architectural Significance of the Pleasant View Stock Farm

As an operating farm for more than 40 years, the architecture and technologies used in running the Pleasant View Stock Farm are representative of many livestock farms throughout the region. The two houses are representative examples of architectural styles that reflect the times in which they were built and the contexts with which they are associated. The older of the two homes, the 1884 single-story, gable-front-and-wing house, tells the story of the farm's origins as an early homestead. The 1913 house reflects the growing farm operation, strong farm economy, and success of the farm by that time. It is a representative style of the period, but with decorative details and materials that showcased the wealth and success of the farming operation.

The barns and other agricultural buildings also tell the story of developing farming practices and the outward image of financial success throughout its existence. The oldest of the three barns, the Middle Barn (Show Barn), served double-duty as a hay and feeder barn and the location where the cattle shows and sales were held at Pleasant View. While not unique in the region, a barn used for livestock shows was not common. Other examples include the related farming operation of Long Branch (the Escher farm) and the purebred hog operation of the Clover Leaf Stock Farm in northeast Shelby County (where a two-story building was constructed to serve as a show ring for that farm's hog sales) (Johnson 1991; Rogers and Johnson 1991). Figure 60 is a photograph of the show ring/hog house on the Clover Leaf Stock Farm, with Figure 61 being a historic photograph of the barns at Long Branch, including a distinctive cross-shaped barn. The Clover Leaf building was built circa 1911-1914 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Poplar Rural District in Shelby County and a small part of Audubon County (Johnson 1991). This show barn is still extant, but the cross-shaped barn at Long Branch burned down circa 2010 and a new machine shed erected in its place. Long Branch is located roughly nine miles east-northeast of Pleasant View, while the Poplar Rural District straddles the Shelby/Audubon county line north of Kimballton, Iowa, southeast of Pleasant View.



Figure 60. Hog Show Barn on the Clover Leaf Stock Farm in the Poplar Rural District in Shelby County, Iowa. This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is still standing. Source: Johnson 1991.

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Figure 61. This 1898 photograph of the barns on the Long Branch Farm shows the cross-shaped barn (upper left) and a gabled transverse frame barn (upper right) that may have inspired the T-shaped barn construction on Pleasant View Farm. The cross-shaped barn had become a T-shaped barn by the late 20th century and burned down circa 2010. The above view was taken from the north looking southwest. What is now 2200th Street in Shelby County is the lane that extends between the two barns. *Source: American Angus Hall of Fame.*

The large barns on the Long Branch Farm were built by 1898, as seen in the photograph in Figure 61. They are larger in size than those on Pleasant View but the inspiration for the T-shaped barn on the subject farmstead may have come from the large cross-shaped and front-gabled transverse frame barns on Long Branch (see Figure 61). The former Long Branch Farm is now split into two separate parcels north and south of 2200th Street in Jefferson Township. The cross-shaped barn site is on the south parcel and now has a modern Ranch house just west of the barn site and a large machine shed on the barn site. The north parcel still retains the Escher house built circa 1915, but this large, two-story, Eclectic Revival-style house has been greatly modified on the exterior in the modern era. However, the front-gabled barn visible in the 1898 photograph appears to still be standing but now has a wrap-around shed added to three sides (Figure 62). Figures 63-64 shows the locations of Long Branch in Sections 13 and 24 of Jefferson Township and Pleasant View in Sections 34-35 in 1911, while Figure 65 is a county map showing the location of all three stock farms: Long Branch, Pleasant View, and Clover Leaf.

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Figure 62. A late 1930s aerial photograph (left) and a 1990s aerial photograph (right) show the location of the cross-shaped barn (black dotted circle) and the front-gabled transverse-frame barn (white dashed circle) at Escher's Long Branch Farm. Note that by the 1990s, the cross-shape of the barn had been altered to a T-shape and a large wrap-around shed had been added to the front-gabled barn. The cross-shaped barn was destroyed by fire circa 2010 and later replaced by a modern shed; the front-gabled barn is extant. Source: Iowa Geographic Map Server, 2018.

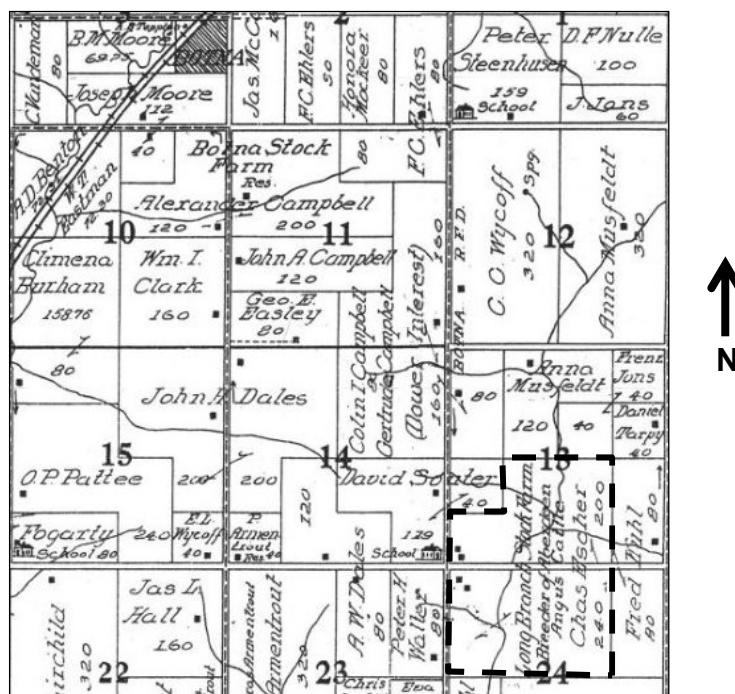


Figure 63. Location of "Long Branch Stock Farm Breeder of Aberdeen Angus Cattle," in Jefferson Township, Shelby County, Iowa, in 1911. Note the proximity to the town of Botna along the railroad similar to the positioning of Pleasant View near Irwin and the same rail line in Figure 64. Source: Ogle and Co. 1911.

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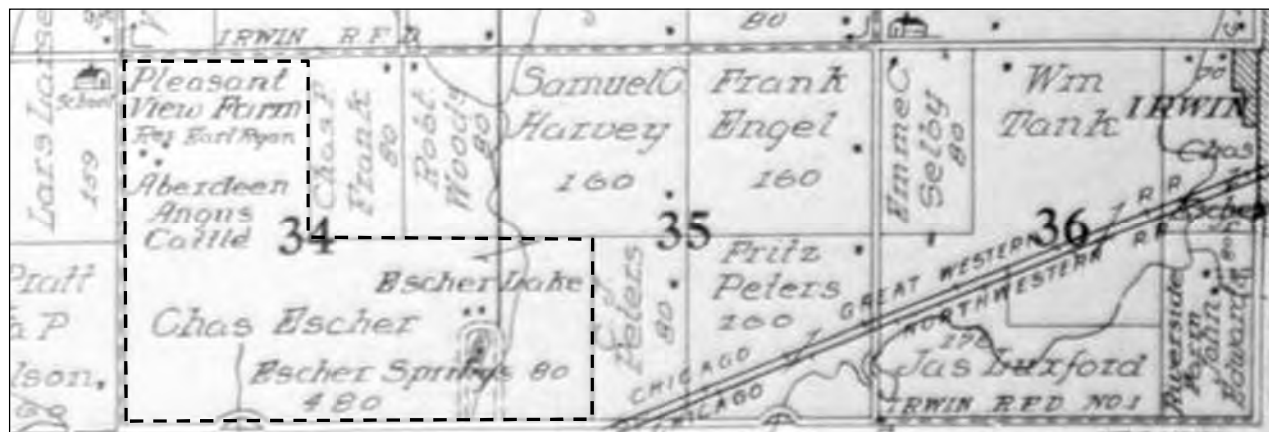


Figure 64. Location of Pleasant View Farm in 1911 (dashed outline). Note that the farm owner is "Chas. Escher" but the residence of Earl Ryan is the Pleasant View farmstead. Of further note, are the locations of "Escher Lake" and "Escher Springs" in the southeast quadrant of the farm. An unusual U-shaped driveway extends around the lake, with two houses shown at the drive's north end. These houses are no longer standing, and the lake no longer holds water. Source: Ogle and Co. 1911

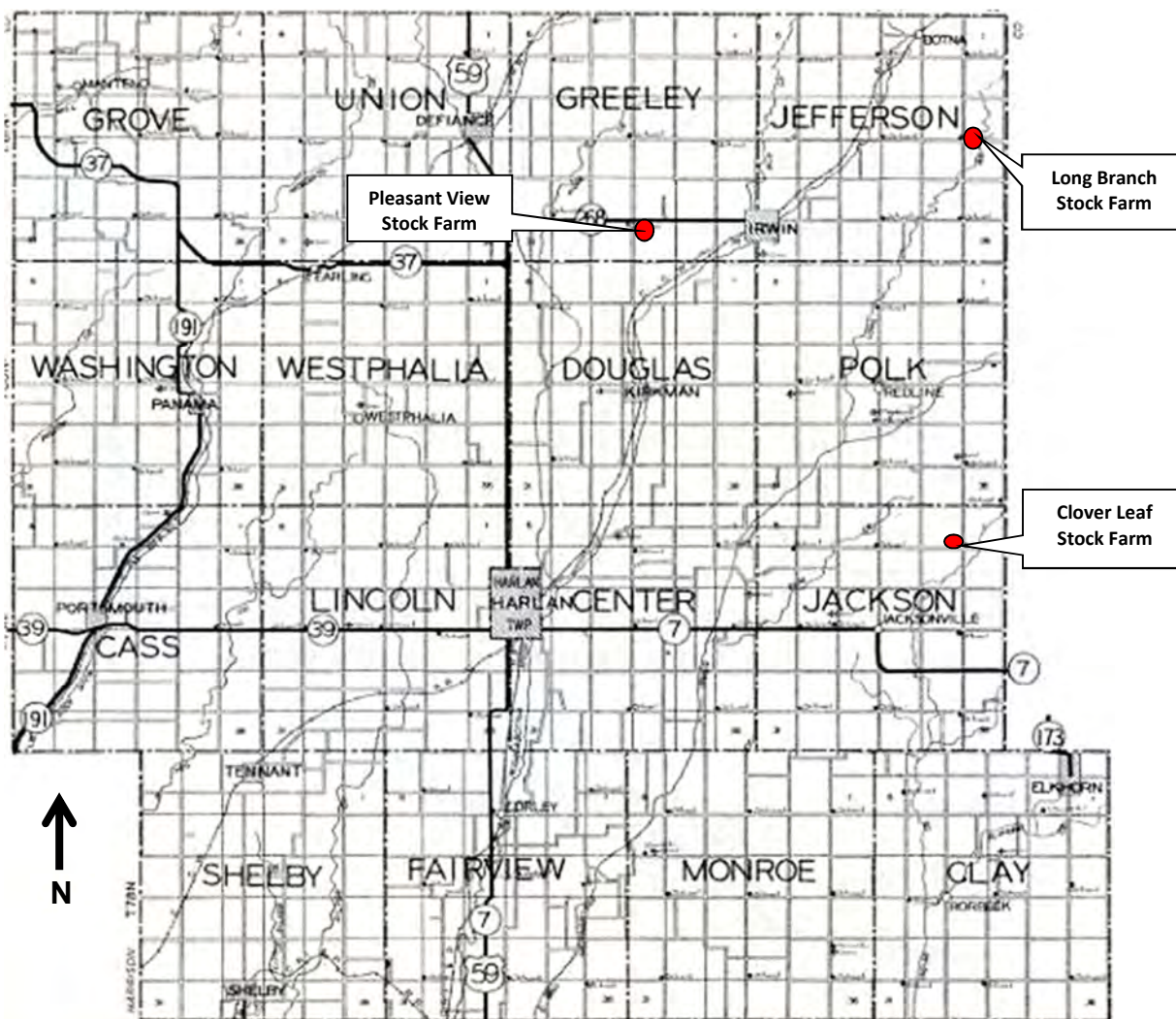


Figure 65. Map of Shelby County, Iowa, showing the location of Pleasant View, Long Branch, and Clover Leaf stock farms in relation to one another. Source: Hixson and Co. 1930.

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The architecture of the two main houses of the Pleasant View and Long Branch stock farms both reflect the wealth and status of the Ryan and Escher families at the time of their respective construction. Earl and Bertha (Sessions) Ryan lived in the large house on the Pleasant View Stock farm from 1913 until 1924 (Information provided by Abbie (Ryan) Nelson, 2018). The couple was married in 1907. The house was likely designed by an architect, and reportedly was to be an even grander residence but some items had to be scaled back due to costs. The house is a vernacular architectural type (a variant of an American Foursquare), with stylistic details from Classical Revival and Craftsman styles then popular (Figures 65 and 66). The style and size of this home reflect the success of the farm's operators.



Figure 65. Historic photograph of the Ryan house at Pleasant View Farm. Note the Palladian window in the front dormer, the original windows on the front porch and on the south side center, the roof ridge cresting, and the wooden railing on the front porch, now replaced or removed. The corbels under the eaves so visible in this photograph are still in place but not as highly visible in the current photograph in Figure 66 because of the gutters. Copy of photograph provided by Abbie Ryan Nelson.



Figure 66. Current view of the Ryan house at Pleasant View Farm. Photograph taken April 12, 2018.

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The home of Charles Escher, Jr. was also built circa 1915 (Figure 67). It was noted in Escher's 1915 biographical sketch, that he was then "planning the erection of a handsome home in the near future" (White 1915:675-678). While the quote did not specifically state "on Long Branch Farm," the biography was in the Shelby County History book and included a description of Long Branch Farm, which was his residence in 1915.⁶ Of course, there was an older home on this farm where his father had lived before and where he was living in 1915, but that house is no longer standing. This Eclectic Revival-style house would have been architect-designed. This house is still standing but has been modified extensively in the modern era (Figure 68).



Figure 67. Historic photograph of the "Longbranch" house of Charles Escher, Jr.
Copy of photograph provided by Abbie Ryan Nelson.



Figure 68. Escher House built circa 1915 on Long Branch Stock Farm. These two different views show the modifications this house has undergone in the modern era, from wide replacement siding and window replacements at left to the current vinyl siding, modern window inserts, and two different front porch additions. The only original elements that remain on the exterior are the roof with wide eave overhang and exposed rafter ends, and the hipped dormers on the front roof slope that have the same roof/eave treatment.

Photos obtained from Shelby County, Iowa Assessor, 2018.

⁶ Therefore, while the Shelby County Assessor assigned an "1890" date to the extant house on Long Branch Farm, Assessor dates typically are simply the Assessor's best estimate, particularly if the date is a round number like "1890" or "1900." The Assessor would have no record of when this house was actually built unless an owner provided an exact date or a date plaque was present. The 1915 biographical account would have been based on first-hand information from Charles Escher, Jr., with a circa 1915 date of construction compatible with the style of the house and with the success of Escher & Ryan's firm by that time (White 1915).

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In general, the Pleasant View Stock Farm retains a higher degree of historic integrity than the Long Branch Farm, with Long Branch now split in two, the historic house greatly modified, the large cross-shape barn gone, and the front-gabled barn also modified in the modern era. Therefore, the Pleasant View Stock Farm is better able to convey the local architectural and historical significance of the Escher & Ryan era centered around the world-famous bull, Earl Marshall, who lived most of his reproductive life at the Pleasant View Stock Farm and had a lasting impact on the Angus breed.

Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby County, Iowa
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District

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Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District

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Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
Name of Property

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 83-00605

Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.788890</u> Latitude	<u>-95.267080</u> Longitude	3	<u>41.788220</u> Latitude	<u>-95.266160</u> Longitude
2	<u>41.788870</u> Latitude	<u>-95.266150</u> Longitude	4	<u>41.788220</u> Latitude	<u>-95.265750</u> Longitude
5	<u>41.786770</u> Latitude	<u>-95.265740</u> Longitude	6	<u>41.786780</u> Latitude	<u>-95.267120</u> Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District is shown as the black outline on the accompanying map entitled "Aerial location of the Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District showing the district boundary and coordinates" (page 66).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes the extant farmstead buildings of the Pleasant View Stock Farm and house and barn yards that maintain historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ray Werner, Leah Rogers, and Nathan Buman date May 13, 2019
organization Tallgrass Archaeology LLC telephone (319) 354-6722
street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive email lrogerstallgrass@gmail.com
city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52246

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Site Plan**
- Photo Location Map (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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Aerial location of the Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District showing the district boundary (black outline) and coordinates (green dots).

Source: 2013 Aerial obtained from ExpertGPS Pro Mapping Software, 2018.

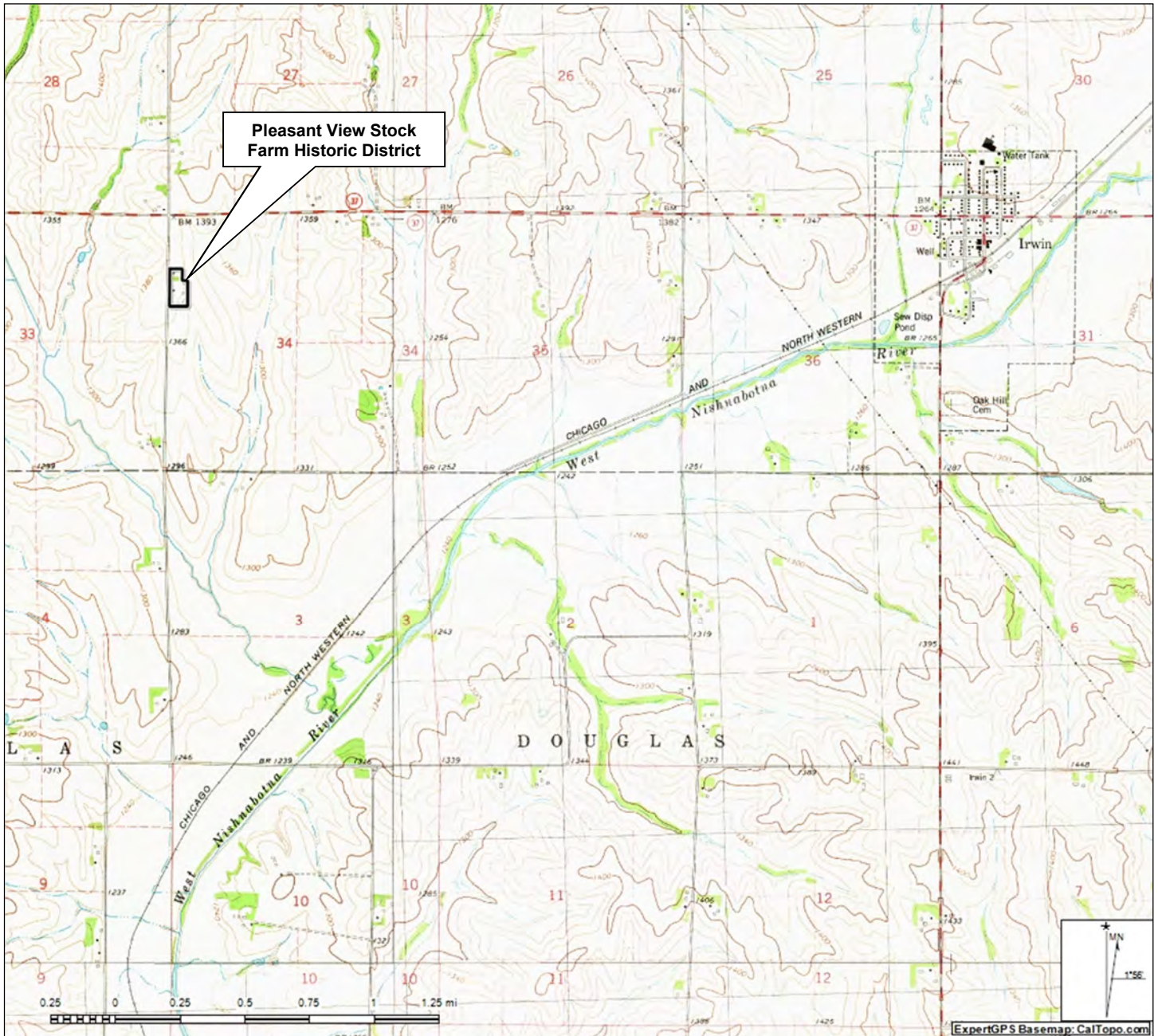


Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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Topographic location of the Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District (black outline) in Section 34 of Greeley Township, Shelby County, Iowa.

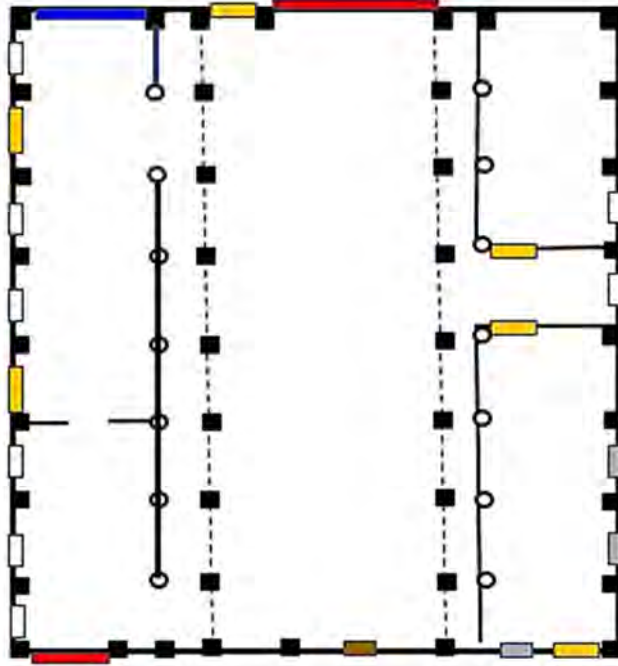
Source: USGS Defiance, Iowa, Quadrangle, 7.5' series, 1971 obtained from ExpertGPS Pro Mapping Software, 2018.



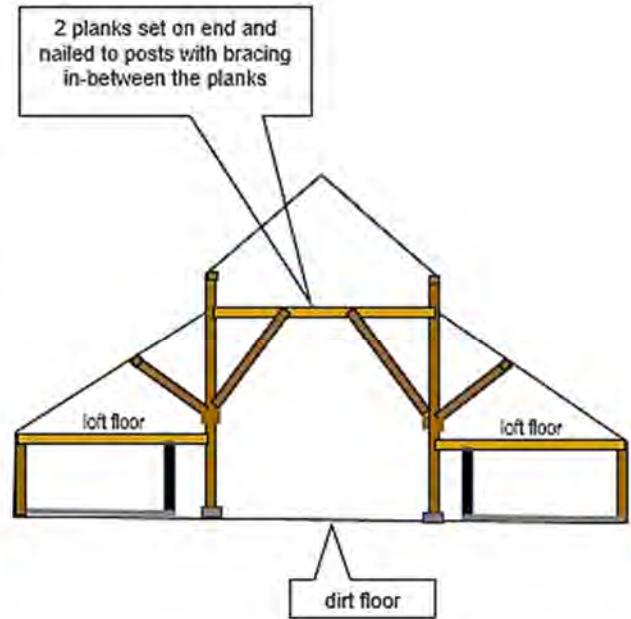
Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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Sketch maps of Floor Plan and Bent Configuration of North Barn (Monitor Roof Barn) on Pleasant View Stock Farm. Measured sketch by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 2018.



Floor Plan Sketch



Interior framing

Plan Key:

- = square post
- = round pole
- = internal wall divisions
- - - = outer edge of loft floor above
- (red) = sliding door
- (blue) = overhead door
- (orange) = standard door
- (brown) = ladder
- (white) = window
- (grey) = vent

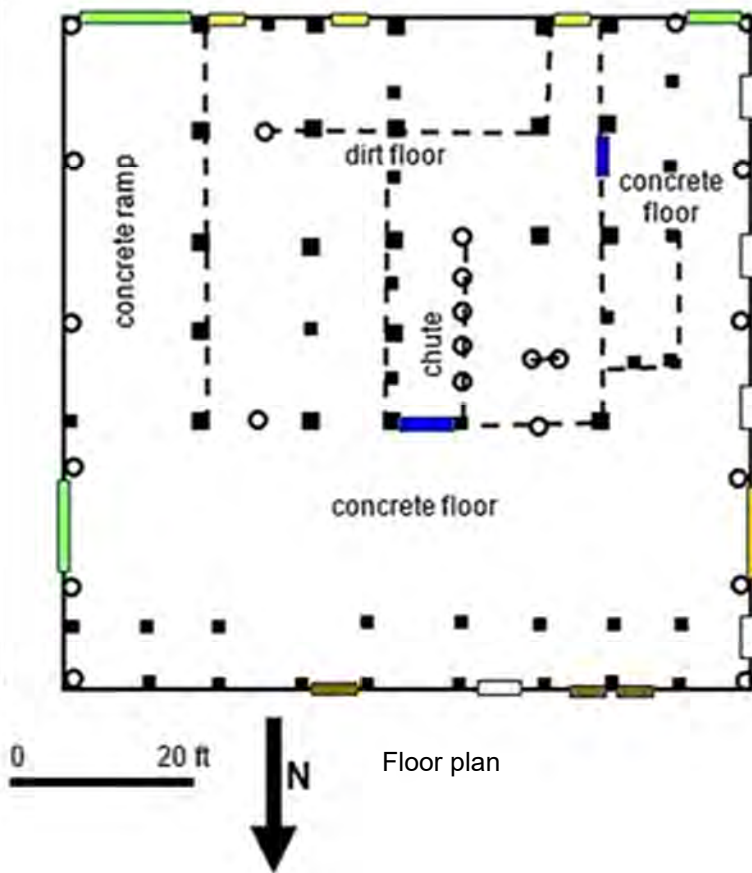
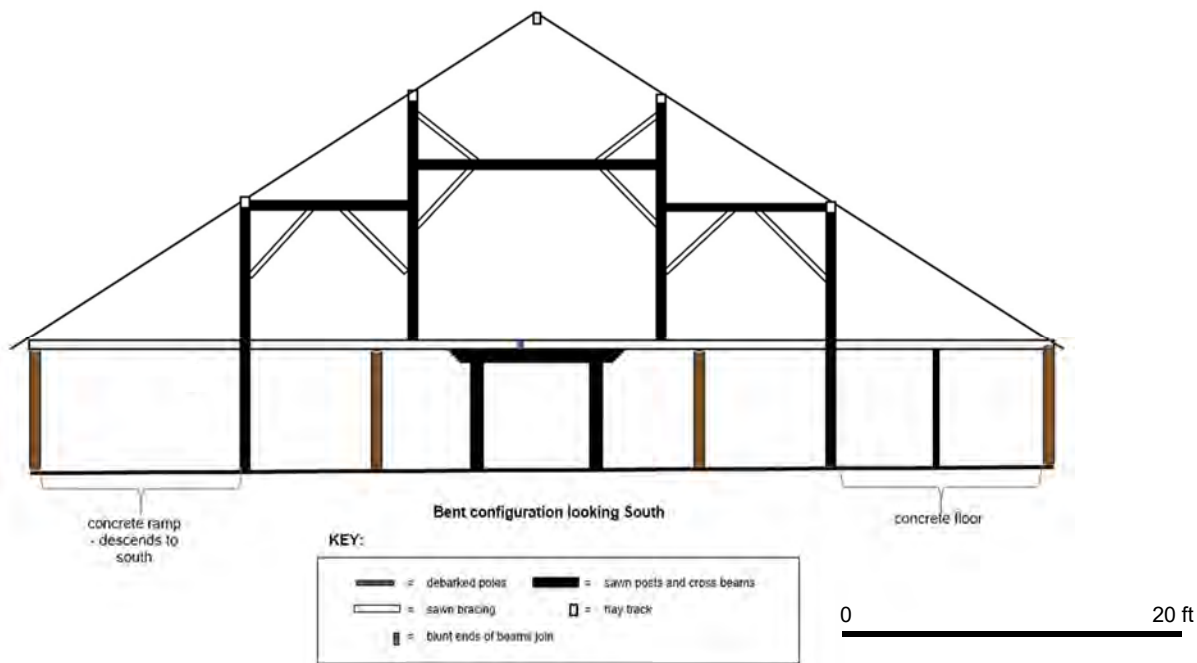
Plan Key:

- (brown) = square posts, beams, and bracing
- (black) = round pole
- (grey) = stone slab under posts
- (orange) = planks and floor joists
- (grey) = concrete floor
- ⊥ = board stops or supports for bracing

Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
 Name of Property

Shelby County, Iowa
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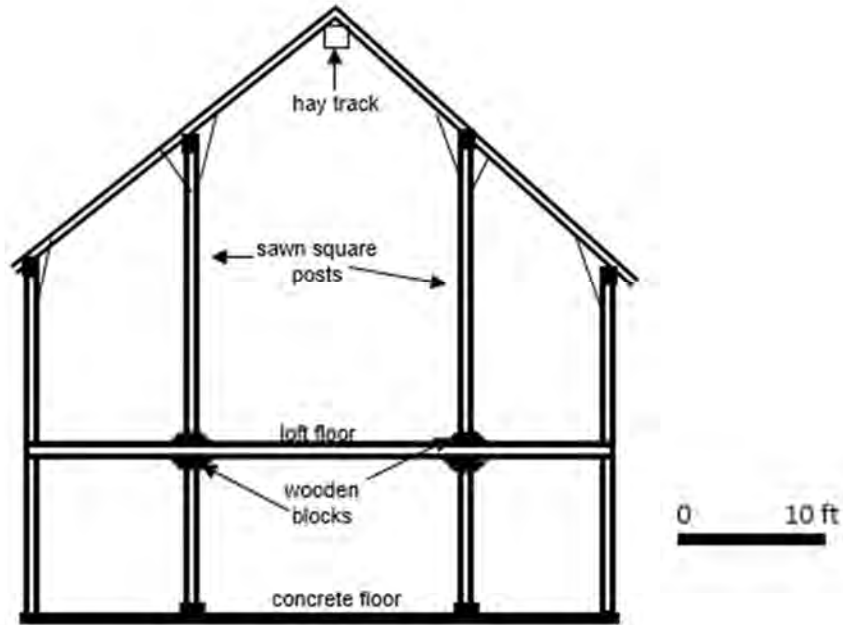
Sketch maps of Bent Configuration and Floor Plan of Middle Barn (Show Barn) on Pleasant View Stock Farm. Measured sketch by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 2018.



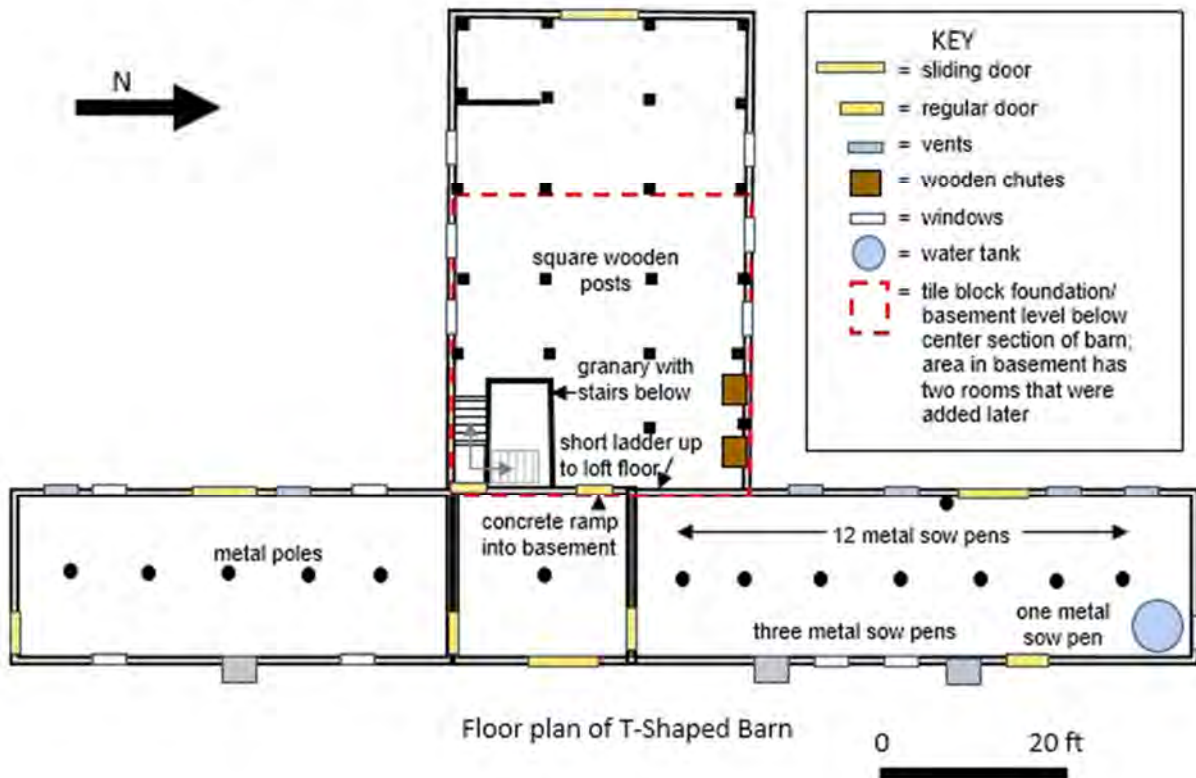
Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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Sketch maps of Floor Plan and Bent Configuration of South Barn (T-Shaped Barn) on Pleasant View Stock Farm. Measured sketch by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 2018.



Bent configuration - center section of T-shaped barn



Floor plan of T-Shaped Barn

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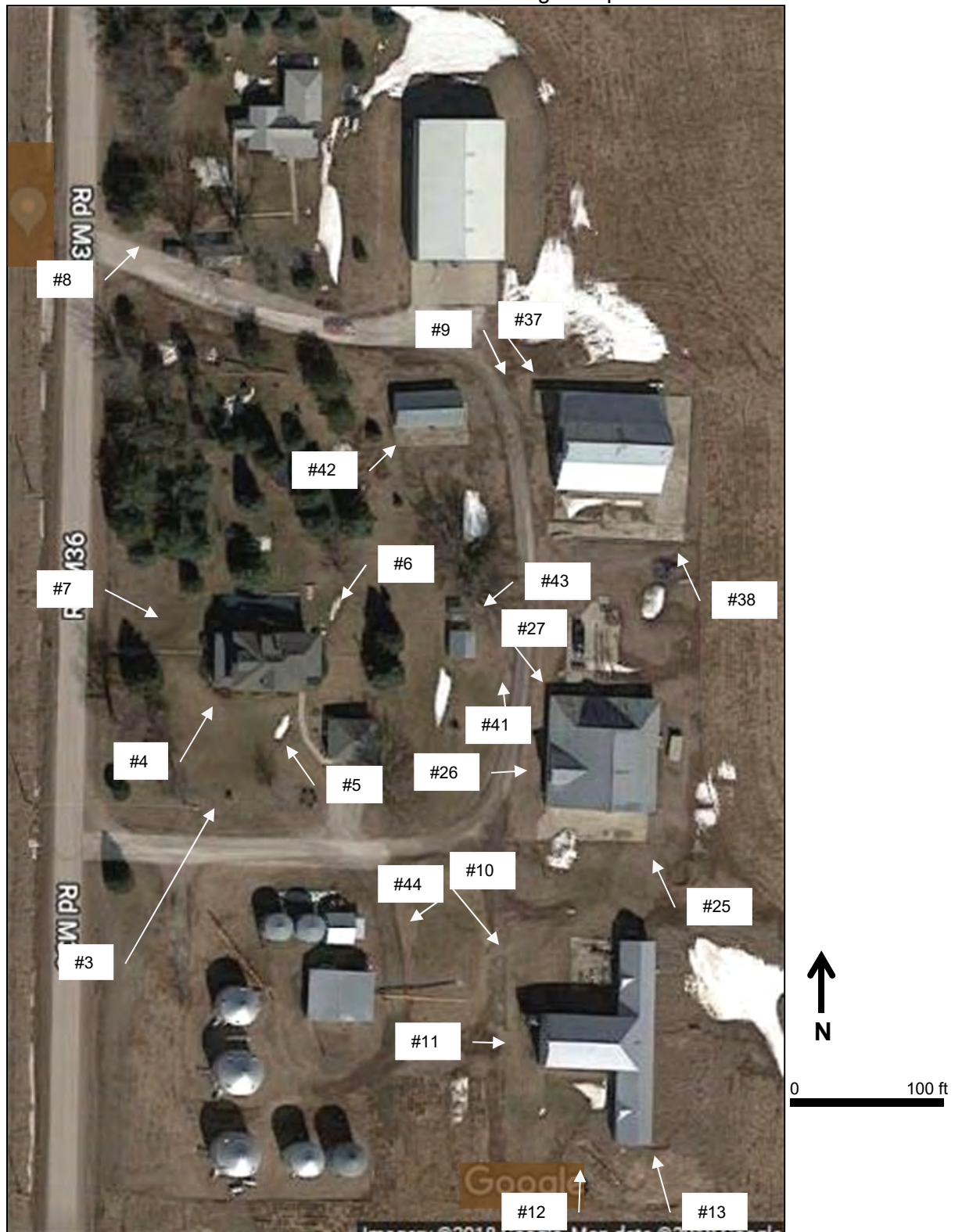
Aerial map showing directions of Long-View Exterior Photographs #1-2
2013 Aerial obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, 2018.



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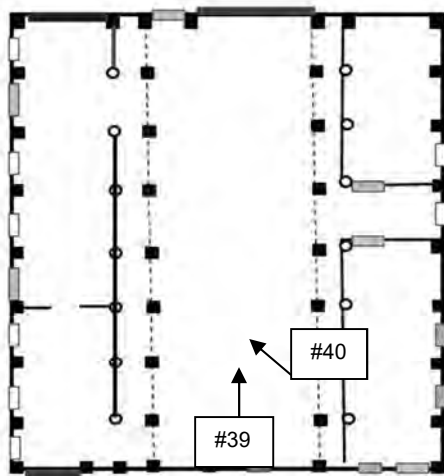
Aerial map showing directions of Exterior Photographs #3-13, 25-27, 37-38, and 41-44.
2018 Aerial obtained from Google Maps.



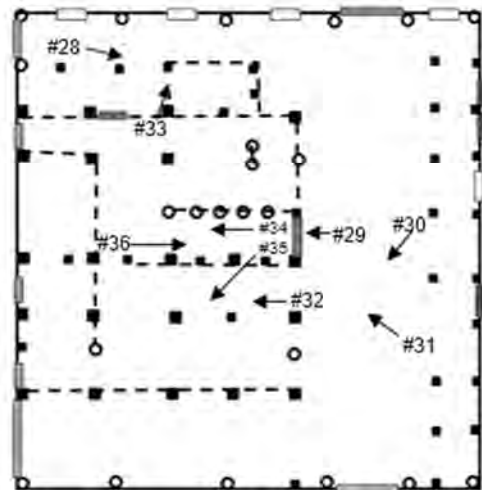
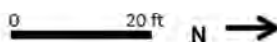
Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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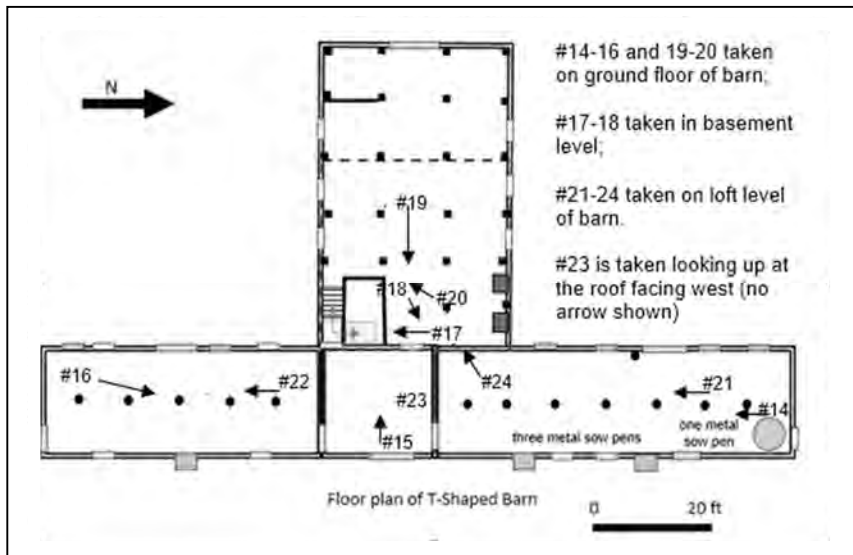
Aerial map showing directions of Interior Barn Photographs #14-24, 28-36, and 39-40.
Sketch maps by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC, 2018.



Floor plan of Monitor Roof Barn



Floor plan of Middle Barn
#28-32 taken on ground floor of barn;
#33-36 taken on loft level



Floor plan of T-Shaped Barn



Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District
City or Vicinity: Irwin vicinity
County: Shelby County **State:** Iowa
Photographer: Leah Rogers and Ray Werner, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC
Date Photographed: April 12-13, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 44: General view of farmstead looking SW
- Photo 2 of 44: General view of farmstead looking NNE
- Photo 3 of 44: General view of 1913 house, windmill and 1913 garage looking NNE
- Photo 4 of 44: front and south side of 1913 house looking NNE
- Photo 5 of 44: south side and rear of 1913 house looking NNW
- Photo 6 of 44: rear and north side of 1913 house looking WSW
- Photo 7 of 44: front of 1913 house looking ESE
- Photo 8 of 44: 1884 house and 1920 garage #1 looking NE
- Photo 9 of 44: North, Middle and South barns looking SE
- Photo 10 of 44: South Barn looking ESE
- Photo 11 of 44: South Barn looking East
- Photo 12 of 44: west side of South Barn looking North
- Photo 13 of 44: rear (east side) of South Barn looking NNW
- Photo 14 of 44: Interior of north wing of South Barn looking South
- Photo 15 of 44: Interior of center room of wing of South Barn looking West
- Photo 16 of 44: Interior of south wing of South Barn looking NNE
- Photo 17 of 44: Interior of basement below South Barn looking South at stairs to ground level
- Photo 18 of 44: Interior of basement below South Barn looking ENE from inside south room
- Photo 19 of 44: Interior of ground floor of main part of South Barn looking East towards loft access door
- Photo 20 of 44: Interior of ground floor of main part of South Barn looking SW at granary to left
- Photo 21 of 44: Interior of loft of wing additions looking south from north end of north wing of South Barn
- Photo 22 of 44: Interior of loft of south wing of South Barn looking South
- Photo 23 of 44: Looking up at the interior of the juncture of the roof of the winged addition to the main part of the South Barn
- Photo 24 of 44: Interior of loft of main part of South Barn looking WSW at bent configuration
- Photo 25 of 44: South and east sides of Middle Barn looking NNW
- Photo 26 of 44: West side of Middle Barn looking East
- Photo 27 of 44: East and north sides of Middle Barn looking SE
- Photo 28 of 44: Interior of ground level of Middle Barn looking NE from west aisle of barn
- Photo 29 of 44: Interior of ground level of Middle Barn looking South at center section cattle pens and chute
- Photo 30 of 44: Interior of ground level of Middle Barn looking SE from north aisle of barn
- Photo 31 of 44: Interior of ground level of Middle Barn looking SW from north aisle of barn
- Photo 32 of 44: Interior of ground level of Middle Barn looking South at center section of barn
- Photo 33 of 44: Interior of loft of Middle Barn looking west at gabled hay mow dormer

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- Photo 34 of 44: Interior of loft of Middle Barn looking South from center part of loft
Photo 35 of 44: Interior of loft of Middle Barn looking SE from center part of loft
Photo 36 of 44: Interior of loft of Middle Barn looking North from center part of loft
Photo 37 of 44: West and north sides of North Barn looking ESE
Photo 38 of 44: South and east sides of North Barn looking NW
Photo 39 of 44: Interior of North Barn looking West
Photo 40 of 44: Interior of North Barn looking up and SW at loft framing
Photo 41 of 44: Tool shed, hog house, and machine shed on left and North Barn and Middle Barn on far right looking North
Photo 42 of 44: Hog house looking NE
Photo 43 of 44: Tool shed and small shed looking SW
Photo 44 of 44: Machine Shed and 1920 garage #2 and grain bins behind looking SW

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







































SCORPION



















































IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

CHRIS FRAMER, DIRECTOR



May 17, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms Beasley:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable. For the **Davenport Motor Row and Industrial Historic District** there was one objection received (enclosed) out of 24 property owners. No objections were received for either of the other two nominations.

Samuel and Sarah Hulme House

The Samuel and Sarah Hulme House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance under Criterion A for its significance within the agricultural history of northwest Henry County and under Criterion C for the significant architecture of the house. The brick house was built for Samuel and Sarah (Howard) Hulme around 1862, noted for its early date of construction and for its brick construction in the middle of the 19th century in northwest Henry County. Samuel Hulme was a prominent rural resident in this period, pursuing agricultural interests as well as being actively involved with the Henry

County Institute of Science (non-extant) in nearby Trenton. The period of significance spans from 1862 when the house was constructed until 1913 when Samuel Hulme retired from farming and passed the operations of the property to his grandson.

Davenport Motor Row and Industrial Historic District

The Davenport Motor Row and Industrial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for Commerce, Industry, and Transportation. The commerce and industry represented includes warehousing, wholesaling, specialty manufacturing including furniture, food, and carriages, and auto-related retail and service typical in Davenport during the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. The district provides a rare-surviving grouping of late nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century manufacturing, warehousing, automotive-related commercial, and railroad-related properties in Davenport. The district's commercial and industrial building stock includes locally rare-surviving examples of automotive and industrial building types and styles in an evolution of architectural styles and responses; also included is an 1877 fire station, built by a private fire brigade to provide fire protection to commercial and industrial businesses. Transportation is represented via adjoining railroad grade and bridges and the location of a former rail siding that played an

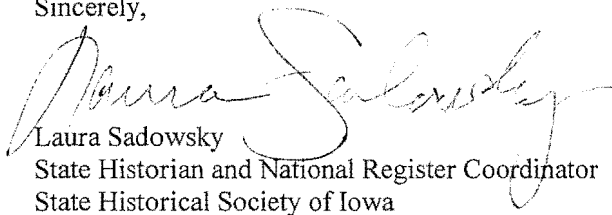
important role in local early-1900s efforts to redevelop the southern portion of the neighborhood from a red-light district into an industrial area. The period of significance is 1877, the date of the earliest resource in the district, to 1959, the year prior to the opening of the interstate freeway north of the city, which would lead to changes in traffic and retailing patterns.

Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District

The Pleasant View Stock Farm Historic District is eligible at the local level under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A for the significant association of this property with the world-famous Aberdeen-Angus sire bull, Earl Marshall. This bull lived the majority of his reproductive life on this farmstead and is the traceable ancestor to over 99.9% of all purebred Angus cattle registered by the American Angus Association between 2000 and 2010. In other words, of the 3,072,429 cattle registered during that period, all but 964 have pedigrees that can be traced to Earl Marshall. The farm is further significant under Criterion A for its association with the purebred Angus cattle operation of Charles Escher Jr. and Earl Ryan (as the firm of Escher & Ryan). Under their management, the farm produced a disproportionately-high number of national and international purebred Angus champions. They were leaders in the transition of American agriculture to commercialization, helped increased the national awareness of the breed overall, and propagated the breed's most significant genes. The district is also locally significant under Criterion C for the architectural significance of the extant residential and agricultural buildings that reflect the peak of this cattle raising operation and its success overall until felled by farm crisis of the 1920s and the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. The period of significance for this district is 1882 when the farmstead was established by Thomas J. Ryan and 1924, when the property was lost and the farm was no longer associated with the raising of Angus cattle. Significant dates include: 1884 when the extant gable-front-and-wing house was built by Thomas Ryan and the oldest extant barn built soon after; circa 1910 when the two other extant barns were built; 1913 when the foursquare house was built; and 1916 when Escher & Ryan purchased the Angus herd that included the bull Earl Marshall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Sadowsky
State Historian and National Register Coordinator
State Historical Society of Iowa

Enclosures.