

APR 02 2010

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery

other names/site number Methodist Episcopal Church of Milford Township

2. Location

street & number 56971 170th Street not for publication N/A
city or town Ames vicinity X
state Iowa code IA county Story code 169 zip code 50010

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara A. Mitchell DSHPO April 7 2010
Signature of certifying official Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 5.28.10

for

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>RELIGION</u>	Sub: <u>religious facility</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>RELIGION</u>	Sub: <u>religious facility</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>cemetery</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>concrete</u>
roof	<u>metal</u>
walls	<u>wood</u>
Other	_____

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Pleasant Grove Community Church was established in 1873 by a group of farm families in Story County, Iowa. Pleasant Grove was built as a church and that has been its sole purpose for 135 years. Pleasant Grove Church has come to be called "The Little White Church in the Oaks" from its picturesque setting and two mature oak trees that once framed the front of the church. The grounds for the church and cemetery were provided by one of the founding families. Our records indicate that the church was constructed entirely with volunteer labor. Much of the repair and maintenance activities continue to be done by volunteers today.

The original official name of the church was the Methodist Episcopal Church of Milford Township and this name appears on the early legal documents associated with the church. It has been known as Pleasant Grove Church from its early years, however. Both names appear in William G. Allen's *A History of Story County*, published in 1887. The name for the cemetery appears to have mirrored that of the church over the years. In the early years, Pleasant Grove was served by circuit riders from the Ames Circuit of the Methodist Conference. It is the only one of the early circuit churches which remains standing today.

Local tradition and a sign on the front of the church give the founding date of 1873, although the property transfer of the church site is dated in 1874. Considering the priorities and standards of the time, it is not inconceivable that the property transfer may have been recorded after the church construction began.

Surroundings

The church site is fronted on the south by 170th Street, a gravel road maintained by Story County. Agricultural fields are located across the road to the south. 569th Avenue intersects 170th Street immediately east of the church site and continues to the south. An occupied house and yard are located to the west partially screened from the site by trees in the fence line. Undeveloped woodlands border the site to the north. The former site of the Pleasant Grove School is located to the east of the church lot and not included in the nomination boundaries. This area is partially overgrown, and no remnants of the schoolhouse are visible. An occupied farmhouse and farm site are located to the southeast across the intersection of 569th Avenue and 170th Street.

The Soper's Mill, an Iowa-registered historic site, is located along the river just south of 170th Street. The original mill at this site was known as Hughes Mill and was built by Thomas R. Hughes. Hughes was one of the original members of Pleasant Grove Church and owner of the land that was purchased for the church and cemetery site. Hughes Mill, as it was known then, was originally a sawmill but was converted to a grist mill prior to the construction of Pleasant Grove Church. Thomas R. Hughes and three of the original millers that were employed at the mill are buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Sheffield Cemetery, established in 1858, is located 2.1 miles north-northeast of the church. McFarland County Park is located 0.4 miles south of the church. The McMichael Pioneer Cemetery, an Iowa-registered historic site, and segments of one of the original stagecoach trails in the area can be found at East Peterson Park located 2.0 miles southwest.

Interstate 35 is located 0.2 miles east of the church. The construction of I-35 in 1969 changed the routing of the rural roads in the area. The road now called Pleasant Valley Drive originally connected to 170th Street east of the church allowing easy access from the farms and homes to the north but now terminates in the woods north of the church. The continuation of the original road intersects 170th Street east of I-35. The South Skunk River is 0.5 miles west of the church.

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Site

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery are located on a site that is roughly rectangular. The property is 223 feet wide from east to west. The west boundary is 222 feet long, and the east boundary is 171 feet long. The northern 108 feet of the site is occupied by the cemetery with the southern portion being occupied by the church. The church building is 27 feet wide by 42 feet long and is located 123 feet west of the east boundary of the site. The site is bounded by a decorative fence on the south (road) side and by a woven wire fence on the west, north and east. Although not placed on the exact dimensions of the lot, the fence forms the effective boundary of the church site. A gate is located on the southeast corner to provide access to the church yard and cemetery.

The site is almost flat on the east. The west half of the church yard and cemetery slope down to the west and northwest with a very steep slope on the northwest corner of the cemetery. The slope in the northwest corner was used as a natural amphitheater for outdoor meetings during the early years of the church.

Two contributing resources exist at the site, the church building and the cemetery. The privy and front fence were installed within the last 50 years and are therefore noncontributing.

Church Building

Pleasant Grove Community Church is a wood frame structure with a concrete block foundation. As is consistent with the era of construction, framing is with full dimension lumber all or most of which originated locally. The current foundation was installed when the basement was added in 1940. The church building is 27 feet wide by 42 feet long and is oriented with the entrance to the south. The exterior walls are covered with clapboard siding, and the church has a modern metal roof. The four exterior corners of the building are decorated with a pilaster column treatment. Four-over-four identical narrow wood sash windows are installed on the west and east sides of the building. The east windows in particular allow the morning sun to illuminate the sanctuary during the Sunday morning services. The windows and doors are decorated with a molding across the top. There are no windows on the north side of the building, and a chimney is located in the middle of the north wall. Mortar deterioration required the replacement of the chimney during the 1960's, but it remains in its original location and serves the current furnace.

There is a concrete porch with a wrought iron railing at the south side entrance to the church. The main entrance is by either of the two doors on the front of the church, which enter into the sanctuary. A stained glass panel of more recent installation is found in the transom above each door. The interior wall finish is plaster supported by wood lath. The interior flooring is the original lumber taken from the surrounding timber. Heating for the church was originally provided by two woodstoves. A stove was placed in the back of the church with the stove pipe running across the ceiling to the front. There it joined a pipe from another wood stove in the front and entered the chimney on the outside north wall.

The church was constructed on an entirely symmetrical floor plan as appropriate for the dignified purpose of the building. Entry into the sanctuary is through one of two six-panel doors on the south side of the church. The first floor consists of a single room where the services are held. A carpet strip extends through the middle of the church from back to front where it joins with the carpet for the raised platform at the front of the church. This platform extends the full width of the church and is bounded on the south by a wood railing. This platform serves as a place for the altar, pulpit, and piano that are used during the services.

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A three-foot wainscoting runs the entire perimeter of the interior and is topped with a molding that also forms the window sills. The wainscoting treatment continues into the basement stairway in the southeast corner of the building. The windows and doors are decorated with a label mold across the top. An additional exterior door enters into the stairway landing from the east side of the building. The basement floor is tiled concrete and the foundation blocks serves as the exterior walls of this space. The main room of the basement serves as a dining room, meeting room, and the classroom for Sunday school. The kitchen is located in the northeast corner of the basement, and the mechanical room is located in the northwest corner of the basement. The kitchen and mechanical room are separated from the main room by concrete block walls.

Cemetery

Pleasant Grove Cemetery was originally laid out with 39 lots (each containing seven individual plots) in three rows running east to west. The original arrangement included a space in the middle to serve as a north-south lane, but that lane was later eliminated to make room for three additional lots. One additional plot is located to the south of the boundary of the cemetery in the church yard. There are no burials in the plots on the northwest corner because of the steep slope in that area. A total of 153 burials are recorded for the cemetery, although not all the burials are currently marked with stones. Burials continue in the cemetery in the existing family lots, but no new lots have been available for sale for many years. Many 19th century stones remain with inscriptions that are still readable.

Alterations

Pleasant Grove Church still sits on its original site in its original footprint and contains most of its original materials. The church is in excellent condition and is well maintained. Although a basement and electric lights were added in the 1940's, they are basically unchanged from their original installation over 50 years ago and do not distract from the property. The original flooring, plaster walls, and wood ceiling remain on the interior. The pews are also believed to date to the original construction of the church. The doors and windows are original to the church, but additional protection is now provided by aluminum storm windows and storm doors.

Normal maintenance activities have led to some materials being replaced over the years. In recent years a modern metal roof was installed. The current siding appears in the earliest known photographs of the church (taken in the 1930's) but may not be original. We believe that the original interior finish was white painted plaster, but the current finish is wallpaper. The cross that is on the front of the church was installed in the 1970's. The fence at the front of the church yard is also a recent replacement.

Many of the 19th century stones in the cemetery remain intact and readable. Some of the stones were damaged by vandals in the 1950's. Linda Meyers of the Pleasant Grove Cemetery Society has prepared a roster of the graves so that the information shown on the stones will be preserved if they are destroyed by vandalism or natural weathering.

INTEGRITY

The integrity of Pleasant Grove Community Church is very good. The seven aspects of integrity, location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are well maintained. As noted above, the church remains on its original site and retains its original footprint. A visitor cresting the hill to the west will see essentially the same view of the church today that they would have in the 1870's. The majority of the original materials remain and with them the workmanship of

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the builders of the church. The feeling and association are best maintained by the fact that Pleasant Grove is still being used as a place of worship by a small local congregation.

The layout of the cemetery is essentially the same that existed when the three additional lots were added in 1940's. Many of the stones from the early years remain.

If one of the founding families of Pleasant Grove were to visit us today, we believe that they would recognize and feel quite at home in the church.

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8. Statement of Significance

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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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1874 - 1959

Significant Dates 1874
1877
1940

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than one

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

Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>15</u>	<u>4535577</u>	<u>4661734</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pleasant Grove Church and Cemetery are locally significant under National Register Criterion A because they represent the work of a late 19th century community of pioneer farm families and their dedication to their faith. The church is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a surviving example of the construction styles and methods of its era being on its original site in its original footprint. The property meets National Register Criteria Considerations A and D because it qualifies for registration under Criterion A for its history within the community and under Criterion C for its design and construction. Although additional research may establish archeological potential, no indications of significance under Criterion D were identified during the research for this nomination.

An article in the *Ames Tribune* on July 31, 1980, Vol. 113, No 26, lists buildings in the Ames, Iowa area that are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The survey was made by the Central Iowa Regional Association of Local Governments and historians from the Iowa Division of Historic Preservation. Properties were selected for their architectural significance. Pleasant Grove Church was listed in category two, "exceptional because of their architectural style or early date of construction." Properties in this listing "received 70 points or more."

Based on the purchase date for the land, we have arrived at 1874 as the beginning of the period of significance. Another significant year was 1877, the year of the purchase and establishment of the cemetery. The other significant milestone year for the church is 1940, the year in which the basement was added to the structure. Our current foundation was installed with the basement.

CRITERION A:

Pleasant Grove Community Church

We speculate that the congregation was founded in 1873, and the church constructed in 1873 or 1874. The story of the church, in some ways, goes back to the 1850's. A one-room schoolhouse was located directly east of the property occupied by the church. In the early years the school was used as a place of worship as well as a school. Church services were held at the school as early as 1855. In 1872 fifty families in the area determined to build a church so that they could have an appropriate place of worship.

Local tradition and a sign on the front of the church give the founding date of 1873 although the property transfer of the site took place in 1874. On June 17, 1874, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church purchased the ground for the church from Thomas R. and Eleanor Hughes. The purchase price was \$20.00.

The construction of the church was accomplished in the traditional manner for projects of that era, with the work being accomplished by members of the community. A cemetery was also established at the site. Many members of the founding families are buried there. The church was once known to be the most modern church in Story County because it was the only church that had a stable to protect the horses from the weather during meetings. The stable was located in the yard east of the church where the annual ice cream social and other events are held today. According to William G. Allen's *A History of Story County*, the stables were built by Mr. R. McClure. In that time Pleasant Grove Church was one of only two churches in Milford Township, and the location of one of only two cemeteries. The other cemetery wasn't at a church but at the County Poor Farm.

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

In A. T. Andreas' *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, 1875*, a church and cemetery are shown in Section 7 of Milford Township on the map of Story County. No name is given for the church. T. R. Hughes, the original owner of the church property, is identified as a landowner in the area. A site identified as "Milford Mills" is shown on that same map at the historical location of Soper's Mill.

Pleasant Grove Church is an important local historical site because it represents the work and efforts of pioneer families in the late 19th century. Throughout this narrative you will see the word "community" used to describe the people who built the church and attended in its early days. From the perspective of the 21st century, it seems odd to describe a group who has no affiliation with a town or other political unit as a community. The church and the school were the focal point of a community of farm families united by their relationship to the land and by their faith. This close-knit relationship was lost as mechanization led to larger farms and the automobile allowed parishioners to travel to other churches. This kind of community existed around the church at the time it was built. A story from the early days of the church tells, that at the dedication of the new church, several men of the congregation marched up to the altar and laid down twenty-five silver dollars each. This was a very large amount of money for the time. Maps from the era indicate that many homes were located within a one-mile radius of the church. Children used to skate to church on the nearby Skunk River during the winter.

For many years, the church was heated with wood stoves and the people of the church would gather together for a day or two of chopping wood and hauling it up to the church for winter use. The ministers came from far distances in those days and the men of the church took turns meeting the preachers in Ames, on Saturday, with horse and buggy. Some member families of the church would take turns boarding them until Sunday evening or Monday morning and then take them back to Ames to meet the train that would take them home. Pleasant Grove Church hosted several revival meetings during the early years. These were reported to have gone on for a week or two with meetings and guest speakers every night.

From the 1870's the church stayed open continuously until World War I. The influenza epidemic of 1918, combined with the absence of so many of the young men to the war effort, caused the church to close. Although the building was opened periodically for weddings and special events in the intervening years, regular services did not begin again until 1925. The church experienced another closed period during the 1930's. The church reopened again in 1939. A special service was held to celebrate VE day in 1945. After closing again in the early 1950's because of the failing health of the pastor, the church reopened in 1960. Articles of Incorporation in 1962 created a new organizational structure for the congregation. The church remains active to this day.

Three examples of how Pleasant Grove Church became an element in the community are the Pleasant Grove Homecoming Association, the Pleasant Grove Orchestra and the Pleasant Grove Country Club described below. The accounts are taken from the church histories.

Pleasant Grove Homecoming Association

During the 1920's those who still had connections to the church and those with past memories of the church, formed an organization known as the Pleasant Grove Homecoming Association. Their first meeting was in November, 1928. The first officers of the Association were: Mrs. George Sowers, President; Homer L. Boyes, Nevada, Vice President; Secretary and Treasurer, Casper Thompson. Other officers were: E. W. Sanders, Gilbert; Crim Gunder, Colo; Charlie Kooser, Ames; and Mrs. John Hill, Story City. These officers served until the last meeting in 1943.

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

Friends of Pleasant Grove Church would gather at the Church for all day meetings. The homecomings were held annually during these years. Some former members traveled from long distances to attend the church again. Church services were held in the morning and past ministers of the church were asked to return to speak for this service. A pot luck lunch was held at noon, sometimes a picnic on the lawn. The afternoon meeting consisted of a program and a favorite time was what they called "old times hour". This was a time for people to get up and give their memories of the church.

Out of those 15 years of homecoming celebrations came much history that has been passed on to the church. Charles F. Kooser led the "memory hour" at these homecomings. At some of the meetings, gospel singing was led by Bob Clark and was always enjoyed by all in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Crim Gunder often were present to play harmonica duets for the group.

At the homecoming meeting in 1942 there was a short memorial service for three members of the church who died and who had been a large part of the church for many years. These members were: Charles Kooser, Ames; George Kimball, Nevada; and Mrs. Charles Hughes, Story City. During this service a letter of condolence was read from J. E. Smith of Minneapolis and Bob Clark sang a vocal solo, "Abide With Me". In 1943, it was decided to cancel the homecoming meetings for the duration of the Second World War.

Pleasant Grove Orchestra

In 1914, the Pleasant Grove Orchestra was organized. The members were: Casper Thompson, organ; Ernest Sanders, Cornet; Howard Davis, Cornet; Frank Davis, Bass; Walter Halstead, Cornet; Albie Banks, Drum; Silas Thompson, Trombone; and Olive Teigland. They practiced and played at the church.

Pleasant Grove Country Club

Because of its location in the community of farmers, Pleasant Grove Church was used as a meeting place for community events. In 1911 a group of people from the surrounding area formed a club called "Pleasant Grove Country Club". Their records show that they used the church as a meeting place for special events and invited speakers. They would have entertainment, usually by the children, or readings by members and sometimes they would move the furniture out, take up the rugs and the orchestra would play for dances. When funds allowed, they donated to the Epworth League, paid the minister's salary, donated money for church carpet and bought hymnals. [These hymnals are still in use in the church in 2009.] Attendance at their meetings sometimes reached 125.

Pleasant Grove Cemetery

On January 23, 1877 the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church purchased additional ground from Thomas R. and Eleanor Hughes for the establishment of a cemetery to serve the members of the church and the surrounding community. The purchase price was again \$20.00. It appears that this purchase was anticipated from the beginning because the cemetery was included in the original 1874 survey that was used to establish the church lot. The church recouped the cost of the cemetery land by selling seven individual lots for \$7.50 each. One of the original purchasers of a lot was Thomas R. Hughes, the original owner of the land. Since that time seven generations of the Hughes family have been buried at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. The three millers that T. R. Hughes hired to work in the mill are also buried here.

Of the 153 burials at Pleasant Grove Church, 47 of them are children. This serves to illustrate the high mortality rates experienced by infants and children in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We believe that there may be one other child

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

buried at Pleasant Grove Church, although not within the perimeter of the cemetery. A story from the early years of the church tells of a pioneer family that was passing through the area and buried an infant daughter who died on the trip near the base of one of the oak trees at the front of the church. The exact location has been lost to history over the years.

Visitors to the cemetery are sometimes puzzled by the dates on ten of the stones, identifying deaths that took place before the establishment of the church and cemetery. These stones were moved to Pleasant Grove Church from family cemeteries in the surrounding area. Whether the remains were moved also, or just the stones, is not known.

The responsibility for care of the cemetery was passed to the Milford Township Trustees when the church closed during the First World War. Later the Township trustees handed the responsibility for the cemetery to Pleasant Grove Cemetery Society, an association of descendants of those buried there.

Of the burials in the cemetery, there appear to be twenty family groups. Two of these family groups are surrounded by a border. The Arrasmith border is made of cast in place concrete, and the Howe border is composed of blocks of limestone that appear to be native local material.

Pleasant Grove Cemetery is included in Coleen Nutty's *Cemetery Symbolism of Prairie Pioneers*. Nutty describes the Arrasmith plot and notes that it is an example of the changes in gravestone styles over the years and how family relationships are displayed. The Randau plot is also described, noting that the inscriptions include English and German.

CRITERION C:

We have no record of a contractor or architect being involved in the construction of the church, and we believe that none was used. All histories and information indicate that the construction was accomplished by the community members themselves as would be consistent with the methods of the era. Included in the church records is a list of the founding families who built the church. The construction of the church does not appear to fit rigidly into any particular architectural style. The closest of the recognized styles may be Greek Revival as characterized by the rectangular, symmetrically arranged windows and the pilaster column treatment on the four exterior corners. The obvious deviation from this style is the lack of a columned entry, which would have probably seemed to be an unnecessary extravagance by the community members who built the church.

A more likely inspiration for the design of Pleasant Grove Church is the design of other churches in the area and those in the eastern United States. Histories of the Hughes families and others show that many of the congregation moved to the area in the 1850's and 1860's from eastern states. Their conception of church architecture would have been influenced by worshiping in churches found in those states. The congregation that met in the schoolhouse was served by circuit rider ministers who served many area churches. Although we have no record of these discussions, it's not hard to imagine that those pastors may have given the community ideas as well. Another possible source for the plans for the church is the plan books and mail order building plans that were available at the time.

The church was constructed on an entirely symmetrical floor plan as appropriate for the dignified purpose of the building. Entry into the sanctuary is through one of two six-panel doors on the south side of the church. A stained glass panel of recent installation decorates the transom above each door. The four tall four-over-four wood sash windows on the east and west provide adequate light for daytime services on sunny days without additional illumination. The east windows in particular allow the morning sun to illuminate the sanctuary during the Sunday morning services. The windows and doors

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are decorated with a label mold across the top. A three-foot wainscoting runs the entire perimeter of the interior and is topped with a molding that also forms the window sills. This same treatment appears as the railing for the basement stairs.

One example of the unique characteristics of Pleasant Grove Church is the configuration of the front of the church with its two identical doors. "Why are there two doors?" has been a frequent question over the years, particularly from visiting children. This appears to reflect a style of churches from the eastern part of the country. We can find no evidence (yet) in our records of an activity that required the second door.

Although the roof is of recent installation and the siding appears to have been replaced, the trim is believed to be original. The current configuration of the doors and trim date as far back as the oldest extant photographs (taken in the 1930's) of the church.

Some of the architectural elements of its era that are still visible today include:

- Two identical entry doors on either side of the front of the church
- Tall, narrow, sash-type windows with four panes per sash
- Oak pews constructed with square nails with the back and seat made from a single piece of wood which date to the beginning or the very early years of the church.
- High, wood-paneled ceiling

Because of the proximity of the cemetery, the church has not installed a well or a septic system. The church is served by a "modern" outdoor privy.

A basement was constructed in the 1940's. Although the basement is certainly a modification from the original construction, we believe it is also a historic element of the church. After the church was raised on jacks, the basement was hand-dug with the soil hand-loaded on skids and dragged out of the excavation. A concrete block foundation was built after the excavation was complete and the church lowered back into place. Like the original construction, this work was accomplished by volunteers and members of the congregation. The group photo included with this application is a scan of a photo of the basement crew that hangs in the church. Several relatives of current church members appear in that picture.

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Section number 9 Page 10

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Major Sources:

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- Blumenson, John J. G.; *Identifying American Architecture*; New York, New York; 1981; WW Norton & Company, Inc.
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- Meyers, Linda; "Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Information Roster & Obituaries"; Continuously Updated; Archived at Pleasant Grove Community Church (subject site)

Secondary Sources:

- Andreas, A. T.; *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*; 1875; State Historical Society of Iowa
- Ames Daily Tribune*, July 31, 1980, Vol. 113, No 26
- Gradwohl, David M. and Osborn, Nancy M.; *Stalking the Skunk, A Preliminary Survey and Appraisal of Archeological Resources in the Ames Reservoir, Iowa*; Ames, Iowa; 1972; Iowa State University
- Iowa Department of Transportation, Historic Aerial Photographs, 1938, 1958 and 2008
- Nevada Evening Journal*, September 27, 1940
- Nutty, Coleen Lou; *Cemetery Symbolism of Prairie Pioneers*; Ames, Iowa; 1978; Iowa State University
- Pleasant Grove Community Church Website; <http://www.pleasantgrovechurch.us/index.htm> referenced March 30, 2009
- Shank, Wesley, Project Director; "Studies of Historic Iowa Architecture Part 2, Gilbert (Vicinity), Iowa, Methodist Episcopal Church of Milford Township, (Pleasant Grove Church; Ames, Iowa)"; 1975; Engineering Research Institute, Iowa State University
- Swisher, Jacob A.; *Iowa, Land of Many Mills*; Iowa City, Iowa; 1940; State Historical Society of Iowa
- Story City Herald*, October 3, 1940
- Story County Assessor GIS Property Website;
<http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=165&LayerID=2145&PageTypeID=2&PageID=1104> ,
referenced March 30, 2009
- Story County, Iowa, Recorder, Book 8, Page 529 – 532, 1962
- Story County, Iowa, Recorder, Book U, Page 582, 1874

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

United States Geologic Survey, National Map Viewer; <http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/viewer.htm> referenced December 8, 2009

Unpublished Sources:

Jacobs, Donna and Jacobs, Marty; "The Little White Church in the Oaks – A History of Pleasant Grove Community Church"; presentation during the 135th Anniversary Celebration; October 12, 2008. Archived with the records of Pleasant Grove Community Church (subject site)

Jacobs, Donna; "History of Pleasant Grove Church"; presentation during the Pleasant Grove Centennial Service; September 16, 1973. Archived with the records of Pleasant Grove Community Church (subject site)

Meyers, Linda; "Pleasant Grove Church Cemetery Tour"; presentation during the 135th Anniversary Celebration; October 12, 2008. Archived at Pleasant Grove Community Church (subject site)

Manuscript of the conference reports from 1855 to 1887 of the Bloomington Circuit, Ames Circuit, and Ames Charge of the United Methodist Church, research by Helen Black for the Pleasant Grove Church Centennial in 1973. Mrs. Black's letter outlining her findings is archived with the records of Pleasant Grove Community Church (subject site).

The following bound church record books were reviewed to gather information for this nomination and for the anniversary presentations shown above. These books are archived with the records of Pleasant Grove Community Church (subject site)

Pleasant Grove congregation record books 1865 through 1974

Pleasant Grove Sunday School record books 1896 through 1945

Pleasant Grove Ladies Aid Society record books 1964 through 1993

Pleasant Grove church secretary record books 1934 through present

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery are located in the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, Township 84 North, Range 23 West, Milford Township, Story County, Iowa. The parcel containing the church is identified as Lot 3 of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ and the parcel containing the cemetery is identified as Lot 2 of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the church and cemetery.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Marty Jacobs, Donna Jacobs e-mail address mljacobs@huxcomm.net

organization Pleasant Grove Community Church date April 8, 2009

street & number 504 Boone Street telephone (515) 779-7155

city or town Slater state IA zip code 50244

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Pleasant Grove Community Church c/o Donna Jacobs, President of Board of Trustees

street & number 15385 Pleasant Valley Drive telephone (515) 733-2478

city or town Story City state IA zip code 50248

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number Photographs Page 13

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

1. View of church building looking northwest
2. View of church site looking west
3. Representative windows on west side of building
4. View of cemetery looking west
5. Current church sign
6. Grave stone of a child dated March 7, 1875
7. Liquid propane tank on southwest corner of site
8. Current privy built in 2005
9. The grave stone for a child who died in 1888 with the figure of a lamb (now broken) at the top
10. Arrasmith family enclosure built in the late 19th century
11. Randau family stone
12. View of church building looking northeast
13. Interior of church looking south
14. Interior of church looking north
15. View of church building looking southeast

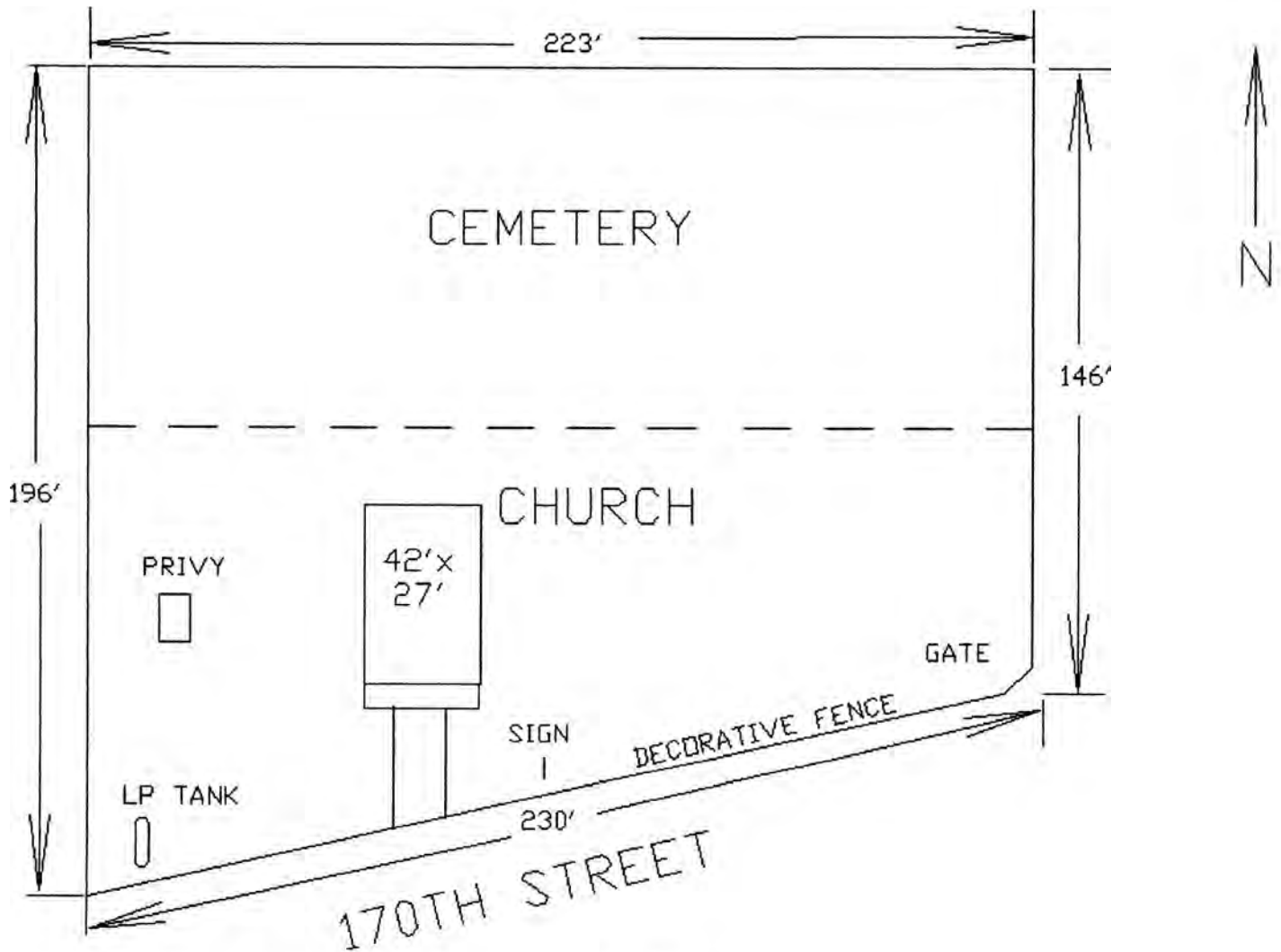
All Photographs taken by Marty Jacobs on March 30, 2009
Negatives archived with the records of Pleasant Grove Community Church

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Section number Additional Information Page 14

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



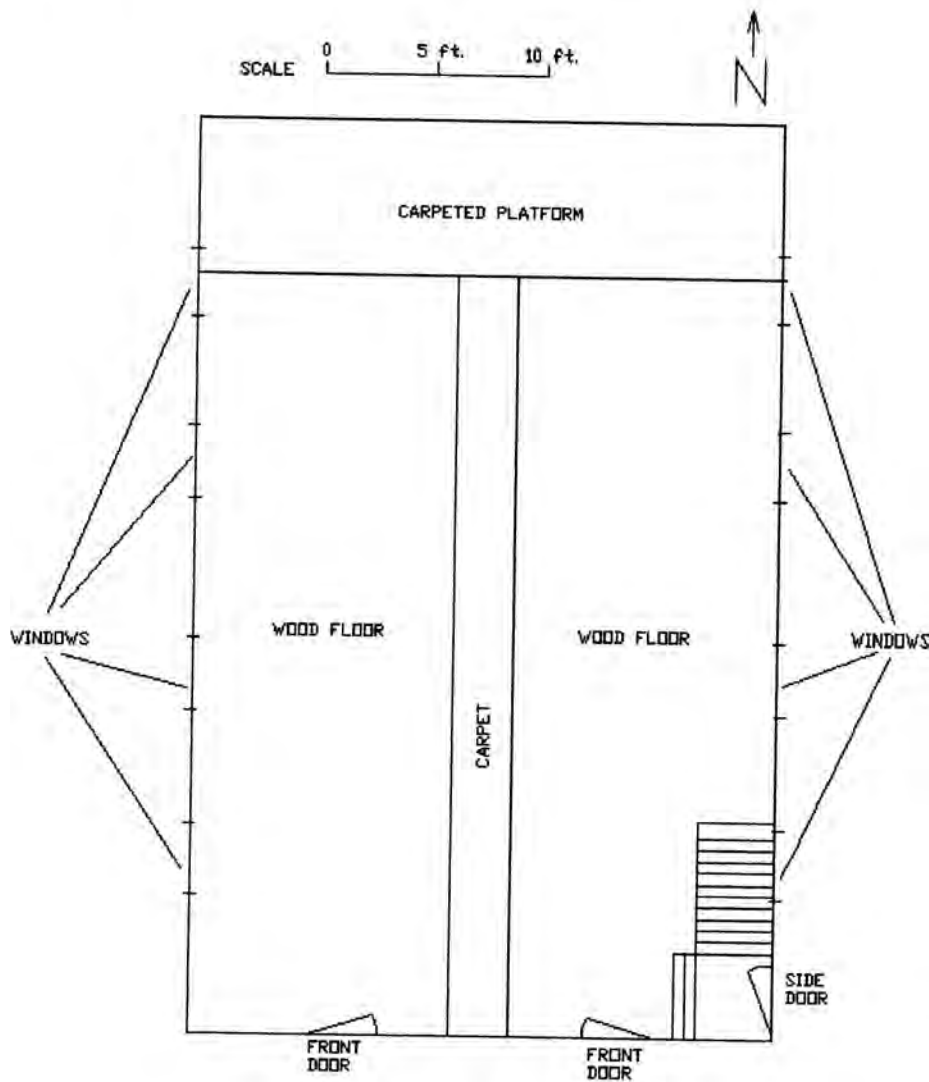
Site Plan
Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery
Story County, Iowa
October 9, 2008
Drawing by Marty Jacobs

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National Park Service

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Section number Additional Information Page 15

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



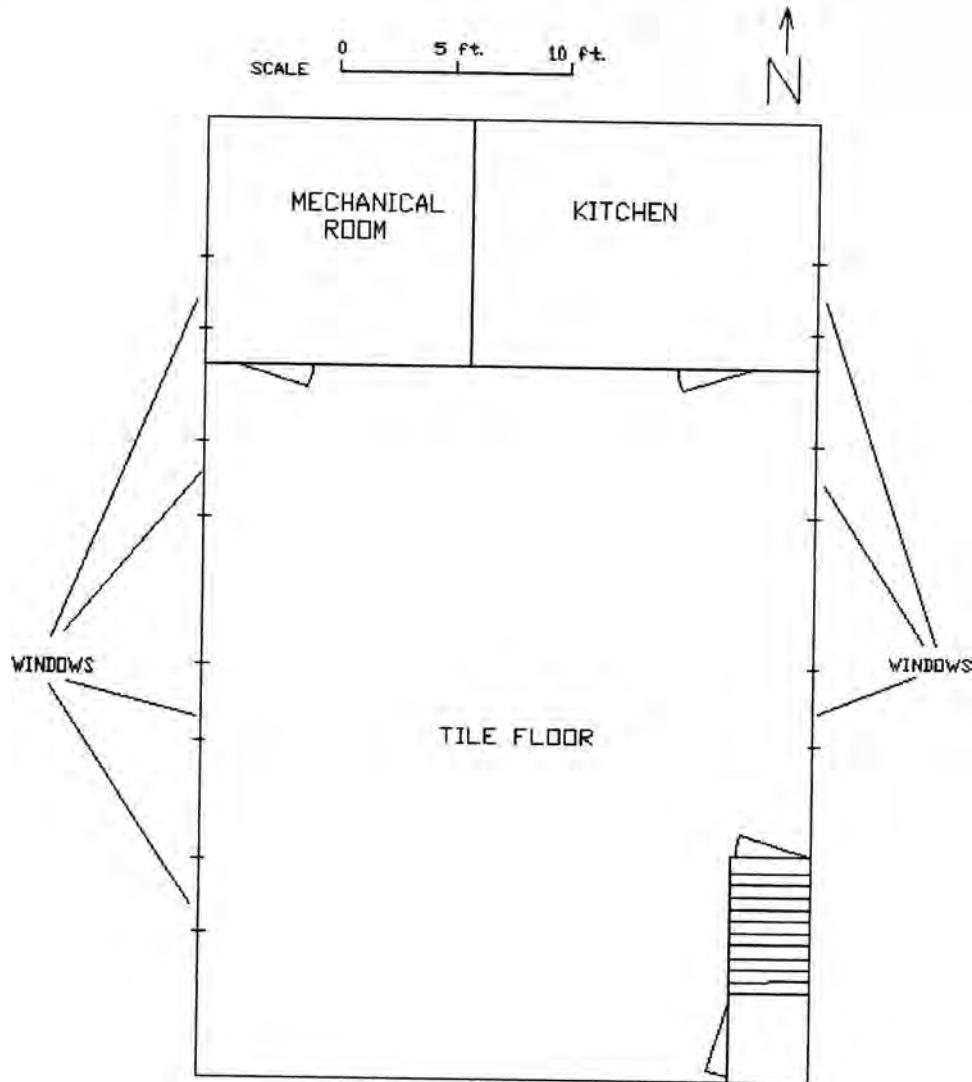
Main Floor Plan
Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery
Story County, Iowa
October 9, 2008
Drawing by Marty Jacobs

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Section number Additional Information Page 16

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



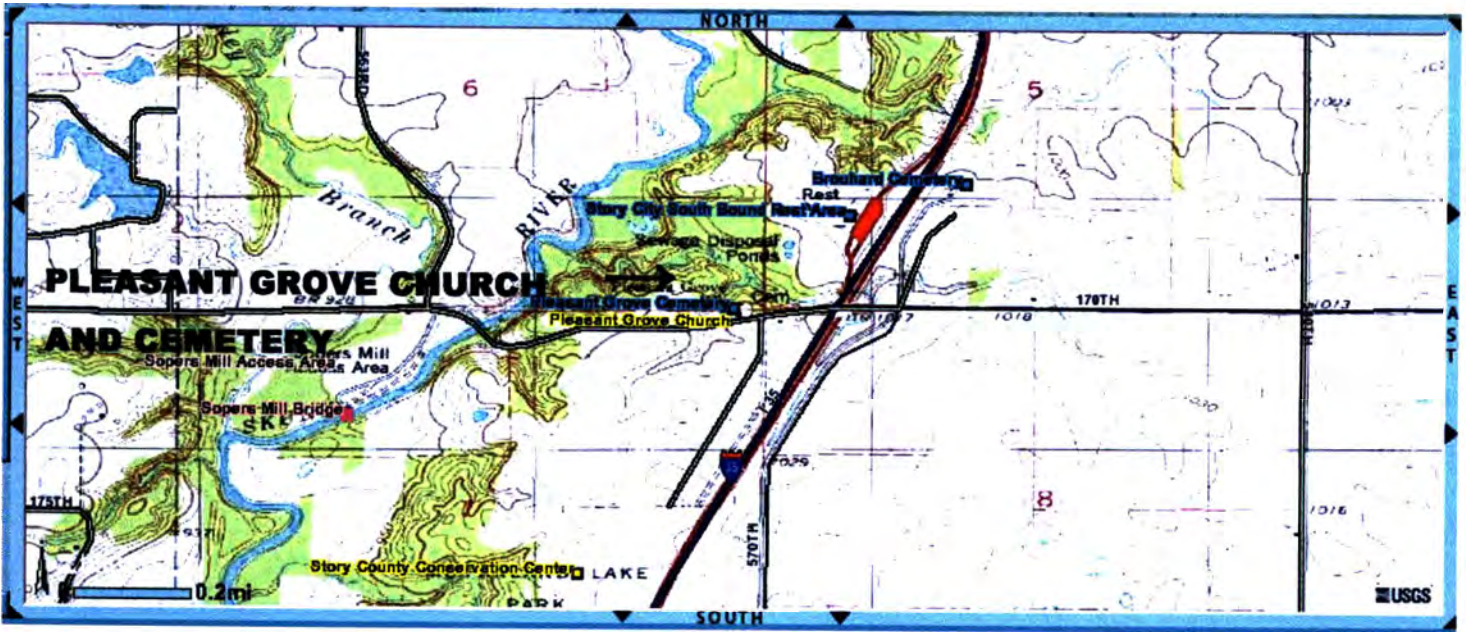
Basement Plan
Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery
Story County, Iowa
October 9, 2008
Drawing by Marty Jacobs

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National Park Service

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Section number Additional Information Page 17

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



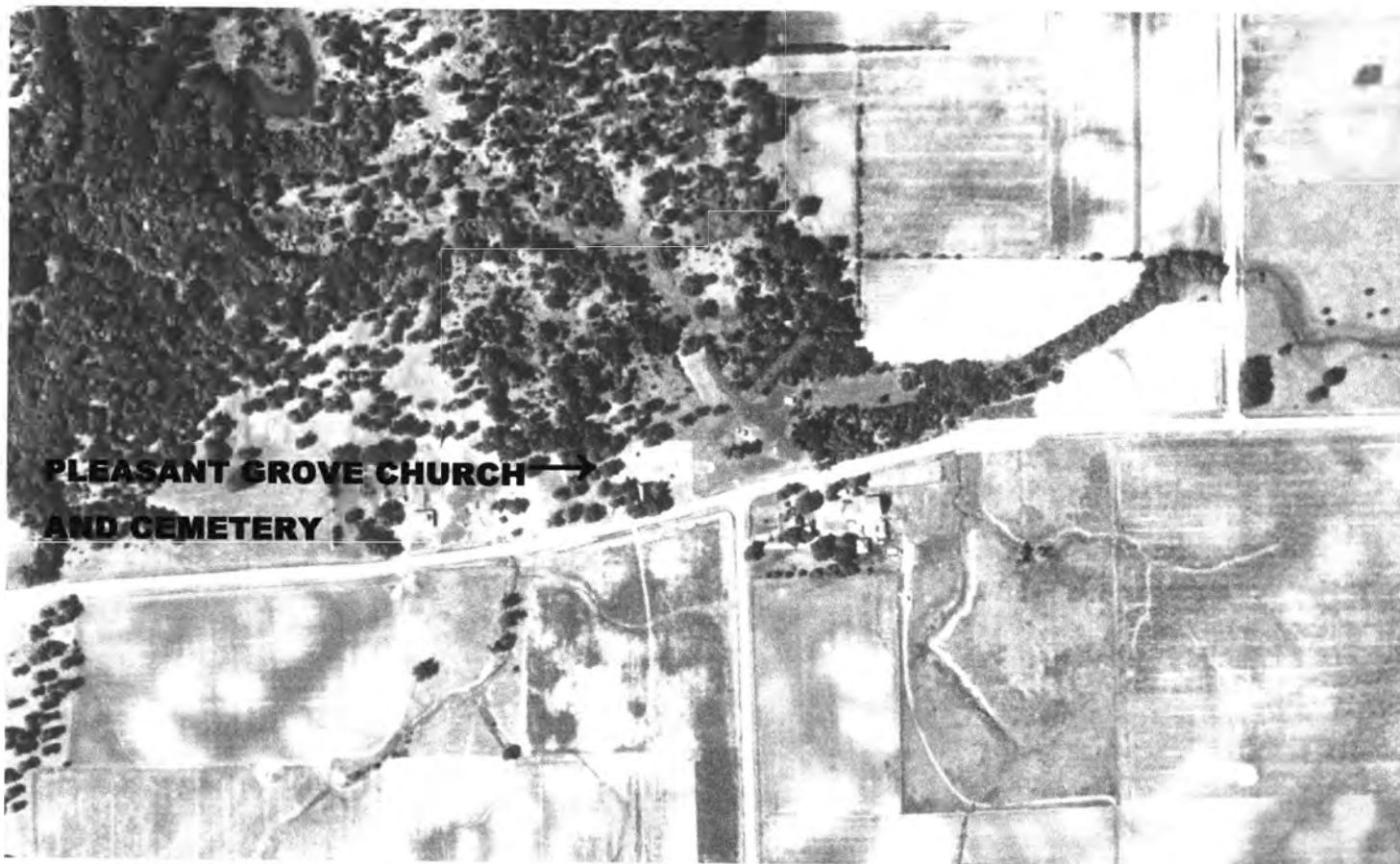
Pleasant Grove Church site and surroundings in USGS topographical map detail downloaded from the USGS National Map website on December 8, 2009

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Information Page 18

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



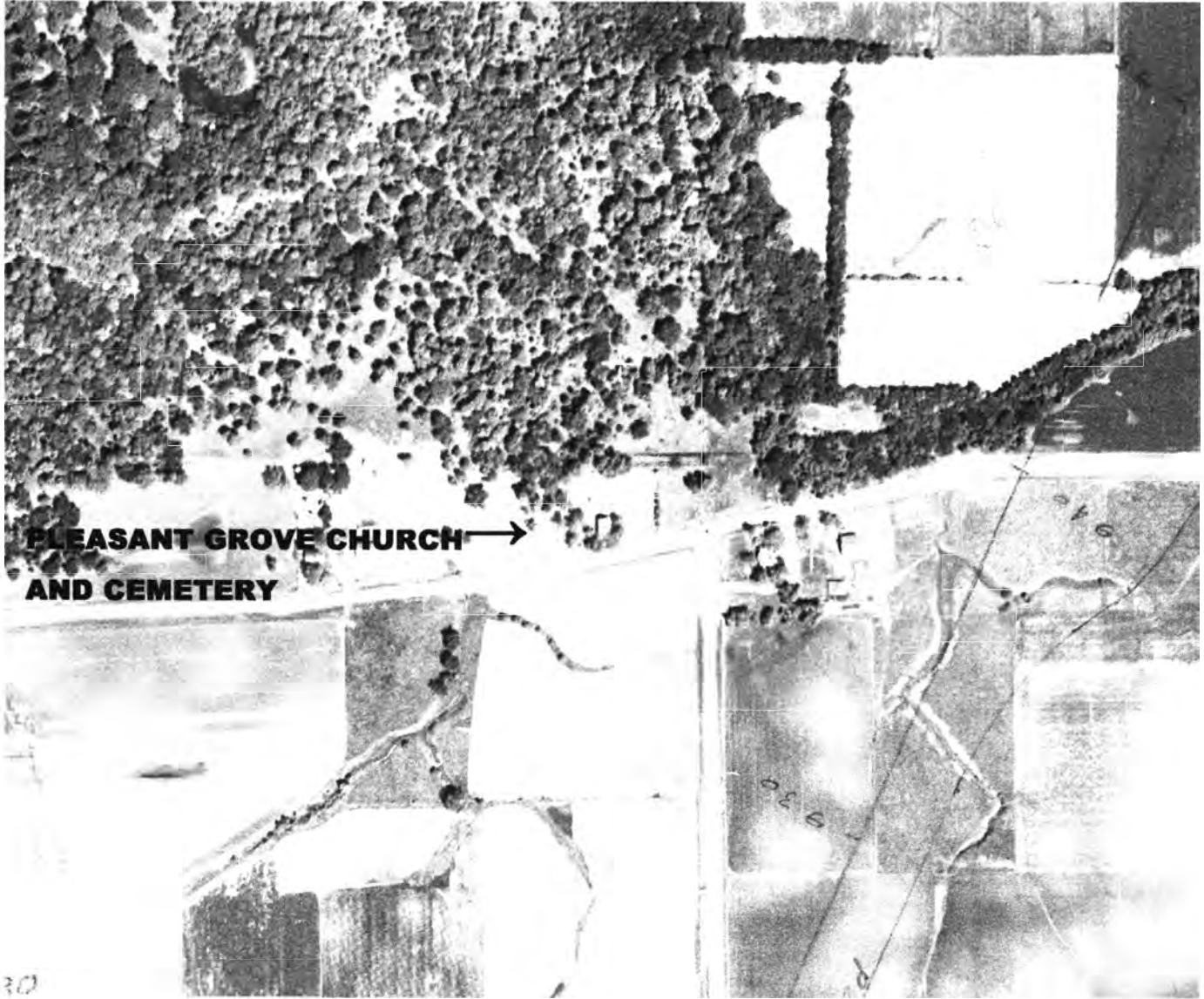
Pleasant Grove Church site and surroundings in 1938 aerial photograph from Iowa Department of Transportation archives

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Section number Additional Information Page 19

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



Pleasant Grove Church site and surroundings in 1958 aerial photograph from Iowa Department of Transportation archives

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



Pleasant Grove Church site and surroundings in 2008 aerial photograph from Iowa Department of Transportation archives

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Information Page 21

Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



A work crew photograph from 1940

(The original hangs in the church.)

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Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, Story County, Iowa



A group posing on the steps of the church in 1947

(From the church records)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Story

DATE RECEIVED: 4/16/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/12/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/27/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000295

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5.28.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



#1
PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH &
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



2

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH &
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



3

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH #
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



#4

~~PLEASANT~~
PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH & PLEASANT
GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IA

APR 09 00044 NNNAA

EST.
1873

**PLEASANT
GROVE
CHURCH**

WORSHIP 10:45



5

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH #
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA

MARGARET

Daughter of
H. & E. BALES
DIED
MAY 7. 1875
AGED
2 Ys. 9 M.

Dearest child that hast left us,
And thy loss we deeply feel;
Tis the Lord that hath bereft us
Of the one we loved so true.

#6

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH #
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



#7
PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH #
PLEASANT GROVE
CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



#8

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH †
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



#9

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH &
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



10

PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH #

PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



WALTER COLE
FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
BORN JAN. 11, 1870
DIED DEC. 1, 1970
AGED 100 YEARS

RANDAL

11

PLEASANT GROVE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
& PLEASANT GROVE
CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



#12

PLEASANT GROVE
COMMUNITY CHURCH &
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



13
PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH &
PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



14

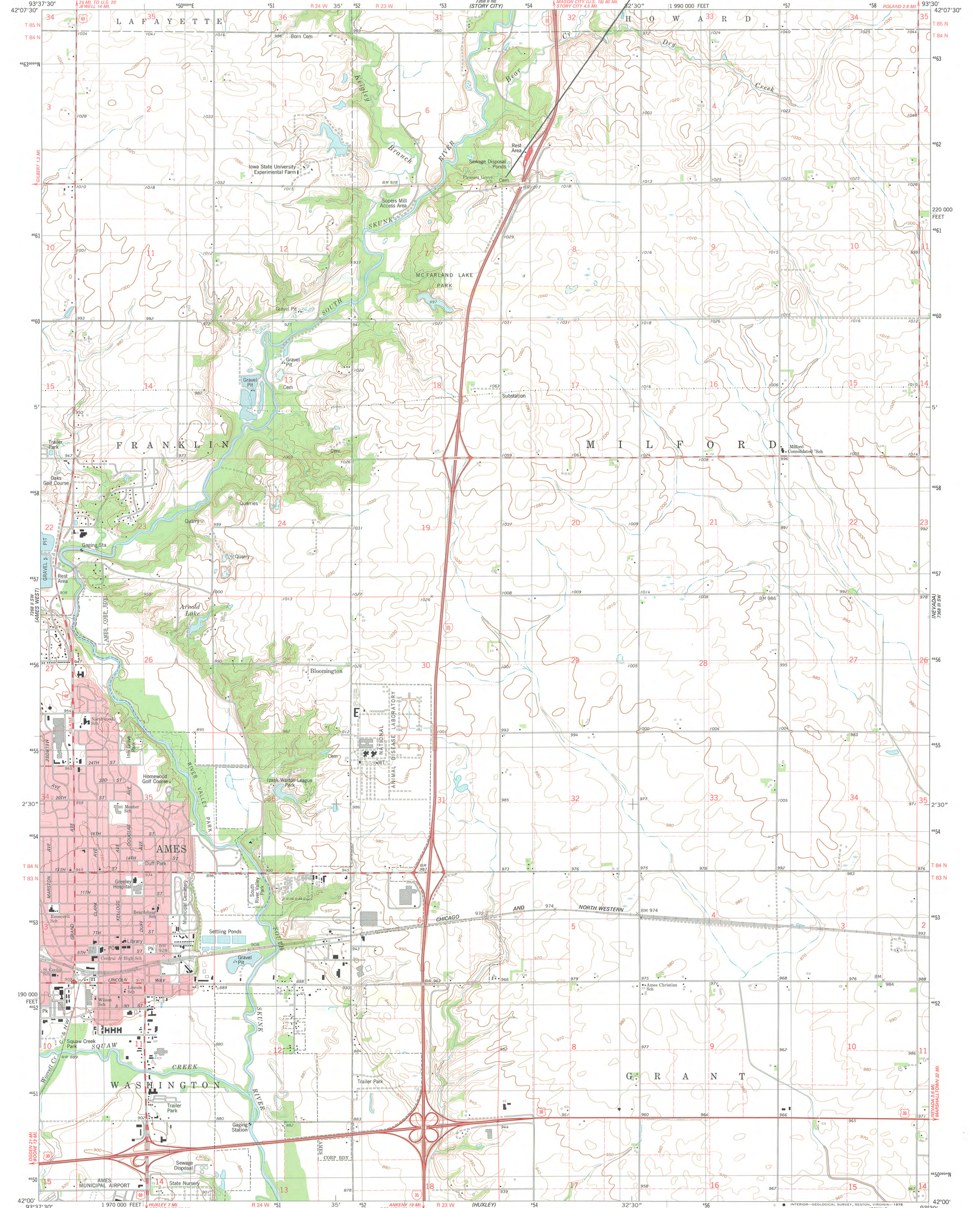
PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH #

PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA



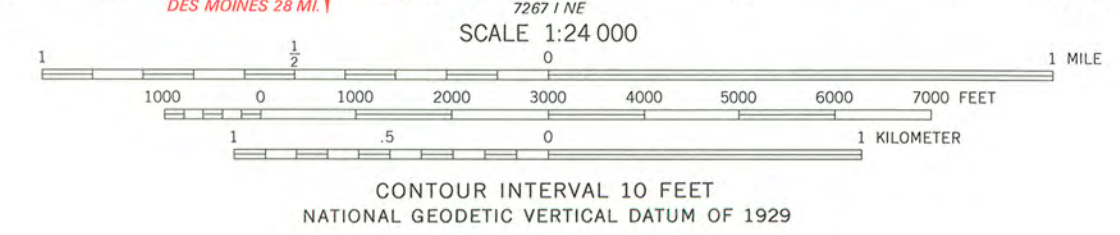
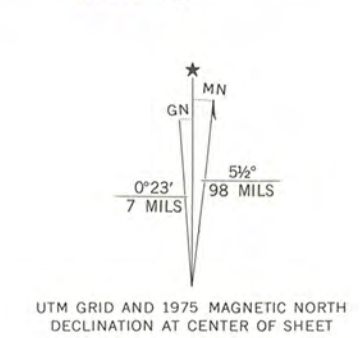
#15
PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY
CHURCH & PLEASANT GROVE
CEMETERY
STORY COUNTY, IOWA

APR 89 08044 NNNH



PLEASANT GROVE COMMUNITY CHURCH AND PLEASANT GROVE CEMETERY
 STORY COUNTY, IOWA
 UTM 21S 4535577E 4661734N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Iowa Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
 1927 North American datum
 Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



April 7, 2010

Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Farmers Savings Bank, 101 S. Main Street, Salem, Henry County
- Bicksler Block, 101-103 W. Cherry Street, Salem, Henry County
- Cook-Johnson House, 3091 Franklin Avenue, Salem, Henry County
- Lamm-Pollmiller Farmstead District, 1584 – 335th Street, Salem, Henry County
- Best, Louis P. and Clara K., Residence and Auto House, 627 Ripley Street, Davenport, Scott County
- Pleasant Grove Community Church and Cemetery, 56971 – 170th Street, Ames vicinity, Story County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster Hill".

Elizabeth Foster Hill
Tax Incentive Programs Manager/
National Register Coordinator