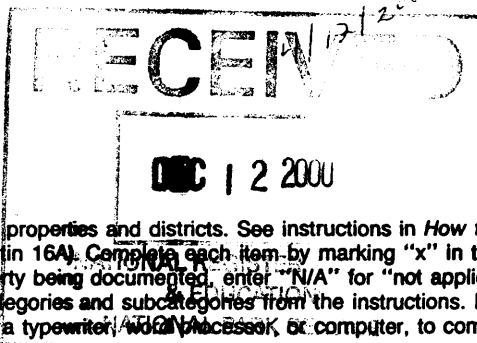


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stone Academy
other names/site number Big Grove # 1

2. Location

street & number 2 miles north of Solon on Highway 1 N/A not for publication
city or town Solon vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Johnson code 103 zip code 52333

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Patricia Ollerskin 12-6-00
Signature of certifying official Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State of 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 official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Edson H. Beall 1-16-01
Signature of the 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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education - School

Social - Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture - Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/limestone

walls Stone/limestone

roof Wood/shingles

other Brick

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1842 - 1950

Significant Dates

Ca. 1842

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	6	2	4	4	4	0	4	6	3	2	7	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Neymeyer

organization _____ date 3/01/00

street & number 801 4th Avenue telephone 319-346-2048

city or town Parkersburg state IA zip code 50665

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Solon Community School District

street & number 403 S. Iowa telephone 319-644-3401

city or town Solon state IA zip code 52333

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Stone Academy
Johnson Co., Iowa

Section number 7/8 Page 1

Narrative Description

The Stone Academy is one of the oldest remaining school buildings in the state. Although there are no precise school records to document when it was built, the year ca 1842 has traditionally been used. The site was built on the military trail and stagecoach route between Dubuque and Iowa City. It is located on Highway One, 2 miles north of Solon in Big Grove Township, Johnson County. Although historically referred to as an academy, there is no record to indicate it was anything other than a public school.

The building was constructed from limestone taken from the Mc Cune quarry two miles northeast of the school. The design reflects traditional schoolhouse construction. It has a rectangular shape, three windows on each side and a single door. Unlike most schools, it sits on a northeast-southwest axis with the front door facing northeast. The probable reason is to have it at a right angle to the road. The site is approximately one acre and has several oak trees on the perimeter. There is a modern flag pole in front of the building with a plaque (1988) dedicated to the memory of students and teachers who made the rural school "the cornerstone of education in America." A wooden bulletin board next to the front wall gives historical information about the school.

There is no basement or crawl space under the building. The wood board floor originally rested on 2 x 6 lumber tied into an 8 x 8 beam that, in turn, was stabilized by a large rock. In 1976 this was replaced with a cement pad and a new wood floor. The original interior walls, re-plastered in the 1930's, have a thin layer of plaster applied to the limestone. This had been painted white except for a blackboard that was located at the front of the building. The wall was plaster over lath with 3-foot wainscoting. The original blackboard remained covered over. A new roof with cedar shingles was added in 1976. That was blown off during a windstorm in 1978 but rebuilt in the same year. There was some minor damage to the top of the interior wall during the storm, but that was also repaired. A drywall ceiling replaced the damaged original plaster. During the 1930's the chimney was moved from the northwest side of the room to the back wall. The stove was located in the middle of the room to the back wall. The stove was located in the middle of the room since the walls provided only limited insulation from the cold. There is no cloakroom. The windows are 2 over 2, double hung with modern shutters for protection and are generally evenly spaced. The windows have a limestone sill at the base and 6 inch wood casing at the top. The sidewall is 10 foot high, somewhat lower than the 12 and 14 height of other schools. The walls have received minor tuck pointing in recent years.

The building currently has the teacher's desk and seats from the 1930's, a coal burning potbelly stove, a slate blackboard, sandbox, and maps. It is open summers to visitors and for school tours during the year.

The outside privy is modern. A woodshed was moved to a nearby farm after the school closed.

Statement of Significance

The Stone Academy is locally significant under Criteria A, Education as a very early surviving one-room school, and Criteria C, Architecture as a good example of the country school type.

The construction of the Stone Academy reflected the strong interest in education on the part of the first settlers who began arriving in 1841. While most schools were built with logs, the Academy's limestone construction indicated a financial commitment to education. The earliest white settlers were Yankees from New York and New England. They were augmented by Bohemian arrivals in the 1850's who were refugees

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Stone Academy
Johnson Co., Iowa

Section number 8/9/10 Page 2

from the political chaos in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Bohemian, or Czech, community extended from Iowa City to Cedar Rapids. The names of the first to arrive were common throughout the entire history of the school - Ulch, Becicka, Kucera. Although non-Czech families did intermingle over the years, the identity of the area remained Bohemian.

By 1952 there were only 9 students attending school. The cost of maintaining the school, the pressure from the State to meet modern requirements and the fact that many families preferred to send their children to nearby Solon led to the closing of the school in 1953. The district combined with Solon Community School District and the school and grounds became the property of the Solon school district.

Before its closure, the schoolhouse was used for the typical community activities, box socials and occasional church activities. School parents met at the start of the year to prepare the school and make repairs. During the summer sheep were used to keep the grass trimmed. Since 1953 the building has been used as a museum for students to learn about traditional education and for visitors and tourists.

The use of limestone, rather than wood, makes the building unique. Limestone was used in those parts of the state, the southeast and northeast, where the material was readily available and even in those areas; it was an uncommon selection. It was very durable. A contemporary nearby one-room school was constructed from logs and later replaced by a wooden structure.

The recent repair work has maintained the historical integrity of the building as it stood from the 1930's.

Bibliography

[
Aurner, Clarence. *Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa History*, Cedar Rapids: Western Historical Press, 1912-12. 2 volumes.

History of Johnson County, Iowa, Containing a History of the County, It's Townships, Cities and Villages from 1836 to 1882. Iowa City: 1883.

Johnson County Courthouse records.

Looney, Maxine. "Old Stone Academy" in *Stone Academy Cookbook*. Np: 1978.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary

The school is located on the west side of Highway One in Section 11, Big Grove Township, Johnson County. SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 11, Township 82, Range 6 West.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the school, the school and one modern privy not historical associated with the school.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

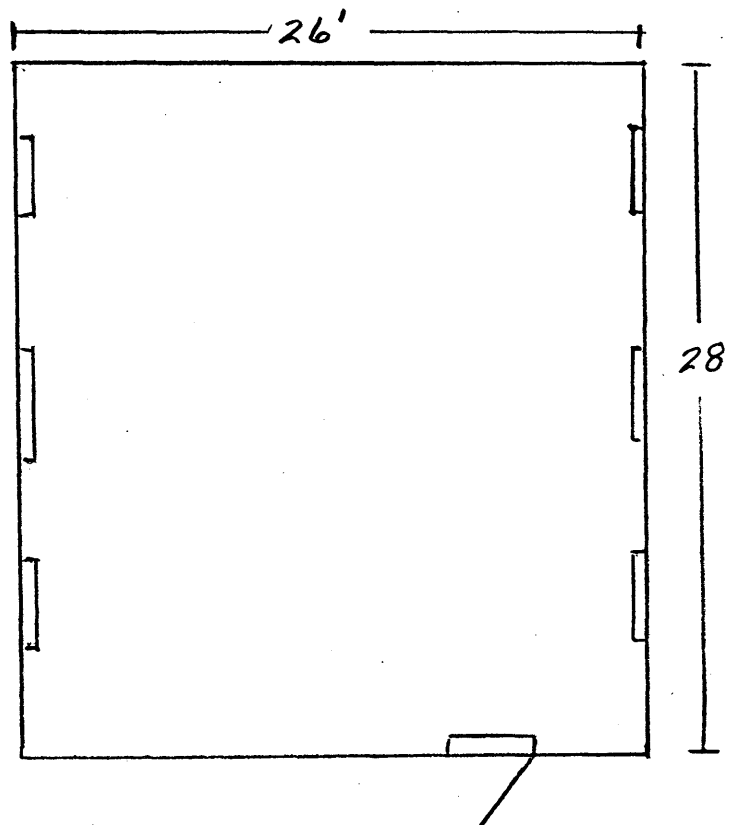
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 3

Stone Academy, Johnson County, Iowa

————— N

Stone Academy
Johnson County



1/2" = 4'

Highway One

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number add'l Page 4

Stone Academy, Johnson County, Iowa

Stone Academy, Johnson County, Iowa
Ely Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series 1980

