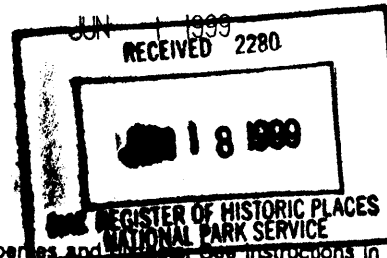


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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 Red Ball Garage

other names/site number Ed Neil Garage

2. Location

street & number 1901 140th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Swedesburg vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 52652

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 Christy King DSITPD 6-10-99
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
7-15-99

Red Ball Garage
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

Historical & Architectural Resources of Henry County, IA 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th/Early 20th C American

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Hollow Tile (clay)

Narrative Description

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

Red Ball Garage
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

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)

TRANSPORTATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1929 - c. 1945

Significant Dates

1929

1944

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.)

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:

Red Ball Garage
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

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

1

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

2

Zone			Easting					Northing						

3

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4

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 Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant
organization Henry County Historic Preservation Comm. date March 1999
street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone (515) 682-2743
city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

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 Swedish Heritage Society
street & number 107 Highway 218 telephone (319) 254-2317
city or town Swedesburg state IA zip code 52652

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

This single story auto garage measuring 50' x 60' is a good example of its building type from 1929. As an auto garage fireproof construction was essential. This building is rectangular in shape, with a concrete floor, and the walls are of masonry construction, using the popular glazed hollow tile, with reddish-brown brick details in some areas. The corner location originally allowed for a diagonal canopied area housing the gasoline pumps, with the garage portion extending to the east and north. This corner was enclosed in 1944 to provide a showroom for new Studebakers. The building has an arched roof providing large open interior space. A brick parapet runs across the south and wraps around the west side providing the appearance of a typical commercial building, while the north end features a stepped parapet.

Fenestration in the building consists primarily of large garage doors and display windows. The plate glass windows located in the SW corner were installed in 1944 when the pumps were removed and a showroom was created. These feature small square panes across the top forming a transom area, with large vertical panes below. The east end of the opening is occupied by a customer entrance surrounded by "new" brickwork. A large garage door is located near the center of the south elevation, with two small windows to the east of it. The west elevation (along the highway) features a large garage door with a single window on each side. The east elevation features four small windows in the south half and a single narrow door, while the rear (north) elevation has a window on each side of a shallow projection in the center with a door on the west wall. A single chimney is located over the display room area.

The Interior is purely functional with concrete floor and glazed tile walls. The open interior space is broken only by walls for the showroom (with offices) in the SW corner, and two small restrooms along the north wall. An auto rack (lift) which appears to run on a large compressor is located in the back (NE) corner. The age of this piece of equipment has not been determined.

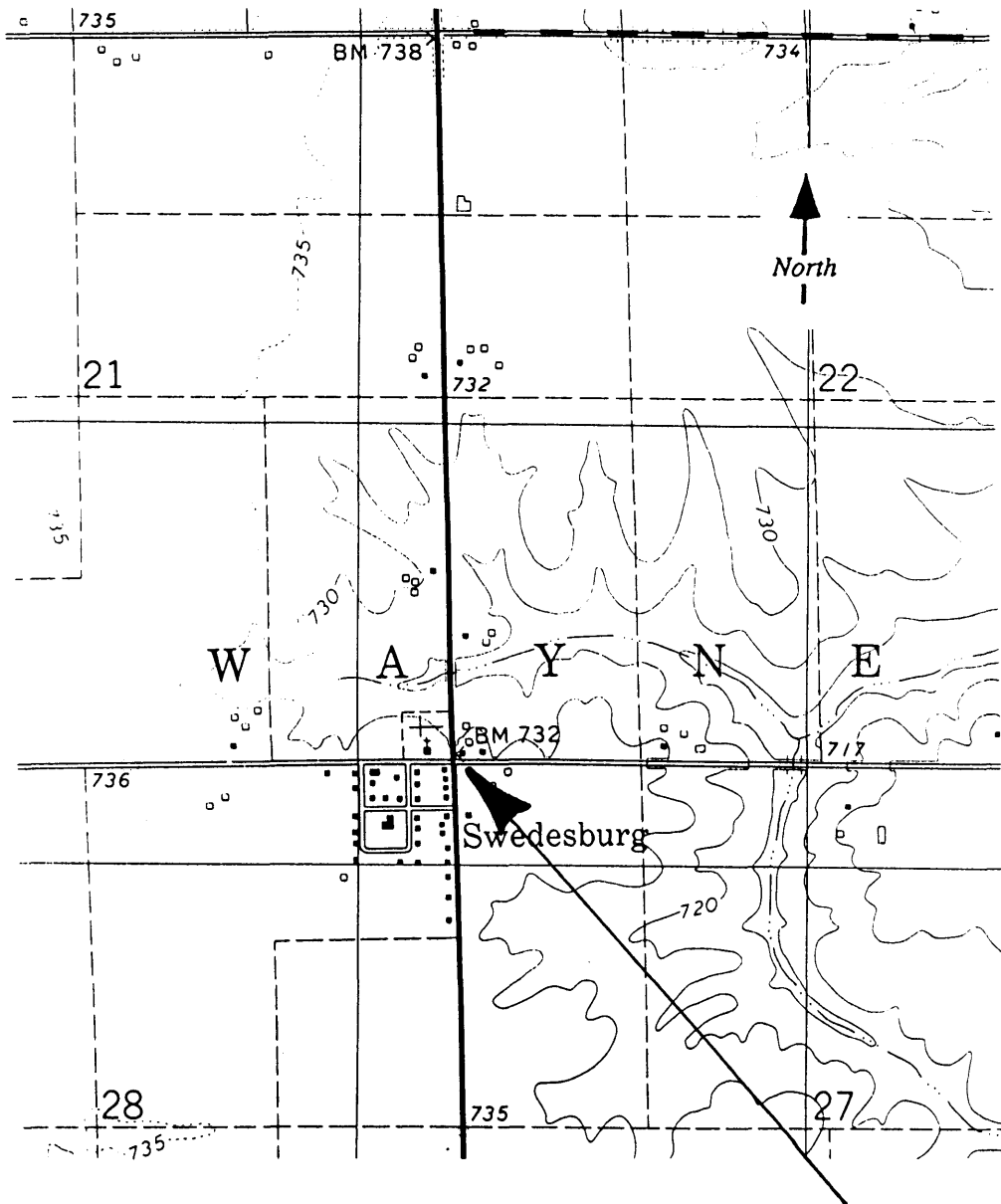
A historic photograph of this building (located in the Swedish Heritage Museum) shows that the only apparent alteration is the removal of the pumps and enclosing of the SW corner for a showroom. Since this alteration occurred in 1944 it meets the 50 year requirement. The basic function of the building was not drastically changed (it remained an auto garage) by this alteration, so it is not considered to be intrusive. Rather, it adds to the significance of the building.

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Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 2



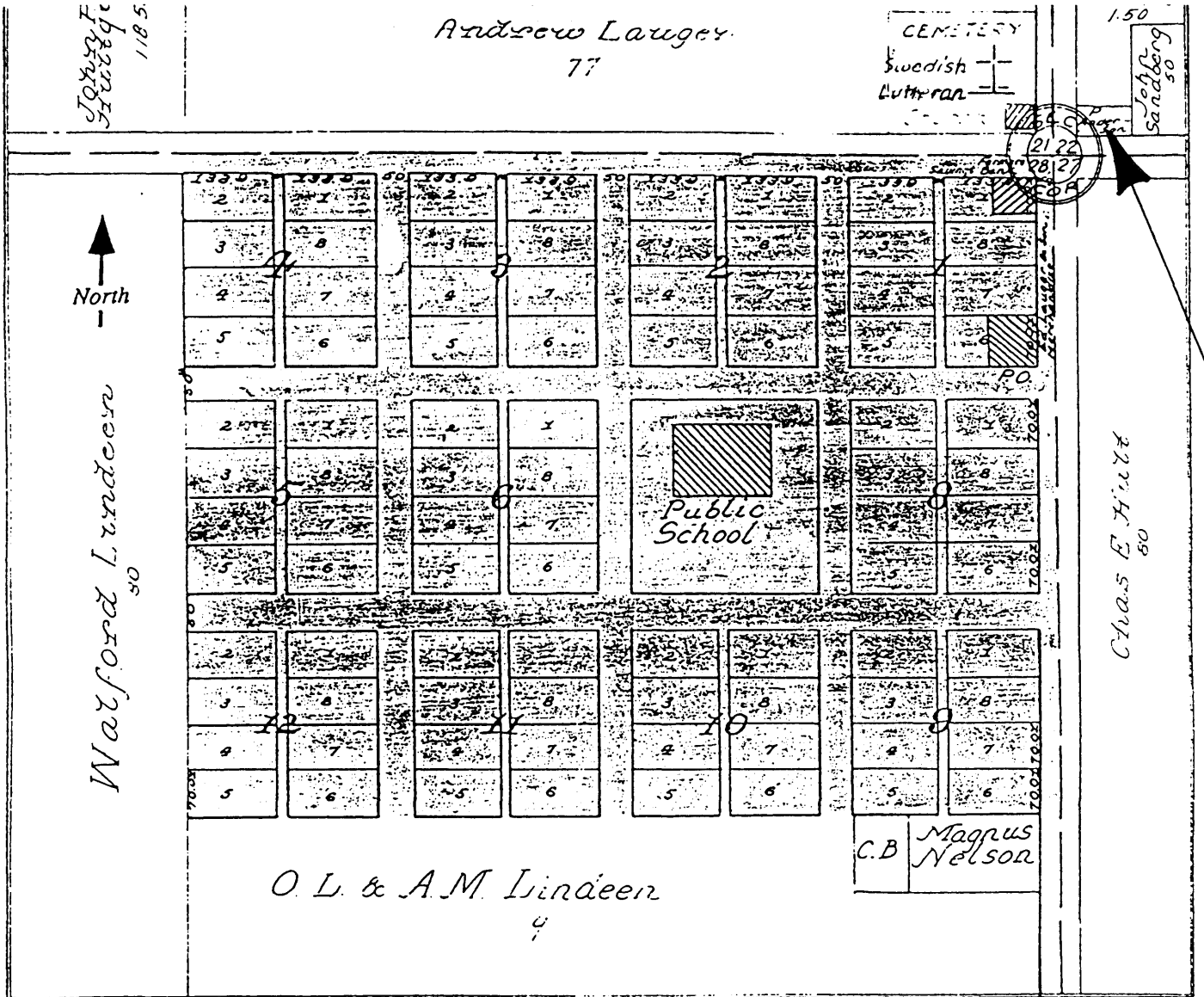
U.S.G.S Map indicating location of the resource.

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Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

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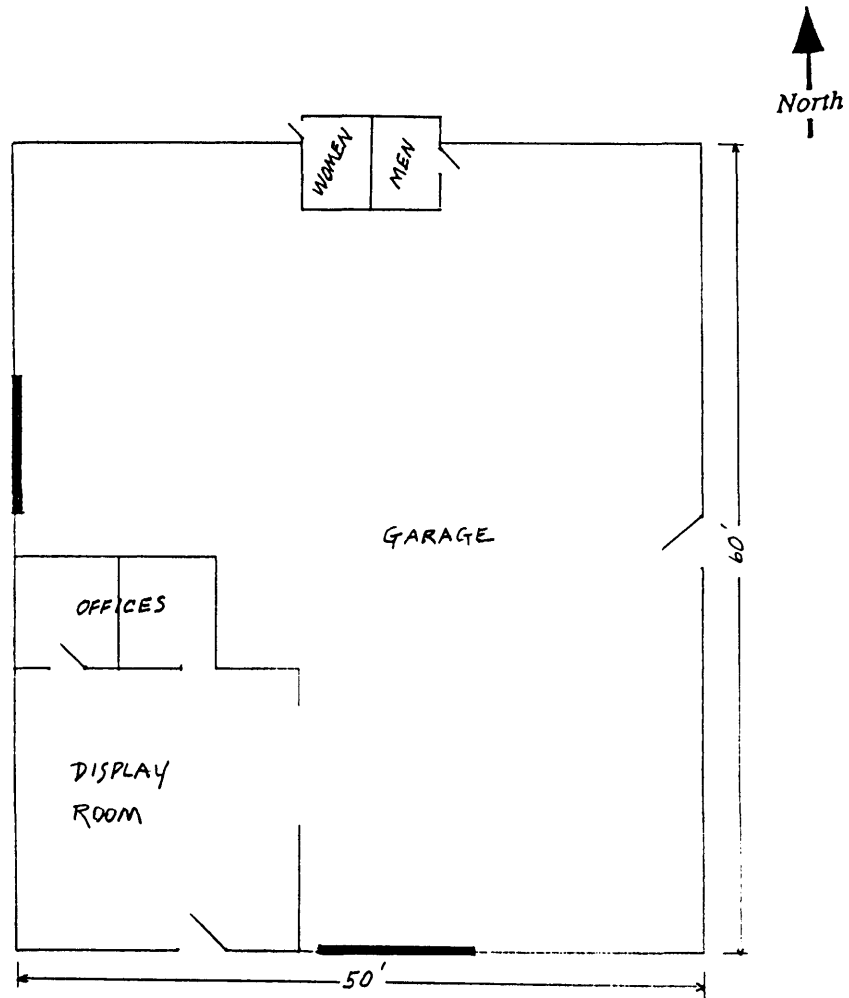
Plat map indicating location of resource in relation to the village of Swedesburg.
(From 1917 Standard Atlas of Henry County)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 4



Floor plan of Red Ball Garage.

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Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Red Ball Garage (1929) is locally significant under Criterion A as an example of the integral role of transportation to community development, and under Criterion C as an example of an auto-related building type, the auto garage. It is of local interest as it illustrates the continued importance of commerce along the highway to the village of Swedesburg. It meets the integrity requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form.

The eastern boundary of the village of Swedesburg has always been defined by a major north/south road. This road was originally known as the Military Road. In the early years this road was difficult to travel in the Wayne Township area due to the marshy condition of the land. Wagons and buggies got mired in the mud and required the help of neighboring farmers to get out. One area about 3/4 mile south of the village was covered by water so often that the county finally built a bridge of logs across it in 1867. As automobiles became popular, the need for designated hard surface roads became apparent. In 1913 this road through Swedesburg became part of a 610 mile route linking Minneapolis/St. Paul with St. Louis. To aid motorists, the route was marked by large white squares with a red ball in the center. From this marker the road became known as the Red Ball Route. In 1929-30 the Red Ball Route was paved, making it truly a hard surface, weather-proof road. This road became known as U.S. Highway 218 and as a two lane highway has been an important route connecting not only the major cities, but as a direct route to Iowa City with its university and hospitals. Today U.S. 218 has become part of the "Avenue of the Saints" and is once again being expanded, this time to four lanes from St. Louis to St. Paul. Construction in the Swedesburg area is proceeding, with the new highway being re-located immediately to the east of the community.

The Red Ball Garage was built in 1929 to meet the growing needs of the motoring public (both local and traveling). It is located directly across the highway from the Swedish Evangelical Church, and due north of the Charles Hult house, technically not in the village of Swedesburg proper.

Prior to 1929 this site along an established traffic route had been the location of several vehicle related businesses. In 1870 a blacksmith shop was established by a Mr. Peterson. Following Peterson, John Lilljedahl ran a blacksmithing and wagonmaking business there. In 1886 John C. Sandburg purchased the blacksmith shop and added the manufacture of small tools and field harness. After the turn of the century both automobiles and tractors became more common, and with these came a need for tire repair, so the blacksmith shop became a garage. Darnell and McDowell were the first owners of this business, selling it to Lee and Haganman (who also sold Oliver tractors from the building). When the Red Ball Route was designated in 1913 it became known as the Red Ball Garage. A historic photograph shows this as a fairly small gable roof building of wood construction. As automobile garages developed as a building type, it was recognized that the buildings needed to be fireproof due to the highly combustible nature of the vehicles. In 1929 the original wood garage was replaced by a modern, fireproof structure of masonry construction with a concrete floor. The construction of this building may have been based on more than just the need for a new building. The year before, 1928, the Lutheran Church across the road had been destroyed by fire. The

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Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

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congregation immediately decided to rebuild, thereby ensuring the continued development of the village of Swedesburg. Another new building, a general store known as the Farmers Union Exchange, had been completed on the west side of the highway in 1927-28. In addition, the state of Iowa was in the process of paving major highways.

Paving of the Red Ball Route was completed through Swedesburg in 1930. A new, modern auto garage was an important addition to the community. It was not only a service station and repair garage, it was also a sales garage for Studebakers. In 1944 the building was remodeled to provide additional display room space for the automobiles. When the owner retired in 1966 the business was sold to longtime employee Ed Neil who discontinued auto sales but added sales and service of lawnmowers, chain saws, etc to the business. The building continued to be used until the fall of 1998 when it was sold to the Swedish Heritage Museum, marking the first time in over a century that vehicles had not been repaired on this site.

The Red Ball Garage is representative of an important 20th century building type, the auto garage, which has maintained a high level of integrity. The construction, and continued use, of this building speaks to the vitality of the village of Swedesburg over the past decades.

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Red Ball Garage
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

"A Century of Service," Swedish Heritage Society, No 23, Fall 1998, pp 1 & 2.

Abstract of Title

Anderson, Carl A. "The Sage of Swedesburg," Annals of Iowa, Vol XXXV, No 3, Winter 1960, pp 187-205.

Hult, Inez. Unpublished manuscript.

_____. Interview conducted by Herbert Hult, 22 Feb 1997.

Wickham, Jane. Information provided about her great-grandfather, John C. Sandburg.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land measuring 70' x 80' in the far SW corner of Section 21 SW 1/4 SW 1/4 (T73N R6W). This parcel is bounded on the west by old U.S. Highway 218 (originally known as the Military Road), and on the south by 140th Street (Henry County).

Boundary Justification

This parcel of land contains the building which is directly associated with the Red Ball Garage.

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Red Ball Garage
Henry County, Iowa

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All of these photographs were taken by Dennis Hult in December 1998 for the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission. The negatives are on file in the State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, Des Moines, IA.

1. South (façade) and west elevations looking NE across the intersection of U.S. 218 and 140th Street (Henry County).
2. South (façade) and east elevations looking NW.
3. North (rear) and west elevations looking SSE.