

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 7 1986**

date entered

**NOV 6 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Lee Shay Farmhouse

and/or common Lee Shay Farmstead

**2. Location**

street & number Off County Road P-27

not for publication

city, town Maloy XXX vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Ringgold code 159

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Bob and Kathi Shay

street & number R.R.#1, Box 242

city, town Maloy xx vicinity of state IA 50852

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Ringgold County Courthouse

city, town Mount Ayr state IA 50854

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This large and elaborate two story frame house, rectangular on plan, reflects a Tudor Revival influence in its architectural scheme. The Tudor is most evidenced by the use of cantilevered Jacobean dormers or bays, brackets, bargeboard and decorative trim.

The central core of this rectangular plan measures 33' x 25'. The core is elaborated by the presence of a two-story solarium wing which is centered on the west side, a two-story tower centered on the north rear, a shallow two story wing on the rear of the east side, a main floor bay with balcony above on the same side, and a centered front portico with flanking cantilevered second floor bays or wall dormers.

The two story side gabled house is frame with narrow clapboard exterior. The house is painted white. The foundation is of red brick. Broad clapboard belt courses form a water table and carry the frieze line around the the house. Each wall plane is framed by the intersection of these horizontal lines with vertical corner boards. Similarly matching exterior window casings add to this visual scheme. The house exterior is visually very busy with dominant vertical themes which contrast with the horizontal thrust of the narrow clapboard. Upper window sash are four vertical light style. Side lights flank the lower main floor front windows beneath each bay, and the balcony door on the east side. Massive slightly tapered wooden piers, grouped in threes, support the front portico. Cornerboards, brackets, guttering and the recurring broad bargeboards combine to create a sense of vertical thrust. Massive solid scrolled and angled brackets support balcony and bays and a full length pent roof across the front. Butt-flared bargeboards with boxed eaves are found on the steeply pitched main roof gables, the portico, the front wall dormers and the end wings and rear tower. A horizontal thrust, is created by a broadly projecting stair and porch foundation, and window bands, either pairs or triples.

Fenestration is symmetrical on the front and windows are generally vertically aligned. The lower window sets on the facade are more elaborate in terms of sidelights. Two chimney stacks project , both from the plan center, one at the roof ridge and one at the north rear center.

The interior plan consists of a center hall which leads directly back to a dogleg staircase. A living room fills the west half of the main core plan and a fireplace projects into the room from the center east wall. A den is in the west wing. The east half of the plan includes a dining room in the front and a kitchen-pantry in the rear. The rear tower allowed for a wash room/mudroom entrance at ground level, and a sewing room off the landing between floors.

On the second floor the plan provided for a longitudinal central hall, three bedrooms in the central core and a full bath. The east wing housed a fourth bedroom and the solarium a sleeping porch.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1919-20 **Builder/Architect** Kraetsch & Kraetsch, Architects

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Lee Shay House reflects the prosperity enjoyed by rural Iowans at the close of the so called "Golden Age of Agriculture". Farm prices plummeted in 1921. Designed by the prominent Des Moines architectural firm of Kraetsch and Kraetsch and influenced by the popular Tudor Revival style, this type of house is more commonly found in urban areas. This house aptly illustrates both the impact of this prosperity and willingness of its owners to commission the design of an urban house in a rural setting.

Joseph Leo Shay (1882-1961) and Teresa Cecelia Eason Shay (1890-1975) were married in 1911 and constructed this house in 1920. Plans were apparently made the same or the previous year. The surviving original plans, entitled "Residence for Mr. Joseph L. Shay, Benton Iowa", drawn up by the Des Moines architectural firm of Kraetsch and Kraetsch, survive.

A construction date is illusive for the house but a farm fire in early August 1920 drew newspaper attention to the on-going construction. The farm scale house burned and nearly took this house with it. The account read as follows:

"...The family, carpenters and other workmen about the place had just gone in for dinner when the outbuilding, used as a wood house and storeroom, was discovered to be in flames. The new house which is almost completed is located directly northwest of the old house, the old and new residences almost coming in contact, while the burning outbuilding was located about twenty or twenty-five feet north of the old residence, and with the wind in the north it called for prompt and efficient action on the part of the carpenters, workmen and neighbors who had gathered in to save the buildings (The Mount Ayr Record News, August 5, 1920).

The explosion of a fifty gallon tank of kerosene enlivened the event and injured several. The kerosene was thrown "...over the new and old house and over a large territory." Three men on top of the two houses were blown to the ground. The tank "pulled off a 'Big Bertha' stunt" and landed against the old garage, damaging the side of same. After detailing damages and injuries, the local writer noted the new house with the following comments:

"The new house which is nearing completion will be modern throughout and will be one of the finest country residences in the county. It will cost when completed several thousand dollars--ten or dozen--we should judge. While the house was blackened and caught on fire at different points it was damaged very little."

Brick Jennings was one of the carpenters who helped build the house. The basement was excavated with mule teams pulling scrapers. The construction took a long time, all of the cutting and assemblage being done on site.

Leo Shay was locally called Lee. He was a long term school board member, and a member of the Farm Debt Advisory Board. The family moved to this farm in 1912. Four daughters were born to them and they spent fifty years together on this farm. Each daughter earned an undergraduate university degree.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Maloy

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5
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3	8	3	1	8	0
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4	5	0	4	7	0	0
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** A rectangular shaped property, measuring 150' x 100', that includes house and original garage only. Refer to Continuation Sheet 10-2. Beg. at NW corner of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 14, thence N. 1281.1', E. 770', N. 177', E. 150', S. 100', W. 150'. The last four lines demark the rectangle which is located within the farmstead.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N.A.			

state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Office of Historic Preservation, Bureau of Community Programs, State Historical Society of Iowa date September 25, 1986

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines, state IA 50319

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David E. Crosson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 26, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Delores Byrum  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-6-86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Continuation sheet    Description    Item number 7    Page 2

The basement was excavated only within the main plan. The furnace was centered beneath the hall. A laundry and drying room filled the east half. The basement was built in tile with a brick veneer on the visible foundation. The drain system was linked by underground pipe to a cistern just northeast of the house.

Alterations to the house have been minimal. The window scheme was altered from the architects' plan, with the substitution of single light lower sash and vertically paned upper sash for six over six sash called for in the plan. The original roof cover called for galvanized iron roof ridge caps, these are either covered or gone. The chimney caps were corbelled with projecting tile liners in the plan, the present caps are square cut and capped with cement. The only alteration to plan was the enclosing in 1982 of a wrap-around porch on the northeast corner. This porch connecting the east siding and the rear wing is not present in the original plans. The interior is preserved, only the kitchen has been slightly remodeled over time.

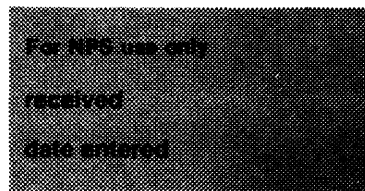
Significant interior features include a set of French oak doors, three built in window seats, built in oak book cases, a brick fireplace with tile hearth and oak mantle, oak ceiling beams and brackets, an oak staircase, a built in oak sideboard, oak and maple flooring.

The house is part of a farmstead. The pre-1920 two car hip roofed garage with square plan stands but is generally deteriorated. It retains its original wood shingle roof. A new (1984) three car garage stands north of the house. This nomination includes only the house and immediate frontage between it and the road. A 1922 central throughway corn crib (1922) is the only other standing structure on the four acre farmstead.

The house is the only one of its kind in rural Ringgold County. There are similar stylistic examples in the county seat, Mount Ayr. It is apparently one of a few architect-designed rural homes in the area.

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Continuation sheet    Bibliography

Item number    9

Page    2

Mount Ayr Record News, 5 August 1920, 22 October 1961, 23 July 1975.  
Kraetsch and Kraetsch Architects, Undated plans for a "Residence for Mr. Joseph L. Shay, Benton, Iowa."

Interviews, Kathi Shay (owner) with Mrs. Maxine Carr and Mrs. Lucinda Taylor, daughters of builder.

Richard Fleig, Land Survey Report, June 17, 1982.

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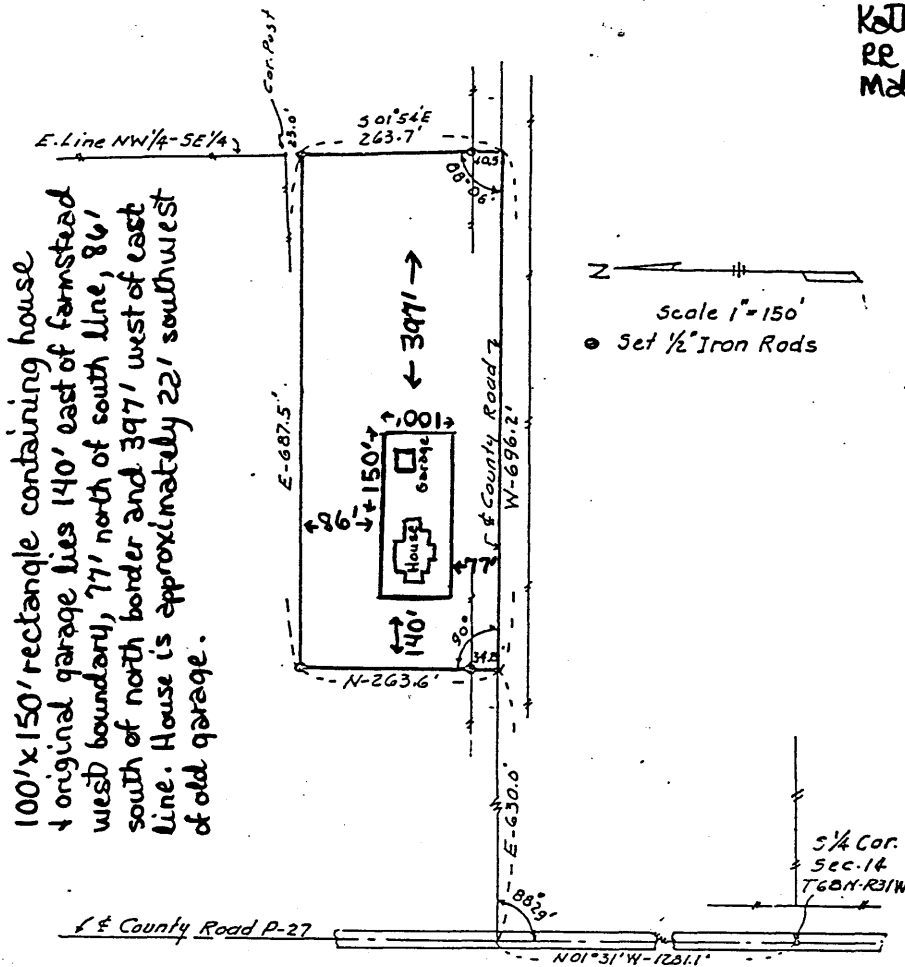
Continuation sheet

Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 2

Lee Shay homestead  
Submitted by:  
Kathi Shay  
RR Box 242  
Meloy, IA 50852



100' x 150' rectangle containing house  
↓ original garage lies 140' east of farmstead  
west boundary, 77' north of south line, 86'  
south of north border and 397' west of east  
line. House is approximately 22' southwest  
of old garage.

Scale 1" = 150'  
• Set 1/2" Iron Rods

Description

parcel of land in the NW 1/4-SE 1/4 of Section 14, T68N-R31W of the 5th P.M. Ringgold County, Iowa, described as follows: Commencing at the S 1/4 corner of said Section 14, thence N 01° 31' W - 1281.1 ft., thence east 630.0 ft. along traveled way of County road to point of beginning; thence north 263.6 ft., thence east 687.5 ft. to the east line of said NW 1/4-SE 1/4 of section 14, thence S 01° 54' E - 263.7 ft. to centerline of County road; thence east 696.2 ft. to point of beginning, containing 4.18 acres, subject to road easements.

Certification

I hereby certify that the above plat is in accord with a survey made by me June 17, 1982.

Richard Fleig  
Registered Land Surveyor.

