

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 660000110 and 13000594

Property Name: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)

County: Cedar State: IOWA

Multiple Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National

Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

102 Alexis A. Kennedy 8/14/2013
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

In Section 8 of the National Register of Historic Places nomination the period of significance has been changed to better reflect current documentation of the resource. The Staff and Region of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site have been notified of the change. The staff had not had time to adequately document the National Park Service's operation of the site, therefore the period of significance will stop in 1970. The visitor's center in Section 7 on page 6 will be stay non-contributing, as will the two maintenance buildings also mentioned in section 7 page 6 (c. 1946) as these are within the National Park Service's maintenance area that is separated from the main museum grounds and as mentioned before have not been adequately documented.

In Section 7 page 6 of the National Register of Historic Places the nomination form has been changed from non-contributing to contributing for the picnic shelter (c. 1966). This has been confirmed with the Park and the Regional office. The picnic shelter and other shelter dedicated by the Boy Scouts are both part of the same mission and conservation plan and contribute and are eligible to the National Register.

In Section 7 page 6 of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form has been changed from non-contributing to contributing for the Barn/storage shed (1952). Constructed of recycled materials from other buildings on the property and is located within the area of the museum complex. Similar to other buildings with the museum complex the Barn/storage shed contributes to the historic district and is eligible to the National Register.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Herbert Hoover National Historic Site - Amendment (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number Herbert Hoover Birthplace

2. Location

street & number N/A 110 Parkside Drive not for publication

city of town West Branch vicinity

State Iowa code IA county Cedar code 031 zip code 52358

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 national statewide local does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

[Signature] June 25, 2013
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy FPO National Park Service
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] 5/14/13
Signature of commenting official Date

D SHPO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8/14/13

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
13	5	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
1	0	Objects
17	5	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

N/A

44

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- RELIGION/religious facility
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- EDUCATION/school
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/farming
- FUNERARY/graves/burials
- EDUCATION/library
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LANDSCAPE/park – National Park
- EDUCATION/library – library/museum
- FUNERARY/graves/burials - graves

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN - Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN – Queen Anne

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY – Greek Revival

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY – Gothic Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS – Colonial Revival

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE

CONCRETE

walls: STONE - Sandstone

WOOD - Weatherboard

Roof: WOOD - Shingle

STONE - Slate

ASPHALT

other: BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See attached continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See attached 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government
 Conservation
 Archeology: Historic – Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1874-1885
 1935-1976

Significant Dates

1874
 1935
 1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Hoover, Herbert Clark

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Wagner, William
 Puttemans, Augustus
 Delmare, Raoul

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Period of Significance (justification)

1874-1885: This period encompasses the years from 1874, when Herbert Hoover was born in West Branch, Iowa, to 1885, when he left West Branch following the deaths of his parents.

1935-1976: This period represents the era in which Herbert Hoover, his family, and the Birthplace Society/Foundation were actively creating a landscape dedicated to memorializing the accomplishments of Hoover and recreating the physical atmosphere which shaped his early life. This period ends in 1976 with the completion of the commemorative landscape, in particular the completion of the birthplace to gravesite vista that was a key component of the commemorative landscape.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

See attached continuation sheets.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See attached continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See attached continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

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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: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 119.31 acres
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

The entire acreage of the National Historic Site includes 186.80 acres, 67.49 of which were listed on the National Register in 1978.

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

1	<u>15</u>	<u>636,616</u>	<u>4,614,517</u>	3	<u>15</u>	<u>637,847</u>	<u>4,614,606</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>636,981</u>	<u>4,614,588</u>	4	<u>15</u>	<u>637,849</u>	<u>4,614,408</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See attached continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

In West Branch, IA, the boundary of the Herbert Hoover NHS starts at the southeast corner of Main and Second Streets, runs west along the south side of Main Street and turns south one block just west of the Post Office and then turns west along the north side of Wetherell Street. The boundary line angles southwest at the corner of Wetherell and Poplar Streets and follows the south side of Wetherell Street to the service road west of the Staples House. It turns south and follows the west side of the service road to the end of the fence line and turns west. As the boundary approaches "Hoover Creek" [Wapsinonoc Creek], it angles northwest to the south side of Main Street where it turns west and follows the south right of way line to the west side of the Thompson Farm. The west boundary line is a north-south line running through the agricultural fields of the Thompson Farm about 400 feet west of the farm buildings and bisects the fields between fences, rather than follow a fence line. The boundary heads east at the north right-of-way of Interstate

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80. It follows the north ROW line east to Parkside Drive and turns north and runs in a step-like pattern to Cedar and Second Streets following the east side of Second Street back to the point of beginning.
[Cited from 2010 Cultural Landscapes Inventory, page 18]

See Map 1.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary encompasses the entire National Historic Site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Ruth E. Mills and Brenda W. Williams		
organization	Quinn Evans Architects	date	April 2013
street & number	219 ½ North Main Street	telephone	734-663-5888
city or town	Ann Arbor	state	MI
		zip code	48104
e-mail	Bwilliams@quinnevens.com; rmills@quinnevens.com		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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. Key all photographs to this map.

See attached Maps 1 through 4.

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs:

See attached photographs 1 through 43.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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, PO 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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(Amendment)

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Purpose:

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (NHS), authorized by Congress on August 12, 1965, is being nominated as a historic district. The Secretary of the Interior designated the 28 acre Herbert Hoover Birthplace National Historic Landmark (NHL) on June 23, 1965 and the district was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. A subsequent National Register nomination documenting 67.49 acres of the NHS was approved on August 1, 1978. This updated (amended) nomination encompasses a boundary increase to include the entire 186.80 acres of the current NHS. It provides a complete inventory of the current site, updates the significance discussion, and includes new information from the 1995 Cultural Landscape Report prepared for the NHS. Additional information and descriptions of contributing buildings and structures previously listed can be found in the original 1978 National Register nomination.

Methodology:

Cultural Landscape Approach

The cultural landscape at the NHS is a large and complex assemblage of resources that are addressed in this nomination as **one resource** that contributes to the overall significance of the **district**. A cultural landscape methodology has been applied to documenting and evaluating the landscape. This approach is based upon federal standards guiding the evaluation of historic resources including *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, and *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*, and other pertinent documents.¹ This approach includes building a foundation of historical information as a basis for understanding the evolution of significant landscapes. Research conducted utilized primary and secondary sources to develop a comprehensive understanding of the physical evolution of the landscape as well as the historical significance of the property. The attached bibliography denotes the sources consulted. One key document warrants recognition. The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report provided an organizational approach to the evaluation of the cultural landscape based on landscape character areas and landscape characteristics.²

¹ United States Secretary of the Interior, no date. *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*; and Page, Robert R., Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, 1998. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program), and Birnbaum, Charles A. and Christine Capella Peters, 1996. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 3-5.

² Land and Community Associates, 1995. *Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report* (Omaha, Nebraska: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office).

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The guidelines indicate that large landscapes may be divided into landscape character areas for the purposes of documentation and evaluation. Landscape character areas are defined by the physical qualities and the cultural resources present within a location. The NHS Cultural Landscape Report identifies six landscape character areas within the park including the Historic Core, Gravesite, Presidential Library-Museum, Loop Drive Area, Rural/Agricultural Setting, and Visitor Center/ Park Support Area (see Map 2 of 5).³ These character areas are used as a basis for evaluating the NHS cultural landscape and each area is considered a part of the overall NHS landscape.

Landscape characteristics are tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from the historic periods; these aspects individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. Landscape characteristics are used to document existing landscape conditions and to evaluate historic landscape integrity. Landscape characteristics relevant to Herbert Hoover National Historical Site include: spatial organization, patterns of circulation, cluster arrangement, land use, responses to the natural environment, views, topography, buildings and structures, small scale features, and archeological resources. The following narrative includes a description of each of the landscape character areas and the landscape characteristics associated with them.

Resource Counts:

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site was administratively listed in the National Register upon its creation on October 15, 1966. Contributing and non-contributing resources were not identified at that time. The subsequent National Register of Historic Places nomination prepared in 1976 (listed in 1978) did not contain an official count of contributing and non-contributing resources. This nomination did, however, list "historic structures serving to recreate the childhood environment of Herbert Hoover," "miscellaneous historic structures," and "non-historic structures" (the use of the term "structure" did not conform to NRHP terminology and could stand for buildings, structures or objects). Some of the "historic structures" listed in that nomination are now gone, and some of the "non-historic structures" would now be considered contributing. Furthermore, the listing of historic and non-historic "structures" did not classify those resources according to category (i.e. building, structure, object, site, etc); and some of the resources listed were elements that were not extant but were expected to be reconstructed (such as fences and gates). Based on much more thorough analysis, the following identifies contributing and non-contributing resources, and identifies resources listed in the previous nomination.

³ Land and Community Associates, 1995. *Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report* (Omaha, Nebraska: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office).

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Contributing Resources

The following symbols are used in the list below:

* = Resources listed in the original NRHP nomination and considered contributing

+ = Resources listed in the original NRHP nomination and considered non-contributing, but which are now identified as contributing

Buildings

- HS-1: Hoover birthplace cottage*
- HS-2: P. T. Smith House*
- HS-3: Quaker Meeting House*
- HS-4: Hannah Varney House*
- HS-5: Dr. Leech House*
- HS-6: Laban Miles House*
- HS-7: Amanda Garvin House*
- HS-8: C. E. Smith House*
- HS-9: James Staples House*
- HS-10: E. S. Hayhurst House*
- HS-11: Isaac Miles Farmhouse*
- HS-12: Isaac Miles Barn*
- HS-14: Isaac Miles Garage*
- HS-15: Isaac Miles Shed*
- HS-16: Hoover Blacksmith Shop and Wagon Shop Replica*
- HS-17: First West Branch Schoolhouse*
- HS-18: David Mackey House*
- HS-19: William Wright House*
- HS-23: Hoover Cottage Privy*
- HS-28: Amanda Garvin Cottage Shed and Garage (addition)*
- HS-35: William Wright House Garage*
- HS-36: Laban Miles House Shed*
- HS-45: Boy Scout Picnic Shelter and Plaque +
- HS-53: Miles Farm Pole/Machine Shed +
- HS-54: Miles Farm Chicken House +
- HS-80: Thompson Farm Farmhouse
- HS-81: Thompson Farm Garage
- HS-84: Thompson Farm Machine Shed

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HS-85: Thompson Farm Brooder House
HS-86: Thompson Farm Hog House/Corn Crib
HS-87: Thompson Farm Corn Crib
HS-89: Thompson Farm Chicken House
HS-92: Thompson Farm Storage Bin
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum
Hoover Presidential Library Association Building ("Yellow House")

Contributing buildings previously listed: 22

New contributing buildings: 13

The following buildings previously listed as contributing are no longer extant:

HS-13: Isaac Miles Corncrib
HS-24: Hoover Cottage Chickenhouse
HS-29: Port Scellers Stock Barn

Structures:

HS-20: Isaac Miles Windmill*
HS-21: Historic Roads and Alleys*
HS-26: Downey Street Bridge *
HS-30: Hoover Birthplace Cottage Well and Pump*
HS-31: Garvin Cottage Well and Pump*
HS-33: Birthplace Cottage Fence and Gates*
HS-37: Historic Sidewalks*
HS-38: Methodist Church Street Lamp*
HS-41: Hoover Graves*
HS-49 Dr. Leech Retaining Wall
HS-50 Hoover Creek Retaining Wall

Contributing structures previously listed: 9

New contributing structures: 2

The following structures previously listed as contributing are no longer extant:

HS-32: Laban Miles House Well, Cistern, and Pumps

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Objects

HS-42: Statue of Isis*
HS-43: Iowa Award Plaques*
HS-44: DAR Monument*
HS-47 Gravesite Memorial Flagpole

Contributing objects previously listed: 3
New contributing objects: 1

Sites:

Entire National Historic Site

New contributing sites: 1 (including both landscape and archeological resources)

The following sites were listed in the original nomination as individual contributing resources. These are more properly considered part of the archeological resources of the entire NHS which are now included within the one counted site encompassing the entire National Historic Site.

HS-22: Laban Miles Horse Barn Site*
HS-25: Second Hoover House Site*
HS-27: Hoover Cottage Gardens and Orchard Site*
HS-34: James Staples House Fence and Gate Site*
HS-39: Laban Miles House Carriage Block and Hitching Post Site*
HS-40: Levi Forney House Site*

Currently there are 22 sites that have been recorded in the National Park Service Archeological Sites Management Information System; all of these are enumerated in the following section and are included as part of the one contributing site. In addition, all of the cultural landscape resources described herein are part of the one contributing site counted as a contributing resource.

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Non-Contributing Resources

The following symbol is used in the list below:

= Resources listed in the original NRHP nomination and considered non-contributing

Buildings

Barn/Storage Shed (1952)
Picnic Shelter (ca. 1966)
Comfort Station (1979)
Visitor Center (ca. 1970)
Park Maintenance Buildings (2) (ca. 1946)

Non-contributing buildings previously listed: 1

New non-contributing buildings: 5

The following buildings previously listed as non-contributing are no longer extant:

Caretaker's House (1938)
Comfort Station (1953)
East Picnic Shelter (1953)
Gravesite Guard House (1965)

Structures

Footbridge over creek (1994)#
Gazebo (1974) #

Non-contributing structures previously listed: 2

New non-contributing structures: none

Resource Descriptions:

The descriptions below include only those resources that are new to this nomination and the landscapes that contribute to the overall historic site (which is counted as one contributing site). Individually counted resources described in the previous nomination (e.g. the Hoover Birthplace Cottage, Hoover Graves, etc.) are not described in this nomination except insofar as they relate to the general discussion of the character of the historic landscape.

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Herbert Hoover NHS: Overview and Setting

Herbert Hoover NHS is located in the town of West Branch, Iowa, approximately 12 miles east of Iowa City. The park is situated south and west of West Branch's main cross streets of Downey Street (Co. Hwy X30) and Main Street (Co. Hwy F44). I-80, the federal interstate, is located south of the park. The current site is 186.80 acres in size, with 181.11 acres owned by the Federal Government, 4.59 acres owned by the City of West Branch, and 1.10 acres owned by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association. The buildings and landscape of the National Historic Site were formed and are maintained to commemorate the life of Herbert Hoover, thirty-first President of the United States, and to reflect the environment of his rural boyhood in West Branch. The setting ranges from the neatly kept village streets of the historic core, to the agricultural setting of the surrounding farmsteads, to the planned vista between the birthplace cottage and the Hoovers' gravesite.

Historic Core

The historic core represents late nineteenth century West Branch, the small Iowa town where Herbert Hoover was born and lived during his boyhood. The historic core is indicated on Map 2 as landscape character area 'A,' and an enlargement of this area is illustrated on Map 3. It contains the Hoover Birthplace Cottage, the only remaining building with a significant connection to Hoover which is in its original location. Because the town underwent development between the time of Hoover's departure in 1885 and the repurchase of his birthplace cottage in the 1930s, many of the buildings and landscape elements that Hoover would have known as a boy no longer exist and so the landscape only contributes to the 1935-1976 period of significance. Although one key building (Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop) was reconstructed, in general the emphasis was on replacing non-historic buildings and landscape features with similar, historically compatible buildings and elements that, as a group, convey the environment, if not the details, of Hoover's boyhood.

New resources:

Barn/Storage Shed (1952) (non-contributing): The barn is a rectangular, one-story building with a concrete foundation, brown board and batten walls, and a shingled gable roof. It has a small enclosed lean-to on the west elevation. An open, shed-roofed addition with fenced walls extends the length of the east elevation. Two sets of double barn doors are located on the north elevation and there are small square windows in the gable ends. Although this building dates to the period of significance, it is a maintenance building and was not constructed to help convey the environment of Hoover's boyhood.

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HS-49 Dr. Leech Retaining Wall (contributing): Portion of a concrete block retaining wall adjacent to the house.

HS-50 Hoover Creek Retaining Wall (contributing): Stone retaining wall along the creek bank.

Historic Core Landscape (part of the contributing site). The landscape of the historic core retains historic integrity of spatial organization, circulation, cluster arrangement, land use, views, and buildings and structures for the commemorative landscape period from 1935-1976.

Spatial Organization, Circulation and Cluster Arrangement

The historic core is laid out in a grid pattern arranged along the main streets of Downey, Poplar, Wetherell, and Penn. Hoover Creek meanders through the south end of the historic core.⁴ The character of the late nineteenth century is evoked by the arrangement of streets and houses, plank sidewalks, fences, trees and views. During the 1935-1976 period, houses, yards and paths were placed to represent the neighborhood character of the area during the Hoover's boyhood. The overall arrangement continues to represent this effort. The alignments of Downey Street, Wetherell Street, Penn Street and Poplar Street possess historic integrity for the circulation pattern, despite changes to their width and surface materials.

Land Use

During Hoover's boyhood, the Historic Core area was a residential neighborhood that included a few other services, like the blacksmith shop and school. During the 1935-1976 period, the use of the area as a commemorative park was established and continues today. The historic core retains historic integrity of land use for the 1935-1976 period.

Response to the Natural Environment

The community of West Branch was established on and named for the West Branch of Wapsinoc Creek. A tributary of the West Branch of Wapsinoc Creek, now called Hoover Creek, is a natural feature immediately adjacent to the Hoover Cottage and is an important natural feature in the community. In 1939, the Hoover Birthplace Society undertook a project to re-grade and seed land on both sides of the creek and install a retaining wall, footbridge and flagstone walk (removed ca. 1976-78) to provide easy access between the birthplace cottage and the statue of Isis. The retaining wall is extant. The ca. 1917 bridge currently provides an opportunity for pedestrians and service vehicles to cross the creek.

⁴ This stream is a tributary of the West Branch of the Wapsinoc Creek. It flows into West Branch of Wapsinoc Creek about a half mile downstream from the Birthplace Cottage, outside the park boundary. In September 2010, the United States Geological Survey officially re-designated this tributary as "Hoover Creek."

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Views

Significant historic views within the historic core include the vista from the birthplace cottage to the gravesite, the rural view from the historic core toward the Isaac Miles farm, and the view from the historic core to the north of the commercial blocks in downtown West Branch. Views from the birthplace cottage to the gravesite were emphasized in the choice of the location for the gravesite and in the development of a landscape design between the two locations. Initially established in 1955, this vista remains intact today. Minor changes have included the growth of vegetation planted to enhance the view and removal of vegetation that has become unhealthy or overgrown. The view from the historic core to the Isaac Miles farm represents efforts of the Birthplace Foundation and the National Park Service to protect the rural character of the location through purchasing land and easements in areas that might have otherwise been developed with incompatible additions. The view to the north from the historic core continues to present the backs of the commercial buildings in downtown West Branch. All of these views have integrity related to the 1935-1976 commemorative period, as they clearly related to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape representative of Hoover's youth.

Buildings and Structures

The majority of the buildings and structures in the historic core relate to the establishment of a commemorative landscape from 1935 to 1976. Many of the buildings were moved from other sites in West Branch to repopulate sites where Hoover-era buildings had been removed. The relocated buildings help to provide a neighborhood atmosphere similar to that present during Hoover's boyhood. These are generally one to two story wood framed and sided buildings with front and/or back porches, brick chimneys, wood windows, and wood shingle roofs.

In general, neighborhood buildings and structures that were in their original locations either during 1874-1885 or 1935-1976, or those that were moved to the site during commemorative activities of the period 1935-1976, retain historic integrity and contribute to the historic core. Buildings moved or constructed after the period of significance, even if they date from the Hoover boyhood period, are not considered contributing under Criteria Consideration B (moved properties). Contributing and non-contributing buildings are listed in the resource count section of Section 7 as well as in Appendix A of this nomination.

Gravesite

The gravesite centers on the graves of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover, and the landscape designed to provide a setting for the graves as well as a vista toward the Birthplace Cottage, symbolically representing the journey of Herbert Hoover's life. The gravesite area is indicated as landscape character area 'B' on Map 2. Situated south and west of the historic core, loop road, and library-museum site, its

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location on a high point within the park creates a contemplative and inspiring atmosphere. Vertical plantings provide a backdrop to the gravesite, screening it from the surrounding landscape to the south and west and encouraging a focus on the vista to the birthplace. In planning the gravesite, the Hoover family emphasized simplicity of design, materials, and plantings. The gravesite retains historic integrity for the 1935-1976 commemorative period.

New Resources

HS-47 Gravesite Memorial Flagpole (contributing): This is a bronze metal flagpole topped with ball and eagle. There is a bronze coat-of-arms mounted on the pole facing toward the graves. The deteriorated ball and eagle were replaced in 2004.

Gravesite Landscape (part of the contributing site). The landscape of the gravesite retains historic integrity of spatial organization, patterns of circulation, land use, topography, views, vegetation, and small scale features related to the commemorative landscape period from 1935-1976.

Spatial Organization

The location of the gravesite was chosen by Allan Hoover (Herbert Hoover's son) ca. 1955. The site was designed by William Wagner prior to Hoover's death and installation was completed in 1976. Hoover's family participated in the design and insisted that it be understated. Wagner began work on the design in 1961 and Hoover died in 1964. The organization of the site has not been altered since completion of the installation. The gravesite area retains historic integrity of spatial organization for the 1935-1976 period.

Patterns of Circulation

The pedestrian approach to the gravesite, and path adjacent to the graves, were designed as part of the overall experience of the site. These remain intact and retain integrity related to the 1935-1976 period.

Land Use

Originally designed and developed for use as a burial site and overlook of the birthplace cottage—this use continues today. The gravesite area retains historic integrity of land use for the 1935-1976 period.

Topography

The area around the gravesite was deliberately re-graded to emphasize views between the birthplace cottage and gravesite and to screen views to the south. The topography has not been changed since the completion of the site in 1966.

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Views

The gravesite/overlook location was deliberately selected to maximize the vista between the gravesite and the birthplace cottage. The raised topography of the overlook and the placement of trees along the vista enhance this effect. The view remains intact, with minor changes due to growth, removal, and planting of vegetation. The view retains historic integrity for the period from 1935-1976.

Vegetation

Formal plantings in the gravesite area include a tall backdrop of vertically oriented evergreens, low evergreen shrubs massed within the inner portion of the semi-circular area, lawn providing a simple approach and surrounding, and sparsely planted evergreens planted behind and beyond the gravesite providing a feeling of enclosure. The vegetation is maintained as designed and retains historic integrity for the period from 1935-1976.

Small Scale Features

Small scale features within the gravesite area include the flagpole and two marble benches that are part of the designed landscape. The gravesite area overall retains historic integrity of small scale features for the period from 1935-1976.

Library/Museum Area

Located between the historic core and the loop road area, the Library-Museum area primarily reflects Hoover's post-West Branch career as a humanitarian, politician, and statesman. This area is indicated as landscape character area 'C' on Map 2. It is centered on the sprawling Library-Museum complex, constructed in stages between 1959 and 1992, and contains a separate park entry, as well as several commemorative features, including the statue of Isis given to Hoover to celebrate his humanitarian work during World War I. The Library-Museum was designed to provide a quiet, low profile facing the creek and historic core, with parking, circulation, and entry on the south and west sides. The Library-Museum area is associated with the 1935-1976 commemorative period of significance.

New resources

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum (contributing). The library/museum is a low, one-story building characterized by its ashlar-cut yellow stone masonry walls, multiple slate-clad gabled roofs, and Colonial detailing. Built in stages over 30 years, the building is oriented generally along an east-west axis, with the oldest section facing east and the newer portions to the west. The public entrance and parking lots are located on the south side of the building, directing attention away from the north side which is designed to present a quiet profile towards the historic core. Because the

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building was begun during the period of significance and its additions are compatible with the original construction style and materials, it is a contributing building under Criterion A as a planned component of the presidential commemorative landscape.

Hoover Presidential Library Association House (contributing). Also known as the Yellow House, this is a two and a half story, Queen Anne style house with a curved, wrap-around porch, located on the west side of Downey Street, southeast of the library/museum. Constructed in 1905, it was purchased by the Birthplace Foundation in 1964 as a residence for the director of the Presidential Library. Although its ownership is retained by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, it contributes to the district under Criterion A, as an element related to the commemorative landscape.

Library/Museum Area Landscape (part of the contributing site). The landscape of the Library / Museum area does not retain integrity related to the significance of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

Spatial Organization

The landscape in this area is organized around the Presidential Library, which has been expanded several times, most recently in 1992. The building has more than tripled in size since its initial construction and the area utilized for parking lots has expanded greatly. These changes have rendered the original conditions unidentifiable at the site. The Library/Museum area does not retain integrity related to spatial organization.

Land Use

This area has served as the location for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library since its initial construction began in 1959. The Library/Museum area retains historic integrity related to land use.

Patterns of Circulation

The parking lots and sidewalks in the Library/Museum area were established in their current configuration in 1992, after the end of the period of significance. Overall, the Library/Museum area does not retain integrity related to patterns of circulation.

Two remnants of circulation patterns are extant and retain integrity. These include the features related to the entrance drive and the path alignment between the statue of Isis and the original Presidential Library entrance. The entrance drive, stone gateway, and ornamental plantings, implemented between 1951 and 1957, are intact and retain integrity related to the 1935-1976 period of significance. These features reflect the early entrance to the park. The path between the statue of Isis and the Presidential

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Library was part of the original designed entrance to the park and has not been altered, therefore it retains historic integrity for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

Vegetation

The lawn and shade trees between the entry gate and the east façade of the Library/ Museum were part of the original designed entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park. These plantings are intact and retain integrity related to the 1935-1976 period of significance. The evergreen trees located adjacent to the statue of Isis were installed after 2004 and do not retain integrity to the period of significance. The current replacement trees are of a different species but were installed to match the original design intent of creating a backdrop for the statue, although they have not yet achieved that purpose. The plantings around the Presidential Library were added to respond to the expansion of the building and do not relate to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.

Small Scale Features

The only historic small scale features within the Library/Museum area include wooden light posts and luminaires that were part of the designed entrance of the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.

Loop Drive Area

Located between the historic core and the gravesite, the Loop Drive area contains the visitor amenities developed as part of the public Birthplace park during the 1935-1976 commemorative period. This area is indicated as landscape character area 'D' on Map 2. It includes expanses of lawn and clusters of deciduous canopy trees, shrubs and evergreen trees, picnic areas, and open spaces. The loop road circles through an area of manicured lawn and mature canopy trees. The road follows a portion of the alignment of the racetrack of the county fairgrounds present in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The area straddles the Hoover Creek, with the Loop Road to the south, and park support features like the picnic shelters and comfort station to the north. The loop drive also helps to preserve the vista between the gravesite and birthplace and features massed tree plantings that reflect native trees present during Hoover's boyhood. It contributes to the 1935-1976 commemorative period under Criterion A.

New resources:

HS-45 Boy Scout Picnic Shelter and Plaque (contributing): The shelter is a square post open-frame building with corner bracing, built on a poured concrete slab foundation. Its asphalt gable roof sits on exposed rafter tails and is pierced by a stone fireplace on the southwest end. Vertical boards fill in the gable ends. A rectangular bronze plaque is mounted onto the fireplace and reads: "THIS SHELTER IS DEDICATED BY THE BOY SCOUTS IN IOWA IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF HERBERT C. HOOVER AS A

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REMINDER THAT THE ROAD OF OPPORTUNITY HE TRAVELED IS OPEN TO ALL AMERICAN YOUTH, AUGUST 10, 1954." The Boy Scout Shelter is directly connected to Herbert Hoover and is therefore contributing.

Picnic Shelter (ca. 1966) (non-contributing): The picnic shelter is a square post open-frame building set on a concrete slab. It has a shingled gable roof with exposed framing and vertical boards in the gable ends. This shelter has no connection to Hoover and was not constructed as part of the commemorative landscape or to evoke the environment of Hoover's boyhood; therefore it is non-contributing.

Comfort Station (1979) (non-contributing): The comfort station is a small rectangular building with a concrete foundation and a shingled gable roof. The walls are constructed of rusticated stone blocks on the bottom half and brown wood vertical siding on the upper half. A shed-roofed porch on the east side shelters the two doors into the rest rooms, and there is a service door on the south elevation. The comfort station has no connection to Hoover and was not constructed as part of the commemorative landscape or to evoke the environment of Hoover's boyhood; therefore it is non-contributing.

Loop Drive Area Landscape (part of the contributing site). The landscape of the Loop Drive Area retains historic integrity of spatial organization, land use, response to natural features, circulation and vegetation for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

Spatial Organization

This area was designed to provide an area for passive recreation and to enhance views between the gravesite and birthplace cottage. Implemented between 1951 and 1957, some of the plants have changed but otherwise the area remains greatly as it was originally constructed. The Loop Drive Area retains historic integrity of spatial organization for the period from 1935-1976.

Land Use

The passive recreational use established during the 1935-1976 period of significance continues today. This area retains historic integrity of land use.

Response to Natural Features

Hoover Creek was present prior to the establishment of the community of West Branch and remained throughout the historic periods to the present.

Patterns of Circulation

The park loop road was developed between 1951 and 1957 in the vicinity of the former race track. The western alignment of the loop road corresponds to the location of the race track that had been

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abandoned, but is visible in a 1936 aerial photograph. The Loop Drive Area retains historic integrity of circulation for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

Vegetation

Vegetation played an important part in the design for the Loop Drive Area initially between 1951 and 1957 and later as the vista between the birthplace cottage and gravesite was fully implemented between 1961 and 1976. The plantings were designed by landscape architect Robert W. Dyas to enhance vista between birthplace cottage and gravesite. The plan was prepared in 1968 and plantings implemented in 1970, 1974, 1975, 1976. Although not all of the plants are still present, the majority are in place and the character of the area reflects the design intent. The Loop Drive Area retains historic integrity of vegetation for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

Rural/Agricultural Setting

The Rural/Agricultural Setting landscape character area encompasses two separate farmstead complexes – the Isaac Miles Farm south of the Library/Museum, and the Thompson Farm to the east of the Loop Road and Gravesite. This area is indicated as landscape character area 'E' on Map 2. Both farmsteads contribute to the agricultural atmosphere and setting that would have been familiar to Hoover as a boy. The Miles Farmstead was owned by a relative of Herbert Hoover during his boyhood, and retains agricultural buildings and landscape elements from that time period, although the farm continued to develop after Hoover's departure. The Thompson farm was under cultivation during the Hoover boyhood period, although the extant farmstead buildings were constructed during the first half of the twentieth century. Both farmsteads reflect the development of farming in Iowa during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and provide the agricultural setting that was the backdrop of West Branch during Hoover's boyhood.

New Resources

Isaac Miles Farmstead (contributing). The Miles Farmstead is a typical Iowa farm of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, located on a rise to the south of the Birthplace cottage. Most of the farmstead was previously listed, but two resources added to this nomination are HS-53, the pole/machine shed and HS-54, the chicken house. The landscape associated with the Isaac Miles farmstead retains historic integrity for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

Spatial Organization

The organization of the buildings and structures upon the landscape continues to reflect a utilitarian layout based on relationships of outbuildings and landscape features. The Isaac Miles farm retains historic integrity of spatial organization for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

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Land Use

The property is no longer an active farm and therefore does not retain integrity related to land use.

Patterns of Circulation

The farm drive has been altered and no longer clearly reflects historic patterns of circulation. The concrete sidewalk on the property was added after the end of the period of significance. The Miles Farmstead landscape does not retain integrity related to circulation.

Vegetation

Beginning in 1971, the cultivated fields at the Miles farmstead have been replaced with prairie plantings. The Miles Farmstead landscape does not retain integrity related to vegetation.

Views

The view toward the Miles Farm from park is important for providing historic setting within the NHS.

Small Scale Features

A metal hand pump at the farmstead reflects the need to manually pump water from a local well during the period of active farming.

Thompson Farmstead (contributing). This land was under cultivation during the Hoover boyhood period, although the buildings date to the early to mid twentieth century. The principal buildings, including the vernacular wood-framed farmhouse, timber framed barn, and hog house/corn crib, were constructed during the 1910s and 20s under the ownership of James Yetter, while the remainder of the resources date from the Thompson family's occupation between 1938 and 1960. In 1963 the Foundation took formal steps to protect adjacent lands and views to and from the park. This farm was eventually part of that effort. The severely deteriorated barn was removed in 2008.

Spatial Organization

The organization of the buildings and structures upon the landscape continues to reflect a utilitarian layout based on relationships of outbuildings and landscape features. The Thompson farm retains historic integrity of spatial organization for the 1935-1976 period of significance.

Land Use

Although the property is no longer an active farm and therefore does not retain integrity related to land use, the National Park Service is preparing an agricultural lease that will return the Thompson fields to agricultural use.

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Patterns of Circulation

The farm driveway and walkways have remained consistent and reflect an important circulation routes. The cattle guard illustrates the need to provide a functional solution to keep livestock within the farm fences and allow vehicles to move more freely. The Thompson Farmstead landscape retains historic integrity of circulation.

Vegetation

The cultivated fields and pasture at the Thompson farmstead were utilized until 2009 when rye was planted as a cover crop. The majority of the Thompson Farmstead landscape does not retain integrity related to vegetation. The evergreen tree row located to the northwest of the farmhouse may have been planted to shield the farmhouse from winter winds.

Views

The view toward Thompson Farm from the NHS is important for providing a rural agricultural setting. Although the vegetation has changed, the open fields support the visual character of the NHS. The Thompson farmstead retains historic integrity of views for the 1935-1976 period.

Small Scale Features

Woven wire fences and barbed wire fences surround the fields at the Thompson farm representing the historic organization of the landscape and the need to control livestock. A metal hand pump reflects the need to manually pump water from a local well during the period of active farming.

Visitor Contact and Support Area

Visitor Center (ca. 1970) (non-contributing): The visitor center is a one-story L-shaped building constructed of brick and characterized by off-set shed roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The visitor center occupies the south half of the building, while a post office is located in the north half facing Main Street.

Park Maintenance Buildings (2) (non-contributing): The National Park Service occupies two maintenance buildings on the eastern edge of the NHS, beyond the visitor center and city park. One is a rectangular "Quonset Hut" constructed of red brick with a barrel-shaped roof. This building dates to ca. 1946, but it has no relation to Herbert Hoover or the creation of the commemorative landscape and was acquired by the Park Service to serve as a maintenance building. The second building is a rectangular garage/pole barn covered with vertical siding and a gabled roof. It dates from after the period of significance and was placed there as a maintenance/storage building for the NHS.

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Visitor Contact and Support Area Landscape (non-contributing part of the site): Located at the northeast corner of the National Historic Site, the Visitor Contact and Support area does not contribute to the significance of the historic site. This area is indicated as landscape character area 'F' on Map 2. The area has been developed and used for visitor services and maintenance by the National Park Service. It contains mostly non-contributing buildings and landscape elements related to the development and use of the NHS as a unit of the National Park Service. It is bisected by Parkside Drive, West Branch's main feeder road from I-80 and the south, which was realigned from Downey Street in order to direct vehicular traffic away from the historic core (see Map 5). The site's first commemorative feature, a small boulder/plaque donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1929, was relocated to the corner of the visitor center parking lot adjacent to the entrance to the historic village in ca. 1971 at the request of the Hoover family. It is a contributing object, but is no longer part of the commemorative landscape.

Archeological Resources

No prehistoric sites have been identified at Herbert Hoover NHS. Hoover Creek provides an "excellent setting for American Indian habitation and special purpose sites" and great potential for yielding archeological resources in the future.⁵ Although the extent of already identified historic archeological resources indicate that further resources are likely present within the NHS, the reconstruction of the landscape at the NHS disguises the presence of significant archeological remains from the original neighborhood.⁶ It is probable that each lot in the historic core contains archeological evidence, therefore a large number of sites have been identified as having potential to yield future archeological information.

Previously identified sites represent nineteenth and twentieth century historic components exhibiting intact subsurface features typically clustered around building perimeters. Archeological investigations of locations within the National Historic Site have been undertaken by the Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) and the Office of the State Archeologist (OSA) at The University of Iowa. The following eighteen archeological sites at the National Historic Site are recorded in the Iowa Site Record.

⁵ Finney, Fred A., "An Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, West Branch, Iowa," (Lincoln, NE: Midwest Archeological Center), 2005, 29.

⁶ Ibid.

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State ID	Archeological Site Name	Type	Date Recorded	ASMIS ID
13CD00018	Jesse Hoover Blacksmith Shop	Historic Structure	1970	HEHO00004.000
13CD00117	Dr. L. J. Leech House	Historic Structure	2000	HEHO00003.000
13CD00134	Herbert Hoover Boyhood Home	Farmstead Historic Structure	2003	HEHO00010.000
13CD00135	David Mackey House	Structure	2003	HEHO00008.000
13CD00136	E. S. Hayhurst House	Structure	2003	HEHO00007.000
13CD00137	Laban Miles House	Structure	2003	HEHO00006.000
13CD00138	Herbert Hoover Birthplace Cottage	Habitation	2003	HEHO00002.000
13CD00139	Isaac Miles Farm	Farmstead Historic Structure	2003	HEHO00009.000
13CD00142	Poplar Trace	Artifact Scatter	2005	HEHO00011.000
13CD00143	Amanda Garvin House	Habitation Historic Structure	2005	HEHO00012.000
13CD00144	C. E. Smith House	Habitation Historic Structure	2005	HEHO00013.000
13CD00145	Hannah Varney House	Habitation Historic Structure	2005	HEHO00014.000
13CD00146	Levi Forney House	Habitation Historic Structure	2005	HEHO00015.000
13CD00147		Historic Structure	2005	HEHO00016.000
13CD00148		Depression	2005	HEHO00017.000
13CD00149		Historic Structure	2005	HEHO00018.000
13CD00150	MOCI-A	Artifact Scatter Historic Dump	2005	HEHO00019.000
13CD00153	Staples House	Farm Residence		HEHO00020.000

Fourteen of the eighteen sites occur in the Historic Core area (labeled "A" on Map 2 of 5). Two of the remaining sites occur in the Loop Drive area (labeled "D" on Map 2 of 5), and two sites are associated with the Rural / Agricultural Setting area (labeled "E" on Map 2 of 5). All of the recorded sites represent

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Euroamerican occupations. Although there are no known Native American sites at the NHS, it is expected that at least a limited prehistoric occupation would have occurred along Hoover Creek.⁷

Four additional sites have been identified that are enumerated in the National Park Service Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) but are not recorded in the Iowa State Record. All of these sites are presumed to contain potentially significant archeological deposits.

Archeological Site Name	Type	National Register Status	ASMIS ID
Herbert Hoover National Historic Site	District	Listed/Documented	HEHO00001.000
Wright House	Historic Structure	Unevaluated	HEHO00021.000
Thompson Farm	Farmstead	Unevaluated	HEHO00022.000
Old Penn Street	Road	Listed/Documented	HEHO00005.000

The twenty-two archeological sites identified herein are eligible under criterion D. Criterion D applies as intact archeological deposits have been documented in association with selected sites (including the Birthplace Cottage and the Blacksmith Shop), indicating it is likely there are intact deposits associated with the other sites. In addition, sites that have been documented to include resources related to the Hoovers are eligible under Criterion B (including the eighteen state listed sites, the NHS district, and Old Penn Street).

⁷ ASMIS report, 2 April 2012; and Finney, Fred A., "An Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, West Branch, Iowa," (Lincoln, NE: Midwest Archeological Center), 2005, vi and 52-54. The locations of the sites are illustrated in the 2005 report however, this sensitive information is not illustrated in the nomination.

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Introduction

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is a unit of the National Park Service. It is significant for its association with the life and work of Herbert Clark Hoover, the thirty-first president of the United States who is also honored for his career as an elder statesman, humanitarian, and engineer. It is significant under Criterion A, at the national level, as an outstanding example of a district that commemorates the life and accomplishments of a President of the United States, and Criterion B, at the national level, as the birthplace and boyhood home of Herbert Clark Hoover, the thirty-first president of the United States. It is also significant under Criterion D, at the national level, for its intact archeological deposits, both verified and unverified, associated with the contributing resources of the district. Herbert Hoover NHS was previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district on October 15, 1966 and documented in a National Register nomination in 1978. This amendment provides additional information on the history, significance, and resources, including the historic landscape, of the district.

The site has two periods of significance. The first encompasses Herbert Hoover's boyhood in West Branch, from his birth in 1874 until 1885, when the orphaned Hoover left West Branch to live with relatives in Oregon. The second period of significance is 1935 to 1976, signifying the period in which Herbert Hoover and the Hoover family were actively creating a landscape that would reflect the elements that influenced Hoover's development and character (particularly the rural/agricultural lifestyle and his Quaker faith) and memorialize his accomplishments as a president, humanitarian, and statesman. The period of significance ends in 1976 with the final implementation of the birthplace to gravesite vista, a crucial component of the commemorative landscape.

Herbert Hoover: West Branch Boy, President of the United States, Elder Statesman⁸

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is significant under National Register Criterion B, as the birthplace and boyhood home of Herbert Clark Hoover. The associated area of significance under Criterion B is Politics/Government.

Herbert Clark Hoover was born on August 10, 1874, in a small, two-room cottage in West Branch, Iowa, the second son of blacksmith Jesse Hoover and his wife Hulda Minthorn Hoover. The Hoovers, including Herbert's father, Jesse, and grandfather, Eli, were among the earliest settlers of West Branch, purchasing property in 1852. The town was named in part after the west branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek, along which the first land claims were entered. Most of the early settlers, including the Hoovers, were Quakers, and Quakers would remain influential in the town. A Quaker school and meetinghouse

⁸ Compiled from information provided by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum (hoover.archives.gov) and published biographies.

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were among the first buildings built in the town. In later years, other congregations would include the Methodists and a colony of Danish Lutherans.

The town underwent a rapid period of development just prior to Herbert Hoover's birth, from 1869 to 1873. In 1870, the completion of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern railroad brought an influx of business and new residents, along with a boom in construction. West Branch was incorporated in 1875, the year after Hoover's birth.

Herbert Hoover spent the first 11 years of his life in West Branch, first in the cottage of his birth, and later in a larger house a few blocks away. The birthplace cottage was located on Downey Street, West Branch's main north-south road, between Main Street and the Hoover Creek. The board and batten cottage was built ca. 1871 on Lot 42 of Joseph Steer's Plat of West Branch by Hoover's father, Jesse, a young blacksmith. According to the Historic Structure Report for the cottage,

The foundation stones were boulders hauled in a wagon from the open prairie to the west. Auger holes, still visible in the rafters, indicate that the "timbers from which the frame work of the cottage were hewn had been lashed together" and rafted down the Mississippi from Wisconsin or Minnesota to Muscatine sawmills. After being turned into lumber, they were hauled overland to West Branch.

The Cottage was 14 x 20 feet. Its front door of vertical boards with a thumb latch faced Downey Street. The little room, 13-1/2 x 7 feet, in which Herbert was born on August 10, 1874, looked out upon the yard. The house's north room served the family as parlor, kitchen, and dining room.

At the rear of the Cottage was a back porch with its north end enclosed as a shed room for use as a summer kitchen or spare sleeping quarters. It is recalled that on the night the future President was born E. D. King, who had been hired to assist Jesse in his blacksmith shop, was occupying the shed room. He was awakened and sent to summon assistance.⁹

Herbert Hoover lived in the birthplace cottage for a little less than four years. In the intervening years, Jesse Hoover's blacksmith business had prospered, and the elder Hoover had the means to move his family to a larger, two-story frame house a few blocks away, known as the "House of Maples," at the

⁹ Edwin Bearss, "The Hoover Houses and Community Structures," (Denver, CO: National Park Service Denver Service Center), 1971. Downloaded from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/heho/hsr/chap1b.htm

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northeast corner of Downey and Cedar streets.¹⁰ Jesse Hoover died on December 13, 1880. Herbert, his mother, and siblings continued to live in this house until February of 1884, when his mother died and the orphaned Hoover children were sent to live with relatives.

After the death of his father in 1880 and his mother in 1884, Herbert lived for a few months with his uncle Allan Hoover in West Branch, and then moved to Oregon to live with another uncle, Dr. John Minthorn. After spending his early teens helping his uncle and attending evening business school, Hoover enrolled at Stanford University in California in 1891; he and his future wife Lou Henry were in the first class of the newly established institution, where both studied geology.

Following his graduation from Stanford in 1895, Hoover embarked on a highly successful career as a mining engineer, a profession that sent him all over the world, including Australia, China, and Europe. By 1908, Hoover established his own business as an independent mining consultant and became an established leader in the field, lecturing at Stanford and Columbia Universities and authoring the standard textbook, *Principles of Mining*. In addition, Hoover invested in various mining ventures and operations, so that by 1914, his personal fortune was estimated at four million dollars. During this period of his life, Hoover married his college sweetheart, Lou Henry, in 1899, and the couple had two children, Herbert Clark, Jr. (1903-1969) and Allan Henry (1907-1993).

Following the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Hoover's career quickly changed from businessman to humanitarian. Now forty years old, Hoover assisted 120,000 Americans in their escape from war-torn Europe, organizing volunteers to distribute tickets, food, clothing, and cash to his stranded countrymen and women. From 1914 to 1917, Hoover remained in Europe, organizing relief efforts to distribute food to over nine million war victims, primarily in Belgium. His "shuttle diplomacy" and ability to persuade the German government to permit food aid to occupied territories earned him a reputation as a hero. His relief efforts continued after the war, now encompassing his former enemies, the Germans.

With the entrance of the United States into World War I in 1917, Hoover got his first experience as a government official. His success in organizing food relief resulted in his appointment by President Woodrow Wilson as head of the U.S. Food Administration for the duration of the war. Hoover's policies while in this position helped to trim consumption both overseas and at home, reducing the need for rationing.

¹⁰ Although the Hoovers sold the birthplace cottage in 1878, they did not move into the House of Maples until May of 1879. It is unclear where the family lived in the meantime.

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Riding high on his successful wartime experience, Hoover, who had been courted by both the Democratic and Republican parties, ran for President as a Republican in 1920. Although he was never a serious contender, his support of the eventual nominee, Warren G. Harding, earned Hoover the position of Secretary of Commerce in Harding's Cabinet. During the seven years of his tenure, Hoover transformed his position from a minor Cabinet post to one of the most influential in the government. In 1923, Hoover, who some have suggested was the best Secretary of Commerce in US history, often overshadowed Presidents Harding and Coolidge in the public eye. Hoover was with President Harding during his final illness and death, and led the delegation accompanying Harding's body back to Washington, DC.

Given Hoover's successes and high visibility as he continued as Secretary of Commerce in Calvin Coolidge's cabinet, he was a natural candidate for the Presidency in 1928. He easily defeated his primary and general election challengers and was inaugurated as the thirty-first president of the United States on March 4, 1929, the first time a Presidential inauguration was recorded by "talking newsreel."

Hoover's inauguration as President undoubtedly marked the apex of his political career. Scarcely eight months into his term, the nation plunged into the Great Depression following the crash of the stock market in October of 1929. Ironically, the man who had predicted at his inauguration that America was "in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this nation" soon presided over a country mired in the worst poverty and despair of its history. The Depression – and Hoover's response to it – overshadowed many of the reforms Hoover introduced during his tenure as president as well as his foreign policy successes. While historians still argue as to the ultimate effect of Hoover's policies on the Depression, the public at the time by and large blamed Hoover personally for the misery, and the man who had won in a landslide four years before went down to an ignominious defeat against Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1932 election.

The dozen or so years following his electoral defeat were difficult for Hoover. He and Roosevelt had a famously frosty relationship, and while Hoover's name was floated for a presidential election "rematch" in 1936 and 1940, there was no realistic chance for Hoover to regain the White House, even when Roosevelt's popularity diminished in later years. Hoover opposed the United States' entrance into World War II, and although he offered his services after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and America's declaration of war, the Roosevelt Administration rebuffed his offer. Hoover was, however, instrumental in relief efforts in Poland and Finland prior to the US declaration of war.

Hoover's political isolation eased somewhat after Roosevelt's death and the succession of Harry S. Truman as president. Unlike Roosevelt, Truman was friendly with Hoover and selected him for two significant tasks for which Hoover was well suited: ascertaining the food status of Germany following

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the end of the war, and reorganizing executive branch departments to eliminate or reduce waste. Politically, and as the only surviving Republican ex-president until 1961, Hoover became the elder statesmen of the party, as well as a vocal opponent of Communism. He founded the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University, originally designed to hold his extensive collection of World War I materials, but later expanded as a more general research institution dedicated to the study of war and peace. It also includes an important public policy think tank that is particularly influential among conservatives and libertarians. President Hoover and his family also worked extensively during his post presidential years to conceive and carry out the creation of a memorial site centered around his birthplace in West Branch, Iowa to celebrate the place and the ideas that influenced his early years.

Herbert Clark Hoover died in New York City on October 20, 1964. He was 90 years old and had the longest retirement of any US President until Jimmy Carter surpassed him in September of 2012. Hoover was buried in West Branch, Iowa, at a gravesite on a knoll overlooking the cottage in which he was born. His wife, Lou Henry, who died in 1944 and was initially buried in California, was reburied next to him. Hoover, whose political career had ended so disastrously, was at his death remembered as a great humanitarian and praised for his years of public service.

The birthplace cottage in West Branch had an interesting history after the Hoovers sold it in 1878. After changing hands several times, the cottage was eventually purchased by R. Portland and Jennie Scellers in 1889. The Scellers family transformed the cottage by moving it nearer to the rear of the lot and turning it 90 degrees so the original front façade now faced south. Scellers then moved a two-story house that he had purchased on nearby Penn Street, facing it to front Downey Street and connecting its west wall to the cottage. The Scellers family lived in the "improved" house until 1934, when Jennie Scellers died.¹¹

Although there had been some interest in the house as Hoover's birthplace before 1928, the nomination of Hoover as the Republican presidential candidate brought droves of visitors to the house. Jennie Scellers, a widow since her husband's death in 1916, welcomed the interest and opened the house to the public. It was a lucrative business for Scellers, who became known as the "hostess to the nation." In the first year after Hoover's candidacy, she welcomed over 17,000 visitors from all over the world, charging ten cents for a tour. Although Hoover's popularity plunged following the Depression, interest in the birthplace remained high, and Scellers recorded in mid July of 1931 that she had had over 34,000 visitors since the 1928 nomination.¹²

¹¹ Bearss, "The Hoover Houses and Community Structures." Downloaded from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/heho/hsr/chap1c.htm.

¹² Ibid., http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/heho/hsr/chap1e.htm

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As early as 1928, agents for the Hoover family had expressed an interest in buying the house back from Mrs. Scellers, but her attachment to the house, and the income from tours, seemed to be the deciding factors in her refusal to sell. Following her death in 1934, however, her heirs were more amenable to a sale, and the house was accordingly sold to an agent of the Hoovers and then later transferred to Herbert Hoover's son Allan. At the instigation of Mrs. Hoover and using the recollections of various members of the Hoover family and friends who remembered the cottage, the building was restored in 1937-1938. The two-story 1890 house was removed, the cottage turned back to its original orientation, and its floor plan and finishes restored. Although the restoration was not as meticulous or accurate as a modern-day professional restoration, the restored birthplace cottage nonetheless reflected as much as possible its appearance at the time of the Hoover's occupation. The NPS has rehabilitated the cottage to its appearance at the time of Hoover's birth and boyhood.

Summary

The Hoover birthplace cottage is the building most closely associated with Hoover's birth and boyhood in West Branch, and it is the only resource (aside from archeological resources) that contributes to Criterion B and to the 1874-1885 period of significance. Although Hoover had little recollection of this house, having moved out at age four, the second Hoover home had been torn down in 1923, and other buildings closely associated with Hoover, like Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop, had also been demolished. Hoover spent the remainder of his boyhood years in Newburg, Oregon, at the home of his uncle, John Minthorn. That building is still standing, and is operated by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Oregon as a museum commemorating both the house's status as the first and oldest surviving residence in Newburg, and as Hoover's home in Oregon from 1885 to 1889. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

While typically a property listed under Criterion B should be associated with the significant person's "productive life", there are some difficulties in choosing that resource for Herbert Hoover. Hoover traveled widely during his private career as an engineer and as a diplomat and humanitarian. Although the Lou Henry and Herbert Hoover House in Palo Alto, California (listed as a National Historic Landmark) was Hoover's legal residence when he was elected President, Hoover's productive activities as president naturally took place in Washington, D.C., and the Hoovers did not return permanently to Palo Alto until he retired from political office. Camp Hoover, located in Virginia, within the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park, was the Hoover's summer White House and is also a National Historic Landmark, but again it is not directly related to Hoover's activities as President.

While Herbert Hoover's activities between 1874 and 1885 did not by themselves have historical significance, his childhood in West Branch is critical in understanding his later achievements. His Quaker

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upbringing and background, the circumstances of his birth in a small, two-room cottage, and the struggles he endured, both economic and personal, in the short years he spent here shaped his outlook and the path of his life, something that Hoover and his family later acknowledged through the creation of the Birthplace Society and the commemorative landscape. The NHS contains a rich assortment of Hoover-related resources that are not to be found anywhere else in the United States, and, with the lack of any resources clearly associated with Hoover's productive life, the Birthplace Cottage assumes a larger importance in representing and interpreting Hoover as President.

"The Journey from Birth to Grave": A Presidential Memorial

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is significant for its association with the childhood, life experiences, and accomplishments of President Herbert Hoover for the period 1935-1976. The associated area of significance under Criterion A is Conservation, because the NHS preserves and maintains a collection of resources intended to reflect the environment and setting of Herbert Hoover's birth and boyhood. Herbert Hoover NHS has become the site most associated with President Hoover not because it is where the activities that made him significant (i.e. his political activities) took place, but because of the commemorative landscape that the Hoover family shaped.

Between Hoover's departure from West Branch as an eleven year old orphan in 1885 and his leaving the Presidential office in 1933, he had little contact with the place of his birth. Although he maintained communications with his relatives in the area and occasionally visited, the development of West Branch was little affected by its most famous son. Indeed, Hoover himself, returning to West Branch for a visit during his tenure as Commerce Secretary in 1923, found the town to be almost unrecognizable as the place he'd spent his boyhood. Claiming to be "disillusioned" by the changes, he said, "The hills have flattened out; the old familiar buildings have gone; the town has trebled in population and the old swimming hole is only about half as big as it was."¹³ While childhood memories are often clouded, Hoover's observations reflected very real changes that had occurred in the town. The biggest changes were to those buildings that were most closely associated with Hoover's early life, including the demolition of his second home, alterations to the cottage in which he was born, and the removal of his father's blacksmith shop.

It was perhaps this confrontation with the changes to his old home that planted the seeds of an idea: to recreate the atmosphere of his boyhood home. To Hoover, this was more than just an expression of nostalgia. Hoover's political philosophy was embodied in the idea of American individualism – the

¹³ Frank T. Nye, Jr. *Doors of Opportunity: The Life and Legacy of Herbert Hoover* (West Branch, IA: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, 1988), 58-59.

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concept that, in Hoover's words, "equal opportunity, the demand for a fair chance, became the formula of American individualism because it is the method of American achievement."¹⁴ What better example of this than Hoover himself, who had left West Branch as a poor young orphan and worked his way up to the Presidency of the United States? The Hoover family believed that, by recreating the environment that had shaped Herbert Hoover's early life, others could be inspired by his experience to embrace the twin philosophies of individualism and public service.

The process was a slow one. The nucleus of the project would be the acquisition and restoration of the birthplace cottage. President Hoover attributed the original idea to restore the birthplace cottage to his wife, saying "This isn't my idea, but it would please Mrs. Hoover, who is the one who wants to have the old home restored."¹⁵ However, because of Jennie Scellers' unwillingness to sell, the restoration did not occur until several years after Hoover's departure from office. The purchase of the cottage in 1935 represents the beginning of the period in which the Hoovers developed the birthplace and its surroundings. Following the restoration of the cottage by the Hoovers in 1937-38, the Hoover Birthplace Committee, which had originally been formed to arrange Hoover's 1928 campaign stop in West Branch, reorganized itself as the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society in 1939. Hoover's son, Allan, deeded the cottage to the Birthplace Society and became a trustee.

It should be noted that from the beginnings of the birthplace project until her death in 1944, Lou Henry Hoover played an integral role in its development. Mrs. Hoover researched and directed the restoration of the birthplace cottage, and she oversaw much of the early work on the commemorative site, including the placement of the Isis statue and the establishment of the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society. The Hoovers' son Allan was also actively involved in the early stages, and took over the family oversight role following Mrs. Hoover's death.¹⁶

During the 1940s, the focus of the Society was the acquisition of land surrounding the birthplace and the creation of public park areas. Following Hoover's relief work in Belgium during World War I, he was given a statue of the Egyptian goddess Isis by the children, refugees, and soldiers of Belgium. The sculpture, by Auguste Puttemans, was one of the first elements of the commemorative park. Although the Hoover family discouraged the use of a formal landscape design, wishing to keep the setting as it looked during Hoover's boyhood, some development did take place, particularly at the creek where a retaining wall was installed and a footbridge constructed to connect the cottage and Isis. Plant

¹⁴ Herbert Hoover, *American Individualism* (New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1922), 65.

¹⁵ Edwin C. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report, the Hoover Houses and Community Structures* (Denver, CO: Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1971), 36.

¹⁶ Land and Community Associates (LCA), "Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report" (Omaha, NE: National Park Service, 1995), 2-35 to 2-42.

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materials, including trees, shrubs, and perennials, were supplied by Kaiser's Wayside Gardens of Marion, Iowa. Substantial land purchases during this period included the old fairgrounds (in the area of the present day loop road), a number of town lots, and three one-to-two acre tracts.¹⁷

The development of the birthplace park received national attention when the Birthplace Society held its first "Hoover Day" celebration on the former president's 74th birthday in 1948. Hoover's attendance at the party brought the national press and many visitors to the site and triggered planning for a similar event targeted for Hoover's 80th birthday in 1954. Construction projects focused on visitor amenities, including picnic and recreation facilities, an entrance gate and driveway, walkways, and ornamental plantings. The loop road, constructed on the alignment of the old fairgrounds race track, was also built during these years. On June 30, 1952, the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park was officially dedicated.

Throughout the early 1950s, the emphasis of the Society's work remained on creating visitor amenities rather than recreating the atmosphere of the birthplace. A picnic shelter and a comfort station were constructed in 1953, and the following year the Boy Scouts, in conjunction with the Hoover Day celebration, dedicated a bronze plaque in one of the shelters. In the same year (1954) the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation formed to provide a national forum to support the local activities of the Birthplace Society (it would merge with the Birthplace Society in 1958).

One significant exception to the focus on creating visitor amenities was the reconstruction of Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop. The Hoover family had initially vetoed the reconstruction because they feared that, due to lack of documentation, it would not be authentic. However, after archeological investigation and extensive interviews with family members who remembered the building, a "reconstruction" (using wood reclaimed from an 1870 barn) was built, but located away from the original site, to ensure it wouldn't "crowd" the birthplace site.¹⁸

Ground was broken on May 4, 1959 for a presidential library and museum, located near the Birthplace. At the time, presidential libraries were quite a new idea. Prior to 1955, presidents generally took their records with them when they left office, where they became personal property. The Library of Congress attempted to gather some of these records, but not all presidents, or their heirs, were willing to donate them. It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Hoover's successor in office, who would establish the first official presidential library. Roosevelt donated the land, papers, and memorabilia to the government, constructed the building with private funds, and specified that the National Archives would administer the facility. This precedent would be followed by subsequent presidents and enshrined in the 1955

¹⁷ Ibid., 2-39 to 2-45.

¹⁸ Nye, Doors of Opportunity, 238-239.

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Presidential Libraries Act. Following Roosevelt's death in 1945, President Harry Truman began planning his own presidential library, which broke ground in 1955 and was dedicated in 1957.¹⁹

Hoover, who had originally intended to leave his presidential papers to his alma mater, Stanford University, planned only for a small presidential museum in West Branch. However, his growing disagreement with Stanford made the option to establish an official presidential library more attractive.²⁰ Plans to expand the museum to accommodate a library took place even as construction was underway on the museum. Further additions to the library/museum were made in 1971, 1974, and 1992. The 1992 work removed and replaced a portion of the original (1964) library addition to create a new entry. Each addition was designed to match the architectural style and materials of the original, creating a cohesive appearance despite its greatly enlarged footprint.

Hoover's would be the fourth official Presidential library established, after Roosevelt's, Truman's, and Eisenhower's. It is also one of only three presidential libraries to include the birthplace/boyhood home and gravesite of the president. The Eisenhower Presidential Centre, which would eventually include Eisenhower's boyhood home, burial chapel, library/museum, and other commemorative items, was dedicated in Abilene, Kansas in May of 1962 (three months before the official dedication of Hoover's), while the Nixon Library and Birthplace, including the presidential library/museum, birthplace, and Nixon's gravesite, was not dedicated until 1990. Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan are buried at their memorial libraries, but there is no connection to their birthplace or boyhood home on those sites, while the presidential libraries of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, George HW Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush are constructed on new sites.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the proposed Interstate 80, which would pass just south of West Branch, caused concern about intrusive development close to the park. The Birthplace Society/Foundation stepped up their efforts to acquire critical lands or easements within the viewshed of the park to prevent development. This was complicated by the fact that many landowners in the area set high prices for their property, taking advantage of the conflict between development and preservation.²¹ The town of West Branch was more amenable to protecting the park, prohibiting parking in the vicinity and making South Downey one-way to alleviate traffic.

In 1964, the Birthplace Foundation acquired the building known as the "Yellow House," located on the west side of Downey Street, southeast of the library/museum. Constructed in 1905 and originally

¹⁹ National Archives, "Presidential Libraries: A Brief History." Downloaded from <http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/about/history.html>

²⁰ LCA, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-48.

²¹ Nye, *Doors of Opportunity*, 280-281.

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owned by the Norman Rogers family, the Birthplace Society had purchased the house in 1946 with the intention of moving it to make way for a larger park entry. It was sold to the Harold Stotler family under those conditions, but the Stotlers continued to live in the house without moving it. By the late 1950s, the Birthplace Foundation had altered their plans; the house would still be moved, but this time to make way for another new house for the Director of the Presidential Library. Instead, Franz Lassner, who became library president in 1963, decided to remodel the Yellow House and live in it instead. The Foundation repurchased the building in 1964.²² Ownership of the property was retained by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association when it transferred the rest of its holdings to the National Park Service in 1974.

At around the same time, the old Quaker meetinghouse was moved to the site. This plan had been discussed for some time, with the idea that the meetinghouse would serve as the presidential museum, a function that, in the meantime, was transferred to the new presidential library/museum. President Hoover was initially against the plan because he said that nothing like that had been near the birthplace cottage originally. However, the building itself was threatened with demolition on its original site, and it would serve as an important interpretive element to tell the story of Hoover's Quaker roots. The building was moved to its present site near the birthplace cottage in 1964.²³

Following President Hoover's death in October of 1964, he was interred on an overlook at the southwest end of the Birthplace Park, along with his wife, who was reinterred from her original resting place in California. Discussion of an "overlook" site had begun as early as 1955, with the tacit understanding that it might serve as a future burial place for the president. Iowa architect William Wagner, who was the architect for a number of projects at Herbert Hoover NHS, designed the overlook in the late 1950s and early 1960s, carving out the landscaped terrace and siting it along an axis with the birthplace cottage. Although it remained nominally an overlook during the planning stages, there is evidence that President Hoover, or at the least his family, played an important part in the process, insisting on simplicity in the design.²⁴ Wagner's overlook design would be implemented during 1965 and 1966 as the Hoovers' gravesite.

In 1965, Congress authorized the acquisition of land in West Branch for the development of a historic site "to preserve in public ownership historically significant properties associated with the life of

²² Ibid., 410-411.

²³ Bearss, "The Hoover Houses and Community Structures." Downloaded from http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/heho/hsr/chap2a.htm

²⁴ LCA, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-48 to 2-50.

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Herbert Hoover.”²⁵ The NHS officially became a unit of the National Park Service in 1972. It was also around this time that the Herbert Hoover NHS was recognized for its historical significance through several programs. The first was the Historic Sites Survey in 1964, which defined a 28-acre area (not precisely defined in the survey) comprising the “Herbert Hoover Birthplace.” This area was designated as a National Historic Landmark on June 23, 1965. The NHL was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places upon the creation of the NRHP program on October 15, 1966. A National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the NHS was prepared to fully document the property in 1976 by David Arbogast, a historical architect with the National Park Service, and the site was listed two years later. At the time, the NHS encompassed 67.49 acres.

The establishment of the National Historic Site initiated a new round of land and easement acquisition designed to protect the historic core and viewshed. One of those purchases was the Isaac Miles Farmstead, located southeast of the birthplace. The Miles property was the home, during Hoover’s boyhood, of his relative, Isaac Miles. The Miles family owned the farm until 1887, several years after Hoover left West Branch. By the 1940s, the farm was the property of Severin and Christine Pedersen, who also owned the Thompson Farm, bordering the park on the west. The Pedersens gave the Miles farmstead to their daughter and son-in-law, the Kofrons, in 1956. The Birthplace Foundation negotiated with the Kofrons for a number of years to purchase the farm, but were unwilling to match the Kofrons’ asking price. After the Kofrons sold to a third party, the Greater Iowa Corporation, it was eventually purchased by the United States government in 1969.²⁶

In 1966, the park obtained a scenic easement on the Thompson Farm, owned by another daughter and son-in-law of the Pedersens. Although there had been a farm here during Hoover’s boyhood, unlike the Miles farm, the buildings on the Thompson farm dated from the early to middle decades of the twentieth century. However, the preservation of the agricultural landscape was important to the setting of the birthplace, hence the easement. The National Park Service later obtained the property, with the Thompson family retaining a life-lease on the property until Donald Thompson’s death in 2008, when full ownership passed to the National Park Service.

The death of Herbert Hoover and the transformation of the park into a National Historic Site signaled an important shift in the site’s vision and mission. After the initial repurchase and restoration of the birthplace cottage and grounds in the 1930s, the focus of the Hoover family and Birthplace Foundation/Society shifted towards the establishment and provision of a public park. Immediately

²⁵ Public Law 89-119 (79 Stat. 510), “An Act to establish the Herbert Hoover National Historical Site in the State of Iowa,” August 12, 1965. http://www.nps.gov/heho/parkmgmt/upload/HEHO_Enabling_Legislation.pdf

²⁶ Nye, *Doors of Opportunity*, 280-84, 286-87.

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following the interment of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover at the gravesite, family members, most notably son Allan, appeared to favor enhancing the park as a memorial.²⁷

With the establishment of the National Historic Site, however, the National Park Service concentrated on recreating the 19th century association of Hoover's boyhood. In the late 1960s and 1970s, the Park Service acquired and relocated a number of buildings, including the Varney House, the Mackey House, the C. E. Smith House, and West Branch's first schoolhouse, removing other buildings that had been constructed after the Hoover boyhood period. Other buildings that dated from Hoover's time period had their post 1885 alterations removed. A new visitor center (sharing space with a US Post Office) was built at the northeast corner of the park. The Park Service also acquired easements on surface parking, streets, and alleys within the park boundaries, eventually closing them to vehicular traffic, and worked with the town of West Branch to shift vehicular traffic from South Downey onto a new road, called Parkside. In addition to these major projects, the Park Service also worked on recreating vegetative and small scale features that research established had been present during the Hoover period, and installing period-appropriate features to enhance the nineteenth century setting, including boardwalks, board and picket fences, clotheslines, arbors, and hitching posts.

The final element of the commemorative landscape to be fully implemented was the birthplace to gravesite vista. The vista concept originated with Hoover family members, along with members of the Board of Trustees of the Hoover Birthplace Society, and was meant to symbolize the "human drama implicit in the journey from birth to grave."²⁸ The vista would be framed by native trees and those that were remembered by Hoover (hickory, butternut, chestnut, black walnut, hawthorn). The vista was designed by Robert Dyas, landscape architect and professor of landscape architecture at Iowa State University, along with a number of his students. The vista plan was approved in 1968, and, while plantings began in that year, the vista planting project was not completed until 1976. Its completion represented the fulfillment of one of the most significant elements of the commemorative landscape, the vista that Herbert Hoover had envisioned to symbolically represent his life journey.

Since the completion of the vista in 1976, the NPS' focus has been to maintain and enhance the historic environment of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. That includes restoring historic buildings within the park and rehabilitating systems and elements, either to address deterioration or as the result of further research. For example, the birthplace cottage landscape was restored based on a 1980 plan, and the South Downey Street bridge and the gravesite were rehabilitated in 1985 and 1987, respectively.²⁹

²⁷ LCA, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-55 (footnote 61).

²⁸ Quoted in LCA, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-55.

²⁹ LCA, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-69.

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Another NPS project at the NHS has been the re-establishment of areas of tallgrass prairie. Working from a 1970 master plan, the tallgrass prairie has replaced the outlying agricultural fields of the Miles farmstead, although the farmstead itself and its immediate surroundings remain agricultural in nature. The installation of the tallgrass prairie appeared to serve two purposes: to provide a low-cost solution to maintaining the open spaces around the birthplace, and to help re-establish some of the native Midwest prairie landscape. The prairie undergoes periodic burns to maintain its health.³⁰

Summary

From 1935 to 1976, Herbert Hoover and his family were shaping a story in West Branch about the American dream: how a poor orphan Quaker boy from a tiny Midwest farm town grew up to become President of the United States, and how the values he learned there shaped his life and his career. The restoration of the Birthplace Cottage, the re-creation of the village, the siting of the Presidential Library and Museum, and the overall efforts to protect the environment of Hoover's birth and boyhood, all represent a plan to conserve, maintain, and manage a collection of resources designed to tell a story and inspire fellow Americans. This represents a significant pattern of events that occurred here and made an important contribution to the history of the nation, supported by the recognition and promotion of this place by the United States government as a National Historic Site.

Archeological Resources at Herbert Hoover NHS

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is significant under National Register Criterion D, for the archeological resources, both verified and unverified, associated with the life of and commemorative landscape dedicated to Herbert Hoover.

Between Herbert Hoover's departure from West Branch as a child, and the establishment of a commemorative landscape after the end of his presidency, the town of West Branch continued to grow and evolve. As part of this process, buildings, structures, and landscape elements known to Mr. Hoover during his childhood were torn down or altered. Some of these changes include significant sites associated with Mr. Hoover's life, including the removal of the blacksmith shop his father owned and the second house in which he lived, as well as the alterations to the cottage in which he was born. Other changes took place in the surrounding neighborhood, such as the removal of buildings present during Hoover's boyhood and their replacement with later buildings, as well as the movement of buildings designed to create the commemorative landscape. Another category of resources include

³⁰ LCA, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-66.

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everyday elements of late nineteenth century life that have been lost through changes in technology, such as wells and cisterns, privys, and mounting blocks.

The Herbert Hoover NHS currently has 22 listed archeological sites, including 10 that have been listed and documented, and 12 that are listed as unevaluated.³¹ The majority of these sites are within the Historic Core area, covering the Hoover Birthplace Cottage and the portions of the commemorative landscape reflecting the village neighborhood during Hoover's boyhood. Others are located slightly farther afield, west of the historic core and along the banks of the Hoover Creek. One site is located at the Thompson Farm, west of the historic core. Resources discovered include building foundation features, cellars, buried wells, cisterns, and trash pits/middens, remnant circulation patterns (walkways, road traces), landscape grading, and other scattered artifacts, as well as unidentified depressions. At this time, no pre-historic archeological sites have been identified, although Hoover Creek has been identified as a potential location for American Indian archeological resources.³²

Conclusion

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site represents the life journey, from birth to burial, of President Herbert Hoover, thirty-first President of the United States, humanitarian, and statesman. The landscape and buildings established under the direction of President Hoover, his family, and the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society/Foundation reflect his Quaker heritage, the small town/agricultural environment which shaped the first ten years of his life, and the opportunities that Hoover believed were open to every American citizen, even an orphan from rural Iowa.

³¹ National Park Service, Archeological Sites Management Information System.

³² Fred Finney, "An Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, West Branch, Iowa (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center, 2005).

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Criteria Considerations³³

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site meets the requirements for several National Register Criteria Considerations. They are:

Criteria Consideration B: Moved Properties

Typically, properties that have been moved from their original site are not eligible. The village at Herbert Hoover NHS can be considered an "artificially created grouping." As such, it "cannot be considered as a reflection of the time period when the *individual* buildings were constructed." However, it has "achieved significance since the time of its assemblage"; therefore buildings moved within the period of significance (1935-1976) are eligible as contributing buildings to the district under Criteria Consideration B. Buildings that were moved after the period of significance are not eligible as contributing buildings.

Criteria Consideration C: Birthplaces or graves

Typically, birthplaces or graves are only significant under three circumstances: outstanding importance of the individual to local, state, or national history; as the only surviving resource associated with the person of significance; and/or significance "for reasons other than association with productive life of the person in question."

The birthplace and gravesite of Herbert Hoover are justified under Criteria Consideration C because

- A) Herbert Hoover, as a president of the United States, was an individual of outstanding importance to the history of the United States, and
- B) The birthplace and gravesite are significant under Criterion A for their association with the commemorative/memorialization period of Hoover's life.

Criteria Consideration E: Reconstructed Properties

Several buildings and structures within the district have been reconstructed. Although conscientious efforts were made to ensure that these reconstructions were as accurate as possible, a number of issues remain. The Jesse Hoover Blacksmith Shop, for example, was reconstructed on a different site from the original. Smaller buildings like the Hoover Cottage Privy and various pumps and wells have also been reconstructed as period-appropriate elements in order to reflect the type of buildings and elements that would have been present during Hoover's boyhood but have not survived in their original form.

³³ Quotations are from "National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," 1997 revised version.

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National Register Bulletin 15 states "a reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan and when no other building or structure with the same associations has survived. All three of these requirements must be met." The bulletin also states that "after the passage of fifty years, a reconstruction may attain its own significance for what it reveals about the period in which it was built, rather than the historic period it was intended to depict. On that basis, a reconstruction can possibly qualify under any of the Criteria."

Therefore, buildings, structures, or elements that were reconstructed within the period of significance (1935-1976) and that contribute to the overall plan for commemorating/memorializing President Hoover's life and achievements can be considered contributing to the significance of the district under these exceptions.

Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties

Commemorative properties, which are "designed or constructed after the occurrence of an important historic event or after the life of an important person," are generally not eligible unless they are over fifty years old and "possess significance based on (their) own value, not on the value of the event or person being memorialized."

Herbert Hoover NHS, although chiefly a commemorative property, is justified under Criteria Consideration F because

- A) The property is over fifty years old
- B) The property has "acquire(d) significance after the time of its creation through age, tradition, or symbolic value;" specifically, that it has "come to symbolize the value placed upon the individual."

Criteria Consideration G: Properties that Have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years

Properties less than fifty years old are generally eligible only if they are of exceptional importance. The period of significance for Herbert Hoover NHS extends to 1976, less than fifty years ago.

Although the period of significance for Herbert Hoover NHS extends to 1976, it is justified under Criteria Consideration G because the majority of the resources in the district are greater than fifty years old, and because the most important Period of Significance is greater than fifty years old. The extension of the Period of Significance to 1976 captures the completion of a commemorative plan that was conceived and mostly carried out more than fifty years ago, but continued to be implemented with several important resources (e.g. elements of the historic core and the creation of the vista) until 1976.

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5	<u>15</u>	<u>637,635</u>	<u>4,614,000</u>	7	<u>15</u>	<u>636,873</u>	<u>4,613,826</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
6	<u>15</u>	<u>637,423</u>	<u>4,613,839</u>	8	<u>15</u>	<u>636,627</u>	<u>4,613,864</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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Additional UTM References

5	<u>15</u>	<u>637,689</u>	<u>4,614,115</u>	7	<u>15</u>	<u>636,873</u>	<u>4,613,826</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
6	<u>15</u>	<u>637,423</u>	<u>4,613,839</u>	8	<u>15</u>	<u>636,627</u>	<u>4,613,864</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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List of Maps:

Map 1 of 4.

Map created by: Quinn Evans Architects

Date created/revised: 2011 aerial, map created August 2012

Description of Map: Boundary Map (with numbered UTM Points)

Map 2 of 4.

Map by: Land & Community Associates

Map source: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report

Date revised: 1995

Description of Map: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Landscape Character Areas

Map 3 of 4.

Map by: Land & Community Associates, labels added by Quinn Evans Architects

Map source: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report

Date revised: 2012

Description of Map: National Register Nomination Photographs Key A

Map 4 of 4.

Map by: Land & Community Associates, labels added by Quinn Evans Architects

Map source: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report

Date revised: 2012

Description of Map: National Register Nomination Photographs Key B

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- Name of Property: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
City or Vicinity: West Branch
County: Cedar State: IA
Photographer: Quinn Evans Architects
Date Photographed: April 2012
- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_001
Description of Photograph: Herbert Hoover Birthplace Cottage, looking northwest.
1 of 43.
- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_002
Description of Photograph: Historic Core, Downey street looking northeast from cottage.
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- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_003
Description of Photograph: Historic Core, Downey Street bridge and Downey street looking north.
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- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_004
Description of Photograph: Historic Core, Downey Street looking southwest.
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- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_005
Description of Photograph: Historic Core, schoolhouse and blacksmith shop looking northeast.
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- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_006
Description of Photograph: Historic Core, Poplar Street looking northwest.
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- Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_007
Description of Photograph: Historic core, Poplar Street looking southwest.
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- 2 Description of Photograph: Historic Core, Downey Street looking south.
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- 5 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_009
- 6 Description of Photograph: Historic core, Downey Street looking north toward Birthplace Cottage (left),
- 7 Downey Street bridge (center) and Friends Meetinghouse (right).
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- 10 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_010
- 11 Description of Photograph: Gravesite, looking northwest.
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- 14 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_011
- 15 Description of Photograph: Gravesite, looking southeast.
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- 18 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_012
- 19 Description of Photograph: Gravesite and Hoover graves, looking southwest.
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- 22 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_013
- 23 Description of Photograph: Gravesite vista to Birthplace Cottage, looking northeast.
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- 26 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_014
- 27 Description of Photograph: Gravesite view to Miles Farmstead, looking southeast.
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- 30 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_015
- 31 Description of Photograph: Gravesite vista to Thompson Farm, looking west.
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- 34 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_016
- 35 Description of Photograph: Isis statue, Iowa Award plaques, and library/museum, looking southwest.
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- 2 Description of Photograph: Library/Museum from Historic Core, looking south.
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- 5 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_018
- 6 Description of Photograph: Library/Museum, looking northeast.
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- 9 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_019
- 10 Description of Photograph: Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, looking southwest.
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- 13 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_020
- 14 Description of Photograph: Library/Museum entry gate, looking west.
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- 17 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_021
- 18 Description of Photograph: Library/Museum, looking west.
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- 22 Description of Photograph: Loop Drive, looking west toward gravesite from creek.
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- 25 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_023
- 26 Description of Photograph: Loop Drive, looking northwest toward picnic shelters.
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- 29 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_024
- 30 Description of Photograph: Loop Drive looking northwest, Negus Shelter (right) and Boy Scout shelter
- 31 (left)
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- 34 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_025
- 35 Description of Photograph: Loop Drive, looking north, comfort station((left) and Boy Scout Shelter
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- 2 Description of Photograph: Loop Drive, looking northeast, Boy Scout shelter (left). Negus Shelter
- 3 (center), and Wapsinonoc Creek (right).
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- 6 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_027
- 7 Description of Photograph: Loop Drive, looking east from gravesite.
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- 10 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_028
- 11 Description of Photograph: Miles Farmstead, looking southwest
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- 14 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_029
- 15 Description of Photograph: Miles Farmstead, looking west
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- 18 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_030
- 19 Description of Photograph: Miles Farmstead, looking northwest.
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- 22 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_031
- 23 Description of Photograph: Miles Farmstead, looking north.
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- 27 Description of Photograph: Miles Farmstead, farmhouse looking northwest.
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- 31 Description of Photograph: Miles Farmstead, view north and west toward Thompson Farm (left),
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- 35 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_034
- 36 Description of Photograph: Thompson Farm, looking west.
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- 6 Description of Photograph: Thompson Farm, looking west.
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- 9 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_037
- 10 Description of Photograph: Thompson Farm, looking northwest.
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- 13 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_038
- 14 Description of Photograph: Thompson Farm, looking southwest.
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- 17 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_039
- 18 Description of Photograph: Thompson Farm, looking east toward West Branch (left), gravesite (middle)
- 19 and Miles Farm (right).
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- 22 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_040
- 23 Description of Photograph: Visitor Center and parking lot, looking northeast.
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- 26 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_041
- 27 Description of Photograph: Park and Visitor Center/Post Office, looking west.
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- 30 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_042
- 31 Description of Photograph: Park and Gazebo, looking north.
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- 34 Photograph: IA_Cedar County_Herbert Hoover NHS_043
- 35 Description of Photograph: Park maintenance buildings, looking west.
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Site Feature or Landscape Characteristic	Counted Resource C/NC¹	Historic or Non-historic²	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Land Use		Historic	1935 to 1966	Residential neighborhood during Hoover's boyhood. Use of the area as a commemorative park was established during the 1935-1976 period and continues today.	Landscape Characteristic – Land Use
Wapsinonoc Creek* ³ (Hoover Creek)		Historic	Predates settlement	Natural feature present when West Branch was established as a community and throughout the historic periods.	Landscape feature – related to spatial organization and topography
Retaining wall along Wapsinonoc Creek (Hoover Creek)	Contributing	Historic	1939	Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society re-graded and seeded land on both sides of the creek, installed a footbridge and flagstone walk (not extant) to provide easy access between the birthplace cottage and the statue of Isis.	Landscape feature – small scale feature
Spatial Organization & Cluster Arrangement		Historic	1935 to 1966	During the 1935-1966 period, houses, yards and paths were placed to represent the neighborhood character of the area during the Hoover's boyhood. The overall arrangement continues to represent this effort.	Landscape Characteristic – Spatial Organization and Cluster Arrangement
Downey Street alignment including crossing of Wapsinonoc Creek* (Hoover Creek)		Historic	1935 to 1966	Historic street alignment is intact despite changes to its width and surface.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Wetherell Street alignment		Historic	1935 to 1966	Historic street alignment is intact despite changes to its width and surface.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Penn Street alignment		Historic	1935 to 1966	Historic street alignment is intact despite changes to its width and surface.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Poplar Street alignment		Historic	1935 to 1976	Historic street alignment is intact despite changes to its width and surface.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Parkside Drive		Non-historic	Ca. 1970	Road was realigned by NPS.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation

¹ Individual resources that are counted as contributing or non-contributing in the original or amended nomination (see section 7). If blank, it is not a counted resource.

² Denotes whether a feature dates to the period(s) of significance and contributes to the integrity of the historic landscape; if not an individually counted resource (column 2), then it contributes to the one counted site.

³ Features that survive from the boyhood period (1874-1885) are followed by *.

Site Feature or Landscape Characteristic	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Street lights		Non-historic	1974	Pedestrian scale lights set on wood poles along the walks in the historic core.	Landscape Feature – small scale features
Deciduous trees in yards		Historic	1935 to 1976	The society planted trees during the commemorative period.	Landscape Feature-vegetation
Deciduous trees adjacent to streets		Historic	1935 to 1976	The society planted trees during the commemorative period.	Landscape Feature – vegetation
Vista from the birthplace cottage to the gravesite		Historic	1955	Views from the birthplace cottage to the gravesite were emphasized in the choice of the location for the gravesite and in landscape design between the two locations.	Landscape Characteristic - Views
Rural view toward Isaac Miles farm		Historic	1963 to 1976	Beginning in 1963, the foundation purchased land and easements to preserve views to and from the site.	Landscape Characteristic - Views
View north to brick commercial blocks		Historic	1935 to 1976	Part of historic character of the neighborhood.	Landscape Characteristic - Views
Wood fence at Herbert Hoover birthplace cottage	Contributing	Historic	1938 Replaced 1974	Designed based on research conducted by Lou Henry Hoover.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature
Well and Pump at birthplace cottage	Contributing	Historic		HS-30, IDLCS 06166 Part of restoration of birthplace cottage site.	Landscape Feature – structure
Walkway from birthplace cottage to boardwalk		Non-historic	Ca. 1938, ca. 1977	A stone path designed based on research conducted by Lou Henry Hoover was installed ca. 1938. This was replaced with the current boardwalk by the NPS ca. 1977.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature related to patterns of circulation
Amanda Garvin Cottage well & pump	Contributing	Historic		HS 31, IDLCS 006167	Landscape Feature – structure
Methodist Church Streetlamp	Contributing	Non-historic	1974	HS 38, Replica kerosene street lamp	Landscape Feature – small scale feature
Dr. Leech retaining wall	Contributing	Historic		HS-49	Landscape Feature – structure
Neighborhood Boardwalks		Non-historic	1977	Installed by NPS after the period of significance to enhance the nineteenth-century feeling of the area.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature related to patterns of circulation
Neighborhood board fences		Non-historic	1977	Installed by NPS after the period of significance to enhance the nineteenth-century feeling of the area.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature
Neighborhood picket fences		Non-historic	1977	Installed by NPS after the period of significance to enhance the nineteenth-century feeling of the area.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature
Hitching post		Non-historic	1977	Installed by NPS after the period of significance to enhance the nineteenth-century feeling of the area.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature

Table 2: Historic Core Buildings, Structures and Objects				
Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks
Downey Street Bridge	Contributing	Historic	1917	HS-26; Rehabilitated 1962 and 1985
Hoover Birthplace Cottage *	Contributing	Historic	1871; restored 1938	HS-01, IDLCS 00659; The house in which Herbert Hoover was born; moved in 1890 but restored to original location and appearance in 1938.
P.T. Smith House *	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1874	HS 02, IDLCS 00662; next door to "Second Hoover House" (now demolished)
Quaker Meetinghouse*	Contributing	Historic	1855-57; moved in 1964	HS-03, IDLCS 06143; moved to present site in 1964.
Dr. Leech House	Contributing	Historic	1920	HS-05, IDLCS 06145
Laban Miles House*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1869	HS-06, IDLCS 06146
Amanda Garvin House*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1870-72	HS-07, IDLCS 06147
James Staples House*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1869-1872	HS-09, IDLCS 06149
E. S. Hayhurst House*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1870-1872	HS-10, IDLCS06150
Hoover Blacksmith Shop and Wagon Shop Replica	Contributing	Historic	1957	HS-16, IDLCS 06161; Reconstruction of Jesse Hoover's original blacksmith shop; contributes as an element of the commemorative landscape rather than a reconstruction of a historic building.
David Mackey House*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1869-1871	HS-18, IDLCS 06156
William Wright House*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1874	HS-19, IDLCS 06157
Amanda Garvin Shed and Garage	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1899	HS-28
William Wright Garage	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1920s	HS-35
Laban Miles Shed	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1890s	HS-36
Hannah Varney House	Contributing	Non-historic	1899	HS-04; House was moved after the period of significance (1967). It is compatible with the atmosphere of the Hoover boyhood neighborhood.
First West Branch Schoolhouse*	Contributing	Non-historic	Ca. 1853	HS-17; Although the building was constructed ca. 1853 and Hoover may have attended school in the building, it was moved to its present site in 1971, after the period of significance.
Hoover Cottage Privy	Contributing	Non-historic	1974	HS-23; Reconstruction of a characteristic Hoover era building
C. E. Smith House	Contributing	Non-historic	Ca. 1903	HS-08; Moved after the period of significance (1969). It is compatible with the atmosphere of the Hoover boyhood neighborhood.
Barn/Storage Shed	Non-Contributing	Non-historic	1952	NPS maintenance building located west of birthplace cottage; constructed in 1952 using materials from an older barn that had been on site; not compatible with the atmosphere of the Hoover boyhood neighborhood.

Table 3: Gravesite Site Features					
Site Feature or Landscape Characteristic	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Land Use		Historic	1964-1976	Originally designed and developed for use as a burial site and overlook of the birthplace cottage—this use continues today.	Landscape Characteristic – Land Use
Topography – semi-circular earthen form		Historic	1964-1976	The site was re-graded to emphasize views between the birthplace cottage and gravesite and to screen views to the south.	Landscape feature – related to topography
Spatial Organization – overlook location		Historic	Ca. 1955	The location was chosen by Herbert Hoover for its visual relationship as an overlook of the birthplace cottage ca. 1955.	Landscape Characteristic – Spatial Organization
Spatial Organization – Simplicity of Design		Historic	1961-1966	Designed by William Wagner prior to Hoover's death and installation was completed in 1966. Hoover's family participated in the design and insisted that it be understated. Wagner began work on the design in 1961 and Hoover died in 1964.	Landscape Characteristic – Spatial Organization
Vegetation – sparse evergreen vegetation		Historic	1964-1966	Planted to provide a backdrop to the overlook and gravesite.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Vegetation – Lawn		Historic	1965-1966	Lawn was planted as part of the overall site design.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Vegetation – evergreen mass		Historic	1965-1966	Low-lying evergreen massed planting defining inner portion of the semi-circle	Landscape feature - vegetation
Vegetation – vertical evergreen backdrop		Historic	1965-1966	Vertical evergreen planting providing a backdrop behind the lower evergreen plantings	Landscape feature-vegetation
Granite block walk		Historic	1965	Concave, elliptical granite block walkway with marble curb and end blocks.	Landscape feature – related to patterns of circulation
Flagpole	Contributing	Historic	1964	HS-47. Flagpole with American flag	Landscape feature – small scale feature
Concrete approach walk		Historic		Part of overall designed pattern of circulation.	Landscape feature – related to patterns of circulation
Two marble benches		Historic		HS-46	Landscape feature – small scale feature
View to historic core and birth cottage		Historic	1955	Views from gravesite to birthplace cottage influenced the selection of the gravesite/overlook location	Landscape Characteristic - Views
Irrigation system		Non-historic	1986	Replaced the original 1965 irrigation system	Landscape feature – small scale feature

Table 4: Structures and Objects at the Gravesite					
Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	
Hoover Graves	Contributing	Historic	1964	HS-41, IDLCS 05174; two ledger stones of Vermont white marble placed to mark the graves.	
Table 5: Library/Museum Area Site Features (1 of 2)					
Site Feature or Landscape Characteristic	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Spatial Organization		Non-historic	1959-1992	The landscape in this area is organized around the Presidential Library, which has been expanded several times, most recently in 1992.	Landscape Characteristic – Spatial Organization
Patterns of Circulation		Non-historic	1992	The parking lots and sidewalks in the Library/Museum area were established in their current configuration in 1992, after the end of the period of significance.	Landscape Characteristic – Patterns of Circulation
Land Use		Historic	1959-1992	This area has served as the location for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library since its initial construction began in 1959.	Landscape Characteristic – Land Use
Stone gateway entrance		Historic	1952	HS-93 Designed by Iowa architect Raoul Delmare as an entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.	Landscape feature – structure related to patterns of circulation
Entrance drive between Downey Street and the east façade of the Library/Museum		Historic	Ca. 1951-1957	Part of designed entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.	Landscape feature – related to patterns of circulation
Plants associated with stone entrance gateway		Historic		Part of the designed entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Lawn and shade trees between entry gate and east façade of the Library/Museum		Historic	Ca. 1951-1957	Part of designed entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Wooden light posts and luminaires		Historic	1962	Part of designed entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.	Landscape feature – small scale features
Path alignment leading from the original Library entrance to the statue of Isis		Historic	1962	Part of designed entrance to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Park.	Landscape feature – related to patterns of circulation

Table 5: Library/Museum Area Site Features (2 of 2)					
Site Feature or Landscape Characteristic	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Evergreens at statue of Isis		Non-historic	2004	Bruce McKay and Fred Albin felt there should be a background of evergreens at the statue. In 1941, Kaiser's Wayside Nursery provided Douglas fir, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce and Austrian Pine to be planted around the statue and Mugho Monana Pine to be planted in front of the statue. The current planting includes only one species, Black Hills Spruce, spaced irregularly around the statue.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Parking lots		Non-historic	Ca. 1962 through ca. 1992	The parking areas were expanded and relocated as additions to the Presidential Library were constructed. These do not relate to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape feature – related to patterns of circulation
Sidewalks at south and west sides of the building		Non-historic	Ca. 1962 through ca. 1992	Added to respond to the expansion of the Presidential Library. These do not relate to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape feature – related to patterns of circulation
Shrubs screening parking lot		Non-historic	Ca. 1962 through ca. 1992	Added to respond to the expansion of the Presidential Library. These do not relate to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Foundation plantings		Non-historic	1971 or later	Added to respond to the expansion of the Presidential Library. These do not relate to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape feature - vegetation
Flagpole at parking lot		Non-historic	1971 or later	Added to respond to the expansion of the Presidential Library. These do not relate to the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape feature – small scale feature

Table 6: Library/Museum Area Buildings, Structures and Objects

Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library/Museum	Contributing	Historic	1962-1992	
Hoover Presidential Library Association Building	Contributing	Historic	1905	
Statue of Isis	Contributing	Historic	Placed 1939	HS-42
Iowa Award Plaque	Contributing	Historic	1951	HS-43, IDLCS 06176; Awarded to Hoover in 1951

Table 7: Loop Drive Area Site Features

Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Hoover Creek (2010), (unnamed historically)*		Historic	Predates settlement	Natural feature present when West Branch was established as a community and throughout the historic periods.	Landscape Feature-related to Responses to Natural Features
Land Use		Historic	1951-1957	Established as a passive recreational use area during the period of significance. This use continues today.	Landscape Characteristic – Land Use
Spatial Organization		Historic	1951-1957	Designed to provide an area for passive recreation and to enhance views between the gravesite and birthplace cottage.	Landscape Characteristic – Spatial Organization
Loop road		Historic	Between 1951 and 1957	HS-48, IDLCS 70090, The park loop road was developed in the vicinity of the old race track. The western alignment of the loop road corresponds to the location of the abandoned race track, but is visible in a 1936 aerial photograph.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Concrete Walks in Loop Drive Area		Historic		CLI 107225	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Vegetation - lawn		Historic	1951-1957	Part of design for passive recreational area and vista betw. gravesite/birthplace cottage.	Landscape Feature – related to vegetation
Vegetation – masses of canopy trees		Historic	1951-1957	Part of design for passive recreational area.	Landscape Feature – related to vegetation
Plantings between birthplace cottage and gravesite		Historic	1961-1976	The plantings were implemented as part of the gravesite to birthplace cottage vista, first conceived as an overlook in 1961 and then developed as the gravesite. The plantings were designed by landscape architect Robert W. Dyas to enhance vista between birthplace cottage and gravesite. Plan prepared 1968 and plantings implemented 1970, 1974, 1975, 1976.	Landscape Feature – related to vegetation and views

Table 8: Loop Drive Area Buildings and Structures

Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks
Boy Scout Shelter	Contributing	Historic	1953	The Boy Scout Shelter was built in 1953. It was formally dedicated on Hoover's 80 th birthday in 1954. HS-45, IDLCS 70087
Footbridge over creek	Non-Contributing	Non-historic	1994	NPS built the "Bridge over creek" in 1994, replacing a circa 1980 footbridge that was damaged in the 1993 floods. That bridge replaced a circa 1953 footbridge that had been located a little further downstream.
Negus Family association shelter	Non-Contributing	Non-historic	Ca.1966	Picnic shelter near the Boy Scout Shelter.
Comfort station	Non-Contributing	Non-historic	Ca. 1975	Replaced 1950s era restrooms.

Table 9: Rural / Agricultural Setting Site Features (1 of 2)					
Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
<i>Isaac Miles Farmstead</i>					
Spatial Organization		Historic		The organization of the buildings and structures upon the landscape continues to reflect a utilitarian layout based on relationships of outbuildings and landscape features.	Landscape characteristics – spatial organization
Land Use		Non-Historic		The property is no longer an active farm.	Landscape characteristics – land use
Circulation—farm drives		Non-Historic		The farm drive has been altered and no longer clearly reflects historic patterns of circulation.	Landscape Feature – related to circulation
Concrete sidewalk		Historic	Ca. 1946-50 replaced in-kind in 2010	Reflects historic patterns of circulation at the farmstead.	Landscape Feature – related to circulation
Prairie re-creation (vegetation)		Non-historic	1971 to 1981	Replacement of historic agricultural fields by prairie recommended in 1970 Master Plan by Perkins & Will and implemented by NPS beginning in 1971; expanded to include the entire Miles farm except the farmstead cluster over the next decade.	Landscape Feature – vegetation
View		Historic		View toward Miles Farm from park is important for providing historic setting.	Landscape Characteristic - Views
Hand pump		Historic	built/installed sometime between 1897-1940	HS-51 This metal hand pump reflects the need to manually pump water from a local well during the period of active farming.	Landscape Feature – small scale features

Table 9: Rural / Agricultural Setting Site Features (2 of 2)					
Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Thompson Farmstead					
Spatial Organization		Historic		Reflects a utilitarian layout based on relationships of outbuildings and landscape features.	Landscape characteristics – spatial organization
Land Use		Non-Historic		The property is no longer an active farm.	Landscape characteristics – land use
Farm drives		Historic		The farm driveway has remained consistent and reflects an important circulation route.	Landscape Feature – related to circulation
Walkways		Historic	1938	Farm walkways have remained consistent and reflect patterns of circulation. HS-82	Landscape Feature – related to circulation
Cattle guard		Historic		Provides a functional solution to keep livestock within the farm fences and allow vehicles to move more freely. HS-91	Landscape Feature – related to circulation
Prairie re-creation (vegetation)		Non-historic	Ca. 1980s	The portion of this farm’s historic agricultural fields that were held by easement were converted to prairie by the NPS.	Landscape Feature – vegetation
Evergreen tree row northwest of farmhouse		Historic		Part of the family farm landscape, the fencerow may have been planted to shield the farmhouse from winter winds.	Landscape Feature – vegetation
Woven wire and woven-wire/barbed wire fences		Historic		Typically used at the Thompson farm and park boundaries	Landscape Feature – small scale features
Views		Historic		View toward Thompson Farm from park is important for providing historic setting.	Landscape Characteristic - Views
Pumps		Historic		This metal hand pump reflects the need to manually pump water from a local well during the period of active farming. HS-83	Landscape Feature – small scale features

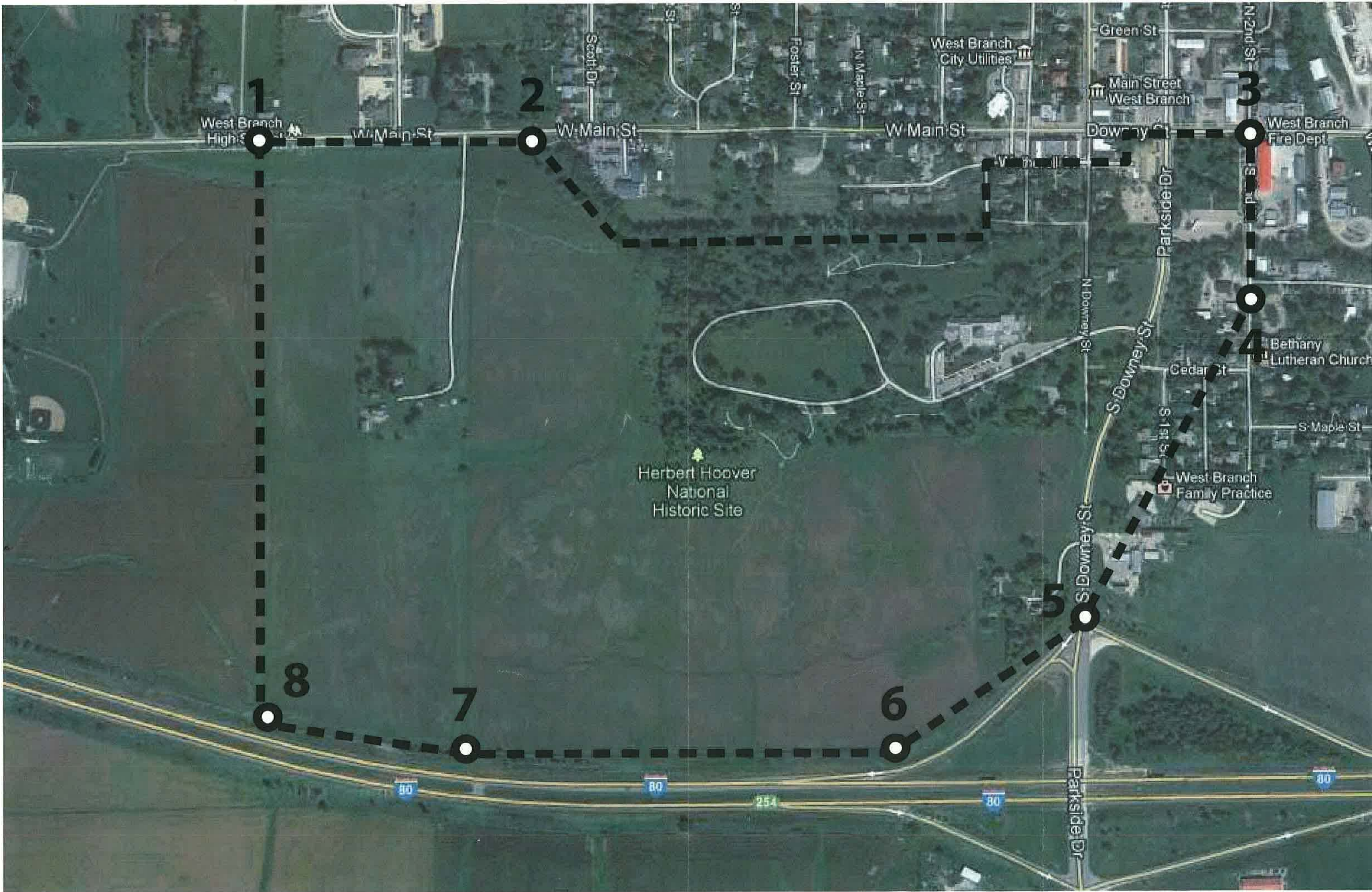
Table 10: Rural / Agricultural Setting Buildings, Structures and Objects				
Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks
<i>Isaac Miles Farmstead</i>				
Farmhouse*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1877	HS-11
Bank Barn*	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1877	HS-12
Garage	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1925-1935	HS-14
Shed	Contributing	Historic	Ca. early 1900s	HS-15
Windmill	Contributing	Historic	Ca. early 1900s	HS-20
Pole/Machine Shed	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1940s	HS-53
Chicken House	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1940s	HS-54
<i>Thompson Farmstead</i>				
Farmhouse	Contributing	Historic	1916-1917	HS-80
Garage	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1920s-30s	HS-81
Machine Shed	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1940s	HS-84
Brooder House	Contributing	Historic	1938	HS-85
Hog House/Corn Crib	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1940s	HS-86
Corn Crib	Contributing	Historic	1959	HS-87
Chicken House	Contributing	Historic	1938-40	HS-89
Storage Bin	Contributing	Historic	Ca. 1950s	HS-92

Table 11: Site Features at the Visitor Contact and Support Area

Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks	Resource Type
Concrete sidewalks		Non-historic	1970-1971	Added to respond to the new Visitor Center and Post Office. These do not reflect the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Parking lot		Non-historic	1970-1971	Added to respond to the new Visitor Center and Post Office. The parking lot does not reflect the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape Feature – related to patterns of circulation
Plants around building and parking lot		Non-historic	1970-1971	Added to respond to the new Visitor Center and Post Office. These do not reflect the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape Feature – vegetation
Fence between parking lot and service area		Non-historic	1970-1971	Added to respond to the new Visitor Center and Post Office. Does not reflect the efforts to create a commemorative landscape at the property.	Landscape Feature – small scale feature

Table 12: Buildings, Structures and Objects at the Visitor Contact and Support Area

Name	Counted Resource C/NC	Historic or Non-historic	Date or era of construction	Description / Remarks
Visitor Center / Post Office	Non-Contributing	Non-historic	1970	Built to provide a visitor contact center for the NHS and a post office for West Branch.
DAR boulder monument and bronze plaque	Contributing	Historic	1929; moved ca.1971	HS-44, IDLCS 06177; Dedicated August 10 th , 1929, by the Iowa Pilgrim Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Originally located near the Birthplace Cottage and later moved to its current location at the request of the Hoover family.
Park Maintenance buildings	Non-Contributing	Non-Historic	Ca. 1946	Built to store equipment and provide shop and storage space for the park. Located outside of the historic landscape.
Bandstand / Gazebo in park	Non-Contributing	Non-historic	1974	Located outside of the historic landscape.



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

West Branch High School

W Main St

W Main St

W Main St

Downey St

West Branch Fire Dept

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Main Street West Branch

Parkside Dr

Cedar St

Bethany Lutheran Church

West Branch Family Practice

S Downey St

Parkside Dr

80







80

254

80

80

LEGEND

-  site boundary
-  fence
-  paved road
-  unpaved road
-  walk
-  building
-  creek
-  deciduous tree
-  evergreen tree



Map compiled by Land and Community Associates from 1995 survey prepared by Snyder and Associates. This map is for planning purposes only.

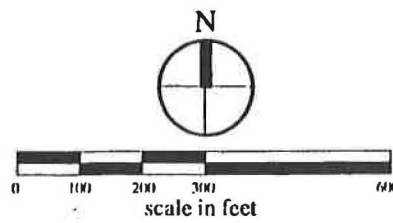
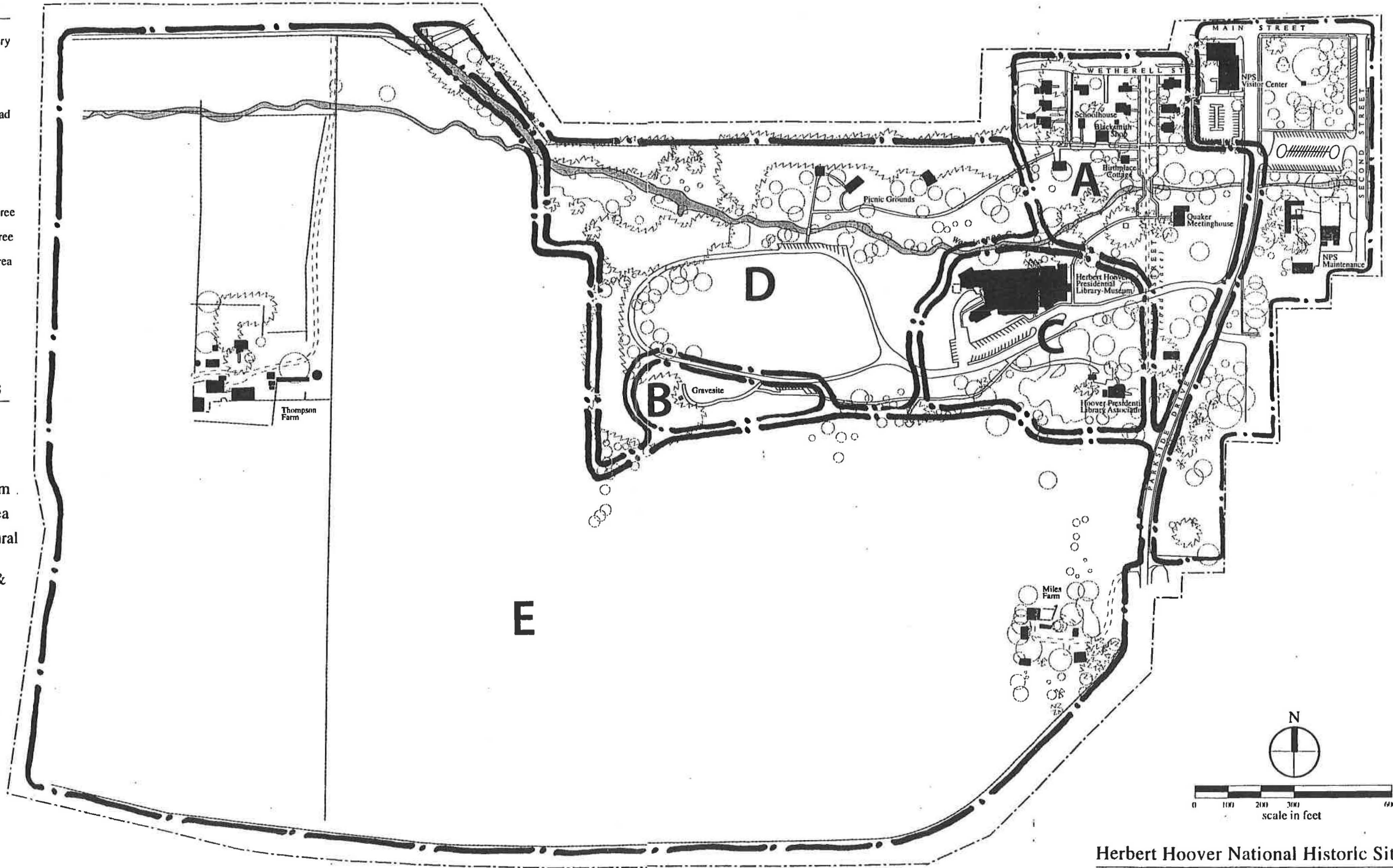
Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
EXISTING CONDITIONS

LEGEND

- site boundary
- fence
- paved road
- - - unpaved road
- walk
- building
- ~ creek
- deciduous tree
- ◉ evergreen tree
- character area boundary

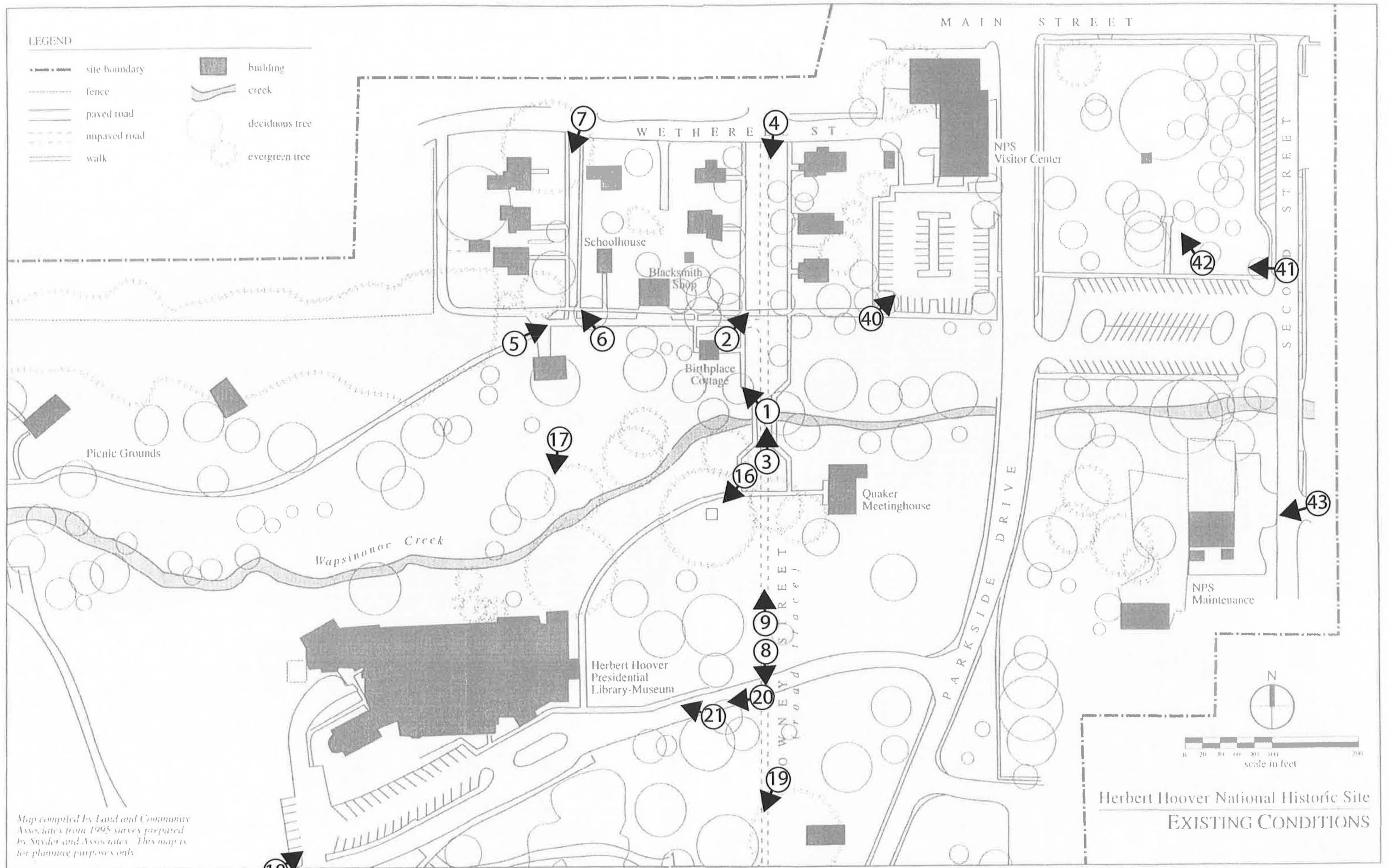
Landscape Character Areas

- A. Historic Core
- B. Gravesite
- C. Presidential Library-Museum
- D. Loop Drive Area
- E. Rural/Agricultural Setting
- F. Visitor Center & Park Support



**Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER AREAS**

Map compiled by Land and Community Associates from 1995 survey prepared by Snyder and Associates. This map is for planning purposes only.



Map compiled by Land and Community Associates from 1995 survey prepared by Snyder and Associates. This map is for planning purposes only.























































































STOP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Cedar

DATE RECEIVED: 6/28/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/23/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/07/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/14/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000594

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/14/13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER A. Kennedy _____ 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.

TRANSMITTAL

To: Robert Sutton, PhD
Chief Historian, Park History
Program
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW
#2261
Washington, DC 20005

Date: 20 May 2013
RE: HERBERT HOOVER NHS
WEST BRANCH, IA
31202200

TRANSMITTED VIA: Express Delivery

Total Pages: _____

ENCLOSURES:

Copies	Pages	Date	Description
1		21 May 2013	NRHP Nomination Form – Herbert Hoover NHS
1		21 May 2013	NRHP Nomination Photos
1		21 May 2013	NRHP Nomination Maps

REASON TRANSMITTED: For Approval

COMMENTS:

Dear Dr. Sutton,

Enclosed please find the amended National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. This nomination was prepared under contract to the National Park Service to document property added to the NHS since the original nomination, and to incorporate new resources, including historic cultural landscapes, into the nomination.

The nomination has been reviewed and approved by Herbert Hoover NHS, the National Park Service Regional Office, and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office. We request that, following your approval signature, you forward this nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for listing. We would further request that you send a digital copy of the signed nomination form to us at rmills@quinnevens.com so we can include it in the final record copy that we send to the Regional Office.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Regards,

cc: _____

Signature: _____



Ruth E. Mills, Architectural Historian



219 1/2 N. MAIN STREET
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
734 663 5888

WASHINGTON, DC
ANN ARBOR, MI
DETROIT, MI
MADISON, WI

WWW.QUINNEVANS.COM



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



June 25, 2013

Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service

Subject: Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase for Herbert Hoover
National Historic Site, Cedar County, IA

Robert H. Meade
6/25/2013

I am forwarding the Amended National Register nomination, including a boundary increase, for the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. The Park History Program has reviewed the nomination and found the property eligible under Criteria A, B, and D, with areas of significance of Politics/Government, Conservation, and Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal.