

# Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
East 12th & Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

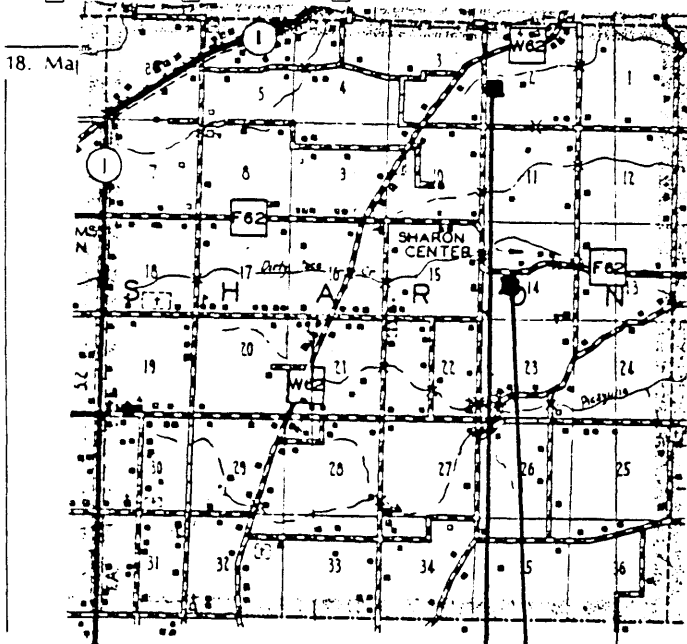
Site Number 84  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # 84

## Identification

1. Site Name Roberts Octagon Barn  
2. Village/Town/City Sharon Center vic. Township Sharon County Johnson  
3. Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Legal Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Urban: Rural: subdivision township block range parcel section subparcel 1/4 section of 1/4 section  
78 N 7 W 2 NW 1/4 of SW 1/4  
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 613,760 northing 4,604,950; Acreage less than one acre  
6. Owner(s) Name Wayne and Emily Roberts, Roberts Crossroads Farm  
7. Owner(s) Address R. R. #3 Iowa City Iowa 52240  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)  
8. Use: Present Livestock shelter, hay storage Original \_\_\_\_\_

## Description

9. Date of Construction 1883 Architect/Builder Schrock  
10. Building Type:  
 single-family dwelling  industrial  other institutional  religious  
 multiple-family dwelling  educational  public  agricultural  
 commercial  
11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
14. Integrity:  original site  moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
See reverse side.  
15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_  
17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_



19. Photo Roll 679 Frame 14 View \_\_\_\_\_

VBD: A circle 80' diameter with center point of barn as basis, includes barn and attached shed additions.

# Significance (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

## 20. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

N/A

Rectangular interior Modified hip foof. Original cupola with glass replaced with plywood about 1960. Two triangular additions on south side create a straight facode on lower level. Diameter 61'- each side 26'. Height to top of cupola about 60'.

## 21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Octagon; Coffin type.

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

One of the oldest surviving round barns in Iowa. "The plan of this barn appears to be derivative of Lorenzo Coffin's octagon barn (1867) in Webster County, which was the subject of a long article in a January 1883 issue of the Des Moines Iowa Homestead" (Soike 1983). Lorenzo S. Coffin, a stock breeder, and farm editor of the Fort Dodge Messenger, is credited with building the first round barn in Iowa. The Coffin type octagon barn is specifically characterized by a non-self-supporting modified hip roof. Other identifying features include the heavy timber construction, rectangular interior plan, and the general purpose function.

## 22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Wayne and Emily Roberts, RR 3, Iowa City, IA 52240

Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

Wells, Wilson L. Barns in the U.S.A. San Diego, CA: Acme Printing Co., 1976.

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## For Office of Historic Preservation Use Only

### 1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Determination of Eligibility

### Review and Compliance Project:

- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Subject Traces

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Photo Images \_\_\_\_\_

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