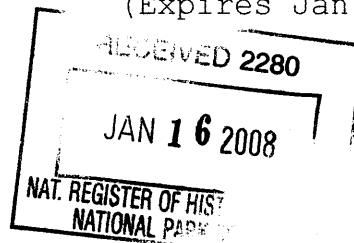


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Franklin Regular Baptist Church

other names/site number Franklin Baptist Church

2. Location

Street & number 135th Ave and 590th St not for publication N/A
City or town about 8 mi se of Seymour, IA vicinity x
State Iowa code IA county Appanoose code 007 zip code 52544

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronell J. Lisle, Deputy SHPO
Signature of certifying official

January 14, 2008
Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the

_____ National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the

_____ National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Lyman McClelland 2-20-08

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private

_____ public-local

_____ public-State

_____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)

_____ district

_____ site

_____ structure

_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

_____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: Religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in Progress Sub: _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

roof wood/shingle

walls wood/weatherboard

other _____

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

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/settlement

Period of Significance 1881-1905

Significant Dates 1881

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Parker, Livingston Guilderooy.

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder unknown

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(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: Historic Livingston Foundation

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 3 Acres more or less

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	497227	4496819	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	_____ See continuation sheet.					

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

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Linda Ballanger/ President e-mail address lballanger@sirisonline.com
organization Historic Livingston Foundation date 4/18/2007
street & number 26573 110th Ave telephone 641-898-2388
city or town Numa state IA zip code 52544
=====

Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Historic Livingston Foundation (Linda Ballanger, President)

Street & Number 26573 110th Ave Telephone (641) 898-2388

City or Town Numa State IA Zip code 52544
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

The Franklin Baptist Church architecture exhibits the plain but sophisticated strength reminiscent of the people at the time it was built in 1880-1881. It has a white exterior of painted cedar siding topped with a roof of cedar shingles and a bell tower. The pediments above the windows, doors and in the gables of the bell tower speak of simple elegance. The building stands in its original location, but now alone, on a hill in southwestern Appanoose County, Iowa, reigning with a stately majesty over the surrounding area. It reminds all who see it that it has stood the test of time, and in its glory can teach of those who lived before us, whose influences have also stood the test of time, and set the foundations of our lives today. The architectural type of this building is endangered, as buildings of this age and influence are deteriorating and being destroyed. It is the focus of Historic Livingston Foundation to preserve and restore this building's architectural type and influence.

Exterior Description:

Franklin Baptist Church (1881) exhibits some subtle resemblances to Greek Revival architecture, adapted to an environment of prairie practicality where architects in the era were scarce or non-existent and the people doing the planning responded to the task based on structures they had seen in the Eastern part of the United States. The building rests on a concrete foundation topped with one row of 24" concrete rough-hewn blocks, which was constructed in 2005 to replace and replicate the crumbling old one. Four and one-half inch lap weatherboard covers the walls and gable ends of the building. The roof is cedar shingles likened to the original roof and was installed in 2005. The original bell tower was removed in 1964 but the general contractor for Phase II restoration undertook the task of replicating the original bell tower. It was installed in 2005 also.

The county road that passes the church building was rerouted in 1955. Therefore, as one drives past the church, it is the east side (backside) of the church that is visible. The building is 28.5 feet wide. The length of the side is 42.5 feet. The height of the side is 13 feet. The end of the building measures 26 feet to the gable peak. The ends are gabled in keeping with the Greek Revival architecture. There is a 40-inch-wide door at the north end of the east side of the building. Atop the door is a solid triangular block that functions visually as a pediment, an element typical of the Greek Revival style. A gabled drip molding above the block further echoes a classical pediment. The same combination of blocks and drip moldings is found above every window and door opening on this building. The original 4.5-inch-wide white weatherboard siding is trimmed at the gable with a 12-inch-wide trim board. A 16-inch-wide soffit board covers the overhang of the roof. Corner trim board on all four corners has a capital at the top six inches below the roof replicating the Greek Revival architecture. Modern cast concrete steps have been installed at the doorway for safety. Broken concrete was there but was unsuitable for public safety so was removed in recent years.

The windows are original from 1881 but are covered with aluminum storm windows that can be removed. The windows are in respectably good shape with only one pane having been cracked in all these years. Window frames appear to be in remarkably good condition for the age of the building. Dimensions of the windows are 84 inches tall by 33 inches wide and are made up of four panes of glass. Weatherboard is trimmed with same trim as the east gable. All soffit is intact.

The west side of the building was the front of the building during its years of use for church services. It is a gabled end with a transom and pediment above the door, another hint of its Greek Revival influences. The new glass in the transom is made of etched glass with the words, "Franklin Baptist Church" and replaces a plain glass transom. The weatherboard siding is trimmed at the gable with the trim board and the covering the roof overhang. The capitals on the trim board on the corners are intact.

The south side of the building's appearance is similar to the north side. It has the three windows with pediment detailing. Two of the windowpanes have cracks, but again, are in remarkably good condition.

The original bell tower was removed in 1964 when a new roof was installed. In 2005, Historic Livingston Foundation took as part of its focus of restoration, the building and erection of a replica of the original bell tower. A picture of the original bell tower was used as a pattern to design the replica complete with louvers and pediments and cross-gabled shingled roof.

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

Interior Description:

The west entrance of the building leads into a foyer that measures 4 feet 3 inches by 9 feet. Original doors with original hardware and transoms, one on the left and one on the right, lead into the church's sanctuary. The one on the left has a bracket that at one time held a kerosene lamp to illuminate the entrance.

It is a one-room auditorium, rectangular except for the area of intrusion caused by the foyer on the west end. The original floor of 1 inch by 6 inches rough cut pine is still intact except for a large area on the south side where a hole in the roof allowed weather to rot the floor to the point of a large hole becoming apparent. Historic Livingston Foundation plans to repair the floor to its original condition.

A stage about six inches above the floor stands at the east end of the auditorium. It extends from the south wall to the door 17 feet 6 inches. It is 7 feet at its widest point. The original piano used by the congregation is still sitting on the stage. The baptistery is beneath the stage. Wainscoting adorns the entire perimeter of the auditorium. It is three feet tall and topped with chair rail. It is in very good condition except for the area on the south where the weather and water damage have occurred.

The walls on the west, north and east, and half of the south are plastered and wallpapered. The rest of the wall area has been stripped of plaster due to the erosion caused by the weather from the hole in the roof. It is planned for the entire interior area to be restored in keeping with the original.

The windows are as described from the outside, except there is no ornamentation. They are very plain and are painted to match the wainscoting. Attached to the window frame on the first and third windows are brackets to hold kerosene lamps for illumination of the auditorium.

The 2 inches by 6 inches trusses are in very good condition and do not need to be repaired or replaced. The lower part of the trusses will be the foundation for the cathedral ceiling as it is restored to its original height.

Statement of Overall Integrity

The church building maintains a high degree of integrity: location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of the immediate setting of the church has been compromised somewhat by the road that was built through the middle of the property in the mid 1950s and the fact that all other buildings in the town have been removed, except for one house. A grove of trees directly to the north of the building has also been removed. However, the accompanying cemetery grounds contribute to the church's ability to maintain integrity of feeling and association. The church is sitting on the exact spot where it was built in 1880. Because the church is being nominated under Criterion A and Criterion B, it is important that the church would be recognizable to Livingston Parker and the townspeople of Livingston at the time it was built. Historic Livingston Foundation has restored the church exterior as nearly exactly as possible in design, materials and workmanship to the time it was built. All the original architectural materials and detailing, including pediments and capitals, wainscoting, windows, transoms, foundation, and bell tower remain or have been replaced in-kind where deteriorated or missing. The interior restoration is in progress but all existing original detailing will be maintained or replaced in-kind. Modern wiring will need to be added to the interior but it is planned to use antique-type lighting fixtures.

Further research may uncover potential archeological significance.

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa



This photo of Franklin Baptist Church, circa 1890, emailed by Linda Trent while searching for genealogy information of grandparents who lived in Livingston.

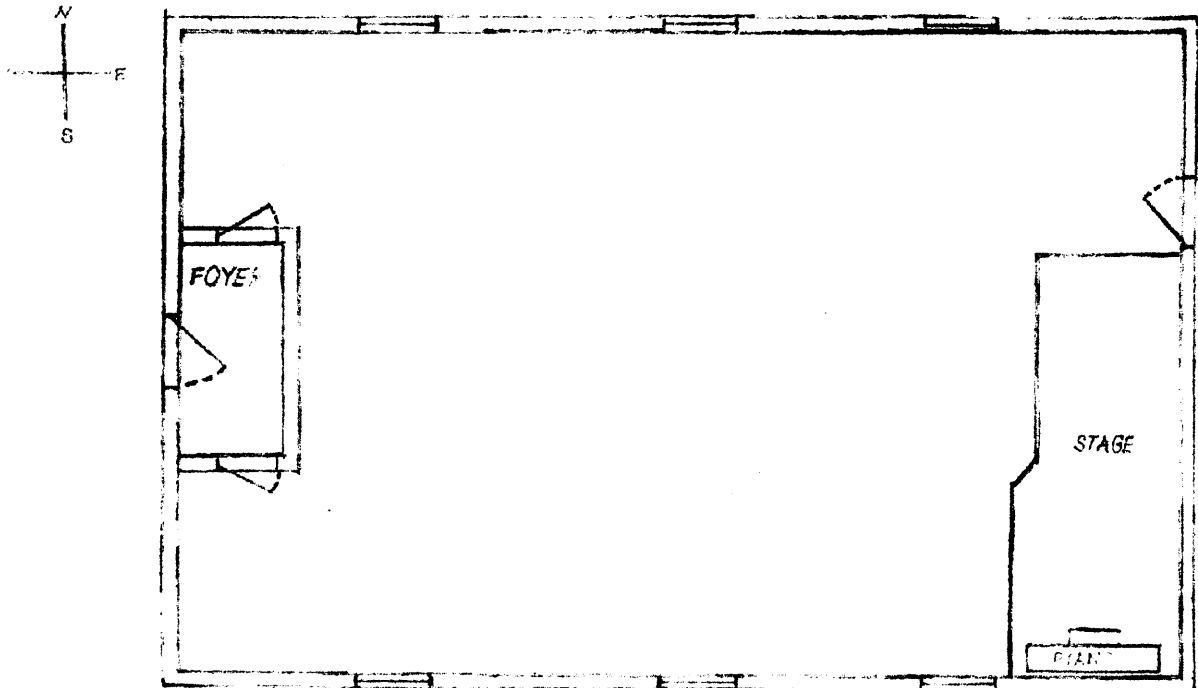
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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

Floor Plan Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Drawn by Diana Royer 11/08/2004
Not to Scale



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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Franklin Baptist Church, originally known at the time of incorporation as Franklin Regular Baptist Church (later the word 'Regular' was dropped) is locally significant under criterion A for its association with historical events and under criterion B for its significant associations with the multi-faceted career of Livingston G. Parker, co-founder of the crossroads community of Livingston, Iowa. Constructed in 1881, this church is one of only two buildings remaining from this crossroads village, which thrived from the late 1850s to the early years of the 20th century. It is the only surviving building in Livingston with a direct association with Parker, whose example and strong character influenced the Livingston community in innumerable ways during his lifetime and for many years afterwards.

Historic Livingston lies just over a hill a few miles south of Highway J46 on 135th Avenue in southwest Appanoose County and is a breathtaking sight. There, standing majestically on a hillside overlooking the valleys and its cemetery counterpart, is Franklin Baptist Church. The area where this amazing sight can be seen was called Livingston, when it was founded in the middle 1800s. It was a bustling village meeting the needs of its citizens with businesses such as a brick kiln, coalmine, blacksmith shops, general stores, lumber mill, gristmill, fraternal lodge, casket maker, post office, and school. The church and a nearby house are the last original buildings standing from the crossroads community era.

What kind of persons would have pulled up stakes in the mid 1800s and come several hundred miles into unsettled territory to make their homes? Let's call them intelligent, educated, adventurous, committed, men of integrity who loved family and God. All of these attributes describe Livingston Parker and Benjamin Barney, who came to Franklin Township in 1853, just five years before Barney's death at age 79.

Livingston Parker must have been about 40 years of age at the time that he and his father-in-law, Benjamin Barney, made a long, arduous journey on horseback to find a place to homestead in Appanoose County, Iowa. It was Barney, Parker's father-in-law, who had received land patents for payment of his military service in the War of 1812 where he served as Captain being particularly active in the defense of Sackett's Harbor.

Parker and Barney laid claim to 320 acres of land in Franklin Township, then returned to Urbana, Ohio, so that Parker could finish his term as an instructor at the Union Academy. His family and Barney returned the following year to make the claim their permanent home. These homes are no longer in existence.

Livingston Guilderoy Parker (for whom Livingston, Iowa, was named, and for whom Historic Livingston derives its name) was born in Henderson, Jefferson County, New York, on February 7, 1813. He died at Livingston, Iowa, Appanoose County, on March 23, 1905, at the age of 92. He obtained an unusually good education for that era. Besides going through the "common schools," he graduated from the Belleville Academy and pursued a course in Civil Engineering. He next entered Union College, now Union University, in Schenectady, New York, from which he graduated in 1835. (Interestingly, Union College had been co-founded by Benjamin Barney.) Parker then taught school and studied law with his Uncle Orson in northern New York.

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

In 1838, he moved to Dayton, Ohio, where he was employed as an engineer in constructing the Miami Canal. On June 2, 1841, he married Nancy J. Barney, a sister of a college classmate with whom he had been associated in building the canal. Parker and his wife taught school for several years in Urbana, Ohio, and, in 1854, came to Appanoose County, Iowa, and homesteaded.

Livingston Parker and many of the early settlers in Livingston came from New York. The Appanoose County Federal Census taken in 1860 lists 50 pioneer residents who came to Franklin Township from New York. Those taking up residence later came from many other states and some from foreign countries. Many of these early pioneers remained in the vicinity of Livingston and were laid to rest in the Livingston cemetery.

When Parker and Barney got to Franklin township, they found ample amounts of trees for lumber, and water for a mill that could provide many necessities of life. The "Geology of Appanoose County," published in 1878, indicated the subsoil was nearly pure clay and with proper care, any portion of this subsoil could be made into bricks. Benjamin Barney installed a brick kiln on the family farm. It supplied most of the bricks that were used to build the early buildings in Seymour. Most buildings in Livingston were built with the oak that was prevalent at the location. The same report indicated that coal was known to exist long before it was mined. It crops out at several locations along Shoal Creek and its tributaries. The Parker family had a coal mine called the Livingston Coal Bank as recorded in History of Appanoose County -1878- P.332. The coal mine and brick kiln were located a quarter mile east of the church building alongside the curve where the road turns north. Several years ago bricks worked out of the ground from where the kiln had been covered with dirt. During the mid 1950s a large hole opened in the ground in the area where coal had been found, and up on the hill, another large hole opened up. It is believed the first was where the coal was removed and the upper one was the mine's airshaft.

Approximately one hundred feet or so west of the north end of the property on which the church sits was the location of the grist and lumber mill. A few years ago during some excavation of that property the beams associated with that mill were found. The property owner replaced the dirt over the findings.

Parker and Barney determined this to be a good place to meet the needs of the families who would gather there. Iowa had just become a state in 1846 and by 1853 when the men came to stake their claims, settlers were making their way westward into Iowa. Farmland was homesteaded in the area from around 1850 to 1856 because of its rich, productive soils, particularly to the west.

After improving his farm, Parker went to work with J. T. Place in editing the *Appanoose Chieftain*, but publishing a newspaper in Centerville did not prove to be too successful and he soon abandoned the business. He is, however, given the honor of being the first Republican editor of the county at a time when being a Republican in Appanoose County could have been life threatening. During the years of 1859-1860, Parker was engaged in surveying the route for the State Line Railroad, which, after it was built, became known as the Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad, now a part of the Burlington system.

Parker was a leader. He was a person of integrity. Other settlers in the area looked to him as the standard of this pioneer life. He was described as an interesting character whom everyone liked to meet and talk to. They named

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

the village they were settling after the man, Livingston Parker, calling it Livingston. Parker was a surveyor, a brick maker, and coal miner. He became a minister celebrating his calling and new occupation with a two-day ordination service in 1886 in Franklin Baptist Church, which he was instrumental in building. In 1871 he was a candidate on the Republican ticket for the position of state senator, but was defeated by Senator E. J. Gault of Cincinnati, Iowa. For several years Parker was the postmaster of the village of Livingston. In 1892, feeling he had "performed his full share," he retired from active business.

The Temporary Indian Boundary -- 1843-1845, and more popularly described as the Red Rock Line and the Knoxville Meridian, ran due north from the Iowa-Missouri line through Genoa and Seymour, through Lucas and Marion Counties, ending in Hardin County just west of Steamboat Rock. Indians resided on the west side of this line and white settlers were on the east side of the line. This part of history also influenced the timing of the settlement of Livingston, as the line was located just to the west of Livingston a few miles. Harriet Heusinkveld noted area of the Red Rock Line as the "edge of white civilization" in her book, Red Rock, Iowa. The village was formed less than a mile south of the Mormon Trail, which is well marked. Livingston was two miles from the Missouri state line. Missouri was a slave state; Iowa was a free state. The Underground Railroad functioned in the community as was proven when a local home was razed to make way for a new one. The basement of the home located north of Livingston about 3 miles and formerly owned by Gertrude Harper Crosby, evidenced rooms used for hiding those using the underground railroad in their efforts to get to a new home in the North.

At the age of 46 and past the age for military duty, Parker enlisted in Company B, Sixth Kansas Cavalry, in May of 1863. He had previously been a Quartermaster Sergeant but was given an officer's commission for Company M, Sixth Kansas Cavalry. He was almost immediately given the command of Company B of that unit and was stationed at Westport, Missouri. Later, he became First Lieutenant of Company M, Fifth Kansas Cavalry, and, afterward, Captain of that company. A letter Parker wrote to his wife dated September 5, 1863, described the company as a typical frontier crowd, composed of Mexicans, Indians and soldiers from the regular army, a group of almost every nationality and occupation. It is reported that they engaged in the pursuit of Quantrill, after the burning of Lawrence, Kansas, on August 21, 1863. William C. Quantrill was the leader of a confederate guerrilla band during the Civil War. Quantrill and 450 men carried out a raid on Lawrence, Kansas, in the early morning hours killing 150 to 200 men and boys. The raid was widely known as the "Lawrence Massacre." That episode was depicted in Steven Spielberg's mini-series, "Into the West" in 2005. Captain Livingston Parker's company of militia pursued Quantrill and on that occasion was in the saddle for 36 continuous hours as noted in the letter to his wife dated August 30, 1863, just one week after the raid. (Historic Livingston Foundation has possession of the letters mentioned in this paragraph.)

Among Quantrill's band were the James brothers (Jesse and Frank) who later became notorious for bank robberies and other unlawful activities. One of the banks robbed by the James brothers was located about 22 miles west of Livingston in Corydon, Iowa.

Quantrill led his troops on raids against Kansas and Missouri farmers and townspeople who favored the Union.

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

When the regiment was mustered out, after three years' service, Companies L and M, which were recruited later, were consolidated under Captain Parker, at Fort Larned, Kansas. They afterward made the return march to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and were mustered out October 1865.

A Memorial Tribute to Nancy J. Parker, a book of letters honoring the memory of the wife of Livingston G. Parker, and published by Parker, containing correspondence between Mrs. Parker and her husband during the time of the Civil War was given to Historic Livingston Foundation by a great granddaughter of Parker and is to be on display in the Historic Livingston Museum. It tells of the hardships of a wife raising the children and keeping a farm going while her husband is in the war. Mrs. Parker was the first schoolteacher in Livingston. She also accompanied her husband at times during the Civil War and was a nurse to the soldiers during that time. The letters in that book reveal that she was an amazing woman.

The Parkers lost one of their sons in a Civil War battle. Two sons served with their father in the war. In one battle, both sons were engaged in war. Both were injured, one fatally. The letters reveal the love Parker had for his sons and the agony of losing one of them.

Other memorabilia of Livingston Parker have been donated to Historic Livingston Foundation for museum pieces. They include items of correspondence, documents from Union College (including an honors medal which Parker earned in college) and numerous military records from the Civil War era. A recent gift from a Parker family member is a valuable 'silent butler', which is a piece of furniture still owned by a member of the Parker family, making it a family heirloom for nearly 200 years. It was built circa 1817 in New York and was moved by covered wagon to eventually take residence in Livingston, Iowa.

Most early settlers were religious people and while many had few books, most usually had a Bible. Long before churches were built in this new frontier, they gathered in homes. The pioneer preachers were, no doubt, poor since the settlers' donations to the pastor's salary were meager. They preached the Gospel, performed marriages and held funerals. Some served more than one church and were called circuit riders. Livingston Parker was a circuit-riding preacher. The first church service held by the Baptists in Iowa was in 1834 in a log cabin in Burlington, Iowa.

A Baptist Society was formed in Franklin Township at the home of Peter Angle on April 12, 1862. The original church clerk's record book, now badly worn with time, and difficult to read after 140 years, was used from May 14, 1864, to the last entry on January 12, 1901, when a new one was purchased. The first fifteen pages have a listing of its "Confession of Faith" or beliefs, backed by numerous scriptures for each statement. Record of Church Covenant meetings and a listing of the original charter members make up the remainder of the book.

The monthly business meetings were called Covenant Meetings and began by scripture reading, hymn singing, a short devotion and testimonies from those present. Those who could not attend often sent their own personal testimony. These meetings were held on Saturday and were sometimes cancelled due to bad weather. Transportation to the meetings was by walking, riding horseback or in a buggy. Keep in mind that there were

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

few, if any, roads to Livingston at that time. Those that did exist were in very poor condition and were called wagon roads.

The church served as the very heartbeat of the lives of the local residents. It was the place for social activity, but more than that, it was the place that taught and even demanded integrity and morality. Its influence reached out into the rural area of this crossroads community. It was the only church for two to three miles radius and was attended by nearly all who lived within that radius. Many of its members lived even further. It was vital to the community it served.

Livingston Parker served as moderator for most of the Covenant Meetings. The opening statements in the minutes were: "The Franklin Baptist Church met at its regular place of worship on Saturday before the third Sabbath of the month." Church discipline was very strict in those days and occasionally some church members' names were removed from the membership rolls for infractions. The reasons given for exclusion or having the hand of fellowship withdrawn were listed in the church clerk's minutes along with the person's name. A committee was appointed to visit with the church member and sufficient time was allowed before being officially acted on. The reasons given for some exclusions were as follows: disagreement over doctrine, non-fellowship or lack of attendance, disregard of Christian duties, dishonest dealings with friends or neighbors, disorderly walk with the Lord, disregard for the authority of the church, disorderly conduct, immoral and licentious conduct, neglect of the family and drunkenness.

One example is in the minutes of early 1877 when the church members met to hear a report of the committee that had been appointed to investigate the unfavorable reports concerning the Christian character of Brother _____. "We the committee made the necessary investigations and found the reports to be true, mainly that he did strike his wife and burn straw under his horse to make it pull. Brother _____ states that at the time of doing wrong, he had become very cold in the cause of Christ, but his wrong had been made right with his family and God, and further that he has long desired and has been trying to return to the standard of piety that should characterize his life. While we believe that Brother _____ has been wrong, which he confesses, yet owing to his former standing and the confession and promises made, and his desire to do right, we would recommend that he be held with the fellowship of the church."

Not all who were disciplined made confession and apology nor were they reinstated.

The pastor's salary or larger sums of money that had to be collected for expenses and repairs were raised by subscriptions or a pledge made by the members. A committee was appointed to raise the funds. The treasurer's records indicate that the members gave a 10 to 50 cent offering once a month. Many of the ministers were laymen who were well versed in the scriptures and were referred to as Brother, rather than Pastor or Reverend.

Services of Franklin Baptist Church were held in members' homes and the local schoolhouse until the monies were raised to build the new church building in 1881. It was first dedicated to its religious service in 1881. Among many events in its more than 125 years was the two-day ordination service for Pastor Livingston G.

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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

Parker. Parker was then called to be a circuit preacher for three churches: Exline, Iowa, St. John, Missouri, and Livingston, Iowa.

The baptistery was located under the stage at the front of the sanctuary. When there was to be a baptism, the baptistery was filled with water. There being no electricity in the building, the water was cold. However one of the men would bring large containers of hot water to pour in with the cold water. It did not warm the water much. One night in the winter after some young ladies were baptized, they were wrapped in blankets, ushered out the back door, placed in the only car on the premises with a heater and rushed off to dry off behind the wood stove of a local lady's home.

The building continued serving its congregation throughout the early to mid 1900s even though the town began to dwindle away due to the railroads that took a path north of Livingston. Other towns along the railroad began to flourish as Livingston began its trek to being a ghost town. The last entry in the church books was in 1967 after which the building was no longer used for church services.

After the closing of the church, the building stood alone and desolate, weathering and decaying, until 1999 when the local cemetery association took on the project of replacing the roof, which had a hole in it allowing the interior of the building to rot. Donations were received and soon the roof, which was made of five layers of shingles, was removed. A green steel roof was installed and the saving of the building was underway.

Several of the cemetery association members and other interested individuals met in 2003 to organize a nonprofit organization and sought and obtained 501(c)(3) tax status. In early 2005 Historic Livingston Foundation replaced the foundation of the building with materials matching as nearly as possible to the original. In the fall of 2005, Historic Livingston Foundation contracted to have the exterior of the building restored. New cedar siding, shingles, a bell tower, even an antique bell and lightning arrestor were installed along with etched glass for the entrance transom touting the name of the church. The next project in restoration of the church building is the interior. The Foundation has found and recovered the original pulpit stand. The Foundation is hopeful that soon church activities, funerals, celebrations, weddings and carry-in lunches reminiscent of the era will be held in the building.

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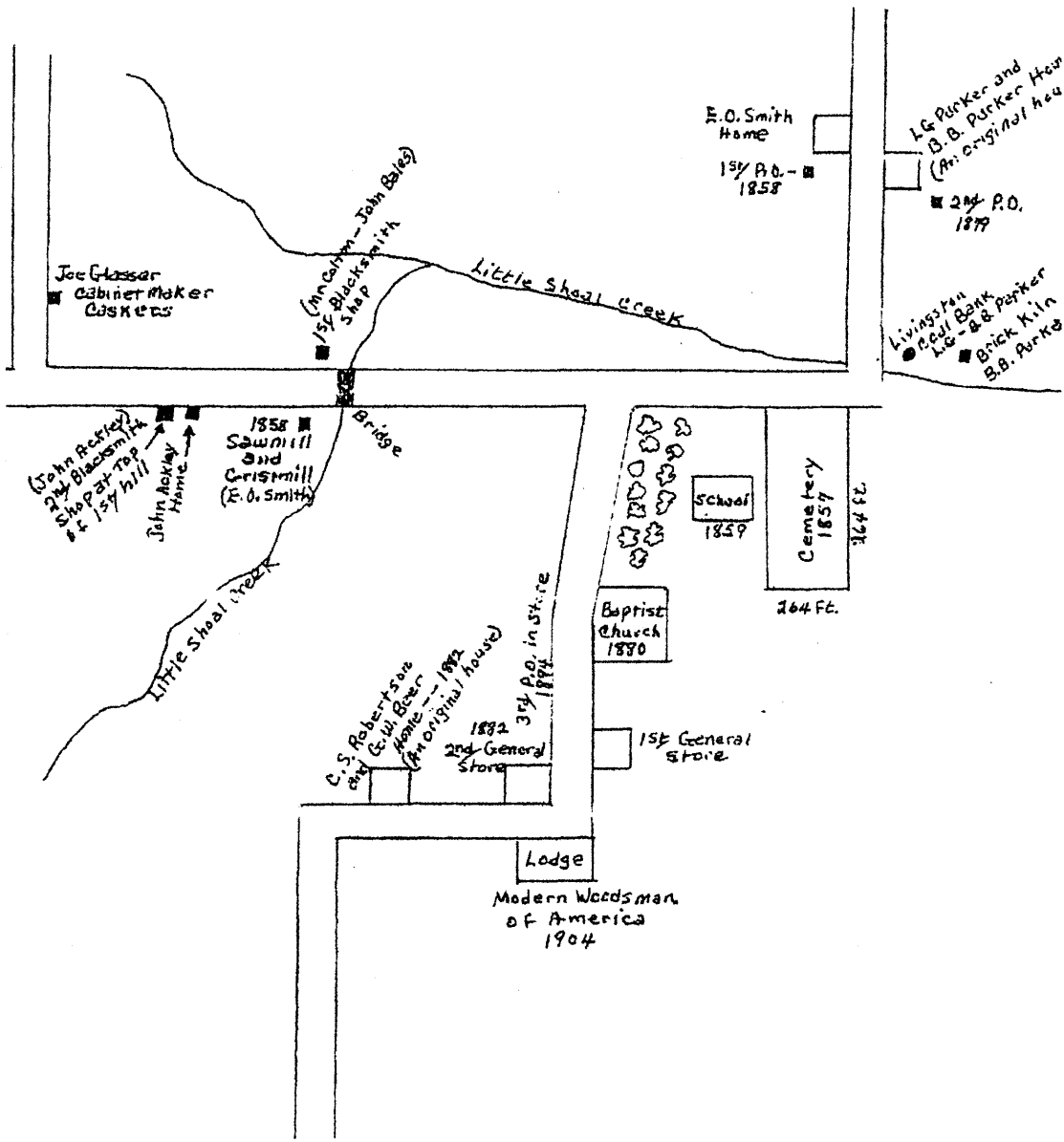
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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

Replicated Historic map of Livingston, Iowa, circa 1900. Not to scale. Drawn by James Fisk, Historian, 2004. The map shows the approximate location of homes and places of business that existed in Livingston when it was a thriving village. This map was drawn from verbal descriptions that were given by Winnie Harl and Clara Desper Kimm Hatfield, descendents of early settlers of Livingston. Linda Ballanger interviewed these ladies when she wrote the history of Livingston and published in the local paper, the *Daily Iowegian* in 1965. The home of George W. Beer and the Franklin Baptist Church are the only original buildings that are still in existence.

LIVINGSTON

North



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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

BIBLIOGRAPHY REFERENCES

The Village of Livingston in Franklin Township, by James Fisk, 2004

Original Church Records of Franklin Baptist Church April 1862-October 1967 in files of James Fisk, Centerville, Iowa

Parker history from the files of Neil E. Harl of Ames, Iowa

Roscoe L. Lokken, *Iowa Public Land Disposal*, 1942.

Memorial Tribute to Mrs. Nancy Judson Parker by Livingston G. Parker

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in Section 10, Township 67 North, Range 19 West, Appanoose County, Iowa. The boundary of the nominated property commences at the easement of 135th Avenue, west 146 feet more or less along the fence line South of the church to the middle of the old road thence North 200 feet to the south school lot, thence east 140 feet more or less along the North side of the church beginning at the centerline of the old road on the west returning to the easement of 135th Avenue on the east, thence south 200 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

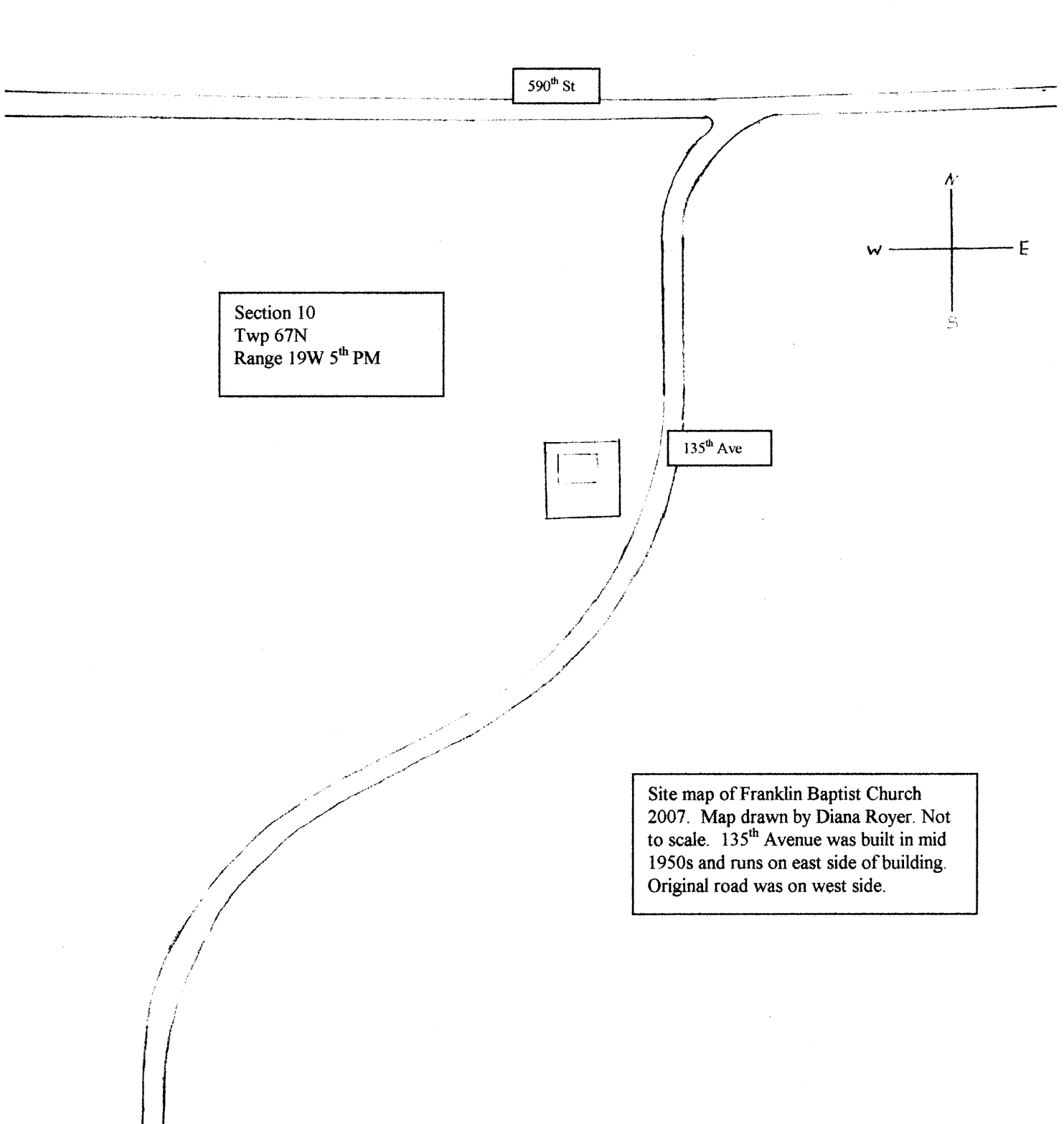
This is the area historically associated with this resource and consistent on the south, west and north by the recorded deed. The east side is bounded by 135th Avenue, which was built in the mid 1950s.

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Site map of Franklin Baptist Church 2007. Map drawn by Diana Royer. Not to scale. 135th Avenue was built in mid 1950s and runs on east side of building. Original road was on west side.

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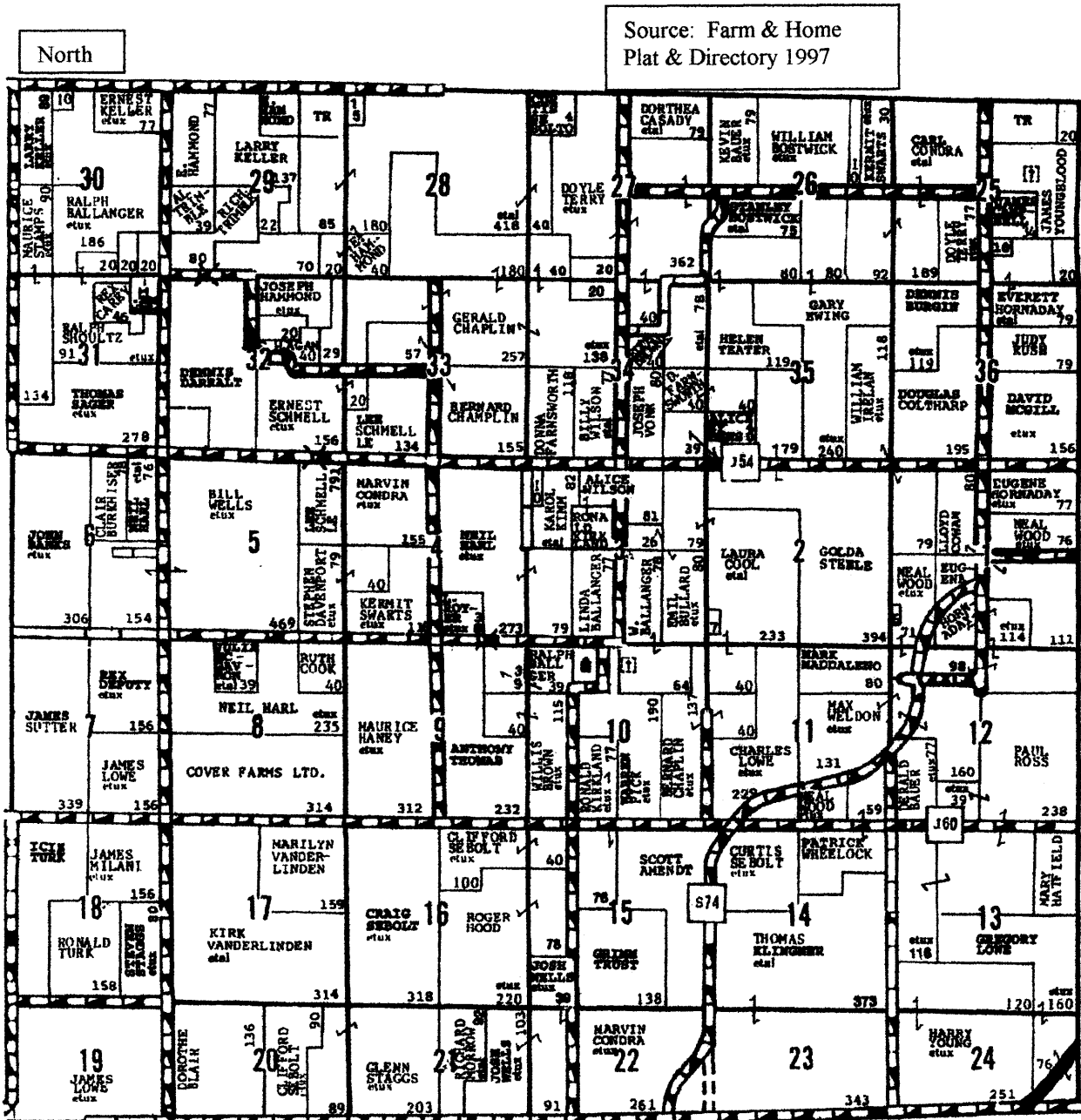
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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

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FRANKLIN PLAT

R-19-W



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Franklin Regular Baptist Church
Appanoose County, Iowa

PHOTOGRAPHS

Linda Ballanger photographed the church building in the accompanying photos. She printed them on an Epson High Definition Photo Printer with Epson Claria Hi-Definition Ink on Epson Premium Glossy Paper. This combination is claimed to preserve a photo over 100 years in dark storage. Linda Ballanger has original CD of photos at her home at 26573 110th Ave, Numa, IA 52544.

Photographs were taken May 12, 2006

All photos are of Franklin Baptist Church, Appanoose County, Iowa

Photo #1- Northwest corner of church showing front (west side) and north side of building. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #2-Photo showing east end of church building. Camera facing west-northwest.

Photo #3-West end of Franklin Baptist Church showing entry door and transom. Glass in transom etched with "Franklin Baptist Church"
Bell tower has antique bell hung in it. Antique lightning arrestor is on bell tower. Camera is facing east.

Photo #4-South side of Church building. Camera facing northwest.

Photo#5 – Southwest corner of Franklin Baptist Church showing west end and south side of building. Camera is facing northeast.

Photo #6 – North side of building showing windows and pediments, cedar shingles and bell tower. Camera is facing south.

Photo #7 – Pediment above transom on west end of church. Camera is facing east.

Photo #8 – Inside of church showing original trusses which originally formed the cathedral ceiling line, original windows and woodwork and wainscoting. Camera facing west showing west end of auditorium.