

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 121
District Name _____
Map Reference # 121

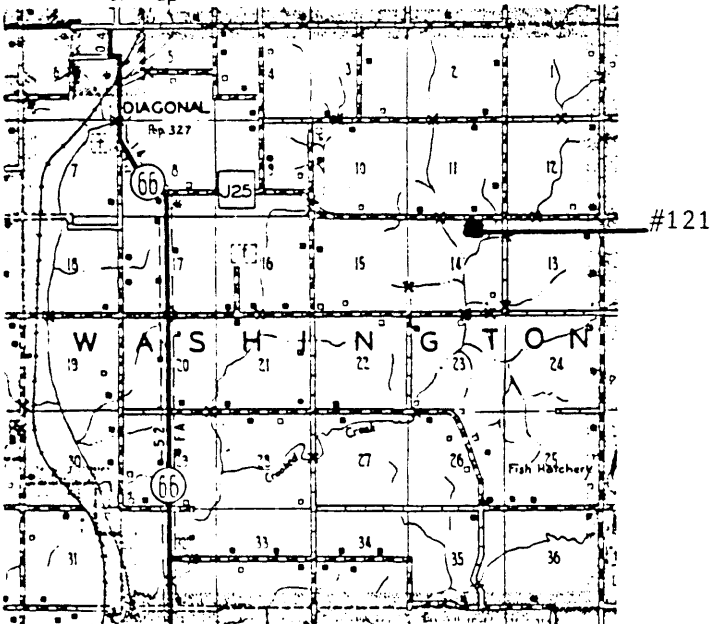
Identification

1. Site Name W. J. Buck Polygonal Barn
2. Village/Town/City Diagonal vic. Township Washington County Ringgold
3. Street Address Off U.S. 169
4. Legal Location _____
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section 1/4 section of 1/4 section
69 N 30 W 14 NE 1/4
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 393,940 northing 4,515,160; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Eldon Starmer
7. Owner(s) Address R. R. #2 Diagonal Iowa 50845
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Gen'l purpose barn Original _____

Description

9. Date of Construction c. 1906-07 Architect/Builder original owner W. J. Buck
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 _____

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll 382 Frame 31 View _____

VBD: A circle 74' diameter, based upon the barn's center point, includes attached early silo.

MAY 27 1986

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

Continuation of 14. Integrity.

Appears to be central octagon with sectioned roof. Gabled hay dormer extends on one full side. Double pitch sheds surround barn 65' diameter. Asphalt shingles over wood. Wood stove silo.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Common Variation; Encircling Wing type.

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

"...This is clearly something unto itself, although an eight-sided variant is located in Warren County and a twelve-sided barn...once existed in Cedar County. The plan mirrors one for Lloyd Z. Jones' stock barn published in Wallaces' Farmer on January 16, 1903...and reprinted in the issues of October 25, 1907 and June 17, 1910" (Soike 1983). The one story wing surrounding the two story central section characterizes this barn as an encircling wing type. The wing is nine-sided with an unusual two-pitch shed roof. The central section is six-sided.

Refer to Continuation Sheet

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

Eldon L. Starmer, RR 2, Diagonal, IA 50845

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

Robert K. Buck, Letter to Lowell J. Soike, dated 31 October 1985.

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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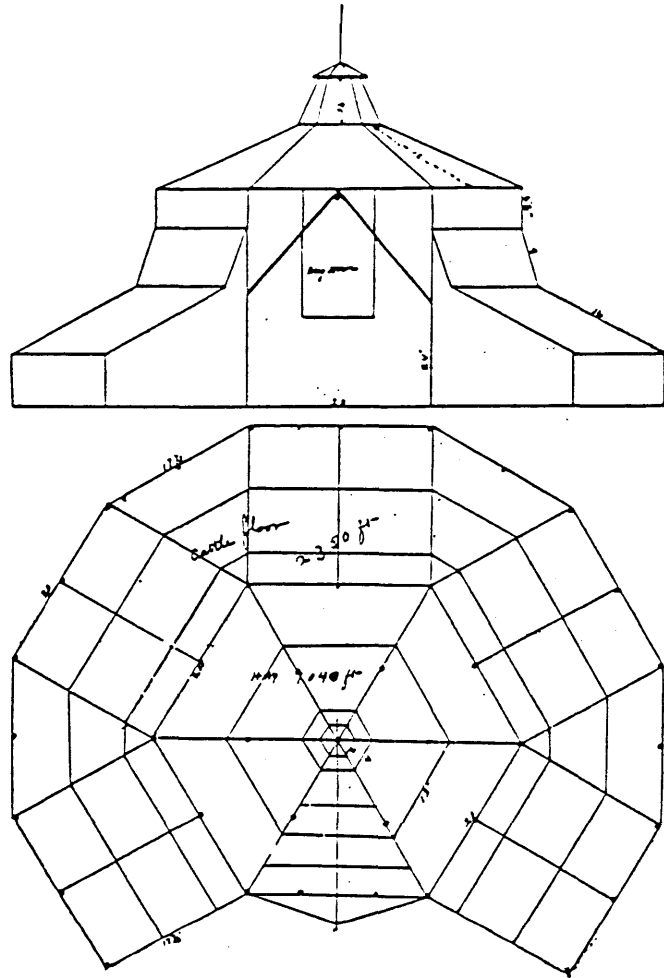
Continuation Sheet

Item Number(s) _____

Historical Background:

Robert K. Buch, grandson of builder W. J. Buck, states that this is the second such barn on this site, the present barn replacing one that burned a few years prior to the 1906-07 construction of this barn. The fire was caused by the storage of green hay in the mow. The replacement barn added a substantial central ventilator to deal with this problem. The plan for the barn did indeed come from Wallace's Farmer. The farm was then called White Oak Farm. Mr. Buck indicates "It was an excellent barn for storing hay, for wintering cattle, for feeding silage and hay, and it was handy for hauling out manure."

Item Number(s) _____



Three times between 1903 and 1910 Wallaces' Farmer published this plan of a 12-sided stock barn built by Lloyd Z. Jones, an Illinois farmer. Consequently at least three Iowa barns of similar design appeared in Cedar, Ringgold and Warren Counties.

Without Right Angles, pp. 52-3.