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3NPS Form 10-900
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OMB No. 10024-0018

94

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 *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 an 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.

Name of Property

historic name Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building

other names/site number Minnesota Valley Canning Co. Building; Green Giant Co. Building

2. Location

street & number 201 First Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Vinton N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Benton code 011 zip code 52349

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title *Kerry W. Smith, Director SHPC* Date 1/25/12

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 3-12-12

Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building
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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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
AGRICULTURE/processing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
CONCRETE
roof ASBESTOS
other

Narrative Description

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

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7. Description

Site: The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building site (Figures 15-17) comprises nearly one-half acre in the northeast corner of Block 5 consisting of Lots 1 and 2 and a strip of land along the north edges of Lots 7 and 8, all in the Original Town of Vinton first platted as the Town of Fremont. The parcel includes vacated sections of intersecting alleys along the west side and through the south edge. Sanborn maps from 1885 through 1941 show the original canning factory at this site (Figures 1-7) expanding to include all of Block 5, except the south 60 feet facing West Third Street. The level site is located a half-block south of the curving bend of the Cedar River that passes through Vinton. The multi-block central business district extends roughly along East and West Fourth Street and along intersecting streets between C Avenue and Third Avenue. The Benton County Court House (National Register-listed) is located a half-block southeast of the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building. In 2011, the balance of Block 5 not included in this National Register nomination is comprised of a paved parking lot located to the west and a series of one-story buildings facing onto West Third Street and First Avenue to the south. These buildings include a classroom and office building for a local community college (111 West Third Street) and a warehouse and garage space for a tire and auto repair operation (215 First Avenue). The latter entity contains a portion of the former husking building related to the canning factory operation. This building is much altered from its original appearance. Neither of the adjoining buildings at 111 West Third Street or 215 First Avenue are National Register eligible.

Seed House Building: The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building is the principal building section at 201 First Avenue and was built in ca. 1927. Property Transfer Records show the property first acquired in 1871 by Samuel H. Watson who later formed the S.H. Watson Canning Company on Block 5 sometime in 1879. The 1885 Vinton plat map (Figure 8) shows the north sections of Lots 1 and 2 containing a building and the 1885 Sanborn Map (Figure 7) confirms the presence of a combination two-story and one-story frame building (nonextant) on an approximate 30 by 80 foot footprint. Historic photos including an advertisement in 1905 (Figure 9) and later Sanborn Maps confirm the continued presence of this frame building on the site through at least 1921 (Figures 2-7). The first photo documenting the present building in place is a view taken in 1931 when the building appears in the background of a scene from the Vinton Sweet Corn Day parade held on September 10, 1931 (Figure 10). Though the photo itself was not printed until some years later, the details of the unusual float featured in the historic view were described in the front page story about the parade in the *Cedar Valley Daily Times*¹ on the day of the parade thus accurately dating the photograph. A second photograph dating from 1937 also depicts the building. (Figure 13)

Another means for documenting the date of the building comes from an interview conducted by Joe Schott, the current owner of the property, with an individual who had knowledge of the building's construction date - Faye Clang Goodell - through her family. Schott interviewed Goodell who was the daughter of Helge Clang, a foundation worker when the building was beginning construction. Helge Clang's daughter and family moved to Vinton in 1926 and Faye recalled her father being injured during a foundation cave-in at the building site in early 1927.² He was attended by the canning company's physician and complained about never healing properly. Therefore, a construction date of ca. 1927 is consistent with an assessment of three sources: Sanborn Maps for 1921 when the building was not present and 1941 after the building was completed (see Figures 1 and 2); the historic image of the completed building taken in 1931 (Figure 10), and Schott's interview with family member of a worker injured on the building site in early 1927.

The Iowa Canning Company Seed House (Building #1) is an example of an industrial building that uses a Gable Roof, 2-story warehouse/factory form more typical of buildings erected during the 19th century rather than a single or multi-story, flat roofed or monitor roofed warehouse/factory form from the early 20th century. The gable roofed

¹"10,000 at Vinton Sweet Corn Day," *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, September 10, 1931,

²Interview by Joe Schott with Faye Clang Goodell, undated.

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building has a rectangular plan measuring approximately 120 feet along West Second Street and 32 feet on the east and west gable ends. The building has a moderate pitched side-gabled roof (8/12 ratio) with narrow 12-inch eaves, a narrow cornice, and no brackets or other eave ornamentation. The building was originally constructed with a poured concrete foundation formed up with 12-inch wide horizontal members (pour marks are evident on interior basement walls). The poured foundation is 16 inches thick and the brick walls are 13 inches thick.

The upper walls of the Seed House are constructed of mottled reddish brown-colored brick laid in a variation of the American bond with every seventh row laid as a header course and the other rows laid as stretcher courses. The interior walls contain a mix of common brick and clay tile brick and block typical of a late 1920s construction date. The exterior brick walls are devoid of brick pattern work or corbelling except for two small areas. The first is a wide rectangular sign area in the east gable peak facing First Avenue. It is formed by an outline of slightly darker brown-colored projecting header brick framing the sign area. The brick in the recessed sign area has a lighter color. There is no evidence of applied lettering or paint residue indicating that the sign area was ever used as such. The Iowa Canning Company had a large sign on the nonextant three-story processing building at one time. The random bond in the sign area includes a mix of headers and stretchers. Projecting darker-colored brick were laid in a diamond shaped-pattern that is centered above the sign and beneath the east gable peak.

The second brick pattern detail is found on the opposite gable end. Here corbelled brick decking supports are located between levels where they served as supports for a roof structure composed of 2x12 inch wood joists set on beams. The roof extended over a small one-story brick structure that connected the Seed House to warehouses (nonextant) to the west. The upper level opening and passage door are original. They are believed to have provided access to the roofs of the warehouses located west of the Seed House in the area that is now a paved parking lot.

A third exterior detail provides evidence of how the internal structural system of the building works. Two sets of nine iron star anchor plates/wall washers are part of the building's internal steel post and beam system. One row is located between the first and second floors and the second at the top of the wall just under the eaves. The outer ends of the internal I-beams are embedded in the masonry walls with each I-beam connected through the wall cavity by a 3/4-inch bolt or rod to the exterior. Here 12-inch steel star washers are held in place by a large nut. The star washers and I-beams together serve as a stabilizing system for the masonry walls.

The most architecturally distinctive element of this industrial building is its fenestration. Tall paired, double-hung windows each measuring 96 inches tall by 34 inches wide contain the original wood sash configured with 9/9 single-glazed lights. Ten pairs of windows are evenly spaced along both levels of the north and south facades. Each pair has a cast concrete sill measuring 101 inches by 5 inches. What appears to be a flat brick arch actually consists of two steel beams (L or U-shaped channels) with concrete sandwiched between and brick courses laid along the exterior surface. On the east gable end, two window pairs are widely spaced on each level. On the west gable end, two openings include a wide cargo entrance on the main level and a passage door that originally led to the roof of the adjoining brick building and the roofs of the warehouses to the west. No windows are present on either level of the west facade. The abundant, amply-sized windows still present along both levels of the north facade and the upper level of the south facade, were typical of many 19th century factories after which this building is modeled. Installation of operable double-hung sash as late as ca. 1927, when metal sash were more common, suggests that the operable function was important for these windows. Some of the window openings on the lower level of the south facade are now located along an interior wall with two window opening groups converted to passage ways between the original building and the addition along the south side, one blocked shut where the exterior staircase addition is located, and one on the upper level made into a passage that connects to the exterior staircase addition. The remaining windows on the south facade lower level are

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extant. Six basement window openings, only the two on the east end remain extant with their original three vertical lights.

Physical and documentary evidence strongly suggests the building was originally used as an agricultural seed house for the drying, conditioning, grading, processing, storing and distributing of seeds – especially corn seed – used by farmers growing produce under private contract to the Iowa Canning Company or in conjunction with raising crops on company-owned farmland (see figure 12 for 1934 contract example). The 1941 Sanborn Map – the first to depict this building – clearly shows the building used as a “Seed House.” Interviews with several seed processing experts confirm the capacity of the building’s design to serve this function. A similar nonextant seed house used by the D.M. Ferry Seed Company in Rochester, Michigan was very similar in form, scale, masonry material, overall design and detail (Figure 11)

The design and physical arrangement of the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building and surviving artifacts appear to confirm its use as a seed house. The east-west orientation of the long sides of the building towards the south provided abundant natural light while the windows facing the north provided ample cross-ventilation. On the south façade, 10 pairs of operable double-hung 9/9 windows on each level held 20 units measuring 96 by 34 inches each. Together the 40 windows on the south façade provided approximately 853 square feet of window glass able to capture natural light and heat year round for seed drying and storing purposes. On the north façade, a matching set of 40 windows captured breezes off the Cedar River located a half block away. The interior floor plan for the main and upper levels included a single spacious open room on each level measuring approximately 120 by 30 feet with 12-foot ceilings.

Owner of the building, Joseph Schott, reports that he has identified rows of nails evenly spaced at 7 inch intervals along the ceiling joists on each level. An examination of shadow marks found around the nails shows the former use of circular wire hooks on each nail. One explanation for these nails and wire hanger marks is their use to hold suspended strings of multiple corn drying hangers. A number count of nails on the main level completed by Schott shows the presence of 4,389 nails on the main floor alone. The spacing with this density of hangers at 7 inch intervals would still have provided good circulation for drying. Typically, an individual corn dryer used on a family farm would hold about 10 ears spaced on prongs along opposite sides of a center rod about 20 inches in length. These could be attached to each other vertically allowing the suspension of a string of racks. In the Iowa Canning Company Seed House, seven driers could fit vertically under a 12' ceiling holding 70 ears efficiently. A crude calculation using this method would provide for drying space of over 300,000 ears of seed corn per floor or a total of 600,000 for the whole building. Another seed corn drying alternative would have been the use of specialized drying racks that were in use during the 1920s. Various racks held significantly more cobs per cubic foot, including a number produced by the Bain Brothers Manufacturing Company in nearby Cedar Rapids in the mid-1920s. In either case, the open, spacious floor plan provided sufficient space for drying and air circulation using one or more drying apparatus – two important factors recommended by seed corn conditioning experts writing during the 1920s.

Other design features of the building were consistent with its use as a seed house. These included the ten 30-inch aerator vents evenly spaced along the roof ridge. Three of these remain extant but the openings are still visible on the upper level of the building for all ten vents. Locations for all of the aerator locations continue to appear on aerial photographs of the building’s roof ridge in 2011. These aerators were used for passive ventilation and air circulation. They operated in conjunction with the large fully operable double-hung windows on each floor. Five aerator vents were connected to the main level via ducts through the upper level floor boards and five served the upper level without ducts. Each vent had its own “flapper” that was controlled from the floor level that it vented. The simple operating system had two chains that pulled the flapper into a locked open or closed position by catching the chain on its respective notched steel plate. Together partially opened windows

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and open aerators would draw warmer air up and through the building to vent it through the roof aerators – all in a passively operated system.

During the 1930s, the use of hybrid seed in Iowa began to be more common though open pollinated corn seed remained the preferred choice for Iowa farmers until after World War II. It is likely that the use of this building as a seed house declined after the war as reliable, higher quality hybrid seed corn became available. A possibility for alternative uses after its operation as a seed house are the functions the previous building on this site had included - storage of boxes and cans associated with the processing and packaging of the company's products.

Adjoining Building Sections: Along the south side of the Seed House, several additions and building remnants from earlier canning operations and subsequent uses remain together with the main Seed House counted as three buildings. At the east end of the south side of the Seed House, a two-story concrete block and brick veneered stair well (Perfex addition) was constructed in 1969 by Perfex-Iowa, Inc. The stairwell provided a partially enclosed set of steps that led to the upper level of the former seed house, which was converted to offices by Perfex-Iowa. The stairwell addition has walls constructed of reddish brown brick, a vertical multi-level translucent plastic block window centered on the south side, and a flat roof with a low parapet. A partially blocked opening on the east façade is the only entrance in the structure. It was partially blocked by fill put in place sometime before 2000.

An adjoining three-bay loading dock and one-story storage addition was built along the balance of the original building's south wall at the same time by Perfex-Iowa (Perfex addition). This addition has concrete block walls with red brick veneer on the east facade, a flat roof, and though built with three overhead doors in 1969-70 at the same time that the stair well was built, the loading dock openings were later modified by Perfex to contain one double-wide door (23 feet wide) in place of the two original south overhead doors. This modification was done during the 1970s under the ownership of Ideal Industries, Inc.

The 1969-70 loading dock addition connects the ca. 1927 Seed House with another one-story building remnant (cooking) that dates from ca. 1920s according to Sanborn maps and was originally used for cooking. This building remnant originally had two stories but has now been lowered to one level. This building has a low-pitched shed roof with a mix of brick and clay tile used for the east wall and corrugated metal for the west wall. One sliding door and one closed opening are now open to the east where this building remnant is visible from First Avenue. This cooking building remnant originally stood to the rear of an adjoining three-story masonry building (nonextant) used for processing, removing silk, and slicing corn from ca. 1913 to 1959. The nonextant three-story building that stood directly east of the 1920s cooking building remnant was reduced to one-story by 1969 and the bottom one story section was razed in 2001. The upper level brick were used as fill for the basement cooling tanks in the cooking building during demolition. A concrete cap was put on this area at that time and survives in 2011.

Another building addition (alleyway addition) linked to the building complex along the south side has an east-west concrete block wall that is connected to the south wall of the 1920s cooking building remnant by three steel I-beams and no roof. The area has a concrete floor and is located opposite a series of openings (overhead door, four closed windows and a closed overhead door opening) in the south wall of the 1920s cooking building remnant. The canning company's husking shed has been substantially modified and is located to the south of the alleyway addition. It is not included in this nomination.

The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building retains its integrity from the period of significance identified for this property, 1927- 1959. Aspects of integrity and how the Seed House and various building additions and remnants meet the integrity required for National Register listing are discussed below:

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- **Location:** The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex occupies a portion of the original one-block location of the S.H. Watson Canning Company and its successors including the Iowa Canning Company in the town of Vinton in Benton County. This period extends beyond the period of significance for this property to include the period ca. 1879 through 1959 or the period of the existence of a canning factory on this block. The main ca. 1927 Seed House and related additions and building remnants included in the nomination have not been physically moved, though each has been re-purposed.
- **Design:** Despite construction of the 1969-70 loading dock addition and alterations made to the ca. 1920s cooking building remnant, the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex retains integrity. This evaluation is made primarily on the fact the principal building section included in the nomination – the ca. 1927 Seed House retains its original form, floor plan, interior special arrangements, three-level steel post and beam structural system, and its original industrial form. The form is based on late 19th century multi-level industrial buildings though it was built in the early 20th century. Changes to other portions of the building complex that compromise the complex's design integrity result from the need to have the facility continue to function as a canning complex. Examples include the addition and removal of window openings based on how a space was being used or the requirements of changing equipment used in the canning process or storage process such as the installation of a modern freight elevator in the Seed House.
- **Setting:** The setting for the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex retains some but not all of its original integrity. Loss of setting integrity relates to two primary factors. The first was the closure of the canning company in 1959 when the owners discontinued operation and the use of buildings on the complex was shifted to other forms of manufacturing, office space and storage. Some portions of the block-sized canning company site were razed and saw the construction of a parking lot and a community college classroom building. The second factor contributing to loss of setting integrity occurred following the June 2008 flood of the property and adjacent working class residential neighborhood. A block of small to medium sized frame residences were documented at that time and later razed. The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex survived and as a result, continues the historic association of this section of the community with a 19th and 20th century canning company. Therefore, though there has been a loss of setting integrity, the sizeable building complex that survives retains sufficient integrity to tell the story of this industrial operation.
- **Materials:** The materials originally used for construction of the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex remain intact with some exceptions. The original brick (reddish brown common brick), mortar, and poured concrete foundation used in the 1927 Seed House remain intact as do the original wood frame window sash, interior wood floors, and interior concrete floors. For additions to the seed house, original materials also largely remain though the configurations of the spaces have been altered based on changes and use in turn contributing to the introduction of non-original materials. In the Seed House, for example, the need for executive offices in the 1970s saw the introduction of temporary walls, wood paneling, and carpeting in the west two-thirds of the upper level. Some of these materials have since been removed revealing the continued presence of the upper floor's original materials.
- **Workmanship:** Integrity of workmanship is evident throughout the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex. With a few minor exceptions, the masonry work of original concrete workers and brick layers remains visible in the Seed House and in remnant buildings or additions. The building's structural system of steel posts and I-beams remains unaltered. Though some new wall openings have been made between walls sections, windows remain as originally installed. As noted above, the continued presence of nailing rows along ceiling joists believed to be associated with the Seed House's use as a seed drying space also remain intact.
- **Feeling:** The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex and primarily the Seed House

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continue to evoke an historic sense of the property's use. As the sole surviving building associated with the company in Vinton, the building's prominence along a major state highway midway between the downtown business district and the Cedar River help to tell the story of this important local food processing concern. Within a few years of the Seed House's construction, the community began to celebrate the presence of the corn canning operation with a sweet corn festival and parade. Physical proximity of this property to both of those events helps to convey a sense of the property's historic use.

- Association: Integrity of association refers to the degree to which a property has a direct link to the event, person or development for which the property is significant. In the case of the Iowa Canning Company complex, the link is direct. The building complex is well-known as having been part of the "canning company." Less is known by the community about the use of individual building sections five decades after the plant's closing. National Register designation may help in re-establishing this understanding.

A summary of the building sections, construction dates, uses, and their location on Figure 16: Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building Sketch Plan follows:

Building Section	Year	Function	Figure 16 Reference
Seed House, north side	ca. 1927	2-story, sorting and storing seed; storage	#1
Cooking Building remnant and Engine Room, south side	ca. 1920s	1-story, cooking and engine room	#3
Perfex Addition, east and central section	1969 - 1970	Stairwell, loading dock and storage section for Perfex-Iowa operations	#2
Perfex Alleyway Addition remnant, south edge	1969 - 1970	Storage and covered access to former Cooking Building	#4

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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.)

- [X] 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.
[X] 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1927-1959

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

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8. Statement of Significance

The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building at 201 First Avenue is significant under Criteria A and C. The building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the operations of the Iowa Canning Company, one of Iowa's earliest and largest canning operations from the late 19th through the mid-20th century. During this time frame, the Iowa Canning Company was a major seasonal employer in Vinton and provided a processing center for farmers raising corn and other vegetable crops on thousands of acres of agricultural land in Benton County and adjacent areas. As a reflection of this historical importance, the community established an annual sweet corn festival in 1929 attended by thousands of residents and visitors each year in order to celebrate the harvest and its economic value to the community. The building also draws specific attention to the story of seed corn development and processing during the 1920s and that eventually lead to seed corn hybridization efforts in other parts of the state. Under Criterion C, the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building is a locally significant example of an early 20th century building based on a late 19th century industrial building form - a Gable Roof, 2-story warehouse/factory form. The building was first used as a seed house to handle the conditioning, processing, and storing of seed used by the Iowa Canning Company for its contract farmers and company-owned farming operations. The primary seed processed here was for sweet corn production.

The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building was determined potentially individually eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C as well as a contributing resource in the potentially eligible *A Avenue and Second Street Historic District* in 2009 by the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As the last building associated with the Iowa Canning Company's operations in the community, the building anchored a small residential historic district both visually and historically at the time. The balance of the district contained residential properties significant for their association with the early residential development of Vinton. The collection of residences was home to working class Vinton families and their vernacular residential forms are typical for the period of significance that extends from ca. 1870 to 1958. The *A Avenue and Second Street Historic District* contained 15 primary resources, 12 contributing and 3 noncontributing, at the time that it was surveyed following the Cedar River flood of 2008. In 2009, all of the contributing buildings in the district except the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building were razed due to extensive flood damage. The Seed House is the sole surviving building associated with this important aspect of Vinton's canning factory history. The period of significance for the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building is 1927 – 1959 when it was owned and used in conjunction with canning company activities. This period extends from the year the principal building section in this nomination – the Seed House – was constructed and extends through the year that the last owner of the canning complex, the Green Giant Co., ceased operation in 1959.

Vinton Historical Background

Vinton was established as the town of Fremont in the 1840s shortly after the area had been logged and settlers were moving to the area for purposes of farming and milling. By 1846, the first post office for "Vinton" was in operation. The county seat for Benton County was established here soon thereafter and the first courthouse was completed by 1849. Several mills were established along the Cedar River in the following decade and more than a dozen business houses were flourishing by the end of the 1850s. Population stood at 1010 in 1861. The first railroad was completed by the end of the decade and the second during the 1870s.

As noted above, the blocks of the former *A Avenue and Second Street West Historic District* were among the earliest to be platted and developed in Vinton. Most are included in Block 4 of the Original Town of Fremont with the balance in Beckett's Addition. The buildings occupied an important location along the route that extended to an earlier bridge crossing identified on the 1885 plat of Vinton. This bridge was in place by the 1860s with the crossing point located at A Avenue, one block upstream of the current crossing at First Avenue. The 1885

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Sanborn Map shows the L-shaped district's blocks substantially developed with residences and a 2-story frame industrial building along the south side of the 100 block of Second Street W, what was then part of the S.H. Watson Canning Company. Three decades later in the 1920s, the residences remained but a new 2-story masonry building was now owned by the Iowa Canning Company.

Historical Background for Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building at 201 First Avenue

The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building at 201 First Avenue was constructed in ca. 1927. As was noted above, the date was determined by conducting an examination of Sanborn Maps published before and after its construction, historic photographs, and an interview conducted by Joe Schott, the building owner, with an individual who had knowledge of the construction.

The First Avenue canning factory site was one of two sites controlled in Vinton by the Iowa Canning Company following the merger of the Vinton Canning Company and the Iowa Canning Company (formerly H.B. Kelley Canning Company) in 1921. The resulting company took the name "Iowa Canning Company." The Vinton Canning Company, the older of the two, traced its roots to 1879 when Samuel H. Watson, a Vinton pioneer, successful banker, and holder of school and town offices, opened a factory bearing his name at the corner of First Avenue and Second Street West. The S.H. Watson Canning Company is among the earliest if not the first sugar corn canning company organized in Iowa³ (see Figure 19 for excerpt of contemporary history of Vinton canning factories). The S.H. Watson Canning Company originally had two buildings flanking a power house (all nonextant) and during the first season processed corn and tomatoes raised by local farmers. The canning company operated under various business names through the years. The earliest available Sanborn Map shows the warehouse as S.H. Watson Canning Company in 1885, which coincides with the firm's operation from 1879-1890). The 1892 Sanborn Map shows the buildings operating as the Cedar Valley Packing Company, which operated from 1890 to 1897. In 1898 several years following S.H. Watson's death, the company was bought out and incorporated as the Vinton Canning Company. It continued under this name until 1920-21 (verified by Sanborn Maps for 1899, 1906, 1913, and 1921) when it was absorbed by the Iowa Canning Company, see below.

In 1892 a second canning factory formed in Vinton as the "Kelley Canning Company" with W.C. Ellis, Frank G. Ray and H.B. Kelley serving as its owner-officers. Kelley was a former plant superintendent at the S.H. Watson Canning Company who had successfully solved problems associated with keeping the corn fresh until canning thus improving the profits of the company. In 1895 the Kelly Canning Company of Vinton was reorganized as the "Iowa Canning Company." Four years later in 1899, Kelly left to found a family dynasty of canning companies owned and operated by his four sons beginning with the first plant in Waverly, Iowa.⁴ By World War I, the Iowa Canning Company had branch factories in La Porte City, Garrison and Shellsburg. Together with the Kelley Canning Company plant in Vinton, the Iowa Canning Company's plants processed nearly 9 million cans of corn annually under 23 brands. The capacity of the Vinton canning site alone exceeded 3 million cans annually including such brands as "Vinton Blue," "Vinton Yellow," "Vinton Red," "Vinton Green," "Vinton Black," "Iowa's Pride," and "Iowa Chief." 250 workers were employed during the peak season before World War I. Throughout this time period the company produced old reliable product lines and experimented with a few new ones. Sweet corn, peas, beans, and succotash were successful product lines while crops such as pumpkin were experimental in the 1920s.

³William Moore, "A Brief History of the Canning Business in the Central West," *A History of the Canning Industry by its Most Prominent Men*, Arthur I. Judge, editor (Baltimore: The Canning Trade Magazine), 1914 (published as a "Souvenir of the 7th Annual Convention of the National Cannery and Allied Associations, Baltimore, Feb'y 2 to 7, 1914"), p. 25.

⁴*Ibid.*

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At the end of World War I, demand for canned vegetable products fell off likely due to reduction of sales through military contracts, and in January 1920, local newspapers announced the buyout of the Vinton Canning Company factory site by the Iowa Canning Company. The official merger was reported in newspaper accounts on March 8, 1921. The 1921 season saw canning operations cut back as much as two-thirds at Iowa's 70 canning factories. Both canning plant sites remained open in Vinton during the decade of the 1920s.

Midway through the decade, an event occurred in Benton County that prompted a major change for the operations of the Iowa Canning Company. Growing conditions presented a major problem for the company as well as other seed corn growers in both 1924 and more acutely, at the end of the 1925 growing season. In October an early hard freeze prior to the harvesting of sweet corn being ripened for use as seed damaged the corn that remained unharvested. Of the 24,000 bushels of seed corn needed to plant the 1926 crop, only half was harvested before the freeze. The viability of the post-freeze corn seed was in serious doubt. As a result seed testing stations were set up by county farm bureau agents in eastern Iowa including Benton County where Agent Charles C. Heezen was in charge. The testing program was announced for Benton County in January 1926. The first farmers to be tested brought corn from questionable seed corn harvests that took place post-freeze came from Vinton, Urbana, Center Point and Mt. Auburn. Concern for the state of seed corn was acknowledged when Iowa Governor John Hammill declared February 1926 to be seed corn testing month. School children were given copies of the proclamation to distribute to their parents to "stir up their parents to greater activity in testing their seed corn without any further delay."⁵ The county agent also organized a survey of seed corn through an appointed "seed corn co-operator" appointed at each school. The results from queries of every farmer would identify who would need to buy seed corn, whether viable seed corn picked before the freeze would be available for sale.

By the end of February 1926, the seed corn testing results were announced. The *Cedar Valley Daily Times* used front page headlines to announce the seriousness of the problem on February 23rd - "Experts Fear Seed Corn Famine." County Agent Heezen wrote the article the paper published beginning with a statement of his strong concern following completion of the tests at the seed corn testing station. He wrote "Farmers who think that the reports on germination of seed corn in Benton county are all 'talk' and that their seed corn will grow all right when spring comes, are in serious danger of meeting their banker next fall with a notice of foreclosure." As support, Heezen referenced testing completed on 584 ears of corn submitted by one Benton County farmer that showed a test of strong viability on only 23 percent of the seed corn. It is was against this backdrop of concern for sweet corn seed production that the following year, the Iowa Canning Company moved forward with efforts to build a modern, company-owned seed house at its First Avenue location in the spring of 1927.

In July 1929, Iowa Canning Company merged with the Sac Canning Company of Sac City, Iowa. The merged company had seven plants including the two in Vinton with others in La Porte City, Garrison, Shellsburg, Sac City and Storm Lake. Together the company's assets were valued at \$1 million in 1929. Perhaps to celebrate the merger, downtown business leaders organized a new event for Vinton in September 1929 - Sweet Corn Day. The event was designed to coincide with the end of the packing season and continued annually during the next four decades drawing as many as 10,000 visitors to the downtown during the festival.

By 1941, Sanborn maps show the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building at 201 First Avenue in use as a "Seed House." As discussed previously, it is likely that the building was used for drying, sorting, processing and storing seed corn for use by farmers contracted to grow corn for the Iowa Canning Company and for operations at the farms owned by the Iowa Canning Company. A 1934 "Sweet Corn Agreement" contract (Figure 12) states

⁵"Farmers Need 24,000 Bu. For Spring Sowing," *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, January 29, 1926.

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that the Iowa Canning Company will furnish seed corn at the proper time for planting and that the grower agrees to pay the company 6 cents per pound from the proceeds of the corn delivered under the contract.⁶

There are no known examples of similar seed houses in Iowa though an agricultural history survey of the topic of canning companies has not been completed in the state. An example of a similar seed house erected in Rochester, Michigan occurred shortly before World War I. The D.M. Ferry Company, forerunner of Ferry-Morse Seed Company, built a two-story, gable-roofed brick building (nonextant) similar in design but on a larger scale than the Iowa Canning Company Seed House. The D.M. Ferry seed house had a similar long rectangular foot print, and as with the Iowa Canning Company Seed House, contained aerator vents along the roof ridge for circulation purposes and abundant windows – two levels with 20 units on each floor plus windows in the raised basement and attic dormers (Figure 11). The spacing roughly matched that of the Vinton building.

Though no archival research has yet identified efforts by the Iowa Canning Company to raise its own seeds, it is likely that the company did for at least some of their crops given the design of this building and its identification as a seed house on the 1941 Sanborn Map. Alan Gaul, Seed Conditioning Specialist with the Iowa State University Seed Science Center in Ames, Iowa describes the practice of agricultural producers as common to handle production of their own seed. He cites examples of popcorn and tomato seeds being produced by popcorn growers/packagegers and ketchup bottlers in order to ensure reliable, high quality seeds for their niche crops. He notes that in such an arrangement it is typical for such companies to provide the seed to contract growers.⁷ This fact is confirmed in the language of the "Sweet Corn Agreement" used by Iowa Canning Company in 1934 as noted above.

There is no evidence that the Iowa Canning Company's Seed House ever had mechanical adaptations to provide electric powered ventilation, dehumidification, heating or cooling. The practice of adding burners for drying and fans for circulation typically took place at one end of an existing building. If this had taken place it would have occurred at the west end of the Seed House but this section of the former alley has been elevated and paved with no evidence of potential equipment installation remaining on the building's west facade.

During World War II and the post-war years, it appears that the Iowa Canning Company participated in various guest worker programs operated through the U.S. government to supplement local work forces during harvest seasons. Beginning in 1942, Federal measures allowed workers from Mexico and the West Indies to legally immigrate. An executive order covering Mexico was signed in August 1942 (the Mexican "bracero" program) and for the Bahamas in March 1943 and for Jamaica in April 1943 (the British West Indies Temporary Alien Labor Program). Both programs were labor made public law. Though most of these guest workers assisted with crop harvests along the east and west coasts, some found their way to the heartland in states like Michigan for the harvest of beets and apples. A similar program introduced a decade later was known as the H-2 or H-2A Program and took its name from the provision of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act that permitted temporary workers to enter the U.S. until the program ended in 1961.⁸

The extent to which migrant labor played a role in states like Iowa has not been thoroughly studied, however, the presence of workers from Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, and the Bahamas is recounted in oral history interviews and in newspaper stories that recorded the annual harvests. For example, 80 Jamaican workers were hired in 1948 according to a newspaper account. During these years, the guest workers resided in temporary

⁶ Sweet Corn Agreement for Shellsburg, Iowa Plant, 1934 season, private collection of Richard Farmer, Vinton, Iowa.

⁷ Interview with Alan Gaul, Iowa State University Seed Science Center, by Marlys Svendsen, March 30, 2011.

⁸ Amesen, Eric, editor. *Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Work-class History, Volume 1*. New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 563-564, pp. 709-711.

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communities located around the perimeter of Vinton with an effort made by local officials to widely separate different national groups. The crude temporary buildings erected during these years mostly have not survived with the exception of an area allegedly located on 13th Street West between H and J avenues. A 1951 Vinton telephone directory lists the "Green Giant Company labor camp, W. 13th" confirming the possibility of this location for at least one worker camp. According to Charlene Culbertson, whose mother was one of the labor camp supervisors, members of the families who returned year to year in the Mexican camp became friends of her mother. Another Vinton resident noted that the migrant workers frequently spent their earnings locally recounting that Mexican workers formed a welcome customer group for his family's A & W drive-in restaurant business each summer as late as the 1950s, setting up impromptu guitar concerts for their fellow workers.

At the end of the war in 1947, the Minnesota Valley Canning Company bought out the locally owned Iowa Canning Company. Operations continued after 1950 under another name, the Green Giant Company. Employment exceeded 600 during the harvest seasons with 23 year round local workers during the balance of the year during the decade of the 1950s. In 1959, after lengthy efforts to undertake reinvestment and expansion of the two Vinton plants failed, the Green Giant Company closed out its local operation and sold both of its Vinton facilities.

The Iowa Canning Company Seed House and adjacent facilities were converted for use as several manufacturing facilities following the end of the packing season in 1959. It had been sold by the Green Giant Company to Keith Mossman in 1957 and passed from Mossman and his wife Evelyn in 1966 to James and Lillian Keltly. James operated Kelrad Corporation of Vinton which manufactured engine cooling radiators. A short time later, the Keltys sold the property as well as their business to the Perfex-Iowa Company. Like Kelrad, Perfex manufactured engine cooling radiators, heat exchangers and other heating and cooling equipment. Later the building was used by Ideal Industries, Inc., which manufactured farm implements.

Joseph Schott and his wife Peggy, current owners of the property, acquired it in 2002. In June 2008 a major flood along the Cedar River which is located a half-block north of the Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building site caused major losses to property owners along Second Street West, A Avenue, and First Avenue. The Seed House building took on water in its basement and 30 inches of the first floor as well as sections of the rest of the complex. Future plans for the building's reuse by the Schotts remain under consideration.

Summary: The Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building complex includes the company Seed House and several other building remnants and later additions. The Seed House, the main building in the complex, is a good example of an early 20th century industrial building using a Gable Roof, 2-story warehouse/factory form more commonly associated with 19th century industrial building practices. The building was first used as a seed house to handle the conditioning, processing, and storing of seed used by the Iowa Canning Company for its contract farmers and company-owned farming operations. The building is significant for its association with the operations of the Iowa Canning Company, one of Iowa's largest canning operations from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century. As the last surviving building associated with the Iowa Canning Company's operations, the building tells the story of this important local business.

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Interview, Charlene Culbertsen, daughter of canning factory employee who worked as a supervisor at a labor camp during the 1950s, Elkader, Iowa, August 2010.

Interview, Paul Dokes, retired, Iowa State University professor and owner of Iowa Ames Best Seed company, March 30, 2011.

Interview, Richard Farmer, local historian, Benton County Historical Society, Vinton, Iowa, October 28, 2010 and review of personal Vinton canning factory collections.

Interview, Alan Gaul, Seed Conditioning Specialist with Iowa State University Seed Science Center, Ames, Iowa, March 30, 2011.

Interview, David Irvin, Sr., retired, with Campbell Dryer, AEC Enterprises, Des Moines, Iowa, March 30, 2011.

Interview, Barry Lefstad, Vinton Historical Society, Vinton, Iowa, October 28, 2010.

Interview, Robert LaGrange, Vinton local historian, 2009.

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Interviews, Joseph Schott, owner of 201 First Avenue and local historian, October 28, 2010 and March-May 2011.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

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 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 Marlys A. Svendsen, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

organization for City of Vinton date April 2011

street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road telephone 715/469-3300

city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Joseph M. And Peggy Schott

street & number 54 Grove Street telephone (319) 521-2089

city or town Central City state IA zip code 52214

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 & 2 and Lots 7 & 8 except for the S 114', all In Block 5, Original Town of Vinton; also includes the vacated sections of the east-west and north-south alleys on the west and south sides of the building.

Boundary Justification

This parcel includes the surviving parcel of land containing the 1927 Seed House and contiguous building sections and additions associated with the Iowa Canning Company and its subsequent owners.

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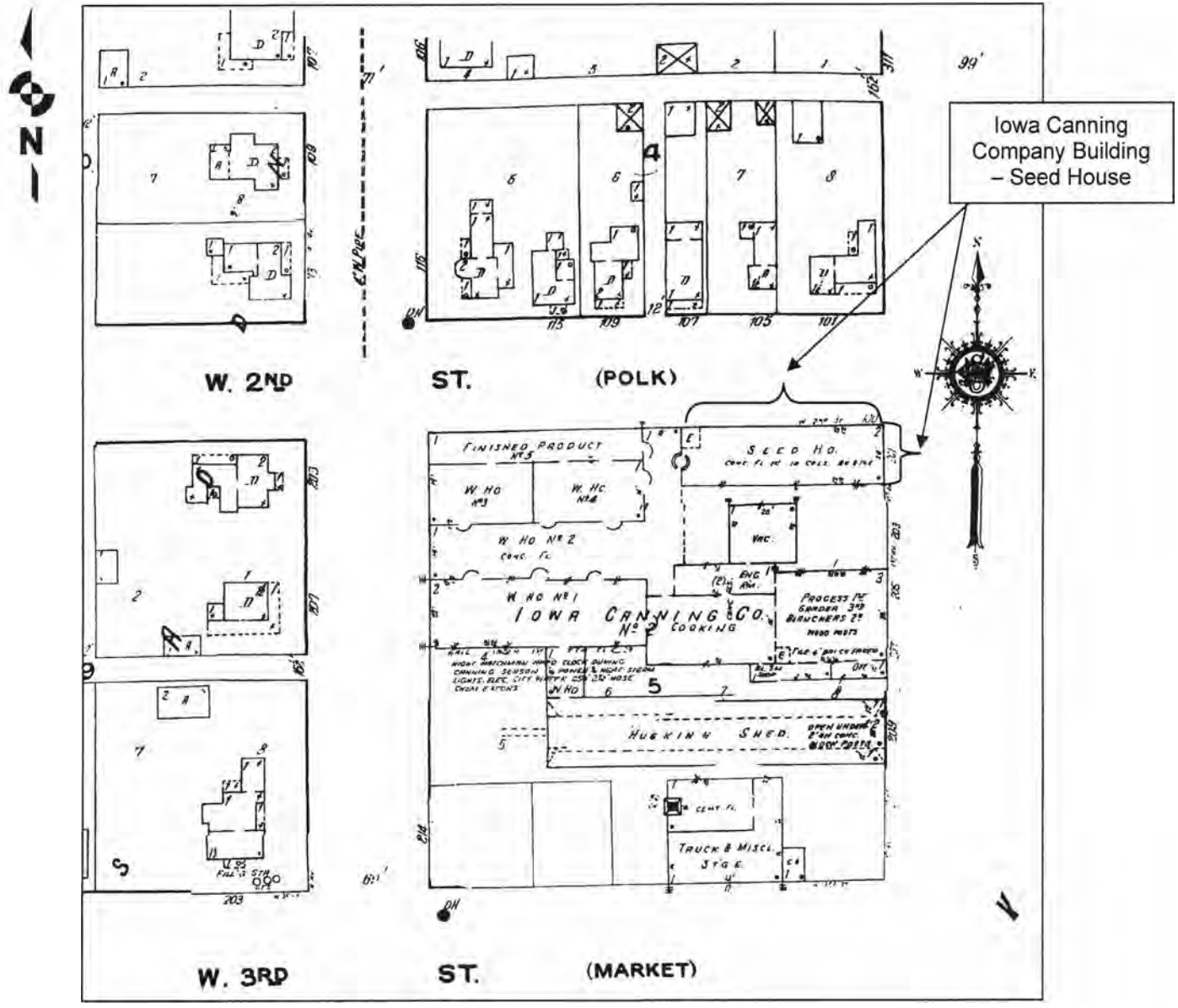
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Figure 1: 1921 Sanborn Company Map, updated to 1941 (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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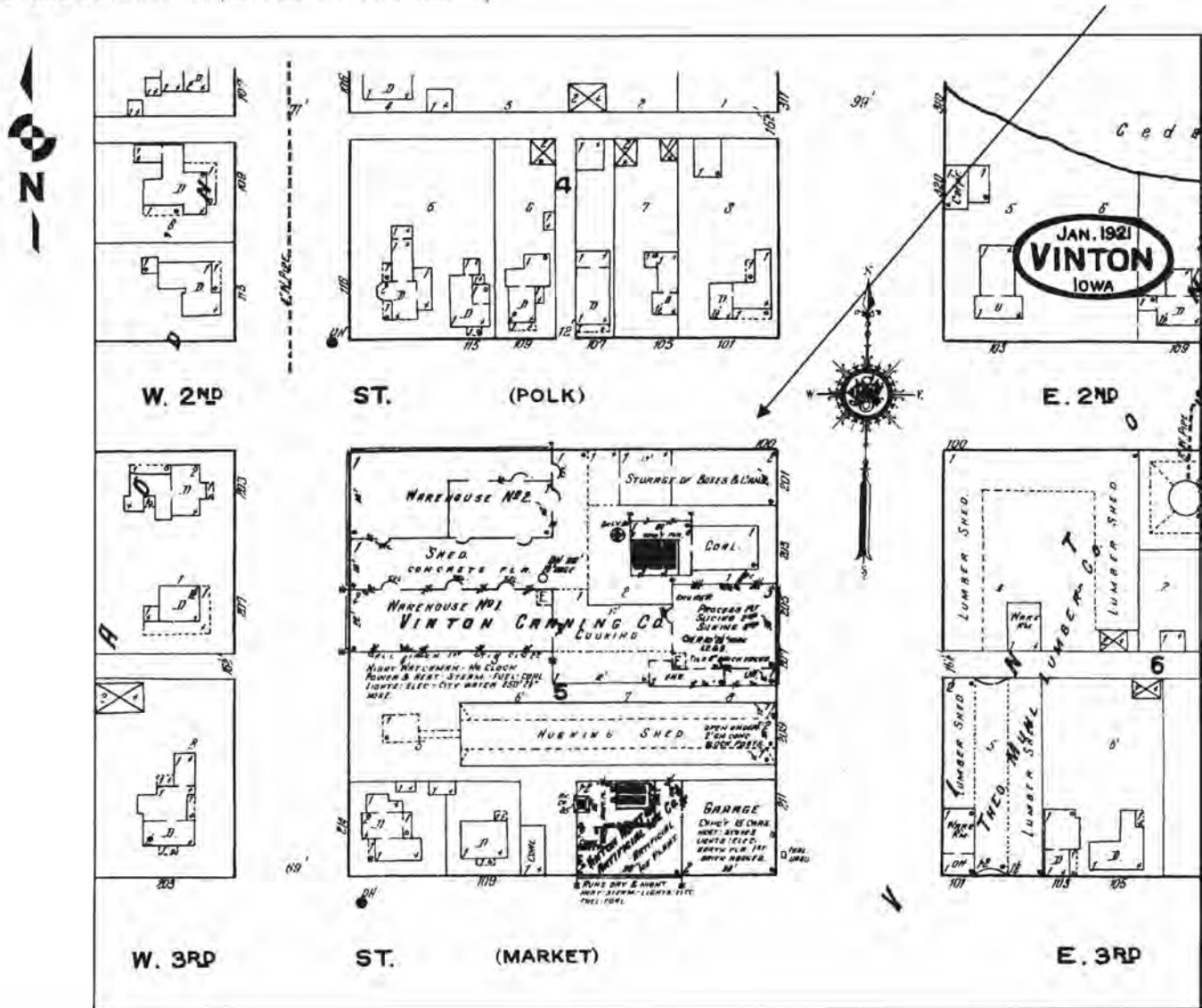
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Figure 2: Sanborn Map, January 1921, showing previous building (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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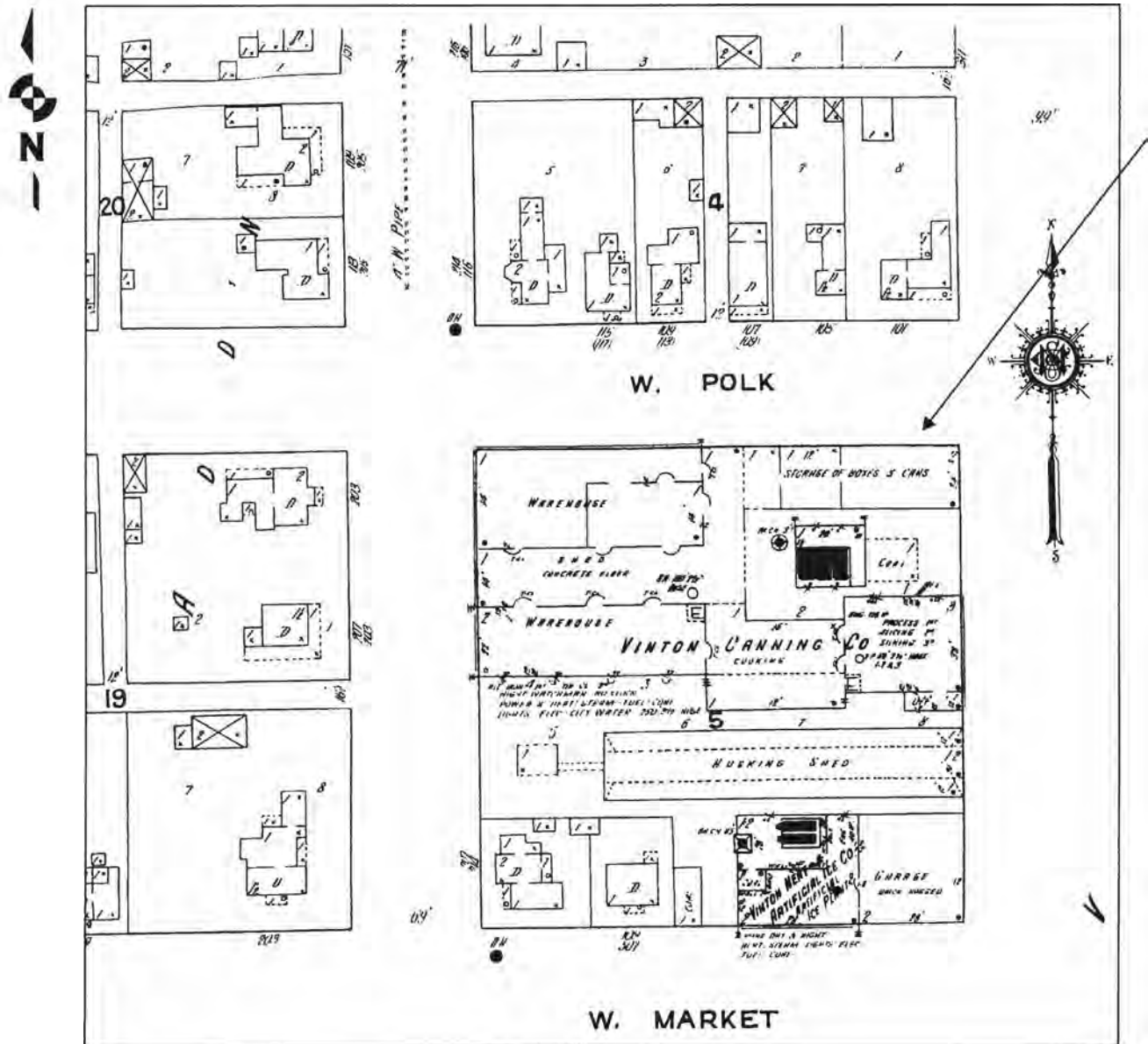
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Figure 3: Sanborn Map, September 1913, showing previous building (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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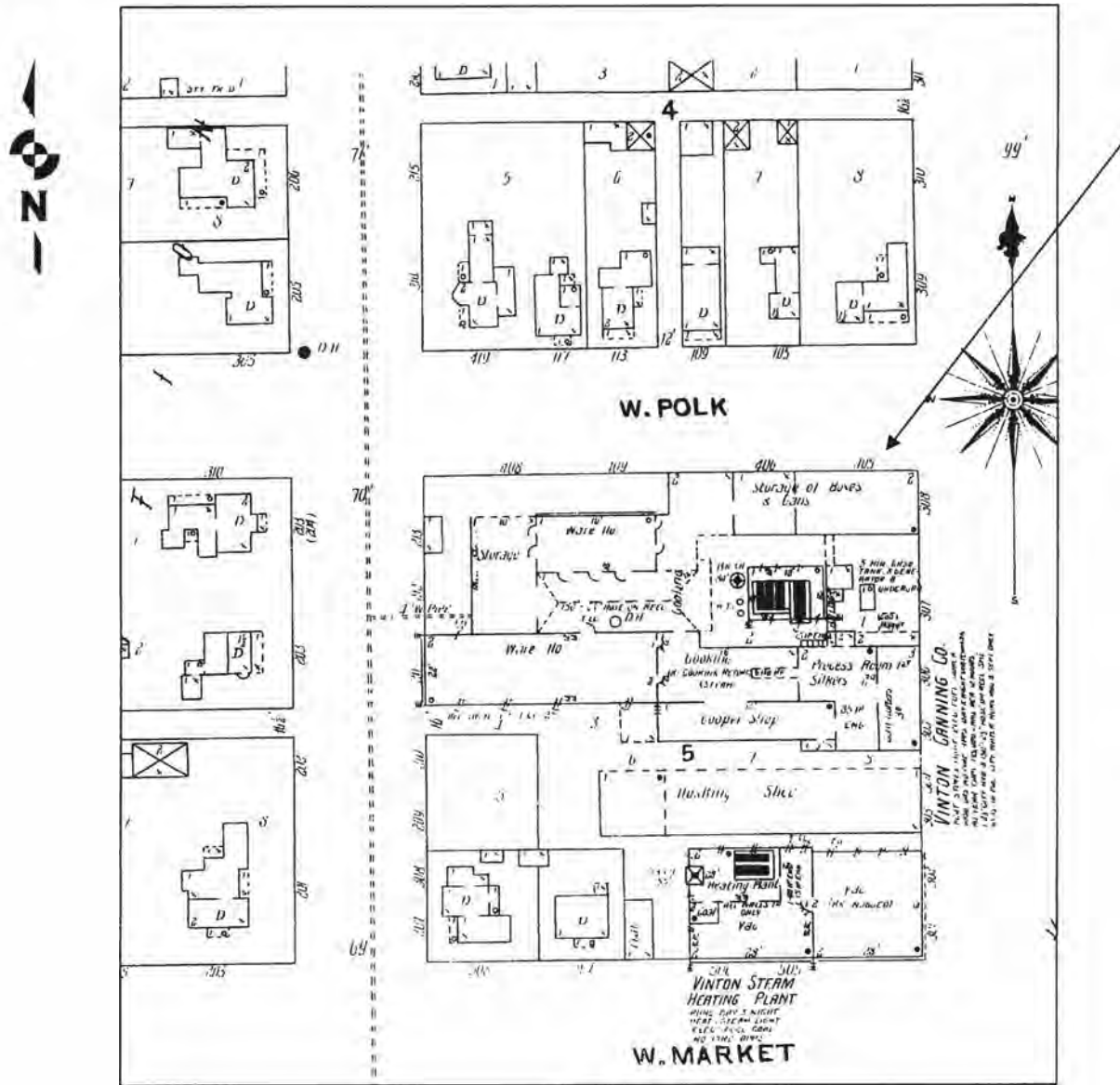
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Figure 4: Sanborn Map, November 1906, showing previous building (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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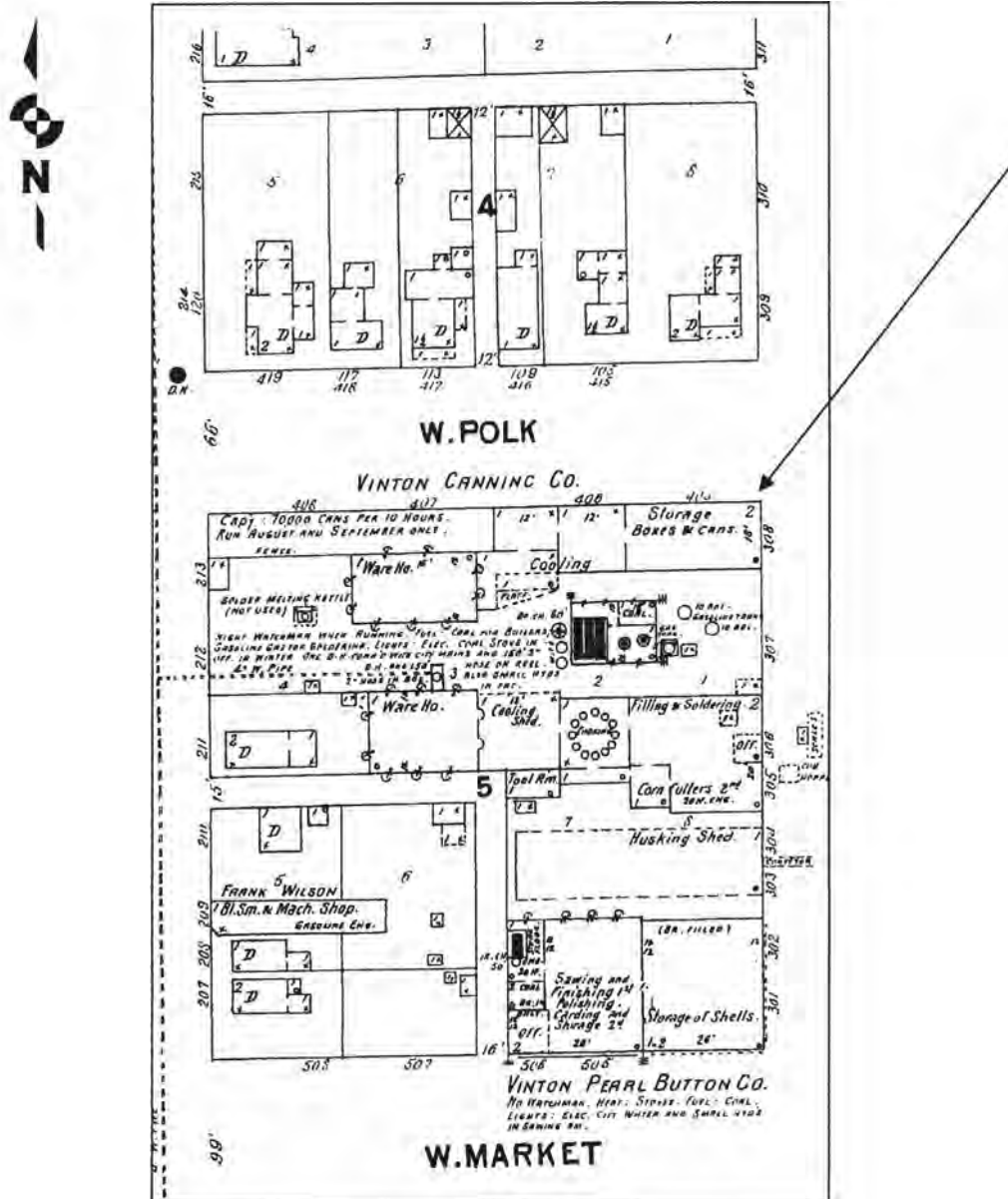
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Figure 5: Sanborn Map, April 1899, showing previous building (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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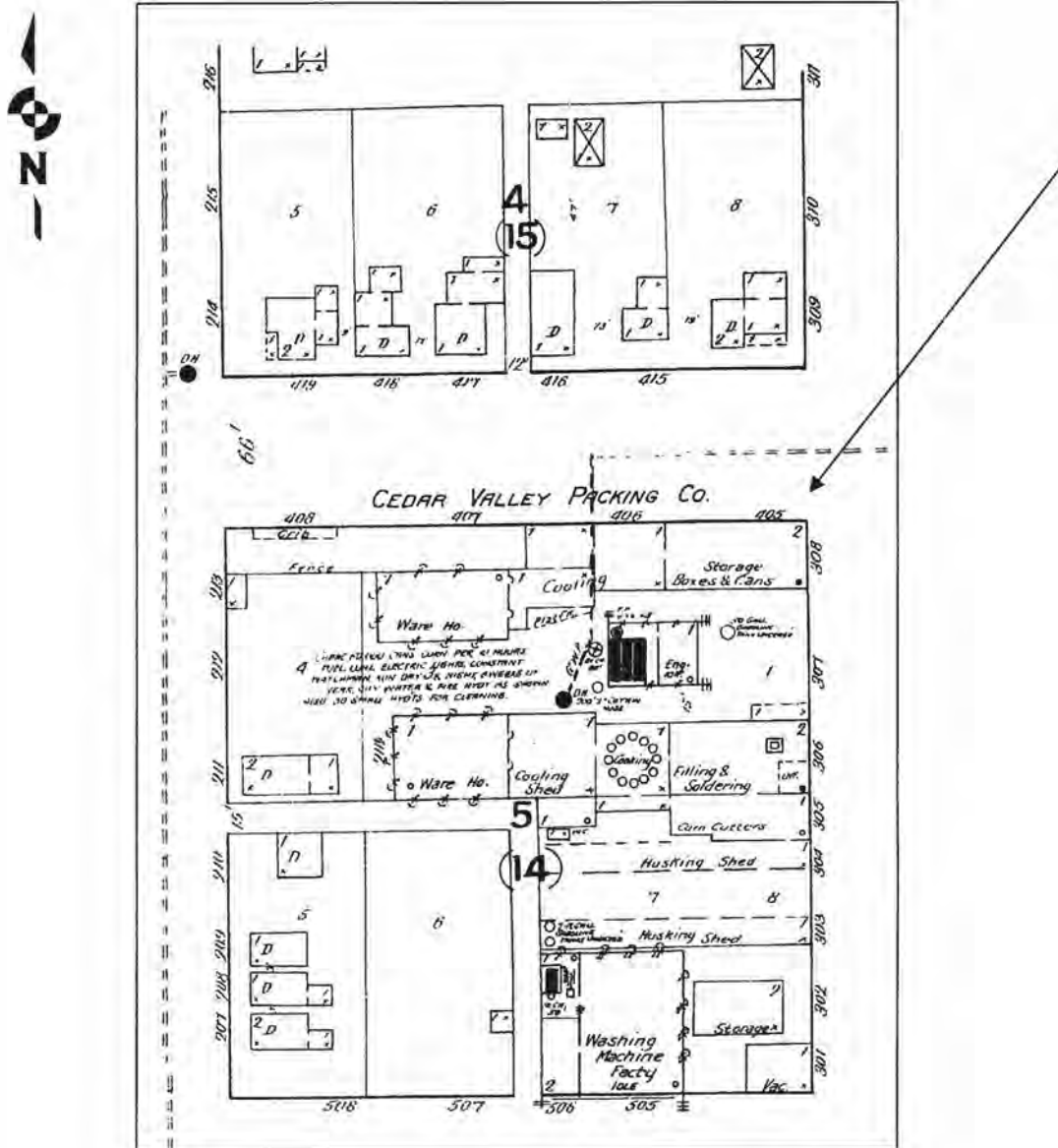
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Figure 6: Sanborn Map, September 1892, showing previous building (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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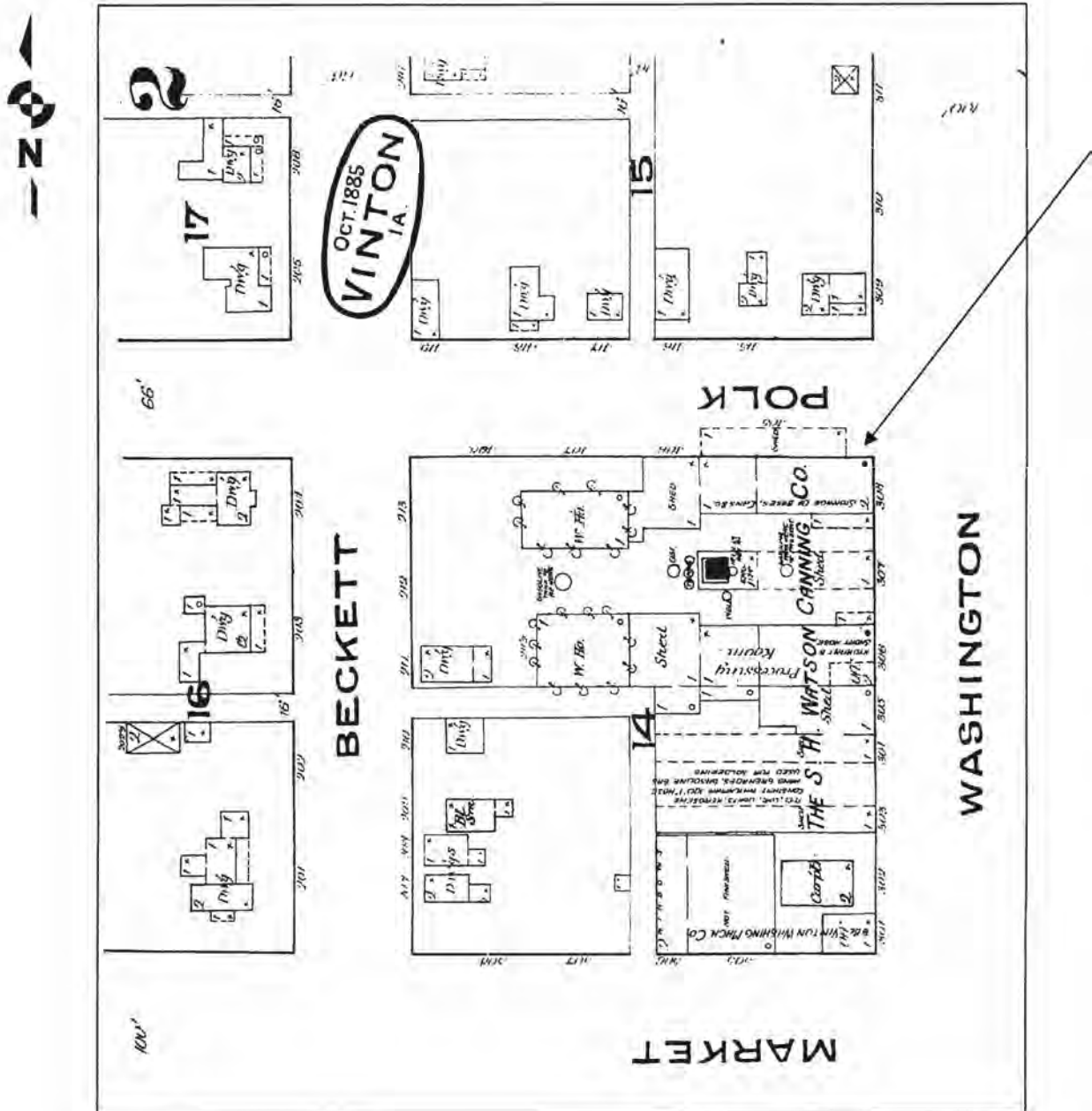
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Figure 7: Sanborn Map, October 1885, showing previous building (Insurance Maps, Vinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company. Available online at <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, accessed 11/25/2008)



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Figure 8: Plat of Vinton (Plat of Vinton Benton County Iowa, Minneapolis: Warner & Foote, Publishers, 1885).



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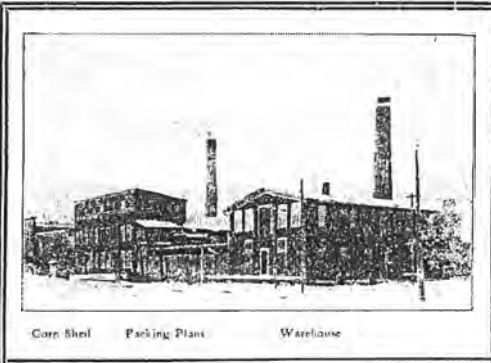
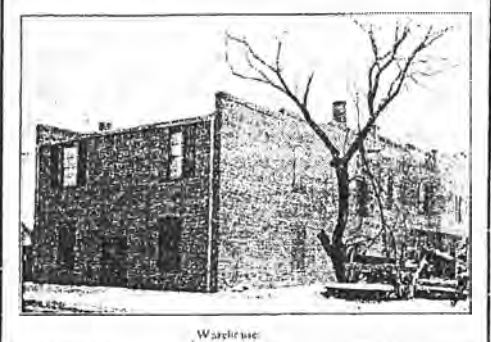
Figure 9: Advertisement with photograph for Vinton Canning Co., 1905; earlier frame storage building (nonextant) on site shown on right side of upper photograph in ad (Advertisement, *Vinton Semi-Weekly Eagle*, January 10, 1905)

Vinton Canning Co.

PACKERS OF

Fine Sugar Corn and Tomatoes

SUCCOTASH AND PUMPKINS

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Brands</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✦✦</p> <p>Capitol Gold Medal Cedar Valley National Blue Brand Iowa Partridge</p>	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Corp. Shop Parking Plant Warehouse</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Brands</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✦✦</p> <p>Raccoon Perfect Brand Succotash Gold Medal Tomatoes Gold Medal Pumpkin C. V. Tomatoes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">✦✦✦</p> <p>CAPACITY 3,000,000 CANS PER SEASON</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✦✦✦</p>  <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">Warehouse</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✦✦✦</p> <p>PACKERS OF The Famous CEDAR VALLEY SUGAR CORN</p>

One of the Largest and Most Modern Equipped Three
Line Canning Establishments in the West, in the Heart
of the Richest Corn Country in The World.

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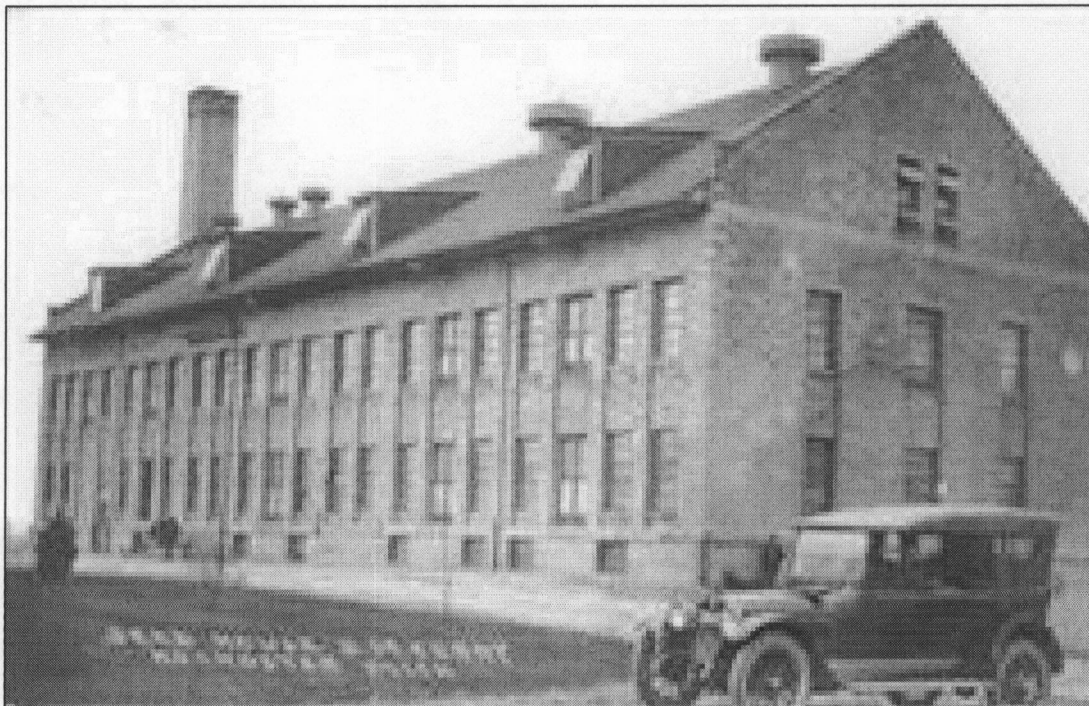
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Figure 10: Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building in 1931 "The Corn Day Queen's sumptuous white and yellow chariot drawn by four milk white horses and followed by two retainers also on white horses." ("10,000 at Vinton Sweet Corn Day," *Cedar Valley Daily Times*, September 10, 1931); arrow shows Iowa Canning Factory Building – Seed House



Figure 11: D.M. Ferry Co. Seed House (nonextant), built 1913-14, Rochester, Michigan (Rochester Hills Museum, available online at: http://www.rochesterhills.org/city_services/museum/history/d_m_ferry_company.asp; accessed 3/30/2011)



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Figure 12: Sweet Corn Agreement between Iowa Canning Co. and farmers covering purchase and payment price for seed corn and corn produced during 1934 growing season. The farmer agrees to pay 6 cents per pound for seed corn from proceeds for corn delivered under this contract.

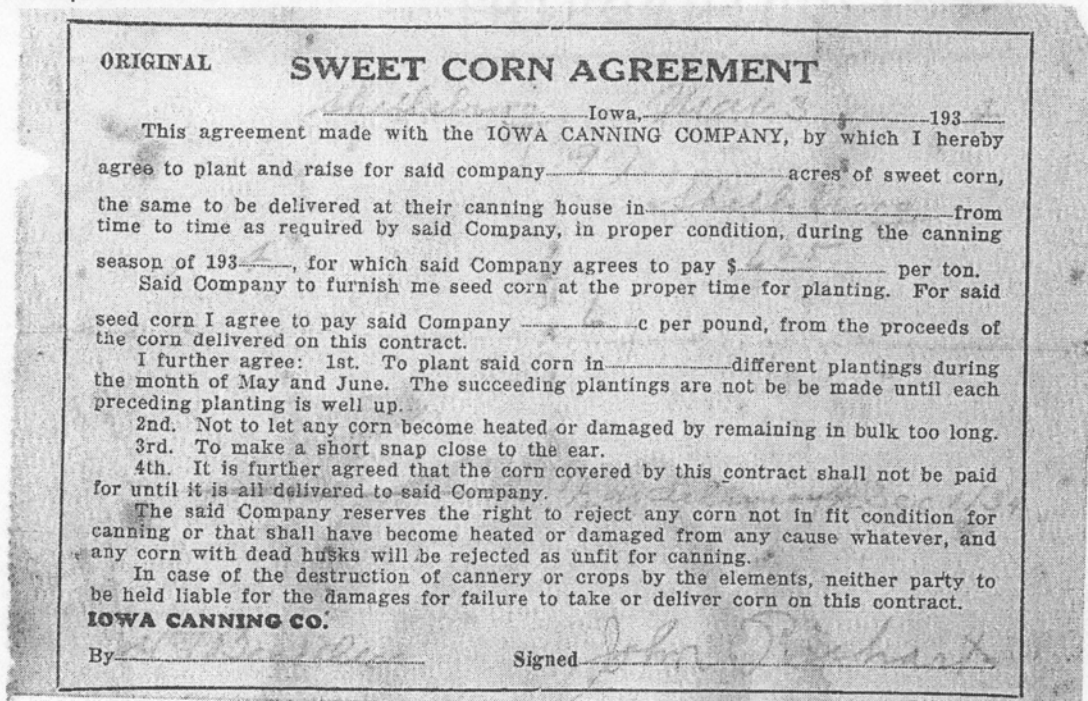
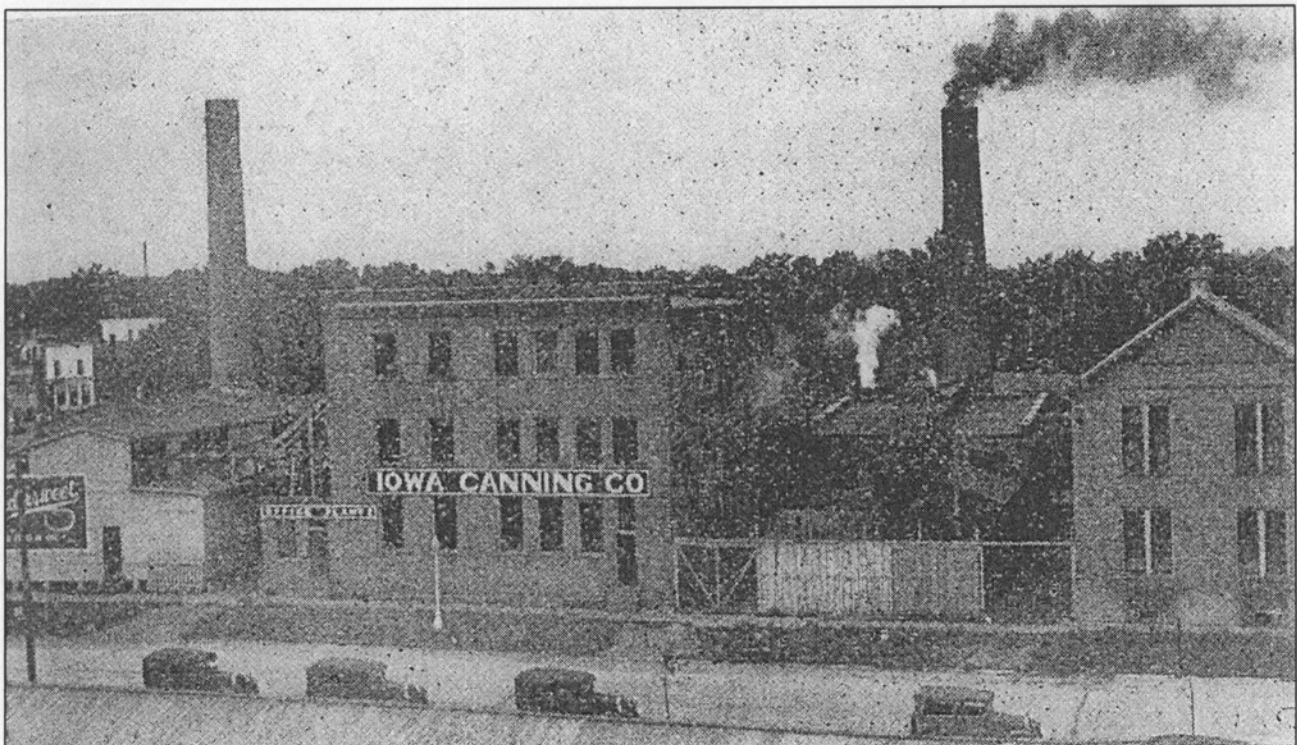


Figure 13: Iowa Canning Co., Vinton, Plant No. 2, *Iowa Year Book of Agriculture*, State of Iowa, 1937, p. 75.



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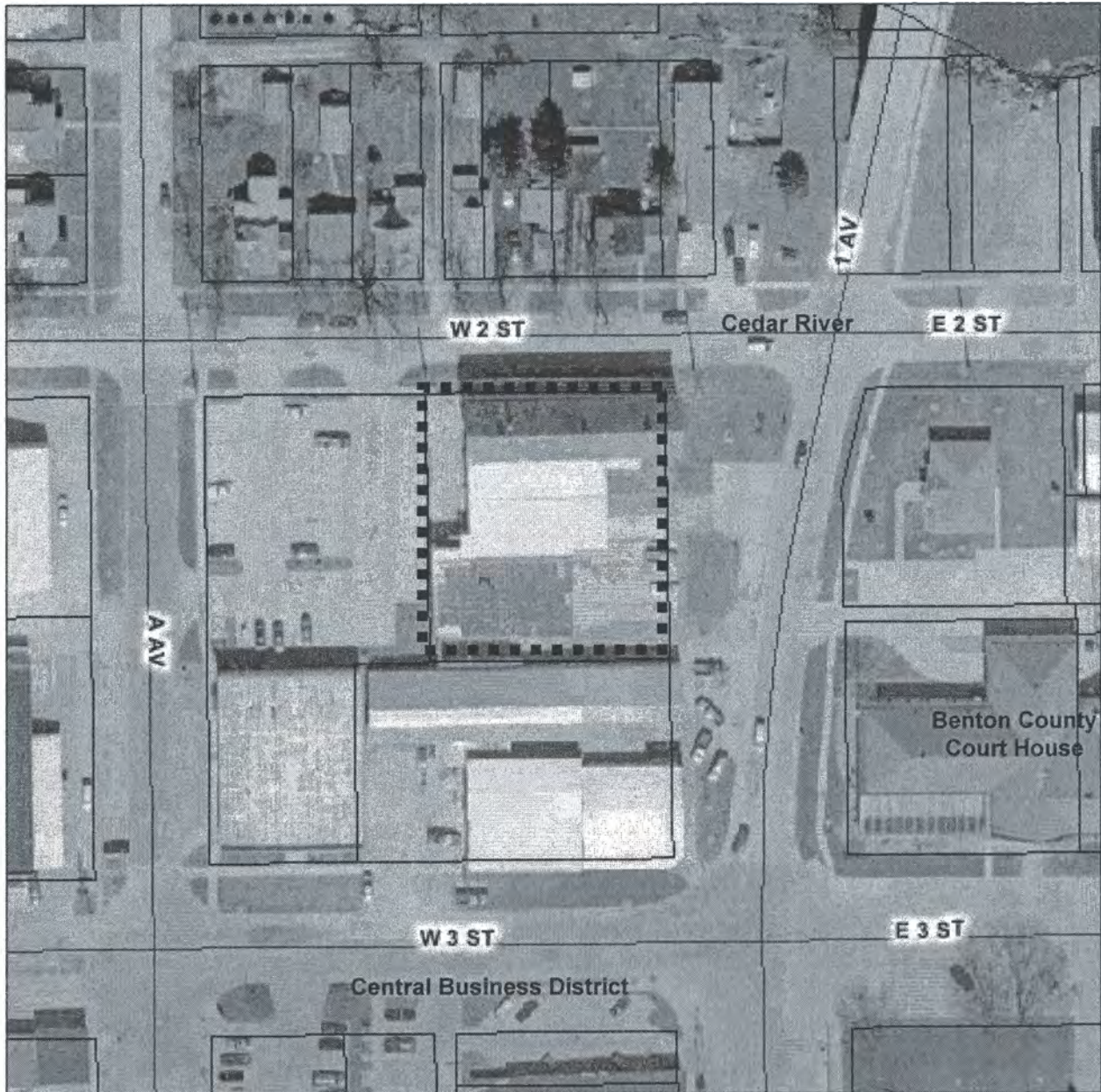
Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building
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Figure 14: Site Plan (Aerial Photograph for Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building, 201 First Avenue, Vinton, Iowa from Benton County Assessor website; available at: <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=83&LayerID=782&PageTypeID=1&PageID=905&Q=878671446&KeyValue=24073950>; accessed 3/24/2011); accessed 3/28/2011).



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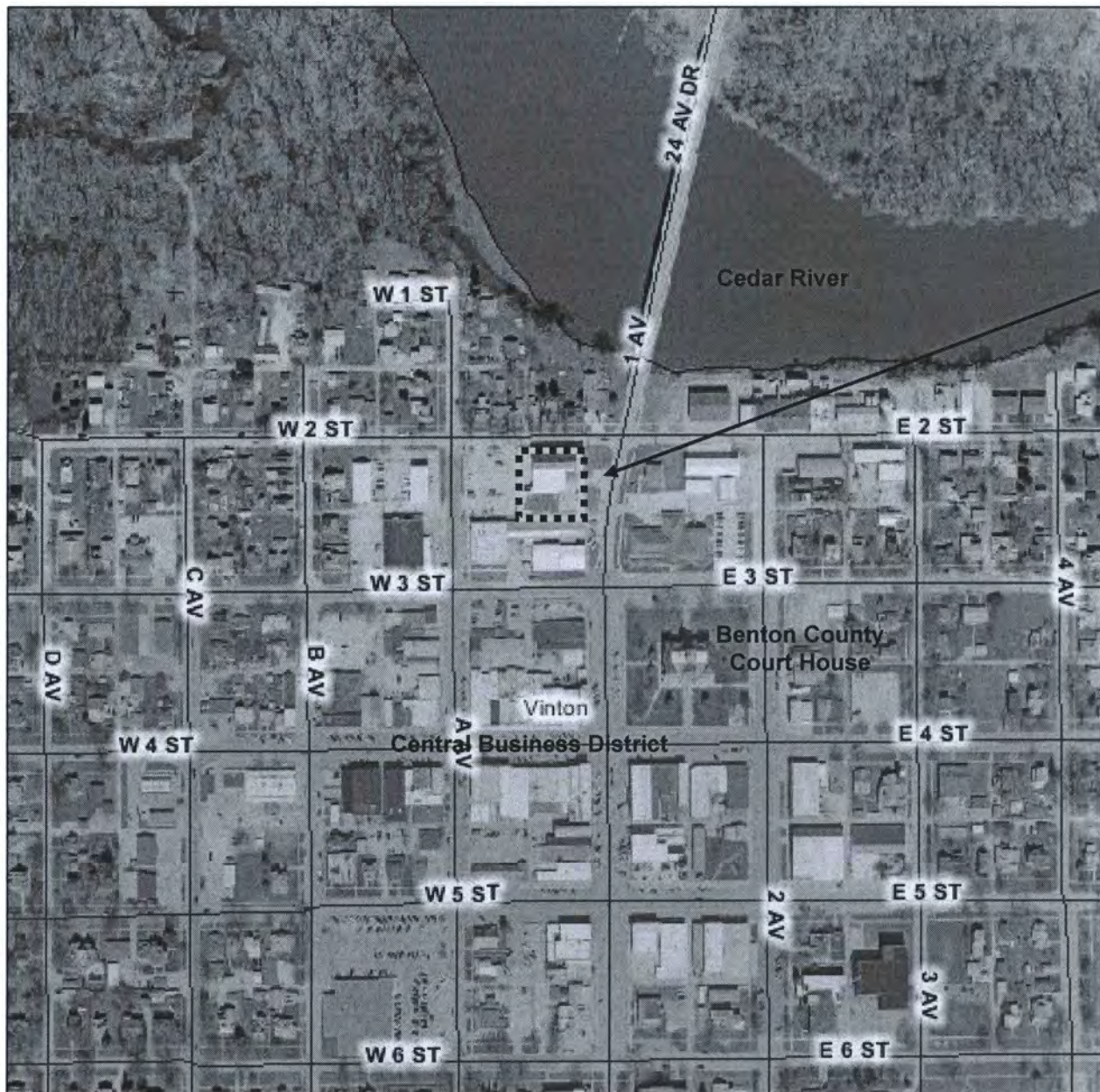
Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building
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Figure 15: City Location (Aerial Photograph for central Vinton showing Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building, 201 First Avenue, in relationship to the Cedar River, central business district and courthouse square (from the Benton County Assessor's website available at: <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=83&LayerID=782&PageTypeID=1&PageID=905&Q=878671446&KeyValue=24073950>; accessed 3/24/2011).



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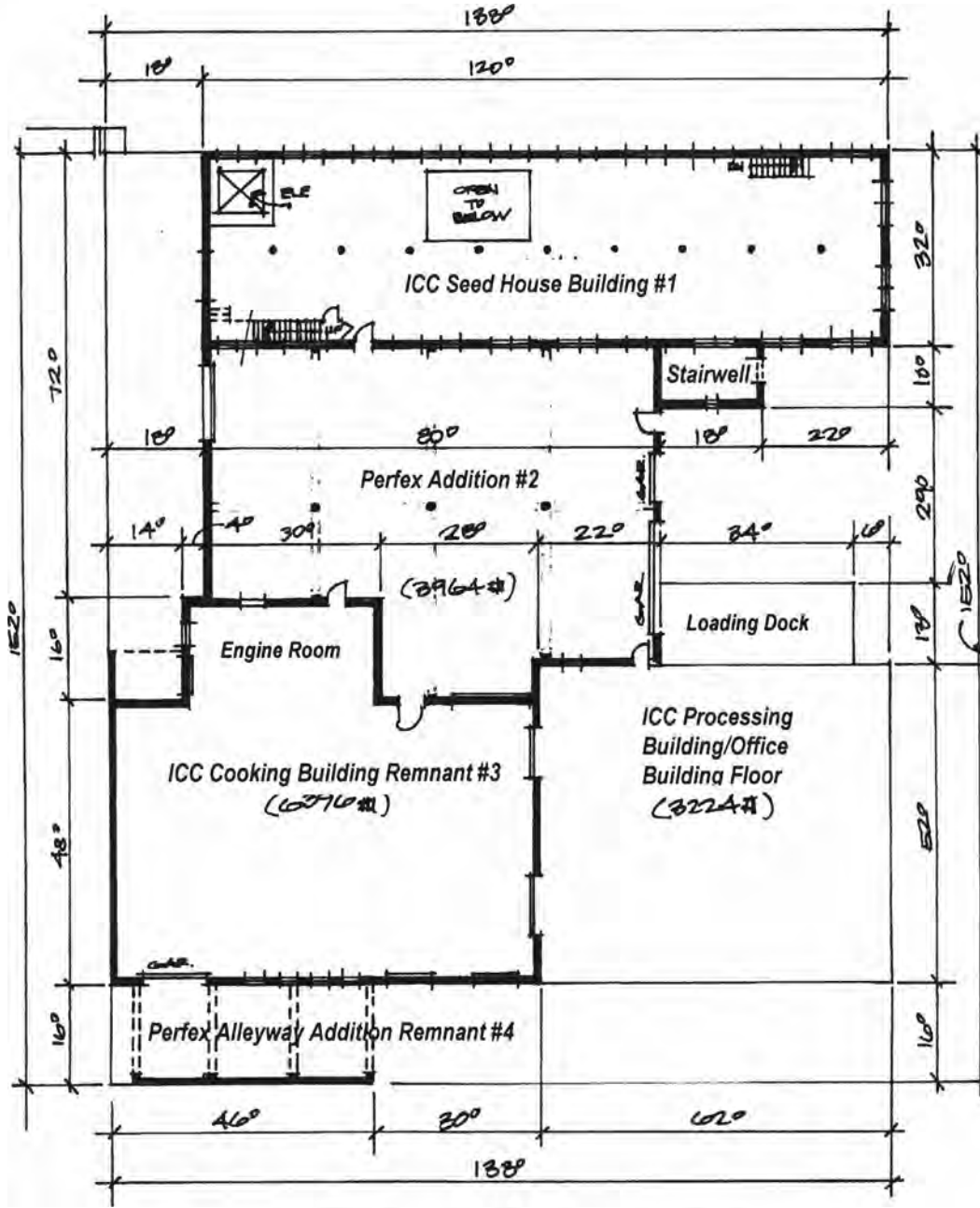
Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building
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Figure 16: Sketch Plan, Main Floor, Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building, 201 First Avenue, Vinton, Iowa, drawn by V. Steven Cavan, FEMA-DR 1763-EHP, Iowa Recovery Center, West Des Moines, February 25, 2011.



MAIN FLOOR PLAN ↑
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0" N

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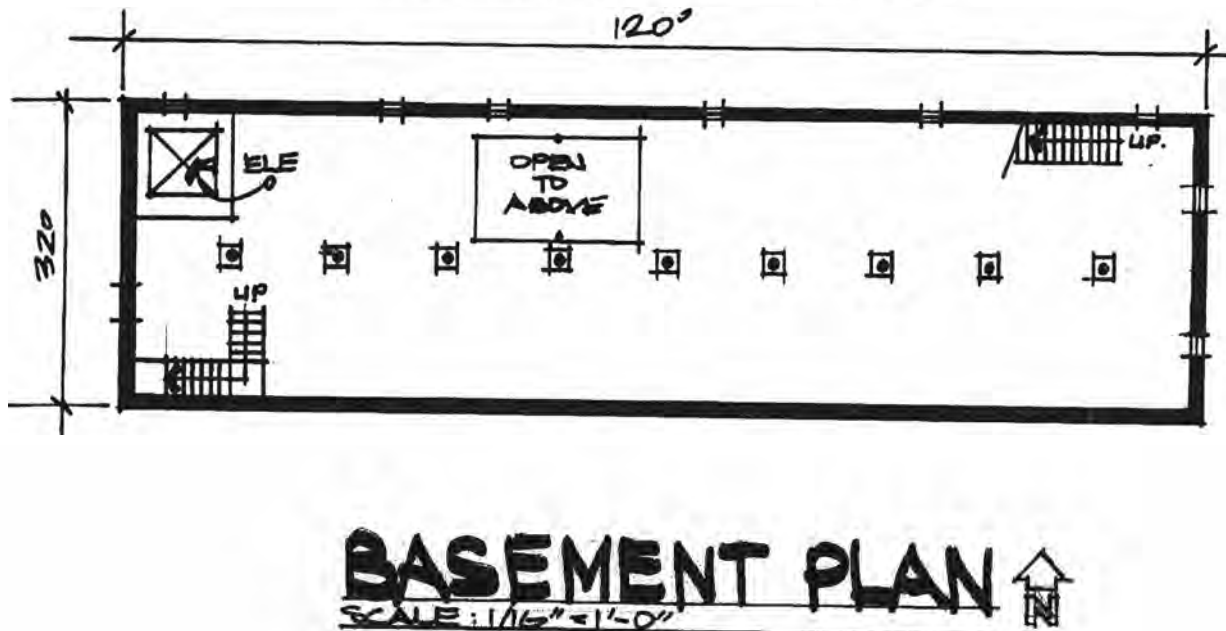
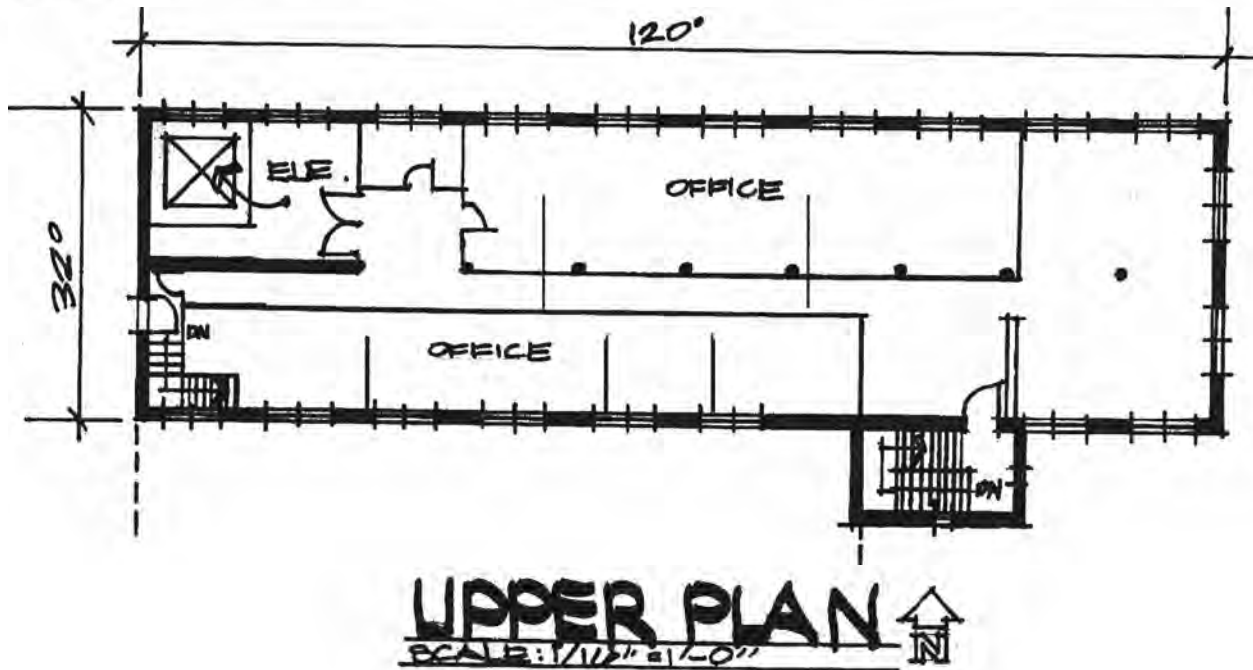
Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building
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Figure 17: Sketch Plans, Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building, Upper Floor and Basement Plans 201 First Avenue, Vinton, Iowa, drawn by V. Steven Cavan, FEMA EHP, Iowa Recovery Center, West Des Moines, February 25, 2011.



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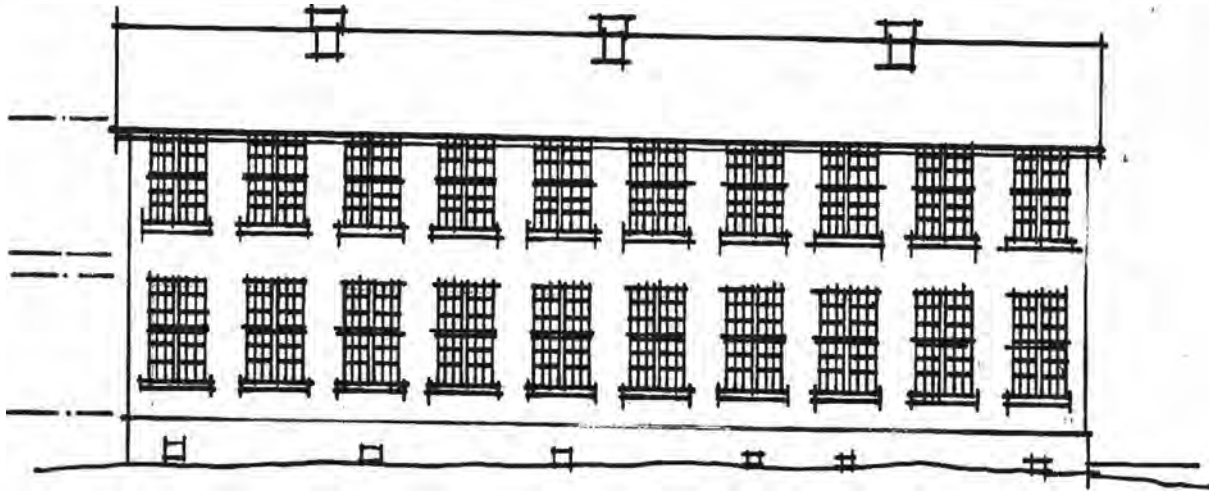
Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building
Name of Property

Benton County, Iowa
County and State

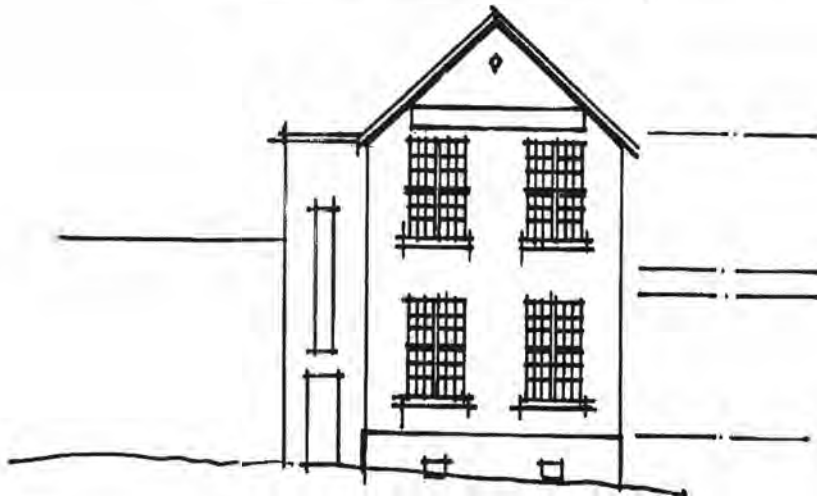
Section number Figures, Maps & Photographs

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Figure 18: Sketch Elevations, Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building, 201 First Avenue, Vinton, Iowa, drawn by V. Steven Cavan, FEMA EHP, Iowa Recovery Center, West Des Moines, February 25, 2011.



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0" VSC11

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Figure 19: Pre-World War I history of Vinton canning companies taken from "A Brief History of the Canning Business in the Central West" by William Moore in *A History of the Canning Industry by its Most Prominent Men*, 1914⁹

Iowa.

Coming now to the early history of Iowa, one of the largest corn-packing States in the Union, we find that the first canning factory within its borders was started by S. H. Watson in 1879 for canning corn and tomatoes. When he first started he made the cans by hand at his own factory and cut the corn by hand. He was not successful in making the corn keep, and great quantities of it spoiled until Henry B. Kelley came to him, in 1883, and took the general management of the Watson plant, remaining there until the fall of 1891, when this plant was taken over by Dr. Meredith, Charles Miller and Mr. Hayward, who operated same until 1898, when they incorporated it as the Vinton Canning Company, with Dr. Meredith as president and Charles Miller as vice-president and general manager. Mr. Watson was a banker of Vinton, Ia., and died many years ago. The Vinton Canning Company is now one of the large canning plants in the State of Iowa.

In the spring of 1892 Henry B. Kelley organized and incorporated the Kelley Canning Company, of Vinton, Ia., in connection with Dr. C. C. Griffin, president; W. C. Ellis, vice-president; Frank Ray, secretary, and George Knox, treasurer. Henry B. Kelley remained as manager for some five or six years thereafter, when the management rested with a board of directors, with Mr. Ray as secretary, until 1908. At that time M. W. Jones became the active manager and remained in that position until February, 1913. Mr. Jones for several years was president of the Western Cannery Association. -In 1900 the name of the above company was changed to the Iowa Canning Company. In 1902 they purchased the plants at Garrison and LaPorte City, Ia., and in 1904 conducted a plant at Shellsburg, Ia., since which time they have operated the four plants, packing in ordinary seasons from eight million to ten million cans of sugar corn. H. B. Kelley, after leaving the Kelley Canning Company at Vinton in 1899, went to Waverly, Ia., and organized the H. B. Kelley Canning Company there, with O. W. Mitchell, who is now at the head of that company, H. B. Kelley having died in 1902. Mr. Kelley's four sons are now interested, as follows: C. M. Kelley, president and manager of Hampton-Kelley Company, at Hampton, Ia.; the second son, Horace G. is secretary and manager of Iowa City Canning Company, at Iowa City; the third son, George B., president and manager Grinnell Canning Company, Grinnell, Ia.; fourth son, Milo F., manager Belle Plaine Canning Company, Belle Plaine, Ia. They are very successful in the canning business in their respective locations.

⁹Arthur I. Judge, editor, *A History of the Canning Industry by its Most Prominent Men* (Baltimore: The Canning Trade), 1914 (a "Souvenir of the 7th Annual Convention of the National Cannery and Allied Associations, Baltimore, Feb'y 2 to 7, 1914").

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Photographs: April 18, 2011 by Marlys Svendsen, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and October 28, 2010 by V. Steve Cavan, FEMA EHP, Iowa Recovery Center, 1763 DR, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Negatives stored with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and State Historical Society of Iowa, both in Des Moines, Iowa.

1. Exterior, Seed House, looking southwest, from intersection of First Avenue and Second Street West. (Svendsen)
2. Exterior, Seed House, looking southeast, from Second Street West. (Svendsen)
3. Exterior, looking northwest, from First Avenue West with stairwell and load dock addition on left and Seed House on right. (Svendsen)
4. Exterior, looking west across First Avenue, Seed House on right, 1969 loading dock addition in center, and 1-story Cooking Building remnant on left. (Svendsen)
5. Looking west across First Avenue, 1969 loading dock addition. (Svendsen)
6. Looking west across First Avenue, ca. 1920s cooking building remnant. (Svendsen)
7. Looking southeast with Seed House on left, rear of Cooking Building remnant on right. (Svendsen)
8. Looking north northeast along First Avenue towards Cedar River bridge with Seed House, stairwell and 1969 loading dock addition on left. (Svendsen)
9. Seed House, interior, main floor, looking west down center. (Cavan)
10. Seed House, interior, main floor, looking southeast towards wall of Seed House connected to 1969 loading dock addition. (Cavan)
11. Seed House, interior, main level, looking up at joist system, bracing and diagonal flooring on upper level; circular opening formerly connected to aerator vent chute leading to roof ridge. (Cavan)
12. Seed House, interior, upper level, looking east at gable end; roof rafters, steel column and I-beams, and extant aerator vent chute leading to roof ridge visible in upper center of view. (Cavan)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Iowa Canning Company Seed House Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Benton

DATE RECEIVED: 1/27/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/23/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/09/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/13/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000094

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3.12.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ 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.



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa
#1



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

#2



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa
#3



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa
4



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

#5



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

#6



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

7



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa
8



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

#9



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa
10



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

#11



Iowa Canning Co. Building
Vinton, Benton Co., Iowa

#12

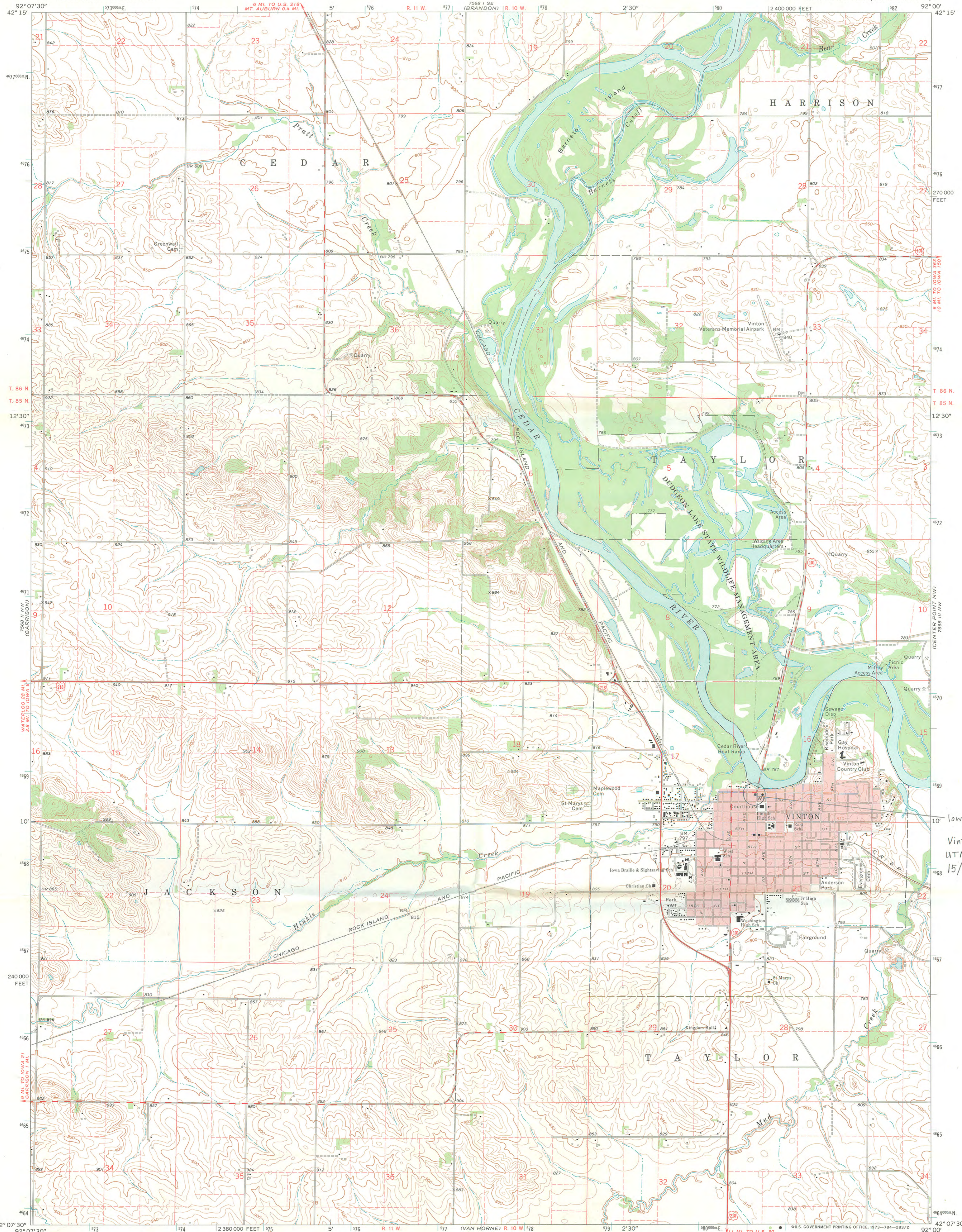
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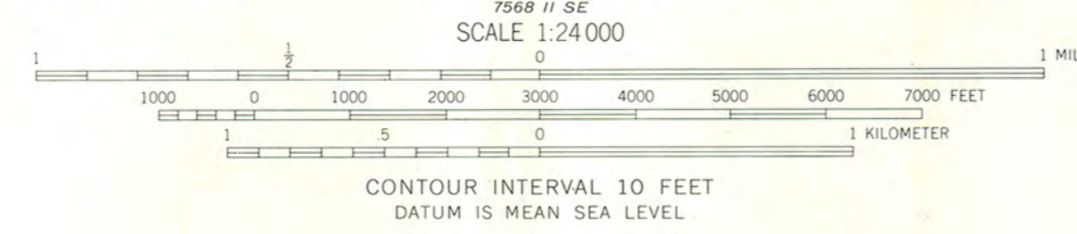
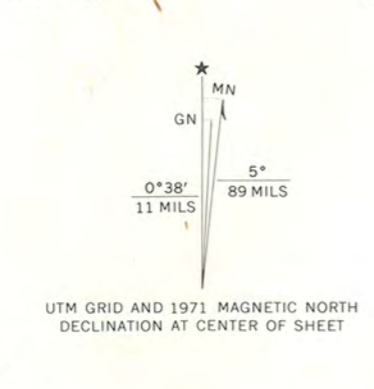
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Iowa Canning Company
Building
Vinton, Benton Co., IA
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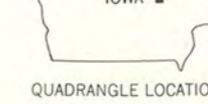
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Iowa coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
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VINTON, IOWA
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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY TIFFANY COWNIE, DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

RECEIVED 2280

JAN 27 2012

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 25, 2012

Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Architectural and Historical Resources of the Elkader Downtown Historic District, Elkader, Clayton County, Iowa
- Elkader Downtown Historic District, portions of 100 & 200 blocks of Main Street & side streets, Elkader, Clayton County, Iowa
- Iowa Canning Company Seed House and Building, 201 First Avenue, Vinton, Benton County, Iowa

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Foster Hill, Manager
National Register and Tax Incentive Programs

STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY of
IOWA

JEROME THOMPSON
ADMINISTRATOR



MATTHEW HARRIS
ADMINISTRATOR

600 E. LOCUST
DES MOINES, IOWA
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T. (515) 281-5111
F. (515) 282-0502

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