

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 53
District Name _____
Map Reference # 53

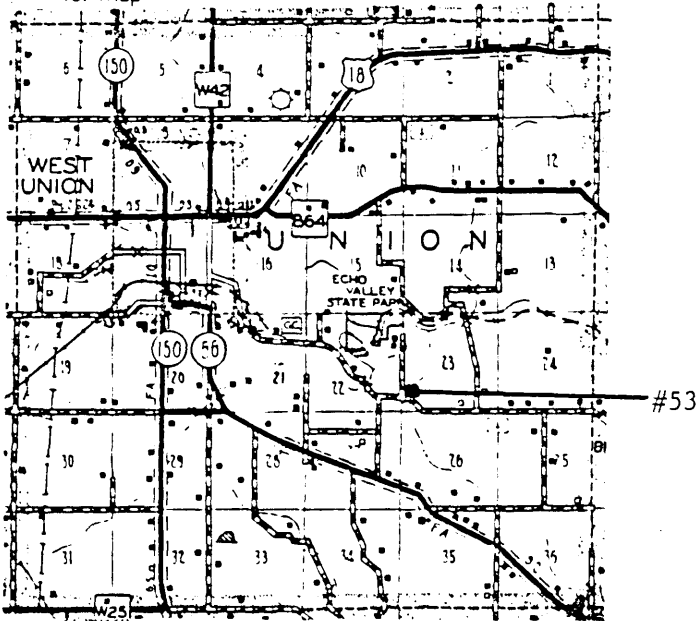
Identification

1. Site Name Grimes Octagon Barn
2. Village/Town/City West Union vic. Township Union County Fayette
3. Street Address Off IA 56
4. Legal Location 94 N 8 W 23 SW 1/4 of SW 1/4
Urban: subdivision Rural: township block range parcel section subparcel 1/4 section of 1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 601,970 northing 4,754,270; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Earl Wilber
7. Owner(s) Address 200 Cemetery West Union Iowa 52175
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Dairy barn Original Cattle & horse barn

Description

9. Date of Construction Late 1880's Architect/Builder Joe Butler (owner M. W. Grimes)
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 Horizontal wood
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 384 Frame 21 A View _____

VBD: A circle 80' in diameter, based on center point of barn. Includes attached additions and adjacent 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.

Interior: rectangular. Milk house added. Roof with 8 wedge-shaped sections and hay dormer. Barn was identical to one constructed by S. S. Patterson.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Octagon; Stewart type.

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

One of, at most, fourteen 19th century octagon barns known to still exist on an Iowa farm. The conical roof constructed of eight wedge shaped pieces distinguishes this octagon barn as a Stewart type. Elliott W. Stewart, a New York State farmer and agricultural editor, designed the prototype of this barn in 1874. Strength, warmth, economy of materials, and efficient use of interior space were considered the main advantages of the octagon barn. In general, as an octagon barn, characteristic features of the Grimes Octagon Barn include the rectangular interior arrangement and absence of an interior silo.

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

"Bun" Grimes, Fayette County Historical Society
Westerfield, Richard. "There's Character in Old Barns." Iowan 12 (Spring 1964).
Moeller, Hellen. ed. Out of the Midwest. Informal history of Fayette County.
Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

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 _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____