

# Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 36  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # 36

## Identification

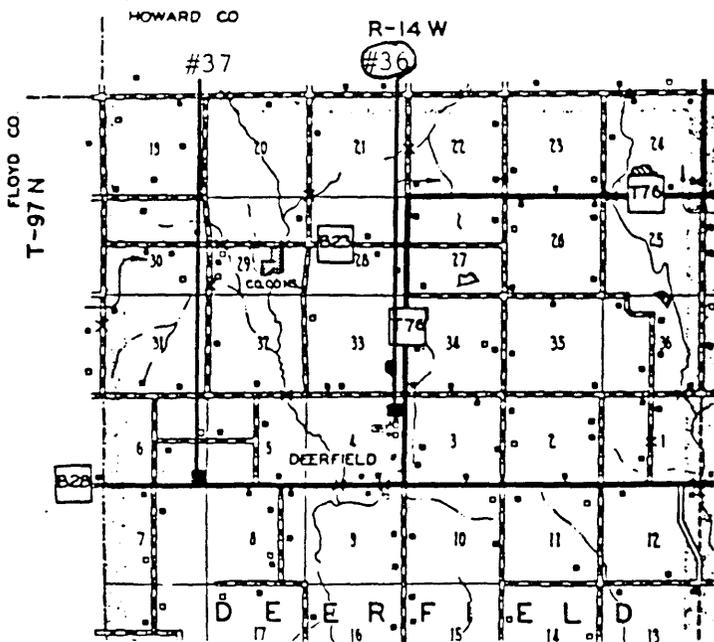
- Site Name George Darrow Round Barn
- Village/Town/City Alta Vista vic. Township Deerfield County Chicksaw
- Street Address County T-76
- Legal Location 97 N 14 W 4 NE 1/4 of NE 1/4  
Urban: subdivision block range parcel section subparcel  
Rural: township 1/4 section of 1/4 section
- UTM Location: zone 15 easting 540,960 northing 4,778,970; Acreage less than one acre
- Owner(s) Name Francis Geerts
- Owner(s) Address R. R. #2 Charles City Iowa 50616  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
- Use: Present Not in use fall, 1978 Original Dairy & horse barn

## Description

- Date of Construction 1916 Architect/Builder UNKNOWN
- Building Type:
 

|                                                   |                                      |                                              |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> single-family dwelling   | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial  | <input type="checkbox"/> other institutional | <input type="checkbox"/> religious               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> multiple-family dwelling | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> public              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agricultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commercial               |                                      |                                              |                                                  |
- Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other clay tile
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 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.
- Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_

## 18. Map



## 19. Photo

Roll 404 Frame 34 A View \_\_\_\_\_  
 VBD: A circle 84' in diameter defined by the center point of the barn. Includes only barn.

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 - stanchions and horse stalls facing central silo. Gambrel roof with original wood shingles. Diameter - 64'. Height 50'. Silo - clay tile, 14'x48'. Milk house attached. Diamond pattern worked in tile above main double doors. Dark tile set in lighter tile. Cupola last.

True-Round; Iowa/King type; Supplier Unknown.  
 True-Round; Specialty Contractor; Clay Tile  
 Supplier Unknown.

## 21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

The clay tile exterior wall and central clay tile silo identify this barn as one whose design was influenced by the work of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station during the early years of the 20th century. The use of clay tile was one of the later improvements in the history of round barns, believed to have been promoted by the Iowa Ag. Exp. Station around 1910. In this case the clay tile supplier and the builder are unknown. It is known from the 1979 Mail Questionnaire that this barn was originally built as a dairy barn and that it was used as such until 1978. Dairy cow stanchions, in circular arrangement, surround the silo on one side of the barn; horse stalls surround the other side.

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

Francis Geertz, RR 2, Charles City, IA 50616

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

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

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

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

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## For Office of Historic Preservation Use Only

### 1. Office Information Sources on this Property

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

### Review and Compliance Project:

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

### 2. Subject Traces

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

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

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_