

Pr 100745

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	WAPELLO
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mars Hill (Mars Hill Church and Cemetery)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *SE of Ottumwa*
Keokuk Township

CITY OR TOWN: *vicinity*
Ottumwa, 14 miles Southeast

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Wapello CODE: 179

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Funerals-Weddings Annual Meetins, etc.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of Mars Hill

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harry Thomas (Chairman)

CITY OR TOWN: Eldon STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wapello County Records Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court and Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Ottumwa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
See enclosed copy of deed

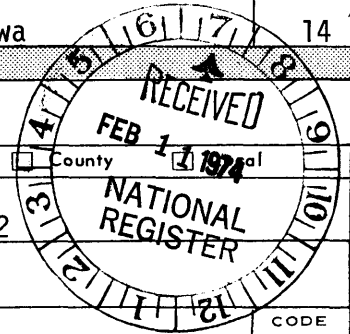
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County FEB 11 1974

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wapello County Recorders Office, Book J Page 442

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court and Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Ottumwa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: IOWA

COUNTY: WAPELLO

ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 13 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

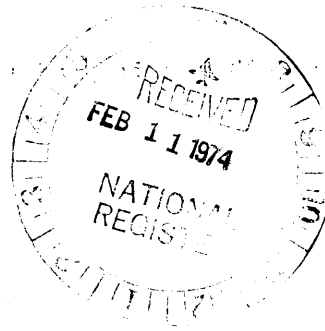
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mars Hill Log Church is a rectangular dovetail notched, hewn log structure with a gable roof and twelve pane sash windows. Its doorway has a simple post and lintel construction and a latch door. Boards in the door are vertical; those of the gable end on the roof horizontal. The name "Mars Hill" and a cross are prominently painted on the front entrance gable end. Mars Hill Church rests on its original location atop a picturesque cemetery hill.

All logs and most of the chinking of the Mars Hill Church are original. New flooring was installed in 1905, a new foundation in 1915 and a new roof in 1956. The maple and walnut logs measure 26 to 28 feet in length and some are 16 inches in width and eight inches thick.

The front door is new although designed after the original. Each gable end has been repainted and the windows have been replaced.

The Mars Hill Church is currently under restoration necessitated by the deterioration of some logs. Any replacements, either of the logs themselves or chinking, will not be extensive and will be authentic.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1850-1857**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mars Hill Log Church is thought to be one of the oldest and largest log churches still in occupancy in the state. Built in 1850-1857 by a Baptist community, the land on which the church stands was purchased by that community in 1857.

Local tradition has it that the Mars Hill Church was used as a hiding place during the Civil War as part of the underground railroad.

Now considered interdenominational, Mars Hill Church is open to visitors who are often attracted to the setting, hill and pine trees, of which the church and adjacent cemetery are a part. Also, the building serves as the site for weddings, funerals and annual meetings for the local preservation group which is interested in extending the life of the Mars Hill Church even more.

The name Mars Hill derives from its location, it is believed, however no documentation was found to support this assumption.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See enclosed brochure.

Scrap book of old newspaper clippings belonging to Mrs. Marie Hartwig, Route #1, Eldon, Iowa.

County Book J, Page 442, Wapello County, May 22, 1857.

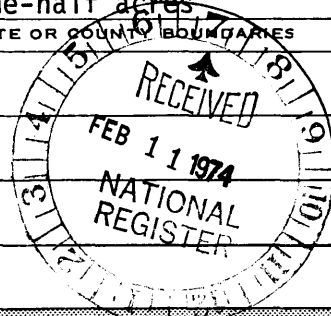
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		40 53 57	92 21 23	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One and one-half acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



157
554140
4527570
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. E. S. Hollenbeck, Wapello County Liaison Officer

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE: December 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
202 East Manning Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Ottumwa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 4, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mendenhall
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/13/74

ATTEST:
Wm. Shultz
Keeper of the National Register

Date 9.13.74