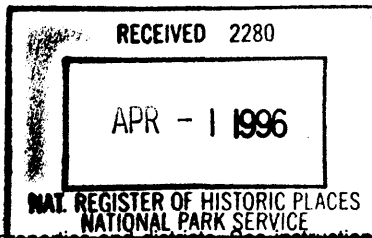


FEB 9 1995

517

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pilotburg Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1874 155th st. not for publication

city or town Wellman, Iowa 52356 vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Washington code 183 zip code 52356

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.)

Patricia Chenking 3-22-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of 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

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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
Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action
5-2-96

Pilotburg Church
Name of Property

Washington County, Iowa
County and State

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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof SYNTHETICS/fiberglass

other BRICK

GLASS

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- 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.
- 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: ~~is~~ **was**

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION

OTHER/Pilotburg town development

Period of Significance

1881-1945

Significant Dates

1881

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Washington, Iowa Public Library

Pilotburg Church
Name of Property

Washington County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

15	602200	4587510
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

4

Zone	Easting	Northing

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 M. Marta Carson

organization NA date November 24, 1993

street & number 1874 155th St. telephone 319 646-2974

city or town Wellman state IA zip code 52356

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 M. Marta Carson

street & number above telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

Pilotburg Church stands just north of a country road (155th Street), bordered by rolling "set-aside" acres and timber to the north and west, flat, smooth crop fields to the south and east, in rural Washington County, Iowa. Local legend has it that the site--Pilot Grove which later became Pilotburg--was named for a teenage boy, the "pilot," who steered or somehow led a group of settlers to a lovely grove of trees where they could see out across the open prairie to the south. The original grove for which the settlement was named, along with the houses and outbuildings, barns, school, store, post office, earlier church and parsonage, saloon and race track, have long since fallen down, been moved or plowed under. Today the area is largely cropland. Only the Pilotburg Church remains of this once flourishing community.

The original foundation of the church is now a limestone wall that borders the road. The foundation of the former schoolhouse is located at the west end of the property. Eight grades were taught there. A well-maintained graveyard that holds the remains of early settlers is a quarter mile down the road. The community of Pilot Grove predates the towns of Kalona, Wellman, and West Chester.

The church was built in 1881, the second of two houses of worship in the town. It was built by hand, using square nails, probably by volunteer labor. It was built as a Methodist Episcopal church with the quality of workmanship commensurate to the time, place and purpose of the structure. Had it not been so well built, it would not have endured. Lumber was hauled from Washington, 12 miles to the southeast.

The church is 20 by 50 feet. The kitchen was originally a foyer, and was added to the structure in the early 1950's. This explains the two 16-foot doorways between the kitchen/foyer and the meeting room, as well as exterior siding on the inner wall of what has become a small bedroom above the kitchen/foyer. A loft area, which was added after the church was sold to private individuals, extends a few feet in front of the bedroom. Wooden stairs connect the meeting room and upper level. The area beneath the loft has been converted to use as bathroom/closets. What was once a stage area, at the north end of the structure where the choir and lectern

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

stood, has been enclosed to create another small room. Previous owners added on a porch, which is falling into ruin. They also cut a hole in the meeting-room ceiling to permit the pulleying of furniture into the unfinished attic. They also cut three holes in the roof and inserted dormers. The dormers leaked until the summer of 1992 when they were rebuilt and a new roof put on. The new fiberglass shingles are a rich tan, laid in fish-scale pattern. The previous roof--the second, put on in 1937--was cedar shake. The Gothic letters of a sign attached on the south end of the structure can still be made out: "Pilotburg Church."

In the early 1950's, the church was moved over from its stone foundation onto a full, poured/concrete block basement. It had been right next to where it is now, slightly to the west. Thereafter, church events were held in the basement. A brick chimney at the north end of the building, added with the foyer when the church was moved over, is in excellent condition.

Notwithstanding these changes, the meeting room is--except for wall finish--as it was. The walls are original plaster above pine tongue-in-groove wainscoting. The ceiling is also tongue-in-groove. The six arched windows reach to 16 feet above the floor. Storm windows have been added and the building has been insulated. The walls are six inches thick, still plumb to a carpenter's line. While it was in use as a place of worship, the pine plank floor was covered with linoleum tile, which is still in place. The tile on the elevated area has been removed and the pine flooring beneath refinished. The three lovely white glass and copper lamps installed when electricity came through in 1919 still hang in place.

The exterior weatherboarding is loose and badly in need of repair and paint. This building has weathered 112 years of use and subsequent neglect.

The original outhouse stands adjacent to the church. Its interior bears carved initials. A urinal trough is on one wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

Narrative Statement of Significance

Pilotburg Church is significant under Criterion A as the last surviving building associated with the former town of Pilotburg. It was built as a place of worship, used as such from 1881 to 1968, and held an important place in a pioneering settlement which no longer exists. Although relocated a few feet and rehabilitated, the church retains a large degree of historic integrity. The only major exterior change has been new roof covering and the addition of roof dormers. A porch addition will be removed if the building is restored. The interior has been converted into a residence, but a conscious effort has been made to retain as much interior fabric as possible.

Pilot Grove (which later became Pilotburg) was chosen by a band of settlers starting out from Washington, Iowa, 12 miles to the southwest, in 1839. They came upon a lovely grove of trees edging a vast flat prairie to the south and timber to the north. A few farms were staked. Mormons came, eventually moving on west. In 1849/50 a man named Asa Wilson platted lots on his own land and advertised: buy one, get another free. The community grew over time to include 24 houses, a store, blacksmith, school, an earlier church and parsonage, saloon and race track, post office and, in 1881, the Methodist Episcopal Church. Pilot Grove furnished "quite a few soldiers" to the Union Army in the Civil War, some of whom did not return. It had a band made up of farm boys. Before either church was built, Pilot Grove was a "religious center" where religious camp meetings took place.

The fact that Pilot Grove/Pilotburg no longer exists lends weight to the historical significance of the church. The whole truth of how the region was settled, that communities sprung up, had a life and died, is an important facet of our history that would otherwise be lost, were it not intentionally preserved. Pilotburg has passed away. But families were raised, good and hard times shared, challenging conditions overcome... All that deserves to be recognized.

When purchased, the church was not insulated and there were no

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

storm windows. For years we had to close off the meeting room all winter long--it was nearly like being outside, inside. You could see your breath. That a multitude of people came together here throughout the seasons, sat on hard wood benches in the big open room, listened to a preacher and sang songs, that someone probably had to come real early to fire up the two potbelly stoves and get the place warm enough so as to at least be tolerable if you left your coat on, this seems significant. It says a great deal about the people themselves, the place of religion in their lives, the lifestyle they had. That the church was built so generous of space, materials and workmanship seems significant as well. Its beams have endured the assault of the seasons, rains that have wet it down inside and out. It was moved over, yet it is plumb to a carpenter's line. Pilotburg Church is a beautiful, enduring structure, a legacy of times gone by, a testament to the pioneering character that was willing to give its best work for free, for the good of a community.

This property deserves to be acknowledged and preserved.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5

Events in Town History

- 1839 - Pilot Grove, never before visited by white men, is named for the "pilot" of a party of settlers out of Washington, Iowa.
- 1849 - Mormons push on west.
- 1850/55 - Asa Wilson arrives, lays out town, offering free lots from his land.
- 1850-1903 - The settlement grows to include 24 houses, store, smithy, school, two churches, parsonage, race track, saloon, post office.
- 1855 - The first school house is built.
- 1861 - "Quite a few" soldiers from Pilotburg join the Union Army.
- 1862 - Seventh Day Adventist Church is built.
- 1881 - The "commodious" Methodist Episcopal Church is built.
- 1896 - Local Band of farmer boys is formed.
- 1903 - Post Office closes.
- 1919 - Electricity comes through, Church is wired and lit with beautiful, white ceiling lamps.
- 1937 - Church is re-roofed.
- Early 1950's - Church is moved over on to full basement, brick chimney is added and foyer.
- 1968 - The doors of the Methodist Church are locked, it is subsequently sold to private individuals--Doc Weber, a group of back-to-the-landers and musicians in 1971, the Carson family in 1975.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 6

Bibliography

1. Thomas, C. W., History of Pilotburg, 1898.
2. "Many Mormons Were Early Settlers at Pilotburg," Mrs. Frank Stransky, Washington Evening Journal, 1936.
3. "Pioneers of Pilotburg," undated article in Wellman Advance.
4. Fisher, Kathy, A History of Washington County, Iowa, Washington County Historical Society, Washington, Iowa, 1978.
5. Atlas of Washington County Iowa, Harrison & Warner Publishers, Clinton, Iowa, 1874.
6. Unrecorded phone interview with Marion Stransky, son of Mrs. Frank Stransky, November, 1993 (notes in applicant's possession).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

Verbal Boundary Description

A part of the Northeast quarter of Section Number 33, Township 77 North, Range 8 West of the 5th P. M., Washington County, Iowa, and more particularly described as follows:

418.49 feet west from the center of the north-south road (Ivy) by 105.56 feet north from the center of the east-west road (155th St.), at 41 degrees N 45 minutes 88 seconds latitude, 91 degrees W, 47 minutes, 32 seconds longitude.

Boundary Justification

This property contains the Pilotburg Church, a privy, and the site of the Pilotburg schoolhouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

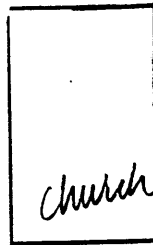
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 8

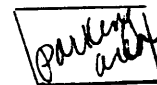


Schoolhouse
Site

pry



church



parking
area

WY

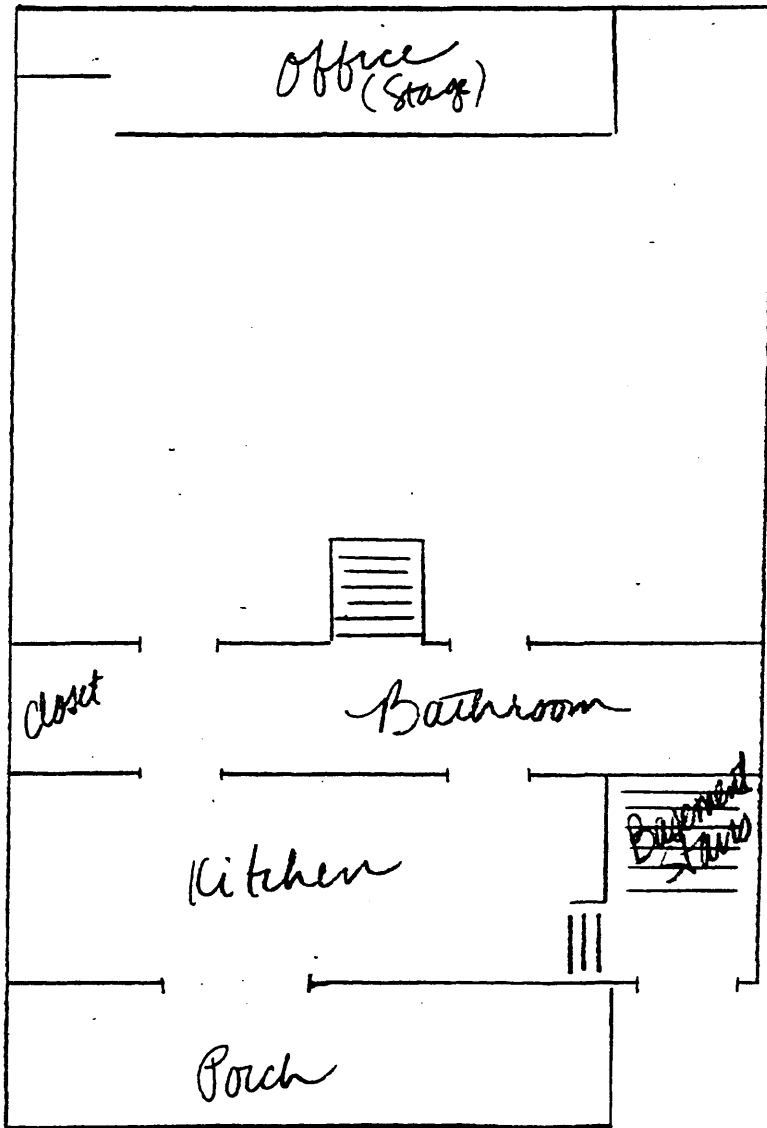
~~Wall made of old foundation~~

155 St.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 9

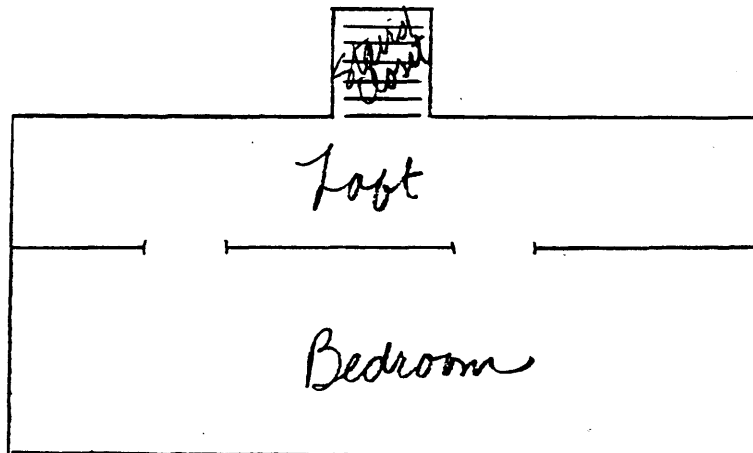
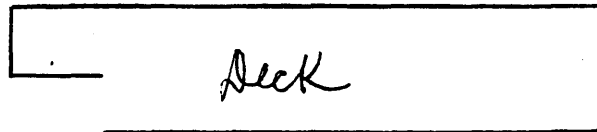


Main Floor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 10

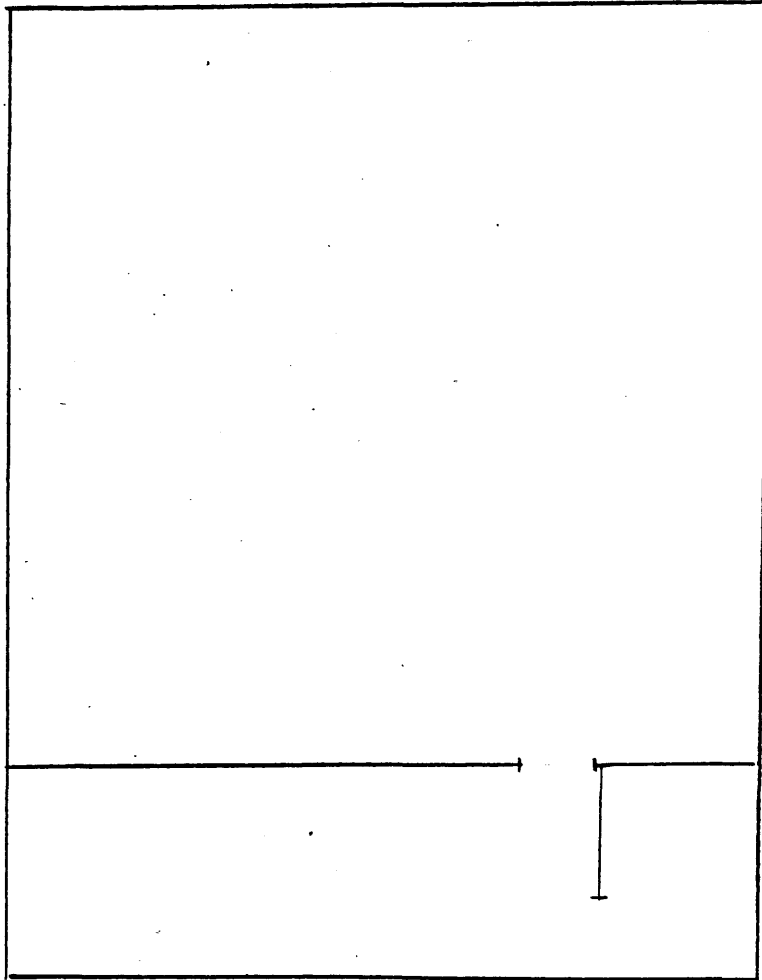


Second Level

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 11

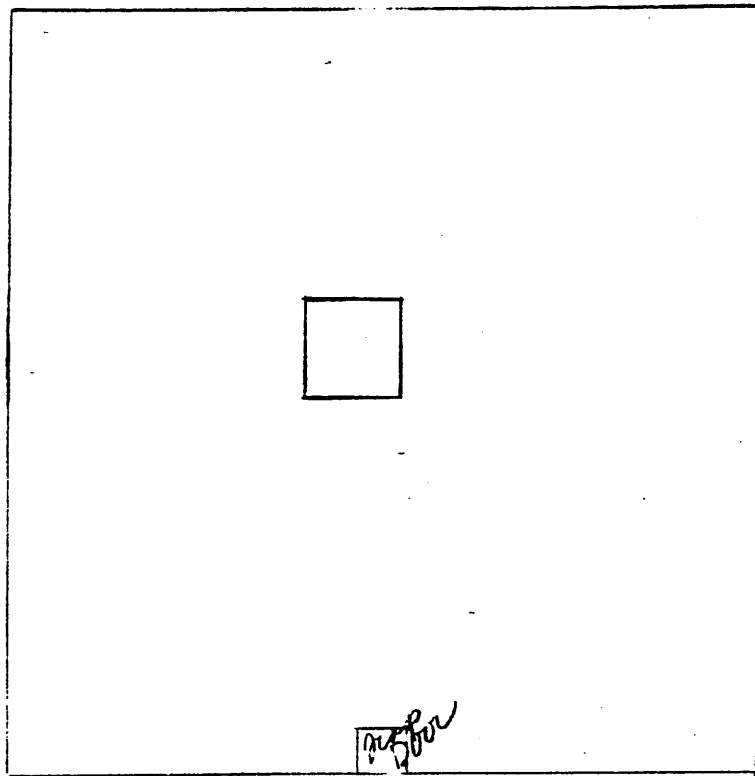


Basement

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 12



Attic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Page 13

GENERAL HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION MAP

WASHINGTON COUNTY

IOWA



PREPARED BY THE
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION INVENTORY
PHONE 615 296-1280

IN COOPERATION WITH
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

1975

