

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 23 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Lorenzo S. Coffin Burial Plot

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W. of F. Dodge on I A 7

NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 14, Twp. 89, N Rg. 29, W, 1 1/2 m. W of

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Fort Dodge on Hwy 7

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fort Dodge

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY Webster

CODE

187

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

__BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

OTHER: memorial

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen of Cleveland

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Webster County Courthouse, County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Dodge

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Webster County Conservation Field Trip Guidebook

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Webster County Conservation Board

CITY, TOWN

Fort Dodge

STATE

Iowa

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on a ridge overlooking Lizard Creek, the site is the burial plot for the Coffin family and people associated with the farm. Originally, each burial had a separate stone marker, but after Coffin's death, the markers of the Coffin family were incorporated into a concrete wall. The graves of those not part of the family remain outside the wall. In total, seven graves are located on the plot. In 1948, the site was enclosed within a chain link fence.

The old Coffin home remains directly to the west of the burial site. It has undergone great changes over the years and about one half of it has been torn down. The half that remains is in very poor condition, is uninhabited, and has little left which might merit recognition.

Local informants report that no other structures remain in the area from Coffin's career. Hope Hall (see #8) burned down around 1900; an octagonal barn on the farm property collapsed about ten years ago. The Railroadmen's Retirement Home in Highland Park, Illinois, founded by Coffin, was razed in the early 1960's.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1854-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site is the burial place of Lorenzo S. Coffin, a highly successful farmer, leader in the development of Iowa agriculture, and leading humanitarian reformer of the late 19th century. Born in New Hampshire in 1823, he traveled west to Ohio, where he attended Oberlin College and later taught in Chester, Ohio, where James A. Garfield, the future president, was his student. In 1854, he moved to Webster County, Iowa, where he established Willowedge, Farshow place farm. He was one of the first to introduce blooded sheep, hogs, and cattle into the state. He was one of Iowa's pioneer farm editors, served as a member of the Iowa State Fair Board, was president of the Iowa Stock Breeders Association, the first president of the Iowa Farmers' Alliance, one of the initiators of the Farmers Protective Association established to fight the farm equipment monopolies, an early leader in the establishment of Farmers' mutual insurance companies, and he was an early promoter of agricultural extension education. On the National level, he was permanent treasurer of the National Dairy and Food Association.

In addition to his agricultural interests, Coffin served as immigration agent for the State and served as Railroad Commissioner for Iowa. Coffin's most noteworthy accomplishments were in social reform and industrial safety. He took up the cause of railroad safety, and personally lobbied through state and national legislation which was credited with saving 30,000 railroad workers from death or injury annually. He established the Railroadmen's Temperance Movement, was a leader in the Railroadmen's YMCA movement, and was instrumental in establishment of the RRmen's Retirement Home in Highland Park, Illinois, serving as president of the Board of Directors from 1890-1916.

Coffin was president of the Iowa Anti-Saloon League, Prohibitionist candidate for governor in 1906, and the United Christian Party's candidate for vice-president in 1908. He was associated with Maude Ballington Boothe in the Prison Volunteer League, a prison reform movement, and established Hope Hall on his farm as a half-way house alternative to the state prison. Later, he established a home for unwed mothers under the WCTU.

In 1947, his burial plot was acquired by the Brotherhood of Railroadmen to be maintained as a memorial to Coffin and his efforts.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Natte, Roger, "Lorenzo S. Coffin, Farmer-Humanitarian" Unpublished paper, Iowa Central Community College Library, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Pratt, H. M., History of Fort Dodge and Webster County Pioneer Publishing Co. Chicago, 1913.

"Mr. Coffin's Great Reforms," Annals of Iowa, January, 1903.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .147

UTM REFERENCES

8100 8900
 A 15 394815 4700890
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Iowa		Webster	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Roger Natte

ORGANIZATION

Webster County Historical Society

DATE

January 10, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Iowa Central Community College

TELEPHONE

573-8985

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Dodge

STATE

Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

19 August 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/17/77

DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Katherine D. Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.9.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Deleg

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

"Lorenzo Coffin, Farmer," Palimpsest.

Holbrook, Stewart, "Lorenzo Coffin, Fanatic," American Mercury,
December, 1945.

Biographical Record and Portrait Album of Webster and Hamilton Counties,
Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago.

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol II, Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone,
editors, Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1958.