

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" on the appropriate line 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 COAL RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY  
other names/site number Coal Ridge Church, Coal Ridge Community Church, Coal Ridge Church Museum

2. Location

street & number 1034 Highway S71 N/A not for publication  
city or town Knoxville N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Marion code 125 zip code 50219

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.)  
Dwight G. Sorko, Deputy STIPO July 12, 2006  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**  
State or 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)

for  
Signature of Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 8-23-06

Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Marion County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one line)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Marion County, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

**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)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1909-1956

**Significant Dates**

1909

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Reynolds, Oliver (carpenter)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliography 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):**

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository

Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Marion 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	1 5   4 9 8   2 5 0	4 5 8   0 5 0 0	Verbal Boundary Description
Zone	Easting	Northing	

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

2	---   ---   ---	Boundary Justification
Zone	Easting	

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

3	---   ---   ---	Boundary Justification
Zone	Easting	

4	---   ---   ---	Boundary Justification
Zone	Easting	

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Page, Project Associate  
organization Coal Ridge Ladies Aid date February 28, 2006  
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285  
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

**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 Coal Ridge Community Church, c/o Coal Ridge Ladies Aid, c/o Eunice Folkerts  
street & number 126 Skyline Drive telephone 641-628-4082  
city or town Knoxville state Iowa zip code 50138-8832

**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.).

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CFN-259-1116

Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery were originally associated with the non-extant town of Coalport, a settlement in the floodplain of the Des Moines River. This is the second church building to stand on the site. In 1908, fire destroyed the first church, which had been erected in 1860. The congregation immediately built the present church and dedicated it early in 1909. The cemetery dates from the establishment of the congregation. The church and cemetery are situated on a .93-acre tract of land. This site is located at the crest of a hill above Lake Red Rock, a man-made flood control reservoir of some 15,250 water surface acres, formed by damming the Des Moines River in 1969 and completely wiping out Coalport in the process.

**SITE**

Immediate Site

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery is situated on .93 acre of land. This parcel measures approximately 50 x 100 feet and comprises the south five-eighths of Lot 1.

The church and cemetery are situated on a rise directly southeast of the intersection of Highway S71 and Inwood Drive. Road cuts have leveled down the right-of-way for these two pavements and have rendered the site of the church and cemetery more elevated than it originally would have appeared.

A vehicular drive runs diagonally from the intersection of Highway S71 (a.k.a. Coalport Road) and Inwood Drive to the church property. This gravel drive ascends the hill in the front of the church and then forks in two directions. One forks lead to the vehicular entrance to the cemetery on the northeast corner of the church. The other fork leads to the front of the church, where it ends.

At one time, a well was located on the church property. This well has been filled in, and its location is now unknown. Today, the church property is without running water.

Surroundings

Lake Red Rock was formed by the completion of Red Rock Dam in 1969. More than a mile long, the structure was begun in 1960 and is located between Pella and Knoxville, Iowa. Previously, floods along the Des Moines River in 1851, 1859, 1903, 1944, 1947, and 1954 had wreaked havoc on property along its course. The purpose of Lake Red Rock was to alleviate flooding below the dam. Saylorville Lake, another flood control project and located above the City of Des Moines, was begun about the same time to protect the stretch of the Des Moines River from flooding between the two lakes.

Lake Red Rock is the largest lake in Iowa. The lake and its surrounding public land include more than 50,000 acres. White Breast Creek flows into the lake on its south side a little distance above the dam.

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

A peninsula, located to the east side of the creek, juts out and runs into the lake. The spine of this peninsula rises at its highest point to over 100 feet above the normal pool elevation of the lake.

Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery are located at 821 feet above sea level, one of the highest points along this spine. (The normal pool elevation of the lake is 742 feet above sea level.) This site confers great dignity to the building. Two views obtain because of its visual prominence—one from the south when approaching the church by Highway S71 and one from the north, when seen from across the lake.

## **CHURCH**

### Exterior

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church is a one-story, frame house of worship, prominently sited on the crest of a ridge above Lake Red Rock. The edifice consists of a main block with a small rear wing, tower, and belfry. The footprint of the main block measures 30 feet five inches by 41 feet; the bell tower measures 10 feet six inches by eight feet; and the belfry measures six feet by six feet. (See Continuation Sheet 7-11.)

The building rests on a limestone foundation now parged with concrete. Local stonemason William A. Crouch cut, dressed, and laid the stone for the original building along with a cornerstone, which bore his initials—"W.A.C." It is unclear to what extent this original foundation was used in the construction of the present edifice. Some of the parging has been removed to expose the limestone. The stone exhibits red striations in its light creamy-colored body, the source of the name "Red Rock," so frequently encountered in the area.

The main block is clad with narrow, clapboard siding with corner posts situated on all four corners of the building. The main block is covered with a steeply pitched, front gable roof of asphalt shingles. A brick chimney pierces the center of the roof at its ridge. The eaves are closed and moderately wide. The main block's rear wing is covered with a steeply pitched front gable roof of asphalt shingles. The rear wing is located at the southeast corner of the main block.

The lines of the tower and belfry are breathtaking in their simplicity. The tower rises in three sections: base, pent roof, and upper section. The base contains the main entrance to the building, with double doors of paneled wood surmounted by a fanlight transom. A sign reading "Coal Ridge/Church/Established 1852" is situated above the transom. A flared, pent roof provides a visual transition to the belfry. The flare adds both an upward and a downward thrust to the tower, depending on which direction the viewer's eye moves. The upper section of the tower is canted on all four sides. This configuration lends further visual movement to the composition. Finally, the belfry with its four Gothic-arched openings, steeply pitched and flared pyramid roof, and pinnacle add a final skyward thrust. The bell in the belfry dates from the 1860 church.

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

Interior

The interior of the church features a vestibule, sanctuary, and storeroom.

Double doors access the vestibule from the exterior. A pull rope hangs from the ceiling of the vestibule and activates the church bell. A series of wood pegs runs along the south wall and north wall of the vestibule. The congregation can hang their wraps on these pegs. A set of paneled, double doors, surmounted by a transom with two lights, leads into the sanctuary.

The floor plan of the sanctuary comes as a surprise to the visitor. One expects upon entry to face a chancel. This is not the case. The sanctuary is laid out so that worshipers face the north—the long wall of the room. A center aisle divides seven rows of pews, laid out in a slightly curvilinear configuration. A propane-burning stove is situated about midway down the center aisle. A series of four pews are also situated in the northwest corner of the sanctuary. A platform along the north wall elevates a pulpit area above the main floor. A reed organ, new to the church but antique, is situated on this platform behind the pulpit. Two rows of pews for the choir are situated to the east of this platform. All of the pews came from the Second Reformed Church in Pella, a Victorian edifice now nonextant. These pews were rebuilt for their use at Coal Ridge.

The sanctuary walls feature plaster surfaces, now painted white. Stenciled ribbons in various colors run around the top of the walls. A series of tin drinking cups are hung in the northeast corner of the sanctuary for congregational use. The sanctuary floor and the floor joists under it were replaced with new wood during renovation of the building in the 1980s.

The sanctuary's acoustics are excellent. The flat surface of a baffle, installed in each of the four corners of the room, cant outward from the walls and downward from the ceiling to deflect sound from being lost in the corners. These baffles are original to the building and an unusual architectural feature of ecclesiastical design.

Today, the sanctuary is used for multiple purposes. During the summer season, weekly worship services are held in the building. The church also houses a collection of local history memorabilia and serves as a museum. At Christmastime, a special service is held in the building, and residents from throughout Marion County come to the church to celebrate the season with a carol sing.

The storeroom is located at the southeast corner of the sanctuary and provides storage space for choir robes and other church needs.

During the 1930s, a 32-volt Delco plant generator was installed in a cave on the property. This system remained in use until 1946, when rural electricity became available, the church was wired for electric lights, and the cave closed. Prior to that time, kerosene was used at the church for illumination. Four kerosene lamps presently hang from the sanctuary ceiling to recreate the ambience of fossil fuel lighting.

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

Conflagration, Reconstruction, Preservation

On October 11, 1908, fire destroyed the first house of worship of the Coal Ridge Baptist Church. Prior to Sunday services on that morning, a fire had been built in the church stove. Soon thereafter, neighbors noticed fire engulfing the building. Because running water was unavailable at the site, nothing could be done to save the building. The following day, a business meeting was held to discuss the construction of a new building. The present structure was ready for occupancy within four months of the fire. This construction took place during the fall and winter months.

By the 1980s, the physical condition of the Coal Ridge Baptist Church had deteriorated. The roof needed replacement and the windows were in poor repair. To address these needs, the Coal Ridge Ladies Aid launched a renovation project. A new roof and new flooring were installed, and windows were replaced through memorial donations with sash conforming to the originals. The entire building, inside and out, was painted. Museum displays were mounted in the interior of the building to highlight local history. By 1991, the renovation of the church was complete. To celebrate the occasion, the Ladies Aid sponsored a homecoming reunion and rededication of the building on a weekend in May of 1991. The preparation of this National Register nomination is intended as one component of a celebration to mark in 2008-2009 the centennial of this church's construction.

**CEMETERY**

The cemetery is situated at the rear of the church. The land is nearly level, although an embankment on the north slopes downward to Inwood Drive, and the land at the rear of the cemetery slopes downward as well. Several entrances access the cemetery. A pedestrian entrance is situated at the southeast corner of the church. A gated vehicular entrance to the cemetery is situated at the northeast corner of the church, adjacent to a gated entrance for pedestrians.

The cemetery is laid out in a series of plots and lots. (See Continuation Sheet 7-12.) One plot measures 21 feet in width and 10 feet in depth and contains five lots. There are a total of 92 plots in the cemetery. Four plots at the west end of the cemetery were not laid out in lots. A plan for this cemetery, along with the names of its burials, is on file at the Marion County Courthouse. The intent of this cemetery plan was to encourage families to buy at least one plot. Marion County now administers the cemetery and sells spaces by lots rather than plots.

A center pedestrian walk divides the cemetery into a north section and a south section. Three ranks of plots run east to west in the north section, and five ranks of plots run east to west in the south section. (See Continuation Sheet 7-12.) This asymmetry resulted from the desire to center the church along the axis formed by a center pedestrian walk and the fact that the church is off-centered on its site.

Poured concrete, pedestrian walks are situated in front of each row of grave markers. A center pedestrian walk forms an east-west axis running to the east from the rear of the church to the rear of the cemetery. A series of 11 aisles runs at right angles to this center walk. These 2-foot-wide aisles are narrower than the center walk. There are 11 aisles to the north of the center walk and 11 aisles to the

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

south of it. The south aisle walks are laid out slightly farther to the east than the north aisles walks. This is because Plot 80 and Plot 81 on the south side of the center walk are reserved for pastors and church deacons and are deeper than standard size. This skews the layout of the south and north rows. The cemetery features a variety of grave markers. They date from the 1860s to the present day. Most of the markers are of granite, but some are of cast stone. Some burials in this cemetery are relocated burials from the Monster Cemetery, a burial ground for the Monster family on a farm located a little to the east.

Two mature cedar trees stand within the cemetery, along with a semi-mature cedar and a semi-mature oak. One volunteer tree has been allowed to grow by one of the plots. A metal fence surrounds the cemetery. A chain-link fence runs along the north and east perimeter of the cemetery, while a wire fence with pipe posts runs along its west and south perimeters. The chain-link fence is modern, while the wire fence dates to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **OUTBUILDINGS**

The property has two outbuildings, a tool shed and a privy.

The tool shed is a frame, storage shed, clad with wood siding and covered with a shed roof, is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the church. This tool shed was built about the same time as the church. It houses ladders, a wheelbarrow, and other tools needed for church and cemetery maintenance.

The privy is of frame construction and situated near the southwest corner of the property. The present privy was built recently to replace an earlier one stolen one year at Halloween.

### **INTEGRITY AND PRESENT CONDITION**

The integrity of the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery is excellent. The building is located on its original site with its architectural design unimpaired except for replacement windows and salvaged pews, as noted above. The building's setting has been preserved with no encroachments to its original tract of land or visual intrusions. The land in front of the property remains, as in the past, an open lawn. Except for some minimal repairs (also noted below), most of the building's original materials remain intact, along with the workmanship, which fashioned these materials into the built structure. The property's feeling as a rural church and cemetery remains intact because modern development has not encroached on its sight lines. The property's association with the historic events, which occurred in connection with it, also remains intact. Those individuals involved in these events would immediately recognize the building as it appears today.

The condition of the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery is excellent. The rehabilitation of the building in 1991 preserved the building's key historic elements in outstanding state of repair. Careful maintenance and on-going improvements—such as placing the church bell in working order recently—continue to preserve the building's condition. The cemetery is also well maintained.

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

## SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY • CIRCLE LOCATES SITE OF COALPORT



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Otley, Iowa, Quadrangle, 1965.



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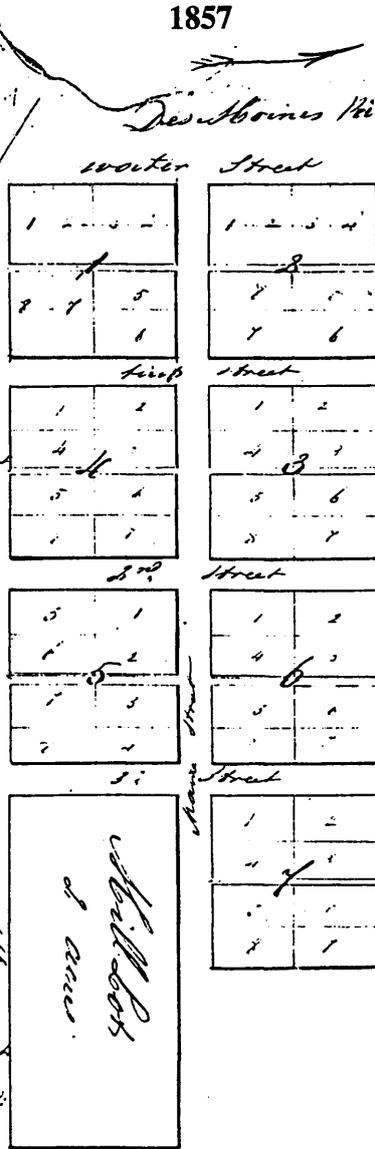
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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

PLAT OF COALPORT

1857



Coalport  
 Section 18.14  
 Township 46 North  
 of Range 19 West  
 of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M.  
 Marion Co. Iowa

I hereby certify that as the Registrar  
 of William Welch of Marion Co. Iowa  
 I surveyed the town of Coalport  
 lying on the South side of the Des  
 Moines River in Sec. 18.14 Town-  
 ship 46 North of Range 19  
 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M.,  
 of which the accompanying  
 Diagram is a correct plat.  
 It is laid off with Streets  
 running North 50° West and  
 South 20° East; the decli-  
 nation of the needle was 11° East.  
 The Alleys run South 20° East  
 The Streets are 60 feet wide,  
 all but Water Street it is of

Marion County Surveyor William Welch's plat of Coalport, dated May 11, 1857. The town is oriented to the Des Moines River. Water Street parallels the river. Main Street forms the spine of the town and terminates perpendicular to Water Street at the river. Welch also spelled the town's name as "Cole Port" on the heading of this drawing.

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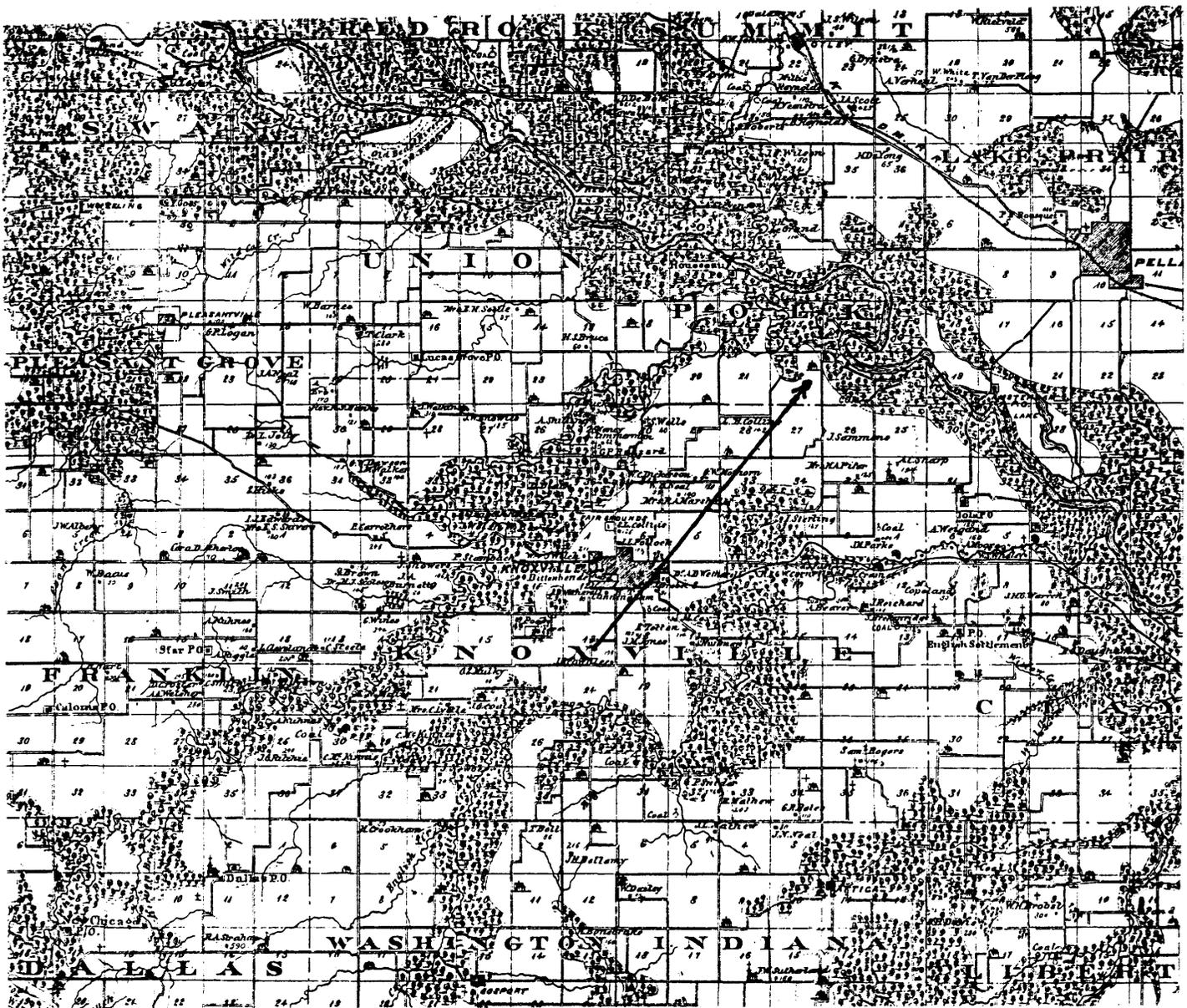
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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

## COAL RIDGE CHURCH IN 1875

### ARROW LOCATES 1860 CHURCH



By the time of this publication, Coalport had diminished in size and was not shown on this map.

Source: *Andreas Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa*, p. 65.





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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

**AERIAL VIEW OF CHURCH AND CEMETERY**

site (within white lines)

CIRCA 1985



This photograph includes a drawn boundary of the church property. The vehicular drives, which access it, are readily visible, as are the church, the central pedestrian walk through the cemetery, and the rows of graves

Source: Marion County Assessor's Office.

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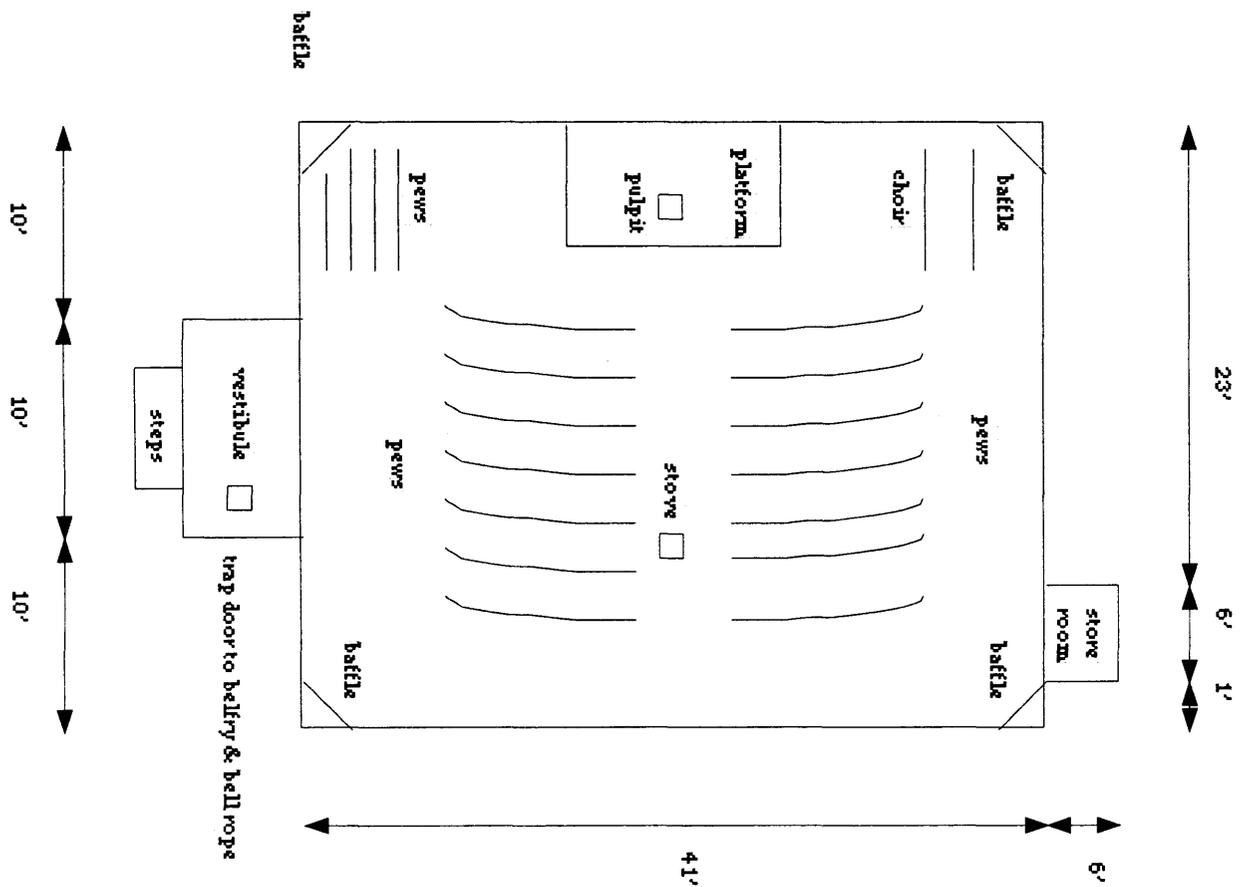
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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

# CHURCH SKETCH PLAN



Source: William C. Page, 2005.

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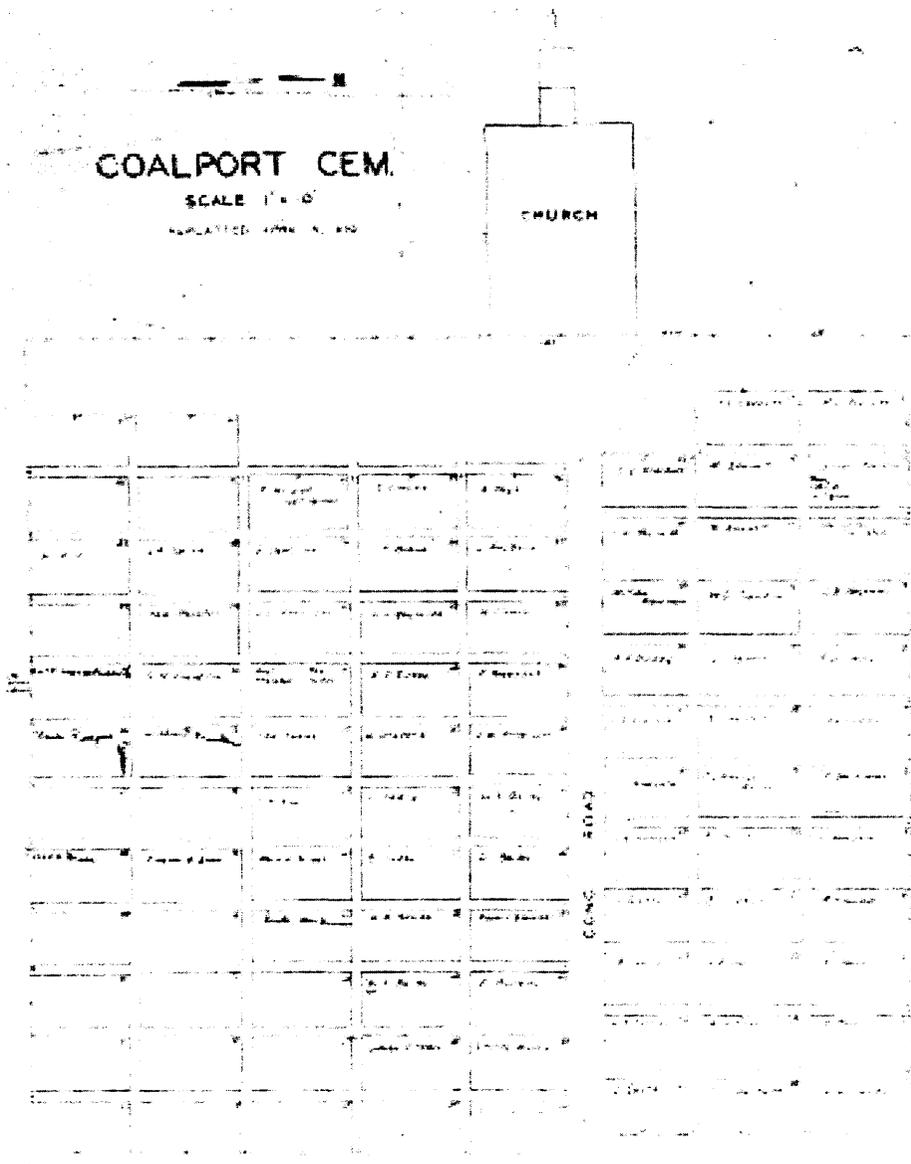
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## COAL RIDGE CEMETERY PLAN



Not to Scale.

Source: Eunice Kuyper Folkerts, 2005.



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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Built in 1909, the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery is significant on the local level, under National Register Criterion A, because of social history. The church became a gathering place in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for the unincorporated "Down on the Ridge" community of Coalport and Coal Ridge. The church is the last remaining building of this historic community. Over the years, church activities shifted to accommodate the changing social and religious life of local residents. As Coalport and Coal Ridge declined in population, the surrounding rural population became the church's chief focus. Then, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, this rural area experienced a renaissance, and the church adapted to these needs. Throughout this time, the Coal Ridge Baptist Ladies Aid, an organization founded by the church in 1913 and still active, nurtured the social ties among local residents and promoted community betterment.

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery is significant on the local level, under National Register Criterion C, because of its architecture. The exterior of the building blends the influences of Neo-Classical and late Gothic Revival styling together in a design of striking simplicity, while the interior of the building shows a careful regard for practicality.

The period of significance, under Criterion A, is the time between 1909 and circa 1956, the period of the building's historic significance. The year 1956 marks the National Register's 50-year cutoff date and the time just before exurban residential growth from Knoxville and Pella began in the area. The period of significance, under Criterion C, is 1909, the year the building was completed and first occupied.

The property contains three contributing resources—the church and a tool shed, which are classified as buildings, and the cemetery, which is classified as a site—and one noncontributing resource, a privy, which is classified as a building.

National Register Criteria Considerations A and D apply to this property. Although the property is used for religious purposes and as a cemetery, the property qualifies for the National Register because it derives primary significance from its historical associations and architectural design.

**"DOWN ON THE RIDGE"**

Introduction

Completed in 1909 following a fire that leveled the previous church on the site, the present edifice quickly assumed the role the earlier building had played as a gathering place for the unincorporated, rural community of Coalport and Coal Ridge.

Coalport, a thriving port of call on the Des Moines River, was platted on its floodplain in 1857. The village was later abandoned because of constant flooding. Its site now lies submerged under Lake Red Rock. Coal Ridge, a cluster of buildings on the nearby heights above Coalport, served as the center for the community's educational and religious life. The vitality of this life was demonstrated in 1908, when fire destroyed the earlier Coal Ridge Baptist Church and the community immediately replaced it in 1909 with the present

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

edifice on the same site. Since then, the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery has continued to provide a focus for the surrounding rural community. Although the rural population declined during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Coal Ridge Baptist Ladies Aid, an organization founded by the church in 1913 and still active today, continued to promote community betterment. Then, in the 1970s and 1980s, exurban residential growth from Knoxville and Pella and the establishment of the Whitebreast Recreation Area, one component of a 50,000-acre park owned and operated by the federal government, brought in new permanent and part-time residents to the area. The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery continues today to serve the social and religious needs of these residents.

When asked, "Where do you live?" early residents of the area answered, "Down on the ridge." This charming phrase aptly characterized the duality of the early community—the village of Coalport on the floodplain and the Coal Ridge cluster of buildings on the heights. According to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century account:

In those good old days we had Coalport in the valley and Coal Ridge on the hill. The former was a steamboat town situated on the west bank of the Des Moines River that times [*sic*] it pursued its course seaward as bearing upon its silvery bosom the burden of men; the latter was a seat of learning, situated in the midst of a small settlement of God's noble men and women driven there no doubt by the flood of the Des Moines River, which flood [1903, ed.] has never been equaled since the time Noah made that remarkable voyage to the top of the mountain in that far away eastern land. (McCown: 2)

As a center for social activities and religious life, the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery subsequently provided inter-generational links between past and present residents, reinforced existing family ties, and assimilated new residents into the community.

Town of Coalport

Coalport was an early settlement in central Iowa, whose promise as a coaling station on the Des Moines River and center for the fabrication of pottery goods augured well for its future. Early histories of the area indicate a mix of settler origins, but most came from eastern regions of the United States.

As settlement moved west across the Mississippi River and into Iowa, counties were established to govern the new land, first within the Territory of Wisconsin and then the Territory of Iowa. Prior to 1845, the land now known as Marion County was administered from Mahaska County. That land was set off from Mahaska and organized in its own right as Marion County in 1845. Many paper towns were laid out throughout Iowa during the years immediately preceding the Civil War, as the state attracted immigrants from earlier-settled sections of the nation and as speculators sought to capitalize on land development.

In 1848, the United States Government transferred the 160 acres of land at the future site of Coalport to private ownership. In 1852, William and Mary Welch purchased a portion of this tract and platted the town of Coalport in 1857. The town was surveyed and laid out by William Kent, county surveyor for Marion

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County, Iowa, and the Welches conveyed the plat to the public on October 15, 1857.

William Welch intended this layout to fulfill his ambition to found a coaling station on the Des Moines River for steamships plying between Keokuk and Des Moines. Coal deposits had been discovered in the vicinity already by the 1840s. During the steamboat era, many placed hopes on river transportation to open up the interior of Iowa to commerce. Steamships such as the "Pavillion," "Charley Rogers," "Defiance," "Add Hines," "Clara Hines," and the "De Moine Belle" (McCown: 111) plied the Des Moines River upstream from Coalport. Indeed, the town became the most important coaling station between Eddyville and Fort Des Moines. (Heusinkveld: 46) The significance of the latter increased in 1857, when the State of Iowa moved its seat of government to Des Moines from Iowa City.

The plat of Coalport contained seven city blocks with two acres platted as a Mill Lot. The town was located at a loop on the Knoxville side of the Des Moines River. The Coalport plat was oriented to the river. Lots one through four in Blocks 1 and 2 faced the river. (See Continuation Sheet 7-7.) Water Street stood between the river and these two blocks. Blocks three, four, five, and six stood in pairs inland from the first two blocks. First Street separated blocks one and two from three and four, 2nd Street separated blocks three and four from five and six, and 3rd Street separated blocks five and six from block seven and the Mill Lot. Main Street bisected the plat and formed a spine between the paired blocks. Coalport streets measured 60-foot wide with the exception of Water Street, whose widths varied in measurement according to the bank of the river. Alleys with 12-foot widths bisected each of the numbered blocks and ran east and west. The lots measured 50 x 100 feet.

According to Alfred B. McCown:

The boat landing was at the end of "Western Avenue," which extended from the Day Everett place on west to "River Street," fronting the waters of the classic Des Moines.  
(McCown: 110)

Neither Western Avenue nor River Street was shown on Coalport's original plat. These names evidently entered the local vernacular at a later time.

Following the platting of Coalport, Welch quickly established coal operations. Local residents dug coal from nearby outcroppings and sold it to passing steamboats. This coal proved to be a better quality fuel than the wood the boats had previously burned for power. William Crouch, an early brick- and stonemason, settled in the area and is credited with the construction of chimneys and foundations for many houses and barns. At this time, Coalport boasted one little store, a gristmill, a pottery shop, blacksmith shop, "a very rich bank," a ferryboat, and about one-half dozen families. (McCown: 2)

By 1875, Coalport's population reached 879 residents, the peak of Coalport's growth. (Wright: I-753) This was a most respectable number, considering that Knoxville, Marion County's seat of government, had only reached 1,800 a few years earlier.

In spite of this promise, the extension of the railroads in Iowa in the 1860s spelled the end of the steamboat

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era along the Des Moines River. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad reached Marion County in 1875 and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific in 1876, but already by then, steamboats had mostly ceased operation on the Des Moines. Adding to this, the railroads bypassed Coalport and quickly reconfigured transportation and then population patterns in the county.

Area residents continued to mine coal on a small scale. Some coal was used for heating local homes and some was hauled to Pella and Knoxville for the same purpose. As late as about 1919, some coal was even delivered to Howell Station for use by the railroad. (Heusinkveld: 23)

The vicissitudes of persistent flooding over a span of a half-century wore away at the residents' mettle. Persistent rains in 1903 swelled the Des Moines River and flooded Coalport. The ferocity of the flood actually altered the course of the river and left the community land-locked. Having lost confidence in their future, most Coalport residents abandoned the town. In 1956, only one family continued to live on the bottomland. The Coal Ridge School and the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery continued now serving rural residents.

### The Potteries

Marion County clay is of good utility for the fabrication of pottery vessels, and potteries arose in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century at Coalport, Whitebreast, Attica, and Knoxville to exploit its commercial possibilities. These hand-made products included such utensils as crocks, jugs, bowls, pitchers, jars, and butter churns—all needed by early pioneers. More is presently known about the potteries at Coalport (actually on Coal Ridge) which included William Welch, Thomas H. Smith, and T. C. (Cass) Smith, than the county's other potters. (Stoltz and Brooks: 333)

According to one source:

The clay used at Coalport came from the coal measures, which were found under layers of coal, and was commonly referred to as "fire clay." The "fire clay" is grey-colored and even-textured and through the process of slip casting, this clay fires a soft melon shade, making a high quality pottery. (*Ibid.*: 335)

The scale of these proto-industrial operations at Coalport was small, and the distribution of the products appears to have been limited to the surrounding area. Still, the presence of three active potters in the area demonstrated in one more way how community enterprise exploited available raw materials.

John David Reynolds M.A. thesis in anthropology investigated the Coalport Kiln site and concluded in 1970 that "this was one of the most important pioneer industries for it provided durable containers to a largely agrarian population that could obtain containers in no other way." (Reynolds: 1) The Reynolds thesis also provides a detailed account of the early Down on the Ridge community.

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Coal Ridge: "A Seat of Learning"

The promontory of land, known as Coal Ridge, rises along a peninsula of land adjacent to White Breast Creek on the south bank of Lake Red Rock. The ridge enjoys a commanding view of the lake, its north shore, and Pella. Today, Coal Ridge rises about 100 feet above the lake's natural pool elevation. Historically, before the Des Moines River was dammed, its valley filled, and the huge reservoir created, the ridge's elevation was even greater relative to its surroundings.

From an early time, the residents of Coalport felt drawn to the ridge because of the safety it offered from flood. At the same time, they valued Coalport's proximity to the commercial lifeline of the river. Naturally, they also felt an attachment to their homes on the bottomland, which they had built and where they lived.

The ambiguity of these feelings became expressed in physical terms, when the community established its local institutions. As the town of Coalport prospered and grew, the community built a new schoolhouse for its children. The site chosen was in a grove, near the present-day Coal Ridge Baptist Church. "On the ridge" became a common phrase to denote its site.

Coal Ridge School

The Coal Ridge Schoolhouse was a small, frame, one-room building, which stood north of the present-day Coal Ridge Baptist Church, "just on the brow of the hill." (McCown: 51) One pupil, who attended school in the 1850s, later provided this description:

Coal Ridge was a seat of learning. It was a little frame building about eighteen by twenty feet. It was made of native lumber. In the center of the room stood a wood stove which at that time was up-to-date.

How the boys, big and little, used to run the old path from the schoolhouse over the hill and down the beaten trail, passing the old potter shop on the way to the landing when they heard the steamboat below. They always yearned for a landing during the noon hour. (McCown: 3)

The Coal Ridge School continued to serve its educational function for rural children for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Following World War II, school consolidation in Marion County reconfigured rural education and local schoolchildren transferred to Knoxville for classes. The Coal Ridge schoolhouse remained unoccupied and without maintenance and was subsequently razed.

Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery

The second institution the community established on Coal Ridge was the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery. The siting of the church and cemetery could hardly have been accidental. Situated at a high point

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along Coal Ridge, this site commands visual prominence throughout its surroundings. This setting stood as a reassurance to local residents that regardless of flooding, the church remained secure.

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church was organized in 1852. Its early worship services were held in the Coal Ridge School under the pastorate of Warren D. Everett. (McCown: 35) The original church was a frame structure, erected in 1860 at a cost of \$600.00. William A. Crouch, a local stonemason, donated the stone for the foundation and the labor to construct it. The cornerstone of the building bore Crouch's initials "W.A.C."

The informality of pioneer life is evident in the fact that the church stood on land actually owned by Samuel and Frances R. Taylor rather than the church. The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery Association purchased this 1.5-acre site from the Taylors by warranty deed on November 30, 1882. (Marion County Recorder's Office, February 23, 1883) Church trustees John S. Everett, James M. Amsberry, and M. S. Reynolds paid the Taylors \$60.50 for the property.

In 1893, the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery Association filed articles of incorporation for their society. (Marion County Recorder's Office, October 21, 1893) The articles stipulated that "the principal declaration of faith and bond of union of this society shall be and remain the same as the society has this day adopted and as are found in the Baptist Church manual." (*Ibid.*) All eleven adult male members of the society signed their names to the articles and appeared before a notary public in Knoxville to acknowledge the fact. They were: George Fosdick, F. G. Davis, W. R. Dickey, Allen Anderson, John Hegwood, F. W. Reynolds, W. B. Everett, O. T. Bailey, W. E. Bruce, J. W. Anderson, and Isaac Runyan. (*Ibid.*)

The church filed articles of reincorporation with the State of Iowa in 1944. This legal document reflects the duality of the Coalport-Coal Ridge community and how synonymous the two proper names had become. The opening paragraph of the articles acknowledges the name of its society as the "Coal Ridge Baptist Church." The sixth paragraph refers to it as the "Coalport Church." (Marion County Recorder's Office, February 25, 1944) During the 1950s, the congregation broadened the tenets of its religious faith and became non-denominational.

Fire destroyed the first church building on October 11, 1908. Shortly afterwards, a visitor recorded the site:

We drove on toward the old church at the crossroads just beyond, to find only one short week before the hungry fire gods had fallen upon it, and save a few stones and charred timbers, nothing remained of that dear old sanctuary but a sweet memory sanctified by the tears and prayers and songs and sermons laid upon the altar there so long ago. (McCown: 68)

A second church quickly arose on the same site. According to one local history:

A business meeting was held on Monday night, October 12 [the day following the fire] at the school house. The decision was made to rebuild immediately. The plans included use

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of the "old cornerstone inscribed WAC." Services were held in the school house during construction of the new church.

The lumber for the new building was from local trees and the mill work was done at the Coalport Sawmill. Much of the construction was done with volunteer labor and the cost of the new structure, itemized in the April 3, 1909, church record, came to a total of \$1,625.98. Only \$252.05 of that amount was for labor. Dedication services were held on February 23, 1909. (Huizer)

According to a long-time "down on the ridge" resident, Clarence Blackman owned a sawmill in Coalport. He cut the building materials for the new church from local timber. Tommy and Lloyd Anderson worked for Blackman as boys and helped. Everyone in the community helped haul the finished lumber up to the building site by team. Oliver Reynolds, a local carpenter, is credited with much of the new building's construction, assisted by local volunteers. (William Franklin informant interview)

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery continued to serve the area's rural residents as the town of Coalport dwindled away.

Throughout this time, the Des Moines River provided a ready means for the congregation's ritual of baptism by immersion. According to one early resident:

In the spring of 1857, the Des Moines River had gone beyond its banks in the low land and the Rev. Mr. Ball waded out into the turbulent waters, and, raising his hands toward heaven, asked God to bless and make sacred that spot, even as he manifested his approval of a life scene back yonder in Jordan's stream. While the waiting congregation on shore sang "O happy day, happy day/When Jesus washed my sins away," this good old servant of God led down into the water one after another. . . in observance of that beautiful rite laid themselves down with Christ in a watery grave to arise in the newness and glories of a life dedicated to the Master's service. [Sic] (Quoted in Huizer)

The Des Moines River was also used for baptisms that

occurred in mid-winter, when the ice was thick and heavy on the river. Where the water was the proper depth a hole was cut, and into this hole the candidates for baptism, one after another, were led by the big preacher. (*Ibid.*)

Rural social life revolved around the church and the school. The school provided a meeting place for some community activities, like spelling bees. The church sponsored other activities like picnics and quilting bees. A good example is the Coal Ridge Baptist Church Ladies Aid. This organization tapped the wellspring of the community's work ethic to strengthen community bonds and raise money for worthy projects. (See

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Continuation Page 8-25.) The group

was organized on March 22, 1913. The first money making project recorded in the church history was a *Name Quilt*. Ladies who wished their names included on the quilt were asked to make a donation for that purpose and the amount collected was \$10.95. The quilt was auctioned at the "First ice cream supper" held in August 1913. It was sold to the highest bidder for \$11.25. The net profit of the ice cream supper was \$21.41. (Huizer.)

As the church's congregation moved from the pioneer era into the prosperity of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, its changing social habits reflected those of rural Iowa at large.

The water supply for Coalport along with the school and the church "on the ridge" was a fresh water spring down the hill. Water was carried to the church by pail. Common place in the water pail of the early 1900's was a long handled dipper that all thirsty worshippers drank from.

The individual tin cups [hanging in the church museum today] were purchased by the Ladies Aid. It is conjectured that these were purchased in the mid-1900s by the then more health conscious ladies of the Aid. It must have been quite the luxury to have one's own individual drinking cup. (*Ibid.*)

Following World War II, the Baptist congregation at Coal Ridge ceased worship services at the church. The Ladies Aid, however, continued as an organization. The women promoted overseas as well as local missions and participated in inter-denominational activities. In 1949, for example, the Ladies Aid collected supplies for overseas relief through the American White Cross. (*Ibid.*) Founded by the Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1919, the White Cross subsequently became an agency of that denomination's national church. Its purpose was to raise funds for charitable work. (Page: 66-68) The Ladies Aid at Coal Ridge also sponsored events, such as picnics, so that local residents and former residents might stay in touch with one another. Fern Franklin was instrumental in keeping this organization alive. One of the group's quilts, dated 1950, is displayed in the church today as part of its museum collection.

Time Present

Although outside the period of significance for this nomination, the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery continue to serve the evolving Coal Ridge community.

The establishment of Red Rock Lakeview, a residential subdivision laid out near the church in the late 1950s, Lakeside Heights, and other residential development brought new residents to the area. The scenic setting of Coal Ridge—with its panoramic view of Lake Red Rock—attracted this ex urban growth from nearby Knoxville (about three miles to the southwest) and Pella to the northeast. In the 1970s, the establishment of the Whitebreast Recreation Area, directly adjacent to the church property, brought another kind of resident

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to the area. Whitebreast Campground provides 132 camping spots for temporary residents, in addition to a boat ramp access, swimming beach, amphitheater, hiking trail, playgrounds, and amenities. Whitebreast is only one among many other recreation areas within Lake Red Rock, which embraces 50,000 acres of federally owned and operated flood control and Iowa's largest expanse of public land.

As all this occurred, the new, permanent residents to Coal Ridge community, like Eunice Kuyper Folkerts, infused fresh blood and enthusiasm into the Coal Ridge Ladies Aid. The preservation of the church building (discussed in Section 7), sponsorship of Sunday morning worship services, weekly, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and maintenance of a local history museum became new missions of the organization and revitalized it. The group also sponsors carol sings during the Christmas holiday and other special events during the year. So, now, nearing a century of service, the Ladies Aid Association actively continues its work of community improvement, while preserving an organizational name wide-spread during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but now redolent of a bygone era.

### **ARCHITECTURE**

The Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery is significant on the local level, under National Register Criterion C, because of its architecture. The building's design blends turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century stylistic influences with elements of Progressive Era architecture. The exterior shows the influence of Neo-Classical and late Gothic Revival detailing, while the interior shows a careful regard for practicality, a hallmark of architecture during the Progressive Era.

#### Exterior

Although appearing simple at first glance, the exterior of this building reveals a sophistication of design, most evident in the superb proportions of the tower, belfry, and roof.

The tower and belfry possess a number of component parts, including base, pent roof, tower, belfry, and pyramid roof. Both roofs are flared. The base of the tower features the front entrance to the building, accessed by double doors and surmounted by a fan-shaped transom. The solid doors lend privacy to the interior of the building, while the unusually large transom offers a welcoming invitation for passers-by to step inside.

The flared pent roof, which caps the base, forms a visual transition from its rectilinear shape to the battered walls of the tower proper. Battered walls form this tower, and their lines pull the tower and the mass of the main block together, accent the steep pitch of the main block, and relieve it of any feeling of heaviness. At the same time, the battered walls further lead the eye upward to the belfry. Its four Gothic-arched bays continue the upward thrust of the composition, finally capped by a pyramid roof, whose flared design sweeps the eye downward to begin the contemplation of the design all over again.

Designs for church towers with multiple components have been common in America since earliest times. The architectural conceit of the battered tower, however, appeared on the scene in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century

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through the influence of the Celtic Revival than in progress in Britain. Stone towers with canting walls are ancient staples of Irish architecture, and the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century revival of early Celtic art during the Arts and Crafts movement in Britain held wide sway among the Irish people. A group of Irish settlers to Warren County, Iowa, had founded St. Patrick's Church near Cumming, Iowa, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and used the conceit of battered walls for its church building. The conceit as employed at Coal Ridge is applied to the transitional area between tower and belfry. Although no connection between these two buildings is otherwise known, their example points to the influence of battered tower design at this time in Iowa.

Stylistic influences are evident on the exterior. The multi-paned, demi-lune transom surmounting the church's front door and the symmetrical placement of the tower on the front facade of the building show the influence of Neo-Classical Revival styling on its design. The Gothic arched belfry openings and the building's steeply pitched main roof show the influence of late Gothic Revival styling.

Although an architect or architectural firm has not been identified for this design, it likely resulted from a professional source, possibly from a publication available through a local lumberyard in Knoxville or Pella. Mail-order architectural plans were readily available during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for do-it-yourself builders to follow. Local lumberyards disseminated these publications. Although fewer planning services offered mail-order designs for church rather than for residential construction, the design excellence of the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and its many practical amenities suggest the hand of a professional in its creation.

### Interior

During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, architects across the nation sought to reform the excesses of Victorian architecture. An emphasis on designs promoting simplicity, efficiency, and health emerged. Whether called by the name of Bungalow, Craftsman, or Commercial Style, these late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century American movements found expression in all types and forms of architecture and formed one aspect of the Progressive Era in America, a time of general reform of the nation's political, economic, social, and cultural life.

The sanctuary of Coal Ridge Baptist Church is an outstanding example of Progressive Era architectural reform as applied to a rural religious edifice. Its design promotes hearing, sight, comfort, and social interaction among its occupants. It eschews decorative detail.

This interior surprises the first-time visitor. He expects to face a central aisle laid out on an east-west axis with a chancel or pulpit at its head. Instead, the visitor encounters a floor plan whose central aisle is skewed 90 degrees to the north and south. (See Continuation Sheet 7-11.) The reason for this design will become apparent below.

The sanctuary features a highly successful, albeit simple, acoustical system. Built-in baffles, installed in each of the room's four corners, are canted angularly outward and upward to the ceiling. These baffles remove pockets of sound absorption in the room and reinforce and prolong sounds by reflection. The result is a palpable resonance of voice and music. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of time when public speaking was highly popular in the United States and inventive devices to promote good acoustics appealed

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to Americans, who sought ways to improve them before the advent of electrical amplification.

The sanctuary possesses several features to promote sight. Seven ranks of pews, placed in a semi-circular arrangement, flank both sides of a central aisle. This is a modified version of the Akron Plan, a design then popular among mainline American churches. This plan recommended the arrangement of pews in curvilinear rows to bring the pastor in closer visual proximity to the congregation. This amphitheater type of seating additionally promoted open sight lines from the congregation to the pastor because such rows tended to encourage staggered seating patterns and reduce blocked vision. Because the sanctuary floor plan is longer on the north and south than on the east and west, pews rows facing north are longer than had they faced east. This further increases the proximity of the congregation to the pastor and therein lies the reason for the central aisle skewed 90 degrees to the front entry.

The sanctuary's fenestration provides another practical amenity. Three windows on its south side flood the room with natural light and aid the congregation in reading and singing. In contrast, the north wall possesses only two windows and the pulpit stands between them. Thus, the congregation benefits in full from natural light yet avoids facing its intensity.

The placement of a wood- (or coal) burning stove provided another practical amenity to the sanctuary. Located in the central aisle near the middle of the room, this placement promoted the efficient distribution of heat throughout the sanctuary and keeps the sight lines of the congregation free from obstruction. Mothers with young children likely sat in pews nearest the stove.

The curvilinear arrangement of pews fostered a spirit of Christian fellowship. Members of a congregation seated in this arrangement sensed that they experienced a greater corporate unity than in the traditional arrangement of pews set at right angles to the aisle. The congregation could more easily see one another when sitting in curvilinear rows and could come into closer physical proximity with the pastor. The impulse for a similar experience emerged in America during the 1960s and 1970s and found expression in theater in the round.

#### **REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS**

In 1974, Steve Stimmel surveyed the Coal Ridge Baptist Church in windshield fashion, photographed it, but did not evaluate it. In 1978, the Central Iowa Regional Association of Governments (CIRALG) conducted an historic resources survey of Marion County. This survey found Coal Ridge Baptist Church in good structural condition but National Register ineligible under Criterion C. At this time, little information was known about country churches in Iowa. Until now, the property has never been evaluated for its historical significance.

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#### **POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

The site and surrounding area's potential for archaeological significance is, as yet, unevaluated. Historical archaeological investigations may uncover traces of previous construction on the site—such as privy sites. The surrounding area may provide clues to the history of Coalport and Coal Ridge.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research and survey might unlock the mystery surrounding the source of architectural design for the Coal Ridge Baptist Church and, perhaps, the reason behind the congregation's selection of Celtic Revival styling for its tower.

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**COAL RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH  
LADIES AID ASSOCIATION**



Taken in 1926, this fuzzy snapshot pictures members of the Coal Ridge Ladies Aid Association poised before work at a quilting party. On this day, the women sewed a quilt for Jennie Kingery (fourth from left), probably at her residence. The women wear good clothes; and, although snow covers the ground, they choose to pose without coats and with aprons. The latter, a *sine qua non* of domestic economy at the time, symbolize work. They also keep the quilters and the house tidy from snippets, nap, and frays.

Social events such as this kept neighbors in touch and community bonds strong.

Source: Coal Ridge Community Church and Museum Calendar, 2003.

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

Huizer, Joyce B.

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Page, William Colgan

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1970 "Coalport and Its Relationship to the Early Historic Pottery Industry in the Des Moines River Valley." Ames, Iowa; M.A. thesis for Iowa State University.

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## MAPS

Coal Ridge Baptist Church Cemetery

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## ORAL HISTORY

Franklin, William, with William C. Page, various times during Fall 2004 and Spring 2005. Franklin, a long-time resident of Coal Ridge, shared information about the church, cemetery, and surrounding community.

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

## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

#### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

According to the Warranty Deed for the property:

“Beginning at the North West Corner of Section Twenty Three (23) in Township Seventy Six (76) North of Range Nineteen (19) West of the 5<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian according to the Government Survey, thence Running East Nineteen (19) rods, thence South thirteen (13) Rods, thence West to the Section Line, thence North to the place of Beginning, Containing One and one-half acre more or less.”

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Contains all land associated originally with the resource.

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

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Coal Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery, Marion County, Iowa.

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