

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED JUL 16 1991

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Theodore Niemann House and Spring House other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Route 2 (Spruce Creek Rd) not for publication city, town Bellevue vicinity state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52031

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, Iowa Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Date 7/5/91 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. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8/30/91

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/out building

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingAGRICULTURE/out building

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th centuryvernacular

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestonewalls LimestoneWood frameroof Composition shinglesother Stucco

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

This two story gable roof house from 1845 (38'1"x 20'1") is located on a hillside overlooking the Spruce Creek Valley. It features a four bay facade on the eave side, with the entrance slightly off-set to the left. The door is surrounded by transom and sidelights. A chimney is located at each end of the roof. A two story rear wing of frame construction creates an L-shaped plan. Doors and windows throughout feature limestone lintels. The house is presently painted white over a thin coat of stucco.

A small square building is located to the east of the house. It has a hip roof, and a door centered on the south elevation. Its original function was as a spring house, and water continues to flow from this down the hillside. In the early part of this century there was a small brewery located on the south side of the road, utilizing this spring water.

This farmstead is located on the north side of the Spruce Creek Road, immediately to the west of the site of St. Nikolaus Church (1855). Other farm buildings include a large barn directly across the road to the south. The farmstead commands a fine view of the valley.

This survey focused on the use of limestone as a building material, with the emphasis on exteriors. Little information was gathered on the interiors of the houses and buildings.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1845  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1845  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This house and spring house are significant under Criterion C as good examples of limestone construction, and because this is said to be the first limestone house built in Jackson County (1845).

This two story gable roof house is one of 101 limestone houses recorded in the county. It is representative of the majority of these houses (89), which are rectangular in plan and have a gable roof. It is somewhat unusual in having a four bay facade (rather than three or five), with the door offset to the left of center. The entry with sidelights and transom is typical of houses constructed during the 1840s and '50s. Limestone sills and lintels are used throughout. The arrangement of the facade, and the application of stucco to the stone exterior, may have been influences from the Luxembourgian architecture found just to the north in Tete des Morts Twp. No specifically German characteristics have been identified in connection with either this house or the attendant spring house. The small square spring house with hip roof appears to date from approximately the same time as the residence. Though many have been demolished, stone out buildings were commonly found on farmsteads in this area. These small buildings are just as significant as the larger buildings and residences.

Jackson County was among the earliest Iowa counties established, first at as part of the Wisconsin Territory, then the Iowa Territory, and finally as part of the State of Iowa. The earliest settlers in the county arrived in 1833, and settled just south of the present town of Bellevue. Five years later Theodore Niemann arrived in Bellevue Twp. from Hanover Germany. He settled immediately in Sec. 3, in the Spruce Creek Valley. It is said that he lived in a log house until 1845 when this house was built. "His residence is the first stone house ever erected in Jackson Co., and it will now (1879) compare favorably with the modern farm houses throughout the county."

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Andreas Atlas of the State of Iowa. 1875, p. 164.  
Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.  
History of Jackson County Iowa. 1879, p. 670.  
History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1897, pp. 464-5.  
Thompson & Everts Wall Map of Jackson County Iowa, 1867.  
Interview with Ed Ernst conducted by Bel Tubbs, 28 January 1991.

See continuation sheet

**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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

**UTM References:**

A 

1	5
---	---

7	0	6	8	3	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	8	5	1	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

A parcel of land located on the north side of Spruce Creek Road (the road runs NW/SE) in T86N R4E Sec 3 NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ . Beginning at a point on the right of way on the north side of the road which intersects with a line ten feet NW of the NW wall of the house, then NE to a point ten feet beyond the rear wall of the house, then SE to a point ten feet beyond the SE wall of the spring house, then SW to the road, then NW to point of beginning. This includes the <sup>See continuation sheet</sup> house & spring house.

**Boundary Justification**

This nomination includes both the house and spring house noted above, but does not include any other buildings or structures on the farmstead.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

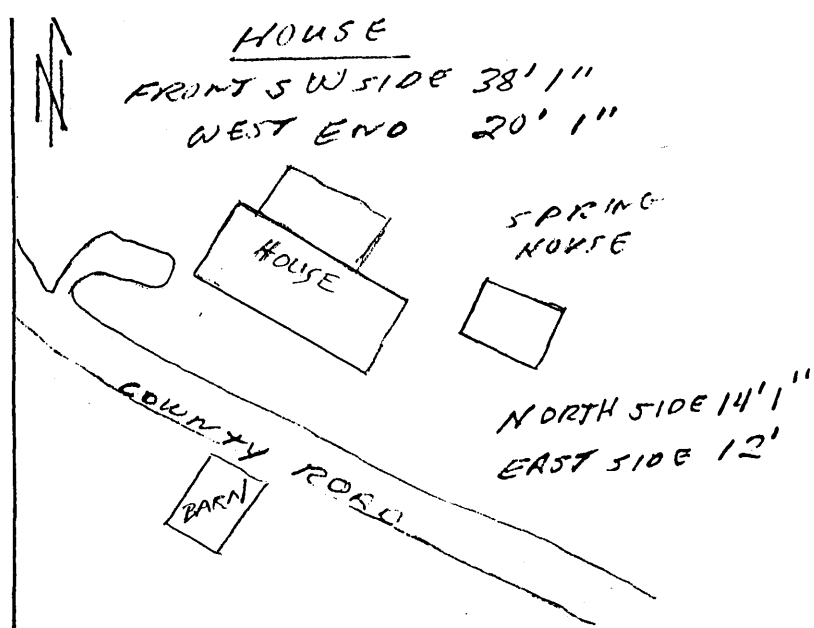
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
 organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1991  
 street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181  
 city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116



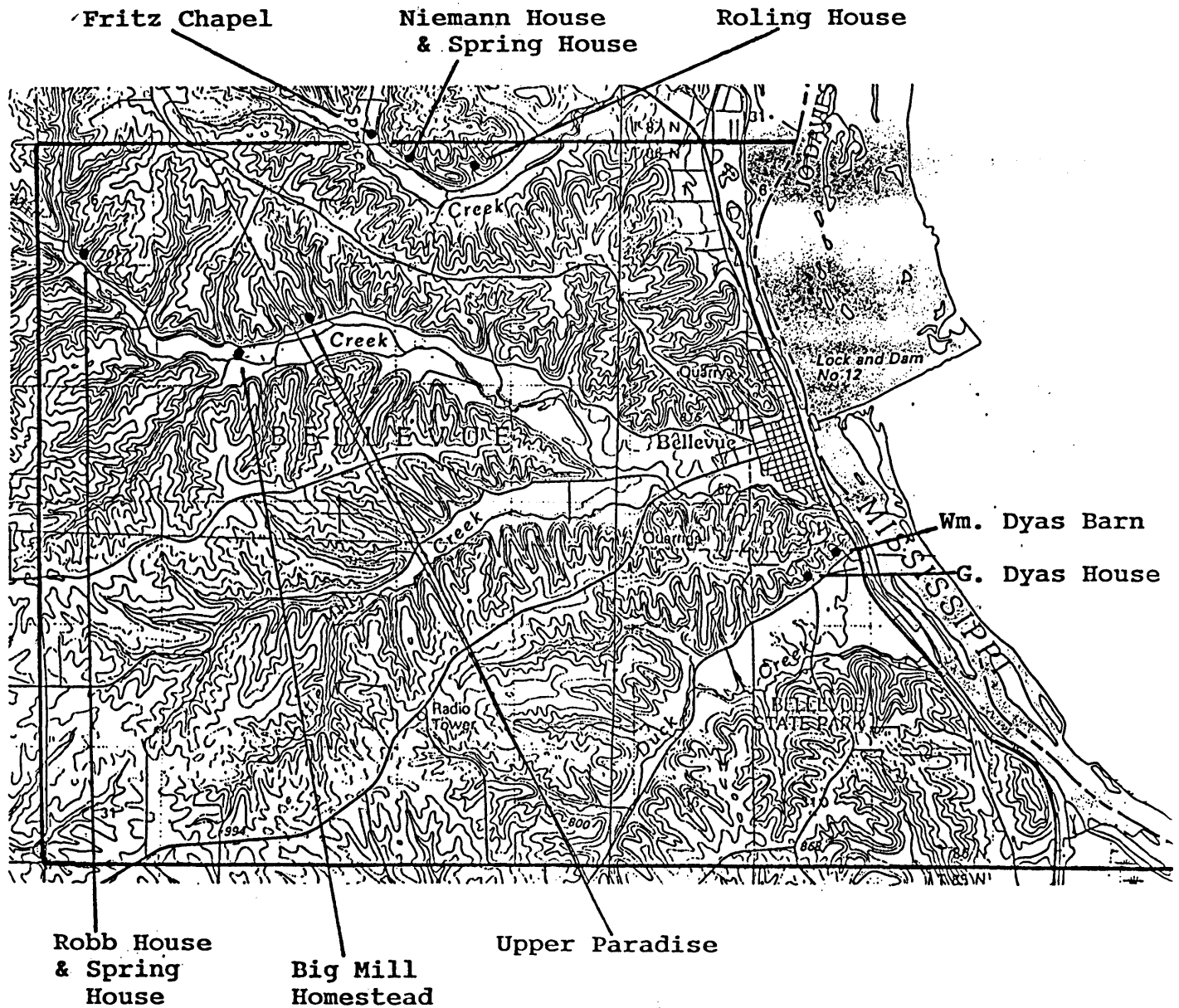


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116



Rural limestone resources being nominated  
with this submission.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

In July 1855 Niemann and his neighbor to the east, Henry Roling, deeded 12 acres of land to Bishop Loras to be used for a church and cemetery for the benefit of German Roman Catholics. It was called St. Nikolaus after the home parish of the Niemanns and Rolings at Ankum, Germany. Originally it was a mission of St. Donatus, and a small stone church was constructed in 1855. By 1869 a larger church was needed and was built. Today, only the small early church (used as a machine shed) and cemetery remain. The parish was abandoned in 1929.

Today, the Niemann house, Roling house, small church, and Fritz Chapel are the major limestone buildings in the Spruce Creek valley. Once the valley was filled with stone structures, houses (big and small), barns, and various out buildings. These have almost all been demolished over the years. The Niemann house remains in the hands of descendants of Theodore and Adelenia Niemann.

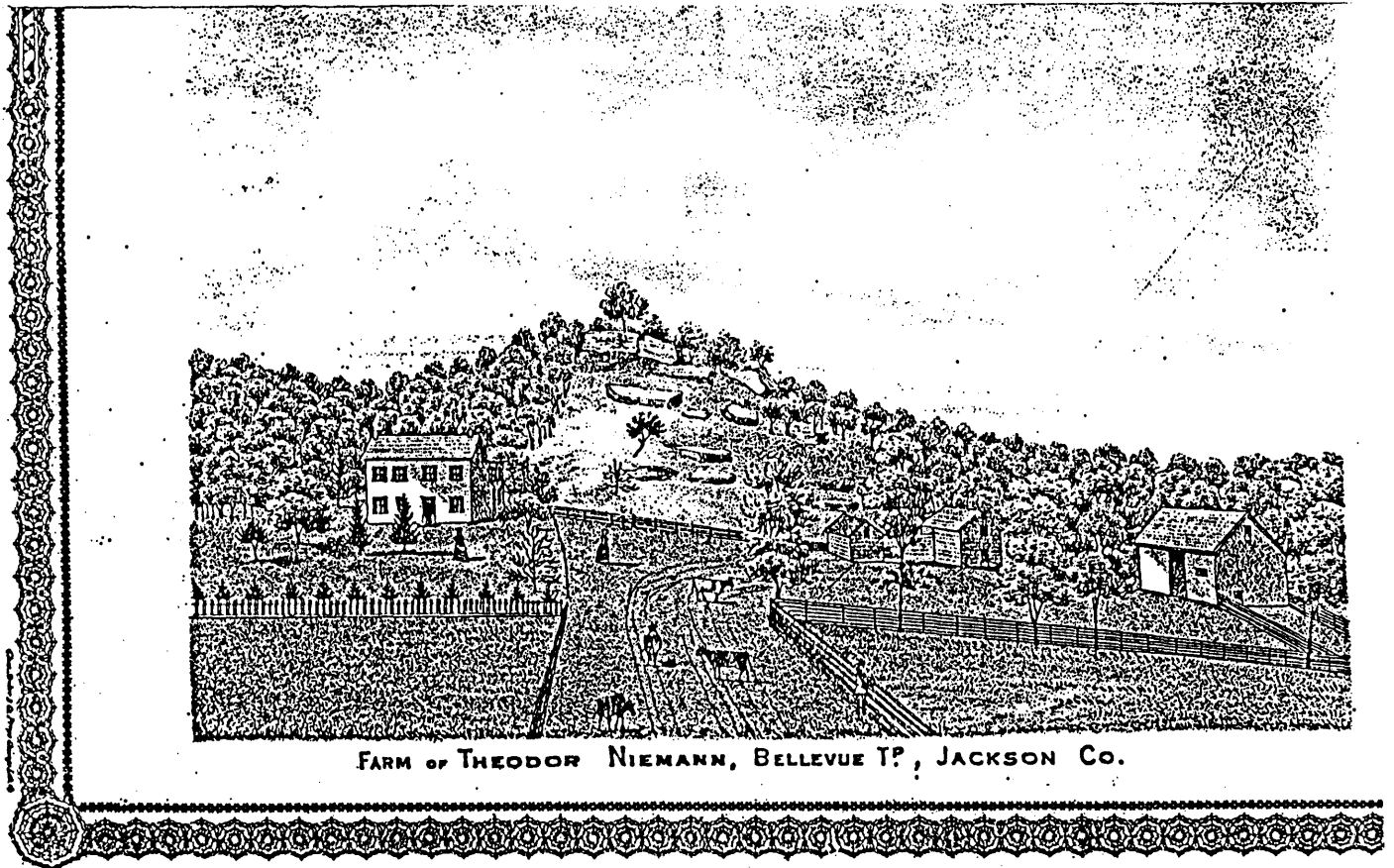


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

CFN-259-1116



This lithograph appeared in the 1875 Andreas Atlas of the State of Iowa. Close review reveals that the image is either reversed, or it is a print of another house, possibly Henry Roling's just to the east.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1

CFN-259-1116

