

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 01 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Macumber, John Andrew and Sarah Hartsook, Ice House

other names/site number Macumber Ice House; 75N-28W-34.2

2. Location

street & number County Rd G53, 1.5 mi. E. of P69 intersection  not for publication

city or town Winterset  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Madison code 121 zip code 50273

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.)

[Signature] 1/22/93  
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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Autumnella Lee 3/18/93

Macumber Ice House  
Name of Property

Madison County, IA  
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	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Legacy in Stone: The Settlement of  
Madison County, Iowa

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

**AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:**

Agricultural Outbuilding

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

**AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:**

Agricultural Outbuilding

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**7. Description**

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

No Style

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Limestone

roof Wood Shingle

other

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**Narrative Description**

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

See attached.

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:

- 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

Period of Significance

c. 1875 - 1885

Significant Dates

c. 1875 - 1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Macumber Ice House  
Name of Property

Madison County, IA  
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	4	1	0	7	6	15	4	5	6	6	9	6	10
Zone	Easting			Northing									

3 

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 Tracy A. Cunning with assistance from Roslea Johnson

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 25 September 1992

street & number P. O. Box 1093 telephone 602/968-0615

city or town Tempe state Arizona zip code 85280

**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 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Bigelow

street & number Rural Route 3 telephone 515/462-1308

city or town Winterset state Iowa zip code 50273

**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.

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National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7.8 Page 1 John A. & Sarah H. Macumber Ice House  
name of property  
Madison County, Iowa  
county and State

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**Physical Description**

The John Andrew and Sarah Hartsook Macumber Ice House is the only structure of its type on the list of known extant and nonextant stone buildings in Madison County, Iowa. Built sometime between 1875 and 1885, it is an excellent example of a vernacular limestone farm outbuilding.

The ice house is a 1 story, 11 x 13 foot, single cell, gable front structure facing south. The only door to the ice house is centered on the south gable end; there are no windows. The only other openings are two small metal ventilation pipes centered on the roof ridge. The main (south) facade is constructed of coursed rough cut limestone, but the three remaining walls are constructed of uncoursed rubble. All walls have grapevine joints. Quoins and jambs on the main facade are of roughly squared quarry faced stones. The door is flush with the wall, but is set off from the wall visually by a sill and lintel of finished cut quarry faced stone. The door itself is a vertical wood batten door. The ice house is topped by a wood shingle roof with a narrow plain bargeboard, a wide plain fascia board against the stonework, and overhanging eaves with mitred soffits. The interior of the building is lined with wood which helped maintain a cool temperature inside for ice storage.

No alterations are apparent, although the door may have been replaced at one time. The architectural integrity of the ice house is high, but its condition has deteriorated since it was first recorded in 1986. The present owner plans to continue using the building for storage, but replacing the rotting roof and repointing the stonework are not imminent.

The Macumber House (75N-28W-34.1R), a large stone and stucco farm house, is associated with the ice house (see sketch map). According to family oral tradition the house was built during the Civil War, undoubtedly replacing an earlier pioneer dwelling. The Callison family added a stucco, hip-roofed second story to the stone house c. 1915. By 1920 a garage, a seed/feed storage shed, and a stable or machine shed, all of tile block construction, had been built around the house. (The large wooden barn probably dates to the turn of the century or shortly thereafter.) Because the house more closely resembles an early 20th century home it falls outside the Legacy in Stone period of significance (1856-1885), and is therefore excluded from this nomination.

**Historical Background and Statement of Significance**

The John Andrew and Sarah Hartsook Macumber Ice House is significant under Criterion C as an example of a rare building type in Madison County. It is the only stone ice house known to have existed in the county, and it is also one of very few farm outbuildings constructed of stone. The name of the builder is unknown, but its construction suggests that it was constructed by the farm owner rather than a skilled stone mason.

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Section 8 Page 2 John A. & Sarah H. Macumber Ice House  
name of property  
Madison County, Iowa  
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John Andrew and Sarah Hartsook Macumber, both born and raised in Gallia County, Ohio, brought their family to Madison County in 1853. In 1869, John Andrew and two of his sons were listed as farmers and registered voters in Lincoln Twp. J. J. Davies mentions John as one of the "large and substantial farmers" in the township. He was primarily a livestock dealer and lived in a "fine residence" built of stone.<sup>1</sup> John Andrew Macumber owned the entire NW 1/4 of Section 34, on which this ice house is located, from 1875-1901, according to county atlases. John Andrew owned a further 80 acres in Section 33, adjacent to his main farm holding in Section 34; his daughter Esther later owned this parcel. By the late 1870s John Andrew owned 400 acres "with good improvements" in Lincoln Township,<sup>2</sup> and six of his sons owned property in Sections 31, 32, 33, and 34 until the early 1920s. His eldest sons, Andrew and Henry, especially became large land holders in the southwest corner of the township.

Sometime between 1901 and 1908, John A. died and ownership of the NW 1/4 of Section 34 passed to Andrew. By 1912, the property had been deeded to E. V. and M. E. Callison. Esther Macumber had married a next door neighbor, Callison, and the farm remained in the Callison family until 1986. The farm was associated with John Andrew and Sarah Macumber for approximately fifty years, and the ice house was undoubtedly built during their occupancy although no exact construction date is known.

The Macumber Ice House may represent a shift from pioneer subsistence farming with multi-purpose structures to commercial farming with function-specific buildings. This is only speculation, however, because as is typical of vernacular buildings, the construction date for the ice house is long forgotten and there are negligible stylistic hints as to its age. The only clues suggesting an early construction date, i.e., pre-1870, are the ice house's mitred soffits and its well-worn appearance. According to Roslea Johnson, who prepared the "Legacy in Stone" TR, mitred soffits seem to appear on the earlier structures; later structures have soffits of boards with squared ends.

The ice house was probably not built at the same time the Macumber farm house was (1865-1869) because they are constructed of two completely different kinds of limestone<sup>3</sup> and because they exhibit two different types of construction. The material and the craftsmanship in the farm house are of much higher quality than those of the ice house. Unlike the Ford Smokehouse (77N-

<sup>1</sup> Davies, J. J. History and Business Directory of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Mills and Company, Printers and Publishers, 1869, p. 199.

<sup>2</sup> History of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Compay, 1879, p. 619-620.

<sup>3</sup> Limestone for the house was quarried at Backbone Quarry during the Civil War; this unique stone is a yellow-buff color with rust colored striations, and it was quarried again in the 1870s for use in the present courthouse. The stone in the ice house is less yellow and lacks the striations; where it was quarried is unknown.

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name of property  
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county and State

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29W-24.2) and the Bevington Barn (W-PI-W2.2), the ice house was not put together with left-overs from the house construction.<sup>4</sup>

Questions about the age and use of the Macumber Ice House abound. Given the trend in Madison County toward construction of stone buildings early in the settlement period, a pre-1870 or even a pre-Civil War construction date would not be surprising. Davies states that the Macumber's were successful commercial farmers by the 1860s, and they may easily have been able to afford an ice house at that time. On the other hand, the possibility of a relatively late construction date (1870s-1880s) cannot be ruled out. In either case the Macumber Ice House remains a unique specimen of vernacular stone architecture in Madison County.

**Bibliography**

Atlas of Madison County, Iowa. Philadelphia: Harrison and Warner, 1875.

Atlas of Madison County, Iowa. Knoxville, Iowa: Midland Map Company, 1908, 1912, 1918, 1925.

Bigelow, Lester (current owner). Telephone interview with Tracy A. Cuning, 3 July 1992.

Callison, Ken (previous owner and descendent of J. A. Macumber). Personal interview with Roslea Johnson, January 1986.

Davies, J. J. History and Business Directory of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Mills and Co. Printers and Publishers, 1869.

History of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Company, 1879.

Johnson, Roslea. Personal interview with Tracy A. Cuning, 3 July 1992.

Johnson, Roslea, and Daniel Kammerer. "Legacy in Stone: The Settlement of Madison County, Iowa." National Register of Historic Places Thematic Resources Nomination, prepared for the State Historical Society of Iowa, Historic Preservation Bureau, Des Moines, Iowa, 4 August 1987.

Mueller, Herman A., ed. History of Madison County, Iowa. 2 volumes. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915.

Wilkins, J. A. [Atlas of] Madison County, Iowa. [No publisher.] January, 1894.

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<sup>4</sup> Roslea Johnson, in a personal interview with Tracy Cuning during an on-site visit to the Macumber Farm, 3 July 1992.

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John A. & Sarah H. Macumber Ice House  
name of property  
Madison County, Iowa  
county and State

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The precise verbal boundary of the Macumber Ice House is a rectangle measuring 14 feet east to west, and 17 feet north to south, centered on the ice house. This area allows for a margin of eighteen inches on the east and west sides, and two feet on the north and south ends of the building.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary includes only the subject ice house. All other structures on this farmstead are excluded from the Legacy in Stone TR and this nomination. A garage is located very close to the west wall of the ice house, which necessitates a small margin of space between the ice house and its western boundary.



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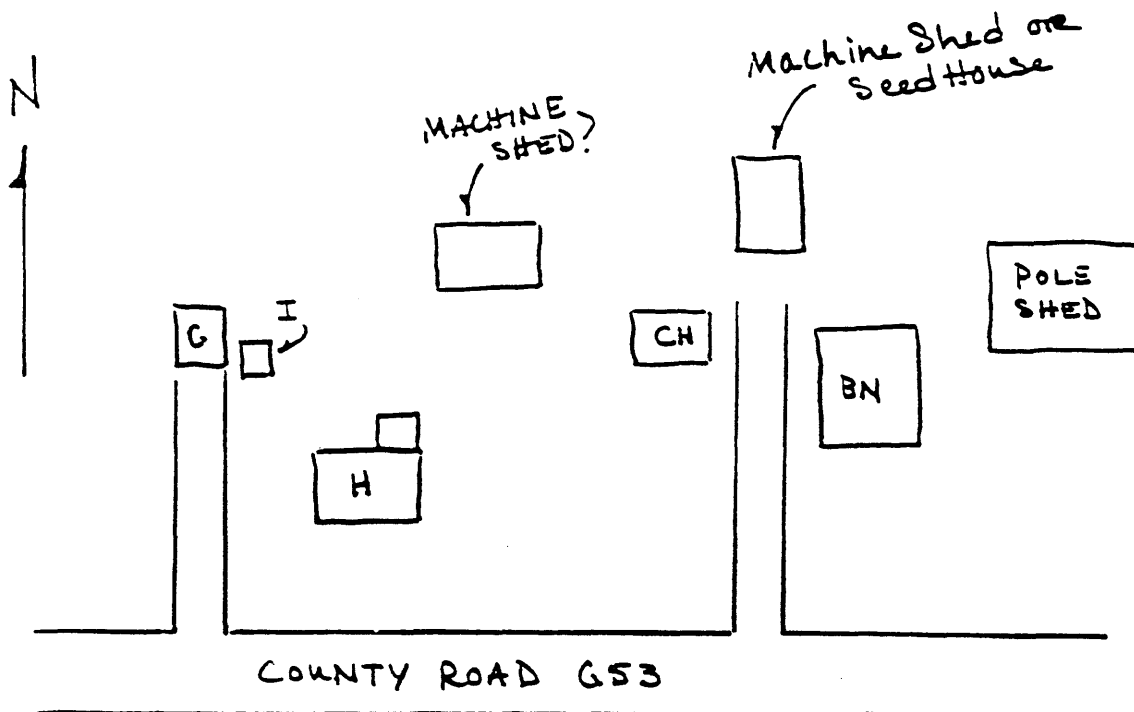
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John A. & Sarah H. Macumber Ice House  
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John Andrew and Sarah Hartsook Macumber Ice House

T75N-R28W, Section 34  
Lincoln Township  
County Road G53, 1.5 miles East of P69 Intersection  
Vicinity of Winterset



- G = GARAGE
- I = ICE HOUSE
- H = HOUSE
- CH = CHICKEN HOUSE
- BN = BARN

NOT TO SCALE

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John A. & Sarah H. Macumber Ice House

name of property

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**John Andrew and Sarah Hartsook Macumber Ice House**

T75N-R28W, Section 34

Lincoln Township

County Road G53, 1.5 miles East of P69 Intersection

Vicinity of Winterset

**Key to Photographs**

- 1.) South (front) and west elevations, looking NNE, 3 July 1992.  
Ivy covered, with center-bay entry.
- 2.) North (rear) and east elevations, looking SW, 3 July 1992.  
Ivy covered, next to tile block garage.

All photographs taken by Tracy A. Cunning.

All original negatives on file with the Historic Preservation Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.