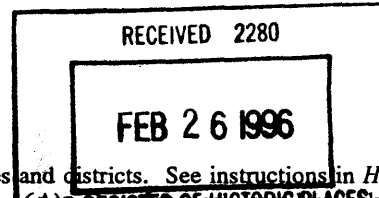


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 68). Mark "X" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being nominated, 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 SPRING CREEK MEETING HOUSE/H STREET MISSION

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 207 North H Street N/A not for publication

city or town Oskaloosa N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 52577

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ( nomination  request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ( meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ( nationally  statewide  locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Churking NSTPO 2-21-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Spring Creek Meeting House-H Street Mission  
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one line)

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

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

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

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)

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National Register

The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation Stone

walls Wood

Asbestos

roof Asphalt

other Glass

Narrative Description

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

Spring Creek Meeting House-H Street Mission  
Name of Property

Mahaska 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)

RELIGION

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

Circa 1880-circa 1895

Circa 1895-circa 1945

#### Significant Dates

Circa 1880

Circa 1895

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Creek Meeting House-H Street Mission  
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 528 920 | 45 71 520 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 |     |     |     |

Zone Easting Northing

3 |     |     |     |

Zone Easting Northing

4 |     |     |     |

**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 William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth

organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission date June 3, 1995

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

**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 Maurice and James Van Zee, d/b/a J. & M. Van Zee Dodge, a Partnership

street & number 1423 3rd Avenue West (Maurice) telephone 515-672-2248

city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52557

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Constructed after 1878, this is a 1 and 1/2-story, frame building, which was used as a meeting house for most of its history. It features a gable-end facade. The side walls feature 4/4 double-hung window sash. A 1-story rear wing features a shed roof. The building's original clapboard is now clad with cover-up siding. The front entryway might be a replacement.

**CHURCH**

The footprint of the Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission measures approximately 30' x 50'. The building rests on a stone foundation, is of balloon frame construction, and is clad with asbestos siding over the original clapboard. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is situated at the rear of the building.

The interior of this building contains an area of about 1,500 square feet. It features very old (and probably original) wood molding around windows and doors. This woodwork is plain and simple. The floorboards are wide, very old, and perhaps original to the building. None of the original pews remains, and their configuration within the building is not known. The interior features two rooms, one in the main building, and a small room comprising the wing on the west, which might have been used by the elders. There is no platform in the sanctuary. The interior wall finish is plaster. There is no basement to this building.

Although the cover-up siding is visually distracting to this building, it appears to be reversible. The front entrance to this building is probably a replacement. While it, too, is distracting, it appears from the interior that the building originally featured only one, centrally located facade entrance. In this sense, the replacement front door did not change the original entryway configuration (separate entrances for men and for women and children evidently were not in the original design). Although these alterations exist, the overall integrity of the building is very good, particularly because wood is fragile and the changes in use for the building have not radically altered its interior.

**SITE**

The Mission is located about one-half block north of A Avenue West (U. S. Highway 163). The lot measures 40' x 52' (width by depth), and the building faces east. The surrounding land use is generally residential. Although relatively small in scale, the Mission projects a somewhat prominent visual appearance in the neighborhood because of its massing.

There are no other improvements on the lot except for the Mission itself.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

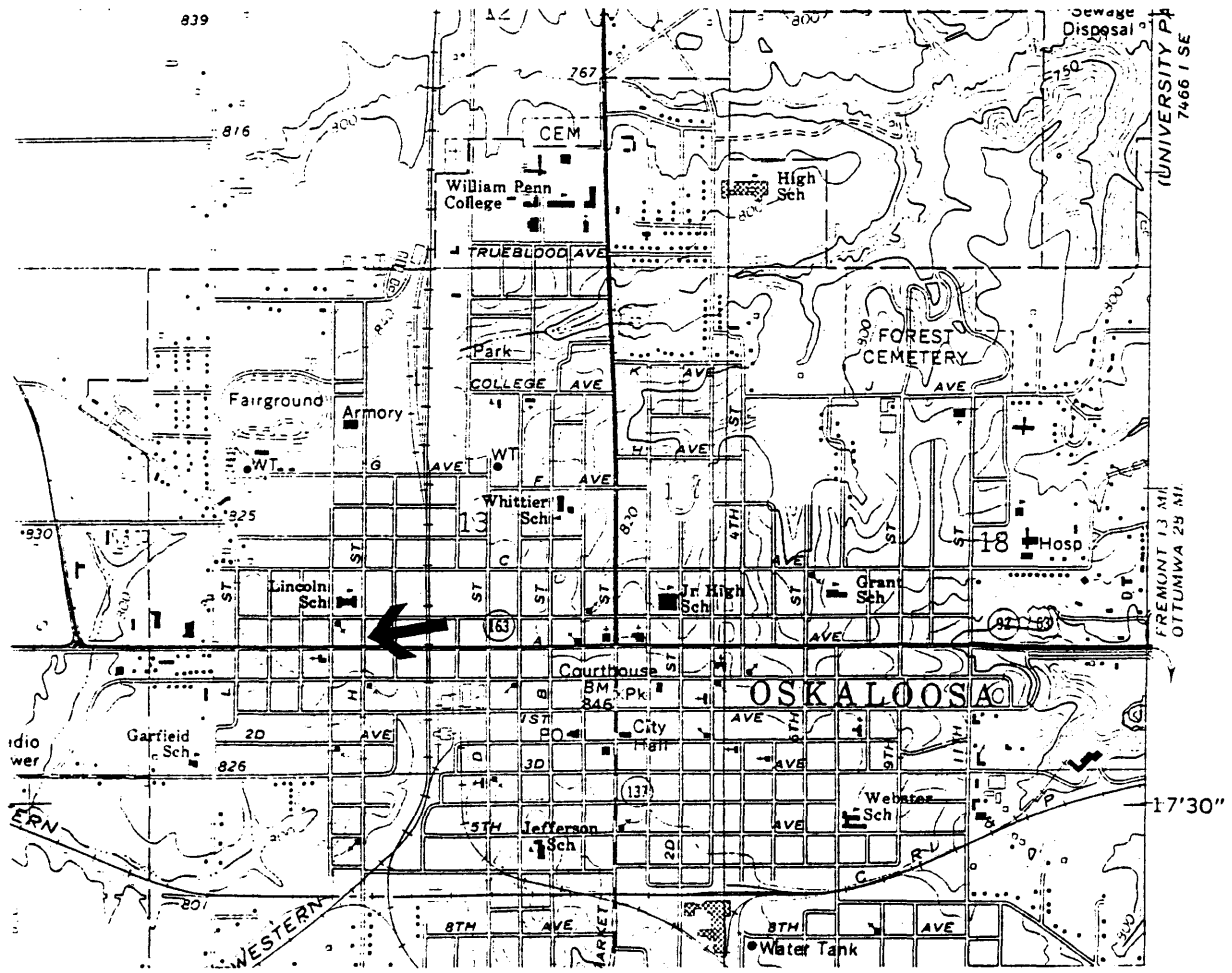
Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

## SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Oskaloosa Quadrangle, 1968.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

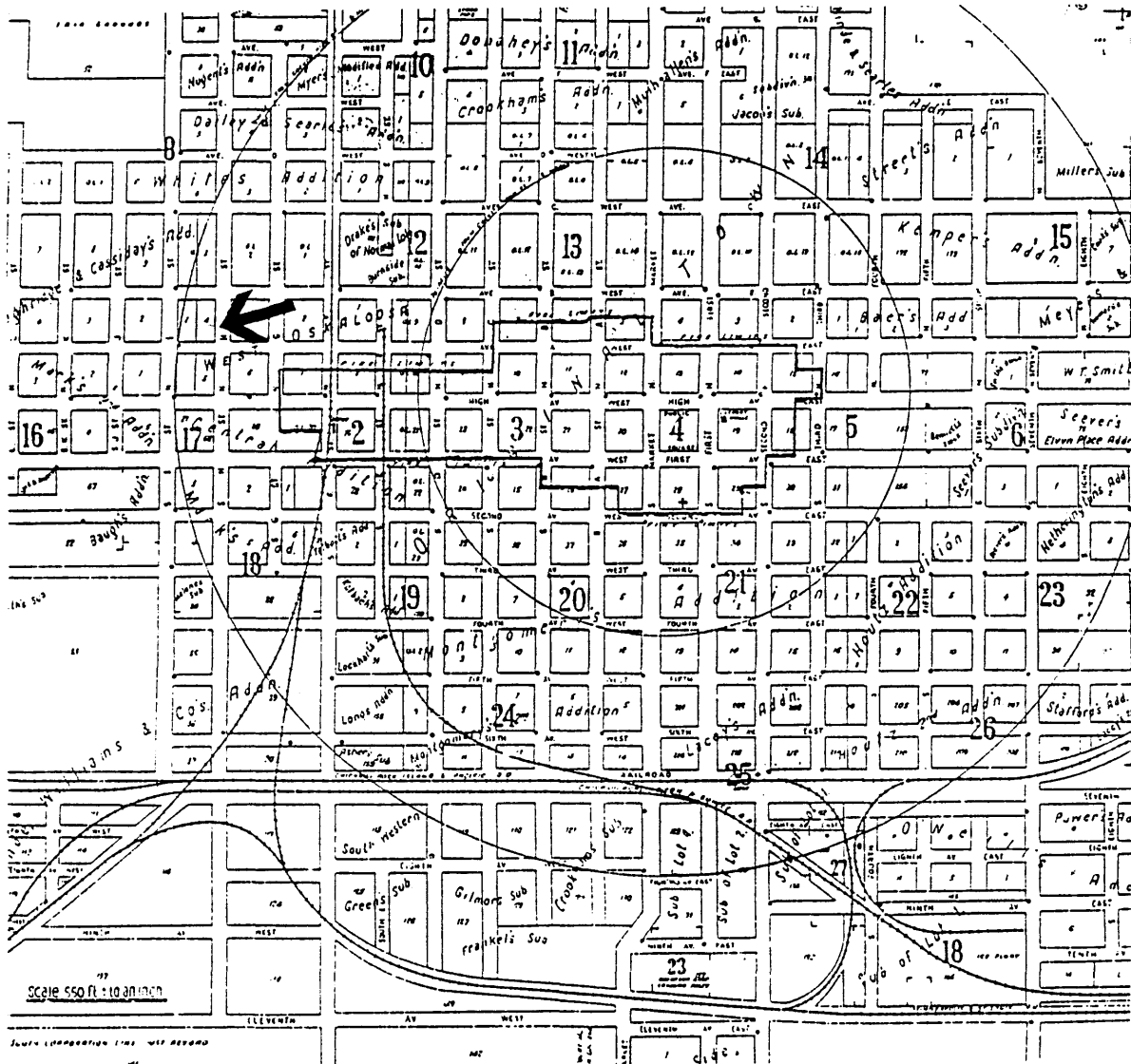
Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

## PLAT MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1927.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

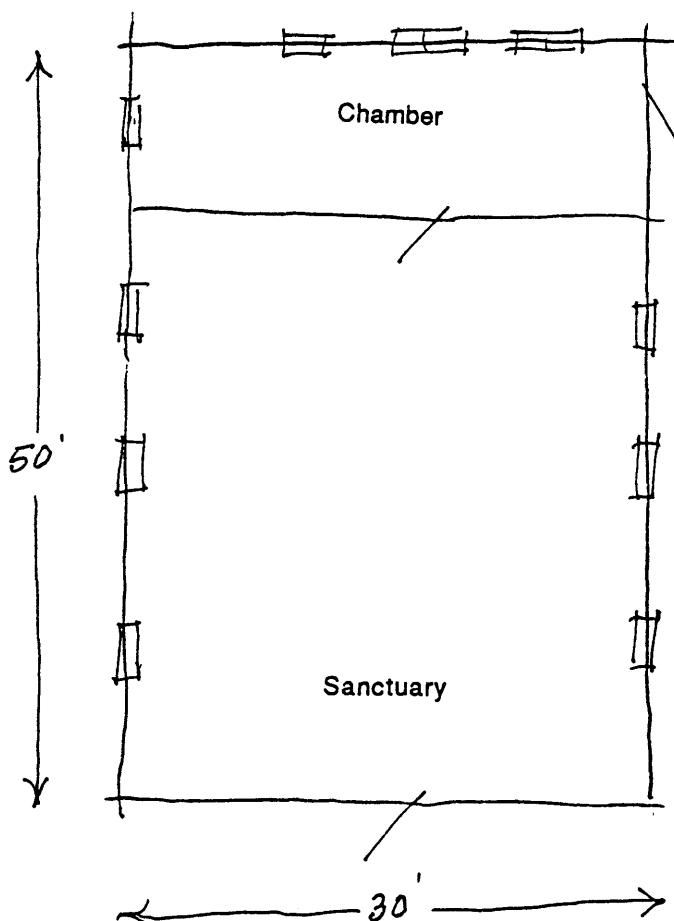
Section number 7

Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

## FLOOR PLAN



North H Street



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built circa 1880 and relocated to its present site circa 1895, the Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission possesses historic significance, under National Register Criterion A, because it calls attention to events and patterns associated with Quaker religious institutions within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa." The first meeting at the Spring Creek site took place in 1844 and illustrates the rural nature of early Quaker settlement in Oskaloosa. The later relocation of this building to Oskaloosa shows the growing centralization of this sect's activities away from the countryside and into that city. This meeting house is also historically significant because its later function as a mission calls attention to the growing evangelical nature of the Iowa Yearly Meeting.

The Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission is also architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C. The gable-ended facade configuration of its roof with its steep pitch shows a distinctive shift from earlier Quaker-designed meeting houses in Iowa, characterized as "long, low," by one historian (Jones:258).

The period of significance, under Criterion A, for this meeting house is twofold. The first, circa 1880 to circa 1895, embraces the time it served as a rural meeting house. The second, circa 1895 to circa 1945, the time it served as a Quaker mission in Oskaloosa. The period of significance, under Criterion C, is circa 1880, the time the building was originally constructed.

Criteria Consideration (Exception) A applies to this nomination. It is satisfied because this religious property derives primary significance because of its architectural distinction, as well as its historical importance in calling attention to events and patterns, both within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa."

Criteria Consideration (Exception) B also applies. Although the Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission has been removed from its original location, it is the surviving structure most importantly associated with the Schism of 1877 and its outcome.

The property contains one resource for this nomination--the meeting house.

### EVENTS AND PATTERNS

This meeting house was originally associated with the earliest Quaker settlement in the Oskaloosa vicinity. The building originally stood in Section 9 of Spring Creek Township, the site of the Spring Creek meeting. It was constructed sometime soon after a fire in 1878, which destroyed the first Spring Creek meeting house and its 1863 addition constructed for the Iowa Year Meeting.

The Spring Creek Monthly Meeting was one of the two predecessors of the present-day Oskaloosa Monthly Meeting. Following the merger of the two meetings in 1894, meetings were no longer held on this site. Subsequently the decision was made to relocate the building into Oskaloosa, to its present

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

site at 207 North H Street. A mission of the Oskaloosa Monthly Meeting was then established, using this facility, to stimulate and encourage membership in a neighborhood on Oskaloosa's west side.

The meeting house obtains historical significance because it illustrates the evangelical nature of the Iowa Yearly Meeting after the Schism of 1877. After relocation, it was used as a mission church. Iowa Quakers were the first members of the sect to proselytize in an effort to counteract membership decline on the frontier. A meeting explicitly founded as a mission would have been an anomaly among Eastern Friends, but it serves to illustrate a basic tenet of the Iowa Yearly Meeting. In this sense, the Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission is eligible for nomination to the National Register, under Criterion A, as situated on its present site.

#### **ARCHITECTURE**

This building obtains significance because it calls attention to the transition from the side-gabled facade to the gable-ended facade among Quaker meeting houses in the Oskaloosa vicinity. Coal Creek Meeting House (now located on the Nelson Pioneer Farm) illustrates this earlier design in the area. Its side-gable, low pitched roof indicates this provenance, according to Jones, *Quakers*, pp. 258-259. (See Section E, page 15, in the cover document for this nomination.) The design of the Spring Creek Meeting House, however, reflects a mainline American vernacular design for a building constructed for religious purposes.

This building is one of the oldest of the Quaker resources of Oskaloosa still extant. Churches are not easy to use adaptively and frame buildings are particularly fragile. For these reasons, the survival of this building is particularly noteworthy.

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

This meeting house was surveyed in 1981 as part of the Area XV Regional Planning Commission's then comprehensive cultural resources surveys of Mahaska County. The Historical Survey of that project identified the building as "the most visible building in Mahaska County which calls attention to the traditional Quaker value of simplicity" (Page 1981). Although the Architectural Survey of the project evaluated the building as a "C" resource (not eligible/intrusion), this survey noted that it "must be viewed in terms of building type, not style. Further research recommended to determine interior integrity, and presence of extant 19th c. meeting house" (Naumann).

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

Although the site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, there appears to be little if any in this regard on the present site. At the former site, however, there exists potential for archaeological research. Foundation and/or footings for this building, as well as the previous meeting house, might be identified. There also exists the possibility that other resources on this rural site, such as a privy, might be discovered and yield significant information.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

Page 7

CFN-259-1116

---

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### PRIMARY

*History of Mahaska County, Iowa*, p.368.

#### SECONDARY

Jones, *Quakers*, pp. 87, 258-259.

Lewis, "History of Penn College."

Naumann, Molly Myers; *Architectural Survey of Oskaloosa, Iowa*; Report prepared by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission and on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa; 1981.

Page, William C.; *Historical Survey of Mahaska County, Iowa*; Report prepared by the Area XV Regional Planning Commission and on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa; 1981.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, also including the Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific Railroad Area*; Report prepared for and on file at the Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1992.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

---

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot A of 8 of Block 4 of West Oskaloosa in the City of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land associated historically with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

---

Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission, Mahaska County, Iowa.

### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission  
207 North H Street  
Oskaloosa, IA 52557  
Looking southwest  
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer  
April 24, 1994
2. Spring Creek Meeting House/H Street Mission  
207 North H Street  
Oskaloosa, IA 52557  
Looking northeast  
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer  
April 24, 1994