

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Wild Historic District

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

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

### 2. Location

street & number 423, 501 & 509 W. 1st Street  not for publication

city or town Cedar Falls  vicinity

state Iowa county Black Hawk zip code 50613

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance: \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

[Signature] 10 SEPT 2019  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:)

[Signature] 10/23/19  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

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	
2	1	buildings
		site
		structure
0	0	object
2	1	<b>Total</b>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Other: hipped cottage

Other: hipped with cross gables

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD/Weatherboard

BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: STUCCO

WOOD/Shingle

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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### Narrative Description

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Wild Historic District includes three houses set on the north side of W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, in the City of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa. The houses face W. 1st Street, with their lots rising slightly from street level and stay fairly level around the houses before steeply sloping toward the railroad tracks and the Cedar River to the north. All three houses were built in the 1880s-1890s by Daniel Wild for his own home and those of some of his children, who lived in these homes at different times. The house at 423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street is a two-story, vernacular cross-gabled house with stylistic influence from the Late Victorian Queen Anne. This house was built circa 1891. The house at 501 W. 1st Street is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is an elaborate, high-style example of the Queen Anne style. This house was built in 1895 by Daniel and Margaret Wild to replace their older home on this lot. The third house at 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street is a one-story hipped cottage, much smaller than the other two houses, that was built circa 1888. It is of frame construction with a brick veneer whereas the other two houses are of frame construction. All three houses have stone foundations, with the brick cottage having been coated in stucco on the exterior after the 1920s. Each of these three houses are contributing buildings to the Wild Historic District, which encompasses four city lots, three where the houses were built and the fourth being a street extension that once existed between 423 and 501 W. 1st Street and is now the shared driveway between the two houses. The house at 501 W. 1st Street retains a very high degree of historic integrity and is the anchor building of this district. The houses at 423 and 509 W. 1st Street retain fair to good historic integrity.

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, and the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the resource in a **Statement of Integrity** with each aspect discussed in its own paragraph.)

The Wild Historic District encompasses three residential properties on the north side of W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in the northeast part of the City of Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County, Iowa (Figure 1). Cedar Falls is located along the south bank of the Cedar River, which anchored the city's early industrial development.<sup>1</sup> Cedar Falls is just upriver from the other early industrial center in the county--Waterloo (see Figure 1). The three houses of the Wild Historic District are located just south of the Cedar River, separated from the river by the berm of the Illinois Central Railroad and a small creek (Figure 2). A scenic river and wooded vista can be seen behind the houses, overlooking the river, marina, and several city parks (Figure 3). To the east and south are former industrial properties and modern commercial businesses and offices, with the neighborhood to the west largely residential. The Wild Historic District is at the east end of the residential neighborhood on the north side of W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The district encompasses four nearly equal-sized lots although one lot has a reduced northern boundary because of the curve in the nearby railroad grade (Figure 4). The houses occupy three of the lots, with the fourth now a shared driveway between two of the houses. Historically, the shared driveway was an extension of Tremont Street on the north side of W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (see Figure 4). The lots feature grassy lawns, planted shrubbery, flowering plants, and mature shade trees including: original lilac bushes, Sugar Maple, Ash, Sumac, and Sapling as well as several very old Black Walnut trees. The house at 501 W. 1st Street, and an associated object (a stone hitching post in the front yard of this house), are listed in the NRHP. The houses at 509 and 423 W. 1st Street are counted as contributing buildings to the district. The noncontributing building is the detached garage on the west side of the house at 509 W. 1st Street. This garage was built outside of the district's period of significance.

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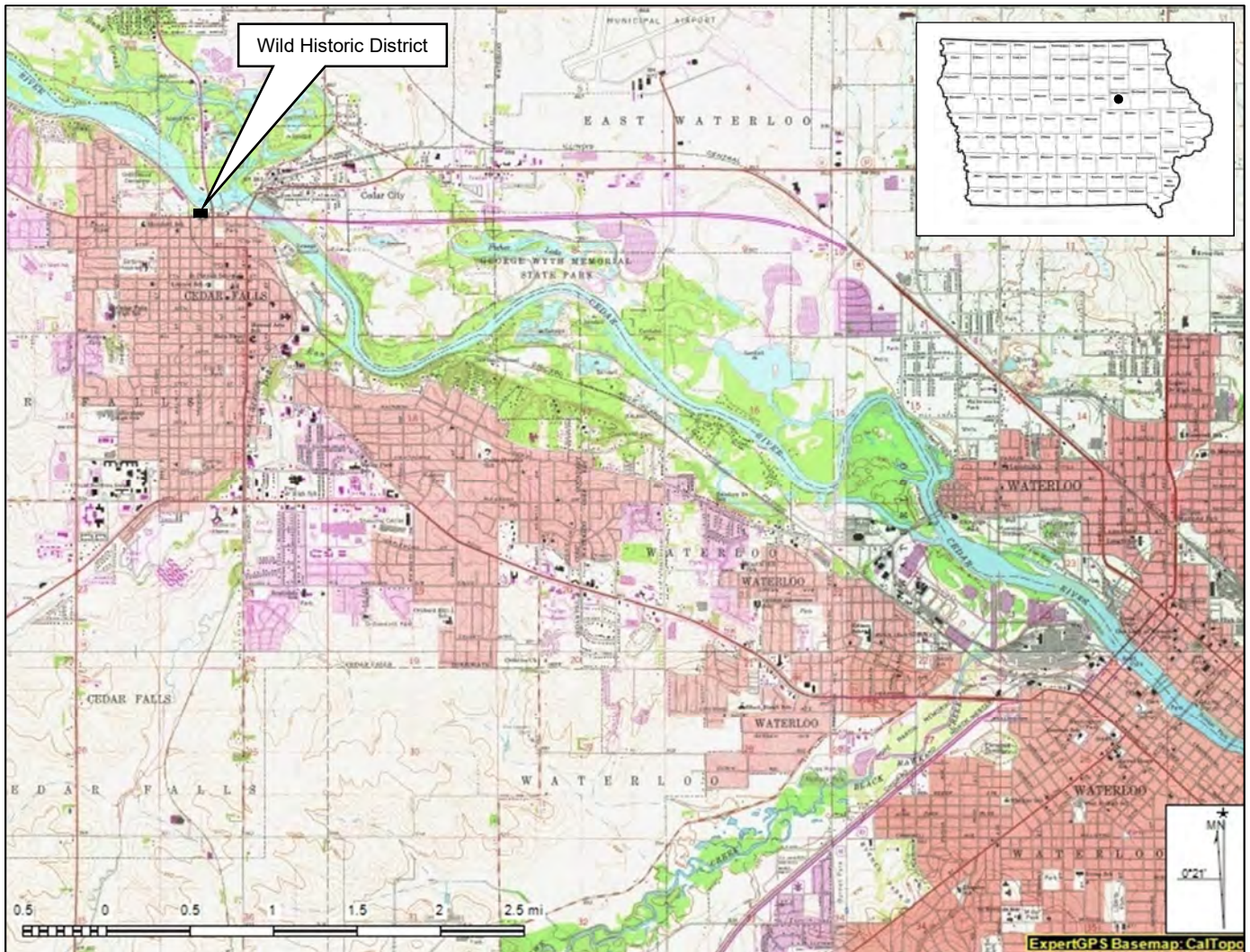
<sup>1</sup> In the modern era, Cedar Falls is best known as the home of the University of Northern Iowa.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Figure 1. Topographic map showing location of the Wild Historic District in the City of Cedar Falls and in relation to the Cedar River Valley and the City of Waterloo. Inset map shows the general location (black dot) in Black Hawk County and the State of Iowa. Source: UGSG New Hartford, Waterloo North and South, and Hudson Quadrangles obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, 2018.**

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

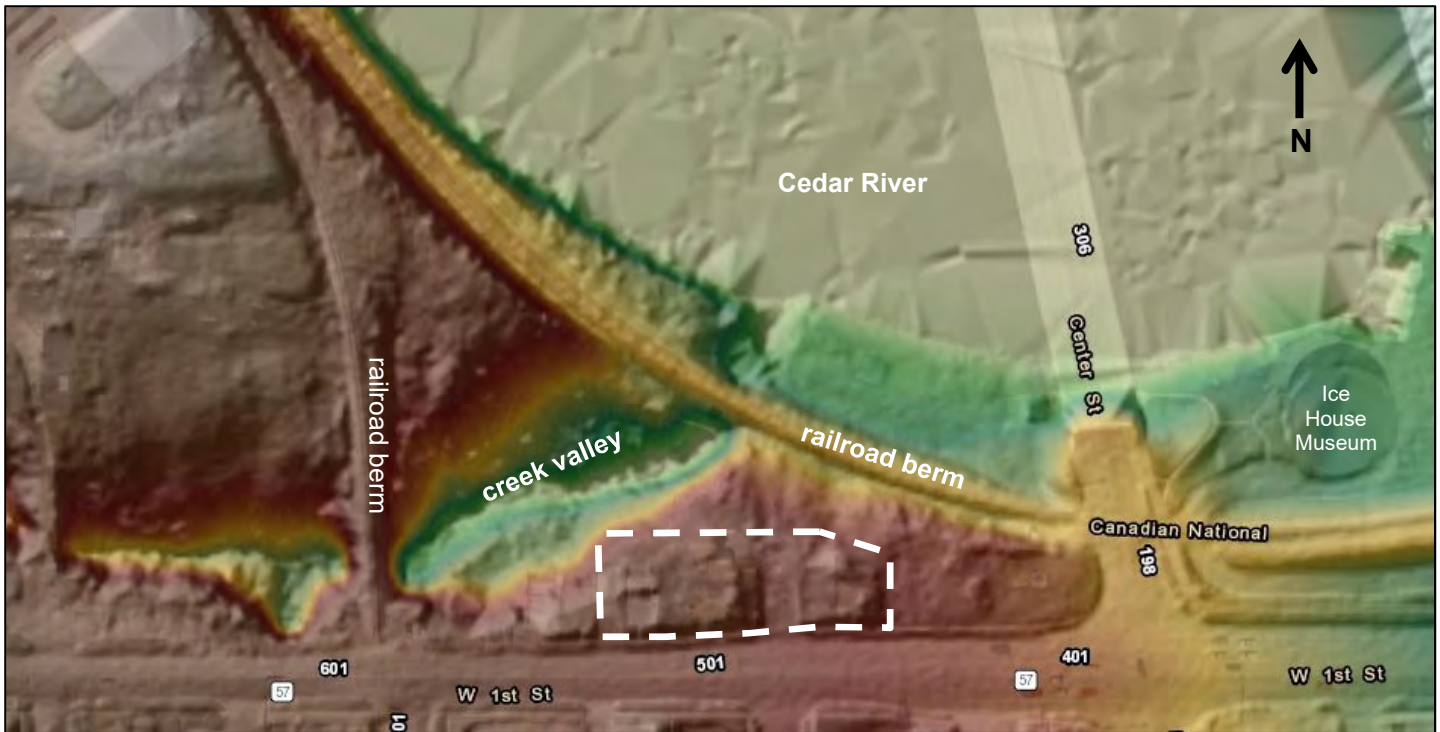


Figure 2. Color LiDAR image of the Wild Historic District (white dashed outline) showing the terrain in the vicinity. Source: ArcGIS - Iowa Geographic Map Server 2018.



Figure 3. Scenic view from the north (back yards) of the Wild Historic District looking North. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

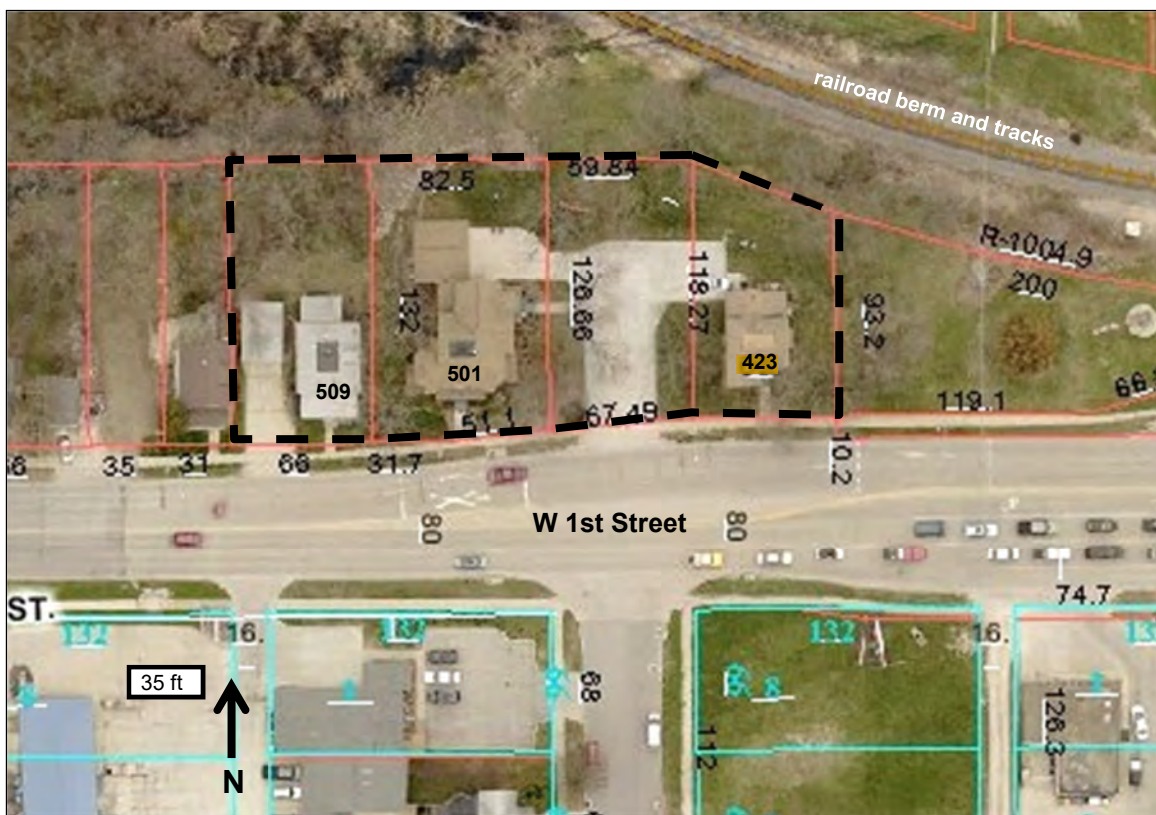


Figure 4. Aerial map showing the boundary of Wild Historic District (black dashed outline) and the location of 423, 501, and 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Source: Black Hawk County Assessor website, accessed October 2018.

Though not as large as the nearby city of Waterloo, Cedar Falls has a significant history of commercial and industrial importance to the region and the state. The Wild family, with whom these homes are associated, are a part of that commercial and industrial history by virtue of the successful brick manufacturing business located at various sites throughout the city. They also operated a wholesale and retail building materials business in downtown Cedar Falls. Because of this, they had access to the best materials and best builders in the area. The homes are largely reflective of that circumstance, in their design, materials, and finely-appointed exterior and interior details. In addition, three of the Wild's sons, Charles J., Jacob D., and Joseph W. had a successful shoe store known as The Leader in Cedar Falls. Charles J. was the proprietor and Jacob and Joseph were salesmen.

Daniel and Margaret Wild's large and stylish Queen Anne house is located in the center of the district at 501 W. 1st Street. This house is the largest and most elaborate of the three houses. The house at 423 W. 1st Street appears to have been built circa 1891 for one of Daniel and Margaret's sons, Daniel N. Wild and his wife, Mae M. Brodie, with another of Daniel and Margaret's sons, Jacob Wild and his wife Eleanor M. Lumpe owning and occupying the property from 1897 to 1946. The house at 509 W. 1st Street appears to have built circa 1888 by Daniel Wild using bricks from his brick manufactory.

The location of the district on the north side of W. 1st Street was the very north edge of Cedar Falls in the late 19th century. The nearby residential neighborhoods are composed of homes built largely between 1900 and 1930, though some infill buildings are more recent. The city has since expanded, and W. 1st Street is now a major thoroughfare (Iowa Highway 57) connecting downtown to the west-side commercial areas and the interstate highway system. Low-density commercial properties have been developed along the south side of the W. 1st Street, including fast food restaurants, an animal clinic, and other offices. These modern

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

developments detract slightly from the district's setting, although the valley vista to the north and other historic homes in the vicinity maintain integrity of setting. Other nearby historic buildings include the Cedar Falls Ice House Museum, the Main Street Commercial Historic District, and the Overman Park neighborhood, among others.

The three homes in the Wild Historic District are all frame construction, although 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street has a brick exterior veneer that was covered in stucco after the 1920s and 501 W. 1st Street has some brick interior walls. The houses represent different house types. The house at 509 W. 1st Street is a hipped cottage with some Late Victorian stylistic influence in the use of brackets under the eave overhang. The house at 501 W. 1st Street is a high-style Late Victorian Queen Anne house with elaborate exterior and interior decorative details. This house is individually listed in the NRHP (Card 2017). The house at 423 W. 1st Street is a two-story vernacular cross-gabled house that has some Queen Anne stylistic details on the exterior and interior. The roofs of all three houses are covered in asphalt shingles. The foundations of all three are built of stone, with the foundation of 501 W. 1st Street built of granite blocks and the foundations of 423 and 509 built of locally-quarried limestone. There is a large garage attached to the rear of 501 W. 1st Street that is a modern construction but, because it is attached to the house, it was not counted as a separate resource when listed in the NRHP. The only detached outbuilding for all three of the houses is the garage associated with 509 W. 1st Street located on its west side. This building is considered noncontributing to the district because it was built circa 1975, outside of the district's period of significance.

#### **423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Contributing Building)**

Historic Name: Wild, Daniel N. & Mae M., House; Wild, Jacob & Eleanor, House  
Year Built: circa 1891

This two-story L-shaped house was built circa 1891 for Daniel and Mae Wild (Figure 5). The house has a hipped roof with cross-gabled ends. It is built on a limestone foundation made of coarsely-worked limestone blocks that have beaded mortar joints. The exterior siding is narrow-reveal wooden clapboard siding with narrow vertical corner boards and a wide frieze board under the boxed eaves. There is wooden fish-scale shingle siding in the east gable end (Figure 6). The north gable end has only clapboard siding but would likely have had fish-scale siding originally. The gable end eaves have decorative vergeboards that feature a center groove the length of each board and circular shaped ends with a center incised circle (Figure 7). The eaves flare slightly in the gable ends. The windows all have plain board surrounds.



**Figure 5. Façade of 423 W 1st Street looking North.** Photograph obtained from Black Hawk County Assessor, accessed at <http://www2.co.black-hawk.ia.us/>, 2018.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Figure 7. East gable of 423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street showing the fish-scale siding and decorative vergeboards and flared eaves. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.**



**Figure 8. Front gable end of 423 W 1st Street looking NNE. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.**

The majority of the windows are single 1/1 double-hung, wooden-sash windows. One window on the façade of the front-gabled ell is a wide window that has a single fixed, wooden-frame window that features 20 square panes (see Figure 5). This window is of historic age and may be original. Decorative green shutters are a modern addition to some of the windows. Other windows include paired 1/1 double-hung, wooden-sash windows on the north side of the rear ell and on the bay window on the east side of the house. This bay



Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

window is rectangular in shape, is built on a limestone foundation, has clapboard siding, and a shed roof overhang (Figure 9).



**Figure 9. East side of 423 W. 1st Street looking West. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.**

The inside of the ell on the façade had an open, wooden porch that was removed in the late 20th century (Figure 10). It was replaced with a small modern wooden landing with a wooden board railing with two wooden steps up to the front door, which is offset to the left side of the façade. There are no windows on the south side of the façade above the former porch. The interior staircase to the second floor and a second-floor closet occupy the area to the north side of the front door explaining why there are no windows on that wall of the façade.



**Figure 10. 423 W. 1st Street looking WNW showing area where original front porch was once located. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.**

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

There is a one-story gabled ell on the rear (north side) of the house part of which is original to the house construction (Figure 11). The 1900 Sanborn fire insurance map shows that there was then also a small bump-out on the north side of the original ell that may have been a rear entry vestibule or small porch. Circa 2005, this ell was enlarged for a larger modern kitchen. This area was clad with the same type of clapboard siding as the main body of the house, with the paired windows added to the north wall and the wooden decks added at the rear entry door and the east-side door on this ell. Historically, there was an open porch at the east-side door location. Both doors lead directly into the kitchen.



**Figure 11. 423 W 1st Street looking SW. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.**

Some clapboards were replaced as needed with red cedar siding when the house was painted before 2013, with the wood trim boards at the base of the walls replaced in 2017. Otherwise, the siding on the main body of the house is of historic age if not original. However, there may be some areas on the house, such as the front gable end where shingle siding may have been originally and on the façade where the front porch was removed, that were repaired with clapboard siding in the modern era.

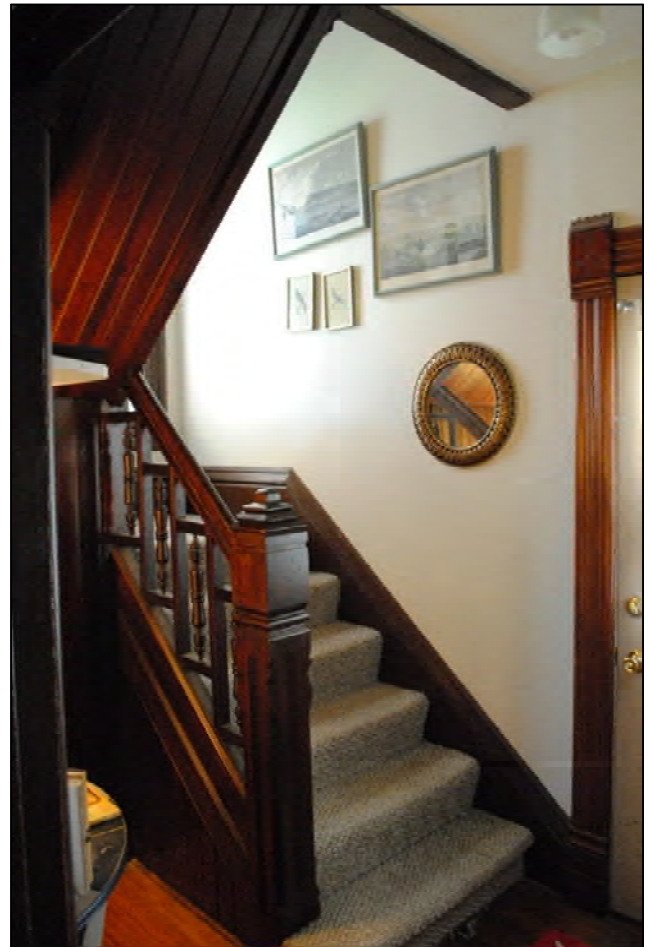
The home's interior is finely appointed with original wood trim, narrow hardwood flooring, and original hardware. Of special note are the wooden banister leading to the second-story and decorative corner blocks that grace the upper corners of doorway casings throughout the house (Figures 12-13). The front door leads from the inside of the ell to a small vestibule. From the vestibule, one has access to the parlor (in the south wing of the house), a formal sitting room (in the east wing of the house), the stairway to the second floor, or a closet under the stairway. Double doors lead from both the formal sitting room and the parlor into a formal dining area, and a modern updated bathroom is beyond that. From the formal sitting area, one can follow northward into the rear addition that has been renovated into modern kitchen. At the top of the stairway is an angled hallway from which three doors each enter into a bedroom on the second floor.

Wild Historic District

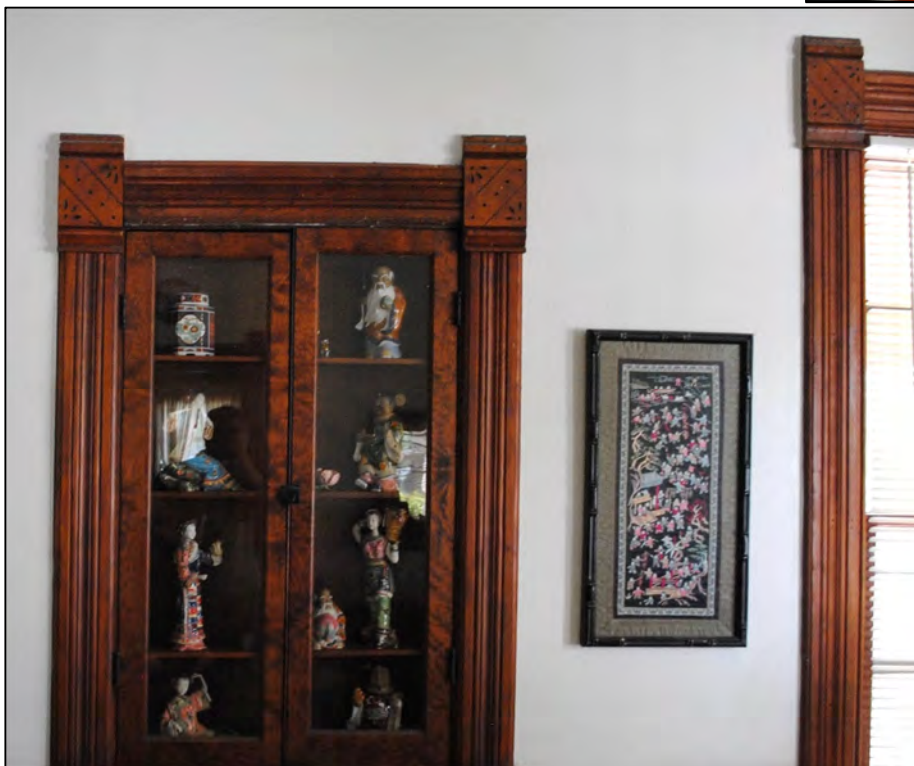
Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Figure 12. 423 W. 1st Street, interior showing staircase.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2017 by Tallgrass.*



**Figure 13. 423 W. 1st Street, interior showing built-in cabinet and decorative woodwork.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

**501 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Individually Listed in NRHP)**

Historic Name: Wild, Daniel & Margaret House

Year Built: 1895

This Queen Anne spindlework-type house was built in 1895 as the home for Daniel and Margaret Wild (Figure 14). The house is appointed with elaborate decorative details. The house is built on a pink granite foundation and has wooden weatherboard siding on the main body of the house but features siding in the gable ends placed on the diagonal and in faux half-timber arrangements. The home was built on the site of the Wild's earlier residence and may have some interior brick walls either from that residence or built from bricks salvaged from the earlier house. The house is listed individually in the NRHP (Card 2017).



**Figure 14. Façade of 501 W. 1st Street looking North.** Photograph taken 08-07-2017 by Tallgrass Archaeology LLC.

The house has a broad, crested hip roof, with a number of lower gabled dormers and cross gabled ells. The center of the façade is dominated by a front gabled dormer that covers inset porches on its second and first stories. The angled front-gabled ells on the southeast and southwest corners of the façade are set at an angle from the main body of the house and have canted corners that form the outer walls of the porches. Both porches have wooden balustrades and railings and are supported by four turned spindle posts. Sometime around 1925-1930, the porches had been rebuilt with weatherboard-sided railings and Classical square columns (Figure 15). In the 1980s, the third owner of the house “salvaged the porch columns and spindles and balustrades and these now have been restored to their approximate original appearance” (Card 2017:8).



**Figure 15. Circa 1925 photograph of 501 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Cedar Falls, looking North.**  
Photo Source: Personal Collection of Susan Card, Cedar Falls, IA.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Decorative exterior details of note include: the wooden sunburst in the front gable peak above the Palladian-like attic window, with the sunburst detail repeated on other gable ends; a variety of windows shapes and sizes (rectangular, segmental arched, and rectangular); the rows of faceted wooden block tiles above the inset front porch on the second story and the other gabled dormers; and the rear and east-side porches, one as a rear entry porch and the other as an east-side, second-story porch with turret, with both porches featuring Queen Anne spindle posts and decorative details, among many other Queen Anne details that are described in detail in the NRHP nomination of this house (Card 2017). The windows are largely original and include 1/1 double-hung windows, fixed pane windows, and leaded glass windows.

The interior is as finely-appointed in decorative details as the exterior, with a variety of imported and native wood used in the doors, flooring, and other woodwork (Figures 16-17). The wood types include: Circassian Walnut, Oak, Red Pine, heart pine, and Douglas fir (Card 2017). Even the basement was finished with details that enabled use for servants' quarters, a summer kitchen, and a root cellar.



**Figure 16. Door, wood paneling, hardwood floors and other original details in dining room at 501 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, facing East. Photo taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.**

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Figure 17. Front entry hall of 501 W. 1st Street looking south toward front door with elaborate staircase to right.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

The design plans for this house were obtained by Daniel Wild while visiting friends in Florida. Wild then hired architect, William A. Robinson, of Cedar Falls to “revise and enhance the plans to meet the needs of his client” (Card 2017:18). Robinson also served as the general contractor for the build of the home. The woodwork would have been obtained from Abraham Wild & Co. in Cedar Falls. Abraham appears to have been a cousin to Daniel, and Daniel was a partner in Abraham’s lumber and coal business and later became sole owner of that business. Historically, a large barn once sat to the north of the house and was demolished around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The large attached garage and breezeway addition sit partially on the site of this former agricultural building. Detailed descriptions of the historic house and its attached modern garage can be found in the individual property nomination (Card 2017).

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

**509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Contributing Building)**

Historic Name: Zager, Carrie Wild, House; Wild, Joseph & Rose House

Year Built: circa 1888

This appears to be the oldest of the three Wild houses in this district having been built circa 1888 (Figure 18). This home has a relatively small footprint, roughly 27 feet wide and 30 feet deep. It is constructed on a limestone foundation. The original construction of the house is frame with a brick veneer that was covered in stucco in the late 1920s or 1930s.<sup>2</sup> The roof is pyramidal in form, truncated at the top and steeply-pitched, with wide eave overhangs and small gabled dormers on the roof slope on the south (façade) and east sides. The dormers have wooden clapboard siding, cornice-molded eaves, and wooden window surrounds.



**Figure 18. 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking North with modern garage (left).**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

There are decorative scroll-cut brackets placed under the eaves along the wide frieze board around the house, with those on the west and east sides still fully in place (Figure 19). It is suspected that there were brackets on the façade before the porch was added.



**Figure 19. Detail of brackets under the eaves of 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street facing West.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

<sup>2</sup> A circa 1925 photograph showing this house in the background, shows the brick still exposed at that time (see page 44).

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

The façade of this home faces W. 1st Street to the south and has a slightly off-center entry door covered by a modern storm door. The interior door is a late 20th century replacement door. There are two 1/1 double-hung windows flanking the door. A Craftsman-style porch extends nearly the full width of the façade and was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly circa 1916 when a front porch was first depicted on this house on the Sanborn fire insurance map of that year (Figure 20). The porch has a very low-pitched hipped roof and wide eave overhang. The porch roof is supported in part by four 3/4-height square, wooden posts that sit on rusticated concrete block piers. The wood on the posts has vertical grooves on each face of the posts (see Figure 18). The floor of the porch is poured concrete, with the foundation made of rusticated concrete blocks. The concrete blocks in the piers and foundation have beaded mortar joints. There is no railing around the porch. Two cast concrete steps have iron handrails.



**Figure 20. Detail of the front porch posts and piers/ foundation looking NE.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

The windows on the body of the house have segmental-arched lintels (Figure 21). These windows are all 1/1 double-hung wooden-sash windows with modern metal-framed storm windows on the exterior. The northmost window on the east side was shortened to accommodate a later kitchen remodel on the interior. This side also has a door, between the middle and northernmost window. This door is a late 20th century replacement door and has a modern storm door on the exterior. This door enters into the kitchen. There was once a small porch over this entry (Sanborn 1916).

The rear (north side) of the house of the house has a one-story frame ell that may be original to the house but has been remodeled in the mid-to- late 20th century on the interior and exterior (Figure 22). The ell is only three-quarters of the width of the house and has a door on the east side that is no longer in use. The Sanborn fire insurance maps show a porch on this side from circa 1916 into at least the late 1950s . The windows on this ell are all 2/2 double-hung windows. There is also a door on the west side that is still in use and opens into the stairway that accesses the basement below the main body of the house but also accesses a door into the ell. The rear ell is covered with asbestos shingle siding.



Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 21. East side of 509 W. 1st Street looking NW. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.



Figure 22. Rear and West side of 509 W. 1st Street looking SSE. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

This area of Cedar Falls was not mapped in the Sanborn fire insurance maps until 1900, but by that time the rear frame ell was present, but the map showed no indication of a front porch other than a dashed line indicating a wooden cornice and probably referring to the bracketed eave overhang. This remained the footprint of the house through 1909; however, by 1916, a frame front porch had been added as well as the small frame porch on the east side of the rear ell (Sanborn 1900, 1909, 1916). This remained the footprint of the house through at least 1956 except for the addition of a small frame porch over the east side doorway of the main body of the house (Sanborn 1956).

Notable details on the interior of the house include: French doors that separate the two front rooms; an oak colonnade between the living room and the kitchen; oak woodwork with egg-and-dart molding (door and window surrounds); and a rounded wall that covers the chimney stack in the southwest corner of the kitchen (Figures 23-25).



**Figure 23.** Interior of front rooms of 509 W. 1st Street showing French doors that have oak woodwork including egg-and-dart molding on the lintel. *Photograph is looking WSW; taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*



**Figure 24.** Example of egg-and-dart molding on lintel boards on interior of 509 W. 1st Street. *Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Figure 25. Colonnade between the front room and the kitchen looking North.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

#### Garage (noncontributing building)

The house at 509 W. 1st Street has a detached garage off the west side of the house that was built circa 1975 (see Figures 18 and 26). This garage is considered noncontributing to the district because it was built outside of the period of significance. This frame garage has a low-pitched front-gabled roofline, wide wood siding, and a poured concrete slab foundation. The facade has a slightly off-center, double-wide overhead garage door. There is a door on the east side near the southeast corner that provides access to the rear door on the west side of the house. The windows in the garage are small and square in shape. The gable ends are clad with vertical board siding that have slightly scalloped ends.



**Figure 26. Rear of detached garage at 509  
W. 1st Street looking SSW.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

### Statement of Integrity of District

The Wild Historic District as a whole retains good to excellent historic integrity in the aspects of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association and fair integrity in the aspects of setting and feeling. All three houses in the district are on their original locations along the north side of W. 1st Street and south of the Cedar River. The integrity of setting and feeling is fair for the district as a whole given the progression of development along W. 1st Street in the modern era that has changed somewhat the historic look and feel of the neighborhood immediately to the east and south of the district.

The district has good to excellent integrity of design, with all three houses retaining their original form, function, and architectural design, with the house at 501 W. 1st Street having been designed by a local architect and all three built for members of the Wild family in Late Victorian architectural styles. With the exception of the Daniel and Margaret Wild House at 501 W. 1st Street, which is a high-style Queen Anne spindlework style, the houses at 509 and 423 are vernacular house types.

The district has good to excellent integrity of materials with all three houses built using materials made or accessed by the Wild family businesses including Daniel Wild's brickyard and the Wild & Co. lumber yard. The house at 509 W. 1st was later covered with stucco diminishing somewhat its integrity of materials. The interiors of all three houses show decorative woodwork and exterior decorative wooden details obtained through the Wild & Co. lumber business. Daniel and Margaret Wild also imported non-local woodwork for the elaborate interior appointments of their own home at 501 W. 1st Street. Their house was also the only one to use granite blocks in the foundation/basement construction, with the other two (423 and 501 W. 1st Street) having foundations/basements built of local limestone.

The district has good to excellent integrity of workmanship, particularly evidenced in the Queen Anne spindlework house of Daniel and Margaret Wild at 501 W. 1st Street but also in the masonry and carpentry work in all three houses inside and out.

The district has excellent integrity of association because all three houses were built by and for members of the Daniel and Margaret Wild family in the 1880s-1890s and continued to be associated with this family into the early 20th century.

Modifications have been minimal for the house at 501 W. 1st Street, with the circa 1930 modification to the two front porches restored to their historic look in the 1980s. The owner at the time was able to salvage and restore the porch to its original design.

The modifications to the house at 423 W. 1st Street have included the removal of the front porch, some siding repair but with appropriate clapboard siding, and enlargement of the rear ell including the addition of two wooden decks. These modifications date from the from the mid to late 20th century.

The modifications to the house at 509 W. 1st Street have included: the addition of a front porch circa 1916; the application of stucco over the brick exterior in the late 1920s-1930s; remodeling of the rear ell in the mid-to-late 20th century; removal of two porches on the east side of the house; and the replacement of the front and side doors in the mid-20th century. However, both of the houses at 423 and 509 W. 1st Street would certainly be recognizable to the Wild family if they were to see these houses today and retain sufficient original exterior and interior details to contribute substantially to the historic district.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

**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 old or achieving significance

\_\_\_\_\_ within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

circa 1888-1901

**Significant Dates**

circa 1888

1895

circa 1891

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

**Architect/Builder**

Robinson, William A.

Wild, Abraham

Wild, Daniel

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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### Statement of Significance

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Wild Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its representation of the important contributions that Daniel Wild and his family made to the development of the industry and commerce of Cedar Falls in the late 19th century. Daniel Wild's house at 501 W. 1st Street is individually listed in the NRHP under Criteria B and C, for its association with Daniel Wild as a significant person in the community and for the architectural significance of his high-style, architect-designed house at 501 W. 1st Street. This house is the center piece of the Wild Historic District, and its individual significance under B and C certainly contributes to the historical significance of the district. Daniel Wild was a farmer, brickmaker, and retail/wholesale dealer of construction materials used in building construction throughout Cedar Falls and surrounding communities. The businesses of Daniel Wild played an important role in the development of the city, not only as an important commercial enterprise and employer, but also as a source for the materials of which many buildings in the city and the region were physically built. All of his sons were successful businessmen in Cedar Falls, with sons Charles, Joseph, and Jacob associated with the houses at 423 and 509 W. 1st Street in their adult lives. The homes in the district reflect the Wild family's industrial and commercial success in the Cedar Falls community. Significant dates are circa 1888 when the house at 509 W. 1st Street was built, circa 1891 when the house at 423 W. 1st Street was built, and 1895 when the house at 501 W. 1st Street was built. The period of significance begins with the circa 1888 construction of 509 W. 1st Street by Daniel Wild using bricks from his manufactory and ends in 1901 when the Wild's Cedar Falls Brick and Tile Company was sold out of the family.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

 (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

### Criterion A: Historical Significance of the Wild Historic District in Cedar Fall's Industry and Commerce

#### Early Settlement of Cedar Falls

The first permanent Euro-American settlers in the vicinity of Cedar Falls were the families of William Sturgis and his brother-in-law Erasmus Adams. They arrived in 1845. Sturgis' claim became what is now the northern part of Cedar Falls, and Adams' claim became what is now southern Cedar Falls. In 1845 it was reported that the families of William Sturgis, George W. Hanna, John Hamilton, and William Virden were the only families in this area. William Sturgis worked on constructing a dam at Cedar Falls. His efforts to do so were never completed (Hartman 1915:315-316). The first store in Black Hawk county was opened at Cedar Falls circa 1850 on the north side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Hartman 1915:315-316; Van Metre 1904). The settlement platted by Sturgis and Adams took on the name Sturgis Falls, a name it kept until about 1850, after Sturgis was bought out by John Overman, Dempsey Overman, and John Barrick. In 1847, these men purchased his 280 acres, mill site, and all improvements associated with them. They changed the name to Cedar Falls, and the county's first post office was established soon after. They completed Sturgis' unfinished mill in 1848 and the county's first grist mill in 1850. The city was platted in 1851, and the first railroad reached Cedar Falls in 1861 (Hartman 1915:310-313; City of Cedar Falls official website, accessed October 2018).

In 1853, the same year Daniel Wild arrived here, the first county government was convened in Cedar Falls, even though the city's population was still a meager 40 people. The county seat remained in the city for some time, even though the people of Waterloo lobbied for it to be relocated to their town, with consideration that it is more centrally located within the county. In April of 1855, the State of Iowa ordered a referendum be held in consideration of where to set the county seat; the citizens of the county voted to move it to Waterloo, where it has remained ever since. Cedar Falls was compensated in a way by the state's establishment of the Civil War

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Soldier's Orphan Home in the city in 1863. That institution changed its mission and was rebranded as the Iowa State Normal School in 1876, the Iowa State Teacher's College in 1909, the State College of Iowa in 1961, and the University of Northern Iowa in 1967, which it remains to the present day.

As the community began to develop, it became a hub for both agricultural activities in western Black Hawk County and as a prominent milling center. Local entrepreneurs found their niches producing brooms, pottery, and the like. From a need for bricks and other construction materials, sprang the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co., which Daniel Wild would take over shortly thereafter. In the early settlement era, the Cedar River provided the motive power for the mills that defined the city's early industrial growth, and as a means of transportation, although the river did not prove to be a reliable source for steamboat navigation and the railroads and road travel soon dominated transportation and the import and export of material and goods in the community (Hartman 1915:374-377; Van Metre 1904).

An 1868 birds-eye illustration of Cedar Falls shows the rail line extending into the city from the west-southwest and to the northeast-east crossing the river not far from the location of the Wild Historic District (Figure 27). In this illustration, one can see several buildings on that site and the extension of Tremont Street to the north of W. 1st Street into the historic district. At the time, most of the land between N. 1st Street and the Cedar River from around Franklin Street west into the wooded area several blocks past the district on the north side of W. 1st Street was owned by Daniel Wild. While not represented on this illustration, local tradition holds that a brickyard of Wild's was on the edge of the wooded area to the west of his house. Wild did own a great deal of land to the west and northwest of his home property, and the current owner of the parcel in question reports finding bricks every time he digs a hole in the open grassy area to the east of his house (Figure 28) (Dan Jordan, Sr. personal communication, 08-07-2018). This parcel is approximately 500 feet to the west-northwest of Wild's house (Figure 29). However, the main commercial brick manufactory of Daniel Wild was located in the southeast portion of the city. Thus, it remains unknown whether bricks were actually manufactured at the location now owned by Jordan or if this parcel was used for brick storage given the proximity to the railroad. This question remains for future archaeological investigation to determine.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

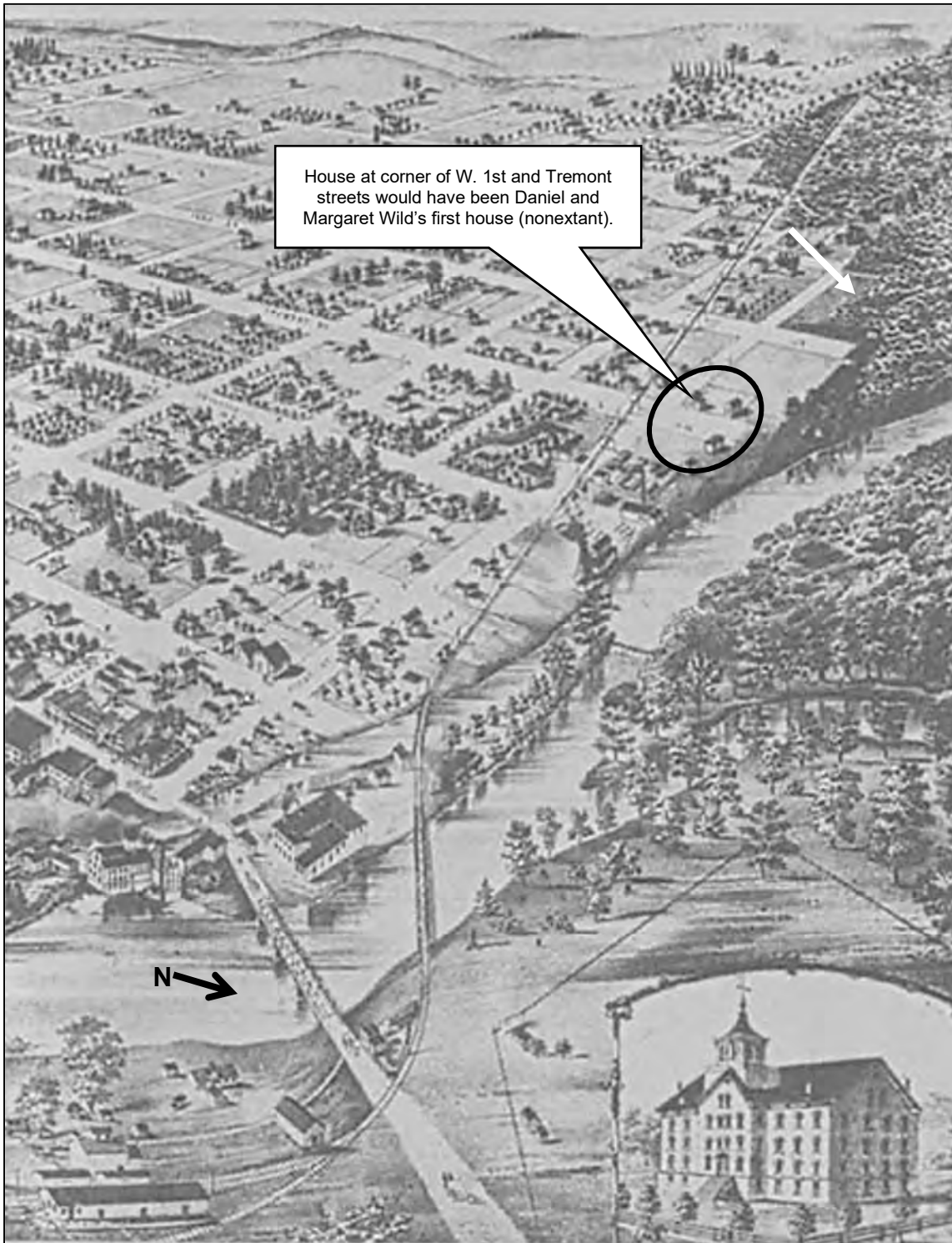


Figure 27. 1868 Birds-eye view of Cedar Falls, with the approximate location of the Wild Historic District (circled) and the possible location of a brickyard of Daniel Wild, although none was depicted at that time (arrow). Source: *Cedar Falls History Booklet*, Cedar Falls Historical Society.



Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Figure 28. Location of possible early brickyard of Daniel Wild looking East to the railroad tracks.**  
*Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass.*



**Figure 29. Modern aerial of Wild Historic District (dashed outline) in relation to the possible location of Daniel Wild's brick yard reported to the west (circle).** *Aerial obtained from Iowa Geographic Map Server, 2018.*

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Daniel Wild and the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co.

Daniel Wild (1828-1903) was among the early settlers of Cedar Falls arriving in 1853 having emigrated from Bavaria. He and his wife Margaret (Glasser) were married in that same year. Margaret had emigrated from Baden. Soon after arrival, Daniel purchased land between W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street and the Cedar River inside and outside of the city limits. The family farmed and began several businesses in the fledgling town of Cedar Falls (*Iowa State Reporter*, September 1, 1903). The 1896 plat map shows the extent of Daniel Wild's holdings in the north part of Cedar Falls by that time (Figure 30). This included the land where the three houses of the Wild Historic District were built in the 1880s-1890s and where he and Margaret had their first home. That first home is nonextant and was on the site of 501 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, which is the extant Queen Anne house they built in 1895.

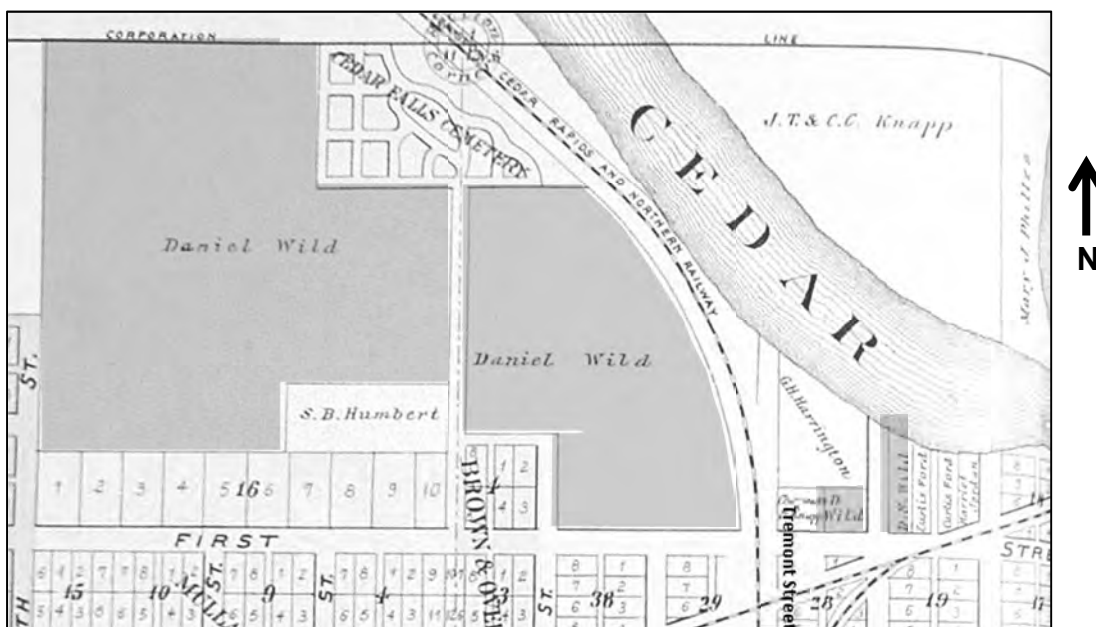


Figure 30. 1896 plat of Cedar Falls; properties owned by Daniel Wild—two city lots where 423 and 501 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street stand and two large agricultural parcels—highlighted in gray. Source: Kace 1896.

Wild's first significant business purchase was what would become the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Company. A.M. Dexter had started the brick manufactory in 1852, and it is believed that he sold his operation to Daniel Wild circa 1853. It is not yet known exactly where Dexter's brick operation was located in Cedar Falls. By 1866, it was noted that Daniel Wild's brick yard employed about ten men and would manufacture at least \$75,000 worth of brick in the coming season (*Cedar Falls Gazette* 18 March 1866). In 1868, he employed seven men and supplied "brick for building purposes at Waterloo, and other adjoining towns" (*Cedar Falls Gazette* 18 September 1868). An interesting item in the local newspaper in 1873 showed that Daniel Wild was also still in the business of farming, when he was asking for help in locating four calves that had strayed, but signed his name as Daniel Wild, "the Brick Maker" signifying what he was best known for in the community (*Cedar Falls Gazette*, 21 November 1873). By 1883, the *Iowa State Reporter* noted that the company produced 300,000 bricks over the course of a year, and for the year prior, the company had been the fourth highest tax-payer in Cedar Falls Township (*Iowa State Reporter*, January 3, 1883 and 29 November 1883).

In 1893, a historical record of Cedar Falls reported that Wild's brick business was the longest continually running in the county (Melendy 1893:99). According to the same record, Daniel Wild's brick-making plant was:

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

located in the city limits, southeast part. Their machinery is run by steam, have a 35 horse-power boiler 30 horse-power engine in a building 32 x 28 feet in size, machine house 28 x 38 in size. They have six dry sheds 8 x 100 feet in size each. They manufacture 6 months in the year 18,000 brick per day or 2,808,000 for the season. They supply the home demand and ship large lots by rail car to the adjoining towns. Their pressed brick is of excellent quality. They employ 20 hands. City headquarters for Wild & Co's Brick & Tile Works have been located on the east side of Main, between 3rd and 4th streets – in a one-story building 25x120 feet in size – where they have plenty of room to show their line of goods.

The Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Company—sometimes referred to as Wild & Co. after it absorbed the coal and lumber business of Abraham Wild—also produced cement and quarried stone.

By 1898, the company was making 250,000 bricks every two weeks (*Cedar Falls Semi Weekly Gazette*). In 1899, it was reported that the company was expanding their capacity by adding a brick dryer, which would increase their capacity to 15,000 to 20,000 bricks per day.

The bricks manufactured by Wild's plant were vital in the construction of buildings in the community and the region. Among the local examples of Wild's brick making is a block building located on Cedar Fall's Main Street. In February 1898, a "new brick block" was constructed on the 300 block of Main Street. The bricks used in its construction came from Wild's brick plant. This building is extant and now a part of Cedar Falls' Commercial Historic District. At the time of its construction, the building was listed as the home of W.A. McIntosh's furniture and undertaking business. Although renovated facades have masked the front side of this row, the historic bricks produced by Cedar Falls Brick & Tile/Wild & Co. are still visible on the alley side (Figure 31) (Sweet research notes; Susan Card personal interview)

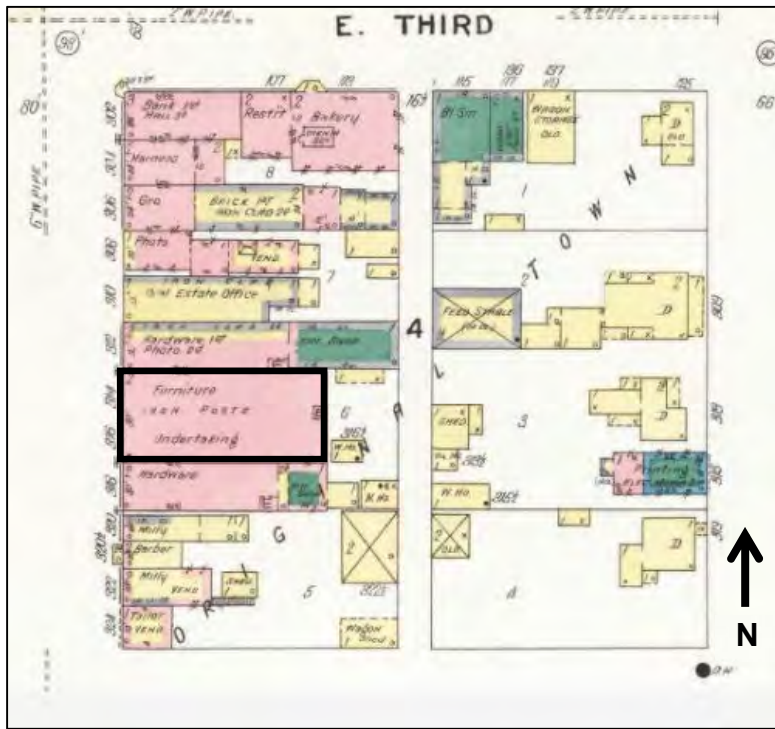


Figure 31. Left: Photo of the "New Brick Block," a known example of Wild & Co. bricks looking west, in alley behind 314 and 316 Main Street in Cedar Falls. Photograph taken 08-07-2018 by Tallgrass. Right: 1909 Sanborn map showing location of the "New Brick Block" on Main Street (outlined).

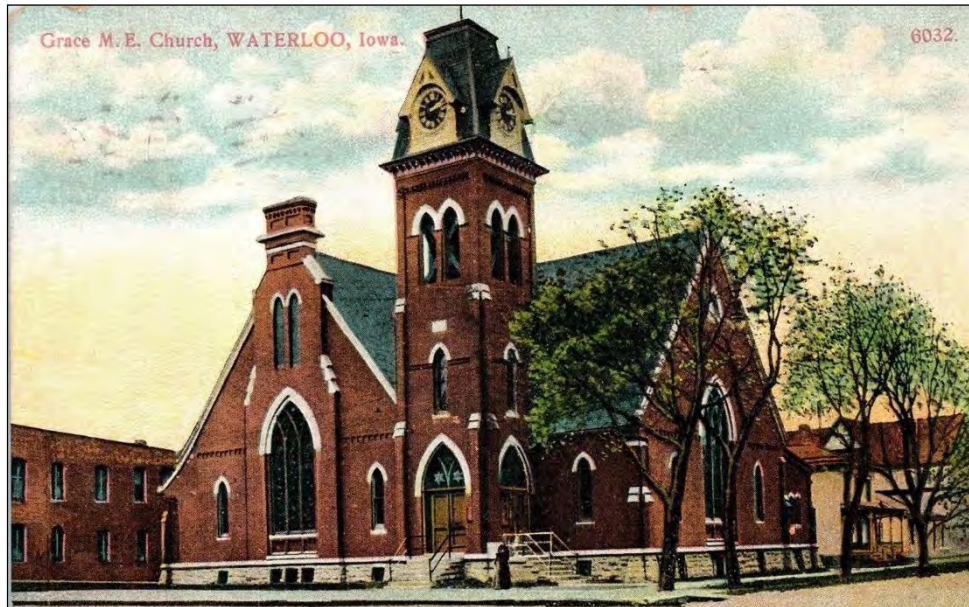
Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Another example of Wild's bricks was in the large Grace Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1877-78 in downtown Waterloo, Iowa (Figure 32). Over 200,000 bricks were used in its construction. This church appears to be nonextant.



**Figure 32. Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in Waterloo, Iowa, erected 1877-78 of Wild & Co. bricks.**  
*Photo Source: hippostcard.com user Pixielovespostcards*

Other significant brick orders included, but were not limited to the following (*Cedar Falls Semi Weekly Gazette*):

October 1898	400,000 bricks	Waterloo, Iowa Masonic Temple
August 1898	67,0000 bricks	brick block in Fairbanks, Iowa
“ “	200,000 bricks	Waterloo, Iowa YMCA
August 1897	500,000 bricks	delivered to New Hartford, Iowa
July 1897	3 carloads of brick	delivered to Nashua, Iowa

Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co. locations:

*Brick Works.* Wild's extensive operations had several locations throughout Cedar Falls over his nearly fifty-year career. One of these locations was the "Works" as it was called in the index to the 1900 and 1909 Sanborn fire insurance maps. It was located in the southeast part of Cedar Falls "1 mile SE of P.O." Though the brickyard is no longer extant, an approximate location can be found by measuring the distance from the post office of that time (at the corner of Main and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets) and triangulating that with the north-to-south Chicago, Great Western Railroad spur visible in the 1900 Sanborn map. This exercise places the probable location of the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Company works near the current Cedar Falls Utilities power plant, in the vicinity of 16<sup>th</sup> street. This location is corroborated by a building visible in the 1930s aerial imagery that bears resemblance to the Brick & Tile Co. building as depicted on the 1900 and 1909 Sanborn maps. The aerial imagery also shows several circular structures that may conform to the location of the kilns depicted on the 1909 Sanborn map (Figures 33-34). The 1909 map identifies the factory as "not in operation" and the buildings as "old & dilapidated."

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

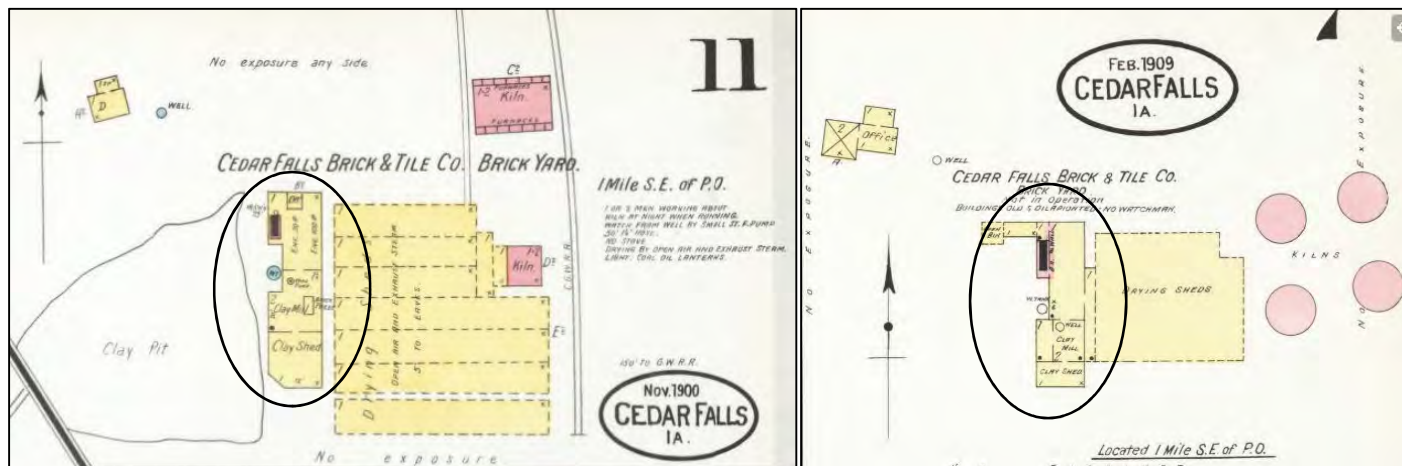


Figure 33. 1900 Sanborn map (left) and 1909 Sanborn map (right) showing the layout of the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Company. Source: Sanborn 1900, 1909.



Figure 34. 1930s aerial image that may show remnants of the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co. Compare circled building to circled buildings on above Sanborn maps. Source: Iowa Geographic Map Server 2018.

The 1897 Sanborn map also shows an earlier configuration of the brick yard suggesting that the building highlighted in Figures 33 and 34 was added onto by the early 1900s (Figure 35). It is likely that this site was originally selected for a brick yard because there was suitable clay for brick making at this location. This is evidenced on the 1897 and 1900 Sanborns by the large “clay pit” on the southwest side of the brickyard.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

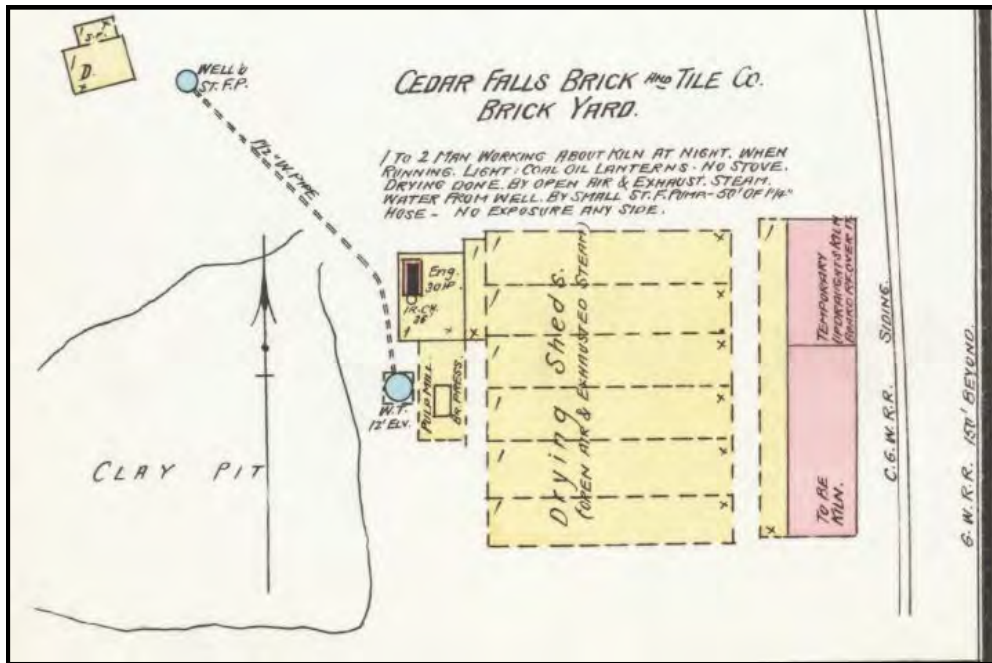


Figure 35. 1897 Sanborn map of the Cedar Falls Brick and Tile Co. Brick Yard. Source: Sanborn 1897.

Brick Yard. Another location was the brick “yard” in downtown Cedar Falls. In 1895, Daniel Wild purchased a lot that the newspapers said was near the Burlington Depot. He bought it for \$1,000. The local newspaper reported that: “it is known as the G.N. Miner lot and lies directly east of the Bryant Neely office. It will be used for the present as a storage lot for the brickyard, and the barn for teams” (*Cedar Falls Semi Weekly Gazette*, July 2, 1895). The 1897 Sanborn map lists it as a “tile and wood yard,” meaning it was mostly used for storage purposes and was an easily accessible in-town location for customers (Figure 36). The “brick & tile yard” was also depicted on the 1900 Sanborn map.



Figure 36. 1897 Sanborn Map showing Daniel Wild's new location for the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Company (outlined). The small lumber yard across Water Street was once operated by Abraham Wild. Source: Sanborn 1897.

Wild Historic District

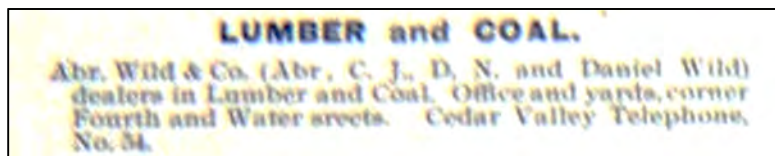
Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

### Other Business Ventures of Daniel Wild and Sons

Daniel Wild also became a partner in the business of his distant relative Abraham Wild, who supplied lumber and coal from a store at 1524 Main Street. Daniel was listed as a partner in this business in the 1896 Black Hawk County Atlas (Figure 37). It was noted in the March 27, 1896 *Cedar Falls Gazette*, that "Daniel Wild, Jr." (i.e., Daniel N.) and W.T.M. Aitkin will have charge of the yard and office work.



**Figure 37. 1896 listing for "Abr. Wild & Co.," dealer of lumber and coal on the corner of Fourth and Water Streets.** Owners were listed as Abraham, Charles J., Daniel N., and Daniel Wild. *Source: Kace 1896.*

However, this partnership did not last long, as the January 13, 1897 *Waterloo Courier* reported that the firm was dissolving. The article mentioned that Abraham, Charles J., Daniel, and Daniel N., (father and sons), were not working "harmoniously" and thus agreed to the dissolution of the lumber business. But after Abraham incurred financial difficulties around 1900, Daniel Wild took over the business and absorbed it into his brick and tile company, thus consolidating his share and dominance in the local building materials market.

Daniel's son, Charles, was partner in another business by 1894, the "fine footwear" store of "Wild & Rall." This firm along with "Abr. Wild & Co. Lumber & Coal" and his father's "Wild & Co." brick yard offering "all kinds of building brick," were advertised on the same page in the 1894 Cedar Falls city directory (Figure 38). The firm of Wild & Rall dissolved in 1895, with Charles the receiver and in charge of selling the stock (*Cedar Falls Semi-Weekly Gazette*, 14 May 1895). However, by the early 1900s, Charles J. Wild was advertising as the proprietor of his own shoe store known as "The Leader," with his brothers Joseph and Jacob both working as salesmen (Figure 39). While the June 1947 obituary for Charles Wild stated that "from 1886 to 1916, along with his two brothers Joseph and Jacob, he operated a shoe store on Main street called 'The Leader,'" this chronology is incorrect since he was a partner in Wild & Rall up to 1895 (*Waterloo Daily Courier*, June 5, 1947). The end date may be correct because it was further stated that "in June of 1916 the store was sold to three nephews, who are brothers Reuben, Carl, and Joseph Miller, who still operate the store" (*Waterloo Daily Courier*, June 5, 1947). Charles' brothers Joseph and Jacob had preceded him in death, with Joseph passing in 1945 and Jacob in 1946. During their ownership and occupation of their respective homes at 423 (Jacob) and 509 (Joseph), these two brothers were working with Charles in his shoe store business. Charles also lived at 509 circa 1888.



**Figure 38. 1894 Cedar Falls City Directory ads for the Wild family enterprises in the city.**

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

**COMMENCING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 1906**

# SLIPPER SALE

## AT THE LEADER

We are going to give to our people of Cedar Falls and surrounding country a sale on Slippers, so that every member of every family in this vicinity can afford to have a pair of comfortable, easy, warm evening Slippers to put on to rest their feet after their day's work is done.

We bought again as many Slippers for this fall trade as usual, as we knew there was going to be big advance in leather. These were all bought at the old price and we are going to sell them way below the price they previously sold for.

**THIS SALE ON SLIPPERS Begins on Wednesday, Dec. 5th, and ends on Monday, Dec. 24th**

OXFORDS		TAN OXFORDS	
During this sale we are going to sell Oxfords as follows:		We will sell all Tan Oxfords and Shoes at one-half price.	
100 Oxfords for	\$9.50	\$3.00 Tan Oxfords for	\$1.50
200 Oxfords for	18.00	5.00 Tan Oxfords for	2.50
300 Oxfords for	27.00	7.00 Tan Oxfords for	3.50
400 Oxfords for	36.00	9.00 Tan Oxfords for	4.50
500 Oxfords for	45.00	11.00 Tan Oxfords for	5.50
600 Oxfords for	54.00	13.00 Tan Oxfords for	6.50
700 Oxfords for	63.00	15.00 Tan Oxfords for	7.50
800 Oxfords for	72.00	17.00 Tan Oxfords for	8.50
900 Oxfords for	81.00	19.00 Tan Oxfords for	9.50
1000 Oxfords for	90.00	21.00 Tan Oxfords for	10.50

**All Tan Shoes at this same discount**

Also on each Tuesday and Wednesday during this sale we will sell all RUBBER GOODS at the same price they sold for before the advance in Rubber. This includes Rubber Boots, Rubbers of all kinds and Overshoes of all kinds.

You know when you come to our store for Procteur you can nearly always get just what you want, as we have the largest stock in the vicinity and can fit any size foot. We also take special pains in fitting your feet with shoes and your shoes with Rubbers.

**THE PLACE OF THE SALE IS**

# THE LEADER

CHAS. J. WILD, Proprietor

Figure 39. 1906 ad for “The Leader” shoe store of Charles J. Wild listing at the bottom the salesmen as Charles and his brothers Jacob and Joseph Wild. Source: Cedar Falls Gazette, December 1906.

Daniel N. Wild, also sometimes referenced as “Daniel Wild, Jr.” was the third son of Daniel and Margaret Wild. Among his other business interests, was the Cedar Falls Creamery. The family also participated in a number of other lesser businesses in town. The Wild family as a whole was also very active in the United Brethren Church in Cedar Falls (now the Cedar Falls Mennonite Church) and social and business organizations in the city.

In 1901, it was noted that the stockholding board of directors was taking the brick and tile company in a different direction. By this time, only George Wild held an officer position and Daniel Wild as elderly and likely no longer involved in the day-to-day operations. In 1901, the business was sold to a trio of out-of-town businessmen, who vowed to make more and better bricks on site than ever before. The Cedar Falls and Waterloo newspapers enthusiastically heralded the new direction (*Waterloo Semi Weekly Reporter* May 21 1901; *Waterloo Daily Courier* May 24, 1901 and February 8, 1901). However, by the time of the 1909 Sanborn map, the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co. was shown as “not in operation” and the buildings deteriorating (see Figure 33). Therefore, the sale of the brick and tile company out of the Wild family in 1901 marks the end of



Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

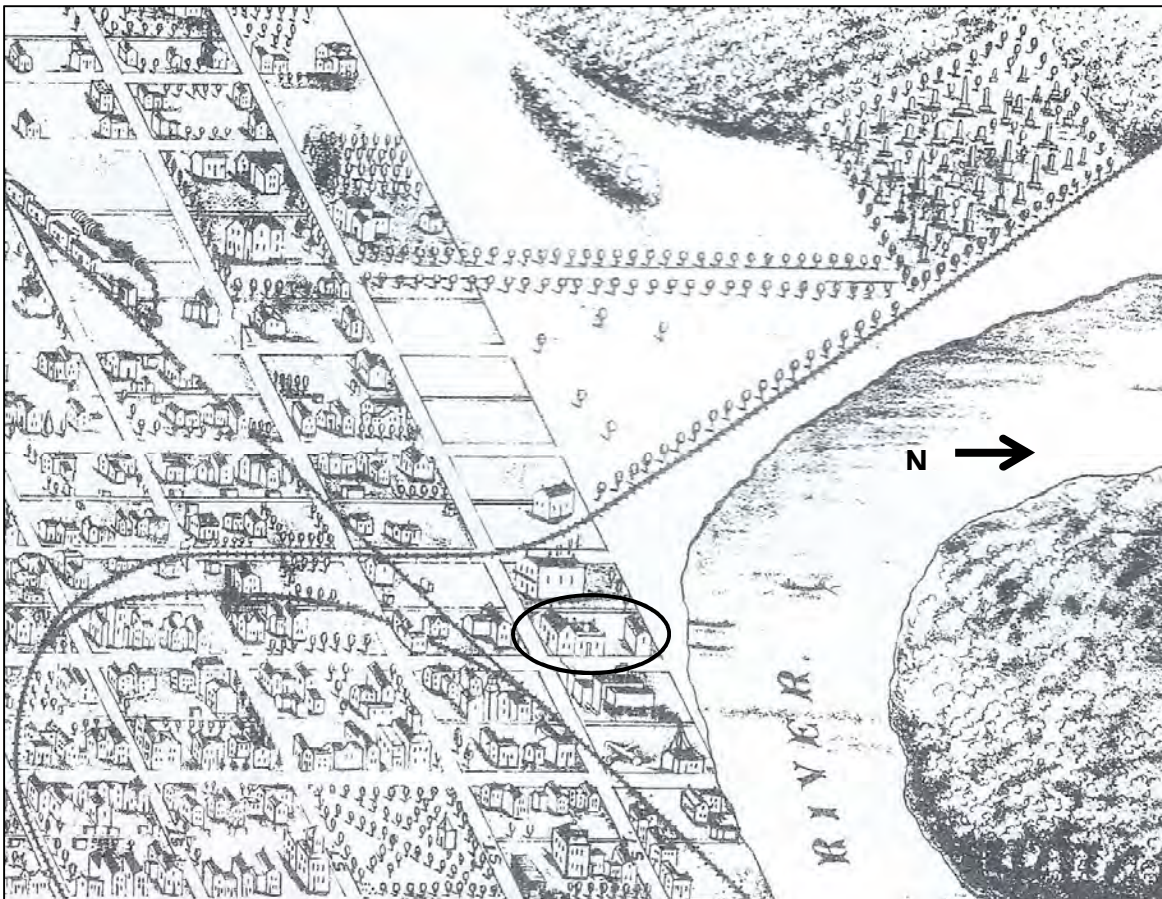
Name of Property

County and State

the family's dominance of Cedar Falls' building industry. Daniel N. Wild's creamery business continued until 1903, the same year that his father passed away. However, the shoe store of Charles J. Wild continued to operate until 1916 when it was sold to the next generation of family members, who continued its operation into the mid-20th century.

### The History of the Wild Historic District as a Family Enclave

The first house that Daniel and Margaret Wild built within the district boundaries was a two-story brick house that was located at the northwest corner of W. 1st and Tremont streets. This house was shown on both the 1868 and 1880 birds-eye illustrations of Cedar Falls sited very near the street corner (see Figures 27 and 40). The 1880 illustration shows a two-story side gable with rear one-story ell and the two story section fronting W. 1st Street. An outbuilding is shown to the northeast corner of the lot. The placement of this house so close to W. 1st Street suggests that at the time of the construction of their large Queen Anne house in 1895, which is set back from the street, meant that they could have continued living in the brick house until the new house was completed and then the brick house was torn down. However, it is also possible that the brick interior walls of the house at 501 W. 1st Street are remnants of the older house around which the larger frame house was built, or that those interior walls were built using bricks salvaged from the older house. It should be noted that W. 1st Street was not as wide as it is today; therefore, there would have been more room on this lot for the older house in the late 19th century. Notably, this illustration does not depict the small house yet at 509 W. 1st Street.



**Figure 40. 1880 Birdseye illustration of Cedar Falls showing location of Daniel and Margaret Wild's first house at the northwest corner of W. 1st and Tremont streets (circled).** At this time, there were no other houses shown to the west or east of this house, just commercial-type buildings. Source: Hageboeck 1880.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

As the Wild family grew, they left the family home (for the most part) and established their own households in their married lives.<sup>3</sup> However, some returned to the family home at 501 W. 1st Street following the death of their spouses or after divorce. This was the case with Carrie Wild Zager, Rose Wild Higby, and Daniel N. Wild.

When Carrie Zager's husband Louis F. Zager died in 1895, his obituary stated that the couple had been "living on First Street near Franklin," which would be east of this house and that of Daniel and Margaret Wild (*Semi-Weekly Cedar Falls Gazette*, 5 November 1895). If they had been living at 509, it would be more likely that the location would have been referenced as near "Tremont" since this house is just west of that intersection. However, according to Louis and Carrie's daughter, Clara Zager Houghton, in a letter dated 1975, her uncle Charles Wild and his wife Rose lived in this house "when first married," which took place in October 25, 1888. While they lived at 509 circa 1888, the property abstract indicates that Daniel Wild remained in possession of the property. Therefore, it appears that Daniel Wild had built this house by at least 1888, perhaps for Charles and Rose. It may also be that between Charles and Rose's occupation and Carrie Wild Zager's ownership in 1896 that the house might have been rented out for a time. It was certainly rented out after Carrie purchased it from her father. The 1900 Federal Population Census listed Carrie and her daughter Clara then living at 501 W. 1st Street in her parents' household, with Carrie's house at 509 rented out to Francis and Ida M. Vance. Carrie Zager retained ownership of the 509 property until 1909 when it was transferred to her brother Joseph Wild. The 1910 Federal Census listed the household of owner Joseph Wild at 509, with his sisters Carrie Zager and Rose Higby both living with him in the house. In 1911, Joseph married Rosa (aka, Rose) Esther Sparr in St. Paul, Minnesota, with the couple then making their home in Cedar Falls at 509 W. 1st Street where they would live until their deaths in the 1940s. The house address was listed in the probate records for both as their place of residence (Census and marriage data accessed at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), December 2018; Property Abstract).

The house at 423 W. 1st Street was built circa 1891 by Daniel N. Wild. It was built while his parents' old brick house was still standing on the northwest corner of the Tremont Street intersection with W. 1st Street, with the 423 house built on the northeast corner. The construction of Daniel N.'s house was prompted by his marriage in 1890 to Mae M. Brodie. However, the marriage was a tumultuous one, with the couple divorcing in 1897 but then later remarried. After their divorce, Daniel N. Wild went to live in his parents' house next door where he was living at the time of the 1900 Federal Census. Mae (Brodie) Wild also went to live with her parents by 1900 at a house located elsewhere in the city. Mae retained ownership in 1897 but transferred it that same year to her former brother-in-law, Jacob Wild and his wife Eleanor M. Lumpe, who would reside in this house until their deaths in the 1940s (Census data accessed at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), December 2018; Property Abstract).

Following the deaths of Daniel and Margaret Wild in 1903 and 1905, respectively, their house at 501 W. 1st Street was sold out of the family. Specifically, the children, as the heirs of Margaret Wild, conveyed the property to L.G. Ronquest on May 16, 1907. Other owners would follow, with the Strothman, Pillsbury, and Wood families of note. Joseph Wild owned the house at 509 W. 1st Street from 1909 until his death in 1945, along with his wife, Rose Esther (Sparr) from their marriage in 1911 until her death in 1946. Jacob Wild and his wife, Eleanor M. (Lumpe) lived at 423 W. 1st Street until their respective deaths, in 1946 and 1943. The deaths of Jacob Wild and Rose (Sparr) Wild both in 1946 marked the end of the Wild family occupation of these properties.

Therefore, the three houses that comprise the Wild Historic District were all built by and for the family of Daniel and Margaret Wild. The three houses together were a distinct unit along W. 1st Street, with the large Queen Anne house serving as the center focal point and homestead for this family grouping. While this may

<sup>3</sup> Daniel and Margaret Wild had ten children: Emma, Caroline (aka, Carrie), Charles, George, Jacob, Daniel N., Joseph, Flora, Rose, and Helen.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

not be unique in Cedar Falls, it would certainly have been uncommon and notable to have so many family members living in houses next to one another. Thus, the three houses came to function as something of a family enclave from circa 1888 until 1946 when the last of the Wild family members died and others were now owning and occupying all three houses. This was definitely a family that lived together, worked together, and most were even buried together in the family plot in the nearby Greenwood Cemetery (Figure 41).



**Figure 41. Wild family plot and individual gravesites in the Greenwood Cemetery.**

Source: <https://www.findagrave.com/>, December 2018.

In 2017, the house at 501 W. 1st Street was listed in the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with Daniel Wild as a significant person in Cedar Falls' history. Susan Card, property owner of 423 and 501 W. 1st Street and the preparer of the NRHP nomination for 501 W. 1st Street, noted the following:

The narrative establishes that Daniel Wild clearly meets a test of significance in multiple forms: early settler in the undeveloped Cedar Valley, journeyman tradesman growing prosperous by building sustainable thriving businesses, land acquisitions which created viable economic streams of revenue through farming, leasing of land, and the eventual selling of cemetery plots, and by involving offspring in businesses both retail and wholesale (Leader Shoe Store and Cedar Falls Dairy). His significance is exemplified by the structures which still exist; his 3 homes, and at least two brick buildings within Cedar Falls. While he was not a statesman, or college president, or mayor, these are not the only measures of significance. Daniel was a man who spent his life achieving success in his business ventures in order to provide for and sustain his growing family. His impact is undeniable, and the City would not be the same without him. The Daniel Wild home showcases his brick (interior walls), cement (basement floor), the fancy woodwork certainly obtained by connection with Abraham Wild & Co., Lumber and Coal, but it is also a lasting tribute to him and his family (Card 2017).

The design of Daniel and Margaret's 1895 house had been inspired after a house they had seen and admired on a trip to Florida. A Cedar Falls architect adapted the plans for the Wild's large new home. Soon after completion, Daniel and Margaret, their newly-widowed daughter Carrie and her daughter Clara Zager moved into the new house. They would be joined by son Daniel N. when he became divorced in 1897. Son Joseph W. also lived in the 1895 house for a time before he purchased the brick cottage from Carrie and moved there in 1909. Clara Zager Houghton, granddaughter of Daniel and Margaret Wild and daughter of Carrie (Wild) Zager, wrote of these two homes:

The home [501] was built in 1895, and as I recall, (I was only 6 years old) the family moved in about Thanksgiving time. Daniel Wild and wife had spent the previous winter in Eustis, Florida. Friends down

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

there had just finished building a new house. Mr. Wild liked the set of plans so well, he brought them home with him, and started things moving immediately, to have a replica of this house for his new home. The two story brick house, which had formerly been the home, was made from brick from the Wild Brick Yard, which was my Grandfather's business. The brick bungalow [509] directly west of the Wild residence is also made from brick fired in the Wild Brick Yard. This house is still standing. The type of the Wild House [i.e., 501] is southern; the front door opening in the middle, with the sitting room on the right and parlor on the left. From the outside, both sides look the same. The woodwork in the dining room is Georgia curly pine. These curls are not painted on the wood, but are in the wood. I think the wood is varnished. I used to think the sliding doors that opened into the library were so beautiful. While in the south, Grandfather had this wood shipped to Cedar Falls.

Hertha Strothman's family owned and occupied the house at 501 in the 1920s. In her memoirs, she wrote about the house and her early memories of this house and the property:

[A "tremendous barn"] stood behind the house, with a couple of black walnut trees. The yard had several huge maples and a garden with a big asparagus bed and a trellis of perennial sweet peas. The house had five porches, 3 downstairs and two on the upper floor. It had two stairways to the basement, plus another through a slanted cyclone door from the back yard, as well as two stairways to the second floor and a narrow flight to the unfinished attic. The first floor had a wide center hall, four large rooms plus a powder room and a huge kitchen with a wood burning range. Mama kept her electric wringer washing machine in a corner. The second floor had a bathroom and four spacious bed rooms and a sunny study that became the nursery when Franklin Allen was born. The big, pale yellow house occupied the northwest corner of West First Street and Tremont Avenue, but Tremont ended there, giving us the width of the street in lawn for carefree play. The lawn extended down to the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. Beyond the tracks flowed the Cedar River, and across the river we could see the Bathing Beach House and the Bath house. We could watch the huge blocks of ice being cut and pushed through a channel to the Ice House where they were layered with straw for next summer's use (Hertha Strothman Memoir).

The house at 501 W. 1st Street is an elaborate spindlework example of the Queen Anne style, which was popular in the United States and Iowa in the 1880s-1910s (McAlester 2017). Daniel retained the services of architect and builder, W.A. Robinson of Cedar Falls to execute the plans for his new home. The materials used to build the house came from Abraham Wild & Co.'s lumber yard. Its architectural significance qualified the house for individual listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as well (Card 2017).

The two houses at 423 and 509 W. 1st Street are vernacular expressions of Late Victorian styles. These are modest-sized homes but are still appointed on the interior with decorative woodwork and other details such as built-ins, staircases, and colonnades, that reflect the family's financial standing in the 1890s and their association with the lumber and brick industries in Cedar Falls. The house at 509 is the smallest of the three and functioned at times as a rental property but was always owned by the Wilds during the period of significance. However, following Daniel and Margaret's deaths in the early 1900s, the family's occupation of these properties focused on the two smaller houses since the large Queen Anne home was sold out of the family in 1907. The two smaller houses continued to be occupied by sons of Daniel and Margaret into the 1940s.

Statement on Archaeological Potential of the Wild Historic District

A Phase I archaeological investigation was conducted along W. 1st Street in 2014, with subsurface testing conducted in the rear and side yards of 423 and 501 W. 1st Street. At the time, the Daniel and Margaret Wild House had been identified as a historic property but was not yet listed in the NRHP. It was found that the yard areas within that project area had been disturbed by underground utilities lines, the rip-rapping of the adjacent ravine slope, and the construction of the modern garage on the rear of the house at 501. As a result, any archaeological potential at these locations had been greatly impacted. No archaeological sites were

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

encountered and no further archaeological investigation was recommended (Rogers 2014). Therefore, for the current district nomination significance under Criterion D is not claimed.

There remains some archaeological potential that should be examined on the reported location of either a brick yard of Daniel Wild's or a storage yard for his company's bricks to the west of the historic district. The current owner has reported finding bricks in the grassy parcel near his home every time he digs a hole. It is recommended that this parcel be examined by historical research and archaeological investigation to either confirm or refute such an association. Furthermore, the location of the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co. is a potential archaeological site that should be identified and evaluated.

#### Recommendations for Future Studies

There are a number of properties in Cedar Falls, including commercial, religious, and residential properties built with Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Co. bricks and/or associated with members of the Wild family. These properties, if they retain sufficient integrity and significance, may be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under a Multiple Property Cover Document related to the Wild Family's significance in Cedar Fall's industrial, commercial, social, and religious history.

#### Acknowledgments

A number of individuals contributed to the completion of this nomination including property owners, Susan E. Card and Marianne Hartz, who graciously allowed access to the interior of their homes and provided their property abstracts for review. Susan Card also provided historical photographs, historical accounts from Wild family members, and oral history about the various properties from previous owners and occupants. The City of Cedar Falls and the Cedar Falls Historic Preservation Commission, including Project Director Iris Lehmann, provided support throughout the project and assistance with coordination and reviewing the drafts of the nominations.

#### Disclaimer

The activity that is the subject of a National Register nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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Van Metre, Isaiah. *History of Black Hawk County, Iowa and Representative Citizens*. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1904.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 07-13237

Wild Historic District  
Name of Property

Black Hawk County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>42.538160</u> Latitude	<u>-92.451490</u> Longitude	3	<u>42.538200</u> Latitude	<u>-92.450450</u> Longitude
2	<u>42.538260</u> Latitude	<u>-92.450680</u> Longitude	4	<u>42.537970</u> Latitude	<u>-92.450450</u> Longitude
5	<u>42.537920</u> Latitude	<u>-92.451490</u> Longitude			

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Wild Historic District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Aerial Map showing the NRHP Boundary of the Wild Historic District."

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundary encompasses the four lots historically associated with the Wild Family properties at 423, 501, and 509 W. 1st Street in the City of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Leah Rogers, Principal Investigator, and Ray Werner, Project Historian date September 6, 2019  
organization Tallgrass Archaeology LLC telephone 319-354-6722  
street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive email lrogerstallgrass@gmail.com  
city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).



Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Aerial Map showing the NRHP Boundary of the Wild Historic District as a black dashed line.  
Source for base map: 2015 aerial image



Closer aerial showing the NRHP boundary (black dashed line) and contributing (C), individually listed (IL) and noncontributing (NC) resources. White dot is the stone hitching post, which is a contributing object to the Daniel and Margaret Wild House NRHP nomination (Card 2017).

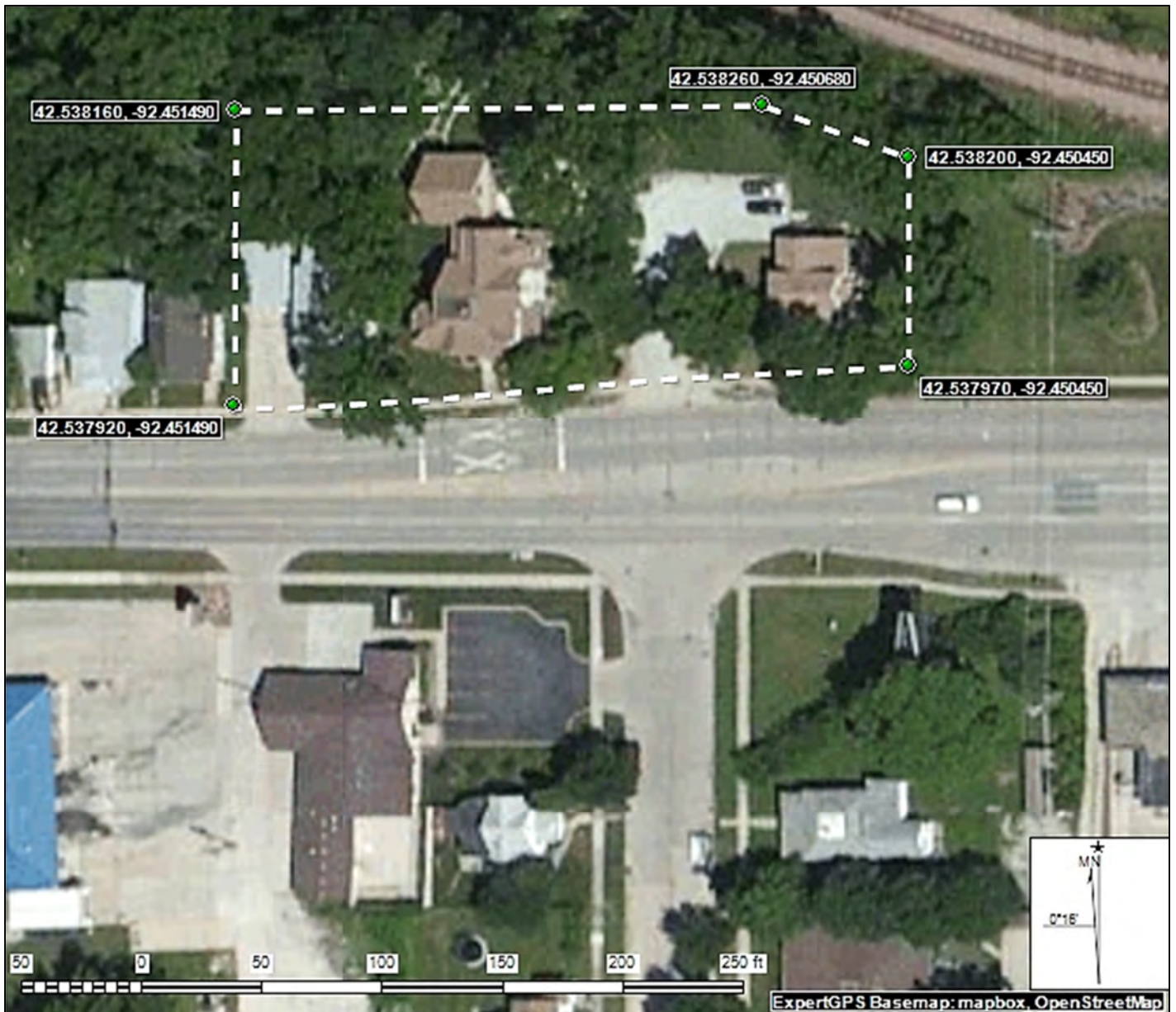
Source for base map: Black Hawk County Assessor website, accessed October 2018

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



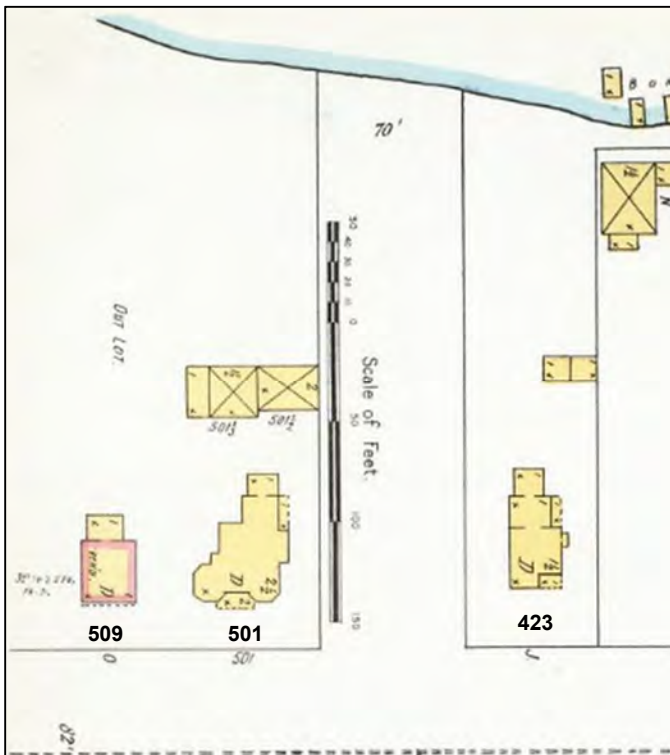
Aerial map showing boundary of Wild Historic District (white dashed line) and the Latitude/Longitude coordinates of the boundary. Source of base aerial: ExpertGPS mapping software, 2018.

Wild Historic District

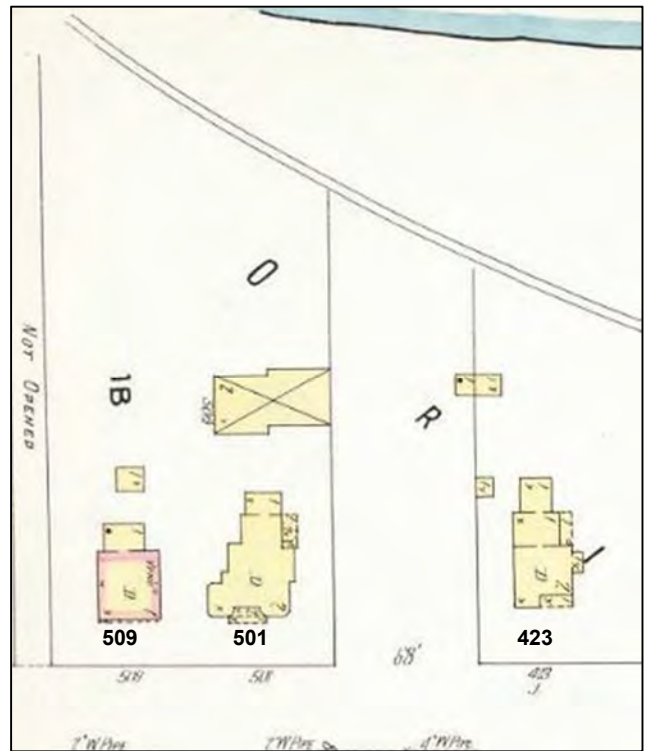
Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

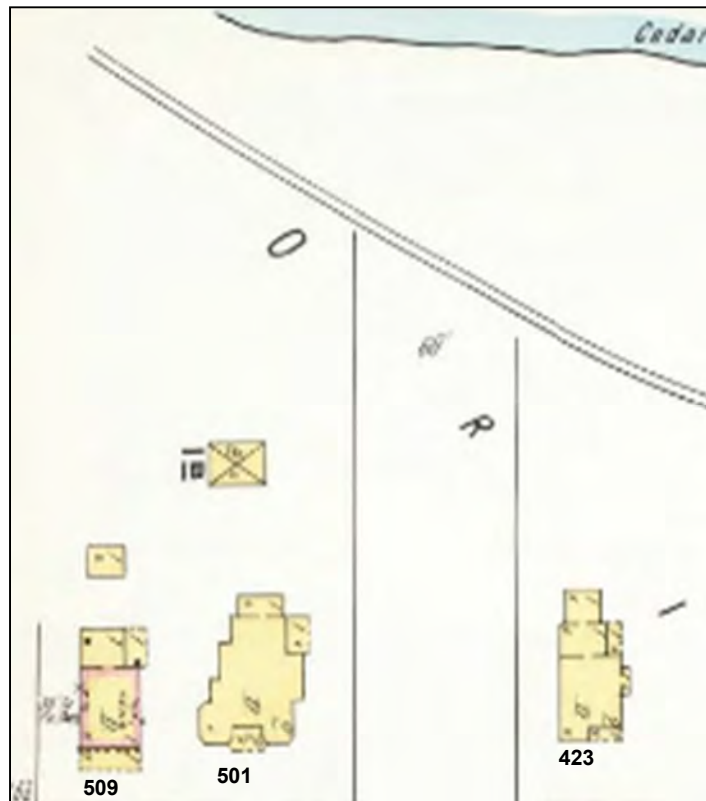
County and State



1900 Sanborn map of Wild Historic District



1909 Sanborn map of Wild Historic District



1916 Sanborn map of Wild Historic District.

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



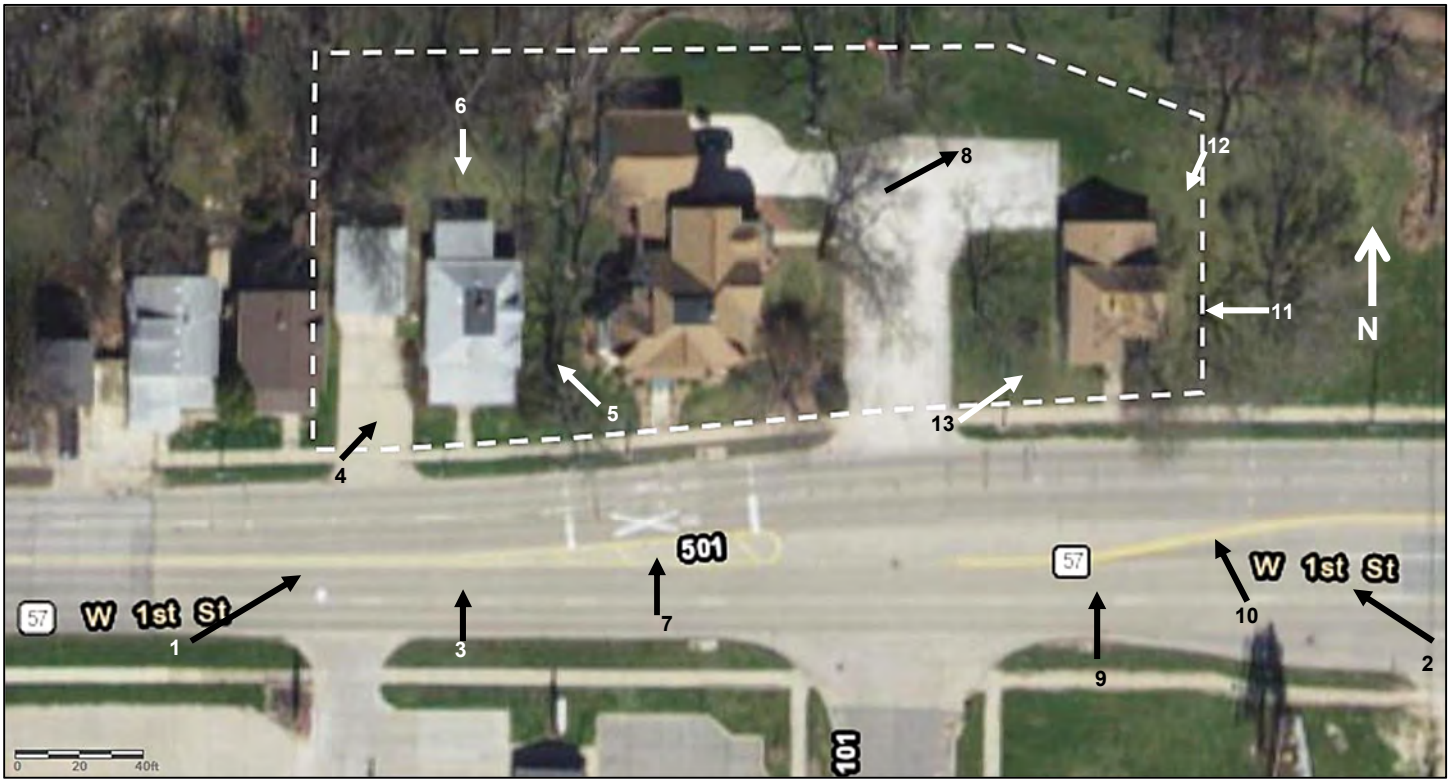
**Circa 1925 photograph of 501 W. 1st Street looking NW and showing 509 W. 1st Street at the far left (arrow).** This is the only known historic photograph of 509 W. 1st Street and shows the brick exterior then exposed and the porch on the façade. Also visible in the far right is the large barn that once stood behind 501 W. Street.  
*Source: Personal collection of Susan Card, Cedar Falls, Iowa.*

Wild Historic District

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



**Aerial Map Showing Direction of Photographs**

Source for base map: 2016 orthophoto obtained from ArcGIS - Iowa Geographic Map Server, 2019

Wild Historic District  
Name of Property

Black Hawk, Iowa  
County and State

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property:** Wild Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Cedar Falls, Iowa  
**County:** Black Hawk **State:** Iowa  
**Photographer:** Ray Werner, Tallgrass Archaeology LLC  
**Date Photographed:** March 22, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 13: General view of Wild Historic District looking ENE from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 2 of 13: General view of Wild Historic District looking WNW from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 3 of 13: Façade of 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Garage looking N from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 4 of 13: SW Corner of 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking NE from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 5 of 13: N side of 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking S from back yard
- Photo 6 of 13: E Side of 509 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking WNW from side yard
- Photo 7 of 13: Façade of 501 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking N from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 8 of 13: East Side and Rear of 501 W. 1st Street looking WSW
- Photo 9 of 13: Façade of 423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking N from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 10 of 13: Façade and E Side of 423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking NNW from W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Photo 11 of 13: East Side of 423 W. 1st Street looking W
- Photo 12 of 13: E side and Rear of 423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking SSW
- Photo 13 of 13: West Side of 423 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street looking ENE

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

















WEST

57

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Wild Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: IOWA, Black Hawk

Date Received: 9/12/2019      Date of Pending List: 9/30/2019      Date of 16th Day: 10/15/2019      Date of 45th Day: 10/28/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004546

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      10/23/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Wild Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Industry. The small, three property district represents a distinctive collection of late nineteenth century houses all associated with the locally prominent Wild family, whose various commercial and industrial concerns were key economic contributors to Cedar Falls historic development. Dominated by Daniel Wild's opulent Queen Anne house, the district represents a unique family enclave of historic period residences.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan      Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229      Date: 10/23/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL    PRODUCE IOWA    STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR  
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR



IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE HISTORIC SITES

STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION

September 10, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms Beasley:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable. For this historic district, no objections were received from either of the two owners (one person owns two of the properties).

**Wild Historic District**

The Wild Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its representation of the important contributions that Daniel Wild and his family made to the development of the industry and commerce of Cedar Falls in the late 19th century. Daniel Wild's house at 501 W. 1st Street is individually listed in the NRHP under Criteria B and C, for its association with Daniel Wild as a significant person in the community and for the architectural significance of his high-style, architect-designed house at 501 W. 1st Street. The businesses of Daniel Wild played an important role in the development of the city, not only as an important commercial enterprise and employer, but also as a source for the materials of which many buildings in the city and the region were physically built. All of his sons were successful businessmen in Cedar Falls, with sons Charles, Joseph, and Jacob associated with the houses at 423 and 509 W. 1st Street in their adult lives. The homes in the district reflect the Wild family's industrial and commercial success in the Cedar Falls community. Significant dates are circa 1888 when the house at 509 W. 1st Street was built, circa 1891 when the house at 423 W. 1st Street was built, and 1895 when the house at 501 W. 1st Street was built. The period of significance begins with the circa 1888 construction of 509 W. 1st Street by Daniel Wild using bricks from his manufactory and ends in 1901 when the Wild's Cedar Falls Brick and Tile Company was sold out of the family.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Sadowsky  
State Historian and National Register Coordinator  
State Historical Society of Iowa

Enclosures.