

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 11 1984

date entered JUL 12 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Nicholas Schoenenberger House and Barn

and or common

2. Location

street & number off IA 169 not for publication

city, town Winterset vic. vicinity of One mile south just off State 169

state Iowa code 019 county Madison code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roslea and Robert C. Johnson

street & number 4785 N. W. 50th St.

city, town Des Moines vicinity of state IA 50310

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Madison County Courthouse

city, town Winterset state IA 50273

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Madison County Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? No determination made. yes no

date May 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Iowa SHPO

city, town Des Moines state IA 50319

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nicholas Schoenenberger House is an early example in stone of a vernacular farm residence. Notable features include two public facades, an unusual orientation toward a creek view, a unusual main entrance surround, the use of decorative surface texturing, the combination of rubble wall and finished cut stone in its construction and split level aspect. The house evidences elements of the nineteenth century stone building tradition in Madison County, Iowa, as well as the distinguishing characteristics of the builder's work. The associated English style barn in a German hill setting exhibits a blend of vernacular construction techniques.

The 20' x 38' two story gabled house is constructed of locally quarried finished cut and rubble limestone. It has a central hall plan and no basement. The west, south and east facades have central doors and flanking windows. Second floor windows on the south facade are in line with the first floor windows and the third floor window is centered. The north facade has a centered window on the second and the third level.

The south facade is constructed of finished cut quarry faced limestone. The west, north, and east walls are of rubble with finished cut quarry faced quoins and jambs. Walls are tooled with grapevine joints. Window treatment consists of three over three sashes and lintels and protruding sills which have been dressed and decorated with surface texturing. The recessed doors have wood paneling in the recesses. The east and west doors each have four small skylights above them. The west main entrance features an unusual surround that includes vertical members with shoulder and plinthlike elements. Decorative surface texturing is employed to create the illusion that the vertical members extend from the lintel to the sill. Surface texturing is also used on the steps. The interrupted roof is constructed with collar beams and no ridge beam. Six bracket like members support the edge of the gable eave.

Each of the three floors has a south and a north room with a central stair. The stairs and interior walls are north of the center hallway so that the south rooms are larger than the north ones. The lowest level has an 18 inch stone interior wall which supports only the stud walls above. Exterior walls are 22 inches thick. There are interior flues within the north and south walls. Windows are flared with the interior openings six inches wider than the exterior ones. The openings are paneled with undecorated wood and there are wood sills. The interior, including the third floor, is finished with plaster over lath walls and ceilings, 1-1/4 inch tongue and groove flooring and undecorated wood trim.

The split level aspect with the 2-1/2 story gabled public facade to the south maximizes solar exposure. The house is sited with a view directly down Clanton Creek, near the bottom of a south facing timber covered ridge. Just below and south of the site is the river bottom cropland of the 360 acre Schoenenberger farm. The barn and other outbuildings were north on the hill above the house.

In the nineteenth century, Madison County, Iowa, has a well developed tradition of stone building using locally abundant limestone. At least six local stone masons are included in the 1860 census. The Madison County Courthouse, reputed to be one of the finest stone buildings in the state, was completed in 1868, burned, and was rebuilt in 1875. Most of

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Description

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the stone houses in the county were built in the early Victorian era beginning in 1854. Extant houses and photographs of those no longer in existence were examined. The Schoenenberger house shares these observed characteristics of other local stone houses: 1) constructed of a combination of rubble walls and finished cut quarry faced limestone for the public facades, 2) finished cut quarry faced quoins and jambs, 3) dressed lintels and sills with similar dimensions and surface texturing, 4) similar recessed doors and skylights, 5) flared window openings, 6) split level south facing aspect and, 7) interior flues. Houses with these characteristics, whose dates of construction are documented, were built between 1854 and 1869. Houses with later construction dates have rusticated quoins and more use of dimensioned stone. The combination of finished cut stone and rubble walls, interior flues, and lintels and sills with surface decoration are not used after the 1860's. This architectural comparison reveals that the Schoenenberger house has the most characteristics in common with the Clark House (1854), the Guiberson House (1865, NRHP), and the Vawter House (before 1869), all of which are known to have been built by Caleb Clark, an early settler and stonemason. This house may also have been built by Clark.

The associated barn is a 38' x 30' English style barn in a German style hill setting. The lower level is constructed of coursed limestone rubble and the upper level exterior of boards and battens. The barn has a very simplified internal structure that allows three large bays with minimal structural interference. There are four bents with mortise, tenon and pegged construction, one on each end wall and two that are twelve feet apart and twelve feet from the end walls. In the lower level there are timbers with a beam across them positioned under the two central bents. Some timbers are hand hewn. The interrupted roof has no ridge beam.

As a result of the long occupancy by the first owner and its being vacant during much of the twentieth century, the house is in an outstanding state of preservation. The only change has been the removal of the upper parts of the internal flues and the addition of modern flues. The house is threatened by deterioration because large holes in the roof and missing windows are permitting rain to destroy walls, rafters and floors. Except for the barn, no original outbuildings exist. Sheds were added to the east and west ends of the barn after 1948.

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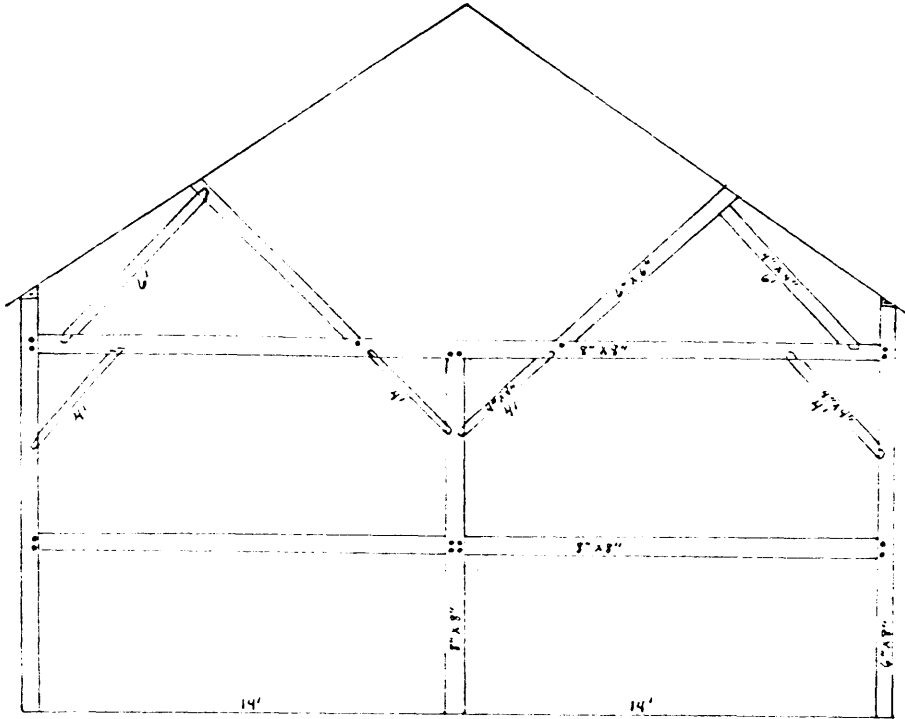
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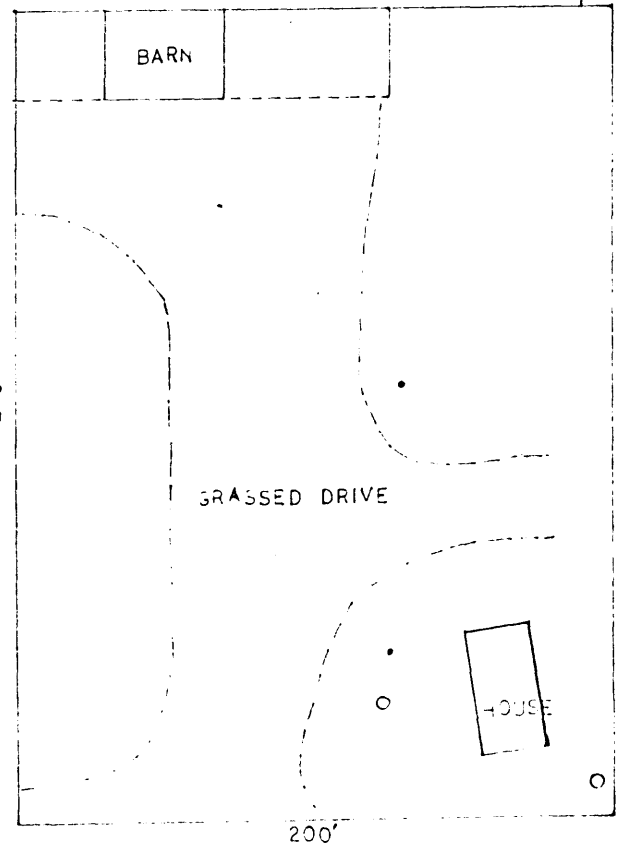
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ONE OF FOUR BENTS IN BARN

NW 1/4, SE 1/4
SECT. 7



NICHOLAS SCHOENENBERGER HOUSE / BARN SITE
MADISON COUNTY, IOWA

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1854–60 **Builder/Architect** (Caleb Clark ? See text)

The Nicholas Schoenenberger House and barn constitute an early and well preserved example of a vernacular farmstead. Notable features associated with the house include two public facades, unusual orientation toward a creek view, a unique main entrance surround, the use of decorative surface texturing, the combination of rubble wall and finished cut stone in its construction and split level aspect. The house evidences elements of the nineteenth century stone building tradition in Madison County, Iowa, as well as the distinguishing characteristics of the builder's work. The associated English style barn in a German hill setting exhibits a blend of vernacular construction techniques.

Nicholas Schoenenberger who was born in Germany, May 5, 1818, acquired patent deed to the farm on June 3, 1856. He owned and operated the farm until the end of the nineteenth century. In the 1880's the focus of the farm began to shift as sons Anthony and Edward purchased much larger farms and built homes on land adjacent to the north boundary of this farm. It is probable that the house and barn were constructed between 1856 and 1880 while this was the main farm. A comparison of the house to other stone houses in Madison County indicates that it has many characteristics in common with those built in the 1860's and that its construction is different from those built after 1869. Finally, among very long time residents of the area the house is reputed to have been built before 1870. The above data seems to indicate that the house was probably built in the 1860's and the barn, before 1880. An architectural comparison with other stone houses in the county suggests that the house may have been built by Caleb Clark, an early settler and stone mason, who began building the first stone house in the county in 1854.

Nicholas and his wife, Louisa Tinnis, (born in Prussia, June 18, 1830) lived in the house until his death on October 8, 1902. The house has been vacant for long periods since then when the house was not owner occupied.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property one and one fourth acres (54,000 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Omaha NK

Quadrangle scale 1/250,000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	1	6	0	0	0	4	5	6	4	1	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning 57.5' south of the NE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 7, Twp. 74N, R-27W, thence west 190', south 270', east 200', north 270', west 10' to place of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 23 May 1984

Historical Building

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state IA 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Adrian A. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date May 29, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melissa Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 7/12/84

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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