

PH036103X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **AUG 19 1976**

DATE ENTERED **DEC 12 1976**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

James Newell Barn

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Cedar Falls off 045218
Washington Township (90) Section 10

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Falls vic.

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Iowa

19

CODE

COUNTY

Black Hawk

CODE

013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Y. M. Cowlshaw

STREET & NUMBER

209 Sunset Road

CITY, TOWN

Hudson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50647

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Black Hawk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

316 East Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

Waterloo

STATE

Iowa 50704

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the year 1859, fourteen years after he built his log cabin in 1845, James Newell built a barn on his farmstead at Turkey Foot Forks, Washington Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, from black walnut timber on his land.

The barn is constructed of black walnut beams from Newell's timberland, hand-hewn with a broad axe. The roof is supported by poles that have been flattened on one side to receive the roof. The poles meet with mitred ends at the top of the roof (no ridgepole). The barn is two stories high with a foundation of native limestone, 19" thick and 7' above ground. The lower floor is 7'9" high. There are four hand-hewn black walnut beams, one foot square, under the overhang at the front of the first floor which are supported on the ground by granite boulders (now reinforced by cement). Joists under the overhang are black walnut logs, some with bark remaining. The upper and lower floors are divided in thirds lengthwise. The upper floor is used for a haymow and the lower floor has 12 stalls for horses and cows and a pump. It is sided with sawed boards.

The barn is located on a knoll overlooking Turkey Foot Forks, so named long ago by the Indians because the junction of the West Fork and Shell Rock rivers with the Red Cedar river resembled the foot of a wild turkey. Higher on the knoll is the limestone foundation of Newell's eight room, two story house, built of black walnut timber in 1854, and near it is the foundation of a circular shaped well of native limestone. The house burned down in 1961.

The barn is still surrounded by virgin prairie, including native grasses and wildflowers, and timberland where small animals and birds are numerous. A clearing not far from the barn is the site of an Indian campgrounds long ago.

The barn stands on its original site and appears to have had no major alterations. It is basically sound, but needs some minor repairs. It has been in continuous use for agricultural purposes from the time it was built, 117 years.

The new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Y. M. Cowlshaw of Hudson, Iowa, who have a second home in this area, are nature and history enthusiasts who bought the barn and twenty-five acres surrounding it in March, 1976, for the purpose of preserving it and to prevent the building of a summer resort by a potential buyer. The Cowlshaws plan to make the minor repairs needed on the barn as soon as possible, in accordance with its original appearance, and then keep it in excellent condition. For security reasons, there is restricted access.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	Barn built in 1859	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James Newell
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Newell barn, built in 1859 at Turkey Foot Forks, Black Hawk County, Iowa, is a splendid example of barn architecture of the pioneer period, still standing on its original site, unaltered and basically sound.

James Newell was the first settler in Washington Township, Black Hawk County, Iowa, and the first to move to the county with the intent of settling there. He was born in 1809 in Ohio, and came to Louisa County, Iowa, in 1837 after making several earlier trips to the area for exploration. He lived there for nine years and kept in mind his conversation with Nathan Boone in 1838 who told him about the beautiful area at Turkey Foot Forks. He explored the site in the fall of 1845, staked out a claim of 514 acres (later he owned 1100 acres, all bought from the government at \$1.25 per acre), built a cabin, and returned to Louisa county. In the spring of 1846, he moved his family to the new cabin, arriving May 19. He lived there until his death May 30, 1875, and was buried in the family cemetery on his land.

James Newell was a remarkable pioneer for reasons other than his barn. His papers and letters attest to the respect and friendship he enjoyed with the Indians living in the vicinity and their equally high regard for him. In his notebook, he writes his beliefs and reasons for befriending the Indians, leaving a message which is as valid today as it was then: "They are part of God's people and my belief is that God did not put us on the earth to hate each other, but to love and assist each other in getting through life."

The existing woodland around the barn at Turkey Foot Forks is one of the prime assets of the site. It is extensive and varied, representative of various plant associations, including prairie grasses and wild flowers, more than fifty in number.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Black Hawk County and Its People, 1878, Western Historical Co.,
 Chicago: Preface, pp. 312-316, 320, 322, 327, 350, 351, 435, 553.
 John C. Hartman, History of Black Hawk County, Vol. I, Clarke Pub. Co.,
 Chicago, 1915: pp. 38-40, 88, 105, 135, 136, 284, 376, 377.
 Clarence W. Baldwin, Crossroads on the Cedar, 1967: Preface, pp. 8, 16, 24-29, 82.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 541500 4718175
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Genevieve Woodbridge (Mrs. Howard J.), Historian

ORGANIZATION

Black Hawk Bicentennial Commission, Inc.

DATE

May 7, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1509 West Third Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Waterloo

STATE

Iowa 50701

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 10, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/10/96
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 12/6/76
 TEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER