

# Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
East 12th & Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Site Number 140  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # 140

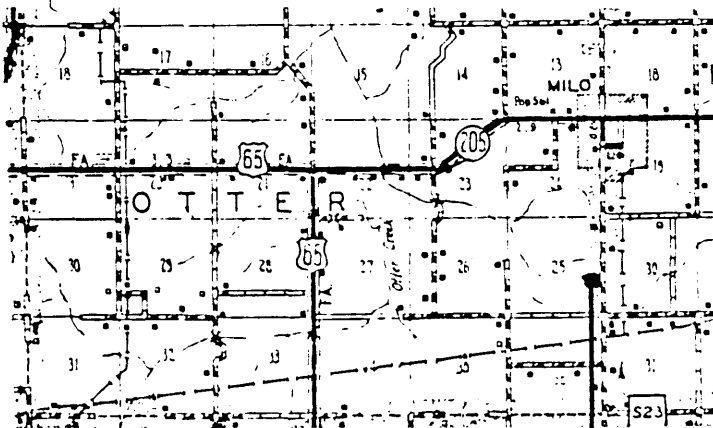
## Identification

1. Site Name Octagon Barn, Otter Twp., Warren County  
2. Village/Town/City Milo vic. Township Otter County Warren  
3. Street Address Off IA 205  
4. Legal Location 75 N 21 W 25 NE 1/4 of SE 1/4  
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel  
Rural: township range section 1/4 section of 1/4 section  
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 462,880 northing 4,568,450; Acreage less than one acre  
6. Owner(s) Name Lloyd and Esther Merrill  
7. Owner(s) Address R. R. #2 Mile Iowa 50166  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)  
8. Use: Present Gen'l purpose & hog barn Original Horse & dairy barn

## Description

9. Date of Construction 1900 Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
10. Building Type:  
 single-family dwelling  industrial  other institutional  religious  
 multiple-family dwelling  educational  public  agricultural  
 commercial  
11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other 1st floor-vertical sawed wood, 2nd floor-shiplap  
12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  
14. Integrity:  original site  moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
See reverse side.  
15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_  
17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Map



#140

19. Photo

Roll 628 Frame 26 View \_\_\_\_\_

VBD: A circle 74' diameter based on the center point of the barn.

MAY 27 1986

# Significance (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

## 20. Architectural significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

N/A

Continuation of 14. Integrity.

Rectangular interior. 54' diameter. Shed-like 1st floor on 7 sides of central octagon section. 8 wedge-shaped sections form roof. Asphalt shingles.

## 21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Common Variation; Encircling Wing type.

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure
- c. Not eligible/intrusion

The one story shed roofed wing surrounding the two story central section characterizes this barn as an encircling wing type. At least seven round barns of this type were built on Iowa farms, of which five are still standing. This barn "...is a close relative to a nine-sided barn in Ringgold County and a twelve-sided model that once stood in Cedar County. The plan approximates one published on the Illinois stock barn of Lloyd Z. Jones in Wallaces' Farmer, 28 (Jan. 16, 1903), 74, and reprinted Oct. 25, 1907 and June 17, 1910" (Soike 1983).

## 22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Lloyd and Esther Merrill, RR 2, Milo, IA 50166  
Soike, Lowell J. Without Right Angles. Des Moines, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department, Office of Historic Preservation, 1983.

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## For Office of Historic Preservation Use Only

### 1. Office Information Sources on this Property

- County Resource File
- Windshield Survey
- National Register
- Grants-In-Aid: \_\_\_\_\_
- Determination of Eligibility

### Review and Compliance Project:

- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Subject Traces

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Photo Images \_\_\_\_\_

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