

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

3  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name DeFries House, Barn, Carpenter Shop  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number East side of county road (232 Ave)  not for publication  
city, town Andrew  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52030

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, Iowa  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 6/10/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature] 7/24/92  
Entered in the National Register  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single DwellingAGRICULTURE/Animal FacilityINDUSTRY/Manufacturing

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single DwellingAGRICULTURE/OutbuildingDOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th CenturyVernacular

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestonewalls Limestoneroof Composition Shinglesother Wood Frame

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The limestone DeFries house, barn, and carpenter shop are located on the east side of County Road 232 Avenue. The road is on a NE/SW axis, so the house faces to the NW. The carpenter shop is attached by walkway to the NE corner of the house, with the barn 60' to the NE of the house, across a driveway.

The house is a two story gable roof rectangle measuring 28' x 38', with a symmetrical five bay facade. The entrance is flanked by sidelights. At the second floor level, instead of a window above the door, we find a large stone hausspruch. First floor windows are 6/6 double hung, while those at the second floor are half windows with six lights each. Doors and windows throughout are jack-arched rather than having stone lintels. Sills are of dressed stone. Four star anchor irons are located on the facade. The north and south (side) elevations originally featured three windows on the first floor and two above. However, on the south elevation the eastern window has become a door opening to a side porch, and on the north elevation only the two top windows and the western window on the first floor can be seen because of a new attached garage. On the rear the fenestration was altered following a 1949 fire. At that time a bay window was added, and the back lawn was excavated to create a ground level entrance to the basement. Two star anchor irons remain in place on the rear. The stonework on the house consists of coursed stones of varying size and shape. The stones on the facade and sides range from 3" to 5" high and up to 24" in length, while those on the rear are much less uniform. Larger blocks are used at the corners. A simple wooden cornice is found beneath the roof line. Double end chimneys of brick are an important element of the house design. These chimneys are a somewhat unusual characteristic and are found on two other houses in Perry Twp. The Butterworth house has double limestone chimneys, while those on the Thomas Slye house are of brick like the DeFries house. The Slye house also features jack-arches like those on the DeFries house.

Historic photographs show original exterior shutters, and a small entry porch with slender posts and side railings. The present porch is the same size, but the roof rests on brackets. The porch to the south side is a modern addition, but is not intrusive. While a detached garage would be preferred, the present attached garage does

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1858 & 1862  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1858 & 1862  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N.A.

Architect/Builder

Christian Blessing, stone mason  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The DeFries house (1858), carpenter shop (1858 or 1862), and barn (1862) are significant under Criterion C as good examples of the use of the abundant local limestone for a variety of building types in mid-19th century Jackson County.

There were 217 limestone buildings and structures recorded in the county-wide survey. Of these, 101 were houses, nine were barns, and thirty-six were "farm-other". One of each of these three building types is found on the DeFries farm. The house is representative of the majority of houses surveyed. 89 of the 101 have a gable roof, and of these, 76 have the entrance on the side gable. The DeFries house is one of seven which feature a symmetrical five bay facade. Here the entrance is flanked by sidelights, and on the second floor, instead of a window, we find a German hausspruch. The stonework is of cut coursed stones of varying size and shape, much like that found on other buildings in the county. There are two somewhat unusual features: the brick double end chimneys, and the jack-arched openings. Both of these are also found on the Thomas Slye house, three quarters of a mile to the east. The DeFries carpenter shop and barn share this same jack-arched fenestration. It is known that Christian (a.k.a. John Christoph) Blessing was the stone mason responsible for the DeFries buildings. He had received his training in Germany and was a master craftsman. Blessing came to this country in 1852. He settled in Fulton (approximately five miles SW of this farm) in 1855, remaining there until 1865 when he moved to Maquoketa. From 1869 on he lived and worked in Andrew. Although this is the only group of buildings directly attributed to him, it is highly probable that he was responsible for others, including the Slye house.

Andreas Betten DeFries (originally spelled DeVries) was born in Ostfriesland, Germany, where his father was a carpenter, making coffins and wooden shoes, later becoming a farmer. In 1854 Andreas

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.  
History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879, pp 724-5.  
DeFries Family Tree. Unpublished manuscript compiled from family records.  
Historic photographs courtesy of present owners.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

*map*

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	9	6	3	6	0	4	6	7	3	1	8	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land located in T85N R3E Sec 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  on the east side of county road 232 Ave. The parcel is rectangular in shape with a NE/SW axis, running parallel to the county road, measuring approximately 190' x 70'. This area includes the three limestone buildings and allows at least 10' extension beyond.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This area has traditionally been considered the heart of the farmstead and contains the only limestone buildings on the site. It does not include the other buildings on the site which are of wood frame construction and are of later date.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1992  
street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181  
city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

not obscure any of the primary facade. The standard question of whether or not the original owner would recognize the house must be answered with a definite "Yes, he would."

The carpenter shop, a 16' x 18' gable roof rectangle, is located just to the NE of the house. This building was built in either 1858 or 1862, and features a gable end entry on the south elevation, with a window to the right side of the doorway. A small window is located in the gable. The west elevation contains a single window, the east elevation has two windows, and the north elevation contains a brick interior end chimney, but no windows. Windows throughout are six light half windows with jack-arched tops. The stonework on the shop building is of fairly uniform cut coursed stones. These appear to range in size from 3" to 5" high and from 12" to 15" in length. This was a carefully crafted building that was a shop, not an outbuilding. It continues to be used for canning of vegetables and for crafts.

The horse barn (1862) is located NE of the house. It is rectangular with a gable roof, and measures 18' x 38'. The south elevation contains a six light half window centered at the first floor, with a larger opening, now covered, above it. This appears to have been an entrance to the hay loft. On the east is an entrance door and a large wagon door with timber lintel that is a later (but probably 19th century) addition. The north elevation features a half window in the gable. The west elevation originally had tall narrow slits that opened into each horse stall providing ventilation. These have been blocked in. The stonework on the barn is similar to that on the house, with larger blocks used at the corners, and stones of varying sizes laid in courses. It appears that the most uniform stonework is on the west elevation, the side that faces the road. The original door and windows feature the same jack-arched tops found on the house and carpenter shop. The barn is now used as a workshop.

Interiors were not addressed during the limestone building survey. Some owners have provided information concerning floor plans. It appears that the central part of the first floor of the house was altered following the 1949 fire.

These three limestone buildings comprise the original part of the farmstead. Other buildings were added over the years, but were all apparently of frame construction. A historic photograph of the farmstead, taken from the east, shows numerous buildings, a windmill and a wooden fence. Even the original (1842) log house is shown. The house, carpenter shop, and horse barn are individually significant because of their limestone construction, early construction date, and proximity to each other. No historic district exists on this farmstead because there are too many non-contributing, non-limestone, structures. A grain bin located immediately adjacent to the barn has been included in the boundary description, but is considered non-contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

CFR-259-1116



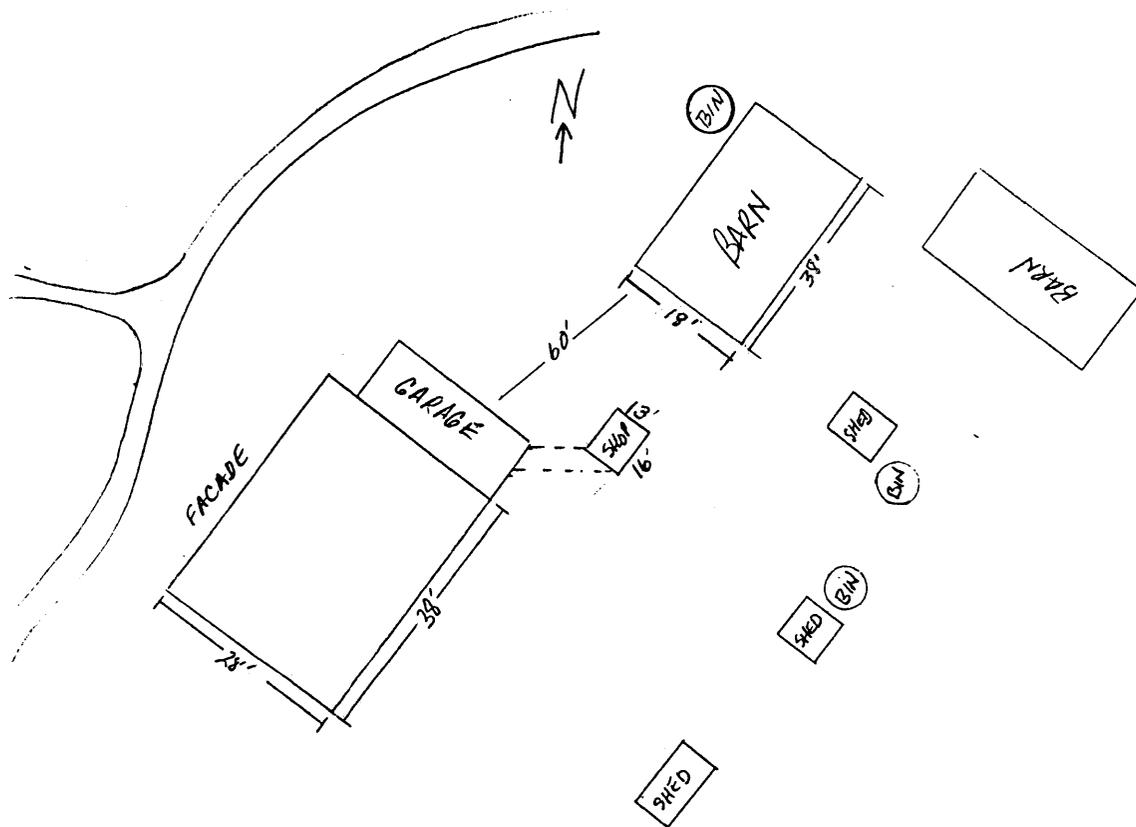
Historic photograph of undetermined date showing  
farmstead from the east.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116



DEFRIES HOUSE

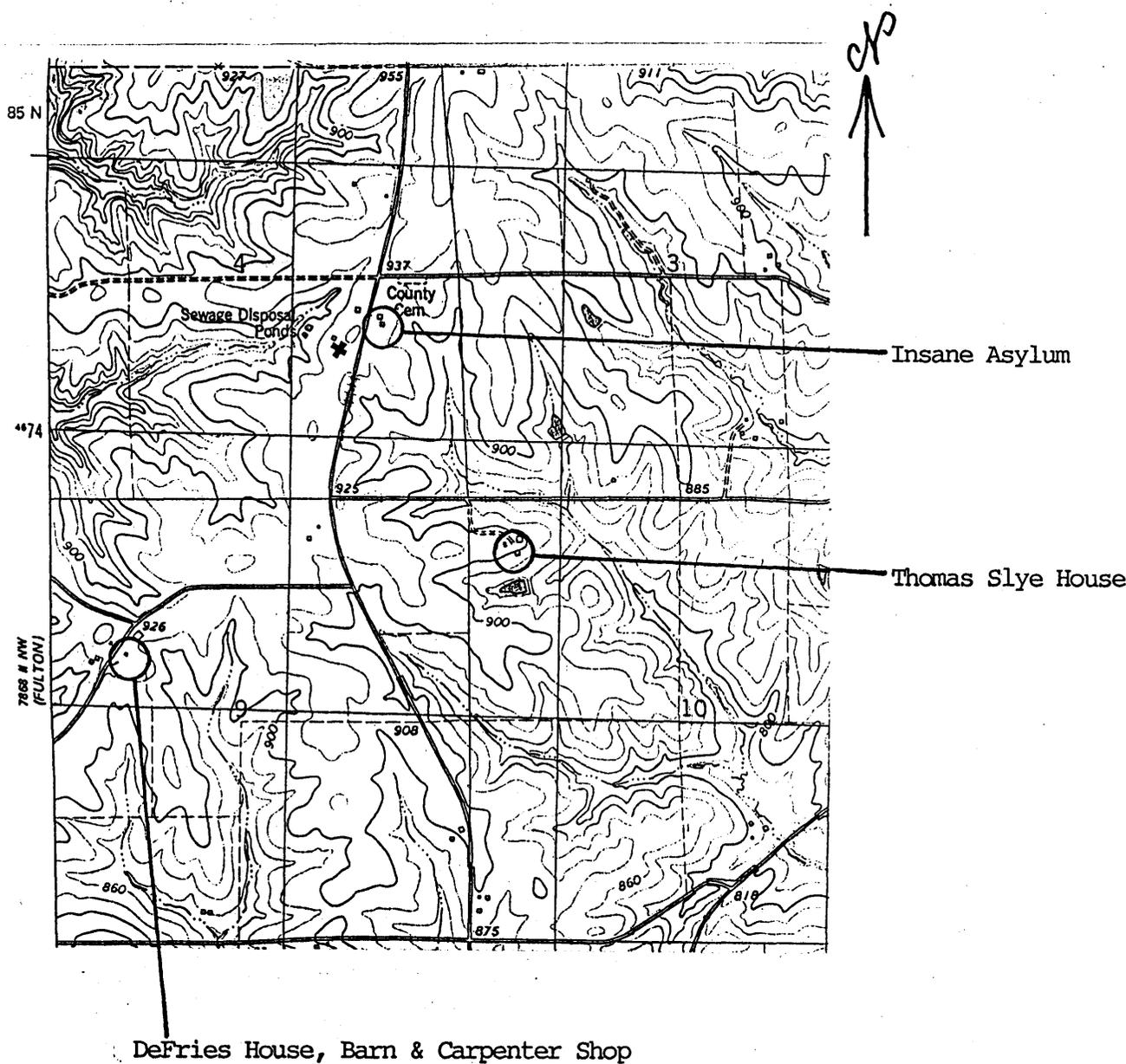


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116



U.S.G.S. Map



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

came to this country with his father (Bette Andreas DeFries), and step-mother (Trintje Ippers). They arrived in Jackson County in 1855 and in partnership purchased 161 acres of land in Perry Twp. On that land was a two story log house built in 1842. In 1858 they hired Christian Blessing to build a fine limestone house. The haussspruch on the facade carries a German inscription which translates

The Best that we have  
is God and his Blessings.  
B.A. DeVries : T. Ippers : A.B. DeVries  
1858

Within four years Blessing had completed the carpenter shop and barn as well. Andreas improved the original homestead, and bought adjacent land until he was the owner of 365 acres. In later years he built another barn, plus scales, a windmill and two tanks. He raised cattle, hogs, and horses of high grade as well as grain and other farm produce. Following his death in 1913 there were no male heirs so the farm was eventually sold to Roy Dyas in 1917. There were still numerous wooden shoes in the carpenter shop along with draw knives, planes, ice skates, and a carved wooden shoulder pail carrier. The house remains in the Dyas family today.

This is the only limestone house in Jackson County where both the owners and the stone mason have been identified as German, and there is a haussspruch on the facade.

The DeFries buildings represent one of only two farmsteads in the county which retain more than two limestone buildings. Despite some alterations to the house, the three DeFries limestone buildings have been maintained with a high degree of integrity. These buildings definitely meet the integrity requirements established in the Multiple Property Document.