

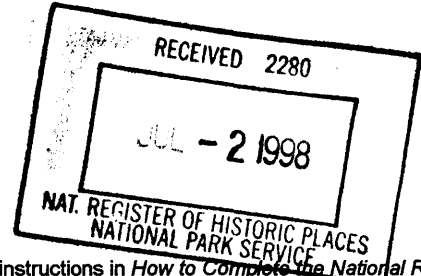
JUN 18 1998

OMB No. 10024-0018

930

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Murray General Merchandise Store

other names/site number Murray Hall

2. Location

street & number SW corner Mulberry and Second streets N/A not for publication

city or town Little Sioux N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Harrison code 085 zip code 51545

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 nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Patricia Churkins 6-23-98
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Osar H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 7.31.98

Murray Hall
Name of Property

Harrison County, Iowa
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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

OTHER: false front commercial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Murray Hall
Name of Property

Harrison County, Iowa
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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1877

Significant Dates

1877

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Murray Hall
Name of Property

Harrison County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1] [5] [7] [4] [7] [2] [0] [0] [4] [6] [3] [2] [6] [8] [0] 2 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
3 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] 4 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers/Consultant

organization Harrison County Historic Preservation Commission date June 15, 1998

street & number 217 NW 5th Street telephone 319-895-8330

city or town Mt. Vernon state IA zip code 52314

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Harrison County/Rollie Roberts, Chair, Board of Supervisors

street & number Harrison County Courthouse telephone 712-644-3123

city or town Logan state IA zip code 51546

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa**Narrative Description**

The Murray General Merchandise Store building, or Murray Hall as it is more commonly known, is located on the southwest corner of Mulberry and Second streets in the town of Little Sioux, Harrison County, Iowa. This two-story, front-gabled building has a gabled roof that is masked on the front facade by a flat parapet that imparts a look of greater height to the building. This design is commonly referred to as a "false front" or "boom town" commercial building and is typical of nineteenth-century, small town, frame commercial construction in Iowa. The parapet has a projecting cornice that is supported by scrolled brackets exhibiting influence from the Italianate style of architecture, a style popular at the time this building was originally constructed. Both the projecting cornice and the brackets are reproductions of the originals that had been removed from the building in the mid-twentieth century. The facade and the entire exterior and the first floor of the interior were recently refurbished using matching funds from the Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) by the Harrison County Historic Preservation Commission and the Little Sioux Community Club.

Murray Hall faces east and is a rectangular building measuring 22 feet in width and 55 feet in depth. It has two full floors, the first floor having functioned for most of its history as a general merchandise store with the second floor having functioned as a fraternal hall for the Masons, who shared the rent with other organizations. After 1942, the entire building was owned by the Masons, who then used both floors for meetings, dances, and other social and civic functions.

The roof is clad with asphalt shingles, a replacement of the original roof, which would have been covered with wood shingles. The eaves are boxed. The clapboard siding is largely the original, although a few boards have been replaced through the years. The cornerboards and wide friezeboards are plain, with some of the lower portions of the cornerboards having been replaced during the recent refurbishment. The foundation is a newer concrete block foundation that is faced with older brick from the original foundation. The replacement of the foundation was also part of the recent restoration project undertaken with HRDP funds and conducted under the guidance of the State Historical Society of Iowa. The entire building is painted white, a color that the building has maintained for at least 70 years according to historic photographs.

The first floor of the front facade has a recessed central doorway flanked by fixed-pane store windows in a wooden frame. The wooden frame appears to be original and the windows are older, although a c.1920s photograph of Murray Hall shows the front windows as each having nine fixed panes rather than the six fixed panes of the present windows. The present windows, however, are entirely compatible with the historic look of the building. The doors are the originals and consist of double wooden doors with round-arched, fixed two-pane windows with decorative floral carvings in each corner above the windows, recessed lower panels, and a fixed four-pane transom above. The front door is reached by a short flight of wooden stairs, with the lowest stair made of brick. The latter is a recent replacement. Above the storefront, the parapet is clad with clapboard and has two, tall, narrow, double-hung 2/2 windows. As noted above, the parapet is capped with an overhanging cornice supported by scrolled brackets which are reconstructions of the originals based on historic photographs of the building.

Also added to the front facade during this restoration is a wooden porch hood or awning that is similar to one of the historic treatments of the front facade. The front awning has undergone various incarnations throughout the property's history, with at least one having a supported wooden hood like that now on the building. Other incarnations have included either a wooden or metal hood supported by wires strung down from the second floor of the facade and having decorative brackets on either side as shown in a photograph that appears to date from the 1920s or 1930s. However, in an earlier (c.1910s?) photograph, Murray Hall has a wooden porch hood supported by wood posts similar to the recent reconstruction.

The south side of the building has a double-wide door at the rear that matches the front door except that there is no transom. The second floor has four tall, narrow, double-hung 2/2 windows across the side. The north side of the building also has four 2/2 windows across the second floor, with two rear doorways on the first floor. The westernmost door on the north side leads to the second floor stairway and has a wooden paneled door with a fixed two-pane transom window above. The second door to the east is a double-wide door of the same type as the front door and the south-side door. All of the windows

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 2

originally had wooden shutters, except for the west rear side, which has two windows on the second floor and one on the first floor, all of which match the style and form of the other windows but which had no shutters. The metal hooks for the shutters are extant on the east, south, and north side windows. The shutters do not survive. Historic photographs of the building commonly show the second floor windows with the shutters closed. The windows all have crown-molded lintels and plain surrounds, some of which are replacement boards.

The interior has been partially refurbished, with most of the work completed on the first floor. Originally, the first floor may have been a large open space, with at least three center wooden supports down the long axis of the building and two large circular plaster medallions over two of the supports. In 1977, the Masonic Lodge remodeled the interior and partitioned off the rear one-third of the building to make two bathrooms and a dressing room for the ladies. As part of the recent refurbishment of the hall, one of the rear bathrooms and the dressing room were remodeled into a kitchen and an office. Also, the first floor ceiling and walls were redone with drywall and new paint and plaster. The floor is covered with tongue-and-groove narrow boards, although some of the rear portion has been covered over with linoleum and carpeting in more recent years. The wood floor has been sanded but not yet refinished.

The second floor consists of a large front hall, with two rear rooms and the rear staircase. This configuration appears to be original and reflects the use of this portion of the building by the Masons and Odd Fellows for their meetings. The southwest room would have been the vestibule, while the northwest room would have been for dressing, robe storage, and possibly as a kitchen. The front meeting hall has a full-length stage platform along the front (east) wall, with a smaller stage in-between the two rear doorways (into the rear rooms) along the west wall of the hall. The ceiling on the second floor has a slanted, cove effect that reflects the gable form of the roof. A circular plaster medallion is in the center of the ceiling, with a light fixture hanging down from its center. Four other light fixtures surround the medallion. The electric light fixtures, while older are obviously not the original fixtures. Also of note on the second floor is the wainscot that surrounds every room and extends down the rear staircase as well as the wood surrounds of the doors and windows. All of the woodwork, except for that in the northwest room, exhibits painted faux wood graining that is varnished and should be maintained if at all possible. The wainscot and woodwork in the northwest room were painted white at some point and may have been painted white originally.

As a whole, Murray Hall retains good integrity and has most of the original siding, windows, and doors. The exterior has been restored and refurbished and presently appears very close the original look of the building. Reconstructed details include the projecting, bracketed cornice on the parapet and the supported front awning. The front store windows are replacements but are older, early to mid-twentieth century replacements and still impart an older, historic look to the storefront. Further, these windows are fixed panes very similar to the older, and perhaps original window treatment. The interior also retains fairly good integrity and still imparts a sense of its original function on both the first and second floors.

The nominated property encompasses the north half of Lots 1 and 2 of Block 17. This area is presently grass-covered and devoid of standing structures other than the hall itself. The 1936 fire insurance map of this property shows two small structures, probably privies, to the rear of the building in Lot 2. The Assessor's record for this property further notes that there was a shed on this property in 1994 that has since been removed. It is recognized, therefore, that the lot area surrounding the hall has an archaeological potential that is, as yet, unexplored.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance

Murray Hall is locally significant under Criterion C as a well preserved example of a rare survival of a two-story, frame false-front type of commercial building dating from the late nineteenth century in the small town of Little Sioux, Iowa. This building is one of only five surviving commercial buildings in this community, most of the original store buildings having succumbed to fire and demolition. Of the five extant frame buildings, Murray Hall is the largest and retains the highest degree of integrity. Its recent restoration has enhanced the entire community, taking a prominent eyesore and restoring it to its former glory. In the process, the building has also been restored to one of its historic functions as a social and community hall. The second floor functioned as a fraternal hall from 1877 into the 1980s, while the first floor functioned as a general merchandise store into the early twentieth century. The store was operated by Michael Murray from 1877 until his death in 1916. The building is still referred to as Murray Hall in his honor. The period of significance for this property is 1877, the date when the building was constructed.

Frame false-front commercial buildings were commonly the first type of commercial buildings erected in the frontier towns of Iowa (Gottfried and Jennings 1988:244; Rogers 1990). Such buildings were designed to be both expedient, using the available materials at hand (i.e., wood), and somewhat pretentious, with the false-front giving the impression of a much larger and more imposing building (Heath 1989:199). However, "false-front commercial buildings did not create illusions that fooled the citizenry" but rather "provided symbolic evidence of the general civilizing process" (Gottfried and Jennings 1988:244-245). Furthermore, such buildings "helped to create enclosure and gave the sense of a developing center, even if the development proved transitory" (ibid.:245). Both one-story and two-story versions of false-front buildings are known. Most are lacking in elaborate stylistic embellishment, with understated decorative detail such as that seen on Murray Hall being more common. While a vernacular type of architecture, the stylistic influence of the Italianate, Greek Revival, and other mid-late nineteenth century styles of architecture is often reflected on false-front buildings in Iowa in details such as the bracketed cornice overhang on the false-front parapet of Murray Hall. It has been noted of false-front commercial buildings in western frontier architecture that on "first inspection the stylistic attributions are elusive because the features are minimally expressed" yet "these details reflect mental templates of commercial structures translated into wood" on the frontier in the form of the "ubiquitous western false front" (Heath 1989:207).

In Iowa, the common pattern was to replace these early wooden buildings with masonry ones, particularly after the arrival of the railroad made the acquisition of suitable face-brick much easier and more economical. Some buildings were replaced due to fire loss, with the masonry buildings reflecting the need for fire prevention measures, while others were torn down and replaced with masonry buildings reflecting the growing prosperity of railroad towns in general. Little Sioux, however, suffered from a lack of direct rail connections. This may account for the paucity of masonry commercial buildings in this town and the unusual survival of Murray Hall and the four other frame commercial buildings that remain standing to the present day. As a result, Murray Hall is considered significant architecturally for the rare survival of such a well preserved example of an early commercial building type in Iowa.

Michael Murray was born on May 4, 1840, in Kilmarnock, Scotland. In 1857 he followed his brother, John, to America settling in Harrison County. For two years he carried mail on horseback from Council Bluffs (then known as Kaneshville) to Magnolia. He also drove a stage for two years from Onawa to Shipman. In 1862 he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he was engaged in the stock and freight business and established a trading post furnishing supplies for the Overland Stage Company. In 1865 he moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and later to Salt Lake City where he worked for the advancing Union Pacific Railroad. In 1868 he finally returned to Little Sioux, Iowa, where he farmed on land just outside of town. Eventually he owned 1200 acres of land in Harrison County (Bicentennial Committee 1976:164; Gue 1903:341).

Mr. Murray purchased the mercantile business of Benjamin Taber, going into partnership with his brother John and J.J. Peck, the company being known as J.J. Peck and Co. Later he [Murray] bought out Mr. Peck and the company

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 4

was known as Murray Brothers. The company name changed through the years from Murray and McWilliams (Leonidas) to Murray and Bonney (Elizabeth). In 1877 Mr. Murray erected a two-story building, the upper story being used for the Masonic Hall.

Mr. Murray dealt in grain and hogs. He purchased an elevator in River Sioux in 1887 and sold it to Updyke Grain Company in 1897. He was interested in civic affairs, was a county supervisor for a term, and a school director (Bicentennial Committee 1976:164).

One source also noted that Murray was a banker and stock raiser in Little Sioux, with C.W. Oden serving as the manager of Murray's banking and mercantile business after 1876 (Gue 1903:342-342). As to the progression of company names and partnerships, the exact dates for these entities are not known; however, Murray's 1916 obituary listed the following business names: Murray Bros., Murray & Robertson, Murray & McWilliams, Murray & Bonney, and the M. Murray store (*The Hustler* 1916a). It is known that the partnership of Murray and McWilliams was dissolved in 1891 and, according to local newspaper advertisements, the partnership of Murray and Bonney was in existence between at least 1901 and 1916 (*The Hustler* 1901, 1916b; *The Independent* 1891).

The Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directories between 1880-1923 provided additional information concerning the various partnerships and dealings of the Murray general merchandise store (Polk 1887-1923; Polk and Danser 1880-1885). Between 1880-1885, Little Sioux was a town of 400-450 persons with over 30 businesses listed, among which was the general store, grain and stock business of Michael Murray. Two other general stores were also operating during this period. By the late 1880s-early 1890s, the town's population had boomed to nearly 600 persons, with 32-65 total businesses depending upon the year. The partnership of Murray and McWilliams was listed as the "successor to M. Murray" in the 1887-1888 directory and was last listed in the 1889-1890 directory. In 1891, this business was listed solely under Michael Murray's name, which continued until the early 1900s when the partnership of Murray and Bonney came into being. However, by the 1905-06 directory, the business was back in Murray's name only, although a 1916 advertisement for the store still listed the Murray and Bonney name (*The Hustler* 1916b). The last listing for Murray's store was in the 1916-1917 directory, Murray having died in 1916. The Murray name does not appear to have been affiliated with this business after 1916 even though the property remained in the Murray family's possession until its sale in 1942 by Ada Murray to the Masonic Lodge (Deed Record Book 432, page 597, Harrison County Recorder's Office, Logan, Iowa). There is some evidence that Ada Murray was directly involved in the store's operation by at least 1916 when it was noted in the local news items that "Miss Ada Murray went on a buying trip for the store, to St. Joseph, Monday" (*The Hustler* 1916b). Whether she continued to operate the store after her father's death is not presently known.

Murray's mercantile business included dry goods, notions, furnishings, clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps, groceries, and crockery among other items and was one of five general stores in operation in Little Sioux at the town's peak in the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries (Bicentennial Committee 1976:77; *The Independent* 1891, 1896a, 1896b; Polk 1887-1923; Polk and Danser 1880-1885). In 1880, only two other general stores were in operation by D.M. Gamet and B.F. Croasdale. By 1892, there were three other general stores operated by B.F. Croasdale, Thomas J. Lanyon, and Albert Watson. At the peak, there were four other general stores operated by Croasdale and Smith, Oscar Duncan, Thomas J. Lanyon, and Terry & Sons. As for total businesses in Little Sioux during this period, in 1880 there were 37 listed; 1885 — 34; 1888 — 49; 1890 — 65; 1892 — 44; 1900 — 55; 1906 — 58; 1911 — 51; 1916 — 36; 1917 — 39; 1919 — 40; and 1923 — 33 (Harrison County Historical Society 1981:33-34; Polk 1887-1923; Polk and Danser 1880-1885).

Little Sioux had its beginnings in 1857 when the post office was established with Silas W. Condit as postmaster. The early growth of the town depended upon its saw and gristmills, which used the power of the Little Sioux River. Other early industries included several brick manufactories and kilns, including one operated by the "Murray Brothers" (Bicentennial Committee 1976:20-21). Interestingly, however, there were few brick commercial buildings constructed in Little Sioux, so the brick must have been most suitable for foundations and chimneys. The town grew steadily in the late nineteenth century largely on its

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa**Section number** 8 **Page** 5

position along a well-traveled stage line and immigrant trail between Council Bluffs and Sioux City and points west and on the growing rural population of the township. However, the failure to secure a rail line (the railroad located one mile to the west at what became River Sioux), and the loss of rural population in the twentieth century due in large part to the advent of the automobile, caused Little Sioux to decline in population and businesses. Little Sioux did manage, however, to “maintain a respectable business community through the drought and depression of the early 1930s,” but a “disastrous fire of that decade was the last straw for some enterprises and they did not re-open” (ibid.:115). This fire occurred in January 1936 and destroyed a whole block of commercial buildings to the northeast of Murray Hall. None of these businesses were rebuilt, and much of this block remains vacant to the present day.

In addition to the mercantile business, Murray Hall housed on the second floor the meeting rooms of the Masonic Lodge. The lodge was organized in Little Sioux as Frontier Lodge No. 382, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on June 20, 1877. It was granted a charter the following year by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. The original officers of the Frontier Lodge included H.M. Huff, Worshipful Master; P.B. Terry, Senior Warden; and A.H. Gleason, Junior Warden; with the original charter members being George F. Straight, E.A. Baldwin, S.J. Smith, B.F. Croasdale, E.A. Jones, C.A. Holcomb, and N.F. Hillard. The lodge met at Murray Hall the Saturday on or after the full moon of each month until 1913 when it was changed to the Tuesday before the full moon, which was changed again in 1921 to the Tuesday of the second week of each month to comply with the laws of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Meetings were held every month until 1904 when it was decided to skip meetings in July and August. Frontier Lodge was incorporated in 1947 and remained active into the 1980s (Bicentennial Committee 1976:40; Skinner 1976).

The rent for the hall began at \$30 per year in 1877 and was raised to \$60 per year in 1879, to \$75 per year in 1880, and up to \$100 per year in 1901. “By this time, two other organizations were sharing the expenses of running the hall, so the cost was not so great as it might seem” (Skinner 1976). The two other organizations were the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), organized in 1870 at River Sioux and moving to Little Sioux in 1882, and the Order of the Eastern Star No. 330 organized in Little Sioux in 1902. By 1909 the Favorite Rebekah Lodge (organized in 1899), the G.A.R., and the Woodmen were also using the hall. In 1913, the Odd Fellows moved to other quarters, and Mr. Murray lowered the rent to \$75. This lasted until the Great Depression, when hard times for the Masons resulted in a further lowering of the rent to \$60, although during this same period the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs once again requested use of the hall. In September 1942, Murray Hall was purchased outright by the Frontier Lodge from Ada Murray for the sum of \$300. After the first floor ceased to be a commercial operation, community dances were often held in the large, open room. “In 1947 much work was done to preserve the Hall and to improve its appearance including painting the outside of the building” (ibid.). Other modifications after 1942 included the removal in 1967 of “the wooden awning from the front of the Hall” (ibid.); a new roof, sidewalk and foundation repairs in 1976; and the installation of restrooms in 1977.

By the 1970s, the Hall was being shared only by the Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star, the other organizations having disbanded or become inactive by that time. By the 1980s the Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star were inactive in Little Sioux and the Hall itself was vacant and rundown. In 1990-91, the Harrison County Historic Preservation Commission received an HRDP grant to restore and refurbish the Hall. Since that time the Hall has served as a community social hall, the office of the Historic Preservation Commission, and as the temporary City Hall following a fire that destroyed the old City Hall in 1996. The ownership of the building was transferred to Harrison County in 1996 in order to better preserve the building and continue with the restoration efforts. As part of this ongoing preservation program, the present nomination is being put forward by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 **Page** 6

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Major Bibliographic References

Allen, C.R.

1884 *Allen's Atlas of Harrison County, Iowa*. C.R. Allen and Company, Logan, Iowa.

Bicentennial Committee

1976 *History of Little Sioux, Iowa*. Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

Gottfried, Herbert, and Jan Jennings

1988 *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940*. Iowa State University Press, Ames.

Gue, Benjamin F.

1903 *History of Iowa*. The Century History Company, New York.

Harrison County Historical Society

1981 *Harrison County, Iowa*. Taylor Publishing, Dallas.

Heath, Kingston Wm.

1989 False-Front Architecture on Montana's Urban Frontier. In *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, III*, edited by Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman. University of Missouri Press, Columbia.

The Hustler

1901 Advertisement for Murray & Bonney's Store. *The Hustler*, Little Sioux, March 14.

1916a Obituary for Michael Murray. *The Hustler*, Little Sioux, October 26.

1916b Advertisement and News Item About Murray & Bonney's Store and Ada Murray. *The Hustler*, Little Sioux.

The Independent

1891 Advertisement and Notice about Michael Murray's Mercantile. *The Independent*, Little Sioux, January 10.

1896a Advertisement for M. Murray's Store. *The Independent*, Little Sioux, August 1.

1896b Advertisement for M. Murray's Store. *The Independent*, Little Sioux, March 7.

Iowa Insurance Service Bureau

1936 Fire Insurance Map of Little Sioux, Iowa. Iowa Insurance Service Bureau, Des Moines.

Polk, R.L.

1887- *Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory*. R.L. Polk and Company, Chicago, Des Moines, & Detroit.

1923

Polk, R.L. and A.C. Danser

1880-85 *Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory*. R.L. Polk & Company and A.C. Danser, Detroit.

Rogers, Leah D.

1990 *Preservation Partnership Phase II: Monona and Woodbury Counties, Iowa*. Prepared for the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Monona/Woodbury Preservation Partnership Commission.

Skinner, Rosalie

1976 Manuscript of the History of the Frontier Lodge #382, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. On file Harrison County Historic Preservation Commission Files, Little Sioux, Iowa.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 **Page** 7

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Murray Hall property consists of the north half of Lots 1 and 2, Block 17, Condit and Martin's Addition to the Town of Little Sioux, Harrison County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary consists of the legal description of this entire property including the hall and the surrounding lot and sidewalks that have been historically associated with Murray Hall since 1877.

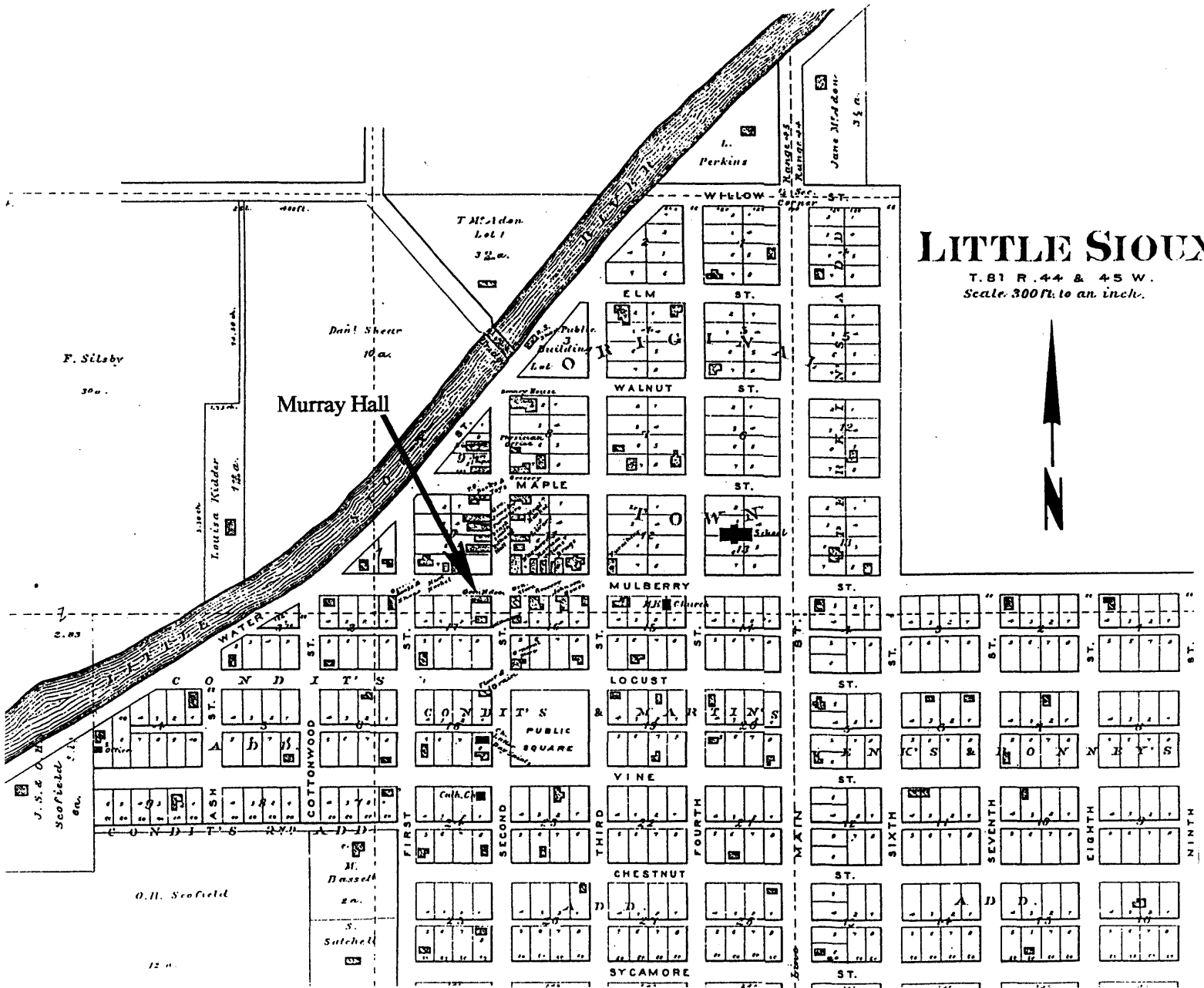
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 8

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

1884 Map of Little Sioux, Iowa, Showing Location of Murray Hall.
Source: Allen 1884



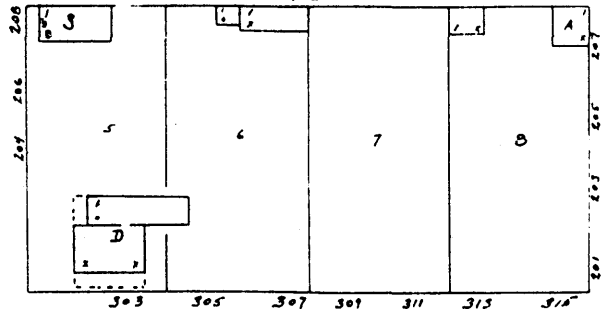
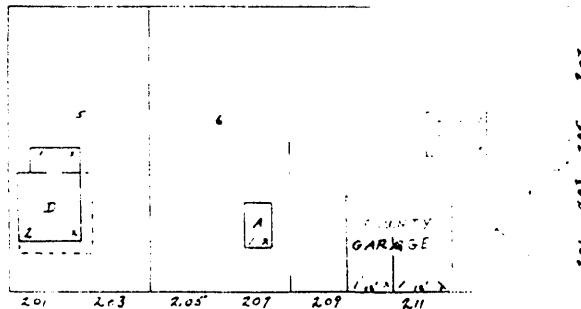
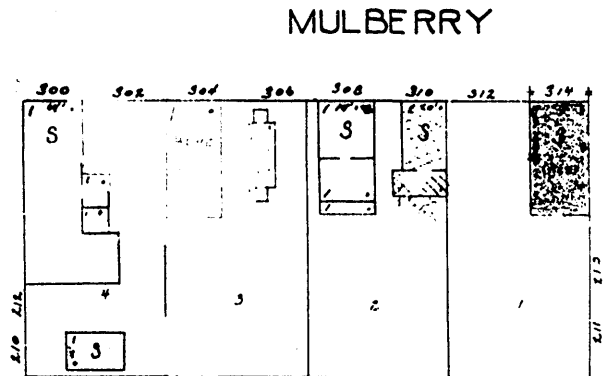
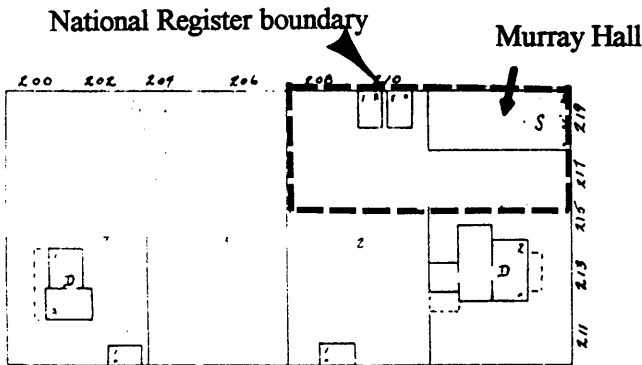
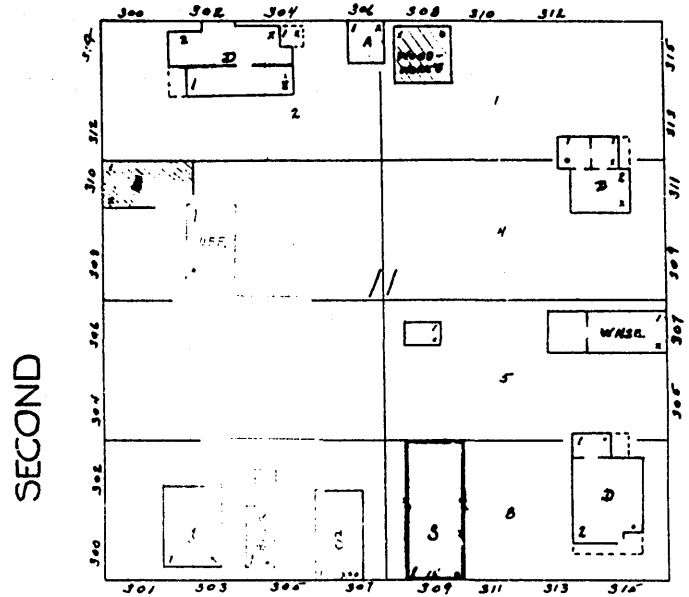
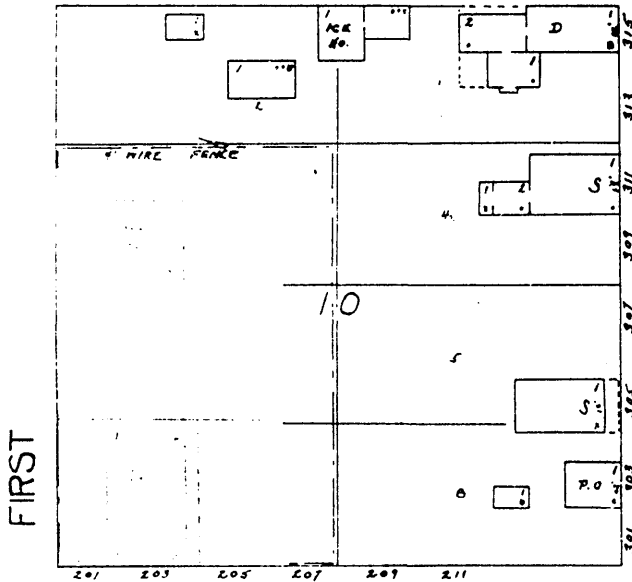
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Section number Additional Documentation Page 9

1936 Fire Insurance Map Showing Location of Murray Hall.
Source: Iowa Insurance Service Bureau 1936



LOCUST

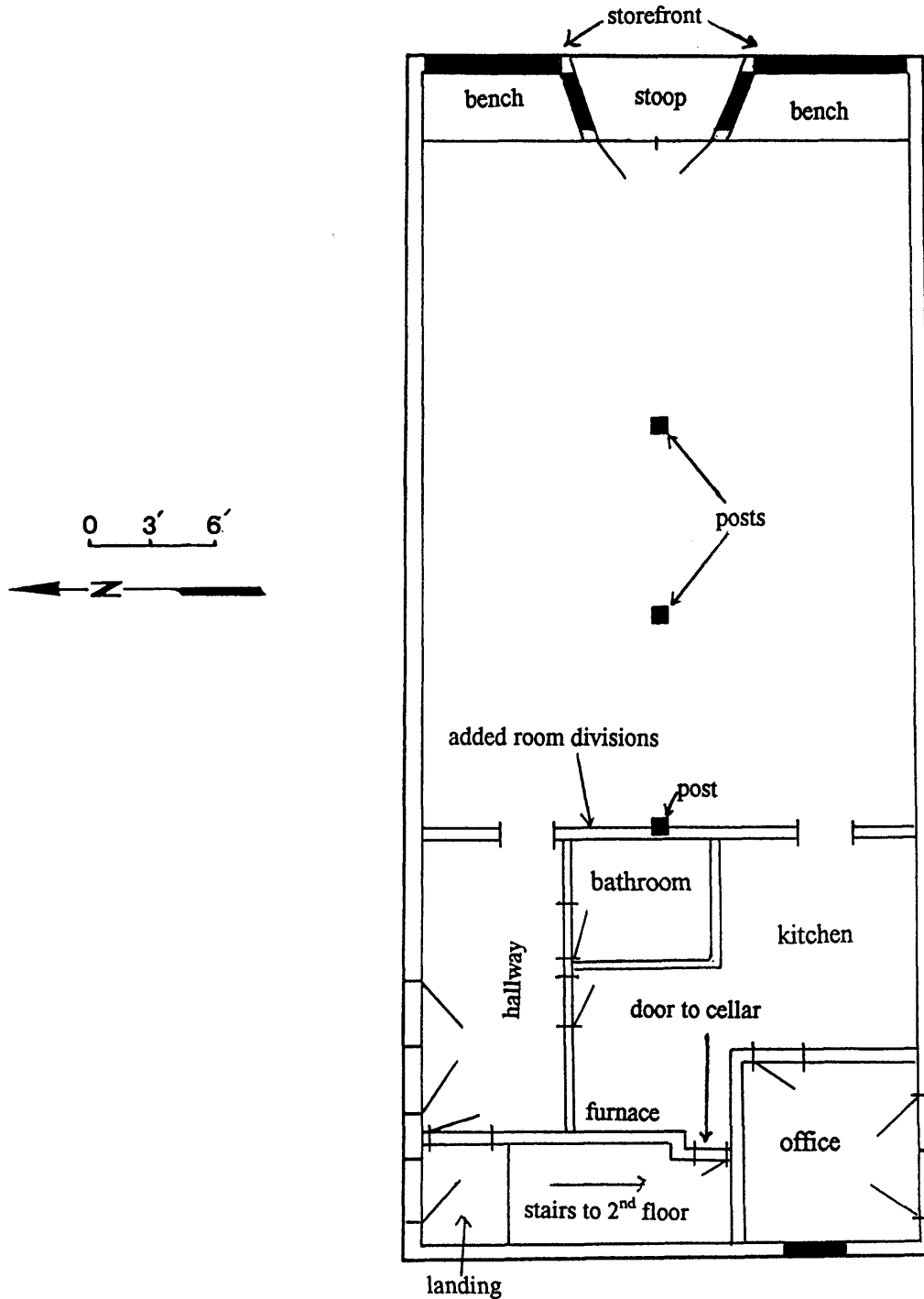
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 10

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Floor Plan of Murray Hall – First Floor



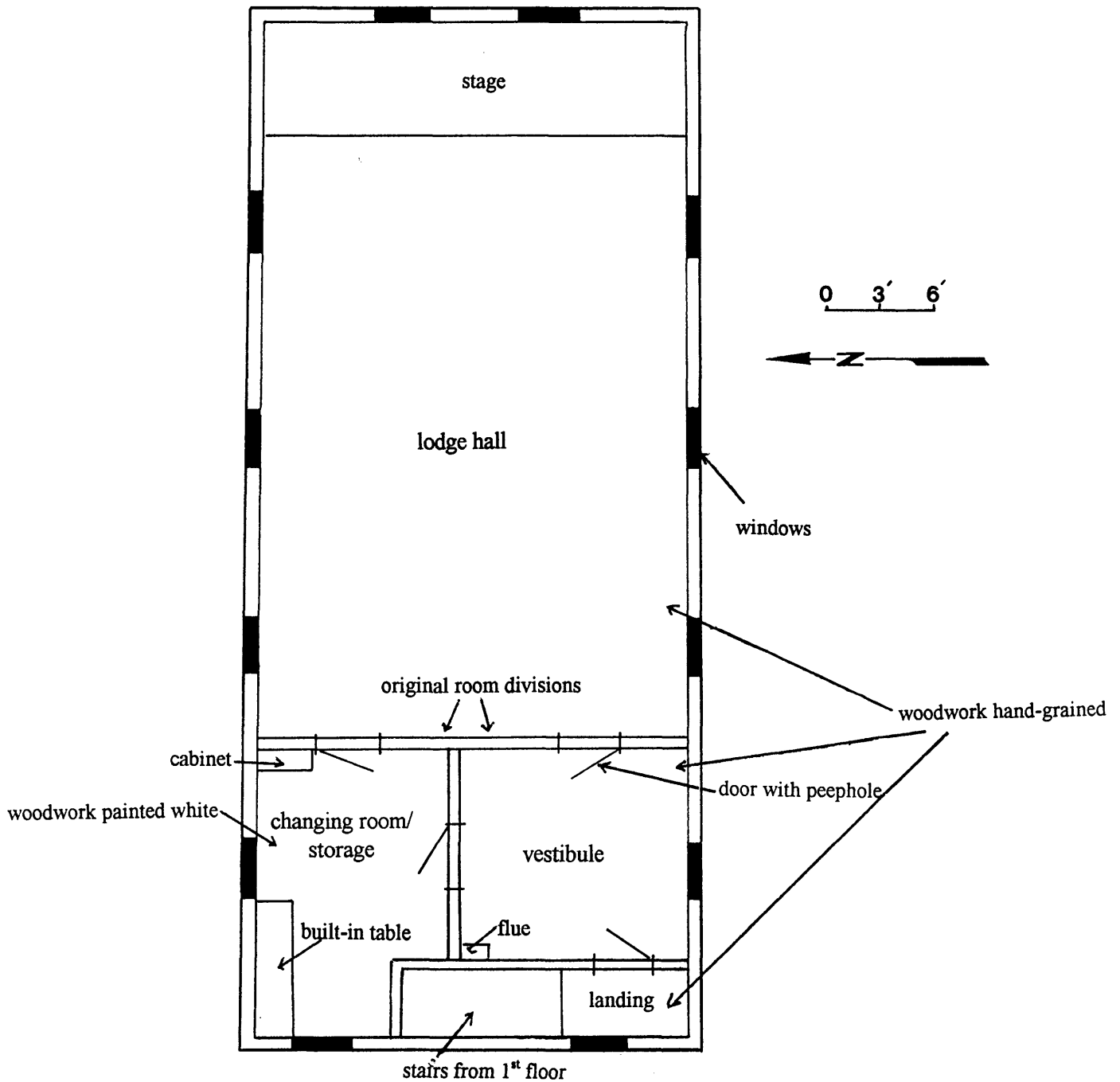
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 11

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Floor Plan of Murray Hall – Second Floor



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Section number Additional Documentation Page 12

Photographs:

For all photographs:

Location of Original Negative – Murray Hall, Little Sioux, Iowa.

- #1 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Front (east) elevation of Murray Hall, View to the WNW

- #2 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Murray Hall, View to the NW from Second Street

- #3 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Rear (west) elevation of Murray Hall, View to the ESE from Mulberry Street

- #4 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Rear (west) elevation of Murray Hall, View to the ENE

- #5 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Front (east) storefront and entry, View to the SSW

- #6 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Front (east) doorway, View to the West

- #7 - Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 13, 1998
View: General view of Murray Hall (property to right in photo), View to the SSW from Second Street [see photo #8 for historic photograph of same view]

- #8 - Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: 1910s
View: Historic view of business district with Murray Hall in center on right side of street, View to the SSW from Second Street [see photo #7 for current photograph of same view]

- #9 - Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: 1920s-1930s
View: Historic view of Murray Hall, View to the NW from Second Street

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation **Page** 13

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Photographs (continued):

- #10- Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 13, 1998
View: Various views of Murray Hall just prior to and during the 1990-91 HRDP-funded restoration project
- #11- Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Interior of first floor, View to the ESE looking towards storefront. Note ceiling medallion.
- #12- Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Interior of second floor hall, View to the ESE looking towards front of hall. Note ceiling medallion, stage, and wainscot around room.
- #13- Photographer: Leah D. Rogers
Date of Photograph: February 12, 1998
View: Detail of covered peephole in door between hall and vestibule on second floor of Murray Hall, View to the SE. Note painted grain on door panels.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Murray Hall
Harrison County, Iowa

Section number Additional Documentation Page 14

Map Showing Direction of Photographs

