

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 7 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 5 1977

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

East Fort Dodge

AND/OR COMMON

Oak Hill Historic District ~~Fort Dodge~~

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Area bounded by 8th-12th Sts., and 2nd and 3rd Aves.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fort Dodge

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

19

Webster

1877

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet, item 4, p. 1.)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fort Dodge

VICINITY OF

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Webster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fort Dodge

Iowa

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oak Hill District is comprised of 15 dwellings, a carriage house, art museum, church, funeral home, and 3 apartment buildings, and is located at the edge of downtown Fort Dodge, Iowa. North of the district are municipal and commercial structures; to the south, school grounds. There are 5 intrusive structures which are not typical of the district and are included only for geographical reasons. They are the church (#18), funeral home (#22), and the apartment buildings (#19, #20, #21).

The key structures in the district were built between 1866 and 1916 (with the exception of the museum, built in 1930), the majority of brick, the remainder of wood, stucco, or various combinations of materials. All but the museum and carriage house were originally private dwellings; three of these are now owned by local religious or civic groups. Exterior alterations have in most cases been limited to the removal of porches or verandas, and all structures are in good to excellent condition. The area is one of spacious lawns and large old trees (many of which are oaks) which provide an attractive setting for the variety of architectural styles which comprise the district.

Three structures are threatened, in varying degrees. The Laufersweiler house (#1) is owned by an adjacent church group who would like to replace the house with an educational facility. The Bennett House and Carriage House (#6 and #7) may be in the path of downtown commercial expansion.

See Continuation Sheet

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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1866-1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The buildings of the Oak Hill District stand today as symbols of elegance, grace, and prosperity that characterized the buoyant heyday of Fort Dodge development. The variety of artistic expressions, when keyed to dates of construction, provide clear examples of the architectural styles which followed one another swiftly through the latter 19th and early 20th centuries, from Italianate and Second Empire to the long lines of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School. Collectively, these residences reflect the taste and cultural vitality of the community's leading citizens during a time that spanned the transition from town growth to urban maturity.

At the time of its formation, the Oak Hill area was located in that part of the city known as East Fort Dodge, a stretch of land situated at the immediate outskirts of the original townsite which was along the Des Moines River. Even as construction was occurring in Oak Hill, however, the city was spilling beyond into other additions and sub-divisions. Today, this historic district appears to be in the heart of town, a curious survivor from the tide of outward business expansion.

The fourteen large homes, with their spacious lawns, were erected by prominent Fort Dodge bankers, businessmen, and industrialists between the Civil War and W.W.I, with two-thirds of the buildings considered here having been built during the period 1888-1910. It was an area of growth that kept pace with the industrial expansion taking place in the nation as a whole.

More specifically, the development of Oak Hill occurred in three phases that flowed from significant changes in the city's population and the prosperity generated by each. The trend of this building construction progressed through the district in a west to east direction. During the initial phase of city growth, prior to 1880, three prospering men of business and finance built their residences in the westernmost end between 9th and 10th Streets. The county seat town then passed through a second phase between 1880 and 1885 when its population rose by more than one-fourth. The resulting prosperity had by 1890 encouraged the completion of three additional houses between 10th and 11th Streets. The last and most vigorous phase of population growth prior to W.W.I occurred in Fort Dodge between 1890 and 1905. The city's population swelled by a remarkable 79% from 1890 to 1895, and then gradually subsided to an 18% growth from 1900 to 1905. It was at this time that the gypsum industry was assuming a substantial role in the economic life of the city as gypsum plaster steadily displaced lime plaster in building construction throughout the nation. The Oak Hill area reflected these times of economic boom, for eight of the fourteen total houses considered here were erected in the fifteen year period that followed the renewal of construction there in 1896.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY APPROX. 8.75 ACRES

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	400 ²⁷⁰⁰ 275	470 ⁶⁶⁰⁰ 660	B	15	400 ²⁸⁰⁰ 280	470 ⁶³⁰⁰ 630
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	15	400 230	470 675	D	15	400 220	470 640
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		2300	6200	2200	6400		

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ms. Lois M. Craig

ORGANIZATION

Webster County Liaison Officer

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Iowa Central Community College

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Dodge

STATE

Iowa

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 D. Anderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 31 August 1976

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

Director

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/77

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

5-5-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

- 1) Laufersweiler House, 904 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: Grace Lutheran Church, 211 So. 9th St., Fort Dodge.
- 2) Webb Vincent House, 824 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: YWCA, Ft. Dodge.
- 3) Rich House, 819 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Caquelin, 819 3rd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 4) Pearsons/Dolliver House, 915 2nd Ave. So.; Owner: Ft. Dodge Women's Club, 915 2nd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 5) Roberts House, 919 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: Mrs. John C. Deardorf, 919 3rd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 6) Bennett House, 911 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: John M. and Brad Schaupp, 911 3rd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- repeat* 7) Bennet Carriage House, 911 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: John M. and Brad Schaupp, 911 3rd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 8) Cheney House, 1008 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: Robert and Thomas Kelly, and Mrs. Charles H. McCrea, (Thomas Kelly:) 1312 13th Ave. No., Fort Dodge.
- 9) Leon Vincent House, 1024 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: Paul and Rosemary Eide, 1024 3rd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 10) Ringland House, 1019 2nd Ave. So.; Owner: Ann Smeltzer, 1019 2nd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 11) Butler House, 327 So. 12th St.; Owner: Elizabeth R. Butler, 327 So. 12th St., Fort Dodge.
- 12) Oleson House, 1020 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: Mrs. O.J. Whittemore, 1020 3rd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 13) Breen House, 925 2nd Ave. So.; Owner: Maurice J. Breen, 925 2nd Ave. So., Fort Dodge.
- 14) McQuilken House, 227 So. 12th St.; Owner: Paulyne B. Dawson, 227 So. 12th St., Fort Dodge.
- 15) Blanden Art Gallery, 920 3rd Ave. So.; Owner: City of Fort Dodge.
- 16) Frank Corey House, 209-211 So. 12th St.; Owner: Howard Dreasler, Fort Dodge.
- 17) Lettie Kirchner House, 304 So. 12th St.; Owner: D. L. Gumm, 1338 3rd Ave. N.W., Fort Dodge.

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- 18) Grace Lutheran Church, 2nd Ave. So. and 9th St.; Owner: same, Fort Dodge.
- ✓ 19) Douglas Apartments, 3rd Ave. So. and 8th St.; Owner: Albert Habhab, 1218 11th Ave. No., Fort Dodge.
- ✓ 20) Lindal Apartments, 3rd Ave. So. and 10th St.; Owners: Jerry Lindner, Bruce and William Algood, Carriage Hill Apartments, Fort Dodge.
- ✓ 21) Ferguson Apartments, 217-221 So. 12th St.; Owner: Jack Ferguson, Livermore, Iowa.
- ✓ 22) Laufersweiler Funeral Home, 307 So. 12th St.; Owner: Welch Laufersweiler, 307 So. 12th St., Fort Dodge.

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- 1) Conrad Laufersweiler House. 904 3rd Ave. So. (1866). A two-story house of stuccoed brick in the Italianate style. Details include paired brackets with pendants and chimney brickwork. Enlarged in 1892 with a two-story porch at rear and a 1-story brick and frame addition at the side. Lanfersweiler, a native of Germany, was a cabinetmaker and undertaker, and the maternal grandfather of hotel magnate Conrad Hilton.
- 2) Webb Vincent House. 824 3rd Ave. So. (1871). A red brick, 2½ story house of the Second Empire style. It was entered in the National Register of Historic Places, 23 April, 1973.
- 3) E. H. Rich House. 819 3rd Ave. So. (1880). This two story house of soft burned brick shows strong Eastlake influence. It is marked by extensive use of millwork decoration on gable ends and a varied roof line. Rich was a local bank cashier, and built a telegraph line from his home to the bank a few blocks away.
- 4) Pearson/Dolliver House. 915 2nd Ave. So. (1888). A Neo-Georgian house of red brick, with classic detailing on the bracketted cornice and a Palladian window in the gable at front. In 1968, the porch was removed, and a frame entrance vestibule and 1-story mansard section added. George Pearsons was the father-in-law of J. P. Dolliver, Congressman (1888-1900) and Senator(1900-1910) who resided here 1904-1910.
- 5) George E. Roberts House 919 3rd Ave. So. (1888). A two-story frame house which combines elements of Queen Anne and shingle styles. Exhibits a variety of window shapes, including Palladian, and has an irregular plan and mass. Roberts was a local newspaperman and printer who eventually served as director of the U. S. Mint.
- 6) S. J. Bennett House. 911 3rd Ave. So. (1890). Built in an early Georgian Revival style, this 2-story brick house exhibits various classical details, including the cornice, lentils, the use of Greek Doric columns on the veranda, and a carved pediment over the entrance. Quoining is granite. Bennett was a local banker and shoe manufacturer who served several terms as Ft. Dodge mayor between 1899 and 1910.
- 7) Bennett Carriage House. 911 3rd Ave. So. (1890). Design elements of the Bennett house are repeated in the carriage house (Now a 3-car garage,) giving it a distinctively Georgian Revival aspect to compliment the main house.
- 8) John C. Cheney House. 1008 3rd Ave. So. (1896). A frame house in the Queen Anne style, with bay windows and a second-story porch contributing to the irregularity of mass. Features include narrow, "saw-toothed" bargeboards, and a Palladian window in the front gable, and unusual porch columns which are spingle-shaped below and square, with grooves, above. Cheney was a co-founder and first president (1882) of the Ft. Dodge National Bank.

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- 9) Leon Vincent House. 1024 3rd Ave. So. (1896). A two-story brick house with both Queen Anne and Stick-Style elements, the latter being the exposed stickwork and use of diagonals on the side gable end. An extensive veranda is supported by columns reminiscent of Roman Doric style. Leon Vincent was a civil engineer with the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, who also designed St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Ft. Dodge and helped in planning Oleson Park.
- 10) George S. Ringland House. 1019 2nd Ave. So. (1901). Strongly reminiscent of Jacobean architecture, constructed of brick with a tile roof and gray limestone trim. Roof and columns of the front porch have been removed. Ringland was president of the first Iowa gypsum company, the Iowa Plaster Company. Architect: S. S. Beman, Chicago.
- 11) J. B. Butler House. 327 So. 12th St. (1903). This two-story house shows strong Prairie School influence in the wide eaves of the house and porch roofs, which produce a horizontal effect. Classical detailing is evident on cornices. The use of decorative brickwork around some windows is a Louis Sullivan characteristic. Butler was a Ft. Dodge lawyer, businessman, and served 4 years as county superintendent. Architects: Nourse and Rasmussen, Des Moines.
- 12) O. M. Oleson House. 1020 3rd Ave. So. (1906). This two-story brick house exhibits no particular style. The tiled, hip roof is broken by gabled dormers in the front, and the flat-roofed porch with pergola is supported at one corner by an unusual clustering of four columns on a square brick pedestal. A local pharmacist and philanthropist, Oleson contributed to the city part of the land now known as Oleson Park in Ft. Dodge.
- 13) Edward J. Breen House. 925 2nd Ave. So. (1910). A two-story brick house with tiled hip roof and gabled dormers. Details include projecting rafter ends below eaves, diagonal half-timber work on the projecting stair-landing, and the massive square pillars of the extensive veranda. Breen was a banker and manufacturer (Lehigh Sewer Pipe and Tile Co.; Northwestern Portland Cement Co.)
- 14) A. D. McQuilkin House. 227 So. 12th St. (1911). Best described as in a "craftsman style," this two-story house has stick-style features and heavy, timber brackets. Exhibits integrity and imagination in the use of materials; brick, stucco, and wood. McQuilkin operated a furniture business in Ft. Dodge and was active in civic affairs.
- 15) Blanden Art Gallery. 920 3rd Ave. So. (1930). A Beaux-Arts style structure, of vari-color brick, marked by use of the Ionic order in the stone pilasters and free-standing columns of the center arcade. The tiled hip roof has a classical cornice with lentils. Particularly interesting are the niches with shell caps. Although less than 50 years old, the structure's attractive design and central location make it an integral part of the district.

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16) Frank Corey House. 209-211 So. 12th St. (ca. 1896). A 2½ story house of pressed brick, originally a duplex. Elements of Georgian style are found in the symmetry of the design (though slightly altered due to a shingled addition on the 2nd floor) and dormer arrangements. The front veranda is supported by paired doric columns on square brick pedestals. Decorative elements include contrasting brickwork over Romanesque dormer windows and segmental-arched lights elsewhere. The house was built by Frank Corey, who was active in the brick and tile business in nearby Lehigh.

17) Lettie Kirchner House. 304 So. 12th St. (1916). A 2½ story, red brick house designed by Max Nepel of St. Louis. The wide eaves and horizontal lines are reminiscent of Prairie School architecture. A dormer in the hipped roof has a wide, rounded window capped by a wooden hoodmold. The extensive veranda is marked by square brick columns; a brick wall extends from the veranda around the north side to a small, similarly columned porch.

The following structures are not typical of the district:

- 18) Grace Lutheran Church. 2nd Ave. So. and 9th St. (1955).
- 19) Douglas Apartments. 8th St. and 3rd Ave. So. (1922).
- 20) Lindal Apartments. 3rd Ave. So. and 10th St. (1966).
- 21) Ferguson Apartments. 217-221 So. 12th St. (1895).
- 22) Laufersweiler Funeral Home. 307 So. 12th St. (1952).

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(Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1913.)

Centennial Section celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Gypsum Industry
in Fort Dodge and Webster County, Fort Dodge Messenger and Chronicle
(August 4, 1972), esp. pp. 12A, 26A-27A.

Leo V. Rodenborn, The History of the Gypsum Industry in Fort Dodge and
Webster County, Iowa 1872-1972.

Published volumes of the United States Census, 1880-1920.

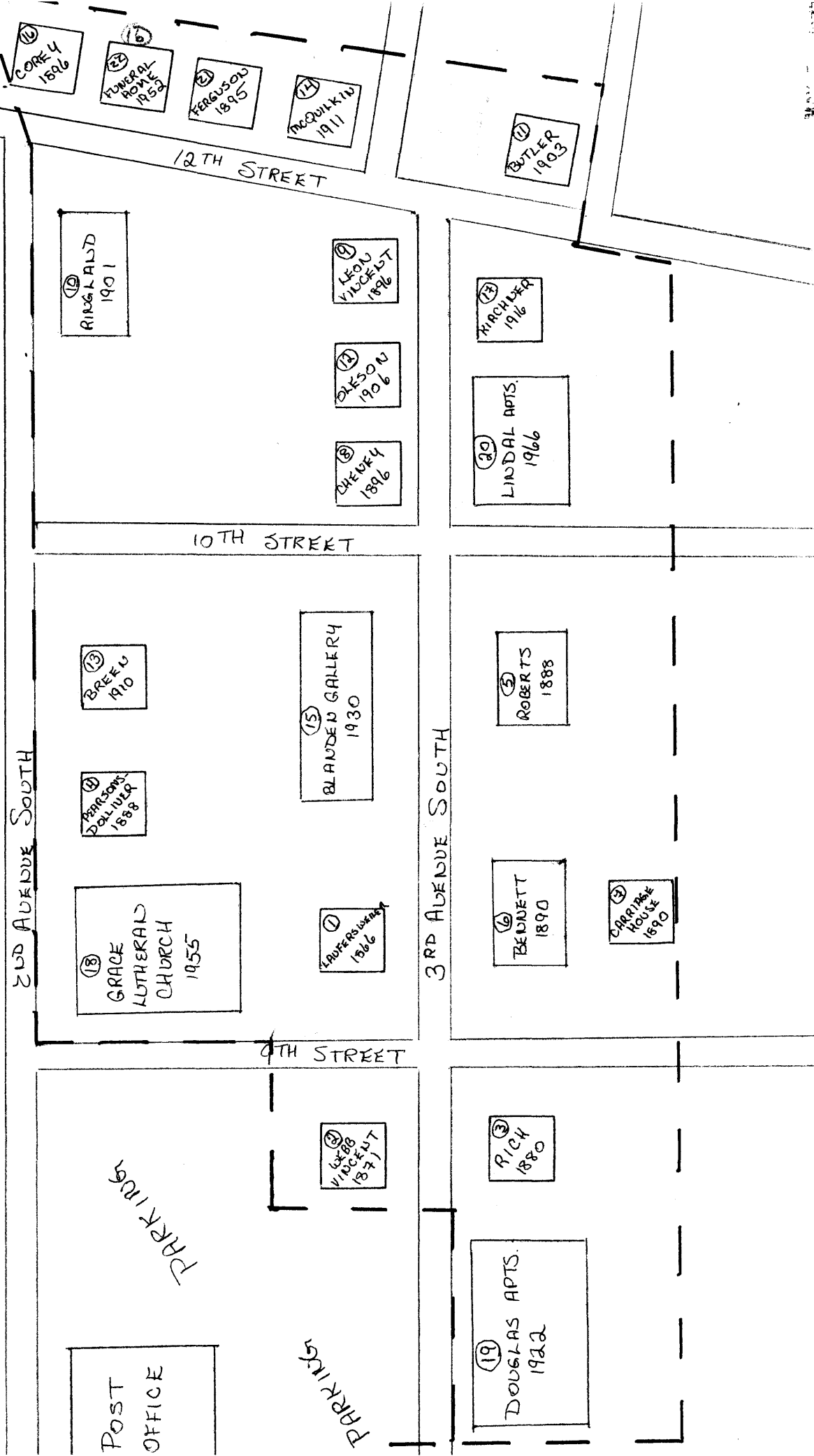
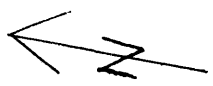
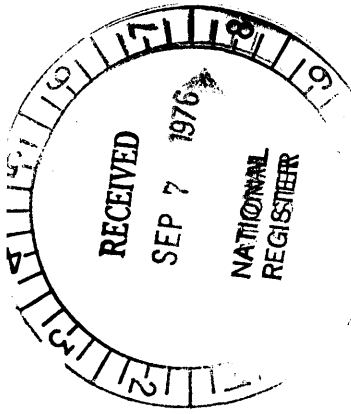
Published volumes of the Census of Iowa, 1875-1920.

Standard Atlas of Webster County, Iowa (Chicago: G. Ogle, 1909,) p. 11.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885-1912 (at Division of State Historical
Society)

Karl Haugen and Allen R. Loomis, Historic Homes, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Fort
Dodge: Messenger Printing Co., 1975, p. 58.

OAK HILL DISTRICT
 FORT DODGE, IOWA
 (not to scale)



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Oak Hill District, Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

1. See revised sketch map of district for (a) new boundary line which excludes building #19; (b) correct location of the Laufersweiler Funeral Home.
2. The enclosed photograph of the Webb Vincent House (#2, taken 1971) shows the new Post Office to the left rear. The area beside and behind the house is parking lot, as indicated on the sketch map.
3. #19, the Douglas Apartment building, was originally included in the nomination due to uncertainty over how much irregularity in the district boundary would be permitted. While it has a certain architectural interest in itself, it does not contribute to the significance of the district, which has been designed around the theme of residences which are associated with the economic development of Fort Dodge in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It should thus be excluded from the district.
4. The point made in #3 above may also be applied to the question of including residences south of #17 (Kirchner House) on 12th Street in this particular nomination. While these structures may contain some architectural significance, they are not of the quality of the majority of houses which are in the Oak Hill District as presently drawn. Furthermore, they lack the historical significance associated with the latter structures, in terms of past owners' contributions to the development of Fort Dodge. In general, inclusion of more residences beyond the district as presently drawn would not contribute much to the nomination as a whole, or, at worst, dilute the historic and architectural significance of the nomination.

OAK HILL DISTRICT
FORT DODGE, WEBSTER Co. IOWA
(NOT TO SCALE)

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