

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Robb House and Spring House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Route 2, (Paradise Valley Rd) D-57 not for publication
city, town Bellevue vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52031

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>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</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] 7/5/91
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] 8/30/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/out building

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/out building

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century

vernacular

foundation

Limestone

walls

Limestone w/ stucco

roof

Composition shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This two story gable roof rectangular house (approximately 30'x 12') is of limestone construction, with a coat of stucco applied to the exterior. An L-shaped wing (15'x 18') extends to the rear, and a small single story addition is found on the back. The house faces south, with a symmetrical three bay facade on the eave side. Doors and windows have heavy timber lintels rather than stone. Windows throughout originally were 6/6 double hung and many remain. A few have been replaced with 2/2 sash. The front door is narrow, sans sidelights. Cornice returns are found on the gable ends, giving a touch of Greek Revival design.

Immediately west of the house is a small square limestone spring house which has also been covered with stucco. It features a hip roof, and has a single door centered on the south elevation. It had a stone water trough on the interior until recent years. This spring house appears to date to the same period as the house.

Other farm out buildings are located to the north and east of the house. The yard is rather shallow from front to back, with the house located fairly close to the road. It would appear that few alterations have been made to either the site or the house itself.

This farmstead is located on the north side of the Big Mill Creek (Paradise Valley) road, slightly above the roadbed, with hills rising to the north. Few changes appear to have been made to the immediate environment over the years. The road is now graveled, but it continues to be fairly narrow and winding, running along the north side of the valley.

The focus of this survey was the use of limestone as a building material, with emphasis on exteriors. Little information was gathered on interiors.

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

c.1855

c.1855

Cultural Affiliation
N.A.

Significant Person
N.A.

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

This limestone house and spring house are significant under Criterion C as good examples of vernacular limestone architecture from c. 1855, and the dwelling is representative of the most common plan used for stone houses in Jackson County.

This two story gable roof house is one of 101 limestone houses recorded in the county. It is representative of the majority of these houses (89), which are rectangular and have a gable roof. It further represents a common plan, with a symmetrical three bay facade. A somewhat unusual feature is seen here, the use of heavy timber rather than stone for the lintels. Also, the front entrance is narrow, without sidelights. The 6/6 windows are typical of those found on houses and buildings from c.1855. Luxembourgian tradition dictates the application of stucco to the exterior of houses and buildings, and this tradition was very strong in this area. The stucco appears to have been applied originally, and in no way impairs the integrity. This house has retained a high level of integrity over the years despite small alterations. The small square spring house is a companion piece, and appears to also date c.1855. Though many have been demolished, stone out buildings were a common feature on farmsteads in this area. These are just as significant historically as the larger buildings and residences.

Jackson County was one of the earliest Iowa counties settled, being part of the Wisconsin Territory originally. From 1834 on there were settlers in the area, with one of the most important being Capt. Elbridge G. Potter. In 1842 Potter settled in what he called "Paradise Valley", the area along Big Mill Creek which stretches northwest from Bellevue. Potter owned 1400 acres in this valley. Limestone houses and buildings are found throughout this valley, including many directly associated with Potter. This particular house is said to have been designed by Potter and built for John Robb and his family c.1855. Robb was associated with Potter in his farming activities.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.
History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879; 1897.
Abstract of Title.

Information from present owner & wife (Alda Bevan Kendell, great great granddaughter of E.G. Potter).

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References:

A

1	5
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7	0	2	6	3	0
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4	6	8	3	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land on the north side of County Road D-57 (roads runs NW/SE) in T86N R4E Sec 6 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$. This parcel begins at a point on the north side of the road where the right-of-way intersects with a point ten feet west of the west wall of the spring house, then north to a point ten feet north of said spring house, then east to the farm lane, south to the road, & west to the point of beginning. This allows at least ten feet around the 2 buildings. See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes both the house and spring house, but does not include any other buildings on the farmstead.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

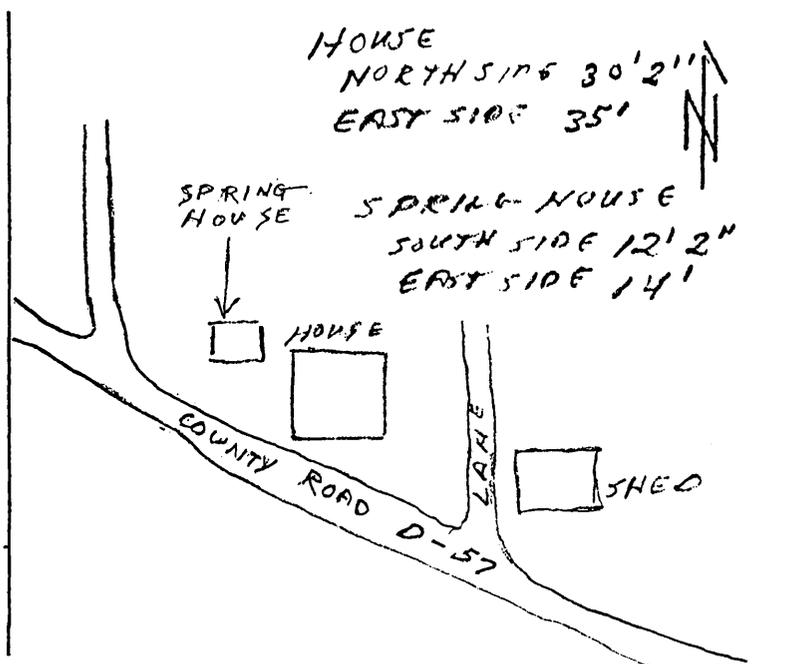
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743
organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1991
street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181
city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

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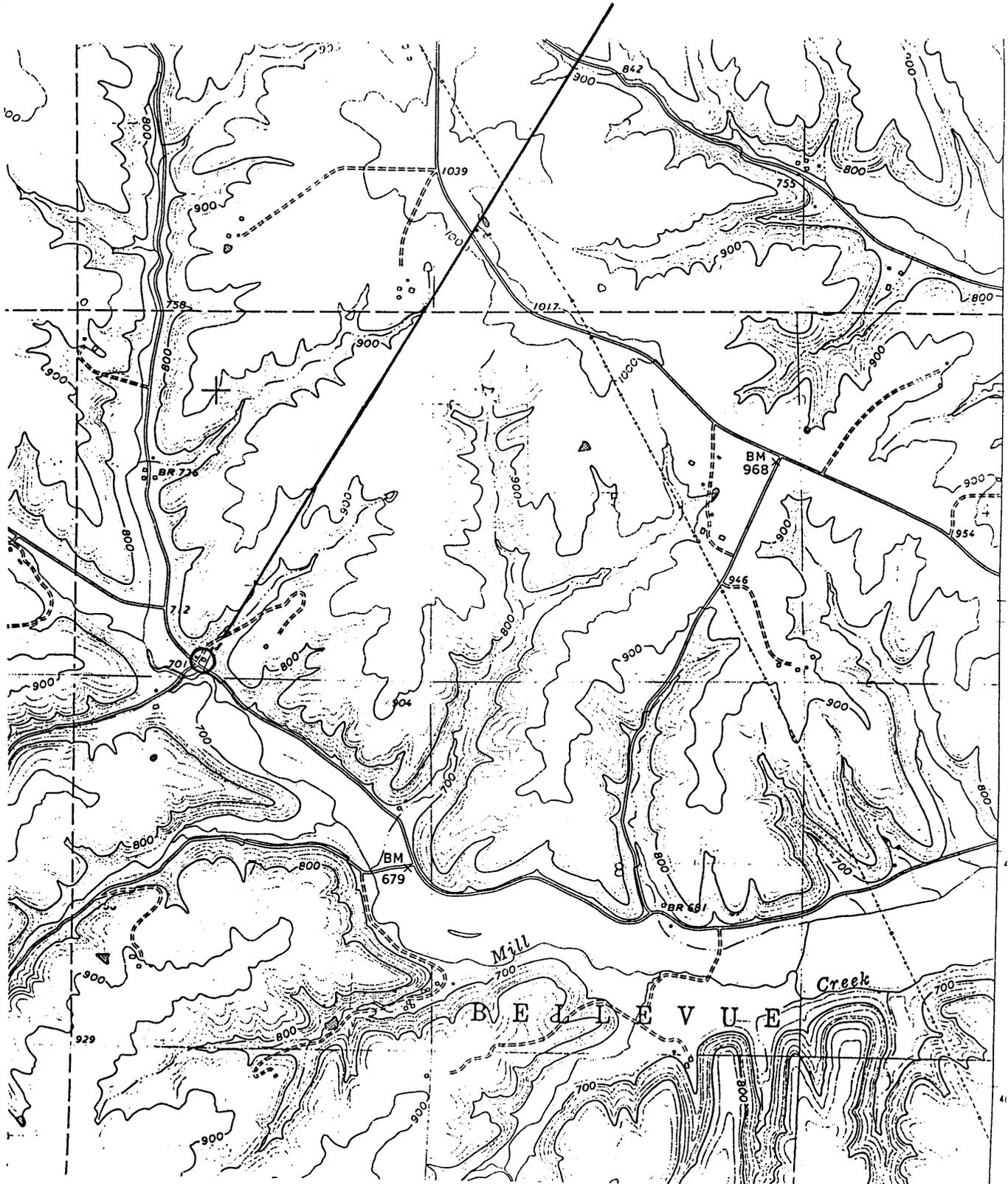
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Robb House & Spring House

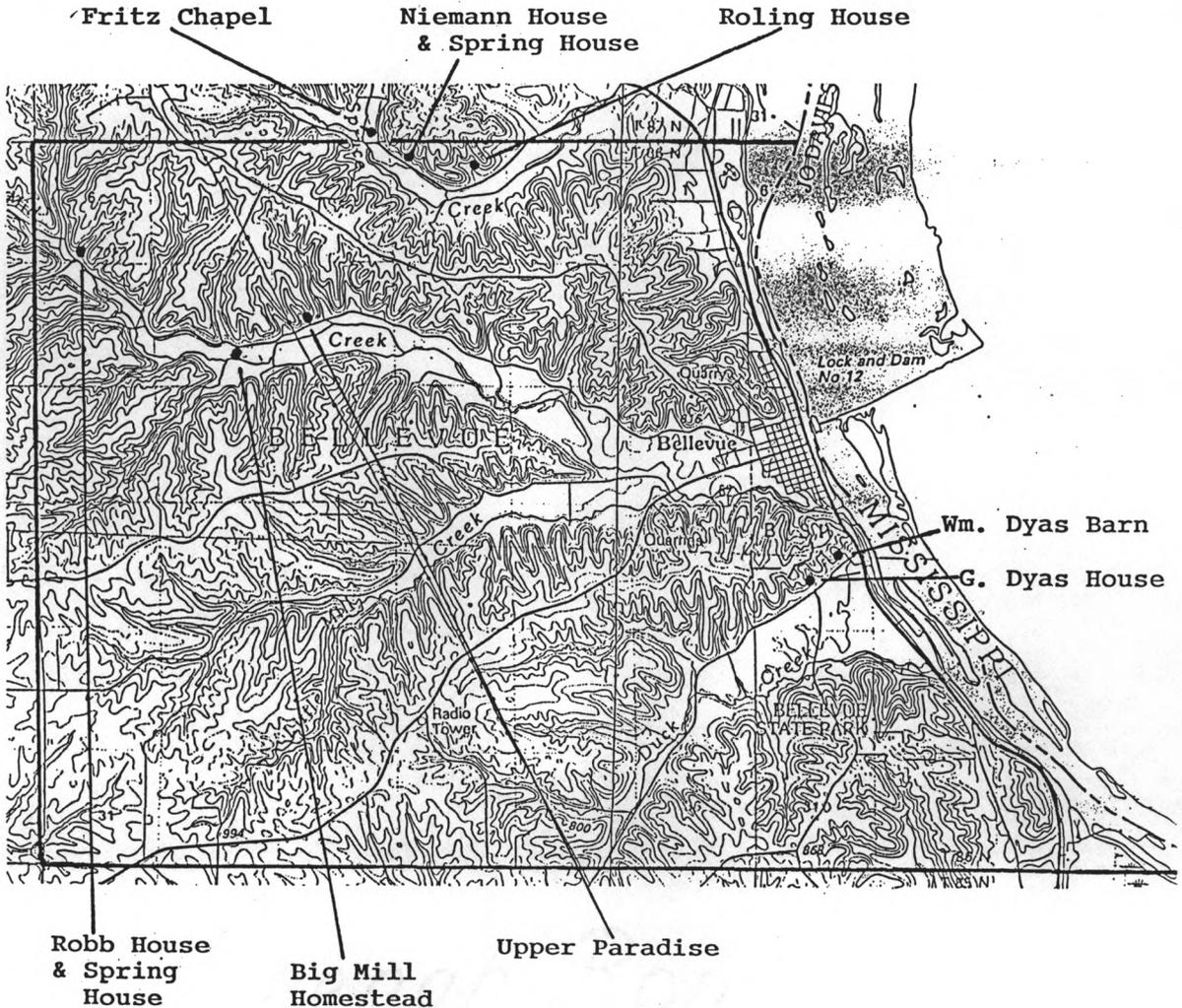


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Rural limestone resources being nominated
with this submission.

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