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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 12 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 making "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 Lincoln Statue

other names/site number none

2. Location

street & number Lincoln Way and Chestnut Streets not for publication

city or town Jefferson vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Greene code 073 zip code 50129

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.)

[Signature] 1/25/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of 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): _____

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/93
Date of Action

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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
1	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

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

The Lincoln Highway in Greene County, Iowa
County Courthouses in Iowa, TR

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/street furniture

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/street furniture

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a
walls n/a

roof n/a
other concrete

Narrative Description

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

Lincoln Statue
Name of Property

Greene Co., 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Period of Significance

1918-1928

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Bureau Brothers, Philadelphia, PA

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Greene Co. Lincoln Highway Preservation Group
_____ Inc.

Lincoln Statue
Name of Property

Greene Co., Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than .25 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Rebecca Conard

organization PHR Associates date June 30, 1992

street & number 275 Crescent Park Drive telephone 712/657-3347

city or town Lake View state IA zip code 51450

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 Greene County

street & number Greene County Courthouse telephone 515/386-2516

city or town Jefferson state IA zip code 50129

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.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

Physical Description

A lifesize statue of Abraham Lincoln overlooks Lincoln Way in the City of Jefferson from its site on the south side of the public square where the Greene County Courthouse is located. It is cast of bronze and rests on a two-tiered base of concrete. The lower base measures 6'6"x6'6"x44" and it has a pebblestone finish. The upper base measures 4'4"x4'4"x4'7" and is faced with 2" granite. The statue is posed with the left arm hanging down holding a piece of paper and the right arm extended slightly in gesture. Inscribed on a bronze plaque attached to the base is the following excerpt from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865:

With malice towards none,
with charity for all,
with firmness in the right,
as God gives us to see the right,
let us strive on to finish the work we are in,
to care for him who shall have borne the battle,
and for his widow and orphan.
To bind up the Nation's wounds,
to do all which may achieve a just and lasting peace
among ourselves and with all nations. -- Lincoln

A second bronze plaque reads:

The Gift of Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Wilson
to
Greene County and Lincoln Highway

Originally, the supervisors planned to mount the statue on a base of pink granite from Pipestone, Minnesota. However, war-time emergencies caused a change of plans, and Capitol Hill Monument Co. of Des Moines erected a "temporary" concrete base for the dedication on September 22, 1918. This base turned out to be less temporary than planned, and it was finally replaced in 1964 when the concrete began to deteriorate. Both bronze plaques were remounted on the new base. The statue and the base are in excellent condition.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

The Lincoln statue is included in the National Register nomination for the Greene County courthouse, listed in 1978. It is included as part of this multiple property listing because it is more closely associated with the Lincoln Highway than the courthouse, and new information is included with this nomination.

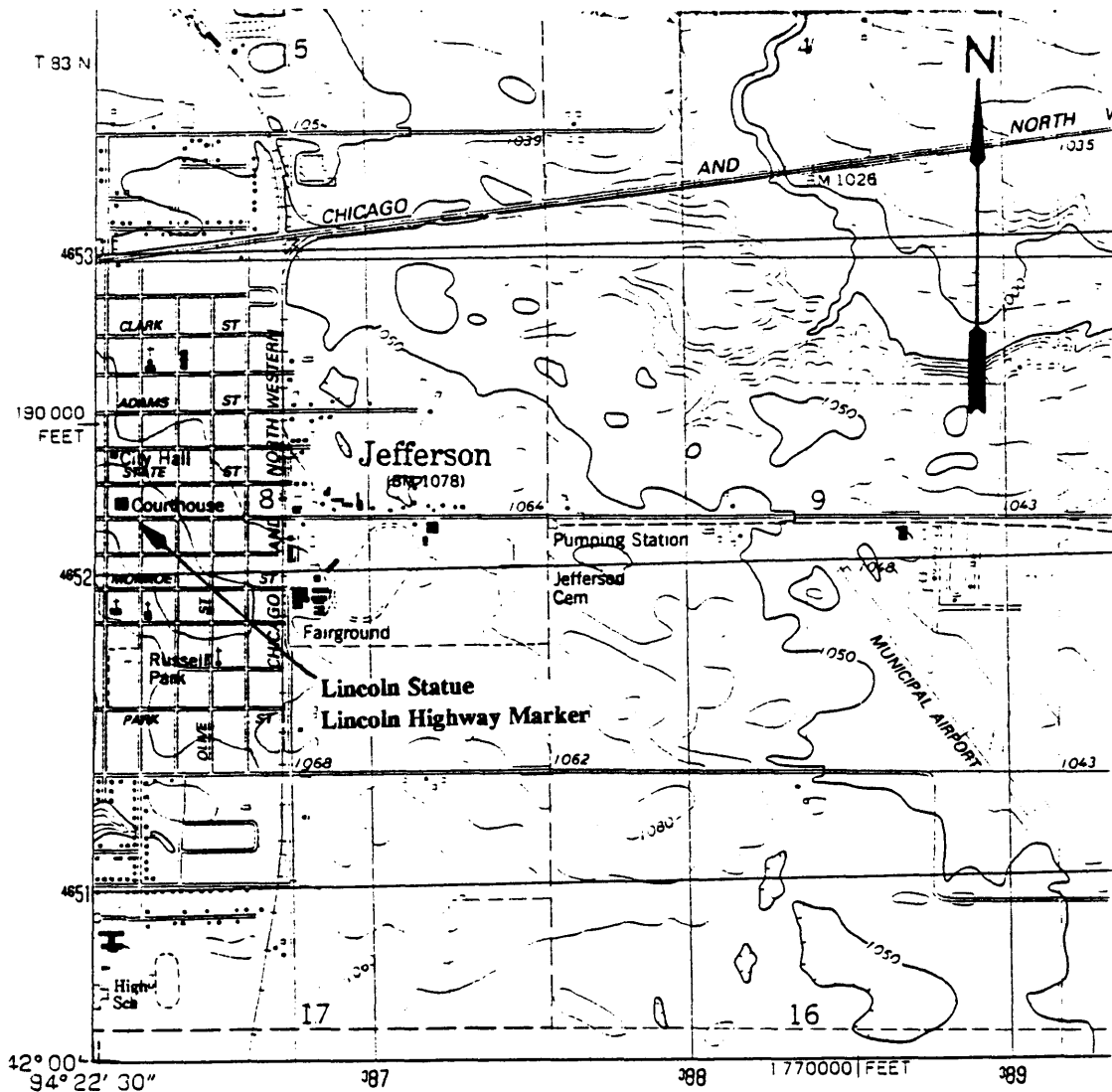
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Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

Resource Location Map (U.S.G.S. Jefferson East Quadrangle, 7.5 minute, 1986)



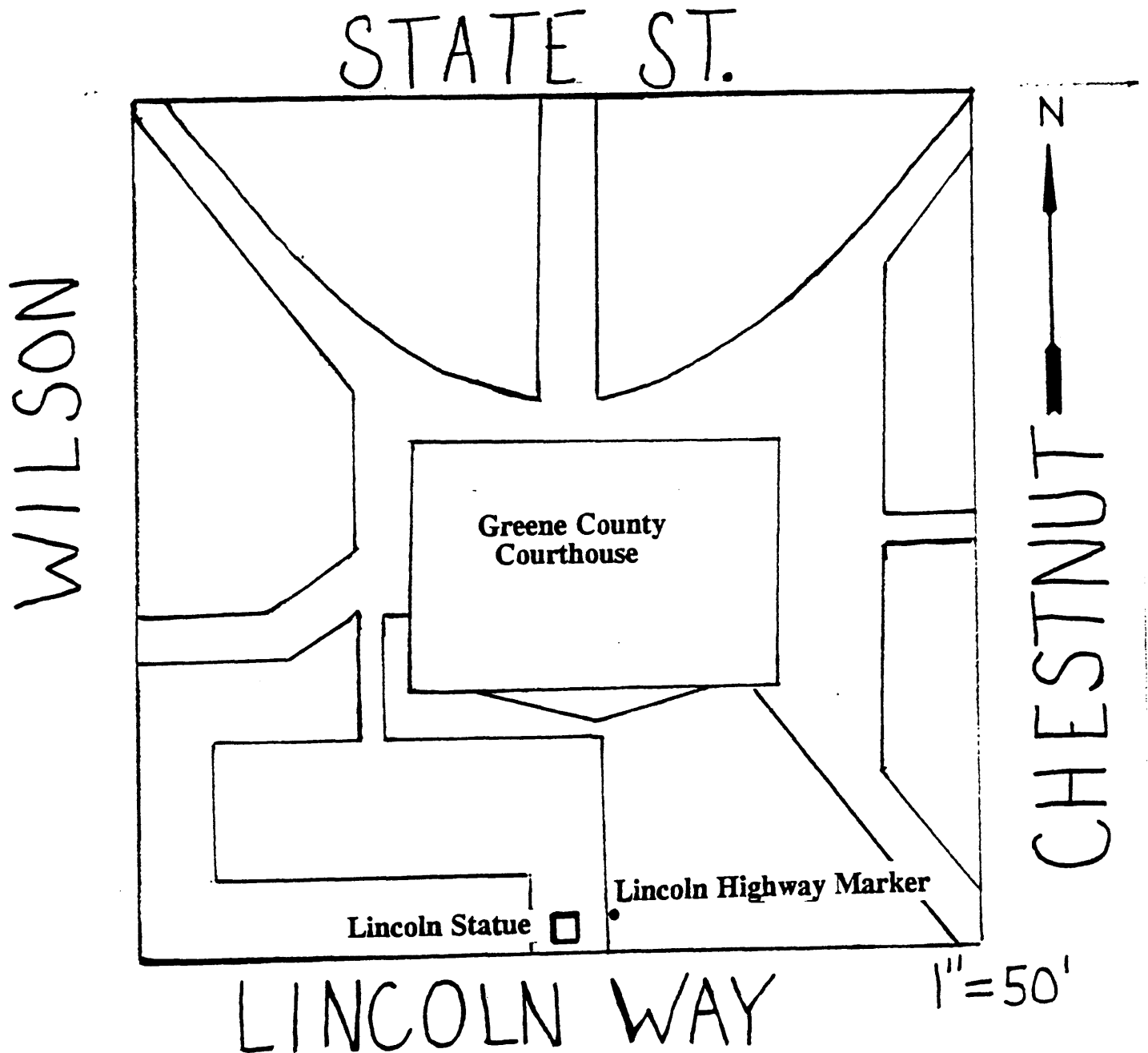
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Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

Sketch Map



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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1*Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa**Statement of Significance*

The Lincoln Statue is significant under Criterion A as a reflection of the highway as a symbol of American patriotism and ingenuity. It was the first statue of Abraham Lincoln to be erected beside and dedicated to the Lincoln Highway.

Shortly after the new Greene County courthouse was erected, in the summer of 1917, attorney E.B. [Edmund Burk] Wilson and his wife, Minnie, discussed the idea of donating a life-size statue of Abraham Lincoln to Greene County. When telling the story of the statue thirty some years later, E.B. Wilson gave credit to his wife for the original inspiration, recalling that she sprang the idea one night while they were preparing for bed.¹ She reasoned that the cost would be equivalent to financing a college education for one child, and since the Wilsons had no children they could afford to give something of substance and meaning to the community.

Once the idea was planted, it began to take form. Wilson consulted the Greene County Board of Supervisors, who agreed to pay one-half of the cost of the base and to locate the statue on the public square facing the Lincoln Highway.² Mrs. Wilson investigated foundries and discovered Bureau Brothers of Philadelphia, a firm that had cast bronze statuary for practically every national cemetery and battlefield park in the United States. The firm was contacted and a price agreed upon. According to Wilson, "the sculptor was an Englishman named Hastings who came to this country in 1914, did a few pieces and went back to England where soon after he died. This is the third replica of his Lincoln: the first one stands in front of the courthouse at Trenton, New Jersey, the second one I have forgotten about."³

At no extra expense, Bureau Brothers offered to furnish a bronze plate inscribed with any quotation from Lincoln the Wilsons desired. They chose the closing paragraph of Lincoln's second inaugural address, as quoted above. "If you think about the speech and meaning of

1 "The Story of the Lincoln Statue at Jefferson, Iowa," as told by E.B. Wilson to the Jefferson Rotary Club, February 10, 1948; taken in shorthand by Ann Jongewaard.

2 Greene County Board of Supervisors' Minutes, H:351, 3 October 1917.

3 "The Story of the Lincoln Statue at Jefferson, Iowa.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2*Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa*

those words and the time when they were spoken (the Civil war was [to end] in five weeks)," Wilson recalled, "I think you will agree that they are among the noblest words ever spoken by Lincoln."⁴

When the statue was nearly finished, Wilson, who was the Iowa Western District Consul for the Lincoln Highway Association, contacted the local consul in Philadelphia and asked him to inspect the workmanship. On the basis of a glowing report, Wilson paid the invoice and ordered the statue shipped by freight. Then the Wilsons conspired with the local railroad agent, county supervisors, and a handful of friends to have the statue stand crated in the lobby of the courthouse throughout the summer of 1918. In actuality, there was no place yet to mount the statue because the War Industries Board refused to permit labor for quarrying and shaping the stone until the war was over.

The forced delay provided ample opportunity for local residents to speculate on the contents of the crate and the name of the donor. However, when the Board of Supervisors learned that Wilson would be leaving for France in September "to do chores for the soldier boys over there," they arranged for a concrete base to be built and scheduled the dedication for September 22. Capitol Hill Monument Company of Des Moines was awarded the contract for an estimated cost of \$1480, delivered and set up.⁵ September 22nd was "an ideal fall day," Wilson remembered. "The war sentiment was on strong, people did not dream the war would be over so soon. The dedication had been well advertised and a crowd, estimated at five thousand persons, was here. They just covered the south half of the courthouse grounds."⁶ Photographs of the occasion suggest that, over the years, the crowd easily doubled in Wilson's memory.

The Lincoln Statue became a familiar and celebrated landmark along the highway. Both the *Iowa State Highway Commission Service Bulletin* and the *Lincoln Highway Forum* greeted the

4 Ibid.

5 Greene County Board of Supervisors' Minutes, H:385 (5 March 1918).

6 "The Story of the Lincoln Statue at Jefferson, Iowa.

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CFN-259-1116

Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

new statue with cover photographs.⁷ In 1920, the Lincoln Highway Association highlighted its mission statement with an image of the statue.⁸ Because the statue has been associated with the highway in popular imagery and in the minds of highway travelers since it was erected in 1918, it meets National Register eligibility under Criteria Exception F (commemorative property).

Many private landowners along the Lincoln Highway erected monuments and markers to dress the highway, and it was not uncommon for people to use such objects as a medium for displaying their patriotism. After all, the Lincoln Highway Association had chosen the colors of the flag for the highway's logo. Public displays of patriotism naturally increased with World I, and by 1919-20 even the Lincoln Highway was being invoked as a symbol to promote the "100% American" slogan of anti-immigrant crusaders.⁹ The Wilsons, however, were not motivated by xenophobia, but rather out of a desire to express their admiration for a president they revered and their pride in being part of a local community that wholeheartedly supported building the Lincoln Highway.

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- 7 *Iowa State Highway Commission Service Bulletin 6* (September-October 1918); *Lincoln Highway Forum*, November 1918.
- 8 "The Basic Appeal," *A Picture of Progress on the Lincoln Way* (Detroit: Lincoln Highway Association, 1920), 5.
- 9 Peter T. Harstad and Diana J. Fox, "Dusty Doughboys on the Lincoln Highway: The 1919 Army Convoy in Iowa," *Palimpsest* 56 (May-June 1975), 82.

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Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

Bibliographical References

See footnotes for sources cited in this nomination. Refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for complete bibliography and source location information.

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CFN-259-1116

Lincoln Statue, Lincoln Highway, Greene County, Iowa

Boundary Description

The Lincoln Statue is included in the National Register boundaries for the Greene County Courthouse (#78001222, 12/14/78). The courthouse square is bounded on the north by E. State, on the south by E. Lincoln Way, on the west by Wilson Avenue N., and on the east by Chestnut Street in Jefferson; and the statue is located on the south side of the square along Lincoln Way approximately half-way between Wilson Avenue and Chestnut Street. Only the statue is being renominated to the National Register in order to recognize its primary association as being the Lincoln Highway and not the courthouse. The boundaries of the statue are a square around the base, beginning approximately six feet from the south side of the courthouse square.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include only the Lincoln Statue.