

MAR - 6 2006

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 any 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.

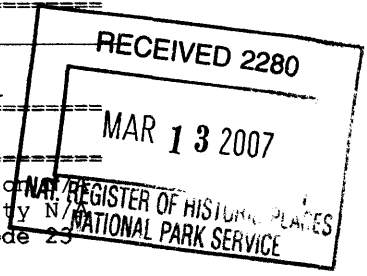
1. Name of Property

historic name NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 206 BUSWELL STREET not for publication
city or town PARKERSBURG vicinity N/A
state IOWA code IA county BUTLER code 23
zip code 50665



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 state wide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rowell G. Sorke, Deputy SHPO March 9, 2007
Signature of certifying official Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

Edson H. Beal 9.24.07

other (explain): _____

for
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

 N/A

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: MULTIPLE DWELLING

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE
DOMESTIC

Sub: SPECIALTY STORE
SINGLE DWELLING

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____
 COMMERCE _____

Period of Significance 1894-1901

Significant Dates 1894

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Pfeiffer, Paul M. _____
 Pfeiffer, Gustavus A. _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Netcott, Harry E. _____
 Netcott, George Jr. _____
 Netcott, George A. _____

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	517133	4713841	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	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 MELODIE McLEAN

organization _____ date November 7, 2006

street & number 401 COATES STREET

telephone 319-346-1768

city or town PARKERSBURG state IA zip code 50665

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Melodie J. McLean

street & number 401 Coates Street telephone 319-346-1768

city or town Parkersburg state IA zip code 50665-1059

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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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House is an 1894 late Victorian Italianate double house situated just west of the intersection of highways 14 and 57, facing north to Hwy. 57 in what currently is the periphery of the existing residential area in Parkersburg in North Central Iowa. The Netcott-Pfeiffer House sits on what some of the locals call "millionaire's corner." There is one commercial building to the east of the property, situated at the intersection. The house stands on an elevated piece of property about 3 feet higher than the sidewalk and about 4.5 feet higher than the highway. The house currently sits on property amounting to about a half-acre, consisting of 66 foot wide lots. It has a small front yard, sloping down to the street, with a large deep lot behind the house and a large attached lot to the west. A non-contributing concrete block garage with two sliding wooden entry doors and a wooden gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles was constructed in the 1950's and sits about 35 feet south and west of the house. The house has had very little alteration since its construction, and is in very good condition.

Its most current use being an antique shop (since 1992), there have been no structural alterations made to the building which was originally built as a two-family dwelling. The house is currently a non-occupied private residence.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House is a 2-story balloon-framed house with a hipped roof and both open front and open rear porch. Measuring approximately 32 feet by 36 feet, it has walls finished with weatherboard and the roof with asphalt shingles, and the chimney is constructed of brick. The interior layout of the house is a "mother-in-law's" design, (early duplex) that is almost mirror image from side to side with a dividing central stairway.

General characteristics of the building are a symmetrical floor plan with an addition of a 1 by 8 foot bay located on the east side of the house. The foundation is constructed of stone and brick, original to the building. The basement is one large open room with the exception of a small room in the southwest corner. The basement stairs are situated in the middle of the house and the stairway opening is supported by large, round, rough-cut poles. There is an outside covered entrance to the basement located on the south (back) of the house, situated between the two sets of porch stairs. The inner set of entry doors located inside the covered entrance are made of tongue and groove wooden boards and are original to the structure. These have been signed "EMMA" probably either by Emma Pfeiffer, Gus Pfeiffer's sister in the late 1890's, or by E.T. Jaynes' grandmother, Emma, in the 1920's when she owned the house.

The front porch of the house is quite ornate, with the roof being

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supported by 4 full posts and 2 engaged posts. The post shafts are of turned design, with the capital and base of the posts being square-cut with chamfered edges.

Single fancy elongated cornice brackets adorn the square capital of the posts (2 being attached to the outsides of the corner poles) to the full height just under the soffit. Shorter cornice brackets, two to each post (with the exception of the half-posts, of which each has one), are also attached to the capital of each post, these being used to help support the long cornice balustrade between the porch posts.

Above the cornice balustrade is a frieze ornamented with large dentils. The porch overhang has a deep soffit ornamented with bed mould, fascia and crown mouldings.

A balustrade surrounds the porch perimeter. The porch floor is made of wooden tongue and groove flooring with rounded edges and a wide face board. There is a single wide set of steps with handrail/balustrade construction located in the center of the porch. The ceiling of the porch is made of narrow tongue and groove beaded board. The underskirts of the porch are made of 1 inch by 4 inch frame boards with lattice insert.

The back (south) porch of the house is much the same as the front, but in a much more simple design. This porch has the same under-ceiling treatment, soffit and underskirts, with 2 by 2 inch plain balusters and smaller turned brackets. There are two sets of stairs on the back porch, one for each separate entrance into the house. The hand railings no longer exist on the back stairs.

The upper soffit of the house is quite wide with a cornice bracket design of alternating single and paired brackets. A wide frieze with a bed mould, fascia and crown mould treatment surrounds the top edge of the house, much like the porches. Corner cornice brackets are attached directly to the corner boards that run the full height of the house from the water table (drip edge) to the frieze.

The east side, first floor of the house sports a 1 by 8 foot double bay window that is adorned with a thin diagonal beaded board design.

There are 29 windows in the house, all single, one over one design with the exception of two main floor windows located in the center of the house on both the east and west sides and the upper front windows, all of which are paired.

Two very large single paned windows located on the main floor at the front of the house, one on the east side and one on the west, are flanked by two slim windows. Both sets of these large windows are topped by multi-paned stained-glass windows. The casement face sports a scalloped cap panel, a cap moulding and cap fillet. The cap moulds have a deep cut design in them. All of the

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windows are original to the structure and are in very good condition.

There are four entry doors to the house (not counting the basement entry doors). One extra tall front entry door is made of stile and rail construction with two inset panels, each of which has a raised panel with recessed edge and moulding surround. The top half of the door has lovely tiny multi-paned stained glass panels surrounding a larger rectangular clear glass center. These small stained panels match the windows on the lower front of the house. The two back entry doors are shorter than the front door and are also made of stile and rail construction. These doors have two elongated raised panels with recessed edges and moulding surrounds, as do the two shorter panels in the bottom half of the doors. There is also a door situated on the second floor of the house at the front of the building. This was used to go out onto the front porch roof that originally supported a balustrade along its perimeter. This is evidenced by the half-posts still attached to the front of the house. Previous owners of the property believe this balustrade was removed due to deterioration sometime in the 1950s. All of the doors retain the original outer screen doors.

The interior of the house has a unique and practical floor plan. An early duplex or "mother-in-law's" design, this was suited for either one or two family living. The house is basically identical from east side to west side with a large center hall and staircase dividing the two. The differences between the two sides are the bay window on the east side and the large built-in raised panel cupboards on the east side that go all the way to the ceiling whereas on the west side they are about 18 inches shorter. There is also a double entry with doors that swing open into the kitchen from the middle parlor on the east side, while there is only a single entry on the west. (The fancier side of the house, evident only on the first floor, is the east side).

The basic layout of the main floor on both sides is, from front to back; front parlor, middle parlor and kitchen. The center hall has a large "cloak room" at the south end of it, just before entry into either of the kitchens.

Doorways and windows have the typical wooden casements with floor plinth blocks and bull's-eye corner block top treatments.

Each room features basic plaster and lath wall and ceiling construction with tall baseboards surrounding the perimeter of the room. The original narrow oak floors, located on the main floor only, are intact and in very good condition with the original finish. There is a double door opening between the two parlors on both the east and west sides with a stick and ball spandrel stretching the width of the opening. The four parlors on the main level retain the original light fixtures. The northeast front parlor had a decorative panel ceiling added pre-1945.

The kitchens each have a large section of built-in raised panel cupboards and wainscoting on the lower part of the walls. Originally, each side had its

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own sink, but now only the east side is plumbed. The west side retains the original tall wainscot on the wall where the sink stood. The east side sink is modern and the wainscot on that wall has been replaced with wood paneling.

The second level has three bedrooms on the east side, 3 bedrooms on the west side and a small bath at the south end of the hallway. The two front bedrooms and middle bedrooms have closets and the back two have none. The bath retains the original toilet and claw-foot bathtub, but the sink has been replaced with an "old-fashioned" modern design. Floors are made of 3 inch wide boards, originally varnished, but now painted. The woodwork throughout the house also was originally varnished, but now is painted.

Cosmetic changes to the Netcott-Pfeiffer House include updated plumbing in the east kitchen in the 1970s and bath in 2002, wallpaper and paint in 1993, some replacement of porch flooring and front stair handrails and steps due to weather deterioration in the 1990s and the replacement of the back steps and a few balustrades on the rear porch in 2006. The exterior was painted in 2003. At the present time, the only missing original detail of the house is the balustrade above the front porch.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House maintains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The integrity of the immediate setting of the house, illustrated by the yard and historic vegetation, all contribute to the house's ability to maintain integrity of feeling and association to that time period. It is an easy step back into time when entering the Netcott-Pfeiffer House.

Integrity of design, materials and workmanship is especially important to the Criterion C nomination. The floor plan of the house was such that it would capitalize on living space available at that particular period in time in Parkersburg, Iowa. The overall form of the house has not been changed by additions or alterations. The original architectural materials and detailing including porches, weatherboard, window openings and ornamentation remain or were replaced in-kind where deteriorated or missing, with the exception of the upper balustrade above the front porch. The interior retains its original configuration and architectural detailing, although wiring and some plumbing and plumbing fixtures have been modernized.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of an early double house design by regionally well-known architect Harry E. Netcott in Parkersburg, Iowa. Mr. H. E. Netcott opened an architectural firm in Parkersburg, Iowa, in late 1893 after the great fire that leveled most of the business district there. This office was located over the *Eclipse* newspaper. The Netcott-Pfeiffer House was built in 1894 by Harry Netcott's father, George Netcott, Jr. and his brother, George A. Netcott, both regionally well-known contractor/builders.

According to the SHPO database, architect Harry Eames Netcott has other properties listed with the National Register of Historic Places for his work in Allamakee, Buchanan, Butler, Calhoun, Dubuque, Fayette and Jackson counties in Iowa. Harry E. Netcott is the listed architect of the C. C. Wolf Mansion built in 1895 in Parkersburg, Iowa, and listed as a National Register property in 1979. His father, George Netcott, Jr. was the architect of the Fisher-Plane Commercial Building in Independence, Iowa, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

The 1895 Iowa State Census for Butler County, Parkersburg, Albion Township, lists Harry E. Netcott's occupation as "contractor," that of George Netcott, Jr. as "contracting" and that of George A. Netcott as "brick mason."

According to the *Residential structure types for selected cities, 1900 census* published in Leading Double Lives: The History of the Double House in Des Moines by Deiber, double houses accounted for as high as 20 percent of the dwellings in some cities. The double house represented single family dwellings, extended family compounds or a communal living atmosphere. It was not only common but also a matter of custom to live with extended families during the 1890s. This type of house could shelter more than one family with the convenience of an apartment and the psychological comforts of a home. Double houses provided investment opportunities to nineteenth-century entrepreneurs, rental housing for members of the middle class white collar work force, and alternative living spaces for widows or couples seeking to avoid the cost and upkeep of a single family residence. The double house was a feature found mostly in the northwest part of the United States, in cities with a booming business economy and a need for worker housing. At that time, many of these houses were built by prominent individuals who would live in half the house and rent out the other half for additional income. The Netcott-Pfeiffer House is the only double house that exists in Parkersburg, Iowa, and is believed to be the only one ever built there.

According to an early Parkersburg town map there were already several houses built on the lots surrounding the Netcott-Pfeiffer House. This may have been one of the first lots to come up for sale at the time and was the closest

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE con't..

lot available for purchase towards the downtown area.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House was built in 1894, and according to local newspaper accounts, in the middle of a growth spurt and housing shortage after the disastrous fire in 1893 that leveled most of the Parkersburg business district. The Netcott-Pfeiffer House was built a little over 3 blocks west of the north-south running Main Street in Parkersburg, with the Illinois Central Railroad being located a block to the north. The original main street ran east-west in direction, parallel to the railroad. The main U.S. highways of 14 and 20 intersected a half-block to the east of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House and the C. C. Wolf Mansion would be constructed the following year by the Netcott crew a block to the southeast.

The Illinois Central Railroad passenger/freight train would stop as many as eight times a day in Parkersburg during this time period. According to Butler County history books and local newspaper articles, between 1883 and 1914, Parkersburg was "one of the best points for trade and business in Butler County... at the confluence of the North and South forks of the Beaver River, which furnishes permanent water power. No locality presents a more favorable opportunity for the employment of capital in manufacturing enterprises. Sitting on a division of the Illinois Central Railroad, one of the most important thoroughfares in the country, the town is possessed of the most desirable shipping facilities. The presence of several elevators and warehouses bear out the assertion that Parkersburg is one of the most important grain markets in northern Iowa."

A city directory lists over fifty businesses in Parkersburg during this time period.

Due to a massive amount of construction and the large amount of construction workers in the city after the 1893 fire, the population of Parkersburg had swollen to several thousand people. A local newspaper article relates that "there is not a good rental to be had." One citizen's opinion was printed in an 1894 article in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper: "Parkersburg hotels are filled to overflowing and the end is not yet. What will it be months hence when work commences in real earnest in the improvements?" The population of Parkersburg, Iowa today is about 2,000.

The double house design used in the construction of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House suited the Netcott family in 1894 as it allowed for more than one family to reside in the house, allowing for possible rental income if need be. It would not be out of the question to think that the Netcott families lived in one half of the house during this time and rented out the other side of the house for extra income. With six bedrooms in the house, it would have been easily possible. The housing shortage certainly was another reason for using

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE con't..

this particular design in 1894 in Parkersburg, Iowa.

In an interview with N. Jochumsen, great-great-grandson of builder George A. Netcott, who personally knew the builder and had listened to stories about the Netcott family and its building practices, Jochumsen stated that "It was a matter of practice for the Netcott family to live in a residential home construction project for several months while finishing it for sale, as well as using it for housing while working on other sites. When the work ran out in that particular area of the country they would move on to the next project. The Netcotts were a close-knit clan and worked in the business as a family for many years."

Building contracts kept the Netcott families in Parkersburg for about two years. Local newspaper accounts repeatedly report construction bids being awarded to "the Netcotts." During the years of 1893-1895 at least a dozen construction contracts were awarded to the Netcott family: Eight buildings on the main street in Parkersburg, the Parkersburg High School, the C. C. Wolf Mansion, the Netcott-Pfeiffer House and the Ed Scherling residence. Several of the brick business buildings still exist today although some have had the store fronts "modernized." Many still have the original facades beneath the newer materials.

In April 1894, George Netcott, Jr. purchased the George Conn lot (#19 Wemple's Addition in Parkersburg) and erected the Netcott residence. According to the Butler County Clerk's office, a sheriff's sale was levied against the Netcott-Pfeiffer House in December of 1894 "as the property of George and George A. Netcott and H.E. Netcott Defendant" in the amount of two hundred fourteen dollars and eighty cents. This was later paid by George A. Netcott.

According to "Town Lot Deed Records," George Netcott, Jr. purchased the lot from Walt Conn for the price of two-hundred twenty-five dollars in April, 1894. In October 1894, George Netcott, Jr. sold it to his son, George A. Netcott for the purchase price of two-thousand dollars. This information coupled with the April 1894 newspaper brief, verifies the Netcotts as being the builders of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House between the months of April and October 1894.

Following is a short notice taken from the April 13, 1894, edition of the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper:

"The Netcotts have bought Walt Conn's lot, recently purchased of Tom Ferguson, and have commenced erection of a residence thereon 32 by 36, two stories. Walt has bought another south of the one sold and will build on that."

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House stands there today.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer double house certainly fits the Netcott pattern of

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE con't..

building a house according to N. Jochumsen.

Parkersburg job prospects for the Netcotts were beginning to slow after the big housing boom of 1893-1895. Harry E. Netcott closed his office in Parkersburg in late 1895 and returned to Independence to his business office there. After the sale of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House in February 1896, the remaining Netcotts also returned to Independence, Iowa. They are listed as residing in Independence on the 1900 federal census.

Well-known druggist, philanthropist, industrialist, collector, writer and humanitarian Gustavus A. Pfeiffer owned half of the Netcott-Pfeiffer house from 1896-1900. Gus Pfeiffer also gifted monies for the purchase of the C. C. Wolf Mansion in 1926 and gave it as a gift to the town of Parkersburg. While residing in the Netcott-Pfeiffer House, Gus Pfeiffer worked as a druggist at the Pfeiffer drug store in Parkersburg.

Well-known banker, humanitarian, philanthropist and land baron Paul M. Pfeiffer, brother to Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, shared ownership of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House with him. Paul Pfeiffer was employed as a banker at the State Exchange Bank in Parkersburg while residing in the Netcott-Pfeiffer House.

American heiress Pauline Pfeiffer, daughter of Paul M. Pfeiffer and Mary Alice Downey Pfeiffer of Parkersburg, lived in the Netcott-Pfeiffer House from 1896-1901. She became the second wife of Nobel laureate and Pulitzer prize-winning writer, Ernest Hemingway. Pauline Pfeiffer Hemingway was heir to the Pfeiffer family fortune.

Scientist, professor, researcher, inventor and author, E. T. Jaynes lived in the Netcott-Pfeiffer House from 1929-1942 with his mother, who owned the property. There is some evidence they lived there previous to that period on a rental basis.

There is an undeniable bond between the Netcotts, the Pfeiffers, the C. C. Wolf Mansion and the Netcott-Pfeiffer House. These people, including Charles Wolf, were in and out of each others homes, attended the same meetings, walked the same streets and all worked at building a small town into a fast-growing economically rich boom-town near the turn of the twentieth century.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

HARRY E. NETCOTT (b.1867-d.1960)

Harry Eames Netcott, noted historic Iowa architect, was born in Taunton, England in 1867 to parents George Netcott, Jr., a mason by trade, and Matilda E. Woodbury Netcott, both of whom also were born in England. At the age of 5, Harry E. Netcott and family left Liverpool, England aboard the "City of London" and according to the New York Passenger List, arrived in New York on June 3,

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1872.
The family moved to Littleton, Iowa, early on to join George Netcott, Sr. who had arrived in the new country a few years previously. Shortly thereafter, Harry E. Netcott and family moved to Independence, Iowa, where Harry attended the local schools and learned the building trade from his father. The George Netcott Brickyards was established in 1880. Harry pursued studies at Lenox College in Hopkinton and Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. He then attended the Polytechnic Institute of Chicago. After attending school, Harry E. Netcott returned to Independence, Iowa, to work with his father, George Netcott, Jr. In 1893 he was united in marriage to Carrie South and later that year they moved to Parkersburg, Iowa, where Harry opened an architectural firm. Harry's father, George Netcott, Jr. and brother, George A. Netcott and their families also moved to Parkersburg to join Harry Netcott in the family building business.

The move to Parkersburg was made very shortly after the great fire of 1893 that destroyed 35 buildings in the Parkersburg business district. It was an excellent opportunity to secure building contracts.

Harry Netcott was made chair of the Building Improvements committee by the Parkersburg City Council in January 1894. As evidenced by the local *Parkersburg Eclipse*, between late 1893 and late 1895 at least a dozen building contracts were awarded to "the Netcotts."

The Netcott family was responsible for the design and construction of 8 buildings on the north-south running main street in Parkersburg, Iowa including: Foote Hardware, Renken and Tammen Dry Goods, Lahr Harness-making, Pfeiffer Drug, Owens Grocery, Morgan Hardware, the Juel building and the Beaver Valley Bank. Several of these brick buildings still exist today although some have had the store fronts "modernized." Most have the original facades beneath the newer materials.

The Netcott family also won the building contract for the new school building in 1894. As published in the local newspaper, it was at this time that Harry E. Netcott advised an *Eclipse* reporter that he thought his firm should bring in a brick-making machine from the George Netcott Brickyards to make the brick needed for the new school. The school was going to take approximately 225,000 brick in its construction.

In 1894 the Netcotts erected the Netcott-Pfeiffer House as well as the Ed Scherling residence. Although there is no direct evidence that Harry E. Netcott was the designer of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House, it can be assumed to be his design since he was the designer in the family.

In 1895 the C. C. Wolf Mansion was erected. The large barn on the Wolf property that was "furnished like a Pullman" according to local newspaper

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articles, had already been built in 1894. The school building and Wolf barn no longer exist, but the C. C. Wolf Mansion still stands and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

In 1895, Harry E. Netcott advertised his ability to design "Business Buildings, School Houses, Court Houses, Residences, Churches and Hotels." With the work subsiding in Parkersburg, George A. Netcott sold the Netcott-Pfeiffer House and the Netcotts moved back to Independence, Iowa, where Harry Netcott kept a second office.

Between 1895 and 1905 H.E. Netcott was associated in business with A. M. Donan and operated under the firm of Netcott and Donan. From 1905 to 1916 Harry E. Netcott was alone in the firm.

According to the *Parkersburg Eclipse* in early 1896, the Netcotts were awarded two more building contracts, in Delta and Lake Mills, Iowa.

A 1914 edition of a local Buchanan County history book lists H. E. Netcott as architect of the Sherman-Smith Gasoline Engine Company built in 1909 in Independence, Iowa, as well as the new bank building in Independence, Iowa, that same year. He was also approved as the architect of the new school project in Independence, Iowa, in 1910. The biography goes on to state that Netcott "is especially widely known as the architect of many schools, giving special attention to that class of building. He had designed schools all over the state, among the best known being those at Independence, Rockwell City, Oelwein, Reinbeck and Postville. He has also drawn the plans for many of the best buildings in this section of the state including two new banks at Monticello. Beauty of design goes hand in hand with convenience of arrangement and thoroughness of construction in the execution of his work and he ranks today with the leading architects of the state."

Leaving Independence in 1916, Harry E. Netcott, and his son Roland Netcott, opened the firm of Netcott and Netcott around 1918 in Waterloo, Iowa. The firm closed when the new 1927 registration law went into effect. The law stated that architects must be registered in the state of Iowa. It also dictated how they could collect fees. According to John S. Bartley, Harry recalled in his later years "that he had a hard time collecting even one percent from the owner for a fee, but that it was customary to squeeze what money he could from the suppliers of materials or equipment." Mr. Bartley also was of the impression that Harry E. Netcott had "no formal training" in his profession.

In 1927, at the age of 60, Harry E. Netcott went to work as a draftsman in Waterloo, Iowa. His recollections provide documentation of the problems facing Iowa architects around the turn of the century, while working to establish a professional standing.

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Harry E. Netcott went against the trend in the 1890s-1920s when the classical Beaux-Arts building style was in vogue. He preferred to design his buildings in a much plainer style that gave them a solid "Midwest" feel. Two of his best-known works, the Colonial Revival Dr. Judd Shellito house and the Classical Revival Maquoketa Free Library are still in use today. Harry Netcott worked on his last building project with his brother, George A. Netcott, in 1957 at the age of 90 years old.

GEORGE NETCOTT, JR. (b.1842-d.1923)

George Netcott, Jr., noted Iowa building contractor/mason, was born in Taunton, England in 1842 where he learned the trade. While in England he married Matilda E. Woodbury, born in London, England. According to the New York Passenger List record, the Netcotts left Liverpool, England aboard the "City of London" with children Harry E., George A. and Flora Netcott in tow and arrived in New York in June of 1872.

The Netcott family arrived in Littleton, Iowa, a short time later to join George Netcott, Sr. who had arrived in the new world in 1867, according to a Buchanan County, Iowa, history. Shortly thereafter, the George Netcott, Jr. family moved to Independence, Iowa, where he engaged in business as a mason.

The first documented work of George Netcott, Jr. was on the Iowa Insane Hospital in Independence. In 1874 George Netcott, Jr. built the Fisher-Plane Commercial Building in Independence. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

George Netcott, Jr. also built the Leytze buildings, the waterworks building smokestack, the 1888 schoolhouse, the Sherman-Smith Gasoline Engine Company and the 1910 high school in Independence. He became owner of the George Netcott Brickyards established in 1880, manufacturing brick for the first fireproof buildings in the town.

According to 1914 Buchanan County history records, "Mr. Netcott was the builder of practically all the best brick structures in his city, including the hospital, school and other buildings. His reputation was not confined to the borders of his city or county but was state-wide and his services were in various sections of Iowa."

In 1893, along with the Harry E. and George A. Netcott families, George Netcott, Jr. and family moved to Parkersburg, Iowa.

From this point until leaving Parkersburg, the contracting history of George Netcott, Jr. mimics the previous history of Harry E. Netcott. As verified by N. Jochumsen, great-great-great-grandson of George Netcott, Jr., "The Netcotts were a very close family unit, both in business and in their private lives."

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George Netcott, Jr. retired from the building trade around 1914 at the age of 72. There are undoubtedly many more undocumented works of this master builder that we may never know of.

GEORGE A. NETCOTT (b.1869-d.1964)

George A. Netcott, noted Iowa builder, was born in Taunton, England in 1869 to parents, George Netcott, Jr. and Matilda E. Woodbury Netcott. At the age of 2 years, George A. Netcott and family boarded the "City of London" in Liverpool, England and arrived in New York in June of 1872, according to New York Passenger Lists.

As with his father, George Netcott, Jr., and his brother Harry E. Netcott, the early construction history is much the same. As a young man, George A. Netcott learned the building trade from his father and worked with him, as well as his brother, Harry, in the family business. He and father, George Jr. were awarded many building contracts through the Netcott family architect, Harry Netcott.

There is no doubt that George A. Netcott participated in the construction of 8 buildings on the north-south running Main Street in Parkersburg, as well as the construction of the new school building in 1894, the Ed Scherling residence and the Netcott-Pfeiffer House, which he later purchased.

In an interview with George A. Netcott's 90 year-old granddaughter, M. Wagner, she recollects as a young girl, seeing pictures of her grandfather and great-grandfather (George Netcott, Jr.) at a work site, standing in front of a large brick building with huge stone ornamentation. She was unsure whether this was the C. C. Wolf Mansion in Parkersburg, Iowa, but said it was entirely possible.

During an interview with N. Jochumsen, great-great-grandson of George A. Netcott, he related that George A. Netcott built his last house at the age of 88 years old and then moved to Arizona to live with the Jochumsen family for a time. It was then that George A. Netcott told of working on many jobs with his father, George Netcott, Jr. and brothers, Harry, Tom and Will. Mr. Jochumsen related that bricklayers now have a limit of setting about 700 brick per day. His great-grandfather, George A. Netcott could set as many as 2200 brick per day. This is certainly part of the reason why the Netcott family secured so many building contracts. Mr. Jochumsen stated that being a builder in the Netcott family was held in high regard. He had wanted to be a lawyer, but at the insistence of his grandmother (George A. Netcott's granddaughter) he also became a builder.

Due to missing local newspaper editions, it is unknown how many more buildings the Netcotts may have built in the Parkersburg area before returning

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to Independence, Iowa.

In 1926 the *Netcott Brothers*, including George A., were responsible for building several of the Experimental Labs in Ames, Story County, Iowa, as well as St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell, Poweshiek County, Iowa.

Although documentation is lacking, M. Wagner, 90 year-old granddaughter of George A. Netcott, related in an interview that her grandfather was a builder for at least part of the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville, Iowa.

Paul M. Pfeiffer (b.1868-d.1944)

Paul M. Pfeiffer was born in 1868 in Cedar Falls, Iowa, to Henry and Barbara Kluffling Pfeiffer, a pioneer Cedar Falls farming family that emigrated from Bavaria. As a young man, Paul Pfeiffer worked on the family farm and developed an appreciation for agriculture that would later make him a very wealthy man.

A consummate businessman as was his brother before him, Paul Pfeiffer knew a business opportunity when he saw one. Paul Pfeiffer's older brother, Henry, was operating Pfeiffer Drug in Cedar Falls and Paul may have had some experience in that store before moving to Parkersburg in the late 1880s to work in a drug store that eventually he and brother, Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, would own. Pfeiffer Drug Co. ads began appearing in the local paper in late 1888. In the 1880s, Parkersburg, Iowa, was a rapidly-growing boon for almost any business that wanted to associate themselves with the town. Over-populated and continually making efforts to keep up with larger cities by modernizing the utility systems, city sidewalks, water works, roadways, and public buildings, work was always going on in the small town. As quoted in History of Butler County, Volume I, 1883, "One of the most important thoroughfares in the country, a very desirable shipping facility and one of the most important grain markets in northern Iowa." Parkersburg had an excellent economy, and after the fire of 1893, only one drug store. The Illinois Central Railroad located on the north end of Parkersburg was part of the reason for the booming economy, as well as the Beaver River, located just north of the railroad.

According to a Pfeiffer family biography, Paul Pfeiffer was operating the business in Parkersburg while Gus Pfeiffer was attending the Illinois College of Pharmacy in Chicago. Gus Pfeiffer did not publicly attach his name to the business until after the new Pfeiffer business building was erected in 1894 by the Netcotts.

Most accounts of the Pfeiffer Drug Co. history in Parkersburg do not involve Gus Pfeiffer as an owner until after his arrival in 1894. After the fire of 1893 that destroyed the downtown business district, a large article published in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* in October 1893 already listed the drug

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company as "G. A. Pfeiffer & Co." on the personal loss insurance applications list, along with losses of \$4,500 on drugs and fixtures, with \$2,500 in insurance coverage. The Pfeiffer brothers at that time were renting the building from J.A. Foote. After the fire in 1893, Paul Pfeiffer secured a lot from Mrs. Charles Juel on the Main Street to erect a new business building.

In the midst of ashes, and according to the local newspaper, "G. A. Pfeiffer & Co. have rented the old French building opposite Scherling Bros. general merchandise store, and will be in running order next week. Goods all ordered and we shall be in shape to accommodate our customers to everything in our line."

At the time of the fire, the *Waterloo Courier* reported that "the fire started in some dry goods boxes between Pfeiffer's Drugstore and Gleason and Allen's Shoe Store. It was believed to have been incendiary in origin and some of the losers stated they had been warned within a few days that they had better carry pretty heavy insurance."

Sometime between 1892 and 1893 Paul M. Pfeiffer became a director and cashier of the State Exchange Bank in Parkersburg. It is unclear as to what year, due to missing documentation.

In 1893 Gus Pfeiffer graduated the Illinois College of Pharmacy and arrived in Parkersburg to assist running the drug store in 1894. In February 1894 Paul Pfeiffer was elected to the Parkersburg City Council. He may have served previous to this time period, but records are lacking. He would have worked closely with the Netcotts on reconstructing the town through city council meetings as Harry Netcott was the Building Committee chair. Paul and Gus Pfeiffer later purchased the Netcott-Pfeiffer House from George A. Netcott. Paul Pfeiffer served on the city council through 1899.

An 1894 article from the *Cedar Falls Globe* tells of Paul Pfeiffer being out about the town of Cedar Falls, some twenty miles from Parkersburg, doing some public speaking "of the calamity which befell their town last year and said it proved to be a blessing in disguise... He went on to offer choice lots, valued at 1800.00, to any man that would build a brick hotel there. Mr. Pfeiffer, cashier of the Citizen's bank, in which institution he has \$11,000.00 worth of stock, is also head of Pfeiffer & Co. of that place. The firm is among those who are building. Gus Pfeiffer is also a member of this firm and is a hustler." During this time, Paul Pfeiffer was also instrumental in the formation of the new waterworks system in the city of Parkersburg.

The town of Parkersburg had been a thriving bee-hive of economic activity before the fire in 1893, and now a year later was over-run with construction laborers with no place to house them.

With the completion of the new Pfeiffer building on the Main Street, large

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ads in the local newspaper began to appear advertising the business as "G. A. Pfeiffer & Co., Leading Druggists." The stock carried by the Pfeiffers was not just limited to drug items. The store also carried books, stationery, perfume, a variety of brushes, lamps, lampshades, wallpaper, *Sherwin-Williams* paints, and window treatments. It was not unusual to see 4 or 5 *Pfeiffer Drug Co.* sale ads scattered among the "local news" columns. The only other drug store in town had perished in the fire, so the Pfeiffer brothers were doing a brisk business at this time.

In 1894 Paul M. Pfeiffer and Mary Alice Downey of Parkersburg were united in marriage. Paul Pfeiffer had become a well-known and respected businessman in the area and at this time, and along with brother, Gus, began to amass great wealth. Together they purchased over 300 acres to the north of Parkersburg. Paul went on to purchase a \$7,700.00 barn near Shell Rock, Iowa, and a 400-acre "ranch" near Dows, Iowa. According to deed transfer records, Paul Pfeiffer also owned properties in Allison, Iowa.

The 1895 Iowa, Parkersburg, Albion Township census lists Paul Pfeiffer's occupation as "banker."

In February 1896, Paul and Gus Pfeiffer purchased the Netcott-Pfeiffer House from George A. Netcott and wife, Alice. The Paul Pfeiffer family would occupy half the house and soon-to-be-married Gus Pfeiffer and wife would occupy the other half.

In 1899, Paul M. Pfeiffer resigned his position as a director of the State Exchange Bank and his position as a city councilman. He, along with Gus, sold G. A. Pfeiffer & Co. to G. N. Clark, who continued the business. In January 1900, Paul Pfeiffer bought Gus Pfeiffer's half interest in the Netcott-Pfeiffer house. Gustavus A. Pfeiffer and wife, Louise left Parkersburg to relocate in St. Louis. In 1901 Paul and Mary Pfeiffer sold the Netcott-Pfeiffer House and moved to St. Louis to assist brothers Henry and Gus in launching The Pfeiffer Chemical Company. Even after moving to St. Louis, Paul Pfeiffer returned to the Parkersburg area to transact business and run his farms. He employed local people to care for the properties in his absence. In December 1902, Paul Pfeiffer was mentioned in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* as making a "foray to his Dows property that morning to look after farming interests."

Only partial years of the local newspaper survive during 1892, 1893, 1894 and July 1903 through January 1905. With as much involvement in city politics, and other documentation as to the millions that he and his brothers and sisters graciously gave to the betterment of others, surely there is missing, vital information on Paul (and Gus) Pfeiffer as to civic or philanthropic efforts made in Parkersburg by Paul Pfeiffer at that time, and quite possibly in the years after he left the town.

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The G. A. Pfeiffer & Co. drugstore building still stands on the Main Street in Parkersburg today. It is one of a block of six brick business buildings with like architectural features built by the Netcotts after the fire of 1893. The Pfeiffer drugstore building has little historic architectural integrity due to neglect and modernization. The interior second story of the building has deteriorated through neglect. Some of the original upper level windows have fallen out and have been boarded up although they maintain their original casements. The exterior street level store front has been modernized. After Pfeiffer Drug ceased to exist, Dreyer Drug operated in the same building for many years. During the 1950s Dreyer Drug expanded to include the store to the north by creating a door opening in the wall between the two buildings. Sometime during the 1980s the opening between the two stores was eliminated and the two buildings were sold. The original Pfeiffer building has been completely revamped inside to accommodate what is currently the town flower shop. Buildings to both the north and south of the Pfeiffer drug building have had extensive changes made to both the inside and outside due to modernization between 1980 and 2005.

Gustavus Adolphus Pfeiffer (b.1872-d.1953)

Gustavus A. Pfeiffer was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1872 to Henry and Barbara Klufflinger Pfeiffer, an early pioneer farming family.

"Money serves its intended purpose when it is used for helping humanity, not when it is hoarded."

This quote is from millionaire Gus Pfeiffer, a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, who moved to Parkersburg in 1894 to join his brother, Paul M. Pfeiffer, in a venture that, through acquisitions, would eventually become one of the largest pharmaceutical/drug companies in the world.

Gus Pfeiffer graduated from a local Cedar Falls, Iowa, high school in 1888, attended the University of Michigan from 1889-90, and after his graduation from the Illinois College of Pharmacy in 1893, Gus Pfeiffer moved to Parkersburg, Iowa, where the G.A. Pfeiffer & Co. drug store was opened in 1894. Paul Pfeiffer had already been in Parkersburg for some time and had purchased the drug store there after first being an employee. The store was a joint venture of the Pfeiffer brothers and the history of their business has been previously documented under Paul Pfeiffer's statement of significance. In local newspapers Gus Pfeiffer was identified as a "hustler."

Gus Pfeiffer is listed in the 1895 Butler County census at the age of 23 as a "druggist." Little did anyone know that he would become far more than that: A philanthropist, an international industrialist, a collector, a writer and humanitarian.

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In 1896, Gus and Paul Pfeiffer purchased the home sitting on lot #19 of the Wemple's Addition in Parkersburg. Also in 1896, Gus Pfeiffer married Louise Foote, a Parkersburg native.

In 1901 Gus sold his half-interest in that home and moved to St. Louis with brother Henry to establish Pfeiffer Pharmaceuticals. Through acquisitions of other pharmacy houses, Gus Pfeiffer became vice-president and treasurer of the William Warner Chemical Co., later to become its chairman of the board in 1908, relinquishing the Pfeiffer Chemicals name and keeping the Warner name.

After leaving Cedar Falls and Parkersburg, Iowa, where he had lived and worked as a young man, some of the first generous acts by Gus Pfeiffer after becoming very rich were for the betterment of these two towns. In 1926, the *Cedar Falls Record* ran a front page story relating how brothers, Henry Pfeiffer of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Gus Pfeiffer, of New York made a trip to Parkersburg, Iowa, to honor Gus Pfeiffer's wife, and her family name. Louise Foote Pfeiffer was the daughter of a pioneer Parkersburg family. It was at a special meeting of the Parkersburg school board, that Gus Pfeiffer donated \$10,000 for the purchase of the C. C. Wolf Mansion for use as a school, to be named "Louise Foote Hall" in honor of his wife. The Pfeiffers both had been personally acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Wolf while engaged in business in Parkersburg in the 1890s. The Pfeiffers had also watched the construction of the mansion by the Netcotts in 1895. Later, through unacceptable changes made to the structure of the mansion, Gus Pfeiffer would not allow his wife's name to adorn it. These changes included the removal of the upper front balcony of the mansion, the removal of the front porch and the removal of the second story bedroom and bathroom walls to open up the middle portion of the mansion for use as an auditorium. The building has since been used as a public library, community house and recreation hall. The C. C. Wolf Mansion was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Once again in 1949, Gus Pfeiffer honored Parkersburg by donating 110 shares of William Warner stock, of which the interest was to be used for the upkeep of the C. C. Wolf Mansion. Pfeiffer also remembered his home town of Cedar Falls, Iowa, by bequeathing 20 shares of Warner stock to the Cedar Falls Western Home and 5 shares to the First Evangelical Church. In 1928, in honor of their sister, Mrs. David Merner, Gus and Henry Pfeiffer gifted enough money to the Cedar Falls Women's Society, of which their sister was a founding member, for the purchase of the 1880s J. T. Knapp Victorian home in Cedar Falls, Iowa. They also gifted an additional \$20,000 for maintenance of the structure. This home was to be used as the Cedar Falls Women's Club. It still is being used today.

It was a well-known and common practice among the brothers and sisters of

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the Pfeiffer family to gift land or money to a cause and memorialize in honor of a family member.

According to E. T. Jaynes, in Recollections and Mememtos of G. A. Pfeiffer, Gus Pfeiffer returned to Parkersburg "surprisingly often" to visit with friends after moving away from the small town where he had operated his drug store.

Paul Pfeiffer's daughter Pauline, a Parkersburg native, benefited greatly from the generosity of her uncle Gus. Uncle Gus's financial generosity to Ernest Hemingway while married to Pauline contributed heavily to his success as a writer. Uncle Gus paid the rent on their apartment in Paris, bought Hemingway his first home in Key West, Florida in 1931, as well as a new automobile. In 1933 he also financed the African safari that Hemingway and Pauline went on. Three of Hemingway's books came out of that experience. Over 125 incoming correspondences of Gus Pfeiffer to Ernest Hemingway exist in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

After leaving Parkersburg, Gus Pfeiffer and his wife benefited medicine and public health by establishing foundations, fellowships, scholarships, grants, libraries, and teaching labs to better that field of study. Their gifts of land, financial support and private collections were given generously for use and enjoyment by the public in several different states.

Although there are many more acts of selflessness by Gus Pfeiffer, it would be too many to mention, and surely we could never know of them all.

A book written by G.A. Pfeiffer privately printed in 1955 after his death entitled: Philosophical Writings and Aphorisms of Gustavus A. Pfeiffer leaves us with this message:

"Life's legacy is to leave a better world than we found."

Gus Pfeiffer's legacy has surely been realized.

Pauline Marie Pfeiffer-Hemingway (b.1895-d.1951)

Pauline Pfeiffer was born to Paul M. and Mary Alice Downey Pfeiffer in Parkersburg, Iowa in 1895. She occupied the Netcott-Pfeiffer House from 1896-1901. Pauline Pfeiffer started out as a young child in a tiny Iowa town, and ended up an American heiress. Pauline Pfeiffer experienced life as a wealthy Arkansas socialite, fashion magazine journalist and editor for Vanity Fair and Vogue Paris, world traveler and wife of an up-coming Nobel laureate and Pulitzer prize-winning writer.

During Hemingway's marriage to Pauline Pfeiffer, the impact of the Pfeiffers provided insight to the writings of Ernest Hemingway by examining world events from the perspective of a family with global connections. Hemingway visited with Pauline's family on numerous occasions, taking his

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experiences with people there and implanting them into his writings. A Farewell to Arms was written during this time period and dedicated to Gus Pfeiffer. Almost 300 correspondences from Paul, Mary and Pauline Pfeiffer to Ernest Hemingway are now housed in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library archives.

Edwin Thomas Jaynes (b.1922-d.1998)

Edwin T. Jaynes was born outside Waterloo, Iowa, in 1922 and in infancy, after the death of his father, Jaynes and family moved back to his mother's home-town of Parkersburg, Iowa to live in "the double house."

Jaynes, in Recollections and Mementos of G. A. Pfeiffer, recalls his family not having any money while growing up in Parkersburg except for the income from renting out half the house (the same double house that Gus and Paul Pfeiffer lived in 40 years earlier).

E. T. Jaynes went on to become a scientific author, Wayman Crow Professor of Physics, an international leader in the fields of Statistical Physics and Probability Theory and chief architect of a universal Inferential Calculus for science. E. T. Jaynes helped to develop Doppler radar and microwave systems and his interpretation of probability theory is currently being applied daily to economics, physics, biology, nuclear magnetic resonance as well as other fields.

In summary, the Netcott-Pfeiffer House has had significant association as an early residence of people that have changed the course of history, lives and communities of others on a local level in the areas of science, music, industry, literature, medicine, invention and historic preservation.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer house, built in 1894, possesses the high artistic values of a craftsman and master builder and is a fine example of early work by the Netcott family, a regionally, highly-sought architectural building firm of the highest quality building standards.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer Italianate double house is historically significant in design as it was built during a time period when both the economic growth and the population had all but burst the boundaries of the small Iowa town of Parkersburg.

The double house was a feature found mostly in the northwest United States, in cities with a booming business economy and a need for worker housing. At that time, many of these houses were built by prominent individuals who would live in half the house and rent out the other half for additional income.

Influenced by the double house movement in larger surrounding cities, and as a product of urban growth, the innovative Netcott family in building their

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own residence had chosen this design, thus alleviating the problem of housing shortage for their family, as well as producing an income-generating investment.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer house is one of two wood-framed structures remaining in the town of Parkersburg, Iowa, retaining this amount of original artistry and craftsmanship. It remains as one of the best examples of a late Victorian Italianate double structure in the area. No other double house is known to have existed in Parkersburg, Iowa. No other documented double house by the Netcott family is known to exist.

The Netcott-Pfeiffer house is significant in relation to local history as it was the residence of two early businessmen, Paul M. and Gustavus A. Pfeiffer, who were instrumental in the early development of the infrastructure of Parkersburg, Iowa. Paul M. Pfeiffer contributed through his service in city government as well as his role as a prominent businessman from 1888-1901. Brother to Paul, Gustavus A. Pfeiffer contributed locally as a businessman from 1894-1900, and after leaving Parkersburg, was a generous supporter of the community through the purchase of the C. C. Wolf Mansion for the community's use, as well as contributing funds for upkeep of the building that still are supporting it today. The interest from 110 shares of William Warner stock given by Gus Pfeiffer is used each year by the local historical society to help maintain this fine Victorian home. The C. C. Wolf Mansion has been used publicly as a library, for school classrooms, as a community center, as a recreation center, and currently houses the local historical society. Gus Pfeiffer has given the city of Parkersburg not only a lasting memorial to his wife, Louise, but a generous gift of local historical significance for future generations to enjoy. Even though Louise Pfeiffer's name has long since been removed from the C. C. Wolf Mansion, it is still mentioned by tour guides as part of the past history of the building, and remains to be a lasting memorial to her, albeit with no blessing from Gus Pfeiffer. Both brothers continued to make generous gifts for the betterment of others in all forms of philanthropic gestures throughout many cities.

Both Paul and Gus Pfeiffer were very young men when they moved to Parkersburg, Iowa, to engage in a business that would eventually make them extremely wealthy. Parkersburg was the beginning of their life-long endeavor to enrich the lives of others through either their chosen profession or their generous civic or philanthropic efforts. Without their involvement as businessmen in the early development of Parkersburg, Iowa, the lives of so many others would not have been changed for the better. It is clear from newspaper articles that Paul Pfeiffer was a large public supporter of rebuilding Parkersburg after the fire of 1893, publicly speaking to people many miles from

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home, encouraging them to bring their businesses to the fast-growing little town.

Some local documentation is lacking during the years 1892-1905 when the Pfeiffers lived in Parkersburg. It is highly likely, as was the Pfeiffer tradition, that they contributed to the community of Parkersburg much more than we are able to substantiate.

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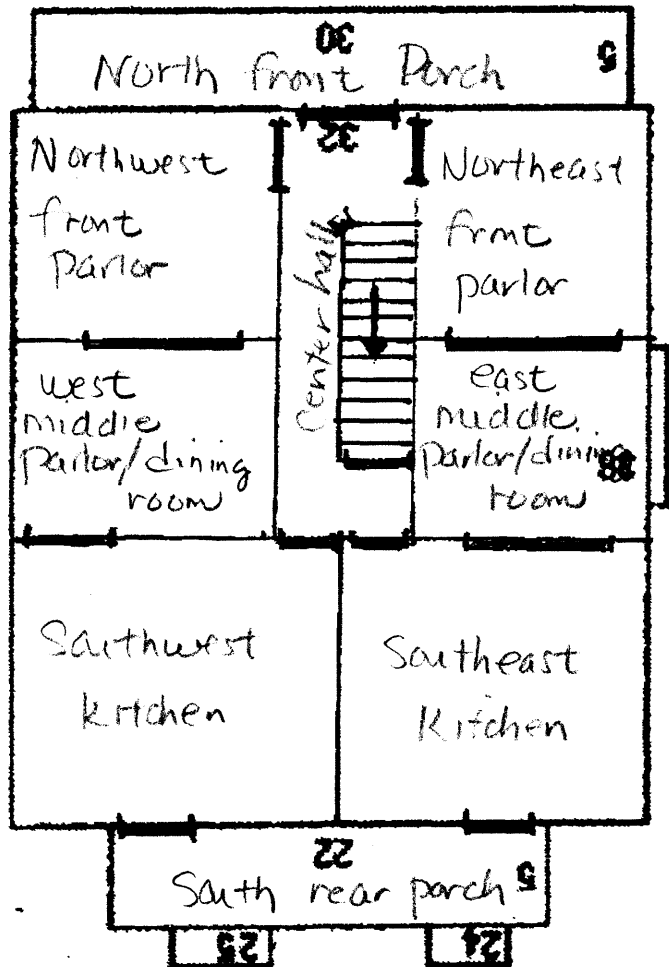
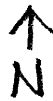
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NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

FLOOR PLAN NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE (FIRST LEVEL): November 7, 2006
(Source: owner of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House)



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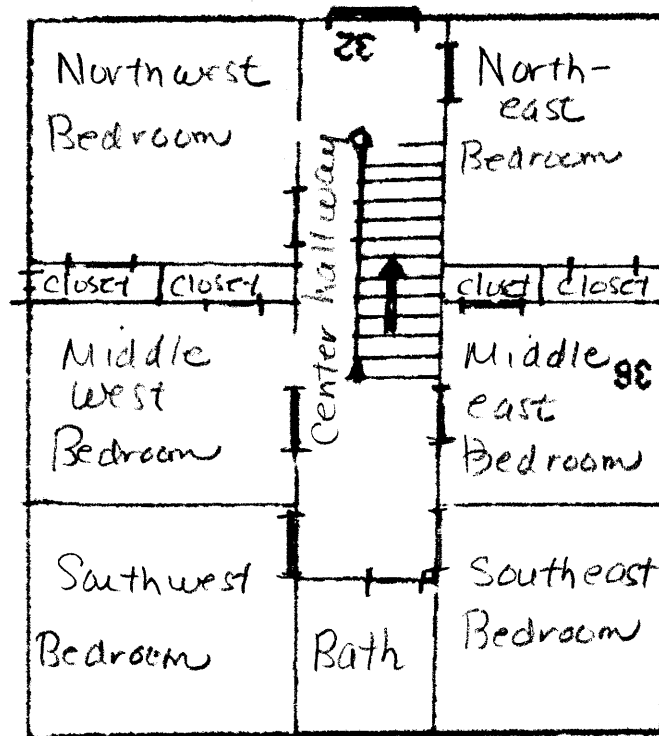
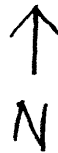
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NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
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FLOOR PLAN NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE SECOND LEVEL: November 7, 2006
(Source: owner of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House).



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NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
Name of property

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County and state

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Section 10 Page 27

NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and state

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Lot (19) and the West sixteen feet of Lots Twenty (20) and (21) together with Alley lying between Lots (19) and (24), all in Wemple's Addition to the town of Parkersburg, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the parcel listed in the verbal description that is historically associated with the Netcott-Pfeiffer House.

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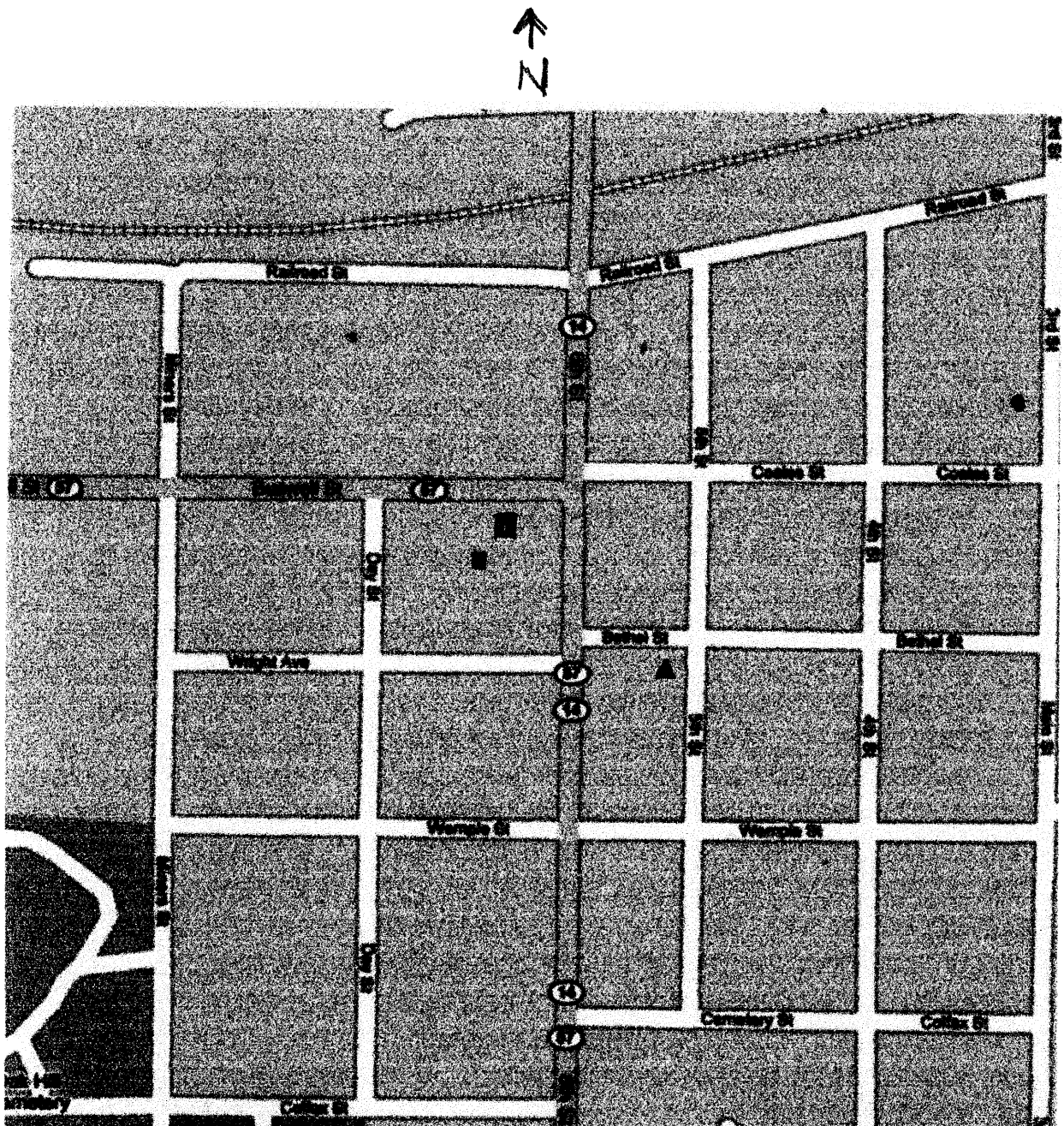
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Section SITE MAP Page 28

NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and state

Source: Internet-Google Maps, November 24, 2006



- Netcott - Pfeiffer House
- Non-contributing garage

- ▲ C.C. Wolf Mansion
- Pfeiffer Drug Store

Scale: approx 1/37th

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

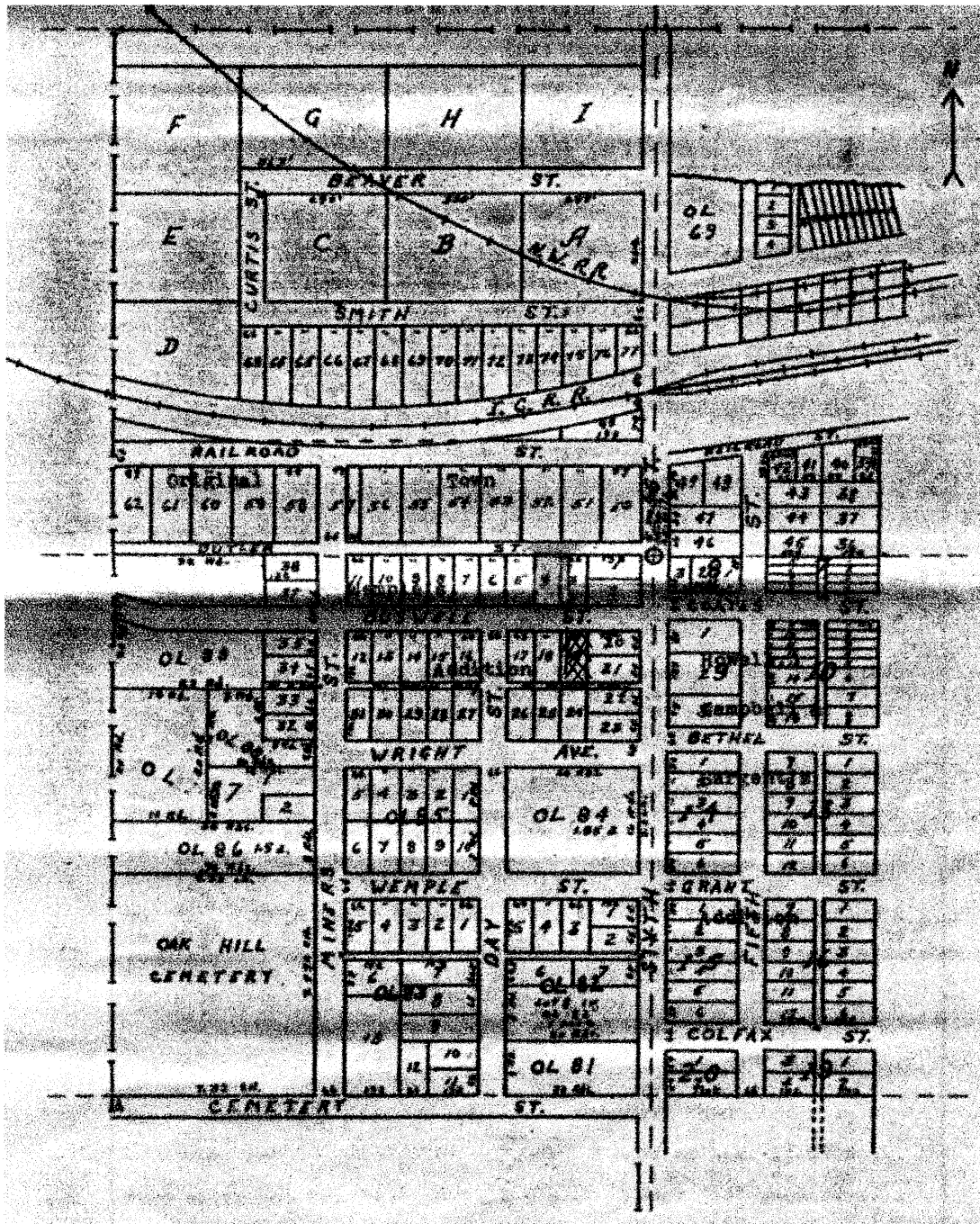
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Section PLAT MAP Page 29

NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

Source: ABSTRACT OF TITLE BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA November 24, 2006



 Lot #19 Wemple's Addition (Netcott-Pfeiffer Property)

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Section Photos Page 30

NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and state

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PHOTOS:

Photographer for pictures #1-11 was Melodie McLean. #12 is unknown.
Type of Ink: Epson Picturemate Ink Type of Paper: Epson Picturemate Photo Paper

1. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer1.tif:
 September 18, 2006
 Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer1.tif: Northeast front corner of Netcott-Pfeiffer House taken facing southwest

2. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer2.tif:
 September 6, 2006
 Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer2.tif: Northwest front corner of Netcott-Pfeiffer House taken facing southeast.

3. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer3.tif:
 September 6, 2006
 Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer3.tif: North (front) of Netcott-Pfeiffer House taken facing south.

4. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer4.tif:
 September 8, 2006
 Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer4.tif: Southeast rear corner of Netcott-Pfeiffer House taken facing northwest, showing two rear entrances: "Mother-in-law's" design.

5. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer5.tif:
 September 8, 2006
 Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer5.tif: Picture taken facing south showing front of Netcott-Pfeiffer House and placement of non-contributing garage.

6. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer6.tif:
 September 8, 2006
 Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer6.tif: Picture taken facing north from rear of justified boundary showing rear of Netcott-Pfeiffer House and other like period homes to the north of it across the highway.

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Section Photos Page 31

NETCOTT-PFEIFFER HOUSE
name of property

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- =====
7. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer7.tif:
September 8, 2006
Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer7.tif: Detail of north (front) porch of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House.
 8. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer8.tif:
September 12, 2006
Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer8.tif: Picture taken facing northwest showing the north front entrance with entry doors into either the west or east front parlors.
 9. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer9.tif:
September 12, 2006
Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer9.tif: Picture taken facing south down center hallway between the two separate living areas of the house showing the entrance doors into the east and west kitchens.
 10. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer10.tif:
September 6, 2006
Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer10.tif: Picture taken facing south showing the east-side main level living area from the front east parlor through to the east kitchen (shows built-ins and rear entrance).
 11. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer11.tif:
September 18, 2006
Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer11.tif:
Picture taken facing south, showing the west-side main level living area from the front west parlor through to the west kitchen (shows built-ins and a single doorway on this side).
 12. IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer12.tif:
Taken approximately 1899
Description: IA_ButlerCounty_Netcott-Pfeiffer12.tif: Picture taken facing south showing a young Pauline Pfeiffer sitting on the front steps of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House in what appears to be a "special occasion" dress.
Photographer: Unknown
Negatives from an original print and cd-r digital located at McLean residence, 401 Coates Street in Parkersburg, IA.