

Davenport
Department of Community Development
Iowa Office of Historic Preservation
Dennett, Muessig & Associates, Ltd.

DAVENPORT SURVEY 1982

SITE #82-10-NW -4804 **MAP NUMBER**
HISTORIC DISTRICT
NAME Marie Clare Dessaint House
ADDRESS 4808 Northwest Blvd.



LEGAL DESCRIPTION Residential Bldg. on Agri.
Land from Parcel #P1116 03 (see continuation
sheet)

ACREAGE <1 **ZONE** R3D **UTM** 15/701190 4604610
OWNER Joseph Seng, Jr. **TITLE** H
Lost Nation IA

DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE Italian Villa **DATE** c. 1865-70
FORM 2 stories; upright and wing with three-stage entrance tower in
re-entrant angle; 1-1/2 story gable-roofed kitchen wing @ rear, with
shed-roofed porch supported on turned posts on north side; shed-roofed addition
to kitchen wing on south side also
MATERIALS clapboarded frame construction on concrete-covered stone basement
FENESTRATION 6/6 d.h.s. below straight, molded cornices; round-arched small
windows in front gable at attic level, and in third stage of tower
FEATURES large paired scroll brackets and architrave molding ornament
the broad cornice; double-door main entrance has segmental-arched transom
light; windows in south wing are flanked by recessed panels which hold shutters
flush with wall surface
ALTERATIONS screen doors; front porch and stoop not original, likely from
turn of the century; exterior experienced major repairs and new siding c. 1965
SITE large open lot in semi-rural area; originally part of an
agricultural estate

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE This house is an outstanding example of the
Italian Villa style, perhaps the finest of its kind in Davenport. During the
1870's and 1880's, a number of Villa-style residences were built in the city,
but most were "hybrids" combining the Villa's tower with a rectangular,
sometimes even symmetrical, main block, features more commonly associated with
the Italianate style. Only three or four Villa-style houses were built with
a gable-roofed L-plan, among them this house, which is the least altered.
Although the front porch is not original, the house displays a handsome
bracketed cornice and somewhat unusual (but practical) window treatment on the
wing, where recessed panels hold shutters out of the way of the wind. Set amid
tall, widely spaced shade trees on an expansive lot, the house still retains
much of its character as a country dwelling, though development is encroaching
from all sides.

HISTORICAL DATA

This house is believed to have been constructed around 1865, along what was then known as Allens Grove Road. The owner of the house and the adjacent 143 acres was, from available evidence, Marie Clare Dessaint. Dessaint was a member of the Dessaint lumber milling family in Davenport. The house subsequently passed through several owners, including Peter Kerker (c. 1871 to 1890) before its purchase by Simon Seng in 1905. The Seng family continues in ownership today.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

SOURCES "Seng Farmstead 100 Years Old," undated newspaper clipping, c. 1965
Scott County Auditor's Deed Transfer Books 6:180; 3:194; 9:17; 7:329;
6:108 and 1:487

ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION

DESIGN excellent STATURE incident
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE local

CONTEXT poor FABRIC excellent
DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION

HISTORICAL EVALUATION

PRIMARY THEME
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

SECONDARY THEME

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE yes

PHOTO ID 1763-27A,28A,29A

Martha H. Bowers, Architectural Historian

Marlys Svendsen, Historian

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY

1 DATE RECEIVED _____

2 DATE OF STAFF EVALUATION _____

	A ARCHITECTURAL	B HISTORICAL
ELIGIBLE FOR NRHP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NRHP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 NRHP ACTION

A STATE REVIEW COMM	APP <input type="checkbox"/>	DISAPP <input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE _____
B FEDERAL REVIEW	APP <input type="checkbox"/>	DISAPP <input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE _____

4 DHP SOURCES

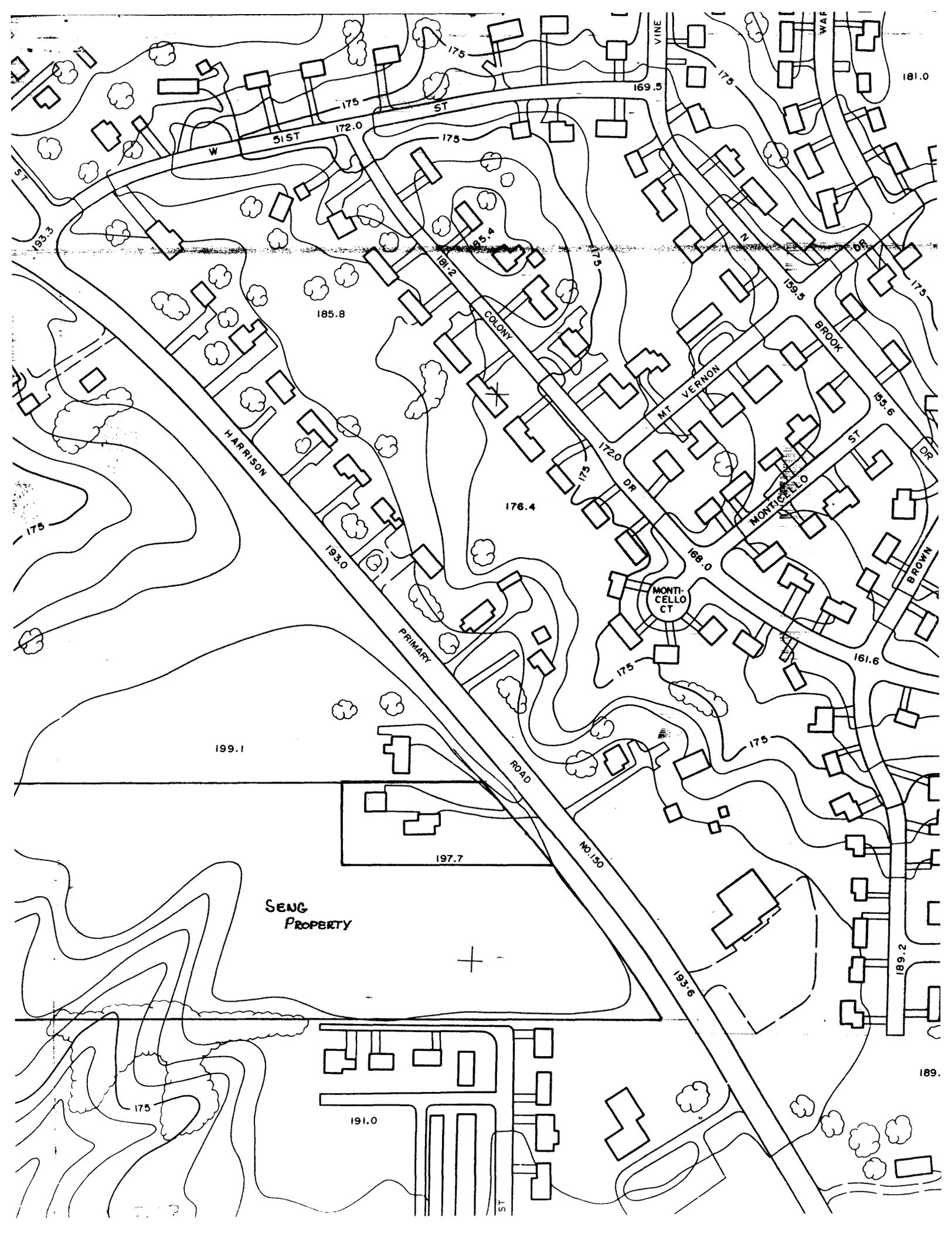
<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> DET OF ELIGIBILITY
<input type="checkbox"/> WSHIELD SURVEY	<input type="checkbox"/> R B C _____
<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

5 SUBJECT TRACES _____

6 PHOTO _____

Boundary Description

Commencing in the intersection of the north right-of-way of 46th Street and the westerly right-of-way line of Northwest Boulevard; thence northerly along the westerly right-of-way line of Northwest Boulevard approximately 1080 feet to the point of beginning; thence west approximately 370 feet; thence north approximately 150 feet; thence east approximately 250 feet to the westerly right-of-way line of Northwest Boulevard; thence southerly along the westerly right-of-way line of Northwest Boulevard for approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.



SENG
PROPERTY

199.1

197.7

191.0

185.8

176.4

175

175

175

189.

189.2

161.6

155.6

181.0

175

169.5

175

175

172.0

175

185.4

175

172.0

175

193.3

175

175

St.

HARRISON
PRIMARY

RD. 150

COLONY

MONTICELLO
CT

MONTICELLO

MT VERNON

BROOK

BROOK

BROOK

BROOK

BROWN

BROWN

BROWN

BROWN

BROWN

BROWN

BROWN

W 51ST

ST

VINE

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St.