

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Upper Paradise
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Route 2 (Paradise Valley Rd) D-57
city, town Bellevue
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52031

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, Iowa
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination (checked) 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 (checked) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 7/5/91
State or Federal agency and bureau: State Historical Society of Iowa

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
Entered in the National Register (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register ( )
determined not eligible for the National Register ( )
removed from the National Register ( )
other, (explain:)
Entered in the National Register (stamp)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 8/30/91

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century  
vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone  
walls Limestone w/ stucco  
roof Composition shingles  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This house can truly be called a hip roof cube. It is three stories in front, two in the rear, and measures 36'2" on each side. The five bay symmetrical facade is located on the east elevation. Doors are found at both ground level, and at the second floor, indicating existence of a porch or balcony originally. Limestone sills and lintels are used throughout the building, and all windows are 6/6 double hung. The low pitched hip roof retains a belvedere, similar to that found on E.G. Potter's residence (Paradise Farm) a mile to the east. The overall size and shape of the house is quite similar to not only the Potter residence, but Big Mill Homestead, and another house just outside the Bellevue city limits on the Paradise Valley road. All appear to have been constructed c.1845-50.

The really unusual aspect of this house is the treatment of the exterior. The walls appear at first glance to be of large ashlar blocks, or even of concrete block. The walls have been covered with a thick coat of rough textured stucco, then scored to create this ashlar appearance. This appears to have been the original exterior surface treatment.

Just as the house is very similar on the exterior to Paradise Farm, the interior also repeats the plan. A rock wall is located in the center of the house from the first through third floors. Additional, non-loadbearing walls divide the space into rooms. The exterior walls taper as they rise.

The site of this house retains much of its original integrity. It is located on the north side of the road, in a tiny valley. Across the road to the south is Big Mill Creek which winds through all of Paradise Valley. The road is narrow and curving, much as it must have been in the mid-19th century. The road clings to the north side of the valley at the base of the wooded hills.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1847-49

Significant Dates  
1847-49

Cultural Affiliation  
N.A.

Significant Person  
N.A.

Architect/Builder  
Unknown bldr under supervision of  
E.G. Potter

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

This limestone house is significant under Criterion C as a good example of an uncommon residential design (the hip roof cube) executed in limestone from c.1850.

This house is one of 217 limestone buildings and structures identified in Jackson County, and is one of 101 houses recorded. 89 of these houses have gable roofs, while only twelve, including this one, have a hip roof. Of the hip roof houses, five are located in this valley: the E.G. Potter residence, Potter's dormitory, Big Mill Homestead, a house just west of Bellevue, and this house. All except the dormitory are almost square in shape, are built into the side of a hill so they are two stories on one side, and three on another, all have a low pitched hip roof (this one and the Potter residence have belvederes), and all feature limestone sills and lintels. While it has not yet been established that all of these are related to the Potter farm, it is known that this house was built originally for Potter's only son, Lucius B. Potter.

The exterior treatment of this house is quite unusual. Most examples of stuccoed exteriors have a thin coat of stucco applied. However, Upper Paradise is covered with a thick layer, almost like frosting on a cake. This heavy stucco may have been an experiment of some kind. It is known that Potter was a mason by training, and was fascinated with new techniques. His own house on Paradise Farm is a combination of limestone and pise' (rammed earth) construction. While Potter was responsible for the construction of a number of buildings in the valley, exactly how many of these were limestone, and how many might have been pise' has not yet been determined.

Jackson County was one of the earliest Iowa counties established, first as part of the Wisconsin Territory, then the Iowa Territory, and finally the State of Iowa. The earliest settlement in Jackson County occurred here in Bellevue township, just south of the present town of

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Abstract of Title.

Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.

Cody, Jeffery William. Earthen Wall Construction in the Eastern United States. M.A. Thesis, Cornell University, 1985.

History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879; 1897.

Paradise Farm, National Register of Historic Places Nomination by Grace Holihan, 1977.

Information from present owner, Alda Bevan Kendell, great great granddaughter of E.G. Potter.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References:

A 

1	5
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7	0	5	7	1	0
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4	6	8	2	9	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land located on the north side of County Road D-57 in T86N R4E Sec 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ . The parcel is a square measuring 57'2" on all sides, with an orientation slightly off cardinal points, centered around the subject building. This square allows for an extension of ten feet on each side of the building.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes only the house noted above. It excludes all other buildings and structures on the site.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

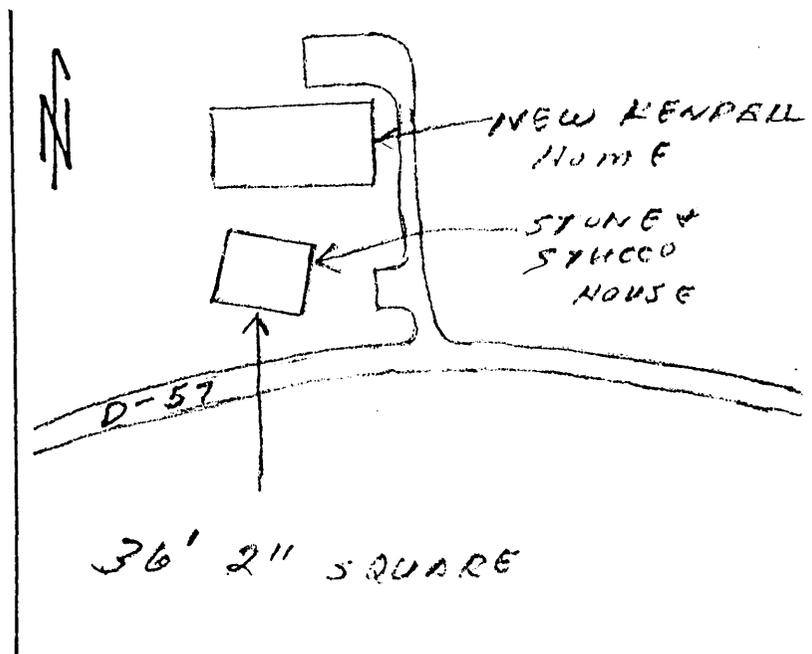
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
 organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1991  
 street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181  
 city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

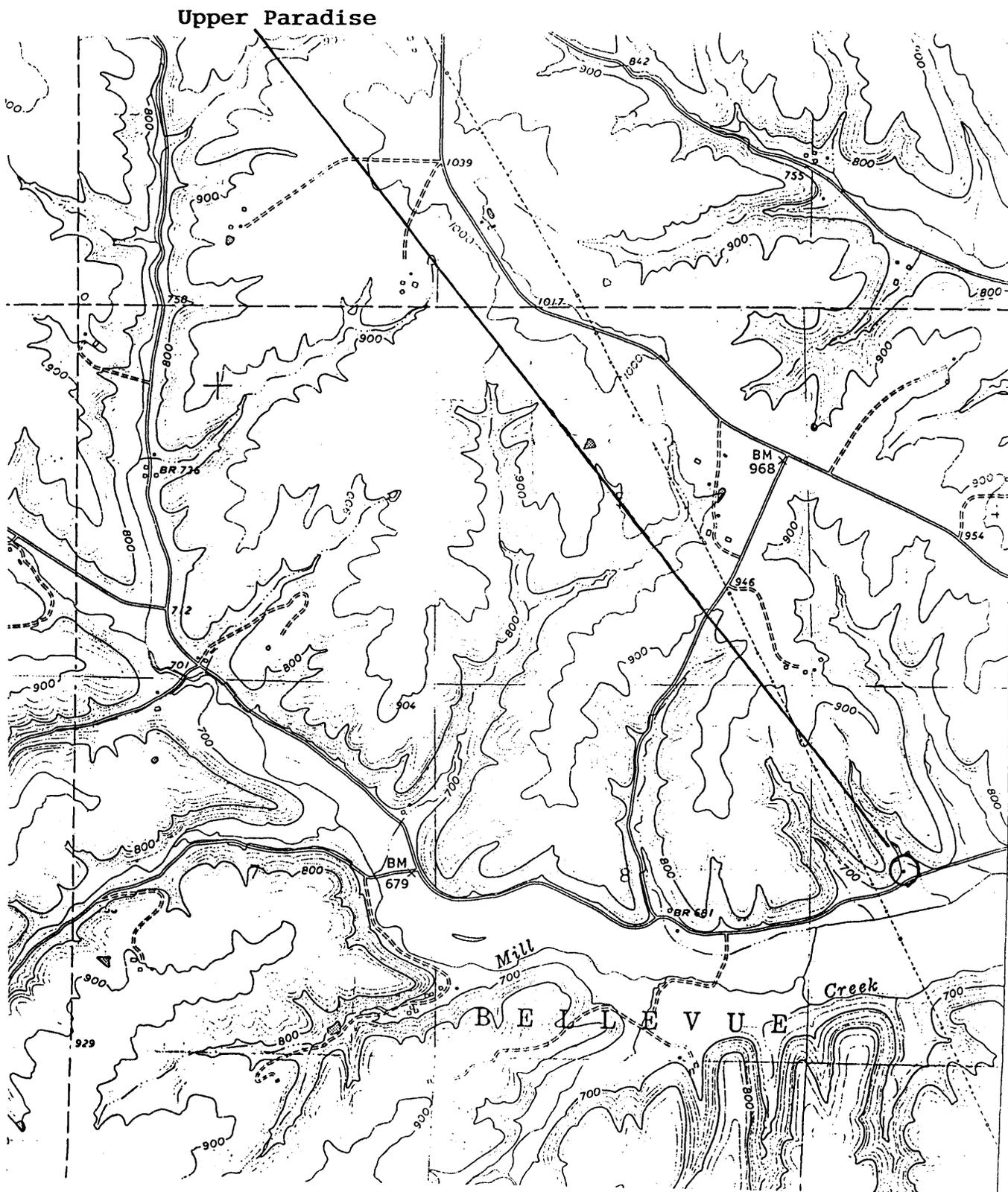


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

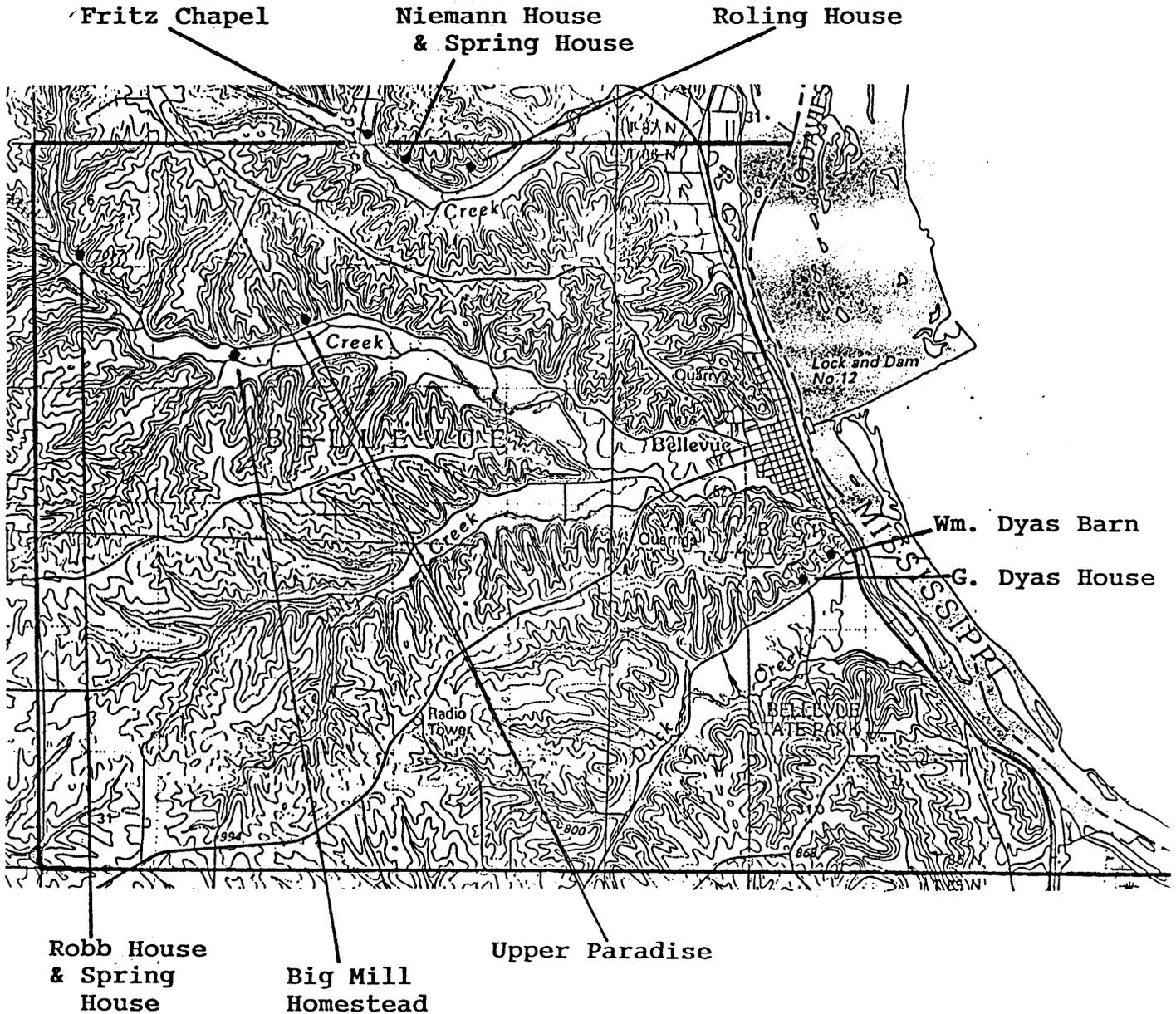


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116



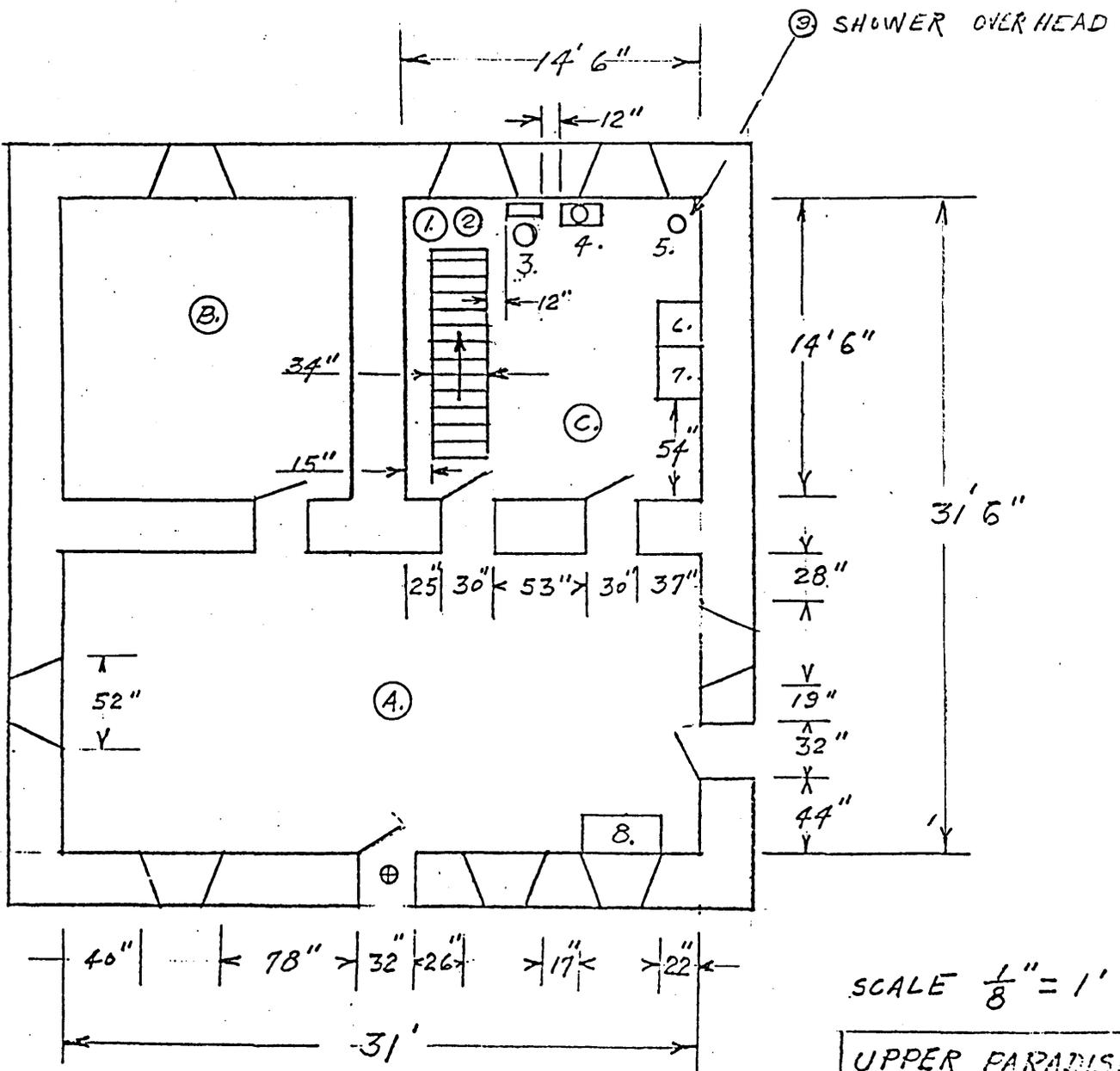
Rural limestone resources being nominated  
with this submission.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116



RAIN.  
TO BE

SCALE  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

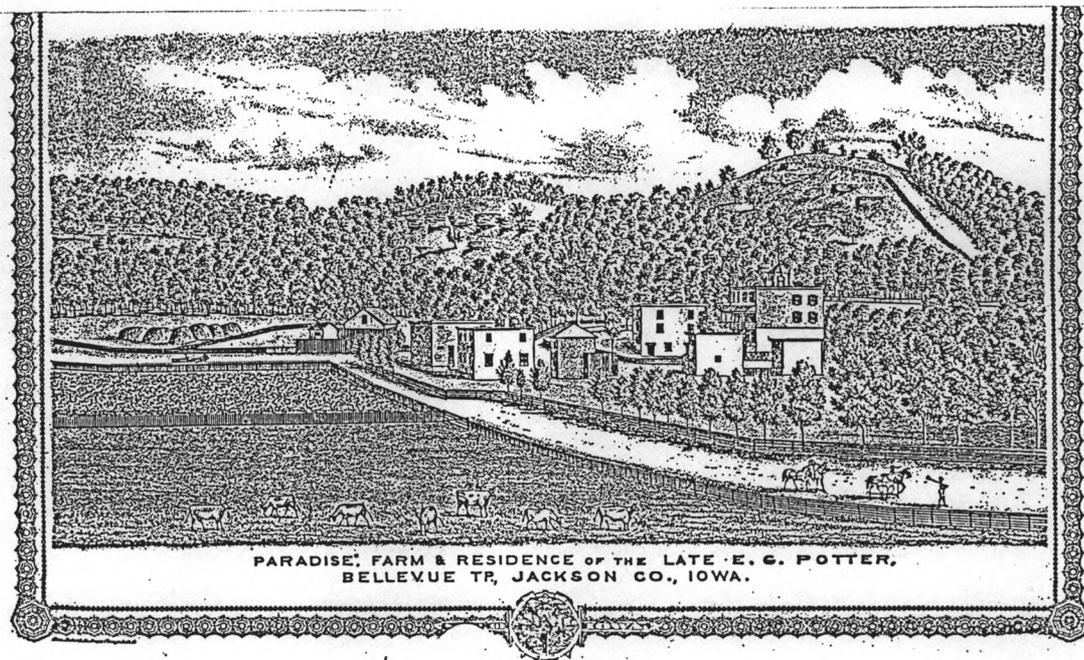
UPPER PARADISE
1ST. FLOOR
D.R.K. 8-1-54

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116



Bellevue in 1833. The area where this house is located is known as Paradise Valley, and was settled in 1842 by Capt. Elbridge G. Potter an eccentric atheist from New York. Near the end of his life it was said he owned 1400 acres in the valley, the Jasper Flouring Mill in nearby Bellevue, plus farms and other property in Iowa and across the country. Both the mill and his home (Paradise Farm) are listed on the National Register. The house was built in 1846, with the barn evidently constructed some years later.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

CFN-259-1116

