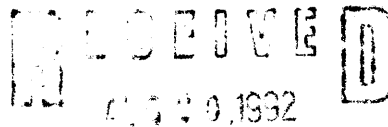


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations 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 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 Jay Norwood and Genevieve Pendleton Darling House

other names/site number Edwin and Carolyn Hunter House

2. Location

street & number 2320 Terrace Road  not for publication

city or town Des Moines  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50312

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] 8/11/92  
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] \_\_\_\_\_  
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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Beth Boland 9/30/92

Name of Property

**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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

The Conservation Movement in Iowa 1857-1942

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**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)

MIXED  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick and stone  
walls wood shingle  
capstone  
roof asphalt shingle  
other capstone chimney, trim, and  
retaining walls

**Narrative Description**

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

**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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Communication

Conservation

**Period of Significance**

1917-1942

**Significant Dates**

1926;1931;1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling

**Cultural Affiliation**

none

**Architect/Builder**

Hallett & Rawson (original 1906 building)

Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers (1926 additions)

J.N. Darling and John W. Brooks (1931, 1935 additions)

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

Darling House  
Name of Property

Polk Co., Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 5 |   | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 0 |   | 4 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 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 boundanes were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rebecca Conard

organization PHR Associates date June 6, 1991 (rev. 7-28-92)

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

city or town Lake View state Iowa 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 Edwin and Carolyn Hunter

street & number 2320 Terrace Road telephone 515/282/7552

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50312

**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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## Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

### *Section 7: Physical Description*

The Jay Norwood and Genevieve Pendleton Darling House is a sprawling, multilevel house of eclectic design and irregular plan, sited on a bluff overlooking the Raccoon River. Built into a slope, the house is somewhat larger than it appears from the street-level frontage, which spans nearly 100 feet on the north side. Exterior walls are covered with shingles, painted a dark brown, and fenestration throughout consists mainly of multipane wood sash windows of various sizes and types. The roof has several planes, comprising side-gable sections, generally with broad eaves, a Jerkinhead on the east wing, a hipped section on the south rear, and a long shed dormer on the north front.

The original house was constructed in 1906 by owner Harris H. Coggeshall, a Des Moines realtor. It was designed by the Des Moines architectural firm of Hallett and Rawson. The Darlings purchased the house in 1917, after which time they enlarged it considerably. As constructed in 1906, the house was basically rectangular in configuration, 2.5 stories high plus a basement level. It appears to have been built in the Shingle style. In 1926, the Darlings added the west wing, expanding the kitchen and creating the upstairs bedrooms as well as quarters for hired help. The rear porch also was enclosed for use as a sunroom at that time. Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers designed these modifications. In 1931, the Darlings added a wing to the east. This addition, which included the 1.5-story "Great Room" and a basement-level wine cellar, was designed by Jay Darling with architect John W. Brooks. Darling and Brooks also designed the front entrance and bay window projection, an addition constructed in 1935. After Edwin and Carolyn Hunter purchased the house in 1955, they made minor interior changes, remodeling the kitchen in 1963 and, in 1965, extending the family room into space on the basement level formerly used as a garage.

The 1.5-story east wing is Tudor in design, with a half-timbered oriel window on the northeast corner, a Gothic arch doorway located on the east wall of the lower level, and a massive exterior stone chimney on the north wall. The lower level of this wing is constructed of capstone, believed to have come from coal mines in the area. Capstone retaining walls on both the north and south sides tie into the house walls. The upper level is clad with wood shingles. Multipane leaded windows set into wood sashes contain colored lights in subdued earth tones. The interior of this wing is an open chamber supported by hand-hewn wooden beams. A large

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## Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

stone fireplace sets into the north wall. A balcony studio runs along the north wall, leading to an oriel window in the northeast corner, known as the "Monk's Corner," where Darling frequently worked. After a full day at his office at the Des Moines *Register*, he often worked until late night or early morning at his drawing board in the Monk's Corner. Along the north wall of the balcony studio, doors fashioned in the paneling open to reveal storage spaces between the studs, a design feature that appears to be Darling's inasmuch as the same feature was incorporated into his studio (now 2310 Terrace Road) and the Darling's "Fish House" on Captiva Island, Florida. Another interesting feature of the east wing, which was constructed two years before the repeal of prohibition, is the staircase to the wine cellar. It is hidden below another staircase which leads down from the Great Room to the family room on the basement level. This staircase is hinged at the top and balanced with counterweights so that at the push of a button, hidden in the stairway, it can be raised to reveal the stairwell to the wine cellar below. The drawbridge leading to the "Fish House" on Captiva Island operated by a similar mechanical device.

Tudor detailing also distinguishes the north front entrance, where a flagstone walkway and flagstone steps lead to a Gothic-arched entryway projecting slightly at center front. The entry shelters a solid-wood door ornamented with diamond-paned lights and flanked by similar sidelights. Connected to the entryway is a small one-story projection which functions as a large bay window, with half-timbered walls angled on the west end and four multipane windows set in ribbon fashion.

The west wing is much plainer in design, echoing the details of the original house. Two stories in height along the north front, this wing slopes to three stories along the south rear, where a two-stall garage is located on the lower level. A balcony runs the length of the south rear on the upper level of this wing, supported by large scrolled wood brackets. Its sawn wood balustrade matches that of the balcony off the second level of the original house section along the south rear.

South of the house, stone-terraced beds hold landscaped lawn areas which give way to the natural growth of the hillside above the Raccoon River. The Darlings also added a large two-story studio and a swimming pool east of the house in the early 1920s. These are extant, but are now located on a separate lot at 2310 Terrace Road.

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Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

*Section 8: Statement of Significance*

*Summary Statement*

The Darling House is significant under National Register Criterion B for its association with Jay Norwood Darling, better known to Iowa and the nation as Ding Darling, one of the legendary figures of journalism and of the conservation movement. As a journalist, Darling's editorial cartoons were syndicated in over 100 newspapers nationwide, and he was twice awarded the Pulitzer Prize. As a conservationist, he awakened the nation to its vanishing natural resources, and the programs he initiated remain viable. An energetic man with a sarcastic wit and an engaging personality, he stirred more public awareness of conservation with his dramatic cartoons portraying human depredations of the environment than any other Iowan before or after him. But he was more than a cartoonist who used his medium to comment on current issues. By the 1930s he had become a working leader in the conservation movement, and to the end of his life he was one of the movement's strongest critics. He is particularly remembered for his work on behalf of wildlife conservation, as discussed in Subsection II of Section E. The Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit program, which he initiated at Iowa State College in Ames, and the expansion of research facilities which he negotiated for Iowa Lakeside Laboratory are part of his legacy to conservation in Iowa. The wildlife reserves he established during his brief tenure as Chief of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey during the 1930s are part of his legacy to the nation. The Darling House itself is significant under Criterion C as an architectural reflection of its owner. Although the Darlings did not build the original house, they added substantially to it in order to create a home of stylish eclecticism which blended with its natural surroundings.

*Criterion B*

Jay Norwood Darling was born in 1876 in Norwood, Michigan (the source of his middle name), the son of a Congregational minister, Marc Warner Darling, and a teacher, Clara Woolson Darling. After a checkered college career, he earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Beloit College in 1900. His first professional job was with the Sioux City *Tribune* in 1899, but after finishing college he went to work as a cub reporter for the *Tribune's* competitor, the Sioux City *Journal*. In 1901 he switched from reporter to cartoonist, and remained in that position with the *Journal* until 1906. From 1906 to 1911 he penned cartoons for the Des

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**Darling House, Polk County, Iowa**

Moines *Register*, during which time his political cartoons began to attract the attention of other newspaper editors. In 1911, the New York *Globe* offered him a position, which he accepted. Though he like the exposure to East Coast audiences and the proximity to political power, life in New York did not entirely suit him and his wife, Genevieve, so he negotiated a return to the *Register* in 1913. In the end, he got the best of both worlds. From 1917 until his retirement in 1949, Darling lived and worked in Iowa, and his cartoons were syndicated through both the Des Moines *Register* and the New York *Tribune*. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for best editorial cartoon in both 1923 and 1942.

Ironically, Darling listed wildlife conservation as one of his "hobbies," along with fishing and making duck etchings, in the 1943 edition of *Who's Who in the Western Hemisphere*. Wildlife conservation never had so dedicated a hobbist. The theme permeated his cartoons, and the one he drew for his own obituary revealed the depth of his passion for wildlife (see attachments).

By 1930, he had become an articulate spokesman for the protection and scientific management of wildlife, and in 1931 Governor Dan Turner appointed him to the Fish and Game Commission. In this capacity, he played an important role in bringing the *Twenty-Five Year Conservation Plan for Iowa* to fruition. The Fish and Game Commission secured the services of native-son Aldo Leopold to complete a game survey and develop recommendations for wildlife conservation as part of the overall plan. As a member of the Fish and Game Commission, Darling also initiated the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Iowa State College in order to train students for professional careers in wildlife research and administration. To help launch the program, he personally contributed \$9000, a considerable sum in the depths of the Great Depression.

The twenty-five year plan, completed in 1933, placed Iowa in an excellent position to take full advantage of federal relief programs during the Great Depression; and by 1938 over half of the recommendations contained in the plan had been carried out under the auspices of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, and other New Deal agencies. However, Darling felt that the long-term prognosis for a sustained conservation program was not so bright. Writing in 1941 to Jacob Crane, one of the consultants hired to develop the state plan, Darling noted that,



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the availability of CCC camps was one of the major influences which sidetracked attention from the 25-Year Program. Public attention became captivated by the struggle for CCC camps and the background of unified planning on a continuous basis was lost sight of, and the general tendency now is to look for outside aid for specific projects instead of implementing the general program of state restoration.<sup>1</sup>

A staunch Republican, Darling resented the societal implications of the federal dole. Nonetheless, he pitched in himself and did his part to make the New Deal work for conservation. In December of 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Darling to the President's Committee on Wild Life Restoration, a three-person committee charged with formulating a national wildlife conservation plan to coordinate with the \$25 million federal program for purchasing submarginal agricultural lands. The other two members of the committee were Aldo Leopold and Thomas Beck, editor of *Collier's* magazine and a founder of More Game Birds (now Ducks Unlimited). Despite strong disagreements about conservation principles (Beck representing an organization which advocated captive breeding programs; Darling and Leopold arguing for restoration of natural wetlands) and the value of the Bureau of Biological Survey as a conservation agency, the three managed to produce a report early in 1934. Their recommendations called for federal purchase of about 12 million acres, at a cost of \$25 million, and another \$25 million allocation from New Deal relief programs for restoration of wildlife habitats. Both Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace and President Roosevelt thought the plan too ambitious, meaning too costly, but Wallace gave Paul Redington, then Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, an opportunity to implement the plan. Redington not only declined, but he resigned his post as well.

Conservationists had long accused the Bureau of catering to commercial interests, and Redington's departure gave Secretary Wallace and Roosevelt an opportunity to reform the Bureau, which they took. Acting on the advice of Leopold, FDR offered the position to Darling in March of 1934. Darling's acceptance took many by surprise, especially since he also was a frequent critic of both FDR and the New Deal, but he apparently saw the job as a once-in-a-

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1 Jay N. Darling to J.L. Crane. Letter of August 10, 1941. J.N. Darling Papers, University of Iowa Special Collections, Iowa City.

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## Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

lifetime chance to revamp the Biological Survey, which he proceeded to do during his 18-month tenure.

As Chief of the Biological Survey, Darling first reorganized the agency and hired new staff. He also crusaded for funding to purchase new wildlife refuges and to maintain those already established. He shortened the open season, reduced bag limits even further, and outlawed live decoys and baiting. Law enforcement, though, was a problem because the Bureau had limited funds to hire wardens. After Darling complained publicly about paltry appropriations, an unsolicited check came from Richard Reynolds of the Reynolds Tobacco Company. The new chief used the money to begin cracking down on bootleg hunters. He also instigated a nationwide program of wildlife research units modeled after the cooperative research unit he had helped to establish at Iowa State College in Ames in 1932. By the time he left his post in 1935, eight land-grant colleges and universities across the nation had Cooperative Wildlife Research Units. The program remains strong with forty-three cooperating institutions.

Funding was a source of endless frustration. He chafed at the slow pace of bureaucratic decisions, finally taking matters personally in hand. After being bounced back and forth between FDR and Harry Hopkins over a promised, but undelivered, \$1 million appropriation for restoration work, Darling conspired with Senator Peter Norbeck of South Dakota to attach a \$6 million appropriation to the 1934 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, better known as the Duck Stamp Act. The act was of special interest to Darling, since he not only drafted the bill, but once it passed, he designed the first stamp. In a story that Darling himself liked to tell,

The Duck Stamp Act was then up for final passage in the Senate. Norbeck rose to speak on the Duck Stamp Bill. He removed his false teeth and asked, in words totally devoid of understandable articulation, for unanimous consent for an amendment to the Duck Stamp Bill allocating six million of any unexpended 1934 relief funds for the Biological Survey restoration program. It passed unanimously by voice vote and the Senator engineered it through the House-Senate conference committee the same afternoon.<sup>2</sup>

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2 As recounted in David L. Lendt, *Ding: The Life of Jay Norwood Darling* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1989):76.

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Apparently, FDR signed the bill without realizing it had been amended, but he was a good sport about it. Six million was a far cry from the \$25 million Darling anticipated when he took over the Biological Survey, but it was also far more than the agency had ever had at one time. He spent the money to acquire the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, an elk range in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, private lands within the Hart Mountain antelope range, and to fund other habitat restoration programs. The following year, he asked for another \$4 million. When he found out the FDR was about to delete that appropriation from the budget, Darling wrote a cleverly illustrated letter to the president urging him to reinstate funding. Not one to be outwitted, FDR responded:

As I was saying to the Acting Director of the Budget the other day -- "this fellow Darling is the only man in history who got an appropriation through Congress, passed the Budget and signed by the President without anybody realizing that the Treasury had been raided."<sup>3</sup>

The Federal Duck Stamp proved to be a highly effective means of raising funds for wildlife conservation. To date, approximately 100 million stamps have been sold, raising nearly \$400 million, funds which have preserved four million acres of wetland habitat.

Despite their underlying distrust of one another, FDR seems to have held a certain respect for Darling, and Darling, in turn, was willing to humor the president in order to get the funds he needed to reshape the agency. What Darling could not stand was the thought of continually playing the cat-and-mouse funding game, and he threatened to resign his post after only a few months on the job. At Darling's request, Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace asked Aldo Leopold to take the job. Leopold regretfully declined the offer in order to continue his research, pointing out that Darling was better qualified than he for public policymaking. Darling threatened to resign several more times during 1935, only to have his friend Leopold convince him to stay on. Finally, matters came to a head, and he left his post in November 1935. Though he found the job stressful at the time, given what he considered meager

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3 Lendt, pp. 76-77.; A.L. Riesch Owen, *Conservation Under F.D.R.* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1983): 21.

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appropriations, he later wrote, "I was in a position to tell anybody and everybody to go to hell, not caring whether I kept my job or not, and that is just what was needed to break down the stalemate in the old Bureau and to put the fine group of eager, scientific men in the old Biological Survey into constructive action."<sup>4</sup> In the end, he devoted more of his career to the Biological Survey than he intended. Originally, Darling planned to spend only one year in Washington, but he stayed in the post for a total of twenty months, during which time he forfeited his annual income of \$100,000 from journalism.

After he left the Biological Survey in late 1935, Darling set about to create an umbrella organization for small conservation organizations across the country. During the summer of 1936, he convinced a collection of industrial businessmen to help fund his nationwide cooperative wildlife research units through an organization known as the American Wildlife Institute. Then, using the institute as an operating base, he campaigned for a national organization of local sportsmen's and conservation clubs. That organization became the General Wildlife Federation, later renamed the National Wildlife Federation, of which Darling was founder and president. The Federation soon became the largest conservation organization in the country, though Darling later regretted the role he played in giving birth to it. "I had the vision," he wrote in 1941, "that if all these groups could be at least registered under one list so that when an emergency arose we could call upon them to register their force of numbers in favor of good projects or against bad ones that we could be very influential, both in projects and in legislative measures."<sup>5</sup> By 1943, he was criticizing the Federation as having lost sight of its mission as a coordinator of wildlife programs and become little more than a pressure group for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (formerly the Bureau of Biological Survey). He blamed himself, in part, for the shift, lamenting the decision to name the organization the National Wildlife Federation instead of the National Conservation Federation. His disaffection was not permanent, though. In later years, he publicly commended the federation for its nationwide presence as a strong voice for conservation.

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4 J.N. Darling to A.D. Rathbone, IV. Letter of July 20, 1946. Darling Papers. University of Iowa, Iowa City.

5 J.N. Darling to Mrs. Clarence Avery, Letter of December 2, 1941. Darling Papers, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

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### Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

Upon returning to state affairs in 1936 Darling used his remaining influence in Washington to help secure a CCC camp to expand the facilities at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. With this project he envisioned that the laboratory would become an applied research facility capable of addressing state conservation problems, particularly water quality. That dream, too, was never realized (see the NRHP registration form for Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Historic District). After World War II, Darling lobbied Governor Robert Blue to create a state Natural Resources Council. The State Conservation Commission routinely sought out his support and assistance. He helped Louise Parker, one of the commission members, to set up the Iowa State Teachers Conservation Camp in vacated CCC buildings at Springbrook State Park. The Commission also hired his former protege and successor at the Bureau of Biological Survey, Ira Gabrielson, to conduct a study of conservation management in Iowa. Darling also played a role in assuring that the State Conservaton Commission remained an independent state agency whose director was not subject to political appointment.

After retiring from the *Des Moines Register* in 1949, Darling turned his attention to a number of conservation issues and projects, never giving up the fight but increasingly more frustrated with the outcomes. As a member of the Natural Resources Council, he agreed to work with the National Education Association to produce a teacher's handbook on conservation, but he resigned when the project looked as though it would have no practical application. During the 1950s, he worked to establish a refuge to protect the tiny Key deer of the Florida Keys. When the Red Rock Dam southeast of Des Moines was first proposed in 1950, he argued against it, pointing out that watershed protection at the source would eliminate the need for a large dam. Later, he opposed construction of Echo Park Dam on the Upper Colorado River in Dinosaur National Monument, helped to thwart a movement in Congress to repeal the Duck Stamp Law, and used his pen to help keep the military from robbing federal wildlife refuge lands for artillery ranges. After Congress appropriated \$71 million for the Red Rock dam project in 1971, he tried to arouse interest in a Missouri River wildlife refuge similar to the one on the Upper Mississippi River. To the end of his life on February 12, 1962, he was active in state and national affairs.

What did Darling think of his own contributions? Precious little in the face of all that needed to be done. Speaking before a group assembled at Emmetsburg for the Lakes Region Planning Institute in July of 1936, Darling opened his address on "Conservation and Planning" with the following remarks:

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**Darling House, Polk County, Iowa**

They talk about me being a conservationist and what I have done for conservation. Nobody has done anything for conservation. If they had, we wouldn't have less and less every year instead of more and more....All I have succeeded in doing is to utter a warning against continuation of our wasteful policies, but as to constructive conservation and real restoration there has been so little that all of it put together is practically negligible.

You heard here tonight that in 1914 you (the people of Emmetsburg) commenced to take care of your lake (Lake Medium). I went out and looked at your lake this afternoon. It is deader than a mackerel. But it isn't any deader than a thousand other lakes in this north central area, dying right at your front doors. And we call ourselves conservationists!

Though he often viewed conservation as a Sisyphean effort, Darling received many awards for helping to push the boulder. The Bison Society of American awarded him a gold medal in 1934. He received the Theodore Roosevelt Award for Distinguished Service in the Conservation of Natural Resources in 1944. Upon accepting the award, he reportedly commented, "Giving awards to conservationists is like giving medals to generals that only lose battles." The American Forestry Association recognized him for Outstanding Services in the Conservation of Land, Water, Wildlife, and Forests in 1950. He received the Nash Conservation Award in 1953. In 1955 the Garden Club of America awarded him the Frances K. Hutchinson Medal, and the State of Iowa presented him with the Centennial Memorial for outstanding citizenship. He also received the second Iowa Award, following his good friend Herbert Hoover, who received the first Iowa Award. In 1960, the National Audubon Society gave him its Audubon Medal, and he was elected to the National Isaak Walton League of America Hall of Fame. He also held life membership in the Men's Garden Club of Des Moines and the American Forestry Association, served as Honorary President of the National Wildlife Federation and the Izaak Walton League of Iowa, and was an honorary member of TR's Boone and Crockett Club. He received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Wildlife Federation, and the federation's most prestigious award for service to conservation is now the "J.N. 'Ding' Darling Award," a medallion struck with his likeness. The Iowa State Conservation Commission named Darling Lake on Honey Creek, north of Fairfield, in his honor. The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, on Sanibel Island off the coast of

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## Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

Florida near Fort Myers, is also a memorial to his work in conservation. In 1984, the U.S. Postal Service honored Darling and the first Federal Duck Stamp by issuing a first-class commemorative stamp.

### *Criterion C*

The Darling House is significant under Criterion C as a key structure contributing to the historic architectural character of the residential neighborhood surrounding Terrace Hill, now used as the Iowa governor's mansion. The original house and the first major addition were designed by prestigious and prolific Des Moines architectural firms: Hallett and Rawson and Proudfoot, Rawson & Souers, firms whose contributions to architecture in Iowa have been recognized in the Multiple Property Document entitled "The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot and Bird." It is the additions, however, that give this house its distinctive character, particularly the east wing and the front entry which Darling designed in conjunction with architect John W. Brooks. The house, as altered, definitely reflects Darling's lifestyle, mixing elegance with earthiness. The size of the structure is masked by its color, a warm, dark brown which was Darling's choice and has never been changed. On the south rear, terraced lawn and garden sections gradually give way to the natural vegetation of the hillside which slopes to the Raccoon River below, blending building and grounds into the surrounding riverfront environment.

The only apparent changes to the house exterior since the Darlings owned it are replacement windows along the south rear, where newer casement windows harmonize with the historic elements. On the interior there are only minor changes. Many of the furnishings and personal items that were in the house when the Darlings sold it in 1955 remain. These include a collection of Ding's own drawings and those of others that were given to him. As a result, both the exterior and the interior of the house retain much the ambiance present when the Darlings lived there. A letter from Christopher Koss, Darling's grandson and president of the J.N. "Ding" Darling Foundation, provides a personal comment on the interior of the house and one of the memorable events which took place in the Great Room (see attachments).

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*"Bye Now - It's Been Wonderful Knowing You." Ding Darling drew this farewell cartoon during a serious illness in 1959. It appeared in the Des Moines Register on February 13, 1962, the day after his death, revealing the things for which he wished to be remembered: his famous cartoon of Theodore Roosevelt as a ghost rider, executed upon TR's death; his 1934 duck stamp design; the Iowa Farmer, another famous cartoon; the flying goose wildlife refuge symbol, which he also designed; and his sportsman's love of wildlife, symbolized by the fishing gear, gun case, and duck decoys gathering cobwebs behind the sofa.*

'BYE NOW-IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL KNOWING YOU





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*Section 8: Attachments*



FIRST FEDERAL DUCK STAMP  
DESIGNED BY J.N. DARLING

J.N. "DING" DARLING FOUNDATION

Ms. Rebecca Conard  
PHR Associates  
Box 717  
Lake View, IA 51450

RE: 2320 Terrace Road

August 31, 1991

Dear Ms. Conard:

I have reviewed the draft of the National Historical Register application that you sent to me. In a separate communication, I have made informal comments based on personal knowledge that you may wish to use in any revision of that application.

As Darling's grandson, I spent a great deal of time both as a child and as an adult at 2320 Terrace Road. The structure itself contains extraordinary architecture. Darling, himself, made magnificent contributions to our nation's understanding of itself and to the conservation of its resources.

As a friend of Ed and Carolyn Hunter, I have been invited frequently to this house, which they purchased directly from the Darlings. During such visits I have been consistently amazed that the house and its interior remain virtually unchanged since Darling's occupation. Even many of Darling's personal possessions remain essentially as Darling left them in 1955.

I attribute the extraordinary state of preservation to several factors:

1. When the Darlings sold 2320 Terrace Road to the Hunters, Darling was traveling abroad. At the time, Darling was in his late seventies, and he and his wife planned to move into an apartment which offered but a tiny fraction of the vast space at 2320 Terrace Road. Effectively, Darling had neither the time, the energy, or the motivation to sort through the furnishings and other contents of the house.

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Conrad, page two

2320 Terrace Road was sold "as-is", with virtually all contents included. Those contents included fine arts of historical value.

2. The Hunters have expressed to me, "As a young, growing family, we at first did not have the resources to make changes in the house. As the years passed, we gained a deep appreciation of the house, and no longer wished to make changes."

I will make my own observation that in later years when resources became available, the Hunters invested heavily in preserving this well-maintained house as the Darlings had left it.

3. Lastly, Darling's sense of architecture resulted in a home of grace, warmth, and utility that has endured over half-a-century, requiring little change.

You inquired if I knew of any notables who had visited the house. Darling's purview was nationwide as well as statewide. His intellectual interests ranged through politics, conservation, agriculture, literature, and the arts. During his nearly-forty year tenure at 2320 Terrance Road, Darling routinely entertained local and national leadership in all of these fields.

One such visit is particularly memorable to me personally. Circa 1952, when I was in my late teens, my grandfather asked if I would borrow my father's car to pick up former President Herbert Hoover at the railroad station, and bring him to 2320 Terrace Road for dinner. On the appointed evening, I met Hoover at his private rail car, which was his commonly-used mode of travel, and drove him to the house. The three of us--Hoover, Darling, and myself---then sat down at a small table on the main floor of the Great Room for dinner.

Although it is most probably beyond the scope of this letter, I'll add that these two individuals in their late years did not dwell on past glories, but rather discussed their perspective of current events. That fact, and the fact that they graciously inquired of my own youthful perspectives, impressed me greatly.

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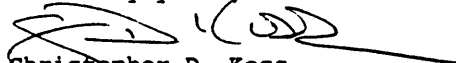
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Conrad, page three

Darling's influence, particularly in conservation of our natural resources, remains strong today. The programs and organizations he initiated are viable, and continue to contribute to this country's well-being.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher D. Koss  
President

881 Ocean Drive #17E  
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

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Darling House, Polk County, Iowa

*Section 9: Bibliography*

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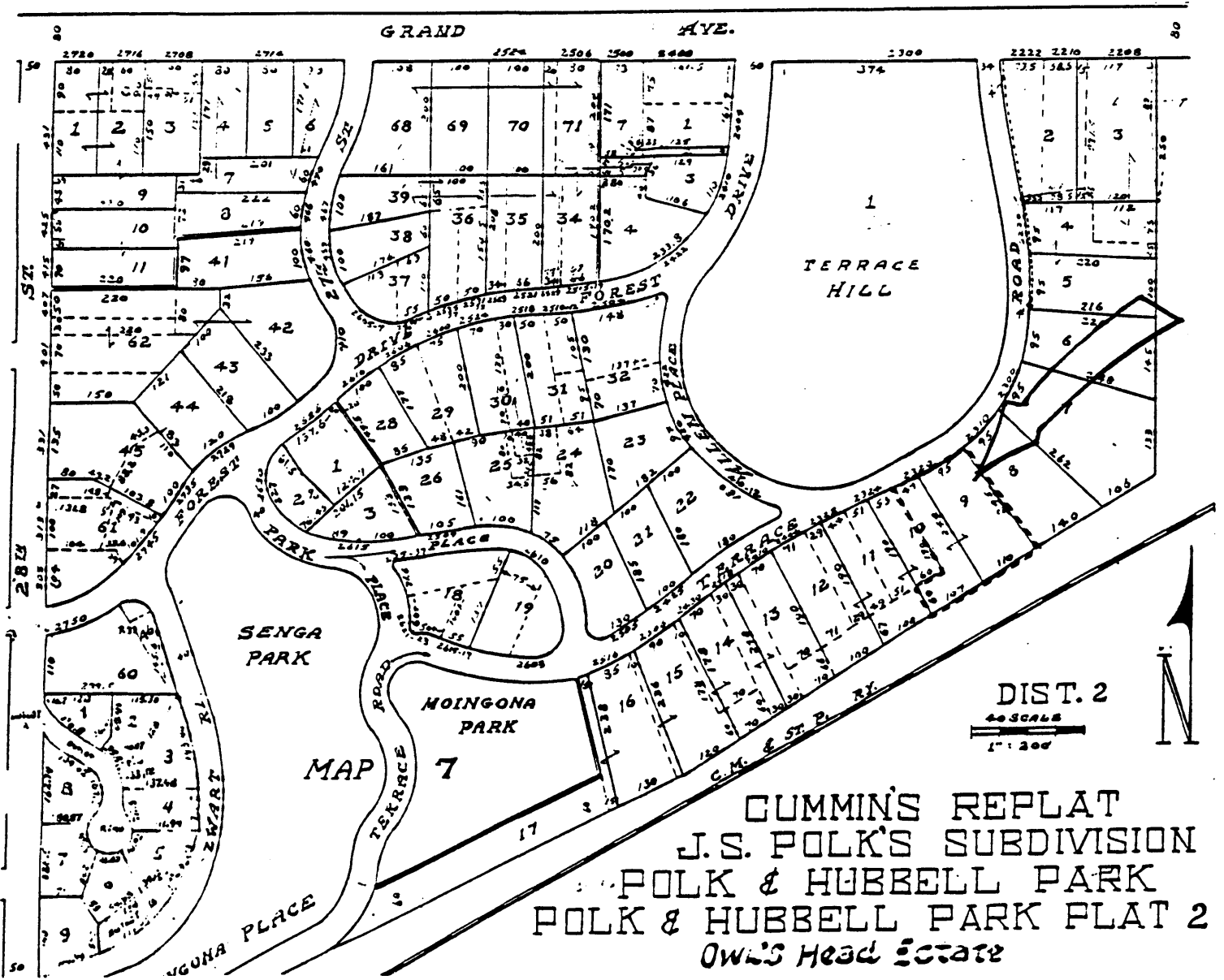
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### Section 10: Geographical Data

**Boundary Description:** The property includes all of Lot 9 and a portion of Lot 10 of the Polk & Hubbell Park Subdivision in the City of Des Moines. The parcel measures 132' on the north boundary, which is Terrace Road; 245' on the east, which is bounded by another privately owned parcel; 217' on the south, which is bounded by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad and the Raccoon River; and 250' on the west, which is bounded in an irregular line by another privately owned parcel.

**Boundary Justification:** The boundaries are the same as the legal property boundaries.



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*Vicinity Map*  
*Des Moines SW Quadrangle, 7.5', 1956 (photorevised 1967, 1971, 1976)*

