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E. Statement of Historic Contexts

The following historic contexts are based on contexts developed in a first-phase comprehensive planning document (Rogers 1992); in six comprehensive survey projects for Linn County, Iowa, that followed (Rogers 2003, 2006; Rogers and Page 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996); a Phase II-level investigation of selected properties identified in previous survey projects (Rogers 1998); and two National Register nomination projects based on the results of the previous investigations (Rogers 2000; Page 2002a, 2002b). The first-phase project involved a compilation of contexts applicable to the county’s historical development as a whole, while the subsequent phases added detailed contexts applicable to the individual subsections of the county being surveyed. In general, the county’s historical development can be subdivided into four eras of development: Native American Contact, Early Settlement, Expansion, and Consolidation (Rogers 1992). Within each era, a number of subcontexts were also identified and consisted of the development of communities, commercial districts, transportation, agriculture, industry, religion, education, social culture, and architecture in the county as well as identifying some of the notable persons associated with these developments. The comprehensive survey projects expanded upon these contexts and identified some new ones, including town building, local contractor/builders, rural architecture, family-oriented rural settlement patterns, ethnic settlement patterns, and transportation corridors.

As noted above, the initial surveys were followed by National Register nominations of districts and sites identified in the previous survey projects (Figure 1). The National Register properties listed to date as a result of the comprehensive survey projects include:

One early historic period habitation site:
Dewitt/Harman Archaeological Site (13LN454) located in Bertram Township

Three farmstead districts and two houses:
Podhajsky/Jansa Farmstead District located in College Township
Janko, Jan and Antonie, Farmstead District located in College Township
Minor, Josias L. and Elizabeth A., Farmstead District located in College Township
Moorhead, Joseph and Clara A., House located in Putnam Township
Horecky, Henek and Mary, Log Cabin, located in Franklin Township

Two commercial districts:
Central City Commercial Historic District
Dows Street Historic District, Ely

The current project consists of Phase II testing and Architectural/Historical research of selected archaeological sites and architectural properties that were identified as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by two of the above-noted previous survey and evaluation projects in Linn County. These sites and properties were originally recorded during the 2003 and 2006 surveys and evaluation projects of Subsections F, G, and H in west-central Linn County (reported in Rogers 2006) and Subsections J, N, and O in southwest Linn County (reported in Rogers 2003). The previous surveys focused on the Early Settlement Era resources of these subsections, which included most of Otter Creek and Washington Townships, all of Fairfax Township, and smaller portions of Monroe, Marion, Maine, Fayette, Clinton, and College Townships (see Figure 1). Approximately 88 ac (35.6 ha) was encompassed by the current testing and research project.
Figure 1. Linn County Historical Survey County Sectional Map Showing Previously Surveyed Subsections
Figure 2. Linn County road map showing location of sites and properties in current study
Source: IDOT Transportation Map 1995

Prior to the settlement of the project area by Euro-Americans, Native American groups such as the Meskwaki and Winnebago called Linn County home for at least a portion of the year. The principal camp grounds of the Meskwaki were reportedly along Indian Creek and the Cedar Valley in White Oak Grove between Usher’s Ferry and the present Seminole Valley Park (west-southwest of the current study area and east of the Cedar River) and in Wickiup Hollow near Toddville (in an area now known as Wickiup Hill northwest of Cedar Rapids and also on the east side of the Cedar River). The principal camps of the Winnebago were near McCloud’s Run, Cedar Lake, the Palisades, Linn Grove, Scotch Grove (west of Cedar Rapids), and “in other places where there was much timber” (Brewer and Wick 1911:9; also Browne 1980). While technically the Meskwaki relinquished title to these lands by 1837, some remained in Iowa while others moved back from the reservation in Kansas where they had been relocated. Since the white settlers of Linn County did not protest their presence, the Meskwaki in particular continued to visit the county on a regular basis camping and gathering maple sugar from the groves. Generally, they had good relations with the white settlers.

The majority of early settlers’ accounts in all areas of Linn County include some mention of Indian contact. For the most part, these are anecdotal accounts of Indians passing through the area. In the spring of 1847 there was a report of an Indian attack which turned out to be nothing more than a misunderstanding but put the Linn County countryside into a brief uproar (Western Historical 1878:399). One of the most common accounts of Indian contact in the vicinity of Linn Grove (in eastern Linn County) was of the Indians setting up temporary camps for gathering maple sugar well into the 1880s (Hartsough 1936:I-2).

One of the farmstead districts within the current study area was at a location reportedly frequented by Native Americans to tap the maple trees and process it into maple sugar during the Early Settlement Era. This site was in what historically was known as Sugar Grove, which still exists as a timbered grove still containing some maple sugar trees. The property was purchased by the Etzel family in the late 1880s. George Etzel noted that his grandfather could remember the Indians visiting this grove to gather maple sugar (Personal communication with Leah Rogers, 2005). It is probable that these visitors were Meskwaki.

The 1911 county history book noted that the Meskwaki, Sauk, and Winnebago had hunting areas along the Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers during the early settlement period. Some early settlers such as William Abbe, and the Edgerton, Usher, and Crow families learned the native languages and could converse with these groups. William Abbe and Robert Ellis even served as the government agents supplying the Winnebago at Fort Atkinson in northeast Iowa, which was then part of the Neutral Ground (Brewer and Wick 1911:11). There is some evidence that Hiram Usher, whose family settled along the Cedar River north of present-day Cedar Rapids, operated a trading post at an early date near the later town of Covington, with his obituary noting that he had “bartered and traded” with the Indians (Browne 1980). Other reported trading posts in Linn County were located at the town of Ivanhoe and St. Mary’s, both in southeastern Linn County (Kirkpatrick 1987:176; Strong 1990:42).

There were a number of candidates for the first permanent Euro-American settler in Linn County including: William Abbe, Edward M. Crow, Jacob Mann, C.C. Haskins, Daniel Hahn, or Dyer Usher. Abbe settled to the west of the later town of Mt. Vernon and reportedly came to the county as early as 1836, staked out a claim, and then left to bring his family to the new claim. His family arrived in 1837 (Brewer and Wick 1911:51). Dyer Usher also claimed to have entered the county in 1836 but left to later return to make a permanent settlement (Laura Browne, personal communication 1992). The other candidates all settled in Linn County at various times during 1837, with Crow reportedly making his claim just southeast of Viola in July of that year (Western Historical 1878:335). Whoever was first in the county, it is widely accepted that the first permanent settlements were made in the county in 1837. It was also in 1837 that Linn County was first established and named for a distinguished Senator from Missouri (ibid.:357). Therefore, the beginning date for the Early Settlement Era of Linn County has been generally designated as the late 1830s (Rogers 1992). The general end date of the 1870 was selected because it was soon after the arrival of the railroad in 1859 into Linn County and after the end of the Civil War that great changes in the historical development of the county began to usher in the Expansion Era of the late nineteenth century.
Within two years of the first permanent settlements in Linn County, there were 1,342 inhabitants living within its borders (U.S. Population Census 1840). Following the completion of the government land surveys and the opening of legal land sales in the county in 1842-43, the influx of new settlers rapidly increased, and by 1849 there were 5,444 residents in the county (U.S. Population Census 1850). By 1856, the State Population Census recorded a total of 14,702, of which 7,911 were males and 6,791 were females, with six listed as “colored” (Brewer and Wick 1911:332). This census also counted 2,518 dwelling houses, 2,612 families, and 1,824 landowners within the county (ibid.).

The nativity of this early population was largely composed of American-born settlers who migrated to Linn County from other areas of the United States, particularly other Midwestern, Eastern, and some Southern states. These settlers were attracted to Iowa by the availability of land that was not exhausted from years of cultivation and for the booming economic opportunities afforded by frontier dynamics. Ohio led the places of nativity for the early settlers listed in the 1856 census for Linn County, followed by Iowa, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York, Illinois, Virginia, Germany, Kentucky, Maryland, Ireland, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, England, Canada, Bohemia, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Scotland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Nova Scotia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Austria, South Carolina, Norway, France, New Brunswick, Delaware, Prince Edward Island, Rhode Island, Switzerland, Moravia, Hungary, Prussia, Mississippi, Wales, Louisiana, George, Sweden, Holland, West Indies, Alabama, Denmark, and Poland, in descending order of frequency. One person was born on the ocean trip to the United States, while one simply listed “unknown” for their birthplace (Brewer and Wick 1911:332). The number of foreign-born settlers composed only 8% of the total population in 1856.

The main attractions for early settlement in Linn County were its water and timber resources. The Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers and their tributaries as well as Buffalo Creek afforded the necessary water flow to power the saw, grist, and flour mills which were vital to successful frontier settlements. These watersheds also supported stands of timber sufficient to supply the building and fuel needs of the early settlers. Therefore, the population distribution of the Early Settlement Era concentrated in and near the groves and waterways, with the open prairies between the rivers and to the southwest largely unsettled during this era. Another reason the prairies remained unsettled at this point was the difficulty in breaking the sod with the implements then available. It would not be until the 1860s that the availability of John Deere’s mass-produced steel plow made the rich soils of the prairie accessible to widespread cultivation.

The distribution of the Early Settlement Era population is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 shows the county in 1838-42 when it was first surveyed. The surveyors recorded the location of two sawmills, two other mills, 30 cabins, three towns, and 110 improved fields (see Figure 3). The high number of fields compared with the lower number of cabins reflects the common practice of staking a claim, breaking the soil from a small plot and planting the first crop, and then leaving to retrieve one’s family before making a permanent settlement in the county. Of the 110 fields represented, 18 were situated within groves, 91 were on or near the forest/prairie margin, and only one appeared to have been situated out on the open prairie (see Figure 3). Of the 30 cabins shown, 13 were within groves and 17 were located on or near the forest/prairie margin (see Figure 3). The forest/prairie margin would have been considered by early settlers to have been the optimal location for initial settlement because of the fuel and building materials that could be obtained from the forest, the ready source of water and water power from the nearby streams, and the nearness of some open land that could be broken and quickly planted without having first to clear a plot of timber.
Figure 3. Linn County Settlement in 1838-42 (adapted from General Land Office original survey plats for Linn County). Source: Rogers 1992
Figure 4. Linn County Settlement in 1859 (adapted from McWilliams and Thompson 1859)
Source: Rogers 1992
Figure 4 further illustrates this settlement pattern and represents some of the features of the county as recorded on the 1859 map of Linn County (McWilliams and Thompson 1859). By 1859, the settlement of the county was still concentrated within or near the groves and waterways, with the open prairies largely unsettled or even unentered as claims. By 1860, the county’s total population stood at 18,947.

During the Early Settlement Era a number of communities were established in the county including the towns of Cedar Rapids, Kingston (later incorporated into Cedar Rapids), Marion (the first county seat), Palo, Bertram, Center Point, Central City, Mt. Vernon, Lisbon, Bertram, Springville, Waubeek/Paddington, and Western, all of which survive to the present day as communities, although Western is no longer a formal town. Other community settlements and early post offices included Hoosier Grove (later the town of Ely), Ivanhoe, Newark/Westport, New Linden, Paris, Lafayette, Spring Grove, Nugent’s Grove (later the town of Coggon), Valley Farm, Ford’s Grove, Boulder, Wapsa, Necot, Prospect Hill, St. Julian, St. Mary’s, Sisley’s Grove, and MonDieu (Figure 5). The post offices and towns were largely situated along the major stage and post roads that criss-crossed the county during this era. At this early date, the town of Marion served as the county’s transportation hub, with most of the major roadways intersecting in, and radiating out of, this county seat community. Cedar Rapids, however, had the industrial advantage of its location on the county’s largest river and at a location where a natural rapid provided a ready source of power for the milling industry that would serve as the foundation for much of Cedar Rapids’ early growth.

Of the 24 post offices established in Linn County during the Early Settlement Era, six served as the nucleus for later towns, while the remainder served as rural post offices for anywhere from 2 to 56 years before disappearing from the scene due to changes in the road systems and mail distribution routes. Some were nothing more than a post office operating out of a settler’s home, such as the Spring Grove Post Office, while others were operated in conjunction with general stores and other enterprises and formed the nucleus for small rural trading centers. Merchants would have wanted a post office in their stores because it would increase traffic coming into the stores. Post office locations also shifted because of political partisan considerations when local party control shifted or because of party infighting. The average lifespan of these early post offices was 13.2 years. The majority were in operation between 2-18 years, with the longest surviving having been the Lafayette Post Office, which was in operation for 56 years, although it was not always at the same location during that span of years (Mott 1930-32:74-76; Ralph Christian, e-mail communication to Leah D. Rogers dated 8/20/2008).

Early Settlement Era transportation was characterized by road and river travel. The early roads often followed trails that had been previously established by Native Americans, while others were established by the early settlers to facilitate the distribution of mail and goods and the transport of grain to the nearest mill. Among the important early roads in the county were the Iowa City to Dubuque Road, better known as the Military Road; the Davenport to Marion Road, a.k.a. the Davenport Road; and the Bloomingto to Marion Road, a.k.a. the Territorial Road and locally as the Mount Vernon to Marion Road (Brewer and Wick 1911:142; Carroll 1895:18; Oxley 1946:21-25; Thomas 1973:3). The very first formal roadways were established in 1839 and included the Military Road. At several locations along the Cedar River, the road systems crossed with the aid of ferries that included the Ivanhoe ferry, Usher’s ferry, Blair’s ferry, and the Kingston ferry (Strong 1990:50). The Cedar River was first bridged at Cedar Rapids in the late 1850s (Western Historical 1878).

The major stagecoach routes through Linn County included the Military Road with stops at Ivanhoe, St. Mary’s, and Mt. Vernon; the Government Road with stops at Marion, Cedar Rapids, and various small post offices along the way; and the Western Stage Company lines between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City and between Marengo and Cedar Rapids. Stage lines eventually radiated out of Marion and Cedar Rapids and included the lines of the predominant Western Stage Company and the local Cedar Rapids’ companies of John Weare and the Higley Brothers. With the expansion of the railroad into the county after 1859, the need for stage routes and their associated stage stations (often at post offices along the way) was diminished. Most of the major roads remained in use as primary farm-to-market roads, although some, such as portions of the diagonal Anamosa to Independence Road that extended through northeast Linn County were abandoned after stagecoaching became obsolete around 1870 (Kirkpatrick 1975:69-70).

In addition to road travel, there were attempts during the Early Settlement Era to successfully navigate the Cedar River on a regular basis. As early as 1839, flatboats traveled downriver from Westport and Ivanhoe to deliver wheat to markets in St. Louis. Others followed from Cedar Rapids in the early
In the 1840s, these were successful endeavors but were extremely limited by the fact that the boats could only go downriver. In the early 1840s, the *Maid of Iowa* was the first steamboat to ply the Cedar River as far north as Cedar Rapids. Over the next decade, “numerous steamers plied back and forth developing considerable trade between St. Louis, Keokuk, Burlington, and Cedar Rapids” (Clements 1967:18). Other steamboats traveled upstream of the rapids, going back and forth between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. However, the arrival of the railroad into the county in 1859 signaled the end of steamboating as a viable mode of transport and shipping along the Cedar River. The last of the large Mississippi steamboats to make Cedar Rapids was the *Uncle Tobey* in the 1850s (Centennial Committee 1979:16; Lazell 1908:2; Harburt 1904-05:91-103).

Agriculture was among the most important industries of the Early Settlement Era in Linn County. The main focus of agriculture during this era was on basic subsistence primarily because of the frontier conditions and the great distances to good markets, such as in Dubuque. The primary crops were corn and wheat, with “the glory years for wheat growing in Linn County” being from 1840-52 (Strong 1990:65). Corn and wheat were comparatively easy for the early farmers to grow and gave them products on which they could subsist as well as use for a market commodity when the opportunity arose. The main obstacle to grain growing was in its processing, thus prompting an early need for grist and flour mills. The very first settlers in Linn County told of having to travel great distances to get their corn and wheat ground at mills in Cascade, Dubuque, and Davenport. Therefore, it was a great boon to these farmers when the first mills were constructed in the county in the early 1840s (Strong 1990:72).

The raising of corn and wheat was supplemented with livestock raising, including hogs, cattle, horses and sheep. Hogs were the primary market income producers and required little in the way of tending during the Early Settlement Era because livestock was generally allowed to roam freely without the restriction of fencing. Cattle were raised almost exclusively to supply the need for brood and milk cows, with oxen being raised for pulling wagons and plows. Very little beef was either eaten or shipped out. Likewise, sheep were raised primarily for their wool and seldom for their meat (Strong 1990:120-127).

Orchards were of some importance during this era, with one of the largest known as the Mound Orchard and located where Mount Mercy College now stands on a paha in Cedar Rapids. It was cultivated in the 1850s-60s by George Greene (Strong 1990:67).

One additional aspect of Early Settlement Era farming was the gathering of maple sugar from the county’s groves. This followed the long-standing tradition of Native Americans in this area, some of whom returned repeatedly to collect maple sugar during this era and into the 1870s-80s. The gathering of maple sugar by the early settlers was to supply their own needs, more so than for commercial purposes (Strong 1990:128).

With increased settlement and the improvements in transportation and accessibility to markets, true subsistence farming did not persist much beyond the initial years of frontier settlement. Linn County farmers, as with farming in Iowa in general, gradually became more involved in market-oriented agriculture. The arrival of the railroads would allow full involvement in commercial agriculture and signaled the beginning of a long progression of change in Iowa’s agriculture through the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century.

During the Early Settlement Era, the greatest impetus for agricultural change came with the invention of the steel plow which enabled farmers to efficiently and effectively break the prairie sod and allowed for settlement away from the groves and watersheds of the region. Scouring plows were being manufactured in Linn County in the early 1840s by Andrew Safely who settled near St. Julian in 1838 along the Mt. Vernon to Marion Road. His plows were in great demand for a time; however, this enterprise was overshadowed when John Deere opened his large factory in Moline, Illinois, and began manufacturing steel plows in 1847. In 1868, this firm was incorporated as Deere and Company. The general availability of John Deere’s plows by the 1860s opened new areas to settlement and, for the first time, the rich agricultural potential of the Iowa prairies could be realized. “Prairie breaking” became a specialized seasonal occupation, with the average price being $2.50 to $4.00 per acre rising to $5.00 per acre during the Civil War when manpower was in short supply (Strong 1990:56-59).

**Early Settlement in Subsections F, G, and H (Otter Creek Township and parts of Maine, Monroe, Marion, and Washington townships)**
As can be seen in Figures 3 and 4, the earliest settlements in west-central Linn County were situated within the groves and at the timber/prairie margins. Settlements concentrated near the Cedar River and along the creek valleys of this region. The expanses of open prairie were unsettled during the early settlement era, with only the scattered groves that dotted the landscape attracting early settlement. An early road extended through the study area in a southeast to northwest angle and connected the early settlements of Center Point and Lafayette (at its original location) with Cedar Rapids and Marion (see Figures 3 and 4). At the time, Lafayette was little more than a rural post office along this roadway.

Otter Creek and Lafayette/Flemingville Settlements

Among the early settlements of the study area was the so-called Otter Creek Settlement, which began in 1839 along the creek valley with the settlement of a man named Stephens and his wife. The Stephens claim was later sold to Stephen Snooks, who built a cabin on the place described as owned by Richard Jackman in 1878 (Western Historical 1878:341). The Jackman property was later purchased by the Etzel family and is known as the Sugar Grove Farm on the east side of Otter Creek and just southeast of what later became the town of Lafayette. It was noted in 1878 that “the foundation of the old house is still visible” on the Jackman farmstead, with the 2006 survey of this property finding remnant evidence of that stone foundation underneath the topsoil in the front yard of the Etzel House on the Sugar Grove Farm. This site was recorded in 2006 as Archaeological Site 13LN879.

Otter Creek Township is situated near the center of Linn County and took its name from the creek that drains this watershed and flows southwest into the Cedar River. In 1839, a number of other settlers were attracted to the Otter Creek area. “Among the first comers were Michael Green, Bartimeas McGonigle, Henry Nelson, William Chamberlain, Dr. James Cummings, William Sullivan, and Perry Oliphant” (Western Historical 1878:341). Some of the settlers who followed in the early 1840s included: John and George Cochran, Alexander Nevin, James Hemphill, William Ward, and Nate Reynolds. Other early settlers included: Morris Neighbors, John Nevins, James Wallace, Alfred Thomas, William and Samuel Fleming, “the Mounces, Seversons, Pences, Fishels, Browns, Fees, Jackmans, Taylors, Chesmores, Hollenbecks, Andrews, Martins, Metcalfs, and many others” (Brewer and Wick 1911:287).

John Nevins built the first saw mill in the township along the east branch of Otter Creek near the later town of Lafayette. “This mill was later owned by John Yambert, James Green, and A. Brenaman, still later it came into the possession of Fred Notebohm [sic], who added a grist mill, and when the water gave out it was run by steam” (Brewer and Wick 1911:287). The Nevin sawmill was actually upstream from the later Notbohm Mill, which did have a saw mill as part of the grist mill operation but it was not the same mill that was built by Nevins. The site of the Notbohm Mill (Site 13LN296) has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an archaeological district and includes the ruin of the mill foundation, the mill race, and the now-dry mill pond.

The Otter Creek settlement was also known as “Shingle Town” at an early date because of the production of clapboards for siding and shingles for roofing at the Nevin’s and Yambert’s sawmills. Early settler, Morris Neighbor, established the first general store in this area around 1850 (Neighbor 1998:3). The Neighbor family settled on a claim in Section 36 of what was then Otter Creek Township and later part of Washington Township. Morris, Phillip, and George Neighbor, along with their widowed mother, established their homestead in 1844. Morris’ son, Dixon Neighbor, subsequently operated the Lafayette Post Office and general store once the town of Lafayette was firmly established.

One source noted that Neighbor’s early store was located “near where Isaac Dicken” lived, which was just east of the Neighbor’s claim in Section 31 (Lanning 1907). The general location of this settlement area is to the southeast of Center Point and southwest of the later town of Lafayette.

The Fleming family settled in Otter Creek Township in 1843 and included brothers William and Samuel and their widowed mother. The Fleming family settlement was to the northeast of the later town of Lafayette and also centered in large groves of trees along the east branch of the Otter Creek watershed. A small settlement that came to be known as Flemingville developed and included a post office established in 1867 (in Section 13 and later relocated to Section 15) and discontinued in 1906. The actual Flemingville settlement was in Section 15, where the post office was subsequently located. This settlement also included a store and a blacksmith shop, the archaeological remains of which were recorded during the 2006 survey of this area (Archaeological Site 13LN876). The store was operated by Bass Ludwig and was reportedly located on the east side of the road with Ludwig’s house on the west side of the road.
side opposite the store. Ludwig opened a second store in Alburnett once that town was established in the neighborhood, with his Flemingville store closed down in the process.

The earliest settler of what is now Monroe Township, which was originally part of Otter Creek Township, was William Chamberlain, whose claim was made in Section 5 in 1838. Chamberlain was the father of the Chamberlains who later became well known for their patent medicine company, which was first established in Marion and later moved to Des Moines. The original location of the Lafayette Post Office (established in 1846) was one-half mile east of Chamberlain’s cabin at Brown’s mill along Otter Creek in Section 6 of Monroe Township (McWilliams and Thompson 1859). This early post office location was just north of the later (early twentieth century) settlement known as “Midway” along Center Point Road. The Lafayette post office was later relocated to Section 28 of Otter Creek Township where the town of Lafayette was established between 1853 and 1859 (Neighbor 1998:3). The Lafayette Post Office operated at this location until 1902 when it was discontinued.

In addition was the Otter Creek Post Office, which was established in 1844 and discontinued in 1846. The Otter Creek Post Office shifted among several different homes before it was discontinued. The Flemingville Post Office was established after the Early Settlement Era in 1867 and operated until 1906. It was first located in Section 13 of Otter Creek Township (Mott 1930-32:74-76). Interestingly, the 1869 map of Otter Creek Township shows a “Franklinville P.O.” in Section 13 near one of the Fleming farmsteads. While there is no mention of a “Franklinville” in the Linn County post office records, and since this post office was located where the Flemingville post office was supposed to be, it appears that either the mapmaker made an error and simply misspelled Flemingville or this post office was actually known for a short time as Franklinville (Thompson and Everts 1869). By 1881, the Flemingville Post Office had been relocated in Section 15 where the settlement known as Flemingville had taken root.

The town of Lafayette began with the establishment of Nevin’s sawmill in 1845 along Otter Creek, which continued with the nearby Notbohm grist and sawmill in the late 1860s and operating into the late 1930s. The Lafayette post office was moved to this location by 1869, with Richard Lanning as the first Postmaster. A store had been established in 1853 by Harrison Metcalf followed by a second store in 1868 by Richard Lanning, and a third soon after by G.W. Fry. As noted above, Dixon Neighbor later operated the general store and post office in Lafayette. This store was moved to its current location after the railroad was constructed through Lafayette in the early 1910s, with the store moved to a location just east of the depot (non-extant). The extant store building is now vacant but is still in fairly good condition. The old hardware store is also extant along the road just southeast of the general store. Both of these historic store buildings were recorded during the 2006 survey of this subsection.

Lafayette also had a church (the Church of Christ established in 1867), a Farmers’ Club Hall in 1866, a school in 1856, a blacksmith shop, and the Twin Brothers Creamery, which was one of three creameries operated in Linn County by the Crawford Bros. dairies. The creamery was established at Lafayette in the late 1870s and produced cheese, butter and milk. The original schoolhouse was replaced with a larger school in 1874; however, both schools structures are now non-extant. William Kolb & Sons operated a nursery and fruit farm out of Lafayette in the late nineteenth century, with the Kolb farmstead located at the east edge of town across from the church and cemetery. This farmstead was also recorded during the 2006 survey of the town of Lafayette.

Lafayette even had a resident physician in the late nineteenth century, a Dr. Stevens. The town received its final boost from the extension of the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Northern interurban rail line through this community in the early 1910s, with Lafayette a station along the line (Western Historical 1878:602-603). At its peak in the early twentieth century, Lafayette supported the Neighbor’s general store, a hardware and plumbing business, a garage and auto repair business, a hog buying station complete with elevator and stock yards (all non-extant), a trucking business, and the Ritze Feed Store (Neighbor 1998). Today, Lafayette persists as a collection of houses and farms around the still-active church and cemetery; however, all of the businesses are long closed and the railroad grade is now a pedestrian and bike trail. The mill and creamery are now archaeological sites.

Center Point Settlement

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The earliest settler of Washington Township was Bartimeas McGonigle,¹ who settled on the site of the later town of Center point in 1839. At that time, there was a section of grove that projected out onto the prairie, with this location becoming known as “McGonigle’s Point” (Western Historical 1878:574). Other settlers soon followed and filled in around the edges of the grove.

What became the town of Center Point was platted at McGonigle’s Point in 1848; however, the original plat was not used and a resurvey was made in 1854. At the time of the resurvey, Hiram Campbell and Dr. S.W. Brice were the only residents on the new town plat. After the town was resurveyed, several businesses were established including two hotels, several general stores, a drugstore, and a flouring mill. The mill was established in 1855 by a Mr. Brain, who secured money from the residents of the vicinity for the purpose of construction a mill. Brain furnished it with machinery, which he also purchased on credit, and then promptly ran away leaving the fledgling town saddled with his debt. The mill burned down in 1864, and it is not known whether this was ever a successful enterprise or if the town recouped its loss (Carver 1976; Western Historical 1878:574-575). There were other mills established in the immediate vicinity, particularly along the streams west of Center Point, which likely served the needs of this community at an early date.

At the time of the town platting, suggested names were “Central Point” and “Centre Point” since the town was considered the center point between Cedar Rapids and Quasqueton and between Cedar Rapids and Independence. Centre Point was initially selected; however, a more popular spelling of “Center Point” was used when the railroad station was built. The town name was officially changed to Center Point in 1893 (Center Point Historical Society 2004:2).

Also important to the early development of the town was the stage line, which operated between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo by way of Center Point. This was the early road shown on Figures 3 and 4 and helped establish Center Point as a community. This stage line carried both mail and passengers, thus necessitating the two hotels in Center Point at an early date (Carver 1976). One of these was the Washington House, which was built the same year that the town was laid out and later went by the name of the Central House. The second hotel was known as the Montour House. The Brooklyn House was added after the railroad was extended through this area in the early 1870s (Western Historical 1878:575-6). Another hotel, the Pullman Hotel, is still standing along Center Point Road in town but was moved to its current location from across the street in 1912 (Centennial Committee 1954:16). The livery barn for the stage line was located where the Murdoch Funeral Home is now along Main Street.

The town successfully secured a rail line in 1873 with the completion of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad. The arrival of the railroad encouraged several new additions to the town plat as well as new businesses and population growth. In 1875, the town was incorporated. By the late 1870s, Center Point supported approximately 40 businesses including the Diamond Mill, which had been established near Center Point. A disastrous fire in 1875 resulted in the loss or damage of six businesses along Main Street. In the wake of the fire, several new buildings were constructed including the Bliss General Merchandise Store at the corner of Main and Washington Streets (Center Point Historical Society 2004).

Starting in the 1880s, an important local industry was the Smith and Johnson Brick and tile factory which operated until c.1910 (Mills 1982). There were also reportedly two pearl button factories in Center Point, with the shells shipped in from the Mississippi River; however, one account of clamming on the Cedar River in the nineteenth century suggests a possible local source as well (Lazell 1908:3; Rogers 1992:53). By 1885, the town had a population of 565 rising to 615 by 1890. Other important late nineteenth to early twentieth century businesses included a creamery and a corn canning factory. In 1913, the town saw the completion of the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Northern electric interurban line through Center Point. Center Point thrived into the twentieth century and remains a town to the present day, one that is now growing again as a suburban residential community for persons working in Cedar Rapids and living in Center Point. The construction of Interstate 380 along the west edge of Center Point in the late twentieth century facilitated this new growth.

Stage and Steamboat Travel

¹ Some references spell McGonigle’s first name as “Bartimeus.”
The west-central portion of Linn County was crossed at a very early date by a trail that became a stage road between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo by way of Center Point (see Figures 3 and 4). The extension of this road through Center Point certainly gave an early impetus to the growth of this community, with a number of businesses, such as hotels, established in Center Point catering to stage travel. The original location of the Lafayette Post Office was also situated along this road pointing out another use of stages for the transport of mail (see Figure 4). By 1869, the Lafayette Post Office had moved to a location to the northeast where the town of Lafayette had been established (Thompson and Everts 1869). While the movement of this post office at first might seem illogical given its original location along a major stage route, its new location was also along a stage and post road that had developed through the Otter Creek valley by the late 1860s. This time the main road connection was to Marion, which was the Linn County seat of government. However, just south of Lafayette, the road forked to the east, with a branch connection to the main stage road to Cedar Rapids. Furthermore, the road headed northwest out of Lafayette and connected back with the main Cedar Rapids to Waterloo road just south of Center Point. It is likely that stages ran in both directions through this area, making the new Lafayette post office location more understandable. Reportedly, there was a stagecoach stop located along the branch road between the new Lafayette Post Office and the old location. This stage stop also reportedly served as a house of ill repute pointing to another aspect of early road travel that is little documented in the written record. The site of this stage stop was recorded as site 13LN877 during the 2006 investigation.

By the end of the Early Settlement Era, this area of Linn County was criss-crossed by roads, some of which followed the old trails along the creek valleys, while others now followed the developing farm-to-market road system that generally conformed to the section lines regardless of terrain. The main traveled road, however, was the Cedar Rapids to Waterloo Road, which essentially developed into today's Center Point Road. When Interstate 380 was built in the late twentieth century, it paralleled the angle of Center Point Road and extends along the west side of that early road between Cedar Rapids and Center Point.

In addition to the early importance of stage travel was steamboat travel on the nearby Cedar River. While this mode of transportation was never a reliable means of travel in Linn County, both flatboats and steamboats plied the waters during the early settlement era and had a modest impact on the transport of both passengers and freight. As early as 1839, flatboats were floated downriver from Westport (below Cedar Rapids) to deliver wheat to markets in St. Louis. In the early 1840s, the Maid of Iowa was the first steamboat to successfully ply the river as far north as Cedar Rapids. Over the next decade, “numerous steamers plied back and forth developing considerable trade between St. Louis, Keokuk, Burlington, and Cedar Rapids” (Clements 1967:18). Other steamboats traveled upstream of the rapids, going back and forth between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. Boats plied the river in the 1860s-1870s; however, the arrival of the railroad in 1859 into Linn County signaled the end of river travel as an important means of transportation and shipping along the Cedar River.

There were a number of steamboat landings along the Cedar River north of Cedar Rapids. These included a landing called Blue Banks located just south of Center Point and within the current study area. These landings typically consisted of piers to enable a boat to pull up and take on wood for fuel and to drop off and pick up cargo and passengers along the way. However, the landings never supported much in the way of associated communities or enterprises although some of the landings had a few buildings (Clements 1967:19; Lazell 1908:3). The former site of Blue Banks was recorded as archaeological site 13LN320 during a previous study (Rogers 1992).

**Early Settlement Era Industries**

An essential component of the Early Settlement Era development of west-central Linn County was the milling industry taking advantage of the abundant natural resources of this area. These resources included timber for saw mills, water power for mills in general but capable of powering grist and flour mills, and limestone outcrops along the creek valleys sufficient for early quarrying activities. The 1859 map showed at least nine mills then in operation in the study area. These included a cluster of three mills to the west and southwest of Center Point, a cluster of four along the East Branch of Otter Creek, and two more along the West Branch of Otter Creek (see Figure 4). One of the mills west of Center Point had a nearly half-mile long race, the channel of which has since been infilled. The course of Otter Creek,
including both branches, was the site of more mills during the Early Settlement Era than any other waterway in the county.

As noted above, the mills in the study area included saw mills and grist/flouring mills, with the more successful later mills combining all operations into one facility, such as the Notbohm Mill in the later town of Lafayette. Marvin Oxley noted in the late 1940s in his study of Linn County mills that Otter Creek had some ideal characteristics for mill seats.

Indian Creek has a neighboring stream toward the west, Otter Creek, which also has two branches as its source in the prairie table lands of our northern townships. It lacked the dimensions of the former, but it had some of the delightful characteristics of a mountain stream as it hurried through its bordering timber lands (Oxley 1992:25).

In fact, the size of the stream might have been the key in its attraction for mills, it was small enough to be easily dammed and yet large enough to provide sufficient water power to power the mills. It may also have been less susceptible to the disastrous flooding that took out so many of the early mills along the rivers and the other larger creeks in the county, such as Indian and Big creeks. Oxley goes on to note that there were eight power sites on Otter Creek, with the first to be used for grinding grain that of Adrian Hoblitzel, whose mill was located on the east branch of Otter Creek about two miles below Lafayette (ibid.). This mill would have been near the original location of the Lafayette Post Office and the later roadside settlement known as Midway (see Figure 4). A sawmill had been established at this location in the 1850s by J. Severson, with Hoblitzel’s mill established around 1865. This mill’s most prosperous days were in the late 1860s and it appears to have been out of operation by the late 1870s (ibid.).

As noted above, the later town of Lafayette and the subsequent location of the Lafayette Post Office, was first established by the construction of the John Nevins sawmill along Otter Creek (East Branch) in 1845. John Yambert purchased this mill in 1849 and moved it a little farther south and east along this creek. This location was later improved by Frederick Notbohm, who built a large grist and flour mill at this location by 1875. The Notbohm Mill was much more successful than Hoblitzel’s and continued operating into the early twentieth century. The mill was still standing into the 1970s when the superstructure finally collapsed. The ruin of the mill, the mill race, the now-dry mill pond, and the surrounding landscape were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an archaeological district in 2000.

Isaac Mounce had a sawmill on the west branch of Otter Creek at an early day, with other sawmills including those of J.M. Todd at the village of Toddville, a Mr. Brown, and “the W.R.M. Co., W. Coleman, and Isaac Millburn. The latter was a native of Maine and the earliest sawyer in the area, operation from 1850 to 1875” (Oxley 1992:26).

In the Center Point vicinity, the early mills concentrated on the east and main branches of Blue Creek, which had its origin near the north county line and flowed into the Cedar River approximately four miles southwest of Center Point. Notable among these early mills was the operation of Metcalf & Thomas, who built a dam and sawmill in the late 1850s. They added a grist mill in the early 1860s. This mill later became part of the Diamond Mill and added steam power. “It was the old reliable mill of Washington Township” (Oxley 1992:27).

There were also two early steam flouring mills established in the southeast part of the town of Center Point, “both of which were short and unprofitable ventures” (Oxley 1992:27). The first was the ill-fated venture of Mr. Brain as noted above, which was basically a swindle that left the town with a mill but no one and no money to operate it. The building burned down in 1864. There was also the flour and carding mill of Joseph Ketchlidge & Co., which operated for a time but later moved to Jessup (ibid.).

By 1869, at least one stone quarry was in operation in the SE1/4 of Section 24 of Otter Creek Township along the west branch of Otter Creek.

Blacksmith shops also appeared to be a notable early enterprise in the rural areas of the current study area, with some located on farmsteads and serving the area’s needs, while others were centered in the towns and small villages of this area. One such blacksmith shop was located near the Flemingville settlement and was recorded as archaeological site 13LN876 by the 2006 investigation (Rogers 2006).

Ethnic and Family Settlements
While the overall settlement of the study area was not strongly ethnic compared to other areas in Linn County, such as the Bohemian rural settlements in the southern tier of townships and into neighboring Johnson County to the south, there was a notable settlement of German immigrants in the 1850s-60s in the Otter Creek valley. Oxley (1992:25) noted the following:

[Otter Creek] was also preferred by our first group of foreign-born settlers. They had fled from revolution-torn Germany, and the little German Evangelical church north of Lafayette was their meeting-place, with Rev. Kolb in charge.

The Bloom, Brenneman, Hofmann, Kolb, Notbohm, Etzel, and Ritze families were some of the representatives of this small German immigrant enclave in the Lafayette-Flemingville vicinity. The 1884 church building for the “little German Evangelical church north of Lafayette” is still standing and was recorded during the 2006 investigation as a rural architectural property known as the Salem Church. The standing farmsteads associated with some of the Kolb and Etzel families were also recorded during the 2006 investigation.

The 1870 U.S. Population Census for Otter Creek Township enumerated at least 92 persons of German nativity, with some noting specific origins in the regions of Holstein and Badin. Other Eastern European immigrants included: six from Luxemburg, 17 from Switzerland, 16 from Bohemia, 15 from England, four from Saxony, and two from France. There were also six Canadian immigrants then in the township. The majority of Otter Creek Township residents were Iowa born (number = 680) followed by those who had been born in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Other states represented included Indiana, Maryland, Illinois, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Vermont, Delaware, New Hampshire, California, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Missouri.

Previous studies in Linn County have noted the importance of family settlements in many of the rural areas of the county (see Rogers 1992, 1998, 2000, 2003; Page 2002a, 2002b; Rogers and Page 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996). These settlements were informal and often consisted of related family members immigrating or migrating to the county and establishing farmsteads in the same vicinity, often on contiguous pieces of ground but also including scattered parcels within one to two miles of each other. Sometimes these settlements included friends and extended family members who had been encouraged to later settle in the vicinity by the original settlers. Yet another pattern was the subdivision of original homesteads into smaller parcels as sons came of age and needing their own farmsteads. While not as readily identifiable in west-central study area, there was one notable settlement that repeated this pattern of family settlement. This was the settlement made by the Fleming family in the area northeast of Lafayette and including land along the East Branch of Otter Creek.

The Fleming family included brothers, William and Samuel, who settled in Otter Creek Township in 1843 along with their widowed mother. The brothers purchased adjoining land in Sections 13 and 14, and by the time of the 1859 map, two other Flemings, J. and J.J. Fleming, owned additional land in Sections 14 and 16. By the time of the 1878 county history book, there were listed five Flemings in the Flemingville area including H.S. Fleming in Section 13, C.D. Fleming in Section 24, James Fleming in Section 16, J.J. Fleming in Section 14, and W. Fleming in Section 13 (Western Historical 1878:777). The Flemings originated in Kentucky where John and Mary (McCready) Fleming were born. They were the parents of eight children: Jennie, Jacob, Betsy, James, Polly, John, Nancy, Samuel, and William. The family migrated to Indiana where the father, John, died in 1835. The family then migrated to Iowa, where many of them lived out the rest of their lives including their mother, who died in 1877 in Otter Creek Township (Chapman Brothers 1887:497).

The 1887 county biographical album illustrated the prosperous farmsteads of John and William Fleming (Chapman Brothers 1887). William’s farmstead was particularly notable and was located in Section 13 of Otter Creek Township. The previous 1992 survey relocated this farmstead and found that the three-story banked basement barn was still standing but the house and the wind-powered creamery and mill illustrated in the book are non-extant. The barn is one of the most impressive barns still standing in Linn County and is a landmark along the highway heading north out of Alburnett. The entire farmstead illustrated in 1887 reflects a very prosperous stock farming and milling operation, with the house a stylish Italianate home and the wind-powered mill perhaps a one-of-a-kind in the region. The barn is considered eligible for the National Register and should be preserved for future generations. William Fleming was noted as “one of the foremost dairymen and farmers in Otter Creek Township,” with his creamery
established in 1884 and shipping butter to the New York market. He also raised purebred Poland China hogs; Cotswold and French Merino sheep; Bashaw, Gold Dust and Percheron horses; and Jersey and Shorthorn cattle. His dairy herd numbered 40 head (ibid.:497).

Early Settlement in Subsections J, N, and O (Fairfax Township and parts of Fayette, Clinton, and College Townships)

The earliest settlements in southwest Linn County were made within and adjacent to the creek and river valleys of this region where groves of trees and the water sources provided the basic necessities for these early settlers (see Figures 2 and 3). This area was not as densely settled as other areas of Linn County during the Early Settlement Era, with a large portion of the project area remaining unentered by 1859, including a large pocket in the northwest corner and another in the southwestern corner of this area (see Figure 3). This was due to the expanses of open prairie in-between the creek and river valleys that were largely avoided by early settlers because of the difficulty in breaking the prairie sod at this early date and because there was some misconception that prairie land was not as fertile or well suited for farm ground. Of course, the prairie proved to be the most fertile ground in Iowa and was quickly broken and planted as soon as the realization was made and the appropriate tools became available. The invention of a steel scouring plow and its mass production by John Deere provided just such a tool. As a result, this area of Linn County became quickly settled after the Civil War and by 1869 all of the suitable land had been entered and homesteads established. That said, there were certainly pockets of early settlement in the southwestern portion of Linn County including those in the late 1830s-early 1840s in the Spring Grove/Covington vicinity and those in the early 1840s in the area of Sisley and Scotch groves.

Community settlements also lagged behind in this area of Linn County, with rural post offices along early stage and post roads providing the earliest form of community in the project area. Two of the earliest post offices in the project area were Sisley’s Grove, located in Section 29 of Clinton Township, and MonDieu located in east-central Clinton Township (Figure 4). MonDieu was established as a post office in 1854 and was discontinued in 1862, while Sisley’s Grove operated from 1857 until 1862. Neither grew into established communities and both were likely little more than the postmaster’s home during their operation. The Sisley’s Grove Post Office was located within a grove of trees that was known as Sisley’s Grove, so-named after the first settler in that vicinity. At this early date, there was a road that extended along the south side of the grove that led into and out of Cedar Rapids, with the post office located alongside this road. Unfortunately, from an archaeological standpoint, this road later became present-day Highway 30 and numerous widening projects along this highway through the years have destroyed much of this early settlement except for the old cemetery. Modern housing developments within the grove area itself have furthered this destruction.

The MonDieu Post Office was also situated along an early road that connected to Cedar Rapids and also connected to the main Cedar Rapids to Vinton Road, just west of the post office location. Other early roads through Clinton Township included those known as the Toledo and Marengo roads, which led out of Cedar Rapids in the direction of those two communities. Reportedly these early roads were used by settlers, travelers, and those heading west for the 1849 Gold Rush (Brewer and Wick 1911:278). In fact, Blair’s Ferry and the road that it served reportedly opened in 1849 because of the influx of gold-seekers through this area (Browne 1980:8). At least four hotels along the main Cedar Rapids to Vinton Road were shown on the 1859 map and represented stage stops along this important roadway to serve travelers (McWilliams and Thompson 1859). Unfortunately, here too, this road developed into present-day Highway 94, and road-widening projects through the years have destroyed most of the former hotel sites as well. At least two were confirmed destroyed during the present study. With the expansion of the railroad through Linn County starting in 1859, the need for stage travel decreased, with the major stageline company, the Western Stage Company, going out of business by 1870. There were local stage and hack lines that continued to operate into the late nineteenth century, with the companies of John Weare and the Higley Brothers operating out of Cedar Rapids (Kirkpatrick 1975:69-70).

At several locations along the Cedar River, the early road systems crossed with the aid of ferries. These included the Ivanhoe Ferry in southeast Linn County, Usher’s Ferry and Blair’s Ferry in the central portion of the county, and Kingston’s Ferry within the limits of present-day Cedar Rapids. Both Usher’s Ferry and Blair’s Ferry were located northwest of Cedar Rapids and upriver from that location. There was also at least one location where the river could often be forded and this was located downriver and around
The bend from Usher’s Ferry across from present-day Seminole Valley Park. This ford was known as “Ford’s Crossing” or “French’s Ford” (Laura Browne, personal communication 1992). Once the river was bridged in the late 1850s, the need for ferries decreased and the associated buildings and communities faded from the scene except for Kingston, which survived on the strength of its proximity to Cedar Rapids (Western Historical 1878:500-501).

The former location of Blair’s Ferry is within the boundary of Chain Lakes County Park within a broad expanse of floodplain that has likely been dramatically altered since the Early Settlement Era. It would be extremely difficult to relocate any remains of a ferry landing in such a setting within the constraints of the current project and this area was, therefore, not further examined by the present study.

The former location of Usher’s Ferry was east of the later town of Covington, and remains of the ferry landing were recorded during the 1992 countywide study as archaeological site 13LN297 (Rogers 1992:108, 111). This site is on the east side of the river outside of the current study area and consists of the possible site of the ferry landing, a nearby house and barn foundation once associated with the Usher family, and the remnants of the old Usher’s Ferry road leading down to the ferry site. A nearby dredging operation also reportedly encountered the remains of the ferryboat downstream from the original landing site. It is known that the ferry sank with a load of barbed wire, and the dredgers encountered a large wooden structure with lots of wire (Laura Browne, personal communication 1992). This complex of features was designated as 13LN297 and was recommended for further investigation to evaluate the subsurface potential of the site location (ibid.:111). Dyer Usher had moved to the west side of the river by 1857 where he built a house near the later town of Covington. That house may still be standing, although a 1999 evaluation of this property for the Highway 100 project concluded that the extant house was built c.1880 (McClane 1999).

Two other potential steamboat landings known as Yellow Banks and Kelsey’s Bend were considered during the 1992 study to have been more severely damaged by river channel changes and erosion than the location of Usher’s Ferry (Rogers 1992:111). Of these two, only Kelsey’s Bend would have been within the current project area boundary, while Yellow Banks is now within the corporate limits of Cedar Rapids.

The early settlers of the project area included in Clinton Township: cousins Hiram and Dyer Usher, John Conley, Joe Brown, and George Buchanan, among others in the 1840s. They were followed by James Yuill, Henry Maurer, John Fox, and the WhitenecK, Sisley, Kuhn, Wieneke, Lederman, O’Connell, Miller, Misner, Scott, Swett, Hall, and Snell families during the 1850s-1860s. Early settlement areas within the township included Sisley’s Grove, which “was at a very early date where all the settlers, as well as travelers, congregated” (Brewer and Wick 1911:279). Samuel and Sarah Hall, James Cleghorn, Sr., and John and Agnes Anderson were among the first settlers at Sisley’s Grove. At one time there was a church and a blacksmith shop and hotel at Sisley’s Grove, but now only the pioneer cemetery remains. It was also noted that the early farming in Clinton Township was quite good, with wheat having been the major crop in the 1850s-1860s (ibid.).

The U.S. Population Census records for Clinton Township show (in total heads-of-households and non-related boarders in households in the township) that in 1860 the greatest number of settlers hailed from Eastern, old Northwest, and Mid-Atlantic states including New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Jersey, Indiana, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland, in descending order of frequency. Also represented were smaller numbers of persons from Rhode Island, Colorado, Iowa, and Michigan. Foreign-born settlers were represented in small numbers but included persons from England, Germany, Scotland, Canada, Ireland, and Switzerland, in descending order of frequency. By 1880, the census showed greater numbers of foreign-born but with the larger numbers still represented by persons from New York, Iowa, and Ohio. The foreign-born heads-of-households were predominated by Germans, followed by equal numbers of Irish and Bohemian settlers. Other countries represented included Scotland, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, France, Berne, and Austria.

The early settlers of Fairfax Township included: Robert and Jane Ure and the McDowell, Listebarger, McKinnamon, Mitchell, Giddings, Knickerbocker, Flaherty, Ferriter, Henry, Cahill, Hines, and McFarland families, reflecting a concentration of Scottish immigrants who settled in what became known as Scotch Grove northwest of Fairfax. The Ure family were the first to come to this township, having arrived in 1841, Robert and Jane Ure came with a family of grown children including John, Margaret, James, William, Jane, Robert, Walter, and David. They wrote back to their friends in Scotland and urged them to settle here as well. As a result, a number of Scottish immigrants settled in and around Scotch Grove in
Linn and Benton counties. William Ure, Robert and Jane’s son, purchased the first reaping machine in this part of the county having bought it in Chicago in the summer of 1847. He drove an ox team to Chicago to pick up the machine. “After he got it started all the neighbors helped and the machine was run night and day until the season was over and the grain harvested” (Brewer and Wick 1911:272). The Scottish families were United Presbyterians and at first attended church in Cedar Rapids. In 1858, they established a church at Scotch Grove. Charter members of this church included Samuel and Sarah Hall, Joseph and Margaret Humphrey, Alexander and Janet Johnson, James and Margaret Mitchell, John and Margaret Mitchell, William and Janet McKinnon, James and Mary Ure, and Miss Margaret Ure. Most of their early homes were log houses; however, the Ure family built one of the first brick houses in this part of the county. “The brick was made by the boys and the entire house erected without the assistance of any expert, the lime being hauled all the way from Muscatine” (ibid.). This house is still standing and was recorded during the 2003 study.

The U.S. Population Census data for Fairfax Township from 1860 show the greatest number of early settlers hailed from the United States, with the highest numbers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York; however, the concentration of Scottish settlers noted above was reflected in the census data as well. Other foreign-born settlers hailed from Ireland, Germany, England, and Bohemia, in descending order of frequency. By 1880, the foreign-born heads-of-household were predominated by Irish and Bohemian immigrants, followed by Scottish, English, German, and Canadian, in descending order of frequency. Other countries represented by a few households included: Belgium, Denmark, Austria, Norway, France, Sweden, and Wales. The native-born heads-of-household in 1880 in Fairfax Township were predominated by persons from Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Iowa, followed by Maryland, New Jersey, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire, Maine, Maryland, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Connecticut, in descending order of frequency.

As southwestern Linn County developed, there were only two towns established within the project area: Fairfax and Covington. Of these two, only Fairfax was ever incorporated, with Covington remaining an unincorporated community that served area farmers and functioned as a railroad station in its heyday.

The land on which Fairfax would be platted in 1863 belonged to B.E. Vanderbilt, and the town was briefly named Vanderbilt before being renamed Fairfax. It was a station along the Chicago and Northwestern (originally the Cedar Rapids and Missouri) Railroad when it was extended from Cedar Rapids to Council Bluffs. Vanderbilt was the station agent and first postmaster; he also built the depot. His brother H.E. Vanderbilt settled nearby in 1863 followed by C.P. Osborn, a carpenter and joiner in May of that year. Osborn was the first actual settler on the platted townsite and built a house on Vanderbilt Street. He was followed by H.F. Kingsberry, who built a general store on the west side of Vanderbilt Street near the depot. In 1864, S.P. Wordsworth built a hotel on Railroad Street, with the next building having been the First Congregational Church built on the north side of Main Street. In 1865, Henry Tarr opened a blacksmith shop. Various dwellings were constructed, and the settlement began to take on the look of a true village. Phipps Brothers opened a lumberyard soon after along with a grain warehouse. Dr. U.C. Roe established a medical practice and dispensed a few drugs. A grocery was added, along with a second general store operated by B.F. Homans & Sons, later operated by P.C. Peet. This second general store was housed in a two-story frame building at the northwest corner of Main and Vanderbilt streets. By 1865, the town had a population of around 75 residents. By 1878, a boot and shoe shop, meat market, harness shop, wagon shop, two saloons, and several grain warehouses had been added. A branch line of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul was built less than one mile south of Fairfax in the 1880s. An elevator, lumber warehouse, and depot were built at that location. By 1887 Fairfax had a population of around 150 residents (Figure 5) (Chapman Brothers 1887:955; Iowa State Gazetteer 1865; Western Historical 1878:588-591).

School was first held at the Congregational Church but by 1878 a two-story frame school building had been erected. Additional churches were established in town including Methodist, Catholic, and Presbyterian churches. The Catholic Church became the most influential in the town’s religious life and included the establishment of a parochial school in addition to the church and rectory. While the school no longer operates (although the building is still being used for a daycare), the church is still an active congregation in this community, while the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches have either disbanded or relocated outside of the Fairfax community.

The U.S. Population Census data for the town of Fairfax from 1880 showed a population predominated by persons born in the United States, with most hailing from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New
York. There were a few foreign-born heads-of-household then living in the town of Fairfax, with most from Ireland, followed by England and Scotland in frequency. Other countries represented by at least one household included Denmark, Canada, Austria, Bohemia, Norway, France, and Germany.

Two railroad stations were subsequently established in the project area: Covington and Konigsmark, with the latter established as a depot along the CRANDIC interurban line in the early 1900s. Of these, only Covington grew into a community of any size or duration. The last vestige of Konigsmark (named for Frank Konigsmark, Bohemian immigrant who settled in this area in 1863 and became a successful farmer) was destroyed by recent airport expansion in southwest Linn County. Covington still survives as a rural community but no longer has any commercial properties (Brewer and Wick 1911:505-506).

The area surrounding Covington was settled at an early date, with the Usher family among the earliest settlers. A number of Users settled in Clinton Township including Hiram Usher c.1848-1851, Dyer Usher in 1857, Seymour Usher northwest of Covington, and Henry A. Usher, who moved his 1855 house across the river to Clinton Township in 1867. This house was later moved back to the east side to be used as a museum exhibit in the modern-day Usher’s Ferry Historic Village (Browne 1980).

The railroad, however, was responsible for Covington’s establishment and subsequent development as well as for its demise as a viable town. The town was platted in 1882, with William F. Stebbins serving as the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued for good in 1922. At its peak, the town’s commercial and public properties included the railroad depot, the stockyards (where cattle, sheep and hogs were loaded and shipped to market), a general store, a community hall, and a church. Of these former properties, only the church and the 1920s community hall are still standing. The general store was the hub of the community and was located on the corner of the main intersection in Covington just north of the extant community hall. The store was a place where one could buy all the necessities, socialize with one’s neighbors, and send and receive mail since the post office was housed in the store. The store also housed the Bell telephone switchboard. Covington’s original community hall was located across the road and east of the store. It was a place where community activities such as dances and socials occurred. In the 1920s, the community decided to replace the old hall with a new building. The new hall was built on the west side of the road south of the store. This hall was also the scene of town dances as well as bazaars, family gatherings, and elections. This building is still standing and was recorded as part of the current investigation. Another extant building in Covington is the old church, which was originally affiliated with the Evangelical Church but is now known as “The Church at Covington.” This building was moved into town to its current location from Blairstown early in the town’s history. It was moved by bobsled. The church still maintains a congregation and is the one public building still used for its original purpose in Covington. The rest of the extant buildings in Covington are primarily residential and include a large number of modern homes that have been built within the past 20 years as this community becomes a bedroom community for persons who work in Cedar Rapids (Armstrong and Stodola n.d.). There was no school in town, with children attending either the nearby Kline School or the Stony Point School depending on where they lived in the area around Covington (Stodola n.d.). Each of the schools was located within a mile north or south of Covington. Of these two schools, only the Stony Point School remains standing and has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

One interesting event of note in Covington’s history was the three-day “Short Course” that was held each year between 1918 and 1921. This event was planned by the community leaders and held in the church and the community hall. The church housed domestic science and home economics exhibits, while the hall was used for agricultural exhibits concerning grain, produce and livestock. The event took on the air of a county fair and included prizes for the best exhibits. Lectures were given each day by professionals on topics of interest to homemakers and farmers (Armstrong and Stodola n.d.).
The Bohemian immigrant group was among the foreign-born settlers that made Linn County their home in the nineteenth to early twentieth centuries and was the largest ethnic group in the county. Census data show that there were 139 Bohemians in Linn County at the time of the 1856 Iowa State Population Census representing 12% of the foreign-born population. The peak period for initial Bohemian settlement in Linn County would be between 1866 and 1890; however, a second wave of immigrants followed in the early twentieth century, with their numbers peaking again in the 1920s (Griffith 1944:3).

Bohemians or Czechs, have a history that “goes back to the fifth century, when they migrated westward into what is now central Europe” (Rau 1992:285).

They conquered the land of the Boii, led there by a man named Cech. Since that time they have been known by the name Bohemians, a derivative of the name of their predecessors, or as Czech, in honor of their ancient chief. They developed a dialect of the western Slavic language called Czech. Those who spoke this tongue soon occupied the areas of Bohemia, Moravia, and a small part of Silesia. Sandwiched between Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland, they were an integral part of the confederation of kingdoms, principalities, and duchies that made up the Holy Roman Empire. As such, they were always at the crossroads of Europe and its volatile political climate (Rau 1992:285).

While some consider it fallacious to refer to the people of Bohemia as “Bohemians,” preferring the use of “Czechs” or “Slovaks” instead depending upon the region from which they hailed (Griffith 1944:1), so many of the primary and secondary sources used as the basis of this context development referred to these people in general as Bohemians. Likewise, many of the older immigrants in Linn County referred to themselves as Bohemians. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, the general term “Bohemian” will be used to refer to those people who hailed from Bohemia and Moravia as indicated by their census listings.

Bohemians began to settle in Linn County c.1852-53 coming to this country in the wake of revolutionary activities in central Europe and to escape the social, economic, religious, and political upheaval that ensued. Those that “longed for more independence chose, and were allowed, to emigrate to America” (Rau 1992:286). Even greater numbers began to arrive after the American Civil War and after the end of the Prussian War in Austria in 1880 (Svendsen and Rogers 1997:7).

Other reasons for emigrating included the desire for more land to farm in the rural regions and for higher wages in industrial jobs in the cities.

Others came to the Great Plains to take advantage of the advertised large tracts of free land. A majority of these rural Czechs found their way to Nebraska, Wisconsin, Texas, Iowa, and Minnesota. Considerable numbers also came to the Dakotas, Michigan, Missouri, and Kansas. Although they lacked political freedom and social rank in Europe, most had been landowners or craftsmen and as a rule were educated and highly skilled people. They brought their talents and limited financial means to both urban and rural New World settings. Often, Czechs émigrés moved as entire family units and not as individuals; thus, they kept many of their European traditions alive simply through familial continuity (Rau 1992:286).

Between 1848 and 1914, nearly 350,000 Czechs came to America, with many settling in the major urban centers of New York City, Cleveland, and Chicago. However, “by the end of the 19th century, just less than half of all Czechs lived in New York, Chicago, and Cleveland, while most Czech farmers settled in Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Texas” (Murphy 1986:112). Others settled in Baltimore and St. Louis as well as in Michigan, Missouri, Kansas and North and South Dakota (ibid.). In the early 1920s, “political unrest among the Slovaks caused many of them to emigrate to the United States” (Griffith 1944:3).

They were attracted to Iowa because of the economic opportunities in this developing area and because of the availability of land. The initial Bohemian settlements in Linn County were made in Putnam, College, and Franklin townships all located along the southern border of Linn County. Other Bohemians came to the county in 1854-56 and settled along the border between Johnson and Linn counties primarily in College and Putnam townships in Linn, although there were also some Bohemians in Franklin, Fairfax, Bertram, Boulder, and Grant townships during the 1850s. The greatest influx of Bohemians came after the Civil War, with the largest concentration in the county settling within the City
Census data for the years 1870-1930 showed the following concerning the Bohemian population in the United States, Iowa, and Linn County:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>No. in U.S.</th>
<th>No. in Iowa</th>
<th>No. in Linn County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Bohemia</td>
<td>40,289</td>
<td>6,766</td>
<td>1,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Bohemia</td>
<td>85,361</td>
<td>10,554</td>
<td>2,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Bohemia</td>
<td>118,106</td>
<td>10,928</td>
<td>3,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Bohemia</td>
<td>156,999</td>
<td>10,809</td>
<td>3,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>362,438</td>
<td>9,150</td>
<td>3,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>491,638</td>
<td>8,280</td>
<td>3,012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[bold-face numbers indicate peak years for Bohemian immigration]

Note that the peak population years represented by the census data in Linn County were 1890 and 1920, which were also the peak years in the state as a whole. However, immigration to the United States as a whole rose steadily from 1870 to 1930. Of the 10,928 Bohemians in the State of Iowa in 1890, 30% lived in Linn County. By 1920, of the 9,150 Bohemians then in the state, 40% lived in Linn County.

Many of the first Bohemian immigrants to Iowa came by way of either Racine or Caledonia, Wisconsin, where earlier Bohemian settlements had been made. Others traveled to the Mississippi River by railroad “and from there, by ferry and ox team, reached Johnson and Linn counties” (Griffith 1944:4).

The rural Bohemian settlement in Linn County was pronounced in the southern tier of townships and along the Linn/Johnson border (and extending well into Johnson County). While much of this settlement came after the county’s Early Settlement Era, there were notable numbers of this ethnic group in southern Linn County by the time of the 1856 state population census. Many of these initial settlements were made in 1854-1855. However, as in Linn County in general, their numbers did not begin to predominate in this area until after the Civil War. Even then, the largest concentration would settle in Cedar Rapids where many worked in the Sinclair meat packing plant on the city’s southeast side.

By 1870 the Bohemian settlement in Linn County constituted 26% of the total number of Bohemians in Iowa and was the largest foreign-born group represented in the county. Another large concentration was centered in adjacent Johnson County where 33% of the state’s total number of Bohemians resided. By 1890, however, the concentration in Linn County had risen over that in Johnson County constituting 30% of the total number of Bohemians in the state (Calkin 1962). Other notable settlements of Bohemians during this period were located in Spillville in Winneshiek County in northeastern Iowa and in Ringgold County in the southwestern part of the state.

In Cedar Rapids, as much as 25% of the city’s population was of Bohemian and Slavic ancestry at times. By 1911, 71% of the Bohemian-born immigrants in Linn County were living in Cedar Rapids or just southeast of the city, with 29% in the rural areas of the county primarily in College and Putnam Townships. The town of Ely was also largely Bohemian in composition in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. By 1878 more than half of the 250 residents in Ely were Bohemians (Centennial Committee 1972:7).

Compared with other ethnic groups in the county, Bohemian ethnicity was most persistent. It has been noted that they “held tenaciously to their Mother tongue,” which continued to be used in church services until after World War I (Brewer and Wick 1911:121). This was noted at the First Presbyterian Church west of Ely where Czech language services were not discontinued until around 1950 (Worley 1958). The number of Bohemian fraternal orders and societies, including the Bohemian Reading Society, which promoted the use and teaching of the native language and served as the “center of national life and spirit,” demonstrated the persistence of the Bohemians as a cohesive ethnic group (Brewer and Wick 1911:121). In addition, a Czech School, or Matice Skolaska, was established in Cedar Rapids in 1870 as a combined effort of various Czech groups. A new building was constructed for the school in 1900 and, while the building is no longer in use, it still stands in the southeast part of Cedar Rapids within the remnants of the old Czech neighborhood (Svendsen and Rogers 1997:10).

Among the earliest Bohemian settlers in Linn County were the Ligr family, Paul Korab, John Witousek, and Anton Sulek, all of whom settled in the Ely/Hoosier Grove vicinity in the early 1850s. The Ligrs came in 1852 and settled east of Hoosier Grove; Paul Korab and his family settled one mile east of Cedar Rapids (Brewer and Wick 1911:121-123; Calkin 1962:183; Centennial Commission 1948:23; Thomas 1973:3).
Western c.1854; John Witousek settled near Korab about the same time; while Anton Sulek settled near Hoosier Grove “on a beautiful, elevated spot called “Hradek,” and meaning “Little Castle” (Brewer and Wick 1911:122). “Many other families came in 1855 and settled along the border line between Johnson and Linn counties in College and Putnam townships;” however, “the numbers that came were not great, and it was not until after the Civil War that large numbers of these people came to this county” (ibid.).

The Bohemian settlement of Linn County also appears guided by, or at least tied to, the establishment of churches in various rural areas and communities outside of Cedar Rapids. In general, there were three religious groups that Bohemian immigrants were affiliated with—Catholic, Protestant, and Free-Thinkers. In Cedar Rapids, the Catholics established St. Wenceslaus Church in 1874, with a parochial school and cemetery established shortly thereafter. In southeast Linn County, the Bohemian immigrants, who concentrated their settlement south of the Cedar River and near the old Military Road, often belonged to either St. Mary’s or St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic churches in nearby Solon in northeast Johnson County. Among the earliest Protestant Bohemian churches established was the Bohemian Reformed Church in the town of Ely in southwestern Linn County near the Linn/Johnson county line. That church was organized in 1858 and was “the first Bohemian Protestant church in the United States” (Rudis-Jicinsky 1906:209).

Another rural Protestant church of note was the First Bohemian and Moravian Brethren Church established in a rural Bohemian neighborhood in-between the towns of Ely and Western in the 1850s, with a church built in the late 1860s. The church name through the years included the Church of the Moravian Brotherhood, the Evangelical Bohemian Moravian Reformed Brothers, and finally the First Presbyterian Church, which came after the affiliation with the Presbyterian Church USA in 1956. Prior to that time, this church had been unaffiliated with any other church body and was an independent and self-supporting congregation. The affiliation in the 1950s with the Presbyterian Church “whose form of government and worship [this church] had always followed” seemed a logical choice (First Presbyterian Church 1958).

While the Bohemian Catholics tended to settle in southeastern Linn County, the Bohemian Protestants tended to concentrate in the Ely-Western vicinity in the southwestern part of the county. Bohemian Free-Thinkers, on the other hand, did not appear to constitute much of a presence in rural Linn County, with most of their numbers congregating in the urban center of Cedar Rapids.

Free-Thinkers did not belong to any church organization and believed that “every one should be permitted to think and believe as he pleases in matters of faith” (Brewer and Wick 1911:125).

In the Bohemian language they are called ‘Svobodomyslni.’ This word does not mean Free Thinkers. ‘This Bohemian word is made up of two words ‘Liberty’ and ‘Mind,’ and it means the broadest toleration for the religious beliefs and opinions of others; and further it means that you should give the widest latitude to the religious beliefs and forms of worship of your neighbors, and that they should do the same to you; and it further means that you should honor and respect the religious views and professions of your neighbors and they should do the same by you (Brewer and Wick 1911:125).

The largest group of Free Thinkers in the Bohemian settlement of Linn County resided in Cedar Rapids where they established their own private schools, took part in various Bohemian social and fraternal organizations, and were involved in the establishment of the Czech National Cemetery (Rudis-Jicinsky 1906:210).

Brewer and Wick (1911:121) in their chapter on the “Bohemian Element in the County” noted the following:

Trained through the years in habits of economy, and forced through necessity to keep up these habits, their life here has often been an incentive to others to go and do likewise. Lovers of the home, their ambition is to possess their own abiding place, and that as quickly as possible. The Bohemians are not renters. They are a class of home owners, and nothing is so potent for stability in any community as this trait on the part of its people. They are indeed a thrifty people, such as every state and county and city gladly welcome. Their buildings, though many of them may be small are substantial in their character. The gardens and the grounds surrounding the dwellings in the towns and cities are neatly kept and attractive to the eye. Their farms are well tilled and as a result grow rapidly in productiveness and value.
In agriculture they are successful farmers. No better improved farms, no better buildings, no better systems of farming exist in any other part of the state than in the communities settled by these people. They are progressive and up to date in all matters. They are hard working people and devoted to the interest of their farms (Brewer and Wick 1911:121-123) [emphasis added].

The emphasis on homeownership even from the start when funds were scarce is perhaps most evident in the old Bohemian neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids where the first dwellings were often small two-room gabled cottages. The habit of economy and thrift were also evident in the fact that even when money was available for a larger home, the Bohemians tended to simply add onto the existing cottage rather than build a new, larger building (Svendsen and Rogers 1997). While initially not thought to be as prominent a trend in the rural Bohemian settlement areas, the previous survey of Subsection P found a number of these small cottages still standing on former Bohemian farmsteads in sufficient enough numbers to conclude that this was a common residential pattern associated with this group even in rural areas (Rogers 1998). Two of these farmsteads were subsequently nominated and listed in the National Register of Historic Places including the Podhajsky/Jansa Farmstead District and the Jan and Antonie Janko Farmstead District both located in College Township. (Also listed was the Henek and Mary Horecky Log Cabin in Franklin Township).

Most significant is the fact that these houses remained the main dwellings on these farmsteads until the 1910s-20s when later generations or new owners replaced the smaller dwellings with large four-square and bungalow houses that were then popular nationwide. In contrast, the common trend on the average Euroamerican farmstead in Linn County was to build a small house first, typically a log cabin, and then replace it with a larger home as soon as money became available. These larger homes were often built by the late nineteenth century and were, in turn, sometimes replaced by an even larger house in the early twentieth century. Only rarely did the original houses survive this rebuilding process. However, on the Bohemian farmsteads previously seen in Subsection P, there appeared to have been a high survival rate for these original houses. Many survived by being moved to locations either behind the new house or elsewhere on the farmstead where they were used for tenant housing, summer kitchens, or wash houses. Most of these houses were of frame construction, although a few log buildings and at least one frame building with log sills have been documented in this area.

This same trend of the original, small gabled houses on Bohemian farmsteads being moved back to the rear yard when a newer house was finally built in the early twentieth century has also been documented in the current study area in the southern portion of Fairfax Township. Several of these appear to have a good potential for National Register eligibility for their representation of this ethnic settlement and architectural patterning.

John E. Rau, in his study of Czech immigrant architecture in South Dakota (Rau 1992), also noted this trend for small-scale gabled cottages in that rural settlement. These forms appeared to be derivative of traditional Czech folk buildings.

Regardless of the material chosen, Czech folk buildings appear in forms distinctive to this group. Like other people from the central and northern portions of Europe, Old World Czech artisans often built in a linear, central chimney form, adding a room to either end when necessary. The most common such form is a three-bay plan with a main entrance in the center bay. This central hall, called the sin in Czech, is generally not a through passage but only a common area between two living chambers. It offered space for a kitchen or heating source and the stair to the loft. Flanking the sin are the svetnice, or sitting room, and the smaller komora, often a storage or bed chamber. Several central, northern, and eastern European groups used this form. A modification of this plan often employed by Czech builders is an L-shaped tripartite structure (Rau 1992:291-292).

Rau (1992:292) noted in South Dakota that “several patterns for houses and barns developed in harmony with those established in the old country.” These were greatly simplified and Americanized, however, in their adjustment to the Great Plains. Four basic house forms were noted: single-bay, two-bay, three-bay coaxial, and L-shaped three- and four-bay houses. The simplest of these was the single-bay house, which consisted of a single room or pen and often was the first of “what would become several linear bays, connected to form a larger structure as the needs of the family grew” (ibid.). Many of the South Dakota examples were of log construction using full-dovetail corner notching and masonry chinking, and having an internal chimney. The two-bay dwelling was also often expanded into a linear
form but was built originally with “a narrow entry bay or hall and a larger chamber to either its right or left, in much the same manner as the hall-parlor plan of early America” (ibid.:293). The two cells were also separated by a brick chimney. Many of the three-bay coaxial house forms comprised “the old country sin, svetnice, and komora, described earlier, while others are linear single-pile sets of coaxial cells, nearly equal in size” (ibid.). The brick chimney typically rose from one of the interior walls. Many of the L-shaped house forms have ells that “are only perpendicular extensions of preexisting one- or two-bay houses” and consist of three or four bays (ibid.:295). The L-shaped houses often represent construction in distinct phases over a period of years, although there were some that had “been conceived and built originally as L-shaped structures” (ibid.).

Other distinctive elements noted in Rau’s study of Czech buildings in South Dakota were that all of the buildings “are capped with moderately pitched gable roofs usually covered with wooden shingles,” roof systems are commonly composed of common rafters built from store-bought precut materials, and many times the rafters were secured at the roof peaks with collars or other transverse bracing (Rau 1992:296). Other distinctive elements included carefully engineered masonry buildings, with “finely crafted jack arches over both windows and doors,” and the use of a 1-1.5 foot high knee wall on both log and masonry examples (ibid.:297).

The barns observed in South Dakota’s Czech settlements were predominantly masonry structures and typically had one large gable-end door (Rau 1992:298). A second barn form noted is a long rectangular form with entrances primarily on the side walls, with some built as housebarns (ibid.:300). In general, the barn forms repeated the traditional linear-emphasis noted in the house forms. No comparable examples of these barn forms have yet been identified in Linn County’s Bohemian settlement area. Typically, the barns found on Linn County Bohemian farmsteads are built of designs common to the region and not just to this particular group.

The 1998 intensive survey and evaluation of architectural properties in the Bohemian rural settlement area of part of College and Putnam townships in southern Linn County made the following observations (Rogers 1998):

- There were discernible architectural differences between the Bohemian farmsteads and non-Bohemian farmsteads that appear related to the Bohemian-immigrant cultural background, specifically in the evolution of the small-scale, gabled dwellings on Bohemian farmsteads. Among these properties, the side gabled, single-bay house form was the most popular, with both log and frame examples represented. The evolutionary expansion of these original single-bay cores was less consistent, however, with a number of different solutions represented. There were no examples of the 3-bay coaxial house type identified by Rau (1992) in his South Dakota study. The more common expansion method in the Linn County sample was to add on a room or rooms to the gable end, or expand off one or both of the side-gable facades.

- These dwellings also reflected the trend seen elsewhere in Bohemian settlement areas wherein the original small house, be it a cabin or a frame structure, was occupied well into the early twentieth century before a larger house was built to replace it. Even then, these examples survived because they were moved to another location on the farmstead and used as summer kitchens and washhouses. This pattern is very different from the typical building trend on Euro-American settled farmsteads wherein the original dwellings were often replaced within 10-20 years of the initial settlement with a new, larger house.

- The log structures on the Bohemian farmsteads included five log cabins, one log house, and two log outbuildings. Unfortunately, most of the log dwelling examples were sided over so that notch type could not be identified. The few exposed examples had half-dovetail (the Kubicek log shed/cabin), full-dovetail (the Horecky log cabin), and V-notched (the granary and log barn at the Dvorak site). V-notching with rounded logs was common on log outbuilding construction in general in this region. At present, little else can be concluded from this small sample of notching techniques.

Another recent study of Iowa City’s “Goosetown” neighborhood, which was a Bohemian immigrant residential neighborhood in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, noted the same pattern of
small gabled houses to which additions were subsequently made rather than replacing them with larger houses through time as seen in Cedar Rapids and rural Linn County (Svendsen 2000). In Goosetown, “the most popular house form was the Gabled Front and Wing followed by nearly equal numbers of 1, 1½, and 2-story Front-gabled houses, and 1 and 2-story Side-Gabled houses” dating primarily from the 1880s-1890s with a few surviving from the 1870s (Svendsen 2000:E-11). The houses frequently had shingle treatments for trim and always incorporated modest front and rear porches. These houses were also frequently subject to additions. “Of the 190 houses in this current phase [of the Goosetown study], there were no houses representing residential architectural styles from the nineteenth century and only a handful of Craftsman-style houses (four-squares, bungalows, and other two-story front-gabled houses) from the twentieth century” (Marlys Svendsen, personal communication 2000). Queen Anne stylistic details were only occasionally used on these houses and then primarily in porch details (ibid.). These observations can also be made in Linn County where the house forms and types are virtually the same in both the urban and rural Bohemian settlement areas of the county.

Interestingly, the Goosetown neighborhood study has noted that the Bohemian residents kept large gardens where they grew a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. “One photo even depicts tobacco drying on a shed door” (Marlys Svendsen, personal communication 2000). The neighborhood also had extensive grape arbors, berry patches, and orchards. Geese were also regularly raised for food and feathers (Svendsen 2000:E-52). The raising of geese led to the reference to this neighborhood as “Goosetown,” which early in its history “had a pejorative meaning and suggested poverty and all that was foreign” (ibid.). However, the raising of geese came from a long tradition in their homeland where geese were prized for their varied consumption value, their feathers, and for their “guard dog” attitude (ibid.:E-60).

To better compare the Goosetown study to the rural Bohemian immigrant settlement in Linn County, the agricultural statistics for College Township were examined in a previous study from both 1870 and 1880 (U.S. Agricultural Census 1870, 1880). College Township was selected because in 1870 and 1880, it had the highest numbers of Bohemian immigrant farmsteads in southern Linn County, with Putnam Township being the second highest. The years 1870 and 1880 also date from within the peak period of the first wave of Bohemian immigration and settlement in rural Linn County.

The 1870 agricultural census data showed a total of 49 Bohemian-owned farmsteads and 106 non-Bohemian farmsteads in College Township, with the Bohemian farmsteads representing 32% of the total farmsteads. The average acreage of the Bohemian farmsteads was 99 acres compared to the larger non-Bohemian farmstead average of 139 acres. The larger average acreage of the non-Bohemian farmsteads may reflect the relative newness of the Bohemian settlements in this township, with most having just arrived within ten years of the census. The average value of the Bohemian farm operations was $4752 compared to $4035 of the non-Bohemian farms suggesting that the Bohemian farms were operating at a more prosperous or efficient level perhaps than the non-Bohemian sample. There was little difference in the average value of farm implements and livestock between the two groups. Comparing the types of livestock raised, the Bohemian farms had the only working oxen in the township but this reflects the presence of oxen on only one of the Bohemian farmsteads. Milk cows, other cattle, and swine were found on fairly equal numbers on farms of both groups, with sheep being the only difference between the two. Specifically, there were no sheep being raised on the Bohemian farmsteads, while the non-Bohemian farmsteads had an average of 1.3 sheep per farm, for a total of 140 sheep overall in the township. Crops raised between the two groups showed both raising fairly equal amounts of spring wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, and potatoes, with the Bohemian farmsteads averaging higher yields of barley but notably lesser amounts of corn. Tobacco was not listed as a crop raised on any of the farmsteads in the township in 1870. Orchards were present on farms of both groups, with Bohemian farms averaging $8.30 in orchard products and $0.50 in market garden produce. Non-Bohemian farms had an average of $10 in orchard products and $0.20 in market garden produce. Other products on both farm groups were butter, hay, molasses, honey, and wood, with little difference in the amounts averaged for either group. The overall estimated average value of all farm products for non-Bohemian farms was $1760 compared to $1288 for the Bohemian farms.

In 1880, there were 71 Bohemian farms compared to 112 non-Bohemian farms, with the Bohemian farms representing 39% of the total farms in College Township (U.S. Agricultural Census 1880). By this time, the average size of the respective farms was more equal in size, with Bohemian farms averaging 110 acres and non-Bohemian 122 acres in size. The average values of the farms were $4599 for Bohemian farms and $4592 for non-Bohemian, once again showing both groups on a fairly equal footing in their
farming operations. The average value of livestock and farm implements was only slightly higher for non-
Bohemian farms as were the respective average values of farm products ($651 for Bohemian compared to
$790 for non-Bohemian). Livestock on both farm groups included horses (higher numbers on non-
Bohemian farms), mules (fairly equal for both but low overall in number), milk cows (average 3.5 on
Bohemian and 5.2 on non-Bohemian), other cattle (average 9 on Bohemian and 12 on non-Bohemian),
swine (average 17 on Bohemian and 36.5 on non-Bohemian), and sheep (here there were no sheep being
raised on Bohemian farms, with only an average of 0.9 on non-Bohemian farms). Milk and butter were
sold or produced at higher averages on non-Bohemian farms; however, dairying overall was not a major
product in southern Linn County.

Poultry were listed in the 1880 census as either barnyard (i.e., chicken and turkey) or other poultry. It
is assumed that other poultry would include geese. Here the Bohemian farms had an average of 52
barnyard poultry per farm, with only an average of two other poultry per farm. Eggs produced on
Bohemian farms averaged 312 dozen per farm. On non-Bohemian farms, barnyard poultry averaged 53.5
per farm, with other poultry being 1.9 per farm and eggs produced being an average of 338 dozen per
farm. These statistics suggest that poultry were no more important on the Bohemian farms than on the
non-Bohemian and that geese raising was not a notable activity in comparison. Crops raised on the farms
of the two groups included fairly equal average totals in corn, oats, rye, sorghum, and potatoes. The
Bohemian farms were producing higher average totals in wheat, while the non-Bohemian farms were
producing more barley and buckwheat, although these crops were raised in small proportions overall.
Once again, there was no tobacco being raised in College Township on any of the farmsteads.

Acreages planted in apple trees in 1880 averaged 0.1 acres for the Bohemian farms compared to 0.8
acres for non-Bohemian farms. This represented an average of 6.6 apple trees producing 1.4 bushels per
farm for the Bohemian farms and 22 trees producing 10 bushels of apples per farm for the non-Bohemian
farms. There were no vineyards planted or grapes grown on the Bohemian farms, with only small
numbers of vineyards planted and grapes grown on the non-Bohemian farms. Market garden produce was
not a going concern on any of the College Township farms in 1880. Honey and molasses were being
produced in small amounts on farms of both groups, with honey being slightly more prevalent on non-
Bohemian farms.

In general, the Bohemian immigrant farmers who settled in College Township were adapting well to
Iowa farming practices and were not noticeably different in products grown or raised from their non-
Bohemian neighbors. There does not appear to have been the same emphasis on geese raising or grape
growing as seen in the Goosetown neighborhood of Iowa City; however, the agricultural census likely
does not fully reflect the house gardens and products grown for family use on these farmsteads. The
emphasis of the agricultural census data was on market production.

There may have been other ways in which the Bohemian ethnic identity persisted on their Iowa farms
that cannot be enumerated in a census and warrant further study. One such example is given by Rudis-
Jicinsky (1906:210):

A number of very interesting customs which they [i.e., Bohemians in Linn County] have imported
from the old country they observe each year with all necessary ceremony. As the years go by these
festivals are slowly losing their foreign character, but they are still carefully observed, especially
on the farms, at the time of threshing, ‘posviceni,’ etc.

F. Associated Property Types

Property Type: Buildings, Structures, and Sites Associated with the Early Settlement of
Linn County, Iowa: late 1830s-1870

a. Description

The property types associated with the identified historic contexts are both archaeological and
architectural in nature. Archaeological property types associated with the Early Settlement Era context
can include habitation sites representing the first homestead of early settlers, the first grist and sawmills of
the settled areas, townsites, steamboat and ferry landings, stagecoach stops, early post offices, and stage
and post road remnants. The architectural properties that could be associated with the Early Settlement
Era context include individual buildings such as log cabins, barns, and early frame or masonry dwellings but also whole farmsteads or portions thereof, schools, churches, post offices, stagecoach inns, and commercial buildings.

b. Significance

The significance of these properties lies in their association with the early settlement period of Linn County’s historic development. These buildings, structures and sites should have the ability to represent and illuminate a period of development in the county’s history that is only partially documented in the legal records and anecdotal accounts that are often second or third-hand in their telling. There are many aspects of life during the Early Settlement Era in Linn County that will only be documented in the structural and archaeological remains of the original sites. Properties may achieve significance under Criteria A, B, C, or D under this context depending upon the nature and integrity of the structural or archaeological remains.

c. Registration Requirements

For properties associated with the Early Settlement Era of Linn County’s historic period, integrity is a key issue for both the architectural and archaeological remains. For archaeological sites, integrity of location, setting, and association will be most critical; however, integrity would certainly be enhanced if there is also integrity of design, materials, and feeling. Workmanship for archaeological properties would not be considered a critical issue of integrity. For architectural properties, integrity of location is less of an issue since many Early Settlement Era buildings, such as log cabins, were meant to be moveable structures. However, if a property retains integrity of location, its overall integrity would be greatly enhanced. Most critical of the integrity issues related to architectural properties will be integrity of design, materials, feeling, and association, with integrity of setting, location, and workmanship perhaps less critical but if present would enhance a property’s overall significance. As noted previously, an important guide for evaluating the integrity of architectural properties, particularly those being considered under Criterion B for their association with the life of a significant person, would be if the associated person would easily recognize the property if he or she was to return today.

Architectural and archaeological sites significant for their association with the Early Settlement Era must be able to represent and reflect their association with this period in the county’s development. A plowed archaeological site can retain sufficient integrity if it has discernible activity areas or patterning associated with the period of significance and if it possesses good integrity of setting, materials, and association. A critical concern for sites that were occupied into the twentieth century would be if there remained any identifiable features or activity areas of the site that could be associated with the mid-late nineteenth century occupation of the site. For architectural properties, the major concern would be later modifications and alterations to the structure and to what degree the original components of the structure are still intact and recognizable. Finally, the property, be it architectural or archaeological, must date from or contain evidence dating from, the period of significance for this context, which is considered to extend from the late 1830s-1870.

G. Geographical Data

The geographical area for the current study encompasses selected sites and properties within an area arbitrarily designated as Subsections F, G, H, J, N, and O in west-central and southwest Linn County (see Figure 1). These subsections encompasses the whole of Otter Creek and Fairfax townships, most of Clinton Township, the south part of Washington, the top tier of sections in Monroe, the far western sections in Maine Township, the extreme western portion of College Township, and the southernmost tier of sections in Fayette Township. The subject sites and properties are scattered throughout these subsections (see Figure 2).
H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation methods

Research Design

The primary goal of the current project was to conduct Phase II-level testing of the following archaeological sites:

sites in Subsections F, G, and H:

13LN876
13LN877
13LN878
13LN879
13LN882

and in Subsections J, N, and O, the following three sites:

13LN831
13LN843
possible sod house site in the SE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 8, Clinton Township (this site could not be examined during the previous study and was recommended for more intensive survey techniques to locate and evaluate the site in future investigations; see Rogers 2003)

The purpose of the Phase II testing was to determine the National Register eligibility of each site under Criterion D, for their ability to yield information of importance to the history of Linn County and the region. The Phase II testing required permission of the current property owners; therefore, the above list was considered the maximum ideal, with the final actual number tested dependent upon property owner permission. Access continued to prove a challenge to the study of one site, the possible sod house site in Section 8 of Clinton Township, with the site not able to be accessed during the current project because of extreme wet weather conditions. A second site, 13LN876, could not be accessed for lack of owner permission. All of the other sites were examined during the current project.

An additional goal of the project was to conduct more intensive research and study of the following architectural properties in order to completely address questions concerning eligibility of the properties under Criterion A and/or B and under the Early Settlement Era context. In Subsections F, G, and H, these recommended properties include:

Neighbor General Store, Lafayette (57-07251)
Sugar Grove Farmstead (57-07220)
Jayne Barn (57-07223)
Sunninghill Barn (57-07221)
Fleming Barn (57-00924)
Martin Farmstead (57-07226)
Scott House (57-07225)
Pullman Hotel, Center Point (57-07242)
Dr. Yost House, Center Point (57-04246)

and in Subsections J, N, and O, the following properties:

James Ure House (57-06479)
William Ure House (57-06480)
George Seroway Farmstead (57-06485)
former St. Patrick’s Rectory, Fairfax (57-06505)
Spring Grove Cemetery (57-06477)
In addition, the following properties will be further researched concerning their association with the German immigrant ethnic component of the Otter Creek Settlement and the Lafayette vicinity:

Salem Church (57-07227)
Eidemiller Farmstead (57-07224)
Kolb Farmstead (57-07250)

and one property associated with the Bohemian immigrant settlement of the Fairfax vicinity in Subsections J, N, and O:

Wesley Cerveny Farmstead (57-06483)

The ultimate objective was to determine definitively whether or not the above archaeological sites and architectural properties are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, with recommendations either for no further investigation or actual listing of the properties in the National Register by future projects.

As with all of the past Linn County CLG surveys, an additional objective was to involve local volunteers and property owners in the study of these sites, with volunteers recruited for field investigation and historic research activities.

The Early Settlement Era of Linn County’s historical development was targeted because of the often rare survival of archaeological and architectural properties associated with this early stage of the historic period and because these properties are often the most threatened by modern development and deterioration. The area of Subsections F, G, and H is threatened by ongoing and planned development in this area associated with the expansion of the Cedar Rapids and Marion to the north and new expansion in the growing suburban area around Center Point, while the area of Subsections J, N, and O is threatened with the expansion of the Eastern Iowa Airport, the expansion of modern housing developments on the west side of Cedar Rapids and around Covington and Fairfax, and the planned construction of a highway extension (Highway 100) that will angle through the project area and will likely result in additional development along that corridor.

There have been a number of small-scale archaeological studies previously conducted within the area of Subsections F, G, and H and include a survey along Alice Road extending from just north of Midway up to Alice and a number of smaller road improvement, bridge replacement, and cellular tower construction projects. The largest area of archaeological study within the current study area has been within the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Area as noted above. Since 1993, this area has been the subject of a series of systematic archaeological investigations resulting in the recordation of both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites of some significance (see Green 1996; Rogers 1999; Rogers and Green 1995; Shields 1999).

One major Phase I cultural resources investigation for the Highway 100 project was previously conducted in the area of Subsections J, N, and O by Louis Berger and Associates (Hirst and Chadderdon 2001). This corridor crosses the Cedar River just northeast of Covington, curves around the north and west edges of Covington, and then turns due south to connect with existing U.S. 20. The corridor was generally 400 meters wide and 8.5 miles in length. The Phase I investigation of this corridor documented 21 archaeological sites and 13 architectural properties. The archaeological sites included nine Euroamerican farmsteads, two Euroamerican residences, one railroad-related property, and nine prehistoric sites. No contact-period Native American sites were encountered, and none of the archaeological sites was found to be eligible for the National Register. The architectural properties were represented primarily by farmsteads, and none of the architectural properties were found to be eligible for the National Register (McClane 1999).

Methods

The archaeological fieldwork consist of Phase II testing using test unit excavation (0.5 m x 0.5 m up to a maximum of 1 m x 1 m in size, or trenches measuring 0.5 by 1 m or more in length) to address lingering questions concerning site integrity and information potential in order to complete a determination of either eligibility or ineligibility for the National Register for each site. Test unit
excavation was documented by sketch maps, profile drawings, and photographs. Those sites in cultivated field locations were also examined by controlled surface collection using a handheld GPS unit (Garmin Plus III set on the NAD83 datum) and by additional shovel tests.

The supplemental archaeological site information was recorded online in the I-Sites Pro: GIS and Database for Iowa Archaeology for each site, with hard copies of the completed forms submitted to the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission for their files with the final report. Detailed descriptions of the artifacts recovered during the Phase II testing are included in Appendix A of this report, with a NADB form included in Appendix B.

The architectural fieldwork consisted of intensive survey of any portion of the recorded properties that remained for inspection, but primarily focused on an update of the current condition of the property and a final evaluation of the property’s integrity. In some cases, the primary need was additional research into the property’s history in order to address lingering questions concerning historical associations and significance. The additional research included examination of the agricultural census records, population census records, cemetery records, and land transfer data.

Supplemental Iowa Site Inventory forms were completed for each property investigated, with copies filed with the State Historical Society of Iowa and the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission along with the photo end products for this project. A HADB form for this project is included in Appendix B of this report.

Project Personnel

The Principal Investigator is Leah D. Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. Ms. Rogers served as the overall project coordinator and is responsible for the completion of the project end products, supervision of other project personnel, and recruitment, training, and supervision of project volunteers. Research Assistants from Tallgrass Historians L.C. involved in the project included: Hesper Meidlinger, who conducted site-specific research and assisted in the processing of artifacts; Katherine Nash, who assisted with report production; Loren Schutt, who assisted with the archaeological fieldwork; and Tiffany Eggers, who assisted with the final processing of the artifacts.

Volunteers who participated in the project included: Nancy Beadle, David Brunius, Gary Dalecky, Chelsea Korpanty, Tiffany Mann, Mary Noble, Bill Paeth, David Perkins, Jim Probst, Donna and David Rotschafer, Loren Schutt, Charlotte Wright, and Jim Zalesky. These volunteers assisted with the archaeological fieldwork, historic research, and artifact labeling.

In addition to these volunteers, the property owners have also graciously given of their time and knowledge concerning historic sites in the area including George Etzel, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Winfield, and James Wohlers. Members of the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission have also given of their time for meetings and review of the project results. Finally, Joi Bergman, Liaison to the Commission for the County Board of Supervisors, served as Project Director and assisted with project coordination and meetings. Paula Mohr of the State Historical Society of Iowa provided guidance during the project, and Ralph Christian of the State Historical Society of Iowa reviewed the draft report.

Evaluation

The final archaeological and architectural site evaluations were based on the guidelines and criteria set forth by the Department of the Interior for the National Register of Historic Places and as set forth by the previous MDPF completed for Early Settlement Era properties in Linn County (National Park Service 1991, 1993; Rogers 2000). Each resource was evaluated for individual eligibility for the National Register and/or contributing status to a National Register eligible district.

Integrity is a key component to any site evaluation be it archaeological or architectural in nature. Integrity is defined as “the ability of a property to convey its significance” and “to retain historic integrity a property will always possess several and usually most of the aspects” of integrity (National Park Service 1993:17). For historic archaeological sites, integrity of location, design, materials, and association are of primary importance when nominating sites under Criteria A and B. Under Criterion C, design, materials, and workmanship are particularly important, while under Criterion D, location, design, materials, and association are most relevant. Furthermore, integrity of setting is important under Criteria A and B. Integrity of feeling can also add to the site’s integrity, with integrity of setting and feeling both increasing
the “recognizability” of the site or district, thus enhancing the ability to interpret a site’s significance (ibid.). The following table is adapted from Bulletin 26 (ibid.:17-21) and is a summary of the aspects or qualities of integrity:

**Location** - The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. (Historic archaeological sites and districts almost always have integrity of location).

**Design** - The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. (Design can be applied to town layouts and plans but for historic archaeological sites generally refers to the patterning of structures, buildings, and discrete activity areas relative to one another. All properties must be able to convey their significance either through the information they contain [Criterion D] or their historical appearance [Criteria A, B, and C]. A plowed site can be eligible if plowing has displaced artifacts to an extent, but the activity areas or intra-site patterning are still discernible, then the site still retains integrity of location or design.)

**Setting** - The physical environment of a historic property. (This includes elements such as viewsheds, topography, landscapes, vegetation patterns, and man-made features such as fencerows, paths, roadways. Historic archaeology sites can be nominated under Criterion D without integrity of setting if the sites have important information potential; however, an intact setting certainly enhances the ability of the site to convey its significance. For nomination under Criteria A and B, integrity of setting must be able to reflect the appearance of the site during the period of significance and the setting must be integral to the importance of the site or district.)

**Materials** - The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. (Integrity of materials is important under Criterion C, while under Criteria A and B, the integrity of materials should be considered within the framework of the property’s overall significance. Under Criterion D, integrity of materials is usually reflected in the presence of intrusive artifacts or features, the completeness of an artifact or feature assemblage, or in the quality of artifact or feature preservation.)

**Workmanship** - The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. (This is most often an issue under Criterion C, with it important under Criteria A and B only if workmanship is tied to the property’s significance. Under Criterion D, workmanship is usually addressed indirectly in terms of the quality of the artifacts or architectural features and may not necessarily be a critical issue to eligibility).

**Feeling** - A property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. (A property has integrity of feeling if its features, in combination with its setting, convey a historic sense of the property during its period of significance. Integrity of feeling enhances a property’s ability to convey its significance under all of the criteria).

**Association** - The direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. (Integrity of association is critical under Criteria A and B. In essence, a property retains association if it is the place where the event occurred and is intact enough to convey that relationship to the observer. Under Criterion D, integrity of association is measured in terms of the strength of the relationship between the site’s data and the important research questions from which it can derive its significance.)

Many of these same aspects apply to architectural properties, with some distinctions. For example, while it is always preferable to have the significant architectural property at or on its original site, some buildings, such as outbuildings and log cabins, were commonly moved either from one farmstead to another or to different locations on the same farmstead. Therefore, integrity of location is not always a critical factor, if the property meets other aspects of integrity, such as integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association, and its significance lies in broader historical associations or its own design elements regardless of its specific point of origin or location.
If a site is found to possess sufficient integrity, then the potential significance of the property must be considered. Documenting the significance of a historic property must consider four basic criteria (National Park Service 1991:37, 1993:21-27).

**Criterion A** - Association with events and broad patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (i.e., historical significance). To be eligible under this criterion, properties are significant because they demonstrate or reflect important events or patterns of events. Under Criterion A, a property must convey its historic significance. For archaeological sites, they must have well preserved features, artifacts, and intra-site patterning in order to illustrate a specific event or pattern of events important in an area’s history. Significance is generally demonstrated through historical research, with archaeological or architectural evidence supporting the linkage.

**Criterion B** - Association with the lives of an important person or persons significant in our past. These are individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. A property must be illustrative of this person’s life, rather than commemorative. Under Criterion B, archaeological sites must have excellent preservation of features, artifacts, and spatial relationships. Simply put, integrity for a property eligible under Criterion B means that the person for whom the property is significant in its association would be able to recognize the property if he or she could return today. This is true for architectural properties as well.

**Criterion C** - Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (i.e., architectural significance). To meet the integrity requirement of Criterion C, an archaeological property must have remains that are well preserved and clearly illustrate the design and construction of the building or structure. An architectural property would have to retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

**Criterion D** - Information potential (i.e., the ability to yield information important in prehistory or history). This is most commonly applied to archaeological sites, although it does not exclude architectural properties or features. To be eligible under this criterion, a property must have or have had information that can contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and that the information must be considered important. There are five steps in making a Criterion D evaluation of an archaeological property: 1) identify the property’s data sets or categories of archaeological, historical, or ecological information; 2) identify the historic contexts that are appropriate historical and archaeological frameworks in which to evaluate the property; 3) identify the important research questions that the property’s data sets can be expected to address; 4) evaluate the data sets in terms of integrity and their potential to answer research questions; and 5) identify the important information that an archeological study of the property has yielded or is likely to yield. Archaeological study generally contributes to our understanding of the past in three ways: 1) reinforces, alters or challenges current assumptions about the past; 2) test new hypotheses about past activities; and 3) describes, records, and reconstructs past lifeways across time and space.

Evaluating archaeological site significance is often a challenge given that even historical archaeologists do not always agree on what is important or significant to our understanding of history. Generally, it is comparatively easy to recognize those properties that are clearly eligible for the NRHP; those with 1) spatially and temporally defined archaeological features and artifacts that can be identified and interpreted; 2) cultural and natural site formation processes that have preserved these remains; and 3) an extensive documentary record assignable to a particular group associated with the property or type (Wilson 1990:30-31 as quoted in National Park Service 1993:29). Conversely, it is generally agreed upon as to those properties that are clearly ineligible: 1) mixed or undifferentiated contexts and temporally diverse cultural material or disturbed spatial associations and the absence of identifiable archaeological features; and 2) site formation processes that have severely impacted the physical integrity of the archaeological record to the point of compromising that record (ibid.:30). For those properties that fall
somewhere in-between these two extremes, eligibility will depend upon the quality of the questions we ask because it is this quality that “determines the nature of the answers we recover from the past” (ibid.).

**Research Questions**

The following research questions were devised for the study area based on past studies of similar locations in Linn County and past studies within the project area as well as their applicability to the specific sites and properties that are the focus of the current study:

1. Ethnic and religious-based settlements were also identified in other areas of Linn County to have been an important context of the early historic period. Can any of the selected sites and properties be definitively identified with a specific ethnic or religious group, and if so, what do the sites and properties tell us about this type of settlement in Linn County?

   a. In the vicinity of Lafayette and the Early Settlement Era Otter Creek Settlement, there were a number of German immigrants who settled in this area in the 1850s-60s. The current study examined at least three standing architectural properties that appeared to have had an association with this immigrant group, specifically the Salem Church (57-07227), the Eidemiller Farmstead (57-07224), and the Kolb Farmstead (57-07250). Does the historic research on this property confirm the German immigrant association, and if so, is this association significant in the settlement of this township and the county?

   b. Settlements by Bohemian immigrants in the mid to late nineteenth century notably concentrated in southern Linn County. The current study examined one architectural property associated with this immigrant group, specifically the Wesley Cerveny Farmstead (57-06483). This property was notable for the presence of the small gabled cottage that represented the first house on the property but was later replaced by a larger home, but with the cottage retained for other uses on the farmstead. This property is a well preserved example of this architectural pattern in southern Linn County. Does the property still survive and, if so, does it still retain sufficient integrity to be considered National Register eligible? Furthermore, does historic research on this property confirm the Bohemian immigrant association?

2. Do the archaeological sites examined during the current study meet the integrity considerations and significance criteria for individual National Register eligibility as good representatives of aspects of the Early Settlement Era in Linn County? If the sites are not individually eligible, do any of the sites otherwise qualify as contributing sites to larger archaeological/architectural historic districts?

3. Does the research conducted for the remaining architectural properties confirm or refute the suspected historical associations for these properties? Are any of these properties either individually eligible or eligible as contributing components to historic districts? What can these properties tell us about the Early Settlement Era in Linn County?

**Results of Current Study**

**Architectural Properties**

The current study focused on the further research and full evaluation of the following architectural properties:

- Neighbor General Store, Lafayette (57-07251)
- Salem Church (57-07227)
- Eidemiller Farmstead (57-07224)
- Kolb Farmstead (57-07250)
- Sugar Grove Farmstead (57-07220)
- Jayne Barn (57-07223)
Sunninghill Barn (57-07221)
Fleming Barn (57-00924)
Martin Farmstead (57-07226)
Scott House (57-07225)
Pullman Hotel, Center Point (57-07242)
Dr. Yost House, Center Point (57-04246)

and in Subsections J, N, and O, the following properties:

James Ure House (57-06479)
William Ure House (57-06480)
George Seroway Farmstead (57-06485)
former St. Patrick’s Rectory, Fairfax (57-06505)
Spring Grove Cemetery (57-06477)
Wesley Cerveny Farmstead (57-06483)

All of these properties were re-examined and found to still be standing and in generally the same overall condition that they were in during the original 2003 and 2006 surveys. However, there were two exceptions—the William Ure House (57-06480), which was found to be vacant and in a deteriorating condition, and the Spring Grove Cemetery, which while in overall good condition has been expanded to the south with a new entry driveway added. In the case of the William Ure House, the current condition is cause for concern because its vacant state and deteriorating condition do not bode well for its future preservation. The expansion of the Spring Grove Cemetery is indicative of the growing suburban population around Covington and the active status of this cemetery. While the expansion itself does not directly impact the historic section of the cemetery, the expansion does impact the surrounding landscape and lessens the ability of this resource to convey the look and feel of the historic cemetery, which will now be surrounded by the modern active cemetery.

Sugar Grove Farmstead (57-07220)

This farmstead is located in the Lafayette vicinity in the SE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 33 of Otter Creek Township. It is specifically located on St. Peters Road and has buildings on both the east and west sides of the road. These buildings include a house built c.1888, an icehouse, two older frame garages, a chicken house, a feeder barn, a gabled barn, and a machine shed. Of these buildings, the barn contains within its current structure the original heavy timber frame barn built by Richard Jackman and dating from before 1886. The rest of the standing buildings were built by the Henry Etzel family after he purchased the property in 1888.

Richard Jackman was born in Ohio in 1810 and located in Linn County in 1854. He married Nancy Edgington in 1837 and they had five children: Adam, Catherine, John E., Mary, and J.W. (Western Historical 1878:778). Richard Jackman died in 1886 according to the Linn County probate records (Record No. 1541); however, his burial site is unknown.

Henry Etzel was born in Otter Creek Township in 1858 the son of Gotlieb and Julia Etzel, both natives of Germany. The Etzels first located in Pennsylvania before locating to Otter Creek Township in Linn County, Iowa. Upon reaching adulthood, Henry first rented a tract of land where he farmed for a time. After his marriage in 1887, he and his wife, Sarah Maier, rented a farm near Marion where he farmed for one year. “On the expiration of that period he purchased one hundred and thirty-three acres in Otter Creek Township;” the farm being the Sugar Grove Farm previously owned by Richard Jackman (Brewer and Wick 1911, Vol. II:358). In 1911, it was noted that Etzel’s “home place is well improved with substantial buildings, while his fields are under a high state of cultivation and each year yield

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Sarah Maier was the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Maier, natives of Germany, who emigrated to the United States settling first in Pennsylvania before locating in Linn County, Iowa. Sarah was born in the United States, although she had an older sister, Henrietta, who had been born in Germany and came with her parents at an early age. Henrietta married George Eidemiller and lived on a farm north of Lafayette (Neighbor 1998:16)
abundant harvests. He has been quick to discern opportunities for advancement and, wisely investing his money in land, is now numbered among the well-to-do citizens of Linn County” (ibid.).

In addition to the farm buildings, the farmstead property includes the location of the original log cabin which, according to a historical account, was built in the late 1830s or early 1840s by Stephen Snooks (Western Historical 1878:341). The archaeological evidence of this early cabin was recorded as site 13LN879 and was re-examined during the current investigation. The cabin was located in what is now the front yard of the standing house. Two other archaeological sites were recorded on this farm property including the foundation and remains associated with a reported stagecoach stop and house of “ill-repute” located to the west-northwest of the Sugar Grove Farmstead and recorded as 13LN877 and the remnant of one of the old stage roads located north of the Sugar Grove Farmstead and recorded as 13LN881. Site 13LN877 was also the subject of Phase II testing during the current investigation (see archaeological results section below).

The entirety of the Sugar Grove Farm including the standing buildings and the three archaeological sites is concluded to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criteria A, C and D for its historical, architectural and archaeological significance. In addition, oral history indicates that the sugar maple grove to the west of the standing house on this farmstead was frequented by the Meskwaki in the nineteenth century for the purpose of gathering maple sugar. It was suspected that the ridgetop to the southwest of the farmstead was a likely camp site for the Indians while they were tapping this sugar grove. During the 2006 survey project, this location was tested by the excavation of 10 shovel tests in a single transect along the summit of this ridgetop, with no artifacts or other cultural material recovered. Time did not permit testing of any other areas within the grove, and it will remain for future studies to continue to attempt to locate archaeological evidence of this Native American activity. A further feature of this district is a suspected quarry site where the limestone for the building foundations was extracted in the nineteenth century.

The current investigation focused on Phase II testing of the two historic house sites (13LN877 and 13LN879), additional research into the farmstead’s overall history, and a field check of the current status of the standing buildings. All of the buildings present in 2006 are still standing and in good condition. The house is occupied, and the property is well cared for by the Etzel family.

The additional research for this property showed that Richard Jackman located on this property in 1854 where he lived with his wife and their five children until his death in 1886.3 Jackman was listed as a farmer in Otter Creek Township in the 1860 U.S. Population Census, with his household including wife, Nancy, and five other persons aged 8 to 22, only three of which were likely the Jackman’s children and two others who may have been Richard’s brother and sister or Jackman relatives. By 1870, the Jackman household included wife, Nancy, and son, Jesse, and two boarders.

3 The earlier occupation of this property by Snook would have pre-dated legal land entries for this area. Snook obviously decided to move on before the area was opened to land sales, with Jackman therefore the first legal owner of the property after the government.
The 1860 Agricultural Census indicated that the Jackman farm then consisted of 230 acres of land, with the crops raised including corn (800 bushels), wheat (216 bushels), and oats (146 bushels). Livestock raising was also of note on the Jackman farm, with emphasis on swine and sheep. The 1870 Agricultural Census reported that Jackman then owned 150 acres of land, with the largest production outgrowth coming from corn (800 bushels), wheat (263 bushels), oats (258 bushels), and potatoes (60 bushels). Jackman’s livestock raising had shifted from swine and sheep to primarily sheep and cattle. By 1880, Jackman had retired from farming, as indicated in the population census from that year. Henry Etzel and his wife, Sarah Maier, were the succeeding owners of the property, which they acquired after Jackman’s death in 1886. Although no agricultural reports are available for later than 1880, Henry Etzel’s father, Gotlieb Etzel, was also a farmer in Otter Creek Township, and according to the 1880 census he owned over 200 acres of land, producing corn, oats, wheat, potatoes, and fruit. In 1907 “The Sugar Grove Farm” of Henry Etzel was advertised in the county plat book as specializing in “thoroughbred Poland China Hogs” (Iowa Publishing 1907). Henry Etzel’s property was granted to his two sons Ernest and Milton in 1947 and eventually passed down to Ernest’s son, George R., in 1978. The property remains under the ownership of the George Etzel et al. trust, with George’s sister currently occupying the family home on the Sugar Grove Farmstead.

The following tables show the specifics of the agricultural census data for the Sugar Grove Farmstead:

**1860 Agricultural Census for Richard Jackman:**
- **Acres of land:** Improved – 90; Unimproved – 140
- **Present cash value:** Farm – $4600; Farm implements/machinery – $150
- **Livestock (as of June 1, 1860):** Horses – 3; Milk cows – 2; Other cattle – 1; Sheep – 15; Swine – 25;
  - Value of livestock – $375
- **Farm production (as of June 1, 1860):** Wheat – 216 bushels; Indian corn – 800 bushels; Oats – 146 bushels; Wool – 40 lbs; Hay – 10 tons
- **Total values:** Value of animals slaughtered – $50

**1870 Agricultural Census for Richard Jackman:**
- **Acres of land:** Improved – 110; Woodland – 40
- **Present cash value:** Farm – $5000; Farm implements/machinery – $500
- **Livestock (as of June 1, 1870):** Horses – 8; Milk cows – 5; Other cattle – 8; Sheep – 20; Swine – 1;
  - Value of livestock – $1100
- **Farm production (as of June 1, 1870):** Wheat (spring) – 263 bushels; Indian corn – 800 bushels; Oats – 258; Potatoes (Irish) – 60 bushels; Wool – 60 bales (450 lbs); Butter – 180 lbs; Hay – 12 tons;
  - Molasses – 32 lbs; Honey – 80 lbs
- **Total values:** Value of animals slaughtered/sold for slaughter – $240; Estimated value of all farm production – $1177

The Sugar Grove Farmstead retains good integrity, with the extant buildings representing the Jackman and Etzel family occupations of this farmstead. The farmstead consists of a nearly full
complement of farm outbuildings of historic age. The buildings are in a good state of preservation, and the farmstead overall presents a strong sense of time and place. As an architectural property, this farmstead is eligible for the National Register as a farmstead district encompassing the standing buildings on both sides of St. Peter’s Road. However, consideration of the archaeological components of the Sugar
Grove Farm property including sites 13LN877, 879, and 881, and the potential for additional sites of significance related to the Meskwaki maple sugar camp and the quarry reported by oral history indicates that the entire farm property as shown in Figure 5 is eligible as a historic district under Criteria A, C, and D as noted above. This property has the ability to yield important information concerning the Early Settlement Era occupation of the Otter Creek Settlement and of the later Lafayette village located nearby.

**Sunninghill Farmstead (57-07221)**

This farmstead is located just northeast of the Midway settlement (and the early Lafayette Post Office location). It is specifically located in the SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 5 of Monroe Township. The farm is currently named “Sunninghill Farm” according to the painted sign on the barn and includes a well-preserved gabled banked/basement barn with side ramp and an older gabled-front-and-wing frame house in addition to several smaller outbuildings including a livestock shed added to the west side of the barn, a small granary or crib, a 20th century garage, a hip-roofed wash house, and several modern grain bins and machine sheds.

Of these buildings, the barn is the best preserved as a historic building. The barn is a heavy timber frame English Bank Barn type, which has a central aisle across the width of the barn, with equal-sized bays to either side of the aisle for hay and grain storage (Noble and Cleek 1995). The main level of the barn is accessed via a ramp on the north side leading into the center aisle. The basement level was used for livestock shelter and is entered from the south side exterior, which is also downslope from the north side of the barn. The interior construction shows the use of both hand hewn and sawn posts and beams. The foundation is built of rough slabs and cut limestone blocks, with glacial fieldstones used in the ramp wall construction.

The house has been altered in recent years with several very large additions to the west side that have overwhelmed the original house structure, although the original core of the house is still clad with clapboard siding and has a stone foundation. However, the modern additions have rendered the house individually ineligible, although it could still contribute to a farmstead district. The addition of modern machine sheds has further impacted the overall farmstead integrity making the entire farmstead problematic integrity-wise for district designation. Instead, it is recommended that the barn be individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a well-preserved mid to late nineteenth century heavy timber frame banked/basement barn.

According to historic plat maps, this farmstead was owned by J.B. Miller in 1881 and 1895 and by Sarah E. Miller by 1906. There may have been a settlement at this location as early as 1869, although the location is obscured and illegible on the 1869 map. J.C. Miller had a house south of this farmstead in 1859 and 1869, although none of those older buildings appear to be extant. Both J.B. and J.C. Miller were listed as farmers in Section 5 and 8 respectively of Monroe Township in the 1878 county history (Western Historical 1878:812). The relationship between J.C. and J.B. Miller is that of father and son, with J.C. being the father, John C. Miller, and J.B. being his son, Jacob B. Miller.

The revisit to this property indicated that the barn is still standing and in good condition, with no discernable changes to the barn or the rest of the farmstead since first recorded in 2006. The barn is certainly individually eligible under Criterion C as a well preserved example of a banked English-type barn in Linn County. Eligibility of the farmstead as a whole hinges on historical association, which was further researched during the current investigation.

According to land transfer data, this property was owned by John Servison in the early 1870s, with Jacob B. Miller acquiring the property in 1873 from Servison. Jacob’s father, John C. Miller, was a farmer living in Section 8 of Monroe Township. John Miller is found in the 1860 Agricultural Census, which indicated that he owned 200 acres of land, and raised corn (900 bushels), oats (500 bushels), wheat (300 bushels), and potatoes (50 bushels). Jacob Miller, married Sarah Albaugh in 1867, and they had eight children (Brewer and Wick 1911:119). Miller’s name appears on the 1881 and 1895 maps showing ownership as “J.B.” The 1906 map instead lists his wife’s name, Sarah E. Miller, and that might be due to Miller’s retirement as a farmer, which as stated in the 1911 county history, was in effect by that year. Jacob Miller was found in both the 1870 and 1880 Agricultural Censuses, under Monroe Township. In 1870 he is listed as owning 215 acres of land, with his primary farm production being corn (1,100 bushels), wheat (600 bushels), oats (150 bushels), and potatoes (40 bushels). Livestock consisted of a fairly even balance of cattle and swine but no sheep. By the 1880 census Miller owned 115 acres, with his
primary production again being corn (1,000 bushels), oats (31 bushels), wheat (17 bushels), and potatoes (50 bushels). His livestock had greatly expanded to include milk cows, cattle, and swine, the last constituting his largest herd.

Barn on Sunninghill Farmstead, View to the NW in May 2006

The following tables present the actual agricultural census data for the J.B. Miller farming operation:

1870 Agricultural Census for Jacob Miller

*Acres of land:* Improved – 200; Woodland – 15

*Present cash value:* Farm – $5000; Farm implements/machinery – $300; Total amount of wages paid during the year – $150

*Livestock (as of June 1, 1870):* Horses – 3; Milk cows – 3; Other cattle – 4; Swine – 8; Value of livestock – $550

*Farm production (as of June 1, 1870):* Wheat (spring) – 600 bushels; Indian corn – 1100 bushels; Oats – 150 bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 40 bushels; Butter – 180 lbs; Hay – 10 tons; Molasses – 16 gallons

*Total values:* Value of animals slaughtered/sold for slaughter – $100; Estimated value of all farm production – $1180
1880 Agricultural Census for Jacob Miller

**Acres of land:** Tilled – 80; Permanent meadow/pasture – 30; Woodland/forest – 5

**Farm values:** Overall land – $4000; Farm implements/machinery – $140; Livestock – $1000; Cost of building/repairing fences – $100; Estimate of all farm production – $581

**Labor (in 1879):** Amount paid for wages – $75; Weeks hired labor on farm – 6

**Livestock:** Horses – 3; Milk cows – 7; Other cows – 8; Calves – 3; Swine – 93; Barnyard poultry – 6; Other poultry – 60; Eggs produced (1879) – 274

**Farm production:** Indian corn – 31 acres, 1000 bushels; Oats – 9 acres, 31 bushels; Wheat – 7 acres, 17 bushels; Molasses – ¼ acres, 20 gallons; Potatoes – ¼ acre, 50 bushels; Wood (in 1879) – 4 cords, $37

Not only was Miller a successful farmer, but a decorated Civil War veteran as well and was called “one of the valued citizens of Cedar Rapids” in the 1911 county history (Brewer and Wick 1911:119). He had been born in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1842, the son of John C. and Mary (Eikenburg) Miller. The Miller family moved from Virginia to Tennessee in 1843 and then to Illinois in 1846. In 1856, the family relocated to Linn County when Jacob was 14 years of age. After serving in the Thirty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, Jacob returned to Linn County where he married Sarah Albaugh of Pennsylvania, and together they had eight children. By 1911, he was retired and living in Cedar Rapids (ibid.).

Jacob Miller was a prosperous farmer in Monroe Township, and based on land transfer data, it appears likely that the extant barn was built by Miller early in his ownership of this property (i.e., early 1870s). The Miller family continued to own this property into the early twentieth century, with the primary standing buildings associated with their tenure of ownership. The barn is individually eligible under Criterion C as a well preserved early barn type in Linn County. The farmstead overall is more problematic because of the alterations to the house and the addition of several modern machine sheds and grain bins that have impacted the overall integrity of the farmstead as a historic district. As such, the barn is concluded to be the best representative building of the Miller farming operation and should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an individual building.

**Jayne Barn (57-07223)**

This barn is located in the SE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 9, Maine Township just southwest of Central City, west of Highway 13, and one-half mile south of Central City Road. This farmstead was settled by 1859 when H.S. Daggett was listed as owner, with David D. Jayne listed as the owner in 1869, 1881, and 1895. Jayne was listed as a farmer in Section 9 in the 1878 county history (Western Historical 1878:693). A house was shown as early as 1859 at this farmstead location; however, the extant gable-front-and-wing house has been altered in recent years with vinyl siding and modern window replacements and inserts.

The resource of specific interest to the current study on this farmstead is the banked/basement gabled, which most certainly dates from the Jayne tenure of ownership and retains very good integrity.

The barn is a variant of the English Bank Barn type, with a central aisle across the width of the building accessed via a ramp on the north side. The variation is in the extension of the hay loft across the center aisle and the left side of the barn, with the right side partially open to the rafters to allow hay loading from that side rather than from the center. Grain bins and stalls are also present on the upper level, with the basement level accessed on the south side and used for livestock shelter. The foundation is made of limestone slabs and large rough-cut granite blocks obtained from the glacial fieldstones of the area. The roof has been covered with a new steel roof. The siding is vertical board-and-batten wood board siding fastened with wire nails and may represent a later residing of the barn. The interior construction is heavy timber frame, pegged post-and-beam, with the posts and beams all sawn indicating either a somewhat later construction date in the 1870s-90s or ready access to a sawmill at an early date. There was a sawmill in nearby Central City along the Wapsipinicon River during the Early Settlement Era. The Jayne barn is considered eligible under Criterion C as a well preserved heavy timber frame, banked basement barn in the Central City vicinity. The barn was revisited during the current investigation and was found to be still standing and largely unchanged since first recorded in 2006.

The land transfer data for this property showed John M. Daggett (or Doggett) and S.J. Holmes making the first entry to the land in 1854. According to the 1859 plat map the property was then owned
The 1856 state census listed H.S. Daggett as a 35-year-old farmer living born in Maine. His household included his wife, S. J., suggesting that the S.J. Holmes in the land transfer records could have been his wife’s maiden name but does not explain who was John M. Daggett (or Doggett). The Daggett household in 1856 also included their four-year-old son as well as H.S. Daggett’s parents and sister. His father’s name was listed as H.E. Daggett and his birthplace as Massachusetts.

Jayne Barn, View to the NW in May 2008

The 1860 census record listed H.S. Daggett as a 40-year-old farmer in Maine Township. His wife’s name was listed as Sarah J. H.S. Daggett. The 1860 Agricultural Census showed Daggett as owning 285 acres of land, with a primary production in corn (800 bushels), wheat (309 bushels), oats (150 bushels), and potatoes (20 bushels). He also had a fairly large production of butter (400 lbs), cheese (75 lbs), molasses (60 gallons), and hay (60 tons). His livestock production was focused on milk cows and other cattle, with swine a minor part of his operation. It remains unclear who the John M. Daggett noted in the land transfer data was in relation to the H.S. Daggett, who appears as the owner of this property in all the plat map and census data for this property.

Because of a drop in the chain of title between Daggett and Jayne, the land records are unclear as to when David Jayne purchased the property. However, his name is listed as the owner of this parcel on the 1869, 1881, and 1895 maps, and his 1887 biography stated that he purchased a farm in Maine Township in 1865. Therefore, it is assumed that Jayne purchased this property in 1865, with land transfer data indicating that he sold the land to William M. Giffin in 1895, who then sold it to William Heaton in 1899.

In the 1887 county history, Jayne was referred to as being “an honored resident of Maine Township,” and his farm as being “one of the most pleasant homesteads in Linn County.” Jayne had been born in Steuben County, New York, in 1820. The Jayne family moved from New York to Michigan in 1828 and three years later to Ohio. In 1846, the family moved again to Illinois. In 1870, the father moved to Linn County, Iowa, where “he joined his son [David Jayne], and remained with him until his death” (Chapman Brothers 1887:589). David had lived with his parents until his marriage in 1845 to Fannie F. Himes when the family was living in Ohio. David and Fannie Jayne lived various places before finally moving to Linn County, Iowa, in 1865 where he “had purchased a farm which was located in Maine Township, and which is part of the present homestead” (ibid.). It was noted that “there was a small frame house, but no fence or trees on the place” when he bought the land and that “he immediately set about making such improvements as were necessary or desirable, and by the exercise of genuine pioneer industry and economy, in a comparatively short time transformed the barren prairie into smiling fields” (ibid.). By 1887, the Jayne farm represented “one of the most pleasant homesteads in Linn County. Upon which it is erected a comfortable frame dwelling and all necessary barns and outhouses. He has planted choice trees.
and supplied his fields with good fencing, and everything in and about the premises betokens the existence of thrift and prosperity” (ibid.:586-589).

The 1880 Agricultural Census showed that Jayne owned 140 acres, with a main production of corn (1600 bushels), oats (500 bushels), wheat (84 bushels), potatoes (45 bushels), and apples (40 bushels). His livestock operation focused on swine and cattle. Butter and cheese making were also notable aspects of Jayne’s operation.

The following tables provide the full agricultural census data for the Jayne farming operation:

1860 Agricultural Census for H.S. Daggett
Acres of land: Improved – 90; Unimproved – 195
Present cash value: Farm – $1500; Farm implements/machinery – $60
Livestock (as of June 1, 1860): Horses – 5; Milk cows – 12; Other cattle – 15; Swine – 2; Value of livestock – $700
Farm production (as of June 1, 1860): Wheat (spring) – 309 bushels; Indian corn – 800 bushels; Oats – 150 bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 20 bushels; Butter – 400 lbs; Cheese – 75 lbs; Hay – 60 tons; Molasses – 60 gallons
Total values: Value of animals slaughtered – $50

1880 Agricultural Census for David D. Jayne
Acres of land: Tilled – 55; Permanent meadow/pasture – 68; Woodland/forest – 17
Farm values: Overall land – $4000; Farm implements/machinery – $250; Livestock – $1050; Cost of building/repairing fences – $75; Estimate of all farm production – $700
Labor (in 1879): Amount paid for wages – $55; Weeks hired labor on farm – 14
Grass lands: Acres mown – 20 acres; Hay (harvested) – 35 tons
Livestock: Horses – 4; Milk cows – 8; Other cows – 16; Calves – 7; Purebred – 1; Slaughtered – 1
Milk sold – 1200 gallons; Butter made – 380 lbs; Cheese made – 725 lbs; Swine – 70; Barnyard poultry – 65; Eggs produced (1879) – 250
Farm production: Indian corn – 32 acres, 1600 bushels; Oats – 25 acres, 500 bushels; Wheat – 9 acres, 84 bushels; Potatoes – ¼ acre, 45 bushels; Apples – 1 acre, 40 bearing trees, 40 bushels; Total number of orchard products sold/consumed – 125; Bees – 70 lbs. honey; Wood (in 1879) – 10 cords, $25

From these data, it appears that the barn was built during David Jayne’s ownership of this property, which extended from 1865 to 1895. It is a well preserved example of an English banked barn type and is eligible under Criterion C for this representation. There does not appear to be a significant historical association; therefore, National Register listing should be under Criterion C.

Eidemiller Farmstead (57-07224)

This farmstead is located on the east side of Cupola Road in the SW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 15 of Otter Creek Township. This is among the better preserved older farmsteads in the Flemingville settlement area and was historically located on the south edge of that settlement. It was owned by George “Eidemiller” on the 1881 map, with the last name spelled “Eidamiller” on the 1895 plat map. Other sources variously used both spellings, with “Eidemiller” used most often. Eidemiller was listed as a farmer in Section 15 in the 1878 county history book (Western Historical 1878:763). While the farmstead appears to have been established just after the Early Settlement Era, probably in the 1870s and certainly by 1878, the well-preserved nature of the barn on this historic farmstead warranted further investigation as part of the current study.

The farmstead includes a gable-front-and-wing house, a large heavy timber frame banked/basement gable-roofed barn, an extended gable-roofed feeder barn; a pole machine shed, a gable-roofed granary, a gable-roofed automobile garage, a gable-roofed shed, and a small gable-roofed barn with a limestone foundation and side shed. The large barn has a limestone foundation that consists of rubble construction for the walls and cut stone blocks for the corners. The barn is clad with vertical board-and-batten wood board siding, with a metal roof. The windows include fixed-pane glass windows and louvered vents. The ramp is on the north side and has stone side walls. The property owner did not want the interior of the barn to be accessed; therefore, the evaluation is based on the exterior only. However, this type of barn
construction would likely have some portion built of heavy timber frame construction. The house has been greatly altered with wide replacement siding, modern window inserts, and additions.

The current investigation revisited the property and found the farmstead and the basement barn unchanged from the 2006 survey; however, access to the interior of the barn still could not be gained.

According to the land transfers, this property was first entered in 1852 by William Jennings. By the time of the 1859 and 1869 maps, the property was listed under the “Holmer est.,” with no buildings indicated on either plat map. The next available map dates from 1881, and by that time, the property was listed under George Eidemiller, with the 1895 map showing the same owner. Eidemiller was listed as a farmer living in Section 15, with the nearest post office being that of Flemingville, in the 1878 county history book (Western Historical 1878). He is represented in the 1880 U.S. Population Census as a farmer living in Otter Creek Township. This census noted his birthplace as the German state of Hesse in the principal city of Darmstadt and his wife’s birthplace as Wurtemburg. Hesse is in west-central Germany.

The Eidemiller farmstead was located on the south edge of Flemingville, with the post office in 1895 located west-northwest of this farmstead. The only entry for George Eidemiller in the agricultural censuses is in the 1880 census, which shows him owning a total of 467 acres of land. His main source of income from farming apparently came from corn, oats, and wheat, with his overall land value being a substantial $10,000. Livestock focused on milk cows, cattle, and swine, with dairy production including 580 gallons of milk sold and 1400 pounds of butter made.

The following is the full listing for George Eidemiller in the 1880 Agricultural Census:

**Acres of land:**
- Tilled – 380
- Permanent meadow/pasture – 15
- Woodland/forest – 72

**Farm values:**
- Overall land – $10000
- Farm implements/machinery – $200
- Livestock – $1868
- Cost of building/repairing fences – $25
- Estimate of all farm production - $1925

**Labor (in 1879):**
- Amount paid for wages – $644
- Weeks hired labor on farm – 156

**Grass lands:**
- Mown – 46 acres
- Hay (harvested) – 60 tons

**Livestock:**
- Horses – 11
- Milk cows – 1
- Other cows – 48
- Calves – 19
- Purebred – 7
- Sold – 1
- Slaughtered – 1
- Milk sold – 580 gallons
- Butter made – 1400 pounds
- Swine – 120
- Barnyard poultry – 100
- Other Poultry – 10
- Eggs produced (1879) – 800 dozen

**Farm production:**
- Indian corn – 100 acres, 4000 bushels
- Oats – 40 acres, 1300 bushels
- Wheat – 17 acres, 140 bushels
- Molasses – 1 acre, 60 gallons
- Potatoes (Irish) – 1 acre, 150 bushels
- Apples – 2 acres, 24 bearing trees, 2 bushels
- Total number of orchard products sold/consumed – 2
- Wood (in 1879) – 15 cords, $87

According to the 1911 county history book, Eidemiller retired in 1908, “having divided his farm among his children” (Brewer and Wick 1911:298). It also states that he and his wife (Henrietta Maier) had four children, three of whom survived. George and Henrietta Eidemiller were natives of Germany, coming to Iowa “with their respective parents in early life, taking up their abode among the pioneer
settlers of this county” (ibid.). Henrietta’s parents were Jacob and Margaret Maier, who emigrated from Germany in 1842 bringing along with them “their little girl, Henrietta (also known as Recca)” (Neighbor 1998:16). The Maiers first lived in Pennsylvania before moving in 1855 to a property three miles southwest of what became the town of Alburnett in Linn County (ibid.).

By the early to mid-twentieth century, the Andrew family was in possession of this property, with owners variously including George, William B., Charles, and Myrtle Andrew. In the 1910 population census, William B. Andrew is listed as a farmer living in Otter Creek Township. Andrew’s household included wife Maggie (Margaret) and three sons.

While the integrity of house has been greatly diminished in recent years, the Eidemiller farmstead as a whole retains fairly good integrity and the large banked/basement barn in particular has good integrity. As such, the farmstead is considered eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The origin of the banked/basement barn type is also of interest to the German immigrant association because this design had its origin in the so-called Pennsylvania Barn, which has a Germanic origin and association as well (Ensminger 1992). It is known that the Eidemillers were natives of Germany; however, both George and Henrietta immigrated to the United States as young children with their parents, who eventually settled in Linn County. Therefore, the Eidemillers essentially represent a second generation type of German immigrant association because even though they were born in Germany, they left that country at a young age and would have had limited influence from their native land before they moved to the United States. However, there certainly could have been some Germanic influence from their parents and other German immigrants in the areas in which they subsequently lived. It was these contacts that likely shaped their traditions and customs along with assimilation into the culture of the United States. Unless future research identifies the designer/builder of the barn, significance under Criterion A cannot yet be claimed.

Scott House (57-07225)

This brick house is located on the north side of County Home Road in the SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 8, Marion Township. There was a house at this location on the 1859, 1869, and 1881 plat maps listed under the ownership of J.B. Scott. According to a recent owner of this property, the house was begun in 1860 but construction was halted by the Civil War and did not resume until the end of the war, with the house completed c.1865. While there have been some modifications, the house overall retains fairly good integrity and appears to be a good representative of an Early Settlement Era Italianate-styled brick house in the region.

The 1878 county history noted that J.B. Scott was a farmer in Section 8 and had been born in 1825 in Ohio. He migrated first to Muscatine before settling in Marion in 1853. In 1859 he purchased the subject farm property and lived there with his wife Mary E. Risler and their five children, four of whom were still living in 1878—Henry, Edward, Lucy, and John B. (Western Historical 1878:648).

The current investigation revisited the property and found the house vacant and for sale. The only discernible change was the recent installation of new replacement windows, which are 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows, and the addition of a railing around the front porch.

Additional research for the current study determined that John B. Scott was born August 12, 1825, his parents being Allen and Jane Scott, prominent pioneers of the state of Ohio. During his school years, John briefly attended an academy and stayed with his uncle, Judge McGibboney. It was here that John became involved with the Underground Railroad, with he and his uncle helping nine enslaved African Americans escape from Virginia to Canada.
At the age of 21 John began learning the brick mason trade and was a contractor and builder in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for about nine years. He moved to Muscatine, Iowa, in February 1853, and then came to Marion on July 3, 1854. On April 14, 1855, he married Mary E. “Rissler,” with whom he had four children. John continued his trade for five years, constructing various buildings in the area including the Hotel Daniels in Marion. In October, 1859, he retired from his trade and moved onto his farm five and one-half miles outside of Marion on Sections 8 and 17. He owned 420 acres of valuable land, which was said to be “well improved with good buildings.” Also stated was that “his farm was equipped along modern lines and was the exponent of a spirit of progressiveness, as manifest in his buildings and the farm machinery” (Brewer and Wick 1911:25). John raised cattle, his specialty being shorthorns. He farmed until the spring of 1890, when he retired to a comfortable home in Marion, on the corner of 11th Street and 14th Avenue. John was held in high regard to the community of Marion where he served as a director of the First National Bank of Marion and was associated with the Agricultural Society. John’s son, Henry A. Scott, was born April 5, 1856, and purchased his father’s farm shortly after his marriage to Sarah E. Wiggins in 1890. John B. Scott passed away at the age of 80, on February 27, 1905 (Clarke 1901:90-92; Brewer and Wick 1911:22-26, 464-467).

The additional research largely confirms the oral history concerning the house construction, with John B. Scott locating to this property in 1859 and beginning construction of the house for his own home shortly thereafter. The additional research also indicates that Scott, as a mason by trade, was undoubtedly responsible for the actual construction of this house. This bolsters the former conclusion of eligibility under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an early brick house in Marion Township and for its association with prominent brick mason, John B. Scott, who was responsible for the construction of notable early brick buildings in the nearby town of Marion. As such, a case can be made for eligibility under Criterion B for this direct association with Scott. It is interesting to note that the home is being currently marketed for sale as a “historic” two-story brick home, a conclusion with which this study certainly concurs.

It would also be pure speculation that this property, located on what is now County Home Road, connecting Marion and Whittier, the latter historically a Quaker stronghold, could conceivably have had an Underground Railroad association. This speculation would be based on Scott’s strong abolitionist beliefs and previous Underground Railroad experience, his wife’s Quaker background, and their actual membership in the Congregational Church, a church also known for its abolitionist stance and support for
Underground Railroad activities in Iowa. This is pure speculation at this point, with no indication in the written record for this property for such an association. If the brick house was not completed until after the Civil War, then this standing building might have had no actual association with such activities.

**Martin Farmstead (57-07226)**

This farmstead is located on the south side of E16 (Central City Road) in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 10 of Washington Township approximately 0.75 miles east of Center Point. This farmstead was shown on the 1859 map on property then owned by I. Martin followed by F. Martin in 1869 and B.F. Martin by 1895 and 1906. B.F. Martin was listed as a farmer in Section 10 of Washington Township in the 1878 county history book (Western Historical 1878:771). The 1906 map also showed a spring just south of the farmstead, which was likely an attraction for this early settlement.

The farmstead today consists of a heavy timber frame English Bank Barn, with a ramp on the north side providing access to the central aisle extending across the width of the barn. This barn is also notable for its fieldstone foundation, which is built of glacial stones recovered from nearby fields rather than quarried limestone. A low gable-roofed addition was made to the east gable end but appears to have had a low impact on the historic barn. The house is a gable-front-and-wing type but has been altered in more recent years. Other buildings include a gambrel-roofed corn crib, a two gable-roofed machine sheds, two automobile garages, a pump house, and a small shed. While the house has been altered with wide siding and some modern window inserts, the farmstead as a whole retains fairly good integrity. The presence and preservation of the banked/basement barn and its suspected Early Settlement Era origin and association suggests some potential eligibility under Criterion C as a comparatively well preserved Early Settlement Era farmstead in the Center Point vicinity. The farmstead may also have some historical significance related to the Martin family settlement but was recommended for additional historic research before a final determination could be made under Criterion A (Rogers 2006).

This property was revisited during the current investigation, with access to the interior of the barn finally gained. It was found to be constructed of sawn posts and beams, having a central aisle flanked by two bin/granary areas, with a loft above. The construction appears to date from the late nineteenth century or Expansion Era rather than the Early Settlement Era when hewn posts and beams would have been more common. The barn and farmstead as a whole still retain good integrity and have been largely unchanged since the initial 2006 survey.

Land transfer research confirmed the association with the Marin family. The property was first entered and patented by Isaac Martin in 1854. In 1873, the property was transferred to Indiana native Benjamin F. Martin. B.F. Martin had served in the Civil War having enlisted in 1862. In 1930, Benjamin Martin’s estate was handed to F.W. Martin (“Frederick W.,” but unsure of the relationship), who in turn granted it to Essie Martin Lanning – Benjamin Martin’s daughter. Subsequent owners included the Frank L. and Katie B. Horak family and the Ivan L. and Charlotte Ann Newland families. The property remains in the Newland family to the present day, with the current owner suspecting that the barn was built about one hundred years ago. He thought that the Horaks might have built the barn; however, the barn is certainly older than 1946 when the Horaks came into possession of this property. Prior to that time, the property was owned by the Martin family, who would more likely have built this barn.

While not an Early Settlement Era barn, this banked/basement barn owes much of its design to earlier English style barns of that earlier era. The use of this type of design was probably more functional than stylistic and was suited to livestock raising and, this particular example may have been used for dairy production. This barn may have some eligibility as an Expansion Era barn but this would require more intensive comparative data concerning barns of this later era in the vicinity than is currently available.
Therefore, the Martin Barn is considered ineligible under the Early Settlement Era context but may have some potential eligibility under a later context once comparative data becomes available. As such, full National Register evaluation is deferred until such time that more data are obtained.

**Salem Church (57-07227)**

The Salem Church is a front-gabled frame building on the west side of E. Otter Road one mile north of the former town of Lafayette. The Zion Evangelical Church was organized in Lafayette in 1852 when several families from Illinois settled in this region. These families worshipped in area homes and schoolhouses until the first Zion Evangelical Church was built in 1870. That church burned to the ground in 1884 resulting in the construction of the extant church, the actual construction of which does not appear to have occurred until 1893. In 1891 dissension in the church had resulted in the organization of the Salem United Evangelical Church, later renamed the Salem United Methodist Church (Neighbor 1998:10). “Leading members who opposed two bishops of the church pulled away from the Zion congregation, which eventually dwindled and died, and began meeting in the community’s schoolhouse ([Cedar Rapids Gazette](#) 1993). In 1893, the now 39 member congregation built the Salem Evangelical Church at its present location.

Some of the early Evangelical ministers for the congregation once the church was organized included: the Rev. Borchart, Rev. Maerz, Rev. Gerhart, Rev. Mayne, and Rev. Brecher (Brewer and Wick 1911:287). Prior to that time, Evangelical preachers who served this area included William Kolb and John Yambert (ibid.). The earliest history of the church is recorded in German. A “request in 1911 by young members of the congregation,” that the Sunday sermon be given in English every two weeks was denied. “But church leaders did allow quarterly conference deliberations in English” ([Cedar Rapids Gazette](#) 1993).

When first recorded in 2006, the church looked much as it did when first built except for the steeple, which was struck by lightning in 1927 and had to be remodeled to its current look with an enclosed belfry on top of the corner entry tower. The structure was also “modernized and remodeled in 1955” ([Cedar Rapids Gazette](#) 1993). The windows are all Gothic-arched and appear largely original. The walls are clad with vinyl siding of a width compatible with the original clapboard siding. The application of the vinyl siding has lessened the integrity of the building as a whole and, as a result, the 2006 survey concluded that it does not possess sufficient significance to be considered National Register eligible under Criterion
C (Rogers 2006). The question remained whether the building possessed sufficient historical significance for its association with the German immigrant settlement of Otter Creek Township, but it would need to meet the special Criteria Consideration A for a property owned by a religious institution.

The church was revisited during the current investigation. Since 2006, the belfry has deteriorated and appears to be storm damaged. It was not determined whether the belfry is being repaired or not but otherwise the property remains unchanged from its 2006 condition. However, the damage to the belfry has further diminished the building’s overall integrity confirming the ineligibility of this property under Criterion C. It also appears that some amount of “modernization and remodeling” was conducted in the mid-1950s, followed more recently by the application of vinyl siding.

As for the potential eligibility under Criterion A, the church as a congregation is affiliated with the early German immigrant population of the Otter Creek Settlement. However, upon further evaluation, this particular building was found to best represent the Expansion Era period in the congregation’s history having been built in 1893 following the split in the church congregation. By this time, the German settlement in this area was becoming assimilated into American culture, with the second generation of American-born German-Americans now at, or reaching, adulthood and more strongly influenced by American culture than German culture. However, as noted above, the German language continued to be the main language of the church services until the early twentieth century.

There is no indication that the German settlement in Otter Creek Township was cohesive as an ethnic group beyond family traditions and religion, with this particular church representing a split in the congregation following the dissension within the larger Evangelical Church in America, with this church following the path of the majority and eventually joining with the United Methodist Church. The older Zion Evangelical congregation dwindled and died out. As such, the new congregation grew even farther away from their German roots as the twentieth century progressed. It is concluded, therefore, that the extant church does not meet the criteria for Special Consideration A under Criterion A and is ineligible for the National Register under any criteria.

William Fleming Barn (57-00924)

This three-story banked/basement gabled barn is located on Alburnett Road approximately one mile north of Alburnett on the west side of the road in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 23 of Otter Creek Township. This landmark barn was previously recorded by reconnaissance survey in 1992 and is still standing although in a more deteriorated condition today than it was in 1992 (Rogers 1992). The house and other outbuildings once standing on this farmstead across the road to the east of the barn are all non-
extant with a modern house now on this site. In 2006, the interior of the barn could not be accessed, and the barn was recommended for further study in order to better record this significant building (Rogers 2006).

This barn is certainly both a local and county landmark and should be preserved for future generations. It is definitely individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance but is also likely eligible under Criteria A and B for its association with William Fleming, who was a notable and influential farmer in the area and for its association with the prosperous dairy and livestock farming operations of the late nineteenth century in Linn County. This barn takes on even greater historical importance since it is the only Fleming family property of any age that is still standing in Otter Creek Township that could be relocated (e.g., the farmstead of John Fleming is largely non-extant except for a later feeder barn, which was recently demolished). Further research was also recommended to determine the identity of the builder/designer of the barn and its origin in the so-called Pennsylvania Barn type.

The current investigation was able to gain access to the interior of the barn, with the building still standing but remains in a deteriorating state, although not in any immediate danger of demolition or collapse. However, the west wall of the stone foundation is bowing out and is cause for concern if the upper wood superstructure should be caught the wrong way by a strong wind. The stone wall itself is somewhat supported in its leaning condition by three concrete abutments on the exterior, with the main concern being the weakened support for the wood wall structure that rests on this leaning wall.

The owner does appreciate the historic nature of this building and its status as a local landmark; however, he also recognizes the amount of funding it would take to restore the building and is unwilling to make any major expenditure because he no longer has an economic or practical need for this building. The building was designed for livestock and would be difficult to adapt to another use for his current farming operation. He is considering having someone tear the building down to salvage the good timbers and boards that remain. Therefore, the current investigation focused on photographing as much of the standing building’s features as possible in case this investigation represents the last opportunity to document the barn.

The property owner also indicated that he has some additional historical information on the barn that he will send along to the principal investigator and also noted that a man by the name of McWright in
Troy Mills was the builder of this barn for William Fleming. A check of the population census records shows a James McWright living in the vicinity of Troy Mills at the time of the 1860 U.S. Population census when he was 26 years old and was working as a farmer. Given that most farmers of the day were also versed in carpentry, it may be that McWright was a barn builder as well as a farmer; however, it may be that he later became a barn builder. He was not listed in the 1870 U.S. Population census for this area, although there was still a McWright family in residence near Troy Mills. This family was headed by Jane McWright, who had an infant son named James; however, her relation to the older James McWright is unknown since his wife’s name in the 1860 census was Clare. However, by the time of the 1880 census, Clare “McCright” was listed with the same children listed under Jane’s household in the 1870 census; therefore, it is suspected that she might have gone by her middle name (Jane?) in the previous census. It was noted that Clare was a widow. Her son, “James W. McCright” was 10 years old in the 1880 census. The 1860 listing for James McWright indicated that he hailed from Pennsylvania, which is another possible connection for the design of the Fleming barn, if this is the same McWright who built the barn. James McWright, and his namesake son, are both buried in the Troy Mills Cemetery, with the father having died the year that the son was born—1870. If the father was the builder of the Fleming Barn, this would indicate a construction date in the 1860s. James McWright passed away on May 29, 1870. He was 36 years old at the time. His widow, Clara, lived until 1914, while his namesake son, lived until 1928 (Sanchez 2003). It is known that the Fleming barn was standing by the time of the 1887 county biographical book, with the barn illustrated in that volume (Figure 5). It is also known that Fleming staked a claim to the property in 1853 but did not purchase it outright until 1867. Therefore, a possible construction date could be around the time of purchase (1867) and prior to McWright’s death (1870).

The interior of the Fleming Barn was confirmed to be of heavy timber frame construction, with the basement showing the exterior walls on the west, north and east sides resting on the stone foundation, and the south wall resting on a combination of stone and timber posts. The posts in the basement level are massive hand-hewn square posts, with the cross-beams also hand-hewn and showing a lapped splice joint. The floor joists are logs, many of which retain their bark. The stone walls are an interesting combination of limestone blocks in the upper portion and glacial quartzite rocks in the lower portion. This structural combination may account for the weakness in the walls, with the exposed west wall leaning out as a result. In other words, using the rounded glacial rocks for the lower wall and then joining a more structurally sound limestone block construction above appears to have weakened the base of the building. The east and north walls are holding true only because they are banked against the hillslope and have little exterior exposure. The foundation problem appears to be an old one, with dates inscribed in two places in the concrete added to the floor and around the base of the wall dating from 1920. The added concrete also includes a series of abutments along the exterior of the west wall to hold it in place and a wall added to the south side of the ramp, where the original stone wall likely needed additional support. As some point, perhaps in 1920, the stone piers for the interior posts in the basement level were replaced and, in some areas, bolstered by the addition of concrete.

The interior of the basement also features an open center area (this time extending across the width of the building rather than its length) where livestock could loaf and wagons could be stored. The east and west ends of the basement were subdivided into stalls with feed bunks extending along the width of the building.

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4 Unfortunately, the owner did not follow through with sending along this additional information to the Principal Investigator by the time of the final report.
The upper floors of the barn can be reached in several ways: from the exterior via the east centered ramp doors, which would have been the wagon access into the upper level; from a pass door on the north side; or from a wooden staircase connecting the basement level and the ground floor of the upper level. The interior of the upper level shows an open center aisle that extends the length of the building, with wagons entering from the east ramp and the west doors purely for cross-ventilation or off-loading into a wagon sitting below (in other words, there is no ground level entry for the west doors). The aisle is flanked by stalls at the corners and by series of grain bins along the center portion of the north wall. The south side features an enclosed elevator extending from the loft area down to the basement level and at least two enclosed chutes that feed grain from the upper levels down to the livestock feeding areas in the basement below. The third level of the barn is an open loft that has a floor covering three-quarters of the building’s length (the east end is open from the ground floor to the rafters). A metal hay track is still in place along the roof ridge. The two cupolas on the exterior of the roof ridge provide ventilation and are open to the loft area. Additional ventilation is provided by the window vents that line the exterior walls on all sides of the building. These vents also provided some interior light as do the two glass-paned 4/4 double-hung windows on the east wall. It was also noted that the joists in the ceiling of the northwest corner of the ground level of the barn were badly charred indicating a fire in this area at some point. However, the charring does not appear to have seriously compromised the structural members in this area.

The bent configuration of the upper floors of the barn is much simpler than first anticipated for a barn of this size. Also somewhat unexpected is the use of sawn posts and beams for the majority of the upper superstructure of the barn. There are a few areas where hand-hewn beams and bark-covered log joists were used, but for the most part, the upper members are sawn. There were early sawmills in the vicinity; therefore, sawn timber was certainly available at the time of the barn’s construction. The roof rafters appear to be newer and do not appear to be original to the barn’s construction.
This barn remains a landmark and certainly still retains sufficient integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion C. While deteriorating, the barn retains much of its historic components and has been little changed since the 1920s when the concrete elements were added to improve the interior of the livestock area of the basement level and to help keep the foundation walls from collapsing.

The association with William Fleming is also an important one. The Fleming family included brothers, William and Samuel, who settled in Otter Creek Township in 1843 along with their widowed mother. The brothers purchased adjoining land in Sections 13 and 14, and by the time of the 1859 map, two other Flemings, J. and J.J. Fleming, owned additional land in Sections 14 and 16. By the time of the 1878 county history book, there were five Flemings listed in the Flemingville area including: H.S. Fleming in Section 13, C.D. Fleming in Section 24, James Fleming in Section 16, J.J. Fleming in Section 14, and W. Fleming in Section 13 (Western Historical 1878:777). The Flemings originated in Kentucky where John and Mary (McCrury) Fleming were born. They were the parents of eight children: Jennie, Jacob, Betsy, James, Polly, John, Nancy, Samuel, and William. The family migrated to Indiana where the father, John, died in 1835. The family then migrated to Iowa, where many of them lived out the rest of their lives including their mother, who died in 1877 in Otter Creek Township (Chapman Brothers 1887:497).

The 1887 county history noted that William Fleming staked a claim of 200 acres in Otter Creek Township in 1853, and “afterward purchased it from the government” (Chapman Brothers 1887:497). Land transfer data indicate that the purchase of the subject property was finalized in 1867. William Fleming married Anna Eliza Eastman in 1854 and together they had seven children. Anna died in 1881, but William continued farming in Otter Creek until his own death around 1919, when the property was granted to his heirs.

The 1887 county biographical album illustrated both of the prosperous farmsteads of brothers, John and William Fleming (Chapman Brothers 1887; Figure 6). William’s farmstead was particularly notable and was located in Section 13 of Otter Creek Township. The extant barn is one of the most impressive barns still standing in Linn County and is a landmark along the highway heading north out of Alburnett. The entire farmstead illustrated in 1887 reflects a very prosperous stock farming and milling operation, with the house a stylish Italianate home and the wind-powered mill perhaps a one-of-a-kind in the region. William Fleming was noted as “one of the foremost dairymen and farmers in Otter Creek Township,” with his creamery established in 1884 and shipping butter to the New York market. He also raised purebred Poland China hogs; Cotswold and French Merino sheep; Bashaw, Gold Dust and Percheron horses; and Jersey and Shorthorn cattle. His dairy herd numbered 40 head (ibid.:497). The large three-story barn was described as costing $3500 to build, and could “stall forty head of stock and shelter forty head of young cattle” (ibid.). The 1887 illustration of the barn shows cattle both around the barn and in an adjacent pasture, along with sheep and horses. A wagon loaded with hay is headed up the ramp into the upper floor of the barn (see Figure 6). The 1887 description further noted that “Mr. Fleming is a model farmer; he has spared no expense in the improvement of his farm, and it is now one of the finest in the State of Iowa” (ibid.). The emphasis on raising a variety of purebred livestock in the late 1880s was still
early in the popularity of, for example Poland China hogs, in Iowa and illustrates both the wealth of this farming operation and the cutting edge innovation of Fleming’s farming practices (Ross 1951:76).

The 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census listing for William Fleming further illustrates the diverse and prosperous nature of his farming operations:

William Fleming Farmstead: 1870 Agricultural Census

Acres of land: Improved – 290; Woodland – 12

Present cash value: Farm – $6500; Farm implements/machinery – $500; Total amount of wages paid during the year – $125

Livestock (as of June 1, 1870): Horses – 9; Milk cows – 6; Other cattle – 24; Sheep – 7; Swine – 21

Value of livestock – $1620

Farm production (as of June 1, 1870): Wheat (spring) – 150 bushels; Indian corn – 1500 bushels; Oats – 500 bushels; Wool – 80 bales (150 lbs); Potatoes (Irish) – 50 bushels; Butter – 300 lbs; Hay – 40 tons; Honey – 200 lbs

Total values: Value of animals slaughtered/sold for slaughter – $800

Estimated value of all farm production – $2716

This barn is also the last vestige of the standing buildings from either the William or John Fleming farms (a feeder barn standing on the John Fleming farm in 2006 was just recently demolished). This makes the barn the best representation of the Fleming family’s influence and impact on the agricultural development of the Lafayette/Alburnett vicinity. As such, the barn is concluded to be eligible not only under Criterion C, for its architectural significance, but also under Criterion B, for its direct association with and representation of William Fleming and the Fleming family and their importance in this area, but also under Criterion A, as an excellent representation of an innovative and prosperous mid to late nineteenth century farming operation in Linn County.
Figure 6.  1887 Illustration of the W. Fleming Farmstead north of Alburnett, Iowa
Source: Chapman Brothers 1887

**Dr. Yost House at 520 Main Street, Center Point (57-04246)**

This house was built c.1860 and is among oldest in the town of Center Point. It is an impressive two-story brick house showing both Italianate and Federal stylistic influences. This house was built for Dr.
Francis Marion Yost, a prominent physician in the town of Center Point. Both of his sons, Bart and Charles, attended the medical school at St. Louis University and then went to Chicago for their postgraduate training. Charles Yost took up residence diagonally across Main Street from his father’s house. The Yost House was previously evaluated as eligible for the National Register eligible for its association with Dr. Yost and the Yost family, who were prominent and long-time physicians in the Center Point community (Criterion B) (Rogers 2006). It was also considered eligible for its architectural significance as one of the best-preserved examples of Federal/Late Victorian architecture in Center Point and as one of the oldest surviving and stylish dwellings in town (Criterion C).

The Yost property was revisited during the current investigation to update its current condition. The property was found to be unchanged over the past two years.

Additional research indicated that in a 1901 biography, Dr. Yost had been engaged in his medical practice for 46 years in Center Point. He had been born near Baltimore, Maryland, in “March 1830,” moving as a child to Pennsylvania with his parents where he grew to adulthood. He “commenced the study of medicine and attended lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was graduated with the degree of M.D. in 1851” (Clarke 1901:291). He practiced in Pennsylvania for two years before moving in the Spring of 1855 to Iowa where he finally settled in Center Point, which was then “a cross road village containing only one or two business houses” (ibid.:292). On March 13, 1857, Yost married Charlotte Gitchell, and together they had four children: Jessie, Frank L., Bartley B., and Charles G. It was noted in 1901 that Yost “has not only been successful professionally, but has also prospered financially, and is to-day one of the substantial men of his community, owning besides his present residence one of the best business blocks in Center Point, and two good farms near the village” (ibid.).

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5 There is some discrepancy in this history between the 1901 and 1911 biographies for Yost’s birth date, with the 1911 history stating that he had been born on “March 13, 1825, on the border between Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and in the former state he grew to manhood” (Brewer and Wick 1911:73). The 1825 birth date is what appears in his cemetery record, with Yost passing away in 1918 (MyFamily.com 2006). Furthermore, while considered to have earned an M.D., prior to 1910 there were no standards for the number of years one must attend medical school before opening a practice (Dr. Kenneth Anderson, personal communication with Leah Rogers, March 2006).
The Yost House remains one of the more impressive early homes in Center Point and a good illustration of the Yost family’s prominence in the community. It is still considered individually eligible for the National Register under Criteria B and C and should be considered a landmark property in Center Point.

Pullman Hotel at 816 Franklin Street, Center Point (57-07242)

This building was originally built in the mid to late 19th century on a lot on the west side of the highway (Franklin Street), which was part of the old Marion/Cedar Rapids to Waterloo stage and post roadway. It was also situated one block west of the train depot and was built as a hotel known historically as the Pullman Hotel. In 1912, the building was moved across the street to its current location to make way for a new house construction on its original site. At one time, Center Point supported several hotels at the same, with the Pullman Hotel, the last known historic building constructed as a nineteenth century hotel to remain standing in the community (Holman 2000). It was estimated that the Pullman Hotel was first built sometime between 1860 and 1890 based on the oral history concerning this property and the few stylistic details on the extant building (Rogers 2006).

Despite the modern changes to the building and its move across the street from its original site, the Pullman Hotel building was felt to still impart a strong sense of time and place and fronts the historic highway along which it was originally built. There was some question as to its eligibility under either Criterion C or A in the original study of this property, with additional study recommended (Rogers 2006). The property was revisited during the current investigation and found to be unchanged in the past two years.

The 1895 plat map for Center Point did show a large rectangular business building at the northeast corner of the intersection of Franklin and Washington streets, which would have been the original location of the Pullman Hotel (Bergendahl 1895). Unfortunately, the Bennett fire insurance maps from 1899 and 1908 for Center Point did not illustrate much beyond the main commercial street and did not show the area of the Pullman Hotel (Bennett 1899, 1908). The 1935 fire insurance map showed the Pullman Hotel building at its current location, with the building subdivided functionally into a commercial property (north half) and a dwelling (south half) (Iowa Insurance Service Bureau 1935). Because the building has been moved, eligibility under Criterion A for historical significance would be problematical; therefore, it is concluded that the building is eligible under Criterion C and an early hotel building in the town of Center Point despite the modern changes to the building and its move across the street to its current location (Ralph Christian, draft review comments dated 8/20/2008).
William Kolb & Sons Nursery and Fruit Farm located at the intersection of Lafayette and E. Otter roads (57-07250)

This farmstead located at the northeast edge of the former town of Lafayette was historically the William Kolb & Sons Nursery and Fruit Farm. While a farmstead property type, this property is located within the town limits of Lafayette and was recorded in 2006 as a town property reflecting the agricultural orientation of that community’s industries (Rogers 2006). These industries also included the Notbohm Mill and the Twin Brothers Creamery, located just east-southeast and across the road from this farmstead along the east edge of town. As a nursery and fruit farm in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this farmstead also stood out among the other more typical, diversified farming operations in the vicinity. As such, the Kolb Farmstead was considered eligible under Criterion A for its historical association with an early nursery and fruit farm in Otter Creek Township and perhaps in Linn County as a whole, and under Criterion C for the architectural significance of its surviving farmstead buildings, particularly the well preserved banked/basement barn.

In addition to being a farmer, William Kolb was also a preacher of the Congregational Association at Maquoketa and was considered among the early evangelical preachers in the Otter Creek Settlement area (Brewer and Wick 1911:287). He had been born in Pennsylvania in 1820 and located permanently in Linn County in 1857 having married Miss M.C. Veck in 1852. The couple had seven children. It was noted in 1878 that he had been in the ministry since 1842 and also had one of the best managed farms in Otter Creek Township where he had a nursery of 21 acres containing a variety of fruit and other trees (Western Historical 1878). The nursery was managed by his son, W.S. Kolb. It was further noted that the nursery supplied “the entire neighborhood with fruit trees, shrubs, etc.” (ibid.). The farmstead was re-examined during the current study and found to be largely unchanged from its 2006 condition.

Additional research found that the Kolb farm was well represented in the U.S. Agricultural censuses. According to the 1850 census, Kolb owned 130 acres and produced oats (270 bushels), corn (200 bushels), and wheat (50 bushels). He also produced 70 lbs of beeswax, 60 lbs of wool from his 20 sheep, and 50 lbs of butter. In 1860 he owned just over 100 acres, very few livestock, and had no listed farm production. In 1870 he again owned 100 acres; however his farm production included corn (1,200 bushels), oats (600 bushels), wheat (300 bushels), and potatoes (100 bushels). He also made a profit of $200 from orchard products and produced 240 gallons of butter, 20 tons of hay, 50 lbs of honey, and 18 gallons of molasses. Kolb’s estimated value of all farm production was $1,508 for the year. According to the 1880 census, he owned almost 100 acres of land, with nine of that used for his orchards and another nine used for his nurseries. Kolb had 300 bearing trees that produced 50 bushels of apples that year and made a profit of $400 with his nurseries. In addition, he also raised corn (525 bushels), oats (233 bushels), rye (114 bushels), potatoes (60 bushels), and wheat (54 bushels). The estimated value of all farm production that year was $491. Kolb’s farm was probably run by his sons William and George by 1880. The Rev. William Kolb died on August 9, 1885, and was buried in the Lafayette Cemetery.

The actual agricultural census records for the Kolb farmstead are transcribed below:
William Kolb Farmstead: 1850 Agricultural Census

Acres of land: Improved – 70; Unimproved – 60  
Present cash value: Farm – $1000; Farm implements/machinery – $20  
Livestock (as of June 1, 1850): Milk cows – 1; Working oxen – 4; Other cattle – 2; Sheep – 20; Swine – 14; Value of livestock – $179  
Farm production (as of June 1, 1850): Wheat – 50 bushels; Indian corn – 200 bushels; Oats – 270 bushels; Wool – 60 lbs; Butter – 50 lbs; Beeswax – 70 lbs  
Total values: Value of homemade manufacture – $30; Value of animals slaughtered – $20

William Kolb Farmstead: 1860 Agricultural Census

Acres of land: Improved – 45; Unimproved – 58  
Present cash value: Farm – $2000  
Livestock (as of June 1, 1860): Horses – 1; Milk cows – 1; Other cattle – 1; Swine – 8; Value of livestock – $100  
Farm production (as of June 1, 1860): (Blank)  
Total values: (Blank)

William Kolb Farmstead: 1870 Agricultural Census

Acres of land: Improved – 60; Woodland – 20; Other unimproved – 20  
Present cash value: Farm – $3000; Farm implements/machinery – $250  
Livestock (as of June 1, 1870): Horses – 11; Milk cows – 5; Other cattle – 5; Swine – 14; Value of livestock – $1350  
Farm production (as of June 1, 1870): Wheat (spring) – 300 bushels; Indian corn – 1200 bushels; Oats – 600 bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 100 bushels; Orchard products – $200; Butter – 240 lbs; Hay – 20 tons; Molasses – 18 gallons; Honey – 50 lbs  
Total values: Value of animals slaughtered/sold for slaughter – $200; Estimated value of all farm production – $1508

William Kolb Farmstead: 1880 Agricultural Census

Acres of land: Tilled – 55; Permanent meadow/pasture – 27; Woodland/forest – 15  
Farm values: Overall land – $4800; Farm implements/machinery – $100; Livestock – $884 (or 384?); Cost of building/repairing fences – $35; Estimate of all farm production – $491  
Labor (in 1879): Amount paid for wages – $98; Weeks hired labor on farm – 19  
Grass lands: Mown – 10 acres; Not mown – 15 acres; Hay (harvested) – 25 tons  
Livestock: Horses – 4; Milk cows – 5; Other cows – 3; Sold – 9; Died of stress of weather – 1; Milk sold – 862 gallons; Butter made – 100 pounds; Swine – 45; Barnyard poultry – 100; Eggs produced (1879) – 700 dozen  
Farm production: Indian corn – 25 acres, 525 bushels; Oats – 18 acres, 233 bushels; Rye – 5 acres, 114 bushels; Wheat – 4 acres, 54 bushels; Molasses – ¼ acre, 30 gallons; Potatoes (Irish) – 1 acre, 60 bushels; Apples – 9 acres, 300 bearing trees, 50 bushels; Total number of orchard products sold/consumed – 45; Nurseries – 9 acres, $400 produced; Vineyard – ¼ acre, 50 lbs; Wood (in 1879) – 5 cords, $15

The censuses illustrate the growing complexity and prosperity of the Kolb family operation, with the 1880 census reflecting the full production of the orchard as well as the diversity of the market garden operation. Not only were the apple trees producing, but the fruit operation included a vineyard as well. The amount of milk sold, butter produced, and eggs produced also reflect a successful market operation. As with the William Fleming farm of this same era, the Kolb orchard and farm operation is not the average Linn County farm and shows a willingness to experiment with different market options and obviously supplied commodities for the local and regional market that were in demand.

As such, it is concluded that the Kolb & Sons Nursery and Fruit Farm is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for this historical association and its importance in Lafayette and Otter Creek Township vicinity and potentially in Linn County as a whole. It is also considered eligible under Criterion B for its association with and representation of the prosperity and influence of the Kolb family and their innovative fruit and nursery operation in the former town of Lafayette and Otter Creek Township. It is
also eligible under Criterion B for the importance of William Kolb as a minister of the Congregational Association at Maquoketa, who would have had personal status and influence of a different sort in the community.

The property is also considered eligible under Criterion C as a well preserved nineteenth century farmstead, with a notable banked/basement barn that may reflect Kolb’s Pennsylvania background. Since Kolb was born in the early 1800s in Schuykill County, Pennsylvania, and lived there for the first 22 years of his life, there may be some influence in the barn design with this background. He also lived in Ohio for over ten years before moving to Linn County in 1857 (Western Historical 1878).

**Neighbor General Store (57-07251)**

This store was built in the late nineteenth century by Dixon Neighbor (1853-1932), whose family had been operating a general store in the Lafayette vicinity since 1850. The extant store was built by 1881 at a location near Lafayette where most of the early businesses and industries of the town had been established. However, when the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Northern Railroad was extended through this area in 1914, the depot and tracks were located on the west end of Lafayette. Since most of the commercial activity then shifted to the depot vicinity, the Neighbors decided to move the store to its current location near the depot (non-extant). By that time, the store was being operated by Benjamin Neighbor. The store sold groceries, clothing, yard goods, refreshments, gasoline, kerosene and a number of other items. It remained in operation until 1963 when Ben Neighbor’s failing health caused its closure (Neighbor 1998).

In its heyday, Dixon’s two sons, Benjamin and Earl, worked at the store and “took turns running a route in the country with a team of horses and a special wagon (called the egg wagon) where they traded groceries for eggs” (Neighbor 1998:4). The brothers also raised squab poultry for sale to major cities including Chicago (ibid.). Benjamin Neighbor’s store operation sold “groceries, overalls, shoes, yard goods, thread, ice cream, lollipops, cold meats (minced ham, bologna, wiener), vinegar, gasoline, kerosene, etc.” (ibid.). After the Neighbor store closed, the building used to store antiques.

As a well-preserved false-front commercial property type, this store building is a comparatively rare survivor and representative of the early type of commercial buildings constructed in most of Iowa’s towns. This particular building has the additional significance of being one of only two surviving commercial buildings from the former town of Lafayette and for its association with the Neighbor family’s general store operations, which spanned over 100 years in this area. As such, the building is considered eligible under Criterion A for its historical significance and under Criterion C for its architectural significance. It is considered eligible despite the moving of this building because it was moved within the historic limits of the town of Lafayette and because it was moved during the historic period (Rogers 2006).

The property was revisited during the current investigation simply to update its current status. The property remains standing and little changed since first recorded in 2006. It is still considered eligible under the above-noted criteria.
Spring Grove Cemetery

Located in the NW1/4 of Section 3 of Clinton Township, this pioneer cemetery contains the graves of many of the early settlers of the Covington area, including members of the Usher family, such as Dyer Usher, whose ferry operated across the Cedar River not far from this cemetery. The cemetery is also notable for the legend that Chief Kennesaw of the Meskwaki tribe is buried in this cemetery and that this hilltop was the potential location of other Meskwaki burials. While there is no confirmation of the Meskwaki burials, this story appears to have some validity in the oral historical record concerning this tale (Browne 1980). The cemetery is still in use; therefore, there are a number of modern burials as well; however, the location of this cemetery, the known presence of Early Settlement Era pioneer burials of notable persons in the Covington area history, and the potential presence of Meskwaki burials indicates some potential National Register eligibility for this cemetery for its historical associations (Criterion A) and for its archaeological potential (Criterion D) (Rogers 2003). It should be noted that Native American burials are protected under Iowa Code and should not be knowingly disturbed or disinterred. Any indication of the presence of a Native American burial should be reported to the Office of the State Archaeologist immediately.

The cemetery was revisited during the current investigation to update its status and condition. It was found that since first recorded in 2003, the cemetery has been nearly doubled in size, with an expansion on the south slope and a completely new gravel entry drive into this new area and connecting to the historic cemetery. A sign at the new driveway entry states that the cemetery was established in 1853. The new addition certainly does alter the historic landscape of the location, with the view from the south particularly altered because the first impression of the cemetery from the roadway is now the new modern cemetery section making it somewhat difficult to immediately discern the historic cemetery.
The cemetery is still notable, however, as the resting place for most of the Covington area pioneers, including members of the Usher family. Historic records indicate that Hiram Usher gave the land for the cemetery. One source indicated that the first burial here was Sophia Stowell, who died c.1848, although this date was noted with a question mark (Linn County Heritage Society 1986). This early date is also somewhat at odds with the 1853 establishment date noted on the new cemetery sign, although this date may represent the official platting of the cemetery rather than the first historic period burial. Oral history suggests a number of unmarked historic burials in the older section of the cemetery (ibid.). This source also noted that the cemetery was called the Rawson Cemetery at one time (ibid.).

The 1911 county history book noted that Spring Grove Cemetery is “one of the oldest cemeteries west of the [Cedar] river,” with many early settlers buried in this cemetery (Brewer and Wick 1911:243). This source also noted the following:

Dyer Usher as well as the other members of the Usher families was always friendly with the Indians and in return shared the good will of the various Indian tribes. In an early day one of the chieftains died and was buried in the cemetery lot of the whites according to the Indian customs. This brave was interred with bows and arrows as well as with the dead carcass of a horse or Indian pony (ibid.).

Early white settlers buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery include: “Dyer and Hiram Usher, Charles Dickey, John Garrison, Peter Davis Burt, Thomas Spencer, George Mathew, J.Z. Drake, Caldwells, the Rawson and Tweed families, F. Klumph, Mrs. Dyer Usher, and many others” (Brewer and Wick 1911:243).

The potential presence of a Native American burial in the historic section of this cemetery is notable and should be kept in mind as burials continue at this cemetery. If such a burial is ever encountered at this location, further disturbance should immediately cease and the remains preserved and protected from further disturbance. The historic section of the cemetery is also notable for the presence of so many prominent early pioneer settlers from this area. However, the continued use of this cemetery and its recent expansion to the south, have impacted the overall integrity, particularly impacting the historic landscape and main viewshed of the historic cemetery. This, coupled with the requirement that a cemetery be evaluated under National Register Criteria Consideration D as a cemetery property, results in the conclusion that this property does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered National Register eligible. Specifically, for a historic cemetery to be eligible for the National Register, it must “derive its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive
design features, or from association with historic events” (National Park Service 1997:37). In this case, while containing the graves of notable Linn County pioneers, none could be categorized as of “transcendent” importance, and there are other sites and buildings in the area that are also representative of many of these pioneers. The cemetery’s design is typical of a rural Iowa cemetery unaffiliated with any church congregation and is a simple grid pattern laid out over the landscape. The grave markers are also not unusual for a cemetery of this age in Iowa and consist of older limestone slabs with various Late Victorian tombstone imagery (e.g., clasped hands, hand with finger pointed heavenward, weeping willow trees), later granite stones, and several white bronze markers. The cemetery is also not necessarily distinctive for its age or historical associations and was not the scene of any notable historic event other than the potential for Native American burial or burials at this location. Therefore, it is concluded to be ineligible for the National Register but with the caution that Native American burials are protected by Iowa Code and should not be disturbed or disinterred. If any remains older than 150 years are encountered during modern burial activities at this location, the Burials Program at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City should be notified immediately.

James Ure House

This property is located in the SW1/4 of Section 5 of Fairfax Township and consists of a two-story Italianate-style brick house that was built by James Ure c.1857. While the current owners believed that the house was built in 1848, historical biographical information for James Ure suggests that while he probably purchased this land around 1848, he did not reside on this property until his marriage in 1857 (Chapman Brothers 1887). It is suspected, therefore, that this large Italianate-style home was built in anticipation of his marriage and would, therefore, have been built closer to that year. The house is relatively well preserved and retains the bracketed eaves and other original details including a few of the original 6/6 double-hung windows. One alteration has been the construction of an enclosed gabled-roofed entry over the original front entryway, although this may be a rather superficial alteration and easily reversed. This appears to be the only building on this farmstead that dates from the Early Settlement Era, with the other farm buildings including an extended gable feeder barn and double corncrib among a number of smaller outbuildings.

The house was noted in historical accounts of Fairfax Township as having been the “one of the first brick houses in this part of the county” (Brewer and Wick 1911:272). It also housed the first “Fairfax” post office and was shown as such on the 1859 map of this property (McWilliams and Thompson 1859). James Ure served as the postmaster. The Ure family, as a whole, was the nucleus of the early 1840s Scotch Grove settlement and hailed from Scotland. It was further noted of this house that “the brick was made by the boys and the entire house erected without the assistance of any expert, the lime being hauled all the way from Muscatine” (ibid.).

The 2003 study concluded that the James Ure House was eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance and potentially under Criterion B for its association with James Ure, although more research was recommended for that criterion (Rogers 2003). It was noted that the property appeared to have good potential under Criterion B because James Ure was an early pioneer settler, served as the first Fairfax postmaster, and was a noted raiser of purebred livestock in this township including Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, and Clydesdale and American horses (Chapman Brothers 1887) (Rogers 2003). The property was purchased by Lewis Stallman in 1892 and remains in the Stallman family to the present day.

The current investigation revisited the property and found the house unchanged since the 2003 survey.
Additional research revealed that James Ure was one of the earliest settlers in the Fairfax vicinity, moving to the area in 1841 with his family, including his father Walter and his brother William. James married Mary Jane Kerr in 1857 and settled on this property directly following their union (Chapman Brothers 1887:231). James Ure did have a farm operation represented in the 1850 agricultural census and it is known that he purchased this land prior to his marriage in 1857 when it was suspected that the brick house was constructed. Therefore, the 1850 agricultural census data reflects his very earliest farming operation prior to his marriage. Even at this early date, his operation was heavy into livestock production including a notable number of working oxen, milk cows, cattle, sheep and swine. The 1860 Agricultural Census showed that James Ure then possessed 155 acres of land, and farmed oats (550 bushels), corn (300 bushels), wheat (176 bushels), and potatoes (20 bushels). In 1870 he is listed as owning 330 acres, and farming rye (1,600 bushels), wheat (680 bushels), corn (310 bushels), potatoes (100 bushels), as well as large amount of butter (1,125 lbs). The estimated total value of all farm production for that year was $3065. In 1880 James owned 619 acres, and produced corn (4200 bushels), oats (900 bushels), wheat (112 bushels), and potatoes (30 bushels). He also owned 18 milk cows and 62 “other cows,” which brought him 500 gallons of milk sold, and 1,000 lbs of butter made. Moreover, his 36 barnyard poultry and 5 “other poultry” produced 100 eggs to sell. In addition to being a farmer, James also served as postmaster of Fairfax, Township Trustee, Assessor, and School Director (Western Historical 1878:810). He continued to live on this property until April 1892 when he and his wife moved to Denver, Colorado. He sold the property in Linn County in 1893 to Louis Stallman, with the Stallman family retaining possession to the present day.

The actual agricultural census date for James Ure’s farming operation includes the following:

**James Ure Farmstead: 1850 Agricultural Census**

*Acres of land:* Improved – 235  
*Present cash value:* Farm – $1200; Farm implements/machinery – $200  
*Livestock (as of June 1, 1850):* Horses – 14; Milk cows – 11; Working oxen – 8; Other cattle – 30; Sheep – 65; Swine – 135  
*Farm production (as of June 1, 1850):* Wheat – 500 bushels; Indian corn – 1500 bushels; Oats – 150 bushels; Wool – 80 lbs; Potatoes (Irish) – 200 bushels; Butter – 300 lbs; Hay – 25 tons; Honey – lbs
James Ure Farmstead: 1860 Census
Acres of land: Improved – 100; Unimproved – 55
Present cash value: Farm – $4000; Farm implements/machinery – $65
Livestock (as of June 1, 1860): Horses – 2; Milk cows – 5; Other cattle – 9; Swine – 8; Value of livestock – $250
Farm production (as of June 1, 1860): Wheat – 176 bushels; Indian corn – 300 bushels; Oats – 550
   bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 20 bushels; Butter – 200 lbs; Hay – 20 tons; Molasses – 4 gallons
Total values: Value of homemade manufacture – $50; Value of animals slaughtered – $255

James Ure Farmstead: 1870 Census
Acres of land: Improved – 270; Woodland – 35; Other unimproved – 25
Present cash value: Farm – $14500; Farm implements/machinery – $210; Total amount of wages paid during the year – $550
Livestock (as of June 1, 1870): Horses – 4; Milk cows – 9; Other cattle – 27; Swine – 28; Value of livestock – $1750
Farm production (as of June 1, 1870): Wheat (spring) – 680 bushels; Rye – 1600 bushels; Indian corn – 310 bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 100 bushels; Butter – 1125 lbs; Hay – 15 tons; Honey – 80 lbs; Wood – $50
Total values: Value of animals slaughtered/sold for slaughter – $1117; Estimated value of all farm production – $3065

James Ure Farmstead: 1880 Census
Acres of land: Tilled – 400; Permanent meadow/pasture – 184; Woodland/forest – 35
Farm values: Overall land – $14000; Farm implements/machinery – $400; Livestock – $2380; Cost of building/repairing fences – $100; Estimate of all farm production – $2500
Labor (in 1879): Amount paid for wages – $300
Grass lands: Acres mown – 90; Acres not mown – 15; Hay (harvested) – 105
Livestock: Horses – 11; Milk cows – 18; Other cows – 62; Calves – 17; Purebred – 2; Sold – 17;
   Slaughtered – 1; Milk sold – 500 gallons; Butter made – 1000 lbs.; Swine – 110; Barnyard poultry – 36; Other poultry – 5; Eggs produced (1879) – 100
Farm production: Indian corn – 85 acres, 4200 bushels; Oats – 35 acres, 900 bushels; Wheat – 10 acres, 112 bushels; Potatoes – 30 bushels; Apples – 4 acres, 0 bearing trees; Bees – 150 lbs. honey, 15 lbs wax; Wood (in 1879) – 12 cords, $48

These data show an ever-expanding and prosperous farming operation that was heavy into dairy production and livestock raising from its earliest days. The biographical information further identifies his interest in purebred horses, cattle and hogs, making Ure among the progressive farmers in Linn County in the late nineteenth century.

The 1860 U.S. Population Census for Fairfax Township showed the household of James Ure as including James and wife, Mary, one-year-old son, William, and a 16-year-old girl who appears to have been Mary’s sister. By the 1870 census, the Ure household included James, his wife, and their five children along with a farm hand who was a Scottish immigrant. By 1880, the Ure household included James and his wife, their now six children, and one Iowa-born farm hand.

James Ure was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1824. The Ure family immigrated to the United States and settled first in Ohio before moving to Linn County, Iowa, in 1841 “where they established themselves a reputation of being honest, industrious people, and transacting in an honorable manner all their business affairs” (Chapman Brothers 1887:231). This account further noted that “previous to his marriage, he purchased the land which he now occupies, a part of this being secured directly from the government” (ibid.). His wife, Mary Jane Kerr, hailed from Pennsylvania, with their marriage occurring on June 11, 1857. Together they had seven children. The account goes on to note that:

Mr. Ure settled upon his present homestead immediately after his marriage. He is now the proprietor of nearly 500 acres of land, most of which is improved and highly cultivated. He is
dealing quite extensively in fine stock, and exhibits some fine specimens of high grade Short-horn
cattle, Poland-China swine, Clydesdale and American roadsters and trotters. Mr. Ure is held in
high esteem by his community, and has been placed in some of the most important offices in the
gift of his township. He occupied the position of Postmaster at what was then called Fairfax Post-
office, which was the first office of the kind in the township, and located on the site of what is
now the homestead of the family (Chapman Brothers 1887:231).

Another account noted that James Ure, his wife, and his sister, Margaret Ure, were instrumental in the
formation of Presbyterian Church in Scotch Grove and that the Ure family’s early settlement in Scotch
Grove served as the nucleus for other Scottish immigrants to settle here in the 1850s including the
McKinnon, McGregor, and Mitchell families (Brewer and Wick 1911:273). It was further noted that of
the 15 charter members of the Presbyterian Church:

Mr. and Mrs. James Mitchell, James and Margaret Ure, William McKinnon, and John Mitchell
were all born and lived during their childhood in the same community in Scotland. They were all
baptized by the Rev. Mr. Russell, and they attended the same church and school. In coming west
to the new country they chose out a beautiful spot, fertile and productive (ibid.:277-8).

Since the Ure family was the earliest to arrive in what became the Scotch Grove settlement, they were
instrumental in encouraging their friends and relatives back in Scotland to join them. As a result, a
number of Scottish immigrants settled in and around Scotch Grove in Linn and Benton counties (Brewer
and Wick 1911:272).

The first settlers, as far as is known, who came to this part of the county were Robert and Jane Ure
with their family of grown children, in the spring of 1841. The children were John, Margaret,
James, William, Robert, Walter, and David. The family had emigrated from Scotland in 1838 and
gone west, locating in Ohio for a short time, removing to Iowa territory in search of land. They
located in the northwestern part of the township in the grove which has since been called “Scotch
Grove.” The Ures wrote back to Scotland to their friends, and for many years emigrants came who
located in and around Scotch Grove in Linn and Benton counties. Later came the McDowell
family, the Listebargers, the McKinnons, the Mitchells, Giddings, Knickerbockers, Flahertys,
Ferriters, Henrys, Cahills, Hines, McFarlands, and many others (ibid.).

As such, it is concluded that the brick house of James Ure is eligible under both Criterion C and B for
its architectural significance as an important early brick home in the township and Linn County and for its
association with James Ure, who was an important and influential person in the township, with the house
the best extant representation of his importance and position in this rural community.
William Ure House

This house is located in the NW1/4 of Section 6 of Fairfax Township and consists of a very impressive two-story, gable-front-and-wing house that exhibits some Greek Revival stylistic influence. The main entry was in the front-gabled portion of the house and consists of double front doors with windows to one side and three across the second floor above. The house is clad with clapboard siding and has what are suspected to be the original 4/4 double-hung windows. Another notable feature is the round-arched louvered vent door in the front gable peak. At least one front porch or porch hood has been removed from the front façade impacting integrity somewhat; however, overall it still retains sufficient integrity to be considered National Register eligible (Rogers 2003).

According to map data, the house was built between 1859 and 1869 (McWilliam and Thompson 1859; Thompson and Everts 1869). The house was built by William Ure, whose family settled the Scotch Grove area of Fairfax Township in the early 1840s. As noted above, this family hailed from Scotland and included eight children, one of whom was William and another was his brother James, the subject of the previous property in this report. The William Ure House reflects this family settlement as the children began to establish their own farmsteads away from the family homestead. There are no other remnant buildings on this farmstead dating from this era; therefore, the house was considered by the 2003 survey to be individually eligible as a well-preserved example of an Early Settlement Era house under Criterion C, with some potential under Criterion B if research reveals a significant role for the Ure family in the settlement and development of this township (Rogers 2003).

The house was revisited during the current investigation, and while structurally unchanged since 2003, it is now obviously vacant and not being maintained. Unless someone purchases the property to live in and maintain the house, it is feared that it will deteriorate even further or be outright demolished.

![William Ure House, View to the SSW in May 2008](image)

Additional research revealed that William Ure was a notable citizen of Fairfax Township, and this, coupled with the Ure family’s position as early settlers and developers of the Scotch Grove settlement in this township, makes this property eligible under Criterion B along with the James Ure House as noted previously. The house still maintains good historic integrity even though it is slowly deteriorating. As such, it remains eligible under Criterion C.

William Ure was one of eight siblings, who emigrated from Scotland with their parents and eventually settled in Linn County in 1841. He died in 1898, with his wife, Mary, passing away in 1917. Both are buried in the Fairfax Cemetery. There was no house shown on this property on the 1859 plat map, although William Ure is shown as the owner of this parcel by that date (McWilliams and Thompson...
1892, at which time William Ure was 65 years of age and likely retiring from farming. He and his wife must have stayed in the Fairfax area given that both were buried in Fairfax Cemetery.

William Ure was born in 1827 in Scotland. He married Mary Dougan in February 1858. She was born in Ireland in 1827. Together they had five children who survived to adulthood, with seven children represented in the 1870 U.S. Population Census in William and Mary’s household listing. Ure served as President of the Board of School Directors in Fairfax Township; a member of the County Board of Supervisors for nine years; Bridge Commissioner of the county for four years; and Representative in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth General Assemblies (Western Historical 1878:810).

William Ure was represented in the 1860 Agricultural Census for Fairfax Township as owning 300 acres of land. His crops included wheat (400 bushels), potatoes (80 bushels), and oats (50 bushels). By the 1870 census he is listed as owning 450 acres, and his farm production included rye (4,000 bushels), corn (500 bushels), wheat (444 bushels), and potatoes (100 bushels). In 1870 he also produced 1,250 lbs of butter and sold 100 tons of hay. His estimated value of farm production that year was $6,035. The 1870 U.S. Population Census showed William’s household as including not only his wife and seven children, but also six boarders including five farm laborers. Of the farm hands, three were from Scotland, one was from Ireland, and the other was Iowa born. The 1880 population census showed William’s household as including wife, Mary, two of their children (still of school age), and one farm hand, who was a Scottish immigrant. From the children’s names listed in this census, it appears that two young sons had passed away since the 1870 census.

William Ure also reportedly purchased the first reaping machine in this part of the county having bought it in Chicago in the summer of 1847. He drove an ox team to Chicago to pick up the machine. “After he got it started all the neighbors helped and the machine was run night and day until the season was over and the grain harvested” (Brewer and Wick 1911:272).

The following are the actual listings for William Ure’s farming operations in Fairfax Township in 1860 and 1870:

**William Ure Farmstead: 1860 Agricultural Census**

- Acres of land: Improved – 100; Unimproved – 200
- Present cash value: Farm – $3000; Farm implements/machinery – $250
- Livestock (as of June 1, 1860): Horses – 4; Milk cows – 4; Other cattle – 16; Swine – 3; Value of livestock – $800
- Farm production (as of June 1, 1860): Wheat (spring) – 400 bushels; Oats – 50 bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 80 bushels; Butter – 20 lbs; Hay – 30 tons
- Total values: Value of animals slaughtered – $20; Value of animals sold – $100

**William Ure Farmstead: 1870 Agricultural Census**

- Acres of land: Improved – 400; Woodland – 50
- Present cash value: Farm – $1800; Farm implements/machinery – $1000; Total amount of wages paid during the year – $1500
- Livestock (as of June 1, 1870): Horses – 13; Milk cows – 12; Other cattle – 30; Swine – 60; Value of livestock – $2750
- Farm production (as of June 1, 1870): Wheat (spring) – 444 bushels; Rye – 4000 bushels; Indian corn – 500 bushels; Potatoes (Irish) – 100 bushels; Butter – 1250 lbs; Hay – 100 tons; Honey – 25 lbs; Wood – $50
- Total values: Value of animals slaughtered/sold for slaughter – $1500; Estimated value of all farm production – $6035

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While not as ambitious a farming operation as his brother James’ was during this same period, William’s farming operation was prosperous and would have enabled the construction of this fine home. The home also reflects William’s standing in the community as a prosperous farmer and politician.

**Wesley Cerveny Farmstead**

Located in the SW1/4 of Section 36 of Fairfax Township, this property represents a late nineteenth century Bohemian farmstead that was first recognized during the 2003 survey by the presence of a small gabled cottage behind a later house—a typical feature noted by previous studies of the Bohemian settlements of Linn and Johnson counties (Rogers 2003). Map data indicate that the farmstead was first settled in the late nineteenth century by members of the Joseph Cerveny family. It was shown as a separate grouping of buildings on the 1895 map when the entire west half of Section 36 was owned by “John” Cerveny, with the property including what had been the original homestead of Joseph Cerveny. By 1906, the subject farmstead was on a separate parcel owned by Wesley Cerveny. It remains in the Cerveny family to the present day.

The farmstead as a whole includes a gabled barn, a double corncrib, various sheds and minor outbuildings, a c.1900 house that is the main occupied house of the current farmstead, and a small front-gabled cottage, 1.5-stories in height adjacent to and slightly to the rear of the c.1900 house. As a whole, this farmstead appears to have some potential eligibility as a representative Bohemian immigrant farmstead in southern Linn County under Criterion C and was recommended for additional study (Rogers 2003).

The property was revisited during the current investigation and found to be largely unchanged since the 2003 survey. The c.1900 house does have a new standing seam metal roof but otherwise appears the same as in 2003. The rest of the buildings appear unchanged. The farmstead still retains a good degree of integrity and is well maintained and continues to be occupied.

Additional research indicates that Wesley was born in 1876 and would have been in his late 20s at the time of the 1906 plat map, which lists him as owning the subject property. As such, it is suspected that this farm parcel was created out of his father’s homestead and was transferred to Wesley upon reaching adulthood and/or following his marriage to his wife, Anna. Wesley Cerveny was born in Iowa, with both parents having been born in Bohemia. Wesley, Anna, and their daughter, Bessie, are all buried in the Czech National Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. He died in 1954 at the age of 78. Land transfer records indicate that Wesley and Anna transferred this property to Wesley Cervany, Jr., and his wife, Mary, in 1947, likely when Wesley and Anna retired from farming. Wesley Jr. died in 1965, leaving Mary Cervany the sole owner of the farm property. Mary subsequently married Joseph Stroley, who died in 1994. Mary herself passed away in 2004 (Iowa Press Citizen 2004).

The small gabled house on this farmstead would, therefore, likely pre-date Wesley’s ownership of the property, with the c.1900 house probably built by Wesley as his own home. This pattern was also typical of the Bohemian immigrant settlement of southwestern Linn County, where the second, American-born
generation would be the first to update the family residence, this time replacing the residence with a new home but keeping the older home and moving it back or to the side where it was adapted for other uses.

It is concluded that this property still retains sufficient integrity and possesses sufficient architectural significance as a Bohemian ethnic property to be considered eligible under Criterion C.

**George Seroway Farmstead**

Located in the NW1/4 of Section 33 of College Township, this property consists of a heavy timber frame gabled basement barn with a limestone and shale foundation and board-and-batten siding; a two-story gable-front-and-wing house, a small barn or shed. According to the current owners, the house and barn were both built in 1855, with the house also functioning as a stagecoach stop. However, there was no house shown at this location on the 1859 map, with “S. Pitt” the landowner and a house represented in the NE1/4 of the NW1/4, not the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 location of the subject house. There was a building at the subject house location on the 1869 map when the property appeared to be owned by George Seroway (McWilliams and Thompson 1859; Thompson and Everts 1869). Seroway’s name was shown over the W1/2, NW1/4 that should have included this house; however, there was also a square parcel line surrounding the house on the map in the extreme northwest corner that appears to subdivide the house parcel from the rest of the property and suggests separate ownership. This parcel was too small to have a labeled name on the map. Therefore, it remained unclear whether Seroway owned this house or not. At that time, the house was at the intersection of two section line roads and would have been a good location for travelers to stop. Whether this roadway was part of the region’s stage lines remains unknown.

Examination of the house construction indicates that it certainly could date from the 1850s; however, it has also been modified with aluminum siding and primarily faux 6/6 double-hung windows, imparting a historic look from a distance but are not the actual original windows. There is at least one older 2/2 double-hung window still in place. The foundation is constructed of limestone and the overall form and style of the house is consistent with an Early Settlement Era date of construction. The barn is a raised basement barn that may have had a ramp or bridge that has since been removed. While the barn is of heavy timber frame construction, the posts and beams are sawn suggesting a late nineteenth century date of construction, although a construction date in the 1850s-60s could be possible if there was an active sawmill in the vicinity at that early date. (There were a number of active sawmills in Linn County’s rural grove areas during this period.) The foundation of the barn is an interesting combination of shale and limestone rubble.

This property, while altered and somewhat tenuous on its Early Settlement Era association, was recommended during the 2003 survey for further research (Rogers 2003). It was considered to be potentially eligible under Criterion C, if not under A, particularly if an association with stage travel could be documented.

The current investigation revisited the farmstead and found no discernible physical or cosmetic changes since the 2003 survey. Research indicated that a prominent settler of College Township, Nicholas Winterstein, lived in this area during the 1830s but had moved to Cedar Rapids by 1878 (Western Historical 1878:580). His daughter, Sarah, married Philip Pitt in 1839 (ibid.:755). It is possible that early on this land was owned by his daughter, Sarah Pitt, perhaps the identity of “S. Pitt” on the NW1/4 parcel on the 1859 map. Interestingly, Philip Pitt had once been a stage driver in Ohio, but by 1878, Pitt was listed as a farmer living in Section 28 of Clinton Township. His 1878 biography noted that when he first came to Iowa, he lived in the Burlington area before moving to Johnson County in 1854 and then Rapids Township in Linn County from 1856 to 1867 when he moved to Clinton Township. He married Sarah Winterstein in 1839, and she died in 1871 (ibid.).
The 1878 county history did list a George “Serowy,” as a farmer then living in Section 31 of College Township and having a Western post office address. The Section 31 location would have been within two miles to the west of the subject property in Section 33. The land transfer data for the subject property do list an Ira “Syronay” in connection with property in the NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 33 in 1871; however, it was not clear in the transfer record indexes who owned the property prior to 1871 other than Joseph Tomlinson, who obtained a patent for the NW1/4, NW1/4 in 1853 from the U.S. government. A search of the agricultural censuses failed to produce any listings for Seroway or Serowy in this township.

Two names--J. Lopota and Thomas Pittick--were given in the 1878 county history book as farmers living in Section 33 of College Township and both appear in the land transfer records for the NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 33 (Western Historical 1878:793-4). Both names were connected with transfers to Frank Bohac, whose name is given as the landowner of this property on the 1906 plat map of College Township. Lopota was found in the 1880 Agricultural Census, owning 210 acres of land and yielding profits in corn, oats, wheat, rye, and potatoes. Bohac was also found in this census, owning 140 acres of land and possessing a production primarily in corn, oats, and wheat, and a high count of eggs. The 1906 map also suggests Joseph Benesh as a possible owner. Lastly, the population censuses did not contain the surname “Seroway” anywhere, but did have listings for both “Serowy” and “Sirowy” in College Township in the early 1900s. The origin of the name is Bohemian as are most of the other names listed above that appear in the land transfer records.

The convoluted and muddied history of this property makes eligibility under Criterion A problematic at this time. It will likely require an inspection of the property’s actual abstract to sort out its history. However, it is concluded that the farmstead is eligible under Criterion C as a comparatively well preserved Early Settlement Era house and barn type in this township potentially having a Bohemian immigrant association but would require examination of the property abstract in order to make any further determination under Criterion A. In addition, there does not appear to be any way at this point to confirm the possible stagecoach stop connection for this property other than reporting the oral history that the owners conveyed. A construction date in the 1860s is most likely given the map data and the style and type of the house and barn.

**Former St. Patrick’s Church Rectory**

This dwelling is located along the south side of Railroad Street two blocks east of Vanderbilt Street at 417 Railroad Street. According to oral history, this house was built in the 1860s-70s as the original rectory for St. Patrick’s Catholic Church but was moved to this location in the early twentieth century when the newer rectory was built on the original site along Church Street. The house is a small-scale two-story front-gabled building with a rear one-story gabled ell. Notable features include the original 6/6 double-hung windows and the front door with side lights. While there have been some changes to this house through the years, most notably its moving from Church Street to its current location, this house
still presents a strong sense of time and place and it notable for its original function as the church rectory. The 2003 survey concluded that the house was potentially eligible under Criteria A and C for its representation of the early Catholic Church rectory in the Fairfax community and as a comparatively well-preserved Early Settlement Era dwelling in the town of Fairfax (Rogers 2003).

The current investigation revisited the property and found it unchanged from the 2003 survey. Historic research failed to shed any additional light on this property’s history. Therefore, the property was evaluated strictly on Criterion C eligibility as an early house type in the town of Fairfax and considering its move from one lot to the other. This is a comparatively well-preserved early front-gabled house that exhibits stylistic influence from the Greek Revival style of architecture, which was popular in the country in the 1850s-60s (McAlester and McAlester 1998). The somewhat later date for the Fairfax example would not be unusual given the lag time in styles that one can find the farther west one goes in the region. The only major change, other than the reported moving of this house, was the later application of asphalt or asbestos siding. However, the retention of the original and stylish front door detail and many of what appear to be the original windows overcome the detraction of the siding alteration. The move, while something of an impact to the overall integrity, involved a move from one house lot to another within the same town. As a result, the move is not considered a serious detracion from the property’s overall integrity and architectural significance. The house is concluded to be eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an early house type in the town of Fairfax.

Archaeological Resources

The Phase II archaeological investigation targeted eight sites in the 2003 and 2006 subsection survey areas that were determined potentially eligible for the National Register and/or warranting further investigation or research (see Figure 2). Of these eight sites, two could not be examined during the current study because of field conditions or an inability to secure owner permission to conduct the Phase II testing. These two sites included 13LN876, the suspected Flemingville blacksmith shop site, and the possible sod house site in the SE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 8, Clinton Township. The sod house site is a relatively remote location and is difficult to access even in the best conditions (see Rogers 2003). Unfortunately, the extremely wet conditions during the current study precluded any further investigation of this site. Therefore, this potential site remains for future studies to examine and evaluate. Site 13LN876 could not be examined for lack of owner permission to conduct the Phase II testing. However, additional
historic research was conducted for this site during the current investigation with the results of that research presented below.

The rest of the eight sites, including 13LN877, 13LN878, 13LN879, 13LN882, 13LN831, 13LN843, were examined during the current investigation through additional fieldwork and research in order to make a final determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The results of the current investigation are presented by site below.

Site 13LN876

This site is located in the SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 11, T85N-R7W, Otter Creek Township, Linn County, Iowa. It is located at the northeast edge of what historically was the Flemingville settlement. The site appears to represent the remains of a blacksmith shop that may have been associated with this settlement. The identification as a blacksmith shop is based on information from the current tenant that there had been a blacksmith shop on this property and from the types of artifacts and features noted at this site during the 2006 Phase I survey. The site was examined in 2006 by surface survey and the excavation of three shovel tests. Testing was very limited on this site per the limitations of the tenant’s permission. A concentration of limestone slabs within an area measuring 15 feet east-west by 30 feet north-south appeared to be the remains of a limestone foundation still present on the ground surface. A shovel test excavated in the northeast corner of the concentration revealed fill and artifacts to a depth of 45 cm below surface, with a nearly solid layer of limestone encountered between 45 and 65 cm below surface. The limestone layer appears to be an intact remnant of the former foundation below the plow zone. Two other shovel tests excavated within the limestone concentration revealed subsoil at 30-32 cm below surface. There appeared to be an area towards the south end of the concentration where burned limestone was concentrated suggesting the location of a hearth or forge area (Rogers 2006).

Artifact density was moderate overall, with a total of 198 artifacts recovered in 2006. The assemblage included items indicative of a blacksmith shop including handwrought wagon parts, a handwrought branding iron with an “S” on one end, and handwrought nails. Diagnostic items indicated a temporal range of the mid to late nineteenth century.

A house was shown at this location on the 1859 and 1869 plat maps on property then owned by a N. Reynolds. It was still represented on the 1881 map on property then owned by Samuel E. Adams and on the 1895 map under the ownership of A.E. Blacksheare. An S.E. Adams was listed in the 1878 county history as living at “Round Grove” having a post office address of Flemingville. No occupation was listed for Adams (Western Historical 1878:775). The site location is in the vicinity of Round Grove as it was represented on the General Land Office plat.

Even though the 2006 investigation of the site was limited, enough information was gathered from the few shovel tests and the surface collection to indicate a good potential for this site to yield information of importance to the history of the Flemingville area. It appeared to have a good potential to have had a blacksmith shop function in addition to being a habitation site. There appeared to be intact features at the site location despite the site being in active cultivation. As such, the site was recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion D and was recommended for Phase II testing to make a final determination of either eligibility or ineligibility (Rogers 2006).

The current investigation was unable to access the site for lack of owner permission. However, additional research was conducted into the site history. There was a Nathan Reynolds listed in the 1856 Iowa State Population Census in Otter Creek Township; however, there was no listing for him in the 1860 or 1870 U.S. Population Censuses for this township. There was a Samuel E. Adams listed in the 1880 U.S. Population Census as a farmer living in Otter Creek Township. His household included his wife Adaline and his daughter Rosa. Samuel Adams hailed from Virginia. His wife was born in Ohio. Their daughter had been born in Iowa. At the time of the 1880 census, Samuel Adams was 51 and his wife was 33. Rosa was four years old. No listings could be found in the U.S. Population Censuses for A.E. Blacksheare. While there was no confirmation of a blacksmith function for this site, it is likely that it never functioned solely as such in its history. It would not be unusual for the main occupation of a rural shop like this to be a farm operation, with blacksmithing on the side, just as many farmers were also carpenters.
The site is still considered to have a very good potential for National Register eligibility and would certainly warrant protection from further impacts and National Register listing if the site still retains good integrity.

**Site 13LN877**

This site is located in the SW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 33, T85N-R7W, Otter Creek Township, Linn County, Iowa. It is located in wooded area and has never been plowed or built over. One of the current property owners noted that he had always been told that this house, which was abandoned in the early 1900s, had been a former stagecoach stop and “house of ill repute” in the mid to late nineteenth century (George Etzel, personal communication with Leah Rogers 2005). The surface features include a foundation depression, two circular depressions, and a well pipe. The site measures approximately 40 m east-west by 40 m north-south (131 ft by 131 ft), or 1600 square meters. The foundation depression is roughly square, with a berm around the depression suggesting some areas of intact foundation below the surface. More recent debris is scattered over the surface, particularly within the foundation depression, which appears to represent purposeful post-occupation dumping. The site was originally examined by surface survey (although surface visibility was very limited given the wooded nature of the site location) and the excavation of 14 shovel tests. These tests revealed an artifact midden around the site extending from 0-30 and up to 40 cm below surface in places. Several tests encountered intact foundation remnants and features including the base of the brick chimney, a filled-in well depression, and a filled-in privy pit. The latter also contained dense artifact deposits (Rogers 2006).

Artifacts recovered during the Phase I investigation included a wide range of domestic and structural items having a temporal range of the mid to late nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. Diagnostic ceramic items included mid to late nineteenth century transfer printed, annular and embossed whitewares and ironstones as well as early twentieth century transfer print and late flow blue decorated wares. One maker’s mark dates from c.1929-31 and is from the Petrus Regout Company of Maastricht, Holland (Kovel and Kovel 1986:127). Another mark is from England but was otherwise unidentifiable. Bristol-glazed stonewares included those in combination with interior Albany slip glaze and wares having the Bristol glaze on both the interior and exterior surfaces. In general, this assemblage has a temporal range of the mid nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

Diagnostic glass items in the Phase I assemblage included both moldblown and machine made items having a general temporal range of the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Specifically diagnostic items included one improved-tooled moldblown bottle lip/neck (early 1870s-c.1915), amethyst-colored bottle glass (generally 1880s to early twentieth century), machine made bottle and jar glass (post-1903), and two whole fig syrup bottles manufactured between 1897 and c.1915 (Deiss 1981; Fike 1987:225). The fig syrup bottles were manufactured after 1897 by the California Fig Syrup Company based in San Francisco but including an office in Louisville, Kentucky. Fig syrup was still being manufactured by this company into the 1970s (Fike 1987:225).

The site is located along the southeast side of the branch road that led from the old Center Point Road stage road northeast into the Lafayette settlement. The site was not clearly represented on either the 1859 or 1869 maps, although this does not negate the presence of a house at this location at that time. A house was represented at this location on the 1881 and 1895 maps, although no owner’s name is legible on what was then a small triangular lot of land along the roadside.

This habitation site possesses a high degree of integrity having never been plowed or greatly disturbed by modern activities. The site occupation does appear to have extended into the 1930s; however, definite mid to late nineteenth century material was recovered. Intact features encountered included a privy and a well in addition to the foundation of the house. As a whole, the site appears to have a good potential to yield information of importance to the history of the Lafayette vicinity and is considered potentially eligible under Criterion D. The site was recommended for Phase II testing to make a final determination of eligibility (Rogers 2006). The site is also considered a contributing site to the recommended Sugar Grove Historic District noted above. This district includes the standing buildings of the Sugar Grove Farmstead as well as archaeological sites 13LN877, 13LN879 (the original log cabin site on the Sugar Grove Farm), and 13LN881, a stage road remnant. Two other potential contributing sites have yet to be recorded and include a reported maple sugar camp used by the Meskwaki and a limestone quarry that may have provided the stone used for the buildings on the Sugar Grove Farmstead.
The Phase II testing of site 13LN877 consisted of additional test unit excavation to further explore the privy pit deposit, a second test unit in the house foundation area, and eight additional shovel tests to further explore the site deposit both horizontally and vertically (Figure 7).

The test unit in the privy feature confirmed the function of this feature as a privy pit and recovered additional artifacts providing chronological and cultural information concerning the site’s occupation. The privy pit extends to a maximum depth of 106 cm below surface. The southwest quadrant of the privy feature was excavated, with the east wall of the feature photographed and drawn in profile (Figure 8).

The test unit in the northcentral portion of the house foundation uncovered a large limestone slab laying flat and in place (Figure 8). This slab likely represents the pier base for a floor joist support.

A total of 1,432 artifacts was recovered from site 13LN877 during the Phase II testing (see Appendix A for full listing and description of artifact assemblage from this site). Of the total assemblage, 89%, or 1,269 artifacts, was recovered from the privy feature excavation (Test Unit 12 and Extension). The privy feature assemblage includes: limestone chunks, brick fragments, window glass, a variety of glass bottles and jars (a number of which represent whole vessels), glass tableware (mugs and tumblers), glass kerosene lamp chimney fragments, refined ceramic tableware (whiteware, ironstone, and porcelain), utilitarian ceramics (stoneware), animal bone and teeth fragments, metal hardware, metal fencing material, metal tools, wire and machine cut nails, roofing nails, tin cans, clothing and shoe/boot parts, wire and wire handle fragments, ammunition, buttons, slate pencils, safety pins, metal utensils, the rubber and metal parts to an enema or douching device, a Bakelite urethral syringe, and miscellaneous items (rubber tire and jar seal fragments, coal/cinders, slag). Among the metal tools was a nearly complete ax head recovered from the base of the privy fill. Also noted in the privy fill were seeds typical of Iowa privy night soil deposits including wild grape and strawberry seeds.

The privy artifact assemblage has a temporal range of the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries with definite twentieth century material throughout the deposit and extending down to the base of the privy (Deiss 1981; IMACS 2007; Lindsey 2008; Matsen 2007). Both moldblown and machine made bottle/jar glass was present, with maker’s marks confirming the extension of the temporal range into the early twentieth century. Embossed bottle marks included extract and flavoring bottles and medicine bottles. Canning jars of both machine made and moldblown/ground rim manufacture were present. Decorated ceramics included late nineteenth to twentieth century types such as decalcomania and mold-decorated, although glass was much more prevalent in the privy deposit than refined ceramics.

A total of 104 artifacts was recovered from the test unit within the house foundation (TU 24) and included: tin can fragments, metal hardware, wire and machine cut nails, limestone and brick fragments, stoneware (Bristol/Albany slip glazed), whiteware, porcelain, and ironstone, window glass, glass tableware, and glass bottle/jar fragments. The glass was largely non-diagnostic, with the decorated ceramics including brown transfer printed and mold-decorated wares indicating a late nineteenth to twentieth century temporal range.

The rest of the Phase II assemblage (number = 59) was recovered from the shovel tests executed around the site area to further examine site size and content. These items included limestone and brick fragments, utilitarian and refined ceramics, machine cut and wire nails, metal hardware and miscellaneous items, animal bone, and a leather fragment (see also Appendix A).

Generally, the artifact assemblage indicates that while mid to late nineteenth materials are present on site (such as a blue shell edged sherd found on the edge of the privy feature within 10 cm of the site’s surface and transfer printed whitewares), there is definite evidence that the occupation continued at least into the early 1900s when the privy feature was last in use. The presence of a Bakelite item indicates that the privy assemblage was still being deposited into the 1920s or 1930s (Matsen 2007).

Additional research failed to further illuminate the history of this site. The land appears to have been tied to the Sugar Grove Farm property throughout much of its history, and it is suspected that this house could have been a tenant property rather than owner occupied.

It was concluded that while the site does not appear to have sufficient significance for individual eligibility because of the length of occupation and the mixing of site deposits as a result, it does contribute substantially to the Sugar Grove Farmstead because it provides yet another layer of history to that property, which is significant as a historic district. As such, site 13LN877 is considered eligible as a contributing site to the larger Sugar Grove Farmstead Historic District.
Spoon recovered from A horizon of site 13LN877, November 2007 (found by metal detecting)
Figure 7. Site plan map for 13LN877

Grid is based on UTM coordinates easting and northing using the NAD83 datum

Legend:
- = Phase I shovel test
- = Phase II shovel test
- = Test unit
- = large maple and walnut trees
- = depression
- = concentration of daylilies
- = road ditch and drainageway
- = area of house foundation with cellar depression
- = leveled area of house foundation
- = concentration of cobbles and concrete blocks around a tree
Figure 8. Plan views and profiles of Test Units 12 and 24 at Site 13LN877
Volunteers Dave Brunius, Mary Noble, Tiffany Mann, Charlotte Wright and Loren Schutt excavating at Site 13LN877, November 2007
Volunteers Charlotte Wright, Loren Schutt, Jim Probst, Nancy Beadle and Dave Brunius excavating at Site 13LN877, November 2007

Plain and brown transfer printed whiteware, mold-decorated ironstone, Bristol/Albany glazed stoneware and square cut nail recovered from Test Unit 24, Site 13LN877, November 2007
Decal decorated and mold-decorated ironstone recovered from Test Unit 12 (privy feature), Site 13LN877, November 2007

Machine-made, moldblown, and ground rim jar and bottle glass including embossed medicine bottles, recovered from Test Unit 12 (privy feature), Site 13LN877, November 2007
Rubber bulb and tubing and Bakelite syringe recovered from Test Unit 12 (privy feature), Site 13LN877, November 2007

Tea leaf decorated ironstone rimsherd
Milled/rouletted glass tumbler
Artifacts recovered from Test Unit 12 (privy feature), Site 13LN877, November 2007
Glass bottles recovered from Test Unit 12 (privy feature), Site 13LN877, November 2007

Iron ax head recovered from Test Unit 12 (privy feature), Site 13LN877, November 2007
This habitation site is located in the NW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 21, T85N-R7W, Otter Creek Township, Linn County, Iowa. The site was shown on the 1859, 1869, and 1881 maps on property then owned by Solomon Yambert just northwest of the east branch of Otter Creek. Yambert was listed as a farmer in Section 21 in the 1878 county history book (Western Historical 1878:780). The Yambert family was among the earliest settlers of Otter Creek Township. The site appears to have been abandoned by the time of the 1895 map when the Maier family owned the property.

The site was examined in 2006 by surface survey, metal detecting, and the excavation of 12 shovel tests, which revealed that the site deposit is actually buried underneath a hillslope deposit of colluvium at a depth of 20 to 50 cm below surface. The shovel testing recovered a total of 30 artifacts including limestone fragments, machine-cut nails, and unidentifiable nails, stoneware sherds, unidentifiable metal fragments, metal wire fragments, a fence staple, and an iron bolt. This assemblage is generally nineteenth century in temporal range but contains few specifically diagnostic items (Rogers 2006).

While only a low density of nineteenth century domestic and structural artifacts has been recovered from the site, and no definite intact features have yet been located, the burial of the site deposit below the modern plow zone has served to help preserve and protect the site and suggested a good potential for intact deposits of some significance related to this Early Settlement Era habitation site. The site was considered potentially eligible under Criterion D and recommended for Phase II testing to make a final determination of eligibility. The location of any intact features was noted as being critical to a determination of eligibility (Rogers 2006).

The Phase II testing consisted of additional research and the excavation of 22 shovel tests to further explore the site deposit and to pinpoint any areas worthy of test unit excavation (Figure 9). The historic A horizon was found to be buried underneath 28-50 cm of colluvial slopewash. It was found that while additional artifacts were recovered from the buried A horizon, there was no indication of intact features or substantial site deposits worthy of further excavation. The artifact assemblage consisted of only 25 items including: slag, refined ceramics (whiteware and ironstone), machine cut nails, limestone and rocks, charcoal, mortar, and a small metal hook fragment (see Appendix A for detailed artifact descriptions). This sparse assemblage is only generally diagnostic of the late nineteenth century and provides little insight into the nature or duration of the site’s occupation. The site boundary is defined by an area measuring approximately 28 m by 30 m (92 ft by 98 ft), or 840 square meters (see Figure 9).

The additional research showed Solomon Yambert residing in Otter Creek Township at the time of the 1856 Iowa State Census and the 1860 U.S. Population Census. His household included: Solomon (appears to be age 39 in 1860), wife Sally (age 26), and three children (ages 6 to 1). Yambert was listed as an Ohio-born farmer. A Solomon Yambert is listed in Otter Creek in the 1880 U.S. Population Census; however, there is some discrepancy in the ages between the two censuses and his state of birth, which in 1880 is listed as Pennsylvania not Ohio. The Yambert household in 1880 included: Solomon (age 54), son James L., daughter Rhoda, and a niece and nephew. There were several Yambert family members buried in the nearby Lafayette Cemetery but Solomon is not among them.

Yambert’s farming operation was listed in the 1860 and 1880 U.S. Agricultural censuses. In 1860, his farm had a cash value of $2000. Livestock raised included 5 horses, 3 milch cows, 5 other cattle, and 16 swine for a total livestock value of $458. Crops raised included 208 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of Indian corn, and 87 bushels of oats. By 1880, his farming operation had grown to have a value $6380, with $100 worth of implements and $1000 worth of livestock. He had hired farm laborers for 22 weeks of the year at a cost of $130. Livestock included 6 horses, 7 milch cows, and 9 calves, with 250 pounds of butter produced. He also had 20 swine and 50 poultry. Crops raised included Indian corn, oats, hay, wheat, and potatoes. Yambert had four bearing apple trees and had produced six cords of wood.

The Phase II testing indicated that the site lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be considered National Register eligible. While the historic A horizon is buried, the artifact assemblage is sparse and no indication was encountered of intact features or substantial site deposits. As an ineligible site, 13LN878 warrants no further investigation.
Grid is based on UTM coordinates easting and northing using the NAD83 datum

Figure 9. Site plan map for Site 13LN878
Volunteers Jim Zalesky and Jim Probst excavating at Site 13LN878 in April 2008

Volunteers Jim Probst, Jim Zalesky and Mary Noble excavating at Site 13LN878 in April 2008
This site is located in the front yard of the house on the Sugar Grove Farmstead along St. Peters Road in the SE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 33, T85N-R7W, Otter Creek Township. This site represents the remains of the original log cabin on this property, which was built in the late 1830s to early 1840s by Stephen Snooks. It was noted in the 1878 county history that the cabin had been built by Snooks and that the “foundation of the old house” was still visible on what was then the Richard Jackman farmstead (Western Historical 1878:341). This would indicate that Jackman had built a new house by the late 1870s and that the cabin was no longer standing. Jackman lived on this farmstead until his death in 1886. In 1888, the Jackman family sold the property to Henry Etzel, whose family still owns the Sugar Grove Farm to the present day. Henry Etzel built the standing house around 1888 to replace the old Jackman house. The site of the old log cabin foundation was known through oral history to have been situated in the front yard just southeast of the standing house (George Etzel, personal communication with Leah Rogers, 2005-06).

Because the cabin site is now covered with a grassy lawn, there was no surface visibility. Therefore, in 2006, the site was examined by means of probing with a steel tile probe to locate the foundation remnant and by test unit (number = 3) and shovel test (number = 8) excavation (Figures 10 and 11). The test units were excavated at the suspected location of the foundation remnant, with the shovel tests excavated at judgmentally-placed locations surrounding the foundation and to the south of the foundation site. The test units revealed that rubble fill and intact portions of the old cabin foundation are buried underneath 16 cm of sandy loam fill and sod, with at least one area of in situ limestone slabs uncovered at a depth of 22 cm below surface in Test Unit A (Rogers 2006).

A total of 2,068 artifacts was recovered during the Phase I investigation of site 13LN879. This assemblage consisted primarily of structural material. The structural material consisted of limestone fragments, other stone fragments, brick fragments, nails, and window glass fragments (Rogers 2006).

The diagnostic ceramic Phase I assemblage included gold rimbanded, annular, transfer printed, embossed, and floral handpainted whiteware sherds, all of which have a general temporal range of the mid to late nineteenth century (Berger n.d.). The glass assemblage included moldblown bottle glass and amethyst-colored bottle glass having a general late nineteenth to early twentieth century temporal range (Deiss 1981; Lockhart 2006).

The site appeared to retain fairly good integrity having never been plowed and containing at least a portion of an intact limestone foundation. It appeared to have a good potential to yield information of importance concerning the early history of the Otter Creek settlement and the Sugar Grove farmstead and is considered potentially eligible under Criterion D. It was recommended for Phase II testing to make a final determination but was considered in 2006 to be contributing site to the recommended Sugar Grove Historic District, which includes the standing farmstead buildings and archaeological sites 13LN877 and 13LN881 (Rogers 2006).

The Phase II testing of site 13LN879 consisted of additional shovel test excavation to further define the site limits and content. A total of 15 additional tests were excavated with the tests generally indicating an A1-A2-B horizonation (see Figure 10). The older artifacts were generally recovered from the A2 horizon, with some disturbances noted from various landscaping features dating from the later occupation of the standing house. These disturbances appeared confined to the A1 horizon, although there are several underground utility lines extending through the front yard area that have disturbed into the A2 horizon. No additional subsurface features were encountered other than the foundation remnant uncovered during the Phase I investigation. The site limits were found to be primarily defined by an area measuring 24 m by 15 m (80 ft by 50 ft), or 360 square meters.

A total of 309 artifacts was recovered during the Phase II testing. This assemblage included additional structural material (limestone, wire and machine cut nails, brick fragments, wood fragments, and window glass), refined ceramics (whiteware), utilitarian ceramics (stoneware and yellow ware), bottle/jar and tableware glass, stoneware and ball clay smoking pipe bowl fragments, animal bone and teeth fragments, and miscellaneous items such as metal sheet fragments and wire fragments. Of note were a buckle or
Figure 10. Site plan map for 13LN879
Figure 11. Test unit profiles and plan views, Site 13LN879
suspender clip, a three-prong fork, a small metal chain, a larger iron band, straight pins, and moldblown bottle glass including contact moldblown and improved tooled cork-finished bottle glass. Diagnostic ceramics included sponge decorated and blue transfer printed whitewares. Many of these items have a temporal range of the mid to late nineteenth century and are consistent with the earliest occupation of this site. However, there are later items mixed in with this deposit. (For a detailed description of the Phase II artifact assemblage, see Appendix A). In addition further research was conducted for the overall Sugar Grove Farm, with the results of that research reported above for that architectural property.

While there are remnants of the log cabin’s limestone foundation still in place in the front yard of the standing house on the Sugar Grove Farmstead, the Early Settlement Era deposits have been mixed to some degree with deposits and landscaping elements from the later occupations. Additional impacts from underground utilities have occurred in the modern era. As such, the overall integrity of the cabin site has been diminished but not destroyed. It is concluded that the site does not possess sufficient integrity to be considered individually eligible as an archaeological site; however, it does retain sufficient integrity and significance to be contributing to the proposed Sugar Grove Farmstead District.

Left: three-prong fork recovered from cabin site, 13LN879 in May 2008

Below: contact moldblown bottle glass, ball clay pipe bowl fragment, square cut nail and sponged whiteware sherds recovered from cabin site, 13LN879 in May 2008
This site is located in the SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 22, T85N-R7W of Otter Creek Township, Linn County, Iowa. It represents a former habitation site that was shown on the 1859 map when J.R. Phillips was shown as property owner and on the 1869 map when “M.W. and R.S.” were listed as the owners. By 1881, the site was shown under the ownership of Rudolph Struchen, with Mary Struchen shown as the owner by 1895. This site consists of a moderate scatter of artifacts, brick, and limestone, with the scatter initially estimated as measuring 38 meters north-south by 45 meters east-west on the surface of a cultivated field. The site was examined during the Phase I investigation by surface survey and shovel test excavation (number = 19) and soil core probing (Figure 12). An area of sub-plow zone fill was encountered in three shovel tests concentrating in an area measuring 11 meters north-south by 8 meters east-west. Dense limestone was encountered at 60 cm below surface in Shovel Test 6, 40 cm below surface in Shovel Test 17, and 40 cm below surface in Shovel Test 18. This deposit appears to be fill within the former house foundation.

A total of 271 artifacts was recovered from 13LN882 during the Phase I investigation with the diagnostic ceramic assemblage including flow blue and sponged whiteware sherds having a mid to late nineteenth century temporal range. The diagnostic glass assemblage included moldblown bottle glass, amethyst-colored bottle glass, one applied tooled moldblown bottle lip/neck, three improved tooled bottle lip/necks, two ground rim moldblown canning jar rim fragments, and one machine made bottle glass having a mid nineteenth to early twentieth century general temporal range (Rogers 2006).

Site 13LN882 was found to contain Early Settlement Era artifacts and appears to represent an occupation that extended from the mid-nineteenth into the early twentieth centuries. An area of sub-plow zone deposit was encountered and appears to represent the former house foundation location. While it may be found that the foundation area was too recently disturbed to yield much information or intact evidence, the presence of sub-plow zone deposits coupled with the presence of a definite Early Settlement Era component, warranted further testing in the form of Phase II investigation before a final determination of either eligibility or ineligibility is made (Rogers 2006).

The Phase II testing of this site involved additional research and field investigation. The research showed J.R. Phillips in the 1856 and 1860 census listings for Otter Creek Township. Philips hailed from Vermont and his household in 1860 included his wife Ann, and two children. He was listed as a farmer. His wife had been born in Ohio, with both children (aged 2 and 1) having been born in Iowa. “Rodolf” Struchen was listed in Otter Creek Township in the 1880 U.S. Census, with his household including his wife Mary, and their four children. Struchen, his wife, and their eldest son had all been born in Switzerland. The rest of the children had been born in Iowa. All of the children were in their 20s in 1880. Rudolph Struchen died two years later in August 1882 and was buried in the Lafayette Cemetery.

The Struchen farm operation was represented in the 1880 U.S. Agricultural Census as having a value of $4000, with $250 worth of implements and $1200 worth of livestock. He had 12 milch cows, 21 other cattle, 70 swine, and 100 poultry. Crops raised included Indian corn, oats, rye, wheat, sorghum, and Irish potatoes. Struchen also had 10 bearing apples trees and had cut 7 cords of wood.

The Phase II field investigation consisted of a controlled surface collection and the excavation of additional shovel tests (number = 18), a test trench measuring 3.5 x 0.5 m, and a test unit measuring 0.5 x 0.5 m (Figure 12). The surface collection indicated that the artifact density is highest in the area of the suspected house cellar/foundation but also included notable concentrations to the north and northeast of the cellar feature. These concentrations may indicate activity areas or other features related to the house occupation. The site boundary was also revised to encompass a maximum area measuring 84 m by 84 m (275 ft by 275 ft), or 7056 m², based on the controlled surface collection (see Figure 12). Within this overall boundary, the artifact density was found to be highest in the northeast portion of the scatter in an area measuring approximately 44 m by 58 m.

The additional shovel tests were excavated to complete a more intensive grid pattern investigation of the overall site deposit but also included tests placed in the artifact concentrations noted during the controlled surface collection. Most of the shovel tests showed no evidence of sub-plow zone features or
Grid is based on UTM coordinates easting and northing using NAD83 datum

Figure 12. Site plan map for 13LN882
deposits, although one test (ST I) encountered a concentration of limestone fragments at 28 cm below surface and then a large limestone slab laying flat at 33 cm below surface. The location of this slab and its position laying flat below the plow zone, strongly suggests that this stone represents a portion of the house foundation encountered during the Phase I investigation. The location of this test suggests that this stone is part of the southeast corner of the foundation. Otherwise, the typical profile encountered in the majority of shovel tests showed a 10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) sandy loam to sandy silt loam plow zone ranging in depth from 25 to 30 cm below surface where a 10YR 3/3 (dark brown) or 10YR 3/2 (very dark grayish brown) silt loam subsoil was encountered. Tests were excavated to a maximum depth of 40-50 cm below surface or into the subsoil.

The test trench was placed in-between Phase I shovel tests #6 and #17 where a deposit of fill was encountered to at least 70 cm below surface during that investigation (Rogers 2006). The trench was excavated lengthwise east-west and encountered what appears to be fill within a former cellar pit beginning at 30 cm below surface in the east half of the trench (Figure 13). The west half of the profile also showed a thicker A horizon that technically extended below the plow zone by about 10 cm and contained historic artifacts, reflecting the presence of the feature and house foundation in this area. The trench was excavated to 50 cm below surface where excavation had to be terminated because of an unusually high water table. The trench was photographed and profiled and then backfilled.

The site was revisited on the following weekend, and a second test unit measuring 0.5 x 0.5 m was excavated off the northeast corner of the trench. This test unit was excavated to 50 cm where a bucket auger test was then excavated below 50 cm. This auger test revealed that the cellar fill deposit extended to 100 cm below surface where a rock impasse was encountered. The water table was lower by this time but it was still encountered at 90 cm below surface. The rock impasse at the base of the auger test likely represents the floor of the cellar. The interior fill of the cellar is 10YR 2/1 (black; saturated) silt loam and contains artifacts the whole depth of the fill.

The site has been impacted by very active rodent burrowing, with the rodents attracted to this location because of the sandy nature of the topsoil. This burrowing has most definitely impacted the site deposit, particularly since the activity is currently concentrating in the northeast portion of the site around the cellar feature and within the highest density area of the artifacts noted on the surface. This activity has certainly diminished the overall integrity of the site because it has mixed deposits and probably impacted features.

A total of 702 artifacts was recovered from the Phase II investigation of site 13LN882. This assemblage includes: refined ceramics (whiteware, porcelain and ironstone), utilitarian ceramics (stoneware, yellow ware and redware), brick and mortar fragments, limestone chunks, metal hardware and machinery parts, window glass, bottle/jar glass, tableware glass, lamp chimney glass and a copper lamp wick holder marked “Fireside Plume & Atwood,” machine cut nails, metal fencing material, coal/cinders, miscellaneous metal items, porcelain button, brass rivet, and animal bone fragments. (For a detailed description of the artifacts, see Appendix A). The Plume & Atwood Manufacturing Company was established in January 1869 under a different name and did not become Plume & Atwood until 1871; therefore, this item on site 13LN882 would have been manufactured in 1871 or later by this company (Endminster 2008). This company made a full line of lamps and lamp trimmings (ibid.).

Diagnostic ceramics include: decalcomania decorated whiteware, flow blue decorated whiteware, blue shell edge decorated whiteware, floral handpainted whiteware, blue sponge decorated whiteware, and mocha decorated yellow ware. These decorative types generally date from the mid to late nineteenth century, with decalcomania dating from the late nineteenth to twentieth centuries (Berger n.d.; Miller 1997).

Diagnostic glass include: a bottle base exhibiting an improved pontil mark; a ground rim glass canning jar rim; contact moldblown bottle glass; and other moldblown bottle glass. Most of these items have a manufacture range in the late nineteenth to very early twentieth century except for the improved pontil mark which dates from the late 1850s to the early 1870s (Deiss 1981; Lindsey 2008).

The Phase II testing confirmed the presence of at least one substantial feature (a probable house foundation and cellar) that appears to be at least partially intact. The fill within the feature does contain an
Close-up detail of site plan map showing area of house foundation/cellar on Site 13LN882. This area represents only that portion of the site where the cellar feature is located. See Figure 12 for overall site boundary.

Figure 13. Detail site plan map and profile of Trench 1, Site 13LN882

artifact assemblage capable of producing additional information on the history and occupation of this site; however, the majority of shovel tests failed to reveal any additional substantial features. Furthermore, the site is being actively impacted by extensive rodent burrowing, which has likely been ongoing at this location for many years. Cultivation also continues to impact the site deposit.
The question for the evaluation of National Register eligibility is whether the one known intact feature and the overall plowed site deposit is capable of yielding additional information of importance to the history of this locality and region? Historic research indicates that the site was occupied by two different families (the Phillips and the Struchens) and that this occupation extended into the late nineteenth or very early twentieth centuries. Presently, there do not appear to be any discrete features that can be associated with the earliest occupation of this site, with the deposit (including that of the cellar feature) representing a mixture of the entire occupation. As such, it is concluded that site 13LN882 does not possess sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and warrants no further investigation.

Volunteers Jim Zalesky, Charlotte Wright, and Donna and Dave Rotschafer excavating Trench 1 at 13LN882 in April 2008
Volunteers Chelsea Korpanty, Gary Dalecky, Bill Paeth, Charlotte Wright, Jim Probst, Nancy Beadle, and David Perkins excavating shovel tests at Site 13LN882 in May 2008

Volunteers Jim Probst and Nancy Beadle excavating shovel tests at 13LN882 in May 2008
Volunteers Charlotte Wright and Bill Paeth excavating shovel tests at 13LN882 in May 2008

Stoneware, flow blue whiteware, square nails, and moldblown bottle glass from surface Site 13LN882, May 2008
Site 13LN831

This site is located in Section 6, T83N-R8W, Clinton Township, Linn County, Iowa. It was recorded during the 2003 survey of the southwestern subsections in the county and consists of a historic habitation site dating from the mid to late nineteenth century (Rogers 2003). A house was shown at this location on the 1869 plat map when a person by the surname of Ladd was the owner. The site was examined by controlled surface collection and the excavation of 26 shovel tests, one of which was enlarged to a 50 x 100 cm test unit in order to profile and examine a suspected sub-plow zone feature (Figures 14 and 15). The artifact assemblage totaled 290 historic items including: 3 transfer printed whiteware sherds, 1 sponge decorated whiteware sherd, 1 annular decorated whiteware sherd, 15 undecorated whiteware sherd, 8 yellow ware sherd, 11 redware sherd, 20 ironstone sherd, 1 porcelain sherd, 35 stoneware
Figure 14. Sketch map of Site 13LN831

Grid is based on UTM coordinates, easting & northing using NAD83 datum

- X = center of site (NAD 83; 597922 easting, 4654539 northing)
- = Phase I shovel test
- = test unit
- = Phase II soil core probe
- = brick on surface
- = glass on surface
- = ceramic on surface
- = stone on surface
- = metal on surface
- = window glass on surface
sherds, 2 ball clay pipe fragments, 56 window glass fragments, 32 bottle glass fragments, 7 glass tableware, 86 square nails, 10 other metal items, 2 other material, and a high density of both brick and limestone fragments. The diagnostic items dated from the mid to late nineteenth century. The site was considered to have potential for additional intact features and deposits of some significance related to the
Early Settlement Era context for this area. It was recommended for Phase II testing (Rogers 2003). It should be noted that the site size initially reported for this site of “150 m x 60 m,” should have been given in feet not meters, with the corrected site size of 45 x 20 m noted herein. The Phase II study further refined the site size to a maximum extent of 30 x 60 m, with the highest density of artifacts on the surface concentrating in an area measuring only 20 x 20 m in size (Figure 14).

The site was re-examined during the current investigation to further explore the potential for sub-plow zone feature and to further explore the site’s history. Research failed to identify further the original owner of this property—the Ladd noted on the 1869 plat map, with no listings for a Ladd in the census records or plat book directories for this township. Because of the extremely wet conditions during the current investigation in the spring of 2008, the field investigation was limited to soil core probing to further examine the potential for sub-plow zone deposits and features at the site location. A total of 15 soil core probes were advanced at locations where the controlled surface collection showed artifact concentrations (Figure 14). In addition, some of the soil cores were advanced in the area where the test unit had suggested a sub-plow zone feature. This “feature” was found to be small in extent and shallow in depth and probably represents a rodent burrow disturbance as suspected during the Phase I investigation (Rogers 2003).

The soil cores showed no other potential sub-plow zone features, with the site concluded overall to have a low potential for intact features of substantial size. Generally, the profile encountered in the Phase I shovel tests and the Phase II soil core probes showed a plow zone ranging from 30 to 40 cm below surface and consisting of 10YR 3/3 (dark brown, dry) silt loam overlying a 10YR 4/3 (brown) silty clay loam subsoil. Tests were generally excavated to 40 to 50 cm below surface or well into the subsoil. Because a controlled surface collection had already been completed and Phase II testing had to be limited because of the wet field conditions, no additional artifacts were recovered from site 13LN831 during the current investigation.

Given that the artifact scatter is sparse to moderate in density and the lack of substantial sub-plow zone deposits or features as well as the paucity of historical information that can be associated with this site, 13LN831 is concluded to have a low potential to yield information of importance to the history of this region and is ineligible for the National Register for lack of sufficient integrity and significance.

**Site 13LN843**

This site is located in the SE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 35, T82N-R8W, Fairfax Township, Linn County, Iowa. It was recorded during the 2003 survey of the southwestern subsections in the county and consists of a historic habitation site dating from the mid to late nineteenth century (Rogers 2003). A house was shown at this location on the 1869 map when H.N. Nicholas was the property owner. The archaeological site was found to be located on the sideslope of an upland interfluve on the north side of a road that forms the boundary line between Linn and Johnson counties. The site is located in a cultivated field and was examined during the Phase I investigation by surface collection, probing with a T-bar, and the extraction of three soil core probes. An intact limestone foundation was indicated by probing, with the interior of the foundation found to contain fill extending to depths of 70 cm below surface. The surface scatter covered an area measuring approximately 45 m x 45 m. The artifact assemblage consisted of 41 historic artifacts including: 2 embossed whiteware sherds, 2 floral handpainted whiteware sherds, 8 undecorated whiteware sherds, 1 porcelain sherd, 7 stoneware sherds, 1 ball clay pipe fragment, 4 window glass fragments, 5 bottle glass fragments, 2 other glass items, 6 square nails, 2 other metal, 1 other material, a high density of limestone and other rock, and a moderate density of brick fragments (Rogers 2003). The diagnostic items indicated a temporal range of the mid to late nineteenth century for this occupation. Because of the discreteness of the artifact assemblage as an Early Settlement Era assemblage and because of the presence of at least one major intact features, the site was recommended for Phase II testing to make a final determination of eligibility to the National Register (ibid.).

This site was further examined during the current Phase II testing study by additional historic research and field investigation, which included controlled surface collection and the excavation of a test trench (measuring 1.8 m long x 0.40 to 0.60 m wide), a test unit (50 cm x 50 cm), two auger tests, and 13 shovel tests. In addition, the property owner (James Wohler) assisted in the exposure of the intact foundation by using a tractor skid loader and shallowly scraping the ground surface in the area of the foundation. Mr. Wohler also backfilled all of the excavation units. The controlled surface collection showed a maximum
site size of 60 m north-south by 80 m east-west (Figure 16). The highest density concentrates in an area measuring 30 m north-south by 65 m east-west and centers on the limestone foundation/cellar feature, which was confirmed during the Phase II testing to be largely intact and containing an interior cellar deposit. The area of the foundation was indicated on the surface by the highest density of limestone fragments, with several concentrations and large slabs on the surface providing clues to the foundation location. A shovel test excavated in one of the concentrations quickly uncovered an intact section of the south wall. The shovel test was expanded into a 0.5 x 0.5 m test unit, which was excavated to 35 cm below surface exposing the interior of the wall and showing cellar fill continuing below 35 cm. An auger test (#2) excavated in the base of this test unit showed the fill continuing to at least 72 cm below surface where a large metal item was encountered precluding deeper excavation. A second auger test (#1) was excavated near the center of the foundation and encountered a limestone and brick rubble impasse at 26 cm below surface (see Figure 16).

To further explore the integrity of the limestone foundation/cellar, the test unit was expanded to the west into a trench, which uncovered the southwest corner of the foundation at 21 cm below surface (Figure 17). Then, using a tractor skid loader, the property owner shallowly scraped the surface to the north and east and exposed the northwest and northeast corners of the foundation. This feature is intact at 4-10 cm below surface, with some slabs visible on the present ground surface. This wall is of limestone rubble construction, with the slabs mortared in place. A small concentration of brick fragments off the west side of the foundation wall may represent a former chimney base (see Figure 17).

The shovel tests generally revealed culturally sterile subsoil just below the plow zone at 10-20 cm below surface. The site area as a whole is obviously deflated by surface erosion, with glacial till and subsoil exposed on the slope areas of the site. There is also ongoing rodent burrowing on the summit of the site and along the south fenceline that has had an impact on the site deposit.

There were two shovel tests (#3 and #7) where sub-plow zone cultural deposits were encountered (see Figure 16). Specifically, Shovel Test #3 had the following profile:

0-30 cm b.s. = modern plow/disk zone; 10YR 3/2 (very dark grayish brown, moist) sandy silt loam
30-40 cm b.s. = historic plow zone and/or remnant midden deposit; 10YR 2/1 (black) sandy silt loam
40-55 cm b.s. = subsoil; 10YR 3/3 (dark brown) silty clay loam; rodent burrow in north wall

Shovel Test #7 had the following profile:

0-24 cm b.s. = modern plow/disk zone; 10YR 3/2 (very dark grayish brown, moist) sandy silt loam
24-43 cm b.s. = feature fill or midden deposit; mottled 10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) and 4/3 (brown) silty clay loam; large charcoal chunks; abrupt straight-line boundary between this zone and subsoil
43-50 cm b.s. = subsoil; 10YR 3/3 (dark brown) silty clay loam

These two tests show some potential for other intact features at the site location, albeit a limited potential.

In addition, this site was found to have another interesting natural feature—a seep or spring that still keeps an area on the northeast sideslope wet and was saturated at the time of the current investigation. The presence of this water source was the likely attraction for the early historic settlement at this location.
Grid is based on UTM coordinates, easting and northing using the NAD83 datum

Figure 16. Site plan map of 13LN843
The additional historic research on this site indicated that H.N. Nicholas, who was represented in the 1870 U.S. Population Census for this township, (He was not represented in the 1856, 1860, or 1880 censuses). Nicholas was listed as a farmer whose real estate was valued at $5000 and personal property worth $750. His birthplace is not entirely legible in the 1870 census but has been interpreted by Ancestry.com as having been in Pennsylvania. His wife, Elizabeth was born in Ohio, and their four children had been born in Ohio and Indiana. The Nicholas household also included Amy Kerr, a 14-year-old female boarding with the family. In 1870, Holmer Nicholas was 58 years old and his wife was only 35. Given the ages of at least two of the children strongly suggests that she was Holmer’s second wife and the potential mother of only two of the listed children.

Holmer Nicholas was also listed in the 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census when his operation was valued at $3000 for the farm property and $150 for the implements. He owned 80 improved acres and 10 acres of woodland. His livestock included two horses, 2 milch cows, 1 other cattle, and 4 swine, for a total value of $350. He raised 700 bushels of spring wheat, 450 bushels of Indian corn, 25 bushels of Irish potatoes, 3 tons of hay, and produced 150 pounds of butter. In addition, were $100 worth of forest products and $125 worth of slaughtered livestock. The total estimated value of all farm products was $1221.

A total of 250 artifacts was recovered during the Phase II investigation, including 196 recovered by controlled surface collection (see Appendix A for detailed description of the artifact assemblage from this site). In general, the artifacts included brick, slate, refined ceramics (whiteware and ironstone), utilitarian ceramics (stoneware, redware and yellow ware), kerosene lamp chimney glass, bottle/jar and other
container glass, window glass, miscellaneous metal items, metal tools and horseshoe, machine cut nails, metal hardware, limestone slabs and chunks, and tin can fragments.

Diagnostic ceramics included blue shell edge decorated whiteware, mold-decorated whiteware, blue transfer printed whiteware, and floral handpainted whiteware. This assemblage has a temporal range of the mid to late nineteenth centuries (Berger n.d.; Miller 1997).

Diagnostic glass items included moldblown bottle/jar glass, tooled and folded lip bottle lip finishes, and an applied-tooled blob top bottle lip/neck. This assemblage also generally has a mid to late nineteenth century temporal range (Deiss 1981; Lindsey 2008).

The site was found to contain at least one substantial intact feature that includes a cellar fill deposit and associated artifact assemblage. The overall artifact density is moderate to high, two shovel tests suggested a limited potential for additional sub-plow zone deposits. The site deposit has been impacted, by surface deflation, continued cultivation, and rodent burrowing; however, the site also appears to represent a deposit from a single family occupation dating from a comparatively short period of time. As such, the site deposit would have a greater potential to yield information of importance concerning this late nineteenth century farmstead occupation than a site that had been occupied by more than one family over a greater period of time. In other words, the site deposit as a whole appears to be more discrete in its historical and temporal associations than some of the other sites examined in this area. Therefore, it is concluded that despite the impacts to this site, 13LN843 appears to retain sufficient integrity to be considered National Register eligible under Criterion D.
Intact section of limestone foundation wall exposed in test unit and trench, Site 13LN843, View to the South, May 2008

Intact SW corner of limestone foundation exposed in trench, Site 13LN843, View to the South, May 2008
Intact SW corner of limestone foundation, Site 13LN843, View to the East, May 2008
Decorated ceramics from site 13LN843, controlled surface collection
(top row: blue shell edged and floral handpainted whiteware; bottom row: mold-decorated whiteware, two blue transfer printed whiteware, and mold-decorated ironstone sherds)

Applied tooled and folded bottle lip/necks from site 13LN843, controlled surface collection
(mid-19th century moldblown bottle glass)
Salt and slip-glazed stoneware rimsherds from site 13LN843, controlled surface collection

Iron horseshoe, machine cut nail, and triangular file from site 13LN843, controlled surface collection

Recommendations

The Phase II study resulted in the complete evaluation of National Register eligibility for the following properties:
archaeological sites in Subsections F, G, and H:

13LN877 – ineligible as individual site but contributes to Sugar Grove Farm Historic District under Criterion D
13LN878 – ineligible
13LN879 – ineligible as individual site but contributes to Sugar Grove Farm Historic District under Criterion D
13LN882 – ineligible

architectural properties in Subsections F, G, and H:

Neighbor General Store, Lafayette (57-07251) – eligible under Criteria A and C
Sugar Grove Farmstead (57-07220) – eligible as a historic district under A, C and D
Jayne Barn (57-07223) – eligible under Criterion C
Sunninghill Barn (57-07221) – eligible under Criterion C
Fleming Barn (57-00924) – eligible under Criteria A, B, and C
Martin Farmstead (57-07226) – ineligible under Early Settlement Era context; potentially eligible under Expansion Era context (deferred evaluation)
Scott House (57-07225) – eligible under Criteria B and C
Pullman Hotel, Center Point (57-07242) – eligible under Criterion C
Dr. Yost House, Center Point (57-04246) – eligible under Criteria B and C
Salem Church (57-07227) - ineligible
Eidemiller Farmstead (57-07224) – eligible under Criterion C
Kolb Farmstead (57-07250) – eligible under A, B, and C

archaeological sites in Subsections J, N, and O:

13LN831 - ineligible
13LN843 – eligible under Criterion D

and architectural properties in Subsections J, N, and O:

James Ure House (57-06479) – eligible under Criteria B and C
William Ure House (57-06480) – eligible under Criteria B and C
George Seroway Farmstead (57-06485) – eligible under Criterion C
former St. Patrick’s Rectory, Fairfax (57-06505) – eligible under Criterion C
Spring Grove Cemetery (57-06477) – ineligible but caution on potential for Native American burials
Wesley Cerveny Farmstead (57-06483) – eligible under Criterion C

Two archaeological sites could not be examined because of lack of owner permission to access or because of wet field conditions. These sites included:

13LN876
possible sod house site in the SE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 8, Clinton Township

Site 13LN876 is still considered potentially eligible as an early blacksmith shop site in the Flemingville settlement area.

It is recommended that those sites and properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the current investigation be nominated to the Register pending owner approval. It is known that the owner of the recommended Sugar Grove Farm Historic District is very interested in such a listing. The owner of site 13LN843 is also very interested in this site as a significant archaeological property and may have some interest in its nomination to the National Register.

The owner of the Fleming Barn has no interest in restoring the barn because of the cost this would entail and the difficulty in adapting this barn into a useful building for his farming operation. He does
recognize the historical significance of the barn and has not yet torn it down because of its local landmark recognition. The best hope for the continued preservation of this barn would be its purchase by an individual or group willing to take on its restoration.

There is also concern for the continued existence and preservation of the William Ure House because it is currently vacant and in a deteriorating condition. The Scott House is also currently vacant, but it is for sale and is a well-maintained property that will likely continue to be preserved into the foreseeable future.

Research Questions

An additional purpose of the current investigation was to examine research questions posed by past studies in Linn County. These questions were devised for the study area based on past studies of similar locations in Linn County and past studies within the project area as well as their applicability to the specific sites and properties that are the focus of the current study.

1. Ethnic and religious-based settlements were also identified in other areas of Linn County to have been an important context of the early historic period. Can any of the selected sites and properties be definitively identified with a specific ethnic or religious group, and if so, what do the sites and properties tell us about this type of settlement in Linn County?

   a. In the vicinity of Lafayette and the Early Settlement Era Otter Creek Settlement, there were a number of German immigrants who settled in this area in the 1850s-60s. The current study examined at least three standing architectural properties that appeared to have had an association with this immigrant group, specifically the Salem Church (57-07227), the Eidemiller Farmstead (57-07224), and the Kolb Farmstead (57-07250). Does the historic research on this property confirm the German immigrant association, and if so, is this association significant in the settlement of this township and the county?

   The current investigation confirmed a German immigrant association for the Salem Church but found that the patriarch of the Kolb family had been born in Pennsylvania in the early 1800s but was of German descent. The Eidemiller farmstead was associated with German-born immigrants; however, it was found that these persons had immigrated to the United States as young children with their parents and would have been more influenced by their experiences in the United States more so than their limited years in their native land. In general, it was found that the German settlement in Otter Creek Township does not represent a cohesive identifiable ethnic settlement and none of the properties appear eligible for that association alone. [Both the Kolb and Eidemiller farmsteads were determined eligible for other criteria, while the Salem Church was found to be ineligible.]

   b. Settlements by Bohemian immigrants in the mid to late nineteenth century notably concentrated in southern Linn County. The current study examined one architectural property associated with this immigrant group, specifically the Wesley Cerveny Farmstead (57-06483). This property was notable for the presence of the small gabled cottage that represented the first house on the property but was later replaced by a larger home, but with the cottage retained for other uses on the farmstead. This property is a well-preserved example of this architectural pattern in southern Linn County. Does the property still survive and, if so, does it still retain sufficient integrity to be considered National Register eligible? Furthermore, does historic research on this property confirm the Bohemian immigrant association?

   The Cervany Farmstead was found to retain good integrity and is still considered a good representative of the architectural patterns of Bohemian immigrant settlement in southern Linn County. The Bohemian immigrant association was confirmed, with two generations of the Cervany family associated with buildings on this property.
2. Do the archaeological sites examined during the current study meet the integrity considerations and significance criteria for individual National Register eligibility as good representatives of aspects of the Early Settlement Era in Linn County? If the sites are not individually eligible, do any of the sites otherwise qualify as contributing sites to larger archaeological/architectural historic districts?

Only one of the sites (13LN843) was found to retain sufficient integrity and have sufficient ability to yield information of significance concerning the Early Settlement Era occupation of Linn County to be considered individually eligible. This site appears to represent a single family occupation and contains at least one substantial intact feature as well as the potential for associated features. Two of the other sites (13LN877 and 13LN879) were found to be individually ineligible because of integrity concerns related to long-term occupation; however, both were found to be eligible as contributing sites to the recommended Sugar Grove Farm Historic District. One site is considered to still have a good potential to be considered eligible as an Early Settlement Era blacksmith shop site (13LN876) but could not be examined during the current investigation.

3. Does the research conducted for the remaining architectural properties confirm or refute the suspected historical associations for these properties? Are any of these properties either individually eligible or eligible as contributing components to historic districts? What can these properties tell us about the Early Settlement Era in Linn County?

Most of the properties were confirmed to have the suspected historical associations noted in previous investigations; however, some were found to have less tenuous associations that could not be confirmed by research conducted during the current investigation. One property in particular, the Seroway Farmstead, has a history that remains largely unknown, and oral history that this property was a stagecoach stop in the mid-nineteenth century could not be confirmed. Research conducted for several properties, including the Fleming Barn, the James Ure House, the William Ure House, the Kolb Farmstead, and the Scott House were found to have even more significant historical associations than first suspected. The main district identified is the Sugar Grove Farm Historic District, which consists of both the standing farmstead buildings as well as several archaeological sites, although technically the other farmstead properties identified as eligible would be considered farmstead districts for the purposes of the National Register.

The Early Settlement Era as indicated by the architectural properties studied in the current investigation was a prosperous time for some farmers, particularly those that early on expanded their farming operations to include more variety in production and were willing to experiment with new crops and livestock innovations.

It is interesting to note that the two project areas in the current study in west-central and southwest Linn County there are very few known examples of extant log cabins (except in the vicinity of Center Point where one was moved into town as a historical exhibit) either exposed or encapsulated in otherwise frame houses. This is in contrast to a previous study in southeast Linn County where a number of log buildings were identified as still standing both exposed and encapsulated. Whether this is indicative of a differing settlement pattern or development pattern, is not known.

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