NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Cabins

other names/site number City Park Cabins

2. Location

street & number Upper City Park Road, off 100 block Park Road | N/A | not for publication

city or town Iowa City | N/A | vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Johnson code 103 zip code 52246

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Bury U Bennett DSHPO 5/2/13

Signature of certifying official/Title STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Joe Edson H. Beall 6.25.13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [X] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
3		**Total**

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE: commemorative monument
RECREATION & CULTURE: park
RECREATION & CULTURE: monument/marker

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE: commemorative monument
RECREATION & CULTURE: park
RECREATION & CULTURE: monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Double Pen Cabin
OTHER: Single-Room Cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone
walls: WOOD: Log
roof: WOOD: Shake
other: ASPHALT

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins are located in Upper City Park along the north edge of the 100 block of Park Road in Iowa City. The nominated property includes two log structures – the Double Log Cabin or dogtrot log house (contributing) built in 1913 in situ and the second, a Single-Room Log Cabin (contributing) built in 1889 and moved to the park five years later in 1918. The Double Log Cabin was built of hewn oak logs donated by Old Settler members in a design intended to serve as a replica of an early trading post in the area. The Single-Room Log Cabin was originally built by the Old Settlers' Association as an exhibit for Johnson County's Semi-Centennial. It stood on two successive Johnson County Fairgrounds sites until its whole-building move to City Park took place in 1918. A third resource included in the nomination is a bronze plaque affixed to a granite boulder (contributing) located southwest of the two cabins. It was installed in 1929 to mark a "Grand Army Tree" planted nearby (survival unknown). No archeological surveys were conducted for the cabin site. Because of its bluff top location that overlooks the Iowa River valley there may be a greater potential for identification of archaeological . As a result, no significance is claimed under Criterion D. though future survey work may find this .

Narrative Description

Site:

The nominated cabin site is roughly 0.6 acres in size and has a pentagon shape measuring approximately 158 feet north and south by 174 feet east and west with an angled notch at the northeast corner measuring 80 feet that follows the hillside's shape. It is located at the northeast corner of a U-shaped park service road within the higher ground of City Park known as "Upper City Park." The one-way service road is accessed from the municipal street designated as "Park Road" that extends along the south edge of the park. Together the upper and lower levels of the park contain 107.3 acres in 2012. City Park was established in 1906 on land located on the north edge of the community at the time and the curving southwestern edge of the Iowa River. The cabins are set back from the park service road within a grove of mature white oak, American linden, white pine, walnut, and green ash trees. A tree survey completed by Iowa City Park and Recreation Department tree specialists in July 2012 identified 19 trees on the site with ages confirmed to range from 20 to 150 years. They have heights of 20 to 80 feet and canopies averaging 50 to 60 feet in width. Immediately south of the cabin site is a picnic shelter built in the 1970s with scattered picnic tables staged nearby. The cabin site is elevated several feet above the service road and 25 to 30 feet above Lower City Park, which is located immediately to the east and north. Pedestrian access from the cabin site to Lower City Park is via a long set of concrete steps outside the nominated property that are set along a wooded hillside northwest of the cabins themselves. According to a historic photo taken after the Double Log Cabin was completed in 1913 and before the 1889 Single-Room Log Cabin was moved to the site in 1918, the cabin site had a more open view shed to the north and east, looking out over the Iowa River valley. Since then, the area comprising the wooded hillside and northeast edge of the cabin site has seen a maturing stand of native deciduous trees and plants partially obscure the view of the river valley during the summer months though the view remains open in winter.

The cabin location is atop a tall bluff adjacent to the Iowa River flood plain. According to Marlin Ingalls, staff archaeologist with the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa, while there are known prehistoric sites within a short distance of the cabins, no evidence of prehistoric materials have been recorded at this location. Expected archaeological elements that would date from the period of the establishment of the cabins at this site or subsequent use, have not been observed during Ingalls' surface surveys of the site. He notes that the surface in the vicinity of the cabins has eroded enough to have exposed and cleaned any artifact thus making them highly visible if present (email interview, 3/22/2013).

Double Log Cabin:

The first log structure to be established in City Park, locally referred to as the Double Log Cabin, is a variation of a one-story dogtrot form log house built on-site during the summer of 1913. The structure contains two single-pens or rooms, each with outside dimensions of 20 feet 4 inches by 16 feet 4 inches and a 10 foot open space set between them forming the "dogtrot." The two pens are set at slightly different heights due to the slope of the site making the ceiling height of the south pen slightly taller than the north pen. A single side-gable roof extends over the two pens and dogtrot for a combined length of 50 feet 8 inches. These measurements are consistent with those contained in the Old Settlers' Association of John County, Iowa proceedings that described the planning for the project in 1912 and detailing its construction in 1913. It was described as follows: "to be so constructed as to be as nearly as practicable a replica of the old trading post formerly standing at Napoleon, the old county seat of Johnson County." (*Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County, 1911-1921,*

pp. 4-6). Other historic accounts suggest that the trading post that was intended to serve as a model had been built in 1837 by pioneer Johnson County settler, John Gilbert, and was actually located southeast of Napoleon a distance of about four miles south of Old Capitol in Iowa City. This nonextant trading post was described in various historic sources as originally containing a larger building consisting of two 20 by 20 foot cabins and a similar sized dogtrot between, all under a single roof.

Construction of the Double Log Cabin took place in 1913 with chinking completed the following year. More than 85 donated logs from Old Settlers' Association members measured from 16 to 21 feet in length and were hewn or weathered prior to their contribution to the cabin building project. Other logs for the project were purchased. All of the logs were left in roughly round shapes before assembly with simple saddle notching done by the axmen at the ends for even stacking and to give the walls rigidity when assembled. Limestone pedestals were placed at the outer corners and large rocks were placed beneath the sill logs that were set along the 20 foot-sides of each single-pen or room. This original arrangement is retained on the all but the southwest side of the north pen where a poured concrete foundation (undated) is now in place. The upper walls are composed of various sized logs likely reflecting the fact that logs were donated from various sources rather than selected by a builder for a single project. The original floor joist construction was evident for each pen from the exterior. A series of small notches were cut along the top edges of each of the sill logs to receive planned floor joists. This joist installation continues to be visible along all but the southwest side of the north pen. Here the floor joists are anchored in the newer poured concrete base. The dogtrot section originally had a dirt floor in photos and now has a poured concrete floor (undated).

Limestone pieces were used to build the substantial fireplace and exposed chimney at the northwest gable end of the structure. A second non-original stone chimney was added to the south pen's roof ridge sometime between 1950 and the 1970s. It does not serve a fireplace or wood stove, nor does it appear in any of the early photos of the buildings. Chinking for the Double Log Cabin has been completed at various times with the original lime mortar installed by members of the Old Settlers' Association in August 1913 and completed during 1914. It appears likely that the most systematic concrete chinking repair work that was completed since then occurred during the mid-1970s and subsequently by Park and Recreation Department employees. The finished pens and dogtrot area were topped by a side-gable roof with a 10:12 pitch. Historic photos show the original side gable roof was clad in rolled asphalt installed in vertical strips. Later roof coverings included asphalt shingles, portions extant, and the current wood shake shingles most likely installed in the mid-1970s. The use of wood shakes appears to be an attempt to install an "old looking roof" and was not based historical documentation.

Access to the interiors of the single-pens is via facing entrance doors that open into the dogtrot section at the north and south ends of opposite pens. These doors have five horizontal panels and may be original elements; their design is more typical of home construction from the early decades of the 20th century than log house building a half-century earlier. Sometime in the late 20th century presumably when pioneer furnishings were placed in the rooms during education programs held there from 1977 to 1987 and later, the dogtrot section was partially enclosed with half walls, screen panels, and a wood plank door on the southwest side. The western pen has two 6/6 double- hung windows on both the north and south sides, while the eastern pen has three adjoining 6-light fixed sash arranged in a horizontal configuration on the north and south sides. The age of the current windows suggests that all or some were replaced during the mid-1970s repairs completed for the building. Their molding profiles and configurations appear to match historic views. All of the window openings remain extant with the sash currently boarded on the exterior for security purposes.

Single-Room Log Cabin:

The second log structure is a one-story single-room log cabin moved to the site five years after the Old Settlers' Association completed the new dogtrot log house. The moved building was one of two log buildings originally built in 1889 on the Johnson County Fairgrounds located on the east side of Iowa City near the present campus of City High School in the 1900 block of Morningside Drive. This was the second location for the cabin that was originally built at the fairgrounds when it was located in southeast Iowa City (Sycamore St. and U.S. Highway 6); in 1896 all of the fair buildings were moved to the new fairgrounds on Morningside Drive. It was from here that the cabin's whole-building move to City Park took place in 1918. Both log structures were built under the sponsorship of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County and served as a semi-centennial exhibition to commemorate the organization of the county in 1839 and tell the story of pioneer life five decades earlier to fair visitors. By 1912, both log structures were reported in poor condition. Consideration was initially given by the Old Settlers' Association to moving both buildings to the new site offered by the Iowa City Park Commission in City Park but the option of building a new dogtrot form log house was chosen instead. Construction of the Double Log Cabin was completed in 1913. Five years later in 1918, the condition of one of the 1889 log buildings still left standing at the fairgrounds was deemed sufficiently sound to attempt a move. A local house mover,

W.C. Mott, was retained to move the 1889 cabin from the fairgrounds to the current site, which is about 30 feet southwest of the 1913 Double Log Cabin. His $102 fee included a minimal amount of repair and log replacement according to historic accounts.

The one-story Single-Room Log Cabin is also constructed of oak logs but in this case, they were hewn and squared before assembly with V-notching at the ends. The logs are generally of a larger size (12 to 14-inches) than those donated for the 1913 Double Log Cabin project. The rectangular plan has outside dimensions of 20 feet 4 inches by 16 feet 4 inches with an extended roof slope forming an overhang along the northeast edge of the side-gable roof. The roof has a pitch of 10:12 on the southwest slope and 5.5:12 on the northeast slope. The overhang rests on horizontal log supports that extend past the corner of the end wall; at a later unknown date knee-brace logs were installed as supplemental supports. Historic photos show that the gable peaks were clad in vertical boards before and after the cabin was relocated to City Park. The present day wood shakes were installed at an unknown date in the late 20th century. The gable peaks originally were devoid of openings but later had a row of three fixed sash, each with four lights, installed. These openings were modified overtime to contain louvered wood vents in the center opening in each gable end. Some lights in the surviving sash of the south end remain intact but the balance of the openings in the north end are infilled with wood panels in 2012. The single entrance is centered on the northeast side of the structure beneath the overhang and facing the dogtrot log house. The opening has no door. No other windows or entrances were present in the original or current building. Some of the logs and chinking on the southwest corner of the cabin has have begun to deteriorate and fail. Patching and additional bracing has have been added to this corner. As with the dogtrot log house, it appears likely that most chinking repair work occurred during the mid-1970s or was done subsequently by Park and Recreation Department staff.

Cabin Interiors:

Both of the log cabins have crude interiors with a mix of finishes dating from their original construction through the mid-1970s. Exposed log walls are retained throughout with original white lime mortar chinking evidenced in most areas. The logs have obtained a dark brown patina befitting their 100 to 130 year age. Deteriorated wall sections and roof boards are most evident in the Single-Room Log Cabin causing exposure to multiple rain leaks. The floors are unfinished fir or cedar boards measuring 4 inches in width. The floors most likely date from the 1918 move for the Single-Room Log Cabin and were part of the original construction of the Double Log Cabin. In both cases, the floor boards are laid in a north and south alignment.

The most significant interior feature in the cabins is the rock fireplace in the north pen of the Double Log Cabin. Centered on the northwest gable end wall, the exposed portion of the fireplace includes narrow vertical columns of limestone that end at the metal top piece. The balance of the fireplace chimney is set behind the log wall in the manner adapted for early log structures where fires were a concern. The fireplace has a deep fire box. The original multi-light windows are visible from the interiors of both the north and south pens. Shelving and peg wall hangers were likely added after the mid-1970s for the display of artifacts when the buildings were used for day camps and camping.

The Single-Room Log Cabin also features a non-original fireplace built by volunteers in 1976 at the south gable end of the cabin. It was intended to serve as part of a "Pioneer Life in Iowa" exhibit for the Children's Museum program that operated in the cabins from 1977 to 1987. The chimney does not have an exposed side and there is no external chimney stack currently present. In the only view of the cabin in its original location at the fairgrounds in ca. 1900, no chimney is shown. The fireplace is constructed of fieldstone with a wide hearth, a shallow wood mantle, and a wide but shallow firebox. Its design suggests it was a stylized fireplace used as a teaching aid during the decade 1977-1987. The Single-Room Log Cabin has no other major interior features

Grand Army of the Republic Tree Boulder:

The Grand Army of the Republic Tree Boulder is located west southwest of the two cabins. It consists of a lichen-covered red granite boulder, and its slightly irregular shape measures roughly 2 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet. A bronze plaque is affixed to the west-facing, lichen covered surface. The plaque contains a Civil War medal in relief with a dedication, sponsor name and date.

The boulder was installed in 1929 as part of a tree planting to commemorate completion of the section of the "Grand Army of the Republic Highway" between Chicago and Omaha that year. The route followed U.S. Highway 6 as it passed through Iowa City. The route of the highway at that time is believed to have gone along North Dubuque Street approximately a quarter mile east of Upper City Park and easily accessible to the municipal park via Park Road. In 2013 the commemorative tree is no longer growing but the plaque and boulder remain in their original location.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [x] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [x] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913 - ca. 1939

Significant Dates

1913
1918
1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance spans the years from the construction of the Double Log Cabin in 1913 and the moving of the Single-Room Log Cabin in1918 through the period that the cabins served as a meeting place for the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County annual meetings and picnics until 1939. In subsequent years, the cabins continued to serve as focal points for local history commemoration, camping programs, and local history education. They were built as a memorial to early settlers in Johnson County and continued their role as a commemorative park feature acknowledging the way of life of Johnson County pioneers from 1913 through ca. 1939 when the Old Settlers' Association informally disbanded and quite holding annual picnics in the park. The Grand Army Tree Boulder was installed in 1929 during the

period of significance for the cabins. The cabins and the boulder served their commemorative roles in the modern City Park until present day but these years fall outside of the period of significance associated with the Old Settlers Association.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins are nominated under Criteria Considerations B and F. Under Criterion Consideration B, the Single-Room Log Cabin was relocated from its original site in 1918 to the current location. Details of this move are described in elsewhere in Sections 7 and 8. According to historic photos, the Single-Room Log Cabin substantially retains its physical integrity and the space occupied in Upper City Park provides a similar setting to the fairgrounds site it occupied from 1889-1917.

Once moved to Upper City Park, the 1889 Single-Room Log Cabin joined the Double-Log Cabin erected in situ in the park in 1913. Together the two cabins are nominated under Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative property. Once assembled in the Upper City Park site between 1913 and 1918, the cabins became a meeting place for Old Settlers' Association picnics and annual meetings drawing hundreds of members and special guests until the organization disbanded in ca. 1939. During that time and in subsequent years, the log cabins served as a visual reminder and commemorative monument for early pioneer settlers in Johnson County. The cabins prompted tours, speeches and celebrations by members of the Old Settlers' Association and the larger community.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins are significant under Criteria A and C at the local level. Under Criterion A, the cabins are examples of an early 20th century commemorative effort by a social organization that sought to celebrate and reflect on their common pioneer heritage. The commemoration involved the construction and relocation of replica log buildings in City Park in Iowa City in 1913 and 1918. Until the end of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County in 1939, these cabins were the centerpiece for annual patriotic celebrations and summer picnics for the group. Under Criterion C, the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins are examples of two distinct log house forms typical of the Midwest – the Double Log Cabin or dogtrot log house, which was erected in situ in 1913 in Upper City Park and the Single-Room Log Cabin originally erected in 1889 and moved to Upper City Park in 1918. Together, the two buildings provide examples of log building forms and sizes that were commonly used in Johnson County and Iowa City prior to Iowa statehood but are rare in 2012. The particulars of log building construction including log hewing techniques, notching styles, chinking work, stone chimney building, an expansion technique for log structures known as a dog trot, and other aspects of log building architecture are evidenced in the two building examples nominated.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Informally organized in 1840 and formally established in 1866, the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County was likely the oldest such pioneer group in Iowa. The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County celebrated their pioneer past in 1889 with the construction of a pair of log cabins at the county fairgrounds, 50 years after Johnson County was organized in 1839. When the buildings fell into disrepair by 1912, a replica Double Log Cabin was erected in City Park and five years later the surviving 1889 Single-Room Log Cabin was relocated to the park. Together their construction and relocation continued a local tradition that celebrated pioneer immigration and fraternity within the larger community. The group's continuing efforts preserve log building traditions, were acknowledged by other historical groups in the state as early models for local commemoration activities. These associations demonstrate significance under Criterion A.

Under Criterion C, the cabins are significant as replica examples of the first generation of domestic log structures in Iowa City and Johnson County built during the 1830s and 1840s. Though built as replicas of vernacular architectural forms, the buildings employed the log building skills of the Old Settlers' Association members who completed their construction 50 to 60 years after such pioneer forms were used. The fact that the log buildings continue in place in 2012, nearly a century later, is testimony to their builders' skill. Together, these aspects of historic and architectural significance make the Old Settler's Association Cabin significant at the local level.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Organizational and Cabin Building History:

The first European-Americans came to the vicinity of Iowa City and Johnson County in the mid-1830s. Johnson County was formally organized within Iowa Territory in 1839, and a group of early settlers of Johnson County first met the following year in 1840. The informal gathering occurred on the grounds of Capitol Square in Iowa City – the future site of the Iowa Territorial Capitol or Old Capitol (NHL) during the laying of the cornerstone for Old Capitol. Regular old settler gatherings occurred in subsequent years in various locations. The get-togethers were of both a social and patriotic nature for early settlers who shared a common immigrant experience and pioneer life style as well as shared social relationships and personal friendships. At the end of the Civil War in February 22, 1866 the organization was officially formed as the "Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County" and incorporated. At that time, membership was limited to those who had lived in Johnson County prior to May 1, 1843. In succeeding years, membership was extended to anyone who had lived in the county for at least 20 years.

By 1886, the Old Settlers numbered more than 1,000 attendees at their 20th anniversary, which also marked the 50th anniversary for pioneer settlement in Johnson County. Speaker C.W. Irish was able to identify individuals that day in the crowd who had surveyed the first land in the county, erected the first log buildings, made the first brick and served as the county's first officials. Irish's patriotic statements and historic observations were recorded in newspaper accounts of the day. ("Pioneers Themselves Attended Semi-Centennials of 1886, '89," *Iowa City Press*-Citizen, July 1, 1939)

Three years later in 1889 as part of the anniversary of Johnson County's formation 50 years earlier, the Old Settlers' Association led efforts for the Semi-Centennial celebration's parades, speeches and exhibitions. On September 28, 1889 in advance of the Agricultural Society's county fair the following month, more than 300 Old Settlers attended a picnic and cabin raising at the fairgrounds. The cabin plans had been approved the previous year. The Old Settlers erected two log buildings – one was a replica of pioneer trader John Gilbert's double log cabin. The second was a single room log cabin intended to demonstrate the small scale of a typical cabin built for family occupancy. The second cabin was described at the time as "the log cabin of advanced civilization" (*Old Settlers' Association Proceedings*, 1899, p. 75) because of its hewn rather than natural logs. Their construction involved members of the Old Settlers, and together the log buildings became an exhibition of pioneer life for all who attended the county fair during the Semi-Centennial year and in succeeding years. According to Old Settlers' published accounts, construction of both log buildings was completed in 1889 but chinking and plastering were not finished until the following year at the Old Settlers' reunion.

Over the next several decades, Old Settlers' annual reunions continued to pay tribute to the lives of early settlers at the cabin site at the fairgrounds. Original poetry, songs, and patriotic speeches were delivered by prominent members of the community and elected officials. At each picnic "fraternal feelings" were shared by the old settlers on hand. Each reunion recorded the earliest settlers present and their contributions to the pioneer community. (*Old Settlers' Association Proceedings*, 1899, August 18, 1892, p. 99) On August 24, 1893 a special oration discussed the role played by pioneer women in Johnson County and included a list of women by township and the years they settled in the county. The following year an account of Johnson County's early legal system and its judges was provided. All of these celebrations were given on the grounds surrounding the cabins built by the Old Settlers' Association.

In 1895, the Old Settlers' annual necrological report noted that 46 members had passed away. By 1901, more than 100 members had died in the previous year. Despite the shrinking numbers of the county's earliest settlers, the Old Settlers group continued to attract new members and to hold reunions at the fairgrounds site of the cabins until 1912. At that time, plans for the sale of the fairgrounds were discussed by the group and consideration was given to the idea of moving one or both of the log buildings. The Iowa City Park Commission made it known to the Old Settlers' Association that land in City Park would be available for the relocation of the log cabins and the future site of Old Settlers' meetings. At their annual meeting in 1912, the members voted to move the cabins to City Park by an affirmative margin of 108 to 18. However, as the time for relocation drew near, the Association's proceedings show that opposition developed from the "old settlers who had taken part in the erection of the log cabins." (*Old Settlers Association of Johnson County, Reunion Proceedings*, 1911-1921, p. 4). In a follow-up meeting, the Old Settlers' Secretary stated that "investigation showed that the log cabins at the

fairgrounds were decayed to such an extent as to necessitate the substitution of many new logs in case of removal" (*Old Settlers Association of Johnson County, Reunion Proceedings,* 1911-1921, p. 5). The group changed their earlier decision, declaring it was impractical to move the old cabins, and "more satisfactory" to build new cabins.

On May 31, 1913, the Old Settlers began construction of the first log building in Upper City Park. The first structure was to include two one-story cabins "20 x16 feet with a 10 foot space between and all under one roof." (*Old Settlers Association of Johnson County, Reunion Proceedings,* 1911-1921, p. 5). This building is referred to in this nomination as the Double Log Cabin or Dogtrot Log House. The first log building was to be constructed "to be as nearly as practicable a replica of the old trading house formerly standing at Napoleon, the old county seat" (*Old Settlers Association of Johnson County, Reunion Proceedings,* 1911-1921, p. 5). A June 1913 article in the *Iowa City Daily Press* claimed that the cabin was a "monument" to the pioneers, and that even the "anti-removals" were now pleased with the change from the fairgrounds to the new site. Many Old Settlers donated logs to the cause, and were given the option to have bronze letters placed on the interior side of the log, to show in whose memory it was laid (*Iowa City Daily Press,* June 2, 1913). They were hauled to the site in January 1913 by Christian Galaucher. According to local historian Irving Weber, the construction of the cabin began with a "notching contest" between two noted axe men, Peter Rohret and Emory Westcott (Weber, "Log Cabins – How's Your history IQ?," *Iowa City Press-Citizen,* February 23, 1976), though there is no formal documentation of this in the Old Settlers' Association proceedings. The involvement of early Johnson County residents in the log buildings through participation in the cabin raising and donation of materials marked the commemorative quality of the buildings.

Construction was completed on the Double Log Cabin on August 30, 1913 with the dedication completed the following year during the Old Settlers' Association annual reunion. At that time Elizabeth Irish gave the dedication speech. She began by noting that "Another year...has come and gone since we...met on the banks of this beautiful Iowa [River], to dedicate these cabins...in this lovely natural park beneath the shade of its beautiful trees and beside the stream..." She was clear about the purpose of the replica double-cabin's construction being "...to commemorate their [early settlers of Johnson County] virtues, their high ideals, and their pioneer struggles, we have, their descendents builded (sic) these cabins which we today hold ornamenting the landscape before us, and forming a link in the chain of our development which has gone steadily forward..." ("Brave Empire Builders Now in Great Park," *Iowa City Daily Press,* September 4, 1914). More than 135 Old Settlers had passed since the previous reunion giving rise to a proposal by Irish that a commemorative tablet be prepared identifying the early settlers and placed in the park. This was never done.

Five years after the new Double Log Cabin was completed in 1918, the 1889 Single-Room Log Cabin still remained standing on the old fairgrounds site. After the building was given further inspection, the Old Settlers' Association decided that the single-room cabin was in sufficiently sound condition to be moved to Upper City Park where it was placed next to the 1913 Double Log Cabin. As noted previously, Iowa City house mover, W.C. Mott, handled the moving of the Single Room Cabin as a single, intact unit while also completing minor log repairs. The following year in August 1919, the cabin site played host again to the Old Settlers' reunion picnic. This time special invited guests were wounded veterans of World War I from the State University of Iowa Hospital. The *Iowa City Daily Citizen* reported on August 18, 1919 that there were "plans to royally entertain Uncle Sam's returned heroes" with a splendid patriotic program and "good eats."

From the 1930s to the 1960s, the log cabins were given pioneer furnishings and used for class field trips. Students from Henry Sabin School were typical of the hundreds of elementary students who visited the cabins to hear accounts of pioneer life and Iowa City founders ("Third Graders of Henry Sabin School Visit Park Cabins," *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Iowa City, Iowa, November 2, 1938) during the 1930s. The Old Settlers continued to hold their reunions at the City Park cabins through 1939 according to newspaper reports and oral accounts. By the 1940s Girl Scout camps and cookouts were being held at the cabin site ("Scout Council Holds Cookout Monday at City Park Cabins" and "Scouts Will Give Program Tonight," *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Iowa City, Iowa, April 20 and June 13, 1946). Articles in the *Press Citizen* in the 1940s referred to them as the "scout cabins" and historian Irving Weber says that the Girl Scouts used the cabins from the early 40s through the mid-60s (Weber, "Log Cabins – How's Your History IQ?," *Iowa City Press Citizen*, February 23, 1976).

In the mid-1970s as planning for the Bicentennial began in earnest, the Iowa City Park and Recreation Commission undertook plans to stabilize and restore the cabins. The buildings had been vacant and unused for about a decade at the time and were suffering from benign neglect. At the same time, the newly formed Friends of the Children's Museum non-profit approached the Park and Recreation Commission about locating a children's museum in City Park. A plan was eventually negotiated that had the Park and Recreation Commission complete minimal repairs to the cabins and lease them to the Friends of the Children's Museum in 1977 for a period of ten years ("Restored Log Cabin is Door to 1839s

Iowa Wilderness," *Des Moines Register,* June 3, 1977). Friends used the log cabins for a summer-long project called "Pioneer Life in Iowa." The program opened on May 1, 1977 (Iowa City Park and Recreation Commission Minutes, May 12, 1976). Children could see how pioneer families survived with limited resources and be able to "spin the spinning wheel, mash make-believe potatoes with a pair of hand-carved wooden potato mashers, dress up in pioneer clothing, sit on stools constructed of logs split in half and see what it is like to lie on a bed with a mattress stuffed with straw."("Friends of the Children's Museum, Special Project: Pioneer Life in Iowa," ca. 1975-1977). Visitorship grew from 2,500 the first year to 7,500 the second year. The program continued through the Children's Museum until ca. 1984. The Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department, according to their internal records, ran their own summer folk arts and nature programming at the cabins from 1985 -1987. The cabins were not opened for the summer season of 1988, due to budget constraints, but were reopened in 1989, at which point their contents were inventoried and purchased by a local antique dealer (Parks and Recreation Department records). Later, the cabins hosted Girl Scout and recreation special events, and the Johnson County Historical Society's Time Machine Summer Camps (Parks and Recreation Department records) during the 1990s.

In June of 2000, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reported that the City was making plans to renovate the cabins the following year. Various reuse options were under consideration for use of the cabins in conjunction with Park and Recreation Department programming. However, these renovations never took place and elements of the two cabins remain in moderate to poor condition in 2012. Nomination of the buildings to the National Register of Historic Places is considered the first step in a preservation process for the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Log Cabins. Work towards that end is being coordinated by the Iowa City Park and Recreation Department.

Commemorative Property Movement Nationally and in Iowa

The national movement to commemorate and preserve historic structures began in the 1850s with the efforts of the women of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association to buy, restore, maintain and interpret Mount Vernon, the Virginia home of George and Martha Washington located along the Potomac River. A national campaign to save the threatened mansion and outbuildings was undertaken in 1858 and included the involvement of women from all 30 states to raise money and direct efforts to preserve the building. The organization was successful in raising more than $200,000 to acquire the property through a national campaign ,and the Ladies in took possession of the 200-acre property on February 22, 1860 on the eve of the Civil War, Just six years later in January 1866, the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County was formally organized. The organization considered it their patriotic mission to preserve an historic record of the pioneers who made Johnson County their home and educate successive generations about their early hardships and way of life.

In succeeding decades, commemorative activities of organizations in Iowa including those of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County paralleled projects undertaken at the national level. After President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 there was an outpouring of grief and eventually interest in Lincoln's log cabin birthplace. By 1894 just five years after the Old Settlers of Johnson County had completed construction of their Semi-Centennial Cabins at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, an effort was underway to establish a memorial to President Lincoln. By 1905 his birthplace log cabin was acquired at public auction and several years later the Lincoln Farm Association was formed to preserve it. A memorial building was erected to house the disassembled building and in 1911 the memorial was opened to the public on a portion of the Lincoln family farm outside of Hodgenville, Kentucky. In 1916 the farm property and memorial building became a National Historic Site operated by the National Park Service.

Other commemorative log buildings either built or moved on the national level included six historic log structures in an "Old Plantation" display in 1901 at the Buffalo Exposition. Three years later in 1904 at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis four historic log buildings were brought to the expositions grounds including President Grant's birthplace, an 1803 log cabin removed from Patrick Henry's farm, and a log house lived in by President Lincoln as a child.

The commemorative movement that began with interest in the Lincoln log cabin and building associated with other nationally significant historic figures was taking root elsewhere in the country as well before and after 1900. In a number of locations, the efforts were frequently linked to anniversary dates and celebrated events. In the Midwest, that meant that by the 1880s and 1890s as communities began to celebrate semi-centennials, replica or relocated log cabins were identified for featured exhibits and commemorative tributes. This time period also coincided with efforts through the Grand Army of the Republic to commemorate 25 and 30-year anniversaries for the end of the Civil War. In Davenport, Iowa where five campgrounds were established during the war and where post-war interest was high, the Civil War Soldiers' Monument (NRHP-listed) was among the first commemorative monuments to be erected in the state in 1880. Planting of the a tree by the local chapter of the Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, Samuel J. Kirkwood Post No. 8 and installation of

a memorial plaque on a large rock near the log cabins in 1929 was in keeping with the commemorative tradition of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County log structures in City Park.

The cabins built by the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County at the Johnson County Fairgrounds were among the first log structures used to commemorate the first wave of pioneer settlement in the state 50 years after Johnson County was formally organized. Their construction in 1889 came 23 years after the organization itself formed with a stated mission in the preamble to the organization's constitutions as follows – "Whereas: The old settlers are rapidly passing away, we feel it to be our duty to gather and preserve the memories of a settlement that has resulted in a growth and development so great, and feeling that the recollections of the past and the hope of the future link us together as a brotherhood, we do now ordain and establish this Constitution." (*Old Settler's Proceedings*, 1899, February 22, 1866)

Other commemorative activities in Iowa during the late 19th and early 20th centuries included organization of dozens of old settlers and old soldiers associations. They celebrated with reunions, picnics, orations and parades, always reminding current and younger generation of their past. Examples included the Old Settlers' Association of Linn County first organized in 1891 celebrating annually in communities around the county for at least a decade. The Old Soldiers' and Old Settlers' picnic in Pella in 1903 merged the gathering of the two groups. Similar gatherings included the Old Settlers and American Legion Men of Lenox in 1922, the Old Settlers and Old Soldiers meeting in Glenwood in 1901, and the Black Hawk County Veterans and Old Settlers in 1910 in Waterloo. The most common gathering remained that of old settlers, however, including the Burlington Old Settlers in 1896, the Carroll County Old Settlers in 1901, the Old Settlers picnic in Chester in 1916, the Titonka Old Settlers picnic in 1926, and the Roland Old Settlers gathering in 1938.

A handful of other old settlers groups in Iowa like the Johnson County group sought to establish a physical representation or visual link with the past to remind their contemporaries of the hardships and self-sacrifice of earlier generations. One example was the Old Settlers' Association Park and Rhodham Bonnifield House (NRHP listed) established by the Jefferson County Old Settlers' Association on an 11½ acre park in 1907 in Fairfield. The NRHP nomination for the property notes that the goal was to provide a "preserve for natural grasses, plants, and fauna." The park also served as the setting for the relocated Bonnifield House, a log building constructed in 1838 in Section 4 of Round Prairie Township. The property was approved for listing on the NRHP based on Criterion A.

Another NRHP-listed log cabin in Iowa was constructed as a private undertaking as part of the building of a wayside park near Gladbrook in Tama County. The Conant's Cabin and Park (NRHP listed) are located along Iowa Highway 96 and were established in 1920. The cabin and outbuildings as well as the park itself were listed on the NRHP in 2000 for their importance under Criteria A and C in the history of parks and the erection of log structures in parks, in this case a wayside park.

Other log structures in Iowa that were handled as commemorative properties after the turn of the 20th century included reconstructions or replicas such as the Livermore Log Cabin in Fort Madison and the Morris Memorial Log Cabin at Birmingham. Still others were moved from their original sites to locations where they could more easily be protected or serve a public education purpose. These included the Alexander Young Log House (NRHP-listed, 1973; moved in 1912 to Washington from rural Washington County) and the Ronze-Morgan Log House (moved in 1929 to Oskaloosa from rural Marion County and later to the Nelson Pioneer Farm. At least one other log cabin considered a noncontributing resource is part of a listed NRHP resource – the Walker Park and Memorial Building in River Junction Iowa. The replica cabin built in 1915 burned in 1959 and was rebuilt as the present noncontributing cabin in the park. By mid-20th century log building relocations also included one in Selma, Van Buren County and one in Corydon, Wayne County.

Research completed by Iowa historians Jim Jacobsen and Will Page in the 1980s indicates that on-site preservation of log buildings is rarer in Iowa than the reconstructions and relocations of buildings noted above. Examples include the Mars Hill Church (built in ca.1857 in rural Wapello County), which was listed in the NRHP in 1974. It was severely damaged by arson fire in 2006 but two years later the building was restored . Other log structures suffered major deterioration such as the Michael Hildebrand House in Jefferson County or were completely engulfed by later construction such as the Elmer Sheppard House in Van Buren County thus having lost their integrity as a log structure (Old Settlers' Association Park and Rhodham Bonnifield House NRHP nomination, July 14, 1986).

World War II marked the discontinuation of many old settler gatherings, picnics, reunions and picnics around the state as the nation refocused its attention on war news and important international events. The activity of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County was such an example. The last reunion formally held by the Old Settlers' Association of

Johnson County was its 73rd annual picnic held on September 15, 1939 at the cabin site in City Park. The following year members of the group joined the 100th anniversary celebration of the laying of the cornerstone for Old Capitol. After World War II, in Iowa City and other Iowa communities, historic celebrations were more often associated with centennials of a county's or town's founding such as that held in Iowa City during the summer of 1939. Iowa's settlement pattern saw dozens of towns reach this anniversary annually in the 1940s and 1950s.

The next major wave of commemorative celebrations related to log structures in the United States and in Iowa occurred during the Bicentennial Era. Plans for log cabin reconstruction and restoration occurred throughout the state with efforts to restore and reuse the Old Settlers' cabins in City Park included in local plans. Local historian Irving Weber recounted the cabins' history in a lengthy newspaper article in February 1976 along with the story of the Old Settlers' Association itself. Later that year, the cabins were "restored" to make way for a new children's museum activity program headquartered in them. They remained in use for more than a decade as a result of this reawakening of local history sponsored by the Children's Museum and the Johnson County Historical Society. The integration of local history into museum programming was typical of history programming around the country during the 1970s and 1980s.

A total of approximately 200 log building resources are listed in the Iowa Inventory of historic resources in 2012. They include log cabins, churches, barns and outbuildings, park shelters and schools. One of a kind structure included a log jail in Laurel, Marshall County and another was a log ticket booth at the Iowa State Fair and Exposition Grounds in Des Moines. Log structures date from the 1830s through the 1970s with a large number constructed during the 1930s as a part of local and state park development. Many have been removed from their original locations and the level of integrity varies considerably. Of the 200 documented log buildings and structures, a total of 18 resources are listed on the NRHP individually or as resources within a historic district (see Figure 13: Log Building National Register Listings in Iowa – August 2012, page 28).

Grand Army Tree Boulder

The third contributing resource within this nomination, the *Grand Army Tree Boulder*, has commemorative significance unrelated to the log cabins. Its installation, however, was a part of the same commemorative movement that swept the country prior to World War II. In 1929, members of the local Grand Army of the Republic Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood Post No. 8 of Iowa City sponsored the planting of a memorial tree in Upper City Park. Some sources credit the Women's Relief Corps as being responsible for installation of the monument itself but this has not been confirmed. The tree planting location appears to have been chosen for two reasons. First, the cabin site was already well identified with commemorative historic activities sponsored by the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County. Second, the location was close to the route of the national Grand Army of the Republic Highway that had the section of the highway completed between Chicago and Omaha in 1929.

To identify the tree and commemorate its planting, a bronze plaque was attached to a granite boulder and placed near the tree. Its dedication stated the following:

GRAND ARMY TREE
DEDICATED IN MEMORY,
AND IN HONOR, OF THE
GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC, AND ALL
CIVIL WAR VETERANS.
BY
SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD POST NO. 8
1929

The *Grand Army Tree Boulder* was one of several commemorative monuments installed in Iowa City beginning in the 1890s. Though not technically erected as a Civil War monument, the massive *Governor Kirkwood Tombstone* installed after the death of Iowa's Civil War governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood (1813-1894), acknowledges the Governor's association with the war. It is located in Oakdale Cemetery and was installed after his death in 1894. The cemetery is located in northeast Iowa City and the burial site and tombstone have a prominent location near the Brown Street entrance. The gray granite monument features a large polished sphere as well as a copy of the seal of the State of Iowa and a relief image of Governor Kirkwood.

Two years after Governor Kirkwood's death, another monument was erected in Oakdale Cemetery connected to the war. The *Living Tree Monument*, a limestone sculpture that replicated a tree form was installed in 1896 in the GAR Section of the cemetery. The monument is to the right of the entrance and its inscription suggests a connection with a Memorial Day installation on May 30, 1896. Grand Army of the Republic Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood Corps No.78 of Iowa City sponsored the monument's installation.

There are two similar undated Civil War related monuments flanking the steps of the Johnson County Courthouse (NRHP –listed) on South Clinton Street. Both monuments, the *Memorial Day Order Monument* and the *Gettysburg Address Monument,* contain over-sized bronze plaques mounted on large multi-stone bases; it is not known if these bases are original or subsequent rebuilt structures. The one to the left of the steps has General John Logan's Memorial Day Order of 1868 and the one on the right has a relief bust of President Abraham Lincoln with the full text of his Gettysburg Address. The courthouse, the second on this site, is located just south of the business district at the corner of Clinton and Court streets. It is not known if the monuments pre or post-date the current building erected between 1899 and 1901.

The *Camp Pope Boulder and Plaque* were installed on the campus of Longfellow School (NRHP-listed) at 1130 Seymour Avenue in the central part of Iowa City. The school site was the former location of Camp Pope, a Civil War training camp that operated from 1861 to 1865. Like the Grand Army Tree Boulder at the cabin site, this monument includes a granite boulder with a bronze plaque briefly describing the historic events of the site. It was sponsored by Samuel J. Kirkwood Camp No. 155 and their Auxiliary No. 9 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It was installed in 1926.

The last "monument" in Iowa City associated with the Civil War, technically has highway bridge rather than a monument associated with it. As noted previously, the coast-to-coast route of U.S. Highway 6 was named the Grand Army of the Republic Highway during the 1920s. Since then, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as the successor organization to the GAR in Iowa has named 11 bridges on the highway after Iowa Civil War generals. The *Corse Bridge* that crosses the Iowa River on the south edge of Iowa City has been named after General John Corse, a Burlington , Iowa native. A street sign identifies the bridge name but there is no memorial on or near the bridge. (research for Civil War monuments compiled using the *Iowa Civil War Monuments* website of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War available at: http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/index.html)

Integrity:

The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Cabins retain sufficient integrity from the period of significance identified, 1913 - ca. 1939, to qualify for National Register listing. A summary of the seven aspects or qualities of integrity appears below:

- Location: The location for the Double Log Cabin and the Single-Room Log Cabin in City Park included in this nomination remains the same as the dates of significance when the two buildings were built and moved in 1913 and 1918 respectively. The cabin site continues to be within Upper City Park with scattered, mature deciduous trees and lawn surrounding the buildings. Views to and from the buildings are similar to those of the period of significance (1913 – ca. 1939). Details of the site are further discussed in Section 7 and under "Setting" below.

- Design: Both the Double Log Cabin and the Single-Room Log Cabin retain elements of design from their period of significance. Their designs were conceived and executed by members of the Old Settlers' Association who were experienced with log building construction based on their early immigration to Johnson County. The dogtrot design for the Double Log Cabin was discussed in 1912 meetings of the Old Settlers' Association and was carried out in 1913 as discussed. The only change to this design came in the 1940s to 1970s when a frame half wall, screening above, and a wood plank passage door were added to the northeast and south west sides of the dogtrot section so that the cabin could be used for camping. Screen panels for windows were used during this time period as well but are no longer present.

- Setting: The setting for the Double Log Cabin and the Single-Room Log Cabin remains substantially the same as 1913 and 1918. In the case of the Double Log Cabin, historic photographs confirm that the area surrounding the cabins held mature deciduous trees with bushes and other smaller native trees along of hillside overlooking the river valley. For the Single-Room Log Cabin, both its 1889 original site at the fairgrounds (historic photograph) and post-move 1918 setting in Upper City Park (historic photograph of Double Log Cabin) were similar to the park

setting in 2012. In both instances, the grass covered site is surrounded by deciduous trees. The third resource is the Grand Army Tree boulder, and it remains positioned in the same location southwest of the cabins themselves. It appears that the tree planted in 1929, however, has been removed most likely through natural causes.

- Materials: The principal materials originally used for construction of both buildings – hewn oak logs varying in length from 16 to 21 feet – continue in use in 2012 with a few exceptions. Members of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County in 1913 and 1889 contributed the individual logs when the cabins were erected. Records describe several unspecified logs in the 1889 Single-Room Log Cabin in deteriorated condition and having been replaced at the time of the 1918 move. Members of the Association also participated in construction of both cabins including completion of notching, building, roofing, window installation, door hanging, flooring, and chinking of the logs. Although both buildings have subsequently been repaired and modified, evidence of the original craftsmanship of the Old Settler craftsmen remains visible. Alteration of the original materials has taken place through the years including undated roof replacements (asphalt shingles and wood shake shingles, ca. mid-1970s), Portland cement chinking, screening for the dogtrot section's formerly open walls, installation of a concrete floor for the dogtrot section, and the addition of a poured concrete foundation for a section of one of the Double Log Cabin's pens.

- Feeling: The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Cabins retain their sense of place largely due to the presence of the Iowa River and the tree-covered site that has been occupied by the cabins since their location in Upper City Park in 1913 and 1918. The cabins have been visited by thousands of park users through the years while picnicking, listening to patriotic speeches, attending school tours, participating in summer camping, and re-enacting 19th century life-style experiences. The preservation of open spaces surrounding the cabins has continued to provide the sense of place and respect originally considered by the managers of City Park and sought by the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County before they were placed here.

Preservation Plan

The Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Cabins have been identified by the City of Iowa City as valuable historic resources in their community and worthy of historic preservation for future generations. Beginning in the 1970s, their retention has been supported for educational purposes and short-term repairs were made. The advice of experts in the field of log buildings has been sought and the City obtained preliminary assistance in the form of a TAN grant from the State Historic Historical Department of Iowa. One of the recommendations received was to secure National Register listing for the buildings so that State grants might be able to be sought for their restoration. In 2010 the City of Iowa City's historic preservation planner, Christina Kuecker, completed preliminary documentary for the building. In 2012 the Iowa City Park and Recreation Department authorized preparation of a National Register nomination for the property as a first step toward preserving the buildings and heightening awareness in their history.

Summary

In summary, the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County Cabins, one constructed in 1913 and one built in 1889 and moved in 1918 to City Park serve to commemorate the lives of the first European-American settlers in Johnson County. As spoken by Elizabeth Irish in her address to the Old Settlers in 1914, the cabins commemorate our early settlers' "brave and noble deeds...their virtues, their high ideals, and their pioneer struggles," and form "a link in the chain of our development" ("Brave Empire Builders," *Iowa City Daily Press,* September 4, 1914). These cabins are also a visible link to the Johnson County Old Settlers organization, which played an important role in preserving and relating the community's history for nearly 100 years. During these years, many other groups used the cabins to rediscover the Iowa City and Johnson County's pioneer heritage and to retain a tangible link to their collective past. For a list of other log cabins listed on the NRHP in Iowa, see Figure 13, page 28.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
_X_ Other
Name of repository: State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Iowa City, IA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Not applicable

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.6 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	621800	4614320	3			
2				4			

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Commencing at the Northeast corner of the log cabin known as the 'Double Log Cabin', in the park known as 'City Park', in the City of Iowa City, County of Johnson, State of Iowa; thence Easterly 50 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence Northerly 4 feet; thence North 35 degrees West, 80 feet; thence Westerly 128 feet; thence Southerly 157.5 feet; thence Easterly 173.9 feet; thence Northerly 87.9 feet to the Point of Beginning. See Figures 1 and 2: Nominated Site Boundary, pp. 20-21.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The irregular boundary includes a gently sloping to flat parcel of ground in Upper City Park occupied by the two log cabins comprising the site in 1918 after one was built in situ and the other was moved to the property. The site includes a wide buffer of green space surrounding the cabins that is occupied by mature white oak and American linden trees, some of which occupied the site in 1918,. The northeast boundary extends along the tree covered ridge that overlooks Lower City Park and the Iowa River. This ridge edge was part of the view shed present when the cabins were originally sited in 1913 and 1918. The northwestern boundary extends to the edge of a dense tree covered area and drops off sharply towards Lower City Park. A section of the service road for Upper City Park marks the southwest boundary while a line midway between the cabins and a modern park shelter forms the south southeasterly boundary. Alterations to the balance of City Park from its establishment until present day preclude considering the entire park for listing on the National Register in 2012.

11. Form Prepared By

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organization for City of Iowa City, Park and Recreation Department date 7/31/2012

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city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

e-mail svendsentyler@centurytel.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins
Name of Property

Johnson Co., Iowa
County and State

City or Vicinity: Iowa City

County: Johnson State: Iowa

Photographer: Marlys A. Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc. for City of Iowa City, Park and Recreation Department

Date Photographed: May 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: See Photographs 1 through 20 & Photograph Map Key, pages 29-30.

Property Owner: Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Iowa City, Parks and Recreation Department, attn: Joyce Carroll, Program Supervisor

street & number 220 South Gilbert Street telephone 319-356-5100

city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52240

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

Figure 1: Map of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins – Nominated Site Boundary and measurements (map provided by the City of Iowa City Engineering Department, July 2012)

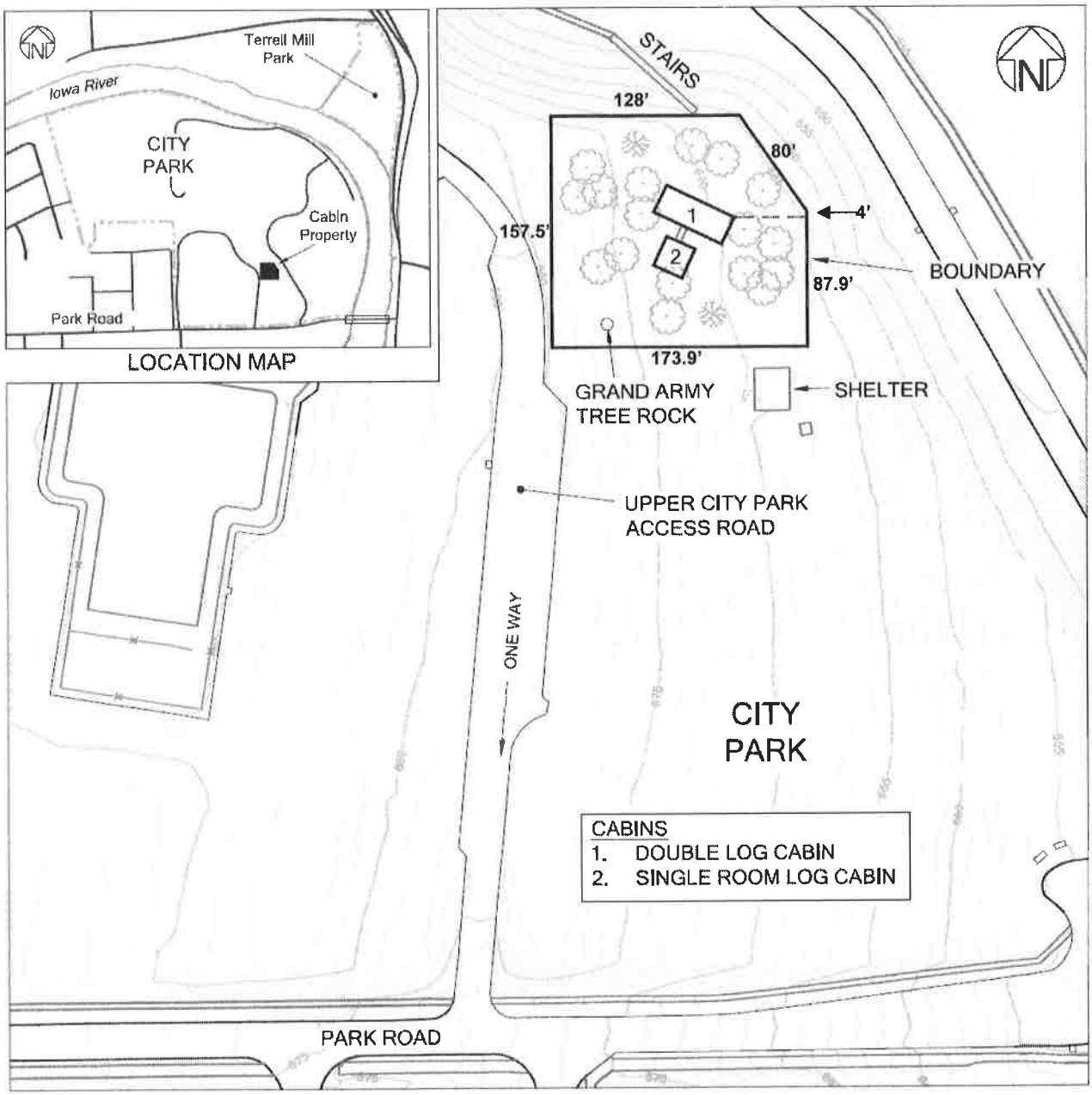


Figure 2: Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins – Aerial Photograph of Nominated Site Boundary (map provided by the City of Iowa City Engineering Department, July 2012)

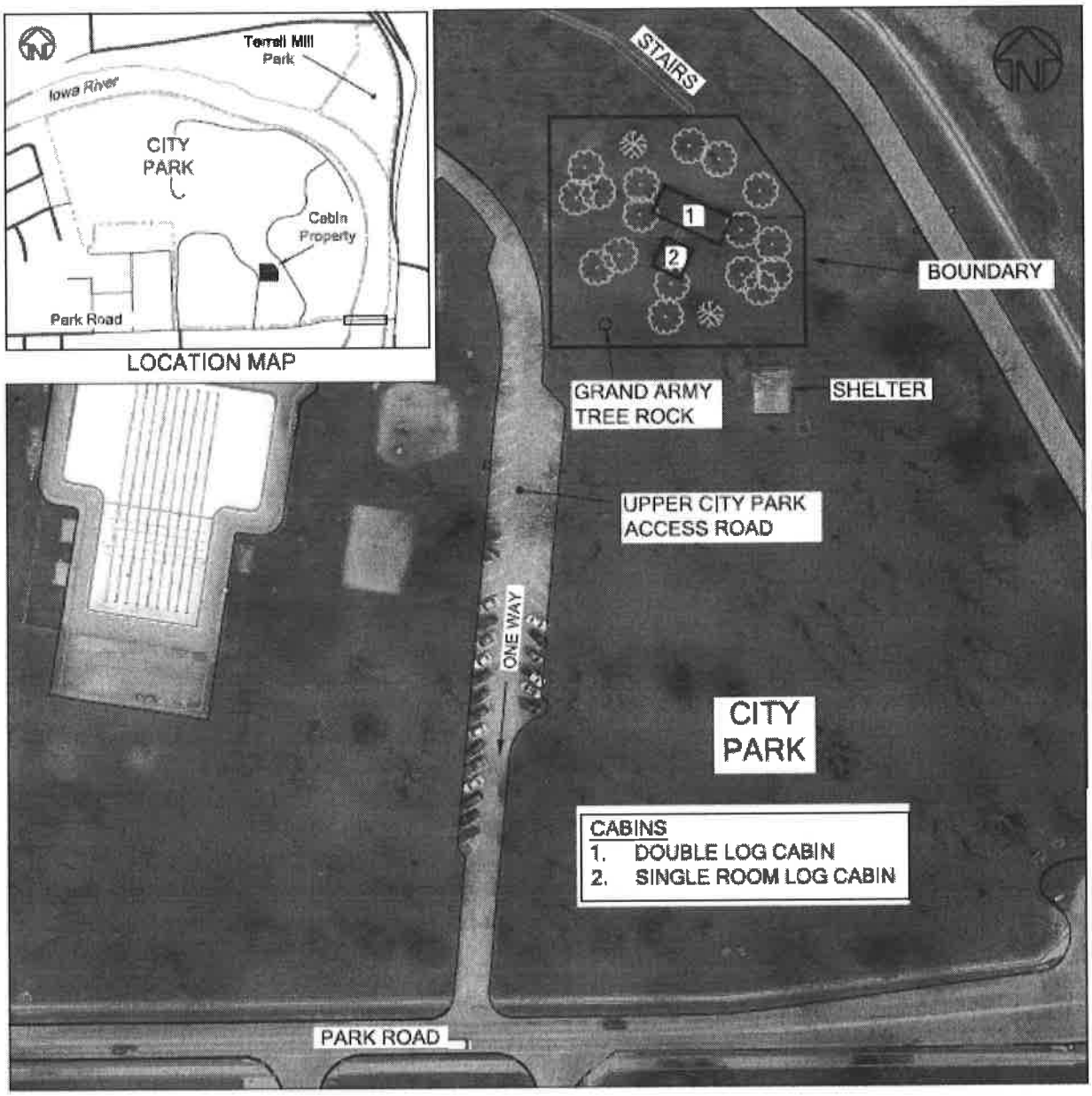


Figure 3: Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins – Tree Survey of Nominated Site (map provided by the City of Iowa City Engineering Department, July 2012)

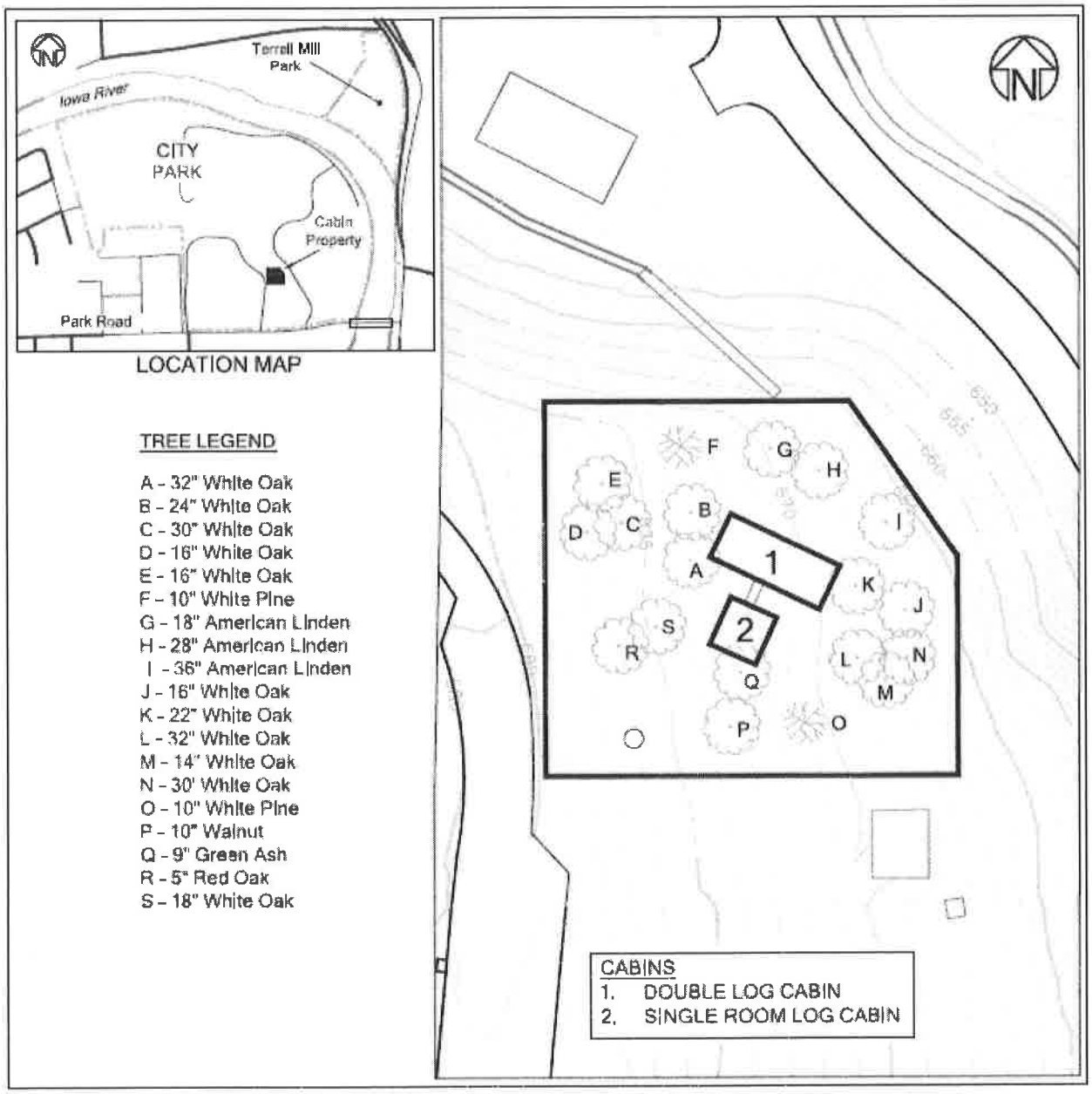


Figure 4: City Park with numbered shelters and other facilities (map provided by the City of Iowa City, Park and Recreation Department, May 2012)

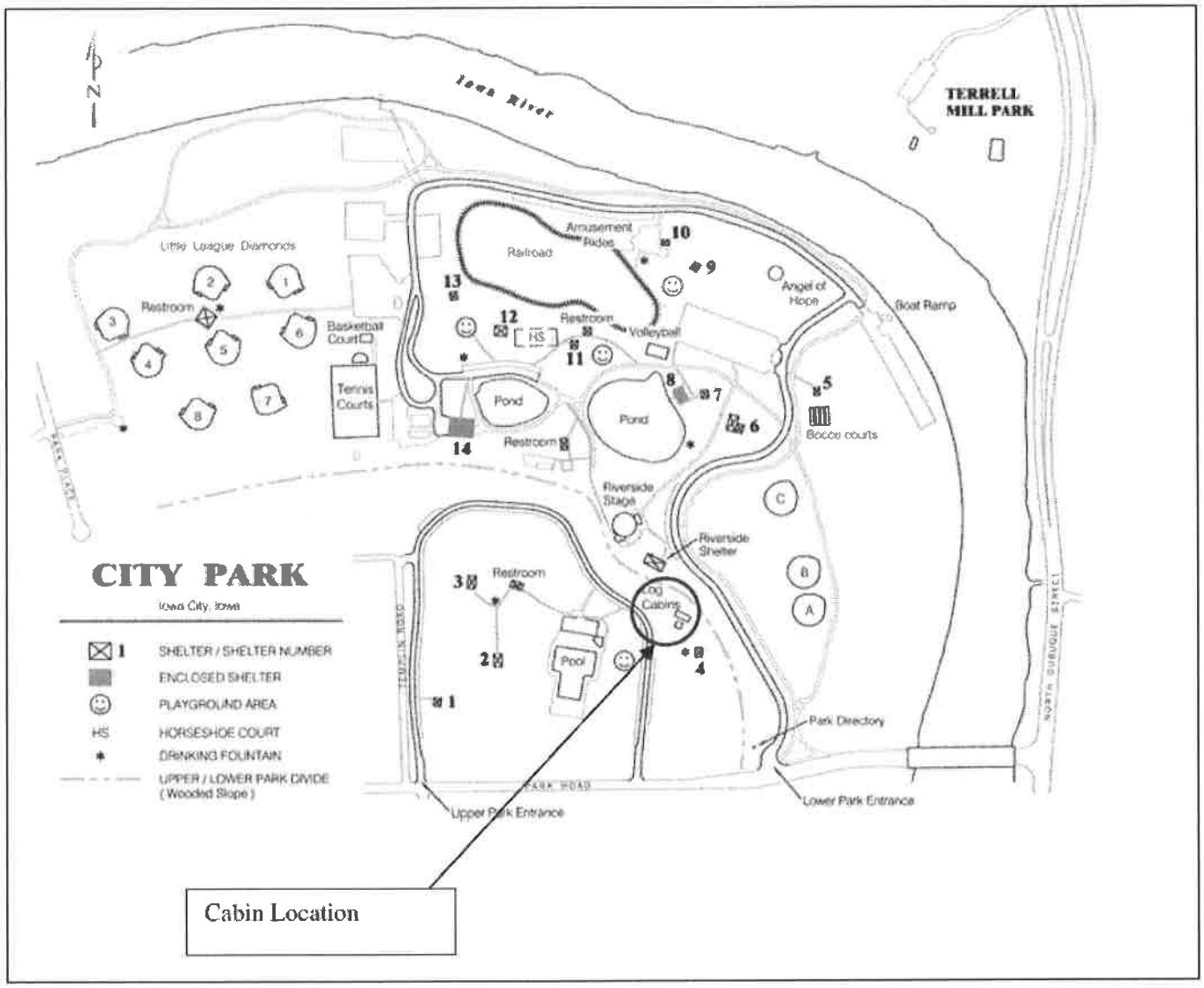


Figure 5: Location map for City Park in northwest Iowa City (map provided by the City of Iowa City, Park and Recreation Department, May 2012)

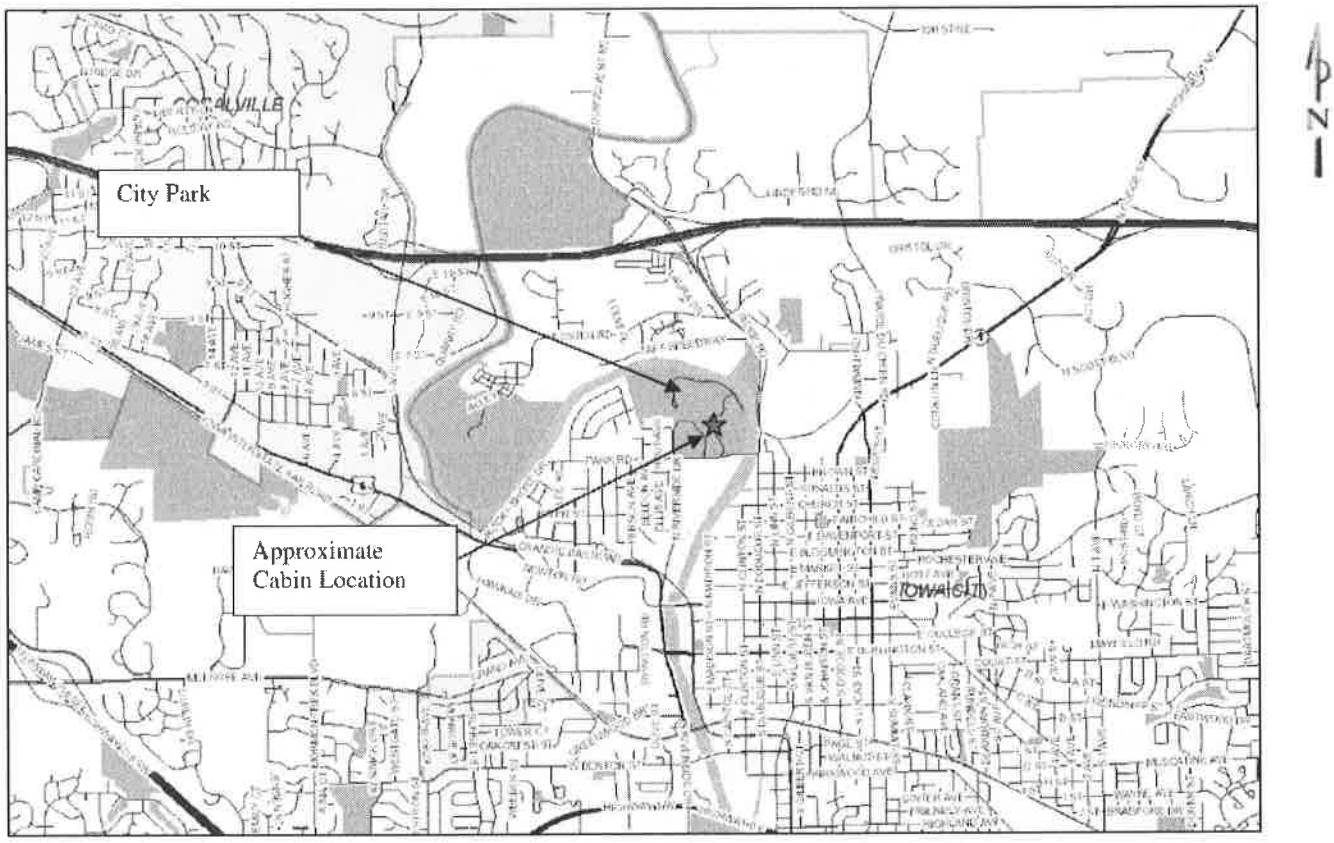
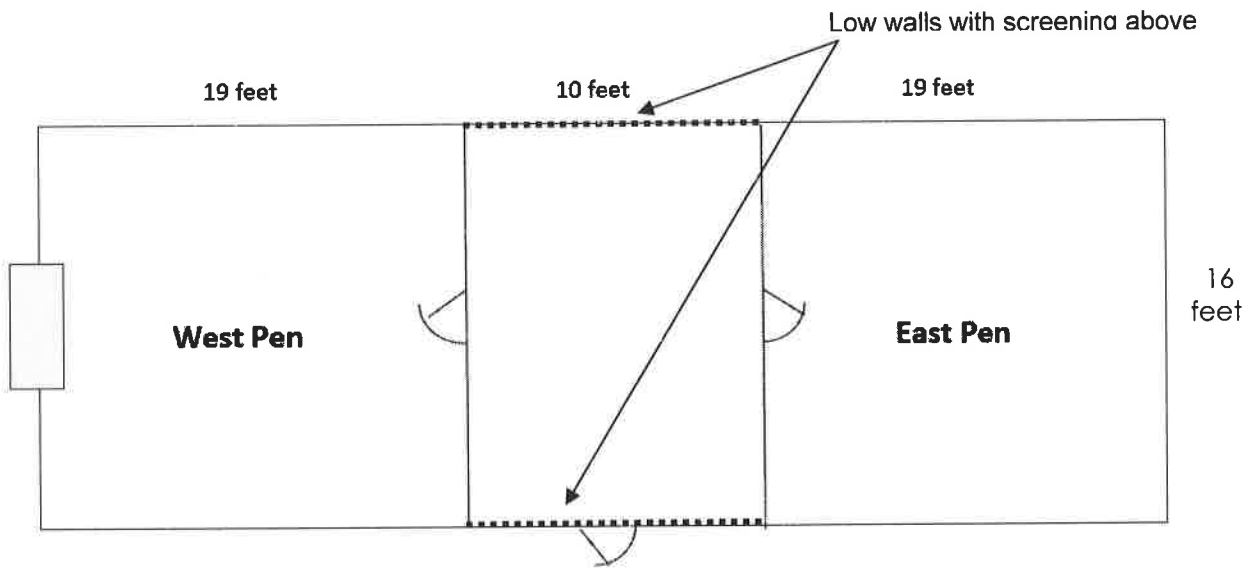
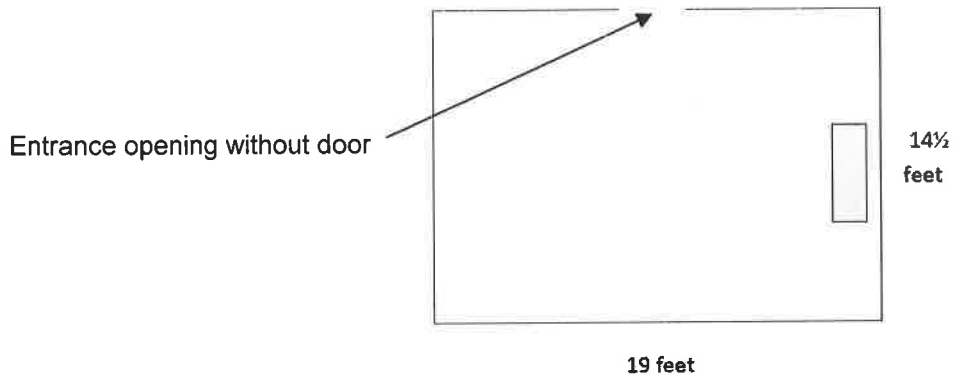


Figure 6: Sketch Floor Plans (not to scale) for Double Log Cabin or Dogtrot Log Cabin (above) and Single Room Log Cabin (below) - plans prepared by Svendsen Tyler, Inc. based on building diagrams in the Iowa Site Inventory Form plan completed by Christina Kuecker, November 2010.

- Room Dimensions – Double Log Cabin -

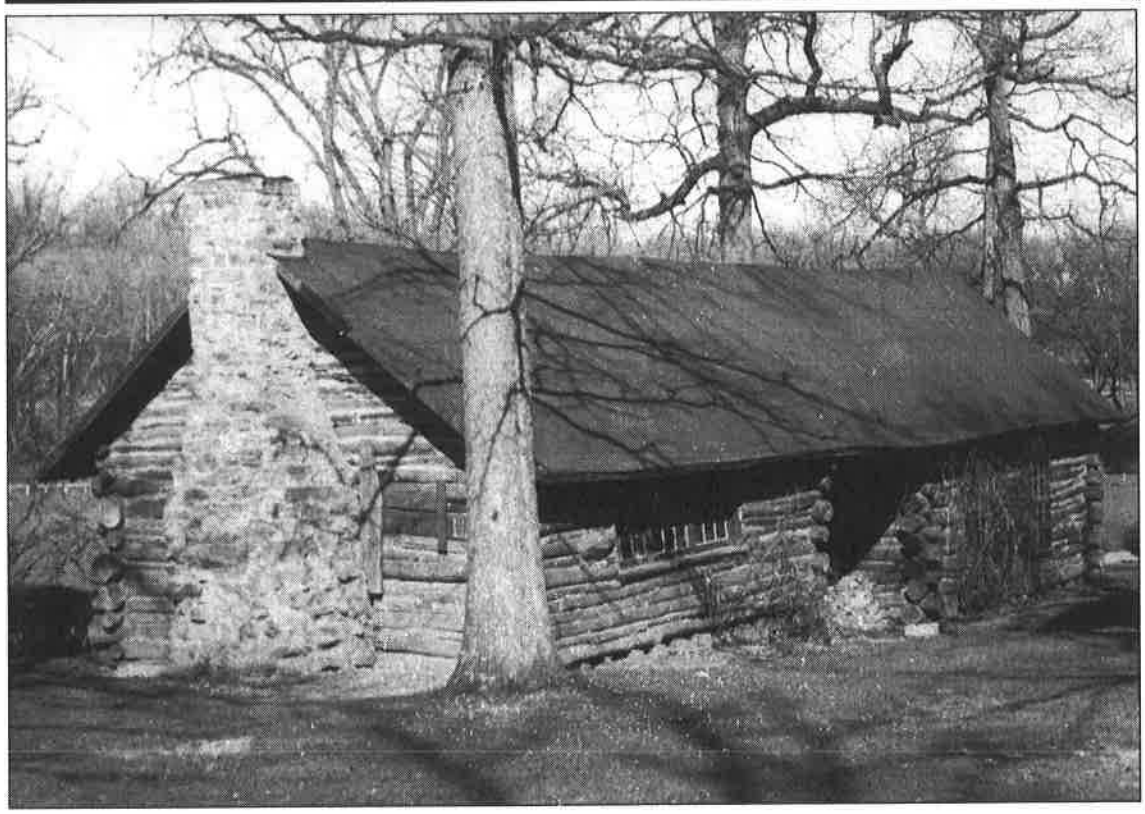


- Room Dimensions – Single-Room Log Cabin -

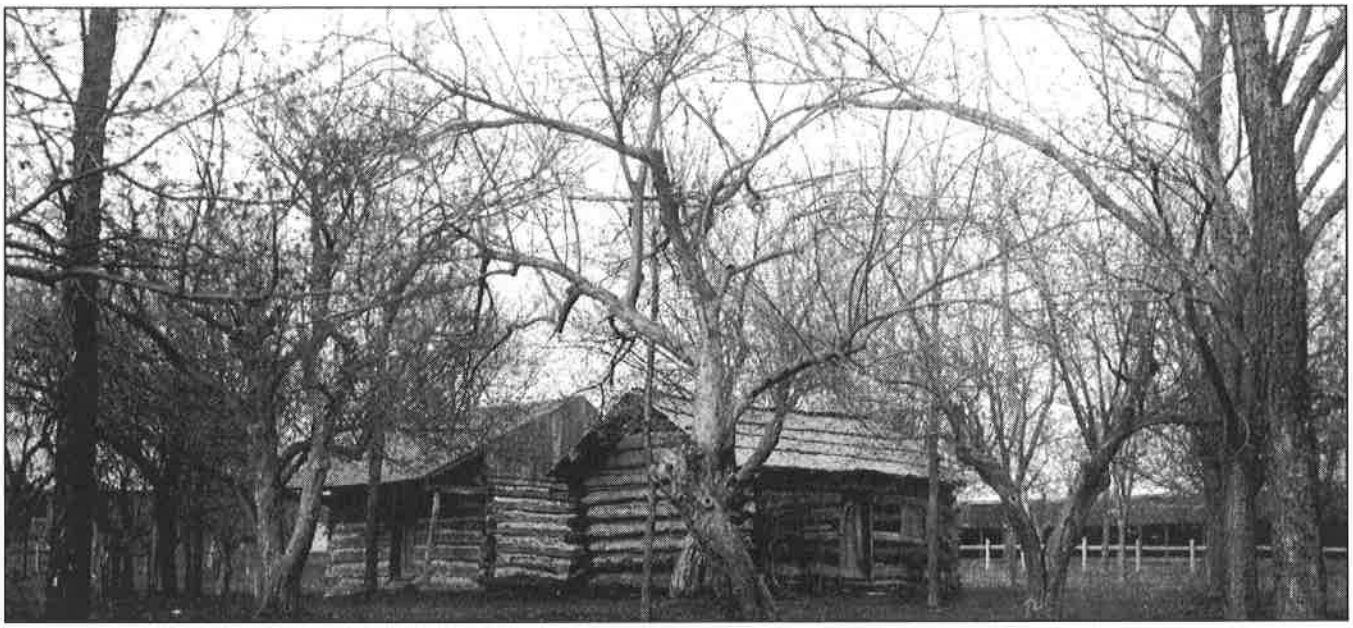


Figures 7 and 8: Historic photographs of "Log Cabin City Park," April 9, 1916, and close-up, same photo, looking northeast (Patterson Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Iowa City, Iowa)

Figures 9 and 10: Historic photographs of "Replica of Iowa City Trading Post in City Park," (top) prior to relocation of Single-Room Log Cabin in 1918, looking northeast (State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Iowa City, Iowa) and "Replica of Iowa City Trading Post in City Park," (bottom) April 1950, looking east (Weber Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Iowa City, Iowa).



Figures 11 and 12: Historic photograph of "Old Settlers' Cabins on the fairgrounds" (top), ca. 1890s, 1889 Single-Room Log Cabin on left, direction unknown; cabin on right, nonextant (Patterson Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa Library) and (below) Iowa City local historian, Irving Weber in front of Double Log Cabin, looking south, June 5, 1991 (courtesy of Douglas S. Russell, photographer).



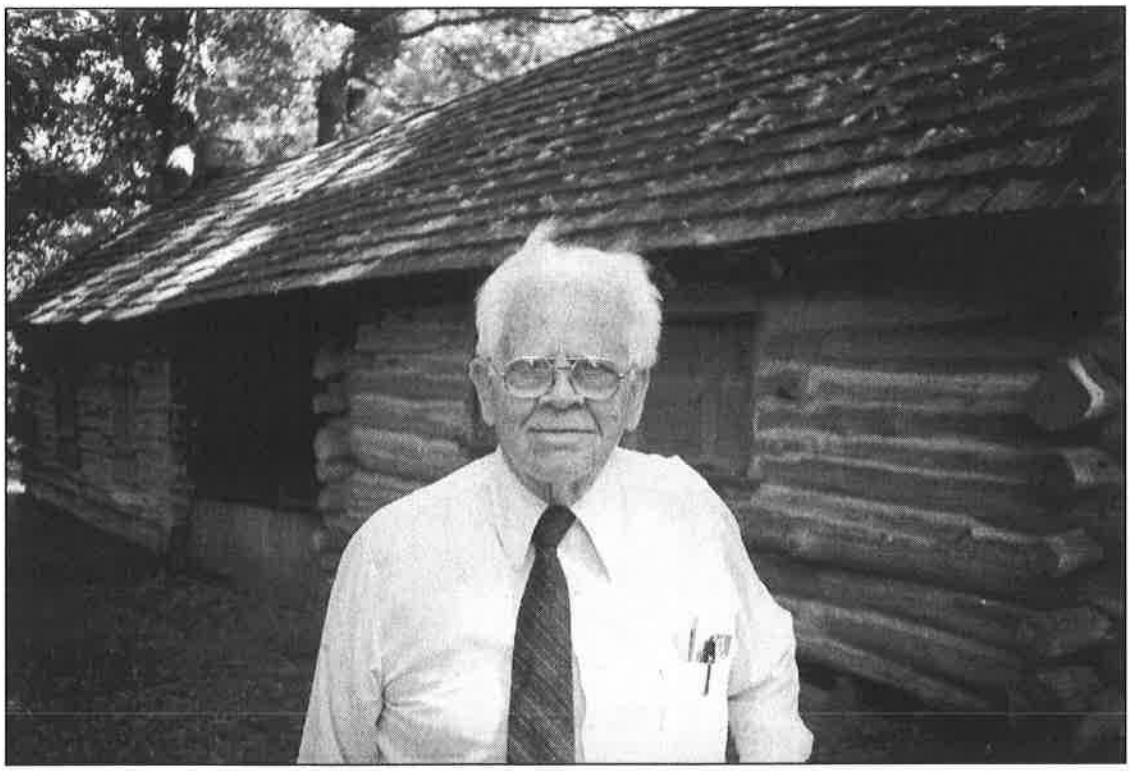


Figure 13: Log Building National Register Listings in Iowa – August 2012

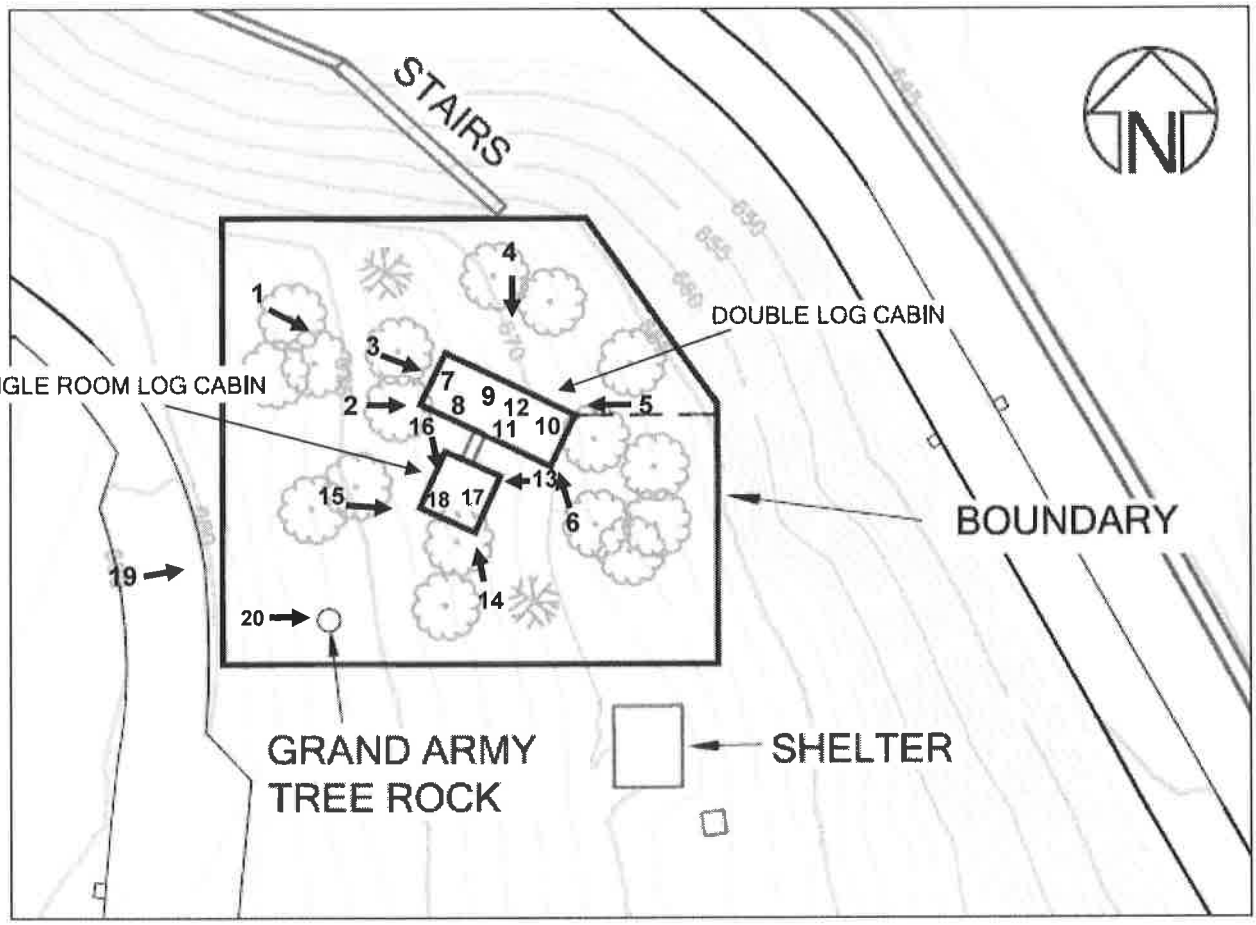
Resource	Date Built	Location	County	NRHP Listed
Abbe Gardner Sharp Cabin	ca.1856	74 Monument Dr., Arnolds Park	Dickinson County	1973
Philip & Anna Kirchner Log House	1867	Peterson Twp.	Clay County	1993
Picnic Shelters (two)	Undated	Richland Twp.	Delaware County	1991
Park Shelters, Maquoketa Caves State Park (three)	1934	South Fork Twp.	Jackson County	1991
Old Settlers' Association Park & Rhodham Bonnifield House	1838	B St., Fairfield	Jefferson County	1986
Henek and Mary Horecky Log Cabin	1857	Franklin Twp.	Linn County	2000
Iowa State Fair & Exposition Grounds: Ticket Booth	1974	E. 30th St., Des Moines	Polk County	1987
Iowa State Fair & Exposition Grounds:	1973	E. 30th St., Des Moines	Polk County	1987
Iowa State Fair & Exposition Grounds: Church	1967	E. 30th St., Des Moines	Polk County	1987
Park Shelters, Black Hawk State Park (three)	1934	3rd Street, Lake View	Sac County	1990
Mars Hill Church	1857	Keokuk Twp.	Wapello County	1974
Conant's Cabins	1920	Spring Creek Twp.	Tama County	2000
Alexander Young Cabin	1840	W. Madison St., Washington	Washington County	1973
Theophile Bruguier Cabin	Undated	Riverside Blvd., Sioux City	Woodbury County	2000

Photograph List: Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins

Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc., photographer
Dates taken: May 3, 2012

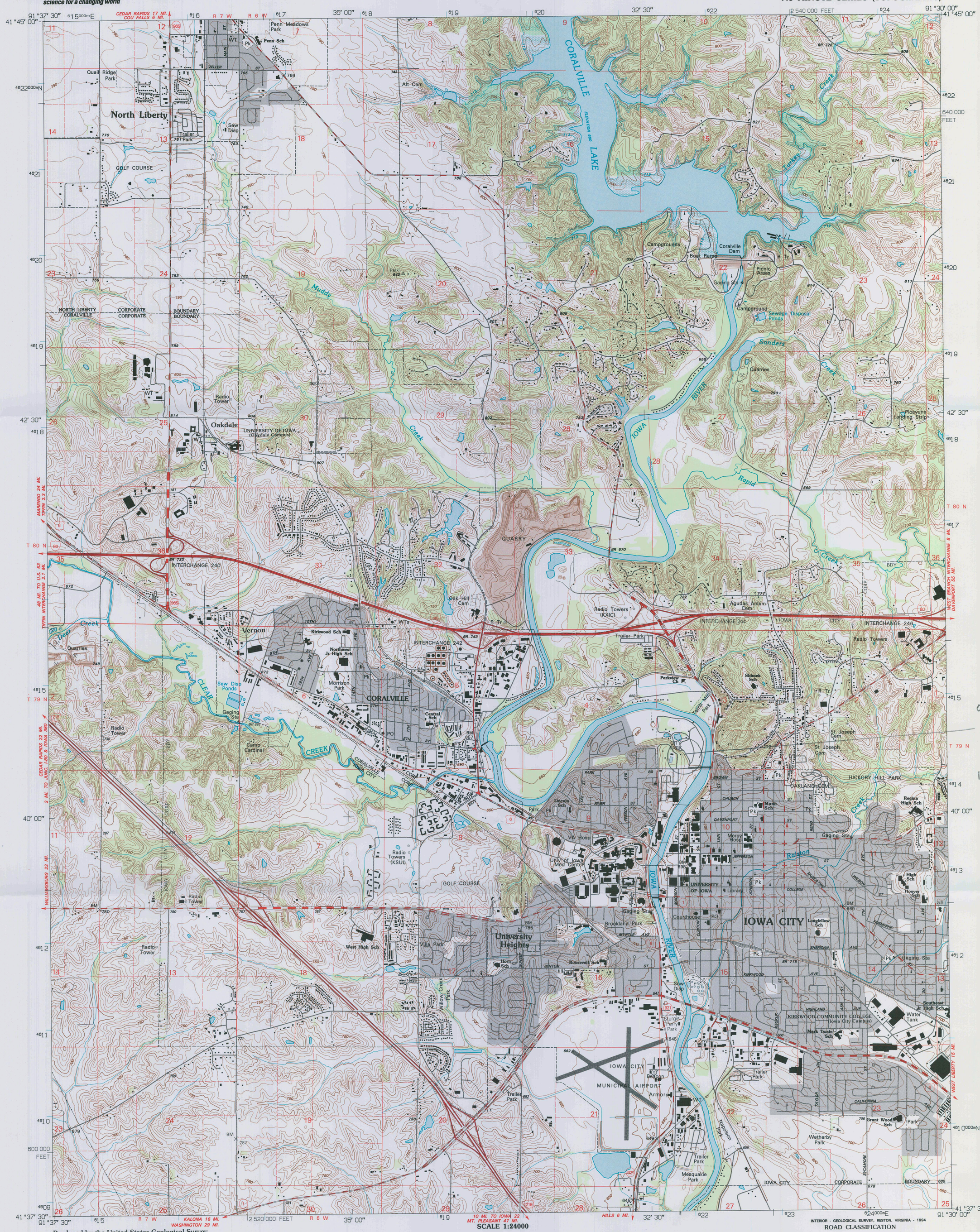
1. Double Log Cabin (left) and Single Room Log Cabin (right) looking southeast
2. Double Log Cabin, looking east
3. Double Log Cabin, gable-end exposed stone chimney, looking south
4. Double Log Cabin, looking south
5. Double Log Cabin, looking west
6. Double Log Cabin, looking north
7. Double Log Cabin, interior, west pen, fireplace, looking northwest
8. Double Log Cabin, interior, west pen, 6-light windows and plank floor detail, looking west
9. Double Log Cabin, interior, west pen, entrance wall and paneled door, looking southeast
10. Double Log Cabin, interior, east pen, opposite entrance wall, looking southeast
11. Double Log Cabin, interior, east pen, 6/6 windows and entrance wall, looking west
12. Double Log Cabin, interior, east pen, entrance wall and panel door, looking northwest
13. Single Room Log Cabin, looking west
14. Single Room Log Cabin, looking north
15. Single Room Log Cabin, looking east
16. Single Room Log Cabin, looking south
17. Single Room Log Cabin, interior, non-original 1976 fireplace, looking southeast
18. Single Room Log Cabin, interior, deteriorated wall with missing logs, looking north
19. Left to right: Double Log Cabin, Single Room Log Cabin, and Grand Army Tree Rock, from service road, looking east
20. Grand Army Tree Plaque on boulder, looking east

Photograph Key Map: Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins



USGS
science for a changing world
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

IOWA CITY WEST QUADRANGLE
IOWA-JOHNSON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Old Settlers' Assoc. of Johnson Co. Cabins, Iowa City, Johnson Co., IA
UTM Reference:
15/621800/4614320

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 1994

SCALE 1:24000

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Iowa Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1990. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1994

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
10 000-foot ticks: Iowa coordinate system, south zone

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation

Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

MN
GN
0°57'
17 MILS
1½°
27 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1994 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

KILOMETERS
METERS
MILES
FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

IOWA

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Swisher
2 Ely
3 Solon
4 Tiffin
5 Iowa City East
6 Williamstown
7 Hills
8 West Liberty SW

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

IOWA CITY WEST, IOWA
41091-F5-TF-024

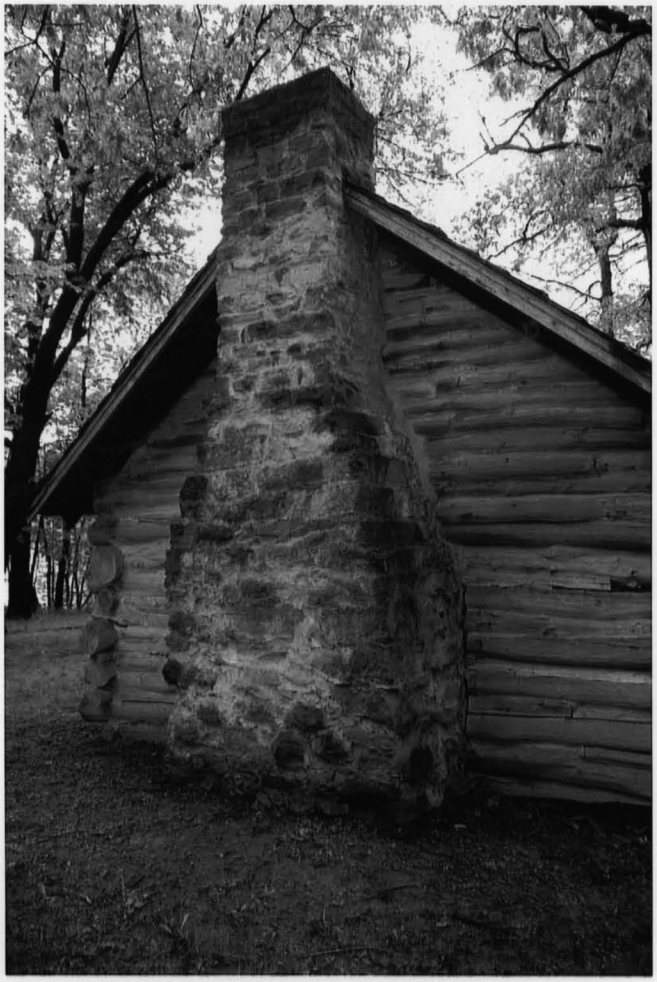
1994

DMA 7667 II NE-SERIES V876

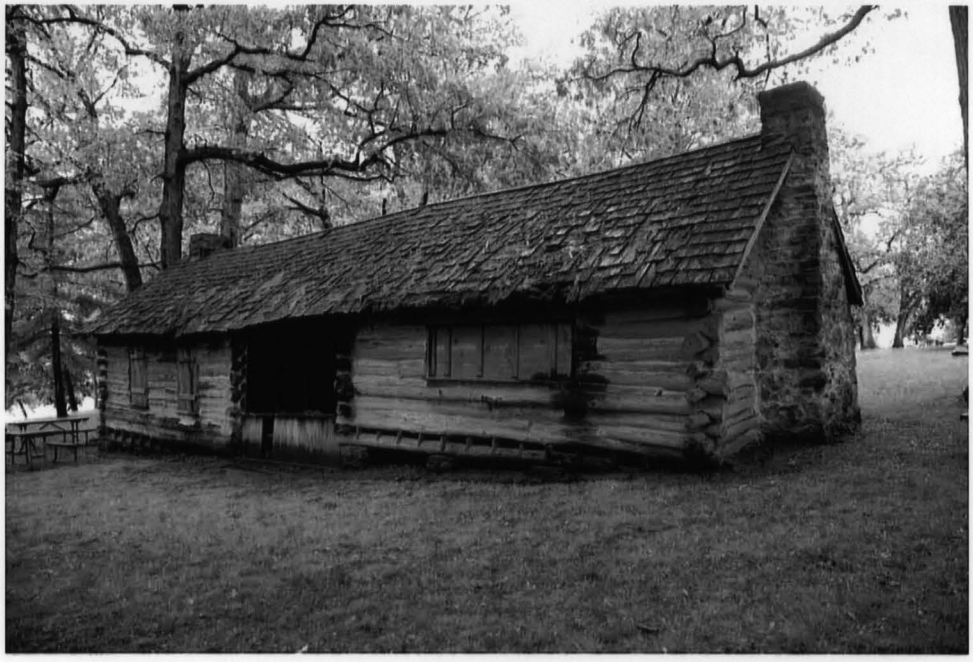
ISBN 0-607-71118-3

Photograph 1
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

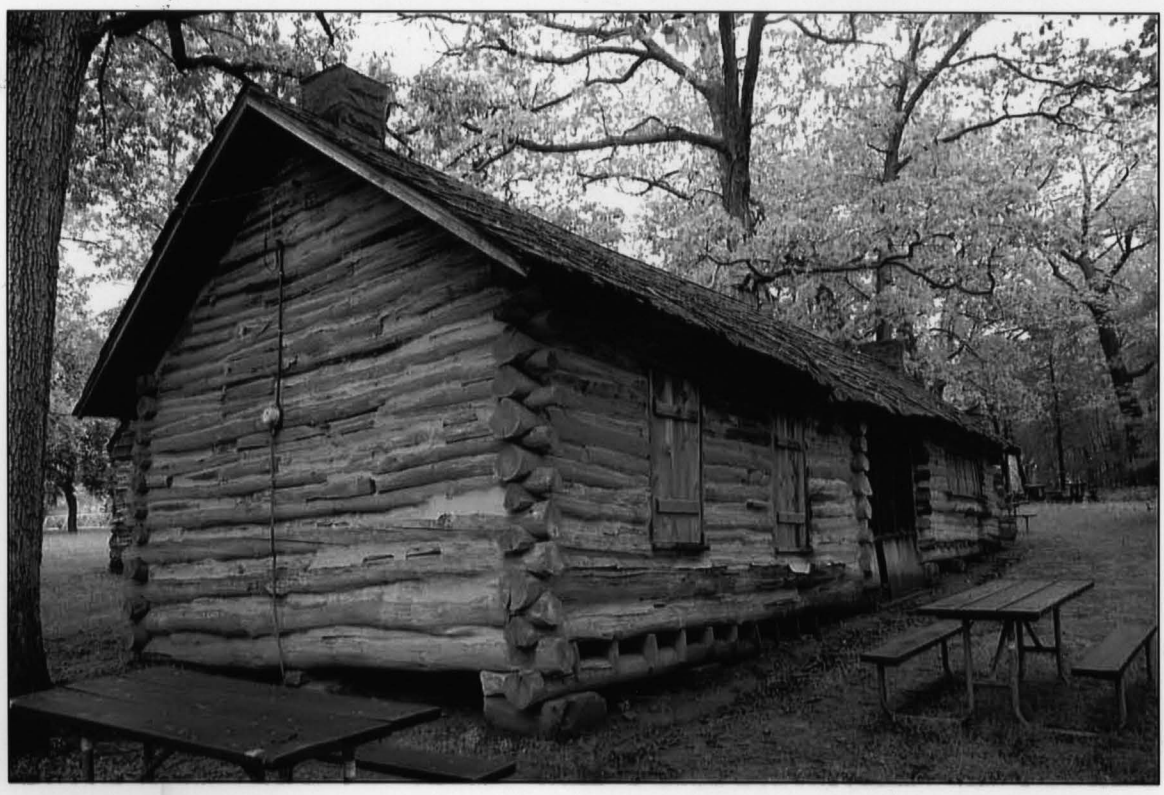
Photograph 2
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



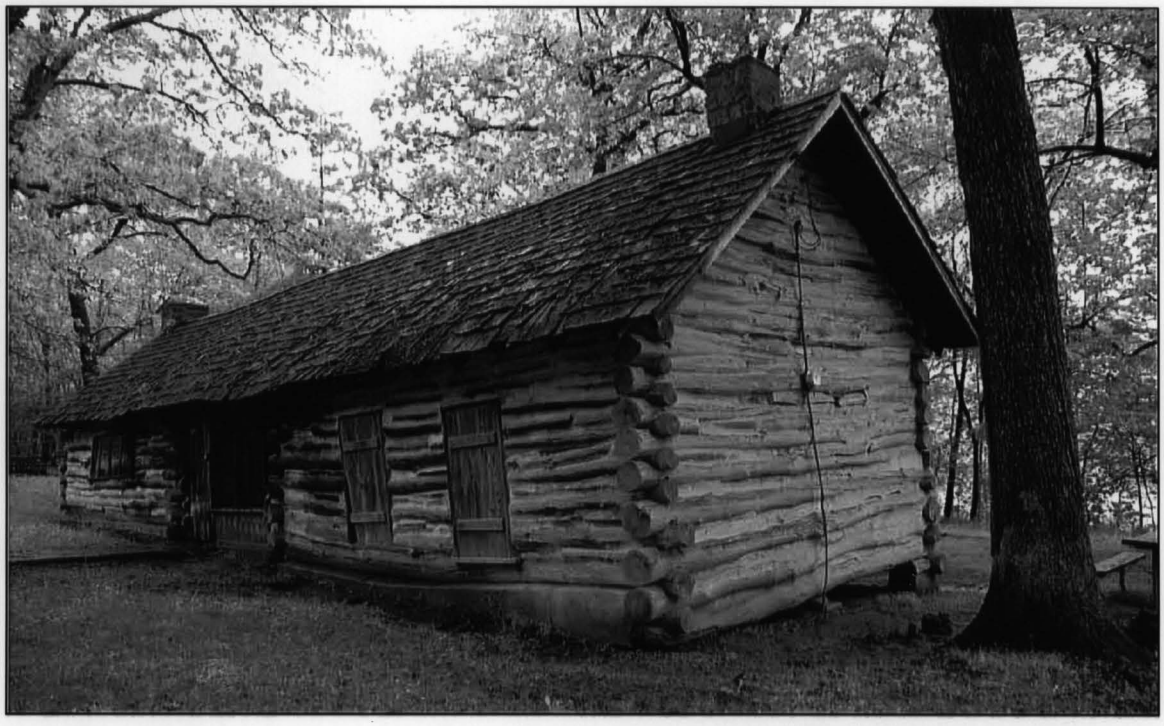
Photograph 3
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



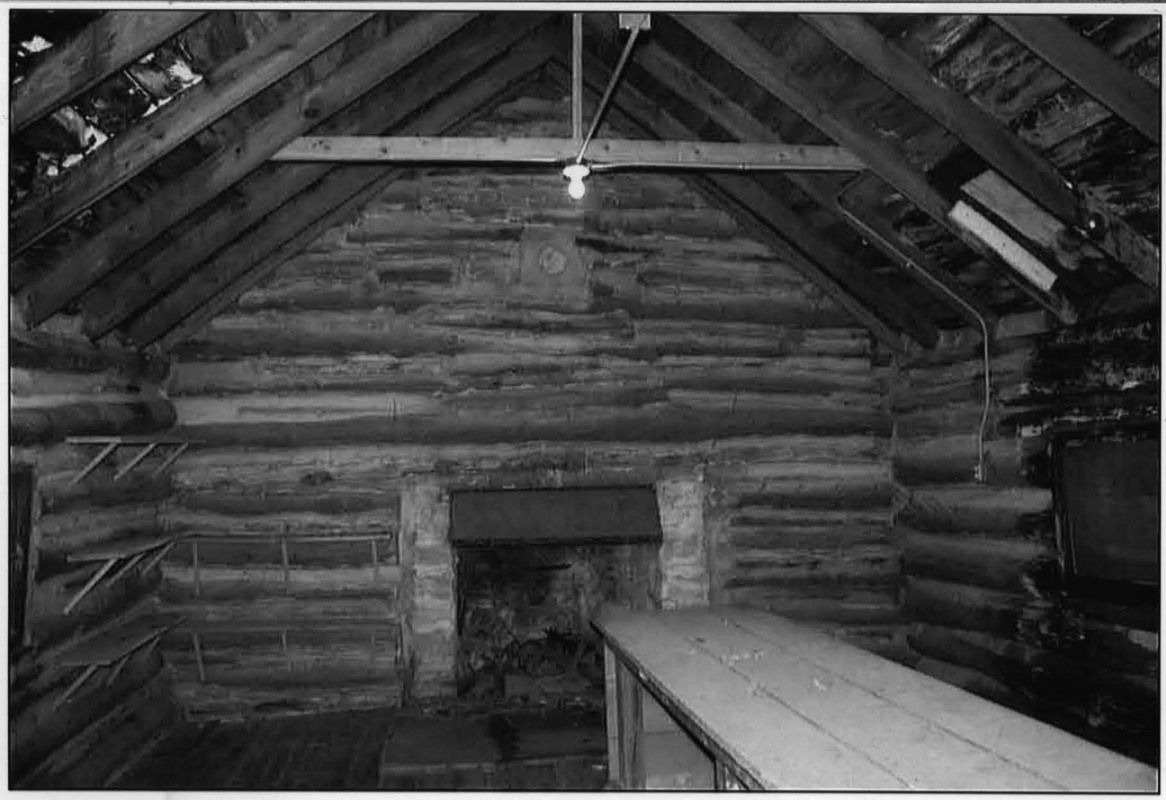
Photograph 4
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



Photograph 5
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

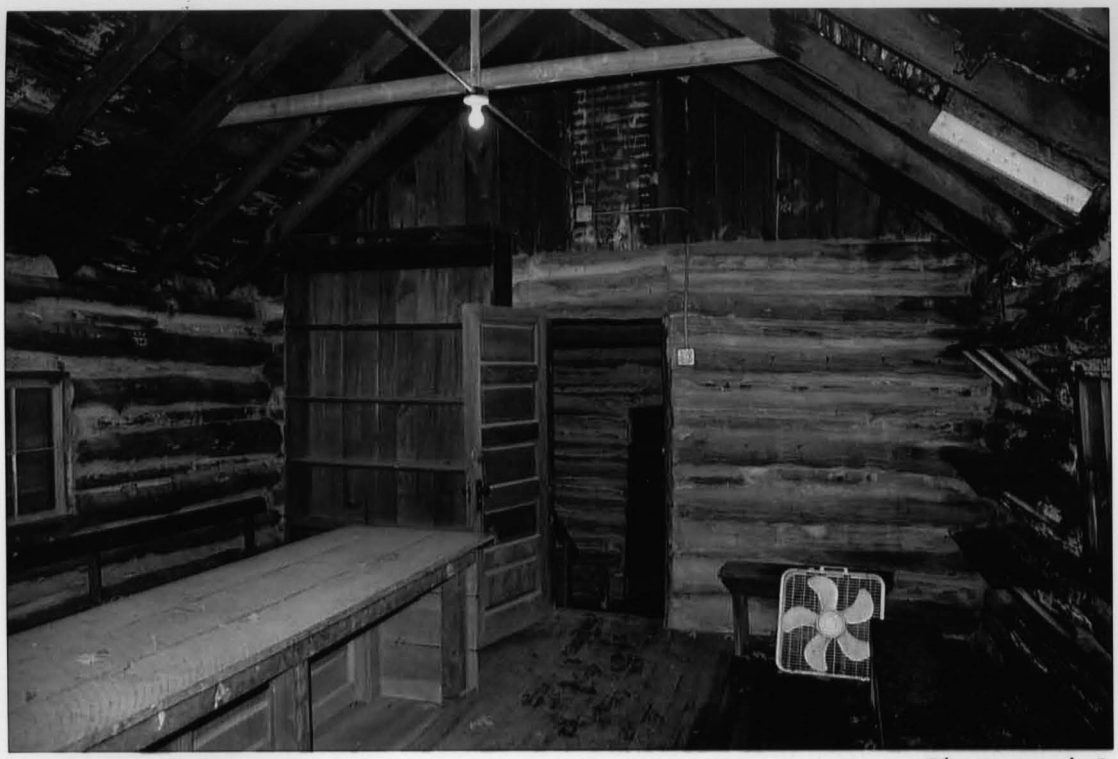


Photograph 6
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



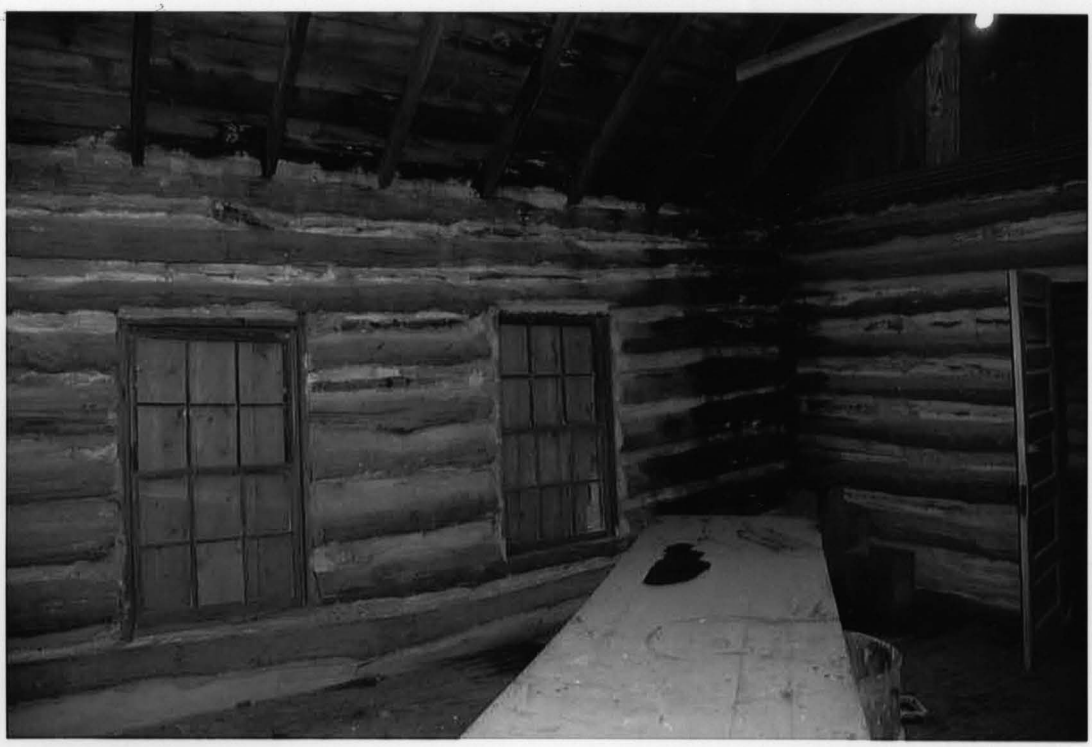
Photograph 7
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

Photograph 8
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



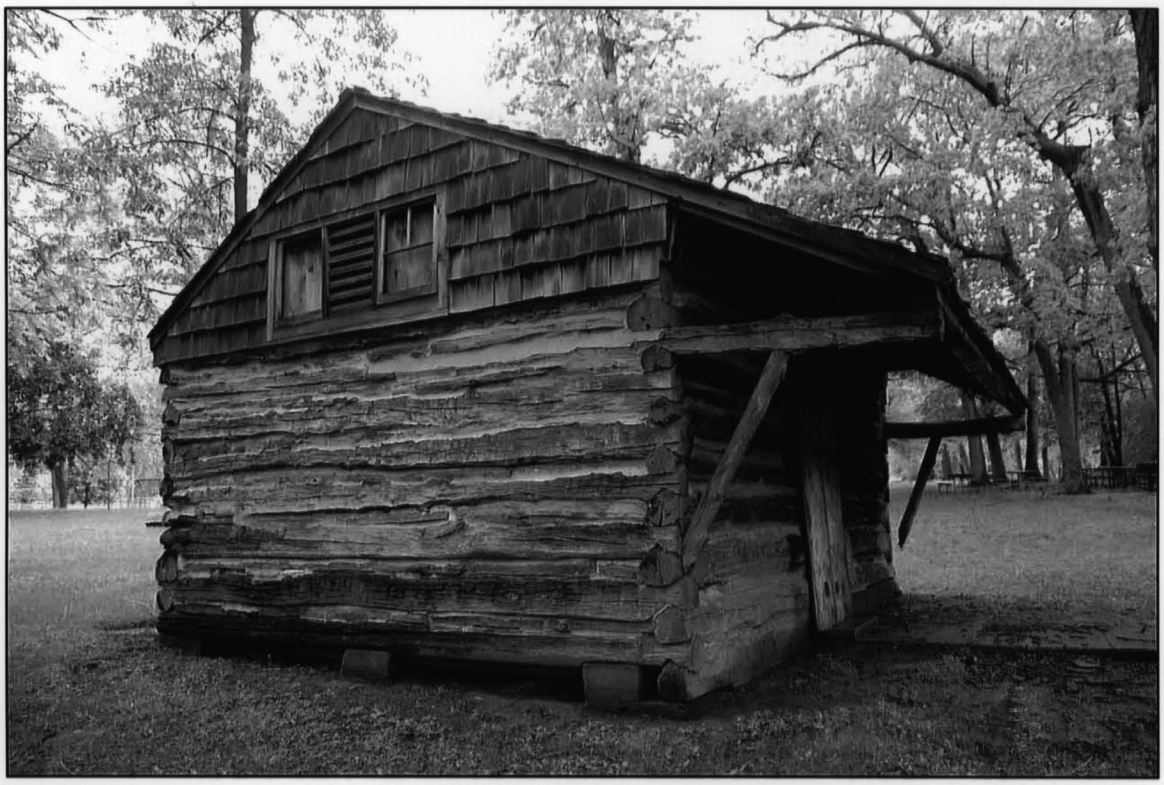
Photograph 9
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

Photograph 10
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

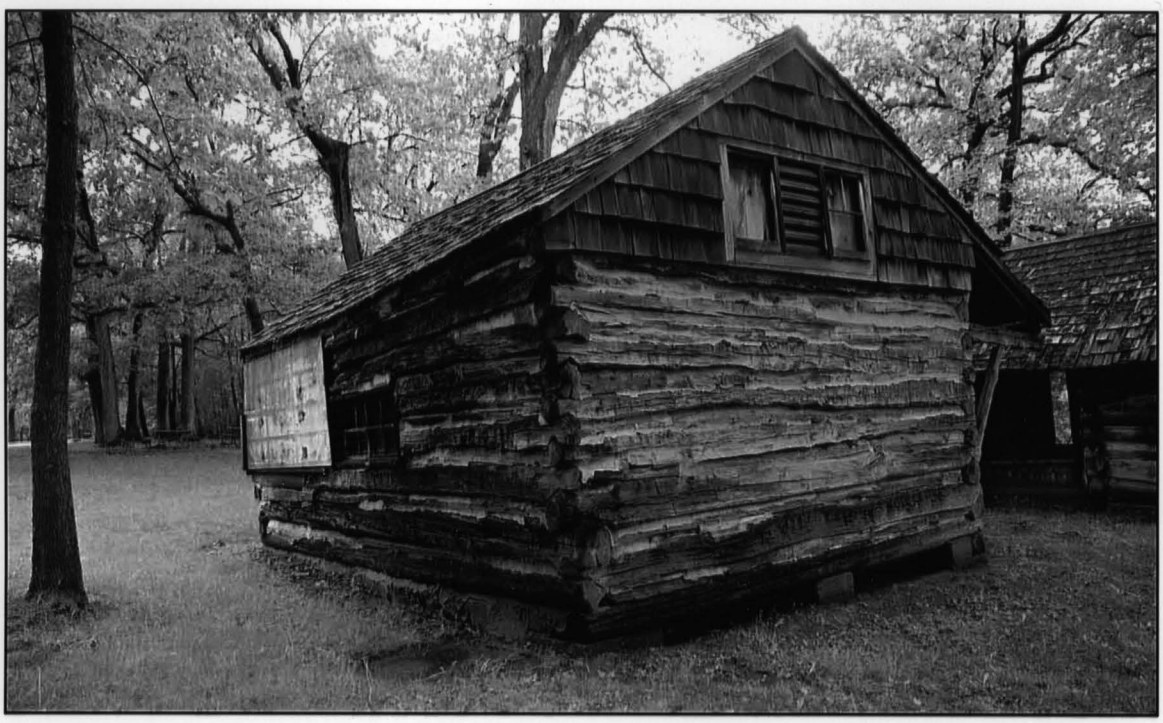


Photograph 11
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

Photograph 12
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



Photograph 13
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa



Photograph 14
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

Photograph 15
Old Settlers' Association of Johnson Co. Cabins, Johnson County, Iowa

Photograph 16
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