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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 Garretson, Owen A. and Emma J. (Dilts), House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1878 335th Street

city or town Salem

state Iowa

code IA

county Henry

code 87

N/A	not for publication
x	vicinity

zip code 52649

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Steve King

Date

4 SEPT 2015

State Historical Society of Iowa
 State Historic Preservation Office

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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Steve Edson H. Beall

10-23-15

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House
Name of Property

Henry County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / processing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD / Weatherboard
roof: ASBESTOS
other: _____

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House
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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House sits on one of the oldest family farms in Iowa in southern rural Jackson Township in southern Henry County. The frame Queen Anne house was built for Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson in 1899-1901 on the farm of his father Joel C. Garretson, who settled here in spring 1837, and the property remains in the Garretson family. The house sits along the old Agency Road, now 335th Street, which led from Burlington through Henry County and on to points to the west. Farmsteads line the road, including a mix of older and newer houses and buildings. The overall setting of the property remains rural and agricultural. The Queen Anne house retains many original features, including asymmetrical massing, fishscale shingle gables with gable returns, a side bay window, cornerboards, window surrounds, and the overall form and sunburst gable of the porch. The kitchen and second story retain original bulls-eye and heavy fluted trim, tall baseboard, and five panel doors on the interior. While some alterations have been made, the overall historic integrity of the house is good.

Narrative Description

The Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House is a two-story frame Queen Anne house built in 1899-1901. The frame house is clad in weatherboard siding, with wood fishscale shingles in the gables. Windows throughout the house are typically one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds that include a small lintel detail. The asbestos slate roof was installed in the late 1930s, replacing the original wood shingle roof. In 2011, the stone foundation was failing, and the house was raised to permit a new concrete foundation/basement to be installed. The brick chimneys were removed as part of the house raising. Stone was salvaged from the original foundation and utilized for the porch foundation and basement window wells. The wood flooring of the front wrap-around porch was also removed for the foundation installation, with the porch roof remaining intact. A new porch floor was then installed, and new square treated wood columns have been temporarily installed. The remaining original components of the wood balustrade were retained, with missing elements milled to match the existing. While historic photographs show additional decorative detail on the porch (turned columns, top rail, brackets, etc), it is believed that these elements were removed in the 1950s when the porch was screened in. The long-term restoration plan includes restoration of these features, based on the historic photographs. The decorative sunburst gable above the porch entry is original and remains intact. The side porches were removed as part of the foundation work. A small entry porch on the east side of the rear kitchen ell was rebuilt as a full side porch. The work porch on the east side of the kitchen ell has yet to be rebuilt.

The front (north) elevation has the wrap-around porch, as described above. The façade is flat, though a gable on the west half and corner boards on the second story provide illusion of a projected gable-roof section. The main entry and a picture window with transom is located on the first story in this half, with a picture window with transom on the east half of the first story as well. The transom windows have small panes around the perimeter, including red squares. The historic front door also had red glass inset in the window. The current door dates to the remodeling in the late 1930s. The second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on each half. The front gable has fishscale shingles, gable returns, and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window.

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House
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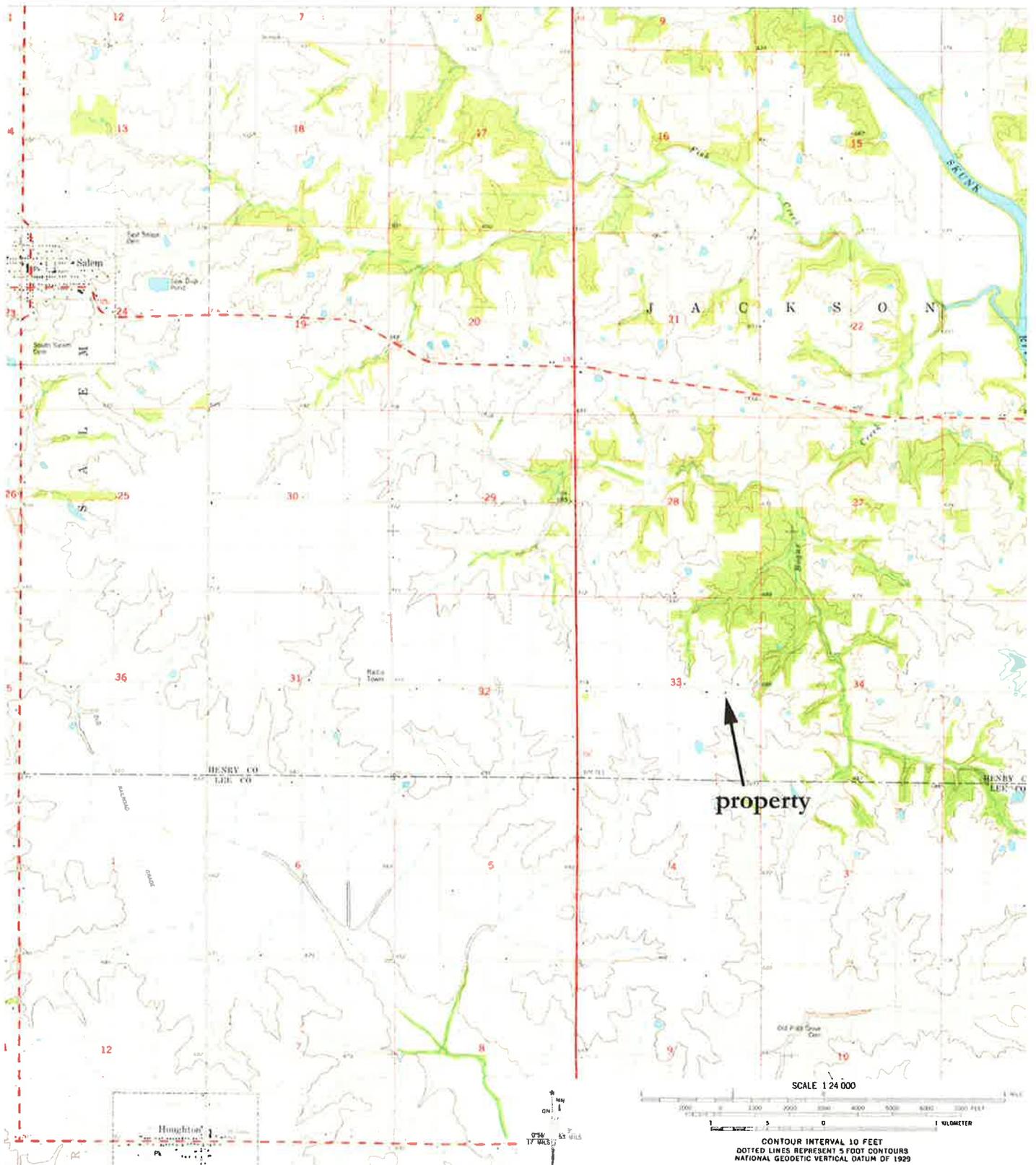


Figure 1. Location map for the Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House.
(Salem, USGS topographic quadrangle map, 1981)

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House
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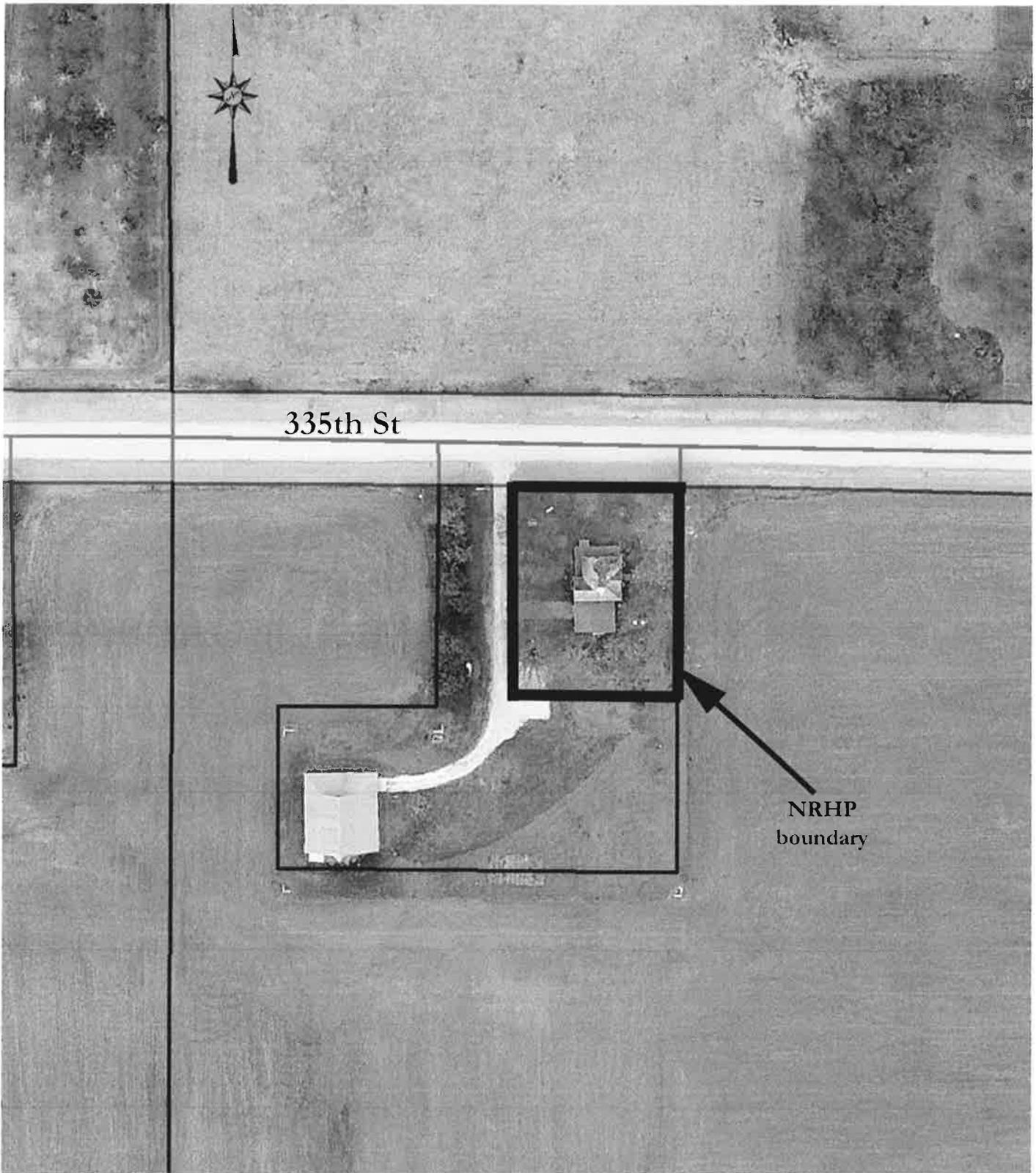


Figure 2. Site plan for Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House, with National Register boundary indicated (McCarley 2014). Map scale – 1"=100'
(Base aerial photography from April 2013 from Henry County Planning/GIS)

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The west side has a gable-roof section that projects from the south half of the main section of the house. It creates a short north elevation, with a side entry on the first story and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on the second story. The west side of this projected section has a decorative square bay window on the first story, with a picture window and transom identical to the two front windows. The bay window has brackets along the bottom and fishscale shingles for the roof. A stone basement window well was added under this window during the foundation/basement work. The second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window, and the gable is identical to the front gable with fishscale wood shingles, gable returns, and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. The front/north half of the west elevation has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on the first story and two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the second story. The east side of the main section of the house has two widely spaced one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the first story. A basement window with stone window well is located under each of these windows, added with the foundation work. A cellar door is located between these windows. The second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window above each of the first story windows with a third (stair/hall) window in the center. A decorative gable is centered on the roof on this side, with details identical to the other two gables including fishscale wood shingles, gable returns, and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window.

The south/rear side of the house has a one-story kitchen ell that was constructed at the same time as the main section of the house. Three one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows are visible on the second story of the main section of the house, and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window and rear entry with transom is located on the west side of the first story, opening onto the west side porch. As noted, this porch was rebuilt as a full porch after the foundation work was completed, with wood elements designed to match the front porch. This porch has a concrete floor/foundation. The west side of the rear kitchen ell has a second entry with transom onto this porch and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. The rear/south elevation has a centered entry with a large one-over-one-light double-hung wood window to the east and a smaller one-over-one-light double-hung wood window to the west. The east side of the rear kitchen ell has a side entry with transom and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. Basement stairs in this area were reworked due to the foundation work, and a landing was installed to achieve the correct slope. The entry and window locations were then flipped to the current locations.

The first story has a parlor that stretches across the front/north half of the house. Woodwork in this room dates to the late 1930s, when son Sumner Garretson "updated" several rooms on the first story. It reflects the simpler lines of the Art Deco and Craftsman styles popular in this period, rather than the heavy decorative Queen Anne molding likely originally found in the room. A fireplace added along the south side also in this remodeling was removed with the foundation work, and the wood floor has been patched and a stove similar to the original installed. The wood floor has also been recently refinished (spring 2013). French doors lead to the dining room on the west side of the south half of the main section. The wood trim in the dining room was likewise updated in the late 1930s, and the doors date to this period as well. The east side of the south half of the main section includes the enclosed stairs to the second story and a small bedroom/office. This room likewise has trim dating to the late 1930s remodel. Crown molding was added during the repairs and painting in 2012. The rear kitchen ell includes the kitchen with a half bathroom at the south end. A built-in wood pantry and wood wainscoting remain in the kitchen, with 1950s cabinets removed and replaced with cabinets salvaged from another house in 2012 (Aldo Leopold's childhood home, Clay Street, Burlington) and supplemented with new similar cabinets. Layers of linoleum were removed from the floor, with a tile floor installed. The kitchen retains original profiled wide molding with bulls-eye corners.

The stairs to the second story extend to the east near the center of the main section of the house. A simple wood handrail extends along the south wall, with a short balustrade and decorative Queen Anne newel post on the north side of the east end. The second story includes the center hall with two front/north bedrooms and three rear/south bedrooms. Remaining work to paint the plaster walls and ceilings and refinish the wood floors

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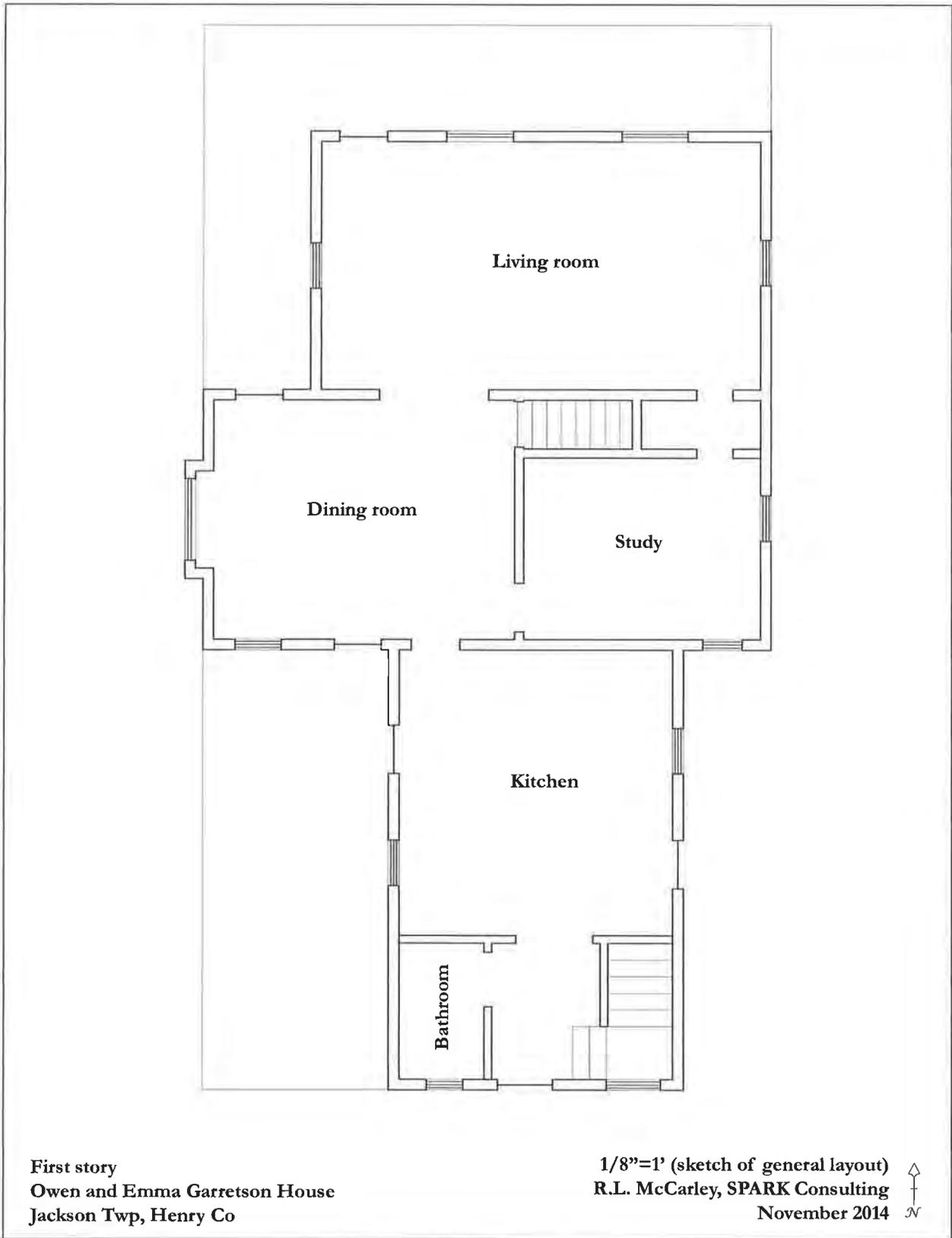


Figure 3. First story of the Garretson house.

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House
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Second story
Owen and Emma Garretson House
Jackson Twp, Henry Co

1/8"=1' (sketch of general layout)
R.L. McCarley, SPARK Consulting
November 2014



Figure 4. Second story of the Garretson house.

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was completed in December 2014 on the second story. The wood doors are five panel in style, with four vertical panels and a center horizontal panel. Trim around doors and windows is similar to the kitchen with wide fluted boards and bulls-eye corner blocks. Baseboard is tall with a profiled top. The center room on the south/rear side is a bathroom, with access to the walk-up attic from this room. The attic has a wide wood floor and is otherwise not finished. It is currently used for storage of older items that were left in the house by previous generations.

The basement dates to the new foundation work in 2011. A full basement apartment was created during this remodeling work, including living room, kitchen/dining room, bedroom, and bathroom. The basement has now been converted for operations for the East Grove winery. Basement window wells on the west and east provide full windows for light and emergency access. No ceiling was installed, leaving the original wood joists for the first story floor exposed.

The NRHP boundary includes only the immediate area around the house, approximately 40 feet in each direction from the house extending to parcel lines and the driveway. The house currently sits on a 1.5 acre parcel, which extends to the west to include a large gable-roof barn. Per family history: "A hand hewn post and beam barn (timbers currently stored in the existing barn) was built by Joel C. Garretson and was located north of the newer barn. The newer barn that stands today was moved from Croton, IA to its current location in the late 1930s by Sumner Garretson" (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). The remainder of original homestead and additional acquired land continues to be owned and managed by the Garretson family. The farm land owned by the heirs of Sumner, Howard, and Gilbert includes parcels totaling about 845 acres (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012). The broader family property may have potential for archeological significance for association with the activities of Joel C. Garretson in the period prior to the construction of this house by Owen A. Garretson.

The Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House retains good historic integrity. The house remains on its original site and located within the rural agricultural setting of Jackson Township. The overall integrity of design, workmanship, and materials is good. It retains its association to the period that Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson lived here from 1901 to 1933 and the overall feeling of a rural house, surrounded by agricultural land and other rural homes. Specific aspects of the integrity of the property include:

Location: The house remains on its original site in Section 33 of rural Jackson Township in Henry County.

Setting: The setting of the Garretson house historically and currently is agricultural, with a number of farms surrounding the property. These farms have a mix of older and newer buildings.

Design: The overall design of the Garretson house remains intact, and it clearly communicates its original design as a Queen Anne house completed in 1901. The house retains many original features, including asymmetrical massing, fishscale shingle gables with gable returns, side bay window, cornerboards, window surrounds, and the overall form and sunburst gable of the porch. The kitchen and second story retains original bulls-eye and heavy fluted trim, tall baseboard, and five panel doors on the interior. The updates to the living room and dining room in the late 1930s do not detract significantly from the overall design.

Materials: The house retains excellent integrity of its historic materials, including wood siding, wood windows with surrounds, decorative wood details, wood entry and window trim on the interior, and wood floors. The asbestos slate roof from the late 1930s remains on the house, and the new concrete foundation was required in 2011 to stabilize the house.

Workmanship: The historic workmanship of the house continues to be strongly reflected in the overall historic design elements and materials, as noted above.

Feeling: The overall feeling of the Garretson house is that of rural country house built at the turn of the 20th century.

Association: The Garretson house retains good association to the period that Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson lived here from 1901 to 1933, with the few updates to this house since this period not significantly impacting the overall original Queen Anne design.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Period of Significance

1901-1933

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Garretson, Owen A.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House is nominated at a local level of significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for the significance of the prominent Henry County resident Owen A. Garretson. Owen A. Garretson is significant within the social history of Henry County in several aspects, as well as within the history of the State of Iowa for his written contributions. Locally, he served as county supervisor, trustee of the Henry County Hospital, president of the board of trustees of Whittier Academy, president of the Henry County Historical Society, and delegate to state conventions for the Democratic party. Statewide, he was a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa, contributing numerous articles on the early history of Henry County and southeast Iowa to the *Palimpsest* and the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. He was "known all over the entire state for his contributions to the history and literature of the state" at the time of his death in February 1933 ("O.A. Garretson Rites at Salem," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 8, 1933, 1). The integrity of Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House is good, and it clearly communicates its original design as a Queen Anne house built in 1899-1901. The completion of the house in 1901 is noted as the significant date for the property. The period of significance spans from the completion of the house in 1901 until Owen A. Garretson's death in 1933.

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

The Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Owen A. Garretson. He was noted as "one of the most influential men of Henry county" at the time of his death in February 1933. Owen A. Garretson was born on this farm in 1852, youngest son of early Henry County resident and abolitionist Joel C. Garretson. He built a new Queen Anne house on the family farm in 1899-1901, and he lived here until his death in 1933. During this period, Owen A. Garretson was a prominent resident of Jackson Township, farmer, and historian. His obituary in February 1933 noted: "Mr. Garretson is known all over the entire state for his contributions to the history and literature of the state...Mr. Garretson was deeply interested in the preservation of historical data and was a frequent contributor to the *Palimpsest* and the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. His writings are preserved permanently in the archives of the State Historical Society at Des Moines and in every public library of the state." Among his articles, "Travelling on the Underground Railroad in Iowa," published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* in July 1924, documented Underground Railroad activities in Iowa and particularly in Salem and Jackson Townships, including the well-known Daggs trial and activities on the Garretson farm and Hoag farm to the north. Other articles documented the early history and events in southern Henry County and northern Lee County, many of which are significant within the early history of Iowa and serve as key sources of information for current historians. He also was one of the founders of the Henry County Historical Society, serving as its first president in 1926 until his death in 1933. Additionally, Owen A. Garretson was noted as holding "high standing among Henry County's leaders in the farm industry" in 1931, and he served as county supervisor for three terms (1907-09, 1923-27), director of war relief and the Red Cross drives (1917-18), chairman of the Henry County Fuel Commission (1917-18), trustee of Henry County Hospital (1919-28), president of the board of trustees of Whittier College for 20 years, and delegate to state conventions for the Democratic party (Harlan 1931, Vol. 5: 374). At the time of his death in 1933, through his numerous activities, offices, and organizations, he was noted as known in nearly every home in Henry County.

Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House
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Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Owen A. Garretson, 1852-1933

Owen A. Garretson was the son of two of the earliest Henry County settlers Joel C. and Elizabeth (Goodson) Garretson, who originally settled this farm in spring 1837. This family history appears to have partially led to his interest in documenting and preserving the early history of Henry County. Joel C. and I. Harvey Garretson travelled from Darby Creek in Franklin County, Ohio, in spring 1837 to Henry County, Iowa, settling on this tract of land and building a log cabin. Per later family history: "They built a small swing pole mill to grind grain for themselves and neighbors. The government survey party came through Jackson Twp. in August 1837 and noted in the survey the location of the Garretson house. With the corner sections marked by the survey crew, Joel and Harvey marked the parcels of land they hoped to buy but they had to wait until the official land offices were set up before they could purchase any property. A year later in 1838, having established shelter and possibly securing a claim for land, Joel brought back his wife Elizabeth with their first child Amos" (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012). Joel Garretson officially bought his land on December 1, 1841, including 80 acres of timber and 40 acres to the north along Agency Road where they then built their new one-and-one-half-story frame house. Brothers Joel and (Isaac) Harvey continued to buy additional land, owning nearly 500 acres in Henry and Lee counties by the late 1840s (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012; J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012; HCBC 1982: 202; SHBC 1996: 169). The Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House continues to sit on this land today, and the property is owned by Joel H. Garretson, Jr.

The Garretsons were among several early families that settled around Salem in 1836 to 1838. Aaron Street had visions of founding a new town on this frontier for members of the Society of Friends, and Salem was platted in southwest Henry County. The town of Salem grew significantly in its first year, with additional Friends arriving on a regular basis (Garretson 1924: 420-21; SHBC 1996: 9; Jaynes 1976: 2). The members of the Society of Friends at Salem became known statewide in the 1840s for their anti-slavery views and belief in equal legal rights for all citizens, including blacks. Stations on the Underground Railroad in Salem included the Henderson Lewelling House, William Lewelling (Isaac Gibbs) House, Collins House, Gibson House, Shriner House, Bee Hive, Henderson House, Henderson hotel, and nearby farms of Joel C. Garretson and James D. Hoag (Garretson 1924: 426; HCBC 1982: 60; SHBC 1996: 11, 20, 169). Additional information on the anti-slavery activities in and around Salem can be found in NRHP nomination for the Henderson Lewelling House in Salem (updated in 2007) and in the June 2008 report *Reconnaissance Level Historical and Architectural Survey of the East Half of Salem Township, Henry County, Iowa* by Rebecca Lawin McCarley (on file at the State Historic Preservation Office and locally at the Salem and Mt. Pleasant libraries).

According to Owen A. Garretson's later article, Joel Garretson grew up in Virginia and saw slaves marching one day. This scene left a lasting impression, and he vowed to do what he could to eliminate slavery. After moving to Iowa in 1837, he spoke publicly on several occasions against slavery. While he was not a member of the Society of Friends as an adult, he was raised with their beliefs. He helped organize the Free Soil Party in Henry County and ran as a candidate for the legislature. His farm, five miles southeast of Salem in Jackson Township, was a known stop on the Underground Railroad. Various stories were later recounted of fugitives arriving at the farm. One fugitive arrived while Joel was gone, and Elizabeth casually directed the fugitive to hide nearby in the peach orchard. A search party arrived and searched to no avail, and Elizabeth later found the fugitive hiding and brought him food. Joel returned, and the fugitive hid in a thicket on a high ridge on the Hoag farm to the north for several days. His wife and child were located hiding elsewhere, family reunited, and Joel transported them to Nathan Kellum of New Garden at night, who then took them on to Denmark. A dagger left on the property by another fugitive was kept by Joel and passed down to son Owen. The Hoag

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house on the farm to the north was later owned by the Garretson family, and Owen noted it was built with a half-depth closet under the stairs with a trap door in the stairs to enter the hiding place (Garretson 1924: 424-26).

During this period of anti-slavery activities in southern Henry County, Owen Albright Garretson was born on January 23, 1852, the youngest son of Joel C. and Elizabeth Garretson. The 1859 atlas of Henry County shows that Joel C. Garretson owned the 160 acres of the southeast quarter of Section 33 in Jackson Township, about five miles southeast of Salem in east Salem Township. Joel C. and Elizabeth Garretson continued to live on this farm after the Civil War ended slavery. Joel was a minister, justice of the peace, and post master of the East Grove Post Office. He was also a founder of the Republican Party in Crawfordsville, Iowa. The 1870 atlas continues to show Joel C. Garretson as owning the 160 acres of the southeast quarter of Section 33, with their 1840s house noted near the center of the north edge along Agency Road (Thompson and Everts 1870). Joel and Elizabeth had six children, Amos, Emily, Julia, Albert, John, and Owen Albright (O.A.), with the younger four graduating from Whittier College in Salem. Julia became a doctor; John and Albert became attorneys; and Owen A. became an educator, farmer, county supervisor, and historian (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012). The 1870 census lists Joel C. Garretson (60, farmer), Elizabeth (54), Julia (24, teacher), Albert (22, farmer), John (20, farmer), and Owen (18, farmer). In 1874, Owen graduated from Whittier College in Salem. The 1880 census continues to list Joel and Elizabeth here, along with son Owen and son John and his wife Laura and their son Frank.

On October 27, 1881, Owen Albright Garretson married Emma Josephine Dilts. They initially lived with Joel and Elizabeth in the family home. Elizabeth died on December 4, 1887. Owen farmed the family farm in this period, and he was active in local and state politics. He was elected representative for the First District (of 11) at the organization of the state central committee for the People's Party on June 3, 1891 ("The New Party," *Oelwein Register*, June 11, 1891, 2). The 1895 atlas shows that O.A. Garretson owned/farmed the east half (80 acres) of the southeast quarter of Section 33, and Amos owned/farmed the west half (80 acres) in the southeast quarter of Section 33 (Figure 5). Both halves have houses, with the 1840s family home on the northwest corner of Owen's land in the east half. On February 20, 1896, Joel C. Garretson died, and the property officially transferred to his sons. Per family history: "After Joel C. and Elizabeth had passed away, O.A., who stayed on the farm, continued the farming operation alongside his older brother Amos. During the Panic of 1897, Emily, John, and Albert desired to sell out their share of the farm to O.A. Albert and John lived in the northwest states of Oregon and Washington, and Emily was in Indianapolis. Julia, while living in Ohio, kept the timber 80 acres and eventually sold the parcel to O.A. Amos continued to farm until his death in 1913 (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012).

With a growing family, Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson made plans to construct the larger two-story frame house to the east of the family home. Per family history: "This wood frame country Victorian house was built by O.A. and Emma Dilts Garretson at the turn of the twentieth century. Tax records indicate that it was built or under construction as early as 1899 and recollections of family members indicate the house was completed and moved in just after the turn of the century around 1901-1903. The house had a total of nine rooms and a full basement constructed of limestone. The first floor consisted of a kitchen, bedroom, dining room, and parlor. The upstairs had five bedrooms. A full attic was accessed by a stairway in one of the bedrooms. The house was equipped with gas lights and had a gas generator in the basement that created a gas by adding water to a carbide compound creating acetylene gas. The iron gas pipes still exist in the walls and ceilings of the house. The original roof was of cedar shingles and rain gutters were built into the roof edges. Rainwater was collected in the cistern located on the southeast corner of the kitchen. A hand pump and riveted steel pressure tank in the basement fed water to a plumbing system for the kitchen and bathroom. Heating was provided by a large Round Oak pot bellied stove located on the first floor in the center of the house in the dining room. Open

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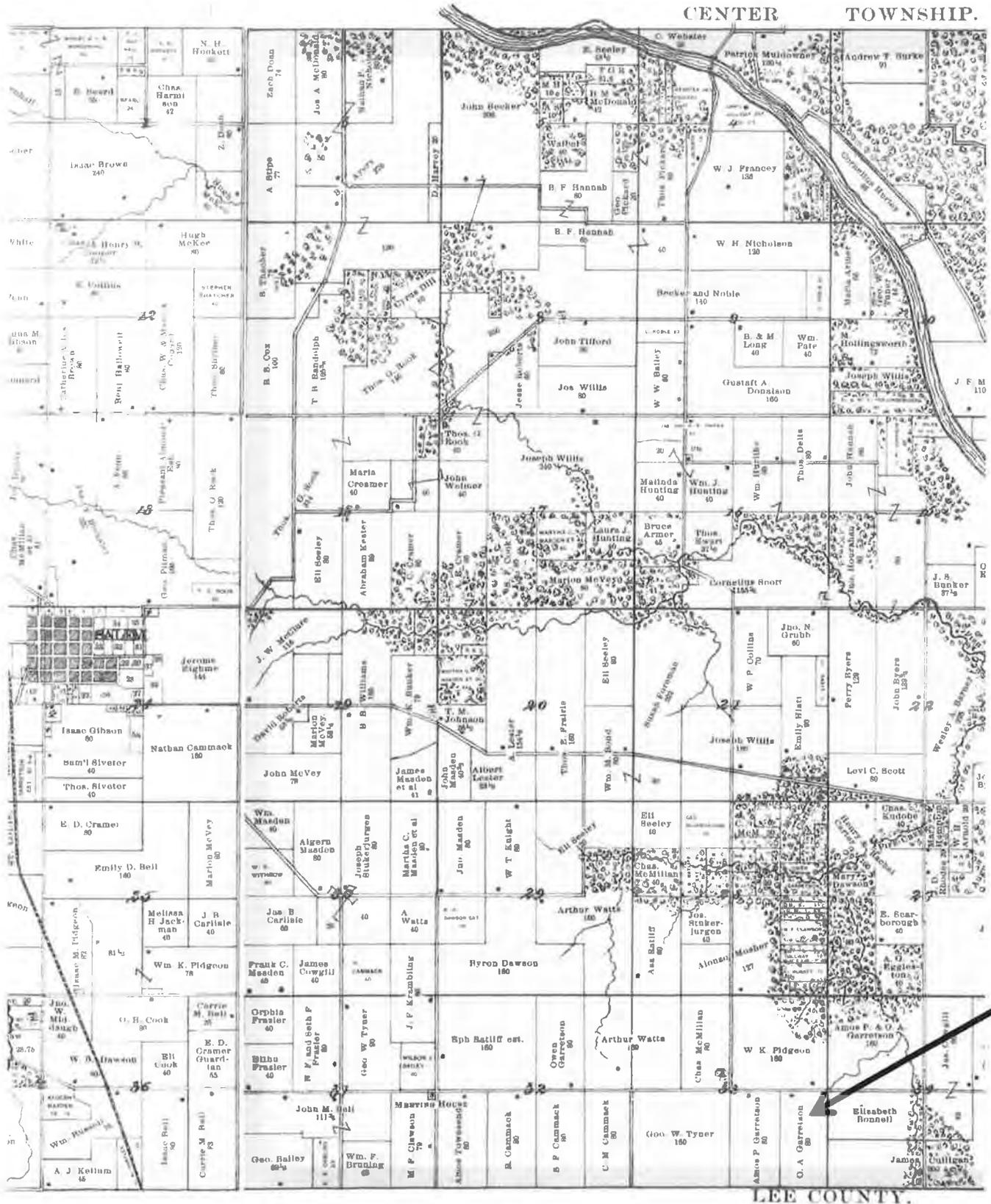


Figure 5. 1895 map of Salem and Jackson Township, with property indicated (Brooks and Whiting 1895: 11-12).

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Figure 6. Delilah photo of the Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House, c.1906

(Garretson Family website: www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson_Photo_Gallery/Pages/Owen_A._Garretson.html)

natural convection registers and the stairwell allowed heat to rise to the second floor bedrooms. In extreme cold weather, the front north parlor room was closed and the second floor could also be closed off if necessary. During the winter, it was a common practice to pull up the carpet and lay down a layer of straw beneath the carpet to make the floor warmer. A brick flue in the kitchen indicated that a wood stove for both cooking and heating had been there (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

The history continues: "On the exterior, the house was equipped with wood shutters for privacy and protection from inclement weather. An intricately detailed front porch was built on the north and northwest sides of the house. A small closed in side porch on the west side of the kitchen was the main entrance. A "working" back porch on the east side of the kitchen was used by the women for doing laundry and other household cleaning chores. A 30' deep 24" bored and tiled well off the north side of the back porch provided water for drinking, cooking, cleaning, and laundry. A grape arbor extended the shade of the porch to the east and a dinner bell was attached to a pole in the arbor. The house sits on old Agency Road, a military road running from Burlington to the Indian outpost of Agency, one of the first officially recognized roads in the area. Visitors to the Garretson house would hitch their horses, buggies, and wagons to the hitching posts in front of the house. Joel's old house was then repurposed as a storage building on the farm until the late 1930s when it was eventually dismantled (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

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Through the first quarter of the 20th century, Owen A. Garretson ran a successful stock farm operation, as well as raising six sons with Emma in their new house. The 1900 census lists Owen (age 48, farmer), Emma (39), Sumner (17), Wendell T. (14), O. Alvin (12), J. Howard (9), Herman J. (9), and Gilbert (10 months). He advertised goats for sale in September 1907: "Five hundred head of goats, 200 wethers, 300 nannies in lots to suit purchaser. Goats always on hand." - O.A. Garretson (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, September 19, 1907, 4). His March 1908 property assessment also reflected a number of goats: 345 goats (\$1,152), 90 swine (\$308), four colts (\$296), 15 horses (\$1,320), six heifers (\$100, three cows (\$48), one bull (\$16), and one dog (Garretson files). He also remained active in several organizations in Salem in this period. Owen and Emma were part of the Old Settler's Association in Salem, and Owen delivered the address of welcome in August 1905 ("Old Settlers at Salem," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, August 9, 1905, 3). Owen also served on the board of trustees for Whittier Academy, and he was president at the time of the commencement on May 21, 1908 ("Whittier Programs," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 4, 1908, 3). The 1910 census continues to list Owen Garretson as a farmer at age 58, living here with wife Emma (48) and sons Wendell T. (23), Owen Alvin (22), Joel Howard (19), Herman J. (19), and Gilbert (10). Through this period, Owen acquired additional land, enlarging his farm and selling some land to send his sons to college. The prominence of Owen Garretson and his property was recognized with the inclusion of a photograph in the 1911-12 directory of Henry County (Figure 7).



Residence of O. A. GARRETSON, Jackson Townsh

Figure 7. Photograph of Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House in 1911-1912 county directory (Mason 1911: 155).

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Figure 8. O.A. Garretson in front of house at a later date.

(Garretson Family website: [www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson Photo Gallery/Pages/Owen A. Garretson.html](http://www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson%20Photo%20Gallery/Pages/Owen%20A.%20Garretson.html))

Owen A. Garretson continued to expand his farm operations through the 1910s. After his older brother Amos died in 1913, O.A. was able to purchase Amos' land, including the west 80 (behind Bainters) and the Edgar 80 (Rukgarber 80). He later purchased the 160 acre former Hoag farm to the north. The 1917 atlas shows that he owned the full southeast quarter of Section 33 (160 acres) owned in the 19th century by Joel, the northeast quarter of Section 33 (160 acres), the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 34 (80 acres), and the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 27. By the 1920s, Owen acquired about 775 acres of farm and timber land. His 1931 biography notes that he had a large business buying and selling live stock for many years and "enjoyed high standing among Henry County's leaders in the farm industry" (Harlan 1931, Vol. 5: 374). His business success permitted him to send his six sons to the best universities. Sumner became a farmer, stock raiser, and realtor, as well as one of the earliest promoters of soybeans in the Midwest. Wendell and Howard became doctors, with Howard practicing in Mt. Pleasant and Wendell in Detroit (personal physician of Henry Ford). Alvin served in World War I and went into the insurance business in California, and Herman was likewise in the financial business in Los Angeles. Gilbert became a journalist and professor of journalism in Oklahoma (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012; Harlan 1931, Vol. 5: 374).

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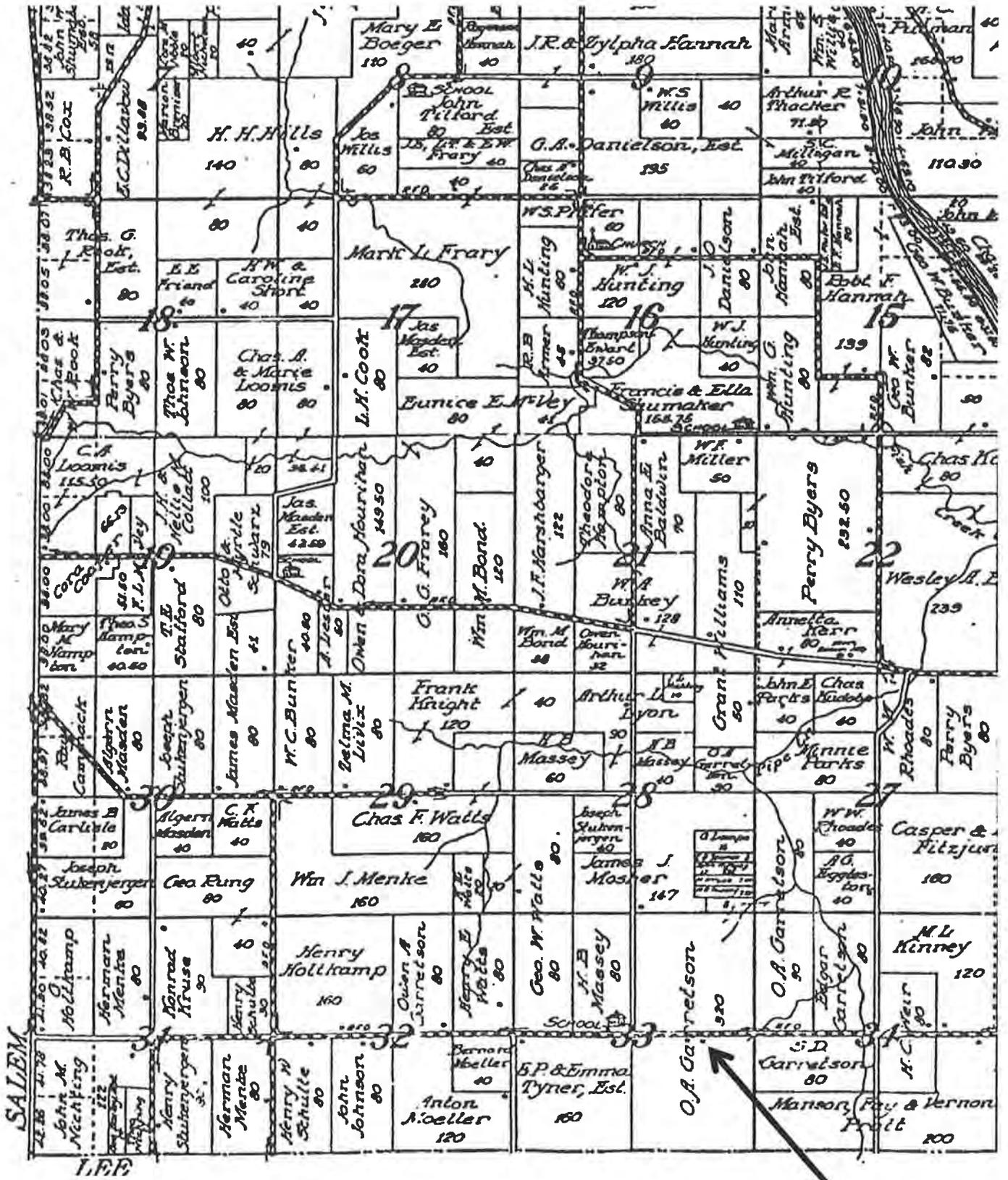


Figure 9. 1917 map of Jackson Township, with Garretson house indicated (Ogle 1917: 25).

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Perhaps due to the success of his farm operations, Owen Garretson was an active local leader, particularly later in life during the period that he resided in this house. His obituary from February 1933 notes that he was "one of the most influential men of Henry County" and "a man of fine character and represented in his entire makeup the traits which marked the pioneer stock from which he came." He was "interested in all enterprises contributing to the uplift of his community and served in various fields of public activity" ("Owen A. Garretson," *Salem News*, February 8, 1933). In 1896, he joined the Democratic party, remaining active in the party from this point until his death in 1933. He was a leader in the party in Henry County and frequently served as a delegate to state conventions (Harlan 1931, Vol. 5: 374). Owen A. Garretson first ran for county supervisor as a Democrat in November 1899, though he lost. He was elected as a delegate to the state convention for Democrats in April 1900 and August 1901. He served numerous times as a member of the Grand Jury for Henry County, which annually reviewed all matters related to county operations ("Henry County's Official Vote," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, November 16, 1899, 3; "Free Silver Won," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, August 19, 1901, 1; "Two Conventions," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, April 30, 1900, 1; "Court House Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, September 30, 1902, 1). In 1910, the Historical Department of Iowa in Des Moines sent out a number of questionnaires to Iowans soliciting biographical information, and Owen A. Garretson filled out one of these four page forms. The family history included information as stated previously. After he received his bachelor's degree from Whittier College in 1874, he was a school teacher as well as a stock dealer and farmer in the early 1880s. He was trustee and acting president of Board of Directors for Whittier (College) Academy in 1910. As a Democrat, he had served as president of the Board of Directors of Jackson Township, repeatedly as township trustee, township assessor in 1901, and county supervisor in 1907-08 (SHSI files).

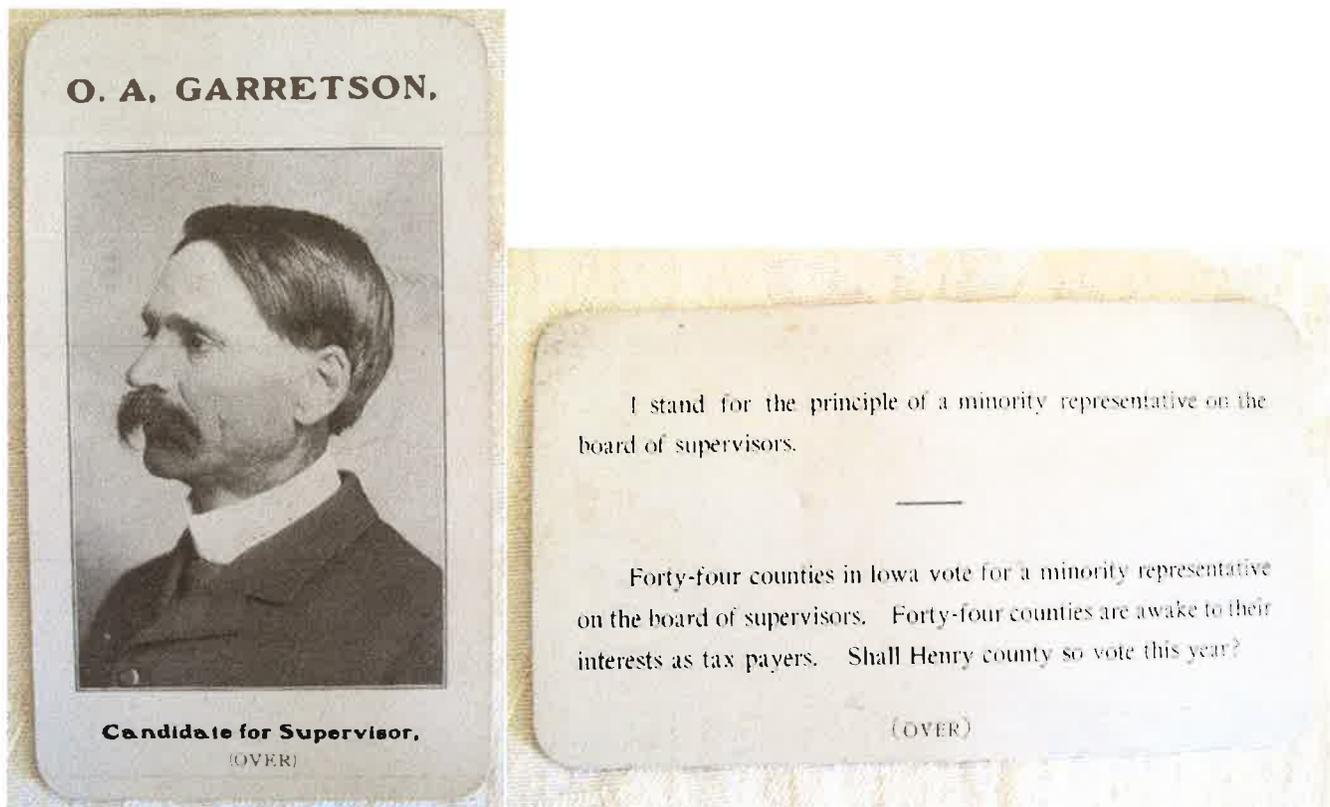


Figure 10. Campaign card for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).

Owen A. Garretson served his first term as one of three supervisors on the Board of Supervisors for Henry County in 1907 to 1909, elected in November 1906 at age 54. At this time, there was concern over Republican mismanagement of county funds. The Democratic platform for Henry County in fall 1906 focused on open proceedings and "an economical efficient administration of county affairs." They also supported good roads:

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"Good roads are of vital importance to every citizen of Henry County, to farmers and business men alike. We therefor favor all reasonable appropriation for this purpose, providing always that all road and bridge material be purchased by the Board of Supervisors from the lowest responsible bidder" ("All is Harmony," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, September 9, 1906, 3). Owen A. Garretson was elected as supervisor, joining H.K. Smith and Elmer F. Leech. The first order of business was review of county books and establishing more formal procedures for payments. The accounting firm of Worthington and Richmond was hired to review county records for the past five years, issuing a report in August noting a shortage of over \$6,600 due to erroneous methods of accounting, fees not collected, over paid fees to officials, money paid out without authority, and monies not accounted for through carelessness ("County Short \$6,603.83," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, August 2, 1907, 3). With books in order, the supervisors performed their typical duties and operations. Owen A. Garretson was elected as chair for 1908, with no special legislation or issues noted as needing to be addressed in the year ("A New Supervisor," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, January 6, 1908, 3). Bridges were in good shape, with materials on hand and districts established the previous year with review of four townships by each supervisor ("Established Bridge Districts," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, January 17, 1907, 4). However, the Republicans swept the November 1908 elections in Henry County as William Taft was elected president, with Garretson and Leech voted out of office ("Henry Co. Republican," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, November 4, 1908, 3).

Through the 1910s, Owen A. Garretson continued to serve various roles within the Democratic party. He was elected again as delegate to the state convention in Burlington in May 1912, also serving as delegate in several other years ("County Democrats for Champ Clark," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, May 4, 1912, 1). In 1912, when Woodrow Wilson was running for president, he received a certificate from the Democratic National Convention that he had been commissioned as a member of the National Minute Men Committee (Figure 11) (Garretson collection). During World War I, Owen A. Garretson served as chairman of the Henry County Fuel Conservative Commission, noted as one of the "dollar a year" men while two sons served overseas. He assisted in the Liberty loans and was also a director of war relief and Red Cross drives (Harlan 1931, Vol. 5: 374; "Henry Co. Awaits Ouster Verdict," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 7, 1927, 1; Garretson 1924: 402). At the end of the war, he supported the efforts of the League to Enforce Peace, a national organization based in New York with William H. Taft as president advocating for the establishment of a multi-national peace organization. He received a card to serve as speaker in March 1919: "Reposing special trust in the patriotism, fidelity, and abilities of O.A. Garretson, we have appointed and hereby accredit him as a speaker for the League to Enforce Peace." The enclosed letter requested that notes be made of all speaking engagements, including the reception of the address, and sent to the organization to monitor support for the cause (Garretson files). Efforts led to the establishment of the League of Nations in January 1920.

Owen A. Garretson served on the Board of Trustees for the Henry County Soldiers and Sailor's Memorial Hospital from 1919 until 1928. After years of work, a bond issue to support a county hospital passed in September 1919. In January, the Board of Trustees of the Henry County Hospital was appointed by the Board of Supervisors, including Owen Garretson of Jackson Township, John W. McKinnon of New London, James Bates of Trenton, N.C. Buck of Center Township, and C.S. Rogers, F.B. Crane, and J.H. Lauger of Mt Pleasant. Charles S. Rogers, publisher and editor of the *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, was elected as president. They quickly worked to inspect sites for the county hospital, as well as examining the earlier county hospitals built under state legislation in 1912 in nearby Washington and Fairfield. G.L. Lockhart of St Paul, Minnesota quickly drew up plans, but issues with high material costs resulting in high bids delayed the start of construction. The appointed Board of Trustees was officially elected to serve by the November 1920 election, with Garretson drawing an initial term through 1925. The ground breaking was held on March 16, 1921, and the cornerstone for the hospital was laid on April 24, 1921 ("Hospital Board Organizes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, January 19, 1920, 3; "Corner Stone Laid," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, April 25, 1921, 3). The hospital was completed for public inspection on December 10, opening to patients on December 14, 1921. While running for county supervisor in 1922, an article on the Henry County politics in the *Davenport Democrat and Leader* supporting Owen Garretson noted that he had "done splendid work as a trustee of the Henry county hospital and deserves support" ("Frank Wyse of Los Angeles Mt. Pleasant Guest," *Davenport Democrat and Leader*, September 27, 1922, 2).

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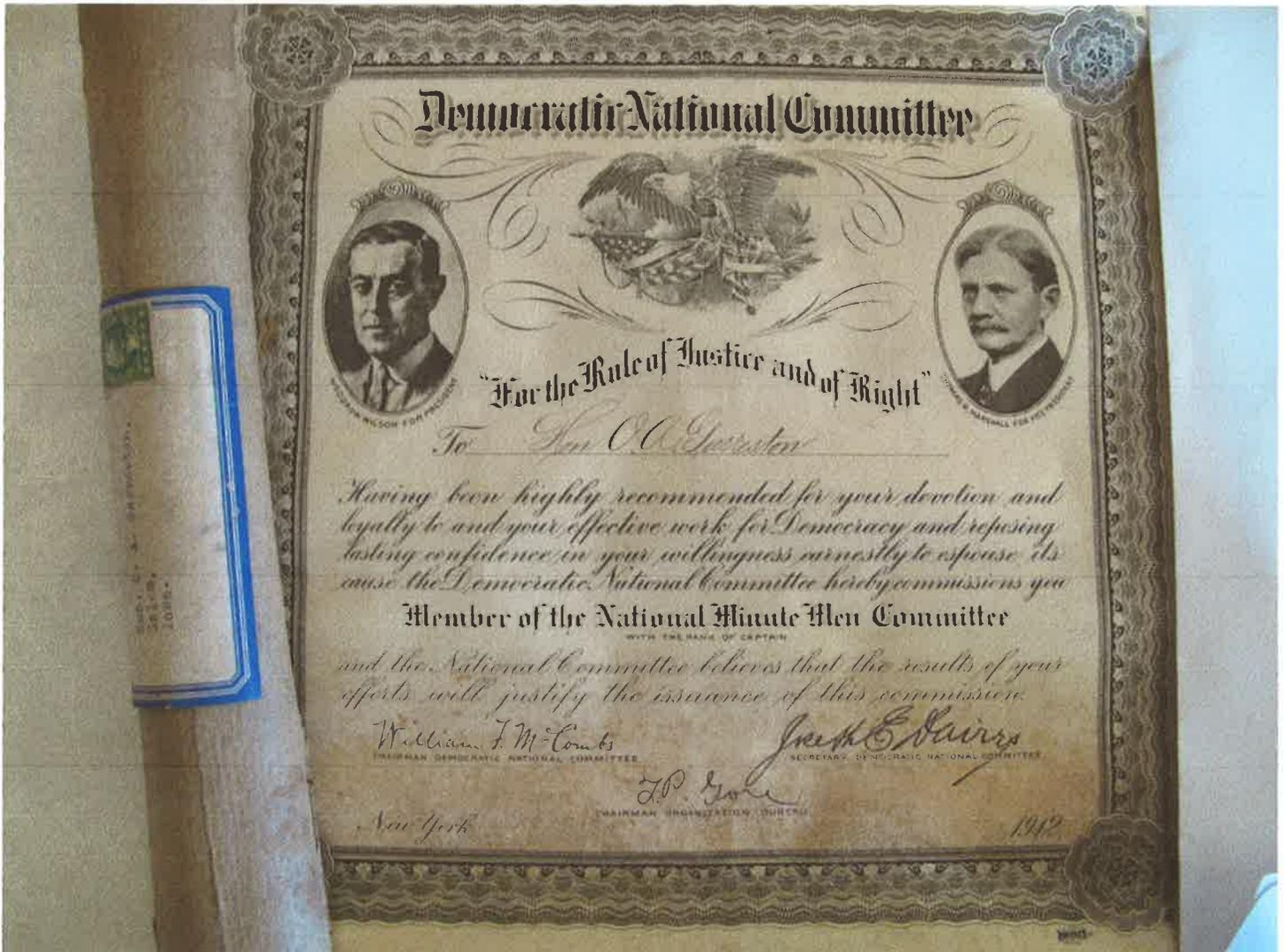


Figure 11. Certificate as Member of the National Minute Men Committee for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).

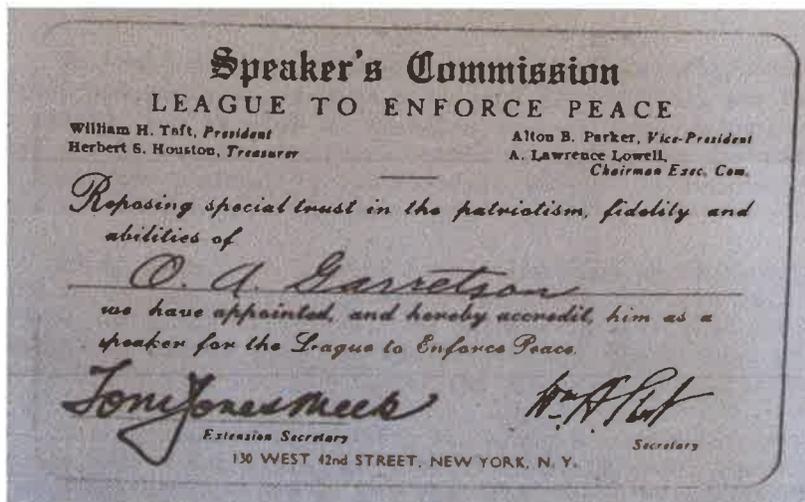


Figure 12. Speaker's Commission card for League to Enforce Peace for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).

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Figure 13. O.A. and Emma Garretson in front of Garretson house.

(Garretson Family website: [www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson_Photo_Gallery/Pages/Owen A. Garretson.html](http://www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson_Photo_Gallery/Pages/Owen_A_Garretson.html))



Figure 14. Extended family in front of Garretson house in 1924.

(Garretson Family website: [www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson_Photo_Gallery/Pages/Owen A. Garretson.html](http://www.garretson.us/Garretson.us/Garretson_Photo_Gallery/Pages/Owen_A_Garretson.html))

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Owen and Emma Garretson also enjoyed their family and recreational activities in the 1910s and 1920s. The 1920 census shows Owen Garretson (age 67) living on the farm with wife Emma and son Gilbert (age 20). Sumner Garretson's family was listed as owning and living on the adjacent farm, including Sumner, Florence, and four children. The next household was Herman J. Garretson (29), noting as renting his farm and listed here with wife Marion and two sons. The family is pictured in front of the house in this period (Figures 13-14). Through the 1910s and 1920s, Owen and Emma Garretson made extensive travels around Iowa, the Midwest, and the United States. In November 1915, they returned from a pleasant trip in their car to Kirksville, Kansas City, and other places in Missouri ("Salem Letter," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, November 8, 1915, 4). In September 1920, they left for an extended visit in Portland, Oregon and other points in the west ("Salem," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, September 30, 1920, 8). A later article notes that during a trip west he found some apple trees near the Lewelling homestead in Oregon that his father had in Salem (Garretson, "Lewelling Family," 559). In July 1926, Owen and Emma Garretson returned from a 4,000 mile automobile trip through western states – Denver, Colorado Springs, Mesa Verde National Park, Navajo reservation, Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, Santa Fe, Albuquerque. They had stopped wherever convenient at night, camping along the way ("Supervisor and Mrs. Garretson and Son Enjoy Fine Trip," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, July 27, 1926, 1).

Automobile travel was an increasing part of American life in this period, resulting in efforts to mark routes and improve roads. The issue of good roads was one of the key concerns during the period that Owen A. Garretson served again as county supervisor from 1923 until 1927. In the early 20th century, transportation was changing in Iowa, as well as across the country. In 1905, there were 799 automobiles in the state. The number grew to 147,078 by 1915, with Iowa having more cars per capita than any other state. Henry County boasted 1,141 licensed automobiles in 1915, which increased to over 3,000 by 1922. Roads were then designated as specific routes to encourage their travel. In 1912, the Huebinger Company published their *Automobile and Good Road Atlas of Iowa* (Figure 15). Particular primary routes were highlighted in red, including the north-south Waterloo and Keokuk Belt Line through central Henry County and the north-south Muscatine Branch of the Blue Grass Road through eastern Henry County. As automobile routes were further promoted, the Waterloo and Keokuk Belt Line in central Henry County became part of the Red Ball Route in 1913, extending from Minneapolis to St. Louis, and the speed limit in Mt. Pleasant increased from 5 to 15 mph. After existing within the Iowa State College in Ames since 1904, the Iowa State Highway Commission was organized as an independent body in 1913. Early efforts focused on mapping the existing road system and setting standards for road widths and bridges. The law also required county supervisors to appoint a county engineer. Additionally, plans, specifications, bids, and public letting for bridge and road construction were required. Federal aid became available in 1916 through the Federal Road Act, with the first paving project occurring in northeast Iowa (Huebinger 1912: 62; Henry County Bicentennial Commission 1982: 19, 95; Jaynes 1977: 119; Iowa DOT 1999: 14, 17, 21; Jaynes 1977: 94-95, 120; Thompson 1989: 72, 96-99).

Materials, particularly steel, were somewhat limited during World War I, and road improvements began in full force after the passage of the Primary Roads Law in 1919. It outlined a state road system of about 6,400 miles of "hard-surfaced" roads as the Primary Road System. These roads would link county seats with towns of 1,000 or more in population. The Primary Road Fund was established, which included automobile registration fees, federal aid, and funds from special paving assessments. It was supplemented by bonds authorized to be issued by each county to more quickly improve roads in their county. Funds were later further supplemented at the state level with the levying of the first gasoline taxes. Naming of these primary routes also became important, with numbers assigned to major roads beginning in 1920. Interstate routes were marked uniformly in 1924, including five north-south and five east-west routes in Iowa. The 1924 Huebinger atlas highlighted the major routes through the Henry County (Figure 16). The old north-south Red Ball route was designated as Highway 40, and the old meandering east-west Blue Grass route had been improved, rerouted, and designed as Highway 8. Thus, Mount Pleasant sat at the cross roads of the major routes in Henry County (Iowa DOT 1999: 14, 17, 21; Jaynes 1977: 94-95, 120; Thompson 1989: 73-74, 99-100, 145-146; Huebinger 1924: 62).

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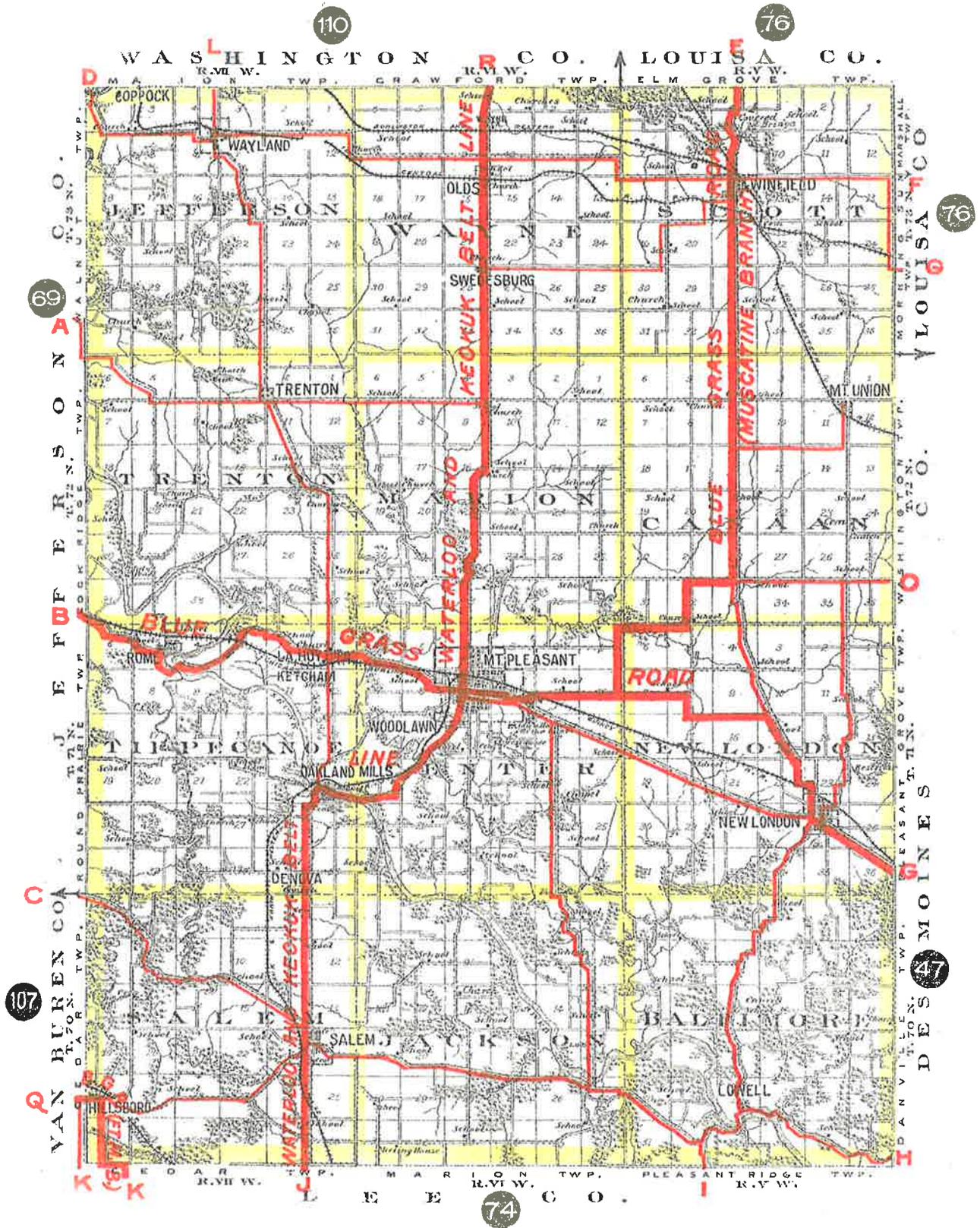


Figure 15. 1912 map of Henry County (Huebinger 1912: 62).

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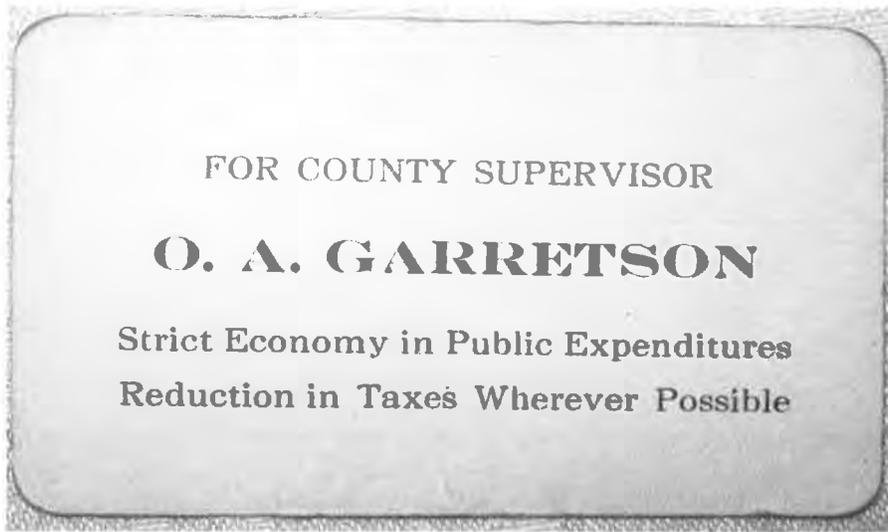


Figure 17. Campaign card for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).



Figure 18. Certificate of election for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).

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Support for designation and improvement of primary roads and support for county or state bond issues to fund primary road projects were two separate issues through the 1920s in Henry County and across Iowa. Establishment of additional primary roads was a key issue before the Board of Supervisors throughout the early 1920s, and Owen A. Garretson supported these efforts, seeking economy in public expenditures. Numerous improvements to the county road system were approved while he served as one of the three supervisors for Henry County. During the campaign for the November 1922 election, O.A. Garretson was noted to have support from both Republicans and Democrats, as the Republican primary fight had been bitter and he was well recognized for his contributions to Henry County. He was elected to a three-year term, serving from January 2, 1923 to January 1, 1926. One of the key issues before the Board of Supervisors in 1923 was application to the Highway Commission for routes for the primary road No. 40 (Red Ball trail) south of Mt. Pleasant to the Lee County line and primary road No. 8 west of Mt. Pleasant to the Jefferson County line ("Frank Wyse of Los Angeles Mt. Pleasant Guest," *Davenport Democrat and Leader*, September 27, 1922, 2; "Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, March 16, 1923, 3; "Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, May 31, 1923, 4; "W. Washington St. Will Be Official Highway," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, September 9, 1924, 1). A special meeting was called by the State Highway Commission coordinated by the Board of Supervisors in Mt. Pleasant on August 23, 1923 to hear the petition of the "Webster Trail" supporters in extending the route straight south of Mt. Pleasant, rather than following the earlier designated route southwest through Oakland Mills and Salem and then back east to the primary road already improved in Lee County. Owen Hourihan delivered the key speech outlining the benefits of the "Webster Trail" route, crossing the Skunk River at the Webster's ferry/bridge location and reducing travel by six miles for this key road that continued north to St. Paul and south to St. Louis. A copy of what appears to be this speech was retained in the files of O.A. Garretson, and it may have been partially drafted by him for his neighbor Owen Hourihan ("Debate Highway No. 40," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, August 23, 1923, 1; Garretson collection). As later maps indicate, the shorter, straighter route was chosen.

The question of a county bond issue for hard roads dominated Henry County and the elections in 1924. In March, the newspaper noted that the hard roads supporters were gaining support rapidly, with no one believing any more that dirt roads were sufficient. However, it had evolved to a fight between supporters of gravel roads and supporters of hard roads (paved/concrete). Hard road supporters had petitioned for a special election in the spring on a \$900,000 county bond issue to fund hard roads, having the required number of signatures to require an election that they hoped to hold while roads were bad in spring. The Board of Supervisors determined to place the issue on the ballot of the general election in November, and supporters on both sides worked on garnering additional support over the next eight months. By fall 1924, the gravel road supporters outnumbered the hard road supporters, with the Henry County Road Committee backtracking that they did not want a vote on the issue at the time as rejection of the bond issue would prohibit it being reintroduced for two years. O.A. Garretson issued a statement that was published in the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* on October 28, 1924, that it was not legally possible for either the petitioners to withdraw their petition or the Board of Supervisors to remove it from the ballot, so the question would remain on the ballot. He sincerely hoped that "the people will not burden themselves with this great debt." As elections for the three-year terms for the Board of Supervisors were held every two years, Owen A. Garretson was running for an unprecedented third term on the board in fall 1924 as well. His campaign cards clearly state his stance on the issue (Figure 20). The bond issue for hard roads failed by a large majority at the election on November 4. At the same time, Garretson was elected for a third term as a supervisor, spanning from January 2, 1926 to January 1, 1929 ("The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, March 5, 1924, 3; "Must Vote on the \$900,000.00 Bond Issue," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, October 28, 1924, 3; *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, October 31, 1924, 1; "Voters Misled by Good Roads Committee," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, November 1, 1924, 1; "The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, November 7, 1924, 3).

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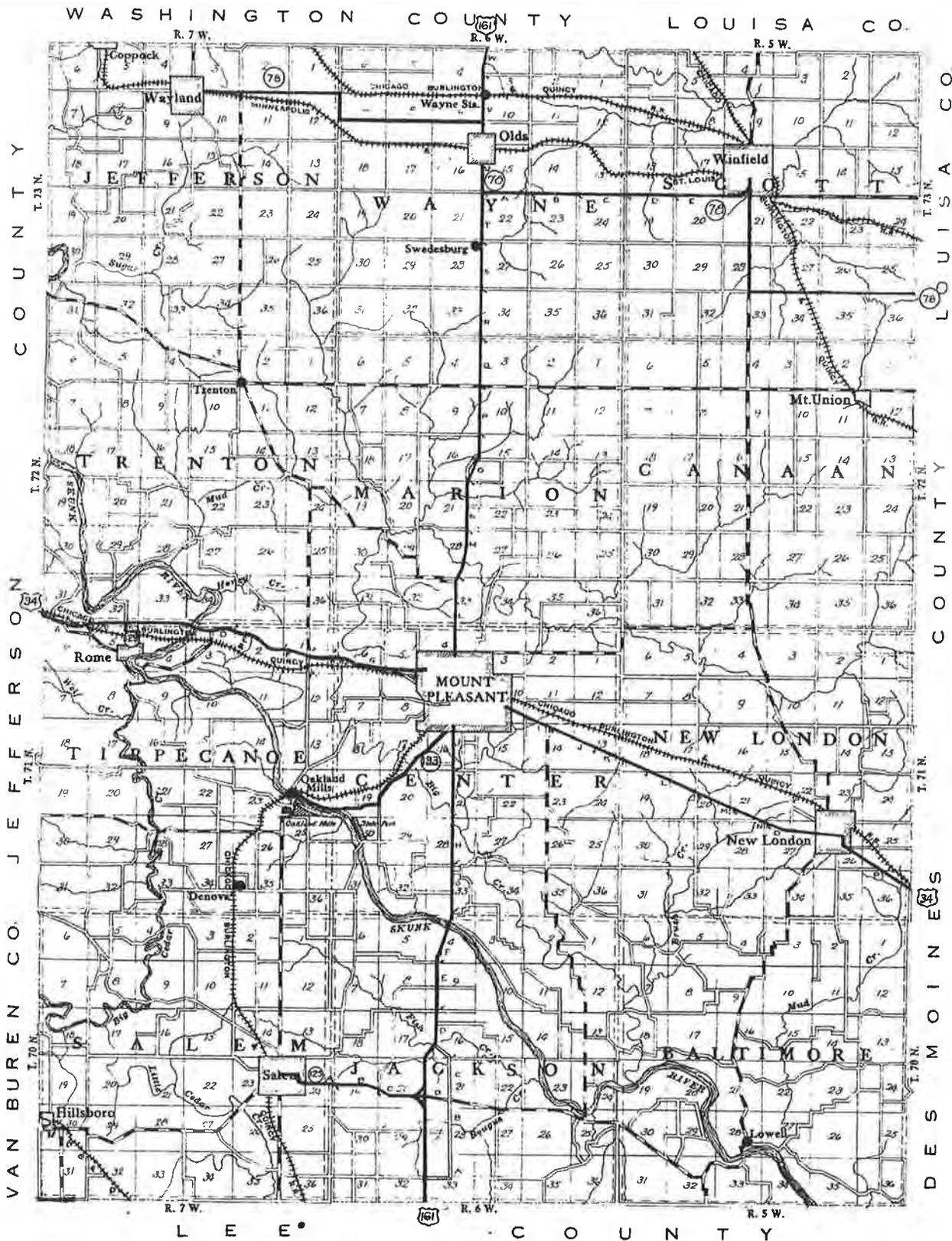


Figure 19. Road improvements in Henry County by 1931 (Iowa Highway Commission 1931: 44).

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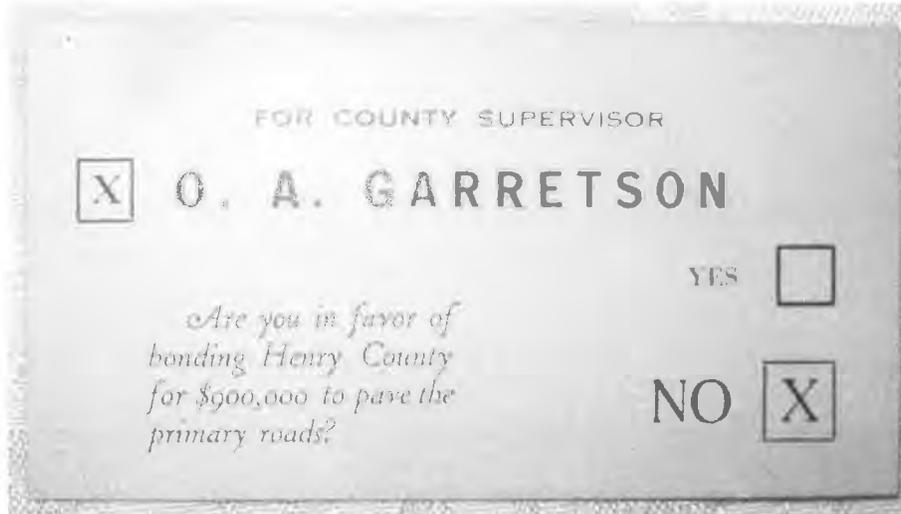


Figure 20. Campaign card for O.A. Garretson from fall 1924 (Garretson collection).



Figure 21. Certificate of election for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).

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The issues related to routes and improvement of roads continued to dominate the end of Owen A. Garretson's second term as supervisor in 1925 and the first year of his third term in 1926, while the Board of Supervisors also continued to conduct their regular business in approval of bills to be paid and maintenance of existing roads and facilities. With the route of Primary Road No. 40 (later Highway 161, now Highway 218) determined to extend straight south of Mt. Pleasant, O.A. Garretson introduced resolutions to create a primary road southwest out of Mt. Pleasant to the state park at Oakland Mills, which passed in May 1925. Meanwhile, hard road supporters resumed their efforts to pass a county bond issue in 1926 to fund hard roads ("Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, April 25, 1925, 3; "Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, April 25, 1925, 3; "Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, July 20, 1925, 3). The *Mt Pleasant Daily News* editor, Charles S. Rogers, a hard roads supporter, noted in March 1926 that the primary road improvements in Henry County over the next few years would be gravel, as voters had rejected hard roads. Primary road No. 8 (now Highway 34) from the west city limits to the west edge of Henry County was to be graveled in spring-summer 1926, following by the section from east of Mt. Pleasant to the east edge of Henry County in spring-summer 1927. Primary Road No. 40 would then be graveled south of Mt. Pleasant to the Henry County line in 1928. However, if a bond issue for hard roads were to be placed on the ballot and passed in November 1926, then the work could yet shift from gravel to concrete. He noted the need to elect two supervisors that are for hard roads and the bond issue, and he pushed strongly for candidates to come out on the issue of "gravel or mud" for the fall election ("The Bystanders Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, March 2, 1926, 3; "The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, February 11, 1926, 2). Republican Frank Barr, running for his third term as a supervisor in 1926 (which would start on January 2, 1928) followed the advice and stated for the June primary: "I am in favor of good roads but not a state or county bond issue. I believe the roads should be built by the traffic on the road and not by the taxable property of the county or state" (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 5, 1926, 2). He won the primary, as well as the election in November. In February 1927, the Board of Supervisors approved the addition/improvement of a road across southern Henry County to the primary road system, stretching from Hillsboro through Salem, east to Lowell, and into Lee County to connect with Primary Road No. 8 in Danville, creating a direct route on improved roads from Salem to Burlington ("The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, February 10, 1927, 3).

Though ostensibly not related to the issue of hard roads, the grand jury called in January 1927 was directed to examine the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors. They delivered "one of the most sensational reports of a generation" on February 9, 1927, asserting that Owen A. Garretson and Frank Barr were guilty of "habitual neglect of duty," recommending that the county attorney begin proceedings to oust both supervisors from office. Simple "neglect of duty" was sufficient for removal from office. The county attorney, Leo Collins, proceeded to closely examine all votes and transactions over the last years while they served in office, citing incidents where bills were approved without proper procedures, conditions were left out of contracts, and larger contracts that should have been let out for bid were simply given to a contractor. Two temporary supervisors were appointed, pending the outcome. A lengthy trial was then held in May, heard by Judge Clock of Hampton. Testimony in the trial was heavily covered by the local newspaper, as it was the first time an ouster suit had ever been filed in Henry County and reports were brewing in other counties of additional ouster suits if this one were to succeed. While Judge Clock deliberated over a verdict in early June, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* ran several articles on the trial in general and on both Garretson and Barr. The editor noted that both men had held offices of public trust previously, and they were so strongly supported in the county that they were the only two men to have ever been elected to a third term as supervisor in the 90 year history of the county (Garretson having started his term in January 1926 and Barr to start his term in January 1928). Garretson, as a Democrat, had been elected each time in a county roughly three to one in Republicans. Owen A. Garretson was noted as almost a pioneer in Henry County, born 75 years ago on his family's homestead in Jackson Township and long-time operator of the stock farm there. He had served as president of Whittier alumni association for 12 years, president of board of trustees for 15 years, township assessor for Jackson, on the board of township trustees, for six years as chair of Jackson Township school board, past president of the Old Settlers Association in Salem, member of board of directors of Salem Chautauqua Association, and on the

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Hospital Board of Trustees from when the Memorial Hospital was established to the present. He was also the chairman of Henry County Fuel Conservative Committee during war and one of the "dollar a year" men while two sons served overseas. Frank Barr was a substantial farmer of Marion Township, also serving for 20 years on the Marion Township school board and as township trustee. The verdict was issued on June 11, 1927 finding Barr and Garretson guilty of every charge and guilty of "willful and habitual neglect to perform duties of their office," and they were thus removed from office. It was noted as a shocking surprise to the many friends of the defendants who felt there were little grounds for the charges ("Urged to Oust Board Members," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, February 10, 1927, 1; *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, daily articles in late May 1927 and early June 1927; "Henry Co. Awaits Ouster Verdict," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 7, 1927, 1; "Judge Clock Ousts Board Members," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 11, 1927, 1-2).

With both Owen A. Garretson and Frank Barr removed as supervisors, the hard roads supporters took little time in reintroducing the topic of a county bond issue for paving roads. The Henry County Good Roads Association was organized on June 14, 1927. A meeting was held with representatives from every township on June 22, with opposition expected in Jackson Township though residents had been strong supporters of the "Webster Trail" route through the middle of the township. A May 9 letter regarding the costs of the paving improvements and costs to the taxpayers as outlined by the State Highway Commission was then published in the *Mt Pleasant Daily News*. The Board of Supervisors, with the two temporary members retaining their seats, met on June 24 to set Tuesday July 19 as the date for a special election for a \$900,000 bond issue for hard roads, with E.E. Phelps of the Henry County Good Roads Association presenting a check for the expenses of a special election. The bond issue passed by a vote of 4278 to 1455, with seven precincts voting against it (Jackson Township and Marion Township (though Primary Road No. 40 / No. 161 passed through them), also Canaan, Tippecanoe, Trenton, Rome, and Salem). Thus, Henry County joined the 47 other counties in Iowa that already voted for county bond issues ("Enthusiastic Committees Meet at Various Places to Further Plans for Carrying Road Program Forward," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 22, 1927, 1; "State Highway Commission's Statement on the Henry County Bond Issue and Road Project," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 24, 1927, 2; "Supervisors Select Date for Henry County to Vote on Road and Bond Issues," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 24, 1927, 1; "Bond Issue Wins by 3 to 1 Majority," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, July 20, 1927, 1). The rumors on potential connections between the issue of hard roads and the ouster trial/verdict were so strong that Golden S. Collins, wife and stenographer of the county attorney, issued a pamphlet entitled "The True Story of The Ouster Trial" to demonstrate the solidity of the charges as there had been "an unusual amount of bunk" told about the trial (Henry County Heritage Trust collection).

Owen A. Garretson was nominated again by the Democrats to the Board of Supervisors in June 1928, with the committee of Owen Hourihan, Nellie Miller, and Curtis McKinnon stating: "We affirm our confidence in the ability and integrity of Mr. O.A. Garretson, Candidate for Supervisor, and feel that he was unjustly treated and we recommend him to the people of Henry County" ("Democratic Convention," *Mt Pleasant News*, June 30, 1928, 3). Frank Barr also sought election again to the Board of Supervisors. Garretson published a notice in the *Mt Pleasant News* on November 5 affirming: "To the Voters of Henry County – During the last year and a half I have been the object of the most bitter and malicious assaults ever waged against any man in the History of Henry County. If such methods should prevail no self respecting citizen would care to become a candidate for county office. Conscious of my own rectitude and having faith in the justice of the people, I submit my case to you in confidence" (*Mt Pleasant News*, November 5, 1928, 2). However, Republicans were elected to nearly every office in the November 1928 elections in Henry County, and voters did not support either ousted supervisor. H.H. Eyre of Hillsboro, who was serving out Garretson's term, was elected for the term starting on January 2, 1929 by a vote of 3,841 to 2,049, and John R. Scarff defeated Frank Barr by a vote of 3471 to 2427 ("Hoover Carries Henry County 3 to 1 Over Smith," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 7, 1928, 1).

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Figure 22. Certificate of membership for O.A. Garretson (Garretson collection).

While serving on the Board of Supervisors and through his death in 1933, Owen A. Garretson turned his attention to another interest that would garner statewide attention and significance, both before and after his death. Part of one of the early families in Henry County, Owen A. Garretson had a strong interest in documenting the local history of Henry County as well as southeastern Iowa. He was a member of The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) through the 1910s and 1920s, with a certificate of membership from 1916 retained in the family collection (Figure 22). In 1922, at age 70, O.A. Garretson turned his attention to writing about local history for the *Palimpsest*, the journal of the SHSI, as well as for the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. Original manuscripts, correspondence, and published articles are retained in the Garretson family collection, and his published articles are found in institutions across Iowa, utilized by historians on a variety of topics and for many different types of projects. His first article published in the *Palimpsest* was on the largely abandoned town of Pilot Grove in northern Lee County, about three miles south of his house. Garretson interviewed several local residents familiar with the history, as well as relying on his own memory and visits to the town. A letter from J.P. Cruikshank of Fort Madison to O.A. Garretson on April 14, 1922 noted that "I notice that you desire the information to aid you in preparation of a story to the State Historical Society. I hope you will not be disappointed in my somewhat lengthy effort to furnish what is desired. While the history of the old town is more of local interest than general, it will make a good story for the *Palimpsest*, a monthly periodical of the State Historical Society" (Garretson collection). The article, simply entitled "Pilot Grove," was then published in the *Palimpsest* in December 1922, providing a thorough history of the town as it relates to the early history of northern Lee County (Garretson, O. A. "Pilot Grove," *Palimpsest*, III, December 1922, 390-399).

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Perhaps one of Owen A. Garretson's most heavily utilized and cited articles was then published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* in July 1924, "Travelling on the Underground Railroad in Iowa." Research for the article to supplement his recollections apparently spanned at least a year. T. John Dedman from the State Historical Society of Iowa sent an article in June 1923 to O.A. Garretson on a fugitive slave printed in *Keokuk Citizen* reprinted from *Keokuk Argus* in 1846, which was included in the final article (Garretson collection). In September 1923, he received Photostat copies of the 1793 Fugitive Slave Law and the revised 1850 law from W.F. Kopp, 1st District Iowa, Congress of the United States, Washington D.C., both key to the significant Daggs trial that occurred in Salem (Garretson collection). The article outlines the issue of slavery and fugitive slaves along the south border of Iowa, and then it focuses on the early settlement of Salem in southwest Henry County and the principle of the Society of Friends (Quakers). Owen A. Garretson then recounts several instances of Underground Railroad activity in and around Salem, involving his father Joel C. Garretson as well as other residents. He cites Louis T. Jones' *The Quakers of Iowa* and supplements the information on these activities around Salem. He also outlines the events of the escape of the nine slaves from Ruel Daggs, assisted by several members of Salem when they reached this point in June 1848, as well as the resulting trial of Ruel Daggs vs. Elihu Frazier et al, which would be the last trial under the 1793 Fugitive Slave Law. Owen A. Garretson continued with the history of Underground Railroad activities in Denmark (Lee County), particularly those of Rev. Asa Turner. The last section then expanded on this local history to activities of the Underground Railroad across Iowa, including a path from Fremont in Tabor County on the west side of the state to Des Moines as recalled by Herman Cook. Garretson includes notes on a number of conductors and stations in several other communities across Iowa, creating a comprehensive early history of Underground Railroad activities in Iowa (Garretson, Owen A. "Travelling on the Underground Railroad in Iowa," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Volume 22, No. 3, July 1924, 418-453).

The concluding paragraph of his Underground Railroad article asserts that the Republican party was founded in Crawfordsville, Iowa (where the meeting pre-dated that of Ripon, Wisconsin by a month), and support for the Republican party in Henry County was then the topic for Owen A. Garretson's next article, published in the *Palimpsest* in April 1925 on the 1860 presidential election. Garretson's desire for accuracy and completeness in his writing is demonstrated through an exchange of letters with editor John E. Briggs of the State Historical Society of Iowa in March 1925. A revised draft of the article was returned to Garretson from Briggs on March 20, with some editing and additional quotes from the newspaper in Mount Pleasant regarding the erection of the "Lincoln Pole" in Jackson Township, an event that Garretson recalled from attending at age eight. Garretson responded not favorably to the edits, noting that Briggs had missed "the main purpose of the writing" and included "information not historically correct." Briggs replied that he was surprised at Garretson's comments. He wrote: "If that purpose was to specifically advocate the making of the site of the pole raising, may I say that that purpose is very incidental so far as *The Palimpsest* is concerned. We are in favor of keeping track of such places and having them marked, but that is not an important reason for printing any story in *The Palimpsest*. The proper function of this magazine, as we see it, is to relate half-forgotten incidents and to revitalize the conditions of former times. Such a story well told is an end in itself." Articles are not meant to "attempt an exhaustive or complete account" but to be written "in as graphic, vivid, and dramatic a manner as possible" and place "emphasis upon the significant and inherently interesting facts." However, while literary technique was important, they also sought to exhaust available resources in verifying every detail, and he asked what errors had been inadvertently included. The typed draft in the Garretson files is identical to that of the published article, so it appears that the original was utilized for the April 1925 issue. The article recounts the raising of a flag pole in support of Abraham Lincoln on July 28, 1860 at the point on Agency Road at the junction with the road leading to Hugh Boyle's grist mill on the Skunk River a mile to the north (Lexington Road / 335th St / 330th St), a then significant road at a place where Fourth of July celebrations were held and that was a rendezvous location of the Home Guards during the Civil War. William F. Jones and W.C. Woodworth sponsored the celebration, and the pole was raised, one of the few noted as raising in the country (as opposed to a town). An act of vandalism razed the pole, and the second one was raised on August 9 with almost 1,000 Lincoln supporters from Mount Pleasant, Salem, Pilot Grove, Primrose, and other places in Lee County in attendance in rural Jackson Township, along with two bands and the Wide Awake Glee Club. Garretson notes

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that the road was now merely a side road used by local citizens and "Hugh Boyle's famous mill, once the nucleus of an important industry in that region, is no more" (Garretson, O. A. "A Lincoln Pole Raising," *Palimpsest*, VI, 109-116, April 1925, 109-116).

Owen A. Garretson's next two articles, published in the *Palimpsest* in January 1926 and April 1927, drew on his knowledge of local history. "Indian Jim" was the topic of the article printed in January 1926, and it drew on the earliest history of settlement in Henry County. A group of about 300 members of the Sac and Fox tribes lived in southeast Henry County when it was opened for Euro-American settlement in 1833, about a mile north of Lowell. The tribe was moved further west, but Indian Jim remained behind and built a cabin in section 20 north of Lowell, trading lead ore at Lowell. While the early settlers tried to find the location of his "mine," he would not reveal it, and his source remained a secret when he died in 1839 (Garretson, O. A. "Indian Jim," *Palimpsest*, VII, January 1926, 11-14). Garretson then returned to the Civil War period with his account of the Battle of Athens, when Colonel Martin E. Green of the Confederacy was marching north through Missouri towards Iowa, heading to the anti-slavery stronghold of Salem. Word was sent of the battle on the Des Moines River on the border to Salem, and they prepared to mount a defense to stop any further invasion into Iowa. A group of Union men at Athens, Missouri, were well-organized and defended the town on August 5, 1861. Word of the battle spread and additional Home Guards from Missouri were sent, and any further attempt at an invasion of southeast Iowa was squashed (Garretson, O. A. "The Battle of Athens," *Palimpsest*, VIII, April 1927, 140-141). John E. Briggs sent Garretson back the manuscript once it was printed, noting that "we have been very glad to print this story in *The Palimpsest* and I hope that you will continue to send us material of this sort" (Garretson collection). In June 1927, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* noted that O.A. Garretson and Gilbert Garretson went to Iowa City to attend the annual meeting of the State Historical Society of Iowa. O.A. Garretson had been a member for 15 years, and he "had contributed materially to the advancement of the society," including five articles of historical interest of Henry County. He was currently writing on the history of the milling industries in southeast Iowa, and he was a member of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (now Organization of American Historians) ("Garretsons Attend Annual Historical Society Meeting," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 29, 1927, 2).

The efforts of Owen A. Garretson to preserve the historical stories of southeastern Iowa resulted in the formation of the Henry County Historical Society in Mt. Pleasant on October 5, 1926. Owen A. Garretson was elected as the first president, with R.S. Galer as secretary-treasurer. Per the *Mt Pleasant Daily News*: "The work of the new organization will be confined to the history of Henry county, the preservation of whatever of historical matter there is now at hand, the uncovering of anything of historical interest. There are many people in the county who would be interested in this work and would delight to take over some particular line for investigation." They could explore such topics as the history of newspapers, churches, schools, fraternal organizations, cemeteries, politics, towns, and railroads. Some of this history was found in old newspapers, and other aspects in the attics of old homes and much in minds of those still living – "the object of the new organization is the collection and preservation of such historical matter" ("The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, October 7, 1926, 1). The study of the early mills appears to have been a first project for Garretson and the Henry County Historical Society. *Mt Pleasant Daily News* editor Charles S. Rogers noted that "old mills now gone and forgotten played a mighty part in the developing of Henry County" and outlined some brief history on the mills at Lowell, Boyleston, Webster's, and Oakland being collected by the Henry County Historical Society. He also noted ferries that used to operate on the Skunk River at Lowell, Boyleston, Webster's, Faulkner's, Oakland, Ketcham's, and Rome. The society was attempting to secure a correct and full history of the many saw, grist, and other mills in Henry County ("The Bystander's Notes," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, February 22, 1927, 3).

The efforts to document the early history of Henry County by Owen A. Garretson and the Henry County Historical Society then expanded into archeology in August 1927. An expedition headed by Herman Elgar and Owen A. Garretson undertook the excavation of a massive stone sepulcher in a spot overlooking Skunk River near Lockridge (eastern Jefferson County, 10 miles west of Mt Pleasant) on the property of Frank Johnson.

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The society had been “making an exhaustive study of the country north and east of Lockridge, relative to the activities of pre-historic man and a possible white invasion not recorded by history.” Careful notes on the construction of the sepulcher and measurement were taken for its reconstruction “to preserve, as nearly as possible, the work of the builders of this pre-historic monument.” The recovered body was examined by Owen’s son Dr. J.H. Garretson, and he determined it had been buried at least three centuries ago based on the decomposition. The construction of the sepulcher with flat stones led them to believe it was an early Spanish settler rather than Native Americans: “Members of the party have reason to believe that a Spanish expedition reached this section during the earlier part of the sixteenth century. Details of this excavation together with findings nearby give credit to this theory.” Members of expedition were Herman Elgar (Mt Pleasant), Owen A. Garretson, Gilbert Garretson, S.D. Garretson, Loren Garretson, Robert Tyner, and Kenneth Mosher (all of Salem), and Frank Johnson, Wesley Johnson, and Virgil Johnson (all of Lockridge) (“Massive Sepulchre is Uncovered by Excavators in Jefferson County,” *Burlington Gazette*, August 17, 1927, 5). News of the excavation was covered in other Iowa newspapers, and the members of the Henry County Historical Society moved on to other archeological projects. On August 22, 1927, the team Herman Elgar, C.S. Rogers, Dr. U.S. Rogers (of Mount Pleasant), O.A. Garretson, Gilbert Garretson, S.D. Garretson, Kenneth Mosher, Lamoyne Mosher, and Robert Tyner (of Salem), and Frank Johnson and Fred Lillyblade of Lockridge investigated the Native American mounds and graves that had been discovered by O.A. Garretson and Herman Elgar in eastern Jefferson County at Shawnee Lookout. They found moldering bones of several Indians, along with charcoal and pieces of Indian pottery with unusual designs and ornamentation. The mounds here were noted to be different than the first stone sepulcher excavated, with stones here simply placed above the bodies, as the typical Native American practice. Per O.A. Garretson, the eight mounds here were the “most perfect specimen of the work of Indians to be found in Southeastern Iowa” (“Farm Exhibits Attract Many,” *Burlington Gazette*, August 23, 1927, 3; “Excavators Make New Discoveries,” *Burlington Hawkeye*, August 24, 1927, 10; “Indian Relics are Unearthed,” *Chariton Herald Patriot*, August 25, 1927, 2).



Figure 23. Photograph of O.A. Garretson at unknown archeological site (Garretson collection).

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Owen A. Garretson also continued to provide information and publish articles to educate others about the history of Henry County. Interestingly, his trip through Europe in July and August 1928 was documented through a series of letters that were published in the *Mt Pleasant News*, noting various facts about places visited ("Garretsons Visit Art Galleries," *Mt Pleasant News*, July 21, 1928, 4; "Garretson Writes About Switzerland," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 10, 1928, 2; "Attend Session of Parliament," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 31, 1928, 1). Garretson's research on mills appears to have simply culminated in an article on Lowell, on the Skunk River in southeastern Henry County. The early grist mills and growth of the town in the late 1830s resulted in the town renamed Lowell with the hope that it would someday equal Lowell, Massachusetts in industries. The town was sustained for many years by its location on Agency Road, the mills, and related businesses before the railroad contributed to the growth of other towns. Other notes on events and prominent people within the community were included, such as the controversy during the Lincoln-Douglas election of 1860, Dennis and Edward Melcher of Melcher Pottery, Dr. Edward Archibald, James Box, Lewis Collins (free black), and Indian Jim (Garretson, O. A. "Lowell," *Palimpsest*, IX, Dec 1928, 437-449). His second article in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* was published in 1929 on the family of Henderson Lewelling. Henderson Lewelling moved to Salem in 1837 from Indiana, one of the members of the Society of Friends that settled around Salem. He brought trees from his nursery, beginning one of the first nurseries in southeast Iowa and traveling east at least 14 times over the next ten years to bring back additional specimen of fruit trees for settlers in Iowa. Henderson Lewelling was also associated with the Society of Anti-Slavery Friends in Salem by 1843, and his large stone home was utilized as a stop on the Underground Railroad (listed on the NRHP). In 1847, Henderson Lewelling moved to Oregon, again taking his nursery with him and playing a role in the establishment of the fruit industry there. Garretson visited Lewelling's homestead in Oregon during a trip west, and he found the same variety of fruit trees there that his father had grown in Henry County. The article continues with the later life of Henderson Lewelling and legacy of his fruit trees (Garretson, Owen A. "The Lewelling Family – Pioneers," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Volume 27, 1929, p. 548-563).

Owen A. Garretson's love and respect for history was also noted in articles by other people by 1929. His son Gilbert I. Garretson (faculty of School of Journalism of Oklahoma City University) wrote an article for the *Burlington Gazette* on Underground Railroad in Salem in July 1929, drawing on his father's history and memory. He notes that "The only other link with these days, seventy years removed from the present, is the splendid memory of O.A. Garretson of Salem, president of the Henry County Historical Society, a son of Joel C. Garretson, probably the most noted abolitionist of southern Iowa." O.A. told story of his father's connection with the Underground Railway "as he sat in the spacious library of his beautiful farm home, a new home built on the site of the home of his pioneer father" ("Old Houses at Salem Recall Exciting Period," *Burlington Gazette*, July 20, 1929, 2). Charles S. Rogers, editor of the *Mt Pleasant News*, wrote on various topics in his column, The Bystander's Notes. On August 23, 1929, he recounted a day trip around southern Henry and northern Lee counties in company of "old campaigners after historic trophies" that included several interesting notes on Owen A. Garretson. The group included Herman Elgar (interested in archeology), Prof. Jaques (interested in vegetation), and James T. Whiting (interested in geology). Then, "there was O.A. Garretson, who delights in digging up facts and figures relative to human history, the tales of the pioneer, the story of towns which have flourished and vanished, the population of the old cemeteries, and the whole story of settlement and the growth of this part of the state." They met at the bridge at Boyleston, where the Garretsons had been conducting a dig and found various pieces of Indian pottery. They proceeded south on the road from Boyleston into Lee County to the old site of Pilot Grove: "Here O.A. Garretson grew positively garrulous. He wrote a most interesting brochure on the old town some years ago. Of the town which boasted two churches, a large school, stores and shops, and factories and residents and buildings, nothing remains but the cemetery and the trees that grew up along the streets and in the public square." They proceeded south to Franklin, where a number of buildings were constructed of stone. They continued along Sugar Creek to the new paved road north of Donnellson, stopped briefly in Donnellson, and then went through Houghton back to Henry County, stopping at the home of Mr. O.A. Garretson that spanned the Henry-Lee county line. Rogers wrote: "Mr. Garretson lives in a very commodious rural home, amid his 600 acres of prairie land and rolling pasture. It is an ideal combination farm with plenty of water and shade. It has been in the family for two generations and

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has the most unusual distinction of having never been mortgaged. Mr. Garretson rents his broad acres and from the income is enjoying to the full life in the best way. In the best of health, youthful indeed for his years, he plays out the remaining days of his life. His good wife enters into and shares with him the pleasures of home or travel" ("The Bystanders Notes," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 23, 1929, 1-2).

Owen A. Garretson was selected for inclusion in the five-volume *A Narrative History of The People of Iowa* written by Edgar R. Harlan in 1931, which included biographies of the most prominent men in the state. The biography notes his pioneer stock roots and success at farming and stock raising. His community contributions were likewise highlighted: "Mr. Garretson has frequently been honored with public offices, serving in positions in his township and school district, was county supervisor from 1907 to 1909 and again from 1923 to 1927, was trustee of the Henry County Hospital from 1919 to 1928 and during the World War was director of war relief and the Red Cross drives and chairman of the Henry County Fuel Commission. In politics he early espoused the Populist movement and in 1896 joined the Democratic party, with the merging of the two groups. He has been a Democrat since that time and a leader in the party in his county and has frequently been a delegate to state conventions." Additionally, he was active in cultural and social institutions: "Mr. Garretson is a man of thorough culture and literary taste and has taken an active part in literary and cultural associations, having served for twenty years as president of the board of trustees of Whittier College, as president of his Alumni Association and as president of the Henry County Historical Society. He has made frequent contributions to the publications of the Iowa State Historical Society. Mr. Garretson has been an extensive traveler, having visited every American state, has been in Mexico, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, and the Vatican State." The biography also noted information on his six successful sons: Sumner (farmer and stock dealer at Salem), Wendell (captain in WWI, surgeon, deceased), Owen Alvin (first lieutenant in WWI, newspaper advertising, St. Paul), Herman (John Hancock insurance, San Francisco), J. Howard (physician, Garretson Manufacturing Company, Mt Pleasant), and Gilbert (director of the School of Journalism of Oklahoma City University) (Harlan 1931, Vol. 5: 374).

Prior to his death in February 1933, Owen A. Garretson wrote two additional articles that were published in the *Palimpsest* and *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* respectively. The first, entitled "A Famous War Horse," recounted the acquisition of a white horse by the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry in spring 1864 during the Red River campaign in Louisiana. The horse, "Old Whitey," was commandeered from the home of General Richard Taylor, who had captured and ridden it during the Mexican War. The horse was utilized during the war and then sent to Mount Pleasant, where it eventually was sold to Captain Warren C. Jones, who had ridden him during the Battle of Pleasant Hill. He cared for him until his death and buried the horse with military honors north of Mount Pleasant (Garretson, Owen A. "A Famous War Horse," *Palimpsest*, XII, September 1931, 354-358). The second article, entitled "Iowa and the Spanish Pioneers," outlines his findings and research in Henry and Jefferson counties that supported the Spanish exploring southern Iowa long before French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet. He notes that Juan de Onate is noted to have led an expedition from the Southwest to Nebraska in 1600 and then conducted one further to the northeast in 1606, with no historian records on these travels. Garretson asserts that Onate made it as far as the Cedar Bluffs on the Skunk River in eastern Jefferson County, where he stopped on a high ridge and was attacked by Native Americans. Numerous lead balls and flint arrows had been recovered throughout this area, as well as a Spanish ax (matching one in a museum in St. Augustine). Additional finds of early artifacts are noted, along with details of the stone sepulcher excavated by the Henry County Historical Society in 1927. Garretson notes that this history may seem contrary to currently published history on Iowa, but "when new facts and new records are brought to light the true historian must modify his view and aid in keeping history straight" (Garretson, Owen A. "Iowa and the Spanish Pioneers," *Iowa Journal*, XXX, July 1932, 395-403). A reference guide on Iowa history notes other articles on the Spanish in Iowa published around this same period, however the information does not appear to have been incorporated in or accepted into broader histories of the state.

In the last few years of his life, Owen A. Garretson also continued to be involved in a number of activities in Henry County. In October 1930, he spoke to the Ladies Library Association meeting on the early history of

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Salem, including the Underground Railroad activities. They noted that "he is well versed in the early history of our state and able to give many amusing anecdotes as well as the Indian scares and the hardships of pioneer days ("O.A. Garretson Gives Pioneer Memories at Meeting of L.L.A.," *Mt Pleasant News*, October 8, 1930, 1). In March 1931, O.A. Garretson of Salem spoke in Mount Pleasant at the Rotary Club meeting at Brazelton Hotel, noted as a "pioneer and historian, frequent contributor to the publications of the State Historical Society." He covered several topics, including early pioneer life, early schools, the Civil War in relation to the Battle of Athens and Underground Railroad, and origination of the name of Hawkeye for Iowa ("O.A. Garretson Speaks at Rotary," *Mt Pleasant News*, March 10, 1931, 1). He also continued his archeological work, working with Herman Elgar and others in August 1931 to attempt to discover the entrance of a historic cavern in hills of Sutton Creek south of Lowell. They were directed to the location by Alfred Canady of Lowell, a historian and collector of Indian relics, who had played in a large cavern in the area as a boy. Tradition in Lowell stated that a large cavern was the headquarters for a band of horse thieves in the Civil War ("Local Scientists Striving to Locate Cavern," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 29, 1931, 1). He continued to serve as president of the Henry County Historical Society, with their archives located at the Mount Pleasant Public Library ("Marker At Site of 'Old Mill' is Dedicated," *Mt Pleasant News*, September 12, 1931, 1). Both Owen and Emma were among the passengers on the last trip of the "K-line" train into Mount Pleasant in January 1932, notable as they also were passengers on the first train for the K-line ("Chronology of 1932 Events is Compiled," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 31, 1932, 1). In November 1932, two unpublished stories of Mr. O.A. Garretson were read at the Ladies Library Association meeting – full of thrills, counterfeits, and mysterious murder that sparked a lively discussion ("L.L.A. Hears Thrilling Stories," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 8, 1932, 4).

With their advancing years, Owen and Emma Garretson spent winters with their son Dr. (Joel) Howard Garretson and his wife May at their home on North White Street in Mt. Pleasant. With their children gone, it was difficult to keep up with the wood stoves to provide heat for the house through winter (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). They did make a modern improvement to their house in Jackson Township in the 1920s, replacing the gas lights with electricity. Electricity was not yet available to rural residents, so they installed a Jacobs Wind Generating Plant. A windmill provided electricity to a large bank of batteries located beneath the kitchen, and the house was wired for a 40 volt electrical system (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). The 1930 census shows Owen (78) and Emma (68) living in Jackson Township, though not "on a farm" per se. The house is valued at \$6,000. The next household is that of son Sumner Garretson, who is noted as living on a farm and owning his own house. He then was perhaps farming his father's land. The census lists Sumner (47, farmer) with wife Florence and three children. Emma Garretson died on December 12, 1932, followed by Owen A. Garretson on February 5, 1933. Both died in Mt. Pleasant at the home of son Dr. Howard Garretson, with services held at Salem Methodist Episcopal Church conducted by Mrs. Laura Galer of the Universalist Church of Mt. Pleasant and burial in Salem's south cemetery. Five sons were living, with Dr. Wendell Garretson preceding them in death. Emma was a member of the Salem Women's Club ("Mrs. O.A. Garretson," *Salem News*, December 21, 1932; "Owen A. Garretson," *Salem News*, February 8, 1933).

Owen A. Garretson was noted in his obituaries in February 1933 as an influential man in Henry County, a "historian, farmer, and prominent citizen of Henry County." He was a farmer in Jackson Township with hundreds of friends and then was connected with public offices and other organizations "until his circle of acquaintanceship spread to nearly every home of Henry County." As such, "The word of the death of O.A. Garretson, who was one of the most influential men of Henry county, was cause for much sorrow among his many friends of both Salem and Mt. Pleasant communities. He was a man of fine character and represented in his entire makeup the traits which marked the pioneer stock from which he came. Mr. Garretson is also known all over the entire state for his contributions to the history and literature of the state." The obituary notice notes: "One of his favorite pastimes was in collecting and recording historical information, especially relative to Henry county and only a short time before he was taken ill had begun some additional historical work." His longer obituary then notes: "Mr. Garretson was deeply interested in the preservation of historical data and was a frequent contributor to the *Palimpsest* and the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. His writings

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are preserved permanently in the archives of the State Historical Society at Des Moines and in every public library of the state. In recognition of his work, he was made a life member of the State Historical Society in 1932 and the same year was appointed a member of the commission celebrating the Black Hawk Purchase, the appointment of which was made by Gov. Dan Turner. Shortly before his death, Mr. Garretson completed two manuscripts concerning the history of Salem and Henry County which are yet unpublished." In addition to his contributions in the arena of history, "Mr. Garretson was interested in all enterprises contributing to the uplift of his community and served in various fields of public activity. He was fuel administrator of Henry county during the World War. Later he was a member of the first board of trustees that built the Henry County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial hospital. Three times he was elected to the office of County Supervisor by the people of Henry county." He was a member of the commission appointed to commemorate the centennial of Henry County and was president of the Henry County Historical Society. He was survived by five of his sons, Sumner D. of Salem, Owen Alvin of St. Paul, Herman J. of San Francisco, Dr. Howard J. of Mt Pleasant, Gilbert of Mt. Pleasant ("O.A. Garretson Dies at Home of Son Here," *Mt Pleasant News*, Sat. February 4, 1933, 1; "Owen A. Garretson," *Salem News*, February 7, 1933; "O.A. Garretson Rites at Salem," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 8, 1933, 1).

Later history of the Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House, 1933-2015

With the deaths of Owen and Emma Garretson, the "big house" on the family homestead was left vacant. Per family history: "Dr. (Joel) Howard and May Garretson desired to return to the farm and having inherited land on the north side of the road, set about building a new house around 1934. While construction was underway, they lived in the big house with their children, Virginia, Joel, Charlie, and Josie. When their Dutch Colonial house was completed in 1936, they moved out of the big house and down the road to their new house. Their new home replaced the old Joseph Hoag house, known as a stop on the Underground Railroad in the 1840s (a cabinet from the Hoag house is on display in the O.A. Garretson house) (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

When Howard and May Garretson moved across to their new house, eldest son Sumner and Florence Garretson moved into the family home along with their younger two children, Doris and Keith. Per family history: "The house after 38 years was dated and Sumner made several changes to accommodate more modern heating systems and appliances. A central heating system with a convection type automatic stoker coal fired furnace replaced the old Round Oak pot bellied stove. The cedar shingles were nearing the end of their life so an asbestos slate roof was installed and a more modern rain gutter system installed. A modern "heatilator" type fireplace was added in the front parlor room, thus separating the parlor into two rooms, with the smaller room behind the fireplace being called the music room. To create a more modern Art Deco look, the wood trim and doors were replaced in the dining room, first floor bedroom, living room, and music room, with more modern varnished southern yellow pine trim. Hardwood flooring was installed in all downstairs rooms except the kitchen and bathroom. The shutters were replaced with wood storm windows and wood screens. A concrete fish pond was added to the west yard. The old stone foundation basement walls were beginning to fail and significant concrete work was done to prevent failure. A coal storage room and outdoor entry was added" (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). In 1937, the Garretson family celebrated the 100th anniversary of the farm, and Sumner had two large pillars built at the end of the driveway to commemorate the event (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

A number of changes also occurred on the greater farm property in this period. The original house, used for storage, was also demolished in the late 1930s. The footprint of the house can still be seen south of the present day clothesline, and many artifacts have surfaced here over the past few years (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). Per family history: "A hand hewn post and beam barn (timbers currently stored in the existing barn) was built by Joel C. Garretson and was located north of the newer barn. The newer barn that stands today was moved from Croton, Iowa to its current location in the late

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1930s by Sumner Garretson. An ice house was located southeast of house that provided refrigeration for food storage. Ice was cut from a pond located about a quarter mile southeast of the house. The barn and pond there were known as the hay barn, and the writer recalls seeing the ice cutting saws and tongs hanging in the old barn" (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

Per *Who's Who in Iowa* from 1940, Sumner Dilts Garretson was a farmer born near Salem in August 1882. He graduated from Howe's Academy and then Whittier College in Salem in 1904. He married Florence D. White on July 31, 1906, and he then started farming his own land. Additionally, from 1929 to 1933 he served on the school board, and from 1933 to 1940 he was employed by the Federal Land Bank of Omaha. In 1938 he was a real estate agent and employed by the FSA. In 1937-1939, he worked for FHA tenant purchase. He was a Democrat and a member of the Friends Church. His hobbies included geology and landscaping. Sumner passed away on August 29, 1943, after only living here for a few years. On Sunday September 5, 1943, a National Garretson Society Reunion was held at the house. His wife Florence moved to Mt. Pleasant, leaving the house empty for a short time. Their eldest son Wayne and his wife Ann and children Carol Ann, Lanny, and Tommy then moved in. They made several improvements, including building a two car garage and updating the kitchen with new cupboards. The house was re-wired for the new 110 volt electrical lines brought in by the REC in 1944. Rock wool insulation was blown into the walls and ceiling. Additional work was done to bolster the old foundation (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

In 1950 Wayne and Ann built a new ranch home about 100 yards west of the old house where the old Amos Garretson house stood (on the west half of southwest quarter). His sister Doris and her husband Randy Gill then moved into the "big house" with their children Kenton and Loree. They lived here until the late 1950s when they moved to Burlington. A modern propane forced-air furnace replaced the old coal fired furnace which required daily attention (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). In the 1960s, the house was rented out to several couples and families, but also stood unoccupied for several periods. Kenton and Sandy Gill then lived here in 1971-72, bringing family members back into the house. Joel H. (grandson of Dr. Howard and May Garretson, great-grandson of O.A. Garretson) and Marlene Garretson then moved here in 1973. The house was large, drafty, and expensive to heat (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012). Various other family members lived here from 1975 to 1988, but the house was generally empty. Per family history: "The exterior of the house had been painted and some interior renovations were made to the walls by adding wall paneling and ceiling tile to cover up the plaster cracks. The last calendar date on the wall was November 1988, and we believe Doris was the last resident" (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

The aging house then sat vacant from 1988 to 2011, with failing plumbing and heating, septic system, foundation, and basement issues, leaking roof and windows, and inadequate electrical service. Major attention was needed to preserve this house for future generations of the Garretson family, which continued to own the farm. Per family history: "With a desire to retain the heritage of the house and farm, Joel and Marlene Garretson purchased the house, barn, and 1.5 acres from John and Don Garretson. Extensive restoration work began, including raising the house and replacing the foundation and basement, new plumbing, new wiring, roofing repairs, plaster repairs, new kitchen flooring, furnace, siding repairs, and porch reconstruction. Barn restoration began in 2012. Their son, Kurt Garretson, is the 5th generation Garretson family member to make this house his home" (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "History of the O.A. Garretson House," August 2012).

A family reunion and celebration was held on the Garretson farm on September 2, 2012 to mark the 175th anniversary of the settling of the property by Joel C. and Elizabeth Garretson. Histories of both the house and farm were compiled for the event by current owner Joel Garretson. The remainder of the farm land also continues to be owned by the heirs of Sumner, Howard, and Gilbert, with individual parcels totaling about 845 acres (J.H. Garretson, Jr. "175th Anniversary of the Garretson Farm: A Brief History," September 2, 2012). The home is currently the residence of Joel's son Kurt Garretson. The house also currently serves as the headquarters for East Grove Farms, the Garretson family farm operations. Most recently, Joel and son Kurt

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Garretson have launched a winery under the East Grove label. Production began in 2013, and the winery was opened to the public in 2014. They specialize in elderberry wines, as well as producing other meads (honey wine) made from organically grown native lowan and heirloom fruits. The front room of the house currently serves as the tasting room for the winery, with additional history on display in the dining room. The basement is currently used for the production of the wine. The Garretsons anticipate continuing to use the house as a home and for their winery, with no particular plans for additional work on the house at this time.

If not the longest, this property is certainly one of the longest continuously owned by one family in Iowa.

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Preparation of this nomination is supported financially in part by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Historical Resource Development Program (Resource Enhancement and Protection program).

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Iowa Inventory #44-01765

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 _____
Latitude Longitude

3 _____
Latitude Longitude

2 _____
Latitude Longitude

4 _____
Latitude Longitude

or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): ___ NAD 1927 or x NAD 1983

1 15 622385 4519850
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

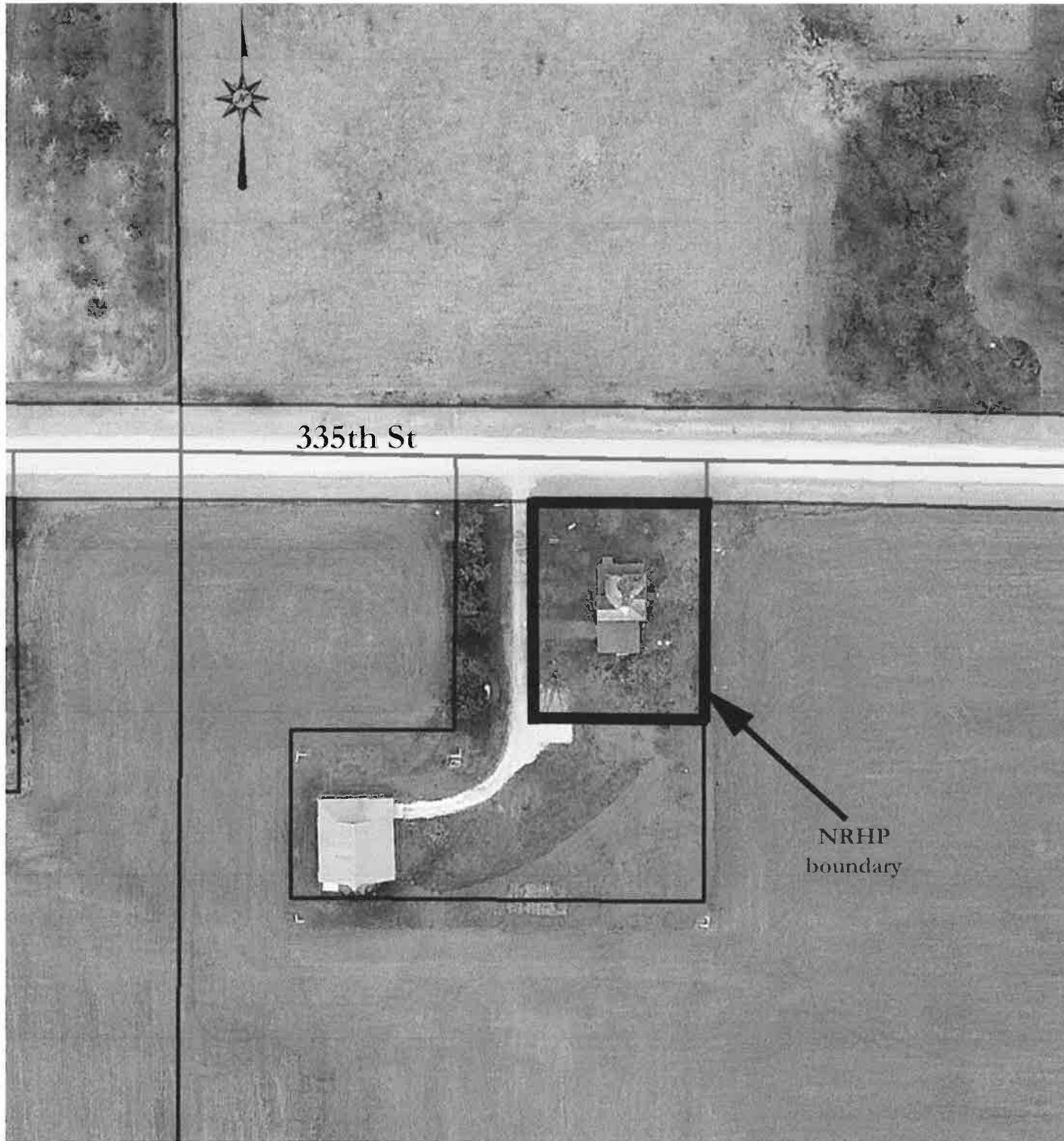
4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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

The National Register of Historic Places boundary is depicted on the map below. The boundary contains an area about 120 feet by 150 feet, which includes the house and approximately 40 feet in each direction.



Map depicting National Register boundary (1"=100')
(base aerial photography from April 2013 from Henry County Planning/GIS)

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundary for the property extends for 120 feet along 335th Street on the north side, south for 150 feet along the driveway, east for 120 feet, and north along the east parcel line for 150 feet to the point of beginning. It includes approximately 40 feet in each direction from the house, providing an adequate area around the house for context of an individual building. The barn at the southwest corner of the house parcel was moved here in the late 1930s by Sumner Garretson, and thus it does not contribute to the significance of the property as associated with the earlier period of residency of Owen A. Garretson and has been excluded from the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Architectural Historian
organization SPARK Consulting date August 12, 2015
street & number 17 Oak Lane telephone 563-324-9767
city or town Davenport state Iowa zip code 52803
e-mail sparkconsulting@octaspark.com

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

Property owner info (as requested to be completed by SHPO):

name Joel H. Garretson, Jr.
street & number 1878 Salem Road telephone n/a
city or town Salem state IA zip code 52649

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 100 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.

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo log:

Name of Property: Owen A. and Emma J. Garretson House

City or Vicinity: Salem vicinity

County: Henry State: Iowa

Photographer: Rebecca Lawin McCarley

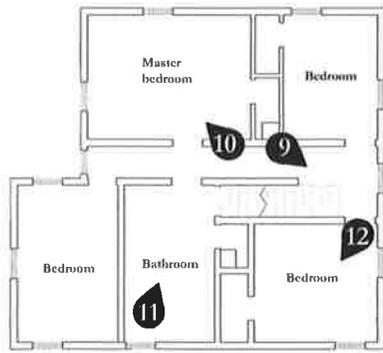
Date Photographed: September 9, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Setting of Garretson House, camera facing south.
2. Façade (north elevation) of house, camera facing south.
3. West elevation, camera facing east.
4. East elevation, camera facing west.
5. South and east elevations, camera facing northwest.
6. Living room, camera facing northeast.
7. Dining room, camera facing east.
8. Kitchen, camera facing southeast.
9. Stairs hall on second story, camera facing southeast.
10. Bedroom, camera facing northwest.
11. Middle room, camera facing northeast.
12. Bedroom, camera facing southwest.

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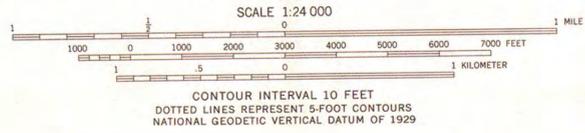


Photograph key
Garretson House, Henry Co, IA
1/16" = 1' (general layout sketch)
R.L. McCarley, SPARK Consulting
November 2014





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1973. Field checked 1976. Map edited 1981
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 1 meter north and
13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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



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

USGS
HISTORICAL FILE
NATIONAL MAPPING DIVISION

SALEM, IOWA
N4045-W91307.5
1981
DMA 7665 1 SE-SERIES V876

JUL 20 1981
1900























