

HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**BUILDINGS IN THE CORE-AREA
and
JESSE HOOVER'S
BLACKSMITH SHOP**

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

HISTORICAL DATA

by

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ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

by

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EASTERN SERVICE CENTER
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**UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



FOREWORD

This report has been prepared to satisfy the research needs as enumerated in Historical Resource Study Proposals HEHO-H-1, Historic Structures Report, Buildings in the Core-Area, and HEHO-H-6, Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop. All available documentary material and historic photographs of the subject structures have been collected, studied, synthesized, and evaluated to provide restoration architects with a document to assist them in preparing measured drawings to be used in restoration of structures in the Core-Area and on the Miles Farm to their appearance at designated periods. Buildings extant during Herbert Hoover's West Branch years will have their front facades restored to their appearance, circa 1874-1886, while those erected subsequently will have their front facades restored to their appearance as of the construction period.

Many persons have assisted in the preparation of this report. Particular thanks are due: Superintendent Randy Pope, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management, Wallace Elms, Administrative Assistant Judy Maske, Historian Robert Nash, and Information Receptionist Vivian Kaeffring of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site for their assistance in and around West Branch; Director Thomas T. Thalken, Assistant Director Robert R. Wood, Librarian

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studying paint samples, and reading the fabric of the buildings. Architect William Wagner of Wagner and Marquart shared with me data he had acquired and utilized in the 1964 reconstruction of the Hoover Blacksmith Shop. My colleagues Frank Sarles and Dave Clary read the manuscript and made valuable suggestions, while Mrs. Beatrice B. Libys skillfully typed the subject manuscript.

Edwin C. Bearss

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HANNAH VARNEY (EFFIE SMITH) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--HANNAH VARNEY (EFFIE SMITH) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The Hannah Varney (Effie Smith) House, Structure No. 4, West Branch, Iowa. The Varney House is classified as a C Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front and north and south facades of the relocated Varney House will be restored to their appearance at the time of its construction in 1899. The interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. Although this structure was built in 1899, it is in harmony with the historic scene.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating the Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate this structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The construction activity proposed for the Varney House will consist of restoring the exterior of the house to its appearance, circa 1900. To carry out this program it will be necessary to: (a) rebuild the front porch railing. (b) The house will be repainted -- the base color to be beige-pink and the trim white. (c) Rainwater leaders and downspouts on the north side of the house will be restored, the cistern mocked-up, and an iron pump installed. (d) An iron pump will be positioned behind the house. (e) A false brick chimney will be built to replace the center chimney. (f) The scuttle will be rebuilt. (g) A stoop will be reconstructed to serve as a **back porch**.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$6,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Varney House was erected 13 years after Herbert Hoover left West Branch to live with relatives in Oregon. Hoover, as a youth, would not have known this structure. After its acquisition by the National Park Service, the Varney House was moved in 1967 from its location on Lot 83C to Lot 87B, opposite the site of the Methodist Parsonage. As this house postdates

Hoover's West Branch years, its only significance is to provide a setting for a typical late nineteenth century Iowa village and quarters for park personnel.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

Until 1967, when the structure was moved, the Varney House was located on a lot in the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. On June 10, 1851, Samuel Mather had been issued a patent by the General Land Office for the west one-half southwest quarter of Section 5 and the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8 in Township 79 North, Range 4 West. To pay for the 160 acres, he surrendered the land warrant issued by the United States to William L. Eleman for service in the Mexican War.¹

Mather retained possession of the property for 20 months. On March 17, 1853, Samuel and Lydia Mather sold to Joseph Straughn of Columbiana County, Ohio, for \$140 the two 80-acre tracts.² Nine years later, on May 3, 1862, Joseph and Jane

1. Cedar County Deed Book 41, p. 595. The Cedar County Deed Books are found in the County Clerk's Office in the courthouse at Tipton, Iowa. Eleman, who had enlisted in the 1st Pennsylvania Volunteers, had assigned his warrant, No. 29657, to Mather.

2. Cedar County Deed Book G, p. 447.

Straughn sold the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8 to James Hirst. Several factors, the outbreak of the Civil War and an influx of settlers, had caused land values to soar and the Straughns received \$500 for the 80 acres.³

The Straughns, being absentee landowners, had lost money by selling when they did. Seven months later, on January 28, 1863, James and Anna Hirst of Cedar County, Iowa, sold the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8, less two acres in the southwest corner, to Joseph Cook of Belmont County, Ohio. Cook paid \$1,600 for the 78 acres.⁴

With the end of the Civil War there was a decline in Iowa land values. On May 19, 1866, Joseph and Elizabeth Cook sold to James Cook for \$1,300 the 78 acres they owned in the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8.⁵

Three years later, on May 29, 1869, the village of West Branch was platted by Joseph Steer, as attorney for John M. Wetherell.⁶ In November of that year, William W. Lamborn

3. Cedar County Deed Book R, p. 622.

4. Cedar County Deed Book S, pp. 192-93.

5. Cedar County Deed Book W, p. 406.

6. Maude Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town: The Story of West Branch (Iowa City, 1948), p. 12.

platted a village east and north of Main Street to be called Cameron.⁷ The year before the village was platted, James and Mary Ann Cook began to subdivide and sell lots in the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8. The subject property became known as Cook's Addition.

When he subdivided, Cook on March 25, 1868, sold to David Hildebrand for \$100 a tract in the west one-half of the northwest corner of Section 8. The boundary of the tract conveyed began 42 rods south of the northwest corner of the section, then east ten rods, then south 16 rods, then west 10 rods, and then north 16 rods to the point of beginning. The tract sold contained one acre.⁸ Hildebrand retained possession of the real estate for 23 months before selling it to Charles Berryhill on February 28, 1870, for \$750.⁹ The rapid increase in value indicates that Hildebrand built the house and improvements purchased by Jesse Hoover in 1879.

Berryhill died in 1878, and his estate's administrator

7. Ibid.; Edwin C. Bearss, Historical Base Map and Ground Study: Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (Washington, 1968), p. 4.

8. Cedar County Deed Book I, p. 249.

9. Cedar County Deed Book 4, p. 523.

Samuel Sharpless exposed the deceased's real estate to public sale from the Johnson County Courthouse steps in Iowa City to satisfy the creditors. Jesse Hoover, Herbert's father, was high bidder and purchased the Berryhill property on March 20, 1879, for \$140.¹⁰

Five years after the death of Jesse Hoover and three years after the death of his wife Huldah, Laurie Tatum, as guardian of the three Hoover children, sold the subject real estate on April 5, 1886, for \$500 to David Witter.¹¹ Mrs. Elizabeth Witter, following the death of her spouse, sold to Joseph Cook a tract of her acre beginning at a point 52.17 rods south of the northwest corner of Section 8, then east 10 rods, then north 66 feet, then west 10 rods, then south 66 feet to the place of beginning. Joseph and Elizabeth Cook sold this lot to Hannah Varney for \$100 on May 10, 1899. The property conveyed was in Block 32, Cook's Addition, Town of Cameron.¹²

10. Cedar County Deed Book 15, pp. 56-57.

11. Guardian's, Administrator's, and Executor's Deeds 11, p. 104.

12. Cedar County Deed Book 34, p. 499.

Hannah Varney was a divorcee. After building the subject house and marrying R. M. Ward, she and her husband sold the lot and improvements to Elwood Tatum for \$800, on April 20, 1901.¹³ Tatum used the Varney House as rental property until 1916. On August 28, 1916, Tatum sold the subject real estate to George Blunt for \$1,000.¹⁴

While they owned the property the Blunts added to both its northern and southern boundaries. On July 21, 1924, they purchased for \$82.88 the north 14 feet off Lot 83D.¹⁵ Five years later, on April 4, 1929, they bought from Rollo and Alice Crew for one dollar the south 3 feet off Lot 83B.¹⁶

Lena Blunt, 20 years after the death of her spouse, sold the property on December 12, 1952, to Effie Smith for one dollar and other considerations. Besides the house and other improvements, the subject real estate included the south 3 feet off Lot 83B, all of Lot 83C, and the north 14 feet off Lot 83D, as shown

13. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record S, pp. 319-20. On April 30, 1902, Joseph and Elizabeth Cook quit-claimed their interest in the Varney lot to Elwood Tatum for one dollar. This was to perfect the title given to Tatum by R. M. and Hannah Ward. Elwood Tatum was the son of Lawrie Tatum.

14. Cedar County Deed Book 50, p. 386; personal interview, Mrs. Irwin Heald with Bearss, Aug. 20, 1970. Mrs. Heald of West Branch is Elwood Tatum's daughter. The Tatums, who operated a nursery, lived a mile east of West Branch.

15. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 7, p. 3.

16. Cedar County Deed Book 58, p. 289.

on F. G. Reeder's 1900 plat of West Branch.¹⁷ Mrs. Smith sold the property to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation in the 1960s.¹⁸

C. Hannah Varney Builds a House

1. Hannah and John Varney Secure a Divorce

A comparison of real estate values in West Branch demonstrates that there were no major improvements on Lot 83C, Block 32, Cook's Addition, at the time it was purchased by Hannah Varney on May 18, 1899. In the 1880s John and Hannah Varney and their children were living in Bennett, Nebraska. By the mid-1890s they had returned to Cedar County, where they had been married, and settled in West Branch. Varney worked as a carpenter, while his wife kept house. Living with the Varneys in 1895, in addition to their six minor children, was Robert Ward, a 53-year-old widower.¹⁹

17. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 14, p. 106.

18. Bearss, Historical Base Map, Herbert Hoover, pp. 17-18.

19. West Branch Times, March 11, 1897; "Census of 1895, Cedar County, Schedule 1," Iowa Department of History and Archives, Historical Building, Des Moines, Iowa. John Varney had been born in 1842 in New York and his wife in 1844 in Ohio. Their minor children, all born in Nebraska, were Leonda, age 17; Anna, age 15; William, age 13; Horace, age 11; Clyde, age 6; and Clara, age 6. Clyde and Clara were twins.

On March 6, 1897, Hannah Varney was granted a divorce by the Cedar County District Court. John did not contest the divorce, as they had previously agreed on a property settlement. Mrs. Varney was to have custody of their six children and possession of the family home on west Main.²⁰

2. The House is Erected

Mrs. Varney and her children continued to live at the west Main address until the summer of 1899. In April 1899, Mrs. Varney told friends of plans to purchase a lot next to Mrs. "Lib" Witter on south Downey, on which to build.²¹ The following month the transaction was consummated, and she purchased the lot from Joseph and Elizabeth Cook. She contracted with Ross Leech and his helpers to build her new home. The house was to be 25½ by 27½ feet, one-story frame, with attic, and two dormer windows. There would be front and back porches. The floor plan called for four rooms.²²

20. West Branch Times, March 11, 1897.

21. Ibid., April 13, 1899.

22. Ibid., June 29, 1899.

Leech and his men began work in late May. A small basement was excavated and foundations poured. The walls were soon up and the building closed in. By the last week of June, Leech and his carpenters were ready to turn the structure over to the plasterers. When finished Mrs. Varney's house was described as being of "fine appearance and finished in modern style."²³ She lived in it less than a year. In Late March 1900 she announced that she would be moving to Iowa City in the near future. There she would take care of the children of her son, Charles, whose mother had died recently. On March 30 about 30 members of the Women's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic surprised Mrs. Varney at her home on south Downey. As a going away present, they gave her a handsome rocking chair.²⁴

Mrs. Varney moved to Iowa City in mid-April, leaving her daughters, Cora and Clara, in possession of her house.²⁵

23. Ibid.

24. Ibid., April 5, 1900.

25. Ibid., April 19, 1900.

In November Mrs. Varney married Robert Ward, an old friend. Several months after the wedding, the Wards sold the house and lot to Elwood Tatum and moved to the Pacific Northwest. Tatum used the Varney House and lot as rental property. For a number of months he continued to rent to the Varney girls.²⁶

After the Varney girls moved out and until 1915 when the George Blunts moved in, the Varney House had a number of tenants. Among these were the Russell Reeds, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gruwell. The Gruwells lived in the house from April 1911 to 1913.²⁷

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

1. L. C. Rummells' Photograph

During the winter of 1911-12 a photograph was taken of Mr. Rummells and his brother in front of their home at the northeast corner of Downey and Cedar streets. In the

26. Ibid., March 7, 1901; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record S, pp. 319-20. Ward had been born in Stark County, Ohio, on July 18, 1841. His mother died when he was a small boy, and he was raised by Simon Dixon of Cedar County. Ward had seen service during the Civil War with the 35th Iowa Infantry and the 14th Ohio Infantry. On March 10, 1866, he married Cathrine J. Hawley, and to the couple were born four children. The first Mrs. Ward died at West Branch, June 27, 1893. West Branch Times, April 14, 1921.

27. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

background is the Varney House. An examination of the subject photograph shows that: (a) the front porch has a railing; (b) there is a brick chimney; and (c) the house is painted a dull color with darker trim. A copy of this photograph is found in this report.

2. Panoramic Photograph of West Branch from Cooks' Hill, Circa 1909

An examination of the subject photograph discloses that at this time there was no lean-to addition to the east elevation of the structure. A copy of this photograph is found in this report.

3. Mrs. Golda Gruwell's Photographs of the House

Two photographs taken of the house by Mrs. Golda Gruwell show the north, west, and south elevations of the structure as they appeared in the early 1930s. These photographs document the location and appearance of: (a) the front porch railings; (b) the drain pipes, rainwater leaders, and downspouts; (c) the cistern and well pumps; (d) the center brick chimney and scupper; (e) the lean-to addition and back porch; and (f) the trapdoor entrance to the basement. At the time these photographs were taken, the house was painted a darker color than the white trim. Copies of the Gruwell photographs are found in this report.

E. Recollections of the Varney House

1. L. C. Rummells Describes the House

L. C. Rummells' parents were living in the Lib Witter House, the first dwelling south of the Varney House, in 1910. Mr. Rummells recalls that at this time the Varney House was painted salmon pink. It was occupied by the Russell Reed family.²⁸

2. Mrs. Gruwell Recalls the House

Mrs. Gruwell, who was born in 1889, recalls the house being built. Following her marriage to Harry Gruwell in April 1911, they moved into the Varney House. It served as a "honeymoon cottage," and they paid Elwood Tatum \$7.50 per month rent. Here their daughter Donna June was born.

The house, Mrs. Gruwell recalls, was not well built, and during the winter of 1911-12 it was as "cold as the Hand of Fate." Its exterior appearance, except for the lean-to, was similar to that shown in the photographs taken

28. Personal interview, L. C. Rummells with Bearss, July 14, 1969, and Aug. 4, 1970. According to Mr. Rummells' mother, Contractor Leech charged Mrs. Varney \$800 for building the house.

in the 1930s. Inside there were four "cozy" rooms with a stairway to the upper floor and one to the cellar. There was "no modern foolishness like plumbing or electric lights! And the pump" north of the house "froze up like the Arctic Seas in winter, and the path was icy and long. But we were happy!" A floor plan of the Varney House, circa 1912, prepared by Mrs. Gruwell is found in this report.²⁹

3. Mrs. Ernst Thompson Recalls the House and Grounds

a. The Blunts Move In

On September 9, 1915, George and Lena Blunt moved into the Varney House. The 48-year-old Blunt worked as a printer for the West Branch Times. The following August, the Blunts purchased the property from Elwood Tatum. Mr. Blunt died in 1932, and his widow continued to live in the house until 1952, when she sold her real estate to Effie Smith. Mrs. Blunt died in 1956, having reached the age of 82.³⁰

29. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

30. Telephone interview, Mrs. Ernst Thompson with Bearss, Oct. 5, 1970. Mrs. Thompson of Viola, Illinois, is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Blunt; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 14, p. 106.

Mrs. Ernst Thompson, a granddaughter of the Blunts, was very close to her grandparents. While growing up, she visited their home frequently, and vividly recalls the house and grounds. She has shared these recollections with the author.

b. Changes to the House Recalled by Mrs. Thompson

The front porch railing, which appears in the Rummells and Gruwell photographs, was removed from the structure after Grandmother Blunt sold the property to Effie Smith.

For as long as she can recall, the house was painted a "beige pink" and trimmed in white. As long as he lived, Mr. Blunt, who was exceedingly neat, had the house painted every three years.

Mr. Blunt was a skilled carpenter, and he took care of the maintenance. He laid the handsome hardwood flooring in the downstairs rooms and wired the house for electricity. He built a lean-to addition in back of the house for a kitchen and bathroom and added interior plumbing. The kitchen was on the north and the bathroom on the south. The bathroom was entered from a door at the foot of the stairs, and the kitchen

from the present door at the rear of the house. The kitchen could also be entered from the back porch. Blunt also built an enclosed porch behind the kitchen, which was entered by a stairs from the north. When the house was relocated by the National Park Service in 1967, the lean-to and back porch were eliminated.³¹

c. Mrs. Thompson Recalls the Outbuildings

There was a shed north of the house, opposite the side door and steps leading into the back porch. Mr. Blunt kept his tools in this building. This shed will not be reconstructed.³²

d. Mrs. Thompson Recalls the Grounds

In the front yard, between the sidewalk and Downey Street, were two handsome hard maples. On the north boundary of the lot was a line of apple trees. A short distance from the northeast corner of the back porch was a grape arbor. Behind the house, the Blunts

31. Ibid.

32. Ibid.

had their garden. A short distance west of the steps giving access to the back porch was a cistern and iron hand pump. Discharging into the cistern was one rainwater leader connecting into a Y into which downspouts carrying off water from the front and rear roofs discharged. The front porch roof was drained by gutters into a rainwater leader discharging onto the ground, near the northwest corner of the porch. In the area between the east elevation of the bathroom and the south elevation of the back porch was a well and pump. Entrance to the small basement was gained by a trapdoor located in the space between the south elevation of the lean-to and the southeast corner of the house. The east window in the southeast room overlooked the trapdoor.³³

33. Ibid.

DR. L. J. LEECH (ENLOW) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--DR. L. J. LEECH (ENLOW) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The Dr. L. J. Leech (Enlow) House, Structure No. 5, West Branch, Iowa. The Dr. Leech House is classified as a C Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade of Dr. Leech's House will be restored to its appearance at the time of its construction in 1920. The interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. Although this structure was built in 1920, it is not out of harmony with the historic scene.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating the Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate this structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

To restore the Dr. Leech House to its appearance, circa 1920, it will be necessary to: (a) position caps on the posts of the upstairs railing. (b) When the house is programmed to be repainted, paint samples will be taken and analyzed. The structure will then be repainted to reflect its appearance in the 1920s. Photographs taken during this period show the house was painted and trimmed in white, while the porch railings and bottoms of the columns were a darker color. (c) Shrubbery should be set out alongside the north and south elevations of the house. (d) A trellis will be positioned alongside the north elevation of the house.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$2,500

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Dr. Leech House was erected in 1920, 34 years after Herbert Hoover left West Branch to live with relatives in Oregon. The house was built for Dr. L. J. Leech, the beloved West Branch physician, and it was his home during the final 17 years of his long and useful life. The house, itself, has no significance to the Hoover story. It is, however, a substantial

dwelling not out of character or harmony with nearby nineteenth century structures.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

The Dr. Leech House is located on the south 74 feet of Lot 87A. When James and Mary Cook subdivided the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8, Township 79 North, Range 4 West, they sold Lot 87A in Block 33, Cook's Addition, to Elisha Haines. For a history of the land transactions involving the subject lot prior to its subdivision, see the corresponding section of the Hannah Varney House Study.

On February 16, 1871, Benjamin Miles, Herbert Hoover's great uncle, sold to Haines for \$161.24 Lots 20 and 21 in Block 33 and Lots 22 and 23 in Block 32, north of the Wapsinonoc.¹ Haines and his wife on June 10, 1875, sold to Jonathan Wilson of Des Moines County for \$2,250 the following real estate: (a) a lot (87A) with a boundary beginning 10 rods south of the northwest corner of Section 8, then east 10 rods, then south 8 rods, then west 10 rods, and then north 8 rods to the beginning, containing one-half acre; (b) Lots 20 and 21 in

1. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record G, p. 194.

Block 33; and (c) that portion of Lots 22 and 23 in Block 32, north of the Wapsinonoc.² Wilson and his wife, nine days later, sold the real estate they had purchased from Haines, in Cook's Addition, to Laban J. Miles for \$2,250.³ To secure money necessary for bonding purposes to cover his appointment as agent for the Osage and Kaw, Miles and his wife, Agnes, on March 21, 1878, mortgaged the subject property for \$1,800 to Beiderbecker and Miller of Davenport, Iowa.⁴ Beiderbecker and Miller subsequently sold the mortgage to the West Branch Bank.

With the inauguration of Grover Cleveland as President in March 1885, Miles, being a Republican, lost his position as Indian agent. He returned to West Branch and went into the mercantile business with Charles Townsend. The new business apparently absorbed all of his liquid capital, and Miles was unable to keep up the payments on his loan. On February 15, 1886, the West Branch Bank secured a judgment against Miles and Townsend for \$2,339.38 from the Cedar County Circuit Court.

2. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record I, p. 191.

3. Ibid., p. 222.

4. Town Lot Mortgage Record A, p. 549.

Sheriff W. E. Elijah, as directed by the court, seized and sold at public auction goods and property belonging to Miles and Townsend. Dr. L. J. Leech purchased at the sheriff's sale for \$1,000 Lots 20, 21, and 87A in Block 33, and that portion of Lots 22 and 23, Block 32, north of the Wapsinonoc.⁵

The subject real estate remained in Dr. Leech's possession until his death at Madison, Wisconsin, on September 23, 1937. When his will was probated, it was found that Dr. Leech had left to his son, Albert, a tract beginning 221 feet and 4 inches south of the northwest corner of Section 8; then east 165 feet to the west line of Lot 21, Block 33; then south along the west boundary of Lot 21 to a point 18 rods south of the north line of Section 8; then west to the section line; and then north to the point of beginning. Located on this property was the house erected by the deceased in 1920.

Also included in Albert Leech's inheritance was a second tract beginning at a point on the east line of Lot 20, Block 33, at a point 28 feet south of the northeast corner of the subject lot; then east 30 feet; then south to the Wapsinonoc; then

5. Cedar County Treasurer's and Sheriff's Deed Book 2, p. 593.

west with the meanders of the stream to the east line of Lot 23; then north to a line 508 feet south of the north boundary of Section 8 and parallel thereto; then west along said line to the west line of Lot 22; then north along the west line of Lot 22 and said lot extended to a point on the west line of Lot 21, which is 28 feet south of the northwest corner thereof; and then east to the beginning.⁶

Albert Leech died on June 1, 1951, leaving his property to his widow, Anna. This included in addition to the south 74 feet of Lot 87A, a one-half undivided interest in a lease dated June 27, 1950, from R. A. and Flavia Murch to Albert Leech for the lots in the southeast corner of Block 33 and the northeast corner of Block 32, Cook's Addition.⁷

Anna Leech died on November 5, 1957. Ten months later, on August 27, 1958, her executor, Thaddeus T. Bozek, sold the subject house and lot to Arnold and Anna Olsen for \$13,127.50. The Olsens, three days later, conveyed the subject real estate to William G. and Daisey Enlow for one dollar and other valuable considerations.⁸ The United States acquired the

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6. Records of Probated Wills, Cedar County, Dr. L. J. Leech's Will, No. 6720, files, Clerk of District Court, Tipton, Iowa.
 7. Records of Probated Wills, Cedar County, Albert M. Leech's Will, No. 8607, files, Clerk of District Court, Tipton, Iowa.
 8. Cedar County Real Estate Deed Record 15, pp. 539, 543.

Enlow property in 1967 for inclusion in the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

C. Dr. Lewis J. Leech Builds a House

In June 1920 Dr. L. J. Leech sold the family home at 113 South Downey Street to his son Albert. The doctor and his wife would build a new house on the south 74 feet of Lot 87A. By mid-June workmen had arrived, and were turned to excavating for a basement and foundations. They made rapid progress, and on July 15 the editor of the West Branch Times observed, "Dr. Leech's bungalow is going up rapidly and will soon be a charming home."⁹ The editor on August 5 reported that the plasterers were at work, and in a few weeks the house would be ready for occupancy. Before the summer was over, Dr. Leech and his wife were established in their new home and Albert Leech and his wife in the doctor's former residence.¹⁰

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

Although there have been no major structural changes to the Dr. Leech House in the 50 years since it was erected,

9. West Branch Times, June 17 and July 15, 1920.

10. Ibid., Aug. 5 and Sept. 23, 1920.

period photographs do document minor changes.

1. Dr. Leech Standing on Front Steps

An examination of the subject photograph shows that the porch railing, cap of supporting post, and the bottom round of the porch column were not painted white. They are a darker color. The porch flooring and porch steps were painted. A copy of this photograph is in this report.

2. Dr. Leech Sitting in Chair at Side of Porch

This photograph also shows that the porch railings were painted a darker color than the columns and balustrades. A trellis is shown at the corner of the house. Beside the north elevation of the house are rose bushes, while alongside the north elevation of the porch are shrubs. A copy of the subject photograph is in the report.

3. Dr. Leech and Family Group in Front of Porch Steps

This photograph confirms that the porch railing, the caps of the supporting posts, and porch steps were painted a darker color than the balustrades. A copy of this photograph may be found in this report.

4. The Army Band's 1930 Visit to West Branch

Two photographs taken in 1930, when the United States Army Band visited West Branch, show details of the front

elevation of Dr. Leech's House. These photographs show the balcony railing caps. These caps, along with the railing, are painted a darker color than the balustrades. Although the porch columns are painted white, the rounds at the top are painted a darker color. The structure is roofed with asphalt shingles. Although the house had asphalt shingles when constructed, they are out of character with the last decades of the nineteenth century. The house has accordingly been reroofed with cedar shingles. Copies of these photographs are in this report.

E. Dr. Leech's Biography

Dr. Lewis J. Leech for more than 50 years was one of the best known and most beloved residents of West Branch. A son of Thomas and Ellen Leech, Lewis was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, August 3, 1846. His father was a farmer, and the family moved to Cedar County, Iowa, in 1855. For the next nine years, Lewis attended school and worked on the family farm.

On February 13, 1864, Leech who was then 18 traveled to Davenport, where at Camp McClellan he enlisted for three years' service in Company F, 2d Iowa Cavalry. His enlistment record indicates that Lewis at this time was five feet seven inches

in height, with hazel eyes, dark hair, and light complexion.

Leech reported to his unit on March 19, 1864, from the Memphis Recruit Depot. His first weeks with the 2d Iowa Cavalry were spent on detached service at Memphis' Fort Pickering. During the summer and autumn of 1864, Leech served in the field with the 2d Iowa Cavalry, participating in campaigns in north Mississippi and Middle Tennessee. His service was satisfactory, and Leech, soon after his 19th birthday, was promoted to corporal. Following the battle of Nashville, fought December 15 and 16, Leech was included in the detail left to guard the regimental camp. Corporal Leech rode with his regiment during Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson's 1865 raid into Alabama and Georgia. In April 1865 he was transferred to Company I and was mustered out of service at Selma, Alabama, September 19, 1865.¹¹

Returning from the war to Cedar County, Leech worked on the family farm for several years. In August 1868 he married Ruthanna Whitacre. To the couple were born two children - Oliver J. and Albert.

11. History of Cedar County, Iowa, with a History of Iowa, 2 vols. (Chicago and Cedar Rapids, 1901), vol. 2, p. 224; Compiled Service Records of Union Soldiers, L. J. Leech, NA.

Leech by the late 1870s realized that he did not possess sufficient education to enter a profession. He accordingly entered Iowa State University from which he received a degree to practice medicine on March 2, 1882. With only \$100 in cash, he located in West Branch, opening his first office in the fourth week of March on Main Street, in Records and Leech's Drugstore.¹²

Leech was a good physician and well-liked. He prospered, and in October 1884 he moved his family into the Laban Miles House on south Downey, where he was to live for the next 36 years.¹³

Sorrow came to the Leech household on September 2, 1889, when the doctor's wife, Ruthanna, died of mastoid. The daughter of Aquilla and Ann Whitacre, she had been born 43 years before in Warren County, Ohio, and had moved to Iowa with her parents in 1865.¹⁴ Dr. Leech continued to live in his house with his sons, until they left home to attend college.

12. History of Cedar County, Iowa, pp. 224-25; West Branch Local Record, March 9 and 30, 1882.

13. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 23, 1884.

14. West Branch Times, Sept. 12, 1889, Ruthanna was buried in Highland Cemetery, Johnson County, Iowa.

Then in April 1892 James H. Lloyd and his bride moved in with the doctor. Lloyd, "a genial and enterprising young businessman and proprietor of the drugstore on Main Street," had married the former Mrs. Azima W. Swan of Boston at the doctor's house on April 10.¹⁵

Fifteen months later, on July 13, 1893, Dr. Leech married Lydia R. Thomas of Centerdale. The wedding took place at the residence of Byron Hawley, with the Rev. J. G. Eberhardt officiating.¹⁶

Tragedy visited the Leech home again on November 24, 1903, when the doctor's eldest son, Oliver, died. Born in October 1869, Oliver had graduated from West Branch High School in 1887. He then attended Pharmacy School at Iowa State University. Before going to work as dispensary druggist at the Missouri Pacific Hospital at Kansas City, Missouri, Oliver had been employed as a druggist at several places. His health, never robust, now deteriorated, and he had to take frequent leaves of absence.

15. Ibid., April 14, 1892.

16. Ibid., July 13, 1893; History of Cedar County, Iowa, vol. 2, p. 224; personal interview, Ross Sayles with Bearss, Aug. 22, 1970. Lydia Thomas had been born at Barnesville, Ohio, December 6, 1859. She died in Los Angeles, October 24, 1949.

Unable to continue, he had resigned his position and returned to West Branch to live with his father and stepmother. In May 1903 he was hospitalized at Independence, where he passed away. Oliver's funeral was held in his father's parlor on November 27.¹⁷

Dr. Leech in November 1901 was elected to represent Cedar County in the 30th General Assembly of the Iowa Legislature. He and his wife left West Branch on January 6, 1902. The doctor planned to live in Des Moines, while sitting in the session of the legislature scheduled to convene on the 13th. During his absence, D. E. McClellan would look after his accounts.¹⁸ Dr. Leech, in view of his experience, was assigned to the Committee on Public Health, of which he was appointed chairman. In the 30th General Assembly he sponsored a bill requiring osteopaths to submit to an examination by the State Board of Medical Examiners before being given a certificate to practice in Iowa.¹⁹

17. West Branch Times, Oct. 22, 1896, and Dec. 3, 1903.

18. Ibid., Jan. 2, 1902.

19. Ibid., April 10, 1902.

In November 1903 Leech was reelected to the 31st General Assembly. Although he remained active in the Republican party, Leech did not seek reelection in 1905.²⁰

Dr. Leech was active in G.A.R. affairs on the local, state, and national levels. In February 1897 Leech was notified that he had been appointed by the commander-in-chief as an aide-de-camp on his staff. This position, while honorary, had some important functions.²¹ At the 60th Annual Encampment held at Des Moines, he was elected Department Commander. While in attendance at the 1937 National Encampment in Madison, Wisconsin, Dr. Leech on Monday morning, September 6, fell on the steps of the state capitol. He was rushed to the Methodist Hospital, where he died on the 22d.

Services for the doctor, who had practiced medicine for 55 years, were held at the West Branch Methodist Church on Saturday, September 25. A message from former President Herbert Hoover was read at the services. Hoover's message read, "Mrs. Hoover, Allen, and I wish you to convey our sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Leech. They, with us, know his long life of usefulness to the community and loyalty to his neighbors and friends."²²

20. Ibid., Nov. 5, 1903, and Sept. 23, 1937.

21. Ibid., Feb. 15, 1897.

22. Ibid., Sept. 23, 1937.

THE LABAN MILES (RARICK) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--LABAN MILES (RARICK) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The Laban Miles (Rarick) House, Structure No. 6, West Branch, Iowa. The Laban Miles House is classified as a B Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front and south facades of Laban Miles' House will be restored to their appearance, circa 1905. The Interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. As this house was erected in the early 1870s, and belonged to his Uncle Laban Miles, Herbert Hoover would have been familiar with it.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

This structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating this Structure

No cooperative agreement will be needed to operate this structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The construction activity proposed for the Laban Miles House will consist of: (a) restoring the front veranda to its appearance, circa 1905. To accomplish this the railing will be removed and the drain pipes repositioned. (b) The gingerbread scrollwork will be restored and repositioned in the apex of the gable. (c) The asphalt shingles will be replaced with cedar shingles. (d) The house will be painted the same colors it had in the years 1870-1885. (e) A pine tree will be planted a short distance south of the porch. (f) A picket fence will be erected along the north, south, and west lines of Lot 87A. (g) A plank walkway will be laid leading from the front porch to the street. (h) A second plank walkway will be laid leading from the front porch to the side entrance and site of privy. (i) A hitching post will be reconstructed and positioned between the sidewalk and the curbing. (j) The carriage step will be repositioned next to the curbing. (k) A finial will be positioned atop the front gable.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$15,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Laban Miles House was built between 1869 and 1872, and from June 1875 until 1886 it belonged to Herbert Hoover's distinguished uncle, Laban Miles. In 1878 Miles was appointed agent for the Osage and Kaw. After leaving for the Indian Territory to take up his duties, Miles rented his home in West Branch. Dr. L. J. Leech, the respected and beloved West Branch physician, lived in the house from 1885 until 1920. This house was intimately associated with Laban Miles and Dr. Leech, and would have been familiar to Herbert Hoover during his boyhood in and around West Branch.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

The Laban Miles House is located on the north one-half of Lot 87A, Block 33, Cook's Addition. For a history of the transactions involving the subject lot from 1871 until 1920, see Historical Data Section, Part B, Dr. L. J. Leech's House. After the death of Albert Leech in 1951, the subject property was sold by his widow to Andy Foreacre. Foreacre in turn conveyed the lot and improvements to Walter and Alda Crew, and William and Lillian Chapman. On January 5, 1967, the Crews and Chapmans sold to the United States a tract beginning 159 feet south of the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of

Section 8, Township 79 North, Range 4 West, in the Town of West Branch; then east 151 feet; then south 6 feet; then east 14 feet; then south 56 feet 4 inches; then west 165 feet to the section line; and then north to the point of beginning. The conveyance was subject to the life estate of Alda M. Rarick.¹

C. The Laban Miles House--A Construction History

1. A House is Built

Some time between 1869 and 1872, a two-story frame house was erected on Lot 87A by either Elisha Haines or Benjamin Miles. We know that in 1868 there was no house on the subject lot, but in 1872 when Harris and Warner published their Atlas of Cedar County there was.² In 1871 Benjamin Miles, Herbert Hoover's great uncle, sold part of the subject property to Elisha Haines.³ Haines and his wife on June 10, 1875, sold to Jonathan Wilson of Des Moines County for \$2,250 the following real estate:

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1. Warranty Deed, Crew and Chapman to United States, Jan. 5, 1967, files Lands Division, NPS.
 2. Harris and Warner, Atlas of Cedar County (Marshalltown, 1872), Fig. 43.
 3. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record G, p. 194.

(a) a lot (87A) with a boundary beginning 10 rods south of the northwest corner of Section 8, then east 10 rods, then south 8 rods, then west 10 rods, and then north 8 rods to the beginning, containing one-half acre; (b) Lots 20 and 21 in Block 33; and (c) that portion of Lots 22 and 23 in Block 32, north of the Wapsinonoc.⁴ Wilson and his wife, nine days later, sold the real estate they had purchased from Haines to Laban J. Miles for \$2,250.⁵

2. Laban Miles and the House

Miles and his family lived in the house on south Downey until the spring of 1878. In that year he was named by President Rutherford B. Hayes to be agent for the Osage and Kaw. To secure money needed to cover his bond as agent, Miles and his wife, Agnes, on March 21 mortgaged their house and lots for \$1,800 to Beiderbecker and Miller of Davenport, Iowa.⁶ See Appendix A for a brief history of Laban Miles as agent for the Osage and Kaw.

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4. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record I, p. 191.
 5. *Ibid.*, p. 222. Jonathan Wilson had been born near Mount Pleasant, Ohio, in July 1813, and had moved to Iowa in 1853, settling near Springdale. He died at Springdale on April 1, 1881. West Branch Local Record, April 7, 1881.
 6. Town Lot Mortgage Record A, p. 549.

When he and his family left for the Indian Territory in the summer of 1878, Miles rented his property. In the autumn of 1878 I. L. Miles, a local photographer, prepared a selection of stereoscopic views of the West Branch area. One of these views was taken from the center of Downey Street, looking north. On the east side of Downey, between the Wapsinonoc and Main Street, can be seen three buildings. The first house is Levi Forney's, the second is Collins' shop, and the third is Laban Miles' dwelling. Miles' house at this time was a two-story frame, with a stoop porch, and rear chimney. The yard is apparently enclosed by a picket fence.⁷

3. Dr. L. J. Leech and the House

a. Dr. Leech Moves In

Dr. L. J. Leech had opened his practice in West Branch in late March 1882. Leech was a good country doctor and well liked. He prospered, and in October 1884 he moved his family into the Laban Miles house. The house had been rented by Miles to the Methodist Church

7. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 7, 1878; stereoscopic view of West Branch from Cook's Hill, files Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

as a parsonage. The Methodist minister, the Rev. R. Wolfe, at this time changed residences with Dr. Leech, moving into the east Main Street dwelling formerly rented by the doctor.⁸ Sixteen months were to pass, however, before Dr. Leech secured title to the lot and improvements. To do so, he purchased from Sheriff E. W. Elijah for \$1,000 Lots 20, 21, and 87A in Block 33, and that portion of Lots 22 and 23, Block 32, north of the Wapsinonoc. The West Branch Bank on February 15, 1886, had secured a judgment against Laban Miles and Charles Townsend for \$2,339.38 from the Cedar County Circuit Court. Sheriff Elijah had been directed by the court to seize and sell at public auction goods and property belonging to Miles and Townsend to satisfy the judgment.⁹

b. Improvements Made to the House--1885-88

In April 1885, while title to the property was still vested in Laban Miles, Dr. Leech hired a

8. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 23, 1884. The Leech family moved into the Laban Miles house on Monday, October 20.

9. Cedar County Treasurer's and Sheriff's Deeds Book 2, p. 593.

carpenter to improve and repair the house.¹⁰

Leech's practice continued to prosper, and in April 1886, two months after he secured title to the property, he had a single-story addition built on the rear of the dwelling.¹¹ In June 1888 Dr. Leech employed C. H. Wickersham to paint his house a "lilac tint."¹²

c. Dr. Leech's Father Dies

In the last week of October 1900, Thomas Leech, the doctor's aging father, moved in with his son.¹³ The old man, however, did not have long to live, and he died on January 23, 1901, of heart failure, following a brief illness.¹⁴ He was 85 at the time of his death, having been born in 1816 in York County, Pennsylvania. Leech had been taken by his parents to Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1817. In January 1840 he had married Ellen Stratton, and to the couple were born

10. West Branch Local Record, April 30, 1885.

11. Ibid., April 22, 1886.

12. Ibid., June 7, 1888.

13. West Branch Times, Nov. 1, 1900.

14. Ibid., Jan. 24, 1901.

five children. Mrs. Leech died in the early 1850s. Before moving from Ohio to Cedar County in 1855, Leech had remarried, taking as his second wife Elizabeth Jones. Following her death, he married Ann Dean, a widow, in July 1895.

d. Dr. Leech Builds a Two-Story Ell and Installs Central Heating

Dr. Leech in May and June 1901 made major improvements to his house. A two-story ell, housing a hall and stairway, was constructed on the south elevation of the house, while the front porch was replaced by a veranda. The house at this time was moved back from the street 14 feet. In reporting this work, the West Branch Times observed that Dr. Leech would now have "a modern residence."¹⁵ In the summer of 1901, the doctor contracted with Doty Furnace Co. for a heating furnace for his residence. With the mercury in the 80s, it seemed hardly necessary to to arrange for more heat in July.¹⁶

15. Ibid., May 2 and 9, 1901.

16. Ibid., July 17, 1902.

4. The Lawn Parties

The Leech yard, between the house and McClellan's, was one of the village's popular social centers. Here during the warm months of the year were held ice cream socials. Typical of these was the one held by the Epworth League on July 17, 1890.¹⁷

On July 4, 1893, to celebrate the 117th anniversary of the nation's independence, an ice cream festival was held by Dr. Leech on his front lawn.¹⁸ It was announced in the newspaper on June 21, 1894, that ice cream would be served on Dr. Leech's lawn on the evening of the 22d. This social would be under the auspices of the Junior League and everybody was invited.¹⁹ On Saturday evening, May 27, 1897, ice cream was again served on the Leech lawn.²⁰

17. West Branch Times, July 17, 1890.

18. *Ibid.*, July 6, 1893.

19. *Ibid.*, June 21, 1894.

20. *Ibid.*, May 27, 1897.

A box supper and social to which the entire town was invited was held on the Leech lawn on May 30, 1898, for the benefit of the volunteer fire company. The ladies of the town were asked to bring or send a box to be sold, and all gentlemen were invited to "come and buy a box and take supper with your own or someone else's best girl."²¹

The firemen's box social was a success. Besides netting the boys \$40.05 to help outfit and equip them for the state tournament, it provided "stocks of fun and merriment."²² Several of the boxes sold for as much as five dollars. So popular were the firemen's box suppers that for the next several years they became annual affairs. To add to the enjoyment, in 1900, games were added.²³

5. The Leech Barn

To shelter the team he used to make calls, Dr. Leech in the autumn of 1894 had a handsome two-story frame barn erected on the southeast corner of his property. Six years having passed since Wickersham had painted his house, Leech had it repainted. The cost of these improvements was \$500.²⁴

21. *Ibid.*, May 26, 1898.

22. *Ibid.*, June 2, 1898.

23. *Ibid.*, July 12, 1900.

24. *Ibid.*, Nov. 1, 1894, and Jan. 3, 1895.

As befitting his position as doctor and state legislator, Dr. Leech in the spring of 1902 purchased a matched team of sorrels for his buggy.²⁵ His son, Albert, took care of the team.

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

1. The Miles Photograph

This photograph, taken in 1878, provides us with a panoramic view of West Branch from Cook's Hill. The Miles House is the third building, north of the Wapsinonoc, on the east side of Downey Street. The Miles House at this time was a simple, two-story frame, with a front stoop. The chimney was near the rear elevation. At this period the house stood closer to the street than it does today, and the yard was enclosed by a picket fence.

2. Photograph, Circa 1910

This photograph, taken from the southeast corner of Downey and Main streets, shows the front elevation of the Miles House. This photograph was made subsequent to 1901, when the house was moved to the east 14 feet, an ell

25. Ibid., May 8, 1902.

erected, and the front porch replaced by a veranda. The veranda at this time did not have a railing, and the house was roofed with cedar shingles. In the apex of the front gable there is bric-a-brac, while atop the gable there is a finial. The house is painted grey and trimmed in white.

3. Photograph of Veranda and Shady Walk on South Downey

This photograph, taken about 1912, provides details for restoration of the veranda, walkways, hitching post, downspouts, and carriage step.

4. Photograph of Civil War Veterans in Front of Miles House

This photograph, taken in the second decade of the twentieth century, provides details for restoration of the carriage step, hitching post, downspouts, and veranda. The house and veranda at this time were trimmed in white.

5. Photograph of South Elevation of House

This photograph of Violet C. Stratton, taken in the 1930s, shows the south elevation of the Miles House. By this time a railing and balustrades had been added to the veranda. The house was trimmed in white and painted grey. The cedar shingle roof had been replaced with asphalt shingles.

6. Aerial Photograph of South Downey and East Main

This photograph, taken in the early 1950s, provides location details for the kitchen addition erected in 1886 by Dr. Leech. By this time the shed porches with gables had been eliminated from the Hayhurst (Davis) House, being replaced by a patio porch. Copies of these six historic photographs are found in this report.

E. Recollections of the Miles House

1. Mrs. Birdie Moore Recalls the House and Yard

At the turn of the century, Mrs. Birdie Moore recalls, Dr. Leech's home was one of West Branch's "show places." The handsome veranda was complemented by the big south lawn, extending to the picket fence separating the Leech and McClellan property. It was on this lawn that Dr. Leech held his ice cream socials. When these were held in the evenings, the grounds were lighted by Japanese lanterns. On the southeast corner of the lot stood Dr. Leech's big barn. Here he kept his handsome bay team. Bert Leech frequently drove the team for his father.²⁶

26. Personal interview, Mrs. Moore with Bearss, Aug. 10 and 16, 1970.

2. Mrs. Nellie Scannell Recalls the House and Grounds

Mrs. Nellie Scannell lived in the house from April 1892 until July 1893. She was the daughter of Mrs. Azina Snow Swan. On April 10, 1892, her mother, who was a widow, married James Lloyd, a widower, in Dr. Leech's house. Lloyd, a graduate of the University of Iowa School of Pharmacy, owned and operated a drugstore on Main Street. Following the death of his wife, Lloyd had moved in with Dr. Leech, the doctor having been a widower since 1889. Nellie, at the time of her mother's marriage to Lloyd, was four and one-half years old.²⁷

a. The House

Mrs. Scannell's recollections of the house are after the addition of the ell and the construction of the veranda. The floor plan of the house, which she recalls, is similar to today's. In the early 1900s there were located on the first floor of the original house a parlor, sitting room, and flight of steps leading to the upstairs. In the single-story addition, there was a kitchen and pantry on the south side and

27. Telephone interview, Mrs. Scannell with Bearss, Nov. 18, 1970.

a bedroom on the north side. There was no bathroom or interior plumbing. Upstairs there were three bedrooms and a hall. The house was not wired for electricity, and it was lighted by kerosene lamps. The house was painted grey with white trim.²⁸

b. The Yard

There was a boardwalk leading from the veranda to the carriage step at the curbing, and a walkway leading from the veranda around the south elevation of the house to the kitchen door and on to the privy. Near the kitchen door were the cistern and well. An iron hand pump was used. On the south boundary of Lot 87A there was a white picket fence.²⁹

c. Outbuildings

Dr. Leech's big, handsome barn was located southeast of the house. It was painted red and trimmed in white. Four bay horses were kept in the barn. Doll and Bill were worked together, and Topsy and Nell.

28. Ibid.

29. Ibid.

The privy was located in rear of and south of the house. A board walkway led from the privy to the kitchen door.³⁰

3. Mrs. Golda Gruwell's Recollections of the House and Yard

a. The House

Mrs. Gruwell recalls the house before the construction of the ell in 1901. The front porch was "a fair sized portico, with roof." The front door had "colored glass panels on the sides, while it was paneled." The house was "painted a color about like ochre and trimmed in a reddish brown (almost burnt sienna)." Mrs. Gruwell especially recalls the latter color, because she thought it was ugly.³¹

b. The Fence and Lot

Before the house was enlarged and moved back from the street in 1901, the house and lot were enclosed by a picket fence. The gate, giving access to the yard, was in front of the portico. A board walkway

30. Ibid.

31. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

led from the portico, out through the gate, to the carriage step. When the house was moved, the picket fence, except for the section dividing the Leech and McClellan property, was removed. Dr. Leech had a large garden between his side lawn and the rear of his lot.³²

4. Glenn Brown Recalls the House

Glenn Brown recalls that Albert Leech in the 1920s employed carpenters to alter and make improvements to the addition at the rear of the house.³³

F. Colors House to be Painted

Paint samples obtained by Architects Judd and Lessig on August 10, 1970, and analyzed by Mr. Judd demonstrate that in the 1870s and 1880s the house and addition were painted sienna. No trim samples were obtained, but Mrs. Gruwell recalls that it was trimmed in reddish brown.

32. Ibid., telephone interview, Mrs. Gruwell with Bearss, Sept. 5, 1970.

33. Personal interview, Brown with Bearss, Aug. 25, 1970.

AMANDA GARVIN (MINNIE SILER) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--AMANDA GARVIN (MINNIE SILER) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The Amanda Garvin (Minnie Siler) House, Structure No. 7, West Branch, Iowa. The Garvin House is classified as a B Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade of the Garvin House will be restored to its appearance as of the first decade of the twentieth century. The interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. As this cottage was erected in the early 1870s, Herbert Hoover would have been familiar with it.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating this Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate this structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The front facade of the Garvin Cottage will be restored to its appearance, circa 1905. This will result in: (a) reshingling the house with cedar shingles. (b) The structure will be repainted to reflect its appearance during Herbert Hoover's West Branch years. (c) As the back porch was constructed subsequent to 1915, it is not historic and the portion of it which has deteriorated can be demolished or rehabilitated as determined by management. (d) The wagon wheel and lamp will be removed from the side yard. (e) The iron pump will be retained and flowers planted around the well. (f) The yard will be enclosed by a picket fence, painted white. (g) The garage erected by the Silers will be removed, but the shed, erected by the Randalls, will be retained. (h) A box elder will be set out in the front yard. (i) A brick chimney will be reconstructed for the main portion of the house.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$7,500

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Amanda Garvin Cottage was standing in 1874, the year Herbert Hoover was born. In going to and from school and church, Hoover would have passed the cottage. Architect William

Wagner, who is an authority on nineteenth century Iowa architecture, considers the Garvin Cottage a handsome example of Gothic revival, as developed in eastern Iowa in the 1870s.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

1. The School Lot

A one-acre school lot, located at the southwest corner of Main and Downey, was purchased on June 3, 1853, by the schoolboard of which William Townsend was president, for ten dollars from James Steer. From 1853 until 1869 a schoolhouse was located on the lot. In the latter year, a new school was built in Oliphant's field, bounding on the north the Friends Burying Ground. The old schoolhouse was moved from its site southwest of the intersection of Main and Downey to north of the new building on the hill. It was used for the primary grades. No longer needed, the old school lot was subdivided and sold by the Directors of the Independent School District.¹ The Directors accordingly on May 27, 1870, sold to Amanda Garvin for \$90 Lot 6.²

1. Bearss, Historical Base Map--Herbert Hoover, pp. 49-51.
2. Miscellaneous Record Book 7, pp. 233-34; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record H, pp. 84-95. The Directors of the Independent School District were: L. D. Hollingsworth, William Townsend, W. H. Oliphant, William Brown, P. Cowgill, and Tristran Coggleshall.

2. Lot 6 and the North 13 Feet off Lot 7, Block 40

Amanda Garvin on June 14, 1879, mortgaged to George Geer of New Castle, Pennsylvania, for \$192.41 Lot 6. She promised to keep the buildings on the subject lot insured, while the mortgage was in effect, against fire with some "good company selected by Geer," for not less than \$300.³ To keep Geer from foreclosing, Miss Garvin on October 4, 1881, mortgaged the subject real estate to David P. Reeves for \$182.45.⁴ She failed to make her payments, and Reeves on August 29, 1885, secured an order of foreclosure from the Cedar County Circuit Court. Eight months later, on May 15, 1886, Reeves sold Lot 6 to Elisha and Isaac Haines for \$160.⁵

The Haineses on March 7, 1889, sold to Doctors Leoni and Laura Branson for \$200 Lot 6 and the improvements thereon. The previous year, the trustees of the Methodist Church had sold to the Bransons for \$25, a strip 13 feet wide from north to south off the north side of Lot 7, in

3. Town Lot Mortgage Record C, pp. 105-07.

4. Town Lot Mortgage Record D, p. 63.

5. Quit Claim Deed Record 19, p. 335. Reeves at this time lived in Cowley, Kansas. Amanda Garvin on July 1, 1886, had quit claimed her rights to Lot 6 to Elisha and Isaac Haines for one dollar. Quit Claim Deed Record 24, p. 5.

the School Addition of the Town of Cameron.⁶

The Bransons on April 12, 1890, sold to Dr. Leoni's mother, Elizabeth Branson, for \$800 Lot 6 and the improvements hereon. Three months later, on July 3, they sold to Mother Branson for \$25 the north 13 feet off Lot 7.⁷ Mrs. Elizabeth Branson held the real estate for about 14 months. On June 27, 1891, she sold it to George Albin for \$700, subject to a mortgage held by R. D. Gillespie for \$500, along with the interest thereon from April 8, 1890. Albin would assume responsibility for the mortgage. Mrs. Branson had mortgaged the property at the time of its purchase from her son and daughter-in-law.⁸

Following George Albin's death, his widow and heirs disposed of his real estate in Block 40. Lot 6 and the north 13 feet off Lot 7 were sold to Lafayette Randall on April 10, 1897, for \$720 and Lot 5 to Mary Ann and Minerva

6. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record N, p. 368; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record O, p. 49. The Directors of the Independent School District had sold to the Methodist Church for \$150 on August 8, 1870, Lots 7-9, in the Schoolhouse Addition. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record E, p. 550. In 1888 the trustees of the Methodist Church were: Elisha Haines, J. W. Haines, J. J. Kerr, Samuel Branson, and F. A. Albin.

7. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record O, pp. 407, 434.

8. Ibid., p. 615.

Albin for \$800.⁹ Lafe Randall, before the end of the year, conveyed Lot 6 and the north 13 feet of Lot 7 to his wife, Emma, for \$750.¹⁰ Emma Randall retained title to the real estate until September 10, 1912, when she sold it to Harry Gruwell for \$1,000.¹¹ Harry Gruwell and his wife, Golda, sold the property to Ethel Teets for \$1,100 on August 13, 1915.¹²

Soon after purchasing the house and lots, Ethel married Otto Hill. The Hills lived in the house on Downey Street until July 27, 1928, when they sold it and Lot 6 and a 13-foot strip off the north side of Lot 7 to Addie Clark for one dollar and other valuable considerations.¹³ Fifteen months later, James and Addie Clark sold the subject real estate to F. H. Christee for one dollar and other considerations.¹⁴

9. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 33. The Albin heirs, besides the widow, were Mary Ann and Minerva, Margaret Hoover (the widow of Benijah Hoover), George and Ella Albin, Frank and Cora Albin, and Edgar and Alice Albin.

10. Quit Claim Deed Book 30, p. 342.

11. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 4, p. 99.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 491.

13. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 8, p. 85.

14. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 9, p. 84.

Christee and his wife occupied the cottage for almost nine years, before selling it to Effie J. Gruwell on July 10, 1937, for one dollar and other valuable considerations.¹⁵ Miss Gruwell on October 23, 1943, sold the cottage and other improvements, along with Lot 6 and 13 feet off the north side of Lot 7, in Block 40 of the School Addition to the Town of Cameron, to Tom and Minnie Siler for one dollar and other considerations. Minnie Siler, after the death of her husband, sold the property to the United States in 1967.¹⁶

C. The House--A Structural History

1. Amanda Garvin Builds a House

Miss Garvin between 1870 when she purchased Lot 6 and 1872 when Harris and Warner published their Atlas of Cedar County had a small, two-story frame cottage erected on her property.¹⁷ By 1878 Miss Garvin had moved from the area, and the cottage was used by her as rental property.

15. *Ibid.*, p. 345.

16. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 7, p. 401.

17. "Map of West Branch, Iowa, 1872," from Harris and Warner's Atlas of Cedar County, Plate 43.

In 1880 the tenants were Morgan Covert, a drayman, and his wife and child.¹⁸

2. The Haineses Make Improvements

Miss Garvin, while she owned the house, mortgaged it on several occasions. In August 1885 Daniel Reeves, who held a mortgage on the cottage and lot, foreclosed. The following May, he sold the property to Elisha and Isaac Haines.¹⁹ Like Miss Garvin, the Haineses used the cottage as rental property. In April 1888, having determined to sell real estate, they made improvements to the cottage and lot on south Downey. Commenting on this, the editor of the West Branch Local Record observed, with a new picket fence, "new porch, new kitchen, and well, and other improvements the place...would hardly be known."²⁰

18. Tenth Census, 1880, Inhabitants of West Branch, Springdale Township, Cedar County, State of Iowa, NA.

19. West Branch Local Record, May 20, 1886; Quit Claim Deed Record 19, p. 335. In reporting the transaction, the local newspaper informed its readers that the Haineses had purchased the Amanda Garvin cottage and lot, adjoining the Methodist Church on the north. Reeves had lived in West Branch until mid-September 1881, when he had moved to Marshalltown, Iowa. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 22, 1881. Isaac Haines was Elisha's son.

20. West Branch Local Record, April 19, 1888.

3. The Albins and the Cottage

In the period, March 1889-June 1891, the cottage had four owners--the Haineses, the Bransons, Mrs. Elizabeth Branson, and George Albin. Albin and his family moved into the cottage in August 1890, ten months before they purchased it from Mrs. Elizabeth Branson.²¹

George Albin lived on south Downey for 32 months. For much of this time the old gentleman was in poor health. On March 19, 1892, at 7:15 p.m. he died. He had been born in Harrison County, Virginia (now West Virginia), in 1805, and had moved with his parents to Clark County, Ohio, in 1815. Twelve years later, Albin pushed farther west and took up land in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Here he remained until 1840, when he pushed on to the frontier and settled on Sugar Creek, in what was to become Cedar County, Iowa. He spent the next decade on Sugar Creek, where in 1848 he married Ann Ross. Seven children were born to the couple. After leaving Cedar County in 1850, the family lived in Iowa City for three years and

21. Ibid., July 10, 1890; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record O, p. 615.

then on a farm in Johnson County, before returning to Cedar County.

In 1851 George Albin inaugurated mail service between Iowa City and Davenport. First, he traveled on horseback and after roads were opened he carried the mail in a stage. When he commenced carrying the mail there were only two houses between the Cedar River and Iowa City.²²

Mrs. Albin continued to live in the cottage until March 1896, when she moved out, having rented it to Joseph Steer. In October she had the house "nicely repainted" for her tenants.²³

4. Lafayette Randall Has a Bedroom Added

Mrs. Albin, in April 1897, sold the cottage and lot to Lafayette Randall, a blacksmith and the son of Edward and Sarah Randall. Lafe, as he was called, had been born at West Liberty, Iowa, November 14, 1859. He was educated in the West Liberty district schools. At 14 he left school and went to work in a wholesale house as assistant bookkeeper. After two years he started to work for his

22. West Branch Times, April 7, 1892, and March 23, 1893. Subsequently, Albin carried the mail between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

23. Ibid., Oct. 15, 1896.

father, from whom he learned the blacksmith trade. When he was 21 Lafe moved to Canada and settled at Mount Albert, Ontario. While in Canada, Lafe on December 8, 1886, married Emma Case, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Case. The Randalls returned to the United States and settled in West Branch in 1887, where their three children were born.²⁴

Lafe and Emma Randall found the house too small for them and their three children: Loy 10, Sarah 8, and Leslie 2. In August 1898 they had a "small annex" built onto the north elevation of the cottage.²⁵ In reporting this improvement, the editor of the West Branch Times observed that Lafe Randall has "ordered an addition to his home and then treated the entire residence to a good coat of paint, making it a very neat and attractive place."²⁶ Four years later, in October 1902, Randall had the cottage's roof resingled.²⁷

24. History of Cedar County, Iowa, vol. 2, pp. 230-31; West Branch Times, March 12, 1896.

25. West Branch Times, Aug. 25, 1898.

26. Ibid., Sept. 15, 1898.

27. Ibid., Oct. 9, 1902.

The Randalls, some time between 1905 and 1910, moved out of the cottage and used it as rental property. Mrs. Birdie Moore recalls that during this period one of the tenants was Bert Gill, West Branch's best-dressed young man, while Mrs. Golda Gruwell recalls that when she and her husband purchased the property in 1912 the tenants were the Thomases, the parents of Bert Gill's wife.²⁸

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

1. Photography of the House--Circa 1910

In the first decade of the twentieth century, three photographs were made of the Methodist Church. To the right of the church can be seen the south elevation of the Garvin Cottage. These photographs show the south porch and trellis. The roof of the cottage is shingled, and the house is painted white with a darker trim. Where there are now three windows in the south elevation, there is only one shown in these photographs. At the time these photographs were made, there were two chimneys--one for the kitchen and the other for the house.

28. Personal interview, Birdie Moore with Bearss, Aug. 10, 1970; telephone conversation with Golda Gruwell, Sept. 10, 1970; 1905 Census for Cedar County, Iowa Dept. of Archives and History.

2. Golda Gruwell's Photograph of the House--Circa 1930

A photograph of the cottage in Mrs. Gruwell's collection, taken in the 1930s, show a number of changes made in the previous 20 years. These changes include: (a) the conversion of south porch into an extra room; (b) the cedar shingles have given way to ones made of asphalt; (c) the removal of the central chimney; (d) the addition of two windows in the south elevation of the structure; and (e) the house is now painted and trimmed in white.

3. Photograph Found in Oct. 1, 1967, Des Moines Register

This photograph of the cottage, taken by Glenn Speight, while Minnie Siler still resided in it, demonstrates that few changes had occurred since the 1930s. These changes were: (a) the addition of a window air conditioner and a television aerial; (b) the positioning of a wagon wheel and post with lamp in the yard; (c) the shrubbery at the side of the house has been replaced with flowers; and (d) the gutters and house need a coat of white paint.

E. Recollections of the Garvin Cottage

1. Mrs. Gruwell Recalls the Structure and Grounds

Mrs. Golda Gruwell of 1811 St. John Road, Seal Beach, California, lived in the Garvin House from September 1912

until August 1915. Mrs. Gruwell, who possesses a keen memory, vividly recalls the little cottage in which she and her husband lived for 35 months. The side porch was especially significant to her, as it was built by her husband. After they had moved to California, she recalled, Effie Gruwell enclosed the south porch and converted it into another room.

a. The Cottage

In 1912 there were four rooms downstairs--a kitchen, diningroom, livingroom, and a bedroom in the "annex" built by Lafe Randall in 1898. Upstairs were two rooms. A copy of the floor plan, circa 1914, prepared by Mrs. Gruwell is found in this report. The porch, attached to the south elevation of the cottage, was not enclosed at this time.

The cottage was painted grey, with trim of darker grey. The front door had frosted glass, with an etched design. This door had been hung while the Randalls owned the property.²⁹

29. Telephone interview, Mrs. Golda Gruwell with Bearss, Sept. 1, 1970.

b. The Grounds

In 1914 there was a box elder in the front yard, near the boundary between Lots 6 and 7. A walkway led around the cottage from the front door to the entrance to the side porch. Near the southeast corner of the side porch was a well and pump. Mrs. Gruwell recalls that the water pumped from the well was excellent. The well was surrounded by flowers. Adjoining and parallel to the south elevation of the side porch was a grape trellis. Next to the southwest corner of the side porch was a cistern. There was a path leading from the west entrance of the side porch to the shed and privy. Adjoining the entrance to the kitchen on the north was a trap door giving access to the cellar.³⁰

c. The Outbuildings

There were three outbuildings--a privy, shed, and barn. These structures were located on the rear of Lot 6.³¹

30. Ibid.

31. Ibid.

2. Mrs. Minnie Siler Recalls the House and Grounds

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Siler, who bought the house in 1943, had lived for a number of years on their 101-acre farm, one-half mile north of West Branch. The Silers left their farm in March 1944 and moved into the little frame cottage at 114 South Downey. Here the Silers lived happily until Tom's death in October 1959. Mrs. Siler continued to live in the cottage until the winter of 1966-67, when she sold the house and lot to the National Park Service. She then moved into a nephew's apartment house on West Main.³²

Mrs. Siler, when interviewed on August 4, 1970, recalled that she and her husband, after moving into the property, made a few changes in the house and grounds. These changes included:

a. House

The Silers had the French doors between the living- and diningrooms removed, and the interior of

32. Personal interview, Mrs. Tom Siler with Bearss, Aug. 4, 1970.

the house painted and papered. While they resided in the house, the Silers had it painted biannually. Because of the high insurance rates for wooden shingles, the Silers continued to use asphalt shingles.³³

b. Grounds

While they resided in the house, Tom and Minnie Siler had a wagon wheel and lamp positioned in the yard south of the house. They also had a picket fence erected across the rear of the lot.³⁴

c. Outbuildings

The Silers, after purchasing the property, built a garage on the rear of their lot for their car.³⁵

F. Colors the House Painted in 1870s and 1880s

Henry Judd and Charles Lessig on August 10, 1970, obtained paint samples from the subject structure. Mr. Judd, on studying these samples, determined that the cottage during the 1870s and 1880s was painted cream, with mahogany trim.

33. Ibid.

34. Ibid.

35. Ibid.

THE CHARLES E. SMITH (PHELPS) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--CHARLES E. SMITH (PHELPS) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The Charles E. Smith (Phelps) House, Structure No. 8, West Branch, Iowa. The Smith House is classified as a C Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade and north and south elevations of the Smith House will be restored to their appearance as of 1915. The interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. Although this structure was built in 1903, it is in harmony with the historic scene.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating the Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate this structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The exterior of the structure, except for the summer kitchen, should be restored to its appearance, circa 1915.

The summer kitchen will not be reconstructed. This will involve: (a) reshingling the roof with cedar shingles; (b) repainting the house; (c) repositioning the finial atop the porch; (d) reconstructing the pergola outside the entrance to the kitchen; (e) reconstructing the approach to the kitchen door; (f) reconstructing the center brick chimney; (g) repositioning the drains and downspouts; and (h) reestablishing the period flower garden.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$6,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Smith House was erected 17 years after Herbert Hoover left West Branch to live with relatives in Oregon. After its acquisition by the National Park Service in 1967, the Smith House in 1969 was moved from its location south of the P. T. Smith House to Lots 8 and 9, north of Jesse Hoover's Reconstructed Blacksmith Shop. As this structure antedates Hoover's West Branch years, its only significance is to

provide a setting for a typical late nineteenth century Iowa village. Historical Architects Judd, Lessig, and Wagner are in agreement that this structure possesses architectural merit and harmonizes with the historic scene.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

Until 1969, when the subject structure was moved, the Smith House was located on a lot in the west one-half of the northwest quarter of Section 8, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. This property came into possession of James and Mary Cook in 1866. Seven years later, the Cooks, having subdivided part of the tract, sold to Hannah Smith for \$275 Block No. 31 in Cook's Addition.¹ P. T. Smith inherited the property, and on June 10, 1885, he and his wife, Mary, sold it to Elisha Haines for \$1,200.² Elisha and Sarah Haines retained possession of the subject property for six months, before selling the block and improvements to Isaac Gruwell for \$1,200.³

Isaac Gruwell died in 1889, and following her remarriage to Samuel R. Wood, the former Mrs. Gruwell on November 18, 1891,

1. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record M, p. 235.

2. Ibid., p. 375.

3. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record N, p. 155.

sold to Aaron Eaton for \$600, "the undivided one-half of Block 31."⁴

Aaron and Lydia Eaton on July 6, 1903, sold to Charles E. Smith, for \$450, 132.5 feet off the south end of Block 31. The tract conveyed was to begin in the center of Downey Street, 1 rod north of the southwest corner of Block No. 31; then north 8 rods; then east 18 rods to the east line of Block 31; then south 8 rods; and then west 18 rods to the point of beginning.⁵

Mr. and Mrs. Smith died in 1934, and the heirs for one dollar and other valuable considerations conveyed the property to L. C. Rummells on July 6, 1936.⁶ One year later, the Rummells sold the house and lot to Caroline A. Christensen for one dollar and other valuable considerations.⁷

Caroline Christensen retained possession until June 2, 1958, when she sold the west one-half of Lot 3, Block 31, in Cook's

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4. Cedar County Deed Book 26, pp. 88, 109; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record Q, p. 56.
 5. Cedar County Deed Book 40, p. 610.
 6. Cedar County Deed Book 69, p. 288. The Smith heirs were: W. D. Smith and wife of Humboldt County, Iowa; Emory Smith, a widower, of Los Angeles; Reuben and Nellie Smith of Los Angeles; and the widows Mary R. Phelps, Ellen Mundy, and Carrie Munger.
 7. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 10, p. 457.

Addition, to Paul Friis for one dollar and other considerations.⁸

Paul and Janet Friis on May 7, 1961, sold to Leonard A. Phelps for \$9,500 the west one-half of the subject lot. Six years later, on January 5, 1967, the Phelps conveyed to the United States the west one-half of Lot 3, Block 31.⁹

C. Charles E. Smith Builds a House

1. Charles E. Smith--A Brief Biography

Charles E. Smith, the builder of the house, was born on August 6, 1842, in Jay County, Indiana. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was living in Pennville, where he was employed as a carpenter. The War Department in July 1863 called on the states for 100,000 men to serve for six months. One of those answering this call was Charles Smith, who on August 4 enlisted at Freelandville in Company C, 118th Indiana. Smith at this time was 5 feet 11 inches tall, with dark complexion, hair, and eyes.¹⁰

The regiment left Indianapolis by rail on September 16 for Kentucky, going into camp with six other

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8. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 15, p. 508.
 9. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 18, p. 543; Mortgage Record Book 86, p. 547.
 10. Charles E. Smith, Compiled Service Records, NA.

six-month regiments at Nicholasville. Cumberland Gap having been recaptured by the Federals, the brigade to which the 118th was assigned marched for Tennessee. The Gap was reached on October 3. After several days' rest, the Hoosiers were marched to Greeneville by way of Morristown. To take advantage of Smith's skills, the regimental commander in November assigned him to the pioneer company. After spending four weeks at Greeneville the regiment was marched to Clinch River, where on December 2, 1863, it participated in an engagement at Walker's Ford, losing 1 killed and 14 wounded.

The regiment then marched to Tazewell, where on December 23, Smith was taken sick and hospitalized. He was transferred to the hospital at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. His six-month enlistment having expired, Private Smith was discharged at Indianapolis on March 1, 1864.¹¹

After being paid off, Smith returned to his home in Jay County, where he remained until 1865, when he moved

11. Ibid.; Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, 1861-1865, 8 vols. (Indianapolis, 1866), Vol. 1, p. 208.

to Iowa. At Iowa City on April 6, 1867, he married Deborah Leech, a sister of Dr. L. J. Leech. To the couple were born eight children, two of whom died in infancy. The youngest daughter, Caroline, born December 6, 1884, survives, and in August 1970 was living with the Forrest Davises, one mile east of Springdale.¹²

The Smiths moved to West Branch in the 1880s, and the husband pursued his trade as a carpenter and contractor. In the 1890s Smith built a handsome two-story frame house in West Branch, into which the family moved. This structure, known as the Rate House, still stands, and is one of the town's handsome late 19th century houses.¹³

2. Charles Smith Builds a Home on Cook's Hill

By 1903 Charles Smith was ready to retire, and he determined to build a dreamhouse for himself and his

12. Charles E. Smith, Pension Claim, Application 1,251,767, Certificate 1,044,554, NA; personal interview, Mrs. Caroline Munger with Bearss Aug. 7, 1970. Caroline Munger is the former Caroline Smith. Other children of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith were: W. D., born Dec. 9, 1869; Emory A., born June 6, 1873; Reuben T., born Feb. 11, 1875; Ellen E., born Sept. 24, 1879; and Mary K., born Feb. 18, 1882.

13. Personal interview, Mrs. Munger with Bearss, Aug. 7, 1970.

wife on Cook's Hill. In July he purchased a handsome lot from Aaron Eaton.¹⁴ Smith moved with alacrity, and by the last week of July he had turned a crew to excavating a basement for his house.¹⁵ The foundation was commenced by August 6, and by November 5 the house had been closed in. When finished, the local newspaper reported, Smith would have a "cozy home." By the end of the year, the Smiths had occupied their new home on the east side of south Downey Street.¹⁶

3. The Twilight Years on Cook's Hill

As the years passed, anniversaries and birthdays became increasingly important. On Friday, April 6, 1917, the Smiths celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home on Downey Street. In attendance at the dinner were 20 relatives and their pastor.¹⁷ Many of their contemporaries had passed away by 1930, when the Smiths quietly celebrated their 63d anniversary in their "pleasant home." Their daughter, Mrs. Caroline Munger,

14. West Branch Times, July 9, 1903; Cedar County Deed Book 40, p. 610.

15. West Branch Times, July 30 and Aug. 6, 1903.

16. Ibid., Nov. 5, 1903.

17. Ibid., April 12, 1917.

and her family of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, were guests at a dinner, along with another daughter, Mrs. George Phelps of Springdale Township.¹⁸

Mr. and Mrs. Smith died in 1934, the husband passing away first. Both had lived to see their 92d birthdays, well beyond man's allotted three score and ten years. The Smith heirs in July 1936 sold their parents' home and lot to L. C. Rummells.

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

1. Photographs from Mrs. Alice Moore's Collection

Mrs. Alice Moore, one of the Smith granddaughters, permitted me to copy four photographs in her collection of her grandparents' house. Two of these photographs show details of the front porch with bandstand-like projection. One of these pictures shows Mr. and Mrs. Smith, at the time of their golden wedding anniversary in 1917, standing before the front steps; the other is of a family gathering in the mid-1920s. These photographs show the

18. Ibid., April 30, 1930.

brackets and balusters as one color, the railings another, and the turned columns a third. The house is painted a darker color than the trim. In April 1917 there was a handsome front door and a simple storm door.

A photograph of the north and west elevations, circa 1915, provides additional details. The turned porch columns were two-color. Most of the column was white, but where it necked in it was a darker color. The balusters were dark and the railings and brackets lighter. The trim was white, the house a little darker, and the gable ends quite dark.

A photograph of the southeast corner of the house has details of the pergola, stairs and railing, and trellis.

2. Photographs from the Glenn Brown Collection

Glenn Brown, who lived a number of years on Cook's Hill, was able to provide me with four photographs of the Smith House, circa 1915. The photograph of the northwest corner of the house shows a front porch painting scheme identical to that depicted in one of Mrs. Moore's photographs. Details of the finial and the chimney are also shown. Brown's photograph of the northeast corner of

the house depicts: (a) the porch and house paint scheme; (b) the finial; (c) the kitchen chimney; (d) the bay in the east elevation of the structure; (e) the cistern; and (f) the drains and downspouts. In the Brown collection there are two photographs of the east elevation of the pergola which is to be reconstructed.

E. Recollections of the Smith House

1. Glenn Brown Recalls the Structure

Glenn Brown, who has a keen memory for details and grew up on Cook's Hill, was well acquainted with the Smiths. "The old gentlemen," he recalled, "taught me the carpenter's trade." Sometime between 1915 and 1919, he helped Mr. Smith remodel his kitchen. A bay was built into the east elevation, next to the summer kitchen. The summer kitchen, Brown recalled, was there when his family moved into the house next door to the Smiths' in 1914.¹⁹

While the Rummells owned the house, Brown recalled, the pantry on the north side of the kitchen was rebuilt

19. Personal interview, Brown with Bearss, Aug. 24 and 26, 1970.

into a breakfast nook. This resulted in a slight modification of the northeast corner of the wall enclosing the main kitchen. It was at this time that a tin sink and iron cistern pump were removed from the southeast corner of the kitchen, and replaced with modern fixtures.²⁰

During the first decades of the twentieth century, there was a pergola attached to the southeast elevation of the house. It consisted of four three-post groupings, supporting a trellis roof positioned on 2x6 joists. The trellis was covered with vines. A porch and steps leading into the kitchen were approached from the pergola. Photographs of the pergola and kitchen stairs and porch are found in this report.²¹

2. Mrs. Caroline Munger and Glenn Brown Recall the Grounds

The Smiths loved trees and flowers. Their old-fashioned flower garden was behind the house. Here they grew ferns, which Mr. Smith collected in the wooded area along the Cedar River, bloodroot, vines, bulbs,

20. Ibid.

21. Ibid.

violets, and jack-in-the-pulpits. All of these were secured locally, except bloodroot which came from the mountains of East Tennessee and southeast Kentucky. Smith, while soldiering in the Civil War, had learned to love bloodroot. Unlike most of their neighbors, the Smiths did not fence their lot and garden.²²

When the Smiths purchased the lot in 1903, there were several large, handsome maples on the property. Care was taken to save these giants, which stood in the front yard, when the house was built. From his boyhood home at Pennville, Indiana, Smith secured sassafras and spicewood seedlings, which he set out in his back and side yards.²³

F. Colors House Painted, Circa 1915

Henry Judd and Charles Lessig on August 10, 1970, obtained paint samples from the subject structure. Mr. Judd, on studying these samples, determined that the house, at the time of construction, was painted sienna, with white trim, and brown gables. The turned columns on the front porch were two-color; the banding was grass green, and the remainder of the column sienna. Porch railings were sienna, the balusters green, and the brackets grass green.

22. Personal interviews, Mrs. Munger with Bearss, Aug. 7, 1970, and Brown with Bearss, Aug. 26, 1970.

23. Ibid.

THE JAMES STAPLES (ENDSLEY) HOUSE

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--JAMES STAPLES (ENDSLEY) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The James Staples (Endsley) House, Structure No. 9, West Branch, Iowa. The Staples House is classified as a B Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade and south elevation of the Staples House will be restored to their appearance, circa 1915. The interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. As the main part of the house was built in the early 1870s, Herbert Hoover would have been familiar with it.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating this Structure.

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate this structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The construction activity proposed for the Staples House will consist of different treatments for the front facade of the original structure and of the ell built by the Pennocks in the second decade of the twentieth century. To undertake this program it will be necessary to: (a) reconstruct the front door, doorway, stoop, and stairs of the circa 1870 structure, as shown in the Miles photograph. (b) Shutters will be placed at the front windows having them in the Miles photograph. (c) The brick chimney shown in the Miles photograph will be reconstructed. (d) Cement plaster will be stripped off to expose the foundation stone under the south and east elevations of the original structure. (e) The entire structure will be painted the same colors as it was in the historic period. (f) Storm windows will be removed from the ell built by the Pennocks and the front porch restored to its appearance, circa 1915. (g) A picket fence, similar to the one in the Miles photograph, will be constructed to enclose Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, and 22 on the north, east, and south. Three lombardy poplars will be set out, when feasible, in the front yard as shown in the Miles photograph.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$15,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The main part, south wing, of the James Staples House was standing in 1874, the year Herbert Hoover was born. The Hoovers would have been familiar with this structure, and it must be preserved to provide a late nineteenth century atmosphere for the Hoover Cottage, Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop, Friends Meeting House, and school.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

The Staples, Hayhurst, Mackey, and Wright houses are located in the northeast quarter of Section 7, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. On January 23, 1852, Aaron Baker of Baltimore, Maryland, entered on the Northeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 79 North, Range 4 West, surrendering a land warrant issued to him for service in the Mexican War.¹ Baker's 160 acres extended to the north and east to what is today

1. Cedar County Deed Book H, p. 24.

the intersection of Main and Downey streets. Within four months, Baker sold his 160 acres to Samuel King of Cedar County for \$162.50.²

King and his wife, Constant, on March 28, 1853, sold to Joseph Steer for \$208 a tract in the subject quarter section, beginning at the northeast corner of Section 7, then west 69 rods with the section line, then south 30 rods, then west 13.54 rods, then south 130 rods, then east 82.54 rods to the section line, and then north with the section line 160 rods to the point of beginning. The tract conveyed contained 80 acres.³

Steer in turn sold five acres in the northeast corner of the subject tract to J. M. Wetherell. In 1871 Wetherell divided his five acres into town lots.⁴

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid. Joseph Steer moved in the 1870s to Barclay, Kansas, and thereafter returned to West Branch periodically to check on his holdings in Springdale Township. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 21, 1878, and March 16, 1882. In March 1882 Steer still owned the homestead currently the residence of James Bean, the store occupied by I. W. Gruwell, the Grinnell Building, the Langstaff property, the John Perry residence, and other lots.

4. Bearss, Historical Base Map and Grounds Study, pp. 49-50.

On October 3, 1876, Steer, acting as attorney for Mary S. Wetherell (the widow of J. M. Wetherell) sold to Eliza Staples for \$1,500 Lots 16, 17, 18, and 22 on Joseph Steer's plat of West Branch. The sale was free of all encumbrances except a lease assigned to J. M. Rummells to expire December 15, 1876.⁵ The price paid by Mrs. Staples for the four lots, taken in conjunction with the information regarding Rummells' lease, can be taken as proof that a house and other improvements had been erected on the property by the Wetherells in the years between 1870 and 1876. Dr. James Staples and his wife took possession of the house and lots in December. The doctor and his spouse lived in the house until their deaths, Eliza dying in 1882 and Dr. James in 1891.

The house and lots, at Dr. Staples' death, were left to his four grandchildren. Mads Larsen was named guardian for his three minor children--Emma, James, and Eliza. Peter N. Dyhr served as guardian for his son, William.⁶ The guardians on February 28, 1893, sold the property--now consisting of Lots 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 22, and one-half of Lot 21--and the improvements to William Wren for \$1,000.⁷

5. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record H, p. 587.
6. Records of the Cedar County Probate Court, James Staples, File No. 2227, County Clerk's Office, Tipton, Iowa. Sarah Staples had married Mads Larson and Lydia Staples had married Peter Dyhr.
7. Guardian's, Administrator's, and Executor's Deed 11, pp. 116-17.

Wren and his wife, Sarah, held onto the property for six months, selling it to Sarah Randall on August 7 for \$1,050.⁸ Mrs. Randall and her husband, Edward, sold the property on June 12, 1899, to their daughter Huldah. It was agreed that the grantors continue to occupy the house as a homestead "so long as either shall live." To finance the purchase, Huldah Randall borrowed \$700 from Helena Mitness.⁹ Huldah retained title to the property for 16 months. On October 13, 1900, she sold the improvements and lots to Dr. J. I. Bailey for \$1,000. Dr. Bailey agreed to assume the mortgage, interest thereon, and taxes for 1899.¹⁰

Dr. Bailey on June 1, 1906, sold the property to Annie M. Bremner and her husband, who had been renting the house and outbuilding.¹¹ The Bremners, who were grocers, were unable to make their payments, and Dr. Bailey repossessed the property. Prior to his death in 1910, Dr. Bailey gave to O. C. Pennock

8. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record P, p. 414.
9. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record T, p. 541; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 92.
10. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 92.
11. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record V, p. 178.

of Cedar County power of attorney to transact in his place "all business and care for my property and to sign such papers as become necessary."¹²

Following Dr. Bailey's death, Pennock purchased the Staples House and lots from the estate. The property remained in the hands of the Pennocks until April 15, 1929. On that date Adelbert Pennock and his wife, Sadie, signed an agreement conveying the lots and improvements to C. A. and Marjorie Rummells. The purchase price was \$2,000, of which the Rummells were to pay \$300 down, and payments of not less than \$25 per month, to begin April 1, 1929. A charge of seven percent would be levied on the unpaid balance. On July 16, 1934, the Rummells made their last payment and were given clear title to the property.¹³

The Rummells lived in the house until February 5, 1946, when they sold their property on the southwest corner of Poplar and Wetherell to M. E. and Nellie M. Endsley for \$1 and other valuable considerations.¹⁴ The United States purchased the Endsley home and property for inclusion in the National Historic Site in 1967.

12. Cedar County Miscellaneous Deed Book 6, p. 635

13. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 10, p. 368; Cedar County Mortgage Record 55, pp. 7-9.

14. Cedar County Deed Book 74, p. 202.

C. The Staples House--A Structural History

1. John Wetherell Builds a House

In the years between 1869 and 1872, John Wetherell had a two-story frame dwelling built on Lot 22 of Steer's Plat of West Branch.¹⁵ This house, along with other structures, was located on the subject lot when it, with Lots 16, 17, and 18, was purchased in October 1876, by Dr. James Staples and his wife, Eliza, of Yankee Corner, Iowa.¹⁶ Dr. Staples and his wife were natives of Vermont, James having been born in 1814 and Eliza in 1821. The doctor had determined to retire to West Branch.¹⁷

The house was occupied at the time of the sale by J. M. Rummells, whose lease did not expire until December 15. Accordingly, the new year was at hand before the Stapleses took possession of their new home.¹⁸

15. "Map of West Branch, Iowa, 1872," Atlas of Cedar County (Marshalltown, 1872), fig. 43; Plat of West Branch, May 29, 1869, by Joseph Steer, as Attorney for John M. Wetherell, found in Cedar County Deed Book E, p. 499. The Steer Plat shows no structures on the lot, while the Atlas of Cedar County, published in 1872, does.

16. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record H, p. 587.

17. Personal interview, Birdie Moore with Bearss, Aug. 10 and 16, 1970. Mrs. Moore is the Staples' granddaughter. Yankee Corner was about one mile east of West Branch, on the Springdale road.

18. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record H, p. 587.

2. The Stapleses and the House

a. The Miles Photograph

In November 1878, two years after the Stapleses moved onto the property, I. L. Miles, a local photographer, prepared a selection of stereoscopic views of West Branch and vicinity. One of the views included in this "selection" was of the east elevation of Dr. Staples' residence.¹⁹

b. The Stapleses Pass On

Mrs. Staples died August 21, 1882, and was buried in the West Branch Cemetery. Dr. Staples soon found that he had extra room in his two-story home, and in August 1884 Horace M. and Chloe Oliphant moved in with him. Oliphant was a wheelwright and his wife kept house.²⁰

19. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 7, 1878; Stereoscopic View of Dr. Staples' House, in possession of Mrs. Clara Larson, 301 West Main, West Branch. Mrs. Larson is a Staples granddaughter.

20. West Branch Local Record, Aug. 24, 1882 and Aug. 7, 1884; Cedar County Census, 1885, Iowa Dept. of History and Archives. Mrs. Staples was 62 at the time of her death.

The years had taken their toll on Dr. Staples.

By 1890 he was suffering from heart trouble and dropsy. On Saturday evening, May 16, 1891, the doctor dropped dead at the home of his brother, Asa.²¹

3. The Randalls and the House

a. Wren Builds a New Picket Fence and Makes Other Improvements

Dr. Staples' heirs employed William Bremner as agent, and he sold the house and lots to William Wren in February 1893.²² Wren, on taking possession, made several improvements to the property. Among the projects undertaken was the building of a new picket fence.²³

b. The Randalls Move In

Having tidied up the property, Wren sold it in August 1893 to Edward and Sarah Randall. The Canadian-born Randall was 75 years old and a blacksmith. Living with the Randalls were their two unmarried daughters--

21. West Branch Times, May 21, 1891.

22. Ibid., Feb. 23, 1893.

23. Ibid., April 6, 1893.

38-year-old Huldah and 36-year-old Elma.²⁴

Huldah, besides being active in the Epworth League, taught music. In the years between 1895 and 1898, Miss Randall frequently advertised in the local newspaper that she would give lessons in music, on organ or piano, at her home in West Branch. During the same period, Elma married the Rev. A. D. Stevens and left the household.²⁵

Huldah purchased the property from her parents in June 1899. Within two months her mother, who had been in ill health for months, died in the house. The funeral was held at the home on Friday, August 3, with burial at West Liberty. Mrs. Randall had been born in Ireland on October 2, 1824, and was survived by her husband and five children--Huldah, George, Wellington, Lafayette, and Mrs. Elma R. Stevens.²⁶

24. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record T, p. 541; Cedar County Census, 1895, Iowa Dept. of History and Archives.

25. West Branch Times, Jan. 13, 1899.

26. Ibid., Aug. 3 and 10, 1899.

Following the death of her mother, Huldah made plans to sell the property, her father having moved to West Liberty.²⁷ Before leaving Mr. Randall had held a sale at the home on Poplar Street. There on November 20, 1899, auctioneers Hemingway and Albin sold the family household goods consisting of bedsteads, bedding, commodes, dressing cases, carpets, washing machine, gasoline stove, heaters, stove pipes, firewood, fruit jars, dishes, etc.²⁸

4. Dr. Bailey and the House

It was October 1900 before Huldah Randall found a buyer for the property. When she disposed of the house and lots, it was to Dr. J. I. Bailey, one of West Branch's most distinguished citizens.²⁹ Dr. Bailey, as he had a

27. Ibid., Oct. 12, 1899.

28. Ibid., Nov. 16, 1899.

29. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 92. Dr. Bailey, like many residents of the area, had been born in Columbiana County, Ohio. He was now 55 years old. A resident of Cedar County since 1851, Bailey had received his medical degree from the State University of Iowa in 1874, and had opened his practice in West Branch. Like most of his contemporaries, Bailey was a Civil War veteran, having served as a private in Company I, 46th Iowa Infantry. In addition to his professional interests, Dr. Bailey devoted much free time to horticulture, and had developed the Bailey seedling peach. History of Cedar County, Iowa, vol. 2, pp. 215-16.

beautiful home and grounds on west Main Street, used his Poplar Street property for rental purposes. His first tenants were the Bremmers, who operated a West Branch grocery store. Annie Bremner's efforts to purchase the property fell through when she was unable to keep up her payments.³⁰

Dr. Bailey, who had been failing for a number of months, died on July 12, 1910, at his West Branch home.³¹ Three weeks before his death, Dr. Bailey had assigned to his friend, O. C. Pennock, power of attorney to transact his business and to care for his property.³²

5. The Pennocks Build an Ell

The Pennocks, having purchased the property from the Bailey estate, moved into the house in 1912. Since the doctor's death, Pennock had been renting the house and lots

30. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 178; Cedar County Miscellaneous Deed Book 6, p. 635. In 1905 the house was occupied by three women--Annie M. Bremner, and Jennie and Inez Walker. Census of 1905, Cedar County, Iowa Dept. of History and Archives.

31. West Branch Times, July 21, 1910.

32. Cedar County Miscellaneous Deed Book 6, p. 635.

to James Clemson.³³ Soon after acquiring the property, the Pennocks made a major addition to the house. A two-story ell, about 18 feet square, was added to the north elevation. On the east elevation of the ell was a big front porch. The annex at the rear of the main structure, housing a kitchen and porch, was also altered and extended to the west several feet, the side porch being enclosed.³⁴

6. The Rummells and the House

C. A. and Marjorie Rummells purchased the Staples house from Adelbert Pennock in 1929. They called it their home until February 1946. With the country in a depression and three growing boys, the Rummells did not have much money for improvements. When interviewed on August 16, 1970, Mr. Rummells recalled that during this period, he had the house re-roofed with asphalt shingles and the big front porch screened. A floodlight was

33. Personal interview, Adelbert Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 4 and 16, 1970. Adelbert Pennock is the son of O. C. Pennock.

34. Ibid., ltr., Mrs. Golda Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

positioned on the north elevation of the house to enable his boys and their friends to play touch football in the street.³⁵

7. The Endsleys Enclose the Front Porch

The Endsleys, who owned and occupied the house from 1946 until 1967, enclosed the big front porch and installed storm windows. This provided them with a comfortable sitting room. Endsley also saw that the house was painted periodically and that it was well maintained.³⁶

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

1. The Miles Photograph

This photograph, taken in 1878, provides us with details of the appearance of the front facade in that year. The stoop and shutters were probably removed when the Pennocks built the ell. The picket fences enclosing many of the West Branch yards during Hoover's youth were similar to the Staples'.

35. Personal interview, Rummells with Bearss, Aug. 16, 1970.

36. Personal interview, Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 4 and 16, 1970.

2. 1900 Photograph of Effect of Fire at Coy's Blacksmithy

A. L. Coy's Blacksmith Shop, at the southwest corner of Main and Poplar, burned on March 22, 1900. Before being brought under control, the flames damaged the house to the west belonging to Miss Hanna Ten Eyke.³⁷

In the background can be seen the rear and north elevation of the annex to the Staples House. The kitchen annex, at the rear of the house, was extended by the Pennocks.

E. Recollections of the Staples House

1. Mrs. Golda Gruwell Recalls the House and Yard

Mrs. Gruwell's earliest recollections of the house are when it was the home of her grandparents--Mr. and Mrs. Edward Randall--in the 1890s. The front door opened off the stoop into a hallway, with open stairs leading to the second floor. There were panels containing glass at the sides of the subject door. Each of the four front windows had four lights. A plan of the first floor of the house, prepared by Mrs. Gruwell, is found in this report.

37. West Branch Times, March 29, 1900.

The yard, in the late 1890s, was enclosed by a wire fence with wooden posts, with 2x4s atop the posts. An iron gate gave access to the walkway leading to the front door. Between the house's north elevation and Wetherell Street and extending westward to the end of Lot 21 was a large garden. Between the house and Wrights' there were some "lovely trees." Mrs. Gruwell believes that they may have been fruit trees.³⁸

F. Bay on South Elevation of Structure

Historical Architects Judd and Lessig, on examining the exterior of the structure, concluded that the bay on the south elevation is an addition. When interviewed on August 4 and 16, Adelbert Pennock stated that when he moved into the house in 1912, the bay was there. This indicates that the bay was added after the main house was erected, but before the Pennocks constructed the ell. The bay will be retained.³⁹

G. Colors House to be Painted

A number of paint samples were taken from the circa 1870 section of the house by Architects Judd and Lessig. These were studied by Mr. Judd, and he found that during Hoover's West Branch years, the house was painted cream, with green trim.

38. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

39. Field study by Judd and Lessig, Aug. 10, 1970.

E. S. HAYHURST (DAVIS) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--E. S. HAYHURST (DAVIS) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The E. S. Hayhurst (Davis) House, Structure No. 10, West Branch, Iowa. The Hayhurst House is classified as a B Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade and south elevation of the Hayhurst House will be restored to their appearance as of the first decade of the twentieth century. The interior of the structure will be adapted as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. As the north wing of this house was constructed in the early 1870s, Herbert Hoover would have been familiar with it.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any Executed or Proposed for Operating this Structure.

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate the structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

Construction activity proposed for the Hayhurst House will consist of restoring the front facade and south elevation of the structure to their appearance, circa 1910. To undertake this program it will be necessary to: (a) remove the patio porch and restore the front porches on the ell and the main part of the house to their appearance, circa 1910. (b) The planter boxes will be removed. (c) The picture window in the south elevation will be removed and the two window frames reconstructed. (d) Entrance doorways to the garage will be relocated, so this structure will be entered from the west rather than the south. (e) The driveway into the garage will likewise be relocated. (f) The metal chimney, which is out of character, will be removed from the structure. It will be replaced with two brick chimneys, one of which can be a mock-up. (g) Lots 26 and 27 will be enclosed by a picket fence. (h) The next time the house is scheduled to be painted, paint samples will be taken from the house and studied. The structure will then be repainted to reflect its appearance during the period 1870-1885.

G. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

\$15,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The north wing of the subject house was standing in 1874, the year Herbert Hoover was born. As the house was located within 200 yards of the Hoover cottage, the Hoovers would have been familiar with it and its occupants. From 1896 until 1920 this dwelling was the home of Martin Van Buren Butler, a colorful West Branch character. In his Memoirs, Hoover recalled that there was only one Democrat in the village. It so happened that the same individual also "occasionally fell under the influence of liquor; therefore in the opinion of our village he represented all the forces of evil." Van Butler was this individual.¹

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

Among the first lots sold by J. M. Wetherell in 1870, in Steer's Plat of West Branch, were Lots 25 and 26. On October 10 he conveyed the subject lots, along with Lot 27 and a 1.44-acre tract, to E. S. Hayhurst for \$325. To fund improvements, Hayhurst mortgaged his property to Wetherell for \$556.35.

1. Herbert Hoover, The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover: Years of Adventure, 1874-1920 (New York, 1952), p. 9.

He was unable to make payments, and the mortgage was foreclosed in the Cedar County Circuit Court.²

Mary S. Wetherell, several years after the death of her spouse, on April 19, 1890, sold Lots 25 and 26 to Joseph Cook. On doing so, she warranted that she was "lawfully seized in her right of absolute and indefensible estate of inheritance in fee simple" of the subject lots with their improvements, and that they were free of all encumbrances except taxes for 1890.³ To effect repairs and help finance the purchase, Cook and his wife on July 28, 1892, borrowed \$450 from Sarah Haines. The loan was secured by a mortgage on the lots and a promissory note due on May 1, 1895, with seven percent interest. The Cooks were to keep the building insured.⁴

The Cooks sold the lots, house, and improvements to Van Butler for \$1,200 on March 28, 1896.⁵ To fund the transaction, the Butlers mortgaged the real estate to the Cooks for \$750. They were to pay \$350 on or before June 9 and \$400 on or before July 1, 1896, with interest in accordance with the promissory

2. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record G, p. 142; Town Lot Mortgage Record Book A, p. 240.
3. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record N, p. 510.
4. Town Lot Mortgage Record E, p. 209.
5. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 13.

notes drawn by Butler in favor of the Cooks. To enable them to meet their obligations to the Cooks, the Butlers were compelled to borrow \$900 from the Eastern Iowa Building and Loan Association of Tipton. This loan was secured by the lots and improvements, and the Butlers agreed to keep the buildings insured for \$900.⁶

On June 15, 1897, the Butlers borrowed another \$100 at eight percent interest from Eastern Iowa Building and Loan on their real estate. The subject loans were retired on December 8, 1898, and the Butlers given a release.⁷

Van Butler owned the house until September 10, 1920, when he sold Lots 25 and 26 and the improvements to Wilmer and Anna Christensen for \$2,085. To effect the purchase, the Christensens mortgaged the property to Van Butler for \$395.20, at six percent interest, the principal to be repaid in two years. The Christensens were to keep the buildings insured.⁸

Hard times overtook the Christensens in the winter of 1926-27, and they mortgaged the subject real estate to the

6. Cedar County Mortgaged Record Book 15, p. 172.

7. *Ibid.*, pp. 172 and 179.

8. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 5, p. 620; Town Lot Mortgage Record W, p. 178.

Citizens Saving Bank of West Branch for \$400 at six percent interest. With the nation soon engulfed in a world-wide depression, it was June 6, 1934, before the Christensens retired their mortgage.⁹

World War II was raging, when the Christensens sold the property on August 10, 1942, to Melissa LaRue for one dollar and other valuable considerations.¹⁰ Mrs. LaRue held onto Lots 25 and 26 through the war years, and on February 26, 1946, she sold them to Robert and Violet Witmer for one dollar and other valuable considerations.¹¹ The Witmers lived in the house until January 1950, when they sold it and the lots to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Davis. The Davises retained possession until 1967, when they sold the subject real estate to the United States for inclusion in Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.¹²

C. The House--A Structural Study

1. Hayhurst Builds a House

Between 1870 and 1872 E. S. Hayhurst built a two-story

9. Mortgage Record 48, pp. 198-99.

10. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 11, p. 84.

11. Cedar County Deed Record 74, p. 218.

12. Personal interview, Mrs. Tom Davis with Judd and Bearss, Aug. 11, 1970. Henry Judd is Chief, Branch of Historical Restorations, National Park Service.

frame house on Lot 25.¹³ This house and the one erected by the Wetherells on Lot 22 and sold to the Stapleses in 1876 were similar, and were probably erected by the same carpenters.

The Hayhursts had left West Branch by 1878, and the Wetherells, having repossessed the house and lots, used them as rental property. In 1880 the tenants were Mrs. Sarah Jepson and her family.¹⁴

2. The Cooks and the House

In the early spring of 1890 Joseph Cook purchased the house and Lots 25 and 26 from Mrs. Wetherell. The new owner of the property had been born in Ohio in 1826, and he was a retired farmer. Living with him at this time were his 49-year-old wife, Elizabeth, their minor children Joseph and Hazel, and his mother-in-law.¹⁵

The Cooks lived in the house on Poplar Street until the spring of 1896, when they sold the property to the well-known West Branch shoemaker, Martin Van Buren Butler.

13. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record G, p. 142; Town Lot Mortgage Record Book A, p. 250; "Map of West Branch, Iowa, 1872," from Harris and Warner's Atlas of Cedar County, Fig. 43.

14. Tenth Census, 1880, Inhabitants of West Branch, Springdale Township, Cedar County, Iowa, NA.

15. 1895 Census of Cedar County, Iowa Department of Archives and History.

3. Van Butler--the Man

Van Butler was born February 14, 1837, at Jack's Mills, Henderson County, Illinois, the son of Walter and Elizabeth (Galbraith) Butler. The Butlers moved from Illinois to Iowa soon afterwards and settled in Iowa City, where the father owned and operated a hotel. Walter Butler died when Van was 7.

After completing common school, Van was bound out to learn the shoemaker's trade, which he did thoroughly. He opened a shop in Sigourney, where on January 30, 1861, he married Emily P. Basey, daughter of William and Rebecca Basey of New Jersey.

A number of states of the Lower South had already withdrawn from the Union, and the nation faced its gravest crisis. The firing on Fort Sumter precipitated the Civil War. Although a recent bridegroom, Butler yearned for glory. On July 15, 1861, he traveled to Burlington and enlisted in Company F, 5th Iowa Infantry, a regiment recruited for three years' service. The mustering officer noted on his enlistment papers that Van was 5 feet 11 inches tall, dark complexioned, with blue eyes and brown hair.

The regiment was soon ordered into the field, and at

Boonville, Missouri, on October 13, 1861, Van was hospitalized with dysentery. On November 4 he was given a 60-day furlough. It was "understood" that he was to return to his home and await a medical discharge.

On August 31, 1862, no further word having been received from Butler the regimental commander declared him absent on leave. Two months later, he was declared a deserter as of August 18, 1862. Word traveled slowly, and it was December 7, 1863, before Butler was arrested at his home in Sigourney and taken to Camp McClellan, in Davenport. When he rejoined his unit at Huntsville, Alabama, in January 1864, Van was court martialed. He was acquitted of the charge of desertion, when it was discovered that his discharge, made out and signed by the post surgeon on July 16, 1862, had been misplaced. Butler was ordered to rejoin his company.

He, however, remained on detached duty at Huntsville until June 28, when he was hospitalized at Chattanooga with first typhoid fever and then an indolent ulcer on his left leg. His three-year enlistment having expired, Butler was returned to Davenport, Iowa, and discharged on August 10, 1864.¹⁶

16. Martin Van Buren Butler, Compiled Service Record, NA; Martin V. Butler's Pension File, Application No. 806,899, Certificate No. 678267, NA.

In later years, Van did not let the fact that he had never heard a shot fired in battle trouble him. When he compiled his biography for The History of Cedar County, he reported that "he participated in the battles of Iuka, Siege of Vicksburg, Siege of Corinth, New Madrid, Mission Ridge, and also the Yazoo Pass expedition."¹⁷

After his discharge, Butler returned to Sigourney, where he and his family lived until October 1865, when they moved to Johnson County. From April 1868 until 1872, when they moved to West Branch, the Butlers lived in western Linn County.¹⁸

In February 1879 Van Butler announced that he had gone into business on his own, and hereafter he would be found in his shop near the post office.¹⁹ Butler was the town character, and on April 3, 1879, the local newspaper announced that he was "the 'boss jokist' of West Branch and 'all fools day' afforded him an excellent opportunity for practical joking."²⁰

17. History of Cedar County, Iowa, vol. 2, p. 217.

18. Butler's Pension File, Application No. 806,899, Certificate No. 678,267, NA.

19. West Branch Local Record, Feb. 6 and 13, 1879.

20. Ibid., April 3, 1879.

Van Butler in January 1889 sold his shoe shop to Levi Forney, preparatory to moving to Clay County, Nebraska. The next month, the Butlers said goodbye to their West Branch friends and headed west.²¹ After two years in Nebraska, the Butlers returned to Iowa, making their home in Marion County until April 1892, when they moved to Mahaska County. By January 1894 Butler was homesick for West Branch, and during the month he traveled to Cedar County to visit his sons T. J. of Plato and Newton of West Branch. While in town he visited many of his old friends.²²

Within six months, Butler and his family were back in West Branch and renting Mrs. Lou Branson's house on Poplar. Van Butler by mid-June had opened a shoe shop on Main Street.²³ Before another 18 months had passed, Van Butler found that his drinking had gotten out of hand, and he took a trip to the Gold Cure Institute at Dwight, Illinois. On his return to West Branch, Butler proudly

21. Ibid., Jan. 24, 1889.

22. West Branch Times, Jan. 18, 1894; Butler's Pension File, Application No. 806,899 and Certificate No. 678,267, NA.

23. West Branch Times, June 7 and 14, 1894.

announced that he believed he had been cured of the liquor habit, as he now had no desire for whiskey, and for the time being the "very thought of liquor was abhorrent to him."²⁴

4. Van Butler Moves into the Hayhurst House

In the last week of March 1896, Van Butler bought Lots 25 and 26 and the house and improvements thereon from Joseph Cook. By April 1 he had moved his family into the dwelling.²⁵ Seven months later, on October 14, there was a wedding in the house, as Cora Butler married W. R. Erwin of Oskaloosa, the Rev. A. D. Stevens officiating. Only a few guests were invited. Two days after the ceremony, the bride and groom left for Moravia, Iowa, where Erwin was engaged in the mercantile business.²⁶

To celebrate his 63d birthday, on February 14, 1900, members of the G.A.R., not suspecting that Van Butler had a questionable Civil War service record, surprised him with a combination birthday and Valentine's Day social.

24. Ibid., Jan. 9, 1896.

25. Ibid., April 2, 1896; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 13. Joseph Cook and his family moved into the J. Stratton house on Main Street, while D. White occupied the Lou Branson property out of which the Butlers had moved.

26. West Branch Times, Oct. 15, 1896.

The house on Poplar Street echoed with singing and war stories.²⁷

Van Butler's activities were always good copy for the local newspaper. On December 12, 1901, the editor informed his readers that "MVB who holds forth at the liar's den and works half time when he cannot help it" had occasion to travel to Tipton on December 5. While away someone "desiring to do him injury and ruin his trade" entered his shoe shop on the north side of Main Street and swept it out. "Just think of it," the editor wailed, "the ruinous idea of sweeping the floor of a shoe shop! And not content with this these persons maliciously hung pictures on the walls and otherwise defaced its appearance."²⁸

5. Van Butler Builds an Ell on the House

Sometime between 1903 and 1909, Van Butler had a 16x16-foot ell built on the south elevation of his home. The ell, like the main section of the dwelling, was two stories. The carpenters at the same time demolished the stoop, replacing it

27. Ibid., Feb. 15, 1900.

28. Ibid., Dec. 12, 1901.

with a shed porch with decorative gable. This porch extended the length of the front facade.²⁹

6. Mrs. Butler Passes on and Van Moves in with the Corbins

Death came to the Butler household on Saturday, April 29, 1916, when Mrs. Butler passed away. Born in Washington, Iowa, on December 11, 1841, she had moved while still a child with her parents to Sigourney, Iowa, where she had married Van Butler. Eleven children, three of whom died in infancy, had been born to the couple.³⁰

Two years after the death of his wife, Van on October 1, 1918, rented the house and moved in with his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband Frank E. Corbin.

29. Grant Wood Painting of Herbert Hoover's Birthplace; Panorama of West Branch, taken from Cook's Hill, circa 1909.

30. West Branch Times, May 4, 1916. The Butler children were: Mary Effie, born December 24, 1861, and died August 30, 1863; James W., born September 8, 1863, and died June 8, 1864; James Thomas, born October 10, 1865; Albertus, born June 30, 1867; Henry, born December 25, 1869; Newton C., born August 8, 1872; Charles, born December 20, 1874, and died December 24, 1874; Cora, born March 15, 1876; Elma, born April 8, 1879; Elizabeth, born November 11, 1881; and Letha Ann, born April 6, 1884. Butler's Pension File, Application No. 806,899, Certificate No. 678,267, NA.

Twenty-three months later, he sold his house and lots on Poplar to Wilmer Christensen. Van continued to live with the Corbins until August 1925, when he left West Branch and went to live with the Erwins at Lancaster, Wisconsin. There he died on June 13, 1926, and his body was returned to West Branch for burial beside his wife.³¹

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs and the Grant Wood Painting

1. The 1909 Panorama of West Branch

This photograph was made after Van Butler had the ell built on his house. The structure at this time had two brick chimneys, one on the original wing and the other on the ell. Lots 25 and 26 were enclosed by a white picket fence, and the house was painted either white or cream.

2. The Grant Wood Painting

Grant Wood's painting, "The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover," is extremely valuable. It provides detail relative to the appearance of the shed porch with gable

31. Butler's Pension File, Application No. 806,899, Certificate No. 678, 267, NA.

ends. This porch dates to the early years of the twentieth century. At this time, 1928, there were two windows in the front facade of the second story of the original house, and one window in the upper story of the ell. There were two brick chimneys.

3. 1928 Photograph of the Hoover House

This photograph taken from near the Downey Street bridge over the Wapsinonoc shows the Hayhurst House in the background. Details of the porch and chimneys conform to those found on the Grant Wood painting.

4. Photographs Made After the Restoration of the Hoover Cottage

Two photographs, taken in the early 1940s of the Hoover Cottage and Caretaker's Quarters, picture the Hayhurst House in the background. The photograph of the Cottage provides architectural detail of the ell's front porch, and confirms that there was one upstairs window in the front facade of that part of the house. The photograph of the Caretaker's Quarters provides architectural detail of the south elevation of the ell and the shed porches.

5. The Davis Photograph, Circa 1953

This photograph was made after the Davises had added planter boxes, but before they had replaced the two windows

in the first floor of the south elevation of the ell with a picture window.

E. Recollections of the Hayhurst House

1. Mrs. Harry Gruwell Recalls the Structure and Grounds

Mrs. Gruwell, as a child in the 1890s, recalls the house when it was the home of her uncle, Joseph Cook. The house at that time was a plain, box two-story structure, with a stoop giving access to the front door. The door, which was very plain, was centered in the east elevation. Attached to the west elevation was a lean-to, housing the kitchen. A floor plan of the first floor of the house, prepared by Mrs. Gruwell, is found in this report.

As she recalls, the house was painted a cream color, with tan trim. The yard was enclosed by a "low picket fence."³²

2. Mrs. Tom Davis Recalls the House

In 1949 the Tom Davises moved into the house at Poplar Street, as tenants of the Witmers. Davis, who was a carpenter, was contemplating building a home for himself and his wife. But when he learned that Witmer wanted to

32. Telephone interview, Mrs. Gruwell with Bearss, Sept. 2, 1970; ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

sell the house, he bought it in January 1950. Davis determined to remodel and modernize the structure.

When they remodeled, the Davises tore out the two windows frames in the lower story of the ell. They were replaced with a handsome picture window. The lean-to at the rear of the house was extended to the west, the additional space gained between the garage and house was remodeled into a bedroom. The front porch was removed, and a patio porch added to the ell. Planter boxes were added at the south and east elevations.³³

Davis also made a number of changes inside the house, in addition to the bedroom added when the lean-to was extended. Among these were: (a) the installation of a furnace in the basement to replace a floor furnace, and (b) alteration of the downstairs to add a bathroom.³⁴

Mrs. Davis recalled that Witmer, before selling them the house, had made several alterations to the interior. He had added a cabinet in place of a doorway.³⁵

33. Personal interview, Mrs. Tom Davis, Aug. 11, 1970.

34. Ibid.

35. Ibid.

While they lived in the house, the Davises, along with a number of other West Branch senior citizens, spent their winters in either Florida or California. There they learned to play and appreciate shuffleboard. On returning to West Branch, they prevailed on the Herbert Hoover Foundation to put in a shuffleboard court. The court was located about 100 yards southeast of the Davis' home.³⁶

3. Adelbert Pennock Recalls the House

Bert Pennock, who has lived in the block since 1912, recalled that while the Christensens owned the property, they removed the porch from the original wing. If they did, this would have been done after the Custodian's Quarters for the Herbert Hoover Cottage were erected. A photograph of the former, taken when the quarters were under construction, shows shed porches on both the main structure and ell. If the Christensens did not remove the subject porch, it would have been done by either the LaRues or Witmers, as it was gone by the time the Davises became interested in the house.³⁷

36. Ibid.

37. Personal interview, Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 4 and 16, 1970.

F. Colors the House Painted in the 1870s and 1880s

When the house is programmed to be repainted, paint samples should be taken and studied to determine the colors the original section of the house was painted in the historic period. A few samples collected by Architects Judd and Lessig on August 10, 1970, and analyzed by Judd indicate that the house was originally grey.

THE ISAAC MILES (KOFRON) FARM BUILDINGS

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--ISAAC MILES (KOFRON) FARM BUILDINGS

A. Names and Numbers of Structures

There are at present five structures on the Isaac Miles Farm which merit inclusion on the List of Classified Structures. They are: (a) the Miles House, Structure No. 11; (b) the Miles Barn, Structure No. 12; (c) the Garage, Structure No. 14; (d) the Woodshed, Structure No. 15; and (e) the Windmill, Structure No. 20. The Miles House and Barn are classified as B Structures and the Woodshed, Garage, and Windmill as C Structures. The Corncrib, Structure No. 13 on the park's List of Historic Structures, will not be entered on the List of Classified Structures.

B. Proposed Use of Structures

The front and north facades of the Miles House will be restored to their appearance circa 1880; the exterior of the Miles Barn will be restored to its appearance circa 1880; the Windmill, Woodshed, and Garage will be maintained. The interior of the house and barn will be adapted to compatible uses to be determined by Management and the Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the exterior of the farm buildings to their appearance in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Two of the structures, the house and barn, date to the late 1870s. The 84 acres in the farm will be returned to native grass and grazed.

D. Provision for Operating the Structures

The structures will be adapted to compatible uses to be determined by Management and the Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating the Structures

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate these structures.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The construction activity proposed for the Miles House will consist of restoring the front and north facades to their appearance circa 1880. To carry out this program it will be necessary to: (a) reconstruct the bay, with its five windows, in the east elevation. The subject bay was identical to the south bay. (b) The front porch, which was enclosed by the Kofrons, will be restored. (c) The brick chimney on the north elevation of the house will be demolished. (d) The brick chimney, formerly located in the center of the house, will be

rebuilt. (e) The house will be painted the same colors as it was in the historic period. (f) The house will be reshingled with cedar shingles.

The Miles Barn will be restored to its appearance circa 1880. To undertake this program it will be necessary to: (a) rehabilitate the structure by securing loose battens and replacing beams and joists, where they have been weakened by rot. (b) The oat bins installed by John Kofron are to be removed. (c) Where concrete was used to reinforce the stone foundations and to cover the flooring, it should either be eliminated or made less obtrusive. (d) The barn should be painted red and trimmed in white to retain its historic character. (e) Steps must be taken to preserve and maintain the unique late nineteenth century lightning rods. (f) The doors at the east elevation should be restored to their late nineteenth century appearance.

The chicken house and machine shed should be removed from the property, as they were built in the late 1940s, and as such are not compatible with the historic scene. Period structures similar to the privy to be donated by Floyd Fawcett, can be located on their sites. Superintendent Randy Pope should be encouraged to continue his efforts to locate period outbuildings

to replace other twentieth century structures found on the farm. If a late nineteenth century corncrib can be secured, the corncrib currently located on the farm can be removed.

Both iron hand pumps (one manufactured by Wind Engine and Pump Co. of Batavia, Illinois, and the other by Hoosier Pump of Kendallville, Indiana) can be associated with the historic period. The windmill, manufactured by Flint and Walling of Kendallville, falls into the same category. The windmill and pumps merit inclusion on the List of Classified Structures. There are two cisterns on either side of the walkway leading from the back porch to the woodshed. The south cistern has caved in, and in the interest of safety it should be filled.

C. Estimate of Cost of Proposed Construction

For the house	\$8,000
For the barn	8,000
For cleaning and painting windmill	<u>1,000</u>
Total	\$17,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Miles Farm was owned and operated during the years 1878-83 by one of Herbert Hoover's relatives. Isaac Miles

assisted his brother, Benjamin Miles, in operating the West Branch Industrial School, and children from the school romped and played on the farm. This phase of West Branch history warrants interpretation to the visitor. The farm house and outbuildings will provide a proper setting for the core-area as Herbert Hoover knew it.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

The Miles Farm is located in the northeast quarter of Section 7, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. On January 23, 1852, Aaron Baker was issued a patent by the General Land Office for this 160 acres, which he sold to Samuel King on May 7, 1852. King and his wife, Constant, on March 28, 1853, sold to Joseph Steer an 80-acre tract beginning at the northeast corner of Section 7, then running west 69 rods with the section line, then south 30 rods, then west 13.54 rods, then south 130 rods, then east 82.54 rods to the section line, then north with the section line 160 rods to the point of beginning.¹ Two and one-half years later, on December 15, 1855, King sold to Timothy

1. Cedar County Deed Book H, p. 24.

Kirk the rest of his holdings in the northeast quarter of Section 7.²

Timothy Kirk died in 1868, after selling his real estate in the east one-half of the northeast quarter of Section 7 to Esther and Anna L. Bruff. As the deed had not been drawn at the time of his death, the Cedar County Circuit Court ordered E. E. Kirk to make and execute a conveyance to the Bruff girls, which was approved by the Circuit Court at its June 1868 term.³ Anna Bruff died in the fall of 1873. When her "last will and testament," dated August 26, 1872, was probated, it was found that the deceased had left Esther a one-fourth interest in the property, and to Lydia B. Oliphant, Hannah B. Williams, Joseph Bruff, Mary Andrews, Sarah B. Coggeshall, and Elizabeth Kirk a one-fourth interest.⁴

2. Cedar County Deed Book L, p. 127. Six months earlier, King had mortgaged his property to Daniel Cookson. While in possession of the property, Kirk mortgaged his land to J. C. Pearson and John M. Wetherell. The Pearson mortgage was recorded December 7, 1859, and the Wetherell mortgage January 23, 1861. The Cookson mortgage was released August 4, 1873; the Pearson mortgage February 20, 1871; and the Wetherell September 3, 1874. Abstract to the Holloway Farm, in possession of Mrs. John Kofron, West Branch, Iowa.
3. Guardians', Administrators', and Executors' Deeds, Book 1, p. 407.
4. Miscellaneous Records, Book 1, p. 130.

The aforementioned heirs and their spouses, in turn, conveyed their one-fourth interest in the property on October 15, 1872, to Esther Bruff.⁵

Esther Bruff married Isaac Miles, a widower with two children, on March 28, 1877. The Mileses retained ownership of the farm until March 23, 1887, when they sold it to Samuel Branson for \$4,000. In purchasing the farm, Branson gave Miles a mortgage.⁶ Branson, three years later, sold the farm on February 26, 1890, to O. C. Holloway for \$4,100.

The Holloways, first Ol and then Fred, owned and operated the farm for 51 years. On March 4, 1941, Fred Holloway sold the farm to Severin and Christine Pedersen. A prosperous and progressive farmer, Pedersen gave the farm to his daughter and her husband, John Kofron, in 1956. The Kofrons in the early 1960s sold their farm to the Greater Iowa Corporation, from whom it was purchased by the United States in 1967.⁷

5. Cedar County Deed Book 8, p. 234.
6. Cedar County Deed Book 22, p. 355; Mortgage Record 2, p. 329.
7. Personal interview, Mrs. John Kofron with Bearss, July 14, 1969.

C. Isaac Miles and the Farm

1. Isaac Miles Builds a House and Barn

Isaac N. Miles arrived in West Branch in April 1874 and opened a drugstore. Following his marriage to Esther Bruff on March 28, 1877, Miles sold his interest in the drugstore to D. Marshall Yetter and became a farmer. Taking over his wife's 100 acres south of West Branch, Miles had a house, barn, and other improvements erected. As soon as the two-story frame house was completed, Miles, his wife, and his two children by a previous marriage moved in.⁸

2. The Farm in 1880

Isaac Miles was a successful farmer. Information obtained from him by Peter Thomas, the enumerator for the Tenth Census in Springdale Township, gives an excellent picture of the farm on June 4, 1880, the day of the visit. On questioning Miles, Thomas learned that the farm totaled about 100 acres. Of this acreage: 73 acres were under

8. West Branch Times, April 14, 1921. Esther Bruff had been born on October 9, 1835, at Damacus, Ohio, the daughter of James and Sarah Bruff.

cultivation (including fallow ground and grass in rotation); 24 acres in permanent meadow, pasture, orchard, and vinyard; and 1½ acres in woodland. On the meadow, Miles had mowed eight acres in 1879, which produced 12 tons of hay and eight bushels of clover seed.⁹

On his cultivated land in 1879, Miles had seeded 39 acres in corn, four acres in oats, five acres in rye, and one-fourth acre in potatoes. He had harvested 2,000 bushels of corn, 240 bushels of oats, 176 bushels of rye, and 50 bushels of potatoes. His 1½-acre apple orchard, located southeast of the house, had produced 60 bushels.¹⁰

Miles, as of June 1, 1880, pastured five horses, two mules, five milk cows, and five beef cattle. During the past 12 months his cattle had dropped one calf, while he had purchased two head, sold four, and had one strayed or stolen. There were currently on the farm 55 pigs and

9. Tenth Census, Schedule 2, Production of Agriculture in Springdale Township, Cedar County, Iowa, Iowa Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa.

10. Ibid. Some of the apple trees were still standing in the late 1940s, and they produced Snow and Delicious apples. Personal Interview, Mrs. Kofron with Bearss, Aug. 19, 1970.

20 chickens. In 1879 he and his wife had sold 190 pounds of butter, 144 dozen eggs, and 75 pounds of honey.¹¹

Miles told Enumerator Thomas that he valued his farm, including land, fences, and buildings, at \$3,650; his farm implements and machinery at \$135; and his livestock at \$700. In calendar year 1879 he had spent \$70 on repairs to his fences and buildings, and \$25 for fertilizer. He had employed a hired hand for 32 weeks, and had paid him \$200, in addition to providing him board and room. Miles estimated the value of all his crops sold or consumed in 1879 at \$925.¹²

3. Miles Leaves West Branch

a. Miles Becomes Interested in the West Branch Industrial School

Isaac Miles' brother, Benjamin, in the autumn of 1882 received authority to establish at West Branch to educate Indian children a school in "industrial arts." Isaac, like other members of his family, was a Friend and had long been interested in educating Indians. In the 1870s he had made several trips to the Indian Territory to visit his nephew

11. Tenth Census, Schedule 2, Production of Agriculture in Springdale Township, Cedar County, Iowa.

12. Ibid.

Laban Miles, Superintendent of the Osage-Kaw Agency; his brother Benjamin, when he was in charge of the boarding school at the Osage Agency; and Lawrie Tatum, one of the architects of President Ulysses S. Grant's Indian Peace Policy.¹³

It is therefore not surprising that Isaac became closely associated with his brother in the operation of the West Branch Industrial School. Some of the children were boarded and worked on the farm.¹⁴ See Appendix B for a "History of the West Branch Industrial School."

b. The Industrial School Moves and Miles Holds an Auction

By the autumn of 1883, it was apparent to Benjamin and Isaac Miles that facilities for the school at West Branch were too restricted. An agreement was therefore reached with the Trustees of White's Iowa Manual-Labor Institute to transfer the Industrial School to their facilities at Houghton,

13. West Branch Local Record, April 24, 1879.

14. Ibid., Nov. 8, 1883; Holloway to Mrs. Kofron, March 5, 1952, Mrs. John Kofron's file on the Miles Farm.

Lee County, Iowa.

Authority to make the move having been secured from Commissioner of Indian Affairs Hiram Price, Isaac Miles, preparatory to leaving West Branch for Lee County, held a public auction on his farm on November 14. To be sold were: four ponies, one span of matched blacks, two three-year olds, and one yearling bashaw colt; 90 head of hogs to include four sows with pigs, 60 good shoats, and one imported Tamworth boar; one hive of bees; 25 acres of corn standing in a field; one combine reaper and mower (Buckey); one revolving hayrake; one cornplanter; one check rower; one broadcast seeder; one-half interest in a stalk cutter; one stirring plow; one corn plow; one harrow; one corn sheller; one wood bed; one 14x30-foot feed floor for hogs; one double buggy; one lot of light harness; two cook stoves (one Washington and one Stewart); five heating stoves (two Airtight, two coal burners, and one Splendid Base Burner); one double oil stove with furniture; and one extension table. The sale was held as scheduled with I. Hemmingway as auctioneer.¹⁵

15. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 8, 1883.

c. Miles Rents his Farm

The Indian children departed West Branch, on November 1, on the 3:40 p.m. train, for Lee County. Miles followed three weeks later. When he left his West Branch farm on the 19th, Miles took two teams and 50 cattle. He was accompanied by his wife and Indian Jim (James Fleming), the last of the West Branch redmen.¹⁶ Miles had rented his farm to B. T. Gruwell, but it was the last week in December before he and his family moved in.¹⁷

Miles returned to West Branch briefly in May 1884 to check on his farm and to visit friends in the community. He reported that the school, now known as White's Institute, was prospering and that there were about 50 pupils in attendance.¹⁸ In May of 1886 Miles returned to West Branch for several days to sell the Board of Directors of the Cedar County Fair, 14 acres off the north part of his farm.

This land was on the south side of the Wapsinonoc.

16. *Ibid.*, Nov. 1 and 22, 1883.

17. *Ibid.*, Dec. 27, 1883.

18. *Ibid.*, May 29, 1884.

The editor of the local newspaper described the tract conveyed, as "most beautifully located for the purpose designed, it lays with a gradual slope toward the town, with a sparkling stream of living water, running the entire length of the northern boundary."¹⁹

d. Miles Disposes of his Farm

Samuel Branson of Cedar County in March 1887 traded to Miles a section of land in Kansas for the subject farm. The 100-acre farm for bookkeeping purposes was valued at \$4,000, while the 640 acres of Kansas land were priced at eight dollars an acre.²⁰

e. Miles' Twilight Years

Miles retained his close association with White's Institute until May 27, 1887, when the principal building was destroyed by fire. The school was then disbanded, and most of the pupils sent to the Indian School at Lawrence, Kansas.²¹

19. Ibid., May 27, 1886.

20. Ibid., March 17, 1887.

21. Lawrie Tatum, Our Red Brothers and the Peace Policy of President U. S. Grant, foreword by Richard N. Ellis (Lincoln, 1970), p. 337.

Having suffered from asthma for years, Miles in 1888 moved to Newburg, Oregon. For a time the change in climate caused his health to improve, but in the late 1890s his condition took a turn for the worse, and he died on November 2, 1899.²² Miles' wife survived him by more than two decades, dying at Salem, Oregon, on March 26, 1921.²³

4. The Holloways and the Farm

a. Ol Holloway Buys a Farm

Samuel Branson retained possession of the Miles Farm for one month less than three years. On February 26, 1890, he sold the farm to Oliver Holloway for \$4,100. Two weeks later, Ol Holloway and his family moved into the farm house, on "the beautiful hill just outside of town on the Downey Road."²⁴

b. Ol Holloway--the Man

Oliver Holloway had been born in Columbiana

22. West Branch Times, Nov. 9, 1899. According to Fred Holloway, Miles' real reason for moving to Oregon was because he had exhausted his wife's credit. Holloway to Mrs. Kofron, March 5, 1952, Mrs. Kofron's Files.

23. West Branch Times, April 14, 1921.

24. Ibid., March 13, 1890.

County, Ohio, on December 15, 1840. During the summer of 1862, with the tide of war running against the Union, Holloway enlisted as a private in Company H, 115th Ohio. He was mustered into Federal service at Camp Massillon, Ohio, on September 19, 1862. At the time of his enlistment, O1, as he was called, was five feet seven, with gray eyes, and a light complexion.²⁵

On October 9, 1862, with Gen. Braxton Bragg's "army group" in possession of much of Kentucky, the 115th Ohio was ordered to Cincinnati. After the crisis passed and with Bragg's Confederate columns retreating into East Tennessee, the battalion to which Holloway was assigned was ordered to Columbus, Ohio, and from there to Maysville, Kentucky. In December 1862 the battalion was transferred to Covington, where it remained on provost duty until October 1863. Holloway at this time was placed on detached duty as a teamster.

25. Compiled Service Record of Oliver Holloway, NA. The 115th Ohio was organized from companies raised in Portage, Stark, and Columbiana counties.

The battalion to which Holloway was assigned left Covington in the autumn of 1863 and was transferred by rail to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. A number of men were mounted and used to combat Rebel partisans threatening Union communications. In 1864 those troops not mounted were assigned to blockhouses guarding railroad bridges of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. While engaged in this duty, the 115th Ohio fought Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler's Confederate cavalry at Lavergne on August 31 and September 1. In December, 200 men of the regiment were captured while defending blockhouses. The 115th Ohio was engaged against a strong Rebel force led by Maj. Gens. Nathan B. Forrest and William B. Bate in the Battle of the Cedars, fought December 5-7, 1864. Private Holloway participated in both the Lavergne fight and the Battle of the Cedars.

O1 Holloway, along with other veterans of the 115th Ohio, was mustered out at Murfreesboro,

Tennessee, on June 22, 1865.²⁶

Like many of his contemporaries from Columbiana County, Holloway moved to Cedar County, Iowa, in 1866. There he farmed, and on January 1, 1874, married Leah Yates at West Liberty. His bride, 13 years his junior, had been born in Dark County, Ohio. During the next six years, the Holloways became parents of three children: Myrtie, born July 4, 1875; Edith, born March 22, 1877; and Fred, born October 20, 1880.²⁷

c. Ol Holloway and the Farm

Soon after moving onto the farm, Holloway in early April 1890 had bad luck, when a valuable cow was struck by lightning and killed.²⁸

In the fall of 1890 the West Branch Times featured a series of articles on local farms. The correspondent reported that the Holloway residence

26. Ibid.; Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, 12 vols. (Columbus, 1888), vol. 8, p. 146.

27. Oliver and Leah Holloway Pension File, Application No. 1,196,145 and Certificate No. 954,821, NA.

28. West Branch Times, April 10, 1890.

and outbuildings were very attractive. The house and barn were screened on the east by a grove of evergreens, on the south by an orchard, and on the north and west by other types of trees. During the past season, the Holloways had picked 50 bushels of apples and had farmed 57 acres. The farm was stocked with cattle, horses, and hogs. When questioned by the correspondent, Holloway told him that the house, barn, and outbuildings had been built by Isaac Miles.²⁹

Ol Holloway in September 1893 hired Homer Baker to dig a well behind the house. At a depth of 22 feet, Baker encountered a well-preserved piece of wood, two feet long by four inches thick. His find was so unusual that Baker brought the chunk in and showed it to the editor of the local newspaper.³⁰

The farm was productive and gave the Holloways a good life. In September 1893 the local newspaper

29. Ibid., Nov. 20, 1890.

30. Ibid., Sept. 14, 1893.

reported that Holloway had threshed 119½ bushels of timothy seed from 12 acres.³¹ Several years later, the editor informed his readers that Ol Holloway had "placed on our table yesterday a.m. one-half bushel of apples that take the prize for size and beauty of color. We will give six months' subscription to the Times for another half bushel that will beat them." He found no takers.³²

d. Fred Holloway and the Farm

Ol Holloway lived on the farm until his death on September 7, 1924. His widow and son continued to live there. Mrs. Holloway had been crippled by arthritis and was compelled to use crutches to get about. Her son, who remained a bachelor, took care of her and the farm. Fred was not a progressive farmer and allowed the buildings and land to deteriorate. He was a devoted son, however. Many older West Branchers recall Fred driving his mother into town. She would sit in her wheelchair, which Fred secured with ropes to the bed of his carriage.³³

31. Ibid., Sept. 14, 1893.

32. Ibid., Sept. 24, 1896.

33. Oliver and Leah Holloway Penson File, NA; Personel interview, Brown with Bearss, Aug. 25, 1970.

e. The Springdale Mutual Fire Insurance Co. and the Farm

Sam Branson, after taking possession, insured his house and barn with Springdale Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The house was insured for \$800 and the barn for \$500. The policy was to remain in effect for two years and was to expire on July 31, 1889. Following his acquisition of the farm in February 1890, Holloway insured the house with the same company for \$750 and its contents for \$385. The barn was insured for \$500 and its contents for \$110. In 1895 and again in 1900, Holloway renewed his policy.³⁴

D. Changes Shown by Historic Photographs

1. The Kofron Collection

The only historic photographs found of the Miles Farm are those in Mrs. John Kofron's Collection. These photographs date from the late 1940s and early 1950s. Two of these photographs show a Kofron child playing on the front porch,

34. Records, Springdale Mutual Fire Insurance Co., West Branch, Iowa, Policy Nos. 1404, 1933, 2462, and 3299. In 1895 Holloway insured the house for \$1,125 and the barn for \$595, and in 1900 the house for \$675 and the barn for \$515.

and were made before the subject porch was enclosed. The two photographs detailing the front facade of the house were made after the bay window was removed, the porch enclosed, and the chimney relocated. A photograph of the Kofron son provides details of the unaltered south bay and elevation of the house. There are two photographs of the barn, machinery shed, and corncrib. The machinery shed and corncrib will not be entered on the List of Classified Structures.

E. Mrs. Kofron's Recollections of the Farm Buildings

1. The Kofrons Take Over

When Severin Pedersen took possession of the Miles Farm from Fred Holloway in 1941, the buildings were in need of maintenance and the land needed to be built-up. Pedersen was a successful farmer, who believed in and utilized the latest agricultural practices, and during the next four years he restored the soil to its former high productivity. The buildings were better maintained than they had been in years.

In 1946, Pedersen gave the Miles Farm to his daughter and her husband. The John Kofrons moved onto the farm

immediately, and retained possession until 1962, when they sold the property to the Greater Iowa Corporation.³⁵ The Kofrons continued the improvement program initiated by Mrs. Kofron's father. By 1950 the Miles Farm was again one of the handsome farms of Springdale Township. Mrs. Kofron reviewed with the author the many improvements made by her and her husband to the buildings during this period. As Mr. Kofron was a carpenter, he undertook the repairs and alterations.³⁶

2. House Alterations

In 1946-47 the house was renovated and altered. Changes consisted of: (a) enlarging the cellar into a basement and concreting the walls. (b) A stoker and furnace were added to provide the Kofrons with central heating. (c) New oak flooring was laid in the downstairs. (d) One of the rooms was converted into a bathroom and the outside privy demolished. (e) The kitchen was remodeled, and the summer kitchen eliminated. When the inside kitchen was modernized, a kitchen sink was installed, new cupboards were built, and the wainscoting removed. (f) In the northeast corner, a wall separating the livingroom and a

35. Personal interview, Mrs. Kofron with Bearss, July 14, 1969. A keen observer, Mrs. Kofron has interested herself in the history of the farm.

36. Ibid.

small bedroom was removed to provide the Kofrons with a more comfortable livingroom. (g) In the diningroom there was some "gingerbread woodwork" which was eliminated. (h) Porcelain doorknobs throughout the downstairs were replaced with glass doorknobs. (i) The bay in the east elevation was removed and replaced with three windows. (j) The front porch was enclosed. (k) The old chimney was removed, and a new chimney added adjoining the north elevation. (The old chimney was in the center of the house.) (l) In the upstairs, the rooms were replastered and papered. The room above the kitchen was used by the Kofrons as quarters for their hired man. (m) Although the house had been wired, the Kofrons added a number of outlets. (n) The Kofrons placed venetian blinds in the livingroom windows.³⁷

3. Details Recalled by Mrs. Kofron

a. The East Bay

Mrs. Kofron recalls that the east and south bays were identical. When the east bay was removed, the middle

37. Ibid.

immediately, and retained possession until 1962, when they sold the property to the Greater Iowa Corporation.³⁵ The Kofrons continued the improvement program initiated by Mrs. Kofron's father. By 1950 the Miles Farm was again one of the handsome farms of Springdale Township. Mrs. Kofron reviewed with the author the many improvements made by her and her husband to the buildings during this period. As Mr. Kofron was a carpenter, he undertook the repairs and alterations.³⁶

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3. Details Recalled by Mrs. Kofron

a. The East Bay

Mrs. Kofron recalls that the east and south bays were identical. When the east bay was removed, the middle

37. Ibid.

three windows were salvaged and used flush with the facade of the east elevation to close the area where the bay had been.³⁸

b. The Front Porch

The front porch, according to Mrs. Kofron, was enclosed by her husband. Before being closed in, its roof alignment was the same as today. The roof had been supported at the southeast corner and to the left of the steps giving access to the porch by 6x6-inch columns. There had been a large window in the east elevation of the house, between the front doorway and the southeast corner of the structure.³⁹

c. Replastering

Preparatory for replastering the upstairs rooms, the Kofrons removed the wallpaper. On removing the paper, in the southeast bedroom, autographs of members of the Samuel Branson family, who occupied the house from 1887 to 1890, were found.⁴⁰

38. Personal interview, Mrs. Kofron with Bearss, July 14, 1969, and Aug. 21, 1970.

39. Ibid.; photographs made by Mrs. Kofron in 1946. Copies of these photographs are found in this report.

40. Personal interview, Mrs. Kofron with Bearss, July 14, 1969.

3. Improvements to the Barn

To reinforce the stone foundation, John Kofron used large amounts of cement. He added the oat bins.⁴¹

4. Machinery Shed

The 20x40-foot machinery shed, now located on the farm, was erected by John Kofron. In constructing the shed, he used lumber salvaged from a structure previously standing on the site.⁴²

5. Chicken House

The 18x36-foot chicken house, 105 feet west of the woodshed, was built by the Kofrons.⁴³

6. Concrete Walkway

The concrete walkway leading from the back porch to the woodshed was built by the Kofrons.⁴⁴

F. Colors Buildings Painted in the Late Nineteenth Century

Henry Judd and Charles Lessig on August 10, 1970, obtained paint samples from the house and barn. Mr. Judd, on studying

41. Ibid.

42. Ibid.

43. Ibid.

44. Ibid.

these samples, determined that the house was painted lead white; a layer of gray paint (primer) had disintegrated. Insufficient samples obtained from the trim precluded a determination of its color in the historic period. Samples secured from the barn prove that it was painted barn red with white trim.

DAVID MACKEY (MARIE ALLEN) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--DAVID MACKEY (MARIE ALLEN) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The David Mackey (Marie Allen) House, Structure No. 18, West Branch Iowa. The Mackey House is classified as a B Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade and south elevation of the Mackey House will be restored to their appearance as of the final decades of the nineteenth century. The interior of the structure will be adapted for use as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. The Mackey House was built several years before Herbert Hoover was born, and as a boy he would have been familiar with the structure and its occupants.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating the Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate the structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The construction activity proposed for the Mackey House will consist of: (a) removing the concrete block porch and restoring the front and south facades of the structure to their appearance circa 1900. (b) The carport will be demolished. (c) The house will be painted the same colors as it was in the historic period, 1874-86. (d) The yard will be enclosed by a picket fence and entered through a wooden gate. (e) There will be a plank walkway alongside the south elevation of the house, providing access to the back door.

G. Estimate of Cost

\$7,500

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Mackey House was built several years before Herbert Hoover was born. Of the structures in the core-area, dating to Hoover's boyhood, it and the Wright House have been the least altered. Its builder was mayor of West Branch in 1879, and it would have been a familiar landmark to young Hoover.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

J. M. Wetherell in 1869 subdivided the five acres he had recently purchased from Joseph Steer in West Branch. On

September 23 he sold Lot 28 to David Mackey for \$50. Five days later, Mackey purchased Lot 29 for a similar amount.¹ Twenty months later, on May 22, 1871, Mackey mortgaged the lots, along with the improvements, to Wetherell for \$300.² After redeeming the subject property, Mackey, following the death of his wife, sold his house and Lots 28 and 29, in Steer's Plat of West Branch, to John Zalaskey on September 19, 1876, for \$500. To enable Zalaskey to fund the purchase, Mackey accepted two promissory notes for \$175 each from the Zalaskeys. One note was payable in one year, and the other in two years. The notes were secured by the subject property and were to earn ten percent interest.³ Before securing a clear title to the property, Zalaskey moved to Linn County, and on April 6, 1878, he sold Lots 28 and 29 and the improvements thereon to Laban Miles and Charles Townsend for \$175. To secure title, Miles and Townsend redeemed Zalaskey's promissory notes drawn in favor of Mackey.⁴

1. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record G, pp. 249-50.

2. Town Lot Mortgage Record A, p. 271.

3. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record H, pp. 573-74; Town Lot Mortgage Record C, p. 40.

4. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record K, pp. 65-6.

Miles and Townsend were speculators, and on April 27, 1878, they sold the subject property to D. M. Yetter for \$600. To finance the transaction, Yetter borrowed \$417.42 from Reynolds and Churchill of Burlington, Iowa, to be secured by a mortgage on Lots 28 and 29.⁵ Yetter, having accepted a call to the ministry, was compelled to move, and he and his wife on July 7, 1883, sold the lots and improvements to Elizabeth Hussey for \$300.⁶ To secure necessary cash, Mrs. Hussey borrowed \$300 from her brother Aaron Gruwell, giving him a mortgage on the property.⁷ Mrs. Hussey died in January 1889, and the house and lots passed into the hands of Aaron Gruwell and his wife.

The Gruwells on August 8, 1892, sold the property to Hans Johnson for \$475.⁸ Two years later, in August 1894, the Johnsons sold the lots and improvements to Anton Peterson for \$500. The sale was made subject to a mortgage for \$300 in

5. Ibid., pp. 74-5; Town Lot Mortgage Record A, p. 582.

6. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record K, p. 591

7. Town Lot Mortgage Record D, p. 177.

8. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record P, p. 247.

favor of Huldah Enlow, which Peterson was to assume.⁹ Peterson and his wife used the house and lots as rental property. On November 23, 1896, they sold the subject real estate to Neal P. Madson for \$600, the conveyance subject to the \$300 mortgage held by Huldah Enlow. Madson was to assume payment of the mortgage, along with the interest thereon from August 8, 1896.¹⁰

Madson retained title to the property for 21 months, and on August 8, 1898, he sold it to Martha M. Savage, a widow, for \$700. Mrs. Savage also agreed to assume payment of the Enlow mortgage, with interest from the date of sale.¹¹ Before her marriage to Arthur C. Hunter, Mrs. Savage on February 26, 1909, conveyed her interest in the lots and improvements to her son, E. M. "Ned" Savage, for one dollar.¹² After the death of his wife, Art Hunter on August 20, 1937, conveyed to Ned Savage

9. Cedar County Deed Record 34, p. 338. Johnson, to underwrite his purchase of the property on August 8, 1892, had borrowed \$300 from Huldah Enlow, which was secured by a lien on Lots 28 and 29. Town Lot Mortgage Book R, p. 126.

10. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 23.

11. Cedar County Deed Record 34, p. 498.

12. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 8, p. 246.

his interest in the subject property.¹³ Two months later, Ned and Anna Savage sold Lots 28 and 29, along with the improvements, to M. R. Christensen for \$500.¹⁴ The Christensens retained possession until February 2, 1942, when they sold the subject real estate to Melvin Vincent and his wife for one dollar and other valuable considerations.¹⁵ On August 25, 1948, the Vincents conveyed Lots 28 and 29 and their improvements to Raymond and Genevieve Millett for a similar consideration.¹⁶ Six years later, on December 13, 1954, the Milletts sold the subject real estate to Marie D. Allen for \$6,650. The United States acquired the property in 1967 from Mrs. Allen.¹⁷

C. The Mackey House--A Structural History

1. David Mackey Builds a House

The small, two-story frame house on Lot 28 on Steer's Plat of West Branch was erected between September 1869 and May 1871 by David Mackey, a carpenter.¹⁸ The builder,

13. Quit Claim Deed Record 71, p. 6.

14. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 9, p. 362.

15. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 7, p. 349.

16. Cedar County Deed Record 74, p. 597.

17. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 14, p. 450.

18. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record G, pp. 249-50; Town Lot Mortgage Record A, p. 271; "Map of West Branch, Iowa, 1872," Atlas of Cedar County, Fig. 43.

one of the town's few Democrats, was born in Cecil County, Maryland, in 1834. In 1866, Mackey and his brother traveled to Montana, where they spent a year. David then returned to Maryland, where he remained a short time before again heading west. He settled in West Branch in 1869, built his home on Poplar Street, and married Mary H. Yetter. She died in 1872, leaving the bereaved father with a baby boy--Charles. To care for the child, David's sister, Martha, moved into the little house on Poplar Street.¹⁹

Mackey sold Lots 28 and 29 to John Zalaskey in September 1876, and by April 1878 the property was owned and occupied by D. Marshall Yetter, the town druggist and Mackey's brother-in-law. Herbert Hoover would have known the Mackeys and the Yettters.

2. David Mackey--The Man

On March 6, 1879, three years after Mackey had moved from his house on Poplar, he was elected mayor of

19. West Branch Local Record, March 31, 1887.

West Branch, the first and one of the few Democrats to hold that office.²⁰ Mackey, soon after being elected to a second term, resigned and established a butcher shop.²¹

About two years before Herbert Hoover left West Branch to live with his Oregon relatives, Mackey had a serious altercation with Street Commissioner J. C. Perry. As members of the G.A.R. post marched in from the fairgrounds on Friday, July 4, 1884, they halted briefly on Main Street. Before they moved on, Mackey rushed into the street and seized Perry by the collar with one hand and took a swing at him with his fist. One of Perry's comrades grabbed Mackey. The men were separated, and next day a warrant was issued by Justice of Peace H. I. Gruwell for Mackey's appearance.

When Mackey appeared in court on the 7th, he was fined ten dollars and costs. At the hearing, it was learned that the difficulty had been caused by a grudge regarding street work.²²

20. Ibid., March 6, 1879. In the same election, his brother-in-law-- Marshall Yetter--was elected town recorder.

21. Ibid., April 15 and 29, 1880. Charles Townsend was chosen mayor at a special election held April 26 to fill Mackey's unexpired term.

22. Ibid., July 10, 1884.

In December 1885, ten months after President Grover Cleveland's inauguration as President, Mackey, as a faithful Democrat, was named town postmaster. Several months later, Postmaster Mackey suffered a stroke, from which he never recovered. His sister served as acting postmaster until his death on March 28, 1887.²³

3. The Yetters and the House

a. Yetter Gets the Call

D. Marshall Yetter owned and lived in the Mackey House from 1878 until 1883. Yetter, at the time he moved into the little house on Poplar, was a 24-year-old native of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. His parents, the B. Y. Yetters, had moved to Iowa and had settled in Gower Township when Marshall was a baby. He had been brought up on the farm and educated in the public schools of Cedar County. In 1876 he had married Mary E. Mills. Before buying part interest

23. Ibid., March 31, 1887. Mackey was a member of the Methodist Church and active in YMCA work. Besides his sister, he was survived by his son.

in the town's drugstore in 1877, Marshall had taught school for four years.²⁴

The firm of Yetter and Negus sold drugs and sundries to West Branchers from their store on Main Street. On January 17, 1880, the firm was dissolved by mutual consent, Yetter taking charge of the drug department and Negus the books, stationery, paints, and brushes.²⁵ Yetter, who was a good Methodist, during the early 1880s became increasingly interested in his church. In July 1882 Yetter determined to sell his drugstore and accept a call to the ministry for the church at Silver Lake, in northwest Iowa. He accordingly advertised in the West Branch Local Record for a number of weeks, beginning July 6, that he would sell on good and easy terms his house and lot on Poplar Street,

24. Ibid., Jan. 20, 1881. The drugstore had been established in 1874 by Isaac Miles. Soon thereafter, J. H. Edmundson bought a half-interest in the store. The firm of Miles and Edmundson continued in business until 1877, when Miles sold his interest to Yetter and took up farming. In 1878 Edmundson sold his share to Jason Negus. Ibid., Jan. 9, 1879.

25. Ibid., Jan. 20, 1880. On May 6 Yetter announced that he planned to move to Cedar Bluff with his stock of drugs. He, however, changed his mind and determined to remain in West Branch. Ibid., May 6 and 20, 1880.

as well as his business.²⁶

Although he had not sold his Poplar Street home by January 1883, Yetter could delay no longer, and on the 29th, accompanied by his wife and children, he started for Silver Lake. In commenting on his departure, the editor of the Local Record observed:

Those whom Mr. Yetter is called upon to minister over spiritually, will find him to possess an earnestness of devotion to Christianity inferior to few in the ministerial walks of life. Marshall will be missed very much from our midst, and we regret his loss but have hope that it will prove a blessing to many.²⁷

Late January and early February 1883 saw Iowa swept by one blizzard after another. Deep snows blocked roads, and the Yettters, unable to reach their new home, returned to West Branch. Before he could make another start, he was reassigned to the Methodist Church in Estherville, Iowa. The

26. Ibid., July 6, 1882.

27. Ibid., Jan. 25, 1883.

Yettters left for their new home on April 13, 1883.²⁸

b. Improvements made by Yetter

While residing in the house on Poplar, Yetter had it remodeled and the two lots enclosed with a picket fence.²⁹

4. Mrs. Hussey as Owner of the House

The house stood vacant, after the Yettters' departure, for three months. On July 7, 1883, it was sold, along with the lots, to Mrs. Elizabeth Hussey, a 75-year-old widow. In commenting on the sale, the editor of the local newspaper wrote that she had "secured a comfortable home in a live town. What better does anyone want."³⁰ To finance the transaction, she borrowed the money from her brother Aaron Gruwell, giving him a mortgage on the property.³¹

Within five weeks, Mrs. Hussey had passed her 76th birthday. To help her celebrate the occasion, about 40

28. Ibid., Feb 8 and April 12, 1883. In October 1883 the Reverend Mr. Yetter took charge of the Methodist Church at Peterson, Iowa. He was back at Estherville in the autumn of 1885, when he returned with his family to attend the marriage of his sister Ella.

29. West Branch Local Record, April 29 and May 13, 1880.

30. Ibid., July 12, 1883.

31. Town Lot Mortgage Record D, p. 177.

relatives and neighbors held a surprise party for her at her home on Poplar Street. Among the gifts was a \$16 carpet for the front room.³²

In April 1884 Mrs. Hussey suffered a stroke and was confined to her house in a helpless condition for a number of days.³³ She recovered only to suffer another stroke on October 27, 1885. On that date a neighbor found her lying on the floor of her home in a helpless condition. When the Local Record went to press on the 29th, she was still in a critical condition.³⁴

Once again, Mrs. Hussey recovered. She, however, was so disabled that her daughter, Elizabeth Sculley, of Honey Grove, took her to live with her. Mrs. Hussey died on January 23, 1889, at the home of her son, Nathan Gaskell, of Cedar Rapids, where she had gone to spend the holidays.³⁵

32. West Branch Local Record, Aug. 23, 1883.

33. Ibid., April 3, 1884.

34. Ibid., Oct. 29, 1885.

35. Ibid., Jan. 24, 1889. Mrs. Hussey, a native of Ohio, left three daughters and two sons. She was a sister of Aaron Gruwell, Alice Hawley, and Ann Heacock of West Branch.

5. Aaron Gruwell Forecloses on the Property

Mrs. Hussey had not paid off the mortgage held by her brother. Twenty-six months after his sister's death, Aaron Gruwell notified Mrs. Hussey's children that on April 16, 1891, there would be on file in the office of the Cedar County District Court, a petition asking the foreclosure of the mortgage executed by Mrs. Hussey to him, July 14, 1883, on Lots 28 and 29.³⁶

6. The Johnsons and Micheners and the House

Gruwell held onto the property for 17 months after securing his order of foreclosure. On August 8, 1892, he sold the real estate to Hans Johnson.³⁷ A recent immigrant to the United States from Denmark, Johnson was a harnessmaker, and he had rented the property for several years before buying it from Aaron Gruwell. In October 1894, while living on Poplar Street, Johnson advertised in the local newspaper that he handled blankets, robes, and a full line of harness goods. Harness was also neatly and promptly repaired in his shop.³⁸

36. West Branch Times, March 26, 1891

37. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record P, p. 297. Both Johnson and his wife were Danes. Hans was born in 1865 and his wife, Lena, in 1859. At this time they had two children--Andrew and Daymar. In August 1893 Johnson built a harness shop west of the postoffice. West Branch Times, Aug. 10, 1893.

38. West Branch Times, Oct. 24, 1894.

In August 1894 the Johnsons sold the property to another naturalized Dane, Anton Peterson. Emigrating to the United States in 1893 and settling at West Branch, Peterson in 1894 had married Helena Madsen, a daughter of Neal Madsen. The Petersons, however, did not live on Poplar Street. The house while owned by them was used as rental property. Their tenant was Bill Michener and his family.³⁹

7. Mrs. Hunter and the House

Mrs. Mattie Savage, a widow, having bought the property from Peterson moved into the Mackey House in April 1899. She had previously sold her home on west Main to Henry Cowgill. While waiting for the Micheners to move out, she had lived for a month in Mrs. Lou Branson's property on south Downey.⁴⁰

39. Ibid., Dec. 9, 1897 and July 30, 1903; Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970. Peterson retained close contact with his fatherland, and in November 1897 he and his wife returned to Aalborg, Denmark, for a three-month visit. Peterson died on his farm, near West Branch, on July 24, 1903, leaving a widow and two children.

40. West Branch Times, Feb. 23, March 16, and April 8, 1899. Martha Melissa Savage, the youngest of the five children of Nathaniel and Martha Jones of Fulton County, Illinois, was born April 30, 1853. While she was still a child, her parents moved to Atalissa, Iowa, where she grew to womanhood. In 1873 she married Dr. Theodore Savage of West Liberty. Dr. Savage died in 1880, and the widow with her children moved to West Branch. Ibid., July 24 and 31, 1930.

Eleven years after moving into the Mackey House, Mattie Savage in 1909 married A. C. Hunter. Her husband was in the concrete block business. Mrs. Hunter in the early 1920s was afflicted with rheumatism which crippled her body but not her mind. In May 1930 she suffered a bad fall and failed rapidly, dying on July 23. She was survived by her son, Ned, and her husband.⁴¹

8. Marie Allen and the House

Mrs. Marie Allen was the last private owner of the Mackey House. She, in the early 1950s was living in Victor, Iowa, and was well acquainted with Mrs. John Stratton. Marie Allen had learned to love shuffleboard on vacations to Florida, and she was interested to learn from Mrs. Stratton that there was a court in West Branch. She accordingly in 1954 purchased the subject property from the Milletts and moved to West Branch.⁴²

D. Changes Shown in Historic Photographs

It has been impossible to locate any photographs of the

41. Ibid., July 24 and 31, 1930.

42. Personal interview, Mrs. Glenn Speight with Bearss, Aug. 4, 1970.

front facade or south elevation of the Mackey House, showing how they appeared before the construction of the concrete block porch and carport. In restoring the front facade, architects will be compelled to investigate the fabric and locate ghost lines.

E. Recollections of the Mackey House

1. Mrs. Gruwell's Recollections

Mrs. Gruwell recalls that in the 1890s, when she lived next door, the subject house was a small, two-story frame dwelling, with a door in the middle of the front facade and a window on either side. There was a front porch with "slim pillars," but she does not recall a railing. There were windows in both the north and south elevations of the first floor--two in the north elevation and one in the south. The rooms were small and "a closed stairway" went up from the southeast corner of the front room. A floor plan of the first story of the Mackey House, as recalled by Mrs. Gruwell, is found in this report. The wall shown on the subject floor plan was removed to enlarge the living room.

The house was not well maintained, and Mrs. Gruwell recalls that the "paint was poor, but it seems to me it had been white with a poor shade of green for the trim."

The large yard, in the 1890s, was enclosed by a three-board fence with cap. There was a large garden in rear of the house, with a "lovely big crab apple tree," south of where the carport is now located.⁴³

The addition at the rear of the house predates Mrs. Gruwell's recollections. A study of the documentary evidence leads to the conclusion that the addition was built by Marshall Yetter in 1880.⁴⁴

2. Glenn Brown's Recollections

Mr. Brown recalls that Art Hunter, after he married the Widow Savage, altered the front porch. As he owned a concrete block business, he utilized concrete blocks to build a porch railing and columns. The railing consisted of a number of rows of blocks, laid with open bond. In the 1920s Hunter rebuilt the porch, again employing concrete blocks. No changes have since occurred to the fabric of the porch.⁴⁵

43. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

44. Telephone interview, Mrs. Gruwell with Bearss, Sept. 5, 1970.

45. Personal interview, Glenn Brown with Bearss, Aug. 25, 1970.

3. Bert Pennock Builds a Carport

The carport attached to the south elevation of the house was built by Bert Pennock in the late 1930s or early 1940s for the Christensens.⁴⁶

G. Colors House to be Painted

Paint samples were removed from the Mackey House on August 10 by Architects Judd and Lessig. These samples, when studied by Mr. Judd, demonstrated that the house in the Hoover years was painted gray-green. It was trimmed in green.

46. Personal interview, Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 4 and 16, 1970.

WILLIAM WRIGHT (PENNOCK) HOUSE

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--WILLIAM WRIGHT (PENNOCK) HOUSE

A. Name and Number of Structure

The William Wright (Pennock) House, Structure No. 19, West Branch, Iowa. The Wright House is classified as a B Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The front facade and south elevation of the Wright House will be restored to their appearance as of the first decade of the twentieth century. The interior of the structure will be adapted as quarters.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

The approved Master Plan proposes to restore the core-area of the National Historic Site to the appearance of a typical eastern Iowa village of the 1880s. The Wright House was built within a year of Herbert Hoover's birth, and as a boy he would have been familiar with the house and its occupants.

D. Provision for Operating the Structure

The structure will be used as quarters for park personnel.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating this Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate the structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

The front and south facades of the Wright House will be restored to their appearance, circa 1905. To carry out this program, it will be necessary to: (a) restore the front porch and front doorway. (b) The house will be painted the same color as it was in the 1870s. (c) The back room built by Bert Pennock in the 1950s will be removed. (d) Because of the deterioration of the fabric, it may be necessary to remove or replace the enclosed portion of the back porch. As the porch was enclosed by Pennock in the 1920s, the question as to its treatment will be left up to management. (e) The house will be resingled with cedar shingles, and Lots 23 and 24 enclosed by a low, white picket fence. (f) The garage built by Bert Pennock in the 1930s is to be removed.

G. Estimate of Cost

\$8,000

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

The Wright House is contemporary with Herbert Hoover's birth. Of the houses in the core-area dating to Hoover's boyhood, the Wright and Mackey Houses have undergone the least change. In addition, the Wright House was occupied for many years by "Uncle Billy" Wright, one of West Branch's

more colorful characters.

B. Legal Description of Property and Chain of Title

John Wetherell on subdividing his property sold on April 30, 1873, to Mary J. Wright for \$270 Lots 23 and 24 in Steer's Plat of West Branch. As she was short of cash, Mrs. Wright and her husband, William, paid \$50 down, and gave to Wetherell and Steer a mortgage for \$220.¹

Mrs. Wright retained possession of the property for 48 years. On February 21, 1920, 19 years after the death of her husband, Mrs. Wright sold the house, outbuildings, and two lots to Adelbert Pennock for \$1,250.² Bert Pennock held the property until 1967, when he sold it to the United States.³

C. The House--A Structural History

1. The Wrights Build a House

The house located on Lots 23 and 24 of Steer's Plat of West Branch was built by William and Mary Wright in

1. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record C, p. 497; Town Lot Mortgage Record 4, p. 334. The Wrights were to pay \$70 on or before April 1, 1874; \$74.10 on or before April 1, 1875; and \$74.10 on or before April 1, 1876. Interest on the mortgage was to be ten percent.
2. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 6, p. 395. In 1881 the Wrights mortgaged their house and lots to Thomas Leech for \$200, at eight percent interest. The subject mortgage was retired in 1889. Town Lot Mortgage Record D, p. 30.
3. Personal interview, Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 16, 1970.

the period following their purchase of the subject lots in April 1873. The year before, when Harris and Warner published their Atlas of Cedar County, there was no house on these lots.⁴

2. Billy Wright--the Man

William "Billy" Wright was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, on January 14, 1826. As a boy he learned the blacksmith trade, which occupation he pursued for more than 30 years in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Iowa. On April 9, 1847, while at Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory, he enlisted in Company F, Col. George W. Morgan's 15th United States Infantry. The mustering officer noted that the recruit was 21 years old, 5 feet $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches tall, with gray eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion.

Company F left Milwaukee on May 2 and reached New Orleans on the 29th. Wright and his unit were soon aboard a steamboat en route to Veracruz. The troops, after disembarking, were started inland, Colonel Morgan's regiment going into camp at Perote, on the road to Mexico City, on June 30, 1847. The 15th United States Infantry, as a unit in Maj. Gen. Gideon Pillow's Division, left Perote on July 3 and reached Puebla on the 8th.

4. Cedar County Town Deed Record G, p. 142; "Map of West Branch, Iowa, 1872," Atlas of Cedar County, Fig. 43.

Colonel Morgan's regiment participated in the August battles before Mexico City. Capt. Augustus Quarles, Wright's company commander, was killed in the fighting on August 20. After the capture of Mexico City on September 14, Company F was posted at Chapultepec until January 1848, when it was ordered to Cuernavaca. In April it returned to Mexico City, preparatory to returning to the United States by way of Veracruz and New Orleans. Back in the United States, Wright was honorably discharged at Camp Butler, near Cincinnati, on August 5, 1848.⁵

Thirteen months after his discharge, Wright, while living in Stephenson County, Illinois, married Mary Adelaine Carlisle. They lived together until 1855, by which time Adelaine had given birth to three children. Wright and his wife quarreled constantly, and they separated while living at Martintown, Wisconsin.⁶

5. Returns for Regular Army Infantry Regiments, June 1821-Dec. 1916, 27th Infantry, NA, Microcopy 665.

6. Mary J. Wright's Pension Claim, NA, Application No. 16303, Certificate No. 14041.

Wright in 1860 moved to Muscatine County, Iowa. There he courted and on September 23 married Mary J. Grandy, who had been born 18 years before in Oneida County, New York. She had moved to Iowa with her parents in 1849. To the couple were born six children-- Charles, Ella, Frank, Etta, Byron, and Harry--two of whom, Harry and Ella, died in infancy. The Wrights lived in three different communities during their first five years as man and wife. In 1865 Wright left his wife and children with his mother-in-law at Swertland Center and, heading west, spent a year in the Rocky Mountains.

On his return from the west, Wright and his family in 1866 moved to what was to become West Branch. Four years later, in 1870, Mrs. Wright was shocked to learn that her husband had married her without benefit of divorce from his first wife. Adelaine had called at the home of one of Wright's brothers back in Stephenson County, and had told the brother that she had remarried after deserting Wright. Her second husband had died. To get rid of Adelaine, Wright sent her \$40, and she agreed she would never trouble him again.⁷

7. Ibid.

Wright in 1873, when his wife purchased Lots 23 and 24 and they built a home thereon, had a blacksmith shop at the southwest corner of Main and Poplar. In 1875 Wright sold his business to Enoch Langstaff and opened a harness and boot shop.⁸

He was still operating his shop in October 1878, when he announced in the West Branch Local Record that he handled harness, saddles, bridles, halters, and everything in the harness line.⁹ He would do repairs on short notice. In January 1879 another of West Branch's characters, Van Butler, went to work for Wright. In announcing Butler's employment, Wright advertised, "Van Butler is on hand to do your repairing with his smiling face. You will all be pleased to see his knife make leather fly, as he knows how to do it as of old."¹⁰

3. The Wrights Rent Their House to Mrs. Gruwell

Wright in the early 1880s sold his business and moved to Plymouth County, Iowa. When they left West Branch

8. West Branch Times, Jan. 16, 1896, and June 13, 1901.

9. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 10, 1878.

10. Ibid., Jan. 30, 1879. Mrs. Wright as this time suffered an attack of erysipelas. Ibid., Jan. 9, 1879.

for the northwestern part of the state, the Wrights rented their property on Poplar to Mrs. Elizabeth A. Gruwell and her five children.¹¹

In April 1885 the Wrights determined to move back to West Branch, and to prepare for their return, Billy made a trip to Cedar County in mid-April.¹² With the imminent return of the Wrights, Mrs. Gruwell prepared to move to southern California. To facilitate the move, she sold her household goods and furniture at the Poplar Street address on Thursday, May 7. Eleven days after the sale, Mrs. Gruwell and her five children started for Elsinore. She was accompanied to the depot by a number of family friends.¹³

4. The Wrights Move Back into the House

The Wrights reoccupied their house as soon as the Gruwells moved. There was considerable celebrating in West Branch, in

11. Ibid, Oct. 23, 1884; Cedar County Census, 1885, Iowa Dept. of Archives and History

12. West Branch Local Record, April 16, 1885.

13. Ibid., April 3, and May 14 and 21, 1885. Mrs. Gruwell's children and their ages were: Emmor 17, Jennie 12, Moses 12, Ota 7, and Jessie a baby. The family was accompanied as far as Columbus Junction by Charles Gruwell and Mrs. Gruwell's father, Mr. Curl.

April 1888, when the United States government awarded "Uncle Billy" a pension of eight dollars per month for service in Mexico, 41 years before.¹⁴ Although he had become a pensioner, Wright in 1892 contracted with the postal department for \$79 per year to tote the mail between the depot and post office.¹⁵ Adelbert Pennock, who has lived in the Wright House since the 1920s, recalls Wright as a mail carrier.¹⁶

On Wright's 70th birthday, in 1896, a number of his friends and neighbors, led by the Cornet Band, came marching down Poplar Street. As the band played in the front yard, Billy was presented with a chair, cap, and box of cigars, while his wife was given a pair of mittens.¹⁷

Wright, having been a blacksmith in his younger years, was a man difficult to bluff. One cold Sunday morning in January 1895, Wright got up before daylight to build a fire in the kitchen. Moments after he had kindled a blaze

14. Ibid., April 26, 1888.

15. West Branch Times, Feb. 25, 1892.

16. Personal interview, Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 16, 1970.

17. West Branch Times, Jan. 16, 1896.

two men appeared at the door and demanded entrance and breakfast. The old veteran was not "favorably impressed with their familiarity," and so expressed himself.

When one of the strangers said they were going in anyhow, Wright snatched up a hatchet from the woodbox, and exclaimed, "Try it if you dare!"

The strangers, seeing that the old man meant business, stepped up and addressed him as "father." It was only then that Billy recognized his sons--Charles from Fingal, North Dakota, and Frank from Osceola, Wisconsin, neither of whom he had seen in over two years. They had arrived on an early train and had sought to surprise their parents.¹⁸

5. Wright Improves His Home and Barn

In June 1891 Billy Wright painted his house and made other improvements to his property.¹⁹ Three years later, in 1894, Wright spent \$500 on major improvements to his house and barn.²⁰

18. Ibid., Jan. 31, 1895.

19. Ibid., June 25, 1891.

20. Ibid., Jan. 3, 1895.

6. Fire Guts the Second Story of the House

About 10 a.m. on Friday, February 22, 1901, fire was discovered in the second-story of the Wright House. Within a few minutes of the first shouts of "Fire!" the volunteer fire department had turned out. A large crowd rushed to Poplar Street, formed a line, and began removing household effects. Next, they became a bucket-brigade and battled the blaze, while firemen struggled to get the fire engine into service. The engine had stood unused in the house so long that the leather valves in the pump had dried out. When the water finally started spouting from the hose, it was sufficient to put out the flames and save the lower story.

The fire marshal, on making his investigation, found that the fire had originated in a defective flue, near the roof. Damage was such as to necessitate building a new roof and a partial reconstruction of the second-story. Wright reported that his house and its contents were insured with William Bremner's agency for \$600, which would cover the loss, although it was "rather hard on Uncle Billy and family to be burned out of a house on a cold winter's day."

Pending repair of their home, the Wrights moved in with their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Swartz.²¹

Bremner's agency made a prompt settlement, and by mid-March the house had been re-roofed, and soon thereafter the upstairs was replastered.²² The Wrights then returned to their house.

7. Billy Wright Passes On

Billy Wright was taken sick at the end of May 1901, and died in his home on Poplar Street at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 7. Thus passed away one of the town characters, and the last surviving Mexican War veteran in Springdale Township.²³

Three years were to pass before Mrs. Wright applied for her widow's pension. When she did, she listed her real estate as a story and one-half frame house, with five rooms downstairs and three upstairs. She valued her real estate at \$1,000. Since her husband's death,

21. Ibid., Feb. 28, 1901.

22. Ibid., March 7, 1901.

23. Ibid., June 13, 1901.

she had supported herself by taking in laundry.²⁴

Mrs. Wright continued to reside on Poplar Street until 1920, when she sold the house and lots to Adelbert Pennock and moved to Ames. She died there on February 17, 1933, and her body was returned to West Branch for burial beside her husband.²⁵

D. Changes Shown in Historic Photographs

Although I have been in contact with Adelbert Pennock and his son, I have been unable to locate any historic photographs of the subject house. This has been very disappointing, as the Pennocks have lived in the house from 1920 until the present.

E. Recollections of the Wright House

1. Bert Pennock Recalls Alterations He Effected

Bert Pennock, after purchasing the Wright House, enclosed the front and back porches. From the early 1920s until the 1950s, the only work done on the house was maintenance. In the early 1950s Pennock built the small

24. Mary J. Wright's Pension Claim, NA, Application No. 16303, Certificate No. 14041.

25. Ibid.

room on the rear elevation of the house in which he was living in August 1970.²⁶

In the 1920s Pennock dismantled the barn on Lots 19 and 20. The lumber was salvaged and used to erect the garage on Lot 24.²⁷

2. Mrs. Golda Gruwell's Recollections

Mrs. Gruwell, who spent her first 25 years in the neighborhood, recalls that the house was "white and had a porch with a railing and pillar." She remembers the "railing because old Billy Wright used to sit on the porch with his feet on the railing and bless out the youngsters in the neighborhood." The house, except for the enclosing of the porches, is little altered.

Lots 23 and 24 were enclosed by a low picket fence, painted white.²⁸

F. Colors House to be Painted

Paint samples obtained by Architects Judd and Lessig on August 10, 1970, and analyzed by Mr. Judd indicate that the house was painted a medium gray. Mr. Judd was unable to get a reading on the trim.

26. Personal interview, Pennock with Bearss, Aug. 4 and 16, 1970. Bert Pennock was born in 1883, on a farm three and one-half miles northeast of West Branch.

27. Ibid.

28. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

BARN AS GARAGES

Garages will be necessary for cars of staff members living in the core-area of the National Historic Site. Personnel residing in the Hayhurst House can continue to use the garage in the lean-to addition. To make the entrance and driveway less obtrusive, the entrance to the subject garage will be relocated in the west elevation of the structure. The driveway will also be relocated.

To house automobiles and provide additional storage facilities for personnel quartered in the Smith, Garvin, and Mackey Houses, facilities will have to be provided. It is recommended that a structure similar to Dr. L. J. Leech's barn be reconstructed and located on the rear of Lots 6-9 and 28-31 to provide these facilities for personnel quartered in Block 40. Photographs of Dr. Leech's Barn are found in this report. The barn, itself, was moved in the 1930s and positioned in the northwest corner of Melvin Person's pasture, one mile east of West Branch, on the Springdale Road.¹ The barn has now collapsed and is beyond salvage. If, however, it is determined to reconstruct the barn as recommended, the structure should be measured. Besides providing dimensions, this will insure that the reconstruction is faithful.

1. Personal interview, Ross Sayles with Bearss, Aug. 22, 1970.

To provide garage facilities for personnel quartered in the Wright and Staples Houses, it is recommended that a period barn be reconstructed on Lots 19-21 and the rear of Lot 22, Block 45. A typical town barn, which could be a model and provide dimensions for such a structure, is located in Downey. The subject barn is located across County Road D from the Downey Baptist Church, which is about 75 yards west of the center line of the highway.²

To provide garage facilities for personnel quartered in the Dr. Leech, Varney, and Laban Miles houses, it is recommended, because of space limitations, that a modern garage be built at the rear of Lot 87A, Block 33. This structure should be screened, so it will not be visible to visitors walking along south Downey Street.

ELIMINATION OF WINDOW AIR CONDITIONERS AND TV AERIALS

Television aerials and window air conditioners are not compatible with the historic scene. Management should be encouraged to program funds to eliminate these intrusions by providing central air conditioning for the residences and a television tower which will service the staff's television sets.

2. Personal interview, Mrs. Lucile Vincent with Bearss, Aug. 18, 1970.

JESSE HOOVER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA--JESSE HOOVER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

A. Name and Number of Structure

The Jesse Hoover Blacksmith Shop, Structure No. 16, West Branch, Iowa. The Hoover Blacksmith Shop is classified as an A Structure.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The restored blacksmith shop will continue to be used to display period tools and equipment associated with Jesse Hoover's trade. In the future, demonstrations may be held in the shop, as part of the area's living history program.

C. Justification for Such Use as Shown on the Master Plan

Short term plans provide for the operation of the blacksmith shop as a furnished restoration. Long-term plans provide for the possible reconstruction and relocation of the blacksmith shop on its original site.

D. Provision for Operating Structure

The blacksmith shop will continue to be operated as an exhibit in place. In the future, a blacksmith and a helper may be employed, attired in period garb, to provide demonstrations as part of the area's living history program.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating Structure

A cooperative agreement will not be needed to operate the structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

Additional archeological work is necessary to secure the structure's dimensions, and the location of essential features such as the forge and well. After this information is secured, management and the Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, should undertake a study to determine if there is sufficient information available to warrant a modification of the reconstructed blacksmith shop. Consideration should be given to relocating the rebuilt structure on the site of Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop.

G. Estimated Cost of Additional Archeology Proposed

To complete the archeological investigation of the Jesse Hoover Blacksmith Shop will require \$5,000.

II. HISTORICAL DATA

A. Significance

Jesse Hoover owned and operated a blacksmith shop in West Branch from 1871 until 1879. As one of the village blacksmiths, Jesse played an important role in the economic life of the community. Unlike several of his competitors, Hoover, besides

being skilled in his trade, was a good businessman and ambitious. By 1879 he had begun to diversify and to expand his interests. He was selling sewing machines, stoves, and pumps in conjunction with his trade. In the late spring of 1879, he sold his blacksmith shop to devote his entire energy to selling farm implements, sewing machines, pumps, and barbed wire. At the time of his death in 1880, Jesse was well on his way toward establishing himself as a successful Cedar County businessman.

B. Legal Description and Chain of Title

1. Lot 41, Steer's Plat of West Branch

The ground on which Jesse Hoover erected his blacksmith shop was Lot 41, Steer's Plat of West Branch, and had been purchased from John Wetherell by Eli Hoover, Jesse's father. Penn Street separated Lot 41 from Lot 42 on which the Hoover Cottage stood. After going into the implement business and moving to the house on the northeast corner of Downey and Cedar, purchased from the Berryhill estate, Jesse Hoover on May 25, 1879, sold Lots 41-43, along with the improvements thereon, to G. M. D. Hill of Johnson County. The price paid by Hill, who was also a blacksmith,

for this property was \$1,000.¹

The Hills sold the three lots and improvements to Z. T. McCaleb for \$500 on Christmas Day, 1885.² After McCaleb sold the blacksmith shop and saw it removed, he sold Lot 41 to John Hirst for \$100. Hirst had acted as agent for the Methodist Church in this transaction.

On the same date, April 2, 1888, the McCalebs sold Lots 42 and 43, along with the Hoover Cottage and other improvements, to Victoria Hill for \$250.³

2. The East One-half of Lot 15

H. J. and Laura Minthorn on January 2, 1889, sold to Joseph H. Baker for \$125 the east one-half of Lot 15, Block 26, in William Oliphant's Division of Cameron.⁴

Baker, prior to moving to Red Cloud, Nebraska, sold his

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1. Bearss, Historical Base Map and Grounds Study, p. 11; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record K, pp. 102-03. Lot 41 was 35 by 86 feet, while Lots 42 and 43, each, measured 30 by 90 feet.
 2. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record N, pp. 293-94.
 3. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record O, pp. 145-46. Victoria Hill married Oliver Pennock on September 29, 1889, and on December 23, 1889, she and her husband sold Lots 42 and 43 and the improvements thereon to R. P. Scellers for \$250. Ibid. p. 480.
 4. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record N, p. 376.

real estate in Lot 15 to William Brown and John Lindsley for \$300.⁵

Brown and Lindsley on August 28, 1894, sold to H. M. Oliphant for \$150 the undivided one-half of the east 30 feet of Lot 15. F. K. Michener, on the same day and for a similar sum, purchased an undivided one-half of the east 30 feet of Lot 15 from Brown and Lindsley.⁶ To finance improvements to the lot, Oliphant and Michener on January 3, 1895, mortgaged the east 30 feet of Lot 15 to the Eastern Iowa Building and Loan Association for \$400.⁷ Michener, at the time of the purchase, had given Oliphant a mortgage for \$244 on the east 30 feet of Lot 15, which he satisfied on June 8, 1898.⁸

Oliphant, on October 20, 1899, having bought out Michener, sold to William Maris for \$300 the east 30 feet of Lot 15.⁹ Maris and his wife on October 12, 1900, sold

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5. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record P, p. 344.
 6. Cedar County Deed Book 34, pp. 339-40.
 7. Town Lot Mortgage Record E, pp. 283-45.
 8. Town Lot Mortgage Record R, p. 116.
 9. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 68.

the subject lot to William Knease for \$300.¹⁰ Knease retained possession of the lot until August 17, 1917, when he sold it to W. C. Phelps for \$775.¹¹

3. The West 36 Feet of Lot 15

Jacob M. Witter on August 27, 1887, sold to Homer Baker for \$50 a strip 36 feet wide off the west side of Lot 15, Block 26, in William Oliphant's Division of Cameron.¹² Five and one-half years later, Homer and Emma Baker sold the subject property to David Hawley for \$150.¹³ Hawley retained possession of the west 36 feet of Lot 15 until June 6, 1893, when he sold it to G. M. D. Hill for \$175.¹⁴ Hill held the property for four years, before selling the west 36 feet off Lot 15 to Frank K. Michener for \$400.¹⁵ Frank and Hattie Michener mortgaged the

10. Ibid., p. 93.

11. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record 6, p. 73.

12. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record O, p. 49.

13. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record P, p. 342. The sale was made on March 6, 1893.

14. Ibid., p. 394.

15. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 34. This transaction was consummated on June 4, 1897.

subject property to D. M. Dixon, in 1898, as security for a loan of \$225 at seven percent interest.¹⁶

C. The Blacksmith Shop--A Structural History

1. Jesse Hoover Builds a Smithy

As early as 1871, Jesse Hoover had erected a blacksmith shop on Lot 41, on the opposite side of Penn Street from his cottage. Lot 41 at this time belonged to his father. In this shop, Jesse Hoover in the years 1871-79 conducted a steadily increasing business. Hoover in 1877 advertised in the West Branch Times, "Horse shoeing and plow work a specialty. Also dealer in all kinds of pumps. Prices to suit the times."¹⁷

We know that both a Blacksmith and Wagon Shop had been built by 1872, when Harris and Warner published their Atlas of Cedar County. Figure 43 of the subject atlas locates the two structures on Lot 41. The front elevations

16. Town Lot Mortgage Book E, pp. 351-52.

17. Hoover, Memoirs, 1, 4; Mitchell V. Charnley, The Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover (New York, 1931), pp. 4, 21; Eugene Lyon, Our Unknown Ex-President, A Portrait of Herbert Hoover (New York, 1948), p. 73; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, pp. 38, 46; J. A. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, vol. 29, No. 8, p. 245.

of the two structures abut on the east boundary of the lot. The west elevation of the Blacksmithy extends farther west than the west elevation of the Wagon Shop.¹⁸

In the autumn of 1878, I. L. Miles, a local photographer, prepared a set of stereoscopic views of the West Branch area. One of these views was taken from the center of Downey Street, looking north. On the west side of Downey, between the Wapsinonoc and the Witter House, can be seen the Hoover Blacksmith Shop. The subject structure extends from a few feet east of the Witter House westward to a point near the peak of the Birthplace Cottage. The Atlas of Cedar County and the Miles Photograph are in agreement as to the location of the Blacksmith Shop.¹⁹

2. Jesse Hoover Sells His Shop

Jesse Hoover was both a skilled blacksmith and a good businessman. By 1879 he was ready to go into the agricultural implement business. On May 25 he sold his Blacksmith Shop and business to G. M. D. Hill of Johnson County. He then bought a frame building and

18. "Map of West Branch," Atlas of Cedar County, Fig. 43.

19. A copy of the Miles Photograph is found in this report.

lot at the northwest corner of Main and First from Cook and Son. This lot consisted of the "undivided two-thirds of 43 feet nine inches off the east end of Lot $\frac{1}{2}$ in Block 34 in W. H. Oliphant's division of the Town of Cameron."²⁰

3. G. M. D. Hill and the Blacksmith Shop

After taking possession of the shop, G. M. D. Hill hired F. L. Sullivan to work in his blacksmith shop. Sullivan specialized in repairing wagons and cabinets.²¹

Hill owned and operated the business in June 1880, when the enumerator for the Tenth Census, Peter Thomas, stopped in at the shop. Hill informed the enumerator that during the year beginning June 1, 1879, and ending May 31, 1880, he had employed in his shop, besides himself, one man. This employee (Sullivan) worked a ten-hour day for a wage of \$1.50. During the period for which he made his report, the income from the business totaled \$1,200, while

20. Records of the Cedar County Probate Court, File No. 1540, County Clerk's Office. Cook and Son in 1877 had operated a farm implement store at the corner of Main and First.

21. West Branch Local Record, May 22, 1879.

the value of materials used was \$400. Hill's capital investment was placed at \$900.²²

Hill in September 1881 announced that he wished to sell his small dwelling house, and his combination blacksmith and wagon shop. "The shops," he reported, had "a good run of cash customers, and will be sold cheap if sold soon."²³ No one was interested in the property or business, and Hill continued to practice his trade. Twenty-four months later, in May 1882, Hill again advertised his property for sale. In addition to his house, lots, and shops, he planned to sell his blacksmith tools. These would be sold cheap, as he was desirous of quitting the trade because of ill-health.²⁴ Once again, there were no buyers.

4. Z. T. McCaleb and the Shop

In October 1885 Hill finally found a buyer, Z. Taylor McCaleb, of Oasis. McCaleb, who was also a blacksmith,

22. Tenth Census, "Schedule 3, Manufacturing, Products of Industry in Springdale Township, Cedar County, during the 12 months beginning June 1 1879, and ending May 31, 1880," Iowa Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa.

23. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 8, 1881.

24. Ibid., May 10, 1883.

took immediate possession of the shop, but he and his family permitted the Hills to occupy the cottage until the following spring. The editor of the West Branch Local Record, in reporting the sale, observed that although poor health had caused Hill to sell his business, it was hoped that he might find a "congenial occupation" and continue to reside among his friends.²⁵

The McCalebs moved from Oasis to West Branch on November 10, 1885, and rented rooms in Benjah Miles' building.²⁶ To assist him in the blacksmith shop, McCaleb hired N. Proctor, a specialist at horseshoeing.²⁷

5. The Blacksmithy and Wagon Shop Are Moved

McCaleb continued in business at south Downey Street until March 1888, when he sold his blacksmith and wagon shop to Dr. Joseph H. Baker and his son. The Bakers proposed to move the building, and "add it to their shop building near the Presbyterian church." The McCalebs at the same time sold the lot on which the blacksmith shop

25. Ibid., Oct. 29, 1885.

26. Ibid., Nov. 12, 1885.

27. Ibid., Dec. 17, 1885.

stood for \$100 to Wilson Hirst.²⁸ Having determined to move onto a farm, the McCalebs sold their cottage and lots on the opposite side of Penn Street from the blacksmith shop to Victoria Hill for \$250.²⁹

It was the last week of April 1888, one month after they had purchased the old Hoover Blacksmith Shop, before Dr. Baker was able to have it moved. When it reached his lot, he had it placed in rear of his shop and "remodeled" into a barn.³⁰

The information that the shop was moved corroborates what Archeologist Wilfred M. Husted found in his test excavations at the site of the blacksmith shop in May 1970. When he undertook his dig, Husted was unable to find any evidence of a foundation. This indicates that the structure

28. Ibid., March 29, 1888; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record O, p. 146.

29. Ibid. In September 1881, Z. C. Hill of Oasis had married Victoria Forsyth. The 25-year-old bride had been born in Virginia. The Hills soon thereafter moved to Kansas. Hill died at Ellsworth, Kansas, on March 14, 1886, leaving his widow with three small children. Mrs. Hill then returned to West Branch with her children. West Branch Times, May 16, 1895.

30. West Branch Local Record, April 26, 1888. In the meantime, the Methodist Church had purchased Lot 41 from Hirst and would use it for a "hitching ground." Ibid., May 3, 1888.

was of a type that could be easily moved.³¹

D. Dr. Joseph M. Baker's Blacksmith Shop

1. Location

Information that Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith and Wagon Shop was purchased by Dr. Baker and relocated in rear of his blacksmith shop makes it necessary to ascertain the whereabouts of Baker's shop. In the mid-1880s there was one carpenter's and one blacksmith shop on the north side of Main Street, between First and Second streets. In November 1886 J. C. Coombs sold his carpenter shop and undertaking parlor to W. W. John. Coombs' shop was located on Main, two doors west of the Presbyterian church.³² Within a fortnight of this transaction, Dr. Baker erected a new blacksmith shop on the lot east of John's carpenter shop.³³ As Baker owned the east 30 feet of Lot 15, Block 26, his property bounded on the west the lot on which the Presbyterian church was located.³⁴

31. Wilfred M. Husted, "Archeological Test Excavations at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, Iowa: Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop and Original Penn Street," found in Archeological Data Section of this report.

32. West Branch Local Record, March 11 and Dec. 2, 1886.

33. Ibid., Dec. 16, 1886.

34. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record N, p. 376.

2. Baker--The Man

Joseph Baker, the owner of the new shop, had been born in Richland County, Ohio, on June 3, 1836. He had enlisted on April 19, 1861, in Company D, 12th Illinois Infantry, at Rock Island, Illinois. The mustering officer noted that Baker was five feet ten inches in height, weighed 140 pounds, and had blue eyes, brown hair, and light complexion. As his enlistment was for three months, Baker was discharged on the expiration of his term of service at Cairo, Illinois, on August 16, 1861.

Baker then settled in Peoria, where he lived until 1869, when he moved to What Cheer, Iowa. There on December 16 he married Alice H. John. She was his third wife. To the couple were born six children, Homer, Chaney, Jesse J., Anna, Margaret, and Mary J. The couple and their growing family moved to West Branch in 1875.³⁵

3. Probable Use of Hoover Blacksmith Shop

Dr. Baker, besides being a blacksmith, was a veterinary. On June 28, 1888, two months after he had acquired and

35. Joseph H. Baker's Pension File, NA, Certificate 911569.

relocated the Hoover Blacksmithy, Baker announced that he and his son had arranged our "business for the purpose of strictly attending to the profession, and we are now prepared and equipped with a full set of instruments to geld, castrate, and do all services in our line on short notice."³⁶ The Bakers probably used the Hoover Blacksmith Shop, which they had converted into a barn, for their veterinary activities.

4. Dr. Baker Sells Out

By the late winter of 1893, Dr. Baker had determined to leave West Branch and settle in Red Cloud, Nebraska. Before starting for the west, Baker sold his shop, barn, and the east 30 feet of Lot 15, Block 26, to William Brown and John Lindsley for \$300.³⁷

Baker spent the rest of his life at Red Cloud, dying on December 27, 1908. When the widow, who was unable to read or write, filed for a pension, it was certified that her late husband was "very much of a romancer in talking

36. West Branch Local Record, June 28, 1888.

37. West Branch Times, March 9, 1893; Cedar County Town Lot Deed P, p. 344.

about himself, and what he had done, and could do." But when pinned down, he would tell the truth.³⁸

5. H. M. Oliphant Acquires the East 30 Feet of Lot 15

Brown and Lindsley retained possession of the property until the late summer of 1894. H. M. Oliphant during that summer determined to quit farming, move to West Branch, and there erect a wagon shop. He accordingly rented his farm at Honey Grove to his brother, Will, and on August 28 purchased the east 30 feet off Lot 15 from Brown and Lindsley for \$150. On this lot he would erect, in the near future, a carriage wagon, paint, and general repair shop. Until such time as he could arrange for the construction of his shop, he would maintain an office in Michener's blacksmith shop.³⁹

6. The Value of the Lot Decreases

The rapid decrease in value of the lot from \$300 to \$150 in eight months and the information that Oliphant would maintain his office, pending the construction of

38. Joseph H. Baker's Pension File, NA, Certificate 911569.

39. West Branch Times, Sept. 6 and 13, 1894; Cedar County Deed Book 34, pp. 339-40.

his wagon shop, in Michener's Blacksmith Shop indicates that Baker's Blacksmith Shop and possibly's Hoover's had been removed from the lot by August 1894.

7. G. M. D. Hill's Second Blacksmith Shop

a. Hill Builds a Shop

G. M. D. Hill and his wife bought the five-acre Coombs lot in 1886. This lot was located west of Downey Street and south of Lot 48 on Steer's Plat of West Branch. Hill now determined to re-enter his trade, and he erected a new blacksmith shop, "several rods south of his old stand."⁴⁰

b. Hill's Shop is Moved

In the fourth week of November 1889, Hill had his blacksmith shop moved into town and positioned on the north side of Main Street, a few rods east of the town hall.⁴¹ Here his shop remained until 1893. Several months after David Hawley's purchase of the west 36 feet off Lot 15 from Homer and Emma Baker,

40. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 11, 1888.

41. Ibid., Nov. 29, 1888.

Hill became interested in the subject property.

On June 6, 1893, Hill purchased the lot from Hawley for \$150.⁴² Upon acquiring this frontage from Hawley, Hill in the last week of June 1893 announced plans to relocate his blacksmith shop. A. G. Kent of Solon was hired to do the work, and on July 5 he moved Hill's blacksmith shop onto the west 36 feet of Lot 15.⁴³

c. The August 1893 Fire

One afternoon in the first week of August 1893, Hill and several others, as they were standing in the entrance to the shop, saw smoke billowing up through "a roof of a small one-story building connecting" Hathaway and Hollingsworth's Furniture Store with a shop to its rear. Hill raised the alarm, but the fire had gained too much headway to save the furniture store, which was located on the northwest corner of Block 21. Sparks from the conflagration set fire to

42. West Branch Times, June 29, 1893; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record P, p. 394. Homer Baker had sold this lot to the Hawleys on March 6, 1893, for \$150.

43. West Branch Times, June 29 and July 4, 1893.

and destroyed Dr. W. H. Walker's house, on the northeast corner of Block 27. The Presbyterian church, across the street from Dr. Walker's, suffered some damage as did Maris and Sons, at the southwest corner of Block 22.⁴⁴

d. Hill Sells to Frank Michener

Hill by the end of 1893 had again determined to retire, and in the last week of January 1894 he sold his "blacksmith stand" to Frank Michener. In announcing the change of ownership, the West Branch Times commented, "We are pleased that his Hill's successor is one of our own townspeople, having learned the trade here with Mr. Randall one of the best workmen in the country."⁴⁵

8. Oliphant and Michener's Wagon Shop

a. A Shop is Built

In late October 1894, Oliphant and Michener contracted to have a "shop building" erected on the

44. Ibid., Aug. 3, 1893.

45. Ibid., Jan. 25, 1894; Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 34. The transaction was not recorded until June 4, 1897. Frank Michener, the son of William G. and Lydia Michener, was born in Springdale Township, February 24, 1869. His parents moved to Nebraska in 1872, where Frank spent his next five years. In 1877 Frank returned to Iowa, where he completed his schooling in West Branch. Michener in 1888 went to work for Lafe Randall, from whom he learned the blacksmithing trade. History of Cedar County, Iowa, vol. 2, pp. 223-24.

east 30 feet of Lot 15. Frank Dean would do the carpentry work, while Ward and Bingham were to do the masonry. The structure was to be two stories high, with a width of 20 feet and a depth of 40 feet. Baker's shop was to be relocated and attached to the rear of the new building.⁴⁶ No mention is made of what happened to Jesse Hoover's old Blacksmith Shop, which Baker had converted into a barn in 1888. It may have been retained as a barn by Oliphant and Michener or it may have been moved or demolished. By 1895, when Oliphant and Michener enlarged their wagon shop, it was gone.

The contractors made rapid progress, and by November 11 the building was being closed in. It sleeted during the day, and while Oliphant was perched on a 16-foot scaffolding, he slipped and fell. He was picked up, still unconscious, and carried into Neal Madson's Tailor Shop. Dr. Bailey was called,

46. West Branch Times, Nov. 1, 1894.

but he was unable to find any broken bones. He had Oliphant placed on a stretcher and carried four blocks to his home, where he recovered consciousness.⁴⁷

The new shop, which cost \$500, was completed by the first week of December. In reporting this development, the editor of the West Branch Times observed, "Michener and Oliphant have moved into their new building, clean and cozy with a new man at the forge."⁴⁸

b. The Shop is Enlarged

Business was good and in March 1895, Oliphant and Michener contracted with Barnes and Miles to add 30 feet to the rear of their two-story shop.⁴⁹ The enlargement of the shop compelled the owners to dispose of the little "cottage" located on the rear of Lot 15. It was sold to Van Butler, who moved it uptown, positioned it on Main Street opposite the

47. Ibid., Nov. 15, 1894.

48. Ibid., Dec. 6, 1894, and Jan. 3, 1895.

49. Ibid., March 14, 1895.

post office, and occupied it as a shoe shop.⁵⁰

The editor of the West Branch Times visited Oliphant and Michener's in the last week of March, after the contractors had departed, and reported that it was perhaps the largest wagon factory in Cedar County. The building was 20 by 70 feet, two stories, with a platform above and below eight feet wide, half way around the structure. The first floor was used for blacksmithing, while the upper rooms were employed for trimming and painting.⁵¹

c. G. M. D. Hill Moves in Next Door

Michener, having entered into partnership with Oliphant, closed down his next-door blacksmith shop in July 1895. G. M. D. Hill, his health having improved, determined to re-enter the trade. On September 12 Hill announced in the West Branch Times that he had reopened his blacksmith shop on Main Street and was "ready to do all kinds of smithing and repair work on short notice."⁵²

50. Ibid., March 21 and April 18, 1895.

51. Ibid., March 28, 1895.

52. Ibid., Aug. 1 and Sept. 12, 1895.

d. Oliphant and Michener go Their Separate Ways and the Shop is Moved

By January 1899 Hill had again gone out of business and had moved to West Liberty. Before doing so, he sold out to Frank Michener. Oliphant and Michener having dissolved their partnership, Oliphant was sole proprietor of the wagon shop.⁵³ In August Oliphant acquired a new partner, Walter James of Springdale. The partners, as their first venture, purchased from William Maris his stock of farm implements and carriages. Maris would go out of business on September 1, 1899.⁵⁴ Oliphant and James in mid-September moved the big two-story building off the east 30 feet of Lot 15. The mover, Smith, relocated the building on Lot 18, Block 22, east of the Maris Building. In describing the undertaking, the editor of the West Branch Times reported, "Mr. Smith has done well, but an ocean steamer could have crossed the

53. Ibid., Jan. 19, 1899.

54. Ibid., Aug. 17, 1899.

Atlantic three times while that building Oliphant and James⁷ moved one block."⁵⁵

Fourteen months later, in November 1900, the business was reorganized. James dropped out of the partnership, and William Maris joined the firm, which henceforth was known as Maris and Oliphant.⁵⁶

e. Frank Michener Enlarges his Shop

In August 1902 Frank Michener purchased from the electric light company its old frame building. Michener had the structure moved onto the west 36 feet of Lot 15 and positioned in the rear of his blacksmith shop. He would use the building as a "much needed addition to his shop."⁵⁷

E. Drawings and Photographs

1. The Miles Photograph

A photograph taken by I. L. Miles in the autumn of 1878 and made into a stereoscopic view shows the Jesse Hoover Blacksmith Shop. This photograph was taken from

55. Ibid., Sept. 14 and 21, 1899. After the shop was moved, Oliphant sold the east 30 feet of Lot 15 to William Maris for \$300. Cedar County Town Lot Deed Record U, p. 68.

56. West Branch Times, Nov. 1, 1900.

57. Ibid., Aug. 21, 1902.

the center of Downey Street, looking north. On the west side of Downey, between the Wapsinonoc and Witter House, can be seen the Hoover Blacksmith Shop. The subject structure extends from a few feet east of the Witter House westward to a point near the peak of the Birthplace Cottage. Architect Russell Jones of the Division of History and Historic Architecture has examined the photograph and believes the shop had a shingled gabled roof. A copy of the Miles Photograph is found in this report.

2. The W. L. Morgan Painting

W. L. Morgan, a boyhood acquaintance of the Hoover children, in the early 1930s did a "painting" of the Cottage and Blacksmith Shop. This painting depicts the smithy on the north side of Penn Street. The frame building has a false front with double doors. Between the shop and Downey Street is a well and pump. A copy of the Morgan Painting is found in this report.

3. The Allen Philbrick Painting

In 1928 Allen Philbrick painted, under the auspices of the Historical and Art Department of Iowa, the "Birthplace of Herbert Hoover, West Branch, Iowa, As it was in 1874." For sources, Philbrick relied on the

recollections of Herbert Hoover's neighbors and friends. The structure shown in Philbrick's painting is a frame building with gabled roof and false front. There is a door and window in the south elevation. The south double door on the east elevation is positioned much closer to the southeast corner than in the Morgan painting. The Philbrick painting can be faulted, because there is no evidence of Penn Street. A copy of the Philbrick Painting is found in this report.

4. The Henry Standing Drawing

Henry Standing in 1928, relying on the recollections of David Hoover--one of Jesse's brothers--and other oldtimers, did a drawing of the blacksmith shop. Standing depicted a frame building with gabled roof and false front. The roof is shingled. In the south elevation of the smithy is a door, flanked by a window on each side. In front there is a double door. A brick chimney protrudes through the roof, near the center of the shop. Southeast of the shop are a wooden hand pump and well. A copy of the Standing Drawing is found in this report.

5. Theodore Hoover's Floor Plan of the Shop

In 1948 Theodore Hoover, Herbert's older brother, prepared a floor plan of the Blacksmith and Wagon Shop.

As Theodore recalled, the shop was between 20 and 25 feet in width and 30 and 35 feet in length. There were two large doors in the east elevation of the blacksmith shop; one in the east elevation of the wagon shop; a regular-sized door in the south elevation of the blacksmith shop; and one of similar dimensions opening from the blacksmith into the wagon shop.

Inside the Blacksmith shop, the forge was located next to the north elevation. On the opposite side of the shop was a work bench and vise. The anvil and tool rack was midway between the forge and work bench. In the southwest corner was a coal bin and a place for storage of iron bars. Between the east elevation and the side doors was space where four horses, two on each side, could stand while waiting to be shod. A copy of the subject sketch is found in this report.

6. Photograph of Oliphant and Michener's Wagon Shop, Circa 1897

The structure shown in the foreground is the wagon shop erected by Oliphant and Michener in 1894 and enlarged in 1895. The single-story structure, located west of the shop, is the blacksmith shop erected by G. M. D. Hill in 1886 and moved onto the west 26 feet of Lot 15, Block 26, in 1893. This shop has been confused by some historians

with Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop. In April 1888 the Hoover Blacksmith Shop was relocated on the east 30 feet of Lot 15, Block 26. There its owner, Dr. Baker, had it "remodeled" into a barn. By 1897 the Hoover Blacksmith Shop had disappeared.

F. The Reconstructed Blacksmith Shop

In the period, 1956-57, the Herbert Hoover Foundation employed the distinguished Iowa architect William Wagner to draw plans and to oversee the reconstruction of Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop. For guidance in preparing plans, and drawings, Wagner studied the Miles' Photograph, the Philbrick Painting, the Hoover Floor Plan, and drawings and photographs of other late nineteenth century Iowa blacksmith shops. The Foundation approved Wagner's plans and directed him to proceed with the project.

Members of the Foundation, however, opposed locating the structure on the front of Lot 41. Instead, the shop would be located on the rear of the subject lot and faced south rather than east as the historic structure. The Foundation's rationale for this decision was a desire not to have the blacksmith shop detract from or overpower the Birthplace Cottage.

Wagner proceeded in accordance with this decision. Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop was reconstructed and furnished with period tools. Since its reconstruction, the blacksmith shop has been very popular with visitors to the area.⁵⁸

G. Recommendations

Because of the paucity of documentary evidence bearing on the appearance of Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop, it is recommended that additional archeological excavations be undertaken. Such a project should enable the Service to determine the dimensions of the blacksmithy and wagon shop, and the location of the forge and well. The archeological and documentary evidence will then be evaluated to determine what if any changes should be made in the reconstructed blacksmith shop.

58. Personal interview, Wagner with Bearss, Aug. 14, 1970.

ARCHEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATIONS AT
HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, IOWA:
JESSE HOOVER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP AND ORIGINAL PENN STREET

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The investigations reported herein were necessitated by the proposed restoration of the historic trace extending from Downey Street to Poplar Street in West Branch, Iowa. The dirt street or trace was located between the birthplace cottage on the south and Jesse Hoover's smithy on the north. The purpose of the project was to determine the location of the smithy in order to avoid damaging it during restoration of the historic trace. In addition, an attempt would be made to locate original Penn Street to provide a basis for the restoration of the historic trace.

Five days, May 4-8, 1970, were devoted to the test excavations. Mr. Clifford Perkins of Oasis, Iowa, served admirably as field assistant. His acquaintance with the senior citizens of West Branch was invaluable in obtaining their knowledge and recollections of street and building locations. The cooperation and assistance of Superintendent Randall Pope and his staff made the work at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site a genuine pleasure.

PROCEDURES

Maps, photographs, and historical information (Bearss 1968) indicated that the remains of the blacksmith shop lay in the northeast corner of the fenced yard north of the birthplace cottage (Fig. 1). A photograph (Bearss 1968: Pl. VII) shows the structure extending a few feet east of the Witter Building (Whipple House) and westward to a point near the peak of the birthplace cottage. Assuming that the cottage rests on its original location, a test trench was excavated in the yard between the cottage and present Penn Street. The trench was oriented north-south and extended from a point five feet east of the cottage and immediately north of the sprinkler system water line northward for 54 feet (Fig. 2). It was anticipated that excavation of the trench would reveal the southern edge of the smithy and the location of original Penn Street.

Excavation began with removal of the sod with a power driven sod cutter. Since the machine cut a one foot-wide strip, two adjacent cuts were made forming a trench slightly less than two feet wide. The cut sod was rolled up and set aside. The rolls were sprinkled occasionally during the five days that they were stored. In order to protect the appearance of the grassed yard, excavated earth was placed on ground cloths until the trench was backfilled.

FIGURE I. Suspected location of Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop
north of the birthplace cottage

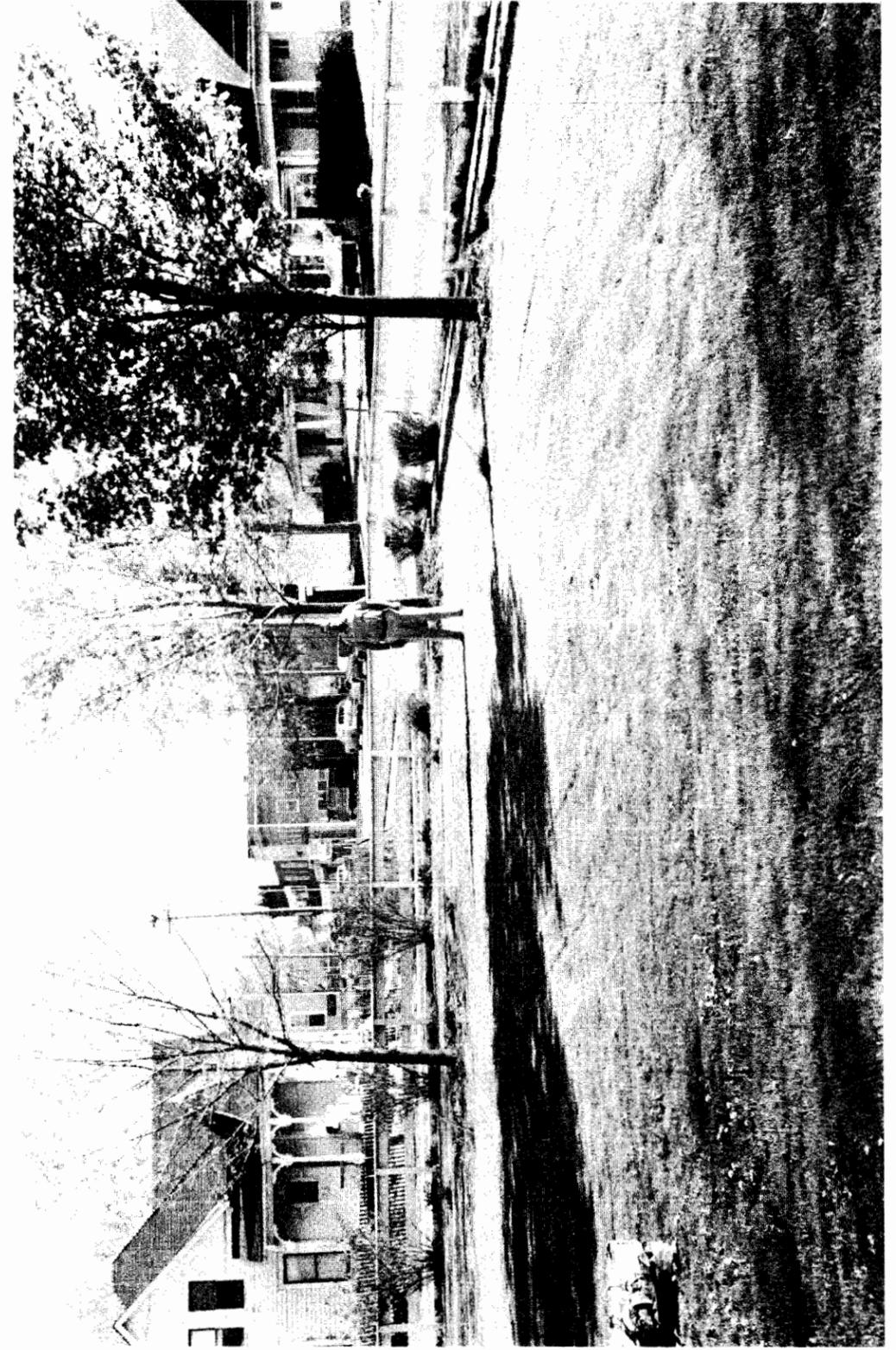


FIGURE 2. The test trench after removal of the sod cover and during initial efforts to locate the smithy.



BLACKSMITH SHOP

Once the sod had been removed, excavation was begun in the northern half of the trench, the area where the smithy was thought to lie (Fig. 2). A firm, tan clay underlay the sod. Beneath this clay was a thin zone of black earth which contained rock and brick rubble and abundant iron artifacts. The black layer rested on a hard packed tan clay upon which were found numerous horseshoe nails, bolts, nuts, and other iron objects. This clay formed the floor of the smithy. The stratigraphy is illustrated in Figure 3.

The clay ended abruptly at what was the southern edge or side of the smithy (Fig. 4); however, there was no evidence of a foundation. A three inch wide, three-quarter inch thick plank of wood lay just inside and parallel to the edge of the clay floor.

Subsequently it was found that the blacksmith shop floor was 1.3 feet higher than the surface of old Penn Street. Evidently the smithy sat at the top of a slope steeper than that present today. Filling subsequent to the relocation of Penn Street has created a gentle rise north of the cottage.

The lack of any evidence of a foundation suggests that the blacksmith shop was a pole structure with vertical posts at each corner and possibly others along the walls. In order to be certain that evidence of a buried foundation was not overlooked, the trench between the south edge of the smithy floor and the north edge of old Penn Street was deepened to the level of the street. Sterile, black earth continued downward from just

FIGURE 3. Stratigraphy revealed in the test trench.

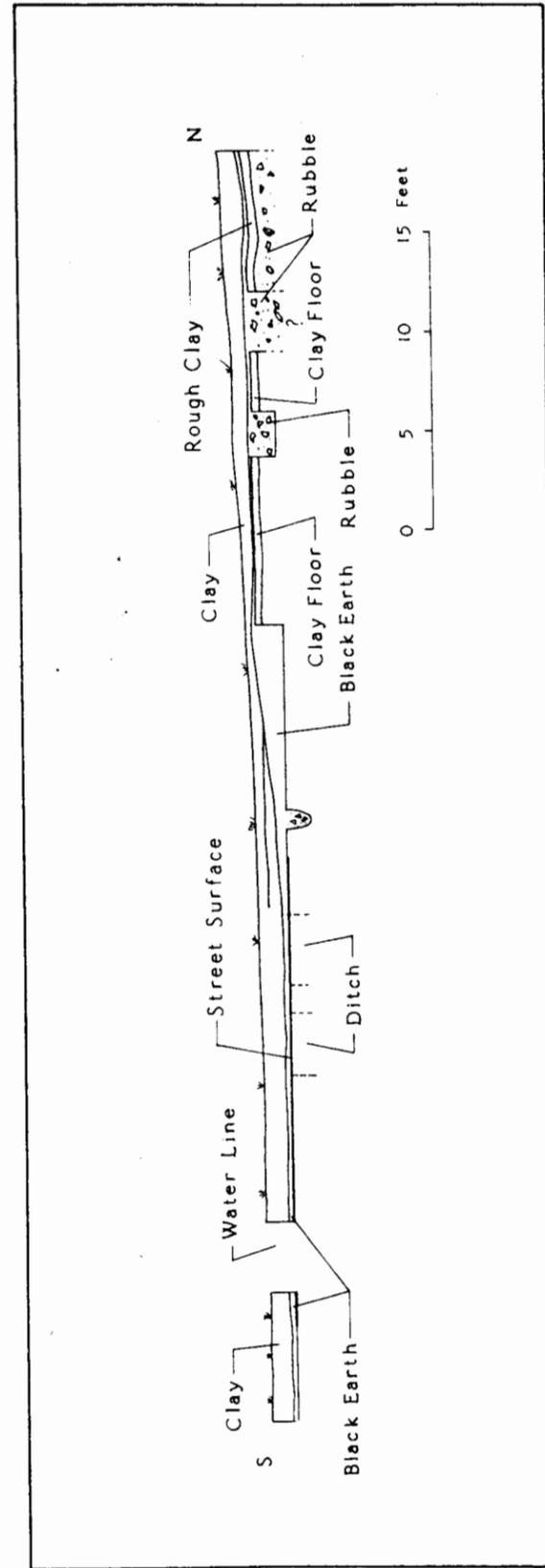
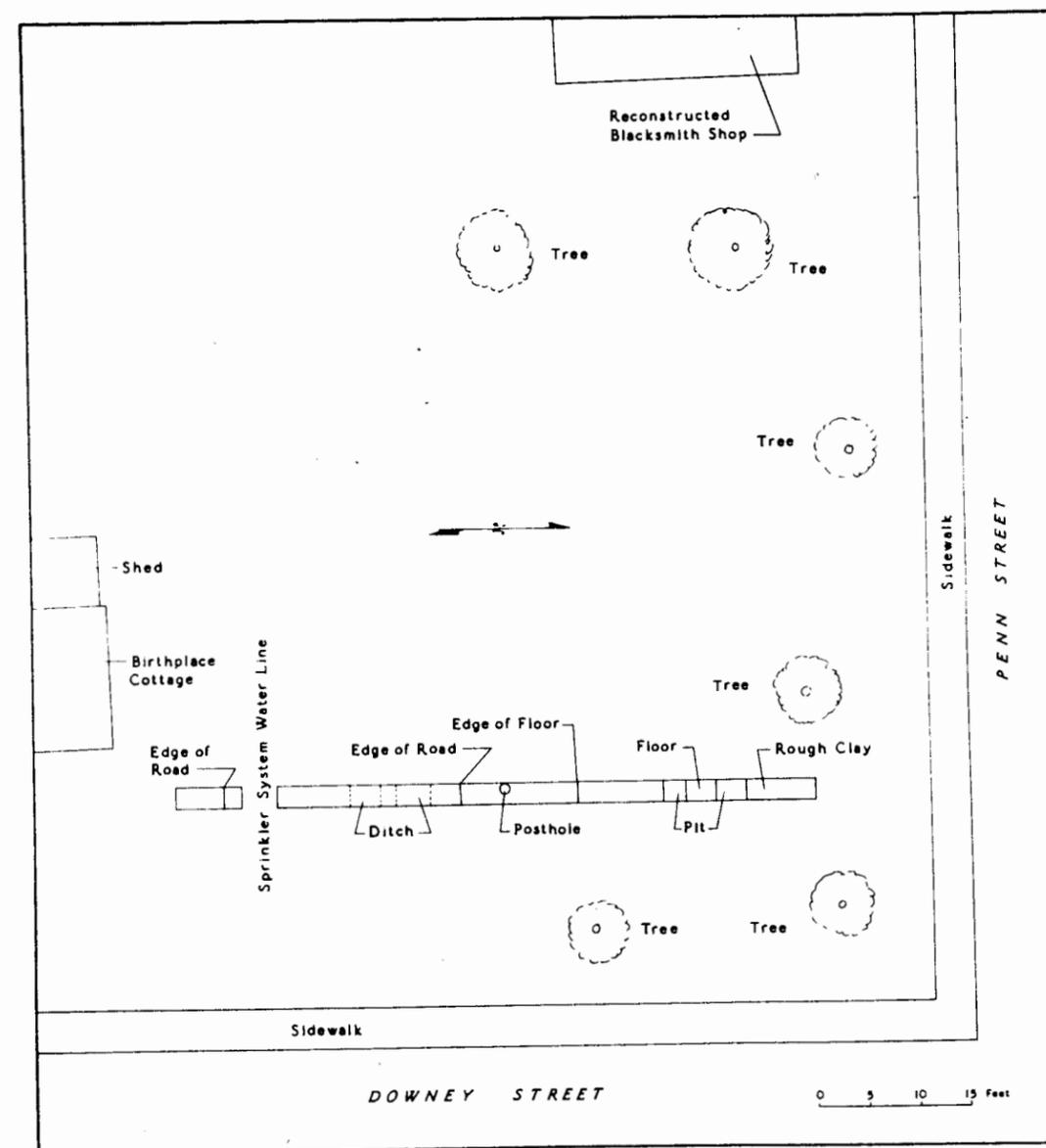


FIGURE 4. Plan of the excavation showing significant features located in the test trench.



beneath the clay floor, and no evidence of a stone foundation or a builder's trench was observed.

Two rubble-filled pits or trenches intruded into the smithy floor (Fig. 4). One was 8.5 feet north of the southern edge of the clay floor. This trench was slightly over two feet wide and 1.3 feet deep. It contained a fill of broken bricks, rock, mortar, and iron objects in a black matrix. It extended into the east and west walls of the test trench.

The second pit began 13.8 feet from the southern edge of the smithy floor. It was three feet wide, but the total depth was not determined. Immediately north of this trench was a rough, uneven clay surface obviously unlike the clay floor of the smithy (Fig. 4). Very few artifacts were found here, and the paucity of objects found here as opposed to the great number from south of the intrusive pit suggested disturbance of the original smithy floor. Subsequently the rough clay surface was penetrated, and rubble was found to underlay the ca. 0.5' thick layer of clay. The northernmost intrusive pit was excavated to a depth of about 1.5 feet, and the rubble was found to extend beneath the rough, uneven clay on its northern side. The smithy floor and the two intrusive pits are illustrated in Figures 5 and 6.

Local residents related that a parsonage had been constructed in the vicinity. One man had been present when the parsonage subsequently was relocated. He said that when the structure was moved, fill and rubble were dozed into the cellar to fill it. Apparently the two intrusive pits are the remains of foundation trenches. The northern pit may represent the parsonage cellar.

FIGURE 5. View of the blacksmith shop floor looking north.
Note southern edge of floor in foreground and
intrusive pits to the north.

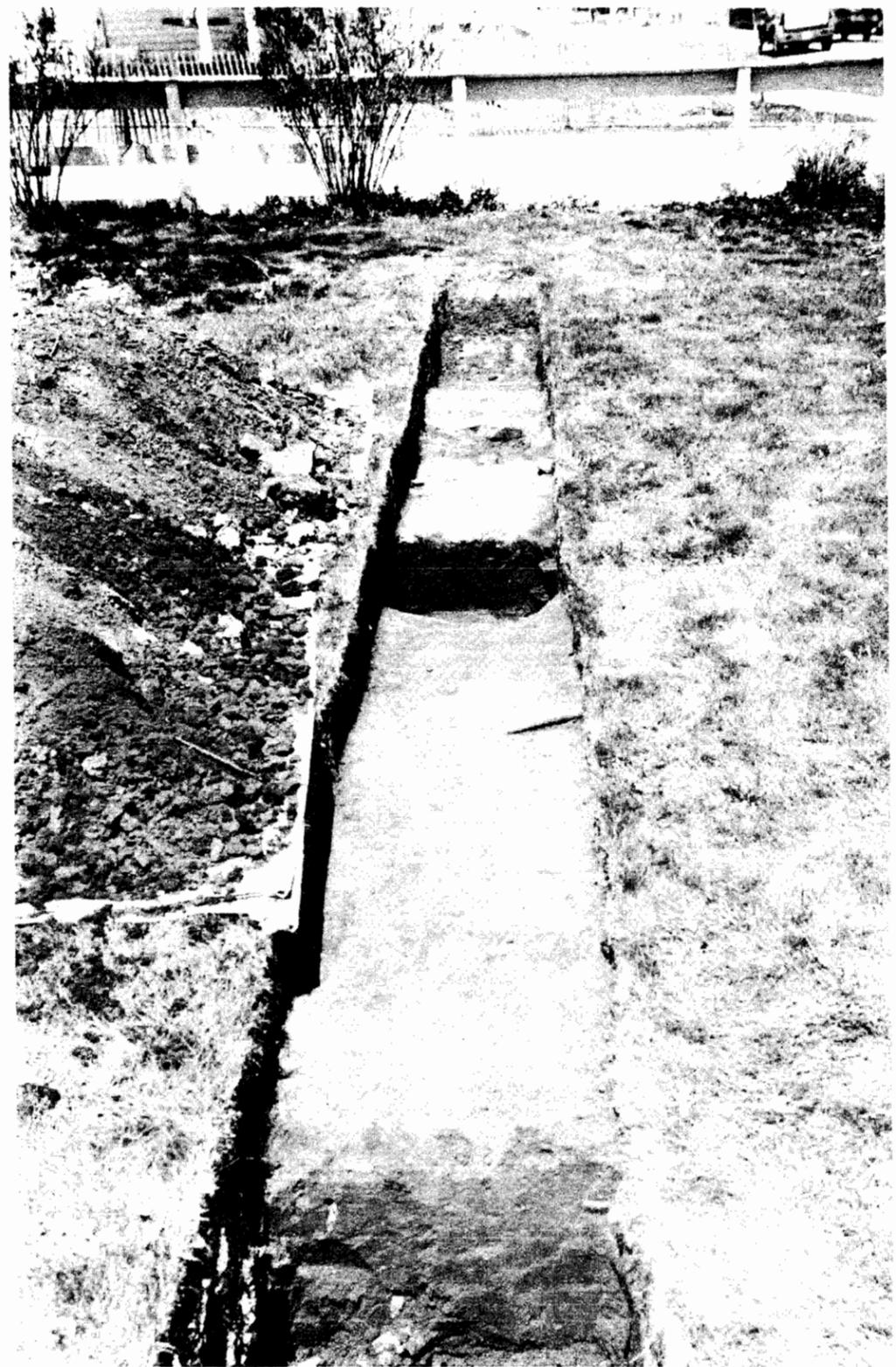


FIGURE 6. View of the blacksmith shop floor and intrusive pits looking south. Note rubble fill in northernmost pit and rough clay surface in foreground.



Town plats indicate that the parsonage was located partially on lot 41 and partially on what is now Penn Street. This fact combined with the intrusive pits in the smithy floor indicate that the northern side of the blacksmith shop and attached woodworking shop may be totally destroyed or severely damaged. Theodore Hoover's sketch (Bearss 1968, Pl. XXVI) indicates that the smithy measured 20 feet by 30 feet or 25 feet by 35 feet. The tests revealed just under 14 feet of floor width. If Theodore Hoover's recollection is anywhere near correct, some 6 to 11 feet of smithy floor have been disturbed to a greater or lesser extent. The woodworking shop attached to the north side of the smithy is similarly threatened.

The resident present when the parsonage was moved believed that the area containing the western end of the blacksmith shop was bulldozed to fill the cellar pit. If this is true, it may be impossible to find any trace of the west side of the smithy and the attached woodworking shop.

It appears likely that the east end of the blacksmith shop lies beneath the sidewalk along Downey Street. The photograph of Downey Street (Bearss 1968: Pl. VII) shows the east end of the smithy even with or slightly east of the east side of the Witter Building (Whipple House). Visual alignment on the site suggests the smithy extends a short distance beyond the west edge of the concrete sidewalk.

Two and possibly three trees are within the limits of the blacksmith shop. The two east of the test trench most certainly intrude the smithy floor, and the one eight to nine feet west of the north end of the trench also may have penetrated the floor.

Posts in the fence along Downey and Penn streets probably have disturbed the smithy, because the floor was only 0.6 foot beneath the surface. At least nine posts are within the borders of the smithy and woodworking shop, five along Downey Street and four along Penn Street.

In view of the possible destruction of the west end of the blacksmith shop, the eastern half or two-thirds of the structure should reveal the most information when excavated. Extreme care should be exercised in lifting the sidewalks along Penn and Downey streets and during restoration of the historic traces.

The obliteration of present Penn Street may disturb a portion of the woodworking shop. The eastern and part of the northern edge of this structure should be intact if the construction of present Penn Street did not destroy the northern edge. No dimensions of the woodworking shop are available; however, assuming that the smithy was 25 feet wide and the adjacent shop 15 feet wide, this would place the north edge of the latter structure ca. one foot into present Penn Street. If the smithy was only 20 feet wide, the north edge of the woodworking shop would lie somewhere near the south edge of the sidewalk along the south side of present Penn Street. If the woodworking shop was wider than 15 feet, the northern side would in all likelihood be beneath Penn Street.

A considerable amount of iron and other artifactual material was recovered during the test excavations. Most of it came from the blacksmith shop floor. Because of other priorities, the laboratory was unable to process this material in time to include an analysis in this report.

OLD PENN STREET

Original Penn Street passed between the birthplace cottage and Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop. Sometime between 1951 and 1964 the street was relocated one lot to the north. Before relocation, the street had been surfaced with crushed rock. A local resident said he remembered the street having had an oiled surface.

After the floor of the blacksmith shop had been located, the southern half of the test trench was excavated in an attempt to locate old Penn Street. At a depth of slightly over one foot, scattered pieces of crushed rock were found. A hard packed, rock covered surface appeared at about 1.5 feet depth. This surface was traced northward to a well defined contact with black earth 11.75 feet south of the south edge of the smithy floor (Fig. 4).

The street surface was traced southward to the end of the test trench. It was interrupted by two wide ditches but was readily apparent at the end of the trench (Fig. 7). A short trench was excavated south of the sprinkler system water line. The southern edge of the surfaced street was located roughly three to four feet south of the water line (Fig. 4).

The street was 23.5 feet wide in the test trench. The two intrusive ditches (Fig. 4) were located toward the northern side of the street. The northernmost was 3.5 feet wide and began three feet from the northern edge of the paving. The other was about 3 feet wide and began approximately 1.5 feet from the first.

FIGURE 7. View of old Penn Street surface including the north edge and the two ditches. The street surfacing appears as the lighter areas in the photograph.



One ditch was identified as having been excavated for installation of a sewer line. The second remained a mystery until a resident related that a portion of the first had collapsed when the nearby creek flooded. Apparently the second ditch had been dug to carry the sewer line.

A post hole approximately one foot in diameter and 1.3 feet deep was found 9.5 feet south of the blacksmith shop floor (Fig. 4). In reality I believe that the hole extended upward another 0.6 to 0.8 foot to the top of the black soil. I feel certain that evidence of the hole was missed until the trench was deepened to street level. A broken brick, rock fragments, and a few artifacts of metal and glass were recovered from the hole. A resident related that he remembered a telephone pole being in the vicinity. However, the hole was not deep enough to have supported such a pole. It was also mentioned that there had been a stop sign on old Penn Street. The hole appears to be too far from the corner and on the wrong side of the road for a stop sign. Most likely the hole held a post associated with the smithy or some other activity in the vicinity.

SPECULATIONS

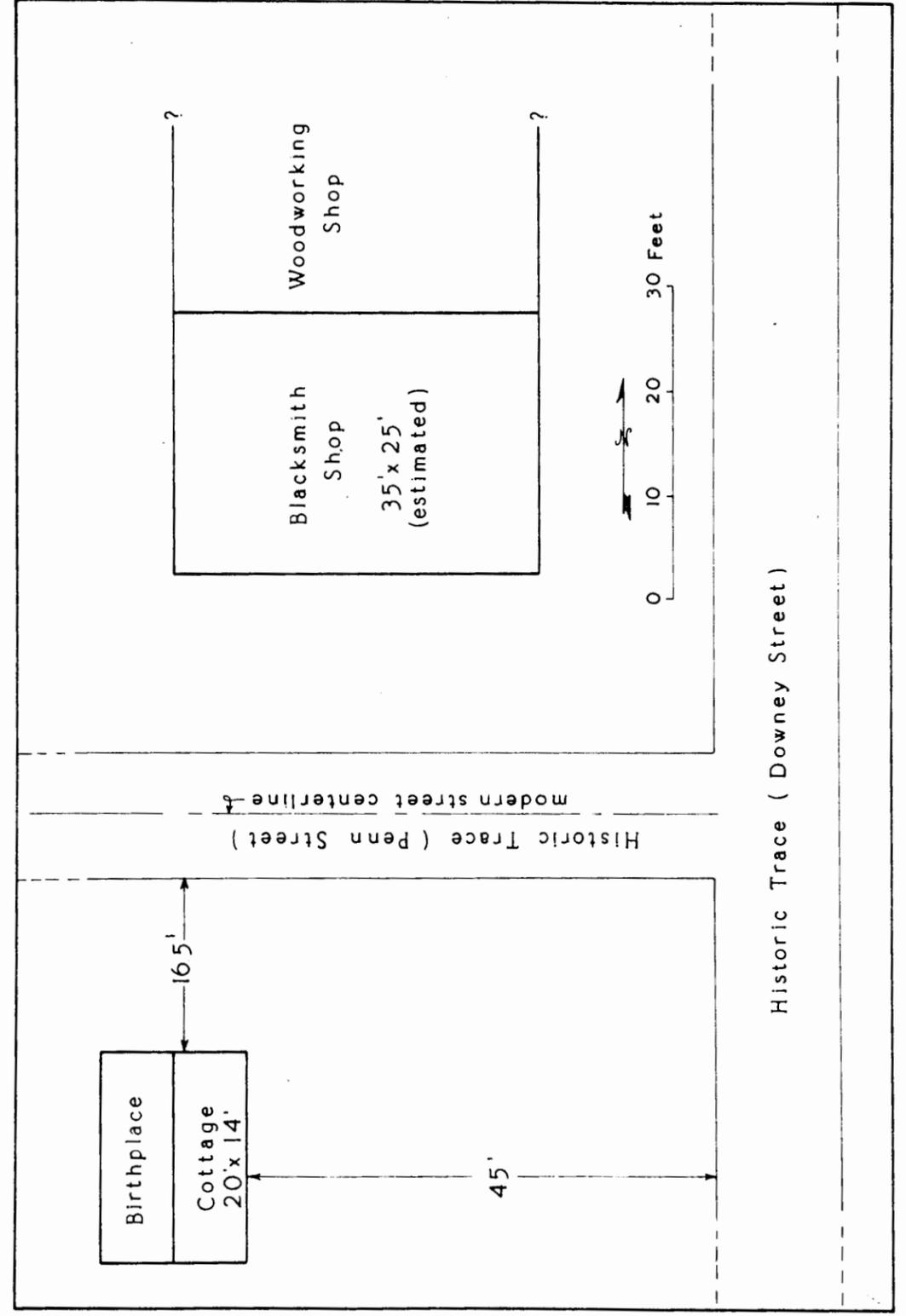
Figure 8 shows the conjectural location of the historic traces derived from photographs, sketches, and visual sighting. These are approximations at best, but lacking more concrete data, they may be useful in restoring the historic dirt streets.

The old photograph of Downey Street (Bearss 1968: Pl. VII) shows Jesse Hoover's blacksmith shop setting back several feet from the dirt street. The birthplace cottage is a measured 14 feet in width. Using this width and scaling from the photograph, the front of the cottage appears to have been at least 35 feet to 40 feet from Downey Street. The photograph is somewhat indistinct, and the street appears to curve eastward slightly in front of the cottage. Thus the cottage might have been as much as 45 feet to 50 feet from the street. My opinion is that a distance of about 45 feet is more likely correct.

The blacksmith shop would appear to be from 15 feet to 20 feet from the street, or at least what appears to be the most used portion. The photograph was taken in the afternoon and shadows confuse the situation, but Downey Street south of Main Street appears to have been very narrow, something on the order of 10 feet to 15 feet. The right of way is wide, but the utilized portion appears to have been little more than a one way track. Brush or weeds appear to border the road all the way to the intersection with Main Street.

If the Downey Street trace was placed 45 feet east of the birthplace cottage, the west edge, and probably the east edge, would fall within the

FIGURE 8. Conjectural placement of historic traces derived from archeological data, photographs, and Theodore Hoover's sketch of the blacksmith shop (Bearss 1968: Pl. XXVI).



limits of the present paved street. If a 12 foot trace was established, the centerline would fall 27 feet east of the east edge of the sidewalk in front of the cottage or 51 feet east of the cottage. The centerline of present Downey Street probably would be a reasonable approximation of the old trace.

Old Penn Street or the historic trace must have been no wider than Downey Street, possibly even somewhat narrower. The photograph of the birthplace cottage taken in the 1920's (Bearss 1968: Pl. X) shows a narrow wheel-tracked trace an estimated 15 to 20 feet north of the cottage.

Theodore Hoover's sketch of the property (Bearss 1968: Pl. XXVI) shows a picket fence 20 feet from the birthplace cottage. This suggests that the trace appearing in the above photograph may be in about the same location as it was during Herbert Hoover's childhood. The picket fence probably was close to the street.

The southern edge of the blacksmith shop is 46 feet from the cottage or about 26 feet from the picket fence in Theodore Hoover's sketch. Allowing 12 feet for the trace and two feet more for a space between the fence and the road places the north edge of the trace on the north edge of old paved Penn Street or 12 feet from the smithy. These distances are agreeable in general with the photograph of the east and north sides of the modified birthplace cottage (Bearss 1968: Pl. X).

In conversations during the test excavations the possibility of using the centerline of old paved Penn Street as the centerline for re-establishing the historic trace was mentioned. If this is done,

the south edge of the trace will be approximately 16.5 feet from the cottage and the north edge will be approximately 17.5 feet from the floor of the blacksmith shop. This placement of the trace also agrees generally with the above-mentioned photograph.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The removal of the sidewalks along Downey and Penn Streets and the obliteration of Penn Street will endanger the east end of the blacksmith shop and the east and north edges of the adjacent wood-working shop. If at all possible, an archeologist should be present during removal of the concrete walks.

Since the woodworking shop may extend beneath present Penn Street, an archeologist should be present when the paving is removed to record any evidence that might be revealed. He might be able to guide the work to prevent damage to any traces of the structure if such remains.

Restoration of the historic trace should not cause any problems to the preservation of the blacksmith shop. Before this work begins, the south edge of the smithy floor could be marked by a flag placed along the test trench 46 feet north of the birthplace cottage. Although the sod cover was replaced, the location of the trench should be clearly discernible.

If the centerline of old Penn Street is used to locate the historic trace and the trace is 12 or more feet wide, the sprinkler system water line might possibly be endangered. A 12 foot trace would miss the line by about two feet.

The artifacts recovered from the test pit have not been processed as of the date of this report. They may not be cleaned and cataloged for sometime. It is suggested that this material be stored at the

Midwest Archeological Center, 2605 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504, until such time that the blacksmith shop is completely excavated. Otherwise, the artifacts can be returned to Herbert Hoover National Historic Site after processing.

REFERENCE CITED

Bearss, Edwin C.

1968 Historical Base Map and Ground Study, Herbert Hoover
National Historic Site, West Branch, Iowa. National
Park Service, Division of History, Office of Archeology,
and Historic Preservation, Washington.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

LABAN MILES--INDIAN AGENT AND EDUCATOR

Laban Miles had married Huldah Hoover's sister, Agnes, in April 1870. Ohio-born, he was the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Miles. Until his appointment in 1878 by President Rutherford B. Hayes to be agent to the Osage and Kaw, Miles for the past several years had operated a West Branch general store in partnership with Charles Townsend.¹

Upon reaching the Osage Agency, Miles found that he was responsible for the well-being of 2,135 Osage, of whom 263 were mixed-bloods, and 360 Kaw, of whom 60 were mixed-bloods. In the spring of 1879, Miles received another 150 charges, as the Quapaw, in accordance with an agreement with the Osage, moved onto the reservation.

The Osage-Kaw Reservation located south of Kansas, west of the 96th meridian, and east and south of the Arkansas River, embraced 1,570,196 acres. The terrain was hilly, with numerous outcroppings of stone, with an occasional fertile valley. Good timber was found in limited quantities near the larger streams, with many scrub oaks on the hills.

1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, pp. 43-44, 47; The Daily Oklahoman, April 13, 1931.

Like most Friends, Miles believed that the "keystone of civilization" for the plains Indians was education and agriculture.² As Miles' efforts to uplift the Indians through the education of their children affected West Branch, it is relevant to the story of Herbert Hoover's boyhood and should be interpreted by the National Park Service at Herbert Hoover NHS.

As a champion of educating the Indian, Miles held that this was the only solution to a problem which had divided America in the 1870s. When he filed his annual report for Fiscal Year 1879, Agent Miles reported that the agency schools had been kept up during the year with "a greater attendance than in any previous year." This had required "arduous labor" on his part, as the children preferred the freedom of their homes. To get them to attend school, he had been compelled to send the Indian police to the camps. Even then, their parents often reluctantly gave them up. Miles was told by long-time employees of the Indian Bureau that such had been the experience since the first efforts to educate the children. It distressed Miles to see that most of those who attended school soon reverted to the ways of their parents. There was one encouraging factor,

2. John J. Mathews, The Osages: Children of the Middle Waters (Norman, 1961), p. 720.

however, while at school the children demonstrated a good aptitude.³

The situation took a turn for the better in Fiscal Year 1880. Attendance was up, and more of the children remained for the full term. Miles, in reporting this development to his superiors, observed that many Indians now seemed willing to put their children in school. He had insisted that orphans be enrolled, "as in many cases they are little better than slaves kept to do the drudgery of those that have them in charge."

Pupils in attendance had made good progress in their studies. According to the teachers, the girls demonstrated a greater aptitude than boys in learning English. Some of the girls, after one year in school, could speak it "quite well." Miles attributed this to the fact that when not in class the girls spoke English as they romped and played, while the boys used their native tongue.⁴

The boarding schools at the Osage and Kaw Agencies were well attended in Fiscal Year 1881, except during the summer months when the children were allowed to return to their homes. Agent Miles sought to discourage this practice, as it retarded the learning

3. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, November 1, 1879," found in House Executive Documents, Series 1910, 46th Congress, 2d Session, 1879-1880 (Washington, 1879), pp. 175-76. The Kaw boarding school was better attended than the Osage.

4. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, November 1, 1880," House Executive Documents, Series 1959, 46th Congress, 3d Session (Washington, 1881), pp. 198-99.

process, and maintained their "habits of camp life," and they lost in a few weeks what they gained in months. But the parents remonstrated and were adamant in demanding that they have their children part of the year.⁵

He had been encouraged, however, when many parents, without being coerced, brought their children into the boarding schools in September 1880. Nearly all the Kaw children of school age had attended the boarding school at their agency for most of the school year. The Osage had given up their girls with less pressure than heretofore, and more than 50 had been in regular attendance at Pawhuska.

As to be expected, the teachers obtained the best results when working with small children, and a number learned to speak "English quite distinctly." Miles attributed this to their being less reserved and timid than teenagers. In addition to their studies, the students were "taught the necessity and benefits of a correct life," and Agent Miles hoped that the "example of those that have them in charge and the instruction they receive from the missionary and others,

5. "Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 24, 1881," House Executive Documents, Series 2018, 47th Congress, 1st Session, 1881-82 (Washington, 1882), pp. 143-45.

with the Sabbath-school lessons, may make a brighter future for them than their fathers had."⁶

In the spring of 1882, measles broke out in an Osage village on Salt Creek. The camp had been infected by a prisoner recently released and returned from the Detroit House of Correction. The malady quickly assumed epidemic proportions, as it spread to nearby camps and the agency school. Agent Miles dismissed the school, and turned the building into a hospital. Five of the 60 children enrolled died, while there were between 50 and 70 deaths in the camps.⁷

Another and more frightening plague visited the unfortunate Osage in 1882. In July, smallpox appeared in Black Dog's and other camps along the Arkansas River. There were a number of deaths, and the Indians panicked and scattered. Some fled across the Arkansas, while others went into hiding in secluded hollows. There were about 20 deaths before the scare passed.⁸

The Kaw in Fiscal Year 1882 had shown greater interest in having children educated in the white man's schools. At the Kaw

6. Ibid.

7. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 10, 1882," House Executive Documents, Series 2100, 47th Congress, 2d Session (Washington, 1883), pp. 132-33.

8. Ibid.

Agency most of the children had been in school most of the year. At the Osage Agency attendance was declining even before the measles epidemic closed the school. This situation dampened Miles' spirits, and it appeared to him that the Osage, as a nation, had little interest in the education of their children, and that they believed "they are doing the whites a great favor by giving up their children to the school, and especially is this so in regard to girls."⁹

In the autumn of 1882, Agent Miles encountered passive resistance from the Osage when school reopened. They feared another epidemic. By hard work on his part, attendance was increased by November 1 to 70 scholars. Apprised of his father's efforts to establish an Industrial School at West Branch, Miles prevailed on the Osage Council to allot funds for enrolling 13 students. The prospective scholars left for West Branch in the last week of 1882. Much of what had been gained was lost in February 1883, when rumors swept the reservation that smallpox had reappeared. Children fled to their homes and school was dismissed.

9. Ibid.

At the Kaw Agency there was no difficulty, and during the school year, nearly all the children of school age were in attendance, except during July and August when school was dismissed.¹⁰

During Fiscal Year 1882, Agent Miles had sent 20 Osage and four Kaw to Carlisle and six Osage to the Osage Mission in Kansas. Of these students, two were returned from Carlisle because of ill health; one died at Osage Mission; and one returned to the agency at his request.¹¹

By 1883 Miles was prepared to admit that the Osage full-bloods were averse to the education of their children, especially the girls. This troubled Miles because he sincerely believed that every Indian child must be educated in the white man's school. If this were done, he forecast, in one generation the Indians would be "an English-speaking people, acquainted with the labors, habits, and means of our self-sustaining, self-governing race." With this in view, Miles prevailed on the Osage National Council to pass on January 12, 1884, a compulsory attendance law. The law provided that all children not in school eight months during any Fiscal Year would lose their

10. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 10, 1883," House Executive Documents, Series 2191, 48th Congress, 1st Session (Washington, 1884) p. 132.

11. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 10, 1882," Series 2100, p. 133.

annuity. The school age was placed at from 7 to 14. Consequently the school at Pawhuska filled up rapidly in March 1884, and was regularly attended until the close of the term in June. Even so, a number of parents were unwilling to believe the law would be enforced, and about 70 children were denied their annuity at the June payment. At the Kaw Agency, the authorities made a strict interpretation of the ruling, and the attendance of nearly every child was secured for the first six months of the year.¹²

In August 1884 the Osage and Kaw parents were notified by the Indian police that the agency schools would reopen September 1, and told to bring their children in a day or two early. By the designated date, there were at Pawhuska about 150 Osage of school age, while attendance at the Kaw Agency was proportionately higher.¹³

For the first time since their establishment, the agency schools were overcrowded. To relieve congestion, Miles first sent 50 children to Carlisle, then 15 to Osage Mission, and finally 30 to Haskell Institute. On checking with the school superintendents, Miles found they still had more students than could be comfortably accommodated,

12. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, October 15, 1884," House Executive Documents, Series 2287, 48th Congress, 2d Session (Washington 1885) pp. 132-33; "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Oct. 5, 1885," House Executive Documents, Series 2329, 49th Congress, 1st Session (Washington, 1885), pp. 315-16.

13. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Oct. 15, 1884," Series 2287, p. 133.

so a day school was organized on Bird Creek and 15 scholars sent to White's Institute at Houghton, Iowa.¹⁴

Laban Miles sought to assist Mrs. Hoover following the death of Jesse. He asked her to allow Herbert to come live with his family at the Osage Agency. Mrs. Hoover was agreeable, and Herbert in 1882 went to live with his uncle and his family in the Indian Territory.

Years later, Herbert recalled his trip. He experienced his first train ride and his first long buggy drive--from Arkansas City to Pawhuska. There with cousins of his own age, especially Walter, he played with the Indian children in attendance at the boarding school. He learned from his playmates how to make bows and arrows, and the lore of the woods and streams. Herbert attended the Indian Sunday School, with the services conducted in English. After eight months, he returned to West Branch.¹⁵

Although Hoover in the 1940s was unable to recall the names of any of the Indian boys who participated in these sports, he could still hew a bow out of Osage orange. His recollections of the kindness and tender care given him by the Miles family, however,

14. "Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Oct. 5, 1885," Series 2329, pp. 315-17.

15. Herbert Hoover, The Memoirs of Herbert Hoover: Years of Adventure 1874-1920 (New York, 1952), p. 4.

were still vivid after more than 60 years.¹⁶

This was in the days of the "spoils system," and following the inauguration of Grover Cleveland as President in 1885, Miles was replaced as agent for the Osage and Kaw by Capt. Carrell H. Potter. Benjamin Harrison, a Republican, defeated Cleveland for the Presidency in November 1888, and, soon after his inauguration, Harrison reappointed Laban Miles to the agency. Miles held the position until July 4, 1894. He then moved to Elgin, Kansas, where he became a merchant. In 1906 he returned to Oklahoma and established a ranch at the head of Rock Creek, near a ford on the old Caney trail. Major Miles, as he was called, died at Pawhuska on April 12, 1931, having reached the age of 87. He was buried at Arkansas City on the 14th.¹⁷

16. Hoover to Mrs. Louise M. Whitham, Dec. 12, 1946, found in Whitham, "Herbert Hoover and the Osages," Chronicles of Oklahoma, vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 2-3. W. E. McGuire was living at the Osage Agency in 1882, the year Herbert Hoover stayed with his uncle. The agency, he recalled, was a struggling little community, where whites were "few and little welcomed." Hoover, he recalled, was "a fat little boy" who liked to stretch out on the agency lawn under the trees and read for hours." If he could have foreseen the future, McGuire admitted, "he might have paid some attention to him." Ibid.

17. The Daily Oklahoman, April 13, 1931; John J. Mathews, Wah! Kon-Tah: The Osage and the White Man's Road (Norman, 1932), pp. 13-16.

APPENDIX B

HISTORY OF THE WEST BRANCH INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Benjamin Miles, Laban's father, had served on the staff of the Osage Boarding School at the agency in 1879 and 1881. In August 1881 he resigned and returned to West Branch. He and his wife, Elizabeth, retained a keen interest in Indian affairs. They were accordingly thrilled to learn of a law enacted by Congress on May 17, 1882, which provided for placing 100 Indian youths at any "established industrial, agricultural or mechanical school or schools."

On August 29, 1882, they wrote Commissioner of Indian Affairs Hiram Price, informing him that they wished to apply "for twenty Ind. girls to train and educate at our home in Iowa." Besides having ample facilities, the location was pleasant and healthy, while "the influence of society" was "favorable for moral and religious training." Expenses would be defrayed from the recent appropriation made by Congress allowing \$167 each per year to cover the cost--including board, room, and transportation--for educating Indian children.¹

1. Miles to Price, Aug. 29, 1882, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Price on October 4 acknowledged Miles' letter. Before taking any action, his office wished to ascertain the kind of industrial training the Mileses planned to provide and the facilities.²

Miles lost no time in responding. He reported on the 7th that he and his wife proposed to train the girls "in every department of household duties, washing, ironing, cooking, sewing, tidy arrangement and care of school, sleeping, sitting rooms, etc., also milking and making butter." Facilities available included "a pasture for cows, good cellar for milk, utensils for cooking, washing, etc.," and a good sewing machine.

The combination dormitory and classrooms were on west Main. It was a substantial, two-story frame structure, 20 by 60 feet, erected in 1877. He and his wife would "finish and furnish" a schoolroom, sitting room, nursery, caretaker's room, and hall on the first floor. On the second floor would be the dormitory. The Mileses' house, which was across the street, would provide facilities for cooking and laundry for the present. In the future, they hoped to turn the basement of the schoolhouse into a kitchen and a nearby

2. Price to Miles, Oct. 4, 1882, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

shed into a laundry. Both their house and the proposed school building were well supplied with water.

They would employ three teachers, in addition to themselves. One would instruct the girls in cooking, one in domestic chores, and the other in the "three Rs."

The Mileses would like 25 girls to live in the dormitory, and two boys, 12 to 14, to stay in their house. The boys would assist his brother, Isaac Miles, in caring for the cows and working the garden. They would have the same school privileges as the girls.

As considerable work was necessary to prepare facilities, Miles trusted that Commissioner Price would promptly notify him of the acceptance or rejection of his proposal.³

Miles' letter of the 7th met with Price's approval, and on October 12 he recommended to Secretary of the Interior Henry M. Teller that authority be granted for placing "18 Indian youths at an Industrial School, to be opened at West Branch, Iowa." The Secretary on the 13th approved the proposal. As soon as Miles established his school, authority would be granted for placing 18 Indian youths.⁴

3. Miles to Price, Oct. 7, 1882, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

4. Teller to Price, Oct. 13, 1882, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Price to Miles, Oct. 25, 1882, NA, RG75, Ltrs. Sent, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Under the law providing industrial training for 100 Indian youths, it had been ruled that not more than 20 could be sent to any one state. As two had already been sent to Iowa, the most Miles could expect was 18. The \$167 allotted for the education and subsistence of each student also had to cover travel costs to and from the reservation. Taking cognizance of information that Miles had facilities for 27 students, Commissioner Price now suggested that he also obtain nine Osage children, who could be supported at the West Branch Industrial School by tribal funds.⁵

Miles was agreeable, and wrote his son, Agent Laban Miles, to see if the Osage Tribal Council would sanction his proposal. They would. Upon receipt of this information, Miles in December notified Commissioner Price that preparations had been completed, and the West Branch Indian Industrial School was prepared to accept students. The Commissioner accordingly directed Miles to travel to the Osage Agency to pick up the students for which the Tribal Council was to be responsible for tuition, board and room, and transportation.

5. Price to Miles, Oct. 12, 1882, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Sent., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Benjamin Miles left West Branch by rail for Arkansas City, a few days before Christmas, 1882. He reached the agency on the 26th. The next day he received from Agent Laban Miles 13 Osage children--four boys and nine girls--ranging in age from seven to 15. Miles was personally acquainted with all the children from the days when he had been in charge of the Osage Boarding School. He and Laban screened the children in "reference to mental capacity for receiving instruction, and with reference to their freedom from disease and known desire to receive instruction in civilized pursuits."⁶

Miles, accompanied by his charges, was back in West Branch on the 30th. School commenced on January 1, 1883, with two teachers in addition to Benjamin and Elizabeth Miles. Miss Jennie Crosbie taught in the "literary" and Miss Sina Ann Branson in the industrial department.

When he forwarded this information to Commissioner Price, Miles asked for information as to what steps were necessary to secure as soon as possible the 18 Indian girls, whose education

6. Miles to Price, Jan. 8, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

was to be financed by the United States. He also wanted data as to the procedure to follow in securing funds allotted for educating the children.⁷

Two Nez Perce, James and Nellie Fleming, reached West Branch on January 18. Miles apprenticed James to one of the two blacksmiths, while his wife received instruction in the school along with the Osage. Although they took their meals with the others, the Flemings lived in their own cabin.⁸

The Nez Perce were charged against the 18-student quota authorized by the Secretary, and on January 15, 1883, Commissioner Price directed Miles to obtain the other 16 youths from such tribes in the Indian Territory as he might prefer. The agents were to assist Miles in making the selections, and he should insist they be "bright and intelligent and possessed of absolutely sound health." Miles should be on the alert to see that his prospective students were free from any tendency to "scrofulous or lung disease." As the Sac and Fox, and Quapaw were to be recruited for a school in Indiana, it was suggested that Miles make his selections from the Pawnee, Ponca,

7. Ibid.

8. Miles to Price, Feb. 2, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Otoe, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, and Comanche.⁹

In accordance with the Commissioner's suggestion, Miles wrote the agent for the Kiowa and Comanche for girls to enable him to fill his quota. The agent replied that he could not obtain any students from these tribes. Miles next contacted the agent for the Ponca, with the same disappointing results. In desperation he wrote his kinsman, J. D. Miles. J. D. Miles promised to send eight Cheyenne and Arapahoe girls. Isaac Miles, who was closely associated with his brother in operating the Industrial School, traveled to the Indian Territory in mid-March to take charge of the prospective students. By the time he returned to West Branch with the girls, Elizabeth Miles, who served as matron at the school, had been stricken with erysipelas. After several weeks, she recovered and returned to duty.¹⁰

No more children were received until after the end of the spring term on Friday, June 29, 1883. In the meantime, the 23 students had been accepted into the community. On Sunday evening, March 11, the Indians assisted with the presentation of a public

9. Price to Miles, Jan. 15, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Sent, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The accounts for the 13 Osage students were to be made out on the same forms, as those for the students enrolled under the Act of May 17, 1882.

10. Miles to Price, June 4, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, p. 49. J. D. Miles, in June, promised to send eight more Cheyenne and Arapahoe girls to the school.

entertainment at the Methodist church. The editor of the Local Record reported, "The Sabbath school entertainment given in the Methodist church Sunday evening was the best literary success of the season and speaks nobly for our home talent. The Indian children acted well their part."¹¹

The graduation exercises on June 29 were attended by local residents. The program opened with the scholars repeating the 23d Psalm in concert, after which followed declamations, songs, selected readings, and the like. Archibald Crosbie gave an interesting and instructive lesson from a Moral Chart. William Branson, Benjamin and Elizabeth Miles, and others addressed the class. The editor of the Local Record understood that "the pupils are making very good progress in their studies, and will improve faster as they become more initiated."¹²

Five days after the spring term ended, Isaac Miles reached West Branch with seven more children--four Cheyenne and three Arapahoe. With their enrollment, it brought the number of students up to 30--13 Osage whose expenses were defrayed from tribal funds,

11. West Branch Local Record, March 15, 1883.

12. Ibid., July 5, 1883.

and 19 Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Nez Perce whose education was financed by the Indian Bureau.

The newcomers arrived in time for the picnic in celebration of July 4. Pupils and faculty, along with a number of citizens, picnicked on the Cedar at Gray's Ford. All seemed to enjoy the festivities, and the Indians were "delighted to roam the native wild of forest and stream, and for a few short hours the banks of old Cedar rang to the merry voices of the aborigines."¹³

On June 18 Secretary of the Interior Teller, apprised by Commissioner Price that Miles had facilities for additional students, authorized the placing of 18 more pupils in the Industrial School. Their expenses to be met by the government were not to exceed \$167 each per year.¹⁴

With the completion of the school building at Chilocco and construction about to start on a building at Lawrence, Kansas, Commissioner Price believed that these facilities would accommodate all pupils who could be expected to be "surrendered" by their parents from tribes in the Indian Territory. Because of the

13. Ibid.

14. Price to Miles, June 18, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Sent, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

danger of malaria, it was deemed unwise to send children from the Sioux and other northern tribes to schools in Kansas. As malaria was uncommon in Iowa, Price apprehended no danger in sending children from the northern tribes to West Branch. He therefore suggested that Miles, in the future, recruit students in the north rather than the Indian Territory.¹⁵

This news troubled Miles, because he was already in contact with Agent Jacob V. Carter of the Sac-Fox Agency. Carter had informed him that he could probably get some Potawatomi girls, but they were mixed-bloods. It would be difficult to get any Sac and Fox, Shawnee, or Kickapoo. Since his last report, Laban Miles had sent two Kaw girls, thus increasing the school's enrollment to 32.¹⁶

Miles had committed himself too far to backtrack. It was decided to permit him to send to the Sac and Fox Agency for the girls

15. Price to Miles, Aug. 10, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Sent, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

16. Miles to Price, Aug. 17, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Price, on receipt of this information, wrote Miles on August 23 reaffirming his position that it would be better for the West Branch Industrial School to leave the Sac and Fox to the Kansas schools and look to the northern tribes for students. Price to Miles, Aug. 23, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Sent, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

promised by Agent Carter. On September 10 Benjamin Miles returned to West Branch from the Sac and Fox Agency with ten girls, most of whom were Potawatomi mixed-bloods.¹⁷

During the summer of 1883, some of the Indian girls worked as domestics in and around West Branch, while the boys worked on Isaac Miles' farm. The younger children played with the white boys and girls of Springdale Township. Summers in Cedar County were hot and humid, and several of the Indians sickened. On September 11 Grace Yellowhair, a 15-year-old Arapaho, died, after a lingering illness of two months, and was laid to rest in the local cemetery.¹⁸

A few days later, Mecheweche, a little Indian girl, fell in the school yard and broke her leg. On October 11 the Local Record reported, "The Indian Industrial School is about the next thing to an Indian hospital, there being several inmates at present on the sick list." Dysentery, scrofula, and lung troubles plagued the Indians. A second child, Theodore Rogers, now sickened and died.

17. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 13, 1883; Descriptive Statement of Pupils Sent to West Branch School, Sept. 5, 1883, NR, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

18. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 13, 1883. Grace Yellowhair had been received at the school in mid-March. Her illness was diagnosed as malaria.

He was buried beside Grace Yellowhair.¹⁹

By the late summer of 1883, it was apparent to Benjamin and Isaac Miles that with the authorized increase in enrollment, more dormitory space was needed. In addition, Isaac Miles' farm did not contain sufficient acreage. More space was needed for the boys to learn agriculture and to grow vegetable crops for the school kitchen, as it was found that the annual \$167 per pupil allotted by the government to cover their expenses was insufficient.²⁰

The Miles brothers accordingly approached the Trustees of White's Manual-Labor Institute of Houghton, Iowa. The Trustees, after being briefed as to the situation, proposed to Benjamin Miles on behalf of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends that he transfer his Indian children to White's Institute. In addition to a handsome and commodious building, the Meeting possessed 480 acres, given as a bequest by Josiah White of Philadelphia for the benefit of poor children, white, black, and red. During the past two years, the

19. Ibid., Oct. 11, 1883.

20. Tatum, Our Red Brothers, pp. 333-34.

Institute had been occupied by a superintendent, matron, assistant matron, and 13 white children. The meeting proposed to consolidate the two schools, with Miles as superintendent.

Relaying this proposal to Commissioner Price, Miles recommended its acceptance, as it would provide the children with better accommodations than at West Branch.²¹

Commissioner Price, after discussing the proposal with his staff, on October 12 granted Miles authority to transfer the West Branch Indian Industrial School to White's Institute, with the understanding that it would be done at no extra cost to the government. At the same time, Miles was authorized to increase the enrollment of his school by another 15 students. These pupils were to be taken from the northern tribes, not from the Indian Territory.²²

The Miles brothers, on receipt of the Commissioner's letter, made plans to transfer the students to White's Institute on November 1. As the building at the Institute was not "arranged" to house both girls and boys, it was determined to move a small house from the farm to serve as a boys' dormitory.²³

21. Miles to Price, Sept. 9, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

22. Price to Miles, Oct. 12, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Sent, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

23. Miles to Price, Oct. 27, 1883, NA, RG 75, Ltrs. Recd., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

APPENDIX C

THE D. E. MCCLELLAN HOUSE

The D. E. McClellan House was located on Lot 87B, Block 33, in Cook's Addition, and was erected prior to 1860 by Allan MacNeal. William Collins acquired the property from the builder, and he used it as a wagon factory before selling it to Nathan Satterthwait. In November of 1884 Satterthwait had the building repositioned. It was turned 90 degrees, so that its former north elevation fronted on Downey. After the movers had finished, Satterthwait had the interior of the shop remodeled into a double dwelling house. Inspecting the work, the editor of the Local Record informed his readers that when finished, it would make pleasant living rooms.¹

Additional improvements were made by Satterthwait to the structure in the spring of 1885. The house, when these were finished, looked like an "old New England home--long and plain, with many windows, green shutters, and a small ... stoop in front."²

1. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 6 and 13, 1884; West Branch Times, April 3, 1930.
2. West Branch Local Record, April 16, 1885; West Branch Times, April 3, 1930.

In February 1886 a prosperous Springdale Township farmer, Delorum E. McClellan, moved into the Satterthwait House.³ He occupied the dwelling as a renter until May 1899, when he purchased the house and lot.⁴ McClellan lived in the house until his death at 10 p.m., October 19, 1909.⁵

After the fire which claimed the life of Mrs. Mattie Stewart, the McClellans' daughter in 1920, the house stood vacant until purchased by Mr. and Mrs. James P. West. The Wests rehabilitated the structure, making it into a pleasant home for them and their children.

3. West Branch Local Record, March 11, 1886.
4. West Branch Times, May 4, 1899. Nathan Satterthwait died at West Liberty on October 4, 1900, after a "lingering illness" of several months. Born in Belmont County, Ohio, in 1821, he had moved to Cedar County in 1862. The previous year, 1899, he had moved to West Liberty. He was survived by his second wife, the former Elizabeth Spaulding, and three children. West Branch Times, Oct. 11, 1900.
5. West Branch Times, Oct. 21, 1909. McClellan had been born December 16, 1832, at Tonawanda, New York. While living at Battle Creek, Michigan, on June 1, 1859, he married Cornelia P. Hanson. The McClellans with their two children, one an adopted daughter, migrated to Iowa in May 1865, settling on a farm near Downey. After several years, they moved into West Branch, where McClellan lived for the rest of his life, except for a short period when he operated a general store at Oasis. He served as West Branch's first mayor, and served the state as justice of the peace for many years, and the township as trustee and assessor.

On Tuesday afternoon April 1, 1930, the cry of "Fire!" was raised as the roof of the McClellan House was seen to be in flames. The fire spread rapidly. Assisted by their neighbors, the Wests were able to save much of the furniture in the downstairs, but they were too late to rescue the bedroom furniture from the upstairs. By the time the West Branch Volunteer Fire Department extinguished the flames, the interior had been gutted and only the walls left standing. The Wests, after discussions with their insurance agent, had the structure demolished and built at another location.⁶

Mrs. Golda Gruwell recalls that the McClellan House was a long white structure with a central door, "recessed a bit on the side facing Downey Street. There were two windows on each side of the door." As it was a two-family house, the front door opened into a hall, with doors opening into the south and north apartments. There was an open stairway to the second floor, and it likewise served both apartments. The rooms were large, and there were a pair of windows in both the north and south elevations. The windows on the first floor had green shutters.⁷

6. West Branch Times, April 3, 1930.

7. Ltr., Mrs. Gruwell to Bearss, Oct. 31, 1970.

Glenn Brown recalls that the north elevation of the McClellan House was about eight feet south of Dr. Leech's driveway. The subject structure had a front of about 48 feet and a depth, not including the back porch and kitchens, of 20 feet. Between the house and Water Street was a garden.⁸

8. Personal interview, Brown with Bearss, Aug. 26, 1970.

HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Exterior Colors of Structures compared
to the Munsell Color System.

1. Halloway Farm
*Lead white - 5Y 9/1
2. Miles House
*1) Main House 7.5YR 5/4 over 1 coat 5Y 7/1
2) Addition 7.5YR 5/4
3. Staples House
*Cream 2.5Y 8/4
*Green trim 5G 3/4
4. Minnie Siler House
*Body 1st coat 2.5Y 9/4 very little remains
2nd coat 10 GY 5/2

Trim *2.5Y 6/4
One small chip shows mahogany 2.5YR 2/4
5. Phelps House
*Front 10YR 7/6 cream
Column - 1st color 7.5YR 6/6 cream
Trim *2nd color 5G 5/4 green

Trim 7.5YR 6/6
6. Quaker School
1st coat lead white
2nd coat 5G 3/4 dark green one small piece only
*3rd coat lead white

Trim 1st 10YR 5/4 lead white above
7. McCay House
*10 GY 7/2 Gray green
8. Wright
*5Y-7/1 Medium Gray
*Trim 2.5 BG 4/4
9. Butler-Pope House
*5Y 7/1 light gray
10. Peter Smith House
*5G 7/1

*Indicates color structure should be painted.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATE I

L. C. Rummells' Photograph of the south and west elevations of the Varney House, circa 1910. In front of the west elevation of the second Hoover House are L. C. Rummells and his brother C. A. Courtesy L. C. Rummells.

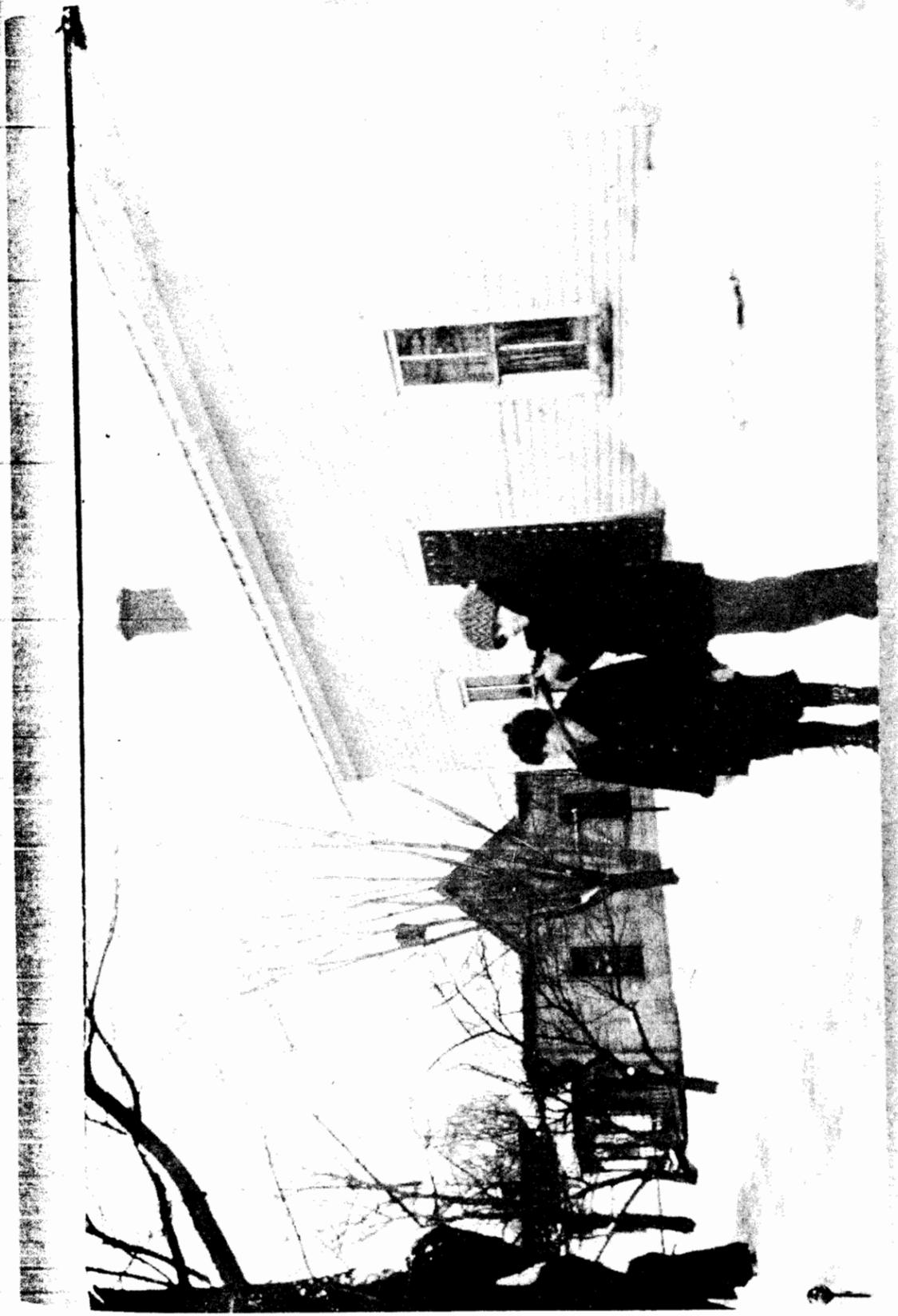


PLATE II

1909 Panoramic photograph of West Branch from Cook's Hill.
Note: the east and south elevations of the Varney House.
Courtesy West Branch Heritage Foundation.

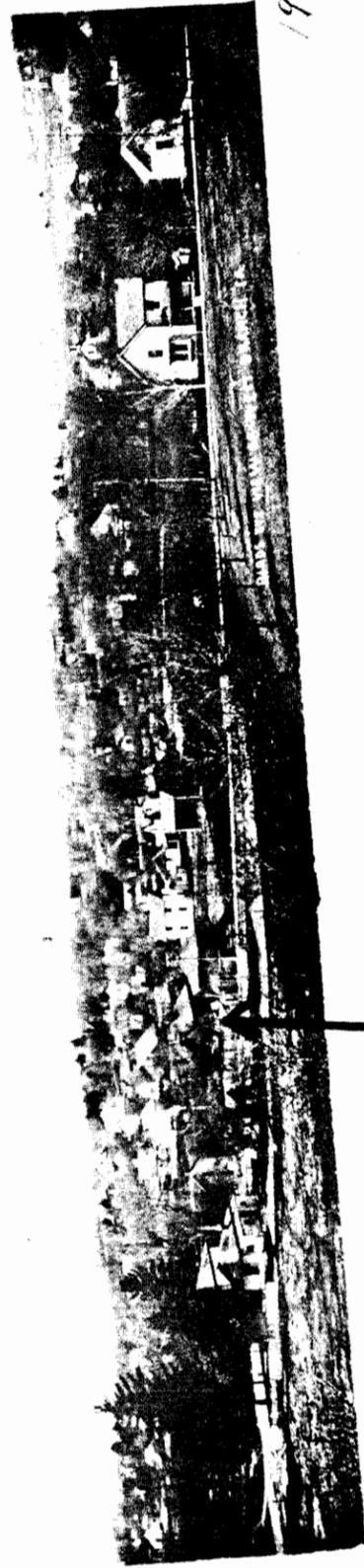


PLATE III

Mrs. Golda Gruwell's circa 1930 photograph of the north and west elevations of the Varney House. Courtesy Mrs. Golda Gruwell.

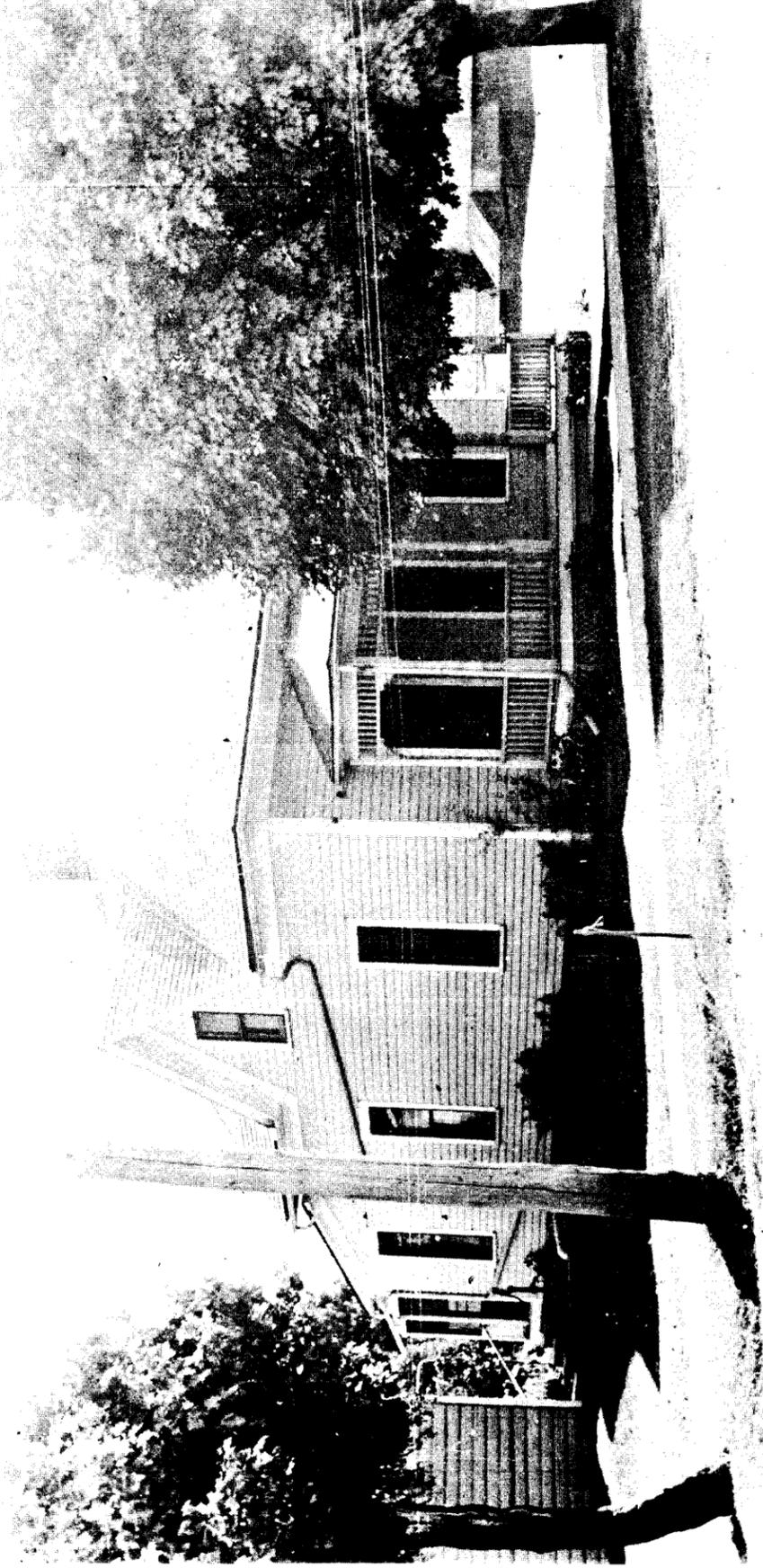


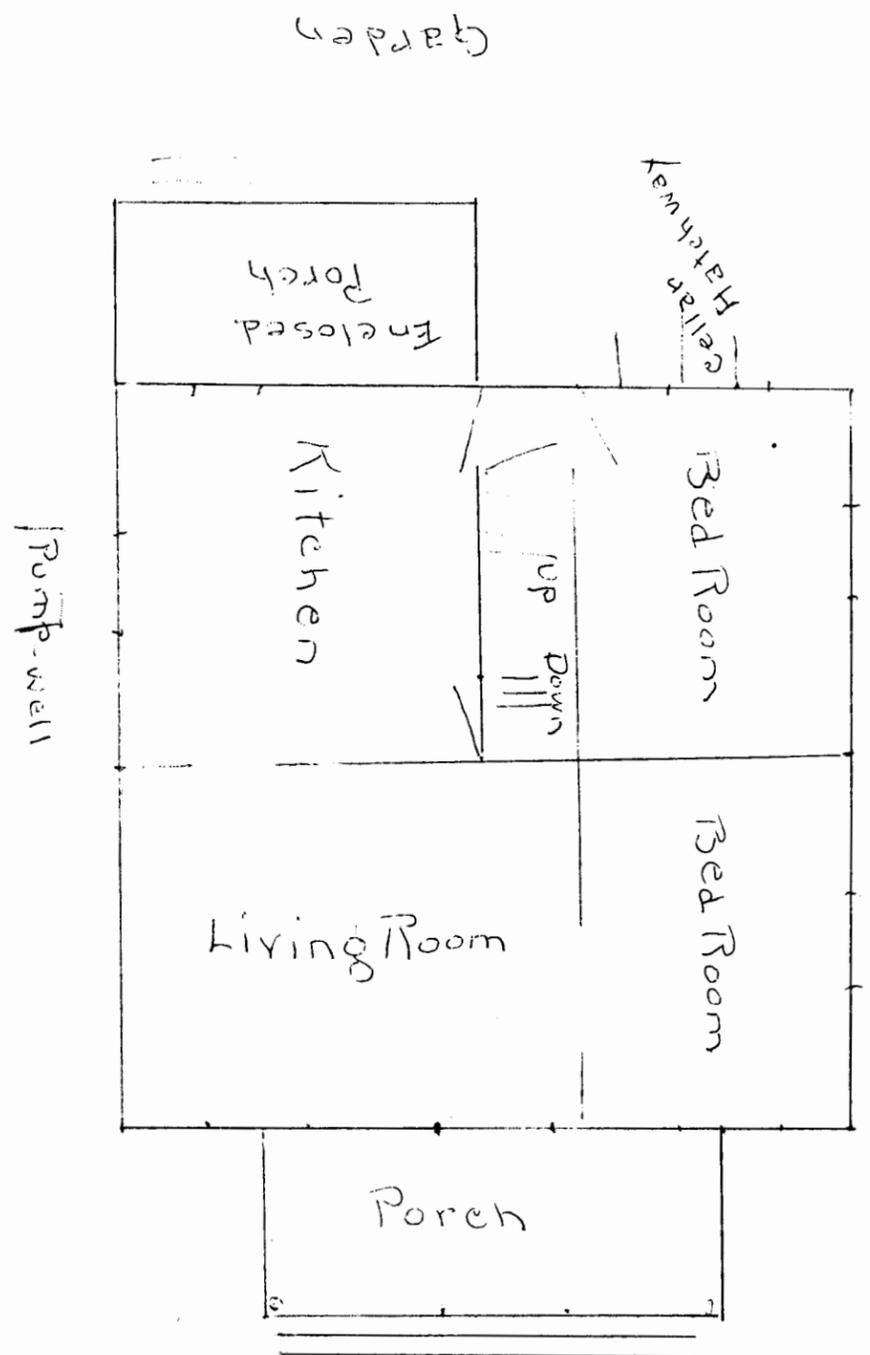
PLATE IV

Mrs. Golda Gruwell's circa 1930 photograph of the south and west elevation of the Varney House. Courtesy Mrs. Golda Gruwell.



PLATE V

Floor plan of Varney House, circa 1911,
drawn by Mrs. Golda Gruwell.



front door had frosted glass.
Porch had railing

gg - PLATE V

PLATE VI

Dr. L. J. Leech Standing on Front Steps
of the Leech House, circa 1928, courtesy
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.



PLATE VII

Dr. L. J. Leech Sitting in Chair at Side of Porch of
Leech House, circa 1930, courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential
Library.



PLATE VIII

Dr. L. J. Leech and Family Group in Front of Porch Steps
to Leech House, circa 1929, courtesy Herbert Hoover
Presidential Library.



PLATE IX

The U. S. Army Band's 1930 Visit to West Branch. Looking east across Downey Street. Note: west elevations of Leech House and Barn. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

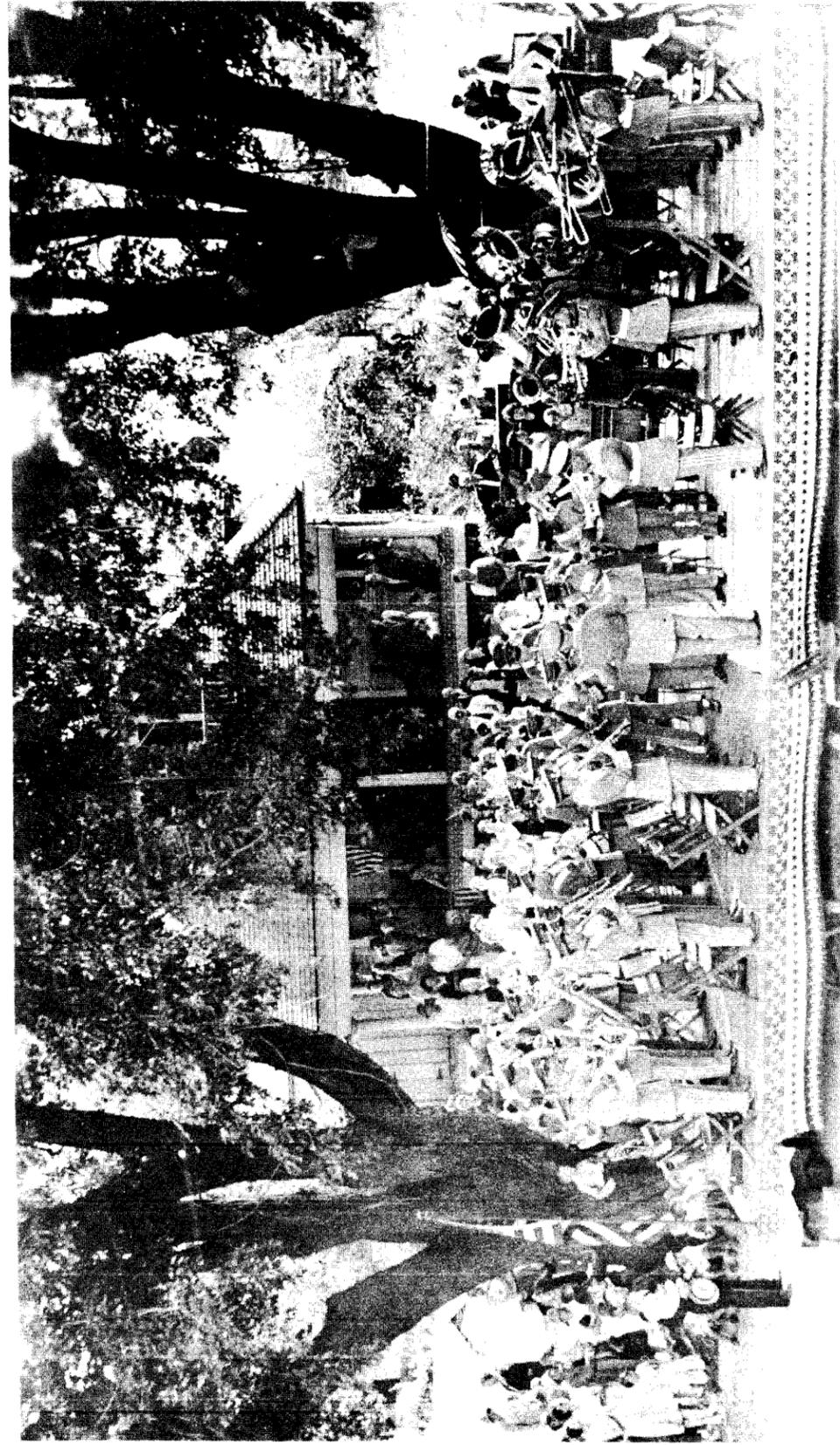


PLATE X

The U. S. Army Band Plays in Front of the Leech House in the Summer of 1930. Note: west elevations of Leech House and Barn. Courtesy Mrs. Alda M. Rarick.

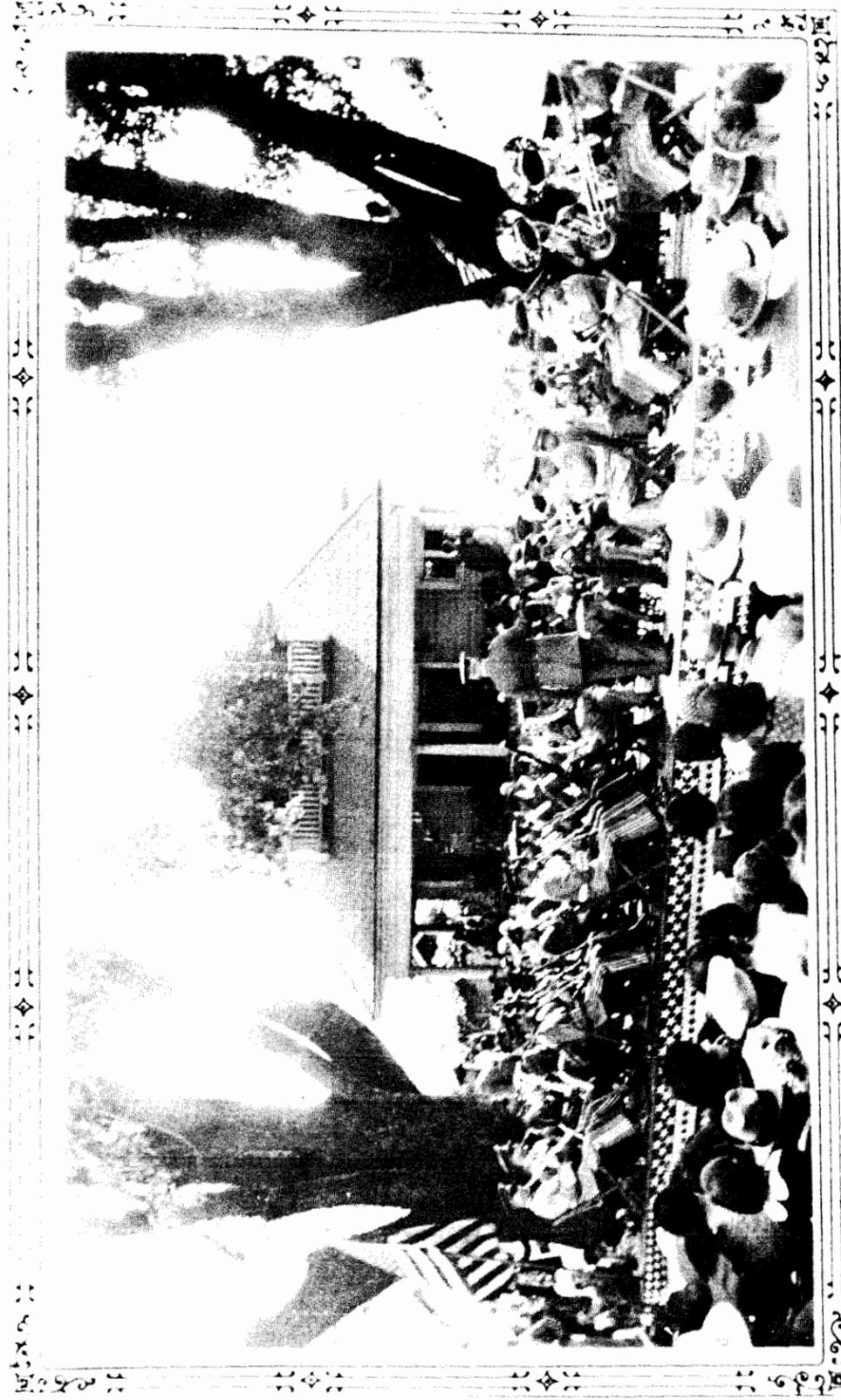


PLATE XI

The Miles 1878 Panorama of West Branch from Cook's Hill.
The Laban Miles House is indicated by arrow. Courtesy
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.



PLATE XII

Photograph of the West Elevation of the Laban Miles House,
circa 1910, from the southeast corner of Downey and Main Streets.
Courtesy West Branch Heritage Foundation.

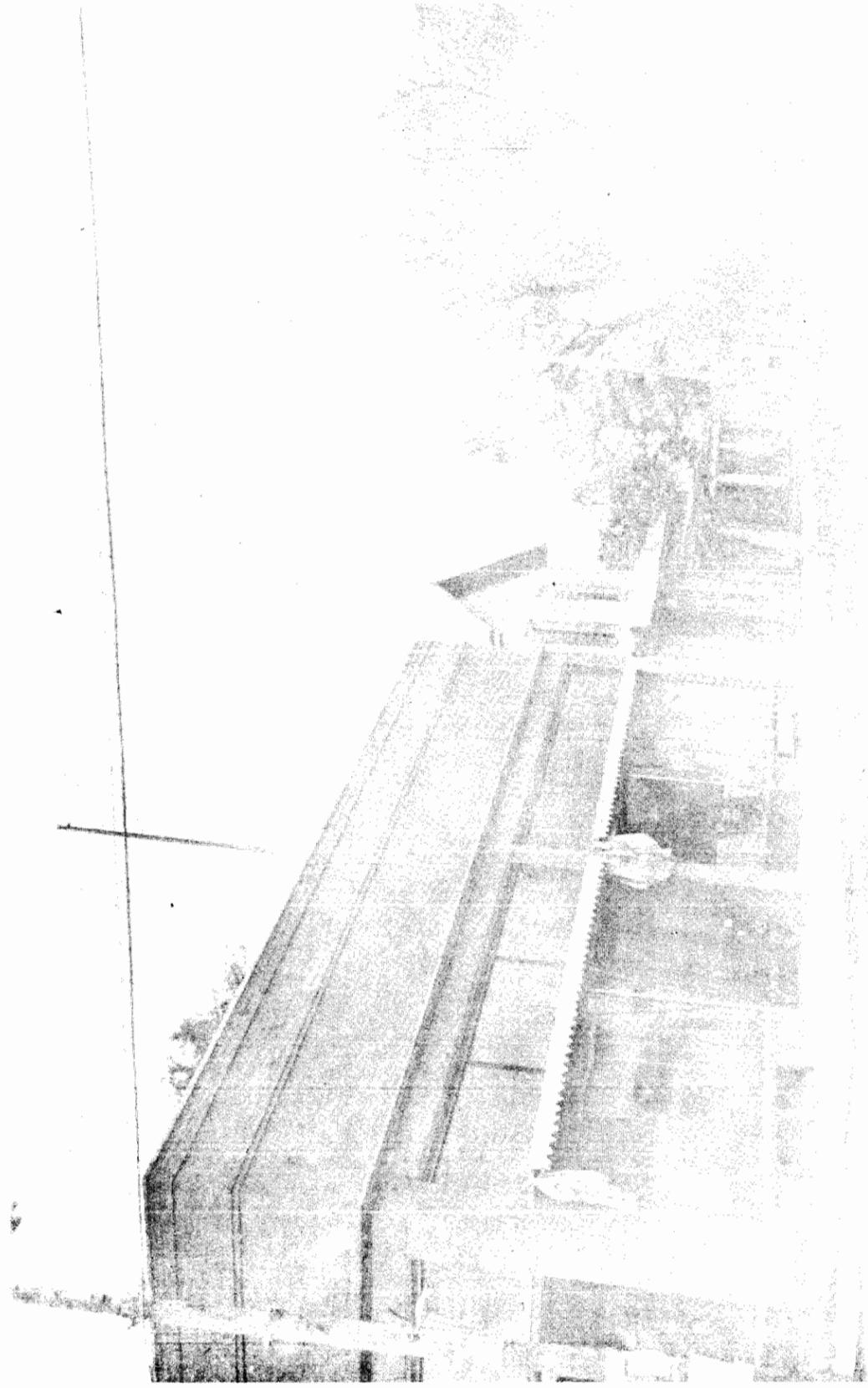


PLATE XIII

Photograph of Veranda of Laban Miles House and Shady Walk on South Downey, circa 1912. This photograph shows the front porch of the Laban Miles House. Courtesy Mrs. John Kofron.

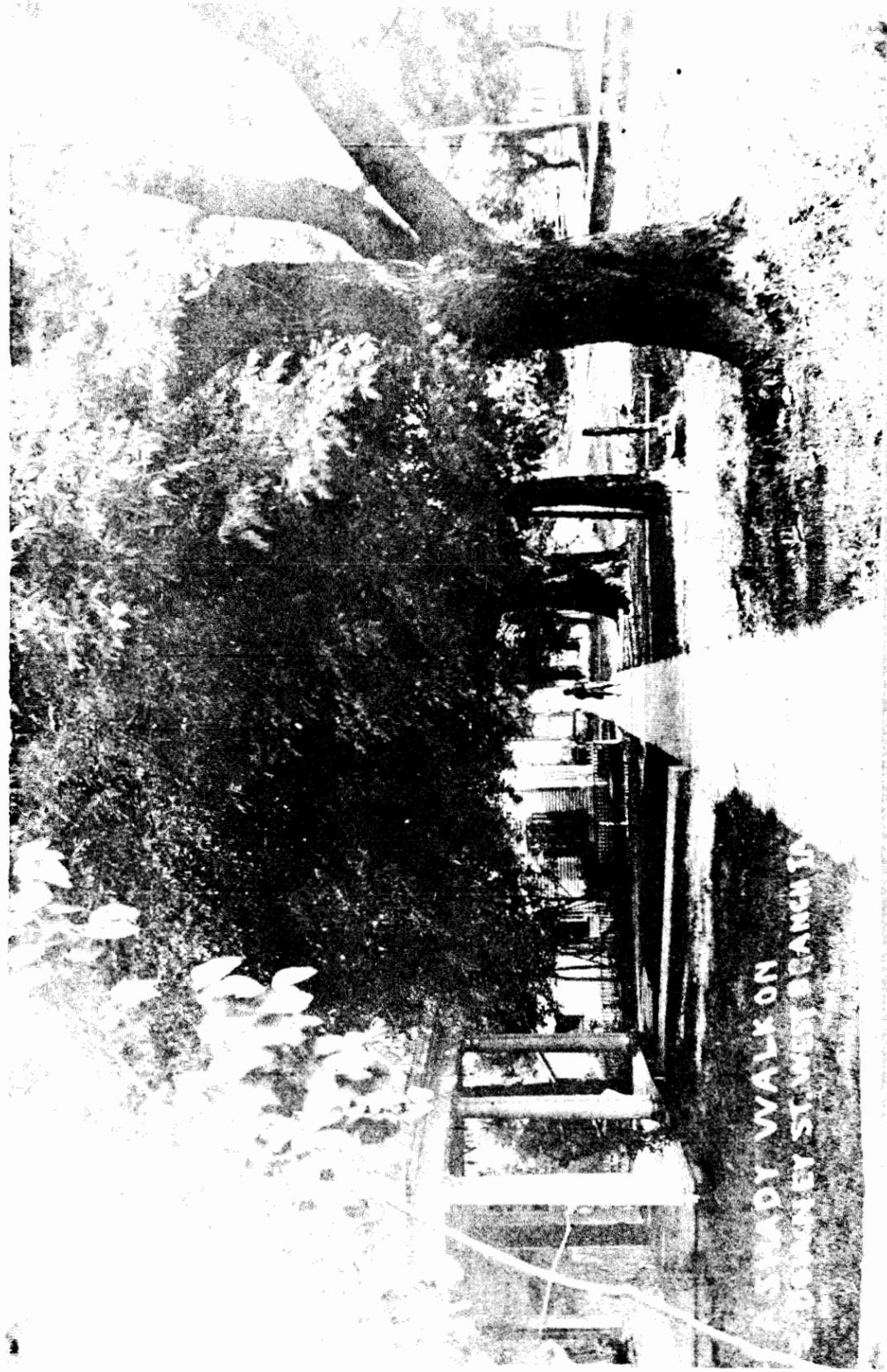


PLATE XIV

Photograph of Civil War Veterans in Front of Laban Miles House, circa 1918. Courtesy of Glenn Brown. Reading from left to right the veterans are: Joe Welch (a Confederate), Sid Frisby, C. H. Wickersham, O. L. Holloway, No. 5 unknown, John Leech, Griffith Barnes, C. E. Smith, Wesley Wertzbauger, Isaac Haines, E. C. Tommelson, S. F. Adair, Bert T. Gruwell, and Dr. L. J. Leech.



PLATE XV

Photograph of South Elevation of Laban Miles' House, circa 1930. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.



PLATE XV

No Number
A. C. . . .

PLATE XVI

Aerial Photograph of South Downey and East Main, circa 1952.
Note: details of kitchen addition to Laban Miles House.

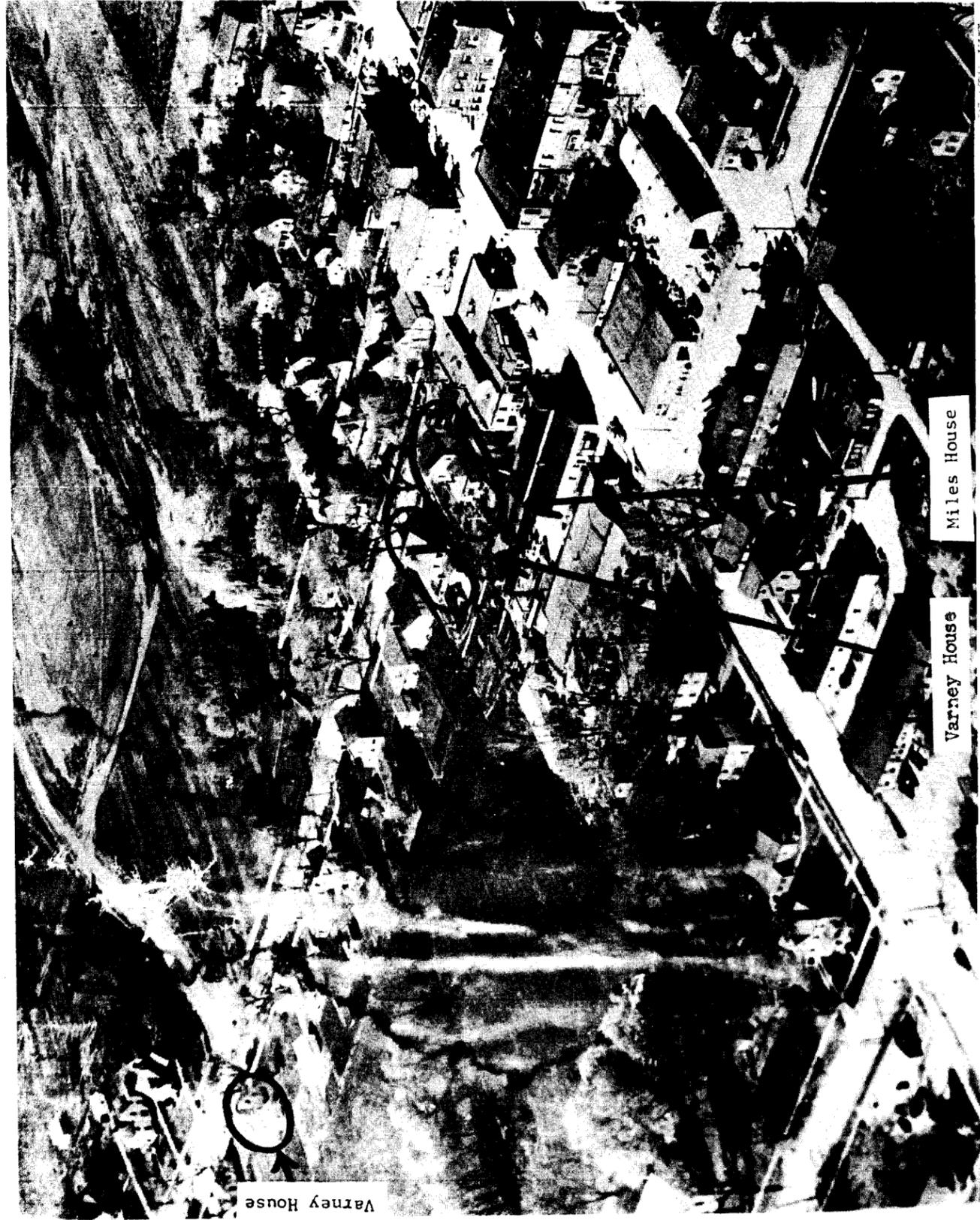


PLATE XVII

Photograph of Laban Miles taken while he
was a resident of West Branch. Courtesy
of Mrs. F. J. Rost.



PLATE XVIII

Photograph of Laban Miles made about
the time he left West Branch to become
Agent for the Osage and Kaw. Courtesy
Mrs. F. J. Rost.



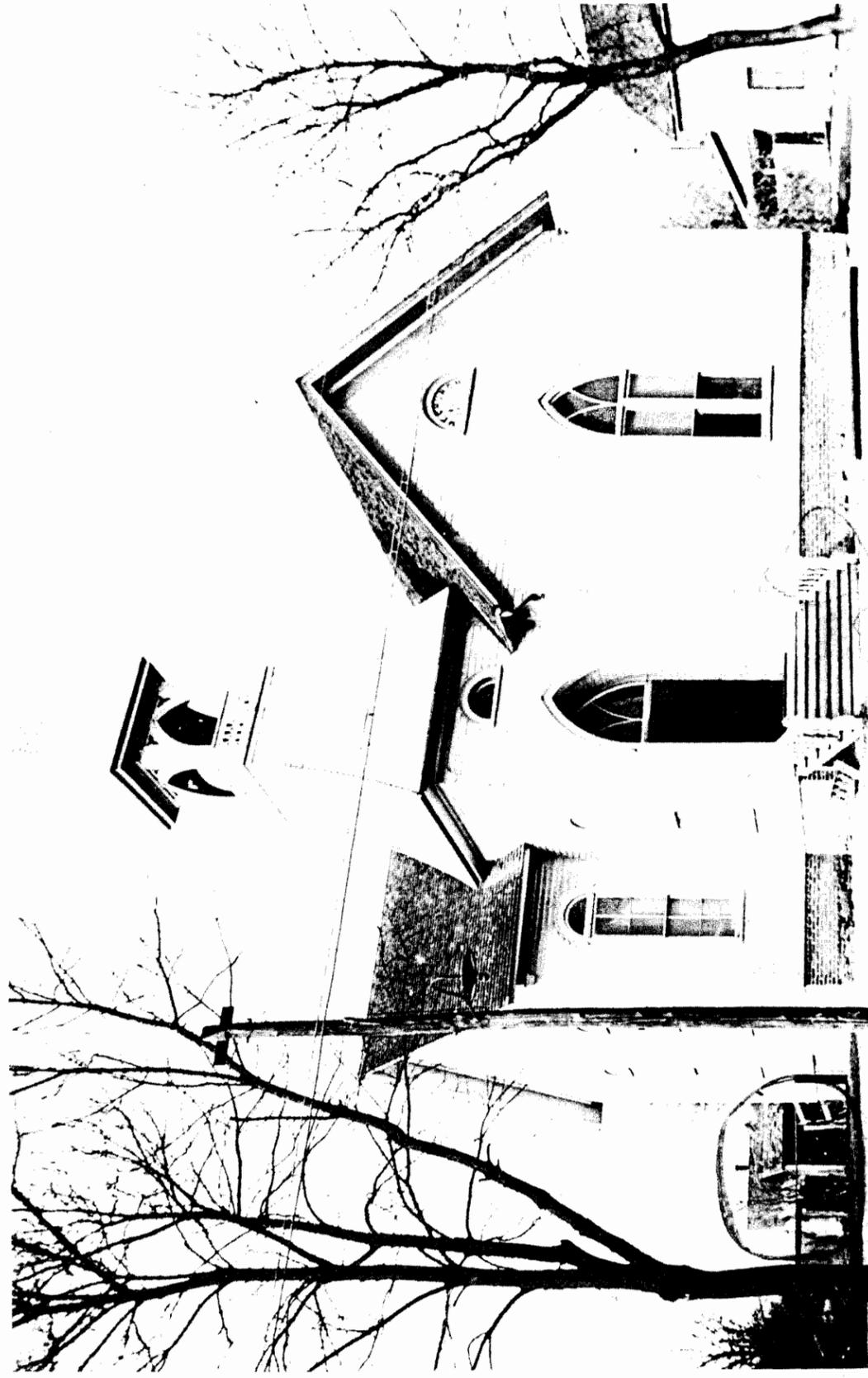
PLATE XIX

Photograph of Laban Miles and Two Indian Friends. Tao Skin Leah wah-toaukd on the left of Miles and Pah-toa-moie on his right. Courtesy Mrs. F. J. Rost.



PLATE XX

Photograph of the east elevation of the Methodist Church, circa 1910. Note: south elevation of Garvin Cottage and east elevation of Wright House. Courtesy West Branch Heritage Foundation.



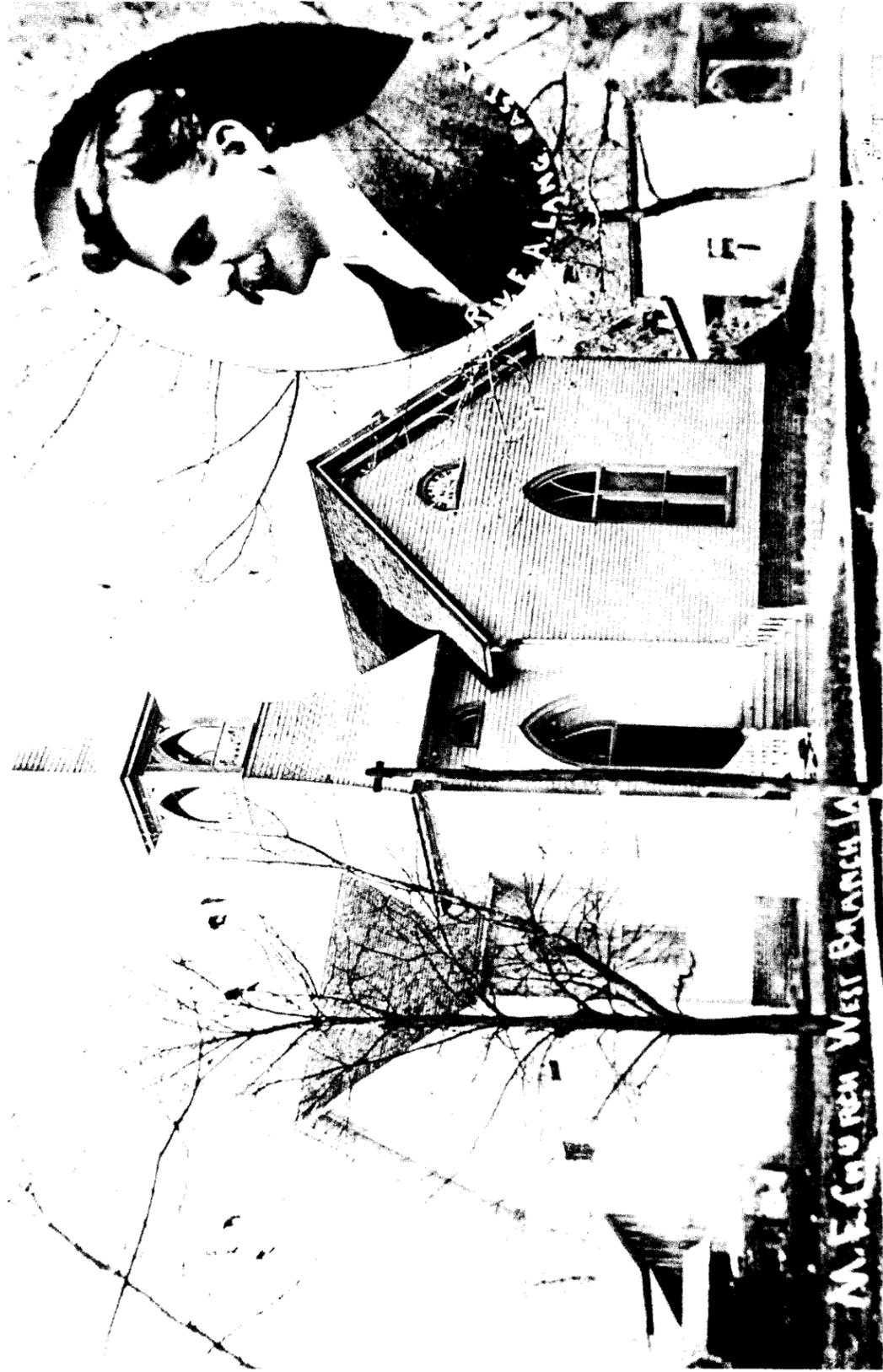
M. E. CHURCH, WEST BRANCH IOWA. 11.

WRIGHT HOUSE

PLATE XX

PLATE XXI

Photographs of the Rev. E. A. Lang and the M. E. Church,
West Branch, Iowa, circa 1910. Note: south elevation of
Amanda Garvin Cottage. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential
Library.



No. —

Name —

Order —

Remarks —

Retouched

Order Final

Reorder —

Reorder —

1910-7

BURKE & JAMES

PRTD. IN U. S.

PLATE XXII

M. E. Church, West Branch, Iowa. Note: south elevation of Amanda Garvin Cottage. Courtesy Mrs. John Kofron.

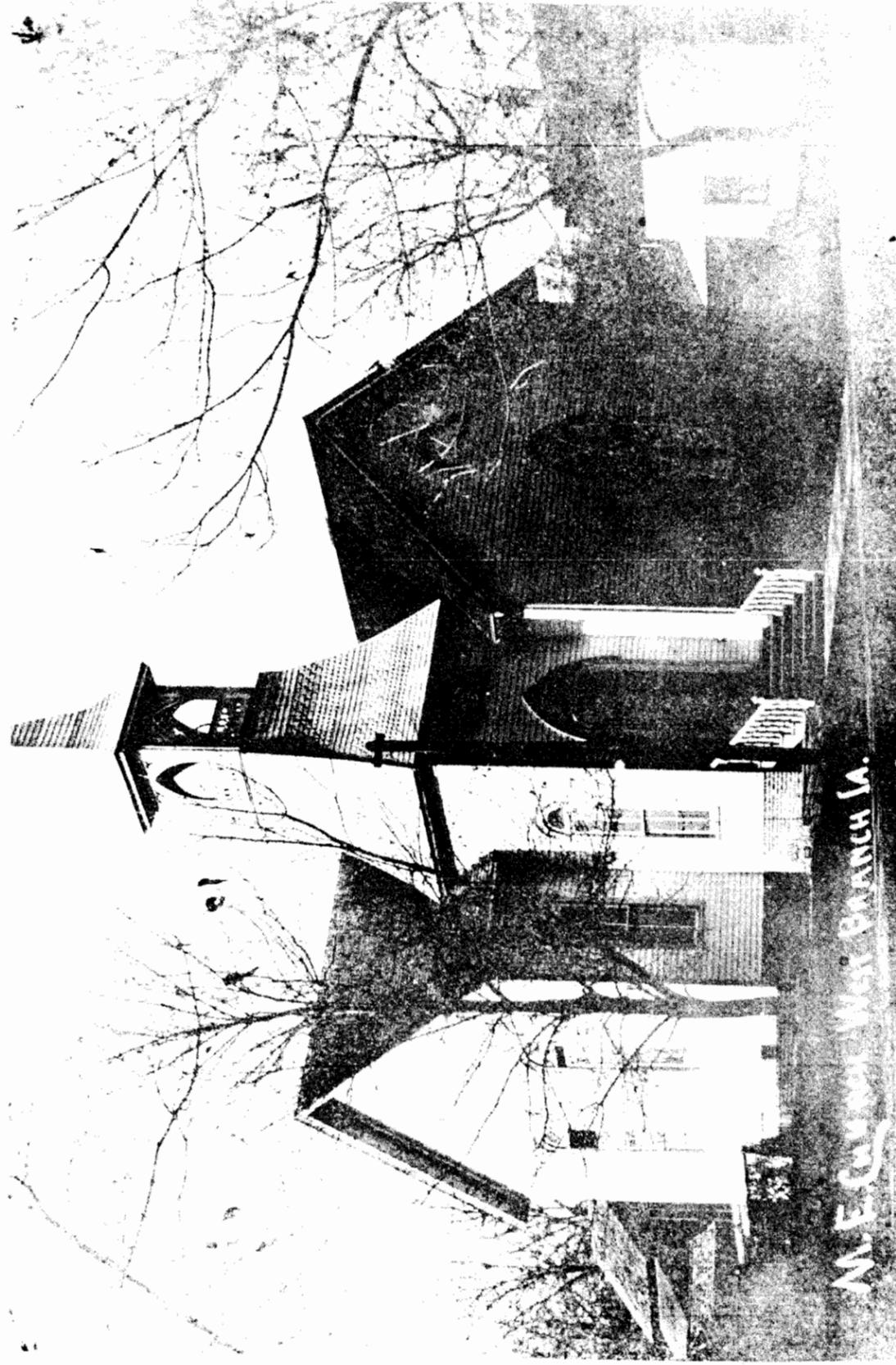


PLATE XXIII

Mrs. Golda Gruwell's circa 1930 photograph of the Garvin
Cottage. Courtesy Mrs. Golda Gruwell.



PLATE XXIV

The Garvin Cottage in 1967. These photographs taken by Glenn Speight appeared in the October 1, 1967 edition of the Des Moines Register. Courtesy Mrs. Alda M. Rarick.



MRS. MINNIE SILER enjoyed sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch of her home. The dark section has now been taken over. She has moved to a nephew's apartment house.

Old West Branch Home Is Saved In Keeping With Hoover Plea

The Garvin Cottage, one of the oldest homes in the city, was saved from demolition when a plea from J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was heeded by the city council. The house, built in 1880, was in poor condition and was scheduled for demolition. The council, however, decided to save the house and to restore it to its original condition. The house is now owned by the city and is being used as a museum. The house is a two-story structure with a gabled roof and a small porch. It is a fine example of the architecture of the late 19th century.

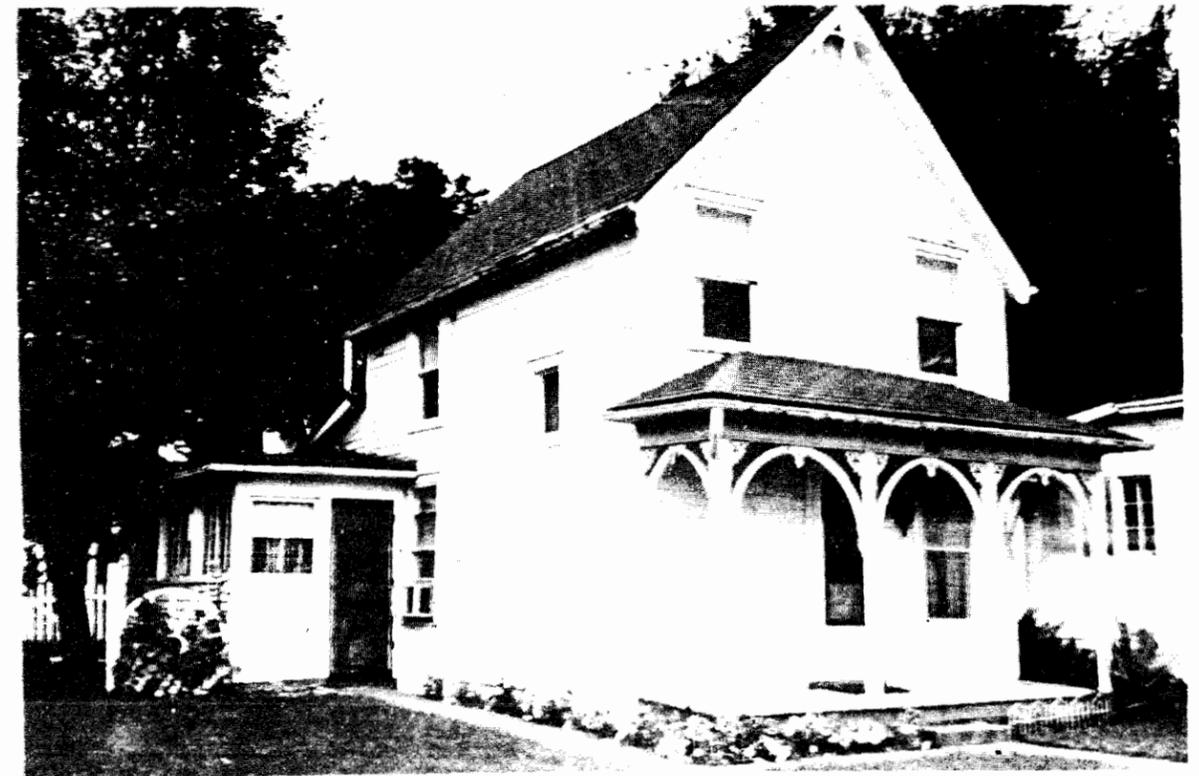


PLATE XXV

Mrs. Golda Gruwell's drawing of the floor plan and grounds of the Garvin Cottage, as they appeared in 1913.

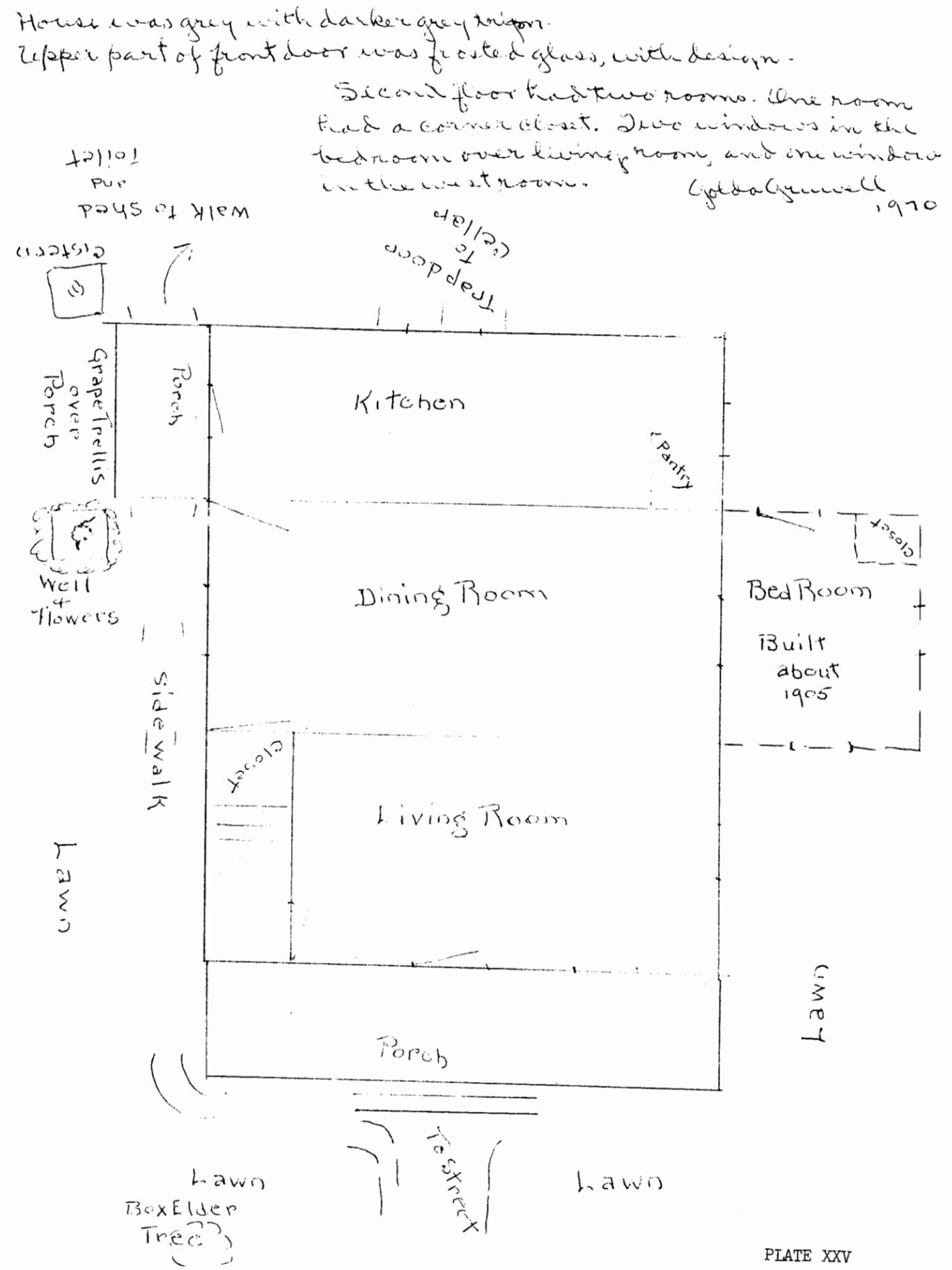


PLATE XXVI

Photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Smith at the time of their golden wedding anniversary in 1917. Note: details of the porch and its bandstand-like projection. Courtesy of Mrs. Alice Moore.



PLATE XXVII

Photograph of a Smith Family gathering in the mid-1920s.
Note: details of the porch and its bandstand-like projection. Courtesy of Mrs. Alice Moore.



PLATE XXVIII

Photograph of the north and west elevations of the Smith House,
circa 1915. Courtesy of Mrs. Alice Moore.

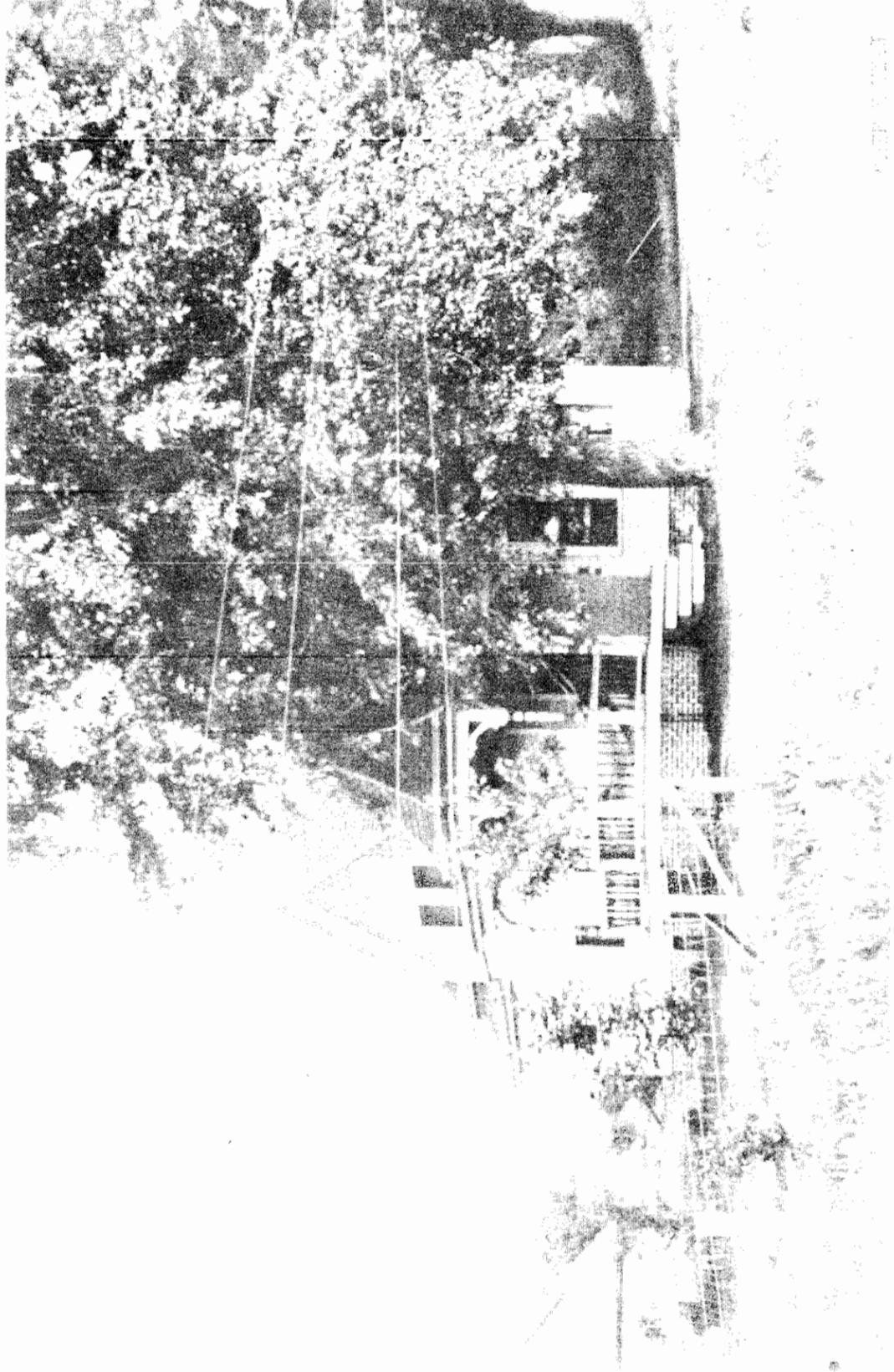


PLATE XXIX

Photograph of the northwest corner of the Smith House and South Downey Street, circa 1915, showing details of the porch and north elevation. Courtesy Glenn Brown.

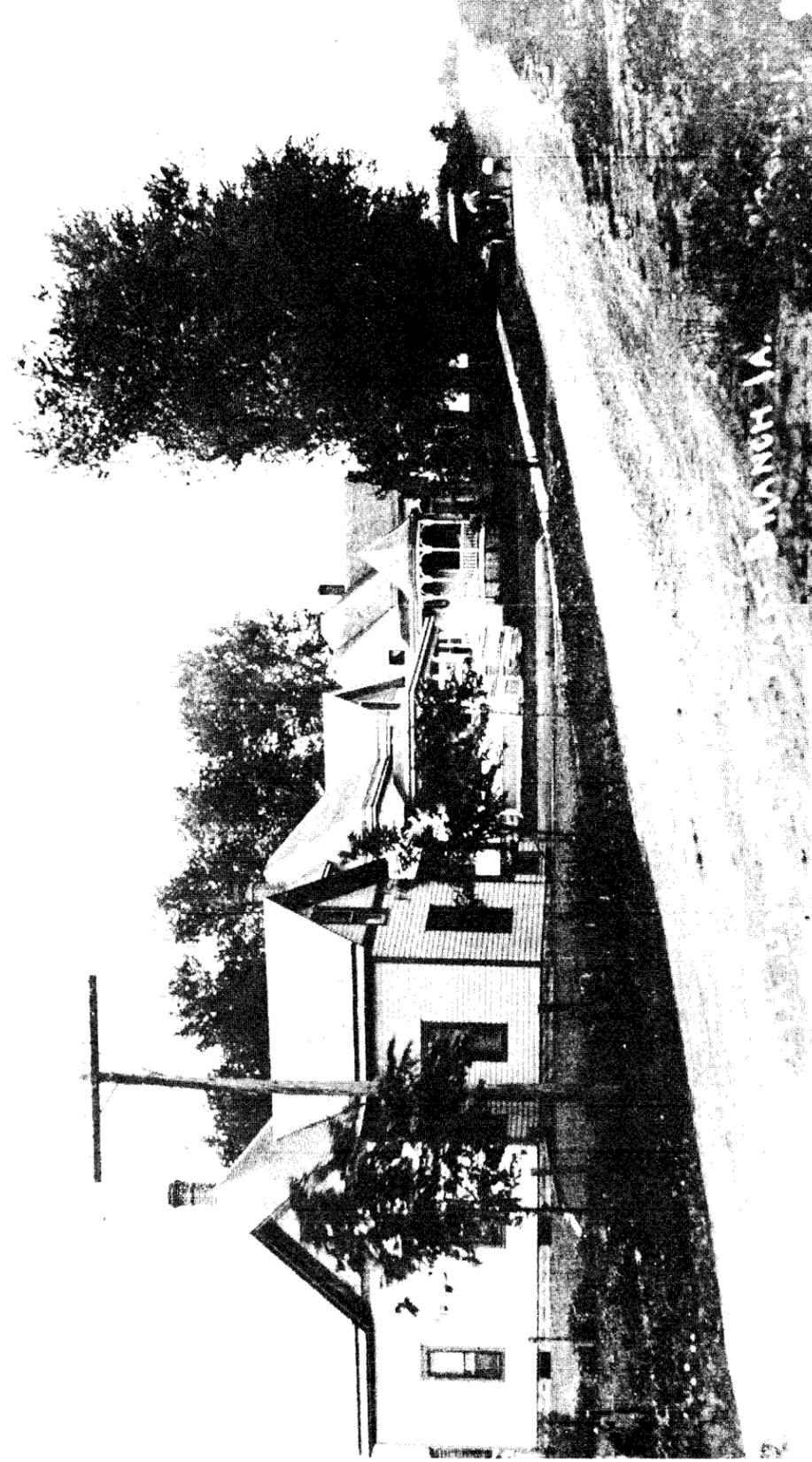


PLATE XXX

Photograph of the northeast corner of the Smith House, showing the north and east elevations, circa 1915. Courtesy of Glenn Brown.



PLATE XXXI

Photograph of the entrance of Kitchen to Smith House and south elevation of the Pergola. Note: details of the pergola, stairs and railing, and trellis. Courtesy of Mrs. Alice Moore.

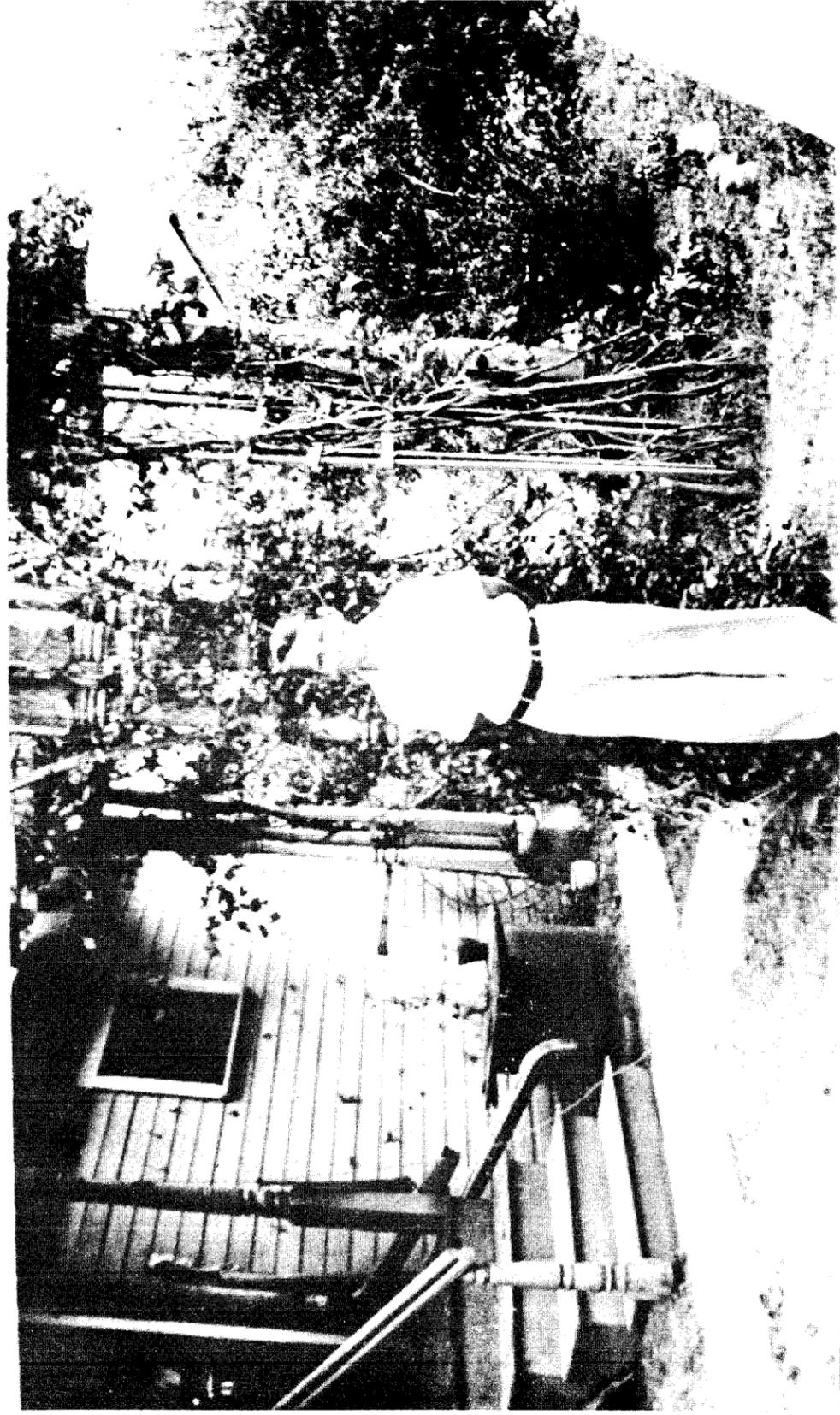


PLATE XXXII

Photograph of Charles E. Smith standing
under the Pergola, circa 1920s. Courtesy
of Glenn Brown.



PLATE XXXIII

Photograph of Bergola of Smith House, looking west, circa 1920. Courtesy of Glenn Brown.

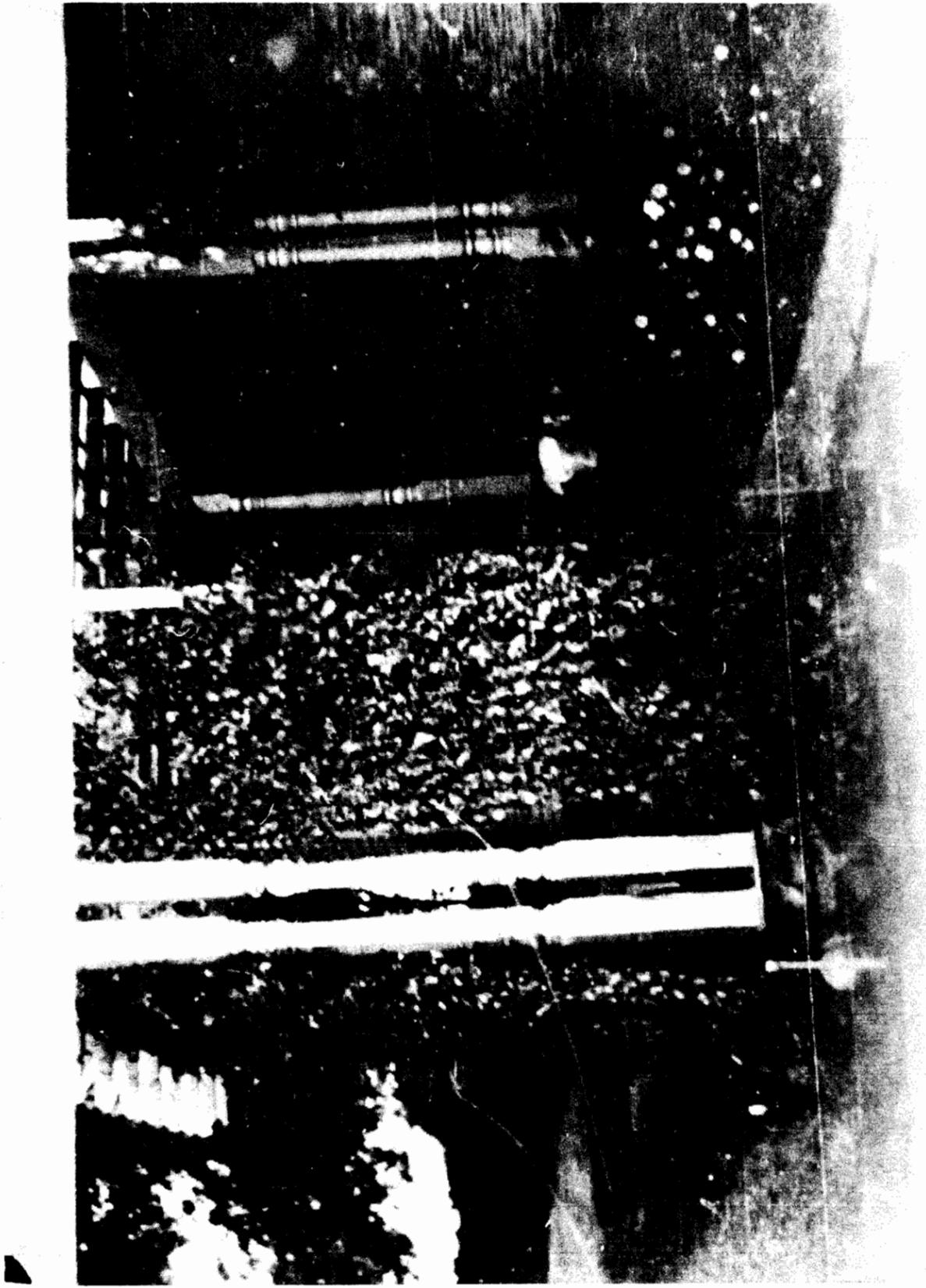


PLATE XXXIV

The Miles Photograph of the east and north elevations of the Staples House, 1878. Note: picket fence and Lombardy poplars. Courtesy Mrs. Clara Larson.

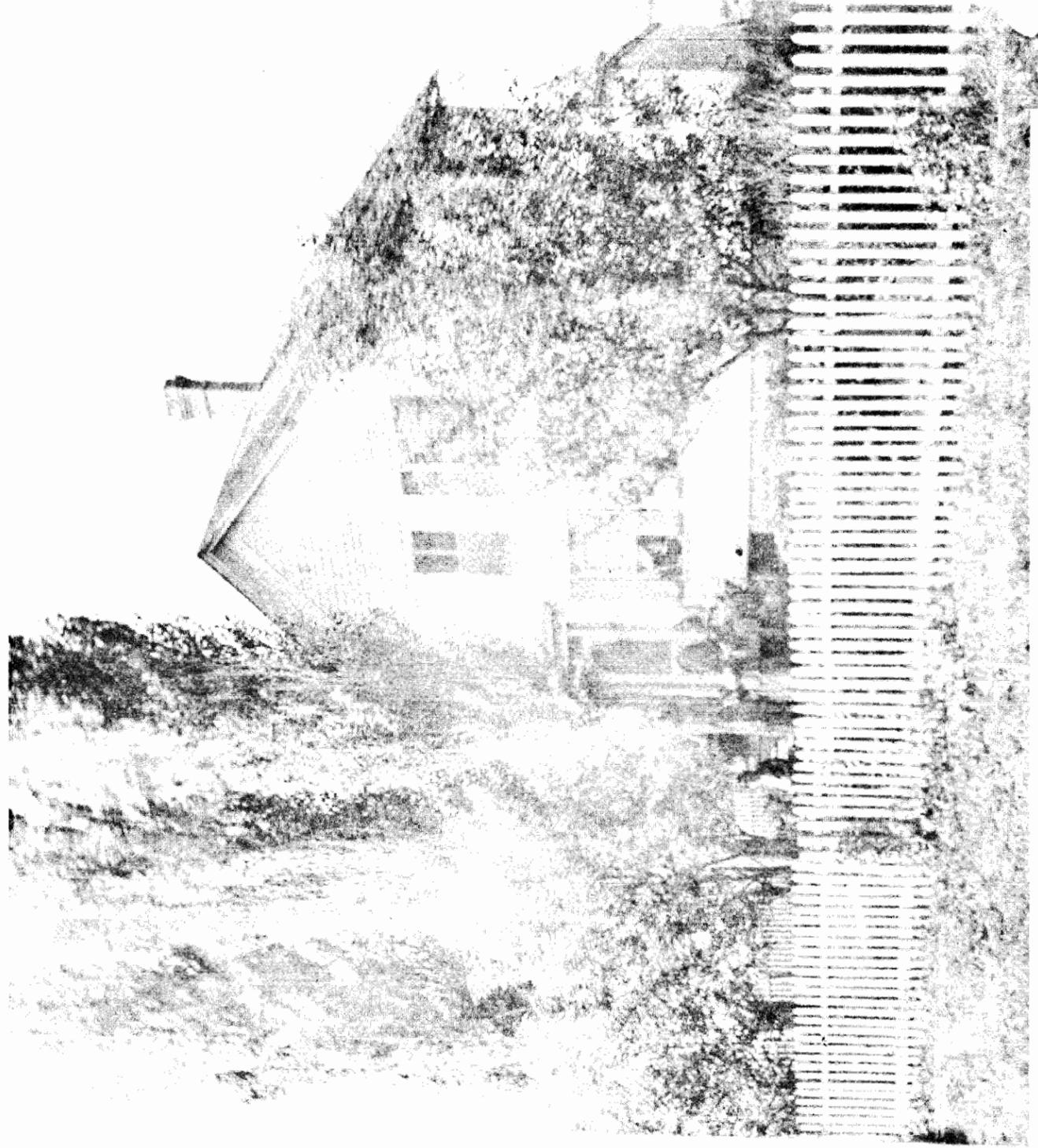


PLATE XXXV

Photograph of A. L. Coy's Fire-Gutted Blacksmith Shop, March 22,
1900. Note: rear and north elevations of Staples House in background.
Courtesy West Branch Heritage Foundation.

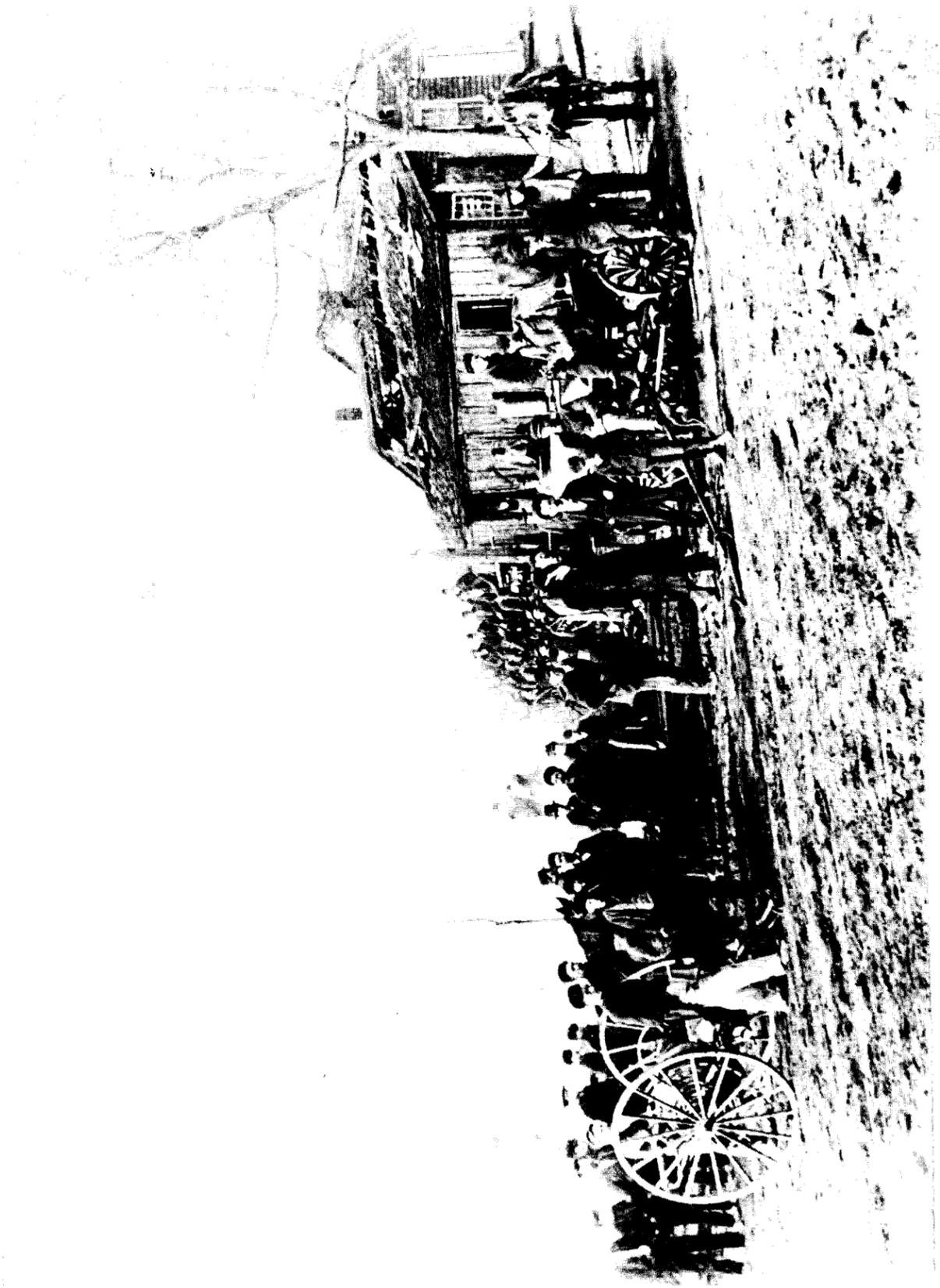


PLATE XXXVI

First Floor Plan of "Staples-Bremner House,"
as recalled by Mrs. Golda Gruwell.

Staples-Bremner

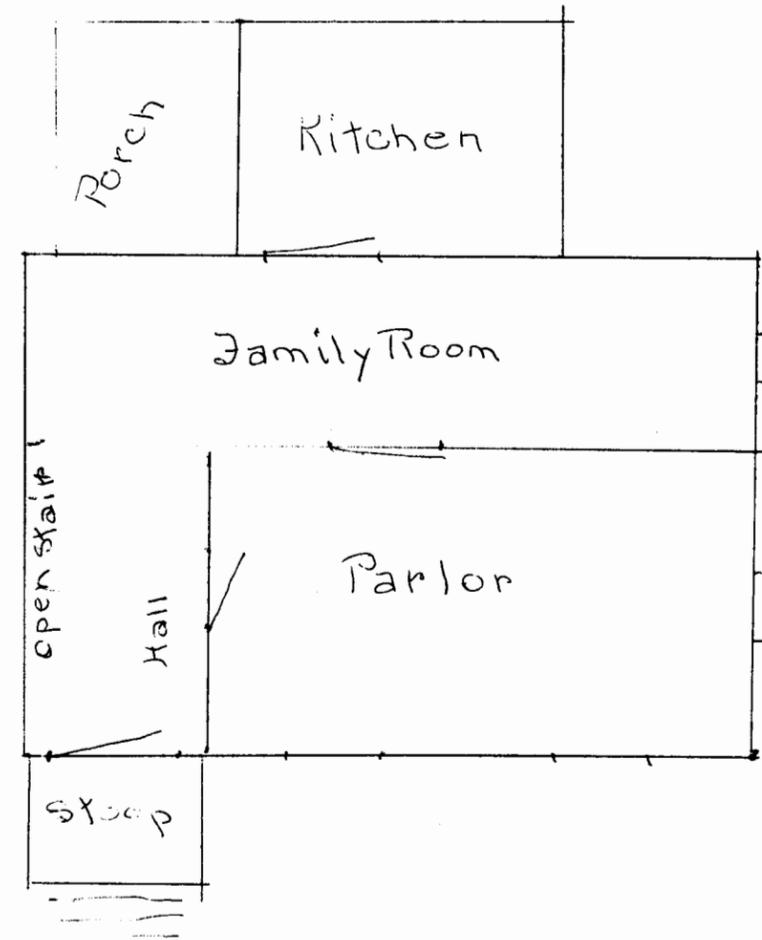


PLATE XXXVI

PLATE XXXVII

Dr. James Staples, 1814-1891, courtesy
Mrs. Clara Larson.



PLATE XXXVII
Dr. James Staples
1814-1891
Mrs. Clara Larson

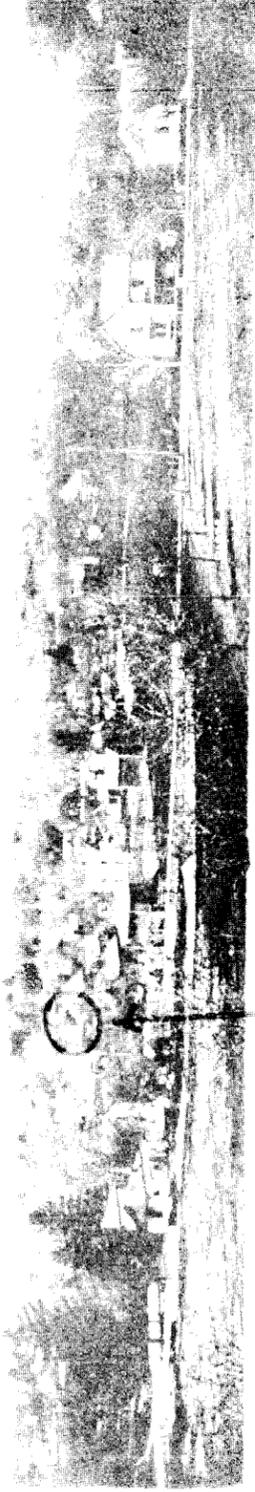
PLATE XXXVIII

Mrs. Eliza Staples, 1821-1882,
courtesy Mrs. Clara Larson



PLATE XXXIX

The 1909 Panorama of West Branch from Cook's Hill. Note:
south elevation of Hayhurst House. Courtesy of West Branch
Heritage Foundation.



HAYHURST HOUSE

PLATE XL

Enlargement of Section of the 1909 Panorama of West Branch.
Note: south elevation of Hayhurst House. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.



PLATE XLII

Grant Wood's Painting, "The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover."
Note: the east elevation of the Hayhurst House and south elevation of the Wright Cottage. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.



PLATE XLIII

1928 Photograph of the Herbert Hoover Cottage. Note: in the background the east elevation of the Hayhurst House and south elevation of the Wright Cottage. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

HERBERT COTTAGE

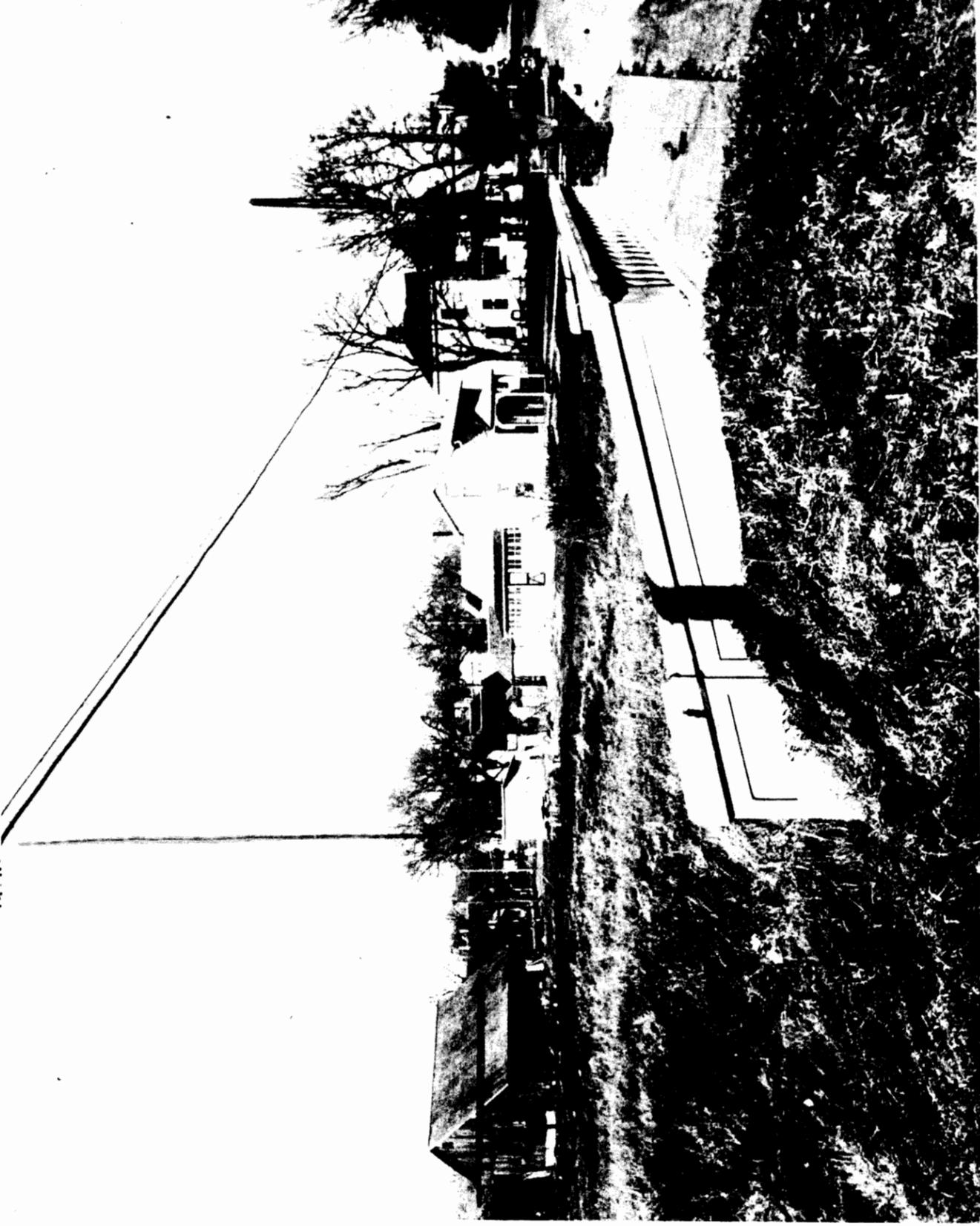


PLATE XLIII

Hoover Birthplace, West Branch, Iowa, circa 1940. In the background can be seen the east elevation of the Hayhurst House. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

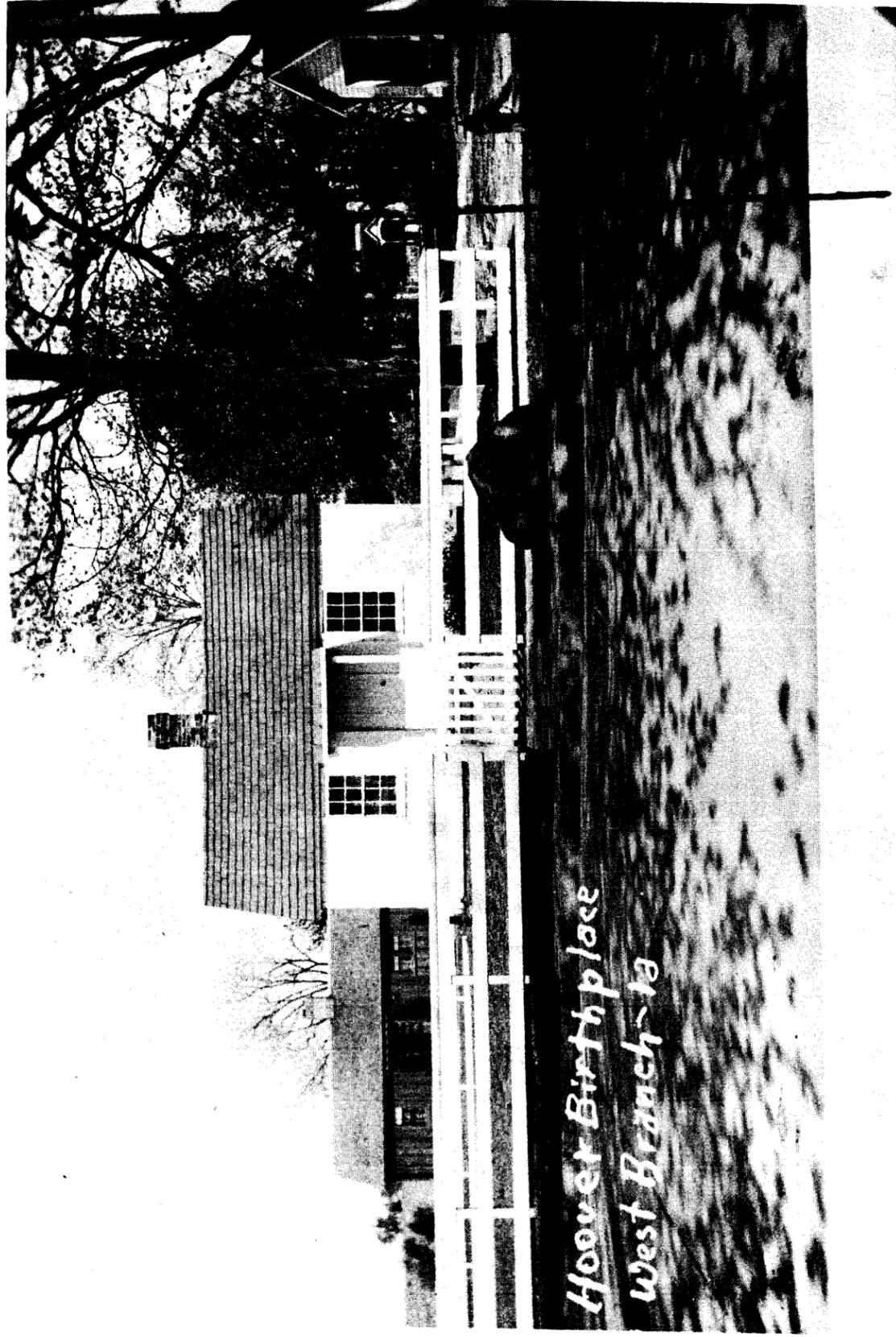
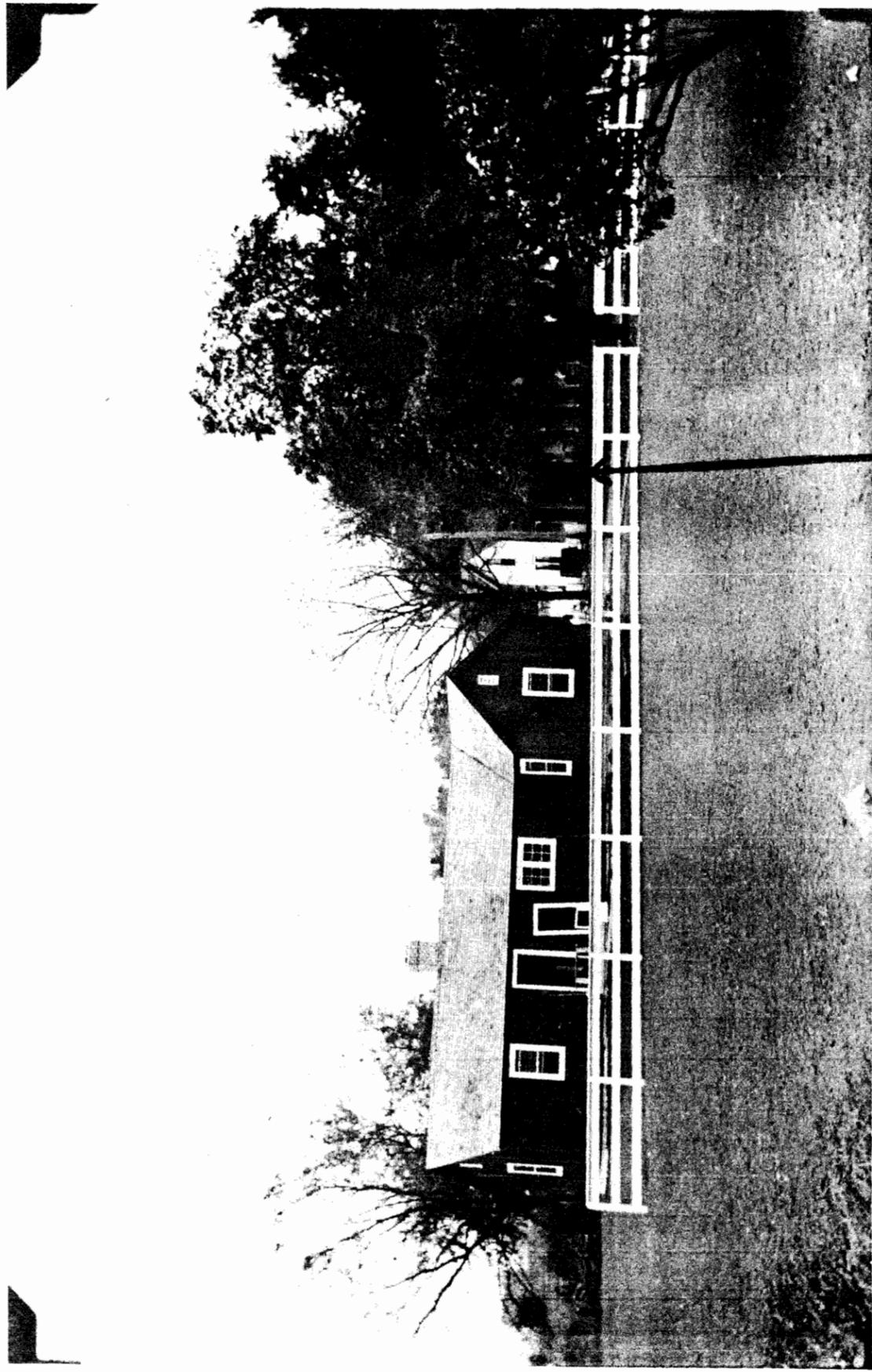


PLATE XLIV

Caretaker's Cottage, Herbert Hoover NHS, circa 1940. In the background can be seen the east and south elevations of the Hayhurst House. Courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.



HAYHURST HOUSE

PLATE XIV

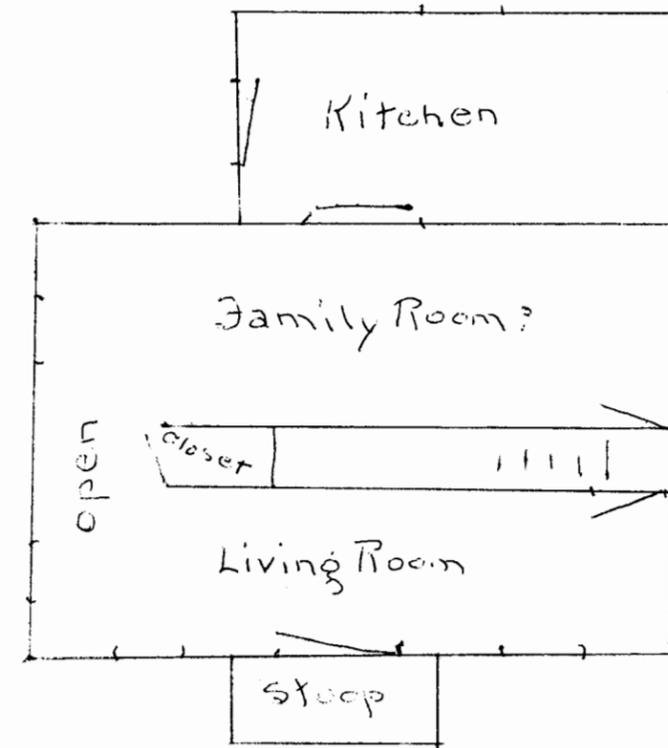
South elevation of the Hayhurst House, circa 1952. This photograph was made after the Davises had added planter boxes, but before they had replaced the two windows in the first floor of the south elevation of the ell with a picture window. Courtesy Mrs. Tom Davis.



PLATE XLVI

Floor plan of the 1st floor of the
Hayhurst-Cook Home, circa 1890, by
Mrs. Golda Gruwell.

Joseph Cook.



Light color paint - likely cream and
tan trim. Not white -

Picket fence - a low one.

PLATE XLVI

PLATE XLVII

South elevation of the Isaac Miles Farmhouse, circa 1950.
Note: details of South Bay. Courtesy of Mrs. John Kofron.



PLATE XLVIII

East elevation of the Isaac Miles Farmhouse, circa 1950.
This photograph was made before the Kofrons enclosed the
front porch. Courtesy of Mrs. John Kofron.



PLATE XLIX

Photograph of front steps to Isaac Miles House, circa 1950.
Courtesy of Mrs. John Kofron.



PLATE I

Photograph of east elevation of the Isaac Miles Farmhouse, circa 1955. This photograph was made after the Kofrons enclosed the front porch, removed the east bay, and erected the north chimney. Courtesy of Mrs. John Kofron.



PLATE II

Photograph of Isaac Miles' Barn, circa 1950. Courtesy
Mrs. John Kofron.

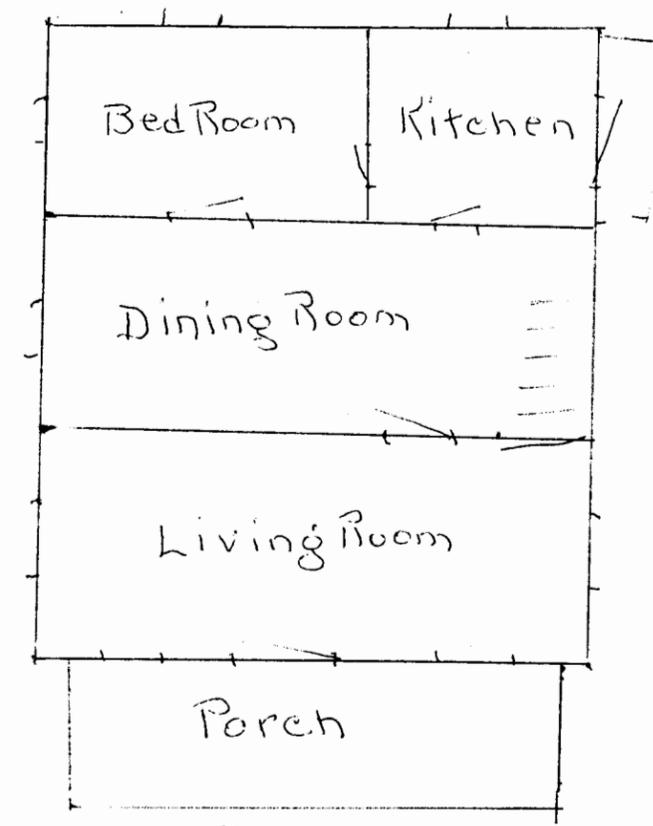


PLATE LII

Floor plan of 1st floor of Mackey House,
circa 1900, prepared by Mrs. Golda Gruwell.

Alley Mackey-Johnson-
Savage House

Garden



Crabapple Tree

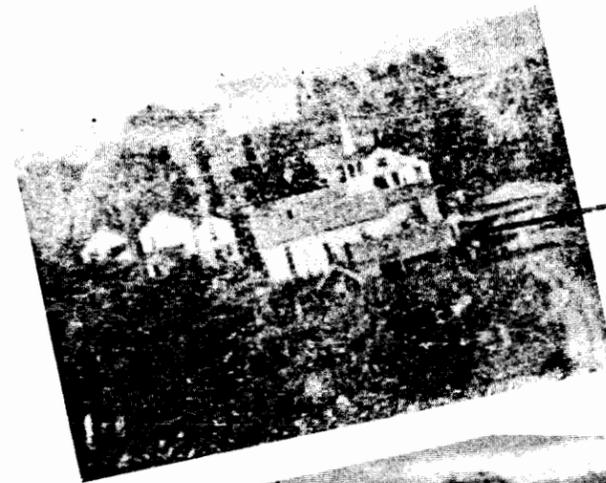
Fence

Poplar trees

PLATE LII

PLATE LIII

The Miles 1878 Panoramic Photograph of West Branch from Cook's Hill. Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop can be seen between the Hoover Cottage and the Methodist Church.



HOOVER BLACKSMITH SHOP

REPRODUCTIONS OF EARLY
PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE
HOOVER BLACKSMITH SHOP AT
WEST BRANCH, IOWA

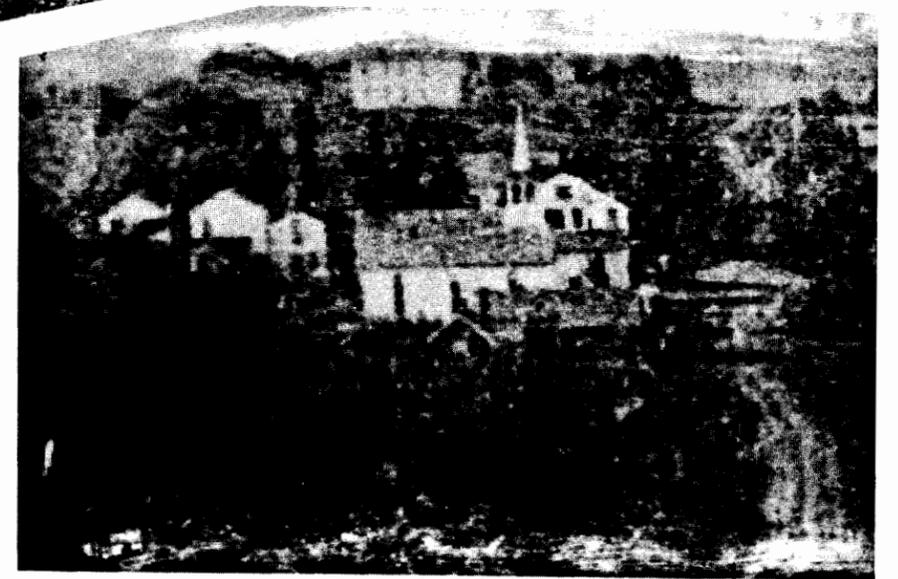


PLATE LIV

The W. L. Morgan Painting of the Hoover Cottage and
Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop. Courtesy Herbert Hoover
Presidential Library.

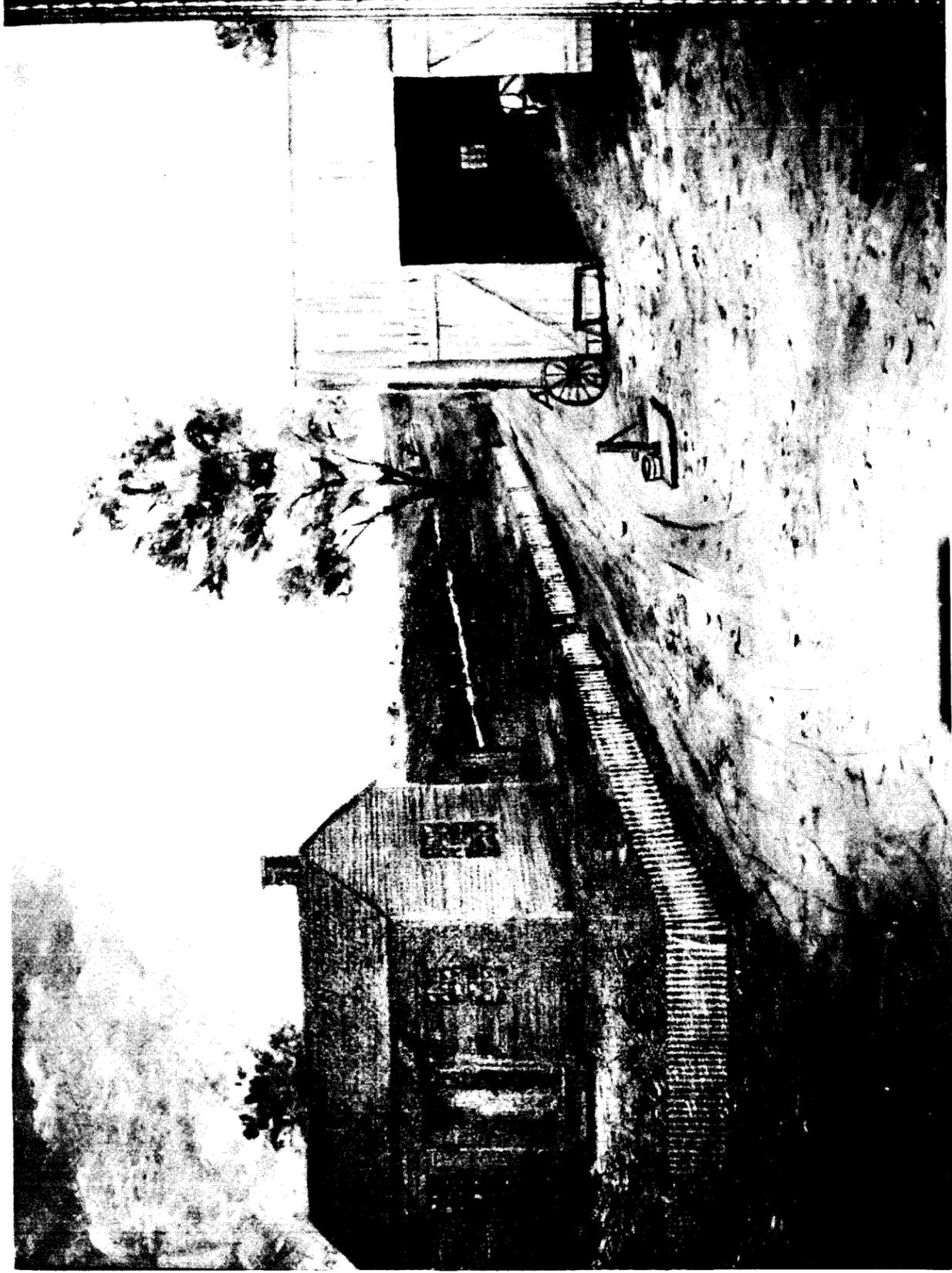


PLATE IV

The Allen Philbrick Painting of the Hoover Cottage and Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop. Courtesy Mrs. Alda Rarick.

Birthplace of
Herbert Hoover

West Branch, Iowa
View was in 1874

*Location remains the
same.*

*Her father,
Wesley and Abi
Department
of Iowa, 1892*

*From the original
drawing and from the
most recent drawing
of Hoover's neighbors
and relatives*

*Allen Philbrick
1874*



PLATE LVI

The Henry Standing Drawing of Jesse Hoover's
Blacksmith Shop, found in Annals of Iowa,
Third Series, Vol. 38, No. 1.



PLATE LVII

Theodore Hoover's Floor Plan of His Father's Blacksmith Shop,
prepared in 1948.

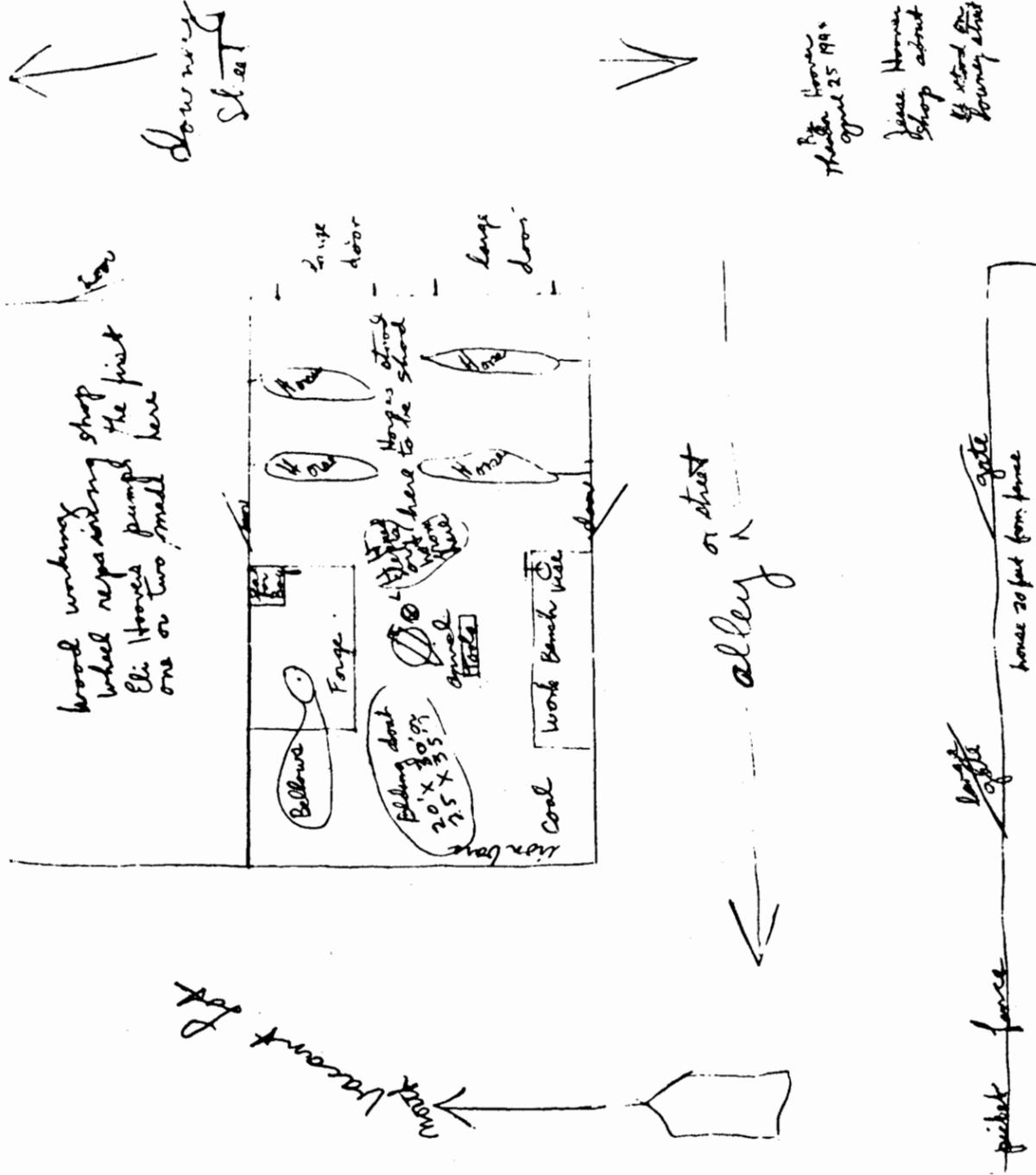


PLATE LVIII

William Wagner's Drawing of the Reconstructed
Blacksmith Shop. Courtesy Bill Wagner.

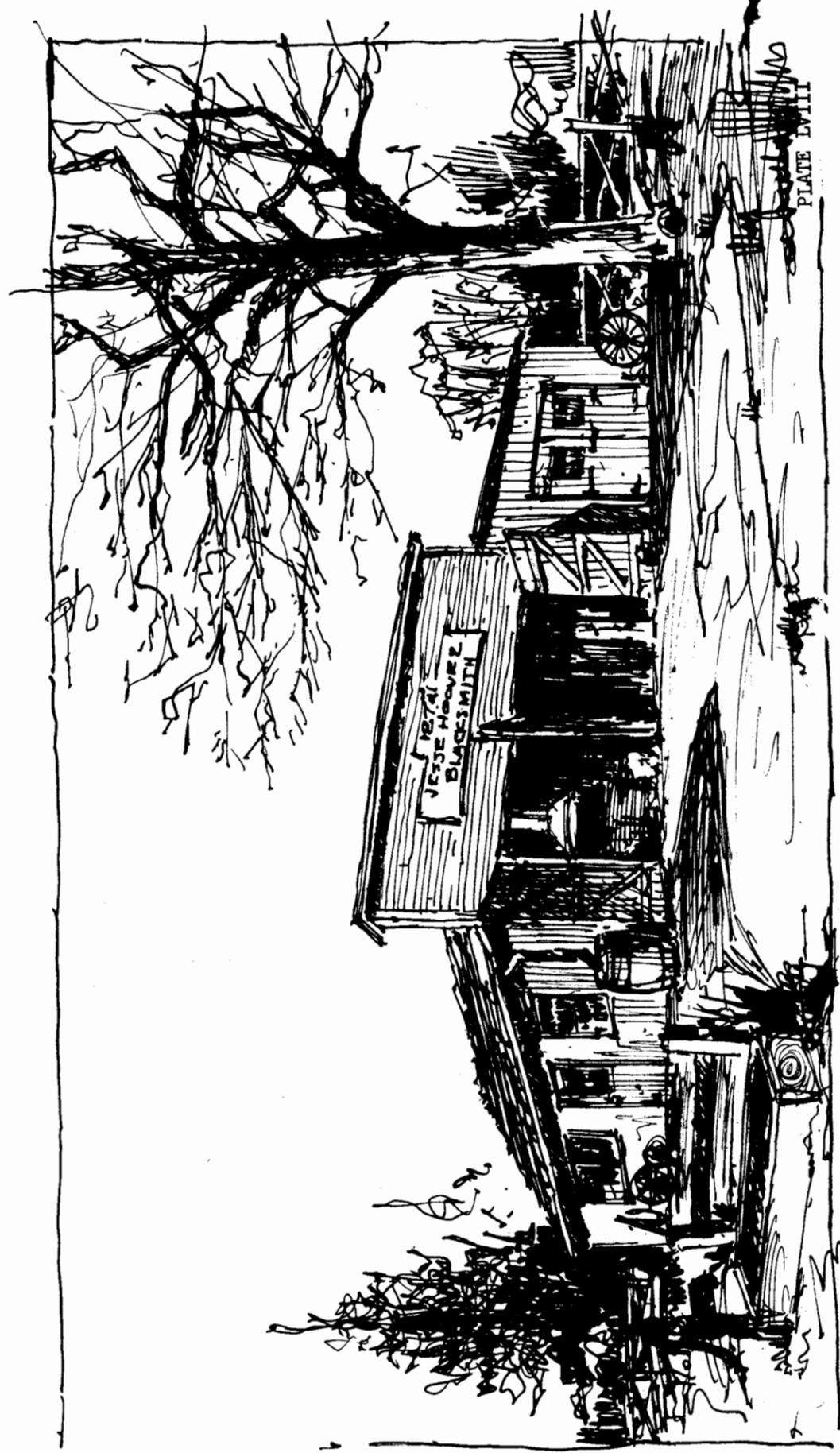


PLATE LIX

Photograph of Oliphant and Michener's Wagon Shop, circa 1897.
Note: G. M. D. Hill's blacksmith shop is the next building
west of Oliphant and Michener's. Courtesy West Branch
Heritage Foundation.

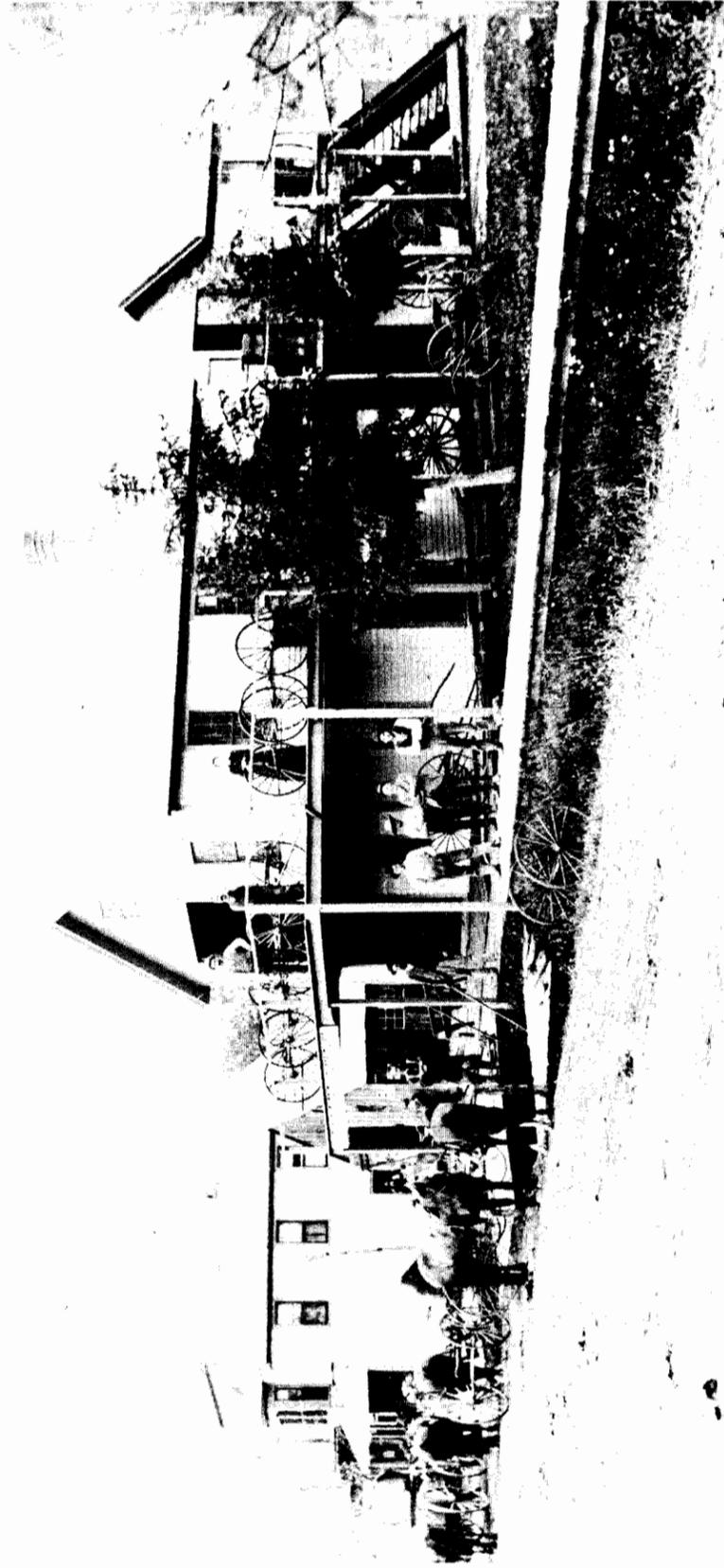


PLATE IX

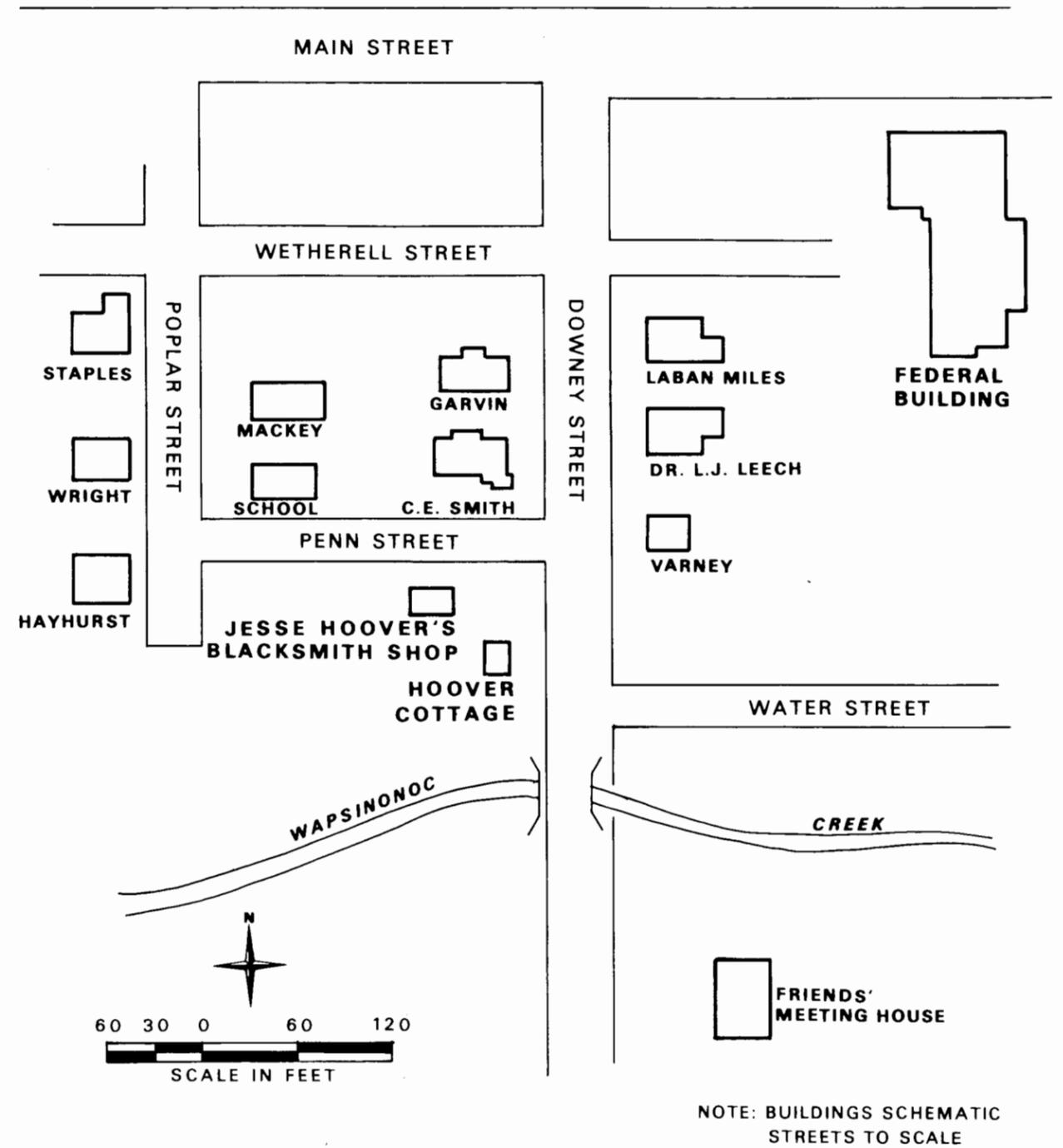
1911 Photograph of the west elevation
of the McClellan House and north elevation
of the Forney House. Courtesy Mrs. Golda
Gruwell.



PLATE IX

PLATE LXI

Plate Locating Structures in Core Area Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.



LOCATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES IN CORE-AREA
HERBERT HOOVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

PLATE LXI