

Results of the Survey

The survey results are discussed by township, starting geographically at the top left corner of the county and then going from left to right, then right to left, and so on descending from the northern to southern tiers. There are five townships across the northern and center tiers but only four across the southern tier because of the shape of Muscatine County due to the course of the Mississippi River. The location of each property described is keyed to the maps presented in Volume II.

Wapsinonoc Township

Hazel Dell School (No. 2)

This schoolhouse was located on the northeast corner of Highway 6 and County Road X (Bancroft) in the NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 5. This location is now 1121 Highway 6. The school had been built prior to 1865 and was shown on the 1874 plat map at this location. The school closed in May 1946. The building was moved to the Dale Mohr farm just east of the former school grounds in 1952 where it was converted into a shed (*West Liberty Index*, 23 July 1992). By the 1960s aerial, the former school site had been put into cultivation. The schoolhouse on the Mohr farm was later demolished. Figure 11 is a photograph of the Hazel Dell School No. 2 in 1942. It shows a front-gabled, frame building with a lower front-gabled vestibule on the gable end. The entry door was on the front of the vestibule with a window on each side. The main building had 2/2 windows on the sides and flanking the vestibule. There was no belfry in 1942, with the brick chimney centered on the roof ridge. The former school site is now a cultivated field that has some potential for intact archaeology related to the school occupation (Figure 12). This location is recommended for future archaeological survey.

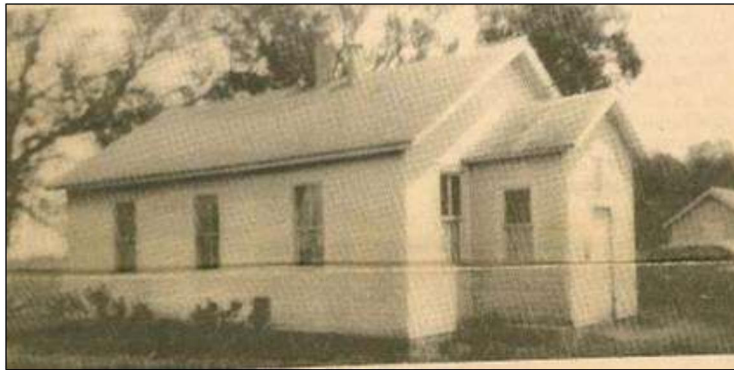


Figure 11. Hazel Dell Schoolhouse in 1942. Source: *West Liberty Index*, July 23, 1992.

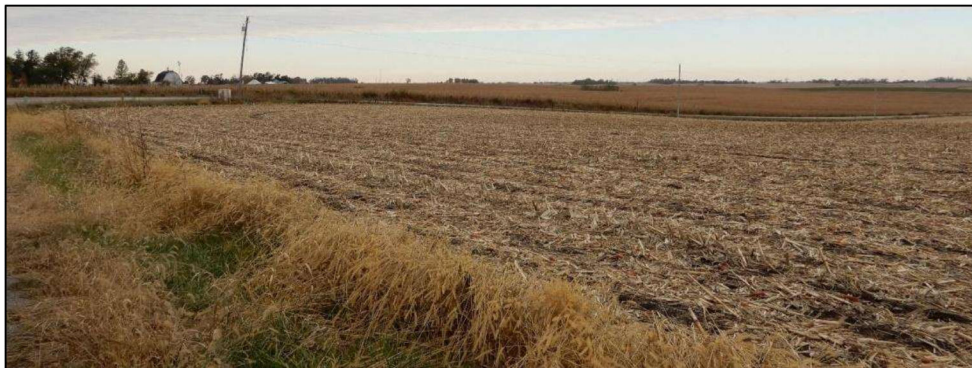


Figure 12. Former location of Hazel Dell School. Photo taken October 27, 2020

Plum Grove School No. 5

This schoolhouse was originally located in the SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 10 on the east side of what is now Davis Avenue north of the intersection with 120th Street. This school was the first to be built in the South Prairie neighborhood circa 1854. The school closed in May 1947 and was sold to R.R. Wright. It was moved to what is now 1186 130th Street where it converted into a shed (Information from Vernon Wright). The schoolhouse is now non-extant. Figure 13 is a 1920s photograph of the Plum Grove School showing a rather large front-gabled, frame building. It was sitting on a rusticated concrete block foundation but does not appear to have had a basement. The photograph appears to be the rear of the building. A 1953 artist's rendition of the school showed a front-gabled vestibule on the front of the building but no belfry. The original site of the school is now in grass and partly cultivated on the east side of Davis Avenue (Figure 14). This location appears to have some potential for intact archaeology of the school occupation and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 13. 1920s photograph of the Plum Grove School. Photograph provided by V. Cawiezell.



Figure 14. Former site of Plum Grove School on the east side of Davis Avenue in October 2020.

Pleasant View School No. 1

In 1874, the school was located in the NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 26 but by 1884 the school was located in the SE1/4, SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 23. The schoolhouse in Section 23 had been erected about 1880 but was destroyed the following summer in a tornado. It was rebuilt immediately on the same location. The school closed in 1944 and was sold to Gerald Beach, who moved it and converted it to a garage at 1453 Elder Avenue (Figure 15). The building has been modified with metal siding and roofing. An overhead garage door is now on the façade. As a moved and modified building, this former schoolhouse is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Figure 16 is a photograph of the original site of Pleasant View School showing it is now a grassy area surrounded by trees and extending into a cultivated field about 0.25 miles from the intersection of Eliason Avenue and 140th Street. This location has good potential for intact archaeology of the school occupation and is recommended for future archaeological survey. This site is being recorded by the current survey as site 13MC372 because the location is so definable and has good potential for intact deposits.



Figure 15. Former Pleasant View School moved and converted to a garage at 1453 Elder Avenue.



Figure 16. 1880s-1940s location of Pleasant View School in trees looking east from Eliason Avenue. Site 13MC372 in on the north side of 140th Street. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Federal Hill School (#4)

Federal Hill School was built in 1860 in the NE1/4, SE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 18 where it was still shown on the 1874-1930 plat maps and on the 1930s-1950s aerial images. Early grange meetings were also held at the school and prior to the South Prairie Church being building, Sunday school was held here. The school closed in May 1953 (*West Liberty Index*, 18 June 1953). The schoolhouse was then moved to a farm to be used as a shed (Hise, ed. 1938). It was sold to Frank Hudacek and then to Adrian Wilson, who had it moved to the Grant Wilson farm (*West Liberty Index*, 21 Jan 1954). It was moved across the road to what is now 1261 Bancroft Avenue when sold. The building appears to be non-extant. Figure 17 is a circa 1900 photograph of the Federal Hill Schoolhouse showing a front-gabled, frame building with a centered front door on the gable end that had a transom window. There was an open belfry on the roof ridge towards one end and a brick chimney on the slope of the roof towards the other end. The windows were then 6/6 wood-sash windows. There was a cast iron pump off one side of the school.



Figure 17. Circa 1900 photograph of Federal Hill School. Photograph provided by Jim Birkett.

Figure 18 is a 1943 photograph of the Federal Hill School that seems to be a different or remodeled version of the school in the circa 1900 photograph. There is no belfry on the 1943 building, the windows are now 2/2 windows, the roof pitch appears to be lower, and the water pump appears to be in a different place than in the older view. It is difficult to reconcile these two buildings as the same building and perhaps the older school building was replaced. The 1943 school had a lower projecting front-gabled vestibule on the gable end. This vestibule was off-center to one side of the gable end and had a door on front and a window to each side. There was a brick chimney near the center of the roof ridge. It had a masonry foundation above-ground but no basement. The cast iron pump was just off the front corner of the building.

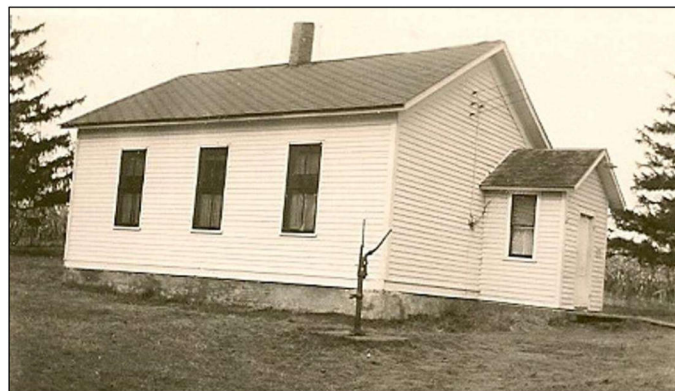


Figure 18. 1943 photograph of the Federal Hill Schoolhouse. Photograph provided by Jim Birkett.

The former school site is now a cultivated field at the south end of a grassy area (Figure 19). Location is recommended for future survey to determine if archaeological evidence of this former school is intact.



Figure 19. Location on west side of Bancroft Avenue just north of the cultivated field where the Federal Hill Schoolhouse was sited (location is to the left of this view). Photo taken October 2020.

Siloam School No. 8

This schoolhouse was located just east of what is now a hog confinement operation at 1318 155th Street. with the actual school site located at the southwest corner of 155th Street and Davis Avenue (Figure 2). This school was built in 1867 and closed in May 1953. In 1946, it was one of only three rural schools open in the township, the other two being Federal Hill and Plum Grove. Plum Grove closed in 1947 (*Muscatine Journal*, 09 Sept 1947). When Siloam School closed in 1953, the schoolhouse was sold to Carl Ehlers but it remained on the same property. The schoolhouse is non-extant, with the original location having been modified to some degree by the widening of the road intersection in the 1960s and cultivation. However, the location may hold some potential for intact archaeology and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 20. Siloam School Site in foreground with hog confinement to the north. Photo obtained from Google Instant Street View taken Jun 2018.

Mudhole - Athens School (#7)

The Mudhole School was also known as the Athens School and was located north and west of Nichols at the northwest corner of the intersection of what is now Bancroft Avenue and 160th Street in Section 31. It was originally in Wapsinonoc Township but when the Nichols School district consolidated, the boundary line was drawn to include it in the Nichols district (Bekker 1984:66-69). It was shown at this location on the 1874-1930 plat maps. After it closed circa 1953, it was moved to 1079 10th Street in Nichols where it is used as a garage. A newspaper item was calling it the Mudhole school in 1897, but an 1899 item referred to it as Athens (*Muscatine Journal*, 18 Feb 1897 and 27 Jan 1899). The original location in Wapsinonoc Township was at 1585 Bancroft. This location is now a cultivated field at 160th and Bancroft Avenue and may have potential for archaeological evidence of this former school occupation (Figure 21). This location is recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 21. Location of former Mudhole/Athens School. Photo taken October 2020.

Union School No. 6

This was the first schoolhouse built in Union District in the early 1860s and was located about midway between the former Isaac and C.M. Nichols farms. The school was shown in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 29 on the 1874-1930 plat maps and on the 1930s aerial image on the west side of what is now Iron City Avenue just south of 140th Street. When a new schoolhouse was built in Section 29, the old Union Schoolhouse was sold and converted into a residence by Thomas Windus (Hise ed., 1938). The Union School finally closed in 1946 (*West Liberty Index*, Sept 1946). The schoolhouse was then moved to the William Anderson farm at 1151 140th Street in Section 20 where it was converted into a residence (Hise, ed. 1938). Figure 22 is a photograph of this schoolhouse as a dwelling. The building has been modified with replacement siding and windows and now has two gabled dormers on the roof slope. It is not immediately recognizable as a former schoolhouse. The modifications and the move have impacted the schoolhouse integrity and it is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP as a result. The original location of the Union Schoolhouse is shown in Figure 23 and is now a cultivated field. This location has some potential for intact archaeology of the former school occupation and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 22. Former Union Schoolhouse, now a dwelling at 1151 140th Street.
Photograph provided by resident.



Figure 23. Former location of Union School. Photo taken October 2020.

North Prairie School (Snake Hollow)

The original town of West Liberty was founded close to North Prairie Cemetery. The first public school was in the southeast corner of Section 2 at what is now Highway 6 and Evans, although no school was shown at this location the 1874-1930 plat maps (Figure 24). This location paved over and part of a car dealership business at the northwest corner of Evans and Highway 6 and has little or no potential for intact archaeology. That location is recommended for no further investigation.

The North Prairie School was actually located just over the county line in the southeast corner of Section 35 in Springdale Township of Cedar County and was shown at this location on the 1872 map of that township. The North Prairie School was opened to teach the children in Southern Cedar County Springdale Township and northern Wapsinonoc Township. It was receiving tax funds from Muscatine County in 1858 because it was used by Society of Friends as they did not have a church building. It was closed in 1921 as the school had consolidated with West Liberty. The location of this former schoolhouse is now a grass-covered field at the intersection of 100th Street, Mud Road, and Franklin Avenue (Figure 25). This location has some potential for intact archaeology and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 24. Former location of First Public School at the corner of Highway 6 and Evans in West Liberty. Photo taken October 2020.



Figure 25. Former location of the North Prairie School just over the county line in Cedar County. Photo taken October 2020.

Central School

The Central School was originally located in the SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 16 on what is now a farmstead at 1261 130th Street. The school was never represented on the available plat maps, with the location in Section 16 suggested by the presence of a large hip-roofed building with a front tower or ell visible on the late 1930s to 1960s aerial images. In 1906, Wapsinonoc Township Trustees proposed a central school to consolidate all the one-room schoolhouses for greater efficiency. Taxes were used to build this new school. By 1908, the Central School had been built and was ready to use. However, several lawsuits by township residents stop the school from being used, with the building sold in March 1913 to the Wapsinonoc Grange. The building was later sold and demolished about 1969. Figure 26 is a photograph of this school showing it was a substantial construction having been two stories in height, faced with brick, and having a full basement. The roof was hipped, with the front entrance tower projecting out from the center of the façade and rising to an open belfry at the top. The entrance doorway was recessed under a round archway. The idea of the consolidated central school would eventually take hold but not in time for this building to have ever been used as a school. The location has been built over to some extent by a modern garage; however, it is likely that a substantial construction such as this building would have left archaeological evidence that could remain intact below the surface (Figure 27). The location is recommended for future archaeological survey.

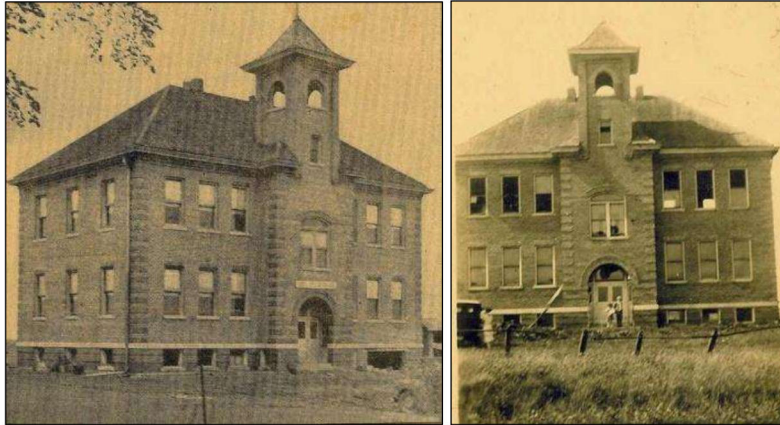


Figure 26. The Central School circa 1907-08 (left) and in 1930 (right). By 1930, the building was missing some windows. By 1945, more windows had been broken out or were not covered with boards.
Source: The Democrat Times and Leader (Davenport), May 6, 1945.



Figure 27. Location of former Central School on 130th Street. The building sat where the garage is now located at the north side of the circle drive. Photo obtained from Google Instant Street View, image taken August 2009.

First Subscription School

This schoolhouse was originally located at what is now the intersection of Highway 6 and Dean west of West Liberty in the SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 2. This location is now a grassy field with few mature trees (Figure 28). The school was not depicted on any of the available plat maps from 1874-1930 and would have pre-dated those maps. The railroad heading northwest from West Liberty was adjacent to this location and could have destroyed the original school site. However, this location may have some potential for intact archaeology and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 28. Location of former First Subscription School at Highway 6 and Dean Avenue.
Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Hartupee School

This schoolhouse was originally located in the SW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 30, Iowa Township, in Cedar County. It was later moved into Muscatine County where it was converted into a residence at 109 E. 5th Street in West Liberty (Figure 29). The remodeling of this former front-gabled, frame schoolhouse was extensive to the point that it is not readily identifiable as a former schoolhouse. Therefore, this building is recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP for lack of historic integrity.



Figure 29. Former Hartupee School (Cedar County rural school) moved into West Liberty and converted into a residence at 109 E. 5th Street. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

West Liberty Schools

The first school in West Liberty was built in 1840 near the intersection of what is now Highway 6 and Evans (Hise, ed. 1938; Log Cabin History by Lemuel Mosher; Forty Years on the Frontier by Granville Stuart). In 1864, the West Liberty schools became in independent district. The following is adapted from Hise, ed. (1939).

West Liberty high school held its first commencement on the afternoon of May 7, 1875, in the high school room of the West school. The high school is believed to have been organized as a three-year course in the year 1872. The course of study for 1878 divided the school year into Fall, Winter and Spring terms. The subjects taught in the first year of high school corresponded closely to those taught in eighth grade today. In 1877, a new high school building was erected on the original site of the high school building. This was a two-story building which was used for high school and grammar grades. From 1877 to 1905, the high school was located in the building at the end of Spencer street. As the high school enrollment increased, the grammar grades were moved to the West building. By 1905, the crowded conditions of the schools made it imperative to either remodel and enlarge a school or build a new school. After much discussion, it was agreed to rebuild the West school as a high school and repair the east building for grade use. The West building was equipped with the best of steam heating plants and in 1907, electric lights were added (Figure 30).



Figure 30. 1907 photograph of the West Liberty High School.

Source: Musser Public Library Photograph Collections, Muscatine, Iowa.

From 1906 until 1916, the high school was housed in the West building. During this time, through the efforts of Supt. Macy Campbell, the agriculture and home economics courses were begun. To accommodate these classes, a small frame building was erected on the grounds of the West school. By 1914 and 1915, the school had become crowded, so a new plan was considered. However, the destruction of the East building by fire in 1916 assured the need of a new building and bonds for financing the building were authorized. Work began immediately and a new modern, well-equipped high school was the result. In the process, the grade school was moved to the West building and the new 1916 building became the high school and junior high school. In 1921, the West Liberty Independent District was extended to include three nearby districts. This increased the enrollment.

The West Liberty high school is one of the oldest in the state, probably organized in 1872 and originally housed in the center part of the school building on Clay Street, or what is known as the West building. This building was probably built in 1867; the west wing was added in 1871, and the east wing in 1873. In 1877, the citizens voted to spend \$6000.00 to buy a lot and erect a new high school building. The site of the present high school was purchased for \$1,000.00. The other \$5,000.00 was used in construction and equipment of a two-story building. The second floor, a main room and recitation room was for the high school, and the first floor for the grammar grades. This building had a furnace to heat the big rooms, but a stove was used in the recitation room. Shade trees were planted, a well dug, and a new four board fence

replaced the rail fence. In 1891 the attic of the school building was decorated and equipped with chairs and lamps to be used as the high school hall for literary programs, etc. In 1902, electric lights were installed, two fire escapes were added in 1903, and a telephone added in 1904.

The West building on Clay Street was enlarged and remodeled in 1905, the high school moved there, and the grades transferred to the east building. This was the home of the high school until 1918. The number of recitation rooms was increased, and a modern system of heating and plumbing was installed. In 1907 the electric lights were added. In the spring of 1912, a frame building was erected in the front yard of the West School building, to make room for the modern equipment to be used in the new courses to be added, Home Economics, Manual Training and Agriculture. This was commonly called the "Sheep Shed" and was used until the building of the present high school building.

In 1921 the Independent District of West Liberty was organized. The districts of Prairie Grove, North Prairie in Muscatine and Cedar Counties, and the Hartupsee Independent districts were consolidated with West Liberty. School buses were bought, and the enrollment increased. In 1965 the old elementary building on Park Street was too small to house the elementary children, let along the safety risk for the children. In 1969, the Middle school was built due to expanding enrollment. In 2001 the new High school was built, and the old high school was converted to the Middle school. In 2018, the old high school was demolished leaving a few classrooms. A new middle school was constructed on the old high school footprint in 2018. Figures 30-31 present photographs of the former schools and the school sites today, none of which are recommended for any further investigation because of the extensive disturbance to these locations in the removal of the former school buildings and the modern construction added since.

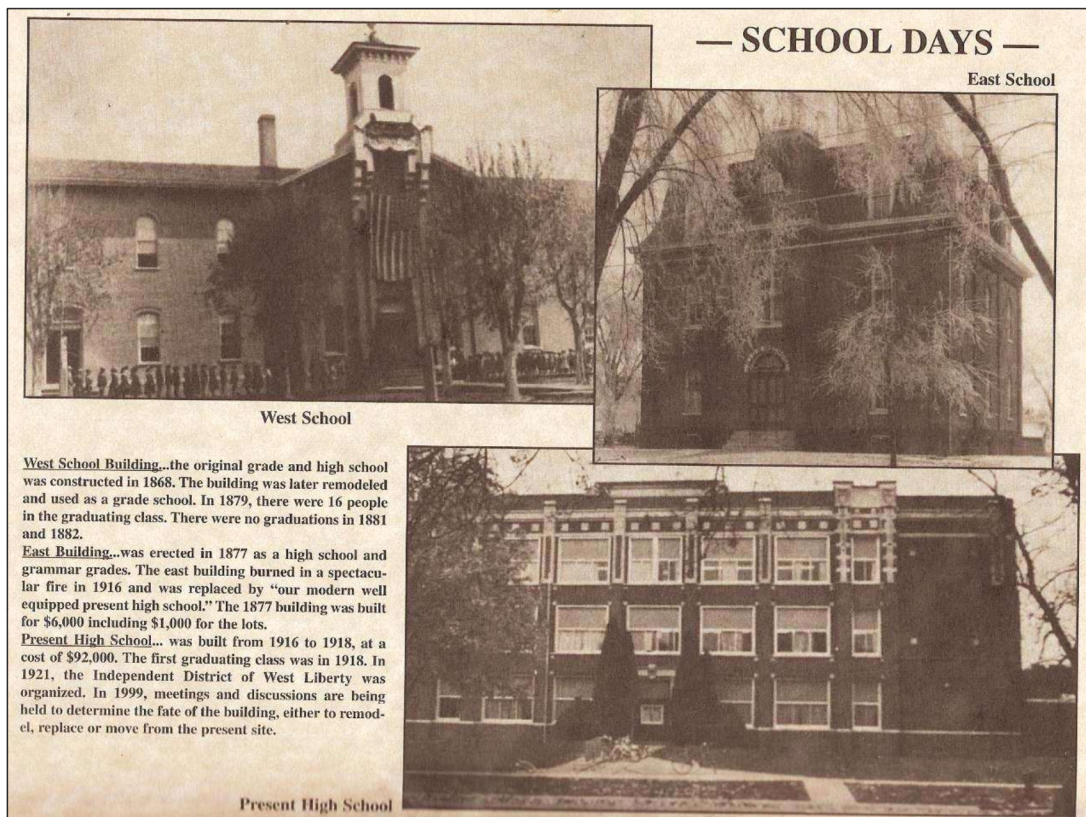


Figure 31. Photographs of the West School (top left), the East School (top right), and the 1916 High School in West Liberty. Copies of photographs provided by William Koellner, West Liberty.



Figure 32. Site of former high school and elementary school, torn down in 1969 (top), site of first high school now West Liberty Middle School (center); and 1969 Middle School, now the Elementary School (bottom). Photos taken October 2020.

The West Liberty High School and the West Liberty Jr-Sr High School buildings were previously inventoried as 70-01233 and 70-00643. The historic buildings are both non-extant.

South Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church

The original location of the South Prairie M.E. Church in 1874 was shown on the south side of what is now 130th Street in the NE1/4 of Section 20 and across the road from the cemetery. It was built about 1864, but prior to its construction, the congregation held Sunday school in the Federal Hill Schoolhouse (Hise, ed. 1938). However, the 1884 map depicted the church on the north side of 130th in the southeast corner of Section 17 to the east of the cemetery; therefore, the church was either rebuilt at the new location by 1884 or was moved to that spot where in 1891 the reported original church was replaced with a new building. This remained the configuration through 1916, with the 1930 plat map oddly showing the church north of the cemetery at the southeast corner of the intersection. The 1930 map is incorrect in its

depictions of both the church and cemetery locations. In fact, the modern USGS topographic map shows the cemetery on the north side of 130th Street west of the intersection with Birkett Avenue, with the “South Prairie Grange Hall” located to the east of the cemetery at the northwest corner of the intersection of Birkett and 130th. It is known that by 1956, the church building had been sold to the South Prairie Grange and was afterwards called the Grange Hall. It was used as such until 1986 when the building was torn down in 1986. Figure 33 shows photographs of the 1891 church building, which was a cross-gabled frame church on a rusticated concrete block foundation/basement indicating that it had been raised and the basement constructed probably in the early 1900s. The church had a front-gabled vestibule entry to one side reached by a set of concrete steps. The windows were rectangular. The former church site is in the side yard of the rural residence at 1197 130th Street. There is some potential for intact archaeological evidence of the former church, with this location recommended for future survey (Figure 34).

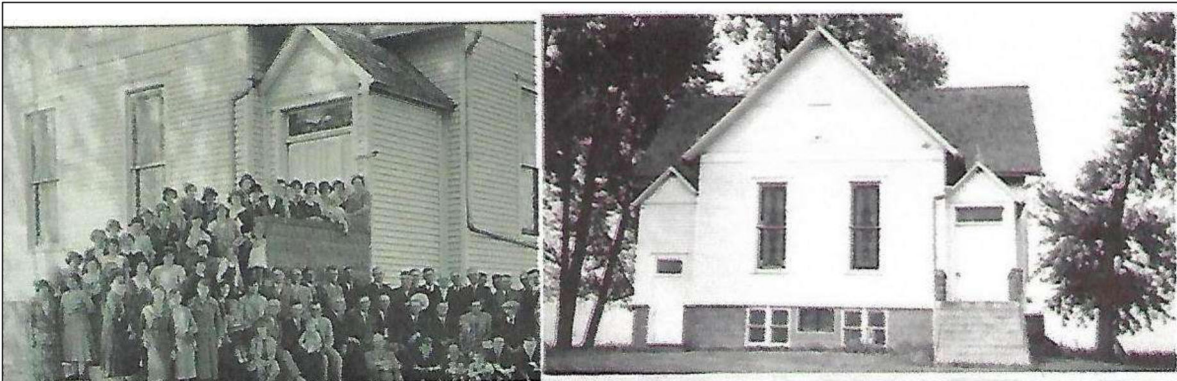


Figure 33. Photographs of the South Prairie Methodist Church. Photographs provided by Jim Birkett.



Figure 34. Location of original site of the former South Prairie Methodist Church at the northwest corner of 130th St and Birkett Avenue east of the South Prairie Cemetery.
Image obtained from Google Instant Street View, taken August 2009.

Friends Meeting House

This was originally located on N. Evans Avenue north of West Liberty within the boundary of the North Prairie Cemetery. It was then moved to what is now 802 North Calhoun Street and then moved again to its current location at 803 North Columbus in West Liberty. The early Quaker settlers in the township had no house of worship from 1858 to 1862 and held its meetings in North Prairie Schoolhouse or the residence of Stephen Mosher. The membership had increased by 1862 to the point that it was decided to build a meeting house. It was located about a mile and a half north of the present West Liberty, near the southwest corner of the NW1/4 of Section 1 and adjacent to the North Prairie Cemetery; however, the site

was later encompassed by the cemetery (Figure 35). There is now a marker in the cemetery commemorating the location of this meeting house. While there could be archaeological evidence here of the early meeting house, the fact that this is now a cemetery precludes such a study. The house was a frame structure 24x40x12, built in the prevailing style of architecture of Friends Meeting Houses the country over, plain and substantial. It was begun by Mathias Wilson and completed by Joseph M. Wood. In 1869, the meeting house was moved to the corner of Calhoun and 8th streets in West Liberty (Figure 36). However, by 1915 the Society had become so depleted that it was deemed best to discontinue the Meeting and dispose of the property. It was moved to a lot just east and converted for use a dwelling on the west side of Columbus Street just north of 8th Street (from the writings of L.O. Mosher, who wrote a series of memoirs in 1914; also Hise ed., 1938). This meeting house is still standing at its last location (803 N. Columbus St) where it is still used as a residence. This building now has an added enclosed front porch, replacement siding, and replaced and covered over windows and doors (see Figure 36). As such, it does not retain sufficient historic integrity to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under any criteria. This building is being inventoried by the current study as 70-01771 to document its history and current location and condition.



Figure 35. Original location of Friends Meeting house adjacent to the North Prairie Cemetery. The cemetery has since expanded to include the former meeting house location. Photo taken October 27, 2020



Figure 36. Friends Meeting House in West Liberty pre-1915 (left) and Friends Meeting House today at 803 N. Columbus St (right). Source: Hise ed. 1938; Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Presbyterian Church/Christian Church

Historically, the Disciples of Christ and the Presbyterian church were separate denominations but in 1974, the two merged to form First Church United. The original Presbyterian church was located at the northwest corner of 160th and Iron City Avenue. A new church was then built at 115 W. 5th Street (Figure 37). The Sanborn fire insurance map from 1906 shows the First Presbyterian Church as one story in height but having 18-foot ceilings in the sanctuary with an inset tower in the ell of the church façade (see painting in Figure 37).



Figure 37. Former site of Presbyterian Church at northeast corner of Clay and W 5th St. (left) and painting of this former church (right). Photo taken October 27, 2020; copy of painting obtained from <http://fcuwl.org/history/introduction/#jp-carousel-505>, June 2021.

The original Christian Church was located at 105 E. 6th Street in West Liberty. This congregation began in 1862 with services held in the Pleasant View Schoolhouse. In 1864, they organized a Church of Christ, with a church built in 1868 on Sixth Street between Calhoun and Spencer streets. This church was dedicated in January 1869. Eighteen years later, the congregation had outgrown the original church, so that building was moved back on the lot and a larger church was built and dedicated in January 1887 (Figure 37). The old church building was then used for Bible school. An auditorium was later added to the 1887 church that included 10 classrooms, furnace and fuel rooms, and a dining room. The building remained standing until the merger with the Presbyterian church resulted in the construction of a new Worship-Study-Fellowship Center located 1100 N. Calhoun Street built in 1977 (*Muscatine Journal*, 14 Oct 1977). That building is still standing and is known as the First Church United (Figures 38-39). Figure 46 is a photograph of the 1977 building. As a modern building (less than 50 years of age), this building does not currently qualify for NRHP eligibility. The original sites of both churches now built over by houses and recommended for no further investigation



Figure 38. Painting of non-extant Christian Church (left) and current photo of the united church formed by the merger of the Presbyterian and Christian churches (right). The modern church was built in 1977 at 1100 N. Calhoun and is now known as First Church United. Painting hangs in hall of First Church United; current photo taken October 27, 2020.

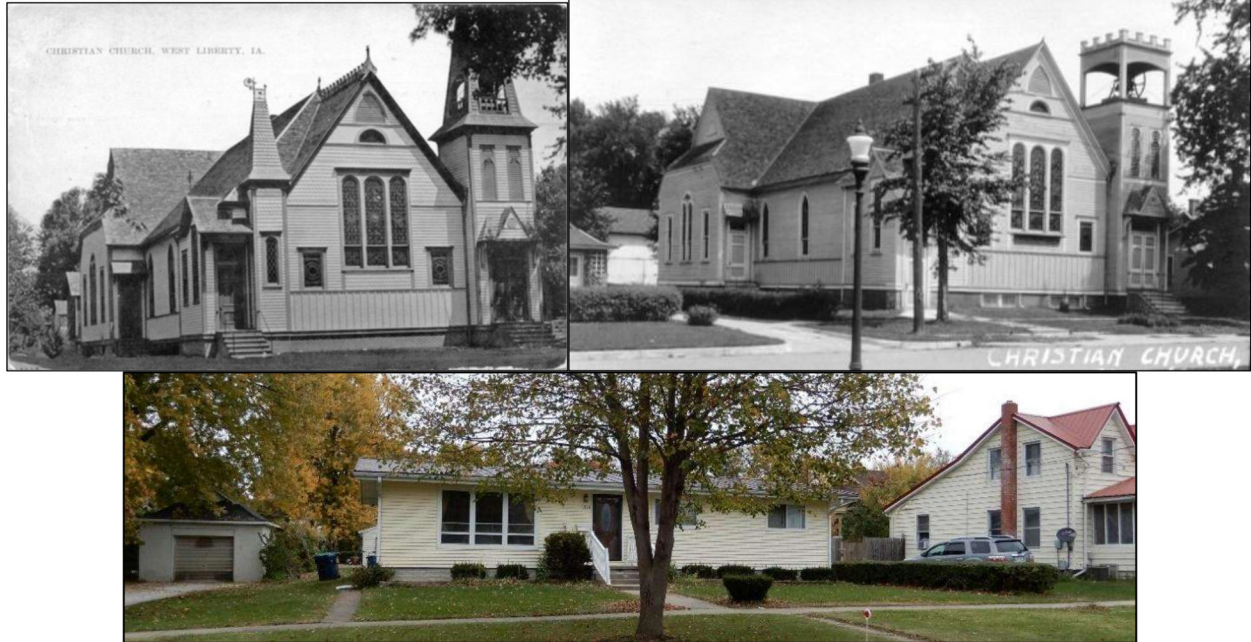


Figure 39. Christian Church circa 1887 (top left), in 1938 (top right) after the spire had been removed, and the former church site today at 105 E. 6th Street (bottom). Postcard photographs provided by First Church United; current photo taken October 2020.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

This Catholic Church is located at 109 W. 6th Street in West Liberty. The original name was Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1857, but when a church building was planned, the name was changed to St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The church was erected in 1858-59 and was expanded in 1889. However, in January 1946, the church was destroyed by an electrical fire. For a time, services were held in a Quonset building that had been erected in the wake of the fire. Then in March 1950, a new church was built that still stands today (Figure 40).



Figure 40. St. Joseph's Catholic Church in 1938 (left) and the new church circa 1950. Note the Quonset hut visible behind the 1950 church. The Quonset hut is now non-extant. Photographs provided by West Liberty Heritage Foundation.

The 1950 building is a front-gabled brick building with brick corbelled pilasters at the corners and framing the centered front entry. There is a cantilevered hood above the doors that is supported by angle brackets. The building has not been greatly altered since 1950 and retains good historic integrity on the exterior (Figure 41). This building may have some potential NRHP eligibility but will require an interior inspection and further research into its design, particularly information concerning the architect, before a final determination can be made.



Figure 41. St. Joseph's Catholic Church built on site of burned church in 1950.
Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Methodist Episcopal Church

The Methodist Episcopal Church was built on Calhoun Street in West Liberty. From the 1855 to 1875, the Methodist Church in West Liberty was called the Cedar Valley Mission. The original frame church was built in 1858 (Figure 42). In 1873, property was purchased at the NW corner of 5th and Spencer streets, with a new building erected in 1875 (Figure 43). In 1907, Sunday School rooms were added. The historic church building burned down and was replaced on the same parcel in the 1950s-60s with a new fellowship hall built in 1950 and then a new church. The new sanctuary was dedicated in November 1959, with the sanctuary expanded in November 1971. In the late 20th century, the M.E. and Evangelical United Brethren churches merged to become the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church is still located at 113 East 5th Street in West Liberty (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1950, 12 Nov 1971, 12 July 1950). The extant church is front-gabled and has a brick exterior with a bell tower/spire on the roof ridge above the front-gabled façade (Figure 44). The façade has a slightly lower projecting pediment supported by round columns that shelter the centered entry door. The round-arched windows on the sides are multi-light sash windows. The church style is a late 20th century version of the Colonial Revival. The site of the burned church has now been built over and has little or no archaeological potential. As for the extant church, it retains very good historic integrity for a late 1950s church and may have some potential for eligibility under Criterion C, particularly depending on the significance of the architect who designed it. This building is recommended for further investigation before a final recommendation of eligibility can be made.



Figure 42. Original M.E. Church in West Liberty built in 1858. Photograph provided by West Liberty Heritage Foundation.

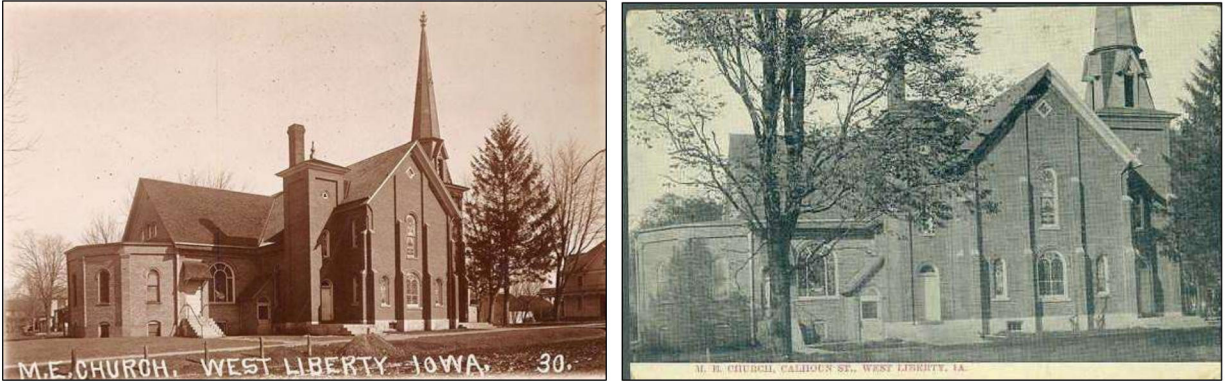


Figure 43. Early 20th century photographs of the non-extant M.E. Church in West Liberty.
Source: Musser Public Library Photograph Collections, Muscatine, Iowa.



Figure 44. West Liberty United Methodist Church and Fellowship Hall today at 113 East 5th Street.
Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Independent Pentecostal Church

The Pentecostal Church is located at 711 East 4th Street in West Liberty. It was originally a day care/preschool until September 1995 when the building was purchased by the Pentecostal Christian Church. The building has since been expanded (Figure 45). This modern prefabricated building construction does not meet the age requirement for basic NRHP consideration and does not possess the exceptional significance required for NRHP eligibility.



Figure 45. Independent Pentecostal Christian Church at 711 E Fourth Street in West Liberty in 2021.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

This Lutheran Church is located at 116 East Maxson Ave in West Liberty (Figure 46). The cornerstone was laid on July 1953. The congregation remains active to the present day. This front-gabled brick church retains good historic integrity. The façade has a slightly projecting gabled/buttressed entrance that has a Gothic-arched window in the peak and rises slight above the gabled roofline of the building. The double doors are reached by a long set of stairs. The sides of the building also have slight brick buttresses. This building has some potential for NRHP eligibility but will require an interior inspection and further research into its design history, particularly information concerning the architect.



Figure 46. Photographs of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Photograph (right) taken in October 2020.

Faith Baptist Church

The original location of the Baptist Church was 312 North Calhoun, with the Faith Baptist/West Liberty Christian Fellowship church now at 919 N. Columbus Street. The Faith church was founded in April 1960. In 1967, the congregation built the extant church at 919 N. Columbus Street in West Liberty. It was renamed the West Liberty Christian Fellowship in 1987 and remains an active congregation (Figure 47). While just over 50 years of age, the extant building appears to have been a possible pre-fabricated building rather than an architect-designed construction and has a low potential to be considered eligible under Criterion C. No further investigation is recommended.



Figure 47. Site of First Baptist Church in 2020 at Calhoun and 3rd, now a parking lot (left) and the Faith Baptist Church (now West Liberty Christian Fellowship) built in 1967 at 919 N. Columbus Street (right). Photograph on right provided by Waneta Wear.

Goshen Township

Atalissa Independent School (#1)

The first school in Atalissa was built in 1857 at an unknown location in town. That building burned down, with a second school built “on top of the hill;” with the 1874, 1899, and 1916 plat maps all showing the school at the same location on the east side of Lundy (aka Atalissa Road today) at the intersection 6th Street. In 1955, this school consolidated with West Liberty and Wilton. In 1957, the Atalissa high school and junior high classes went to West Liberty but the elementary grades remained in town. However, in 1958, all students went to West Liberty, although in 1966 it was noted that the 4th graders were still using the Atalissa School (*Iowa City Press Citizen*, 26 Aug 1966). The school buildings were then given to the city to be used as a community center, and it was used that way until 1974 when the city entered into a contract with an organization in Texas to house developmentally disabled men who worked for Henry’s Turkey Service at the West Liberty Foods (Figure 48). Unfortunately, the operation was rife with abuse and following a raid by the state in 2009, the facility was shut down (*Quad City Times*, 01 Aug 2014; *The Boys in the Bunkhouse*, 16 Mar 2017). The building was then sold and razed in 2014. This school was located at what is now 1200 Atalissa Road where the city now has a standpipe (Figure 49). This location is recommended for no further investigation because the recent demolition would have had a major impact on this site.



Figure 48. 2009 photograph of the “green bunkhouse” on the hill. This was the former Atalissa school building that was then housing developmentally disabled workers, whose abuse was being exposed nationally. This building is non-extant. Source: *New York Times*, 2009.



Figure 49. Former site of the Atalissa Independent School. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Cedarville School (#5)

The original location for this school was at what is now southwest corner of Kelly Avenue and 155th Street; however, the former school building is now located at 1991 160th Street. This rural school was shown on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps as well as the late 1930s and 1950s aerial images at the original site. The exact year of construction is uncertain but it is suspected to have been built by 1867. However, the original schoolhouse burned down in 1900 and was rebuilt at the same location. This school closed in 1958. It was later sold to Dave Schmidt, who moved it to his farm at 1991 160th Street (*Iowa City Press Citizen*, 24 Jul 1957; *Muscatine Journal*, 09 Sept 1947, 23 Aug 1952, and 10 Apr 1958). The bell from the school is now on the Wayne Corriell farm, with Figure 50 being a 2012 photograph of the schoolhouse on the Schmidt farm after its move and conversion into a residence but was later used as a tool shed. Figure 51 is the schoolhouse in 2020. The roof was replaced with one having a lower pitch. The schoolhouse was placed on a concrete block foundation with a garage in the basement level. Some of the windows and doors have been replaced. This was a frame, front-gabled schoolhouse that had a projecting front-gabled vestibule with two entry doors. The move and modifications to this building has impacted its historic integrity. It is recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP for lack of historic integrity.



Figure 50. Cedarville Schoolhouse at its moved location and having been converted to a residence. Photograph taken in 2012.



Figure 51. Cedarville Schoolhouse in October 2020.

Penn Avenue School (#4)

This school was originally located in the SW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 24 and was shown at that location on the 1874 and 1884 maps. While the 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps depicted the location a little farther to the north but on the same side of what is now Penn Avenue, the late 1930s-1960s aerial images show the standing school at the 1874-1884 location. Therefore, it is assumed that the 1899-1930 plat maps are incorrect in their depictions of its location. The schoolhouse was built by at least 1867. The schoolhouse also housed the Goshen Grange in the 1940s-1950s and continued to house the Penn Avenue Grange after the school closed in 1958 until 1992 when the building was sold to William and Barbara Rock (*Quad City Times*, 05 Jan 1941; *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, 24 July 1957; *Muscatine Journal*, 28 June 1958). The original site of the school building was on what is now a small farmstead at 1325 Penn Avenue, with the location of the school as shown on the aerial images now built over by a house. The schoolhouse was moved to 1245 Penn Avenue, although it is uncertain whether the school building is still standing at that farmstead location (Figure 52). The original school site appears to have been impacted by the later farmstead construction, with the aerials indicating that the farm buildings were added circa 1990s-2002 (Figure 53). This location is recommended for future archaeological survey, although it should not be a high priority for survey given the modern impacts. It is being recorded by the current survey as site 13MC373.

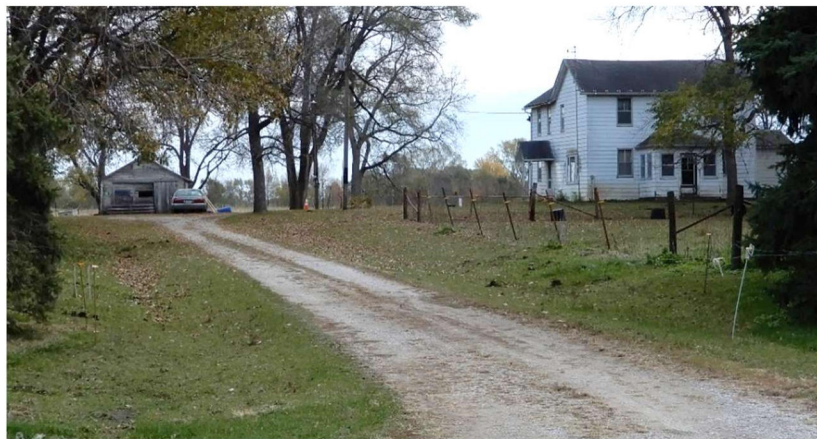


Figure 52. Moved location of Penn Avenue School at 1245 Penn Avenue. Neither of the buildings in this view are the school and it is uncertain if the schoolhouse is still extant. Photo taken October 27, 2020



Figure 53. Original site of Penn Avenue School (non-extant) at 1325 Penn Avenue.
Photo obtained from Muscatine County Iowa Assessor, June 2021.

Union Valley School (#3)

This school was originally located on the south side of 130th Street just west of the Timberlake Cemetery. The original school building was built in 1872 but burned down in 1917. It was replaced with a new building on the same spot. The school merged the West Liberty School District in 1953 (*Quad City Times*, 24 Feb 1953; *Muscatine Journal*, 06 Apr 1953 and 29 Dec 1956). The 1917 building was then purchased in 1957, moved, and remodeled into a house for the Clarence March family on their farmstead in the SE1/4 of Section 9 (1873 Highway 6). Figure 54 is the original site just to the west of the Timberlake Cemetery on the south side of 130th Street in Section 22 (NW1/4, NW1/4). The location is now an agricultural field and has some potential for intact archaeology of the former school occupation. This location is recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 54. Original site of the Union Valley School on 130th Street. View is looking SW. However, the actual site location is farther to the west from the right edge of this view. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Figure 55 is the 1917 Union Valley Schoolhouse at its moved location at 1873 Highway 6. This location is set back far from the road, with a very interesting and very old house that was the ancestral home on this farmstead also still standing but in a deteriorated state. The one-story, front-gabled frame schoolhouse sits on a concrete block foundation and has a modern wood deck and ramp on the front. There is also a shed-roofed addition that was made to one side. The siding was partially replaced during the remodel, with the windows and doors all replaced as well. The windows are also likely altered in size and placement from the original windows. The building is not readily identifiable as an old one-room schoolhouse. This coupled with the move, make the building not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. This building is being recorded by the current survey as 70-01772 to document this property.



Figure 55. Former Union Valley Schoolhouse, moved and made into a residence at 1873 Highway 6. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Swamp School (aka Hawker School; No. 8)

This school was known as the “Swamp School” because its original site on 130th Street was near an old swamp just west of the Royal Johnson farm. It was built in 1864 (*Muscatine Weekly Journal*, 15 Jan 1864). The school is shown in the SW1/4, SE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 18 in 1874, with the 1884 and 1899 maps showing the school in the same location but the western rows of Goshen Township in 1874 were now attached to Wapsinonoc Township, which remains the configuration to the present day. Thus, Wapsinonoc Township has two sections numbered 18. By 1899, the land around the school parcel was owned by Thomas Hawker, hence the later name for this school. The 1874 and 1884 maps show B. Chambers as the owner of the surrounding land. It is likely that this school operated until 1953 and the school merger with the West Liberty School District (*Iowa City Press-Citizen*, 18 Apr 1953). After it closed, the schoolhouse was moved to an adjacent farm (now the David Johnson farm) and used as a tool shed. It was later moved to the West Liberty Depot grounds and restored to its country school look (Figure 56). It is now part of the Heritage Park museum complex. Figure 56 is the original site of the Swamp School, which is now a cultivated field. It is located near 1689 130th Street. The original location has some potential for intact archaeology of this former school occupation and is recommended for future survey.

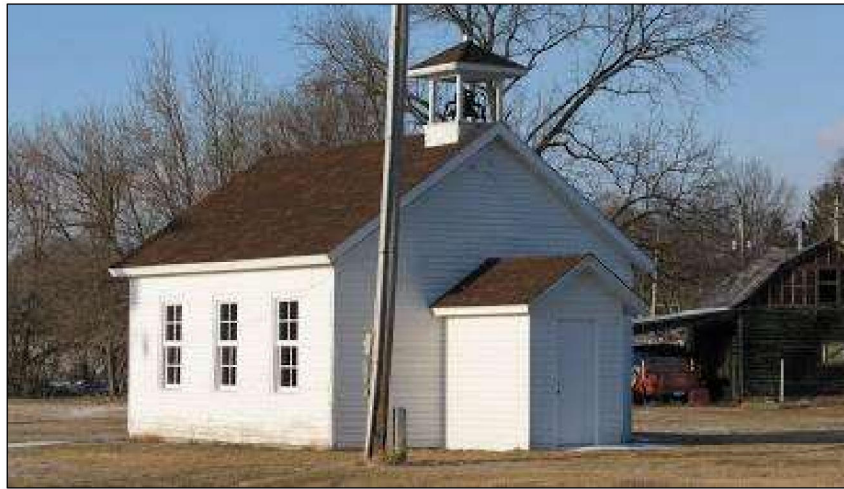


Figure 56. Swamp School then on the David Johnson farm prior to its second move in 2009 to the West Liberty Depot grounds where it was restored. Photograph provided by William Koellner.



Figure 57. Original site of Swamp School on 130th Street. The actual site location is to the far left in this view and may actually be out of view to the west but is within this cultivated field.

Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Union School (#7)

This school was originally located in Wapsinonoc Township but was then in Goshen Township because of township boundary changes. It was shown on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps in the SE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 30. It was located on the east edge of what is now farmstead at 1641 155th Street; however, the school building is now non-extant. This school was built in 1863 on land donated by Hoover Hildebrand, whose family remained the owner of the surrounding land from 1874 into at least the 1930s. A former student recalled the “Indians visited the area periodically and camped near the Jordan Creek....Large tribes would pass the school” (Ida Wilder Smith written information). The original schoolhouse was replaced in 1915, with the old building moved to the Guy Flater Farm where it was used as a garage. The Union School closed in 1959, with the students going to West Liberty (*Muscatine Journal*, 08 Apr 1959). The 1915 building was then used by the Hildebrand family on their farm but is now non-extant. Figure 58 is a 1963 photograph of the 1915 schoolhouse showing it was a squarish frame building with a pyramidal hipped roof, with a gabled wall dormer above the centered front door and a small open belfry on top of the dormer. The front door had a transom window and was flanked by two windows. The former school site is now a grassy area at the southeast corner of the farmstead parcel at 1641 155th Street (Figure 59). This location may have some potential for archaeological evidence of the former school given the ground cover now on site. This location is recommended for future survey.



Figure 58. 1963 photograph of the 1915 Union Schoolhouse after it had closed (note the board across the front door). Source: *Times-Democrat*, 29 Dec 1963



Figure 59. Current view of the original location of the former Union School looking NNW. Image obtained from Google Instant Street View taken June 2018.

Dickerson School (#2)

A school was shown at the center of Section 8 in 1874; however, by 1884, it was shown in the SW corner of Section 4. It remained at the Section 4 location through the 1950s. The school operated until 1953 when it merged with the West Liberty School District (*Iowa City Press-Citizen*, 18 Apr 1953; *Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1956). The 1960s aerial image indicates that the schoolhouse had been removed by that time, the building moved to the corner of Miller and Maxon in West Liberty where it is now used as a residence (207 East Maxson). Figure 60 is a photograph showing the school in the background when it was still being used as a school in the 1920s. Figure 61 is the school in 2012, now moved and converted into a residence. The building has been modified with replacement siding and replaced and modified windows and doors (see Figure 61). The modifications coupled with the move indicate the building has no potential to be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Figures 62-63 are current views of the original and second sites of the Dickerson School, both now agricultural fields one at the NW corner of 115th and Haynes and the other on the north side of 110th Street. These locations have some potential for intact archaeology and are recommended for future survey.

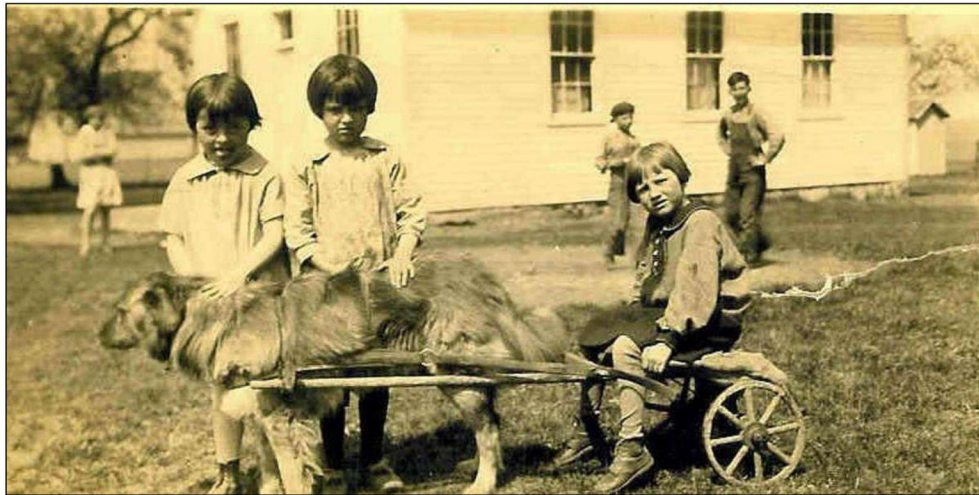


Figure 60. Dickerson Schoolhouse in background in the 1920s. Photograph provided by Robert Brooke.



Figure 61. Former Dickerson Schoolhouse now a residence at 207 East Maxon, West Liberty in 2012.



Figure 62. Original site of the Dickerson School at the NW corner 115th and Haynes looking east.
Photo taken October 27, 2020.



Figure 63. Second location of Dickerson School on 110th Street looking north.
Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Independence School (#6)

This rural school was located in the SE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 32 and was shown at this location on the 1874-1930 plat maps. It also served as the Methodist Church until 1868 when the Cedar Valley Methodist Church was built a half mile to the north in the southeast corner of Section 29. The Independence School may have been built prior to 1851. The school merged with the West Liberty School District in 1953 (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Dec 1956). The building remained on its original site and was remodeled into a residence (1572 Iron City Avenue) (Figures 64-65). This building has been too modified and has no historic materials visible on the exterior. It is not readily identifiable as a former schoolhouse. As such, it is recommended not eligible.



Figure 64. Former Independence Schoolhouse now a residence at 1572 Iron City Avenue in 2012.



Figure 65. Former Independence Schoolhouse at 1572 Iron City Avenue in October 2020.

Presbyterian Church

This rural church was built about six or seven years before the Cedar Valley M.E. Church, which was built in 1871. Therefore, this Presbyterian Church had been built in the 1860s. It stood one mile south of the M.E. Church on land donated by George Robshaw. This location is in the southeast corner of Section 32. This church closed “many years ago” (from Hise, ed. 1938), although it was still identified as a church on the 1930 plat map. Aerial images indicate that the building was standing into the late 1930s if not into the 1950s but the location had been put into cultivation by the 1960s. The location of this former church is still a cultivated field at the intersection of 160th Street and Iron City Avenue (Figure 66). This location has some potential for intact archaeology associated with the former church occupation and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 66. Location of former Presbyterian Church at 160th Street and Iron City Avenue looking west. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Cedar Valley Methodist Episcopal Church

The Cedar Valley Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1851 and initially held services in the Independence School located a half mile to the south. This arrangement continued until 1868 when the church purchased ground in the southeast corner of Section 29 of Goshen Township and a church was erected in 1871. In 1916, the church was raised and a basement was added underneath. In 1939, electricity was added. That same year, it was renamed the Cedar Valley Methodist Church. In 1969, an education wing was added (*Muscatine News-Tribune*, 30 May 1917; *Muscatine Journal*, 17 Feb 1960 and 26 June 1969; also information provided by Vista Smid, Cedar Valley Church historian). The church is extant and is still an active congregation. The building is a front-gabled frame church with an interesting cross-gabled entry vestibule off the corner of the building (Figure 67). The vestibule has a round-arched transom above the door and a round-arched 2/2 window on the side. The door is reached by concrete steps with concrete railings. The church has rectangular windows with stained glass. There is a Palladian-like detail on the front gable end that may be a covered window but is now covered with angled siding, with

“1871” inscribed on the top molding. There is a modern addition to one side of the church. The 1871 building is sided with aluminum siding and has a modern standing seam metal roof. This building has some potential to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP particularly under Criterion A for its historical significance as an early Methodist Church in Goshen Township. It may also have some potential under Criterion C but would require an interior inspection before a determination can be made.



Figure 67. Cedar Valley Methodist Church at 1791 Iron City Avenue in October 2020.

Atalissa Christian Church

This church has always been located at what is now 319 3rd Street in Atalissa. This church was organized in the summer of 1870, and in 1872 their new church building was dedicated. In 1922, the building was raised and a basement was excavated underneath. The rusticated concrete blocks used in the new foundation were all made on site. In August 1970, the church celebrated 100 years of service at the same location, and in 2020 celebrated 150 years in Atalissa (*The Gazette* [Cedar Rapids], 16 Feb 1952; *Muscatine Journal*, 21 Aug 1970). Figure 68 is a photograph of the church in 1952 showing a front-gabled frame church with a centered entrance bell tower and a separate covered entry to the basement. Figure 69 is a photograph of what is now the Church of Christ in 2020. The church now has a second hipped enclosure on the other side of the center tower and an accessible ramp has been added to front door. Other modifications have included the application of vinyl siding, the replacement of the front door, the addition of an accessible ramp to the front, and the placement of vents in the belfry openings (although the belfry still has scroll-cut brackets under the roof eaves). The rectangular windows have multi-light over single-light sashes and retain their peaked lintel boards. In general, the building retains sufficient integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion A for its historical association with the religious development of Atalissa but also potentially under Criterion C, although an interior inspection will be needed to make that final determination.

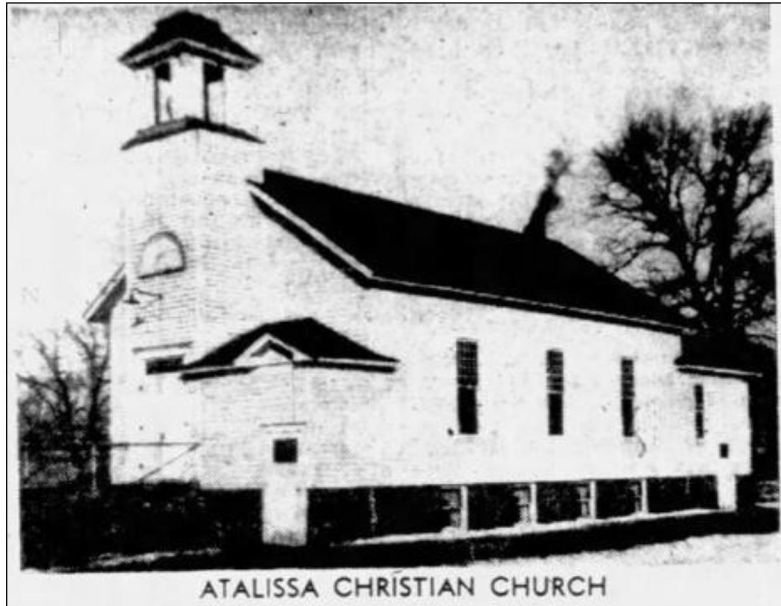


Figure 68. 1952 photograph of the Atalissa Christian Church. Source: *The Gazette*, 16 Feb 1952.



Figure 69. Church of Christ in October 2020.

Atalissa Presbyterian Church

The original location for the Atalissa Presbyterian Church was at what is now 319 4th Street in Atalissa where a modern house is now sited. This congregation was first organized in the Atalissa railroad depot, with the first services held in Atalissa in 1857, with a church built later that same year. An addition was made in 1874 to enlarge the sanctuary and add Sunday school rooms. In 1917, the building was raised and basement excavated underneath. This congregation continued until 1977 when it merged with the First Church United in West Liberty. The Atalissa church building was sold, and a home is now located on the former church lot (*The Gazette* [Cedar Rapids], 03 Nov 1951; *The Daily Times* [Davenport], 29 Nov

1935). Figure 71 is a photograph of the Presbyterian Church and parsonage (built in 1895) in the early 20th century. This was a frame, front-gabled church with a centered entrance bell tower. Figure 70 is the modern house now built on the former church site. This location warrants no further investigation.



Figure 70. Early 20th century photograph of the Atalissa Presbyterian Church and Parsonage.
Source: *Atalissa 100 Year History*.



Figure 71. Site of former Presbyterian Church now a house at 319 4th Street in Atalissa.
Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Atalissa 7th Day Adventist Church

The Adventists were holding tent meetings in the Atalissa area in 1886, with a church built in Atalissa on West 5th Street at the northwest corner of the intersection with Linn Street in 1890 (*Muscatine Weekly Journal*, 12 Nov 1886 and 24 Oct 1890). The current address of this location is 311 5th Street where there is now a house, but the church is non-extant.

By 1909, the building had been “greatly improved,” which appears to have included the excavation of a basement under the church building where they could now hold Sunday School (*Muscatine News-Tribune*, 14 Dec 1909). In 1911, it was noted that the church was also being used by the public school for

classrooms (*Muscatine Journal*, 29 Sept 1911). The church was shown on all of the historic plat maps through 1916 in Block 3, Lot 10 in Atalissa. The congregation did not persist, it appears, much beyond the 1910s. The church is non-extant with a house now located on this site at 311 5th Street (Figure 72). The yard area may have some potential for archaeological evidence of the former church and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 72. Site of former Adventist Church (non-extant) now the location of a house at 311 5th Street in Atalissa. Photo taken October 27, 2020.

Atalissa German Lutheran Church

This church, also known as the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, was located at what is now 226 4th Street in Atalissa where it remains standing. This church was built in 1903. German language services were held until 1918 when Iowa banned the use of foreign languages in public in reaction to World War I. In 1936, the church became associated with the American Lutheran Church. That same year a basement was added underneath the church. In the 1940s, the interior was redecorated, new windows were installed, and a new furnace and organ were installed. In 1988, the church became associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (*Quad City Times*, 30 Aug 1928; *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 29 Dec 1951; *Muscatine Journal*, 30 Sept 1953). Figure 73 is a photograph of this church in 1951. This photograph shows a frame, front-gabled church with centered entrance bell tower. This church had Gothic arched windows. It was noted that new windows had been installed in 1948. A new hardwood floor was laid in the sanctuary in the 1950s (*The Muscatine Journal*, 5 Nov 2020). Since that time, the church has been enlarged with a one-story addition to one side, but the most dramatic change was the addition of a salt-box gabled roofline to the façade that covers the original entrance and covers stairs that enter now from the side. This new addition has rows of windows that match the roofline and a brick façade (Figure 74). The building now also has aluminum siding, but the Gothic-arched windows remain with belfry and tower also intact except for the lower half. The new addition has had an impact on the historic integrity of this church but it is recommended for further research into its historical significance and its interior integrity before a final determination of NRHP eligibility can be made.



Figure 73. 1951 photograph of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Atalissa.
Source: *The Gazette*, 29 Dec 1951).



Figure 74. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in October 2020.

Moscow Township

An 1859 news item in the *Muscatine Weekly Journal* (30 Sept 1859), noted that political meetings were being held in a number of places across the county, with many in local schoolhouses. Among those mentioned in Moscow Township were Hunt's Schoolhouse, the location of which is uncertain and remains for future research to identify and locate.

Evergreen Nook School (aka Cheese Box) - Section 2

The Evergreen Nook School was shown in the SE1/4, NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 2 on the 1899-1903 plat maps and was still at this location on the late 1930s and 1950s aerial images. However, by the 1960s, the building had been moved from its original site. After the school closed, the building was moved into

Wilton where it was converted into a residence at 512 W. 4th Street. This former schoolhouse remains standing at this location in Wilton (Figure 75). The original site was just north of the railroad on the west side of Hwy 38 (Figure 76). The railroad ran parallel to the old River to River road (old Hwy 7) from Wilton to Moscow. The former schoolhouse was a front-gabled, frame building but has been completely modernized on the exterior including the addition of a shed-roofed dormer on the roof slope (see Figure 74). The original site has been heavily modified by the widening and reconstruction of Highway 6, with the former school site likely impacted in the process. This location is recommended for no further investigation.



Figure 75. Evergreen Nook School. 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

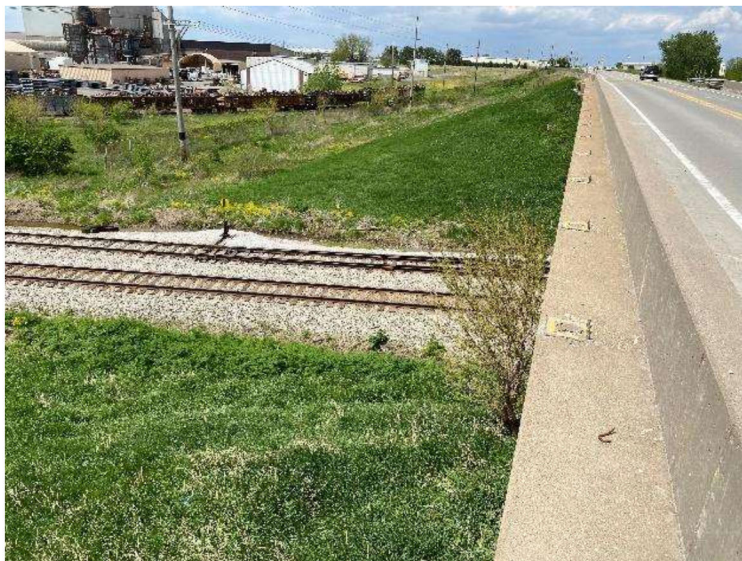


Figure 76. Current views of original Evergreen Nook School site (north of railroad tracks and on the west side of Highway 6 in 2021). Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Sand Hill School – Section 4

The Sand Hill School (#2) was shown in the NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 4 on 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps. The building was still standing at the time of the late 1930s and 1950s aerial images but may have been non-extant by the 1960s and the building definitely gone by the 1970s. This former schoolhouse is no longer extant. Figure 77 is a photograph of this schoolhouse in the mid-1920s. This was a front-gabled, frame building with a centered front door flanked by 6/6 wood-sash windows had having a small belfry on the roof ridge above the façade. There was a Gothic-arched vent in the gable peak of the façade above the front door. The building had clapboard siding, wide frieze boards under the moderate eave overhang and a stone rubble foundation. The front door was reached by two low steps. The water pump was in the front schoolyard (see Figure 77). Another early photograph shows the two privies in the rear schoolyard, one at each corner of the yard (Figure 78). The original site is now a cultivated field on the west side of Ocean Avenue (Figure 79). There may be some potential for archaeological evidence of this former schoolhouse, with the location recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 77. Sand Hill Schoolhouse in the mid-1920s. Source: Sand Hill 1925-26 Souvenir Booklet.



Figure 78. Sand Hill Schoolhouse in the early 20th century showing privies to the rear and either side of the school yard. Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 79. Location of Sand Hill School in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Champion Hill School – Section 7

The Champion Hill School was shown in the SW1/4, SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 7 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse was still standing at this location on the late 1930s and 1950s aerials but had been removed by the 1960s aerial image. The schoolhouse is now non-extant. This school was located on a high hill and was a frame, front-gabled building with a small open belfry on the roof ridge above the façade. It had a small barn or horse shed located in the schoolyard near the school (Figure 80). It had a stone rubble foundation, 2/2 wood-sash windows, and privies to the rear of the school yard. The front door was to one side of the façade with a window to the other. The former school site is now grass-covered and may have a good potential for intact archaeology of this schoolhouse occupation (Figure 81). The location is recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 80. Circa 1938 photographs of Champion Hill School showing its location on a high summit and its schoolyard that included a small barn or shed. Copies provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 81. Location of Champion Hill School in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

White Prairie School (No. 4) – Section 15

A school was shown in the SE1/4, SE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 15 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps. Research indicates that there were three different school buildings: a wood frame building, a rusticated concrete building, and a stuccoed building. The schoolhouse is now non-extant. Figure 82 is a 1909 photograph showing the rusticated concrete block school building. It is uncertain, but perhaps the stuccoed building was the rusticated concrete block building with stucco later applied. The stuccoed school is shown in Figure 83. This was a pyramidal hip-roofed building with flared eaves and had a hipped dormer with vent on the front roof slope. The front door was recessed at the center of the façade and reached by concrete steps. It appears the door had a transom windows. It was flanked by single windows, which were boarded over by 1996. There was a corbelled brick chimney on the rear roof slope, with the sides having two windows, which may have been 2/2 wood sash windows. The aerial photographs show this school angled NW to SE facing the intersection of what is now 122nd Street and N Isett Avenue. The schoolhouse was still at this location through at least 1996 but had been removed by 2002. There may have been some disturbance to what became a cultivated field when a nearby hog confinement was built (Figure 84); however, the schoolhouse site still appears to have some archaeological potential. It is being recorded for the current study as 13MC374 and recommended for future investigation.



Figure 82. White Prairie Schoolhouse in 1909-10 showing it then a rusticated concrete block building. Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 83. Circa 1996 photograph of the stuccoed White Prairie Schoolhouse as a closed and deteriorating building. Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 84. Site of the former White Prairie School in 2021 looking WNW. Source: Lynn Ochiltree.

Oak Hill School (No. 3) – Section 21

The Oak Hill School was located in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 21 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps on the east side of what is now Moscow Avenue. The building was shown on the late 1930s-1970s aerial images at this location but was gone by the time of the 1980s aerial. The schoolhouse is non-extant. Figure 85 is a photograph of Oak Hill School circa 1900 and shows a front-gabled, frame building banked into a slight slope, with the terrain rising steeply to the east. The gable end façade had a centered front door with transom window and a sign for the school above. There was no belfry or bell tower. There was a corbelled brick chimney on the ridge of the rear of the roof. The windows on the sides of the school appear to have been 2/2 wood-sash windows with wood shutters. The front door was reached by a raised set of stairs from either side and having a wood railing. The foundation is not clearly visible in the circa 1900 photograph but appears to be stone rubble. A 1915 photograph shows a partial view of the front stairs that then had no railing and were made of wood. The current site is grass covered and appears to have a good potential for intact archaeology of the school occupation (Figure 86). The site is recommended for archaeological survey in the future.



Figure 85. Oak Hill School circa 1900. Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 86. Location of Oak Hill School in 2021 looking east. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

North Prairie School (No. 5) – Section 26

The North Prairie School was shown in the SW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 26 on the 1874, 1884, 1899, 1916, and 1930 plat maps. The schoolhouse was still at this location at the time of the late 1930s and 1950s aerials but had been moved from this site by the 1960s. Robert Beatty indicates that the North Prairie School was moved from its original site in Section 26 to the location of the Cedar Valley School in the NW1/4, NE1/4 of Section 32. The Cedar Valley Schoolhouse was then moved across the road from its original location onto a property owned at the time by Ivan Klien and later owned by Carl Beatty. The Cedar Valley Schoolhouse remained in its last location until about 1980 when it was torn down by Carl Beatty. As for the North Prairie Schoolhouse, it was made into a residence (2380 152nd Street) and remains at this location (Robert Beatty, personal communication 2020). Figure 87 is a photograph taken of students in front of the school on its original site on the last day that it was opened on May 20, 1955. This photograph shows a front-gabled, frame school with a centered front door on the gable end that had a covered transom and flanked by 4/4 wood-sash windows with wood shutters. It has a masonry foundation either stone or rusticated concrete blocks. Figure 88 is another photograph showing more of the building. It had a brick chimney on the front roof ridge rather than a belfry at that time. There was a shed and privies to the rear.



Figure 87. 1955 photograph of the North Prairie School on its last day open.
Source: Joe Lang, photographer.



Figure 88. Undated photograph of the North Prairie School.
Copy provided by the Muscatine County HPC.

Figure 89 is a photograph of the North Prairie Schoolhouse on its current site at 2380 152nd Street. The schoolhouse is still recognizable as a former school; however, it has been modified with vinyl siding, replaced and some reduced windows, and the addition of a shed-roofed porch over the front door. The brick chimney has also been removed. The historic integrity of the North Prairie Schoolhouse has been impacted by the moved from its original site (although it remains at a rural location not far from its original site) and by the modification of the schoolhouse into a dwelling. The interior is recommended for inspection to determine if it retains any historic integrity before a final determination can be made; however, the building appears unlikely to be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.



Figure 89. Former North Prairie School (No. 5) building in 2021 at its present location in Section 32 (23, where Cedar Valley school was once located). Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

The original site of the North Prairie School is now a cultivated field on the north side of 150th Street. The site is just to the southeast of a modern hog confinement building (Figure 90). The confinement building is not on the original school site, with the school site still in cultivation. Therefore, there is some potential for intact archaeology at the original site. This location is recommended for future survey.



Figure 90. Former location of North Prairie School in 2021 to the southeast of the hog confinement in the cultivated field at the far right in this view. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Cedar Valley School – Section 32

The original site of the Cedar Valley School was in the NW1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 32. It was shown at this location on the 1874-1930 plat maps. However, the building was later moved across the road onto a property then owned by Ivan Klien and later by Carl Beatty. This schoolhouse was torn down in 1980 (Robert Beatty, personal communication 2020). By the 1960s, the former North Prairie Schoolhouse (No. 5) was moved from its original location to the original site of the Cedar Valley School where the North Prairie Schoolhouse was modified into a residence (see Figure 89). The North Prairie Schoolhouse is still standing and still occupied as a residence. There may be some potential for intact archaeology associated with the original Cedar Valley School in the yard area around the house, with the location recommended for future archaeological survey.

Moscow Independent School (Moscow Town) – Section 9

The first school in the township was held in a log house, which was the first residence built in the town of Moscow. School classes held in one of the lower rooms taught by May Comstock (Richman 1911). Later, classes were held in the Christian Church (located in the Moscow Cemetery) and in private homes up until 1856 when a one-story school was built in the block northeast of the Methodist Church. This school was believed to have stood on the northeast corner of 4th (now Moscow Road) and Clay streets but is non-extant. This spot is now the side yard of a modern house at 1597 Clay Street (Figure 91). However, the image of this location from 2013 was taken just as the house was nearing completion and shows the yard area around the house, including the location of the first school, had been graded (see Figure 91). This school was replaced with a two story schoolhouse built in 1867, which was used until Moscow was consolidated with Wilton in 1955. The modern address of the 1867-1955 location is 1176 Moscow Road. The school sat on the northeast corner of what are now Moscow Road and Front Street. This location was on the south side of the railroad tracks. Historical photographs show a two-story front-gabled, frame schoolhouse with a centered front door flanked by windows and two windows above on the second story. A short belfry was on the roof ridge above the façade. The windows were 9/6 wood-sash windows with peaked lintel boards. The façade had a broad triangular vent in the peak. The front door also had a multi-light transom and a cornice overhang with scroll-cut brackets (Figures 92-93). Examination of the aerial photographs indicates that the now non-extant schoolhouse sat where a modern house was built at 1176 Moscow Road (see Figure 92). However, the former schoolyard where the privies were located may be at least partially intact on this large parcel. Future archaeological survey of this parcel is recommended. The original 1850s Moscow School location is now in the side yard of a house but the location is in grass and trees. This location may have some potential for archaeological evidence of the first log house/schoolhouse in Moscow and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 91. Site of first Moscow School in the foreground of the side yard of house at 1597 Clay Street. Photograph obtained from Google Instant Street View taken August 2013.



Figure 92. Site of the 1867-1955 Moscow Independent School in 2021 looking west. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

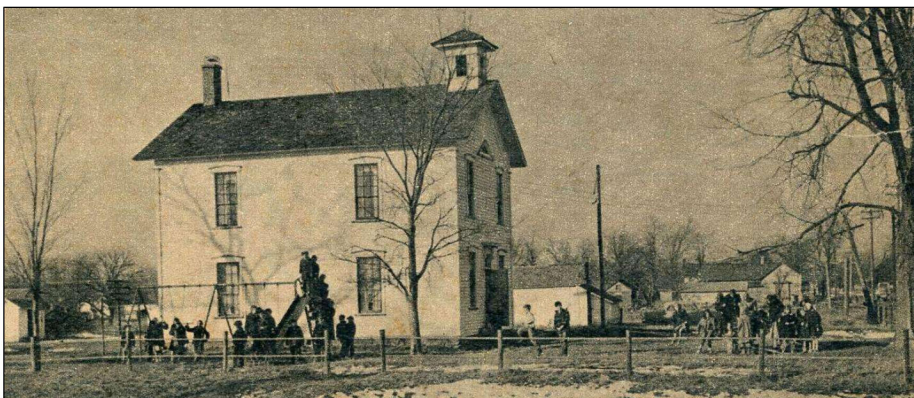


Figure 93. Moscow Independent Schoolhouse shown in undated photograph but probably early-to-mid-20th century and looking NNW (left) and another undated photograph of the façade (right). Copies provided by Muscatine County HPC.

Christian Church (Moscow Town) – Section 9

A Christian Church was built in the Moscow Cemetery between 1845 and 1848. Until 1856, this small church was used by several denominations including the New Lights, Campbellites, and Mormons (Richman 1911). A later church was built by the Christian congregation on the northeast corner of Clay and 6th Streets in the town of Moscow. This church was noted on the 1874 and 1899 maps. The modern day street address is 1131 6th Street (NE corner Clay and 6th Street); however, the historic church building is non-extant with a modular house now on site (Figure 94). The yard area to the southwest of

the modular house has some potential for intact archaeology from the church occupation and is recommended for future survey.



Figure 94. House now located on 1131 6th Street on the former site of the Christian Church in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

German Lutheran Church (Moscow Town) – Section 9

The First Lutheran Church was built in circa 1848, with a second church built in the 1860s. In 1879, it was noted that the “Lutherans, also, have a good house of worship, but there is no minister of any denomination residing in the town” (Western Historical 1879). This church was located on the southeast corner of Washington and 6th Streets in the town of Moscow. Its modern day street address is 1147 6th Street, Moscow, Iowa. It was shown at this location on the 1874 and 1899 plat maps. Figure 95 is a historical photograph of this church showing a front-gabled, frame church with a centered front door on the gable end flanked by windows. A closed belfry and spire was on the roof ridge above the façade. This church is non-extant, with the lot now partially occupied by a modern house (see Figure 95). However, the former location of the church is a grassy lawn that may have some potential for intact archaeology associated with this church. This location is recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 95. Undated photograph of the Moscow German Lutheran Church (left) and the former church site in the foreground in 2021 (right). Current photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Methodist Episcopal Church (Moscow Town) – Section 9

The Methodist congregation in Moscow was meeting in private homes in the 1840s, with the 1879 county history noting that the “Methodists have a class at Moscow, but no house of worship” (Western Historical 1879). A church building was built in 1891, with a basement and an addition made in 1915. Beginning in 1933, this church came under the charge of the Wilton Methodist Church. This extant church is located on the southwest corner of Clay and 4th Streets in the town of Moscow. It was shown at this location on the 1899 map. Figure 96 presents photographs of this church in 1948 and 1980. These photographs show a frame, front-gabled church with a small open belfry on the roof ridge above the façade. The façade had, and still has, two entry doors with peaked lintel boards. The basement/foundation added in 1915 is made of rusticated concrete blocks, with a raised concrete platform with pipe railing then added across the façade with steps to either side to access the front entries. This church is still standing at what is now 1144 Moscow Road (Figure 97), the belfry has been removed and a wood deck, railing, and stairs have been added to the front entry. Otherwise, this church appears to retain good historic integrity despite the application of vinyl siding, with the 2/2 wood-sash windows and doors retaining their peaked lintel boards.

The Moscow M.E. Church may retain sufficient historic integrity (if the interior retains historic integrity) to be considered potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion C for its survival as an 1891 church building in Moscow. However, a final determination of eligibility will depend on investigation of the interior integrity and further consideration of the modern modifications to the exterior. However, it is recommended eligible under Criterion A for its historical significance in Moscow’s religious community, with a recommended period of significance from 1891 when it was built to 1933 when it came under the charge of the Wilton Methodist Church. This building is being inventoried as 70-01773 by the current study.

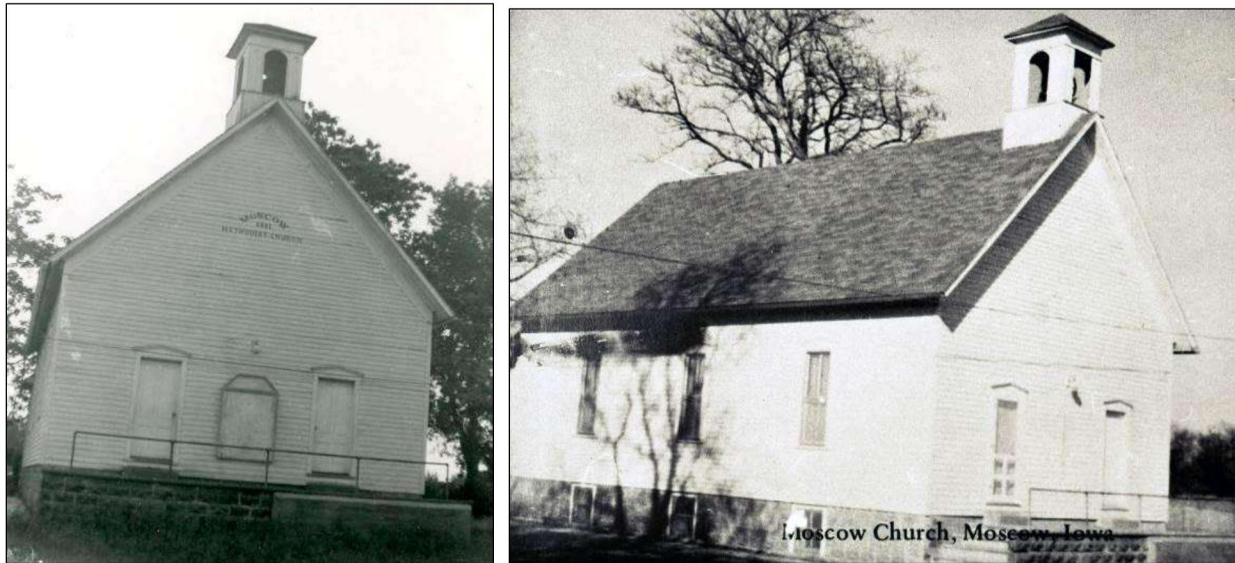


Figure 96. Moscow M.E. Church in 1948 (left) and 1980 (right).
Copies of photographs provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 97. Moscow Methodist Church in 2021 looking SW. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

German Methodist Church – Section 14

This church was shown at the southeast corner of Section 14 on the 1874 and 1884 plat maps but by the 1899 map, the church was no longer depicted on any of the plat maps. To the southeast in Section 24, is the extant Peace United Methodist Church, which is a historic church that was separate from the German Church and was first known as the Albright Church. Both churches were shown on the 1874 plat map. Today, the original German Methodist Church site is on the west side of Highway 38 northwest of the intersection with 130th Street. There is now a farmstead on the original site at 1292 Hwy 38, with the house built on that site in 1932 (Figure 98). There may be some potential for intact archaeology associated with the German Methodist Church in the yard area of the current farmstead, with the site recommended for future survey. The discussion of the extant Peace Church is under Wilton Township.



Figure 98. Current location of the original site of the former German M.E. Church looking WNW. Farmstead is located at 1292 Hwy 38. Source: Google Instant Street View, image taken June 2018.

Methodist Episcopal Church – Section 35

This M.E. Church was shown in the NE1/4 of Section 35 on the 1874-1930 plat maps; however, by the late 1930s, this church was no longer standing with the site put into cultivation. It was located just to the east-southeast of the North Prairie Schoolhouse but was on the south side of the section-line road (now

150th Street) where the school was on the north side. The church may have been the North Prairie Methodist Church, which began as an M.E. Church in the late 19th century. In 1904, a new church was built at “Hoskins Corner on Moscow Road” (*Muscatine Journal*, 18 Nov 1904). However, as noted above, the church continued to be depicted at its original location through the 1930 plat map. Today, the former church site is a cultivated field on the south side of 150th Street west of Highway 38. This location has some potential for intact archaeological evidence of the M.E. Church occupation and is recommended for future survey. No current photograph was taken of this location.

Wilton Township

It has been noted that in the 1920s, Wilton Township started an improvement program for the rural schools. Basements with furnaces replaced the old pot-bellied stove in the schoolhouse, slate blackboards were added, new windows and doors with locks, cased wells in the school yards, electric lights in some schools, and new equipment (McClellan 1976:64).

Prospect Hill School (No. 3) – Section 2

The Prospect Hill Schoolhouse was shown at this location in the SW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 2 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. This schoolhouse is still standing on the original site. In 1865, on “March 3, 1865, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Wilton township, a motion was made and carried to finish #2 (Yankee Hallow) schoolhouse and also #3 (Prospect Hill) and #4 (Sunnyside). This would indicate that #2 (Yankee Hallow) was our first rural school and in it were held many of the community meetings of that day” (McClellan 1976:63). This schoolhouse is still standing into the present day but is an abandoned building. Figure 99 is a watercolor of the Prospect Hill #3 School on display in the Melpine School. Figure 100 presents photographs of the school from the 1930s. These images show a front-gabled, frame building with a lower front-gabled entry vestibule that had the entry door on the side of the vestibule. The building was raised on a basement by the 1930s and was likely added in the 1920s as noted above. There was no belfry, but there was a brick chimney on the roof ridge to the rear. There was a half-round sign with the school’s name and date on the gable peak of the façade. The original windows were 6/6 wood sash windows. The windows on the main building were taller than those on the vestibule.



Figure 99. Drawing of Prospect Hill No. 3 School.
Source: Exhibit at Melpine School in Wildcat Den State Park.

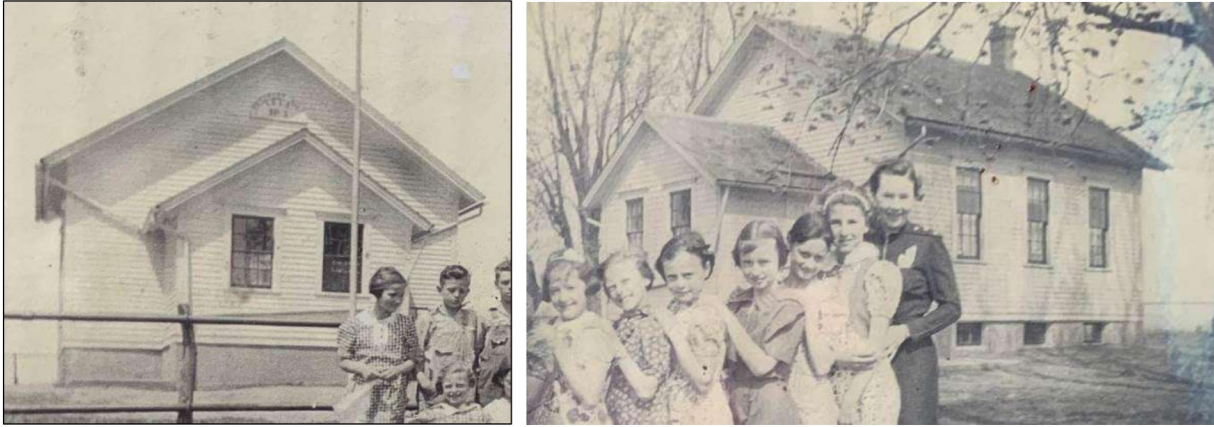


Figure 100. 1930s photographs of Prospect Hill School.
Source: Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.

The Prospect Schoolhouse is still standing but is unused and badly deteriorating. Its future survival is unlikely. The building is being inventoried by the current survey to document it before it is gone. The inventory number is 70-01774. The building does retain its clapboard siding (in most places) but it now has a metal roof, the front door is a metal replacement door, and the front windows have been covered over with metal siding. The brick chimney is still in place on the rear of the building, with the front entry vestibule still in place. Most of the surviving windows are 1/1 wood-sash and would be later replacement windows, while others are now boarded over. The foundation above ground is made of clay tile blocks that have been coated with concrete. The concrete steps up to the side door on the vestibule are also still in place. While in a deteriorated condition, this building does retain historic integrity sufficient to be considered for NRHP eligibility. An interior inspection would be needed to make a final determination, but for the current study it is recommended potentially eligible under Criterion C as a comparatively well-preserved front-gabled one-room country schoolhouse in the county still located on its original site. Since the school is on its original site, the surrounding grass-covered parcel also has a good potential for intact archeology from the school occupation and is recommended for future survey. Figure 101 is a current photograph of this school.



Figure 101. Prospect Hill Schoolhouse (70-01774) in 2020.

Osage School (aka Gus Gruemmer School) (No. 6) – Section 7

The Osage Schoolhouse was shown on the 1874-1930 plat maps in the SW1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 7 one mile south of the town of Wilton. Both the 1899 and 1916 plat maps specifically label this school as the “Gus Gruemmer School.” It has been noted that “Osage, No. 6, evidently was one of the township schools early in the 60’s” (1860s) because Mr. VanDyke at the board meeting of March 14, 1865 moved that a tax of one-half mill be levied for fencing the No. 6 school. The school was located in Section No. 7 quite close to the railroad running south from Wilton and back on the ‘old Plug tracks’” (McClellan 1976:64). This former rail line is labeled “old railroad grade” on the modern USGS topographic maps. The school was located to the east of this railroad line on the north side of what is now 120th Street. A circa 1900 photograph of the Osage Schoolhouse shows a front-gabled, frame building with a centered front door, no belfry and a rather low-pitch to the gabled roof. A privy is visible in the background to one side of the building (Figure 102). The schoolhouse is no longer standing but a driveway into the parcel on which this school stood is still noticeable. The site is under cultivation with the location having some potential for intact archaeology (Figure 103). The location is recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 102. Circa 1900 photograph of the Osage School.
Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 103. Location of Osage School in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Yankee Hallow School (No. 2) – Section 10

The Yankee Hallow School was shown at this location straddling the quarter section boundary between the NW1/4 and SW1/4 in Section 10 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. It was labeled as “Yankee Hollow” on the 1899 plat map. It was mentioned in the 1865 board meeting as follows: “On March 3, 1865, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Wilton township, a motion was made and carried to finish #2 (Yankee Hallow) schoolhouse and also #3 (Prospect Hill) and #4 (Sunnyside). This would indicate that #2 (Yankee Hallow) was our first rural school and in it were held many of the community meetings of that day” (McClellan 1976:63). The schoolhouse was later moved from its location in Section 10 of Wilton Township into Durant, Iowa, where it was relocated at 109 5th Street attached to the rear (north end) of the Brammeier Chiropractic Office. A circa 1947 photograph of this front-gabled, frame school shows it was raised on a basement by that time and had an open belfry on the roof ridge above the façade and a single entry door with transom on the façade. The door was reached by a set of concrete steps with pipe railings (Figure 104). The original location of the Yankee Hallow School is now a cultivated field on the east side of Trail Avenue half-way between 110th and 120th streets (Figure 105). The original site is being recorded herein as stie 13MC375, with the parcel considered to have some potential for intact archaeology. This site is recommended for archaeological field investigation. .



Figure 104. Circa 1947 photograph of the Yankee Hallow School.
Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 105. Location of former Yankee Hallow School Site in Section 10. Photo taken in 2020.

The extant schoolhouse now in Durant has been modified with a double-wide, sliding garage door opening on what had been the façade of the school (Figure 106). The move of this building from a rural location in Muscatine County to an in-town setting in Durant in Cedar County, coupled with the subsequent alteration of the building into a garage, indicate no potential for this former schoolhouse to be considered NRHP eligible under any criteria.



Figure 106. Former Yankee Hollow Schoolhouse attached to the rear of the Brammeier Chiropractic Office at 109 5th Street in Durant.

Photograph obtained from Google Instant Street View, image taken August 2013.

Sunnyside School (No. 4) – Section 14

The Sunnyside School (aka Norton’s School) was first shown at the northeast corner of Section 14 on the 1874 Wilton Township plat. It was also represented here on the 1875 Andreas Atlas map of Muscatine County. However, by 1884, the school had been relocated to the southeast corner of Section 14 where it remained to the present day. The original site in the northeast corner of Section 14 is now a cultivated field at the southwest corner of the intersection of 120th Street and Underwood Avenue (Figure 107). The road ditch is wide and deep at this location, which could have impacted or destroyed the site; however, there is some potential for finding archaeological evidenced of this short-lived schoolhouse in this field. The location is recommended for future archaeological investigation.



Figure 107. Location of schoolhouse shown on 1874 map at the intersection of 120th Street and Underwood Avenue. Photo taken in 2020.

This school was one of those noted in 1865 to be finished that year along with Yankee Hollow and Prospect Hill. It has also been noted that “Sunnyside, #4, was first located in Fulton township but, it seems that it was moved to a location in Wilton township in Section 11. That school building is today on the southeast corner of Section 14” (McClellan 1976:63). This information is somewhat at odds with the historical plat maps and the 1865 meeting of the Board of Directors of Wilton township that noted they were then in the process of building the Sunnyside School presumably in Wilton Township. More research is needed to determine whether it was originally located in Fulton Township and when and where it was moved to Section 11 and later Section 14 of Wilton Township. We do know that it was located in Section 14 as of the 1874 plat map and was being built by the Wilton Township board of directors in 1865. Perhaps the school was built in Section 11 in 1865 and then moved to Section 14 by 1874. However, this information is still at odds with it originally having been located in Fulton Township. Currently, there are no available historical maps that show the Sunnyside School or any school in Section 11 of this township.

The Sunnyside Schoolhouse is still standing but was converted in to a residence at its last location in the southeast corner of Section 14 (Figure 108). The current address is 3301 130th Street. The playground equipment from the former school is still extant in the front yard of the house. The schoolhouse was modernized on the exterior with vinyl siding and replaced/modified windows. There is also a gabled addition on one side and a two-story addition on the rear that has a lower garage level. Another garage addition is attached to the end of the two-story addition. The schoolhouse is still recognizable and retains its centered entry on the gable end but no historic materials remain on the exterior of the building. As such, the building does not retain sufficient historic integrity to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP but is interesting for the survival of some of the playground equipment.



Figure 108. Former Sunnyside School, now a residence, with some of the school playground equipment still in place. Photos taken in 2020.

Laurel Hill School (No. 7) – Section 20

The Laurel Hill School was depicted in the southwest corner of the NW1/4 of Section 20 on the 1874-1930 plat maps. The school closed in the mid-1950s. It reportedly served as a grain bin for a time after the school closed (Anita Hartley written memories, Jan 14, 2021). The available aerial photographs indicate that the schoolhouse was still standing until sometime between 2002 and 2004. Today, the former site is a cultivated field. A painting of the Laurel Hill Schoolhouse shows a front-gable, frame building with no belfry but does have a brick chimney on the roof ridge near the rear (Figure 109). The façade has a centered front door with a round-arched sign above that reads “Laurel Hill/No. 7.” The building is depicted as raised on a basement, which would have been added in the early 20th century, probably in the 1920s. There was a set of stairs up to the front door with pipe handrails. The windows are depicted as 4/4 windows. As noted above, the building is now non-extant, although a driveway into the now-cultivated field is still discernible, with the location having some potential for intact archaeology related to this school occupation (Figure 110. Location is recommended for future archaeological survey.

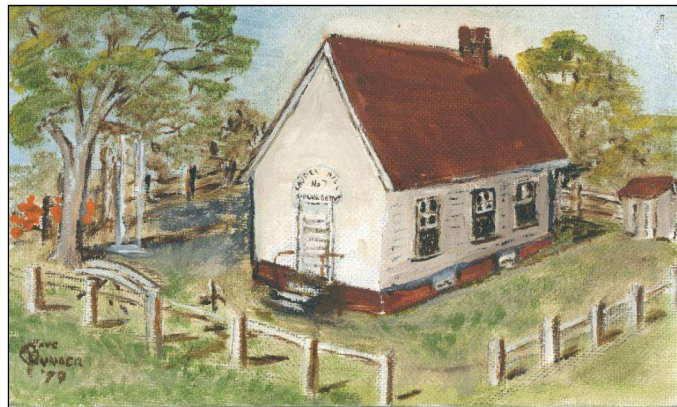


Figure 109. Painting of the Laurel Hill School. Painting by Faye Grunder in 1979.
On display Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 110. Location of the former Laurel Hill School site in 2021. Photograph taken by Lynn Ochiltree.

Unknown School – Section 23

A school was shown at this location in the southeast corner of the SW1/4 of Section 23 on the 1874 Wilton Township plat map. It was not depicted on any of the subsequent historical plat maps at this location. There are currently no buildings standing on this spot, with this location now a cultivated field at the corner of Underwood and 140th Street now a cultivated field (Figure 111). There may be some potential for archaeological evidence of this short-lived school, and the location is recommended for future archaeological survey.



Figure 111. Location of unknown school shown at this corner on the 1874 plat map. Photo taken in 2020.

Rainbow School (No. 5) – Section 28

The Rainbow School was depicted in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 28 on the 1874-1930, although the later maps depicted the location in the northeast corner of the section rather than the actual location in the SE1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 of this section. There were mentions in 1859 and 1866 of the Rainbow School House in the newspapers (*Muscatine Weekly Journal* 30 Sept 1859; *Muscatine Evening Journal* 20 Jun 1866). Reportedly, the schoolhouse was moved to its present location in 1865 (McClellan 1976). It operated until 1955, with the building then converted into a residence by the McClellan family at what is now 1412 Trail Avenue. Figure 112 is a photograph that shows the side of this house in 1969. This view shows that the building had been resided but the 6/6 windows were still in place, although a door had been added on the side that probably was not there originally. Today, the schoolhouse is still standing but has been further modified on the exterior including the installation of vinyl siding and insertion of replacement windows that are smaller and shaped differently than the original windows (Figure 113). There is a shed-roofed addition on one side and a garage addition on one end. A modern wood deck and ramp have also been added. As such, the building has been modified to the point that it no longer retains historic integrity and is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The bell from the school is mounted on a post in front of the house.



Figure 112. Rainbow School in 1969 after it had been remodeled into a residence. Display at Melpine School, Wildcat Den State Park.



Figure 113. Rainbow Schoolhouse as remodeled residence at 1412 Trail Avenue in 2020.

Gopher Tail School (No. 8) – Section 36

A school was noted at this location in 1874. It is located one half mile east of Melpine Church and Melpine Cemetery on the south side what is now 150th Street in the NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 36. However, it should be noted that a building at this location was identified as a “parsonage” on the 1899, with the building never clearly identified as a school even on the 1874 plat map. In 1874, this was in Wilton Township but later the lower tier of sections (31 through 36) of Wilton Township were annexed to Sweetland Township (McClellan 1976:64). A school building was also depicted at this location on the 1875 county atlas map. The available aerial photographs do show what appears to be a schoolhouse on a small parcel at this site location from the late 1930s through the 1970s.

It has been reported that “Mr. Charles McMurphy, director of Gopher Tail, No. 8, was authorized to build a school house in 1867” (McClellan 1976:64). Also noted in the pages of the *Wilton Exponent*, “The Wilton township school board offers a reward of \$50 for the detection and conviction of the persons who set fire to the school house No. 8 [Gopher Tail]....Which was burned on the 26th of August” (*Wilton Exponent*, October 2, 1874). “Gopher Tail school house in Wilton Township, which was destroyed by fire some time ago, has been rebuilt. It was commenced on Monday and finished Saturday noon of last week. The building is 20 x 16” (*Wilton Exponent*, November 20, 1874). Therefore, it appears that the Gopher Tail School was built in 1867 but was burned by arson in 1874 and rebuilt that same year. The rebuilt schoolhouse has not survived into the present day. The site location is now a cultivated field. No photograph of its current location was taken during the current survey.

Melpine School – Section 35

The first school in this area was a log building where classes were held beginning in the 1850s. Later a stone building was used from 1865-1877. In 1877, the Melpine School No. 5 was built. Classes were conducted in this building until 1964 when the school was closed. The schoolhouse was then moved to Wildcat Den State Park in 1969 where it remains standing to the present day (Information exhibit label in the Melpine Schoolhouse). Figure 114 is a photograph of the school in the 1930s-40s, and Figure 115 is a photograph taken in 1963 as the school was going on the sale block. These photographs show a front-gabled frame building with two front doors with transoms and an open belfry on the roof ridge above the façade. The school had been raised on a basement probably in the early 20th century.



Figure 114. Circa 1930s-40s photograph of the Melpine School built in 1877 on its original site. Source: Photograph on display at the Melpine School in Wildcat Den State Park.

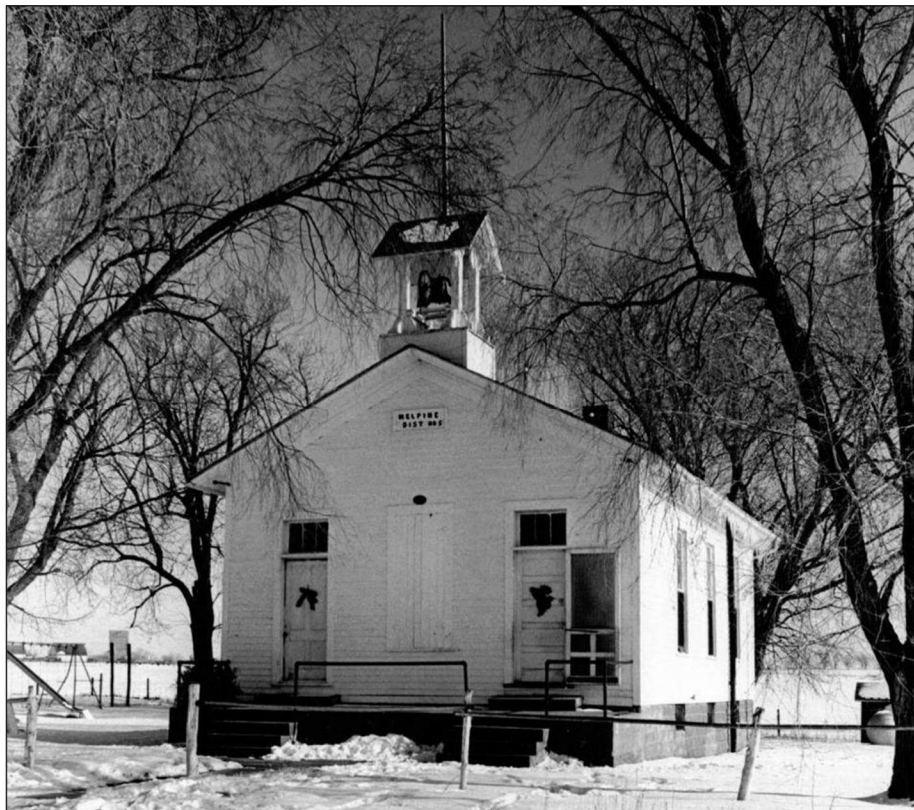


Figure 115. Melpine School in 1963 prior to its sale. Source: *Times-Democrat*, 29 Dec 1963.

The Melpine School was shown in the southeast corner of Section 35 on the 1874 township plat. At the time, the Melpine School was in Wilton Township, but later the lower tier of sections of Wilton Township were annexed to Sweetland Township. Melpine School continued to be depicted at this location on the

1884-1922 plat maps. Sometime after 1922, the Wilton and Sweetland township boundaries were again changed and the lower sections were again part of Wilton Township. This change is reflected on the 1930 plat map; however, the Melpine School is not depicted on the 1930 map. However, the schoolhouse was still standing at the original site at the time of the late 1930s-1950s aerial photographs. Today, the original site is a grass-covered parcel at the intersection of Martz Lane and 160th Street. The area may have been modified by road improvement projects but it may retain some potential for archaeological evidence of the school occupation at this location. Site recommended for future archaeological investigation.

The Melpine Schoolhouse was moved to the Wildcat Den State Park in 1969, where it remains today as a restored Muscatine County school house museum and exhibit (Figure 116). While the schoolhouse has been moved some distance from its original location and no longer has an association with a road or the orientation that it had at its original site, this type of schoolhouse may be a rare enough surviving example of the two front door version of the one-room schoolhouse in the county that it potentially could be eligible under Criterion C. Further research is recommended into its restoration and all that entailed and the possible rarity of this schoolhouse design.



Figure 116. Melpine School at its current location in Wildcat Den State Park.
Photo taken November 19, 2020.

Wilton Public School (No. 1) (Wilton Town) – Section 6

The first school in the Wilton Township was established in the town of Wilton in the summer of 1856, with the first teacher being Miss Rebecca McClennan. During these early days, there was no schoolhouse; rather, Miss McClennan taught from the south room on the second floor of a frame building owned by Mr. F. Bacon and occupied by merchants, Morrison & Brother. John Rider, publisher of the *Wilton Exponent* said of Miss McClennan, “She had but a few scholars but was a kind lady and a successful teacher.” Rider went on to say, “During the winter of 1856-57, Gideon Pierce taught school in the first school house located in a small frame house opposite Mr. Bentley’s residence.” And, again quoting from the same source, “ In the winter of 1857-58 the public school was kept in the new two-story frame school house, was taught by Dr. J. B. Ware, principal and Miss Mary Washburn, assistant.” This school was located on West 5th Street.

The two-story frame school building built in 1857 was beginning to be overcrowded by the early 1870s so a bond issue was voted upon and passed by 5 votes. This three-story brick school would accommodate all grades, including high school. Work on the new school began on July 17, 1875. This school was depicted in the town of Wilton on the 1899 and 1916 plat maps.

On the 17th of July 1875, ground was broken for a new schoolhouse on Lots Nos. 9 and 10, Butterfield's Addition to the town of Wilton. The Plans were drafted by J. P. Walton, of Muscatine, and Hancock & Walker took the contract for its erection. It is in size 60 x 72 feet, three stories high and basement. The first and second floors are used as schoolrooms, and the third floor is occupied by a hall calculated to hold 700 persons, seated with chairs, and has a good stage. The building was dedicated December 30, 1875, and cost \$12,000 (Western Historical 1879).

This location was on the north side of E 6th Street, northeast of the intersection with Chestnut Street. In 1915, with more room needed, the old school building was remodeled (Figure 117). Then in the early 1930s an addition was made, with a two-story east wing added in 1952.

The Community School District of Wilton was created by virtue of a special election held on June 29, 1954, whereby certain school districts (including the Wilton Independent School District) were wholly or partially united into a single school district. This action called for bussing of country school students, and a substantial increase in enrollment. Another special election on May 1, 1958 further enlarged the Wilton Community School District by including districts in Farmington, Sugar Creek and Rochester Townships in Cedar County (Frymoyer, ed. 1976).

A new high school was built in 1957 leaving the original school for kindergarten through 8th grade classes. This continued until 2015 when the community voted for a bond issue to build a new elementary school and the old facilities were razed in the winter of 2016. As a result, nothing remains extant of the historic school buildings in Wilton (Figure 118). The demolition of these large buildings and their associated parking lot in the winter of 2016 appears to have disturbed much of this block. No further investigation is recommended. The school was inventoried as the Wilton Elementary School (70-00919) before it was demolished.



Figure 117. Wilton Public School in the 1930s. Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 118. Wilton Public School former site in 2020. Photo taken October 2020.

Wilton College (Wilton Town) - Section 6

Wilton College (aka Wilton Academy and Wilton German-English College) was located at the northeast corner of Seminary and E. Wate streets. The first building was built in 1866 and is still standing at this location (Figures 119-120). The use of the building as a college extended from 1866 to 1911. After the college closed, the original building was converted into an apartment dwelling. The modern street address is 207 E. Wate Street. The entire college campus once fell within the area bounded on the west and east by Seminary and Cypress streets, with the north and south boundaries being Summit and Wate streets. While the original college building remains standing today as an apartment building, the college dormitory, which had been located on the east end of the property, was torn down in the 1930s to make room for the Wilton City Park.

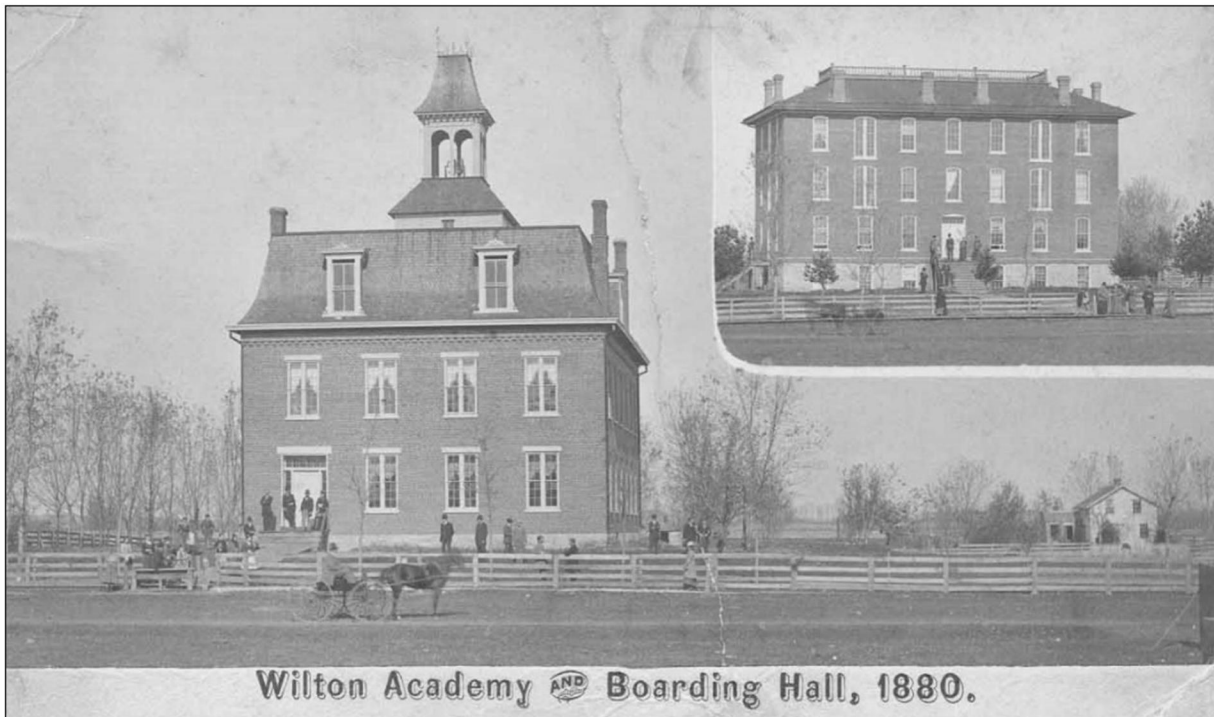


Figure 119. Photographs of the Wilton Academy and Boarding Hall in 1880.
Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.

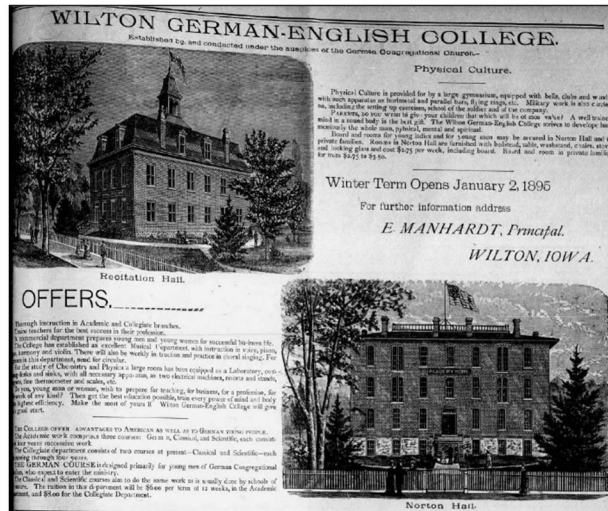


Figure 120. Illustrations of the “Recitation Hall” and “Norton Hall” at the “Wilton German-English College” in 1894. Source: *Muscatine Journal*, 15 Dec 1894.

The extant college is located at 207 E Wate Street (Figure 121). This three-story brick building is now covered with stucco, with the windows reduced and replaced. The foundation is also covered with concrete but is a stone block foundation. It has a centered front entry porch that has a hipped roof and square posts with closed railing, all covered with stucco. It is likely that this porch and the stucco application date from the 1920s or 1930s when stuccoing brick became popular. The two-story building does retain its mansard roof that flares at the eaves. Other modifications include a spiral metal staircase added to the façade for fire safety in the current use of this building as apartments. The interior does retain the historic metal staircases with wood railings with turned balusters. This large building is still readily identifiable as one of the former college buildings even though it has been modified on the exterior. However, the modifications are extensive enough that it would not qualify for individual eligibility but it would contribute to a potential historic district, which may be present in this area. Further research is recommended.



Figure 121. Former Wilton Academy Building, now apartment building at 207 E. Wate Street. Photo taken in 2020.

Wilton Zion Lutheran School (Wilton Town) – Section 6

The location of Zion Lutheran School is just to the east of the Zion Lutheran Church on the northeast corner of Maurer and Prairie streets. This school was first depicted on the 1899 Wilton town plat and continued to be noted at this location on the 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. On this location have been three school buildings, with the extant building having been built and dedicated in 1983. This school is now used for a preschool program. The modern-day address is 117 E. Prairie Street.

The following is from a typed history of the Zion Lutheran School prepared by Ruth (Happel) Jipp; daughter of long-time Zion Lutheran Church Pastor P.W. Happel, who served the congregation from 1911 to 1959. “The Lutheran School in Wilton began as early as the organized congregation [this would be in reference to the Salem Congregation organized in Wilton in 1856]. The first services in the town of Wilton were held in the large home of Mr. Schwartztreiber where one room in the home was used as a school room. Soon a church was built.” The location of Mr. Schwartztreiber’s Wilton residence is unknown. Not long after the Lutheran congregation was formed, a church building was built along with a parsonage, where classes were held until a school could be built (see Salem Lutheran Church summary in this report).

Ruth Jipp’s historical summary of the Zion Lutheran School further notes: “ The first six pastors [of the congregation] served as teachers in the school.” When a brick church was built in 1867, the school continued to be located in one room of the parsonage. On August 24, 1874, the town of Wilton had a devastating fire and one of that day’s casualties, was the Lutheran church and its parsonage.”

The following is from, A Brief History...Wilton Lutheran Church 1857-1979: “Mr. Henry Brammeier, Sr., owned two lots of the place north of where the church had stood. As there was not enough room for both church and parsonage to face the street, Mr. Henry Brammeier, together with his brother, Mr. Fred Brammeier, donated one of these lots (to the north) to the congregation so that both buildings could be built on the street (Cedar Street). The parsonage and school were built in that same year (1874 and was dedicated in October of 1875).”

Ruth Jipp goes on to say... “At this time (October of 1875) the doctrinal differences that developed between the Synods became a legal process of several years duration that ended when the Supreme Court in Des Moines awarded the congregational properties to the Iowa Synod. This left the members faithful to the Missouri Synod without buildings. Attempts were made to share the school and church facilities. After these futile attempts, the displaced group was given lots, again by the Maurer Family (Benedict) on what is now Maurer Street.”

It was at this time (1881), that the Zion Church Congregation group split from Salem. It is not currently known if the Lutheran School associated with the Salem Church congregation located on Cedar Street continued. As for the Zion Group, it organized in 1880 and a parsonage and school were built on the Maurer Street property which was deeded by the Maurer Family (Figure 122). A Brief History... Wilton Lutheran Church 1857 – 1979 states the following about the first school built by the Zion Group: “In 1881 Zion Congregation purchased land, almost two acres...on which at first a parsonage and school were built. The school building... was used for divine services.” The Zion church was built in 1892 and the schoolhouse built in 1881, remained and was used for this purpose until 1929. It was in 1928 that the congregation decided to build a new church and the frame church building built in 1892 was moved to the east and was converted into a two-room school and parish hall (see Figure 122). It is assumed that the previous school was razed or moved but no documentation about its fate has been located.



Figure 122. Zion Lutheran School circa 1910 (left) and the former church remodeled into a school and parish hall circa 1940 (right). Both buildings are non-extant, the school/parish hall having been demolished in 1983. Copies provided by Muscatine County HPC.

Ruth Jipp's history continues: "The need for more space continued at the school. The move to build was begun with the groundbreaking on September 5, 1982... It was finished and dedicated September 4, 1983. This is the extant, modern building now at this location. The new school construction required the demolition of the old school building, which was torn down in July 1983 (*Wilton-Durant Advocate News*, 28 July 1983). The new school construction was extensive, and the site of the former school was likely impacted if not destroyed in the process. This location warrants no further investigation.

Peace Church (aka Friedens Peace Church/Peace Evangelical Church, The Settlement) Section 24

The location of this church was shown on the 1874-1930 plat maps and is still standing into the present day as the Peace United Methodist Church. On the 1874 township plat it was labeled as the "Albright Church." It is situated in the SW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 24 on the east side of Hwy 38 just south of 130th Street. The following is taken from *The Brown Family History*: "The Brown Family belonged to the State Evangelical Church of Baukirchen. In the new land [Muscatine County, Iowa] they attended [a] camp meeting where they heard the simple gospel message and were saved. These meetings were being held by the Evangelisch Gemineschaft (The Evangelical Association) at Grandview, Iowa, in the next county, which was quite a distance to travel in the 1850s. Being happy in their newfound faith they were desirous of having a meeting place closer to home. Several families in the neighborhood of Germans felt the same and they decided that they would build their own church. The Browns, Langs, Valets, and Hahns were largely responsible for the building of Peace Church, often called the "Albright Church" because the founder of the Evangelichs Gemineschaft was Jacob Albright. It was on June 16, 1861, that the new church was formally dedicated. It should be noted that the 1874 plat map labels this as the "Albright Church," with a second German M.E. Church located just northwest of the Albright Church in 1874-1884. That church is non-extant.

What follows has been taken from the Centennial Anniversary Booklet for Peace Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1960: "The building was a simple one-room structure, but no doubt it represented much in terms of money and time, for financially these people were having a struggle. However they built well as is evidenced by the fact it has served this community for a century." This 1960 Centennial booklet goes on to note: "On June 16, 1861, Peace Evangelical Church was dedicated free of debt at a ceremony in charge of Bishop Rudolph Dubs." The 1860 church building is still standing in the present day, with the congregation still active (Figures 123-124). However, the historic building is now sided with vinyl siding, the entrance vestibule has been enlarged with a new roofline and side wings and modern entry door (see Figure 124). In addition, the spire on the roof is a modern spire (1975) that is similar to the historic belfry/spire (see Figure 123). The rectangular windows on the sides now have stained or marbled glass where

historically there had been 2/2 windows (see Figures 123-124). The building also has a concrete block basement underneath it now. The building does not retain sufficient historic integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion C (architectural significance). It may also be too modified to be considered eligible for any historical significance.

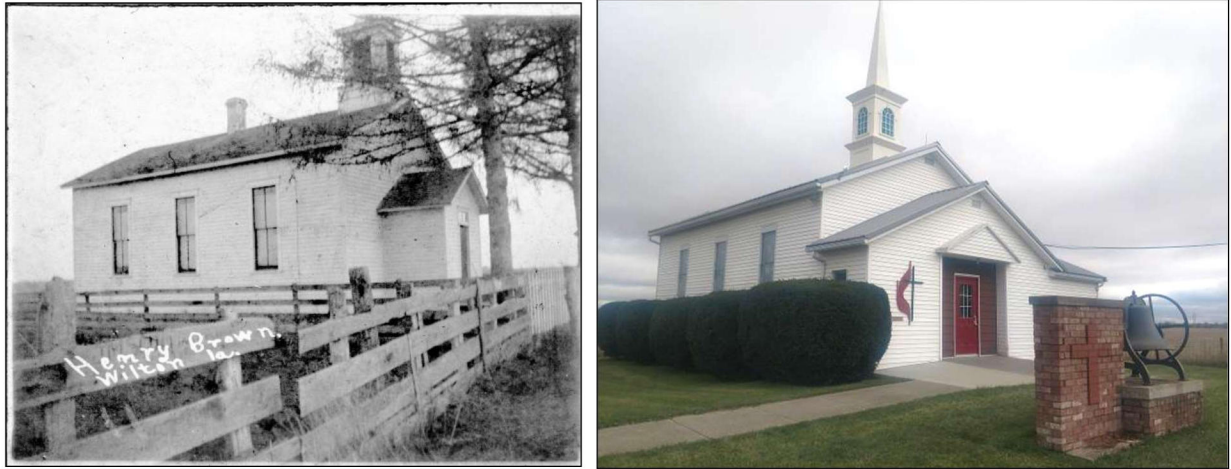


Figure 123. Peace Church, date unknown (left) and Peace Church in November 2020 (right). Copies of photographs provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 124. Façade of Peach Church in 2020.

Evangelical Lutheran Church aka Salem Lutheran (Wilton Town) Section 6

This church was located at the northeast corner of Cedar and Wate streets in the town of Wilton (Figure 125). It was depicted here on the 1874, 1899, and 1922 plat maps. The modern street address (facing the west as the church did) is 710 Cedar Street, Wilton, Iowa. The church is no longer standing, with a modern house now on the lot (Figure 126). A Lutheran congregation was organized here in 1856 by Rev. John Keisel and not long after a small wood-frame church was built (24 x 24 ft) at the corner of Cedar and Wate streets. A *Twenty Years' History of Wilton*, 1876 by Rider and Stevenson has the following information about the Lutheran Church in Wilton: "In 1867, a fine brick building was erected and took the place of the small frame building for holding services in. A commodious parsonage building had also been erected. Both the church and the parsonage were destroyed by the conflagration of August 20, 1874

(fire broke out in the downtown on this date).” The church caught on fire as part of the conflagration and went unnoticed until it was too late to save. The 1876 history goes on to note: “In 1875, both buildings were rebuilt – the church building of wood, instead of brick” (see Figure 125).



Figure 125. Salem Lutheran Church and Parsonage circa 1900.
Copy provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 126. Former site of Salem Lutheran Church and Parsonage in 2021.

The following is from A Brief History... Wilton Lutheran Church 1857-1979: “Mr. Henry Brammeier, Sr., owned two lots of the place north of where the church had stood. As there was not enough room for both church and parsonage to face the street, Mr. Henry Brammeier, together with his brother, Mr. Fred Brammeier, donated one of these lots (to the north) to the congregation so that both buildings could be built on the street (Cedar Street). The parsonage and school were built in that same year (1874).”

A *Muscatine Journal* article from August 24, 2007 noted: “The Rev Wilhelm Theodore Strobel who was pastor of the church in 1875, decided to leave the Iowa Synod and join the Missouri Synod.” This decision led to a split in the church and ended in a Court Case which resulted in splitting in the congregation. This 2007 article further noted: “some members chose to remain with the Iowa Synod, which owned the property and the building [Salem Church]. Those who agreed with Strobel followed him and accepted the name of Zion [Zion Lutheran Church, established in 1882].”

The Salem Church congregation continued for many years up until the 1940s when long-time pastor, Rev. Ernest Holtz died in 1945. The church was torn down and the property deeded to Rev. Holtz's son and daughter who both continued to live in the parsonage up until the 1990s. The parsonage was torn down by 2000, and a new home was built on the church and parsonage property (see Figure 126).

Congregational Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The location of this church was depicted on the 1874 plat map as the second lot east of the northeast corner of Chestnut and 5th streets (modern day street address of 207 E. 5th Street) (Figure 127). The following is from, *A Twenty Years' History of Wilton*, 1876 by Rider and Stevenson: "This church was first organized by Rev. James Berney in Sugar Creek Township, Cedar County, July 9, 1854, at a meeting in a brick school house, near Mr. Evans' residence, and was to be called the First Congregational church of Sugar Creek." It is surmised that the congregation met in this schoolhouse until the location of the church was moved to Moscow. The 1876 History of Wilton continues: "August 3, 1855, the location of the church was changed to Moscow, but immediately afterwards was again changed and located at Wilton, and at a meeting held at the residence of Rev. Knowles (pastor called to lead the congregation on October 29, 1854), June 20, 1856, new articles of incorporation were submitted and adopted, and the name changed to that of First Congregational church of Wilton." The 1876 History of Wilton further notes: "July 13, 1856, steps were taken to erect a church building and August 30, 1857, the building was completed, and services for the first time held in it, Rev. D. Knowles, pastor" (Rider and Stevenson 1876).



Figure 127. 1888 frame house at 207 E. 5th Street in Wilton on what was originally the Congregational Church site. Photograph taken in 2021 provided by Lynn Ochiltree.

In 1879, it was noted that "The present membership is fifty-eight. The church property, including the parsonage, is valued at \$5,000. The Pastor E. P. Smith, also supplies the pulpit of the Congregational Church, of Durant" (Western Historical 1879). Little else is documented about the First Congregational Church. There is no reference to this congregation in Henry Wildasin's 1947 *Revised History of Wilton, Iowa*, and the 1899 Muscatine County Atlas does not show this church on the Town of Wilton plat map.

Methodist Episcopal Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The location of this church was at the northwest corner of W. Fifth and Maurer streets from 1860 to 1971. The modern day address for this property is 507 Maurer Street. The following information is from, *Wilton, Moscow and Yesteryear, Wilton and Moscow, Iowa*, 1976: "as early as 1853 Methodist circuit riders were preaching in our community (Wilton)... In 1856 Brother H. Wharton received regular appointment to Wilton and Moscow.... In 1857 J.B. Hill was appointed to the circuit and in the spring of

1858, he held a series of revival meetings in Mooney House. Following these revival meetings regular services and Sunday School were conducted, first in Garrison's Hall, and later on the second floor of an old downtown building where the old Union Bank Building now stands [Lyceum Hall was most likely the building at the NW Corner of Fourth and Cedar Streets and this is where the Union Bank building was eventually built]. "In 1860 the first Methodist Church was erected on the NW corner of Fifth and Cherry [later named Maurer] Streets... By 1878 it was decided the original church was no longer adequate, so it was replaced by a larger, more ornate frame structure. In 1893-94 this building was 'remodeled and modernized' at a cost of \$5,000" (Frymoyer, ed. 1976).

A fire broke out on Sunday morning of January 12, 1902, and the second Methodist Church building was completely destroyed. The Wilton History of 1976 go on to state: "A brick structure was then erected on the same site [NW corner of Fifth and Cherry (later named Maurer) streets], being dedicated on February 15, 1903. During the construction, services were held in the chapel of the Wilton German English College and the Old Baptist Church." This aforementioned brick structure was later abandoned and torn down in 1971. A new Methodist Church and parsonage were built on a five-acre plot on the north end of Maurer Street and these facilities are still in use today. The original site at what is now 507 Maurer Street has since been built over by an apartment building and associated garage (Figure 128). This location warrants no further investigation.

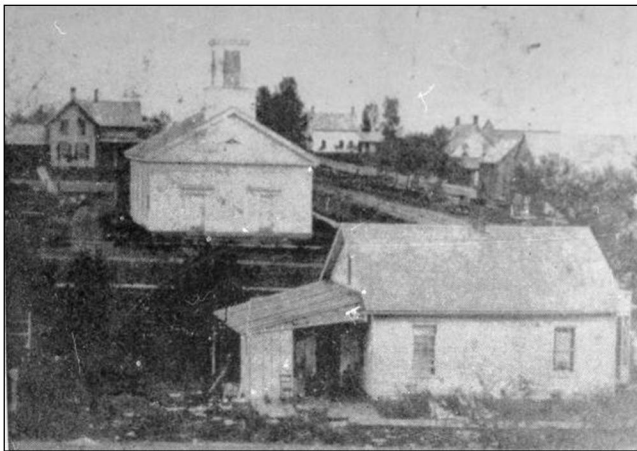


Figure 128. Wilton Methodist Church circa 1860 (top left), 1900 (top right), and the former site at 507 Maurer Street in 2021 (bottom). Historical photos provided by Muscatine County HPC.

First United Presbyterian Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The location of this church is on the north side of Fifth Street in the middle of the block, between Elm and Cedar streets and it has been in this location since 1866. The modern street address is 213 W. 5th Street.

The following information is from, *A Twenty Years' History of Wilton* by Rider and Stevenson, 1876: "The Presbyterian element in Wilton was originally a part of the Sugar Creek church... organized in 1856. As early as 1855-6 Presbyterian services were held in Wilton by Rev. John Hudson – meeting for worship in what is now known as Lyceum Hall, the old school house on the hill, and elsewhere. On May 14th, 1860, the congregation at Wilton was set off from Sugar Creek... formally organized into a church. In the fall of 1866, the present brick edifice was built." "The present brick edifice was built in Marolf's Addition to Wilton and was dedicated in February, 1867. The size of the building is 32 x 48 feet, and cost \$2,800" (Western Historical 1879) (Figure 129).

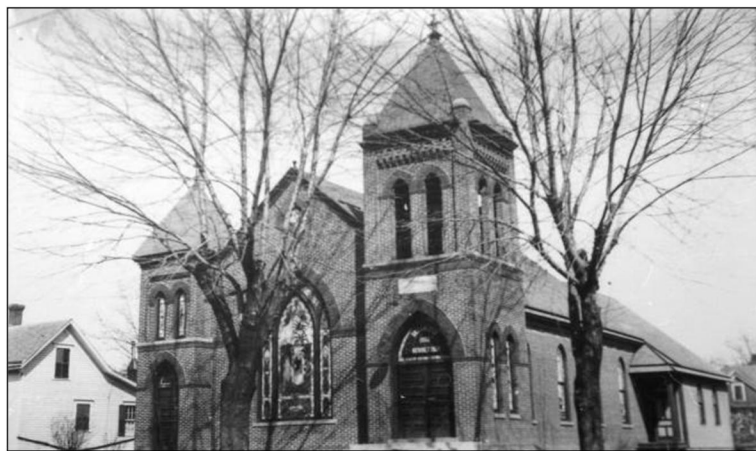


Figure 129. Wilton Presbyterian Church circa 1920.
Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.

More history from *Wilton, Moscow and Yesteryear, Wilton and Moscow, Iowa*, 1976: "The church was rebuilt in 1900 with many improvements." Then from, *Presbyterian Church of Wilton, Iowa 1860 – 1925 – 125th Year Observance* (Booklet), 1985: "In the summer of 1900, the church was rebuilt with the following improvements – a new front with two entrances, a choir loft to the west, floor raised, circular seating, stained glass memorial windows, vestry enlarged and connected with the main church by sliding doors, a small kitchen to the west of the vestry." It is also worth noting that during this time the pulpit which once sat to the north of the sanctuary was placed to the west side which necessitated the seating to be moved as well, which resulted in what you see today with the curved pews facing west.

From the 1985 *Anniversary* booklet: "In 1958 the entire exterior of the building was covered with Permastone at a cost of \$8,500." This work done to the exterior in 1958 is the modern exterior today. The congregation remains active. The application of the Permastone in 1958 is a consideration in whether the 1900 building is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP since it entirely covered the original brick exterior and imparts a different material look to the exterior (Figure 130). However, the church would still retain sufficient historic integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion A for its historical significance for its association with the long history of the Presbyterian Church in this community. This building may also be contributing in a potential historic district.



Figure 130. Wilton First Presbyterian Church in 2020.

Grace Reformed Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The extant church built in 1904 is located at 111 W. 5th Street on the north side of 5th Street between Cedar and Maurer streets (Figure 131). Prior to 1904, the Reformed Church was located on the northeast corner of Liberty and Fifth streets as depicted on the 1874 and 1899 plat maps. Today, that location is built over by houses and is recommended for no further investigation (Figure 132).



Figure 131. Grace Reformed Church and Manse circa 1910 (left) and Grace United Church of Christ in 2020 (right). Historical photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 132. Original site of the Grace Reformed Church in 2021.

The later Fifth Street location in the block east of the Presbyterian Church was depicted on the 1916 and 1930 plat maps. This 1904 church is extant and remains an active congregation today. The following quotes are from, *Souvenir Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church, Wilton Junction, Iowa, 1935*:

Grace Reformed Church was organized as a congregation of the German Reformed Church, on Saturday, April 14, 1860, by the Rev. Joshua Riale, in the old school house on West 5th Street (in Wilton). The congregation worshiped in this building until about 1863.

...they secured a lease for the use of the Congregational Church building on East 5th Street, to hold worship. The Congregational Building was built in 1856 and was the first church in Wilton.

Early in the summer of 1870 the Reformed congregation made preparations for a building of the First Reformed Church in Wilton (which is the location noted on the 1874 and 1899 Wilton Town Maps in the Muscatine County Atlases). In 1904...the congregation decided that they would like to have a church located in a more central part of town.

The 1904 church and manse are still standing, with the church now covered with vinyl siding but retaining the historic Gothic arched stained glass windows including the Gothic arched window above the front doors that reads "Grace Reformed Church" in stained glass (see Figure 131). The congregation is now part of the Grace United Church of Christ. The sign in front of the building notes that it was established in 1860 and "rebuilt 1904." The foundation is made of rough-cut stone blocks, with the two towers (front and side entry towers) still in place although the main entry tower on the corner of the façade has had the belfry vents covered over with the vinyl siding application. The front doors have been replaced and a sheltered side-entry porch has been added. The vinyl siding has diminished the historic integrity but the building still retains sufficient integrity to be considered eligible under Criterion A for its historical significance as the Reformed Church in Wilton. It may also be located within an eligible historic district and would certainly contribute to such a district.

St. Mary's Catholic Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The location of St. Mary's Catholic Church was on Spruce Street (312 Spruce) in the southeast section of town. The church is noted in this location on the 1874 Wilton town plat and continues to be noted at this location on the 1899, 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. The church congregation is active to the present day. The modern day address for this property is 701 E. 3rd Street, although the new church remains facing Spruce Street just as the old church had but the address is connected to the street to the south of the church and rectory which is 3rd Street.

The first Catholic Church in Wilton was planned and built in 1858 under the leadership of Father Mahn. The following tells about the beginnings of the Catholic Church in Wilton and is from, *A Twenty Years' History of Wilton*, 1876 by Rider and Stevenson: "in the Autumn of 1857, the first Mass was celebrated in Wilton, by the Rev. Peter Mahn." This first Mass was held in a home on 4th Street in Wilton. This 1876 account goes on to state: "the plans for the present brick church were matured and in the fall of 1867, the foundation was laid, when Rev. Quigley was superseded by Rev. Walsh, who came in November, 1867. Shortly afterwards Rev. Walsh was superseded by Rev. P. A. McCabe, and during his pastorate the church was completed sufficiently to hold services therein."

The brick church built in 1867 remained standing until 1987 when it was razed (Figure 133). Services were held in the church's fellowship hall until a new church was built in 2006. Dedication of the new St. Mary's Catholic Church was held on June 10, 2007. Figure 134 is the current St. Mary's Catholic Church.

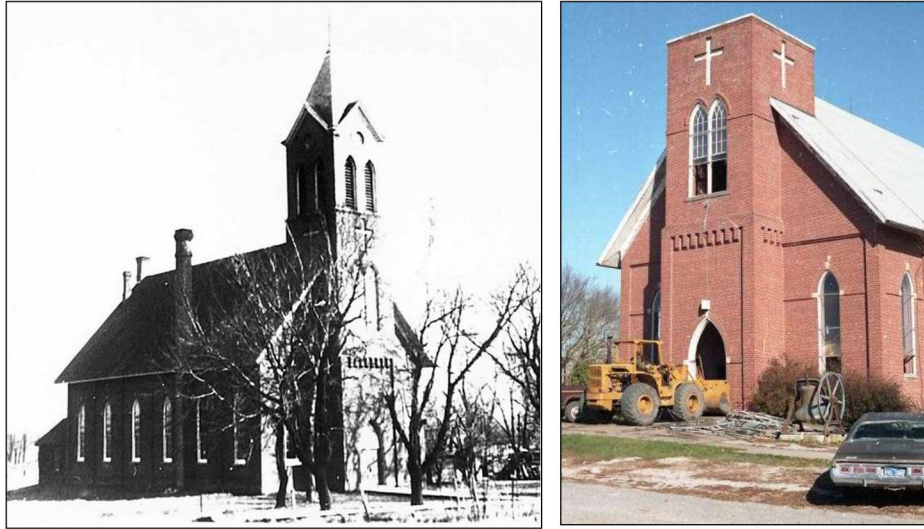


Figure 133. St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1907 (left) and ongoing demolition in 1987 (right). Copies of photographs provided by Muscatine County HPC.



Figure 134. Extant St. Mary's Catholic Church in 2020.

Zion Lutheran Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The location of Zion Lutheran Church is on the northeast corner of Maurer and Prairie streets and was first noted on the 1899 town plat and continued to be noted at this location on the 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. The church congregation remains active into the present day. The modern day address for this property is 1000 Maurer Street.

The Zion congregation sprung from the split of the Evangelical Lutheran Salem Lutheran Church. The following is from the *Centennial Anniversary Program of the Wilton (Zion) Lutheran Church, 1857 – 1957*: “In 1881 Zion Congregation purchased land, almost two acres, its present site, on which at first a parsonage and school were built (Figure 135). The school building, for the time being, was used for divine services. Within two years the sum of \$3200 was raised and the new church property was paid in full. Before long, the school building which was used for services became overcrowded and in the voter’s meeting of January of 1892 it was decided to build a church. The new church was built in that year at a cost of \$4122...” This 1957 *Centennial* program history goes on: “In November of 1928 the congregation decided to build a new church and that at the same time the present church building should be moved somewhat to the east and converted into a two-room school. The congregation decided to begin with the building operations and the new church was dedicated on December 8, 1929. Also, the old parsonage, which had been built in 1881, was moved, and in its place a fine brick parsonage was built in 1948.



Figure 135. Zion Lutheran Church and Zion School circa 1910.
Copy of photograph provided by Muscatine County HPC.

Today, the 1929 church and the 1948 parsonage are still standing at 1000 Maurer Street (Figures 136-137). The congregation remains active. The 1929 brick church retains good historic integrity with the dark red brick uncovered and having concrete or stone Gothic-arched door and window surrounds and as detail features on the roofline and the tower. The original vents in the belfry tower are now reduced windows but other windows in the church remain intact. This church has a corner tower, with the main door at the base of the tower. There are two other historic entrances on the façade as well. There is a one-story modern addition on the rear but this is also covered in the same colored brick as the historic church building lessening its impact. The 1948 parsonage (which has a distinctive clipped gable roofline and faux half-timber details) retains good historic integrity as well and together, the church and the parsonage, are recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion C for their architectural significance and likely under Criterion A for their historical association with the German Lutheran congregation in Wilton.



Figure 136. and Zion Lutheran Church built in 1929 (left) circa 2000 and in 2020 (right).



Figure 137. 1948 parsonage for the Zion Lutheran Church and located next to the church.
Source: Assessor's photograph (Beacon).

German Baptist Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

The location of this church was at the southwest corner of Maurer and 5th streets at 104 W. 5th Street. A church was noted at this location on the 1899 town plat and continued to be noted in this location on the 1916, 1922, and 1930 plat maps. There is very little known of this congregation. Today, the church building remains standing but is now used for storage. This frame, 1.5 story gabled-roofed building retains its clapboard siding and round-arched 2/2 windows and is still recognizable as a former church (Figure 138). This is a notable building in its survival and its design and certainly warrants further investigation including an interior inspection to see if any of the church interior remains intact. This building has potential for eligibility under Criterion C. It should also be noted that it is within a potential historic district, to which it would be considered contributing.



Figure 138. Rear of former German Baptist Church in 1996 (top left), same view in 2020 (top right), and front looking SW in 2021 (bottom).

Free-Will Baptist Church (Wilton Town) Section 6

No church building was ever built for this congregation; however, they did worship in the Wilton College Chapel. It has been noted that: "In the spring of 1864, February 20, this church was organized, with Rev. I Dotson, as Pastor... The membership consisted at that time of eleven members. Rev. Dotson was relieved November 30, 1866, and Rev. O. E. Baker took his place, and continued until November 22, 1874, when he was succeeded by Rev. Charles Payne" (Western Historical 1879). "From a membership of eleven, the church has increased until now the number is one hundred and eighteen. The society have no church building, and have, since organization, worshiped in the chapel of the Wilton College building" (Western Historical 1879). That building is extant (see previous description) but has been converted into an apartment building.