

PH0066737

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	WAPELLO
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
American Gothic House (*Dibble House*)

AND/OR HISTORIC: Dibble, House
House used as model in Grant Wood's painting; 1930

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~Corner Burton & Hearn Streets~~ ^{Gothic} Hearn Street now known as Gothic St.

CITY OR TOWN: Eldon CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

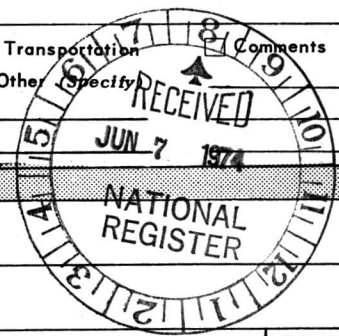
STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Wapello CODE: 179

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Carl E. Smith

STREET AND NUMBER: 8200 Snowville Road

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland STATE: Ohio CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Wapello County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Corner Court and Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Ottumwa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: June 7, 1881 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Corner Court and Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Ottumwa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

OCT 1 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

X

The American Gothic House is a one and one-half story L-shaped frame structure with gable roof and two wood porches. Its original portion with stone foundation and board and batten construction is distinguished at each gable end by two Gothic-inspired pointed arch windows. It was the simple curved mullions of these openings that were essential to painter Grant Wood's painting American Gothic (1930). In contrast to this shape, at the first floor level a rectangular double sash opening appears. The full L-shaped front porch (South) has turned posts. And, at the rear (North), a similar porch was added in 1972 to replace a lean-to structure which was removed. Completing the overall L-shape of the building is a post-1900 one story clapboard wing with concrete block foundation extending to the northwest.

On the interior, the American Gothic House remains apparently unaltered. The main block has four rooms and at the northeast corner an enclosed staircase. Wall plaster is of a horsehair, lime and sand composition.

Aside from repainting and some exterior repair work, the American Gothic House remains for the most part in its original condition. Its setting is rural and whereas it once overlooked a railroad stockyards, it now views an open field.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1881-1882

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dibble or American Gothic House served as the model for the small white frame building which appeared in the background of American painter Grant Wood's painting American Gothic (1930). A year before his painting which now hangs in the Chicago Art Institute was completed, the Iowa born painter was invited by a Gallery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to give a sketching exhibition in Eldon which is located in Wapello County south of Cedar Rapids. Apparently Wood's search for the right house with the proper window to appear in his next painting ended upon first sight of this small frame house in Eldon. And, indeed, his faithful rendering of the building in his painting alone testifies to his choice. Wood sketched the window and part of the house on the back of an envelope and upon his return north requested that a photo be provided him as well. The resulting composition with frontal views of two figures dressed in farm attire standing before the frame house reveals how essential the gentle curved mullions of the central window in the house were to the overall composition. A three pronged arrangement of lines is repeated both in the pitchfork held by the male figure and in the seams of that figure's clothing. Also, the arched nature of the window itself is reflected in the elongated oval shapes of the figures' faces.

Although the Dibble House might well be considered a remarkably well preserved document for modern American painting, it was apparently not held in such high esteem architecturally by the painter who succeeded in rendering it. According to contemporary accounts at the time the painting was sold to the Chicago Art Institute where it received terrific critical acclaim, the artist was presenting in American Gothic a comment on the pretentiousness of those who dress a flimsy frame house with an architectural feature that belonged to a previous and perhaps greater age. Further, he wished to show that although the houses may be flimsy and their features pretentious, the people who built them and lived in them were by contrast good and strong.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wapello County Recorder - Book 5, Page 627
 Wapello County Auditor - Transfer Books D-307 and I-362
 Original Jacques Plat. Filed June 7, 1881
 Darrell Garwood - Artist in Iowa
 A Life of Grant Wood, New York: W. W. Norton - 1944, page 105
 PICTURES: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sunday, January 23, 1972
 Iowa Motor News - Davenport, Iowa
 Ottumwa Courier - Ottumwa, Iowa, February 15, 1968
 Mrs. Earnest Jacobs - Eldon, Iowa 52554. Local Artist
 Tom Reardon - Eldon, Iowa 52554. Local Senior Barber. Native

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

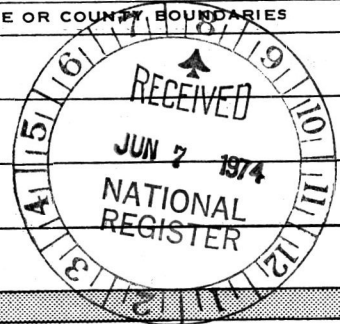
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
				40	55	17	92	12	49

UTM
 15/566230
 4530140
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: -

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Alvin Harding, Eldon, Iowa. Heritage Committeeman and Director

ORGANIZATION: Wapello County Bicentennial Association, Inc. DATE: February 8, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Ottumwa STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 3, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Al P. Wooten
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/1/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Hunt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7.18.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	IOWA	
COUNTY	WAPELLO	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	OCT 1	1974

(Number all entries)

3. Significance Continued

Presently unoccupied the Dibble House is nonetheless well preserved due to the efforts of local Grant Wood enthusiasts and the owner.

OWNERSHIP

Lot 14 on which the Dibble House stands was platted in 1881 by W. H. C. Jaques and deeded shortly thereafter to Catherine B. and Charles A. Dibble. In December of 1881 a mortgage was placed on the property and it is believed that it was at this time that the house was constructed. In 1897 under the ownership of H. B. Jones and E. P. Forest Howard, the building became a candy and novelty shop. In 1939 when Grant Wood visited Eldon the property was owned and maintained by one, Gideon Jones.



PROPERTY American Gothic House STATE Iowa

7402291
Wapello

WORKING NUMBER 6.7.74.929

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 1
MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW Not. + long. research

em
6.10.
74

OK
ACCEPT
Hegand
8/9/74

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Note #3: status = unoccupied; present use = residence??

Accept
JCT
8/4/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
Hegand
for M...
9.18.74

National Register Write-up 10/25/74

Send-back 9.6.74

Federal Register entry 11/5/74

Re-submit 9.16.74

Entered OCT 1 1974

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED. DATE: 7-6-74
NAME OF PROPERTY American Gothic House, Iowa

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- 1. Name. _____
- 2. Location. _____
- 3. Classification. _____
- 4. Owner of Property. _____
- 5. Location of Legal Description. _____
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
- 7. Description. _____
- 8. Statement of Significance. _____
- 9. Bibliography. _____
- 10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. Longitude (or Latitude) appears to be off by about 6 sec. . Please check. 46 sec.
 - b. Acreage. _____
- 11. Form Prepared By. _____
- 12. Certification. _____
- Photographic Coverage. _____
- Map Coverage. _____
- Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: Charles Henry

8/12/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Dibble House Wapello County, IOWA

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Albin Byers 8/23/90
for keeper

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

AUG 13 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Dibble House (Geographical Data Correction)
Eldon
Wapello County
Iowa

The Latitude and Longitude coordinates on the original nomination are in error. The Geographical information should be replaced with the following (this is merely a correction and does not increase or decrease the boundaries of this property in any way):

UTM References

A. 15 566215 4530135

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 14, Jaques Addition, City of Eldon, Iowa

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the house.

I certify that the above information is accurate and I agree with these revisions.


David E. Crosson, State Historic Preservation Officer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Dibble House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Wapello

DATE RECEIVED: 8/13/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 74002291

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/23/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

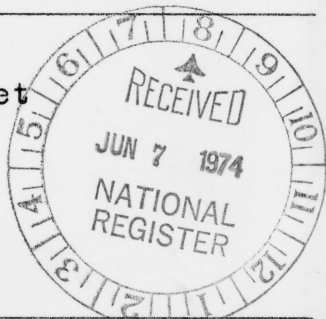
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
American Gothic House		OCT 1 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Iowa	Wapello	Eldon
STREET AND NUMBER		
Corner Gothic and Burton Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Kenneth Starkweather Eldon Iowa 52554	December 1973.	Eldon Iowa

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

House faces South. Photograph taken from Gothic Street
looking North. *1 of 1*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
IOWA	
COUNTY	
WAPELLO	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
0671	1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: American Gothic House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Dibble House, House used as model in Grant Wood's painting; 1930

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner Burton & Hearn Street - Hearn Street now known as Gothic Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Eldon

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Iowa	14	Wapello	179

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U. S. Geological Survey

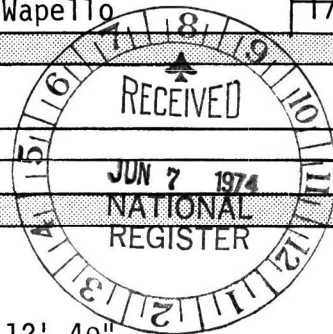
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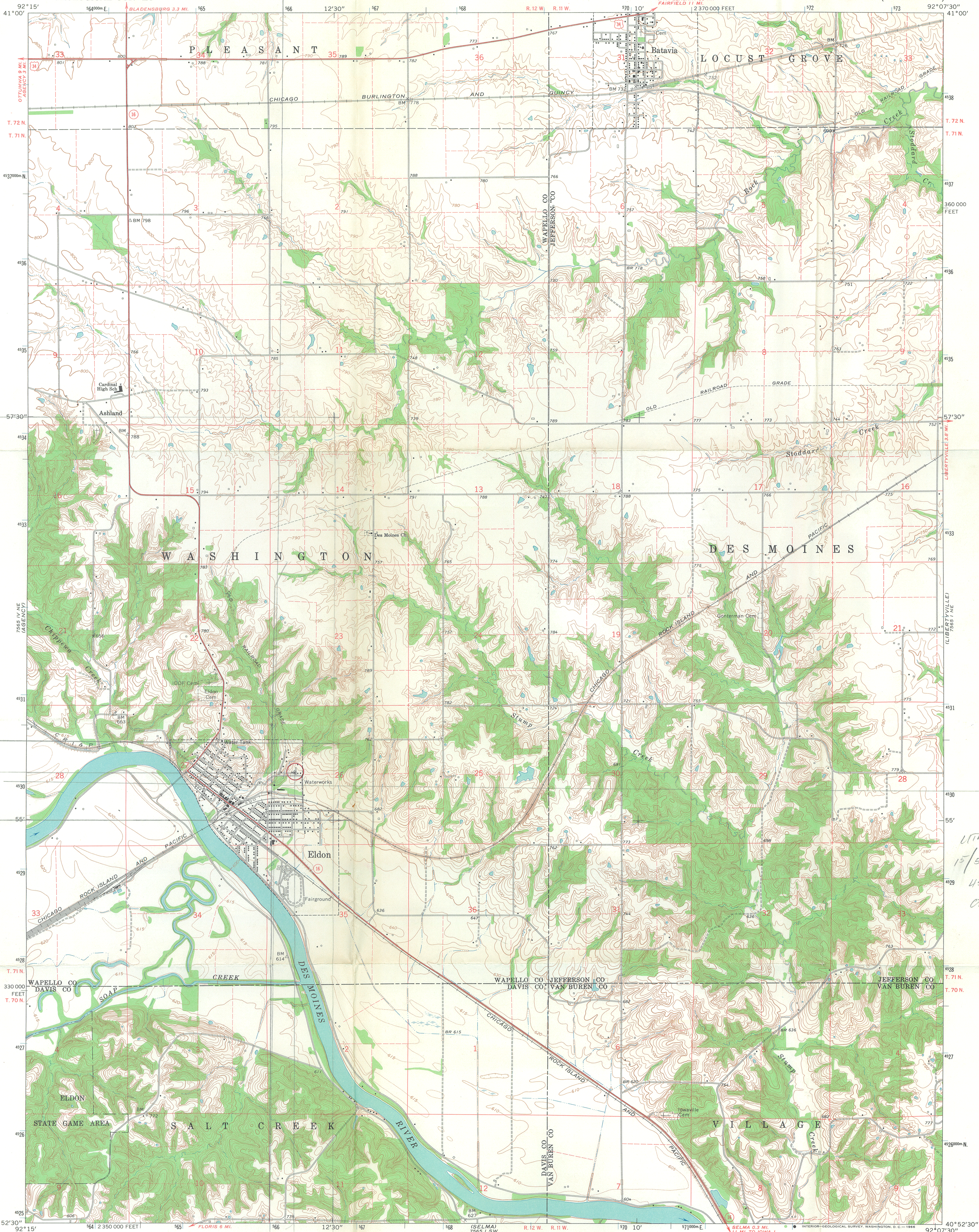
DATE: 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference. 40° 55' 17" 92° 12' 49"

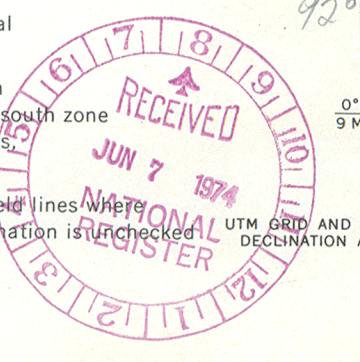
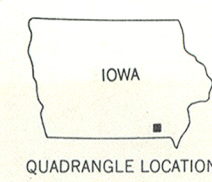
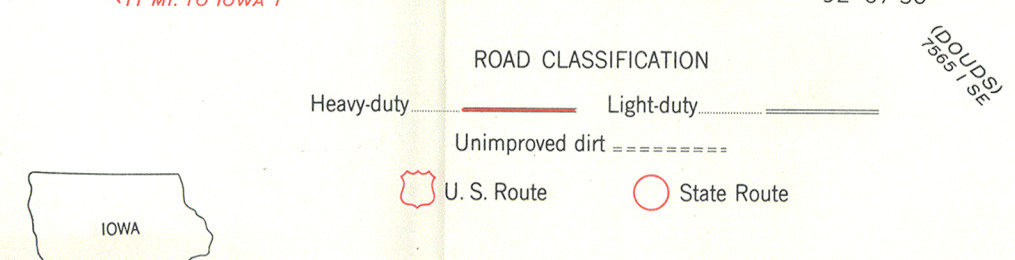
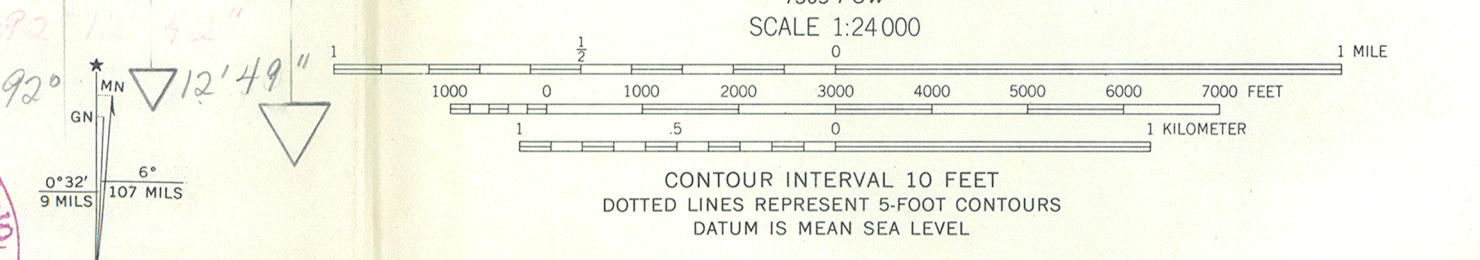




10° 55' 17"
American Gothic (Dibbe) House
Eldon, Iowa

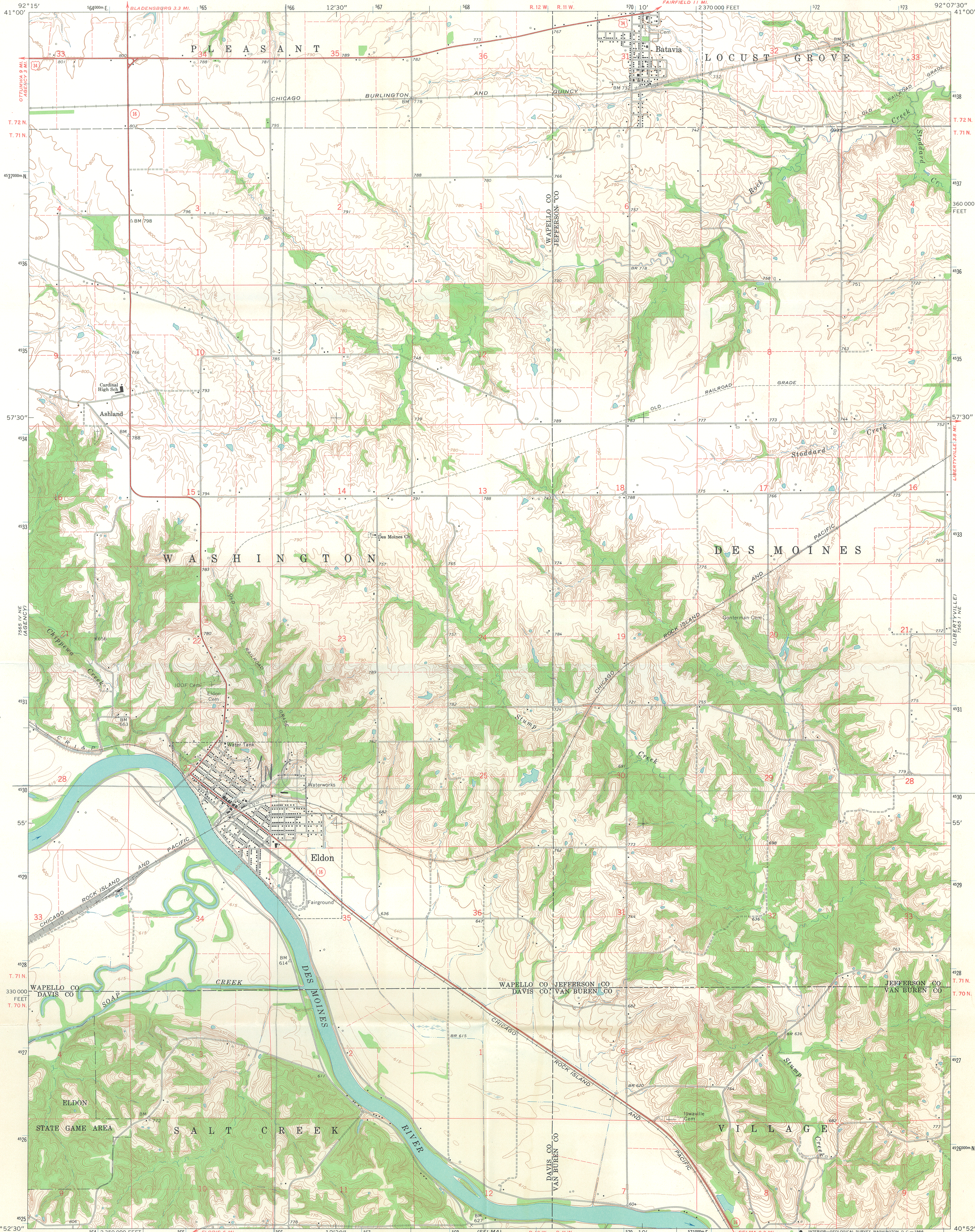
UTM
15/506 230
4530 140
07

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Iowa coordinate system. South zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid tick
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and fire lines which
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is
not shown on this map.



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

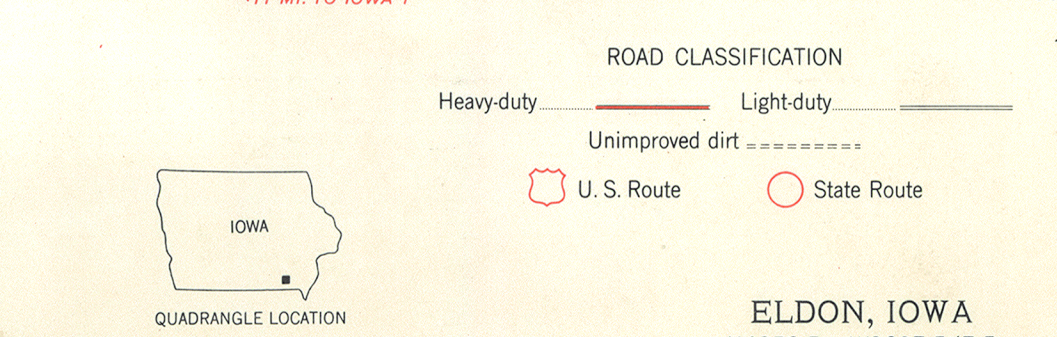
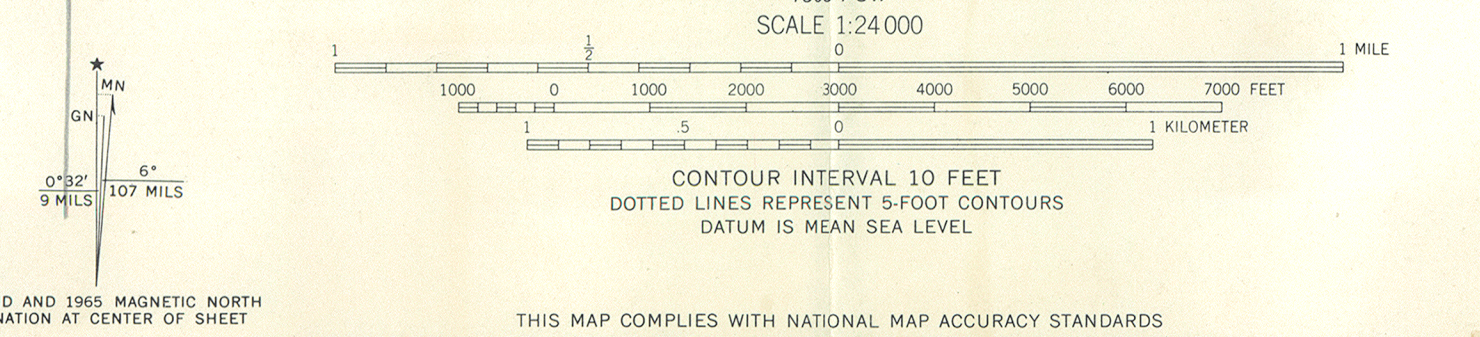
ELDON, IOWA
N4052.5-W9207.5/7.5
1965
AMS 7565 1 NW-SERIES V876



Dibble House
Eldon
Wapello Co.
Iowa
E. 566 215
N. 4530135

AUG 13 1990

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
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10,000-foot grid based on Iowa coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ELDON, IOWA
N4052.5-W9207.5/7.5
1965
AMS 7565 I NW-SERIES V876



STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the nomination of the American Gothic House, Wapello County, Eldon, Iowa to the National Register of Historic Places has been approved by a majority of the State Review Committee for Historic Sites. We recommend transmittal of the nomination forms to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

Robert A. Dykstra 3-24-74
Robert R. Dykstra Date

Marshall McKusick May 24, 74
Marshall McKusick Date

David M. Gradwohl 25/4/74
David M. Gradwohl Date

Wesley I. Shank 5-20-74
Wesley I. Shank Date

Jack W. Musgrove 2/14/74
Jack W. Musgrove Date

Gerry F. Schnepf 2-19-74
Gerry F. Schnepf Date

Peter T. Harstad 5/14/74
Peter T. Harstad Date

Richard Shuttler, Jr. 5/16/74
Richard Shuttler, Jr. Date

Adrian D. Anderson 6/3/74
Adrian D. Anderson Date

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **IOWA**

Date Entered **OCT 1 1974**

Name

Location

**American Gothic House)
(Dibble House)**

**Eldon
Wapello County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Harold E. Hughes
Hon. Richard C. Clark
Hon. Neal Smith
Regional Director, Midwest Region**

PR MMott/row 10/4/74

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Planner
State Conservation Commission
B-13 MacLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242**