

Corrected Copy

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Owl's Head Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

area including 28th and 29th Sts., Ridge Road and Forest

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Drive

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Des Moines

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

Polk

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Des Moines

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Des Moines' Heritage

DATE

Summer, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Des Moines Plan and Zoning Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Owl's Head Historic District is a residential area of some 50 buildings, located on the west side of Des Moines. It includes properties on 28th and 29th Streets, Ridge Road, and Forest Drive. Access to the district is via 28th or 29th Streets, off Grand Avenue; the latter is one of the city's principal thoroughfares. To the north of the district are a modern apartment house and two residences of turn-of-the-century vintage which are scheduled for redevelopment. To the east is an older subdivision, locally designated the Terrace Hill Historic District. South of Owl's Head, the land drops steeply to railroad tracks, and is populated by small residences. West of the district are large banks of modern apartments, and vacant land slated for future development.

Boundaries for this district have been selected largely on the grounds of visual characteristics and physical orientation. The core of the district (with the exception of the properties facing Grand Avenue) are the two blocks of the original Owl's Head plat. Also included are those houses on the west side of 29th Street, south side of Forest Drive, and East side of 28th Street, which face the Owl's Head subdivision and which, in terms of age, materials, mass, and style, are integral parts of the visual whole. Intrusions are few: several modern ranch-style houses, and the filling station and cleaners which flank the entrance to Owl's Head at the intersection of Grand Ave. and 28th Street.

Structures on the east side of 28th Street are actually part of the Polk-Hubbell subdivision. This area has been identified as the Terrace Hill historic district by the city of Des Moines. Although geographically part of this latter district, the 28th Street structures' visual orientation is toward and with Owl's Head.

With few exceptions, all structures in the Owl's Head district are residential, originally built as single-family dwellings. Some are now apartments, but modifications to that end have been largely interior. Several structures date from the 1890's (Owl's Head was platted in 1888, annexed to Des Moines in 1890), but the majority, which give the district its distinctive, early-20th-century-suburban flavor, were built after 1900 (particularly 1905-1915). The houses are large (2-2½ stories), set well back from the streets and sheltered by big old trees, hedges, and clumps of shrubbery which in summer give the district a secluded air.

The property inventory lists (see continuation sheets) contain thumbnail descriptions of each structure, date of construction and architect when known. Each property had been designated A, B, or C, according to the following criteria:

- A: structures which demonstrate outstanding character in terms of overall design, use of materials, or decorative elements;
- B: structures whose design, materials, or other features, while not individually outstanding, contribute materially to the overall importance of the district;
- C: structures which are clearly nonconforming in terms of age, use, or design, or which have been altered to an extent incompatible with the generally well-preserved nature of the district as a whole.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Owl's Head Historic District is interesting in several, interrelated, respects:

- 1) Historically and visually, it is a clear manifestation of the "streetcar suburb" phenomenon, which, nationwide, falls between about 1880 and the end of World War I.
- 2) The district is a very cohesive unit, displaying homogeneity of spacing, scale, mass, materials, and, to an extent, of design.
- 3) Within the limits of #2, a variety of stylistic influences may be discerned, ranging from the historicist to the original;
- 4) The district displays some of the work of several prominent Des Moines architects and architectural firms.

When the Owl's Head was platted in 1888, the area was part of the town of Greenwood Park (inc. 1880). Two years later, Greenwood Park was annexed by the city of Des Moines. This first step toward the development of Owl's Head as a residential suburb coincided with the consolidation, expansion, and electrification of the city's street railway system. One line ran west along Ingersoll, only one block north of Grand Avenue (the northern boundary of Owl's Head). This combination of circumstances strongly suggests that Owl's Head was indeed a "streetcar suburb", made possible by improvements in urban transportation, and made inevitable by the growing phenomenon of the "two part city": one part for living, one part (downtown) for work. Other factors contribute to this conclusion: the homogeneity of social class and income in the district produced an area of relatively homogeneous structures, their woody lots, shingling and half-timberwork suggesting an attempt to flee the city, psychologically at least, into a rural ideal.

Although the houses in Owl's Head do fall into discernable stylistic categories, certain generalizations may be drawn about them as a whole. They are all fairly large (2-2½ stories), and appear larger because the lots are fairly small (real estate along street-car lines tended to be more expensive than away from them). A great many are built so that the roof ridge is parallel to the front. Gables and dormers are prominent features, as is the combination of several exterior surface materials (such as brick and stucco, clapboard and shingling, brick and shingling).

The character of the district is set by the large percentage of houses built ca.1905-15 in styles which are generally historicist in detail and contemporary in mass and scale. (See Appendix for form/style breakdown.) The largest style group comprises 12 houses which exhibit remarkable uniformity in overall mass. They are two stories (or 2½, when one takes into account gable ends and dormers), rectangular in plan, with the long side facing the street. Roofs are a medium-high or high gable, with the ridge parallel to the long side of the rectangle. Doors are set generally off-center. Mass is interrupted or enlivened by: subsidiary cross-gables which may project somewhat

See continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Adams, John S. "Residential Structure of Midwestern Cities," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 60"1 (March, 1970), pp. 37-62.
- Brigham, Johnson. Des Moines and Polk County, Iowa (2 Vols.) Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1911.
- Carlson, Norman (ed.) Iowa Trolleys. Chicago: Central Electric Railfans' Association, 1975.
- Warner, Sam B. Streetcar Suburbs. Cambridge: Haryard University Press. 1964.
- Misscellaneous information concerning Des Moines architects, compiled by Jack C. Porter.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Des Moines Plan and Zoning Commission. (Copy on file at Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa City)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~approx. 26 acres~~

QUADRANGLE NAME Des Moines SW, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 5 | 4 | 4, 5 | 5, 6, 0 | 4, 6 | 0, 3 | 6, 2, 0 |

B | 1, 5 | 4 | 4, 5 | 5, 6, 0 | 4, 6 | 0, 3 | 6, 2, 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1, 5 | 4 | 4, 5 | 2, 1, 5 | 4, 6 | 0, 3 | 2, 4, 0 |

D | 1, 5 | 4 | 4, 5 | 2, 2, 0 | 4, 6 | 0, 3 | 6, 2, 0 |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian S.J. Klingensmith, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Historic Preservation

January 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

26 East Market St.

319/353-4186

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Iowa City

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Owl's Head Historic District, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

Forest Drive

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

- 2750: 1913-14. Kraetsch. 2½-story frame, with brick veneer 1st level and shingling on overhanging upper story. Hipped roof with gable/frontispiece at right front. Bracketted deck above entrance. Exposed beam ends, expressed as modillion blocks on the eaves of the right-front gable. Windows arranged in bands of three. (A)
- 2800: 1905. C.C. Cross & Sons. 2-story frame. Hipped roof. Bell-cast gables with returns centered over corner pilasters over front pavilion and two-story side bay. Front elevation is embellished with corner pilasters and a full entablature. Porch: Tuscan columns support entablature and shallow gable roof with partial returns. Windows in flat surrounds. (B)
- 2805: 1901? 2½-story frame with gambrel roof intersected by a large gambrel frontispiece. Clapboards first floor, shingling above, laid in with irregularly staggered butts. High-gabled dormer also shingled. Front porch with paired Tuscan columns and balustrade. Low, shed-roofed extension on one side. End chimney. Oval window in frontispiece gable end. (A)
- 2814: 1905. Harry Rawson. 2½-story frame with brick veneer first story, stucco above. The distinguishing feature is the recessed entrance porch with two squat Tuscan columns set in antis between piers. The columns support a lintel in which exposed beams, their ends molded so that the effect is of brackets, rest. (A)
- 2829: 1890. 2½-story frame, with gable roof and variety of dormers, bays and pavilions. Tryptich of round-headed windows in front gable end, with strapwork decoration in the triangular tympanum above. Imbricated shingling in gable ends. Large windows alternate with large areas of flat wall surface. (B)
- 2831: 1909. Harry Rawson. 2½-story frame, brick veneering first floor, stucco on overhanging upper floor. Entrance framed in brick wall piers which rise to the level of the 2nd floor window sills, and sheltered by a bellcast shed roof. Door is set in a rectangular frame and is flanked by sidelights. Windows grouped in short bands of 2's and 3's, sash mostly 9/1. Window surrounds in dark wood suggest half-timberwork. 2-story enclosed porch on side. (A)

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Forest Drive

- 2833: 1904. *Hallett and Rawson, Architects.* 2-story frame, rectangular in plan, long side front, cut into by a square entrance porch on left corner and covered porch on right which extends from front to back. Mass is organized under one wide gable roof with the ridge parallel to the front. This is broken by a long wall dormer with shed roof, which is the key feature of the house, and a small round-headed dormer above which lights the attic. Surface materials: brick veneer, first story; shingles, 2nd story, with a kick at bottom. (B)
- 2834: 1901? 2-story frame with a high, bellcast hipped roof, with a lower-hipped projecting pavilion on right front. Wide, overhanging eaves supported by distended modillions. Sides surfaced in narrow clapboards with a stringcourse dividing first from second stories. Broad areas of wall interspersed at wide intervals with double-sash windows set in flat frames. Distinguishing features are the pedimented dormers and Tuscan columns of the porch. (B)
- 2838: _____. 2½ stories, steep gable roof. Clapboard first floor, shingle above. Flat-roofed porch with cornice supported by wrought-iron piers, with "brackets" of same material, on a low brick wall. Two-story bay to right of entrance, with hipped roof. Front gable end has a triple window, the side windows with diamond lights, and a round-arched window beneath the eaves: shingles above this follow the shape of the arch. (B)
- 2839: 1911. Harry Rawson. 2-story frame, with gable roof parallel to the front. Stucco on first story, shingles above. Symmetrically-placed gable frontispieces project from the wall on either side of the entrance door, which is sheltered by a shed roof resting on carved brackets. Glassed-in porches at end on both stories. (A)
- 2846: 1893. 2½ story, first story rock faced stone laid in random ashlar, second story covered in narrow clapboards with a "frieze" set at a slight pent and faced with imbricated shingles. A corner turret is corbelled out from the second floor, and features a high conical roof. The hipped roof has gabled dormers. Veranda has Tuscan colonnettes supporting an entablature, and round, semi-detached pavilion is located at the corner. First floor windows and entrance have wide,

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Owl's Head Historic District, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

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Forest Drive

- ✓ 2846:
(cont.) shallow, segmental arches, those of the former with narrow, leaded-glass transoms. Of note is the interior woodwork, carved in Germany, featuring carved owl's heads and a huge, clawfoot newel post. (A)
- ✓ 2849: 1913. Frederick Wallich. 2-story, of light brick, with a hipped roof and wide eaves. Hipped-roofed 2nd story porch on brick piers is found above a porte-cochere. Roof form repeated in dormers and 1st floor screened porch. Jerkinhead hipped roof on carriage house (this also of light brick). (B)
- ✗ 2900: c. 1900. 2-story frame with bellcast gable roof and shed-roofed dormers (latter possible additions). Palladian window in front gable end; round arch repeated in 1940 brick extension of living room (originally a porch). Modern siding. (C) B
- ✓ 2908: 1906. Harry Rawson. 2½ story frame, completely and uniformly shingled, with rusticated stone chimneys. Irregularly-placed windows have flat, white-painted surrounds, many with 9/1 or 12/1 sash. (B)

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Ridge Road

- ✓ 2800: 1905. 2-story frame, front-gable mass joined to a side-gable wing. Small, gable-roofed entrance porch with shallow elliptical arch, the arch repeated in the head of the door, which also features sidelights and fanlight. Carriage house: Gable roof with returned cornice. Large semicircular dormer over sliding door entrance. (B)
- ✓ 2804: 1904. 2-story frame with double bellcast gable roof and side gable ends. Dormers have segmental heads. Round oriels on each of the front corners have recently been refaced with vertical boards. Front entrance porch (square in plan) is an interesting feature, with an architrave frame around the openings and console brackets under the eaves at the corners. Carriage House: Narrow clapboards, irregular roofscape. Round-arched windows above doors. (B)
- ✓ 2808: Modern ranch house, intrusion. (C)
- ✓ 2815: 1907. 2½ stories, rectangular plan, roof ridge parallel to front. Gable roof intersected by front gable/frontispiece to left, wall dormer/frontispiece to the right. First story is brick, second and third half-timbered. Windows in paired and tripled bands. Lines of the triangular gable ends are reflected in entry porch roof and in triangular half-timber panels. (A)
- ✓ 2825: 1905. 2 stories, frame, with bellcast hipped roof. 3-bay facade, with bays widely horizontal. This house approaches the proportions of Maher's Farson House, Oak Park, which may have influenced this structure. Porch across entire width of front. One ornamental Farson-esque dormer with round-arched head. Narrow clapboards and large l/l windows give this house its character. (B)
- ✓ 2830: 1898. 2½ story frame with steeply-pitched gable roof (side gable orientation) which in front extends down to first story level to cover the front porch. Hexagonal tower with steep faceted conical roof at one corner. Large gabled roof dormer on 2nd story, with undulant shingles in tympanum of gable. Board and batten carriage house with high hipped roof, gabled wall dormer. (B)

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Ridge Road

- ✓2831: c. 1905. 2½ story frame, gable and gambrel roofs. Clapboarding on first story, extensive shingling on upper levels (irregular staggered butts). Polygonal corner tower with faceted conical roof with broken pitch. Recessed porch on first story front. The thin, delicate detail of the house is characteristic of this substyle of the Colonial Revival. (A)
- ✓2832: c. 1895. 2 story frame, irregular roofscape: bellcast hipped roof with subsidiary gable over side rear wing. Front is symmetrical, dominated by an enormous projecting polygonal bay in the center, which penetrates the front face on the hipped roof and joins it at the apex. Veranda across the entire front and wrapped around the sides has paired square posts on high stone bases. Small board and batten Carriage House. (B)
- ✓2839: 1907. 2-story brick, rectangular plan, gable roof ridge parallel to front, intersected by a gable/frontispiece at front left. Sparing use of half-timbering in the front gable. Interesting window group in frontispiece, consisting of a triple window and panelled apron. Small frame carriage house, with high hipped roof and front gabled wall dormer. (A)
- ✓2840: c. 1910. 2½ story frame, with gambrel roof and side gable ends. Shingling on second story and gable ends, clapboarding first story. Distinctive features: entrance porch with paired Ionic columns at corners and balustrade above with urns on corner posts; wide center dormer inset into the roof, with piers to either side. Second-story oriel bays on front. (A)
- ✓2845: c. 1903. Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen. 2½ story, clapboarding first story, shingling above. Steep gable roof with side gable ends. Intersected by gable/frontispiece and a gabled wall dormer. Distinctive features include: bargeboard screen in front gable end, with horizontal members supported by wall brackets; front porch with pent roof and square brick piers. These extend above the roof line with decorative stone panels at the top, carved with a shield, and molded stone caps. Note medievalizing carved work in bargeboards. Frame carriage house, with gable roof, small gabled wall dormer. (A)

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Ridge Road

- 2848: c. 1900. 2½ story stuccoed, with multicolored, Mission-style tile hipped roof. Porte-cochere on left side with enclosed sunporch above. Projecting vestibule with entrance porch, featuring fluted Doric columns. Wide dormer in front center with arched center section. Maheresque influence.
(A)

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29th Street

- 304-306: 1904. 2-story frame, with brick facing, gable roof. Flat-roofed, 2-story garage addition 1950. Use of small, multi-paned windows in bands. Elliptical arch over recessed entrance. Projecting window bay first floor front. (C)B
- 318-320: 1904. Charles Watrous? 2-story frame, faced with stucco. Stringcourse at second floor level. Symmetrical 3-bay front, center entrance. Hipped roof. 2nd floor windows set close beneath the eaves. Pergola-like entrance porch with paired fluted Tuscan columns, projecting carved rafter ends. (A)
- 330: 1907. 2½ story brick, side gable, with jerkinhead roof and gabled wall dormer on front. Half-timberwork in gable ends and dormer. Elliptical-arched triple window above entrance porch, with the eave following the curve. (A)
- 338: c. 1905. 2½ story frame, high gable roof with side gable ends. Roof intersected by large wall dormer/frontispiece with half-timbering in the gable end, balanced against a two-story bay. Hipped-roof veranda with gable over entrance bay, supported by short, paired, bracketted, square wood posts. (A)
- 402: c. 1916. Sawyer and Watrous. Georgian/Federal style, 2-story brick with side gable ends and 5-bay facade. Porch features paired attenuated colonnettes supporting an entablature displaying a McIntire-esque frieze plaque and a dentilated cornice, above which is a balustrade. Windows have jack arches with paneled stone keystones and solid paneled shutters. (B)
- 446: 1895. Very small, 1½ story frame, with slightly smaller addition, built before area developed into an upper-middle-class suburb. (C)B

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29th Street

450: Probably 1890's. Very plain, two-story frame, with a 3-bay symmetrical facade. Main feature is a pedimented Doric entrance porch, sidelights on entrance door. (C) B

451: 1910. 2-story frame, with gable roof and symmetrical facade. Shed dormer, center. Wide entrance porch with shallow pediment. Awkward attempt at a Classical motif. Windows retain small lights in upper sash. Sidelights around door. (C) B

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28th Street

- ✓ 302: 1955. 2-story ranch. (c)
- 305: 1913. 2½ story brick with high gable roof parallel to front, intersected by a large wall dormer with left side extended down to first-story level. The entrance door is distinguished by a small canopy on brackets, arched slightly to correspond with the arch of the door. Surface material is brick, with rough-cast stucco used in front gable end above the level of the second-story window heads, and on the south side above the living-room bay window. Overall effect is cautiously medieval. (B)
- ✓ 313: 1885? 2-story frame with hipped roof, with a pair of dormers, the roofs of which echo the main roof in form. Asymmetrical facade with dormers centered, but windows and entrance off-center. 2 widths of clapboarding used: narrow above sills of half-windows in second story. Closed-in sleeping porch on south side. (B)
- ✓ 331: 1901. Liebe, Nourse and Rasmussen. 2½ story frame, with brick facing on first story, shingling above. Irregular gable roof, rectangular panl, long side to the front. Main roof intersected by two gable/frontispieces on each end of the front facade, which lend balance to a basically asymmetrical composition. Bargeboards elaborately carved, with pendants, and finials at apex. Second story gable/frontispiece protrudes in slight overhang. Noteworthy feature is the semi-circular entrance hood, into which is set a Renaissance shell. Windows mostly grouped in bands of two and three; diamond panes upper sash, plate glass lower sash. (A)
- ✓ 400: 1895. 2½ story, rectangular, with long side parallel to front. Painted brick first story, shingling above. Gable roof is intersected by a gabled pavilion containing a shallow projecting bay window and recessed entry porch. Narrow molded bargeboards, polygonal window bay to right of the entrance pavilion on first story. (B)

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Owl's Head Historic District, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

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28th Street

- ✓ 401: c. 1892. 2 story, irregular roof with gable and gambrel features. Uses rusticalted ashlar and cedar shingles in broken facades. Porches enclosed 1952 with brick-faced walls and replacement brick posts. (A)
- ✓ 407: 1902. Goerge Cummins? 1½ story frame with very high gable roof, long side parallel to front, and two hipped-roof inset front dormers. Clapboards first story, shingling in gable end. Roof extends over porch, now enclosed. Extensive remodelling ca. 1930. (B)
- ✓ 415: C.C. Cross & Co. 2½ story frame on sloping ground. High hipped roof broken by triangular gable/frontespieces. Denticular cornice. Square attic windows in gable ends surrounded by Adamesque detail. Resided. Note curious raised corners on hip deck. (B)
- ✓ 420: 1941. Concrete block 1-story cottage. (C)
- ✓ 425: 1908. 1-story frame cottage. (C) B
- ✓ 428: 1914. 2-story frame, gable roof ridge at right angles to front. Narrow clapboards first story, shingling above. Simple brackets on gable end. Windows irregularly placed. Shed-roofed front porch with small gable. (B)
- ✓ 431: 1914. Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson. 1-story Prairie style overtones, stuccoed. Flat roof, heavy eaves, simple pedmold under eaves. Frieze zone, which incorporates vent openings, is defined by a raised stringcourse. Casement windows, with raised lintels supported on short brackets. Terrace around half of front, where it ties in with the entrance porch, and north side. In details and surface well integrated with the architecture of the house itself, as is typical of Prairie Style houses. (A)
- ✓ 434: 1917. 3-story brick apartment building. (B)

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Grand Avenue

- 2720: Victoria Cleaners: small, with high gable roof--appears to be early gas station in style. (C)
- 2800: Schaller's Standard. Gas Station. (C)
- 2900: 1905. Palladian Georgian Revival, brick. 5-bay front with a slightly advanced central pavilion/framed by fluted Ionic pilasters. Central Palladian window. Corner pilasters on main block, full entablature is returned over the pilasters which define the pavilion. Gabled dormers centered over each side bay, with windows having a "Gothick" character. Swan's-neck pediments over first floor windows. Plan is center hall, double pile. (A)

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Emendation of inventory list

The following properties in the district were originally given a C designation, i.e. considered intrusive because they either did not conform in scale to the majority of properties in the district, or because they had experienced modification to a degree not found elsewhere in the district. Nonetheless, these properties do date from the period of significance and are, for the most part restorable. Therefore, the properties listed below should be designated B, or contributing structures:

- 425-28th Street
- 450-29th Street
- 451-29th Street
- 446-29th Street
- 2900 Forest Drive
- 304-306 29th Street

The apartment block at 434-28th Street should be designated a contributing structure as well. Rating for this property was inadvertently omitted from the original nomination form.

Construction date for 2838 Forest Drive has not been firmly established, but from all evidence the house was built around 1900.

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from the facade and encompass a "frontispiece", the surface treatment of which is different from that of the general surface treatment of the house; wall dormers, also with frontispieces. All use different surface materials on first story (generally brick veneer) and second story (generally stucco, shingles, or half-timber). A general term for this form is "medieval rectilinear".

Another group of eight houses from the same period belong to a type of Colonial Revival cottage (although most are fairly large houses) with a multitude of gabled roof masses -- both gambrel and straight gable -- set at right angles to each other. They feature the same division of surface materials between first and second stories, with large areas of shingle above. There is often very delicate Colonial or Federal detail.

Three houses, less distinguished architecturally than the majority of those in the two above groups, show the influence of George Maher's Farson House in Oak Park (1897) and houses by the firm of Tallmadge and Watson in this idiom (a good example is the Linthicum House, Evanston). These are characterized by two-story, three-bay facades, center entrance, hipped roof, with decorative, round-headed dormers.

Several earlier (1890's) styles also are found in Owl's Head. Two are small frame houses without stylistic attributes. Four are larger houses from an earlier style period: Three are rectilinear or simplified Queen Anne, one is essentially Richardsonian with Colonial Revival overtones. Three may be classified as Georgian Revival, and there is one clearly Prairie-School house.

At least five Des Moines architectural firms are represented in Owl's Head (there may be more, but as yet the architects of many of the houses are unknown). Of the five three in particular accounted for a significant amount of interesting Iowa architecture during the period 1880-1920. Harry Rawson, to whom four houses in Owl's Head are attributed, designed three of them during his partnership (1899-1909) with George Hallett. This firm was also responsible for a number of Iowa's public library buildings, as well as a variety of structures in Des Moines (most of which are no longer extant). In 1910, Rawson joined William Proudfoot and George Washington Bird, in one of the city's -- and Iowa's -- most prominent architectural firms. Among their works are several buildings at the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Drake University in Des Moines, the Iowa State Fairgrounds (D.M.), St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Harlan, and, in Owl's Head, the Prairie-style house at 431 28th Street. The firm of Liebke, Nourse and Rasmussen is represented by three houses in Owl's Head. This firm was established in 1899, and headed by Henry Liebke who played a prominent role in the architectural development of Des Moines. Among their buildings are several public libraries, the First National Bank in Fort Dodge, and the Younker's store in Des Moines.

See continuation sheet

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The other firms represented in Owl's Head are Sawyer and Watrous, Kraetsch and Kraetsch, and C.C. Cross. Ralph Sawyer (originally of Boston) and Charles Watrous (a native of Des Moines) met as students at MIT about 1895. In 1906, they established a partnership in Boston. Shortly thereafter, Watrous returned to Des Moines to open a branch office, and Sawyer followed him there in 1909. They were responsible for such buildings as the Zag-a-Zig Shrine, KRNT Theater, Blackhawk Tire Factory, and the Peake Observatory. George and William Kraetsch were natives of Des Moines; among their works were the Waukonda and Hyperion clubhouses, the Capitol Theater (all in Des Moines) and the Boone County Courthouse. Two houses are attributed to C.C. Cross and Sons. This may have been a building or development business, rather than an actual architectural firm.

Although the significance of Owl's Head lies chiefly in its visual and architectural qualities, several of the houses are associated with historical figures prominent in Des Moines or in Iowa generally. Most significant from this standpoint is 331 28th Street, the last home of James Baird Weaver. Weaver, whose house in Bloomfield is now a National Historic Landmark, originally began his long political career as a Republican, but later identified with the Greenback and Populist parties during the latter decades of the 19th century. At all times, he was prominently associated with the problems of farmers and laborers, and was also an advocate of free silver, graduated income taxes, and the federal regulation of monopolies. His wife, Fay Atkins Weaver, carved much of the interior woodwork for the house, and also the bargeboards on the gable ends.

The profession of journalism is also represented in Owl's Head. From 1944-1974, 2800 Forest was the home of Gordon Gammack, a well-known columnist and World War II correspondent for the Des Moines Register. Harvey Ingham, longtime editor of the Register, lived at 2834 Forest. 2846 Forest was built for Lafayette Young, a member of Des Moines' business establishment and owner/publisher of the Capitol Newspaper, Statesman, and World Traveller.

Original owners of other Owl's Head houses represent other facets of the city's early 20th-century business history. They include life insurance (E.E. Clark at 401 28th and Gerard and Henry Nollen at 402 29th), the lumber business (Gilcrest Lumber, 415 28th and 2814 Forest), law (H.J. Clark, 2831 Forest) and spices (I.E. Tone, 2849 Forest).

2900 Grand Avenue, originally built for W.W. Witmer, was from 1944 to 1976 the Iowa governor's mansion.

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Breakdown by form/style:

Medieval Rectilinear (in some cases, the medieval character may be very slight, and limited, for example, to the use of stucco as a surface material)

2815 Ridge (1907)
2839 Ridge (1907)
2845 Ridge (c. 1903, Liebe, Nourse and Rasmusson)
2750 Forest (1913-14, Kraetsch)
2814 Forest (1905, Rawson)
2831 Forest (1909, Rawson)
2839 Forest (1911, Rawson)
400 28th St. (1895)
338 29th St. (c. 1905)
2833 Forest (1904)
331 28th (1901, Liebe, Nourse and Rasmussen)

Gabled Cottage (a carryover from Shingle styles; individual houses have various stylistic associations)

2830 Ridge (1898)
2840 Ridge (c. 1910)
2831 Ridge (c. 1905)
2804 Ridge (1905)
2805 Forest (1901?)
2838 Forest (1904)
2908 Forest (1906, Rawson)
305 28th (1913; Voysey-esque)
407 28th (1902, attributed to a builder named George Cummins)

Maheresque (Farson House-type)

318-20 29th St. (1904, attributed to Charles Watrous)
2825 Ridge (1905)
2848 Ridge (c. 1900)

Georgian Revival

402 29th St. (c. 1916, Sawyer and Watrous)
2800 Forest (1905, C.C. Cross & Sons)
2900 Grand (Palladian Georgian, 1905, Liebe, Nourse & Rasmussen)

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Prairie School influence

431 28th St. (1914, Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson)

Miscellaneous, 1890's

446 29th St. (1895)

450 29th

2832 Ridge (c. 1895, large, simplified Queen Anne)

2829 Forest (1890, rectilinear Queen Anne)

2846 Forest (1893) Richardsonian/Colonial Revival

401 28th St. (1892, Shingle style)

415 28th St. (Rectilinear Queen Anne)

313 28th (c. 1890)

Other houses of the dominant period which are basically builders' speculative designs:

304-06 29th St. (1905)

451 29th St. (1910)

2800 Ridge (1905)

2834 Forest (1901)

2849 Forest (1913, Frederick Wallich)

2900 Forest (c. 1900)

425 28th St. (1900)

Other houses:

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Verbal Boundary Description:

All of Lots 1 through 8, Langan Place; and

All of Lot 1; the South 60 feet of Lot 6; all of Lots 7 through 24; the north 164 feet of the east 78 feet and the north 217 feet of the west 209 feet of Lot 25; Lot 26 except the south 80 feet thereof; the north 200 feet of the east 30 feet, and except the south 45 feet, the west 105 feet of Lot 27, Owl's Head; and,

All of Lot 1, and the south 110 feet of Lot 2, and all of Lots 9 through 11, of the Official Plat of Lots 40 and 63 through 67 Polk and Hubbell Park, J.S. Polk Subdivision; and,

Except the south 35 feet, all of Lot 60; the south 104 feet of Lot 61; apart of Lot 61 beginning at a point 27 feet southerly from the northwest corner, thence easterly 131.8 feet, thence southeasterly 5 feet, thence southerly 109 feet, thence westerly 104 feet, thence northerly 100 feet to the point of beginning; Lot 45, except the southeasterly part being the southerly 110 feet on the northeast line and the southeasterly 103.8 feet on the south line; a part of Lot 61, except the southeasterly 103.8 feet of the north 10 feet on the east line and the north 14.8 feet on the west line; the north 70 feet of the south 120 feet and the south 30 feet of the north 80 feet of the west 220 feet, Lot 62; the west 200 feet of the north 50 feet, Lot 62, the Polk and Hubbell Park,

all of the above is now in and forming a part of the City of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

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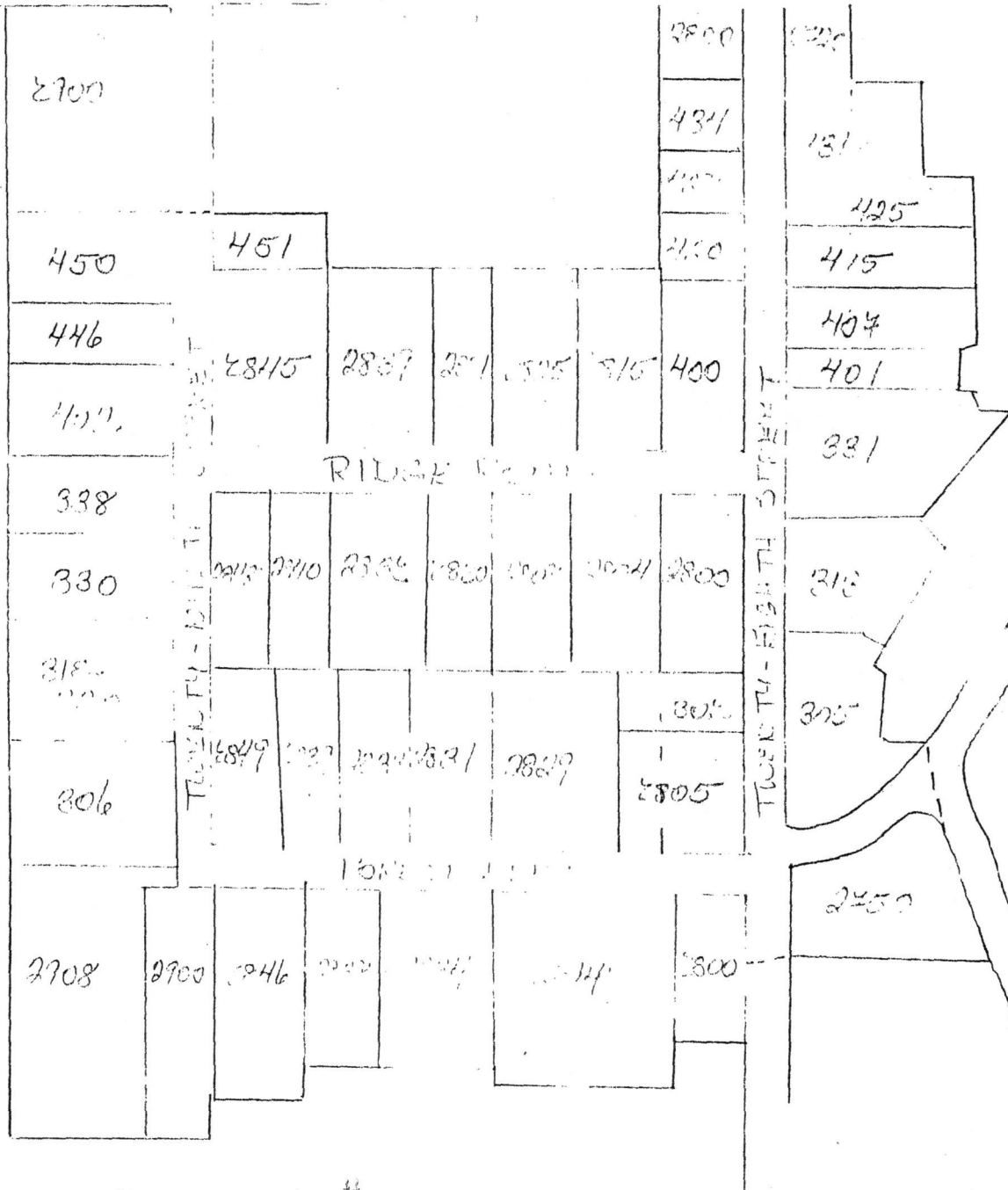
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PAGE

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS:

- "James Heemstra": Credit: James Heemstra
Negative filed at: Julian Archer
402 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- "SAS": Credit: Significant Architecture Survey, City of Des Moines
Negative filed at: Plan and Zoning Commission
East 1st and Locust Streets
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
- "DM": Credit: Des Moines Windshield Survey
Iowa Division of Historic Preservation
Negative filed at: Division of Historic Preservation
26 East Market Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
- "DHP": Credit: S.J. Klingensmith
Negative filed at: Division of HIstoric Preservation
26 East Market Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

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Ridge Road

2800: Edward A. Susanin & Janice M. Susanin
2800 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2804: ~~William F. Pillsbury~~ *Bruce & Beverly Campbell*

2804 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2808: P. D. Peterson & Ella M. Peterson

2808 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2815: Arnold H. & Marilyn B. Garson

2815 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2825: Louise D. Knotts

2825 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2830: Richard J. & Jeanette A. Wright

2830 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2831: Mr. & Mrs. James R. McGuire

2831 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2832: Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Matthews

2832 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2839: Glenn Smith & Bev Smith

2839 Ridge Road

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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Ridge Road

2840: Bennett A. Webster
2840 Ridge Road
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2845: Jack C. & B. Joyce McFadyen
2845 Ridge Road
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2848: James W. Hubbell III
2848 Ridge Road
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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29th Street

- 304: Robert A. & Susan VanOrsdel
304 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 320: Winston Howland
320 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 330: Thomas H. & Kay R. McCollum
330 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 338: Frederick G. Crane
338 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 402: Mr. & Mrs. Julian Archer
402 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 446: Inaka, Marija, & Margarita Kalejs
446 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 450: Harry W. & Isabel Kunkle
450 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 451: Bryan H. Hall
451 29th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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Forest Drive

- 2750: Ruth Wallace Wijkmen (Mrs. Per)
2750 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2800: Kathryn Gammack
2800 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2805: Daniel E. & Mary V. Wiese
2805 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2814: Julia B. Gentleman
2814 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2829: Jules Kirschenbaum
2829 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2831: Ellsworth L. & Juanita Jenkin Johnson
2831 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2833: James R. & Eleanor M. Perry
2833 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2834: Mary Ann Riley & Robert G. Riley
2834 Forset Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2838: R. H. Gernes
328-38th Place
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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Forest Drive

2839: Donald R. & Mary C. Sherinian
2839 Froest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2846: Herbert & Donna McCaw
2846 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2849: Richard E. & Alexandra T. Haesemeyer
2849 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2900: M/M Harlan Miller
2900 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

2908: John C. & Jane B. Eddy
2908 Forest Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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28th Street

- 302: Daniel Griffin
302 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 305: Mark C. & Leslie Engelbrecht
305 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 313: Marvin R. Winnie
313 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 331: Horace & Josephine Strong
331 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 400: James C. Crecelius
526 Glenview Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 401: Anne E. Bergdahl
401 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 407: Herndon Polk Hippee
407 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 415: Gladys Conley
415 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 420: Mrs. Florence Styles
420 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 425: Donald E. Signs
425 28th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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28th Street

428: Warren A. and Patricia M. Wittie
428 28th St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

431: C. J. Rahm
2930 Willowmene Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

434: Esther A. Leibow
4131 College
Des Moines, Iowa

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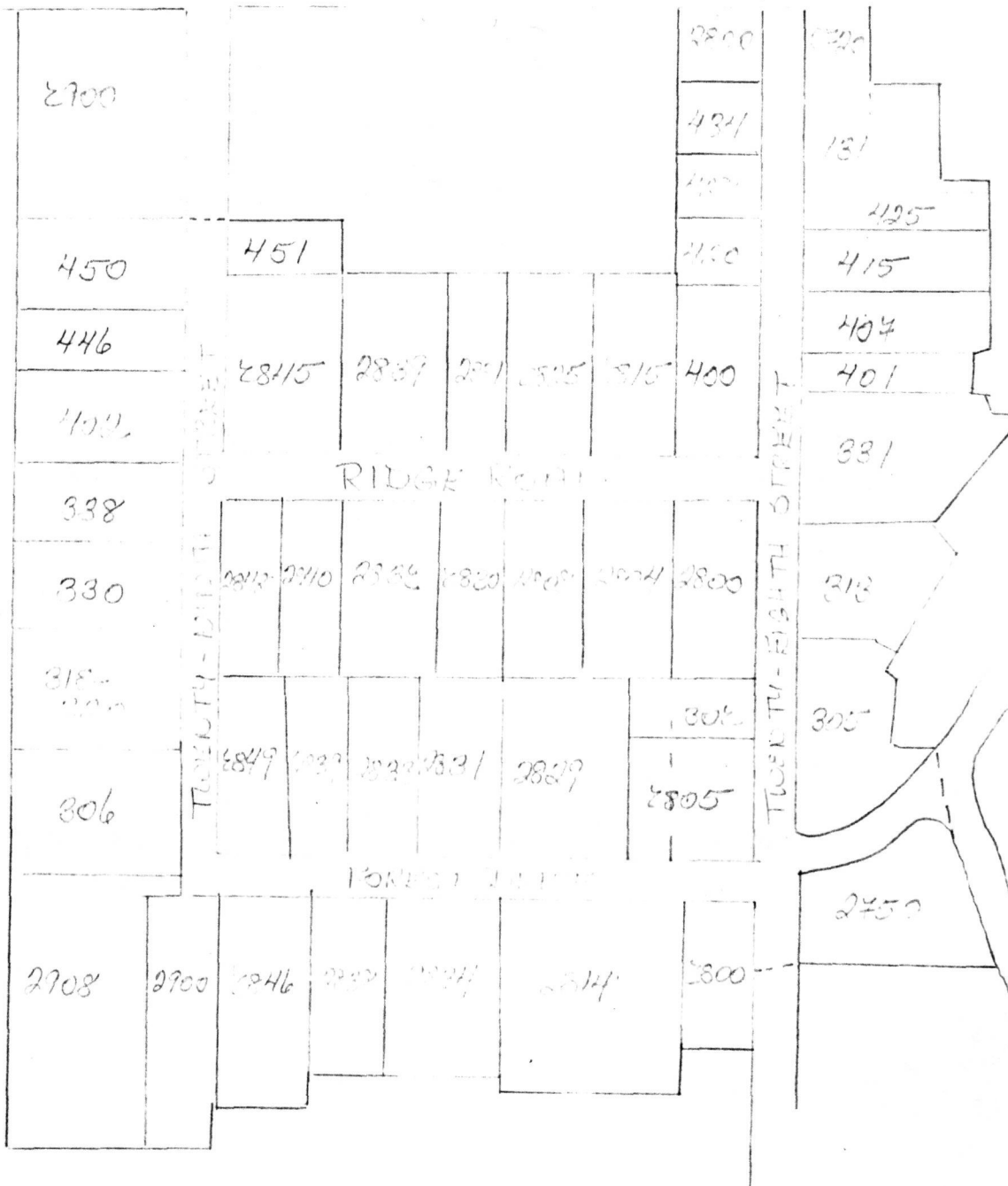
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Grand Avenue

- 2720: Joe and Mary Costanzo (Victoria Cleaners)
4328 Ingersoll Ave. *NO*
Des Moines, Iowa
- 2800: Schallers, Inc.
2800 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
- 2900: Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union
2900 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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