

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 09-00894 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 09-00962
 Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries
 National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE
 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____
 Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name Gruben, Merle and Jeanette, House
 other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 305 3rd St SE
 city or town Waverly vicinity, county Bremer
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 15 Lot(s) Lots 3 & 4

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
	If Non-Eligible Property Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of: Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ Total	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).
 Title Waverly's NW & SE Neighborhoods Historical & Architectural MPD Historical Architectural Data Base Number 09-028

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>01A03 Single Dwelling with attached garage</u>	<u>01A03 Single Dwelling with attached garage</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>06F Mission</u>	foundation <u>10B Poured Concrete</u>
_____	walls (visible material) <u>03 Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08A Asphalt/Shingle</u>
_____	other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Bremer
City Waverly

Address 305 3rd St SE

Site Number 09-00894
District Number 09-00962

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

02 ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

Construction date 1933 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc. date 9/2012
 organization for City of Waverly, Historic Preservation Commission telephone 715/469-3300
 street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

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Gruben, Merle and Jeanette, House	Bremer
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7. Description

This 2-story single-family house is estimated to have been built in 1933 according to Bremer County Assessor records. This date is confirmed by a series of newspaper accounts published that year. Architectural drawings for the house are retained by the current owner but are undated.

This brick house is an example of a Mission Style house built using the Front-Gable-and-Wing form. In this example the side gable section has a front-gable wing. The house has a poured concrete foundation with mottled tan and brown-colored brick walls. Brick ornamentation includes multi-colored rock-faced brick quoins around the French doors and similar colored soldier brick arches for the larger window openings. The house has a low-pitched intersecting-gable roof with narrow eaves. The roof is clad in terra cotta red clay tiles and decorative ridge tile. The main entrance is tucked in the right-hand ell set beneath a small tile-clad shed roof supported by knee brace brackets. A similar door hood is used for the rear entrance. The house incorporates a single-bay garage into the basement level with the overhead door opening onto the alley to the south. Another unusual Mission Style feature of the house is the chimney top for the exposed chimney on the north façade. It features a tiled roof cap with three side openings.

Fenestration is the most important design element for the Gruben House. The feature window of the front façade is in the end wall of the front-gable wing. It has a segmental brick arch above a group of four multi-lights windows with shaped multi-light transoms. Similar 10-light units in fixed and double-hung configurations are elsewhere on the main floor. Elsewhere windows include 6/1, 8/1, and 9/1 double-hung units in various sizes. Several semi-circular arched sashes, including a pair of multi-light windows at the front entrance, reflect the favorite window shape of the Mission Style. Semi-circular arched vents are in the gable ends of the attic levels. Feature entrance openings incorporate multi-light French doors including a pair along the south façade of the front wing, and a pair for the wrought iron balcony on the second floor on the north façade.

The interior of the house is influenced by the Mission Style design of the building exterior as well. Examples include the segmental arched curved openings between rooms, the sets of circular landings and curved steps connecting levels of the house, and the wrought iron balustrade separating the main floor from the sunken living room. Another interesting feature is the carved stone for part of the mantel and fireplace surround. It depicts a cabin scene setting in the north woods that recalls the Gruben family's cabin in Northern Minnesota.

As noted above, the house has a single-stall garage bay in the exposed basement level. It opens onto the alley and is original to the house. The overhead door design includes six square windows over three paneled rows. According to the drawings for the elevations of the house, this door is close in design to the original planned door.

Alterations: kitchen remodeling (undated).

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8. Significance

The house at 305 3rd Street SE is a well-preserved example of a Mission Style house form built during the Depression Era. It is a rare example of this style in Waverly. It is also associated with the career of Merle Gruben, who operated the family monument works in Waverly for more than 50 years while he and his wife Jeanette resided here. Both his father and brother resided within a block of Merle's residence. The house qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places individually under Criterion C and as a contributing resource to the historic district under Criteria A and C.

Merle Gruben was the son of Matthew Gruben, a German immigrant and stonecutter, who settled in Waverly in 1890. He worked for the Waverly Granite and Marble Works and later became partner and then owner in the business. In 1909 Matt and his wife Mary built a new house at 220 4th Street SE where they raised their two sons, Merle and Harold C. Both brothers eventually built houses near their parents – Merle at 305 3rd Street SE (1933) and Harold at 402 3rd Street SE (1924). A biography of Matt Gruben compiled in 1914 appears below:

MATT GRUBEN

Business interests of Waverly find a progressive and worthy representative in Matt Gruben, operating the Waverly Granite and Marble Works, the oldest establishment of its kind in northern Iowa. He was born in Prussia, Germany, June 22, 1871, and is a son of Nicolao and Katherine (Hammes) Gruben, both of whom were born in the same locality. The father engaged in farming there for many years and never came to America. He had been twice married and had four children by his first wife and two by his second. After his death the mother of the subject of this review came to America and settled in Hastings, Minnesota, in 1882. She moved from that city to Mankato, in the same state, and there she still resides.

Matt Gruben acquired his education in the public schools of Minnesota and after laying aside his books, began learning the stonecutter's trade in Hastings, continuing at it in Mankato. In 1890 he came to Waverly and worked in the employ of A.R. Taylor for some years, eventually buying a half interest in the business. In 1900 he purchased the entire concern and moved it from the original location on West Bremer street [sic] to the new plant one block east. There he has one of the most modern and up-to-date shops in Iowa, provided with a show-room eighty feet deep and an enclosed work shop twenty-two feet square. The Waverly Granite and Marble Works is the oldest establishment of its kind in northern Iowa and is without doubt one of the best equipped, electric power and pneumatic tools being used for producing finer work than can be done by hand. Mr. Gruben has also installed an overhead traveling crane of the latest pattern and this has proved of the greatest value in moving monuments. He keeps on hand a large and well assorted stock of artistic marble and granite of all kinds and he makes it his aim to keep his prices reasonable and his work of the highest quality. In addition to the work done and his shop he also imports monuments from all over the world, especially from Scotland and Sweden, and his business is continually growing in volume and importance.

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On the 19th of June, 1895, Mr. Gruben married Miss Mary E. Runyard, a daughter of Austin Runyard, a representative of one of the best known families in Bremer county. She is a highly educated woman and was for some time principal in the city schools. Mr. and Mrs. Gruben have two children, Merrill F. and Harold C., who are attending school. Mr. Gruben is a member of the Roman Catholic church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. The cause of education finds in him a loyal supporter. His attention is concentrated upon the upbuilding of his marble and monument works and in the development of this business he has proved capable, reliable and energetic, standing today among the men of marked ability and substantial worth in this locality. (*History of Bremer County, Iowa Vol. II*), 1914 (available online at: <http://iagenweb.org/boards/bremer/biographies/index.cgi?read=255493>; accessed 3/4/2012)

By the time that Merle Gruben was managing the monument company the firm name had been changed to Gruben Monument Works but was still located on West Bremer Avenue. The Grubens owned the house until 1989 selling it to John Hussin. He held it for four years selling it in 1993 to Timothy and Angela Kilworth. The couple worked as engineers for John Deere. In 2008 the property was sold to Steven and Sara Dobbs. Sara's father, Ronald Matthias, occupies the house in 2011. He is a retired Wartburg College professor and administrator as well as an author.

9. Sources

Atlas of Bremer County, Iowa. Waverly, Iowa: Waverly Publishing Company, 1917.

Atlases of Bremer County. microfilm copies of atlases for 1875, 1894 and 1927, Waverly Public Library.

Bremer County History Book Committee. *Bremer County History, 1985*. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing, 1985.

Grawe, Joseph F. *History of Bremer County, Iowa, Volumes I and II*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Company, 1914. (biography for Matt Gruben available online at: <http://iagenweb.org/boardsbremer/biographies/index.cgi?read=255493>; accessed 3/4/2012)

History of Butler County, Iowa. Springfield, Illinois: Union Publishing, 1883.

Sanborn Company Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1905, 1915, 1927, and 1927 updated to 1943.

Vertical file collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly building histories, miscellaneous bound volumes in reference collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly city directories, 1899 and 1913.

Waverly Heritage Days historical walking tour brochures for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Waverly Newspapers: *Bremer Independent* – 6/30/1933; 7/5/1933; and 10/18/1933.

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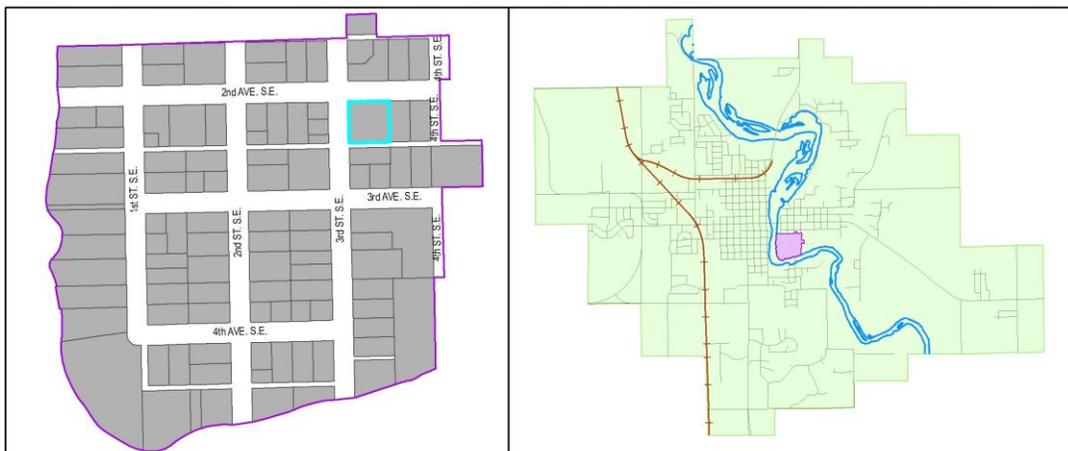
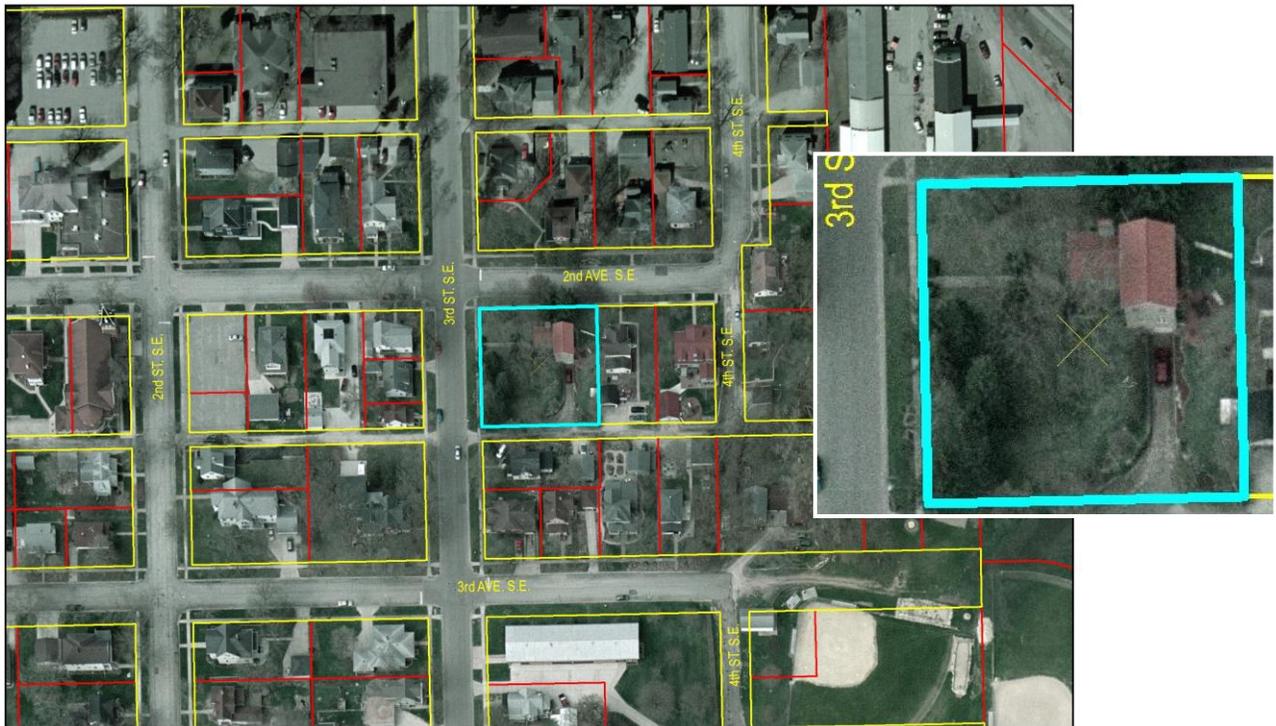
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Gruben, Merle and Jeanette, House
Name of Property
305 3rd St SE
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City

Site Map: Bremer County GIS Department, 12/2011.

305 3rd St SE
PIN 09-02-187-001



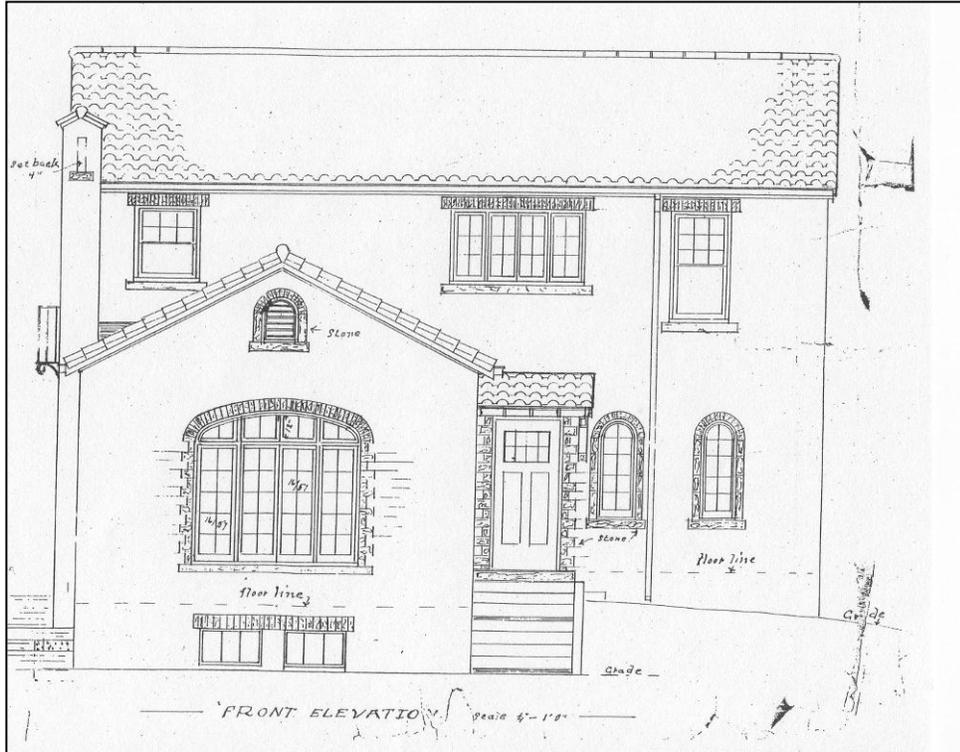
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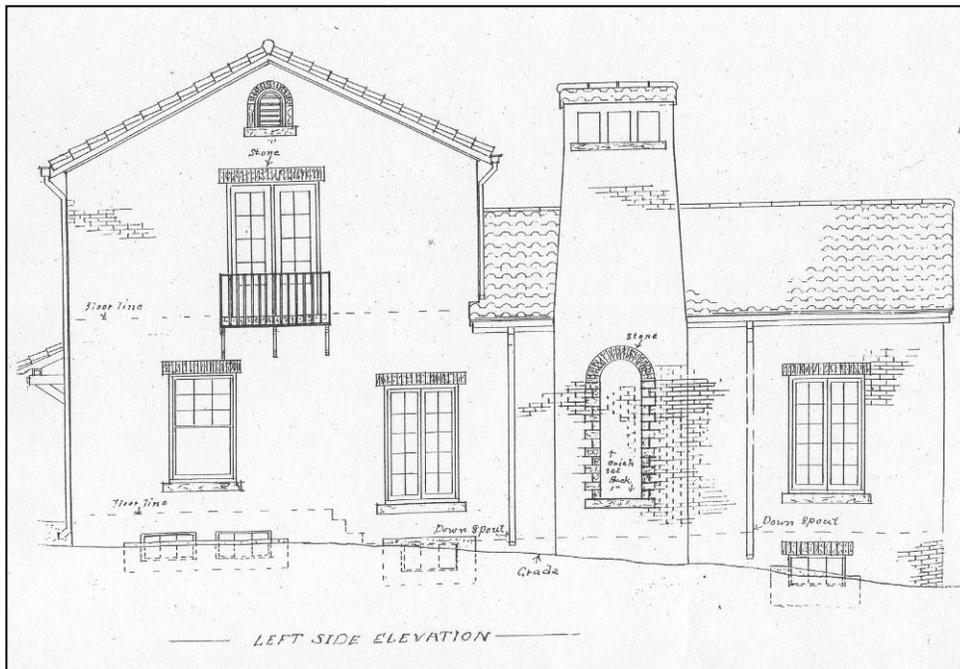
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Gruben, Merle and Jeanette, House
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Architectural Drawings:
Front Elevation, looking
east, 1933, unidentified
architect (provided by
owners, Steven and Sarah
Dobbs)



Left Side Elevation,
looking south

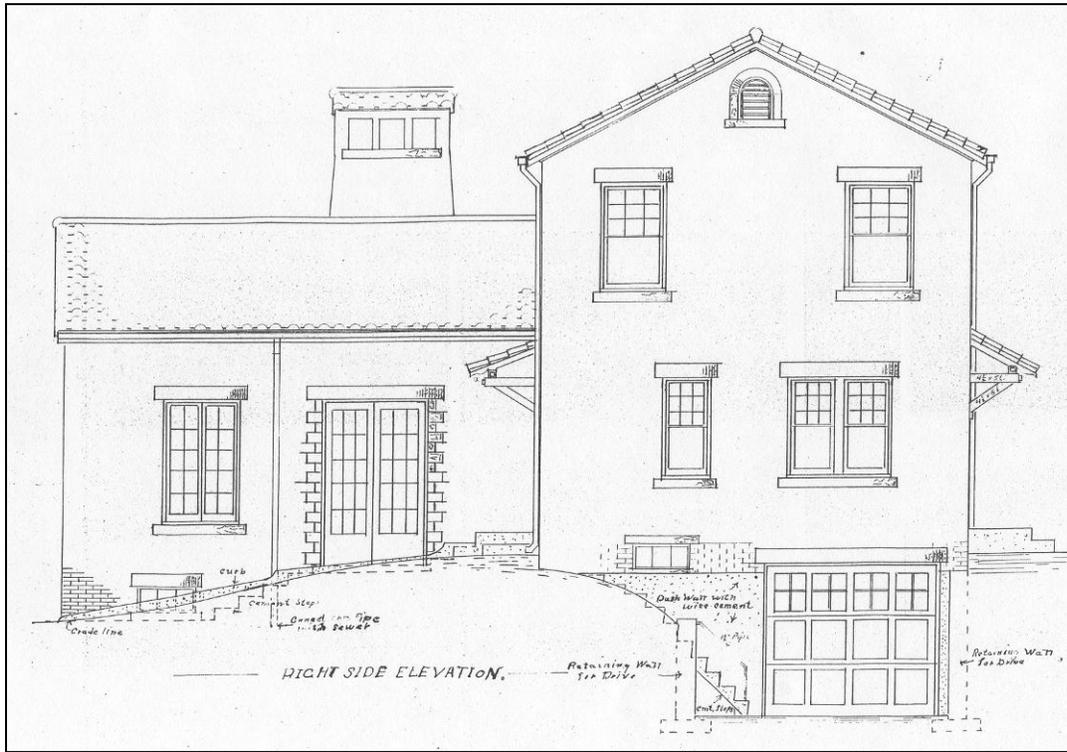
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Architectural Drawings: Right Side Elevation, looking north, 1933, unidentified architect (provided by owners, Steven and Sarah Dobbs)



Rear Elevation, looking west

RESIDENCE of M. E. GRUBEN
 WAVERLY IOWA.

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Photograph: 305 3rd St SE, looking east, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, looking southeast and east northeast, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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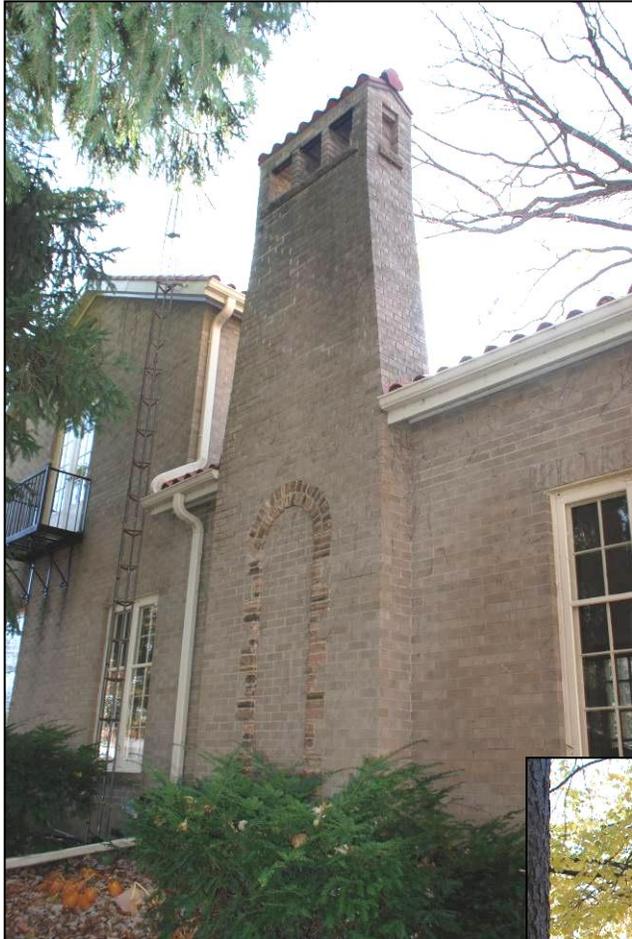
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Gruben, Merle and Jeanette, House
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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, chimney, pedestrian light and front window details, looking southeast, east and northwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



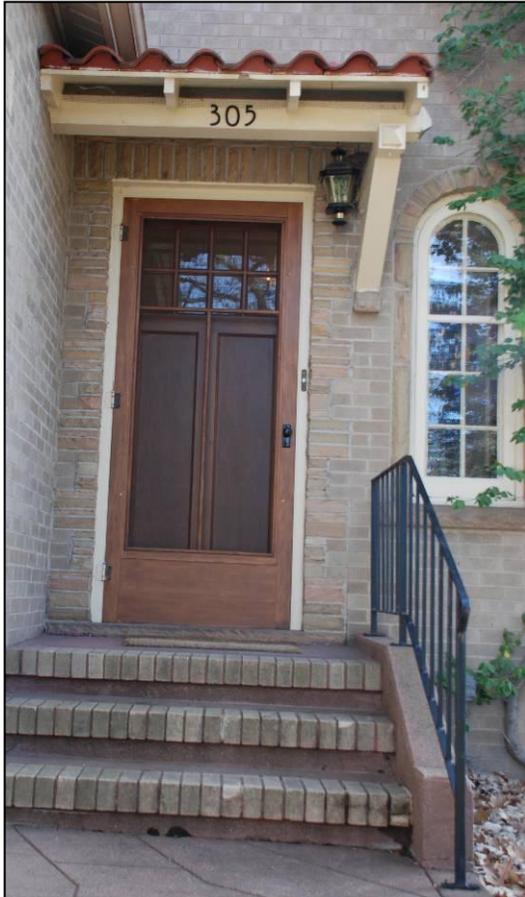
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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, front door, French doors. and window details, looking east and north, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012.



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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, looking north and southwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012.



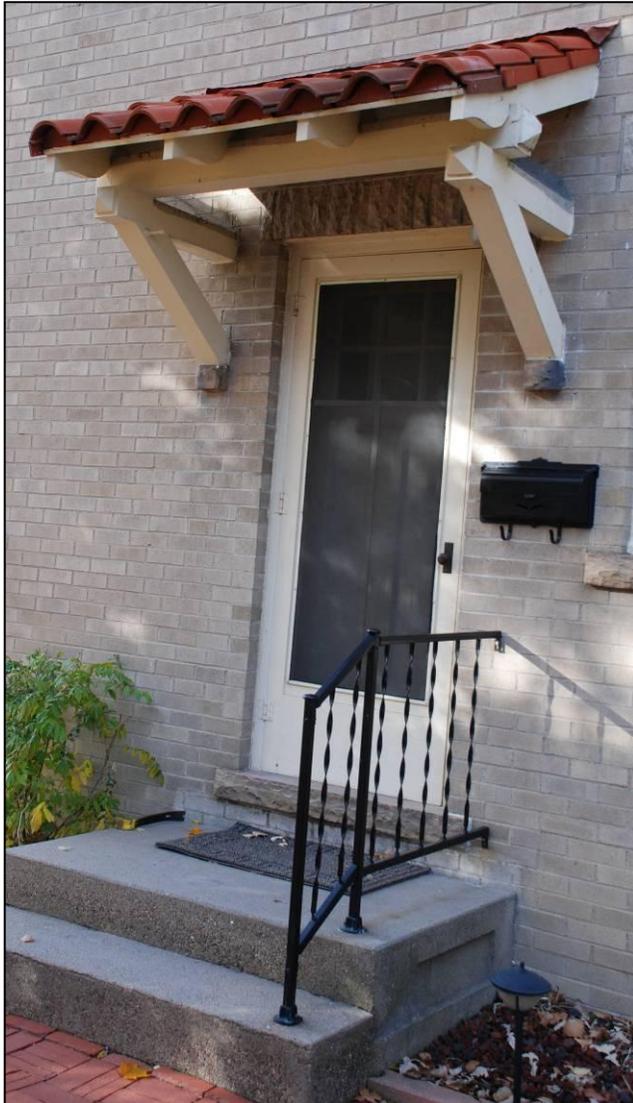
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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, rear door and stone walkway details, looking southwest and south, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012.



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Interior Views: 305 3rd St SE, living room, looking west, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012.



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Interior Views: 305 3rd St SE, living room, looking east towards dining room and steps into entrance foyer, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012.

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Interior Views: 305 3rd St SE, entrance foyer and front door, looking southwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012



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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, looking east and southeast, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, looking south and north, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



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Photographs: 305 3rd St SE, looking north, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



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Floor plan, 305 3rd St SE, Bremer County Assessor website; available at <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/PhotoEngine/Sketch.aspx?appid=330&keyvalue=0902187001&index=0&size=0>; accessed 3/4/2012.

