

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

State Inventory No. 09-00912 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, Matthew and Mary, House
 other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 220 4th 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) 10 Lot(s) Lot 8

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>2</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>2</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>01A Single Dwelling</u>	<u>01A Single Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09A05 Hipped Roof, 2-Story (American Four-Square)</u>	foundation <u>04 Stone (parged)</u>
<u>07E02 Craftsman</u>	walls (visible material) <u>15B Vinyl</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 220 4th St SE

Site Number 09-00912
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
1909 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation
1914

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.
organization for City of Waverly, Historic Preservation Commission
street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road
city or town Sarona state WI
date 9/2012
telephone 715/469-3300
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, Matthew and Mary, House	Bremer
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7. Description

This 2-story single-family house is estimated to have been built in 1909 according to Bremer County Assessor records. The Matthew and Mary Gruben family resided at this address in 1913 according to city directory listings that year. The design for the house is consistent with the pre-World War time period. Taken together, the ca. 1909 date is consistent with public records.

This frame house is an example of a vernacular 2-story Hipped Roof house form known as the “American Four-Square” that became popular across Iowa and in Waverly in the years leading up to and immediately following World War I. This variation retains a few features typical of Craftsman Style designs from the period. The house has a stone foundation covered in concrete parging with narrow-width clapboard-style vinyl siding on the walls. The house has a low-pitched, flared hipped roof with wide eaves and a low-pitched hipped roof attic dormer centered on the front slope. A small addition with a steep hipped roof is on the north façade. It has a side entrance that opens into a small entrance hall from the driveway.

A flat-roof porch spans the north two-thirds of the east façade and wraps the north corner. The north half of the porch and the corner section are fully enclosed and the Craftsman Style design of the windows suggests that the enclosure was original or very early. Three windows with 6/1 double-hung windows with tall and narrow lights in the upper sash fill the wall sections between the columns. It is possible that the enclosure occurred in 1912 when a newspaper account states that the house was enlarged. The balance of the porch remains open. Matching narrow clapboard-style vinyl siding covers the square columns and the closed balustrades that extend to the ground level. Small rectangular inset skirting panels have narrowly spaced vertical lattice; they are placed in the north and south ends of the porch below deck. A door opens onto the upper roof level suggesting that the house originally had a roof balustrade that is nonextant now. Fenestration includes large 1/1 double-hung windows widely spaced on both levels. A pair of single-light square windows is in the dormer.

The house has a free-standing hipped roof double-bay garage setback along the north side. The frame building is clad in stucco and was built in 1914 according to the County Assessor’s records. The overhead door is a replacement.

Alterations: vinyl siding on walls and porch features covered (undated).

8. Significance

The Gruben House at 220 4th Street SE is a vernacular 2-story Hipped Roof house form known as the “American Four-Square” that became popular across Iowa and in Waverly in the years leading up to and immediately following World War I. This variation retains a few features typical of Craftsman Style, which may reflect changes made at the time the garage was added a few years after the house was built. The house was built for Matt and Mary Gruben, owners of a monument company in Waverly. The house and garage qualify for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing resources to the historic district under Criteria A and C.

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Matthew Gruben was 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 this 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.

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 [sic] 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)

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The Gruben family members were all members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, a fact that likely drew them all to the 4th Ward neighborhood after the turn of the century to build houses. Matt Gruben died in 1938 and the family built a large mausoleum in Harlington Cemetery. Numerous articles appeared in the newspaper during its construction. It stands as testimony to the family's successful monument business. A 2005 view of the mausoleum appears below.



Source: Matt and Mary Gruben entries, "Iowa Gravestone Photo Project," IAGenWeb, photo uploaded 10/29/2005; available online at: http://iowagravestones.org/gs_view.php?id=186287; accessed 3/27/2012.

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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.

"Iowa Gravestone Photo Project," IAGenWeb, photo uploaded 10/29/2005; available online at: http://iowagravestones.org/gs_view.php?id=186287; accessed 3/27/2012.

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: house enlargement: *Waverly Republican* – 9/5/1912; Gruben Memorial construction: *Waverly Democrat* - 9/9/1938, 1/20/1939 and *Bremer Independent* - 9/28/1938, 11/2/1938.

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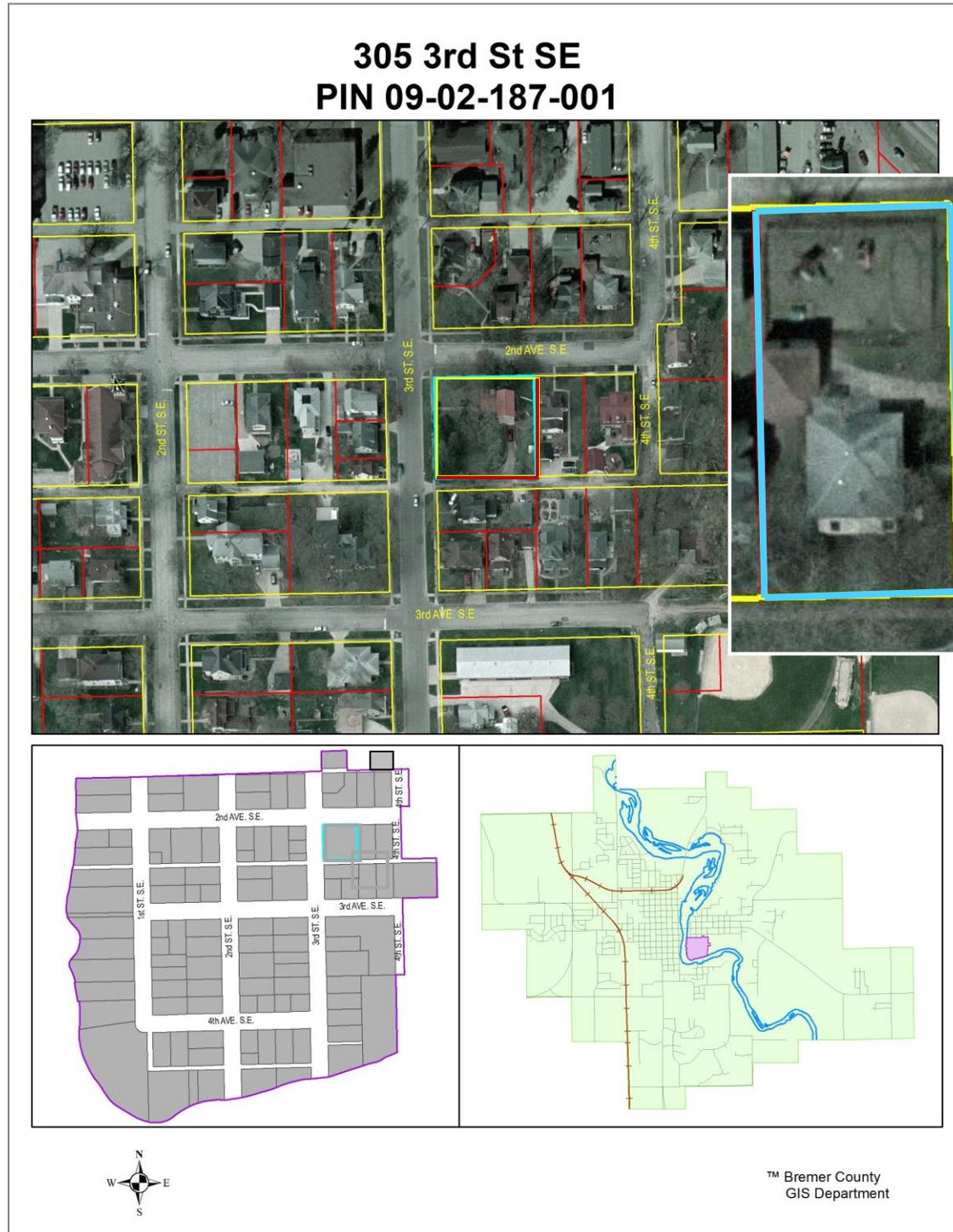
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Site Map: Bremer County GIS Department, 12/2011.



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Photograph: 220 4th St SE, looking northwest and porch detail, looking northwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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Photographs: 220 4th St SE, looking west and southwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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Photographs: 220 4th St SE, looking south and garage, looking west, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/03/2012.



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Photographs: 220 4th St SE, looking northwest and north, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



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Photographs: 220 4th St SE, looking south west and west, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



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Photographs: 220 4th St SE, looking southwest, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



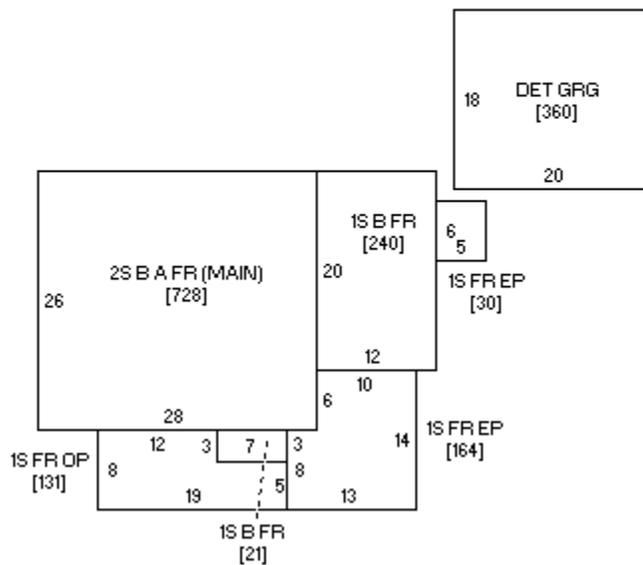
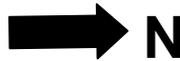
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Floor plan, 220 4th St SE, Bremer County Assessor website; available at <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/PhotoEngine/Sketch.aspx?appid=330&keyvalue=0902183009&index=0&size=0>; accessed 3/27/2012.



Sketch by www.camavision.com