

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Shantz, Martin L. and Mary Jane (Yount), House

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 303 A Avenue SE not for publication

city or town Mount Vernon vicinity

state Iowa county Linn zip code 52314

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date _____

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	1	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/Limestone

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

This two-story brick house is located at the southwest corner of A Avenue SE and 3rd Street SE in Mount Vernon. This is a large corner lot, with the house setback from both streets but now close to the adjacent lot line. Historically, the parcel associated with this house was much larger and extended to the south. There is a commercial parking lot to the west that is screened by the garage and plantings along the west lot line. The house was built in 1882 by blacksmith Martin Shantz as his family home in a vernacular Late Victorian design. His blacksmith shop sat in the back yard to the west of the house where the extant garage is now located. Significant features include the L-shaped ground plan, moderate-pitched hip roofs, wide eave overhangs with covered soffits, and the brick cavity wall construction. The house is built with locally-manufactured bricks in what appears to be a notable example of cavity wall construction wherein the exterior walls are laid in a running bond (every course is a stretcher), with the walls tied together internally with metal ties leaving an air cavity in-between the brick walls. Therefore, the walls are thick like completely structural brick walls but have the appearance of a veneer on the exterior. The foundation is also built with local material being built of rough-cut limestone blocks, with the quarry-faced capstones having tooled edges. The windows are 1/1 vinyl replacements but the openings all have the original dressed limestone sills and lintels. The house was originally built without a porch, with the extant porch added in the early 20th century. This hipped roof porch wraps around the northeast corner, with the round wooden posts replaced with wrought-iron posts after 1967. A one-story brick gabled ell is located on the south side (rear) and was original to the house's construction. The property includes a noncontributing detached garage located where Shantz's blacksmith shop once stood. The house retains good to fair integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**, and any future plans for the property under the subheading **Future Plans**.)

This two-story brick house is located at the southwest corner of A Avenue SE and 3rd Street SE. The house faces A Avenue to the east and occupies a level lot. Martin Shantz's non-extant blacksmith shop faced 3rd Street, which was a connecting road to the Military Road (Highway 1) to the west and the road to Lisbon to the east. There are mature shade trees, pine trees, and shrubbery in the northeast yard, with the back and south side yards having no trees. Originally, this house was located on a large lot that included the lot next door to the south, but there was no house on that lot at least in the early 20th century (Sanborn 1906-1941). This larger lot consisted of a half block of two lots. Currently, there is a house and garage on the lot to the south, with that garage close to the south side of the subject house. The parking lot of the Ace Hardware store occupies the half block to the west, with residential properties to the north, northeast, east, and south of the subject property. Many of the homes along A Avenue are historic homes of older or similar vintage to the subject house.

The house was built in 1882 by Martin Shantz as his family home. Shantz had owned one of the lots since 1874 and had a smaller frame house and his shop on that lot. Shantz's blacksmith shop was located in the northwest corner of the lot to the rear of the extant house. A modern garage now occupies part of that site but previous owners have reported finding horseshoes in the back yard. The house has a front ell with a rear ell that extends to the north forming an L-shaped ground plan (Figure 1). The roofs of both ells are moderate-pitched hip roofs covered with asphalt shingles and have wide eave overhangs with covered soffits. A hipped roof porch now wraps around the northeast corner sheltering both the main front door and the secondary front door on the rear ell, with both doors facing east. The porch has a

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concrete floor and wrought-iron posts. The porch was added to this house between 1906 and 1921 and had full-height, round, wooden Tuscan columns reflecting the Colonial Revival style then popular (Figure 2). The posts were replaced with the wrought-iron posts after 1967. A circa 1903 photograph of the house shows that historically there was no porch on the east side of the house, with Sanborn fire insurance maps showing only a slight overhang on the façade in 1906 and then the wrap-around porch added by 1921 (Figures 3-4). A circa 1915 date for the porch is used herein.



**Figure 1. 303 A Avenue SE looking west.
Photograph taken May 2, 2018.**



**Figure 2. Shantz House, circa 1915, with Colonial Revival style porch addition looking SW.
Source: Family Tree files accessed at Ancestry.com, January 2019.**

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Figure 3. Shantz House, c.1903, with two of the Shantz children, looking south.
Note that there is no porch on the house. Source: Files of the Lisbon History Center, Lisbon, Iowa.

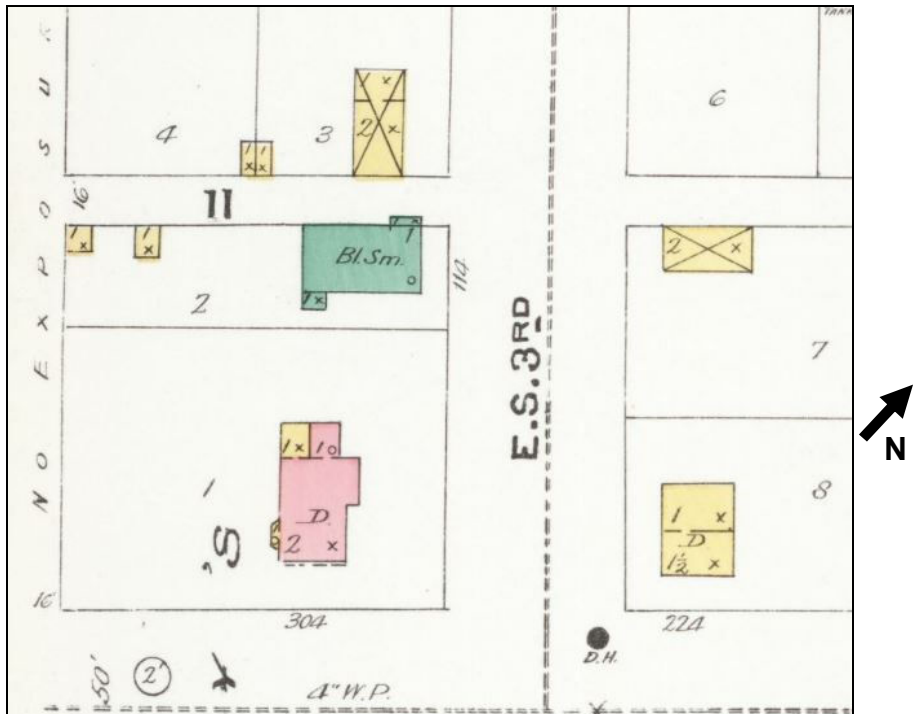


Figure 4. Shantz House and Blacksmith Shop as shown on the 1906 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.
Note the lack of the wrap-around porch. Source: Library of Congress website.

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The brick walls are laid in a running bond, which can represent a veneer over a frame wall construction. However, the 1906-1941 Sanborn maps depict this as solid brick rather than a veneer over frame construction. Physically, the walls in this house are very thick; therefore, the use of the running bond, where all courses are stretchers, appears to indicate a cavity wall construction.¹ The windows all have dressed limestone sills and lintels. The foundation is built of rough-cut limestone blocks, with the capstones being quarry-faced but having tooled edges. Photographs from circa 1903 and 1915 show that the original windows were 2/2 double-hung wooden-sash windows. Those windows were still in place as late as 1967 but were subsequently replaced with 1/1 vinyl windows (Figure 5). Historically, the house also had two brick chimneys with only one extant.



Figure 5. Shantz House in 1967 looking west.
Source: Margaret Keyes Papers, State Historical Society of Iowa – Iowa City

Façade (East Side)²

The façade has symmetrical three-rank fenestration, with the front entry door to the right and two single windows to the left on the first story and three evenly-spaced single windows across the second story (Figure 6). The front door has a modern storm door over the interior door, which is the original 2-paneled wooden door with a decorative etched-glass window pane that fits a segmental-arched opening at the top half of the door. The east side of the rear ell has an entry door that also has a modern storm door with the same type of 2-paneled wooden interior door but has a clear-glass upper pane that is a replacement. This door now serves as the main entry to the house. Both front doors have deep, wood-paneled casements that are intact on the interior.

¹ A cavity wall system using the running bond requires metal ties on the interior between the two brick walls to tie the walls together leaving an open space in between (McAlester 2017:41). This type of construction provides the insulation and look of a solid brick wall without the cost of solid brick wall construction. Further investigation of these walls would be required to confirm the full nature of their construction and identify how the walls are tied together. For example, did Shantz being a blacksmith make the iron ties that might tie the walls together? However, this type of investigation is not currently feasible.

² In this area of Mount Vernon, the streets are oriented on a southeast to northwest angle. Therefore, in this narrative, “east” is actually southeasterly, “north” is northeasterly, “west” is northwesterly, and “south” is southwesterly.”

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As noted above, there is an open front porch with wrought-iron posts, concrete floor, and a low-pitched hip roof that wraps around the northeast corner of the house. Both doors are sheltered by this porch, which was added between 1906 and 1921 and had Tuscan posts (see Figure 4). These posts were still in place in 1967 (see Figure 5). Originally, there was no porch on the north side of the house, although the 1906 Sanborn map suggests that there was a slight cornice overhang on the façade of the house (see Figures 3-4).



Figure 6. Façade of 303 A Avenue SE looking NW. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

North Side

The north side of the front ell of the house has no window or door openings (Figure 7). The rear ell, which bumps out to the north, has two single windows evenly spaced across both stories. These windows have the same type of dressed-stone lintels and sills. The rear ell also has a quarry-faced limestone block foundation and the same type of bricks as the front ell indicating the rear ell was built at the same time as part of the same house design and not as an addition. There is a concrete sidewalk that extends out from the north side of the porch to the street.



Figure 7. North side of 303 A Avenue SE looking SW. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

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Rear (West Side)

The rear of the house has a one-story, front-gabled ell that is set back slightly from the north wall of the rear ell (Figures 8-9). This small structure has an entry door on its east side with a single 1/1 double-hung window to its right. Both the door and the window have dressed-stone lintels, with the window also having a dressed-stone sill like those on the rest of the house. The west gable end of this structure has no window or door openings. The bricks used in this structure are the same type and color and laid in the same bond as the two-story section of the house indicating the likelihood that this structure was not an addition but rather part of the original house design. This structure was shown on the 1906 Sanborn map and had a frame porch on its south side (see Figure 4). Given the nature of Martin Shantz's work in his blacksmith shop that was directly behind this house to the west, the small gabled ell may have served as his everyday entryway into the house as a wash room. It currently functions in much the same way as a laundry/utility room. There is now a concrete pad at the back door that extends over to a second concrete sidewalk that also extends out to the street. There are no window openings on the second story of the rear ell of the house. A dark stain on the brick wall just under the eaves is from a nonextant brick chimney that vented heating stoves. Some cracking down the rear wall at this location has been repaired.



Figure 8. North and west sides of 303 A Avenue SE looking South. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.



Figure 9. West (rear) side of 303 A Avenue SE looking ESE. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

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South Side

The south side of the one-story, rear gabled ell has a door to the right that has dressed-stone lintel and sill. The door is now covered with a sheet of plywood. A modern prefabricated storage unit stands partially in front of the door on the concrete slab that extends out from this side of the structure (Figure 10). To the left of the door is a single 1/1 window with dressed-stone lintel and sill.



Figure 10. South side of rear structure looking NE.
Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

The south side of the two-story section of the house has three single 1/1 windows across the second story but the window to the right side is spaced directly above the three-sided bay window on the first story (Figure 11). Therefore, the windows on the second story of the south side are not evenly spaced as on they are on façade. The first story has the same configuration except for the bay window, which is to the right side. The bay window has a very low-pitched hip roof and windows that consist of narrower 1/1 windows than on the body of the house but have the same dressed-stone lintels and sills. There are single windows on the sides of the bay structure and paired windows on the south side or front of the bay window. This structure is also built on the same rough-cut stone block foundation as the house and of the same bricks for the wall construction indicating that the bay window was part of the original house design. It was shown on the 1906 Sanborn map but was depicted as a frame structure; however, it may be that this bay window is a brick-veneered frame construction as opposed to the cavity wall construction of the main body of the house. There is an exterior entry into the basement level on the left side that is now covered with a modern metal door and concrete base.



Figure 11. South and east sides of 303 A Avenue SE looking North. Photograph taken May 2, 2018.

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Interior

The original formal entry on the east façade opens into the landing for the stairs to the second floor. The door into the living room is immediately to the left, with the living room containing the bay window. There is an open doorway between the living room and the dining room, with the second entry door (the currently-used entry) from the porch entering the dining room into its northeast corner. There is a door under the stairs to the left of this entry door that accesses the basement level. Centered on the south wall of the dining room is the entrance to the kitchen. A door in the west wall of the dining room accesses the utility room in the one-story ell off the rear of the house.

The second floor has a centered hall from which two bedrooms are accessed, one in the front of the house and one above the dining room. A bathroom is also accessed from the hallway. Then a third bedroom in the southwest corner of the house can only be accessed from the bedroom above the dining room.

The interior of the house retains the original woodwork including wooden window trim; the deep paneled-door casements; the 2-paneled front doors with upper segmental-arched glass panes, one of which retains the original etched glass; the 4-paneled wooden interior doors; ceramic door knobs; and metal hardware (Figures 12-13). Some of the interior doors have transoms. Most of the ceilings on both floors are now covered with acoustical tiles but the walls retain tall base boards that have a curving top molding and tall base shoe moldings with quarter-round tops (Jennings and Gottfried 1993:83).

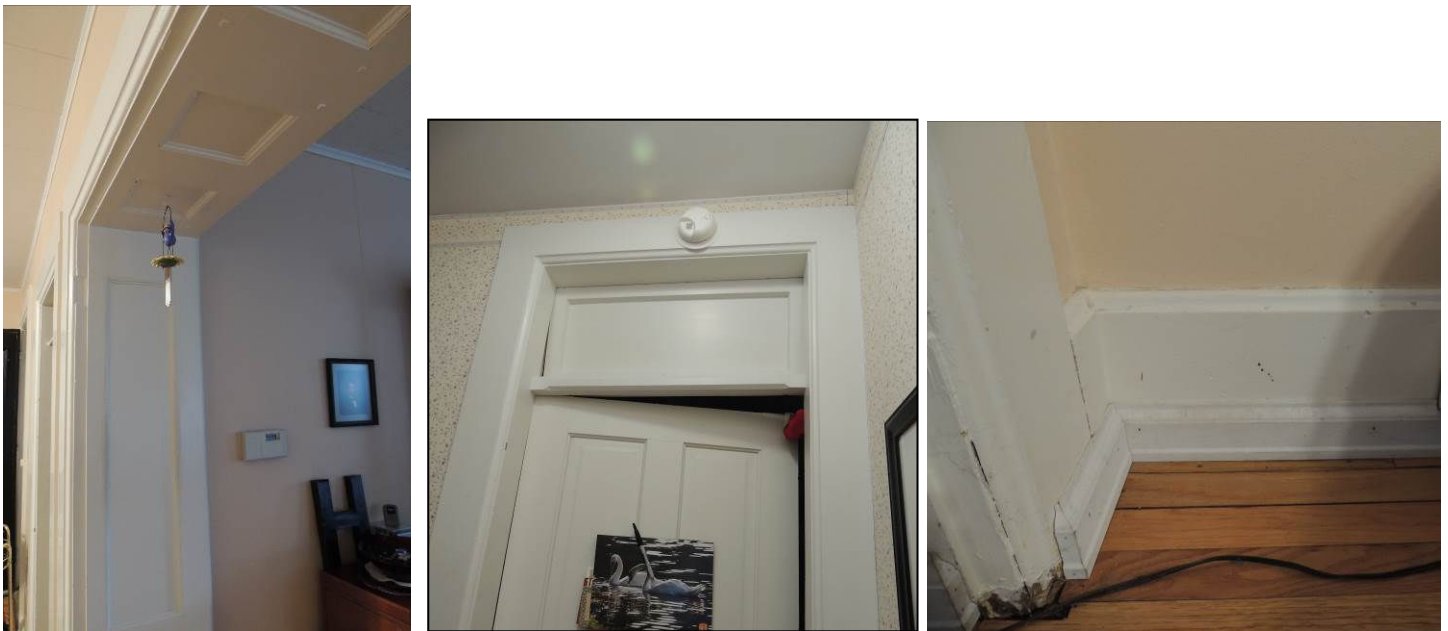


Figure 12. Interior views of door casement (left), paneled door with transom (center), and detail of base boards. Photographs taken June 22, 2018.

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Figure 13. Interior views of the front door off the NE porch (left), the original front door on the east side of the house (center), and an interior 4-paneled door also showing original woodwork and a porcelain doorknob. Photographs taken June 22, 2018.

Garage (Noncontributing Building)

The extant garage is a modern construction having been added to the northwest corner of the lot circa 1975. This is a front-gabled frame building with an asphalt-shingled roof, vinyl siding, and a concrete slab foundation (Figure 14). There are single square windows on the two sides and the rear of the garage, with an overhead door and entry door on the front facing north. It is set back from the north lot line and appears to partially cover the location of the former blacksmith shop as shown on the 1906 Sanborn. A photograph taken of Shantz with his shop in the background shows a frame building with vertical board siding and a 6/6 double-hung window and a shed off the southeast side of the building. The color version of the 1906 Sanborn shades this building in dark green, which indicates either stone or cinder block construction depending on the map. The photograph, however, clearly shows vertical board and batten wooden siding at least on the east side of this building. It may have had masonry walls on the interior because of the intense heat and fire hazard from the forge.

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Figure 14. Modern garage behind 303 A Avenue SE looking South. Photograph taken March 30, 2019.



Figure 15. Mart Shantz and his blacksmith shop, just west of the brick house.
Source: Family Tree files accessed at Ancestry.com, January 2019.

Statement of Integrity

The Shantz House retains good integrity in most of the seven aspects of integrity. Most importantly, it retains good integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and association. Specifically, the house is a good representative of the use of local materials (brick and stone) in the construction of the second generation of Mount Vernon dwellings in the late 19th century, with this example built in 1882. The bricks would have been made in the Robinson brickyard located nearby to the east, with the bricks reflecting the later years of brick production in Mount Vernon. The stone for the foundations, lintels, and sills was also obtained from the nearby limestone quarry.

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The good integrity of design is represented by the vernacular Late Victorian design of the house and reflects a personal design devised by Martin Shantz and his wife and reportedly a long time in planning. Personal touches appear to include the one-story brick ell on the rear of the house that likely functioned as the utility entrance for Martin when working in his blacksmith shop in the back yard. The house is a very modest expression of the Late Victorian lacking the exterior decorative details such as elaborate porches and brackets under the eaves more typical of Late Victorian styles, with the main nod to exterior decorative design being the bay window on the south side.

The good integrity of workmanship is reflected in the brick cavity wall construction of the house and the use of locally brick and stone, which remain unpainted and in good condition and reflect the workmanship of local masons.

The house also has good integrity of association, with the property identifiable as the Shantz home. The use of this property not only for the Shantz home but his place of business as well is notable. There are a few examples of this type of home/business combination in some of the historic homes in Mount Vernon, including 316 3rd Avenue SW where part of the home was used for a business and 224 1st Street SW and 201 2nd Avenue NW where a part of each home was later remodeled for use as medical offices. In this case, Shantz's blacksmith shop was in the back yard and while nonextant has some potential for archaeological evidence of this commercial aspect of the property.

Integrity of location is also good, with the house located on its original site on a corner lot. The property was once part of a larger parcel, but this lot is where the blacksmith shop and the original house were located as well as this second-generation house.

Integrity of setting is fair. The lot has been reduced from its original size, with a modern garage abutting the south lot line close to the Shantz House. There is a parking lot for the Ace Hardware to the west that is screened by the garage and plantings. There is a mix of historic and modern residential properties in the immediate neighborhood.

The integrity of feeling is fair since some of the modern elements such as the garage to the south and the parking lot and hardware store to the east are visible. However, the main view of the house is unobstructed, with the house still imparting some sense of time and place.

Modifications have included: the replacement of the 2/2 windows with 1/1 vinyl windows after 1967; the construction of the wrap-around porch sometime between 1906 and 1921 and then the replacement of the wooden columns and floor on that porch after 1967 with the current concrete floor and wrought-iron posts; the removal of one of the two chimneys above the roofline; and the construction of the current garage in the late 20th century partially on the site of the historic blacksmith shop. Since the porch is not original to the house design, its subsequent modification is not considered a great impact to the overall historic integrity of the original house. In fact, this is one instance where removal of this porch might actually enhance the historic integrity. The porch could also be restored to its original early 20th century look since photographs taken c. 1915 and in 1967 evidence the type and style of the posts once on this porch.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1882

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Martin L. and Mary Jane (Yount) Shantz is locally significant and eligible for listing under the registration requirements for the “Local Brick and Stone Buildings, c. 1840-93” context for the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa*. The Shantz House is significant under Criterion C as a property that “contribute[s] markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon” through its “wall covering of locally produced brick” on a locally quarried stone foundation and its Late Victorian stylistic influences. The house “exhibit[s] continued local preference for local brick and date[s] from the 1870s-1893 as well as the prosperity that characterized the railroad era in the community.” The two-story L-shaped, hip-roofed house was built in 1882 on two lots in Saxby’s Addition to Mount Vernon, a corner property that included Martin L. Shantz’s blacksmith shop. The low-pitched hip roof, wide eave overhang, vertical emphasis of the tall windows, and the three-sided bay window reflect Late Victorian stylistic influence; however, this example is a vernacular expression of the Late Victorian and does not appear to have had any of the elaborate exterior decorative appointments of that style such as scroll-cut brackets. The lack of a substantial front porch at a time when porches of that type were increasingly popular was either a personal preference of Martin Shantz or reflects some financial limitation to the original design of the house. The fact that even the bay window lacks decorative details such as brackets in its original design suggests an economy of style. The house was likely built with bricks from the G.W. Robinson brickyard (c.1865-1893), which was Mount Vernon’s main brick and lime manufacturer during that time period. The Shantz House represents Mount Vernon’s continued interest in local brick as a building material after the Military Road era (post-1870), as well as the prosperity that characterized the railroad era in the community. The period of significance for the Shantz House is 1882, the year the house was built.

This property is one of a group of 11 historic brick houses in Mount Vernon being nominated under the *Historic Resources of Mt. Vernon, Iowa* Multiple Property Submission in 2019.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

Criterion C: Architectural Significance of the Martin L. and Mary Jane (Yount) Shantz House

Under the registration requirements for Criterion C of the “Local Brick and Stone Buildings, c. 1840-93” context, the Shantz House is a “brick and stone [building] that contribute[s] markedly to the distinctive architectural character of Mount Vernon.” This house has “a wall covering of locally produced brick” on a locally quarried stone foundation and exhibits Late Victorian stylistic influences. As such, the Shantz House “exhibit[s] continued local preference for local brick and date[s] from the 1870s-1893.” According to the description of this property type:

Mount Vernon is blessed with a distinctive collection of brick buildings. By far most are houses. A significant number date from before the Civil War through the 1860s, but there are important examples from the 1870s and 1880s as well. Since locally produced brick continued to be used as a building material beyond the Military Road era (especially for houses), brick buildings are considered as a separate property type. There is overlap with significant examples from the Military Road-era context property type, however. In some cases the date of construction has not been more firmly determined than placing them before 1890. The local brickyard closed in 1893, marking the end of the locally produced brick period for the community. The visual impact of the ... residential examples ... upon the appearance of Mount Vernon is clear.

The houses for this property type are built of deep red-orange local brick. Rooflines vary and include gable-side (the dominant shape), gable-front, crossed-gable, upright-and-wing, mansard, and hipped. Later examples are more likely to be hipped and early examples tend to be gabled. Most are two-story.

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Foundations are of locally quarried limestone (generally rubble or roughly dressed). Some lintels and sills are also stone. Brick is sometimes used decoratively for cornices, cornice returns, and more elaborate lintels. With the earliest examples, the use of brick with simple details and form results in a simplicity that contributes markedly to the charm of the community (Long 1991:F3).

The Shantz House meets the registration requirements for Criterion C significance under this context, which state:

Buildings of locally produced brick and stone are a key visual element defining the nature and character of Mount Vernon, and their primary area of significance is architectural. Because of the key visual importance of this property type, most examples from the period c. 1840-1893 which retain their integrity are likely to be significant. Examples built after the Military Road era, that is, after 1870, reflect the continued interest in local brick as well as the prosperity that characterized the railroad era in the community. These later examples are typically more elaborate than those associated with the early settlement period. Together, they constitute a visually distinctive feature that is a major and longstanding visual defining element for Mount Vernon (Long 1991:F3-F4).

The Martin L. and Mary Jane (Yount) Shantz House is a later example of Local Brick Housing in Mount Vernon and reflects the impact of natural building materials such as clay and stone that contribute markedly to the distinctive architectural character of the town. Built in 1882 by blacksmith Martin L. Shantz, the house likely used locally quarried limestone and bricks manufactured by G.W. Robinson, owner of the town's local brickyard. The Shantz House represents Mount Vernon's post-1870 continued interest in local brick as a building material, as well as the prosperity that characterized the railroad era in the community. As a later example of brick housing in Mount Vernon, the Shantz House differs from those of early settlement period, with its running bond exterior brick walls that reflect a cavity wall construction rather than the solid brick wall construction of early brick homes in this community. The low-pitched hip roof, wide eave overhang, vertical emphasis of the tall windows, and the three-sided bay window reflect influence from Late Victorian architectural styles; however, this example is a vernacular expression of the Late Victorian and does not appear to have had any of the elaborate exterior decorative appointments of that style such as scroll cut brackets. The lack of a substantial porch at a time when porches of that type were becoming popular was either a personal preference of Martin Shantz or reflects some financial limitation to the original design of the house. The fact that even the bay window lacks decorative details such as brackets in its original design suggests an economy of style.

Martin "Mart" L. Shantz was born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in 1844, the youngest of nine children. In 1854, Shantz came with his parents by ox team to Iowa, where the family settled on a farm south of Lisbon. In (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 31, 1929). As early as the age of 12, Shantz began to learn his father's trade. As Shantz recalled later, "he was hired out by his father for a year for fifteen dollars," as an apprentice blacksmith. Shantz's parents eventually returned to Pennsylvania, but Mart Shantz remained. In 1865, Shantz came to Mount Vernon as a young journeyman blacksmith and continued to learn the trade as an employee of Dan Camp, Michael Gutzler, Johnson Needles, and Fred Hipp, all early Mount Vernon blacksmiths. In 1867, he married Mary Jane Yount and purchased the blacksmithing business of Johnson Needles. He purchased Lot 2 in Block 11 of Saxby's Addition in 1869 and built a blacksmith shop and small frame house. He purchased Lot 1 in 1874, creating a large corner property at Waln and Market streets, now known as A Avenue SE and 3rd St SE (Figure 16). The Shantzes eventually had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood (Figure 17) (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye*, January 23, 1908; *Marion Sentinel*, January 3, 1918; *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 31, 1929; Stoner 1991; Venerable Smithy c.1927).

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Figure 16. M. L. Shantz purchased Lots 2 and 1 in Block 11 of Saxby's Addition to Mount Vernon (corner of Waln and Market streets) in 1869 and 1874, respectively. The Shantzes lived in a small frame house on the property until 1882, when the brick house was built.
Source: Plat Book K, Recorder's Office, Linn County Administration Building, Cedar Rapids

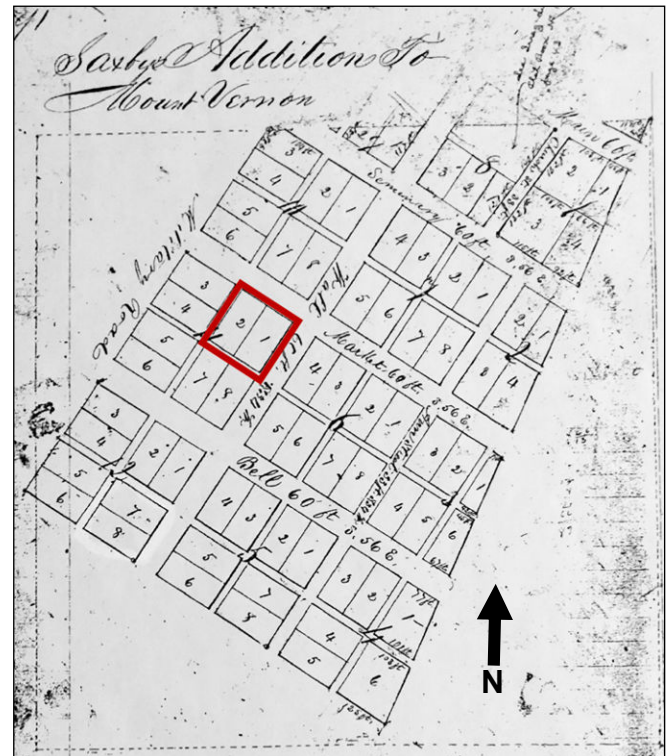


Figure 17. Shantz family circa 1896. Source: Family Trees accessed at Ancestry.com, January 2019.

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As a blacksmith, Mart Shantz was highly respected. The *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* described his skills in these terms:

Have you ever given it a thought – the difference between skilled labor and that which is not skilled? Or have you just gone along without any regard for the fitness of things. It will pay you to consider the matter, and, when it comes to scientific horse shoeing and repairing that buggy or wagon, you will want it done by someone who knows how to do it right. M.L. Shantz is expertly skilled in this business and is prepared to satisfactorily and properly execute any job of this kind that may be entrusted to him. He will show you the difference, both in price and appearance, between neat, skilled workmanship, and cheap, shoddy labor. He has been established here ever since 1865 and is one of our most respected citizens. He has been a member of the city council for one term (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, July 29, 1904).

One of Mart Shantz's ambitions in life was to own a red brick house, a housing type that was a "key visual element" of the Mount Vernon community, the fact of which the hardworking blacksmith undoubtedly noticed. His oldest daughter, Geneva, remembered, Mart Shantz had several goals in life: to own a gold watch, a thousand dollars and a brick house (Long 1991:F3; Hoeschler n.d.). Of these, the brick house was most important. Shantz even "had a vision" of the house "in his mind." It was "to be of red brick, a large house, one to attract attention, for he was a proud man." More than that, the Shantzes wanted the house built "while the children were in public school" (Hoeschler n.d.).

Finally, in 1882, the *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye* announced: "We are glad to learn that M.L. Shantz is making preparation to build a new dwelling house in the rear of his old one" (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, April 7, 1882). According to daughter Geneva, her parents planned the layout of the house themselves:

"Night after night they had made their plans, drew their own, one wanted the parlor there, the other here. They laughed together, they quarreled too, they then went to bed to be ready for the next evening's planning. Mary was tired from all the planning and preparations for she had sewed rags for rag carpets until every room had new floor covering. She had made curtains for every window and there were many of them, all shone and sparkled in the sunlight. The bay window in the parlor was filled with plants and flowers (Hoeschler, n.d.).

Once the seven-room brick house was completed, Hoeschler continued, "Mart's dream" became "a reality and he was proud."

Yes he bragged that he had the best house in town, best built, best located. . . He laughed when he often said, "I want a gold watch, a thousand dollars and a brick house" and before he died he had all three (Hoelscher n.d.).

The bricks used to build the Shantz House were most likely manufactured by George W. Robinson, owner of Mount Vernon's brickyard. George W. Robinson was born in 1833 in Wayne County, Ohio. He came to Iowa in 1856, and to Mount Vernon after serving three years in the Civil War (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, June 14, 1889; *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 30, 1888; US Census 1870, 1880; Iowa State Census 1885). By 1869, Robinson was manufacturing bricks and lime at the same location as the Albright brothers had a decade earlier. After a storm damaged the brickyard, the *Linn County Hawkeye* provided a glimpse of Robinson's brickyard in its first years of operation:

The storm on last Saturday, was very damaging, destroying some four to five thousand green brick for Mr. G. W. Robinson. But at the rapid rate which Mr. R. makes brick, and good weather, the kiln will not be delayed much. He turns out some seven thousand per day. We also learn that there has been some one hundred and thirty five thousand brick shipped to Clarence [Cedar Co], from this yard this spring. The brick made here, has a good reputation at home and abroad (*Linn County Hawkeye*, June 18, 1869).

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Robinson's brick was undoubtedly used to build many of Mount Vernon's brick houses and other buildings. By 1875, Robinson had "a double lime kiln turning out 7,000 bushels annually" and "a brick yard making each year 200,000 brick" (*Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, November 12, 1875).

Mary Shantz died in 1917, and son Harry Shantz died the following year during the flu pandemic. Martin L. Shantz continued his blacksmithing business until just a few years before his death in 1929 (*Marion Sentinel*, January 3, 1918; *Mount Vernon Hawkeye-Record and Lisbon Herald*, January 31, 1929; Lisbon History Center Archives, Lisbon, Iowa). His daughter, Geneva Shantz Hoelscher, advertised the brick house for sale a week after his funeral. Just a few months after Shantz's death, his blacksmith shop, a town landmark, was torn down, an event the *Mount Vernon Hawkeye* noted with a tinge of regret:

One of Mount Vernon's old landmarks on [the] south side is being partially torn down this week. It is the old blacksmith shop on the property of the late M.L. Shantz. It was built more than sixty-five years ago, so is one of the oldest business buildings of the town. Just the front half is being wrecked now and when the machinery is disposed of the balance will be done away with (*Mount Vernon Hawkeye*, May 2, 1929).

Subsequent owners of the brick house at 303 A Avenue SE included: R.D. and Kathryn Bandy (1920-1944), Alice M. Edwards (1944-1961), Cornell College (1961-1981), Donald and Ruth Davison (1981), Richard and Gloria Collins (1981-1993), and the current owners Patrick T. and Amy L. (Hall) Haney (since 1993) (Town Lot Transfers). The ownership for 20 years by Cornell College was not unusual in town, with other residential properties scattered throughout Mount Vernon going through periods when they came under Cornell's ownership. In this case, it appears that the college may have rented out this house or used it for faculty or student housing. The photograph of this house taken by Margaret Keyes in 1967 was during the period of Cornell's ownership (see Figure 5).

Archaeological Assessment

The potential for any prehistoric or historic archaeological remains within the property boundary was not evaluated as part of the present National Register nomination. The yard area around the house has some potential for archaeological deposits and features associated with the blacksmith shop once sited in the rear yard. The modern garage is built over at least part of the actual site of the blacksmith shop, and former owners have reported finding items like horseshoes from the blacksmith operation in the yard. There is a covered well or cistern off the northwest corner of the house that would have been located about halfway between the house and the blacksmith shop. This structure has a circular concrete cap. The south side yard is very narrow, with the house close to the modern garage on the house lot next door to the south, with the front, north, and rear yard areas much more spacious. The north yard has two pine trees and shrubbery, with the yard areas otherwise open. Historically, there were two privy-like structures in the southwest corner of the lot to the south that was once part of this property. Those privy features are not within the currently-nominated property. The circa 1903 photograph of the north side of this house also shows a wooden picket fence with square posts. Two wooden flower arbor structures were just inside of the fence. The landscaping of this home in the early 1900s was rather elaborate and likely left some archaeological evidence behind as well. However, for the present nomination, significance under Criterion D is not claimed for lack of an archaeological survey.

Acknowledgements

The completion of this nomination was made possible by the assistance of members of the Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission, who compiled the floor plans, conducted on-site photography, conducted historic research, and reviewed the various drafts of the nomination. The property owners also assisted with the compilation of floor plans, photography, and historical materials and reviewed the draft versions of the nomination. The City of Mt. Vernon provided support for the project and cash match towards the grant.

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Washington, D.C. 20204

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- "Death of J.H. Needles," *Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye*, January 23, 1908.
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Mount Vernon Hawk-Eye, April 7, 1882.
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Stoner, Kimberlee. "The Shantz House," unpublished typescript, 1991. Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission Archives, Mount Vernon, Iowa.
Town Lot Transfer Books, Vols. 2 and 6, Auditor's Office, Linn County Administration Building, Cedar Rapids.
U.S. Federal Census, 1880.
"Venerable Smithy," unknown news clipping, c.1927. Lisbon History Center Archives, Lisbon, Iowa.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>41.920124</u>	<u>-91.417748</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is a parcel defined as the northeast half of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 11 of Saxby's First Addition to Mount Vernon, located at on the southwest corner of A Avenue SE and 3rd Street SE. The east and west boundaries are each 66 feet and the north and south boundaries are each 132 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the NE half of the parcel historically associated with the Martin L. and Mary Jane (Yount) Shantz House and Martin Schantz's blacksmith shop (non-extant) at 303 A Avenue SE in Mount Vernon, Linn County, Iowa.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer A. Price, PhD/Consultant and Leah D. Rogers, Chair, Volunteer date March 1, 2020
organization Price Preservation Research telephone (319) 594-9513
street & number P.O. Box 5201 email jenniferprice1311@icloud.com
city or town Coralville state IA zip code 52241

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

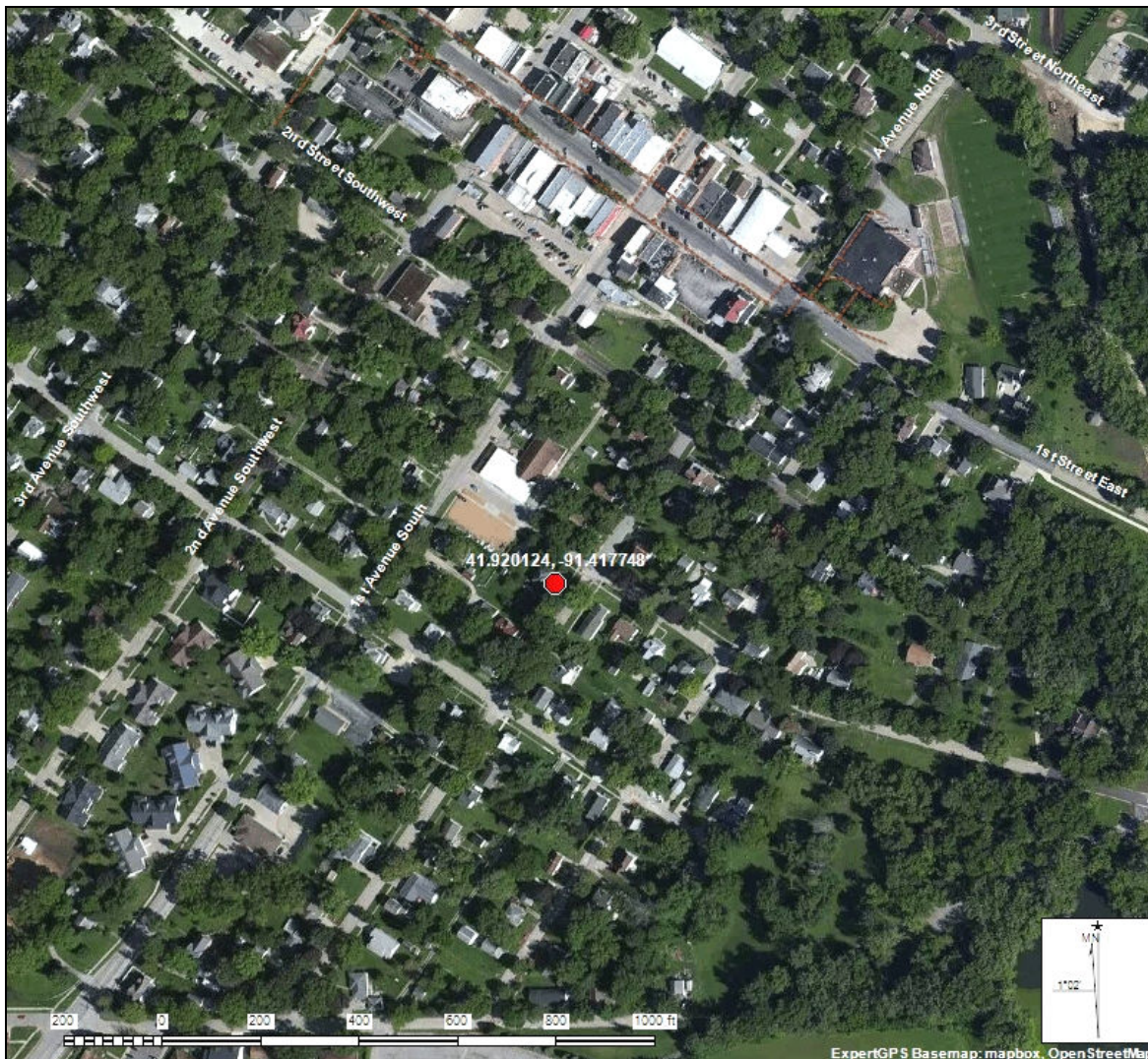


Figure 18. GIS Location Map.
Aerial map obtained from ExpertGPS Mapping Software, 2019.

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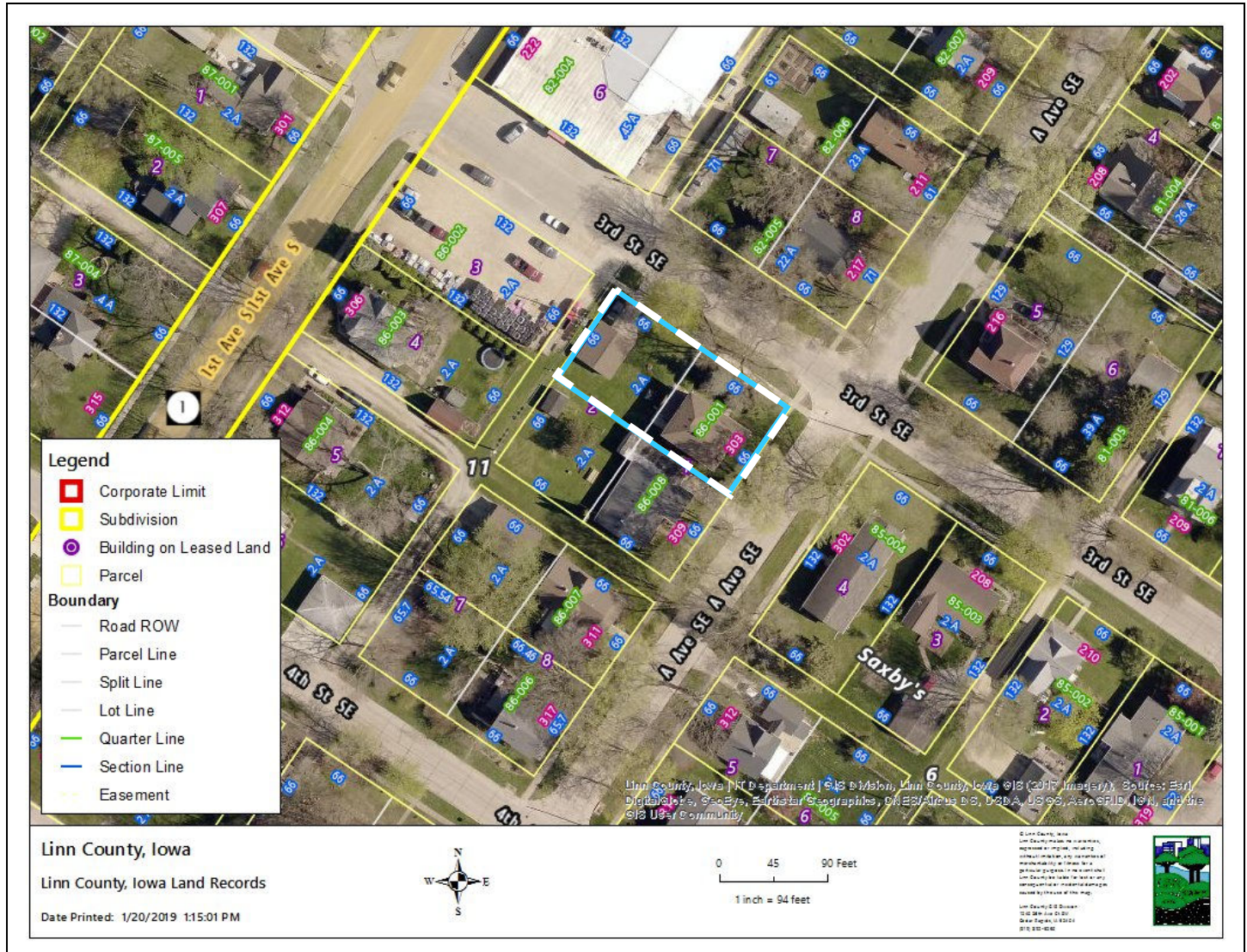


Figure 19. Local Location Map.
(white dashed outline is National Register boundary).
Obtained from Linn County, Iowa GIS.

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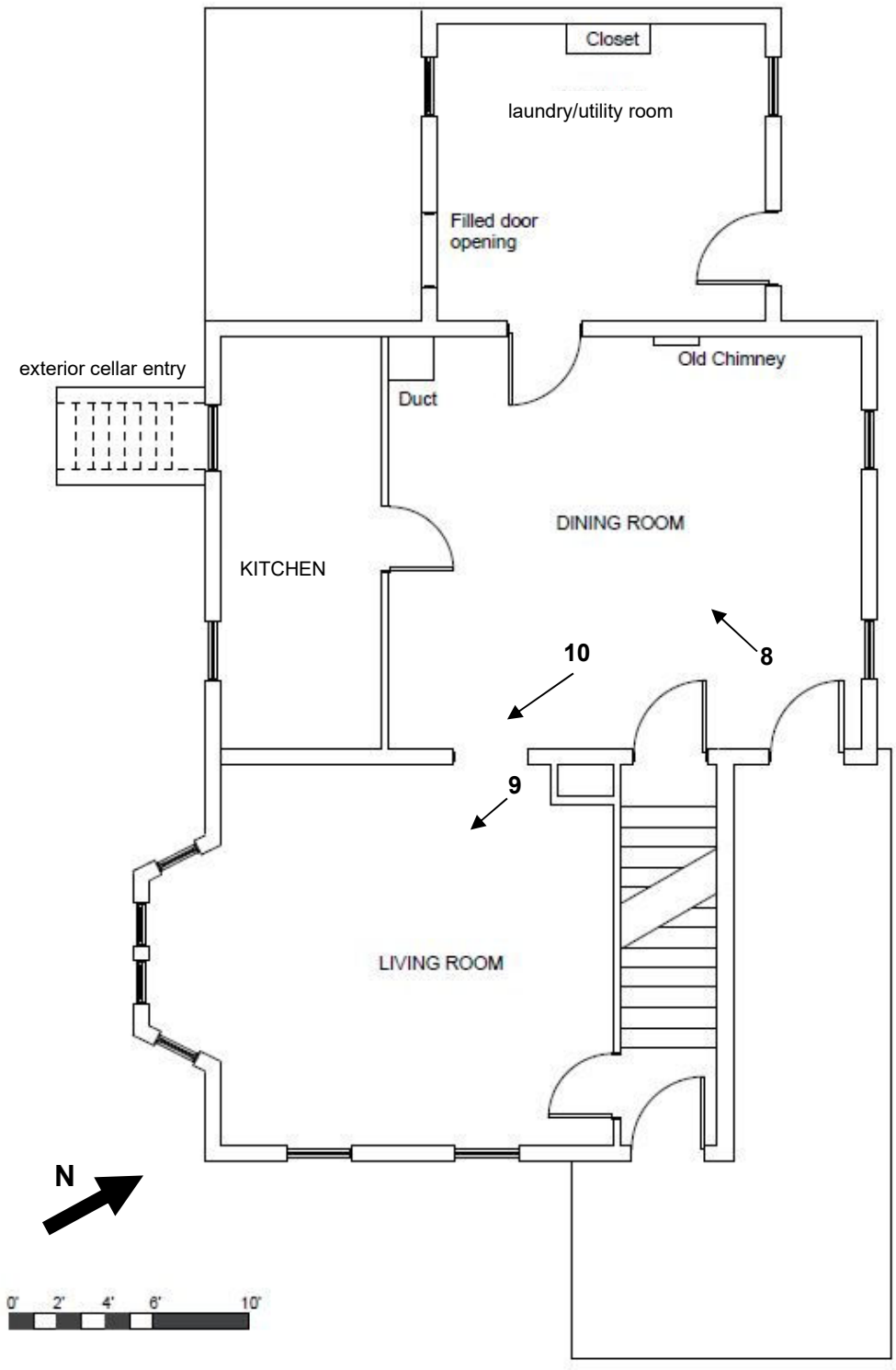


Figure 20. Site Plan Map showing NRHP boundary of Shantz House.
Aerial obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS website.

(white dashed outline = NRHP nomination boundary)

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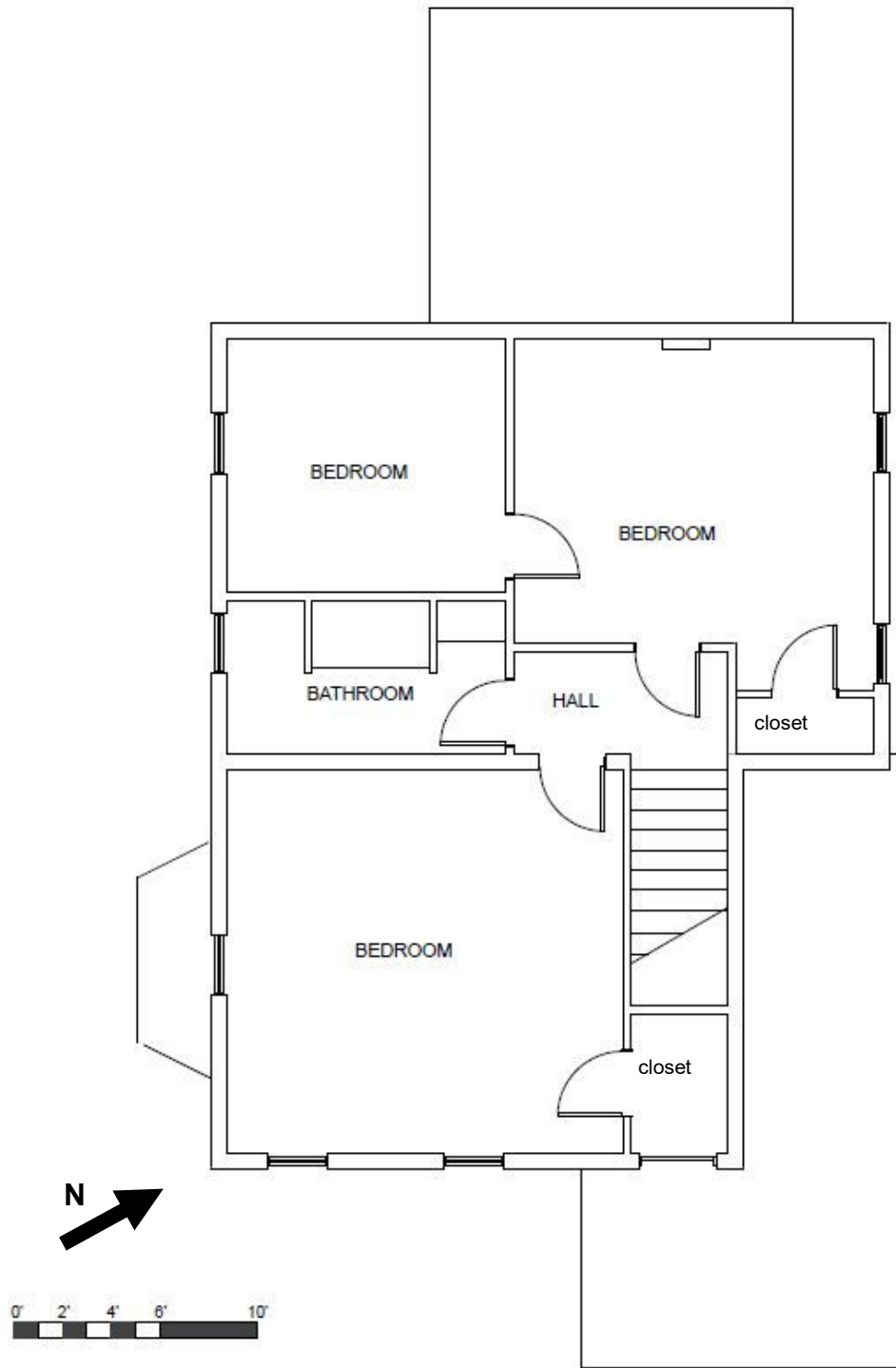


303 A Ave SE - MAIN FLOOR

Figure 21. Floor of main floor of Shantz House and showing directions of photographs #8-10
Map compiled by Ed Sauter, MVHPC

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303 A Ave SE - UPPER FLOOR

Figure 22. Floor of upper floor of Shantz House.
Map compiled by Ed Sauter, MVHPC

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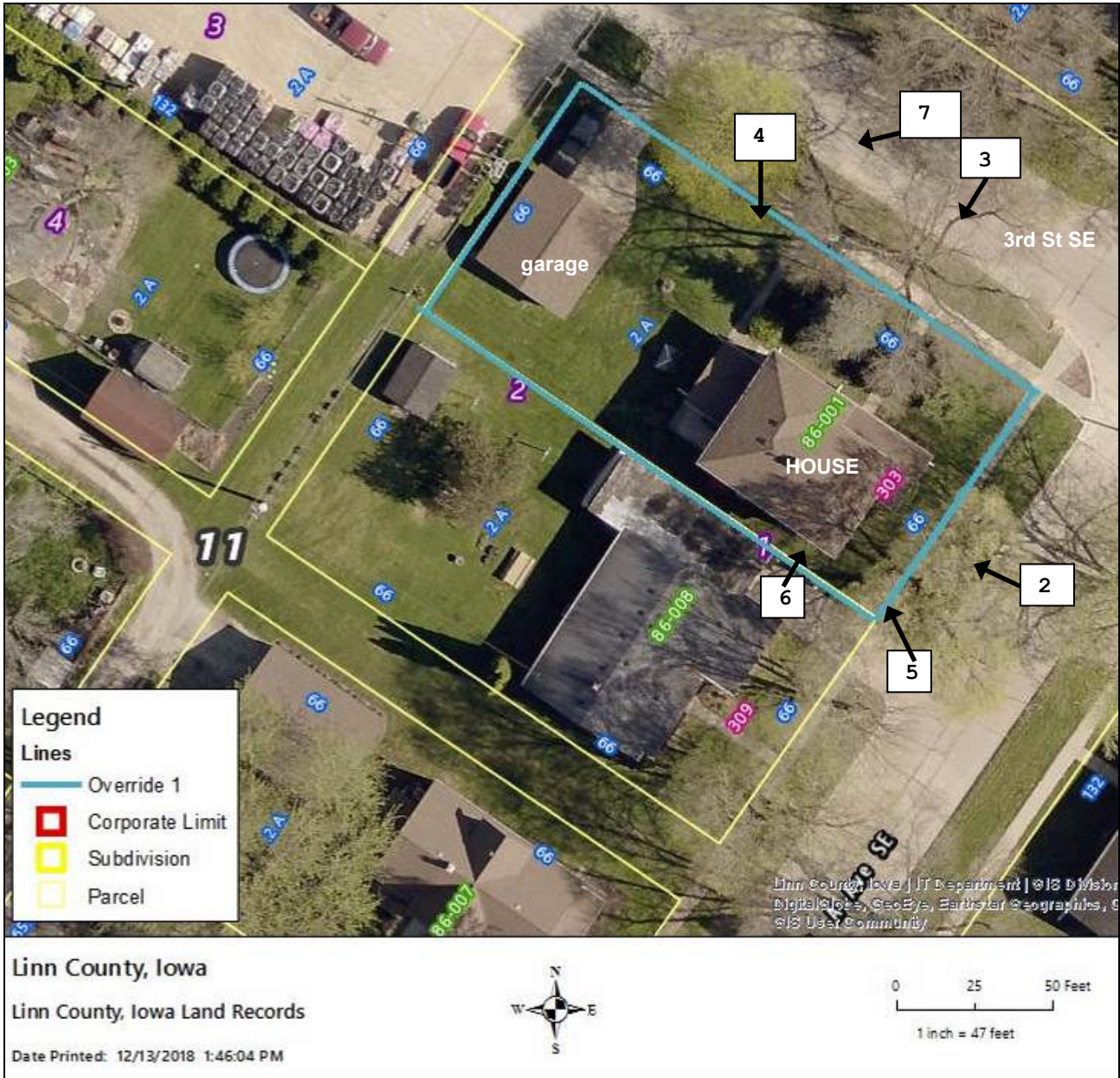


Figure 23. Site Plan Map showing directions for photographs #1-7
Aerial obtained from Linn County Iowa GIS website.

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Shantz, Martin L. and Mary Jane (Yount), House
City or Vicinity: Mount Vernon
County: Linn County **State:** IA
Photographer: Mary Evans and Leah Rogers
Date Photographed: May 2, 2018 (1-6) and March 1, 2019 (8-10) and March 30, 2019 (7)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 10: General view of Shantz House looking West
- Photo 2 of 10: Façade (east side) of Shantz House looking WNW
- Photo 3 of 10: North side of Shantz House looking SW
- Photo 4 of 10: North and west (rear) sides of Shantz House looking South
- Photo 5 of 10: South and East sides of Shantz House looking NW
- Photo 6 of 10: Detail of bay window on south side of Shantz House looking NNE
- Photo 7 of 10: Garage looking WSW
- Photo 8 of 10: Interior of dining room looking West
- Photo 9 of 10: Interior of living room looking South
- Photo 10 of 10: Paneled casement in wide opening between dining room and living room looking South

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