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# HISTORICAL BASE MAP AND GROUNDS STUDY

HERBERT HOOVER  
1874 - 1886

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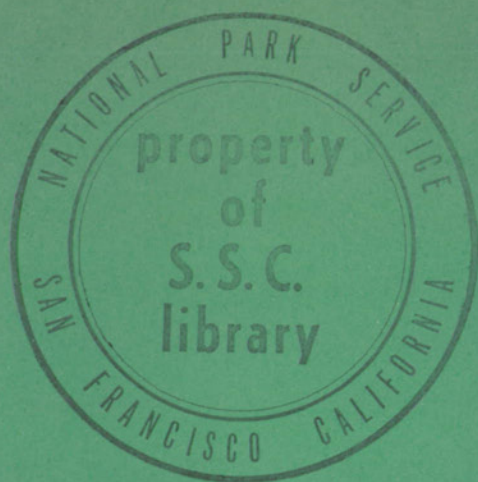
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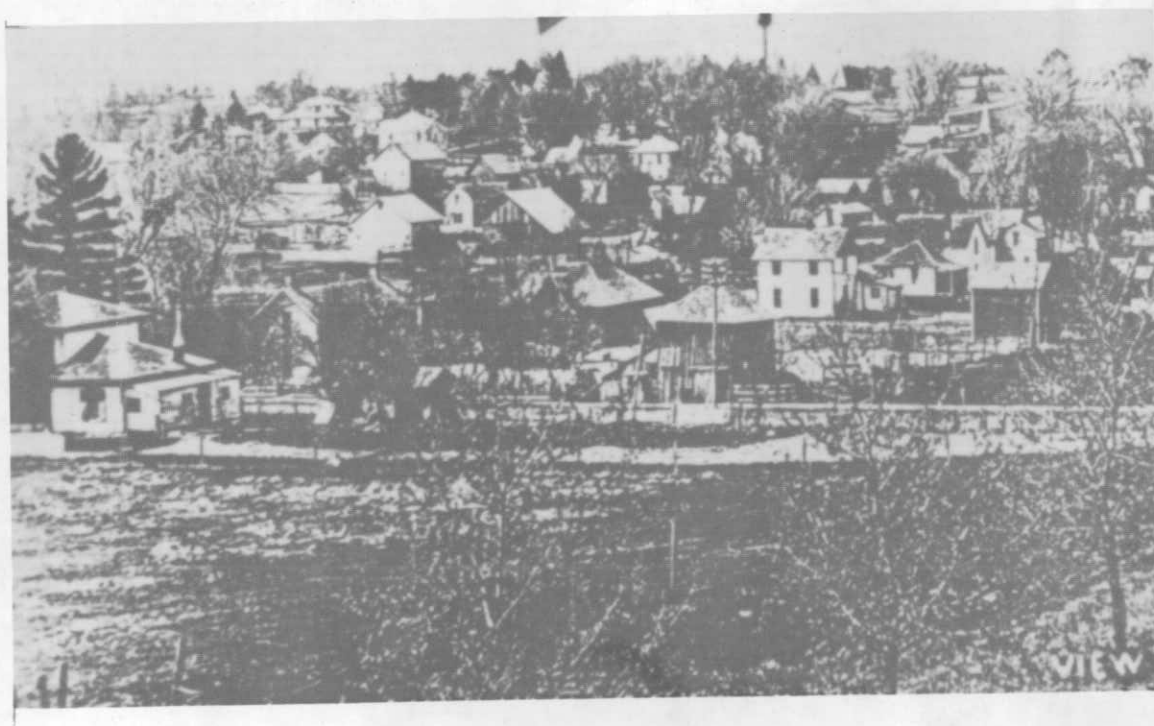




# Historical Base Map And Ground Study

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site  
West Branch, Iowa

by  
Edwin C. Bearss



DIVISION OF HISTORY  
Office Of Archeology And Historic Preservation

July 20, 1968

ON MICROFILM



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## FOREWORD

This report has been prepared to satisfy the research needs as enumerated in Historical Resource Study Proposal HEHO-H-3, Historical Base Map--Herbert Hoover, and HEHO-H-4, Grounds Study, Herbert Hoover. HEHO-H-3, Historical Base Map--Herbert Hoover-- provides a graphic, documented account of West Branch in the period 1874-1886. This will assist the Superintendent and the Service to carry out its plan to restore the grounds in the core-area of Herbert Hoover National Historic Site to their appearance in the period 1874-1886. This report is also designed to provide the necessary historical and archeological data called for in HEHO-H-4 and necessary "to establish the landscaping theme for the core-area."

A number of persons have assisted in the preparation of this report. Particular thanks are due to Superintendent Larry Quist and Historian Glennie Murray for their assistance at the site; to Dick Jacobs and the staff of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library for their cooperation in making valuable source materials entrusted to their safe keeping, available; to the West Branch Heritage Foundation, to Mrs. Mildred Speight, and Sig Larson for copying and permitting me to use valuable photographs of early West Branch in their private collections; to

Mildred Speight, to Glenn Brown, and L. C. Rummells for taking the time to discuss early West Branch with me; to Frank Sarles for reading the report; and to Miss Susan Wanek for her painstaking work at the typewriter.

E. C. B.

Washington, D. C.  
July 31, 1968

## I. The Founding of West Branch

### A. The First Settlers

West Branch traces its origin to the decade of the 1850's. For a number of years after the founding of Rochester, on the Cedar River ten miles to the east, the site of West Branch was an open prairie. The first settlers to enter on the land in Township 79 North, Range 4 West were Joseph K. Quaintance, Isaiah Morris, and David Tatum. Tatum in 1850 staked out his claim to a quarter section on the West Branch of Wapsinonoc Creek. William Townsend arrived with his family from Knox County, Ohio, in 1852, having purchased from the government the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. In 1878 Townsend recalled that on his arrival "the only settlers between Hickory Grove and the Iowa timber were Quaintance, Morris, and Tatum."<sup>1</sup>

Samuel Abbott migrated from Indiana in the fall of 1852, and settled on the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6. Subsequently, this property was purchased by William Oliphant, and in Herbert Hoover's childhood was known as the Oliphant Farm. A number of other settlers (Samuel, William, and Michael King, James Townsend, Thomas Barrington, Joseph Steer, and Eli

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1. The History of Cedar County, Iowa, Containing a History of the County, its Cities, Towns, & c., . . . (Chicago, 1878), 508; J. A. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, Aug. 1948, 241.

Hoover) had taken up land on the West Branch by December of 1853.

Hoover, a sturdy Quaker and carpenter, was Herbert Hoover's grand-  
2  
father.

T. T. Barrington, a grandson of William Townsend, recalled:

William and James Townsend moved from Fredericks-  
town, Ohio, and settled on farms on which West Branch  
now stands; also Hannah Townsend Kirk and William  
Townsend settled on the eighty acres [the Southeast  
Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 5]  
all east of Fourth Street and James Townsend on the  
next eighty on the east [the Southwest Quarter of the  
Southeast Quarter of Section 5]; and Timothy Kirk and  
Hannah Townsend Kirk on the eighty acres [the North-  
east Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 7]  
south of Main Street and west of Downey Street.  
The eighty acres [the Southwest Quarter of the South-  
west Quarter of Section 5] north of Main Street and  
east of Downey Street to Fourth was vacant.

The eighty acres [the Southeast Quarter of the South-  
east Quarter of Section 6] north of Main Street, west  
of Downey Street, was Samuel Abbott's. West of Abbott  
was the Joseph Steer eighty acres [the Southwest Quarter of  
the Southeast Quarter of Section 6], and west of Steer  
was the Eli Hoover 160 acres [the Southwest Quarter of  
Southwest Quarter of Section 6]. The 160 acres south  
of Main Street and east of Downey [the Northwest Quar-  
ter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8] was vacant.  
The next eighty east [the Northwest Quarter of the  
Northeast Quarter of Section 8] . . . was the farm of  
Ben and Rebecca Hoover (great-grandparents of Herbert  
Hoover). The next eighty east was the Talbert place.  
The eighty acres across to the north and adjoining  
the James Townsend farm was the Joel Bean place. West  
of Timothy Kirk's farm was his brother Ezekiel's eighty  
acres, and the 160 acres west of this and south of Eli  
Hoover's was vacant.<sup>3</sup>

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2. Ibid. 508; Mildred Thorne, "Herbert Hoover," The Palimp-  
sest, Vol. 32, No. 11, 418.

3. Maud Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Town: The Story of West  
Branch (Iowa City, 1948) 10-11; Map, Platt & Spicer, Land & Collection  
Agents, Cedar County, Iowa, 1:43,000, 1863-1865?, Map Division,  
Library of Congress.



## B. Selecting a Name for the Settlement

Two conditions influenced the selection of a name for the community: (a) it was located on the West Branch of the Wapsinonoc; and (b) the Friends meeting was designated the West Branch of Red Cedar meeting at Springdale, four miles to the east. Some of the settlers, including the Hoovers, had also attended the West Branch Meeting in Ohio, and consequently sentiment for old associations may have been a contributing factor.<sup>4</sup>

## C. Platting the Town

It was not until the beginning of construction of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Great Northern Railroad across the southwestern corner of Cedar County that West Branch was platted. On May 29, 1869, the village was platted by Joseph Steer, as attorney for John M. Wetherell.<sup>5</sup> A copy of this plat is found in this report.

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4. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 12.

5. History of Cedar County, 509; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 12. Mr. Steer made an addition on the west side of West Branch, March 1, 1872, and J. W. Witter platted another addition. On the original plat, Main Street is called Commerce and Downey, Mechanics Street.

D. The Platting of Cameron

In November 1869 William W. Lamborn platted a village east and north of Main Street to be called Cameron in honor of John S. Cameron, chief engineer of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, & Northern Railroad.<sup>6</sup> Much dissension was caused by the platting of Cameron, and the people living to the east of Main Street long clung to the name "Cameron," which even today appears on sections<sup>7</sup> of the town plat.

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6. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 12; History of Cedar County, 509.

7. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 12.

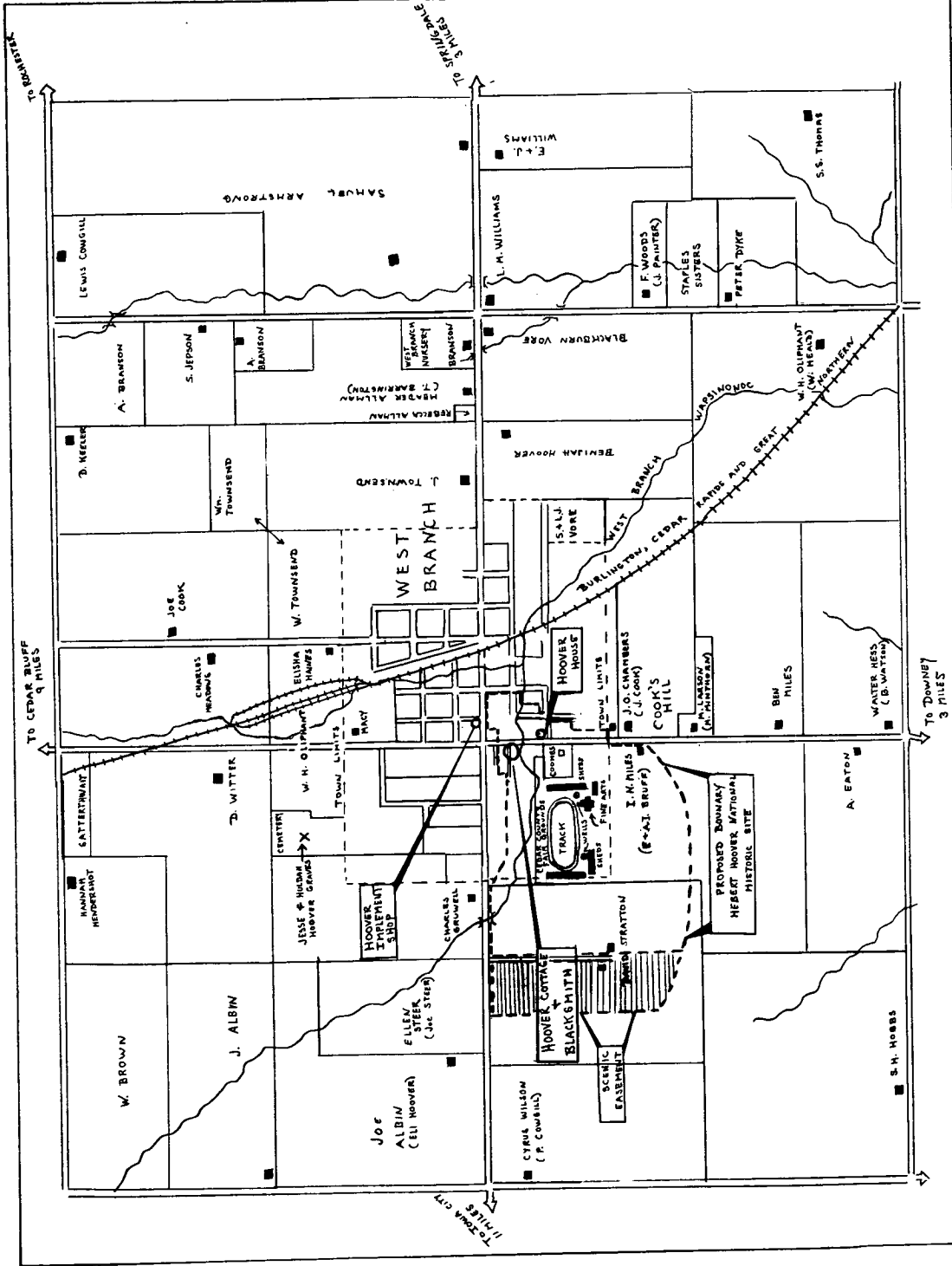
E. The Incorporation of West Branch

On February 5, 1875, a petition was signed and filed by 32 qualified electors within the limits of West Branch, stating that it contained 353 inhabitants and praying that an election be held "to vote upon the propriety of incorporating the village." Accordingly, J. Steer, E. Grinnell, L. J. Miles, James Townsend, and William D. Hammell were named Commissioners of Election on March 4, 1875. At an election held in the schoolhouse Monday, March 29, 1875, at 2 p.m., 41 votes for and 34 against the action<sup>8</sup> were cast, and West Branch was declared to be incorporated.<sup>9</sup> D. E. McClellan was elected the first mayor.

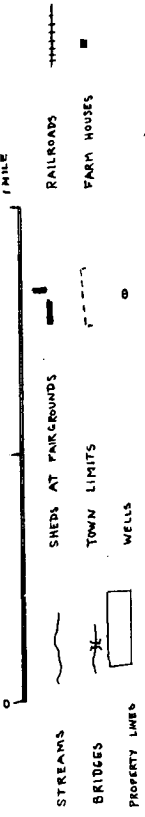
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8. History of Cedar County, 510; Swisher, "The Herbert Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 243.

9. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 33.



WEST BRANCH AND VICINITY 1874 - 1886



## II. Herbert Hoover's Birthplace Cottage

### A. The Lots

Herbert Hoover's birthplace was built on a part of the quarter section of government land entered by Aaron Baker on January 23, 1852, as the Northeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. Baker's 160 acres extended to the north and east to what is today the intersection of Main and Downey Streets. Baker promptly conveyed his quarter section to Samuel King, who in turn sold it to Timothy Kirk. In 1870 J. M. Wetherell purchased five acres from Kirk in the northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter, and in April 1871 he divided the tract into town lots. Lot No. 41 was sold to Eli Hoover and Lots Nos. 42 and 43 to Jesse Hoover. These transactions took place on April 13, 1871. Jesse paid Wetherell \$90 for these two lots. On February 8, 1877,<sup>1</sup> Eli Hoover sold to Jesse Hoover for \$80 Lot No. 41.

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1. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, p.244; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 39; Map, Platt & Spicer, Land & Collection Agents, Cedar County, Iowa, 1: 43,000, 1863-1865:, Map Division, Library of Congress. Cited hereafter as Platt & Spicer Map; Abstracts on File with Reginald Figge, Executive Plaza, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Figge is Treasurer of the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation.

## B. The Cottage

A little two-room cottage was erected on Lot No. 42 by Jesse Hoover, assisted by his father. The foundation stones were boulders hauled in a wagon from the open prairie to the west. Auger holes, still visible in the rafters, demonstrate that the "timbers from which the framework of the cottage were hewn had been lashed together" and rafted down the Mississippi to the Muscatine sawmills. After being turned into lumber they were hauled overland by teams to West Branch.

The cottage was 14 x 20 feet. Its front door of vertical boards with a thumb latch faced east on Downey Street. The little room, 13 1/2 feet long by seven feet wide, in which Herbert Hoover was born, looked out upon the yard. It was Jesse and Huldah Hoover's bedroom. The house's other room served the family as parlor, kitchen, and dining room.

At the rear was a back porch with one end enclosed as a shed room for use as a summer kitchen or a spare sleeping quarters. It is recalled that on the night of August 10, 1874, that E. D. King, who had been hired to assist Jesse Hoover in his blacksmith shop, was occupying these quarters. He was awakened and sent to  
2  
summon assistance.

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2. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 244-245; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 39; Eugene Lyons, Our Unknown Ex-President, A Portrait of Herbert Hoover (New York, 1948), 73.

In 1879 Jesse Hoover, having prospered, sold his cottage and blacksmith shop, along with Lots Nos. 41-43, and moved his family into a larger dwelling, located a block farther south on Downey and on the east side of the street.<sup>3</sup> G. M. D. Hill was the purchaser of the Hoover lots, cottage, and blacksmith shop. In 1885 Hill sold the cottage and Lot No. 42 to Z. T. McCaleb. Victoria Hill purchased the property in 1887, and disposed of it three years later to R. P. Scellers. Mr. Scellers was a carpenter, and soon realized that the cottage was too small for his immediate needs. Another dwelling was accordingly purchased and moved onto Lot No. 42. Next, Scellers had the Hoover cottage turned "one-fourth around, so that it faced south instead of east." He then positioned the larger two-story structure east of the cottage and joined the two buildings as one, thus affording him and his family a more commodious structure. Mrs. Scellers converted the Hoover cottage into her kitchen.<sup>4</sup> See photographs which accompany this report.

In 1928 Hoover, after being nominated for the Presidency, returned to West Branch. The campaign train pulled into the station on Tuesday morning, August 21, and the Republican candidate

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3. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 247.

4. Ibid., 250; Herbert Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover: Years of Adventure (New York, 1952), 4; Lyons, Our Unknown Ex-President, 73-74. Grant Wood's famous painting of the Hoover birthplace depicts the house as altered by Scellers.

was escorted to Mrs. Sceller's house, where a typical Iowa August farm breakfast awaited him: "peaches and cream, ham and eggs, hot biscuits, honey, strawberry jam, and coffee." There followed a day filled with visits to scenes of his childhood, visits with old friends, and political conferences with Republican leaders.<sup>5</sup>

After Hoover's election to the Presidency in November 1928, Mrs. Scellers turned the house into a profitable business selling hot-dogs to tourists.<sup>6</sup> After Hoover's defeat for re-election by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, Mrs. Herbert Hoover and her sons, Herbert and Allan, determined to purchase and restore the birthplace cottage to its appearance as of August 10, 1874. To that end, Allan Hoover in 1935 bought Mrs. Scellers' house and a dozen adjoining lots. In 1938 the two-story house added by Mr. Scellers was dismantled and removed. The two-room cottage was then positioned to face east, and restored to its appearance of the 1870's. As much of the original furniture belonging to Jesse and Huldah Hoover as possible was secured and returned to the house.<sup>7</sup>

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5. Mildred Thorne, "Herbert Hoover," The Palimpsest, Vol. 32, No. 11, 428.

6. Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 4; Lyons, Our Unknown Ex-President, 73-74.

7. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 9, No. 7, 252; Mildred Thorne, "Herbert Hoover," The Palimpsest,



A caretaker's house and utility shop were built by the Hoovers on the grounds, and the property deeded to West Branch by Allan Hoover.<sup>8</sup>

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Vol. 43, No. 7, 345; Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 4. Lou Henry Hoover supervised the removal of the additions and the restoration of the cottage.

8. Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 4; Lyons, Our Unknown Ex-President, 73-74.

C. Jesse Hoover's Blacksmith Shop

As early as 1871, Jesse Hoover erected a blacksmith shop on Lot No. 41, just north of the cottage. Lot No. 41 at this time belonged to his father, Eli. Penn Street separated Lot No. 41 from Lot No. 42 on which the Hoover Cottage stood. In this shop, Jesse Hoover in the period, 1871-1879, conducted a steadily increasing business. Jesse Hoover in 1877 advertised in the West Branch Times, "Horseshoeing and plow work a specialty. Also dealer in all kinds of pumps. Prices to suit the times." On May 25, 1879, he sold his blacksmith shop and business to G. M. D. Hill of Johnson County for \$1,000 and opened a machinery, pump,<sup>9</sup> and farm supply store on the corner of First and Main Streets.

On May 10, 1883, Hill used the West Branch Local Record to announce that he wished to sell his property in the town consisting of "a dwelling house, blacksmith shop, wagon shop, three<sup>10</sup> lots, with two sets of tools." An examination of the map of West Branch appearing in Harris & Warner's Atlas of Cedar County, Iowa, a copy of which appears in this report, distinctly shows

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9. Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 4; Mitchell V. Charnley, The Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover (New York, 1931), 4, 21; Lyons, Our Unknown Ex-President, 73; Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 245; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 38, 46.

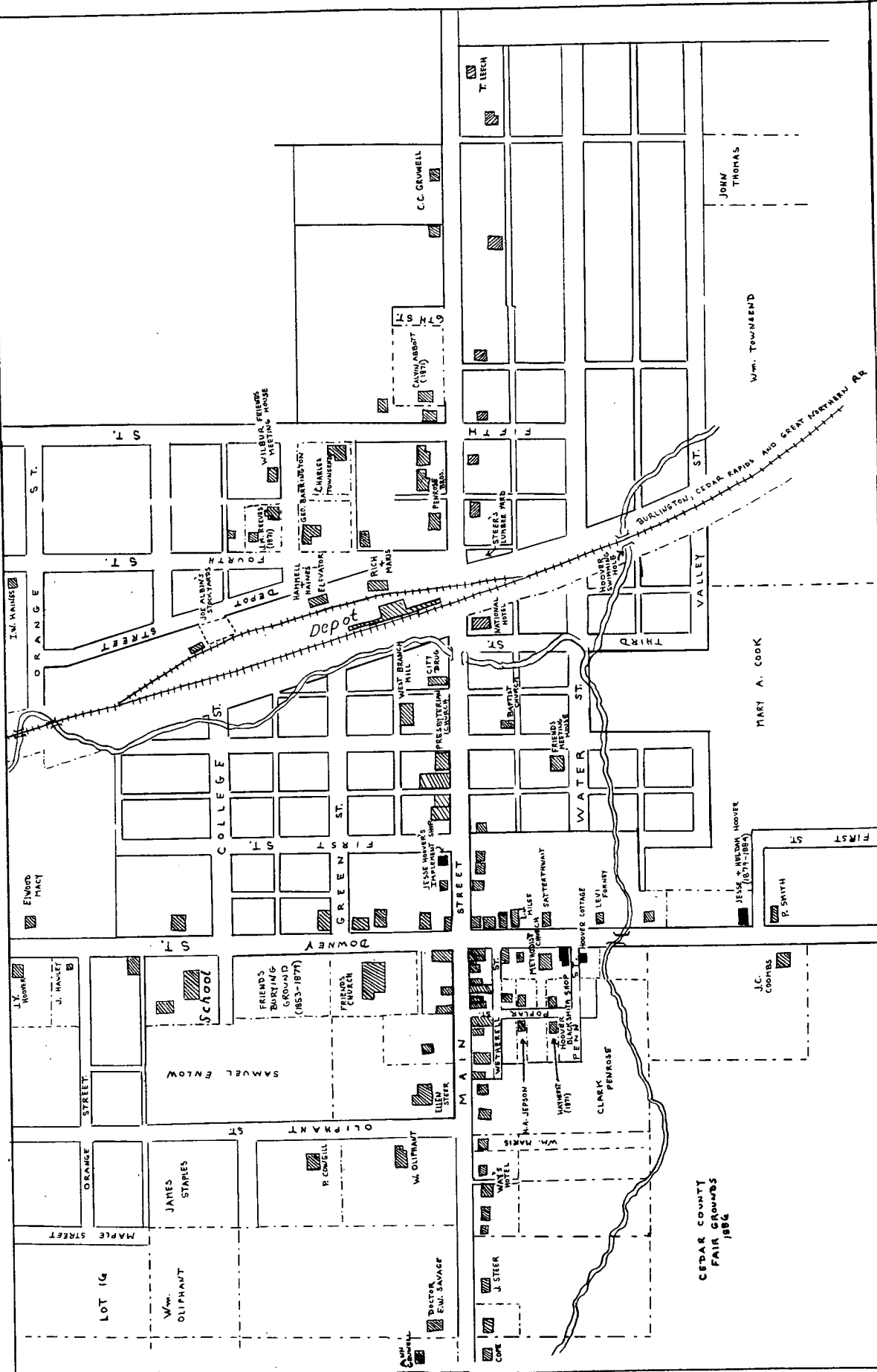
10. West Branch Local Record, Map 10, 1883. Copies of the Local Record for the period after 1878 are on file at The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, West Branch, Iowa.

two structures on Lot 41. One of these, the larger, is the blacksmith shop and the other would be the wagon shop. As this atlas was published in 1872, it indicates that Jesse Hoover built both structures. A photograph taken from Cook's Hill in the early 1880's, looking north, shows a building between the cottage and the Methodist Church. This structure, the axis of which is east and west, conforms to the outline of the building depicted on Plate 43. A copy of this photograph accompanies this report.

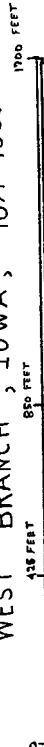
In 1964 the blacksmith shop, which had disappeared many years before, was reconstructed. By that year Penn Street had been relocated. Penn Street now bounded Lot 41 on the north rather than on the south. The reconstructed blacksmith shop was positioned with its rear (north elevation) abutting on the relocated Penn Street, and its front (south elevation) facing Lot 42. According to the photograph and the plate in the Harris & Warner Historical Atlas, the blacksmith shop should face east, with its front elevation very close to the boardwalk. At present, the structure is located on the rear of Lot 41. While the reconstructed shop is nearly square, both the photograph and Plate indicate that the historic shop was rectangular.

## Recommendations

(1) An Historic Structures Report and an Archeological Ex-  
cavation should be undertaken by the Service to secure additional  
information regarding the appearance and location of Jesse Hoover's  
blacksmith and wagon shops. (2) Penn Street should be relocated  
between Lots 41 and 42 and restored as a historic trace.



WEST BRANCH, IOWA, 1871-1886



- HOOPER BUILDINGS
- STREAMS
- BRIDGES
- RAILROAD
- MAJOR BUILDINGS
- PROPERTY LINES
- FENCES

D. The Hoover Yard

1. Boardwalk From Cottage to Downey Street

There was a "little board walk" leading from the front  
11  
door of the cottage to the street in front.

2. Pump

Near the house was a wooden pump, and dangling from it a  
gourd dipper. Beneath the pump spout was a wooden wash tub.  
On summer evenings, Herbert and his brother and sister would  
12  
wash their feet in this tub.

3. Fence Enclosing Yard

Fronting Downey Street, on Lots 42 and 43, Jesse Hoover  
would have erected a picket fence. This fence would either  
be whitewashed or painted white. Almost all front yard fenc-  
ing in West Branch in the 1870's and 1880's was picket. En-  
closing Hoover's yard on the south, and west would be a board  
fence, while the fence on the Penn Street side would be pic-  
13  
ket. The blacksmith and wagon shops' yard would be un-  
fenced.

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11. Charnley, Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover, 3.

12. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29,  
No. 8, 245. The well was a short distance southwest of the cottage.

13. West Branch Local Record, June 26, 1879, May 13 & 20,  
1880, May 8, 1883, and Nov. 2, 1885; Sketch by Theodore Hoover,  
circa 1948, Bill Wagner Collection.

#### 4. Flowers and Shrubs

Perennial shrubs and "old fashioned flowers grew profusely within the yard." <sup>14</sup> Among these flowers were scattered a profusion of dark, red double tulips which Huldah Hoover's mother, Mrs. Minthorn, had brought with her from Canada. <sup>15</sup>

#### 5. Privy

There would be a privy, probably a two-holer, located on the northeast corner of Lot No. 42. Such a location would position it on the opposite side of the lot from the well and at the same time it would be convenient to the blacksmith shop.

#### 6. Garden

An examination of Jesse Hoover's probated will demonstrates that in 1880 he had a garden. If he kept a garden in that year, he certainly would have had a garden during the years he lived in the Cottage. Because of the space factor, <sup>16</sup> the garden would have been located on Lot No. 43.

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14. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 245.

15. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, -45.

16. Records of the Cedar County Probate Court, Jesse Hoover, File No. 1540. County Clerk's Office, Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa.

## 7. Hoover Birthplace Tablet

A monument marking the birthplace of President Hoover was dedicated at West Branch on August 10, 1929, the 55th birthday of the chief executive. It consisted of a granite boulder with a bronze tablet affixed and was provided by the Pilgrim Chapter of the D. A. R. of Iowa City. This monument is positioned between Downey Street and the Cottage. Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave the dedicatory address.

17

## Recommendations

Improvements that should be made to restore Lots Nos. 42 and 43 to their appearance in the period 1874-1879 are: (a) the three-board fence, topped by a flat rail, currently enclosing Lots 41-43 should be removed and replaced with fencing of the type used during the Hoover years; (b) a period privy should be constructed; (c) a boardwalk should replace the stone walkway that now leads from Downey Street to the front doorway of the Cottage; (d) perennial shrubs and "old fashioned flowers" should be planted in the yard; and (e) a garden should be located on Lot No. 43.

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17. The Iowa Journal of History and Politics, Vol. 27, No. 4, 621.



### III. Jesse and Huldah Hoover's Second Home

#### A. The House

By 1879, when Herbert was four, Jesse Hoover's business had prospered to an extent that a new and larger home could be purchased. This home, which Hoover purchased on March 20 from the Charles Berryhill estate, was located on an acre lot a block south and on the opposite side of Downey Street from the Birthplace Cottage. This house was a two-story structure with a wing at the back.<sup>1</sup> Photographs of this house, which is no longer standing, accompany this report.

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1. Charnley, Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover, 21-22; Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 3-4; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 46. There were four rooms in the new Hoover house. Samuel Mather had been the original owner of this land. In June 1851 he had entered on the West one-half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. Two years later, Mather and his wife sold the property to Joseph Straughan, who in turn in 1862 disposed of the 80 acres to Joseph Hirst. Joseph Hirst and his wife on January 3, 1863, sold to Joseph Cook all the west one-half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, except a two-acre lot in the northwest corner. On May 19, 1866, Joseph Cook and his wife conveyed the 78 acres to James Cook.

James Cook and his wife on March 26, 1868, sold to David Hildebrand a lot in the west one-half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8 beginning 42 rods south of the northwest corner, then east ten rods, then south 16 rods, west ten rods, and then north ten rods to the beginning. This lot contained one acre. Hildebrand and his wife on February 28, 1870, sold their acre to Charles H. Berryhill. Berryhill built a house on the lot and made other improvements before he died. After Berryhill's death, Jesse Hoover purchased the property from the administrator of the estate, Samuel Sharpless. "Abstract to South 3 Feet Lot 83 B, all of Lot 83 C, and North 14 Feet of Lot 83 D." This abstract is among the holdings of the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation, and its safe keeping is entrusted to Reginald Figge. Cedar County Deed Book 15, p.56.

Jesse Hoover moved his family into their new home on May 27, 1879. Before vacating the cottage, he had made some needed improvements. Commenting on the move, the editor of the Local Record<sup>2</sup> observed, the family is now "as snug as a bug in a rug." The new home had the advantage in winter of being near the foot of Cook's Hill, a splendid place for sledding. Herbert Hoover lived in this house at the time of his father's death on December 13, 1880, and was still living there when his mother died in February 1884. According to the inventory filed by Lawrie Tatum, as the childrens' guardian in March 1884, the Hoover estate included an acre of ground and a house, appraised at \$500, for which it was subsequently sold; and Huldah Hoover's life insurance,<sup>3</sup> payable to her children, for \$1,000.

By the first week in May 1884, the Hoover children and personal belongings had been moved out of the house, where death had

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2. West Branch Local Record, May 1 and 29, 1879.

3. Gordon Smith, "The Guardianship of Herbert Hoover," Cedar County Historical Review, July 1965, 81. Jesse Hoover had failed to make out a will. Several days before he passed on, he sent for his brother, John; an uncle by marriage, William Miles; and James Cook, a neighbor, and told them how he wished his estate divided. Records of the Cedar County Probate Court, File No. 1540, County Clerk's Office.

claimed Jesse and Huldah. George Albin, a former West Branch resident, had returned to Iowa from Nebraska, and he rented the house from Lawrie Tatum.<sup>4</sup> On April 5, 1886, Tatum sold the house and lot to Daniel Witter.<sup>5</sup>

The second Hoover House was torn down in 1923, and replaced on Lot 83 D, Block 32, by a stucco structure built by Dewey Linn in April 1924. Mrs. Kofoed sold this property to the Government,<sup>6</sup> and the house was removed in 1968. Herbert Hoover in his

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4. West Branch Local Record, May 8, 1884.

5. "Abstract to South 3 Feet Lot 83 B, all of Lot 83 C, and North 14 Feet of Lot 83 D."

6. Ltr. Rummells to Murray, July 24, 1968. L. C. Rummells is Executive Vice President of the First State Bank of West Branch, and Mrs. Glennie Murray is Park Historian at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. Mr. Rummells' letter reads:

National Park Service  
City

Attention: Glennie Murray

Gentlemen:

Re: Lib Witter House

The house on the corner of Downey and Cedar on Lot 83 D, Block 32, West Branch, was owned by Lib Witter when we moved into the house about 1904. We lived there for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kelch purchased this house and tore it down expecting to build a new house on this lot. Before they started the new house, a widow died in the northeast part of town who had a nice home, so Mr. and Mrs. Kelch purchased same.

Memoirs wrote that although the house was gone "my memories are associated with it."<sup>7</sup>

B. The Yard

The house into which the Hoover family moved in 1879 was located at the southwest corner of an acre lot.<sup>8</sup> The front yard, facing Downey street, would have a picket fence--the pickets either painted white or whitewashed. A board fence would enclose the other three sides of the Hoover yard. See 1909 photograph which accompanies this report.

C. Garden

Northwest of the house was the garden, "where the snow humped over buried potato-vines and lay in a drift besides the grape-arbor."<sup>9</sup>

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They sold the lot to Glenn Brown and he resold it to Dewey Linn whom we think built a house on this lot in April 1924. John West helped tear the house down and we think this was in 1923.

7. Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 3-4.
8. Charnley, Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover, 21-22.
9. Lane, The Making of Herbert Hoover, 19; Charnley, Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover, 21-22.

D. Trees (Maple and Wild Crab-Apple)

Big Maple trees surrounded the house, spreading their branches over it, while "a wild crab-apple tree added a patch of rich color to the garden in the spring." According to Hoover's earliest biographer, Rose Wilder Lane, there was a row of six large maple-trees in front of the house and paralleling Downey Street.<sup>10</sup>

E. Outbuildings

1. Barn

A barn was located on the southeast corner of the lot.<sup>11</sup>

2. Privy

A privy would be located between the barn and the south fence line.<sup>12</sup>

3. Well

It has been impossible to pinpoint the well.

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10. Charnley, Boy's Life of Herbert Hoover, 21-22; Lane, The Making of Herbert Hoover, 18.

11. See Panoramic Photograph (circa 1909) which accompanies this report.

12. Ibid.

F. Fences

1. Immediately in front of the house and paralleling Downey Street would be a picket fence.
2. The remainder of the fence paralleling Downey, as well as the fence bounding Cedar Street, would be four board and post.
3. A wire fence would enclose the Hoover lot on the east and south.

Recommendations

It would be unwise and uneconomical to reconstruct the second Hoover house, because it would detract from the Birthplace Cottage. Instead it is recommended that the Service reconstruct the historic fence enclosing the lot. This would serve a two-fold purpose: (a) it would identify and delineate to the visitor the site of the second house; and (b) it would help recreate the historic scene.

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13. Ibid.

#### IV. Jesse Hoover's Implement Shop

Jesse Hoover on May 25, 1879, sold his blacksmith shop and business to G. M. D. Hill and went into the agricultural implement business. He bought a frame building and lot at the northwest corner of Main and First from Cook & Son. The lot consisted of the "undivided two-thirds of 43 feet nine inches off the east end of Lot 1/2 in Block 34 in W. H. Olliphant's division of the Town of Cameron."<sup>1</sup>

Hoover was a good businessman and quickly expanded his operations. He began selling pumps and wagons. At the end of October,<sup>2</sup> he purchased Don Frame's machine for making barb wire. Soon afterwards occurred the incident in which Herbert Hoover on December 27, 1879, set his father's cauldron of tar afire. The cauldron was positioned midway between Hoover's "agricultural house"<sup>3</sup> and the Rummells & White Meat Market.

After Jesse's death on December 13, 1880, Benijah Hoover took over the implement business. On January 30, 1882, Huldah Hoover<sup>4</sup> sold to Benijah for \$233 the building and lot.

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1. Records of the Cedar County, Probate Court, File No. 1540, County Clerk's Office. Cook & Son in 1877 had operated a farm implement store at the corner of Main and First.

2. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 30, 1879.

3. Ibid., Jan. 3, 1880.

4. Records of the Cedar County Probate Court, File No. 1540, County Clerk's Office. Benijah Hoover was a brother of Jesse's father, Eli.

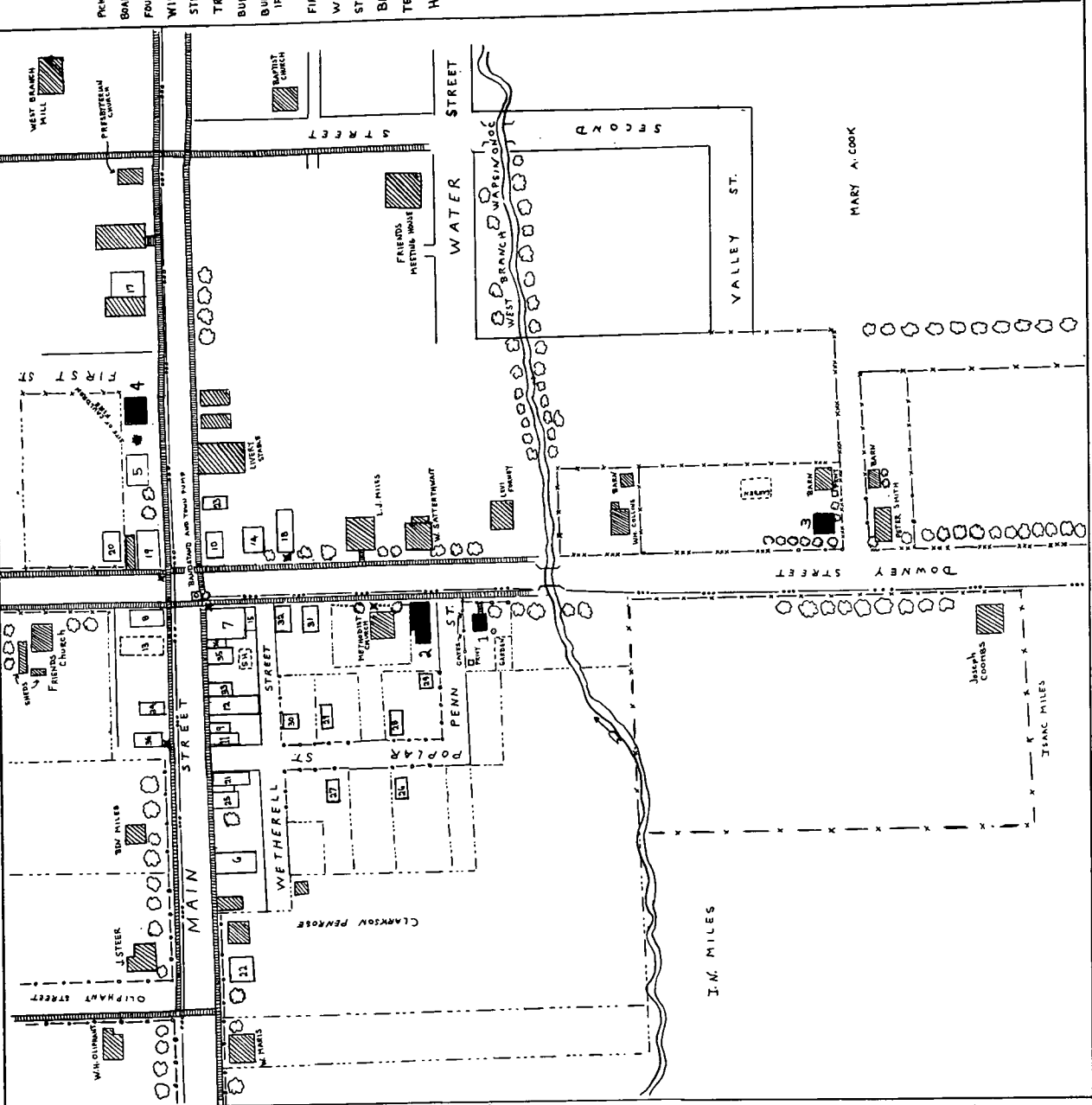
Today a cement block building, erected soon after the turn of the century, stands on the site of Hoover's Implement Shop. Under the approved Master Plan for Herbert Hoover, a Federal Building, to house the Park Offices and the West Branch Post Office, will be erected on the opposite side of Main Street from this historic site.

#### Recommendations

It is suggested that the story of Jesse Hoover's Implement Store and information regarding its site be included in the Park's interpretive program. This is important, because it will demonstrate that Jesse Hoover was a successful businessman at the time of his death. This is contrary to the general belief that Hoover's father was a poor but thrifty blacksmith.



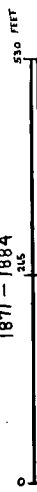
- CONVENTIONAL SYMBOLS**
- POCKET FENCES ———
  - BOARD FENCES ———
  - FOUR BOARD AND POST FENCE ———
  - WIRE FENCE ———
  - STREET LAMPS ———
  - TREES ———
  - BUILDINGS ———
  - BUILDINGS IF KEPT ———
  - FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE (1883-1885)
  - WELLS ———
  - STREAMS ———
  - BRIDGES ———
  - TELEPHONE LINES ———
  - HOOVER BUILDINGS ———



- 1 HOOPER, COTTAGE
- 2 HOOPER, BLACKSMITH SHIP
- 3 HOOPER HOUSE (1871-1884)
- 4 JESSE HOOVER'S THRESHING SHOP
- 5 RUMHELL'S MEAT MARKET 1871-1874
- 6 L.L. MILES' WAREHOUSE
- 7 INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL 1883
- 7 CEDON'S HOTEL
- 8 WEST BRANCH BANK 1877-1884
- 9 POSTOFFICE 1871-1885
- 10 PEDDLE'S STORES
- 11 GRUWELL BROS. & CO.
- 12 GRUWELL & JOHNSON
- 13 EMERSON GROCERY STORE
- 14 THE REGULATOR
- 15 FORNEY BUILDING
- 15 ALBION BUILDING 1885
- 16 COPPECK & CREW 1881-1883
- 16 MCLELLAN'S STORE 1884
- 15 COPPECK & CREW'S WAREHOUSE 1883
- 17 WEST BRANCH MARKET (1877)
- 18 SCHLEIFER'S MARKET SHOP 1880
- 19 COME-FORTH MEAT MARKET 1883
- 17 COOPER'S WOODWORKING SHOP
- 17 FUNERAL PARLOR
- 18 BRANSON'S BOOKSTORE
- 19 BEAM'S HALL
- 19 BEAM'S HARDWARE STORE
- 20 GRUWELL & SOW 1883-1884
- 20 DR. J.T. BAILEY 1874-1883
- 21 LANGSTAFF & BRUNDTIGE
- 22 DR. W.H. WALKER'S HOUSE
- 23 FIRE HOUSE
- 24 ICE HOUSE
- 25 CLARK BEAM'S HOUSE 1872
- 26 R.P. SCHELLER'S HOUSE 1883
- 27 HENRY JEFFSON'S HOUSE
- 28 WASH JACKSON'S HOUSE
- 27 DAVID MACKEY'S HOUSE
- 30 WIDOW SMITH'S HOUSE 1871
- 31 MORGAN COVERT'S HOUSE 1880
- 32 MARY ALBION'S HOUSE 1880
- 33 GINNELL BUILDING
- 34 BUTLER'S SHOE SHOP 1880
- 35 RUMHELL'S MEAT MARKET 1879
- 36 BURDEN & CURKAN 1883

THE HOOVERS AND THEIR WEST BRANCH NEIGHBORHOOD

1871 - 1884



## V. Streets

### A. General Information

West Branch grew up as a crossroads. The stage road connecting Davenport and Iowa City was destined to become Main Street within the limits of the town.<sup>1</sup> During Herbert Hoover's West Branch years, Main Street extended east and west three-quarters of a mile. Downey Street, named for the older village four miles to the south, ran north and south, and the intersection of Downey and Main was the center of West Branch.<sup>2</sup>

When the town was platted in 1869, Main Street was designated Commerce Street and Downey, Mechanics. At the time that Cameron was platted, Main and Downey streets were identified by the names they bear today.<sup>3</sup>

Working the city streets was in charge of a street commissioner. All West Branch males between 21 and 45 were required "to perform two days labor upon the streets and alleys between April 1 and September 1 of each year." If the men did not choose to

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1. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 247.

2. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 10.

3. Plats of West Branch and Cameron, Records of the Cedar County Clerk, Tipton, Iowa.

work, each could be excused by paying the street commissioner \$3.<sup>4</sup>  
As to be expected, this system proved unsatisfactory.

B. Condition of the Streets

In the Hoover years, the streets of West Branch were either "dusty thoroughfares or muddy bogs." In the 1850's and early 1860's, it was not unusual to see several ox teams mired in the mud on Main or Downey Streets, but by the 1870's horses had replaced oxen, and on a Saturday afternoon many wagons were parked in town with their teams tied to hitching racks.<sup>5</sup> In 1871 it was observed in The Index that Main Street between its intersection with Downey and the depot had "received a new dress which makes it some better," while the new bridge across the West Branch "presents quite a passable appearance." At the moment, the editor noted, one more improvement on Main Street was needed, "a culvert on the corner of Main & Downey streets where the rain has made quite a ditch."<sup>6</sup>

On Main Street, between Downey and Poplar, the gutters were macadamized with stone. Where the walkways crossed Main, tile

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4. Ordinance No. 40, adopted March 4, 1882, found in the Local Record for June 22, 1882.

5. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 31.

6. Ibid., 32.

was laid in the gutters in a fight to drain off water after a  
7  
heavy rain.

A number of the photographs found in this report depict the West Branch streets as they appeared during the period 1880-1910.

### Recommendations

Three streets [ (a) Downey between Wetherell and Cedar; (b) Poplar between Wetherell and Penn; and (c) Penn] should be closed to vehicular traffic and restored to their appearance, circa 1880. In carrying out this project, Penn Street will have to be relocated on its historic site.

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7. West Branch Local Record, April 24, 1879, and Jan. 3, 1884. The adjacent property owners were billed for these improvements.

## VI. Bridges

Wooden bridges carried Downey, College, Main and, Second streets across the branches of the Wapsinonoc. These bridges, as well as most of those in Cedar County, had been built by J. C. Coombs and J. Pickering of West Branch. In one year, 1879, they built no less than 25 bridges in the county. Coombs in 1882 boasted that since going into business in 1874, he had erected in the county 44 bridges, besides many barns and houses.<sup>1</sup>

The bridges built by Coombs & Pickering in West Branch were simple structures, with a span of between 12 and 20 feet, and rested on piles. Walkways carried pedestrian traffic across the creek on Main Street. To keep pedestrians from falling into the stream on dark nights "banisters" were placed on the walkways across the bridge and on the approaches. A photograph of the boardwalk and "banisters" on the north side of Main Street, west of the depot, is found in this report.<sup>2</sup> A photograph of south Downey Street, made shortly after the turn of the century, shows the bridge in the background. It is a narrow structure with wooden railings and no walkways. See copy of

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34-35, 68; West Branch Local Record, Nov. 6, 1879.

2. West Branch Local Record, Aug. 5, 1880, and May 3, 1883.

this photograph which accompanies this report. Later a wooden footbridge was built to carry the walk across the stream south of the Hoover Cottage. This structure was used until July 4, 1937, when it was closed and pedestrian traffic diverted to the concrete highway bridge.

### Recommendations

It is suggested that the concrete railings be removed from the south Downey Street bridge and replaced with period wood railings.

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3. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 69, 77, 92.

## VII. Sidewalks and Fences

### A. Sidewalks

At the time of Hoover's birth in 1874 there were no sidewalks in West Branch. N. H. Crook in the mid-1870's took up a collection to finance the first sidewalk in the town. When built it was two planks wide, and it extended on the south side of the street, from the corner of Main and Downey to the depot.<sup>1</sup>

It was the spring of 1880 before a campaign was undertaken in West Branch to construct additional sidewalks. During the first week of March, a vote was taken and 70 of those polled favored building a six-foot sidewalk along the east side of the "Friends burying ground." There were 12 votes against this proposal.<sup>2</sup> On March 8 the property owners on the west side of Green Street were directed by the Town Council to "build a plank side walk within 45 days." An ordinance was drafted at the same time calling for the construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Downey from its intersection with Main to the schoolhouse entrance.<sup>3</sup> Six weeks later, the West Branch Bank was directed by the Town Council to repair its front platform.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 31.
  2. West Branch Local Record, March 4, 1879.
  3. Ibid., March 11 & 18, 1879.
  4. Ibid., April 18, 1880.

Sidewalks in the Main Street business district, as well as those leading from the intersection of Main and Downey to the school and depot, were "to be built of two-inch plank to be laid crossways six feet wide with four stringers 2 x 6 inches wide." Persons owning property abutting on the street were to be responsible for grading and building the sidewalks, except for the sidewalk in front of the Friends burying ground which was to be built by the corporation.<sup>5</sup> Work was to be completed by May 15, 1880.

By the designated deadline, Street Commissioner Perry had completed a substantial six-foot sidewalk from the corner of Main and Downey to the schoolhouse, while the merchants on the north side of Main had built a walk of the prescribed dimensions from a point opposite Poplar to Downey.<sup>6</sup>

In the late fall of 1882, the Railroad and Joseph Steer repaired the sidewalks on east Main Street on either side of the depot.<sup>7</sup> Despite the initiative shown by a few, the sidewalks constructed in 1880 deteriorated rapidly. On August 9, 1883, the Local Record complained:

The most notable feature of our town is the dilapidated condition of the sidewalks. The railing on the trestle work across the creek

- 
5. Ibid., April 18, 1880.
  6. Ibid., May 6 and 20, 1880.
  7. Ibid., Nov. 30, 1882.



near the depot is falling and the plank so uneven that one familiar with the condition can scarcely get along without stumbling in broad daylight.<sup>8</sup>

This article caused the street commissioner to turn out a crew<sup>9</sup> to repair the sidewalks over the creek on Main Street.

In October 1883 the Town Council ordered the owners of property on the west side of Oliphant, between Main and Orange, to build sidewalks. These walks were to be of two-inch plank, one foot in width, and laid lengthwise with 4 x 4 bearings positioned at four-foot intervals under the planks. The planks were to be spiked to the stringers. When completed this walk was to be two<sup>10</sup> feet wide.

In December 1884 it was reported that the sidewalk on Downey Street had been "straightened and new planks put down nearly the entire length." On the west side of Downey, the walk, which was six-foot in width, extended for about one mile--from the intersection with Orange to a point south of the bridge near the Hoover Cottage. On the east side of Downey, the walk extended from the<sup>11</sup> Orange Street intersection to the creek.

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8. Ibid., Aug. 9, 1883.

9. Ibid., Aug. 30, 1883.

10. Ibid., Oct. 11, 1883.

11. Ibid., Dec. 11, 1884.

By 1885 there were three and one-half miles of board sidewalks in West Branch. The walks in the business district and on the west side of Downey were six-foot wide, while those in the residential areas were either two or four feet in width. The sidewalk on the east side of Downey had a width of four feet. <sup>12</sup>

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the board sidewalks on Downey Street be reconstructed. The walk on the west side of Downey between Wetherell and the entrance drive to the Hoover Library should have a width of six feet, while the one on the east side of Downey, extending from a point opposite Wetherell to the bridge, should be four feet wide. The walks on Poplar Street, between Wetherell and Penn, should have a width of four feet. Photographs found in this report show these walks as they appeared at the turn of the century.

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12. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 31.

## B. Fences

There were four types of fencing used in and around West Branch in the 1870's and 1880's. They were: picket, board, four-board and post, and wire. Most of the homes in the city were fenced. In front of the homes were picket fences, either painted white or whitewashed. The sides and the rear of the yards were enclosed by a board fences. On the east side of Downey Street, between the creek and the top of Cook's Hill, was a four-board and post fence. Immediately in front of the Hoover House and Peter Smith's, the four-board and post fence gave way to pickets. The side and backyards of homes on the outskirts of town were enclosed by wire fences. The lots on which the Hoover Cottage was positioned were enclosed on the Downey and Penn Streets sides by a white picket fence and on the south and west sides by a board fence.

13

## Recommendations

The fences in the core-area should be reconstructed to reflect the situation as shown on the Historical Base Map.

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13. Sketch of blacksmith shop prepared by Theodore Hoover in 1948; Photographs of West Branch from Cook's Hill, circa 1880, and Panorama of West Branch, 1909.

### VIII. Bandstand

A unique bandstand was erected in West Branch in the late 1880's. This was after Herbert Hoover had gone to Oregon. The bandstand was sited at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Downey streets. It was a two-story structure. The first floor provided shade for the town pump and well, while the second story served the West Branch band as a stage from which concerts were given. A number of photographs found in this report picture the bandstand.<sup>1</sup>

### Recommendations

If a cooperative agreement could be entered into with the "city fathers," the bandstand should be reconstructed on site. Superintendent Quist would like to have a bandstand erected near the corner of Main and Second. This would be a functional structure, so a two-story bandstand would be impractical. He would use the bandstand for interpretative purposes, and the city could use it for concerts.

- 
1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 75.

## IX. Street Lamps

Nate Crook placed a street lamp in front of his hotel in December 1883, as a beacon to passengers detraining at the depot from the late trains. This was the first street light in West Branch. Others followed Crook's lead.<sup>1</sup>

By the end of the year, 11 street lights were in operation. Two of these lights were on Downey Street--one in front of the Methodist Church and the other in front of Branson's Bookstore. These lights were kerosene lamps of the latest pattern, mounted on tall posts.<sup>2</sup>

In 1885 the Town Council voted to "set aside \$100 for the purpose of furnishing oil and keeping in repair and lighting the street lamps."<sup>3</sup>

### Recommendations

It is recommended that a 1884 period kerosene lamp be positioned on Downey Street, in front of the site where the Methodist Church stood.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 92; West Branch Local Record, Dec. 13, 1883.

2. West Branch Local Record, Jan. 3, 1884.

3. Ibid., May 14, 1885. By this time, a lamp had been installed at the corner of Green and Fourth streets.

## X. Town Pump and Trough

The town well was located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Downey streets, handy to all the business houses and the hitching racks. In the summer of 1880 the Town Council voted to appropriate five dollars to install a "rubber bucket pump in the town well, provided the citizens" would contribute the rest of the cost. This they refused to do, so the subject was dropped. On January 11, 1883, the editor of the Local Record complained, the old Champion pump is "only an annoyance most of the time, and the best way to remedy the thing would be to put in a new Champion iron pump. They are durable and easy worked and with 100 feet of hose would in great measure protect [from fire] the entire business district."<sup>1</sup>

The Town Council was agreeable, and in June 1884 a new pump was purchased from Ben Hoover's Implement Shop.

In May 1886 the Street Commissioner had a trough made of plank built and positioned in front of the town pump. The trough was painted red.<sup>2</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, July 8, 1880, and Jan. 4, 1883; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 73; Lane, Making of Herbert Hoover, 30.

2. West Branch Local Record, July 3, 1884, & May 20, 1886. Not long thereafter, the pump was pulled and the well deepened.

### Recommendations

If the bandstand is reconstructed on its historic site, the pump would add to the scene. Unless the corporation is agreeable and willing to cooperate, it will be impossible to reconstruct the historic bandstand and there will be no need for a town pump and well.

## XI. Telephones and Telephone Lines

The telephone came to West Branch in February 1879, when Townsend, Edmundson & Co. installed a line connecting their store with the depot.<sup>1</sup> By 1883 there had been a rapid expansion in telephone service within the town. A local exchange, located in Neal Madson's Tailor Shop, had been established, and in August it was possible to call Iowa City, Davenport, and Cedar Rapids from West Branch.<sup>2</sup>

### Recommendations

In the core-area there should be a line of telephone poles, with several lines, running southward from the corner of Downey and Wetherell to the entrance drive to the Hoover Library. These poles would be located on the west side of Downey, between the sidewalk and the drainage ditch at the edge of the road. Photos showing the type of telephone poles found in West Branch in the late Nineteenth Century accompany this report.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 104.
  2. West Branch Local Record, Feb. 22 and Aug. 23, 1883.



## XII. Cemeteries

### A. First Cemetery

The first cemetery in West Branch was established by the Friends on the slope behind their meeting house. The earliest date on a stone in this burying ground is 1853. As the population increased, the cemetery became inadequate to the needs of the community. In 1878 it was decided to discontinue its use and ground for another was bought. There were at this time about 110 graves in the cemetery, which was about the size of a small city block. Among those buried in this cemetery were Herbert Hoover's maternal grandfather, Theodore Minthorn, and his paternal great-grandfather, Jesse Hoover. Both stones have been<sup>1</sup> moved to the Hoover lot in the new "cemetery."

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 69.

## B. Second Cemetery

The "city fathers" selected a site for the new cemetery beyond the town limits, a short distance to the northwest of the old cemetery. This site was on commanding, well-drained ground. In the new cemetery, the Friends designated a section as the burying ground for members of their faith. Jesse Hoover, Herbert's father, was the first Friend to be laid to rest there. The cemetery was fenced with 4,500 feet of fencing and 220 posts.

As the years passed, additional acreage was purchased, the drives graveled, and a systematic planting of pines undertaken.<sup>2</sup>

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2. Ibid., 69-70; West Branch Local Record, April 10, 1879. Jesse Hoover's stone reads, "Jesse Hoover; Died, Dec. 13, 1880; Aged 34 yrs. 3 Mos. & 11 Ds; Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.--Matt. 11, 28." The stone marking Huldah Hoover's grave reads, "Hulda R. Hoover; died 2 Mo. 24, 1884; 35 ys. 9 Mo. 20 Ds; For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." Inscriptions on Stones, Hoover lot, West Branch Cemetery.

### Recommendations

(1) The Superintendent has suggested that the Service acquire from the city the "Old Friends Burying Ground." This is the cemetery in which many of the first residents of West Branch were laid to rest, including Theodore Minthorn and Jesse Hoover. Maintenance on this cemetery would be minimal, and it is urged, if the opportunity presents itself, that the "Old Burying Ground" be incorporated into Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

(2) Since there is much interest in the final resting place of Herbert Hoover's parents, it is urged that the Service enter into a cooperative agreement with the corporation to erect a historical marker at the West Branch Cemetery.

XIII. West Branch Churches

A. The Friends Meeting Houses

1. The First Meeting House

In 1845-47 several families of Friends settled near what was to become Springdale, and a preparative meeting was established there. As most of the first settlers on the West Branch were also Friends, they were holding monthly meetings as early as 1853. Meetings were first held at William Townsend's residence, and then in Samuel King's store. About the time that King sold out and left the community in 1855, \$800 was raised locally for the construction of a school. As most of the money was contributed by Friends, this building would serve them as a temporary meeting house.

In 1856 a large plot of land (the southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6) was purchased by the Friends from Samuel Abbott. A meeting house was erected well back from Main Street, and north of schoolhouse. On the sloping hillsides north of the structure were planted shade trees of many varieties, while at the north boundary was located the cemetery. The earliest date on a stone in the burying ground is 1853.

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1. History of Cedar County, 510; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 15.

2. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 16.

The meeting house was built by Thomas Barrington with lumber hauled from Big Grove (now Newport), 12 miles to the northwest, where Joseph Steer had a sawmill. The meeting house faced east. A picket fence was erected in front, while on the other side the fence was a "tight board fence seven feet high." A "fine porch" was added in 1879 to the building's south elevation. Long sheds for teams and hitching racks were built, near the west and north elevations. <sup>3</sup> Trees were planted in front of the meeting house.

Herbert Hoover attended this meeting house in his West <sup>4</sup> Branch years.

In 1915 the meeting house was sold and moved across the street to make way for a new brick Friends Church. The old structure was altered and became the West Branch Theater. With the coming of television to Cedar County, the theater closed, and the building was converted into a garage. In 1964 the old meeting house was purchased by West Branch citizens and presented to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Founda-

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3. Ibid., 16; West Branch Local Record, June 19, 1879, Nov. 26, 1885, March 25, 1886; Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 247; Lane, Making of Herbert Hoover, 23,26.

4. Lane, Making of Herbert Hoover, 23.

tion. The Foundation had the building moved onto Lots 83 and 84, on the east side of Downey and southeast of the Birthplace Cottage, and restored to its 1879 appearance. In July 1968 the Foundation was having a room added to the northeast corner of the restored meeting house.

### Recommendations

It is suggested that the sheds, hitching racks, and fence be reconstructed to give the meeting house, its appearance as of 1884.

#### 2. Other Meeting Houses

The Wilbur Friends, several years prior to 1878, constructed a small church on Green Street, near 4th. They belonged to the same branch that had built the Hickory Grove Meeting House in 1862. As the years passed, the Wilbur Friends ceased meeting in town.

The Hickory Grove Meeting House, built in 1865, is located two miles east of the Hoover Cottage. Nearby is the Scattergood School opened in 1890. This school is named for Joseph H. Scattergood, a wealthy Philadelphia chemist

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5. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 71-72; History of Cedar County, 511.

who visited the Iowa Quaker settlements in 1873. Twelve<sup>6</sup> acres of land were purchased as a site for the school.

In 1883 the West Branch Friends split into two factions, and the conservatives withdrew and erected a meeting house on 2nd Street--known as the Friends Meeting House. The progressives' meeting house on Downey was thereafter<sup>7</sup> known as the Friends Church.

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6. Lloyd Dickinson, "Early School Days," Cedar County Historical Review, Aug. 1960.

7. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 71.

## B. The Methodist Church

A Methodist Church was built on Downey, between Penn and Wetherell Streets, in 1870, at a cost of \$2,300. The society was organized the previous year, and preaching had been held irregularly in the schoolhouse by Rev. William Lee of Tipton and others. Rev. A. B. Smith was the first regular pastor, followed in 1870 by Rev. D. C. Worts for two years (1870-1872); then by Rev. W. C. McCormic (1872-1875); then Rev. S. C. Freer (1875-1877); and Rev. S. B. Maltbie.

When organized in 1869, there were 16 members in the society and by 1878 the number had increased to 65.

The Index reported in 1871, "The new Methodist church is now nicely whitewashed." In the years after Jesse Hoover sold his blacksmith shop on Lot 41, the Methodists erected a parsonage. The church was remodeled on several occasions, and finally a handsome new brick church was built on the corner of Downey and Green. A photograph of the historic Methodist Church is found in this report.

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8. History of Cedar County, 510. The Methodist Church was located on Lots 8 and 9.

9. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 33, 106.



## Recommendations

As the historic structure is no longer extant, the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation will have no objections to the relocation of the Phelps House on the site.

### C. Presbyterian Church

Rev. Charles P. Spinning of the Presbyterian Church in the period 1869-1871 held services periodically in the West Branch schoolhouse. From 1871-1875 there were no Presbyterian services in the West Branch area. Rev. J. P. Schell began holding services in the schoolhouse in 1875. In 1877 a church was organized and a building erected that fall on the northwest corner of Main and 2nd Streets. <sup>10</sup> A photograph of the Presbyterian Church accompanies this report.

### D. Baptist Church

The Baptist Church of West Branch held its first regular services in the summer of 1877. The congregation purchased a building six miles north of the village and moved it into West Branch, locating it on the south side of Main, between 2nd and 3rd Streets. <sup>11</sup>

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10. History of Cedar County, 511. Reverend Spinning lived a mile north of West Branch. The Presbyterian Church was built on Lot 16, Block 26.

11. Ibid.

#### XIV. School Houses

##### A. West Branch Schools

A one-acre school lot, which today would be located at the southwest corner of Main and Downey, was purchased on June 3, 1853, by the schoolboard of which William Townsend was president for \$10 from James Steer.<sup>1</sup> That summer a schoolhouse, considered commodious for the period, was erected at a cost of \$800. The school was located on the southwest corner of the lot. Until a meeting house could be erected, the schoolhouse served a dual role.<sup>2</sup>

With a rapid increase in population, the schoolhouse was overcrowded by the late 1860's. A group of Friends and others

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1. Aaron Baker on January 23, 1852, had entered on the Northeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 79 North, Range 4 West. On May 7, 1852, Baker sold the property in question to Samuel King. King and his wife, Content, on March 28, 1853, sold to Joseph Steer an 80-acre tract beginning at the northeast corner of Section 7, then running west 69 rods with the section line, then south 30 rods, then west 13.54 rods, then south 130 rods, then east 82.54 rods to the section line, then north with the section line 160 rods to the point of beginning. This tract contained 80 acres. Cedar County Deed Book H, p.24.

Steer on June 2, 1853, sold to School District No. 9 a one-acre lot beginning at the northeast corner of Section 7, then running west eight rods, then south 20 rods, then east eight rods, then north 20 rods to the beginning. Ibid., 90.

2. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 11; History of Cedar County, 510; Plat of West Branch. A copy of this plat is found in this report.

subscribed \$1,500 for the construction of a building to be known as the "Friends Academy of West Branch." Two sites were discussed by the building committee. One was on Main Street, just west of the Friends meeting ground, and the other, two acres in Oliphant's field, bounding on the north the Friends Burying Ground. The latter site was favored, and in 1869 a two-story frame structure, 24 x 44 feet, standing east and west was erected. Joel and Hannah Beam, experienced teachers and preachers, had for some time conducted a Select School at their home, "The Evergreen," a mile east of town, and they were picked as teachers for the new academy.<sup>3</sup>

The "Friends Academy of West Branch" was only in operation a short time, when the Friends were persuaded to rent their schoolhouse to the newly constituted school district, and the first term of the public school was opened in 1869, with the Beams staying on as teachers. The academy was thereby absorbed by the public school.

The old school building was moved from the corner of Main and Downey to north of the new building on the hill and used for the primary grades. In 1870 the school district purchased the school property from the Friends and ceased paying rent. The one-acre lot vacated at the time the original building was

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3. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 19; History of Cedar County, 510.

moved was sold on May 4, 1870, by the Directors of the Independent School District. It was then subdivided into four lots as an addition to West Branch. From the sale of the four lots into which this acre was divided about \$800 was realized.<sup>4</sup>

In 1877 it was found that the facilities must again be enlarged. The "first" schoolhouse took its last journey, this time to the corner of Orange and Oliphant streets, where it stood in 1968 as a private dwelling. A wing, 28 x 40 feet, two stories in height, was added to the northside of the main school building at a cost of \$1,775, thus creating a five-room school for the training of West Branch youth. Soon thereafter, the school yard was fenced and the grounds cindered.<sup>5</sup>

Herbert Hoover, along with about 150 other students, attended this school in the years from 1880 through 1885. Seven years after Hoover moved to Oregon, the building that had been erected as the "Friends Academy of West Branch" was destroyed by fire in November 1892.<sup>6</sup>

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4. Cedar County Deed Book B, p.479. Lots 1 and 2 were sold by the Directors to J. E. Witter for \$323. Ibid., 602.

5. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Towns, 20; History of Cedar County, 510. Three of the school rooms were used for classes and two for recitation. In 1878 the principal was N. W. Macy, and the teachers: Misses Elma E. Bray, Lottie Kalb, and Jessie Courtland.

6. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 55,73.

### Recommendations

The "first" West Branch schoolhouse, erected in 1853, has been secured by the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation, and in July 1968 it was moved from the corner of Orange and Oliphant streets. Plans call for relocating the building in Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. As its original site is not within the Park boundary, it is recommended that the "first" school be located north of Penn Street to front on Poplar.

## B. Industrial School

Lawrie Tatum and I. J. Miles, as Agents in the Indian Territory, were influential in securing the cooperation of the West Branch Friends, and an Industrial School was established. The school was located in the wooden building which had been built and occupied by the Miles, Townsend & Gill General Store, just west of where the Enlow Public Library is now located.<sup>7</sup>

Benjamin Miles and his wife, Elizabeth, lived just across Main Street from the school, and they were in charge when it opened on Tuesday, January 16, 1883. There were 13 young Osages, ranging from seven to 15, in attendance. Of these, none were girls.<sup>8</sup> The Indians fraternized with the white children of West Branch. Newt Butler recalled the boys (white and Indians) shooting a domestic chicken in Larsen's pasture, which they ate half raw after an abortive attempt to cook it "Indian Fashion" over a fire.<sup>9</sup>

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7. Personal Interviews Glenn Brown and Mrs. Mildred Speight, July 9, 1968. Brown and Speight are well versed in the history of Springdale Township and West Branch; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 47. A building had been erected on Lot 9 in 1862 by Joseph Steer. Subsequently, Steer's warehouse was moved to the southeast corner of Main and Downey, and on its site Miles built a warehouse. History of Cedar County, 508.

8. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 47.

9. Walter W. Liggett, The Rise of Herbert Hoover (New York, 1932), 7.

In the autumn, it was announced that preparations were being made to move the Indian School to Lee County. Isaac Miles had continued his interest in the project and arranged to shift the school to Salem, Iowa. On November 1, 1883, the Indians left on the 3:40 train for Salem.

In December 1883 Emmor Hawley rented the second floor of the empty building and opened a skating rink. This was the only amusement place on town, and was "conducted in a very systematic and orderly way."

Joe Albin in June 1885 purchased the "old Indian School building" and moved it across the street and east one block to a lot just west of the West Branch Bank. He raised the roof five feet and had the second floor replaced so "as to give each story 11 feet in the clear." The first floor was now 20 feet wide and 50 feet long, with glass fronts. Albin planned to rent out the second story as a place of entertainment, a successor to Bean's Hall, and a forerunner of the Opera House.

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10. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 51; West Branch Local Record, Nov. 1, 1883.

11. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 52.

12. Ibid., 52-53; West Branch Local Record, June 18 and July 16, 1885.

In 1947 the old Indian School Building was razed to make way for the erection of a modern brick War Memorial Building. This structure was to commemorate the services of the men and women of Springdale Township in World War II.

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13. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 53.



## XV. The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Great Northern Railroad

### A. General Information

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Great Northern Railroad was completed to West Branch on December 20, 1870, and the event was celebrated with a basket dinner and a gathering of 200 residents in an area east of the right-of-way and south of Main Street, where Joseph Steer's lumber yard was subsequently<sup>1</sup> located.

The first freight to reach West Branch by rail was two cars<sup>2</sup> of coal consigned to Phineas Cowgill. During the summer of 1871, one train passed each way daily through the town, both carrying freight and passengers. The locomotives were interesting. Instead of bearing numbers, they were named for distinguished men. One was called "Fitz Henry Warren" and the other "W. W. Walker"--two early Iowa railroaders. Each locomotive was equipped with "a simple pair of drive wheels and carried a big smokestack, shaped like a balloon." The locomotives were fired by wood, and West Branch, like other stations along the right-of-way, maintained a supply of fuel where<sup>3</sup> the engines wooded up.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 29-30.

2. Ibid., 30.

3. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 242-243.

## B. Herbert Hoover and the Railroad

Hoover had fond memories of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Great Northern. In his Memoirs he wrote:

I have mentioned the Burlington track. It was an inspiring place. It was ballasted with glacial gravels where, by hard search, you discovered gems of agate and fossil coral which could, with infinite backaches, be polished on the grindstone.<sup>4</sup>

## C. The Depot, Water Tank, and Windmill

The first depot was a freight car positioned between the tracks and fitted with a stove, desk, and benches. Soon thereafter, an office and waiting room was fitted up in the south end of Townsend & Hammell's elevator. George Barrington was the first station agent at West Branch. By 1878 the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Great Northern had built a depot, tool shed, and water tank at West Branch. The depot was located between the main line and the side track. Two years later, in February 1880, the railroad to provide water for the tank erected an "immense windmill." By 1885 advances in the construction of locomotive boilers reduced the dependence on water, and the railroad abandoned<sup>5</sup> the use of its water tanks between West Liberty and Cedar Rapids.

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4. Frank P. Donovan, "The Rock Island in Iowa," The Palimpsest, Vol. 44, No. 9, 421-422.

5. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 30-31; History of Cedar County, 509; West Branch Local Record, Feb. 19, 1880, and April 22, 1885.

D. The Construction of Additional Side Tracks

In the spring of 1882 the railroad, taking cognizance of the increasing number of cars loading at West Branch, constructed an additional 3,000 feet of side track, designed to handle 80 more cars. Heavy rains in June caused the West Branch to flood. Main Street was inundated at the bridge, and the high water washed "some of the new side track out of place north of the<sup>6</sup> depot."

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6. West Branch Local Record, June 22, 1882.

xvi. Hotels

A. Way's Hotel

Way's Hotel in 1871 was located on the south side of Main,<sup>1</sup>  
one-half block west of Oliphant.

B. National Hotel

The first "regular hotel" in West Branch was built in 1873  
on east Main by Frank Savage. By 1877 Savage's Hotel, which was<sup>2</sup>  
one-half block south of the depot, was known as the National Hotel.

Will White in February 1879 rented the hotel, which had been  
vacant for several months, and began refitting and refurnishing.  
In August, White sold out to J. D. Robinson. The Robinsons oper-  
ated the inn until April 1880, when they closed it up and moved  
to Iowa City. The National Hotel reopened under new management  
with "J. H. Jackson at the helm" in late July. In 1882 Westen-  
hauer owned the hotel, and in October he put a new roof on the  
structure and made other improvement. S. J. Gibson in June 1884  
opened a boarding house and bakery in the "old National Hotel  
building."<sup>3</sup>

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1. The Index, June 15, 1871.

2. History of Cedar County, 509; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's  
Home Town, 34-35; Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimp-  
sest, Vol. 29, No.8, 243.

3. West Branch Local Record, Feb. 13, 1879; Aug. 28, 1879;  
April 15, 1880; July 22, 1880; Oct. 26, 1882; and June 5, 1884.

C. Crook's Hotel

Nathan H. Crook, who had moved to West Branch in 1871, opened a restaurant and barber shop in the Witter Building at the southwest corner of Main and Downey. By 1877 Crook had expanded his operations in the Witter Building into a hotel. In May 1880 J. W. Witter made a number of improvements to the building he rented to Crook. Among other things, he gave the front of the building a new "coat of white paint."<sup>4</sup>

The Witter Building still stands, has been recently restored, and now houses an antique shop.

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4. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 30-31; History of Cedar County, 509; West Branch Local Record, May 13 and July 15, 1880.

XVII. West Branch Jail

In April 1880 the Town Council named a committee to select a lot and on it to build a jail. The lot and building to cost no more than \$75.<sup>1</sup> A lot and an 8 x 15-foot frame shanty on the corner of College and Second were secured for the stipulated sum.<sup>2</sup> The winter of 1883 was very severe, and the Town Council purchased a stove and stove pipe for the jail.<sup>3</sup>

Most of the prisoners lodged in the jail were tramps arrested by the town marshal.

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1. West Branch Local Record, April 8, 1880.
  2. Ibid., April 15, 1880.
  3. Ibid., Jan. 4, 1883.

### XVIII. West Branch Bank

On January 15, 1875, the West Branch Bank was chartered by a stock company with a capital of \$50,000, under the management of Joseph Steer, president; A. H. Graham, vice-president; and J. C. Chambers, cashier. The bank was located on the south side of Main in a one-story wooden building adjoining Crook's Hotel on the west. In September 1877 the bank built a two-story brick structure on the northwest corner of Main and Downey, south of the Friends Church.<sup>1</sup>

In May 1879 the Crystal Lodge, No. 49, I.O.G.T. rented the hall over the bank for \$70 per year.<sup>2</sup> Dr. W. H. Walker, a local dentist, also had his office in that year upstairs over the bank. In November 1879 the Crystal Lodge abandoned its lease, and the editor of the Local Record rented the hall. On November 6 he informed his readers, "It is a handsome room and in every way well suited for a printing office."<sup>3</sup>

By 1882 a basement had been built. In December of that year George Parham's butcher shop was located in the basement. Parham in January 1884 closed his shop and moved out. The next occupant

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1. History of Cedar County, 510.
  2. West Branch Local Record, May 22, 1879.
  3. Ibid., Oct. 7 and Nov. 6, 1879.

of the basement was Haywood Simmons, who in January 1885 opened his "West Branch Barber Shop."<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, in July 1883 Dr. Walker had moved his office into the large front rooms over the bank, while Dr. T. E. Records<sup>5</sup> would occupy the back rooms recently vacated by the dentist.

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4. Ibid., Dec. 14, 1883, Jan. 25, 1884, and Jan. 29, 1885.

5. Ibid., July 26, 1883.



## XIX. The West Branch Postoffice

### A. Its Establishment

A postoffice was established at West Branch on April 4, 1854, with Samuel King as postmaster. King kept the postoffice in his grocery store and residence, located on the south side of Main Street, in what became the west end of the village. As the store and postoffice, King's home soon became the community center. In 1878 George Bean occupied the building that had served as West Branch's first postoffice. By 1948 the King house had disappeared. <sup>1</sup>

### B. Postoffices, 1855-1875

Samuel King was succeeded as West Branch postmaster by Timothy Kirk on February 12, 1855. Kirk held the position as postmaster until April 24, 1858, when James Townsend was named to that position. Townsend maintained the postoffice in his house, which was known as "Traveler's Rest." Townsend's home was located on Main Street in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 5. John Brown, the famed "Border Raider," was received <sup>2</sup> at "Traveler's Rest" in the fall of 1856 as an honored guest.

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1. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 241-242; History of Cedar County, 508; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 11-12, 18-19; National Archives, RG 28, Records of the Post Office Department--Records of Appointments of Postmasters.

2. Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 241-242; History of Cedar County, 508; National Archives, RG 28, Records of the Post Office Department--Records of Appointments of Postmasters; Platt & Spicer Map.

Joseph Steer in 1860 built a general store on the north side of Main Street in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6.<sup>3</sup> On December 26, 1860, Steer replaced Townsend as the West Branch postmaster and moved the postoffice into his new store.<sup>4</sup>

Silas F. Jepson replaced Steer as postmaster on January 29, 1867, and he held the position until September 8, 1874, when he was replaced by Henry A. Jepson. Silas Jepson kept the postoffice, which he had purchased from Steer, in his home at the southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6. Silas Jepson was the West Branch postmaster at the time of Herbert Hoover's birth. Henry Jepson maintained the postoffice in his general store on the south side of Main Street and west of its intersection with Downey.<sup>5</sup>

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3. History of Cedar County, 508. In 1878 Steer's store was occupied by Charles Gruwell.

4. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 19; National Archives, RG 28, Records of the Post Office Department--Records of Appointments of Postmasters; History of Cedar County, 508.

5. National Archives, RG 28, Records of the Post Office Department--Records of Appointments of Postmasters; History of Cedar County, 508, 509, 657; Atlas of Cedar County, Iowa . . . (Marshalltown, 1872), plate 43.

C. Postmasters 1875-1886

At the end of 1878, Jepson resigned as postmaster in favor of Hiram Gruwell. A petition signed by the people of West Branch was also forwarded at this time to the Postmaster General in support of Gruwell's candidacy. Gruwell Bros. & Co. at the same time bought out "the entire stock of H. A. Jepson" in the store on the postoffice corner.<sup>6</sup> On January 23, 1879, it was announced in the Local Record that Gruwell Bros. & Co., grocers, had opened their store in the postoffice building at the corner of Main and Poplar.<sup>7</sup> The Postmaster General on January 27 named Hiram Gruwell<sup>8</sup> to replace Henry Jepson as West Branch postmaster.

Gruwell Bros. on July 4, 1879, moved their goods into the Jepson Building. (The Jepson Building was on the southeast corner of Main and Poplar.) The postoffice was transferred at the same time. Its new location was one door east of the store in a room formerly occupied by Crook's restaurant. The postoffice remained there throughout Gruwell's tenure. On June 11, 1884, he was replaced by William T. Bonsall. As Bonsall was a Republican, he became a victim of the spoils system. Following

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6. West Branch Local Record, Jan. 2, 1879.

7. Ibid., Jan. 3, 1879. The Gruwell brothers were: S. C., C. C., and Hiram.

8. National Archives, RG 28, Records of the Post Office Department--Records of Appointments of Postmasters.

the election of Grover Cleveland to the Presidency in November 1884, Bonsall on September 24, 1885, was replaced as the West Branch postmaster by David E. Mackey.<sup>9</sup>

Mackey in April 1886 moved the postoffice into new quarters in the drug store on Main Street. This store was about half way between its former location and the depot. Reporting this transfer, the editor of the Local Record observed, "The present rooms are much more comfortable, and the new . . . [boxes] gives over postoffice a metropolitan send off."

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9. Ibid.; West Branch Local Record, July 10 and Oct. 16, 1879.
  10. West Branch Local Record, April 8, 1886.

## XX. West Branch Mills

### A. Within West Branch

In 1873 the West Branch Mills were built on the west side of the railroad tracks and on the north side of Main. The owners, Heacock and Burden, invested about \$7,000 in the steam powered mill. It was a two-story frame steam gristmill, 24 x 54 feet, with a shed, 16 x 40 feet. The mill was equipped with two runs of stone, and it had a capacity of 50 to 100 bushels per day. Subsequently, the mill was operated by Burden, Reeves & Son, then by Burden, Brown & Hawley, and in 1878 by Burden, Hawley & Pennock.<sup>1</sup>

There was a second mill south of the Hoover cottage on the east side of the railroad tracks, for grinding corn.<sup>2</sup>

### B. Outside West Branch

Two miles south of West Branch on the property of George Ball was a sorghum mill. Sorghum cane had been introduced into the county shortly before the Civil War.<sup>3</sup>

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1. History of Cedar County, 509; J. Curtis Frymoyer, "Cedar County Mills," Cedar County Historical Review, July 1963, 48-49; Swisher, "The Hoover Birthplace," The Palimpsest, Vol. 29, No. 8, 243.

2. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 43.

3. Frymoyer, "Cedar County Mill," Cedar County Historical Review, 46-47.

XXI. General Stores

A. The People's Store, Southeast Corner of Main and Downey, Lot 1, Block 33

Joseph Steer in 1862 built a storehouse on Lot 9 on what was destined to be Main Street. This was the first store in town. By 1878 Steer's building had been removed to the southeast corner of Downey and Main streets. At that time the building had been divided and was occupied by Townsend, Edmundson & Co. (General Merchandisers) and Edmundson & Yetter, druggists.

In March 1880 three West Branch businessmen (E. Haines, Abram Cowgill, and J. C. Chambers) organized a store to sell dry goods, clothing, notions, hats and caps, and boots and shoes. It was to be called the "People's Store," and would be located in Steer's old building, on the southeast corner of Main and Downey. Elwood Macy was hired to manage the store. Macy in June employed a man to paint the front of the store white.

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1. History of Cedar County, 510, 511; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 19.

2. West Branch Local Record, March 11 & 18, and June 17, 1880. J. W. Witter owned this building in 1880.

B. Store at Southeast Corner of Main and Poplar--Lot 4

Henry Jepson and his brother, Silas, kept a general store in a building at the southeast corner of Main and Poplar which they had erected in 1871. As early as 1867, Henry Jepson had been running one of the two general stores in the village. The postoffice, during the years the Jepsons were postmasters, was located in the store. Silas Jepson, before 1877, had left the firm, and it was  
3  
now known as Jepson, Son & Gruwell.

At the end of 1878, Hiram Gruwell and his brothers bought out Henry Jepson, and the store was renamed Gruwell Bros. & Co. On January 23, 1879, the Gruwells advertised in the Local Record that they sold groceries, boots, shoes, notions, etc. By the autumn of 1881, the firm was owned by H. I. Gruwell, who renamed  
4  
it the "Emporium Grocery House."

By March of 1882 Gruwell was in partnership with Johnson. The store was still located on the corner of Main and Poplar, but the postoffice had been moved into a building on Lot 3, one door to  
5  
the east.

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3. History of Cedar County, 509; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32, 64-65.

4. West Branch Local Record, Jan. 2 and 23, Oct. 16, 1879; March 30, Sept. 29, and Dec. 22, 1881.

5. Ibid., March 30, 1882.

Johnson in July purchased the "entire stock of R. H. Beeson" and removed it to their store. In January 1883 Johnson bought out Gruwell, and renamed the store, "The Regulator."<sup>6</sup>

C. Williamson & Beeson

Jasper Williamson and R. H. Beeson in February 1881 opened a grocery store on Main Street in the building owned by Levi Forney. This structure was located on Lot 2 in West Branch, and it still stands, although a brick front has been added. In November, Beeson bought out his partner. Then in July 1882 Beeson left West Branch, selling out his stock of goods to Gruwell & Johnson.

As soon as the stock had been removed, Forney hired a carpenter to renovate the building. When completed the structure would provide a "business room 18 feet wide by 55 feet long, and ten feet high, with an entirely new front."<sup>7</sup>

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6. Ibid., July 27, 1882, and Feb. 1, 1883.

7. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 17 and Dec. 22, 1881, and July 27, 1882. The building, after being renovated, occupied the entire length of the lot, its front elevation on Main and its rear on Wetherell.



D. Embree's Store, Lot 2, West Branch

L. H. Embree in early December 1881 moved into the rooms in the Forney Building formerly occupied by D. M. Yetter, one door east of the postoffice, and announced that within a few days he planned to open a general notions store. This was the second time that Embree had operated a store in West Branch, having done so in the period 1877-1878.<sup>8</sup> Either Embree failed to carry out his plan or he soon went out of business, because no further information regarding this venture appeared in the Local Record.

E. Penrose's Store--Lot 1, Block 9

The Penrose Bros., in the period 1871-1878, operated a general store east of the tracks, at the corner of Main and Fourth. By 1881 Clarkson T. Penrose was sole owner of the store, which was housed in a building one story in height, 75 feet in length, and 20 feet in width. Tipton Bros., a chain store, in July 1882 bought out Penrose. Tipton Bros. did not make a go of it in West Branch, and in May 1883 they closed out their business.

William Bremner in January 1884 reopened his general store in the Penrose building. Before doing so, he hired carpenters to renovate the north end of the structure.<sup>9</sup>

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8. Ibid., Dec. 1, 1881; History of Cedar County, 509; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34-35.

9. West Branch Local Record, Dec. 22 & 29, 1881; July 13, 1882; May 3, 1883; Jan. 31 & Nov. 20, 1884; Albert W. Jackson, "West

F. Crew's Mercantile Store

In June 1881 James Bean bought the stock of Townsend, Edmundson & Co. and opened a dry goods store in the building fronting Downey Street, next door to the People's Store. Bean in April 1882 sold out to Coppock & Crew. In November, Crew secured Coppock's interest.<sup>10</sup> Crew had taken his son into partnership by February 1883. In August, Crew & Son bought out Wm. Bremner's Metropolitan Grocery and consolidated the two stores in "Bremner's old corner." A warehouse was built, adjoining the south elevation of the Witter Block,<sup>11</sup> for "the accommodation" of their store. By March 18, 1886, Crew's Mercantile Store was in the building one door west of the West Branch Bank.

G. D. E. McClellan's Store, Lot 2, Block 33

D. E. McClellan in September 1883 opened a general store in the rooms formerly occupied by Crew & Son. This building was on the east side of Downey next to People's Store.<sup>12</sup>

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Branch in the Early Seventies," West Branch Times, Oct. 7, 1926. Clarkson Penrose moved to West Branch in 1860 from Keokuk County, and in 1871 he and his brother, James, opened their general store. In 1876 C. T. retired temporarily from the business.

10. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 29 and Dec. 22, 1881, April 27 and Nov. 2, 1882.

11. Ibid., Feb. 15, and Aug. 2 and 16, 1883; March 18, 1886.

12. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 27 and Oct. 11, 1883.

#### H. Bremner's Store

William Bremner in 1880 opened the Metropolitan Grocery Store. After selling out to Crew & Son in 1883, Bremner opened a grocery store in the building (Forney's) east of the post office.

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13. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 100-101.

## XXII. Furniture Stores

George Boone, during the Hoover years, owned and operated a furniture store in West Branch. His store was located between Downey Street and the depot. In 1879 Boone enlarged his store by building a two-story addition on its south elevation.

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1. Jackson, "West Branch in the Early Seventies," West Branch Times, Oct. 7, 1926; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34, 67; History of Cedar County, 509, 653; West Branch Local Record, Aug. 21, 1879.

### XXIII. Harness Shops

H. W. Schlieper in the fall of 1877 moved to West Branch and opened a harness shop on Main Street in the building next to the postoffice. From February to August 1879, Van Butler, a shoemaker, shared this stand with Schlieper. By January 1880, Schlieper had moved his shop into the old bank building, next to Crook's Hotel. Schlieper in mid-March 1883 closed his harness shop and moved to Tipton. His departure left West Branch without a harness maker.<sup>1</sup>

George Ebert of Iowa City moved to West Branch in May 1883 and rented Israel Schooley's building, where he opened a harness shop. To reduce his overhead, Ebert in September moved in with Van Butler.<sup>2</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 3, 1878; Feb. 27 and Aug. 14, 1879; Jan. 3, 1880; and March 22, 1883.

2. *Ibid.*, May 17 & Sept. 6, 1883.

XXIV. Lumber Yards and Coal Dealers

A. J. E. Steer

J. E. Steer in 1871 owned and operated a lumber yard. In 1875<sup>1</sup> he sold out to Charles Leech.

B. William D. Hammell

William D. Hammell moved to West Branch in 1871 from Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He immediately entered into a lumber, grain, and coal dealership with Thomas Townsend as partner. Townsend retired from the firm in 1872. Hammell in the fall of 1877 sold a half interest in his lumber yard and grain elevator to Elisha Haines, who in turn sold a one-half interest of his share to his son Isaac. Hammell in August 1882 bought out Haines & Son. The firm's office, storehouse, and elevator was across the track from the depot.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32; History of Cedar County, 509, 658. Leech had held office as Town Clerk and Recorder.

2. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 64-65; History of Cedar County, 509, 656; West Branch Local Record, Dec. 22, 1881.

C. William Steer

William Steer in July 1882 opened a large lumber yard on Main Street. It was across the tracks and opposite Tipton Bros. In his first year of business, Steer shipped in over 300,000 feet<sup>3</sup> of lumber, of which he sold over 60,000 feet.

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3. West Branch Local Record, July 13, and Oct. 11, 1883; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 67.

XXV. Nurseries

In 1871 L. D. Hollinsworth operated a nursery on his farm, one-half mile northeast of the village, while Neil Heald kept a greenhouse in the early 1870's. By 1878 Hollingsworth had sold his farm and business to A. Branson and had moved on. Jesse Hoover<sup>1</sup> was one of Branson's customers.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32; History of Cedar County, 509, 653.



XXVI. Barber Shops

In January 1882 Henry Austin opened a barber shop over Gruwell & Johnson's Store. By July he had competition as J. F. Hoover set himself up as a barber in the building north of Gruwell & Son's hardware. There was not enough business in West Branch for two barbers, and in April 1883 Hoover bought out Austin. Hoover then moved his shop into Austin's former stand, one door west of the postoffice.<sup>1</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, Jan. 22 and July 5, 1882; April 16, 1883.

XXVII. Shoe Shops

A. General Remarks

R. Winslow in 1871 operated a shoe shop in West Branch. By 1878 there were three shoe shops in town. Willis Atkins and Martin Van Butler specialized in shoes, while William Wright<sup>1</sup> handled shoe and harness.

B. Van Butler's Shop

Van Butler arrived in West Branch in 1874, the year Herbert Hoover was born. In 1879 he shared with Henry Schlieper quarters on Main Street in a building next to the postoffice. That August, Van Butler hired carpenters to build him a shoe shop of his own, on the north side of Main. This building was west of his house. While this structure was being completed, he moved his stand into a building one door west of the Langstaff & Brundige Blacksmith Shop.<sup>2</sup>

Van Butler's shop soon became the haunt of the Springdale Township Civil War veterans. They were dubbed the "Blue Front Literary Society." In the dingy shop, around a big cuspidor,<sup>3</sup> they refought the days of 1861-1865.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 31, 34-35; History of Cedar County, 509, 653, 622.

2. West Branch Local Record, Feb. 27, Aug. 14, and Sept. 4, 1879; March 18, 1880; and Dec. 22, 1881.

3. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 100; History of Cedar County, 509, 654.

C. Atkins' Shop

Atkins in May 1883 had his shoe shop in a room one door west of the postoffice. In November he opened a boot and shoe repair shop in the rear of McClellan's store.<sup>4</sup>

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4. West Branch Local Record, May 17 & Nov. 8, 1883.

## XXVIII. Jewelers

Warren A. Bliss (who had moved to West Branch in 1877) in the fall of 1879 had his jewelry shop in the postoffice building. The next year he moved into Madson's Tailor Shop, east of the railroad. In 1881 his shop was back on Main Street, two doors west of the postoffice. By 1883 Bliss had left West Branch, and A. J. Smith had opened a jewelry shop on the corner of Main and Downey. In January 1884 he moved into the stand, one door west of the postoffice, that had been occupied as a barber shop by Austin and Hoover.<sup>1</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 9, 1879; Dec. 22, 1881; Dec. 20, 1883; and Jan. 24, 1884; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34.

XXIX. Carpenters and Undertakers

A. P. T. Smith

In 1871 P. T. Smith was building coffins in the Jepson Bros. new building. He advertised in The Index for June 15, 1871, that he would build coffins, pine or black walnut, and trimmed<sup>1</sup> to suit the customers.

B. E. L. Collins

E. L. Collins in 1878 had a woodworking shop on Downey.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32.
  2. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 31, 1878.

C. J. C. Coombs, J. Pickering, and R. Rogers

J. C. Coombs, J. Pickering, and R. Rogers in 1878 were in the carpentering and undertaking business. In 1882 Coombs, who had been in business at West Branch since 1874, reported that during those years he had built in Cedar County 44 bridges, besides many barns and houses.

Coombs in 1881 moved his woodworking and undertaking shop from east of the depot to the lot on Main Street, two doors west of the Presbyterian Church. On May 24, 1883, Coombs advertised for sale in the Local Record his property in West Branch, consisting of five acres and five lots. G. M. D. Hill bought this property, which was south of the Hoover Cottage. Hill on January 28, 1886, offered to sell this property, including the improvements. The improvements included a story and one-half, five-room house, with good cellar, and outbuildings.

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3. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34-35, 68; History of Cedar County, 509.

4. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 29, 1881; May 24, 1883; and June 28 and Nov. 13, 1886.

XXX. Tailor Shops

In the period 1877-1878, Neal Madson and Levi Forney were the West Branch tailors. Madson's shop was east of the tracks,<sup>1</sup> while Forney's was in his residence on south Downey.

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1. History of Cedar County, 509, 655, 658; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34-35.

## XXXI. Millinery and Dress Making Shops

### A. General Remarks

Miss Mary Ann Albin in 1877-1880 ran a millinery shop. In 1880 she and her sister, Minerva Albin, made dresses and hats in the building at the southwest corner of Downey and Wetherell Streets. This building, which was a part of the historic scene, was razed by the National Park Service in July 1968.<sup>1</sup> According to the History of Cedar County, there were in 1878 two other firms engaged in this trade in the village. They were: Haines & Branson, and Mrs. I. L. Townsend.<sup>2</sup> In July 1880 the millinery shop of Haines & Branson was moved to Branson's Bookstore. In the same year, Eliza Walker opened a millinery shop in John Thomas'<sup>3</sup> house on Main Street.

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1. History of Cedar County, 509; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34; Tenth Census, Springdale Township, State of Iowa, National Archives.

2. History of Cedar County, 509. Mrs. Townsend's husband was a photographer.

3. West Branch Local Record, April 22 and July 22, 1880.



B. Sullivan & Savage

Mrs. F. L. Sullivan and Mrs. M. Savage entered the millinery and dressmaking trade, and in September 1882 they rented the old bank building next to Crook Hotel. David Witter, who owned this building, repainted it. In the future the two ladies would occupy one set of rooms, while the other would be occupied by Charles Fairall as a storeroom for his "popular steam feed  
4  
cookers."

In November the firm of Sullivan & Savage was dissolved. Mrs. Savage moved out and took a room in the second story of the Forney building, east of the postoffice.  
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C. Lizzie Gamble's

Lizzie Gamble in June 1882 opened a dressmaking shop over  
6  
the People's Store.

D. Allie Miles'

Mrs. Allie Miles in mid-March 1883 moved her sewing and dress shop into the rooms formerly occupied by Schliepper's Har-  
7  
ness Shop, one door east of Johnson's general store.

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4. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 14 & 21, 1882.

5. Ibid., Nov. 16, 1882.

6. Ibid., June 1, 1882.

7. Ibid., March 15 & 22, April 5, and Nov. 29, 1883.

E. Ella Brown's

Ella Brown in May 1884 started dressmaking in her room in  
8  
Crook's Hotel.

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8. Ibid., May 1, 1884.

XXXII. Branson's Bookstore and Gallery

Jason Negus owned the first bookstore in West Branch. He operated his store in conjunction with Yetter & Negus Drug Store. In May 1879 C. G. and L. G. Swafford of Solon bought out Negus. They remained in business only a short time.

In July 1880 Leoni Branson opened a bookstore in a building on Downey Street, two doors south of the People's Store. Branson in September 1882 built a new sidewalk connecting his store's platform with that of Coppock & Crew. In November he built a 24-foot addition to the rear of his store as a photographic gallery to be occupied by his brother. The gallery opened on November 30, 1882, and closed in May 1883.

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1. West Branch Local Record, May 13, 1879; Dec. 22, 1881; Sept. 14, and Nov. 16 & 30, 1882; and May 24, 1883. The building housing Branson's bookstore was razed in 1947 and replaced by a brick structure--Brown's Hardware Store.

### XXXIII. Drug Stores

#### A. Grinnell's Drugstore

In 1871 E. Grinnell operated a drugstore at 9 Main Street in which H. T. Hollingsworth had a watch repairing shop. By 1878 Grinnell had gone out of the drug business and had gone to work for the railroad.<sup>1</sup>

#### B. The City Drug

Dr. J. F. Houser, who had moved to West Branch in 1874 from Louisa County, Iowa, had his office in a building on Main Street, one door west of the depot. The doctor also sold drugs. By 1881 this building was known as the City Drug. Dr. Houser sold out in 1881 to Dr. H. T. Lanning and moved to Iowa City. In mid-February 1883 fire destroyed the City Drug.<sup>2</sup>

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1. History of Cedar County, 656; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 31, 32.

2. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 29, 1881; Feb. 15, 1883; History of Cedar County, 509, 657.

C. Edmundson & Yetter

Edmundson & Yetter ( sellers of drugs, books, stationery, and wall paper) occupied in 1878 one-half the Steer Building<sup>3</sup> on the southeast corner of Main and Downey. Yetter & Negus in December 1878 bought E. M. Jepson's stock of drugs and removed them to the storeroom recently occupied by Edmundson & Yetter.

D. M. Yetter in November 1881 moved his stock of drugs into Forney's building on Main, which had until recently been occupied by Bremner's Metropolitan Grocery, He told his friends that this move was caused by a need for more room. In addition to his drug business, Yetter was the West Branch agent for American<sup>4</sup> Railroad Express.

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3. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 34; History of Cedar County, 510, 511.

4. West Branch Local Record, Jan. 2, 1879; Oct. 27 and Dec. 22, 1881.

D. Records & Leech

In 1880 there was another drugstore in West Branch operated by Drs. Records & Leech. It was in the Grinnell Building. Drs. Records and Leech had their offices at this store. In May 1882 the drugstore was renovated. Dr. Leech had his offices redecorated, while the back apartment was partitioned into a warehouse and office. Persons desiring to see Dr. Leech could find him in his office on the second floor. In January 1883 W. A. Henderson of Ainsworth, Iowa, purchased Records & Leech, and renamed it Henderson's Drugstore.<sup>5</sup>

E. Jepson, Son & Gruwell

In 1877-1879 Jepson, Son & Gruwell stocked drugs, in addition to groceries and drygoods.<sup>6</sup>

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5. Ibid., March 30 and June 1, 1882; Jan. 24, 1883.

6. Ibid., Oct. 1, 1879.

XXXIV. Hardware Stores

A. Bean & Son, Lot 1, Block 34

The Hardware Store of Bean & Son was on the northeast corner of Main and Downey in the downstairs of a building known as Bean's Hall. Clark Bean had opened his store in 1870. In January 1882 Bean sold his store to Aaron and Clark Gruwell. Gruwell & Son in February 1883 purchased from Dr. Bailey his lot and house on Downey Street. As soon as his house was moved, Gruwell & Son erected a warehouse on the lot--Lot No. 2, Block 34. The next year, 1884, Gruwell & Son built a large platform<sup>1</sup> in front of their store.

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1. West Branch Local Record, Dec. 22, 1881; Jan. 26, 1882; Feb. 1 and March 15, 1883; March 27, 1884.

XXXV. Plasters and Painters

A. Staples & Harris

A. C. Staples and E. C. Harris (painters, grainers, paper-hangers, and calciminers) had their shop in the early 1880's<sup>1</sup> on Main opposite the West Branch Mill.

B. L. E. Redfield

L. E. Redfield, house and sign painter, in 1883 had a "shop" opposite Henderson's Drugstore. In June 1884 he purchased the<sup>2</sup> Minthorn Main Street Cottage, near the Presbyterian Church.

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1. West Branch Local Record, March 22 and Oct. 11, 1883.

2. Ibid., April 5, 1883; June 26, 1884.



XXXVI. Blacksmith and Wagon Shops

A. Langstaff & Brundige

In 1871 T. Walker advertised in The Index as a wagonmaker and painter. E. Langstaff and Judson Brundige in 1877 were in business as blacksmiths and wagonmakers at their shop on the corner of Main and Poplar. Here were sold buggies and spring wagons.<sup>1</sup>

On June 26, 1879, Langstaff & Brundige advertised in the Local Record, "a Number 1 blacksmith shop, with wagon, paint shop, and lumber room attached, also comfortable living rooms upstairs with front and backstairs, and good well for sale." The main building was 20 x 60 feet, two stories in height, with a 8 x 20-foot addition on the west. Times were hard, and they were unable to sell the property.<sup>2</sup>

In 1880 H. M. Oliphant had a "flourishing business" building wagons and carriages.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32, 34-35; History of Cedar County, 509.

2. West Branch Local Record, June 26, 1879.

3. Mildred Speight, "Horse and Buggy Days in Town," Cedar County Historical Review, July 1965, 3.

## XXXVII. Professional People

### A. Physicians

The first doctor to begin practice in West Branch was L. M. Williams. In 1871 his office was the first door west of Way's Hotel. Night calls could be made by stopping at his house, one mile east of West Branch.<sup>1</sup>

By 1878 there were four doctors practicing in West Branch. They were: Drs. J. I. Bailey, J. F. Houser, H. J. Minthorn, and E. W. Savage. (1) Dr. Bailey, who had moved to West Branch in 1872, kept offices in his house, located on Downey north of Bean's Hall. In February 1883 Bailey sold his house and lot to Gruwell & Son and moved into a new home he had built on Orange Street. (2) Dr. Houser, a native of Switzerland, had his offices in the City Drug, on Main Street opposite the National Hotel. In 1881 he sold out to Dr. H. T. Lanning and moved to Iowa City. (3) Dr. Minthorn, Herbert Hoover's uncle, frequently moved his office. During the period, 1878-1883, he had offices at one time or another in Edmundson & Yetter's Drugstore, in his residence opposite the postoffice, and upstairs over the West Branch Bank. Dr. Minthorn in February 1883 moved to Oregon. (4) Dr. Sav-

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32, 34; History of Cedar County, 509.

vage, who arrived in West Branch in 1870, kept his office in  
his residence.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. H. T. Lanning in 1881 bought out Dr. Houser and moved  
his family and practice into the City Drug. After the City  
Drug burned in February 1883, Dr. Lanning left town.<sup>3</sup>

For a time during the summer and autumn of 1881, Dr. G. J.  
Rubelman practiced in the rooms over the People's Store.<sup>4</sup>

Drs. T. E. Records and L. J. Leech in 1880 practiced med-  
icine and surgery in their offices in Records & Leech Drugstore.  
After the drugstore was sold to Henderson in January 1883, they  
were compelled to move. Dr. Leech moved into the house east of  
the railroad track formerly occupied by Charles Leech. In July  
1885 Leech's office was one door west of the postoffice. Dr.  
Records in January 1883 moved his office into his residence on  
Downey, north of the hardware store owned by Gruwell & Son. In  
July 1883 his office was in the rooms above Mrs. Sullivan's  
Millinery Shop.<sup>5</sup>

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2. West Branch Local Record, Dec. 5, 1878; June 5 & 26, 1879;  
Dec. 22, 1881; June 15, 1882; Feb. 8, 1883.

3. Ibid., Sept. 29, 1881; Feb. 15, 1883.

4. Ibid., Sept. 29, 1881.

5. Ibid., Jan. 14, May 17, and July 5, 1883; July 9, 1885.  
Mrs. Sullivan's Millinery Shop at this time was in the Grinnell  
Building.

## B. Dentists

In 1870 the West Branch dentist was B. Price, whose office was on the second floor of the Steer Building, above Miles & Townsend's Store. W. H. Walker had replaced Price as the town dentist by 1871. Walker was an amateur geologist, and he had a collection of mineral specimens, coral, quartz, stuffed birds, mounted butterflies, coins, and other curios which he kept in his office cabinets. It is said that Herbert Hoover spent much of his spare time admiring Walker's collection, and that his interest in geology was sparked by the dentist.<sup>6</sup>

Dr. Walker's office, in the years after 1877, was upstairs over the West Branch Bank. His home, after his marriage in the early 1880's, was on west Main, opposite the south end of Oliphant.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. J. R. Townsend practiced dentistry in West Branch in 1878, while Dr. J. D. Vnangst in 1881 spent every Wednesday in town. Persons wishing to see Dr. Vnangst could find him in his office over the People's Store.<sup>8</sup>

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6. Walter W. Liggett, The Rise of Herbert Hoover (New York, 1932), 8; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 32, 34.

7. West Branch Local Record, July 29, 1880; May 1, 1884. Dr. Walker had introduced some very beautiful roses and hardy shrubs to West Branch. He purchased them from Dingree & Conard Co., Rose Growers, West Grove, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Ibid, July 29, 1880.

8. Ibid., Nov. 28, 1878; Nov. 24, 1881.

C. Veterinarians

In 1879 D. D. Keller was the town veterinarian. He had his office in his house on 5th Street, east of the railroad.<sup>9</sup>

D. Lawyers

West Branch was not a county seat, so there was little business for lawyers in the town. In 1881 two lawyers, F. F. Kiner and F. G. Hersey, kept an office one door east of the postoffice.<sup>10</sup>

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9. Ibid., Oct. 7, 1879.

10. Ibid., Oct. 13, 1881.

### XXXVIII. Butcher Shops

About 1870 James Hirst began butchering beeves in his barnyard, and soon thereafter he set up a meat block in his kitchen. Tom Jenkins and David Mackey operated the first permanent meat market in the "basement" of the Witter Building. In 1878 J. W. Rummells operated this shop, and in May 1879 he announced that he wanted to sell his meat market, slaughter house, and tools on reasonable terms. Instead of selling out, Rummells went into partnership with White. They located their shop in the building formerly housing Wright's Harness Shop. Enos Shafer in late March 1880 bought out Rummells & White. On May 13, 1880, Shafer sold his meat market to the Schooley Bros., giving them for the time being a monopoly.<sup>1</sup>

The Schooley Brothers in February had opened a meat market in the quarters recently vacated by Rummells.<sup>2</sup> To consolidate their operations, the Schooley's moved their tools and equipment into the building that had been occupied by Rummells in 1878.<sup>3</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, May 29, and Dec. 11, 1879; April 1 and May 13, 1880; History of Cedar County, 509.

2. West Branch Local Record, Feb. 12, 1880.

3. West Branch Local Record, July 1, 1880. This building was on Downey and was known as the Langstaff building.

Israel Schooley in late September 1881 bought the Wright property on east Main Street and outfitted it as a meat market. In April 1882 Schooley sold his butcher shop to J. M. Nelson. By December of 1882 Nelson had acquired a partner, Shafer, and they had moved to a building on Main Street, one door east of the postoffice. The next month, Nelson sold out his interest to<sup>4</sup> Mackey.

Shafer & Mackey announced on April 19, 1883, that they would move their "Come to Stay" Meat Market into the rooms formerly occupied by Mrs. Sullivan in the building that had been built in 1875 by the West Branch Bank. Upon moving in, they in-<sup>5</sup>stalled one of Stephens' latest refrigerators. By October, Mackey had bought out his partner.

J. M. Nelson in mid-March opened a new butcher shop in the building one door west of Johnson's General Store. West Branch was too small to support two butcher shops, and Mackey bought<sup>6</sup> him out in May.

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4. Ibid., Oct. 6, 1881; April 27 and Dec. 14, 1882; Jan. 4, 1883.

5. Ibid., April 26 and Oct. 11, 1883.

6. Ibid., March 15 and May 17, 1883.

XXXIX. Grain Dealers

A. Hammell & Haines

A grain elevator was erected in 1871 near the tracks by Hammell & Haines. They continued to operate the elevator through-<sup>1</sup>out Herbert Hoover's West Branch years.

B. Rich & Maris

Rich & Maris in February 1872 bought out Henderson & Elliott and took over their grain warehouse, cribs, and coal house. At an office on Fourth Street, near the depot, they dealt in grain, seeds, and farm machinery. William Maris on December 1, 1882,<sup>2</sup> was in business on his own.

c. Burden & Curran

In September 1883 A. F. Burden opened a flour and feed store on the corner of Main and Poplar. By 1885 Burden was in<sup>3</sup> partnership with Curran, and they had painted their store red.

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1. History of Cedar County, 509.

2. Ibid., 509; West Branch Local Record, May 3, 1883; Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 64-65.

3. West Branch Local Record, Sept. 6, 1883; May 1, 1884; April 30, 1885. Their store was on the corner west of the post-office.



## XL. Livery Stables

Teegarden & Embree in 1871 operated a livery stable, renting horses and carriages and providing a hack to accommodate the traveling public who detrained from Nos. 62 or 63 at the depot.<sup>1</sup> In 1878 there were two livery stables in West Branch, one owned by A. F. Kremer and the other by N. H. Crook. The latter ran his stable in conjunction with his hotel.<sup>2</sup>

Shortly thereafter Crook sold his livery stable. In 1883 he got back in the business by purchasing the livery barn "formerly owned by W. D. Hammell." To improve the barn, he had an additional room and corn crib built.<sup>3</sup>

In 1879 and 1880 there were two livery stables in West Branch. One of these, White's, was operated in connection with the National Hotel, and Charles Clements was running a dray business near the railroad. Clements built a feed shed adjoining, where a farmer could feed his team without unhitching, while he went into Clements' restaurant to eat.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Speight, "Horse and Buggy Days in Town," Cedar County Historical Review, July 1965, 2-3.

2. Ibid., 4; History of Cedar County, 509, 657.

3. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 29, 1883.

4. Speight, "Horse and Buggy Days in Town," Cedar County Historical Review, July 1965, 3-4; West Branch Local Record, Sept. 4, 1879.

XLI. Live Stock Dealer

The West Branch livestock dealer was Joe Albin. His stockyard was east of the tracks and west of Depot Street. In March 1883 Albin erected a new building over his scales.<sup>1</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, Nov. 20, 1882; March 8, 1883.

XLII. Ladies Hairdressers

Mrs. R. F. Hawk announced in the Local Record on December 21, 1878, that she would dress hair at her home on Fourth Street, north of the depot.<sup>1</sup> In June 1879 she moved her business to Downey Street, one door south of the Yetter & Negus drugstore.<sup>2</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, Dec. 21, 1878.
  2. Ibid., June 5, 1879.

XLIII. Newspapers

A. The Index, a monthly newspaper, was started by A. M. Russell<sup>1</sup> in May 1871. His print shop was upstairs in the Witter Building.

B. In 1875 L. W. Raber began publishing the West Branch Times, a<sup>2</sup> weekly.

C. Wickersham in 1878 started the West Branch Local Record.<sup>3</sup> On October 27, 1881, he sold his newspaper to W. W. Gruwell.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 30-31.
  2. Ibid., 34.
  3. West Branch Local Record, Oct. 27, 1881.

XLIV. Cedar County Fair Grounds

In May 1886 the directors of the Cedar County Fair bought 14 acres from Isaac Miles' farm adjoining the town on the south. This was turned into a fair grounds, with one-half mile track, a fine arts building, stock sheds, and two wells.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 93; West Branch Local Record, Aug. 26, 1886.

XLV Fire-Fighting Equipment

To provide efficient fire-fighting apparatus, a spring wagon and buckets were purchased by the town and housed in a shed in the hollow behind the People's Store. The volunteer fire department in December 1879 was called on to extinguish the blaze Herbert had started in his father's cauldron, midway between Hoover's agricultural shop and Rummell's butcher shop.

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 67, 73; West Branch Local Record, Feb. 22, 1883.

XLVI. Ice House

The creamery company in January 1879 opened a large ice  
house west of Hill's blacksmith shop.<sup>1</sup>

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1. West Branch Local Record, Jan. 23, 1879.

#### XLVII. Swimming Hole

Herbert Hoover recalled that the swimming hole of his youth was "under the willows down" by the tracks of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad.<sup>1</sup> The forks of the West Branch of the Wapsinonoc join near the old Hoover swimming hole below the railroad bridge, southeast of the village.<sup>2</sup> Old-timers recalled that water in the creek at this point had been backed up by a dam spanning the stream at the railroad. Prior to the construction of the water tank, steam locomotives were watered at West Branch from this pond by boys who pumped the water by hand.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Hoover, Memoirs of Herbert Hoover, 2.
  2. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 9-10.
  3. Ibid., 77.



XLVIII. Cook's Hill

Cook's Hill was about one-half mile south of the Hoover Cottage. In the summer the cuts through which passed the road to Downey, as it ascended the hill, were in bloom with wild roses, and a long row of "stately cottonwoods marched from the foot of the hill past Pete Smith's house up to the James Cook home at the summit." <sup>1</sup> Maples growing on the hill were hazards not to be reckoned with lightly by the Hoover children and their friends during the sledding season. <sup>2</sup>

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 54; Lane, Making of Herbert Hoover, 20.

2. Lane, Making of Herbert Hoover, 27.

## XLIX. The Hoover Neighbors

A person coming up the road from Downey in 1880, after passing the Cook house would approach the J. C. Chambers home. Chambers at this time was cashier at the West Branch Bank. He had been elected to the State Senate in 1871, and sat in the sessions of 1872, 73, and 74. On the west side of the road from Chambers' house was the dwelling occupied by the Methodist minister, Rev. Wolfe. Halfway down the hill was the residence of Joseph C. Coombs.<sup>1</sup>

The Chambers house would be located on or near the site of today's Phelps house. The Phelps house was built about 1905.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Stratton, Herbert Hoover's Home Town, 54.

2. In August 1878 James and Mary Ann Cook sold to J. C. and J. W. Chambers a 50.37-acre tract in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8. In running the boundary of this tract, the surveyor began at the southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, then east 155 rods to a stake near the railroad fence, then northwest along the railroad 73 rods, then west 94 rods and ten links to the center of Downey Street, and then south 61 rods and 17 1/2 links to the point of beginning. Abstracts on file with the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation; Interview, Rummells with Bearss, July 9, 1968. Mr. L. C. Rummells was born in the second Hoover House, and in July 1968 was president of the West Branch Bank.

The Coombs house was located on or near the site of the two-story yellow house currently occupied by Dr. Franz Lassner, former director of the Herbert Hoover library. Coombs' house was built by J. Dean prior to 1872. In December 1872 Mrs. Dean sold a five acre lot to Joseph Coombs. Coombs and his wife, Lucy,<sup>3</sup> in 1886 sold the house, lot, and improvements to G. M. D. Hill. The house in which Dr. Lassner lives was built, according to<sup>4</sup> Mr. Rummells, about 1905.

In the 1880's Peter Smith, a carpenter, lived in the two-story house on the corner of Cedar and Downey. This house is now referred to as the Harley Anderson House. Photographs taken in the first decade of the 20th Century show this house, while Mr. Rummells recalls that it was built many years before the<sup>5</sup> Phelps and Lassner houses.

William Collins, a wagon-maker, and his family in 1880 lived<sup>6</sup> in the house between the Second Hoover House and Levi Forney's.

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3. In running the lines for this lot, the surveyor commenced at a point 38.90 rods south of the northeast corner of Section 7, then west 22.85 rods, then south 35 rods, then east 22.85 rods, and then north 35 rods to the beginning. Abstracts on file with the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation.

4. Interview, Rummells with Bearss, July 9, 1968.

5. Ibid.; Tenth Census, Springdale Township, State of Iowa, National Archives. The house in the late 1880's was owned and occupied by Aaron Eaton.

6. Tenth Census, Springdale Township, State of Iowa, National Archives.

## Recommendations

(a) As the Phelps house was built about 1905, 20 years after Herbert Hoover left West Branch, it can be relocated in the core-area on the site of the Methodist Church. (b) It appears that the structure known today as the Harley Anderson House was constructed in the late 19th Century, so it should be allowed to remain where it stands. An Historical RSP providing for a Historic Structures Reports of the Anderson House should be submitted by the Superintendent, through Regional Director Midwest, to Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. (c) Before any disposition is made of the buildings on the Bruff (Holloway) Farm, a study should be made by historians and architects of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation to determine if they date to the Hoover years. If the buildings do, they should be preserved as a part of the historic scene. The Superintendent should submit an RSP, through the Regional Director Midwest, to Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, for a Historic Structures Report on the farm buildings of the Bruff (Holloway) Farm.

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APPENDIX A

Tenth Census, 1880, Inhabitants of West Branch,  
Springdale Township, Cedar County, State of Iowa.

In the period June 3-7, 1880, Peter Thomas, as enumerator for the Tenth Census in Springdale Township, visited every household in West Branch. The information which he compiled was forwarded to the Department of Commerce for inclusion in the Tenth Census. He reported:

Family number in order of visitation	Name of Persons in Place of Abode on June 1. 1880.	Color	Sex	Age at Last Birthday	Relationship to head of Household	Civil Condition	Profession	Place of Birth	Place of Birth of Father	Place of Birth of Mother
1	Wood, Samuel	W	M	74		W	Painter	Pa.	Pa.	Va.
2	Armstrong, Rebecca	W	F	70		W	Domestic	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Armstrong, Ruthetta	W	F	11	Step-daughter	S	At School	Ohio	Ohio	
3	Vore, Susannah	W	F	57		S	Keeping House	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Vore, Marcia	W	F	56	Sister	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Vore, Lydia	W	F	43	Sister	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
4	Mackey, David	W	M	40		W	Carpenter	Md.		
	Mackey, Martha	W	F	30	Sister 116	S	Keeping House	Md.		

Continuation of Survey

	Mackey, Charles	W	M	7	Son	S	At School	Iowa		
	Mackey, Rachal	W	F	6	Niece	S	At School	Md.		
5	Morrison, Hannah	W	F	67		W	Keeping House	Va.	Va.	Va.
6	Rich, Francis	W	M	44		M	Grain Dealer	Pa.		
	Rich, Anna B.	W	F	39	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Rich, Sophronia	W	F	19	Daughter	S	School Teacher	Kan.	Pa.	Ohio
	Rich, Sarah	W	F	16	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Rich, Ida	W	F	13	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Rich, Mary	W	F	9	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Rich, Francis	W	M	1	Son	S		Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
7	Hammell, Oliver	W	M	23		M	Laborer	Ohio		
	Hammell, Roxie	W	F	19	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ill.	Can- ada	Can- ada
	Hammell, Guy	W	M	1	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ill.
8	Staples, Asa C.	W	M	48		M	Farmer	Vt.	Vt.	N. H.
	Staples, Orissa A.	W	F	46	Wife	M	Keeping House	Vt.	Vt.	N. H.
9	Gannon, Mary	W	F	40		S	Keeping House	Ire- land	Ire- land	Ire- land
	White, William	W	M	81		M		Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	White, Sarah D.	W	F	70	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.

	Porter, Harry	W	M	35		S	Printer	Va.	Ire- land	Ire- land
10	Jackson, John	W	M	49		M	Carpenter	Ind.	Ky.	
	Jackson, Elizabeth	W	F	49	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Va.	Pa.
	Jackson, Ida	W	F	21	Daughter	S	At Home	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
	Jackson, Elsie	W	F	17	Daughter	S	At Home	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
	Jackson, Lin- coln	W	M	15	Son	S	At School	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
	Jackson, Taylor R.	W	M	10	Son	S	At School	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
11	Branttingham, George	W	M	68		M	Carpenter	Pa.	Eng.	Pa.
	Branttingham, Mira	W	F	59	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	Va.
12	Lynch, Charlie	W	M	35		M	Miller	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Lynch, Rebecca	W	F	36	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Lynch, Ellen	W	F	12	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
	Lynch, Mary E.	W	F	10	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
	Lynch, Alice	W	F	8	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
	Lynch, William T.	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
13	Barnes, Samuel H.	W	M	57		M	Carpenter	Ohio	Md.	Md.
	Barnes, Sarah	W	F	56	Wife	M	Keeping House	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Barnes, Joseph	W	M	25	Son	S	Railroad Clerk	Ohio	Ohio	Pa.

14	Williamson, Jasper	W	M	74		M	Huckster	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.
	Williamson, Mary	W	F	74	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.
15	Pickering, John E.	W	M	40		M	Carpenter	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Pickering, Cathrine	W	F	39	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Pickering, Emma	W	F	10	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Pickering, Charles	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
16	Boone, George	W	M	55		M	Furniture Store	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Boone, Sarah	W	F	51	Wife	M	Keeping House	Va.	Pa.	Va.
17	McKernan, James	W	M	40		M	Laborer	Pa.	Ireland	Ireland
	McKernan, Emerett	W	F	32	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	N.Y.	N.Y.
	McKernan, Mattie	W	F	11	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Pa.	Iowa
	McKernan, W. M.	W	M	8	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Pa.	Iowa
	McKernan, Bell	W	F	6	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Pa.	Iowa
	McKernan, Fred	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Pa.	Iowa
18	Cremer, Augustine	W	M	35		M	Laborer	France	France	France
	Cremer, Phobe	W	F	28	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Cremer, Martha	W	F	5	Daughter	S		Iowa	France	Ohio
	Cremer, Esther	W	F	3	Daughter	S		Iowa	France	Ohio
	Barratt, William	W	M	25		S	Working on R. R.	Ohio		
					119					



19	Warrington, Linnens	W	M	32		M	Farmhand	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Warrington, Sina	W	F	29	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Warrington, Ann Lora	W	F	7	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Warrington, Cyrus	W	M	6	Son	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Warrington, Phobe	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
20	Mills, Almus	W	M	23		M	Farmer	Iowa		
	Mills, Emma	W	F	21	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa		Ohio
	Mills, Carrolton	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Iowa	Ohio
	No Name	W	M	3/12	Son	S		Iowa	Iowa	Ohio
21	Barnes, Griffith	W	M	30		M		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Barnes, Hannah	W	F	29	Wife	M		Ind.	Pa.	Ohio
	Barnes, Minnella	W	F	6	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Barnes, Lorena	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Barnes, Melvin	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
22	Townsend, Mary	W	F	42		W	Keeping House	N.Y.	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Townsend, Emma L.	W	F	14	Daughter	S	At Home	Pa.	Ohio	N.Y.
	Townsend, Mary C.	W	F	11	Daughter	S	At School	Pa.	Ohio	N. Y.
23	Townsend, William	W	M	71		M	Farmer	Ohio		
	Townsend, Rachel	W	F	55	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	Va.

	Townsend, Walter	W	M	15	Son	S	Working on Farm	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Townsend, Oliver	W	M	12	Son	S	Working on Farm	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
24	Pinkham, James	W	M	45		M	Secretary of State Temperance Society	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Pinkham, Mary	W	F	48	Wife	M	Keeping House	Va.	Va.	Va.
	Pinkham, Sarah F.	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Iowa	Me.	Va.
25	Beeson, Richard	W	M	62		M		Ohio		
	Beeson, Rebecca	W	F	61	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio		
	Bundy, Rachel P.	W	F	56		W	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	Va.
	Bundy, Rachel E.	W	F	20	Daughter	S	At Home	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
26	Hoover, Allen	W	M	35		M	Farmer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Amelia	W	F	33	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Alice	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Walter	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
27	Keeler, Daniel	W	M	38		M	Farmer	N.Y.		
	Keeler, Louisa	W	F	38	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Eng.
	Keeler, Grace	W	F	9	Step-Daugh- ter	S		Ill.		
	Keeler, John	W	M	70	Father	W		Ohio	Ohio	Eng.

28	Townsend, Charles	W	M	35		M	Merchant	Ohio	Ohio	Eng.
	Townsend, Ester	W	F	40	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Va.	N.C.
	Townsend, Irma	W	F	8	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Townsend, Dennis	W	M	6	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Townsend, Sophia	W	F	7/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Cogshall, Clinton	W	M	10	Nephew	S		Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
29	Heizer, A.M.	W	M	41		M	Minister	Ohio	Va.	Va.
	Heizer, P.M.	W	F	39	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ill.	Eng.	Ohio
	Heizer, Forrest	W	M	9	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ill.
	Heizer, Jennie	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ill.
	Garvin, Amada	W	F	45		S	Domestic	Ohio	Va.	Va.
30	Maltbie, Silas	W	M	47		M	Minister	Ohio	Ohio	Ire- land
	Maltbie, Angelina	W	F	39	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Va.
	Maltbie, William H.	W	M	12	Son	S	At Home	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
31	Atkins, Willis	W	M	68		M	Shoemaker	Conn.	Conn.	Conn.
	Atkins, Margaret	W	F	48	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.Y.	Mass.	N.Y.
	Atkins, William	W	M	20	Son	S	Laborer	Ill.	Conn.	N.Y.
	Atkins, Mary J.	W	F	17	Daughter	S	Teaching School	Ill.	Conn.	N.Y.

	Atkins, Charles D.	W	M	15	Son	S	Farm Work	Ill.	Conn.	N.Y.
32	Branson, Elizabeth	W	F	41		W		Ohio	Pa.	Md.
	Branson, Leoni	W	M	22	Son	S	Farmer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Branson, Alice	W	F	21	Daughter	S	Dressmaker	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Branson, Lindley	W	M	16	Son	S	At Home	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
33	Day, Edna	W	F	62		W	Keeping House	Ohio		
	Day, Anna	W	F	22	Daughter	S	Domestic	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Day, John	W	M	20	Son	S	Farm Work	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
34	Zalesky, John	W	M	29		M	Clerk in Shoe Shop	Nor- way	Nor- way	Nor- way
	Zalesky,, Mary	W	F	23	Wife	M	Keeping House	Nor- way	Nor- way	Nor- way
	Zalesky, Freddie	W	M	7	Son	S		Iowa	Nor- way	Nor- way
	Zalesky, Milia	W	F	5	Daughter	S		Iowa	Nor- Way	Nor- Way
	Zalesky, Ota	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Iowa	Nor- way	Nor- way
	Zalesky, Betris	W	F	3/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Nor- way	Nor- way
35	Rogers, David	W	M	38		M	Carpenter	Can- ada	Can- ada	Can- ada
	Rogers, Mary A.	W	F	35	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Rogers, George W.	W	M	14	Son	S	At School	Ill.	Can- ada	Va.
	Rogers, William	W	M	12	Son	S	At School	Ill.	Can- ada	Va.

	Rogers, David F.	W	M	10	Son	S	At School	Ill.	Canada	Va.
	Rogers, Asher L.	W	M	8	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Canada	Va.
	Rogers, Elizabeth	W	F	5	Daughter	S		Iowa	Canada	Va.
	Rogers, Mary R.	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Iowa	Canada	Va.
36	Bliss, Arnold	W	M	78		M		N.Y.		
	Bliss, Eliza	W	F	70	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.Y.		
	Bliss, Warren	W	M	48	Son	M	Jeweler	Pa.	N.Y.	Mass.
	Bliss, Cathrine	W	F	42	Daughter-in-law	M		Pa.	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Bliss, Arnold	W	M	19	Grandson	S	Working on Farm	Pa.	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Bliss, Linda	W	F	13	Granddaughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Pa.	N.Y.
	Bliss, Lizzie	W	F	10	Granddaughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Pa.	N.Y.
	Bliss, Warren	W	M	8	Grandson	S	At Home	Iowa	Pa.	N.Y.
	Bliss, Mary	W	F	4	Granddaughter	S		Iowa	Pa.	N.Y.
37	Madson, Neil	W	M	37		M	Tailor	Denmark	Denmark	Denmark
	Madson, Wilhemina	W	F	31	Wife	M	Keeping House	Denmark	Denmark	Denmark
	Madson, Alfred	W	M	11	Son	S	Working on Farm	Denmark	Denmark	Denmark
	Madson, Clara	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Denmark	Denmark	Denmark
	Madson, Anne	W	F	6	Daughter	S		Iowa	Denmark	Denmark

	Madson, Marion	W	F	8/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Den.	Den.
38	Coombs, L.P.	W	M	30		M	Teamster	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Coombs, Mary	W	F	26	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Va.	Va.
	Coombs, Albertus	W	M	7	Son	S		Iowa	Me.	Ind.
39	Hammell, William	W	M	38		M	Coal Dealer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hammell, Rachel	W	F	39	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	N.Y.
	Hammell, Mary	W	F	11	Daughter	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hammell, Leora	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hammell, Claude	W	M	3	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
40	Gruwell, Ruth	W	F	63		W	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Wheeler, Ross	W	M	21		S	Artist	Va.	Va.	Va.
41	Cover, William D.	W	M	23		M		Pa.		
	Cover, Mary W.	W	F	20	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Cover, Annie	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Nichols, William	W	M	22		S	Attending Horses	Pa.		
42	Heacock, Joseph	W	M	38		M	Miller	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Heacock, Lovella	W	F	24	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Heacock, William	W	M	10	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Heacock, Joseph	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Heacock, Anne	W	F	1	Daughter 125	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio

43	Wyant, Edward	W	M	33		M	Railroad Agent	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Wyant, Mary	W	F	29	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ill.	Ky.	Ky.
	Wyant, Annie	W	F	15	Sister	S	At Home	Iowa	Pa.	Pa.
44	Houser, J.F.	W	M	43		M	Physician	Swit.	Swit.	Swit.
	Houser, Adelia	W	F	36	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Conn.	N.J.
	Houser, Carrie	W	F	21	Daughter	S	At Home	Wis.	Swit.	Swit.
	Houser, Lullia	W	F	8	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Swit.	Swit.
	Whittman, Mary	W	F	75	Mother	W		Swit.	Swit.	Swit.
	Randall, Edward	W	M	25		S	Laborer	Canada	Canada	Canada
45	Hiatt, Robert	W	M	35		M	Miller	Ind.	Ohio	Ohio
	Hiatt, Sarah	W	F	37	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Ohio
	Hiatt, Clarence	W	M	12	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ind.	Ohio
	Hiatt, Albert	W	M	10	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ind.	Ohio
	Hiatt, Anne	W	F	8	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ind.	Ohio
	Hiatt, Lida	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ind.	Ohio
46	Shoifless, Albert	W	M	68		M		Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Shoifless, Lydia	W	F	68	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	x
	Shoifless, William	W	F	26	Son	S	Laborer	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.

47	Townsend, J. L.	W	M	40		M	Artist	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Townsend, Mary	W	F	40	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Townsend, Arthur	W	M	14	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Townsend, Clara	W	F	6	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
48	Bean, Clark	W	M	63		M	Hardware Dealer	N.H.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bean, Sarah	W	F	65	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.Y.	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Bean, Clara	W	F	23	Daughter	S	At Home	Wis.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bean, Mary	W	F	21	Daughter	S	Music Teacher	Iowa	N.H.	N.H.
	Black, Alice	W	F	9	Grand- daughter	S	At School	Iowa	N.H.	N.H.
	Black, Wilford	W	M	7	Grandson	S	At School	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa
49	Bailey, John P.	W	M	34		M	Physician	Iowa		
	Bailey, Phobe	W	F	37	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
	Bailey, Nettie	W	F	12	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
	Bailey, Gertrude	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
50	Penrose, Margaret	W	F	37		W	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Penrose, Ella	W	F	15	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Penrose, Mary	W	F	14	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio



	Penrose, Clarkson	W	M	9	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Penrose, Alice	W	F	7	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Penrose, Louisa	W	F	5	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Wood, Alfred	W	M	39		M	Dentist	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Wood, Minnie	W	F	35	Wife	M		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
51	Bennett, James S.	W	M	73		M	Engineer	Me.		
	Bennett, Cathrine	W	F	60	Wife	M	Keeping House	Me.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bennett, Charles	W	M	24	Son	S		Me.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bennett, Frank	W	M	23	Son	S	Plasterer	Me.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bennett, Rusworth	W	M	15	Son	S	Farmhand	Me.	N.H.	N.H.
	Arnold, Richard	W	M	51		W	Plasterer	Ohio	Eng.	Eng.
52	Miles, William	W	M	44		M		Ohio	S.C.	S.C.
	Miles, Elizabeth	W	F	42	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ky.	N.C.
	Miles, Ellanora	W	F	21	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ky.	Ohio
	Miles, Rebecca	W	F	18	Daughter	S	Teaching	Iowa	Ky.	Ohio
	Miles, Mary	W	F	15	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ky.	Ohio
	Miles, Sabrina	W	F	8	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ky.	Ohio
53	Schooley, Israel	W	M	33		M	Butcher	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Schooley, Susannah	W	F	28	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ind.	Ind.	Ind.
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	Schooley, James	W	M	10	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Schooley, Mary	W	F	8	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ind.
	Shaifer, Enos	W	M	23		S	Butcher	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
54	Crossman, E. H.	W	M	51		M	Laborer	N.Y.	Conn.	Vt.
	Crossman, Anna	W	F	66	Wife	M	Keeping House	Conn.	Conn.	Conn.
	Crossman, Charles	W	M	20	Son	S	Farmhand	Iowa	N.Y.	Conn.
55	Reeves, Davis	W	F	42		W	Keeping House	Ohio		
	Reeves, Alpharetta	W	F	15	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	x	Ohio
	Shinn, Susannah	W	F	24		S	Printing	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
56	Reeves, Daniel	W	M	61		M	Plasterer	Pa.	N.J.	N.J.
	Reeves, Ann	W	F	58	Wife	M	Keeping House	Pa.		
	Reeves, Rachel	W	F	22	Daughter	S	At Home	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Hillis, Rachel	W	F	30	Neice	S	Domestic	Ohio	Ohio	Pa.
	Whinery, Gerald	W	M	25	Nephew	S	Huckster	Ohio	x	Pa.
57	Martin, Elizabeth	W	F	56		W	Keeping House	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Martin, Andrew	W	M	27	Son	S	Carpenter	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
58	Schlupper, Henry C.	W	M	62		W		Ger.	Ger.	Ger.
	Schlupper, Henry W.	W	M	27	Son	S	Harness Maker	Me.	Ger.	Ger.

59	Hoover, John Y.	W	M	45		M	Minister	Ohio	Ky.	Ky.
	Hoover, Mary J.	W	F	44	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Elizabeth	W	F	20	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Charles	W	M	17	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Olive	W	M	14	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Aldis	W	M	12	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Martha	W	F	10	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, John	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
60	Lawrence, Elizabeth	W	F	47		M	Keeping House	Mass.	Mass.	Mass.
	Lawrence, Mary	W	F	8	Daughter	S	At School	Mass.	Mass.	Mass.
61	Briggs, Ezra	W	M	70		M		Me.		
	Briggs, Phobe	W	F	69	Wife	M	Keeping House	Me.		
62	Wren, Walter	W	M	29		M	Laborer	Ohio	Va.	Ohio
	Wren, Sarah	W	F	24	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Va.	Va.
	Wren, Camillia	W	F	5	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
	Wren, Elizabeth	W	F	3	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
	Wren, Cathrine	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Iowa

63	Edmondson, Edward	W	M	36		M	Merchant	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
	Edmondson, Mary	W	F	41	Wife	M	Keeping House	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
	Edmondson, Elizabeth	W	F	11	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Eng.	Eng.
	Edmondson, Sophia	W	F	9	Daughter	S	At School	Iowa	Eng.	Eng.
	Edmondson, Joseph	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Eng.	Eng.
	Edmondson, Margret	W	F	9/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Eng.	Eng.
64	Roislén, Marion	W	M	31		M	Laborer	N. J.	Eng.	
	Roislén, Martha	W	F	29	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Roislén, Benjamin	W	M	9	Son	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Roislén, Eddie	W	M	8	Son	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Roislén, Bertha	W	F	3	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
65	Warrington, Henry	W	M	30		M	Selling Machines	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Warrington, Sophia	W	F	22	Wife	M	Keeping House	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
	Warrington, Louis	W	M	9	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Eng.
	Warrington, Mabel	W	F	6	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Eng.
	Warrington, Harold	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Eng.
	Warrington, Winfield	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Eng.
66	Douglass, William	W	M	43		M	Farmer	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Douglass, Oralda	W	F	41	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	Va.

	Douglass, Sylvester	W	M	21	Son	S	Clerk in Agricultural Store	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Douglass, Eddie	W	M	16	Son	S	Farm Hand	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Douglass, Mary E.	W	F	13	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Douglass, Maude	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
67	Rummells, John	W	M	40		M	Butcher	Pa.	X	Pa.
	Rummells, Amanda	W	F	50	Wife	M	Keeping House	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Rummells, Sarah	W	F	20	Daughter	S	At Home			
	Rummells, Susannah	W	F	16	Daughter	S	At Home			
	Rummells, John	W	M	15	Son	S	Working on Farm			
	Rummells, Lydia	W	F	13	Daughter	S				
	Rummells, Josiah	W	M	9	Son	S				
68	Swafford, Louis	W	M	27		S	Merchant	Iowa	Pa.	Ohio
	Cook, Ellis	W	M	89		M		Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Cook, Betsey	W	F	72	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.H.	N.H.	N.H.
69	Hoover, Eli	W	M	59		M	Laborer	Ohio	N.C.	Ky.
	Hoover, Hannah	W	F	48	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ire- Land	Ire- land	Ire- land
	Hoover, Mary J.	W	F	18	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ire- land

	Hoover, Hannah M.	W	F	13	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ire- land
	Hoover, Joseph	W	M	23	Son	S	Selling Fumps	Iowa	Ohio	Ire- land
70	Wickersham, C. H.	W	M	32		M	Editor	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Wickersham, Phoebe	W	F	33	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Wickersham, Gertrude	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Wickersham, Beatrice	W	F	7	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Wickersham, Raymond	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Wickersham, Bertha	W	F	3	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Wickersham, Ethel	W	F	2/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
71	Gocher, John	W	M	50		M	Section Boss	Vt.	Fr.	Fr.
	Gocher, France	W	F	39	Wife	M	Keeping House	Scot- land	Scot- land	Scot- land
	Gocher, Minnie	W	F	12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Vt.	Scot- land
	Gocher, Willis	W	M	10	Son	S		Iowa	Vt.	Scot- land
	Gocher, Emma	W	F	7	Daughter	S		Iowa	Vt.	Scot- land
	Gocher, Charles	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Vt.	Scot- land
72	Harok, Reuben	W	M	38		M	Railroad Hand	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Harok, Sarah	W	F	30	Wife	M	Keeping House	Can- ada	Ill.	Can- ada
	Harok, Oliver	W	M	13	Son	S		Ill.	Ohio	Can- ada

	Harok, Samuel	W	M	11	Son	S		Ill.	Ohio	Canada
73	Negus, Jason	W	M	42		M	Farmer	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Negus, Esther	W	F	35	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Negus, Alviah	W	M	15	Son	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Negus, Lydia	W	F	11	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Negus, Eddie	W	M	9	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
74	Thomas, John	W	M	60		W	Farmer	Ohio	Va.	Pa.
	Doudna, Eva	W	F	20		S	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Walker, Eliza	W	F	34		S	Milliner	Ohio	Va.	Pa.
75	Ward, James	W	M	34		M	Section Hand	Ohio	Eng.	Ohio
	Ward, Mary	W	F	31	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.Y.	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Ward, Walter	W	M	9	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.Y.
	Ward, Mary	W	F	8	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.Y.
	Ward, John	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.Y.
76	Forney, Levi	W	M	54		M	Tailor	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Forney, Susan	W	F	53	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
77	Collins, William	W	M	61		M	Wagon Maker	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.
	Collins, Sarah	W	F	60	Wife	M	House Keeper	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.

	Collins, Eli	W	M	24	Son	S	Farmhand	Iowa	N.J.	N.J.
	Collins, Frances	W	F	9	Grand- daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Iowa
78	Hoover, Jesse	W	M	33		M	Agricultural Implement Dealer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hoover, Hulda	W	F	32	Wife	M	House Keeper	Can- ada	Can- ada	Can- ada
	Hoover, Theodore	W	M	9	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Can- ada
✓	Hoover, Herbert	W	M	5	Son	S	At School	Iowa	Ohio	Can- ada ✓
	Hoover, Mary	W	F	3	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Can- ada
79	Smith, Peter	W	M	44		M	Carpenter	Mass.	R.I.	R.I.
	Smith, Mary	W	F	36	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Smith, Clara	W	F	18	Daughter	S	At Home	Ohio	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, Ella	W	F	15	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, Etta	W	F	10	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, Eddie	W	M	8	Son	S		Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
	Smith, William	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Mass.	Ohio
80	Coombs, Joseph	W	M	58		M	Carpenter	Me.		
	Coombs, Lucy	W	F	40	Wife	M	Keeping House	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Coombs, George	W	M	15	Son	S	Carpenter	Me.	Me.	Me.



	Coombs, Mary	W	F	11	Daughter	S		Iowa	Me.	Me.
	Deane, Margaret	W	F	79	Aunt	W		Me.	Me.	Me.
81	Hill, George	W	M	45		M	Blacksmith	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
	Hill, Martha	W	F	32	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Va.	Va.
	Hill, Daisey	W	F	11/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	N.C.	Ohio
82	Covert, Morgan	W	M	28		M	Drayman	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Covert, Mina	W	F	20	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Covert, Pearl	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
83	Albin, Mary A.	W	F	47		S	Dress Maker	Ind.	Va.	Ohio
	Albin, Minerva	W	F	45	Sister	S	Dress Maker	Ind.	Va.	Ohio
	Hills, Eva	W	F	8		S		Ill.		
84	Crook, Nathan H.	W	M	34		M	Hotel Keeper	Ind.	Va.	Ohio
	Crook, Maggie	W	F	33	Wife	M	Landlady	Ind.	Ire- land	Ire- land
	White, Clinton	W	M	22		S	Hotel Employee	Ohio		
	Gamble, Matilda	W	F	12		S		Ire- land	Ire- land	Ire- land
85	Schooley, Benjamin	W	M	29		M	Butcher	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Schooley, Mary C.	W	F	29	Wife	M	Keeping House	Va.	Va.	Va.

	Schooley, Esther	W	F	7	Daughter	S		Iowa	Iowa	Va.
	Schooley, Charles	W	M	6	Son	S		Iowa	Iowa	Va.
	Schooley, Rebecca	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Iowa	Va.
	Schooley, Hattie	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Iowa	Iowa	Va.
	Schooley, Cora	W	F	8/12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Iowa	Va.
86	Embree, L. H.	W	M	42		M	Grocer	Ohio	Md.	Ohio
	Embree, Susan	W	F	41	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Md.	Ohio
	Embree, Maggie	W	F	13	Daughter	S	At Home	Ill.	Ohio	Ohio
	Embree, Kathrine	W	F	11	Daughter	S		Ill.	Ohio	Ohio
	Embree, Jeptha	W	M	7	Son	S		Ill.	Ohio	Ohio
	Embree, Mary L.	W	F	5	Daughter	S		Ill.	Ohio	Ohio
	Embree, Martha W.	W	F	2	Daughter	S		Ill.	Ohio	Ohio
87	Jepson, Edward	W	M	29		S	Druggist	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Yetter, Marshall	W	M	26		M	Druggist	Pa.	Pa.	Pa.
	Yetter, Mary E.	W	F	28	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Ind.	Ind
	Yetter, Clarence	W	M	1	Son	S		Iowa	Pa.	Pa.
	Yetter, Clara	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Pa.	Pa.
	Jakeway, Elmer	W	M	28		M	Farmer	N.Y.	X	X

88	Gruwell, H. P.	W	M	39		M	Retail Grocer	Ohio	X	N.J.
	Gruwell, Elizabeth	W	F	37	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	X	X
	Gruwell, Emmor	W	M	13	Son	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Gruwell, Jennie	W	F	11	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Gruwell, Moses	W	M	8	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Gruwell, Samuel	W	M	5	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Gruwell, Otto	W	F	3	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Gruwell, Cora	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
89	Schooley, James	W	M	63		M	Retail Grocer	Ohio	N.J.	Va.
	Schooley, Rebecca	W	F	64	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	N.J.	N.J.
	Schooley, Elizabeth	W	F	27	Daughter	S	Feeble Minded	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
90	Brundige, Judson	W	M	31		M	Blacksmith	Iowa	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Brundige, Ellen	W	F	29	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	X	Ohio
	Brundige, Louis	W	M	10	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Brundige, Libbie	W	F	8	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Brundige, Herbert	W	M	6	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Brundige, William E.	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Brundige, Arthur	W	M	1	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio

91	Langstaff, Thomas	W	M	69		M	Carpenter	N.J.	X	X
	Langstaff, Hannah	W	F	64	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	X	X
92	Sullivan, F. L.	W	M	33		M	Wagon Maker	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Sullivan, Eva	W	F	26	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Sullivan, Aurilla	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
93	Jepson, Sarah	W	F	50		W	Keeping House	Me.	Me.	Me.
	Hollings, Ellen	W	F	29	Daughter	M	Domestic			
	Jepson, Charles H.	W	M	25	Son	S	Laborer			
	Jepson, Clara H.	W	F	25	Daughter	S	Cripple Spine-Affliction			
	Jepson, Eva	W	F	21	Daughter	S	Domestic			
	Jepson, Minnie	W	F	12	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Me.	Me.
	Cock, Elijah	W	M	83	Father	W		Me.	Me.	Me.
	Hollings- worth, Edward	W	M	9	Grandson	S		Iowa	Ill.	Me.
	Hollings- worth, Clarence	W	M	7	Grandson	S		Iowa	Ill.	Me.
94	Wright, William	W	M	54		M	Teamster	Pa.	X	Conn.
	Wright, Mary	W	F	29	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.Y.	N.Y.	Conn.
	Wright, Frank	W	M	15	Son	S	Laborer	Pa.	Pa.	N.Y.
	Wright, Etta	W	F	8	Daughter	S		Pa.	Pa.	N.Y.

95	Staples, James	W	M	66		M	Retired	Vt.	Vt.	N.H.
	Staples, Eliza	W	F	59	Wife	M	Keeping House	Vt.	Vt.	N.H.
96	Langstaff, E. S.	W	M	37		M	Blacksmith	Ohio	N.J.	Ohio
	Langstaff, Eliza	W	F	34	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Evalyn	W	F	12	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Mary Emma	W	F	10	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Eliza A.	W	F	9	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Sarah	W	F	7	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Wilford	W	M	6	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Martha	W	F	8	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Langstaff, Elmer	W	M	7	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
96	Butler, Martin	W	M	44		M	Shoemaker	Ill.		
	Butler, Emily	W	F	38	Wife	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Ind.	N.J.
	Butler, James	W	M	14	Son	S	Farm Hand	Iowa	Ill.	Iowa
	Butler, Alburtus	W	M	12	Son	S	Farm Hand	Iowa	Ill.	Iowa
	Butler, Henry	W	M	11	Son	S	At Home	Iowa	Ill.	Iowa
	Butler, Newton	W	M	8	Son	S	At Home	Iowa	Ill.	Iowa
	Butler, Cora	W	F	4	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ill.	Iowa

	Butler, Alma	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ill.	Iowa
97	Penrose, Maria	W	F	71		W	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Pa.
	Romans, Jennie	W	F	21		S	Domestic	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Penrose, Annie	W	F	20	Grand- daughter	S	Clerk	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
98	Penrose, Clarkson	W	M	48		M	Merchant	Ohio	Pa.	Ohio
	Penrose, Mary Anna	W	F	49	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Ohio
	Penrose, Agnes	W	F	6	Daughter	S		N.Y.	Pa.	Pa.
	Rosmansen, Mary	W	F	22		S	Domestic	Den- mark		
	Lloyd, James	W	M	19		S	Clerk	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
99	Ball, Hannah	W	F	69		W	Keeping House	Ohio	N.J.	N.J.
	Morris, William	W	M	32	Son-in-law	M	Grain Dealer	Ohio	Pa.	N.J.
	Morris, Sarah	W	F	32	Daughter	M	(Nervous- disorder)	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Morris, Charles	W	M	11	Son	S		Kan.	Ohio	Ohio
	Morris, Evalena	W	F	7	Daughter	S		Kan.	Ohio	Ohio
100	Perry, John	W	M	40		M	Stone Mason	N.Y.	X	X
	Perry, Carrie	W	F	37	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ger.	Ger.	Ger.
	Perry, Lillie	W	F	10	Daughter	S		Ill.	N.Y.	Ger.
	Perry, Charley	W	M	8	Son	S		Iowa	N.Y.	Ger.

	Perry, Willie	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	N.Y.	Ger.
101	Michner, Charles	W	M	31		M	Laborer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Michner, Emma	W	F	31	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.J.	X	Fr.
	Michner, Louis	W	M	7	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.J.
	Michner, Cora	W	F	6	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.J.
	Michner, Caral	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.J.
	Michner, Charles	W	M	2	Son	S		Iowa	Ohio	N.J.
102	Bean, George	W	M	36		M	Hardware Store	Ill.	N.Y.	N.Y.
	Bean, Mary	W	F	33	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	Ohio
	Bean, Florence	W	M	6	Son	S		Iowa	Ill.	Ohio
	Bean, Roy	W	M	4	Son	S		Iowa	Ill.	Ohio
	Bean, Vera	W	F	1	Daughter	S		Iowa	Ill.	Ohio
103	Hathaway, Esther	W	F	41		W	Keeping House	Ohio	Pa.	N.Y.
	Hathaway, Thomas	W	M	24	Son	M	Farmer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hathaway, Ida	W	F	22	Daughter- in-Law	M	Keeping House	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Hathaway, Charles	W	M	16	Son	S		Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Hathaway, Henry	W	M	1	Grandson	S		Iowa	Ohio	Ohio
	Austin, Henry	B	M	17		S	Mail	N.C.		

	Parham, George	W	M	26		S	Farmer	D.C.	Pa.	D.C.
104	Hammond, Eliza	W	F	42		S	Keeping House	N.Y.	Vt.	N.Y.
	Hammond, Selemma	W	F	50	Sister	S	Keeping House	N.Y.	Vt.	N.Y.
105	Lloyd, Jane	W	F	56		W	Keeping House	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
	Lloyd, Sidney	W	M	23	Son	S	Epileptic	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
106	Lloyd, Kezia	W	F	28		W	Keeping House	Eng.	Eng.	Eng.
	Lloyd, Alphred	W	M	6	Son	S		Iowa	Eng.	Eng.
107	Bean, James	W	M	57		M	Farmer	N.H.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bean, Romina	W	F	51	Wife	M	Keeping House	N.H.	N.H.	Me.
	Bean, James	W	M	18	Son	S	At Home	Minn.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bean, George	W	M	15	Son	S		Minn.	N.H.	N.H.
	Bean, Harvey	W	M	9	Son	S		Minn.	N.H.	N.H.
108	Oliphant, William	W	M	64		M	Farmer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Oliphant, Lydia	W	F	47	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Md.	Pa.
109	Savage, Edward	W	M	43		M	Physician	Ohio	Vt.	N.Y.
	Savage, Rachel	W	F	40	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Vt.	N.J.
	Savage, Marion	W	M	21	Son	S	Clerk in Drugstore	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Savage, Alice	W	F	13	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Ohio



	Heacock, Nathan	W	M	20	Nephew	S	Farming	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
110	Gurwell, Ann	W	F	61		W	Keeping House	Ohio	N.J.	Ohio
	Gurwell, Eliza	W	F	20	Daughter	S	Clerk	Pa.	N.J.	Ohio
111	Miles, Isaac	W	M	37		M	Farmer	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
	Miles Esther	W	F	44	Wife	M	Keeping House	Ohio	Mo.	Pa.
	Miles, Providence	W	F	13	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Mc.
	Miles, Abbie	W	F	9	Daughter	S	At Home	Iowa	Ohio	Mc.

The Jesse Hoover household was given the number 78 by Enumerator Thomas. All told, the population of West Branch at this time was 502, consisting of 267 females, 225 males, 111 families, four imbeciles, and two bedridden invalids.

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Rummells, L. C., July 9, 1968.

Speight, Mildred, July 9, 1968.

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The Iowa Journal of History and Politics. Iowa City, Iowa

West Branch Local Record

West Branch Times

## ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATE IV

Map by Platt & Spicer of Cedar County, State of Iowa,  
Compiled from the Official Surveys of the United States  
and County Records and from Personal Reconnaissance by  
Wells Spicer.

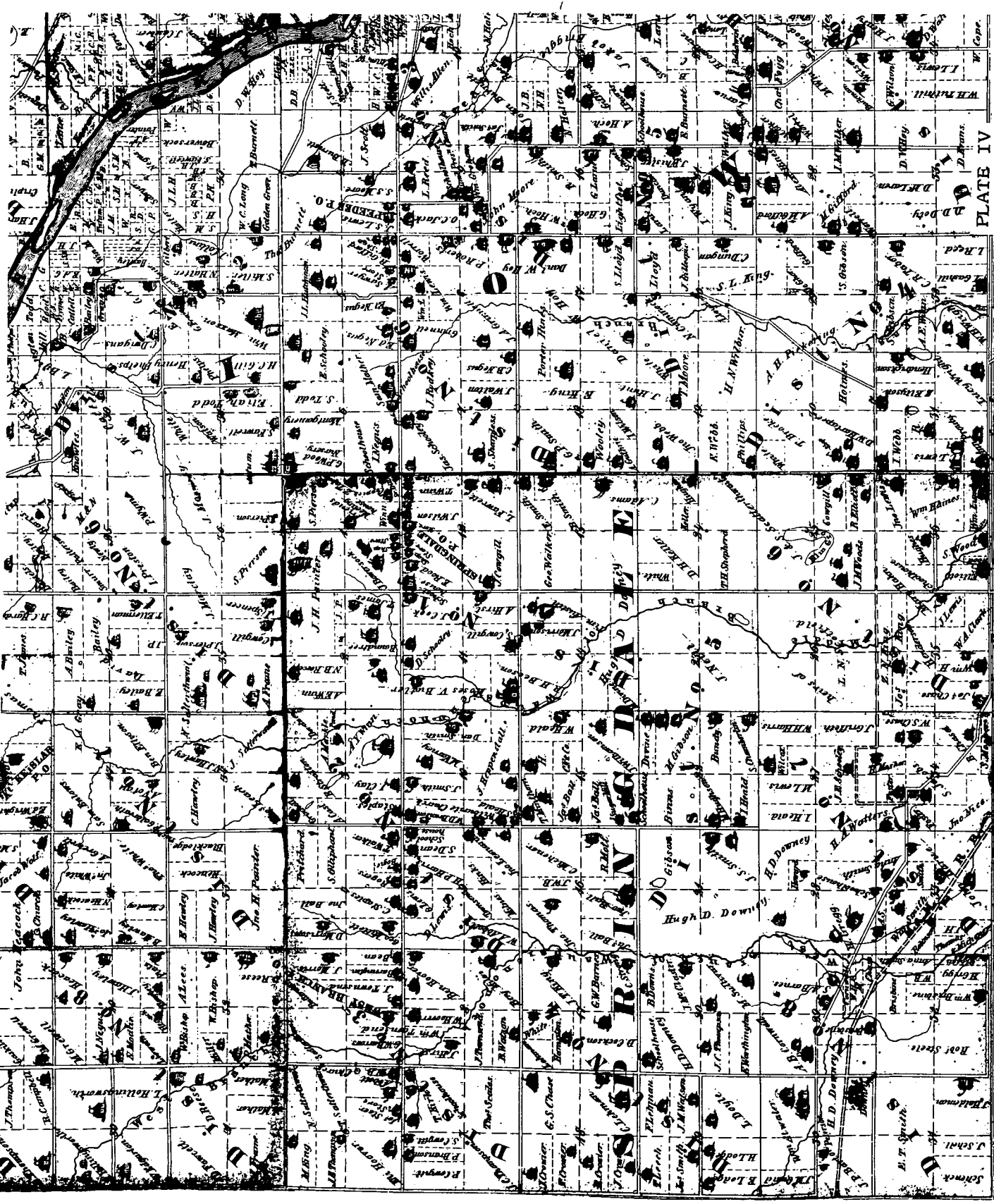




PLATE V

Plat of West Branch, May 29, 1869, by John Steer, as Attorney  
for John M. Wetherell, found in Cedar County Deed Book H., County  
Courthouse, Tipton, Iowa.

Mechanics Street

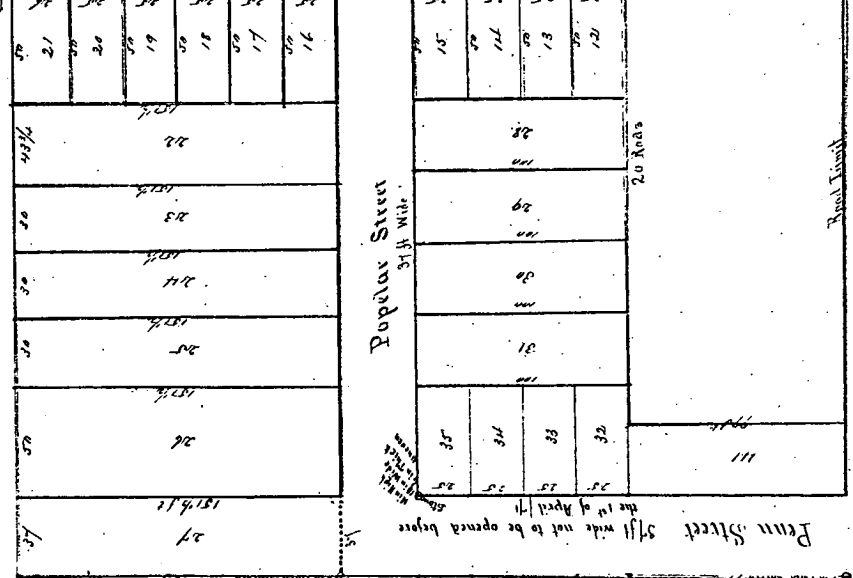
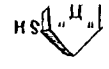
Road 33 1/4

Commerce Street

Poplar Street

Penn Street

Plat of West Branch



11.65 1/2 Acres

1 1/2 Acres

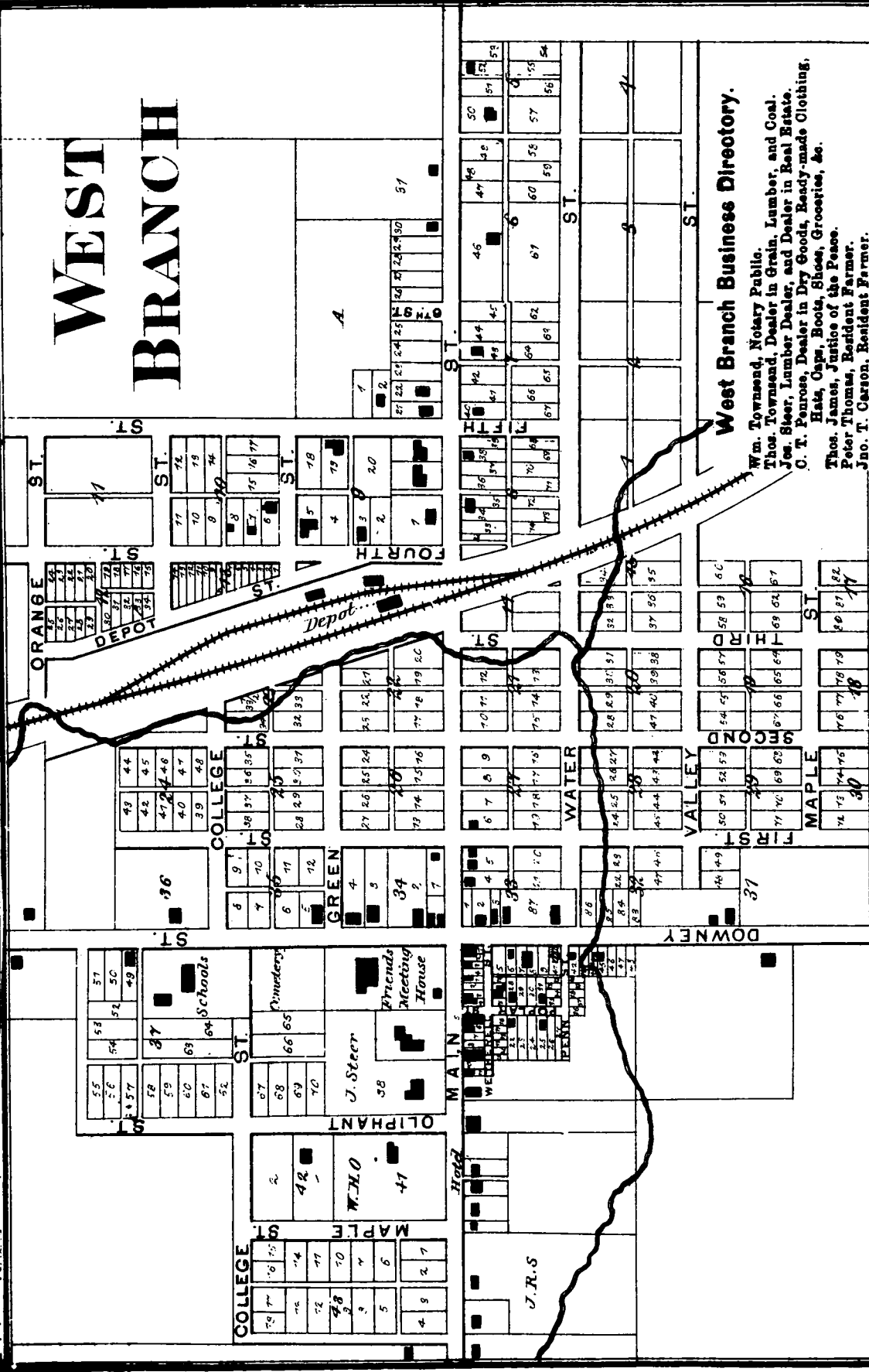
18 07 5 mo. 169

Plat 5/22 at 900.00

PLATE VI

Map of West Branch, Iowa, 1872, from Harris & Warner's  
Atlas of Cedar County, Marshalltown, 1872, Figure 43.

# WEST BRANCH



**West Branch Business Directory.**  
 Wm. Townsend, Notary Public.  
 Thos. Townsend, Dealer in Grain, Lumber, and Coal.  
 Joe. Steer, Lumber Dealer, and Dealer in Real Estate.  
 C. T. Penrose, Dealer in Dry Goods, Ready-made Clothing,  
 Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, &c.  
 Thos. James, Juniors of the Peace.  
 Peter Thomas, Resident Farmer.  
 Jno. T. Carson, Resident Farmer.

PLATE VII

Photograph from Cook's Hill Looking Down Downey Street  
Toward West Branch, circa 1880. Note: Hoover Cottage,  
Hoover Blacksmith Shop, Methodist Church, Crook's Hotel,  
Schoolhouse, condition of road, and fencing. From files  
The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

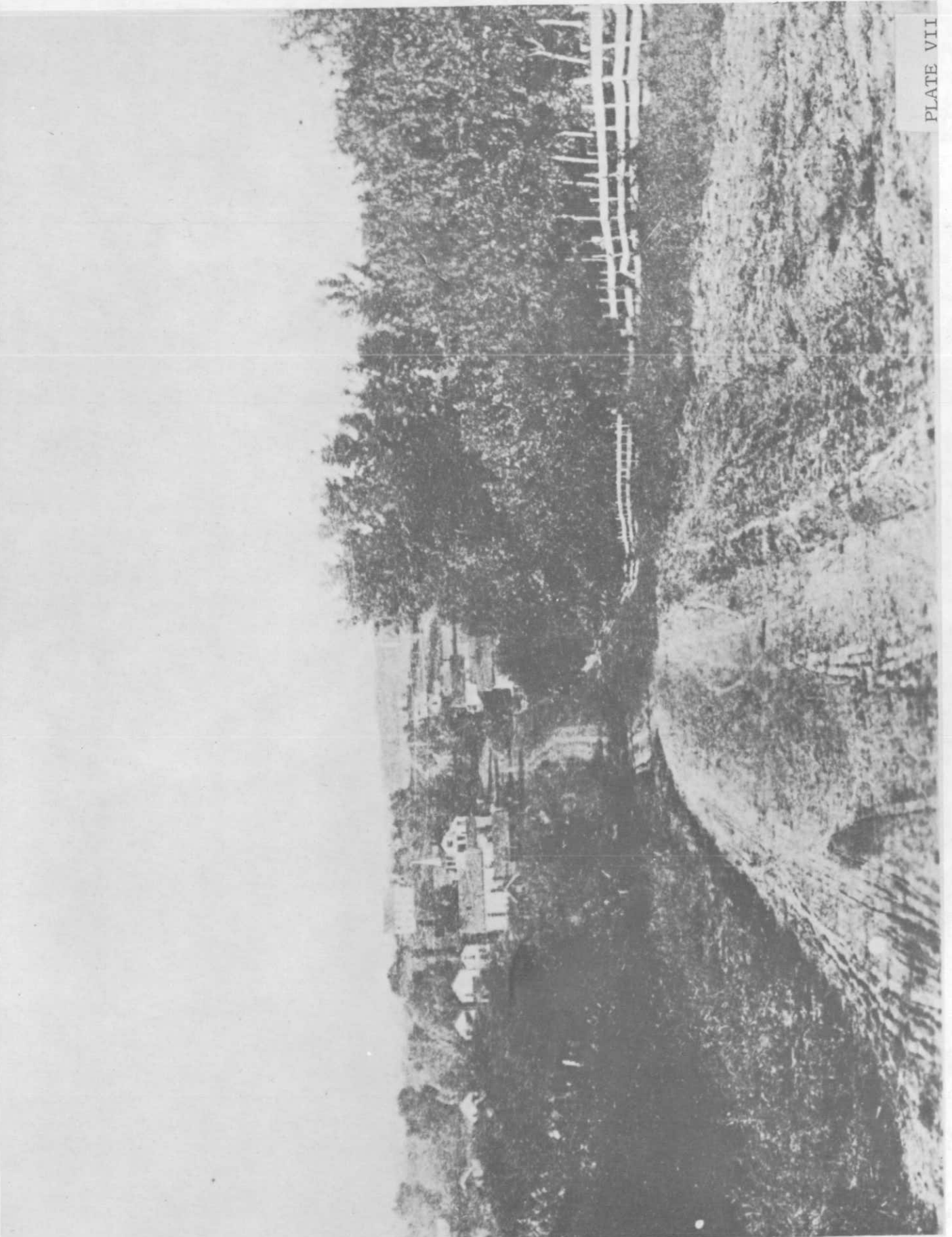


PLATE VIII

Photograph of Town Pump and Crook's Hotel, with Methodist Church in the Background, circa 1878. To the west of Crook's Hotel is the West Branch Bank and J. W. Rummell's Meat Market. In 1879 Rummell's Meat Market was on north Main, between Downey and First. From files The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

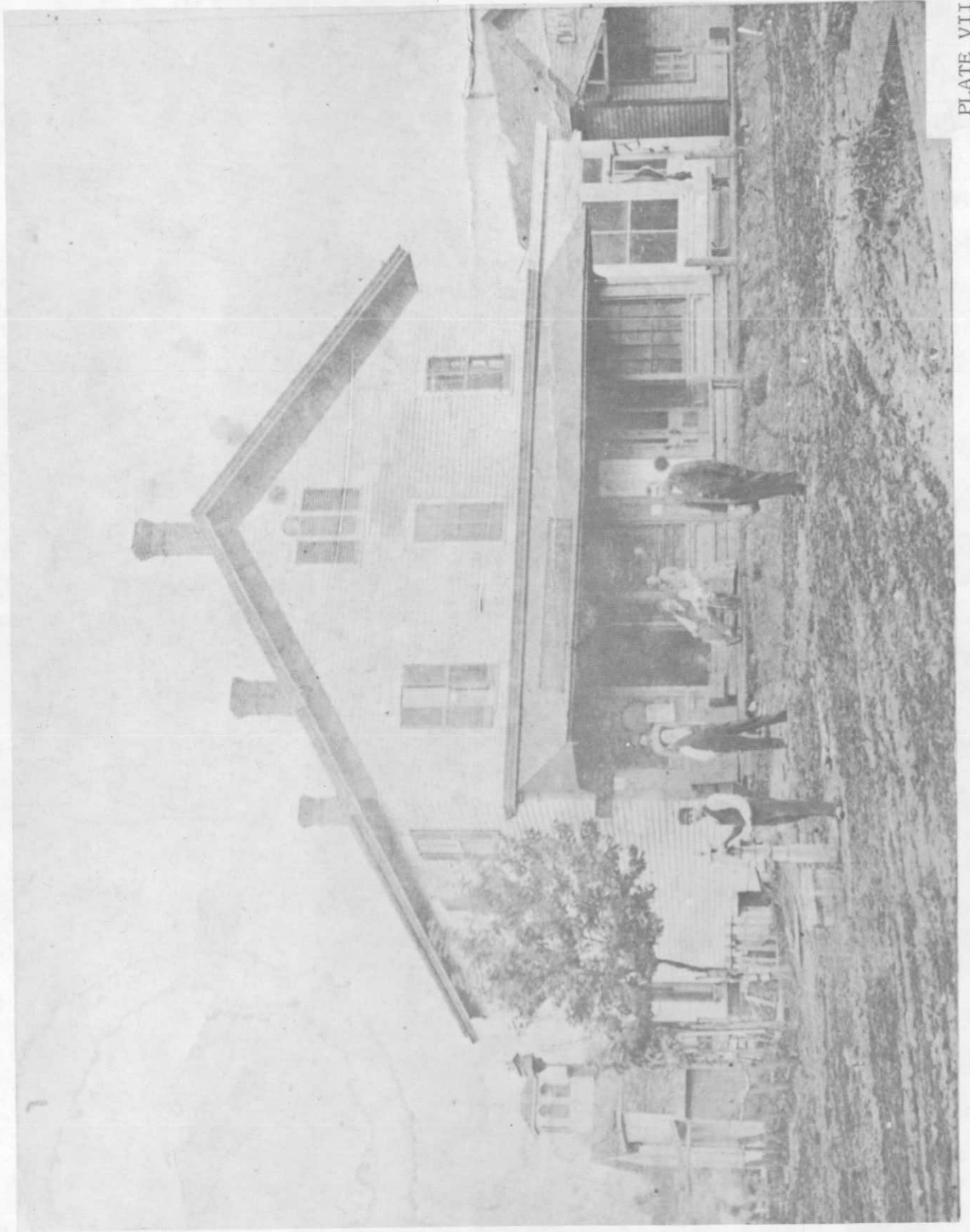


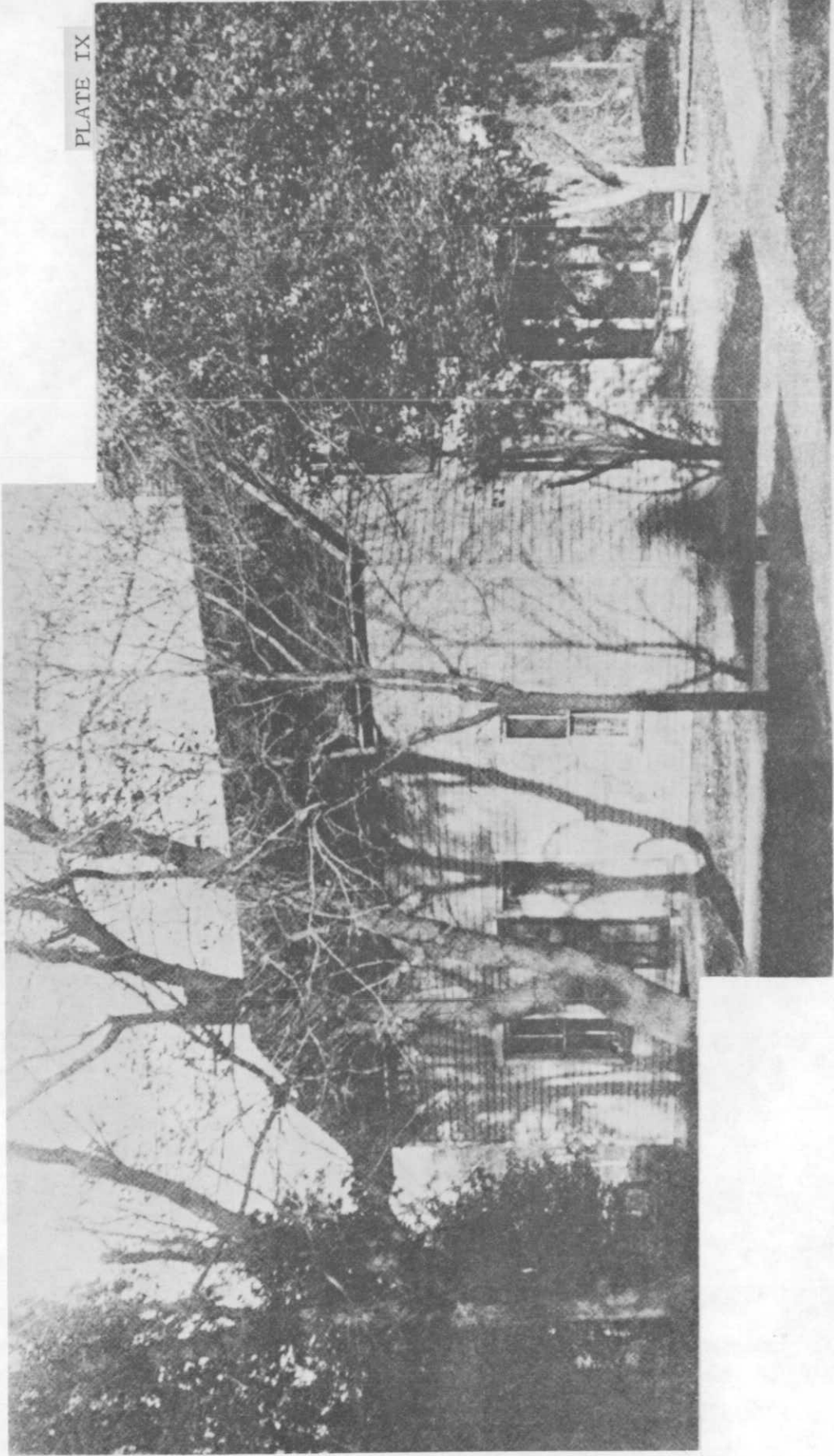
PLATE VIII



PLATE IX

Photograph of the Hoover House. Herbert Hoover lived  
in this House from May 1879 until March 1884. From  
Files The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library

PLATE IX



Herbert Hoover's father and mother as he knew them, and the "house of the maples" where they died when their children were little. There was no place in that house where a boy could not go and be happy, and the heart of it all was his mother

PLATE X

Photograph of the East Elevation of the Hoover Cottage,  
Prior to its Restoration and Relocation. The Cottage  
had been turned and a two-story house attached to what  
had been its north elevation by R. P. Scellers in the  
1890's. Photograph, circa 1920's, from files of  
Sig Larson.

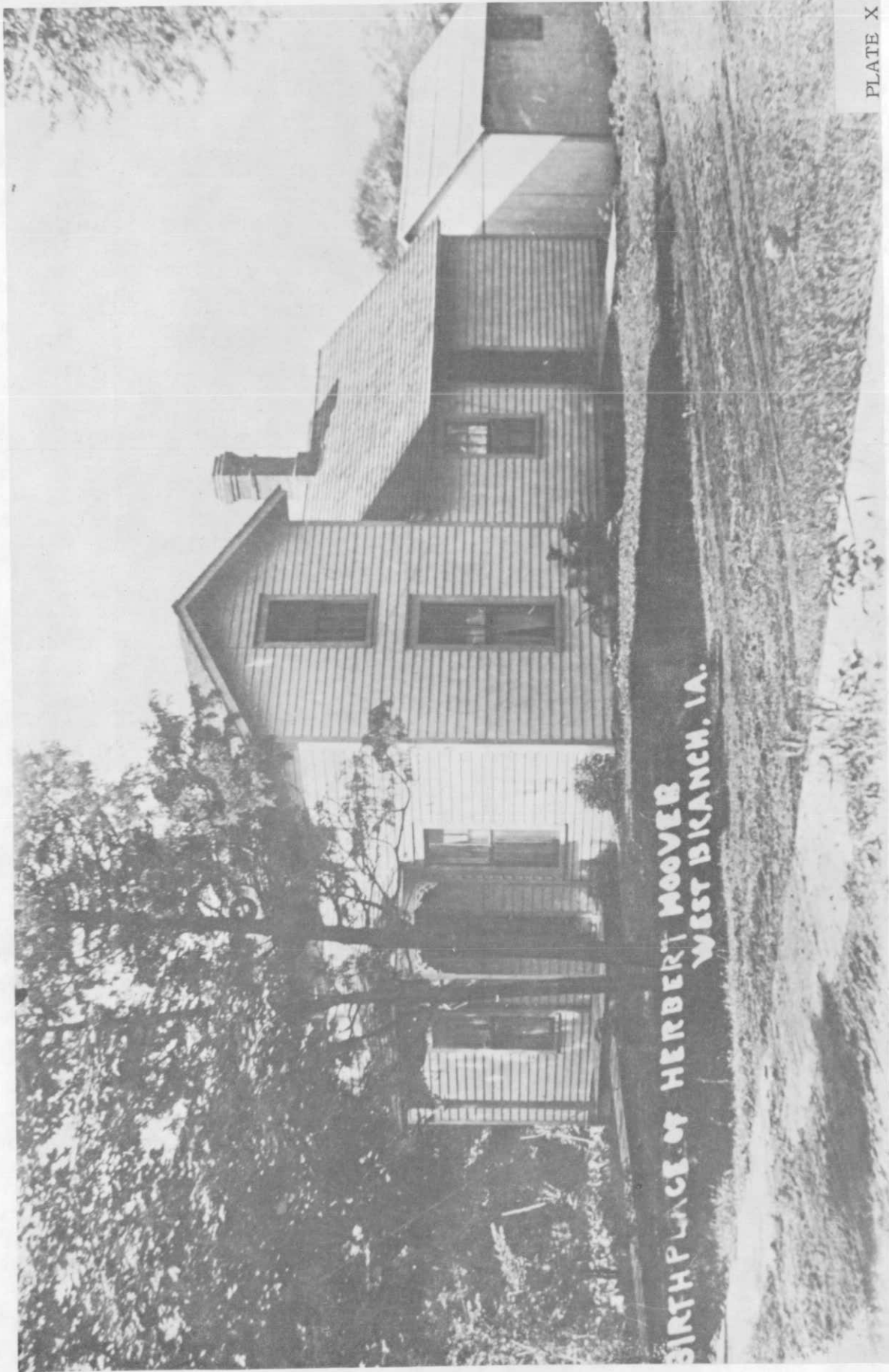
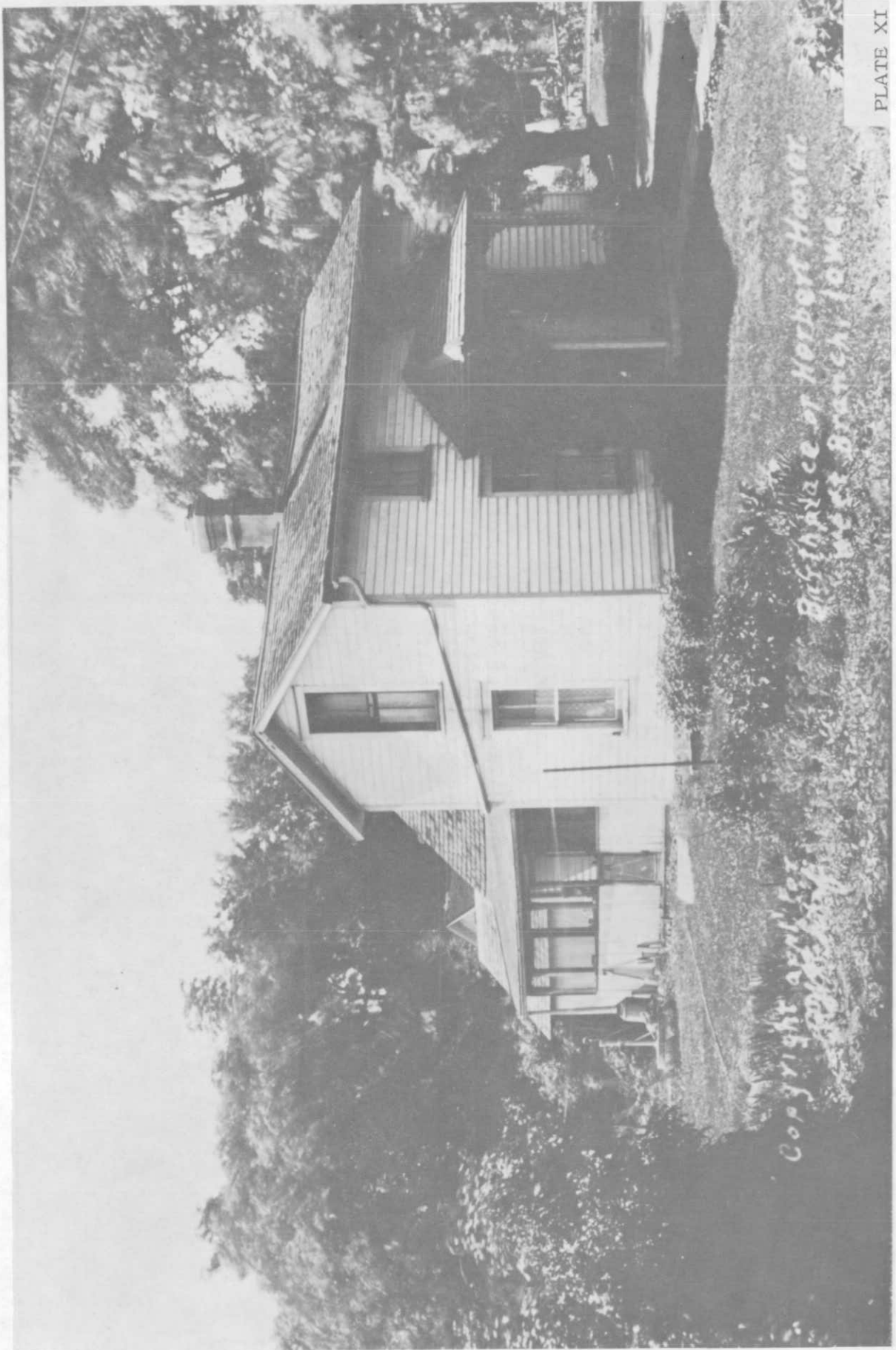


PLATE XI

Photograph of the West Elevation of the Hoover Cottage, Prior to its Restoration and Relocation. The Cottage had been turned 90 degrees by R. P. Scellers and a two-story structure secured to what had been its north elevation. Photograph, circa 1920's, from files Mrs. Mildred Speight.



Copyright © Herbert Hoover  
Bureau of Brachylogy

PLATE XII

Photograph of the Main Street Crossing of West Branch,  
Looking Northeast. Note: Sidewalks and Street Lamp.  
Photograph, circa 1900, from files of Mrs. Mildred  
Speight.

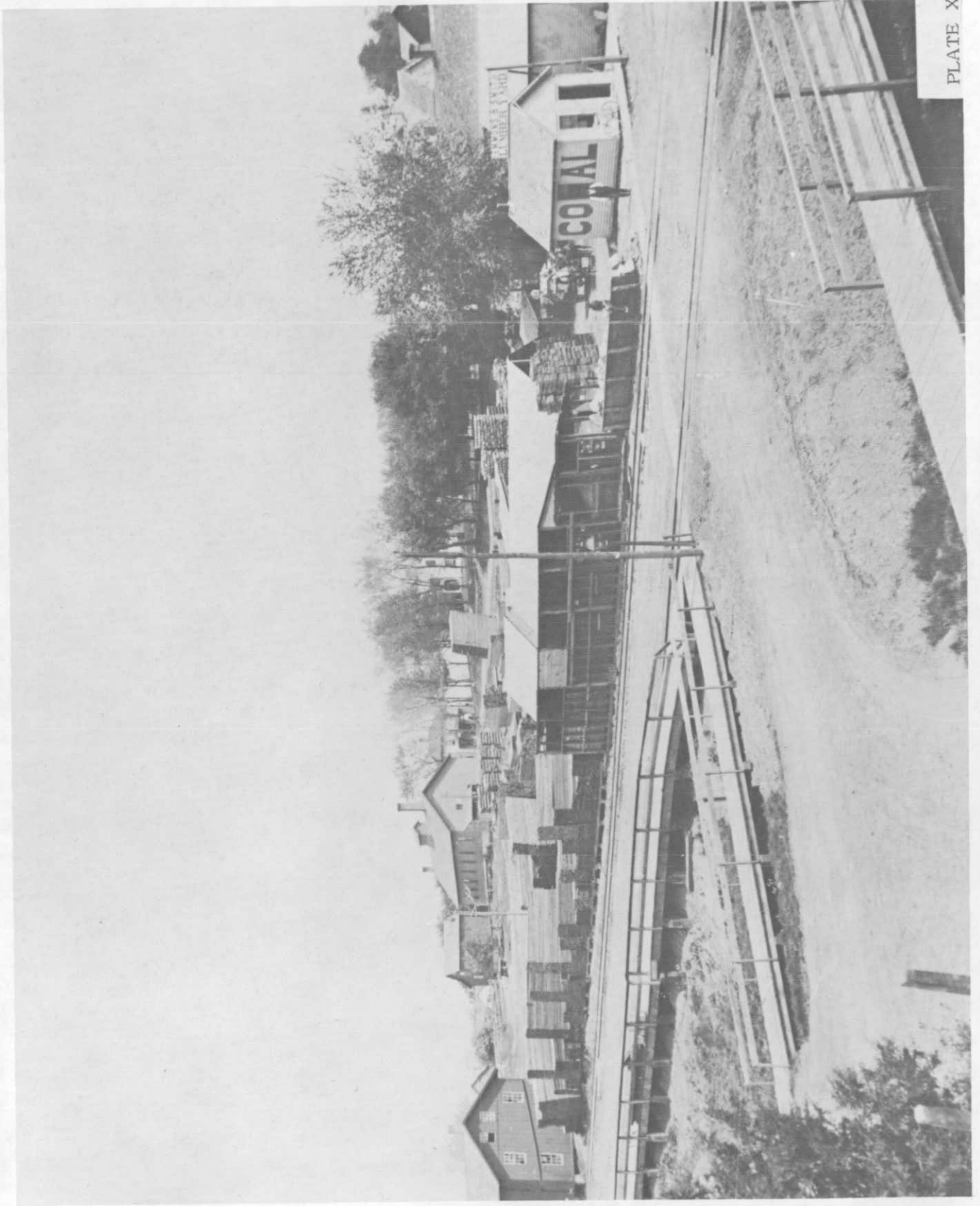


PLATE XII



PLATE XIII

Photograph, Looking West on Main from its Intersection with Downey. Note: Sidewalks, West Branch Bank, and the Albin Building. Photograph 1910, from files of Sig Larson.

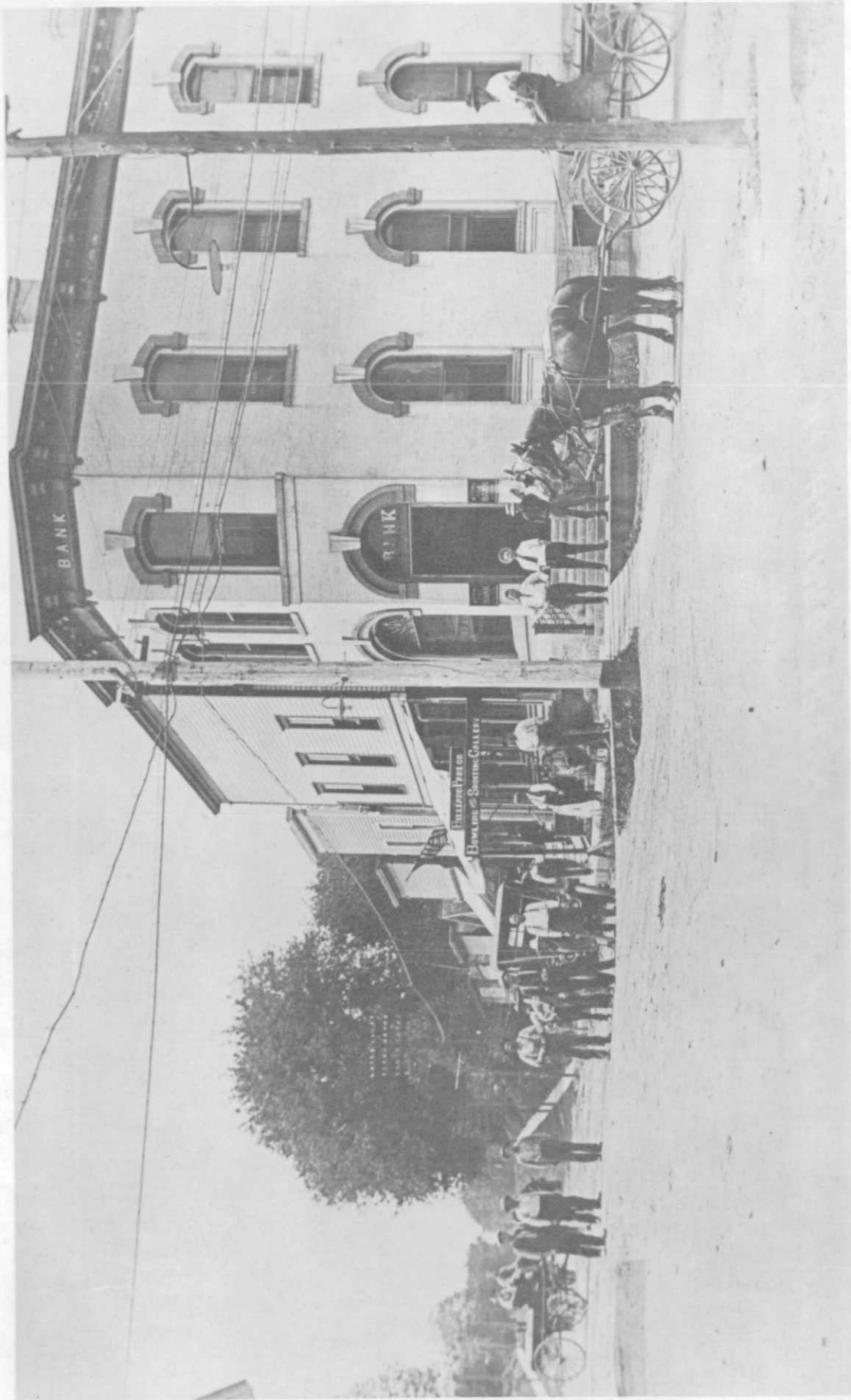


PLATE XIV

Photograph, Looking East on Main from its Intersection  
with Downey. Note: Sidewalks, Town Pump, Bandstand,  
Trees, and Livery Stable, east of Albin & Douglass.  
Photograph, circa 1910, from files of  
Mildred Speight.

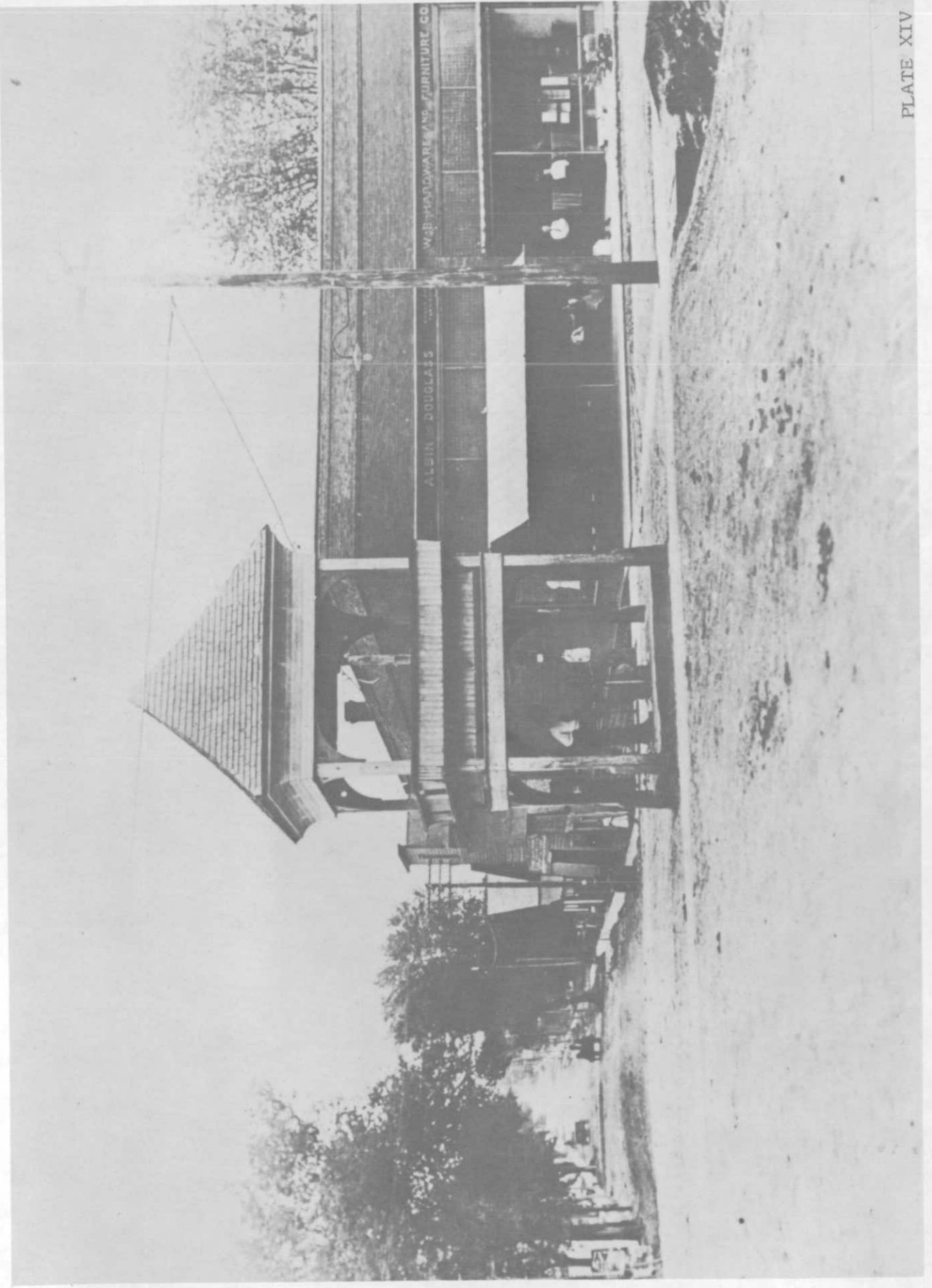


PLATE XV

Photograph, Looking West on Main from its Intersection with Downey. Note: Bandstand, Town Pump, Trough, Sidewalks, Hitching Rails. In the Hoover years, the Julien Hotel had been Crook's Hotel and the Bowling & Shooting Center the Albin Building. Photograph, circa 1914, from files of Sig Larson.

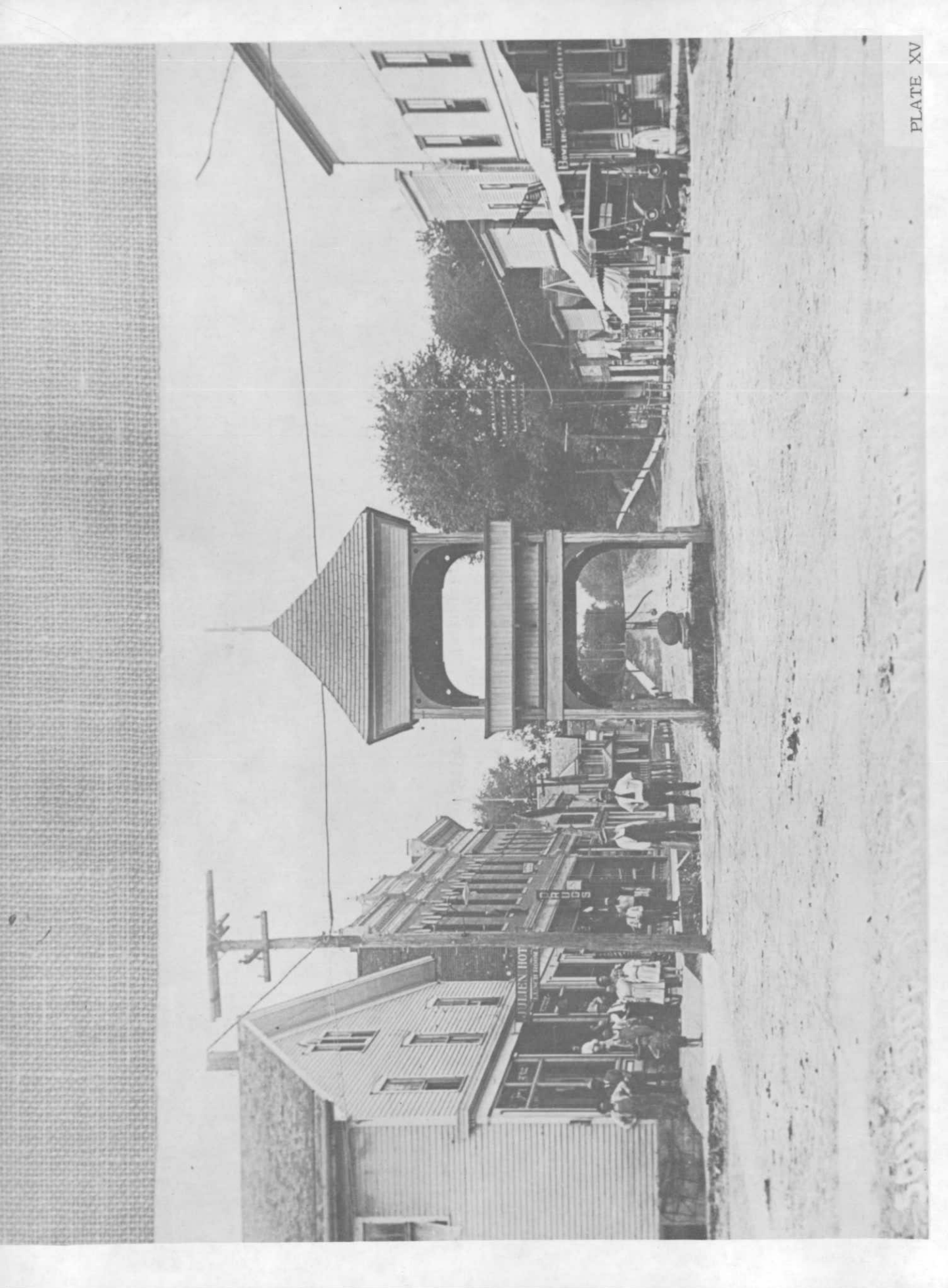
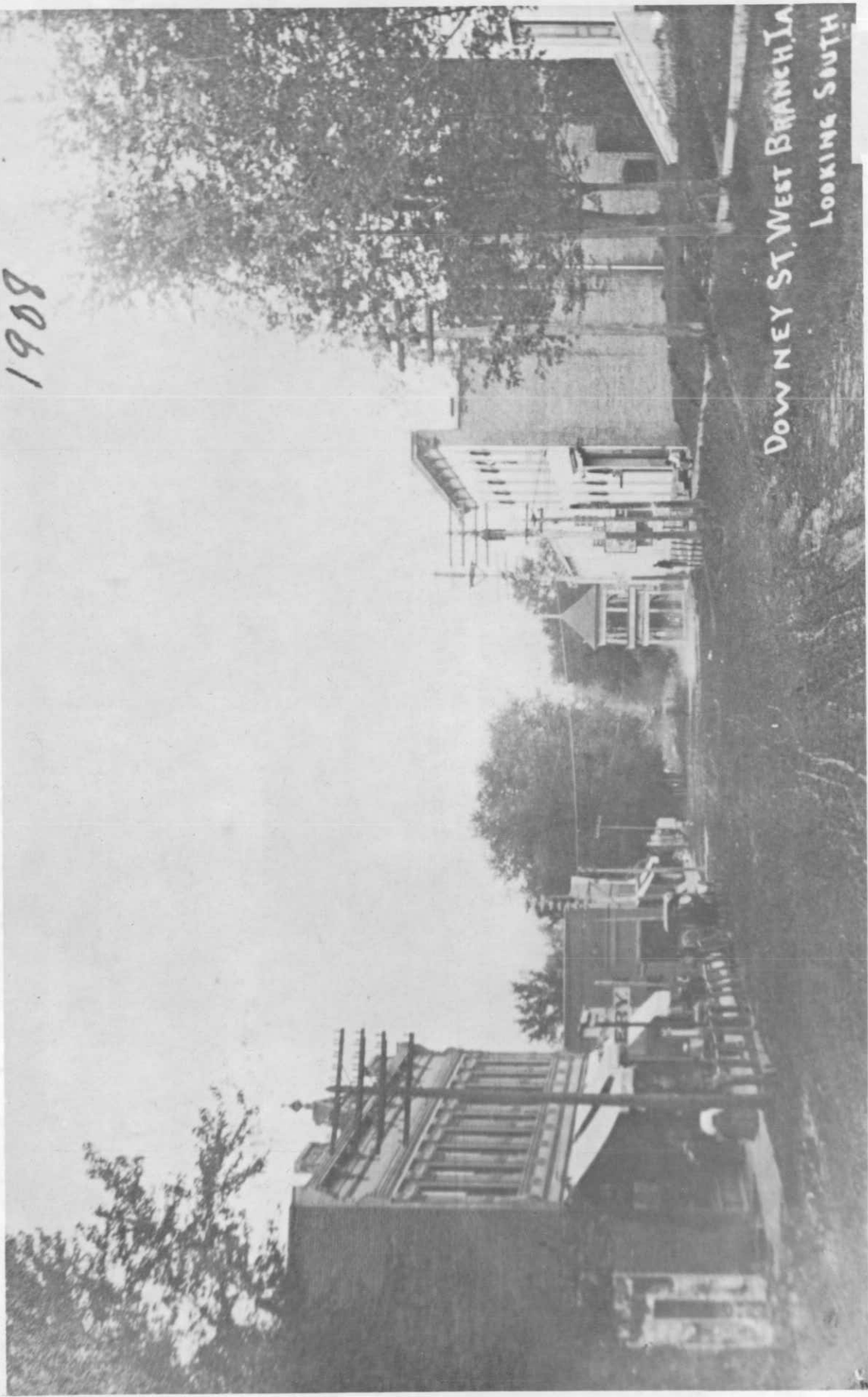


PLATE XVI

Photograph, Looking South on Downey from a Point in Front of the Friends Church. Note: Bandstand, condition of the Street, Hitching Rails, Sidewalks, and Trees on South Downey. Photograph, circa 1900, from files of Sig Larson.

1981



DOWN NEY ST. WEST BRANCH, IA  
LOOKING SOUTH



PLATE XVII

Photograph of Meat Market in Rear of the West Branch  
Bank. Note: Condition of Street. Photograph, circa  
1910, from files of Mildred Speight.

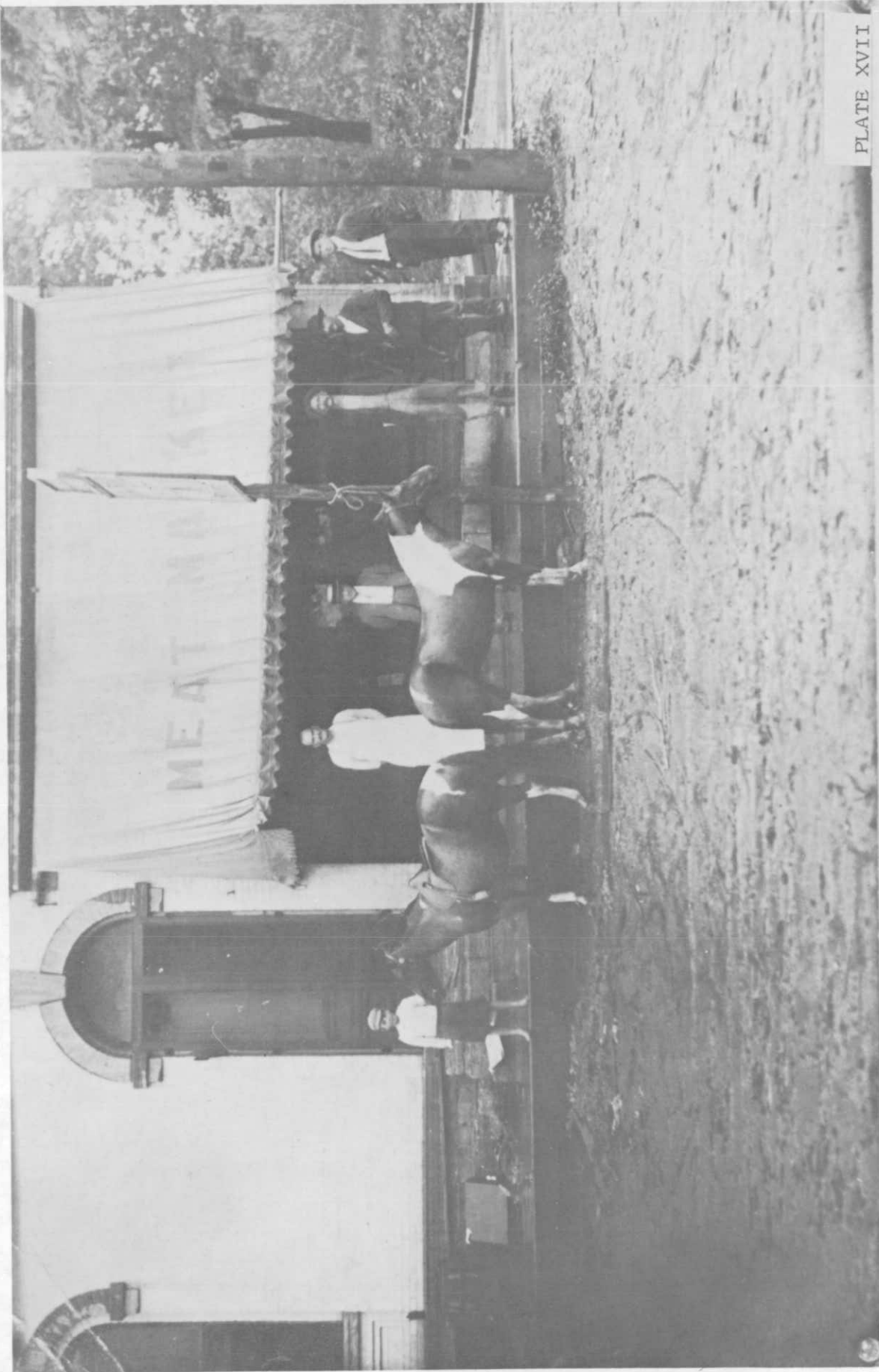
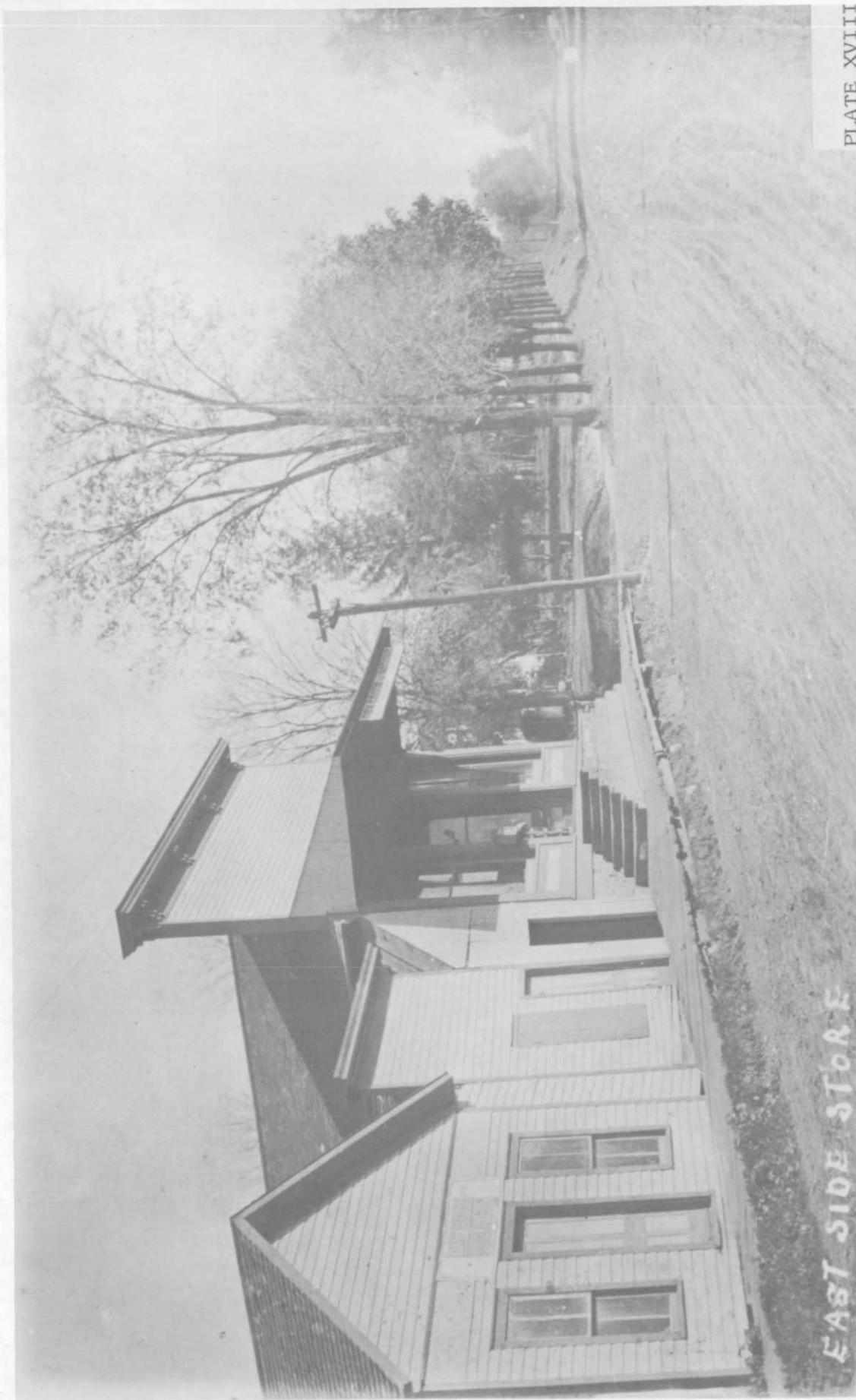


PLATE XVII

PLATE XVIII

Photograph of East Side Store. In Herbert Hoover's West Branch Days, This Building was occupied successively by Penrose Bros.; Tipton Bros.; and William Bremner. Note: Sidewalk, condition of Street, and Telephone Pole. Photograph, circa 1900, from files of Mildred Speight.



EAST SIDE STORE

PLATE XIX

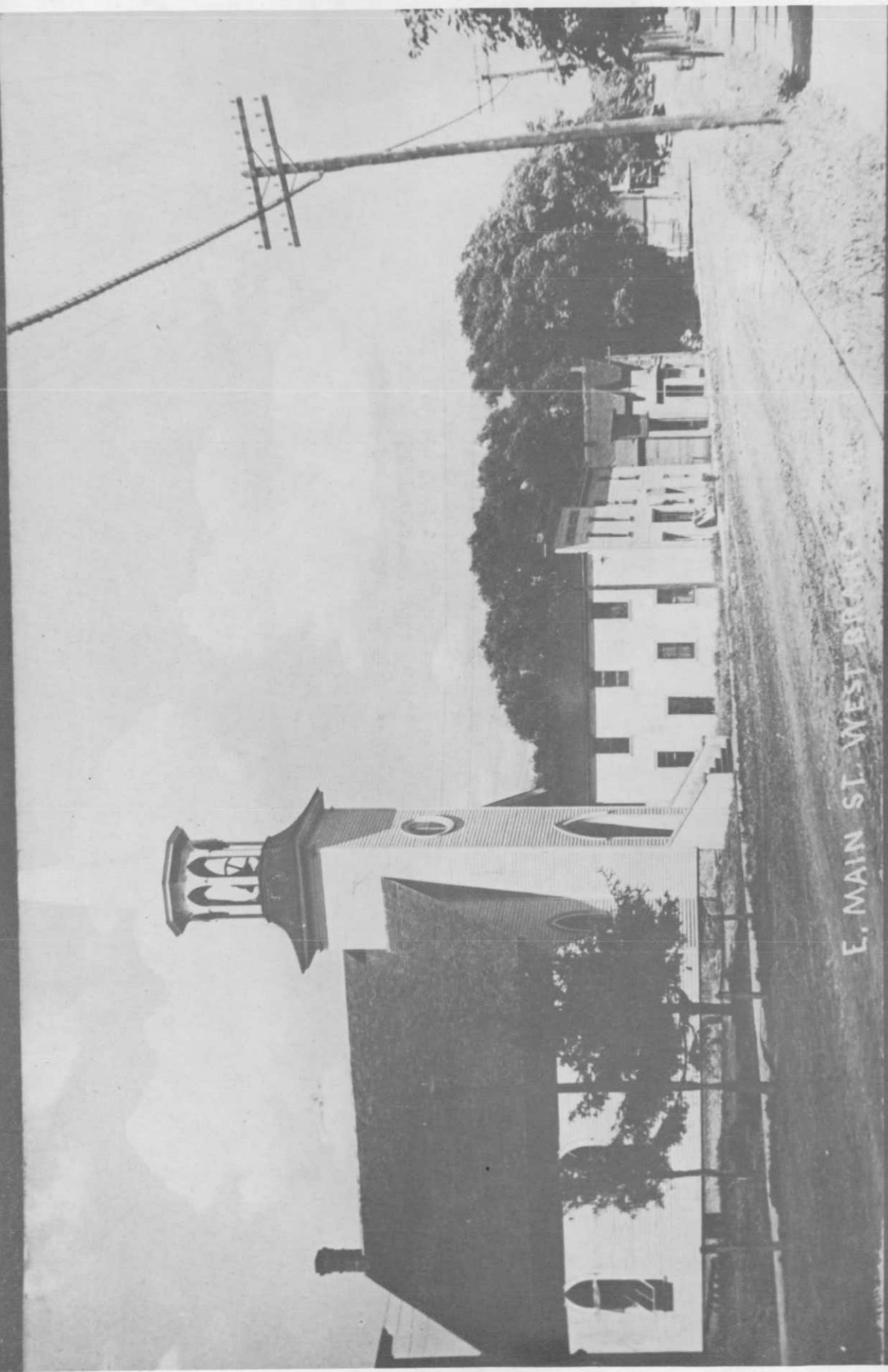
Photograph of the Methodist Church and Parsonage. The Church but not the Parsonage stood during Herbert Hoover's West Branch years. Photograph, circa 1920, from files of Sig Larson.



PLATE XIX

PLATE XX

Photograph of the Presbyterian Church and Main Street,  
Looking East toward Depot. Note: condition of the  
Street. Photograph, circa 1910, from files of Mildred  
Speight.



E. MAIN ST. WEST BR.



PLATE XXI

Photograph of the Southwest Corner of Main and Poplar.  
In Herbert Hoover's West Branch Years, the Millinery  
Shop was occupied successively as a grocery store by  
Jepson, Son & Gruwell; Gruwell Bros. & Co.; Gruwell &  
Johnson; and Johnson. Photograph, circa 1915, from  
files of Sig Larson.

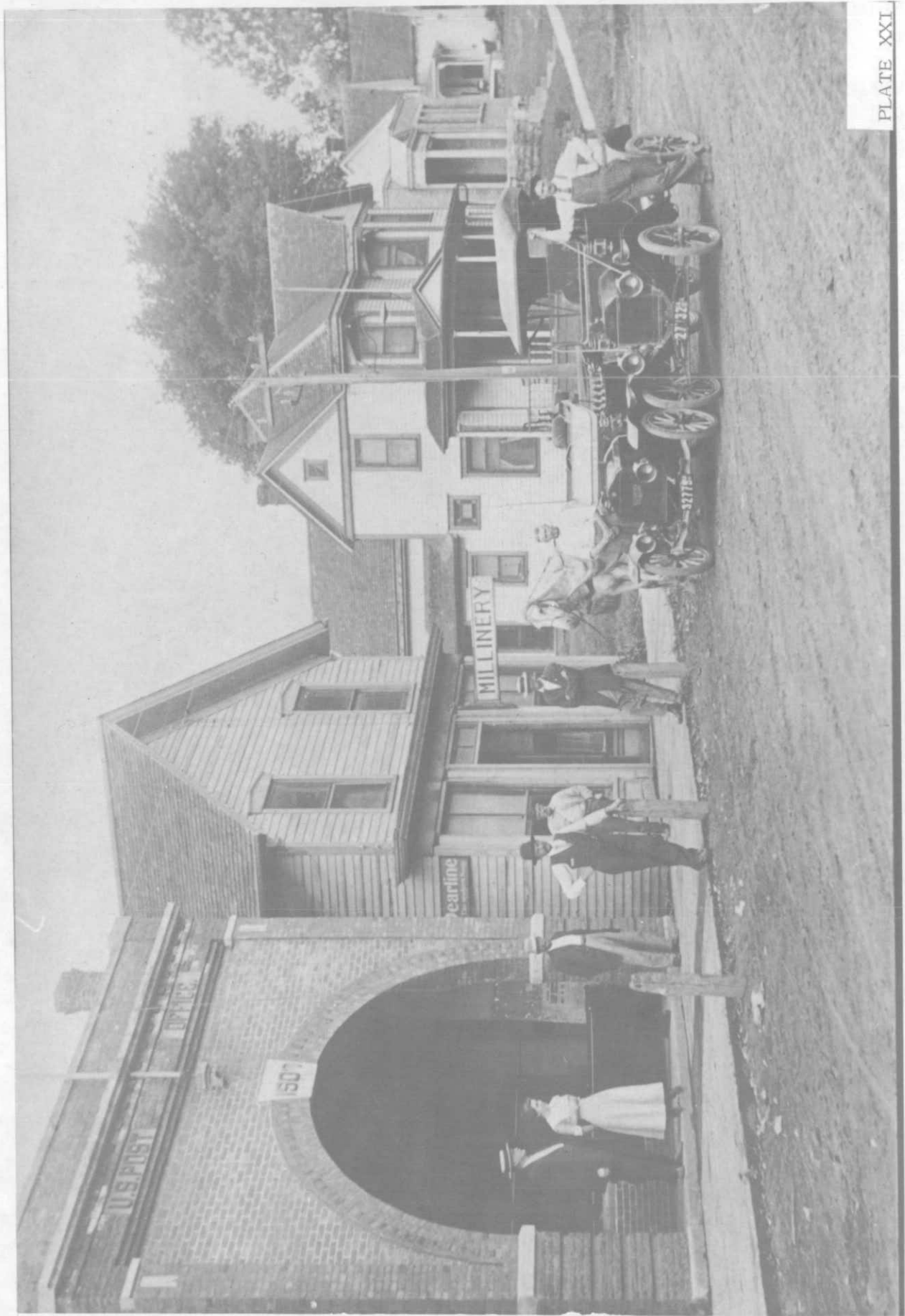


PLATE XXII

Photograph of Horseshoe Park, on North Main, west of Downey. In the 1880's the building to the left was occupied by Van Butler's Shoe Shop. Photograph, circa 1910, from files of Mildred Speight.

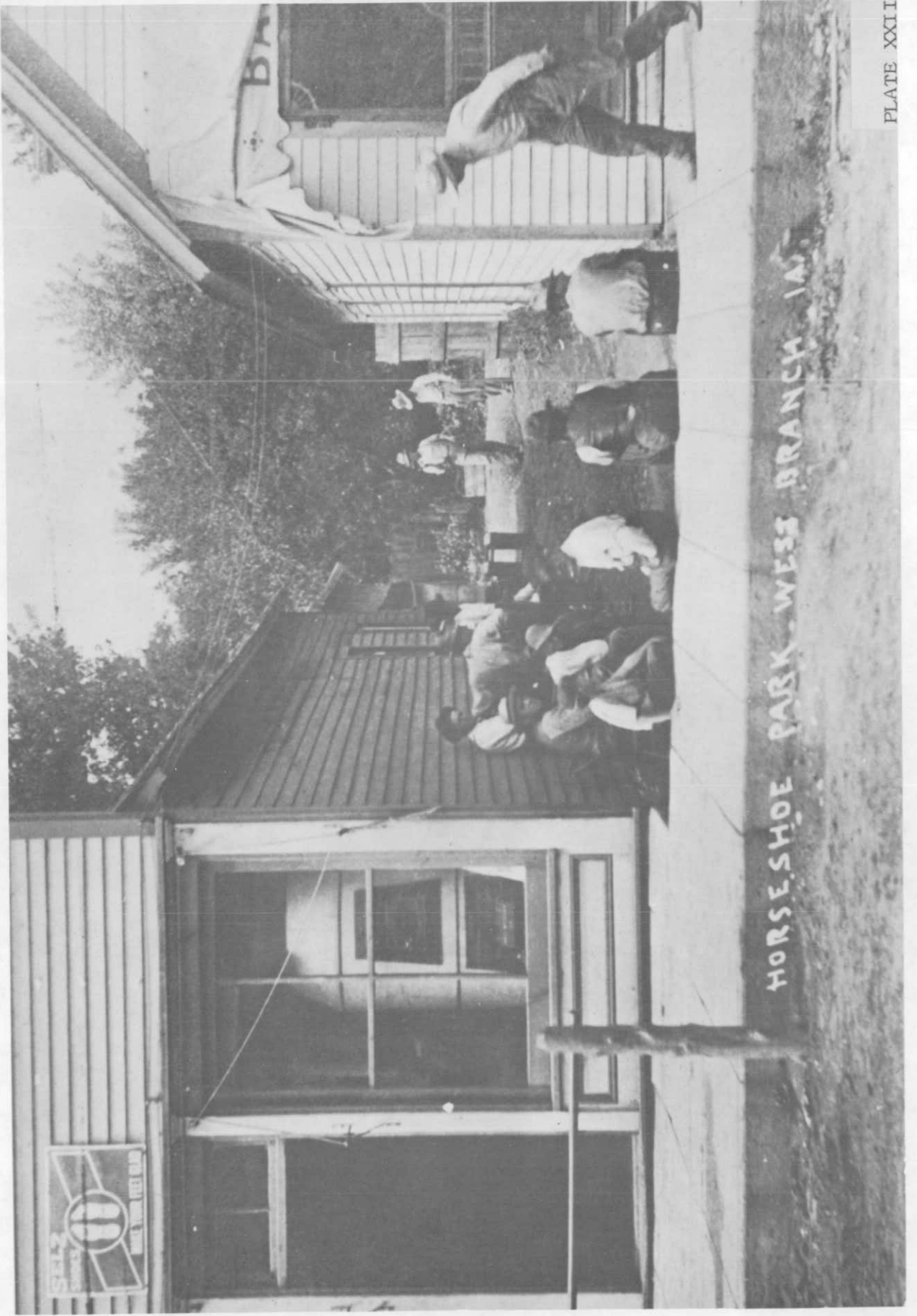


PLATE XXIII

In 1881 J. C. Coombs' Woodworking Shop and Undertaking Parlor occupied this Building. Note: Telephone Pole, Sidewalks, and City Hall (building with bell in background). Photograph, circa 1900, from files Mildred Speight.

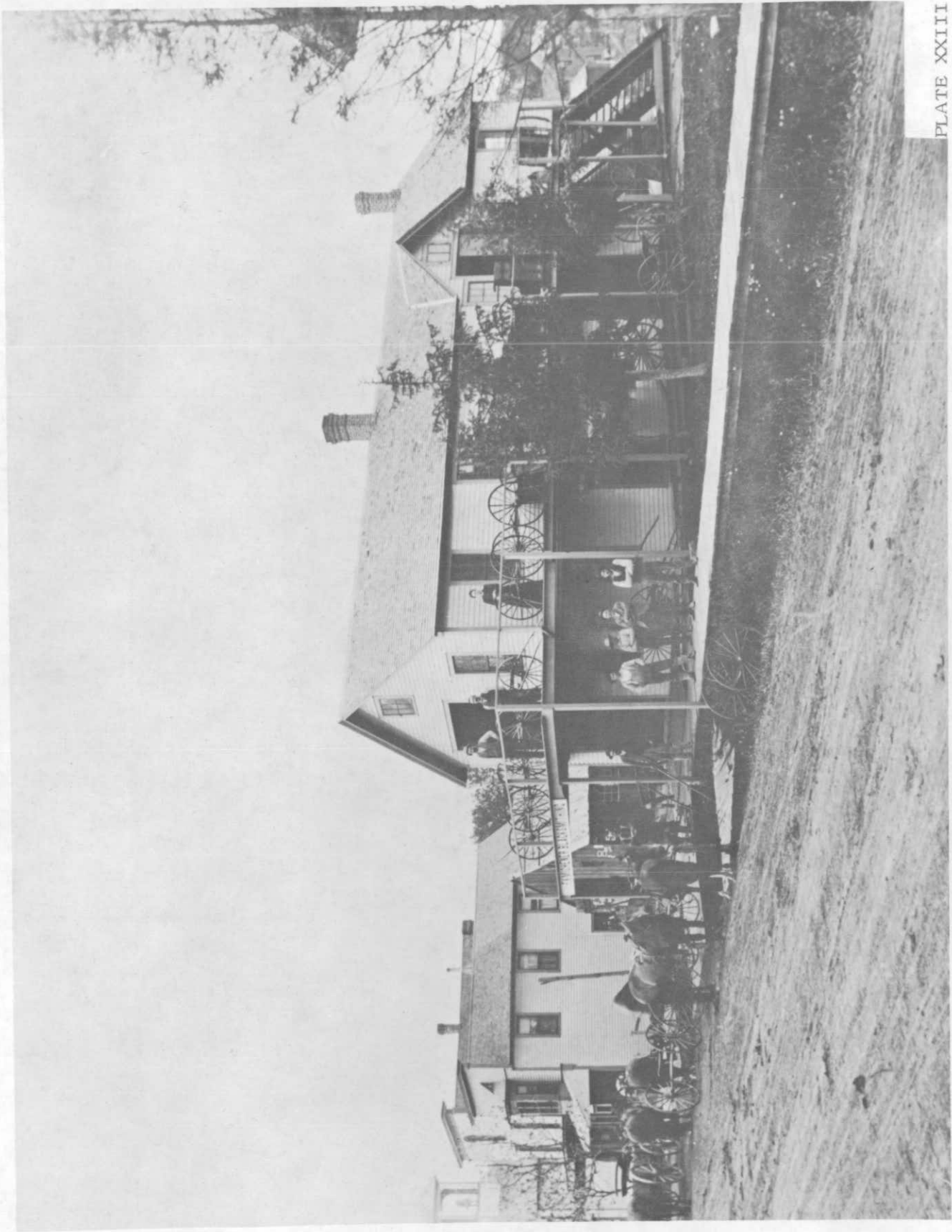


PLATE XXIII

PLATE XXIV

A Panorama of West Branch, circa 1909. Note: Hoover House, Hoover Cottage (as altered by the Scellers), and fences. From Sig Larson collection

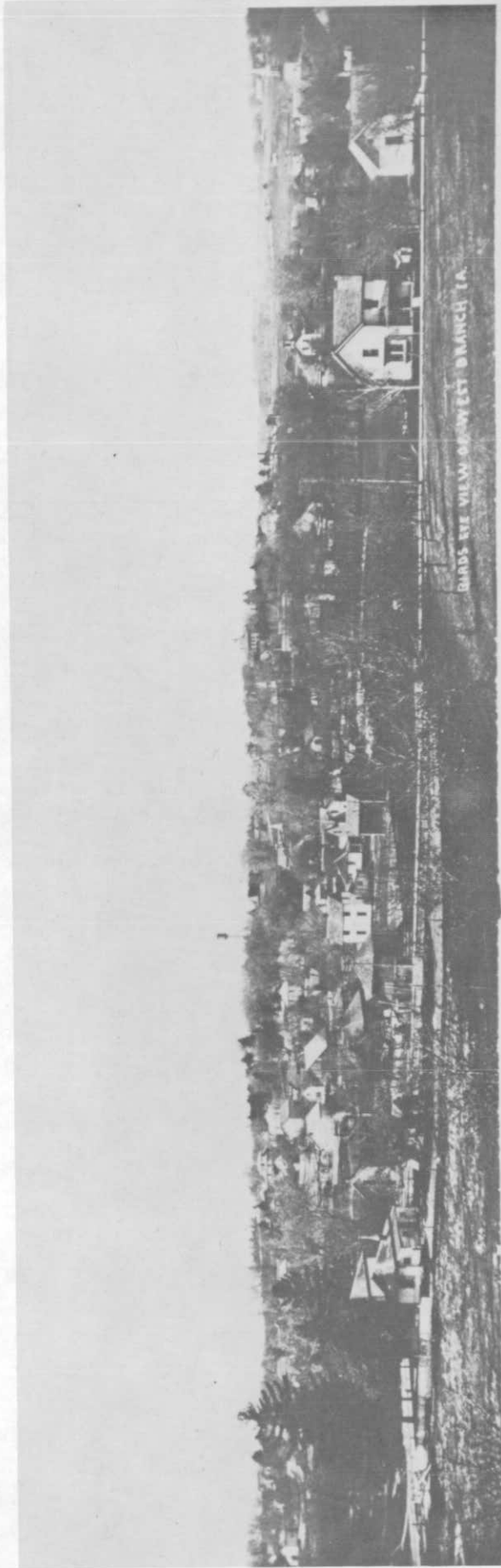


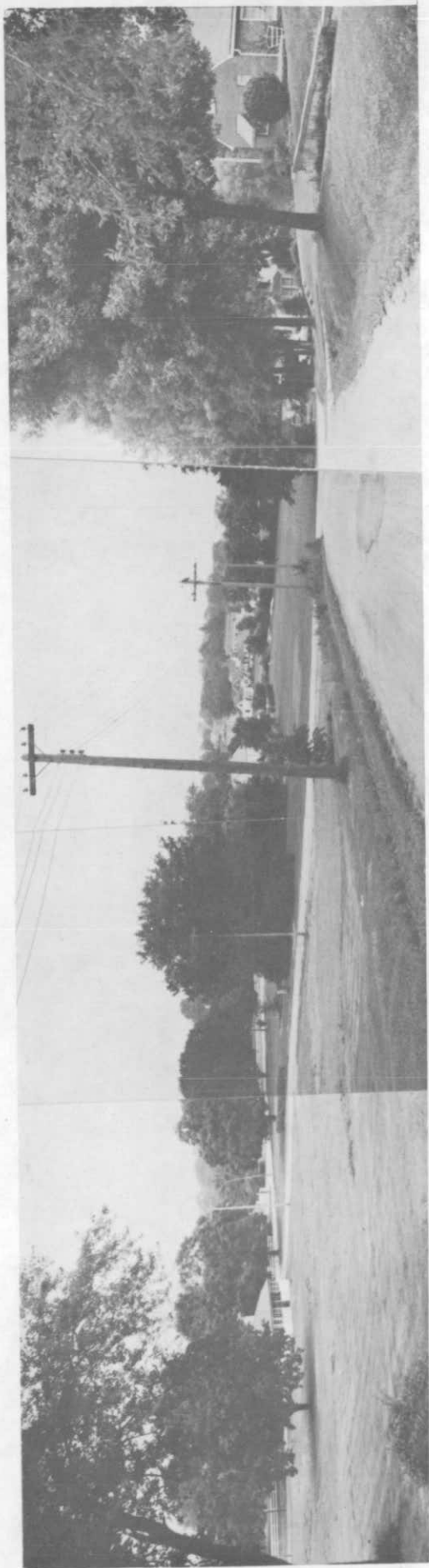
PLATE XXIV

ROADS BY THE VIEW OF WEST BRANCH, IA.



PLATE XXV

A Panorama of West Branch, taken in July 1968 by Historian Glennie Murray. Note: Harley Anderson House, relocated and restored Friends Church, and Downey Street.



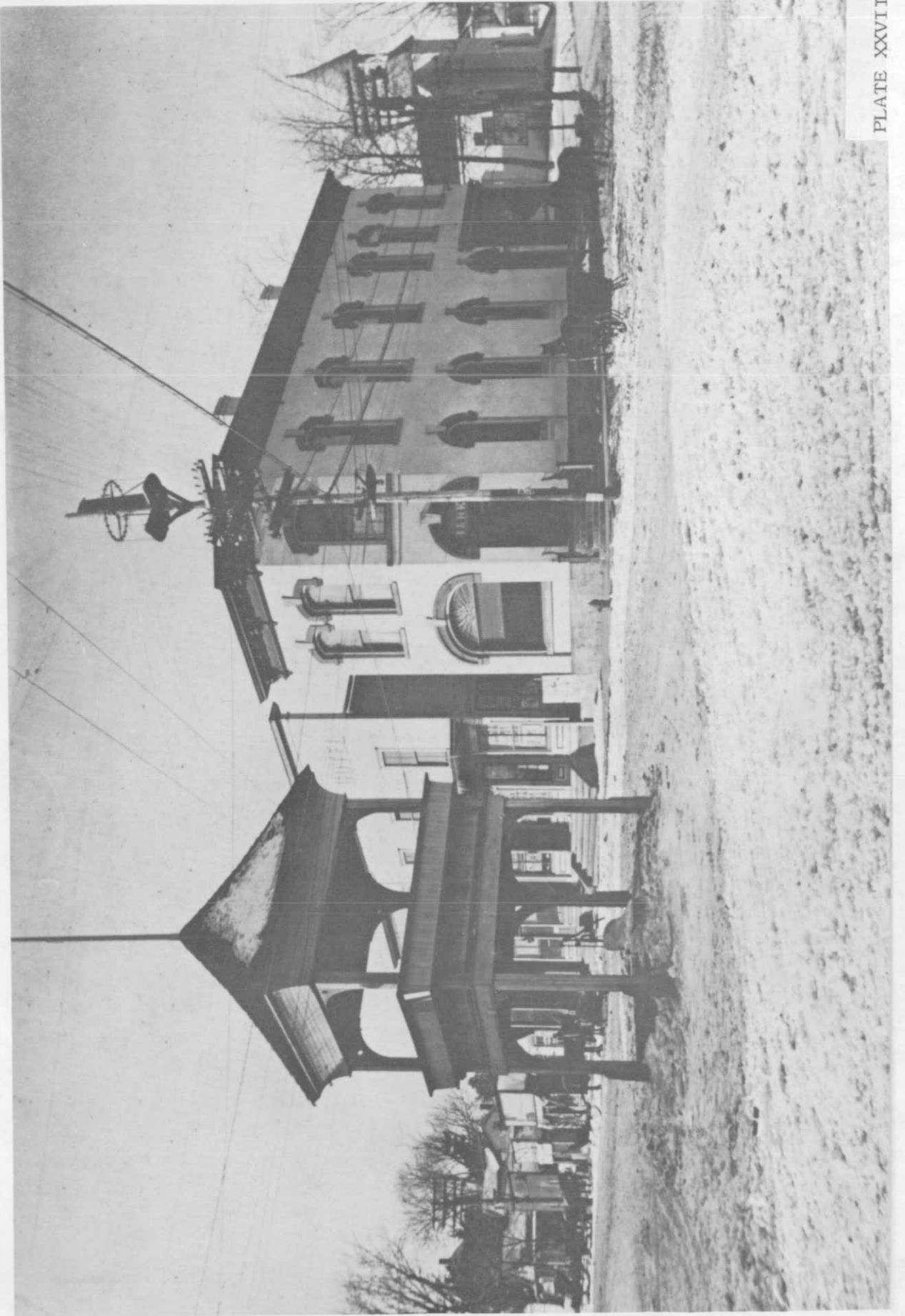
VIEW OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA. 1968



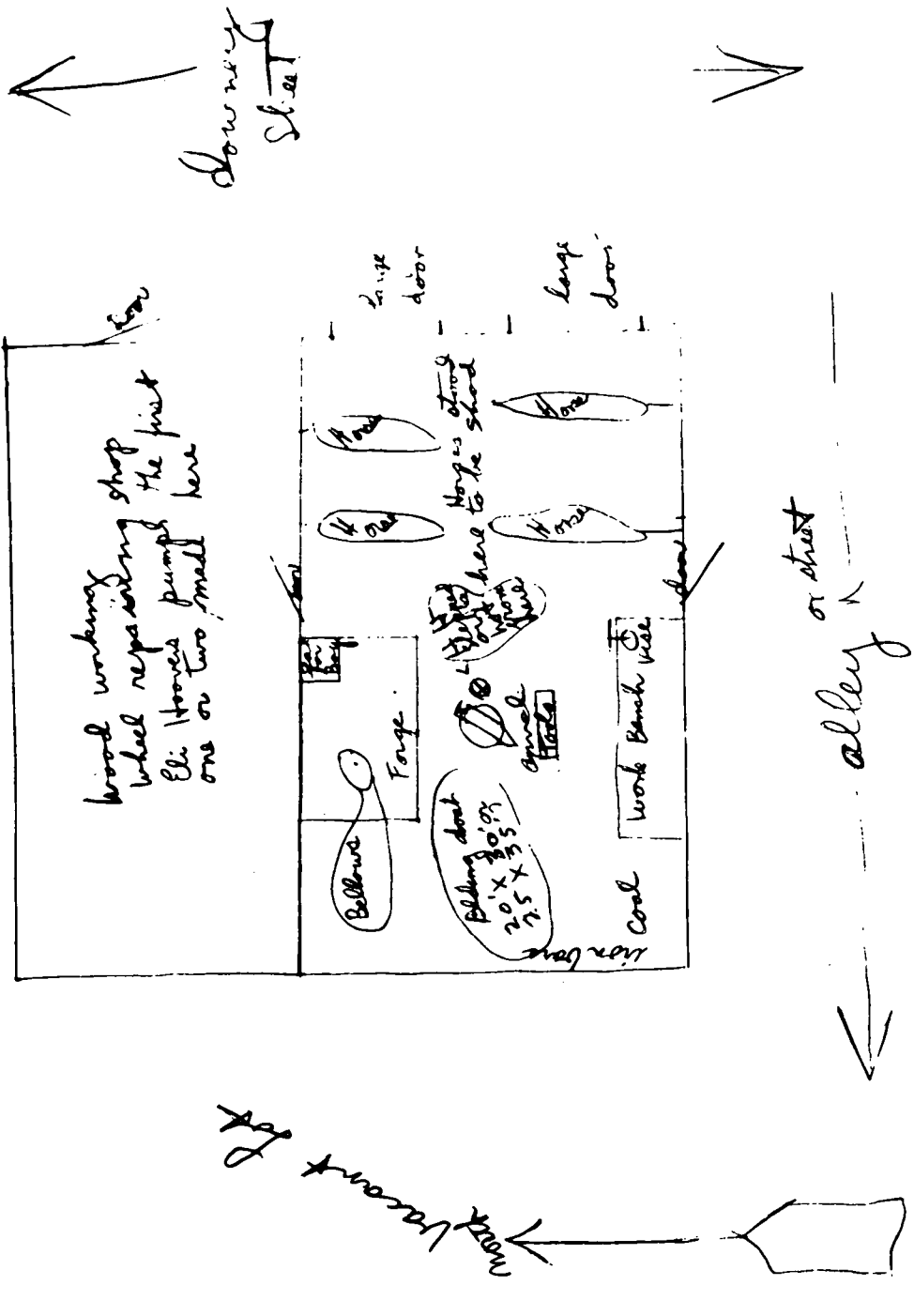
HEHO 46

PLATE XXVI

Sketch of the Hoover Blacksmith and Wagon Shops, as Recalled by Theodore Hoover. This sketch was prepared by Theodore Hoover in 1948. From Bill Wagner's Files.



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John Hoopes  
 1825 1845

John Hoopes Blacksmith  
 Shop about 1878

It is noted that Green Alley  
 boundary starts in an alley



PLATE XXVII

Photograph of Bandstand, with West Branch Bank, and Albin Building in the Background, circa 1910. From files West Branch Heritage Foundation.