Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Inventory Number: HP-00145032, 96-0025661____ **XX**☐ New

☐ Supplemental

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: ____

☐ Non-extant Year: 2025

***Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully**, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website.*

● Property Name

A) Historic name: KI Haugen Home

B) Other names: ____

● Location

A) Street address: 505 Fifth Ave.

B) City or town: Decorah (☐ Vicinity) County:Winneshiek

C) Legal description:Lots 2&3 in Block 13 of Morse's Addition to West Decorah, City of Decorah, Winneshiek County

Rural: Township Name:____ Township No.: 98 Range No.: 8 Section:16 Qtr:____ of Qtr: ____

Urban: Subdivision: ____ Block(s): ____ Lot(s): ____

● Classification

A) Property category: *Check only one*

- X Building(s)
- ☐ District
- Site
- ☐ Structure
- ☐ Object

B) Number of resources (within property):

If eligible property, enter number of: Contributing		Noncontributing		*If non-eligible property, enter number of:*	
1	Buildings	__	Buildings	__	Buildings
__	Sites	__	Sites	__	Sites
__	Structures	__	Structures	__	Structures
	Objects				Objects
1	**Total**	__	**Total**	__	**Total**

C) For properties listed in the National Register:

National Register status: ☐ Listed ☐ De-listed ☐ NHL ☐ NPS DOE

D) For properties within a historic district:

☐ Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.

☐ Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.

☐ Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: ____ Historic district site inventory number: ____

E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, *if applicable:*

MPD title *Historical Architectural Data Base #*

____ ____

● Function or Use *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Historic functions	**B) Current functions**
OA101 Residence	OA101 Residence
____	____
____	____

● Description *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Architectural classification

05B Italianate

____

____

____

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04C stacked stone

Walls (visible exterior): 02 shiplap wood siding

Roof: 08A asphalt shingle

Other: ____

C) Narrative description ☒ *SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED*

Site Number: ___ Address: ___ City:___ County:

- **Statement of Significance**

A) Applicable National Register Criteria: *Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria*

Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events.	☐ Yes x No ☐ More research recommended
Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.	x Yes ☐ No ☐ More research recommended
Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.	x Yes ☐ No ☐ More research recommended
Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology/history.	☐ Yes x No ☐ More research recommended

B) Special criteria considerations: *Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none*

☐ A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

X☐ B: Removed from its original location.

☐ C: A birthplace or grave.

☐ D: A cemetery

☐ E: A reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F: A commemorative property.

☐ G: Property less than 50 years of page or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

C) Areas of significance
Enter categories from instructions
02 Architecture

D) Period(s) of significance
1882-1935

E) Significant dates
Construction date
1876 X *check if circa or estimated date*
Other dates, including renovations
2005 restoration

F) Significant person
Complete if Criterion B is marked above
K.I. Haugen

G) Cultural affiliation
Complete if Criterion D is marked above
Prominent business owner

H) Architect/Builder
Architect
unknown
Builder/contractor
unknown

I) Narrative statement of significance ☒ *SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED*

- **Bibliography** ☒ *See continuation sheets for the list research sources used in preparing this form*

- **Geographic Data** *Optional UTM references* ☐ *See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments*

	Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD		Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD
1	__	____	____	____	2	__	____	____	____
3	__	____	____	____	4	__	____	____	____

- **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Jenny Werner Date:February 2025
Organization/firm: Decorah Historic Preservation Commission E-mail:historicpreservation@decorahia.org
Street address: 400 Clairborne Dr. Telephone:____
City or Town: Decorah State: Iowa Zip code: 52101

- **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** *Submit the following items with the completed form*

A) ***For all properties, attach the following,*** *as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:*

1. Map of property's location within the community.

2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.

3. Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next top each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.

4. Site plan of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

B) ***For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:***
See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.

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

The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:
☐ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐ *More research recommended*
☐ *This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.*

Comments:

SHPO authorized signature:_____ *Date:* _____

Name of Property County

Address City

C. Narrative Description 505 Fifth Ave - Lots 2&3 Block 13 Morse Addition Decorah, Iowa

Location and Neighborhood Character
This home faces a wide boulevard and is elevated from the street level. The residential neighborhood is a mixture of homes from the 19th century to present day construction. This home is one of two Italianate Style homes built around 1880 that sit side by side and were most likely identical when built.

Site
The lot dimensions, according to Assessor records, are 110.00 x132.00 or 0.33 Acres;14,520 SF. The site is flat, with a concrete sidewalk leading to the back of the property on the east side of the property. A slate tile walkway perpendicular to the main sidewalk leads to the front porch, featuring an offset salvaged front door from the late 19th century. A concrete driveway on the west side of the house leads to a carriage house at the rear of the lot.

Building Exterior Features
This historically Italianate home was restored to its original appearance in 2005 after being purchased by K.I. Haugen's great grandson. The home has been owned by the same family since 1882.
This home has maintained its low pitched roof with replicated paired brackets supporting broad eaves. There is shiplap wood siding and banded trim surrounds the base of the second story. The tall narrow windows were replicated with modern materials in the 2 pane double hung design original to the home. Hood molds, replicated from a remaining hood found in the basement of the home, were replaced onto the first and second story windows. A four paneled front door with center doorbell was salvaged from a farmhouse near Decorah of the same vintage as this home as a replacement during the 2005 restoration of the home. The front porch was restored to its original form with acanthus leaf cut out design on chamfered corner bracket supports, railings and skirting detail replicated from historical photos of the home. The original wraparound porch on the east and back side of the home was reduced to a small side porch with trim details that match the front. The home sits on a cut stone stacked limestone foundation and is oriented north to south on the lot.

A modern carriage house was added to the rear of the property in 2016 on the footprint of the original barn which had been converted to a 3 car garage.

Building Interior Features
The interior living spaces were reconfigured during the 2005 remodel and restoration. The original entry oak stairway was restored and repaired. The interior upstairs 4 panel doors, along with their transoms were restored and returned to use in the bedroom doorways. The original hardwood floors were uncovered and restored. The kitchen was expanded and a half bath and laundry room added to the first floor by reconstructing an enclosed porch on the west side. The back stairway leading to the kitchen was also expanded and reconstructed with modern materials. This stairway was likely the original used to connect the upstairs servant quarters with the kitchen.

Name of Property County

Address City

Documented Building Alterations

Although there is no documentation of the exact year that the home on lot 3 was built, it has been reported to have originally been a one story structure identical to its neighbor to the east at 501 Fifth, with a low ceiling secondary maid's quarters above the kitchen in the rear of the house. In August of 1885, it is documented that K I Haugan did a large addition to this home which is most likely when the second story was added from front to back, including expansion of the maid's quarters.

Around 1900, a small enclosure was added to the rear porch on the east side. It was referred to as the *Consumption Closet* by Haugen family members, its original purpose being a shelter for Minnie Haugen, who suffered from TB, to rest and to take in fresh air. Minnie Haugen succumbed to the disease in 1902.

Sometime during the late 1950s, exterior aluminum siding was installed over the wooden siding resulting in the removal of the window hoods and roof brackets. A porch on the westside was also enclosed during this time. In 1978, the house was converted into a duplex of rental apartments. The home remained with these alterations until the 2005 exterior restoration and interior remodel. Two brick chimney stacks and connected wood stoves were removed in 2005.

Narrative Statement of Significance

505 Fifth Ave. is significant because it was originally the home of prominent entrepreneur Klemet Ivar Haugen and because the home was in 2005 carefully restored to its 1885 appearance. Klemet Ivar Haugen was a merchant and the owner of the *Big Daylight Store* which advertised sales of "dry goods, carpets, shoes and groceries" and by 1905 was claiming to be "the largest store in Winneshiek County." "Mr. Haugen was described as an honest, industrious, economical, prudent, generous and public spirited man." This business was very successful for 50 years until 1935 when it closed. 311 W. Water Street, built by Haugen in 1890, is listed as a "contributing property" in the 2017 NRHP Decorah Commercial Historic District. Haugen's name is displayed in stone on the exterior of that downtown structure.

On the occasion of the store's 35th anniversary, a newspaper article stated "Mr. K.I. Haugen, the pioneer dry goods merchant, has the record for service in this city in the dry goods business, and is only exceeded in point of years by Ben Bear, the well known clothier. Few men are better known or more highly regarded than Mr. Haugen. His steady, continuous business growth, his genial, manly character, his public spirit and his fairness of dealing at all times has won him the confidence of the people" (Decorah Public Opinion, March 5, 1912)

"Together with Brynild Anundsen, he served as Decorah's representative to the coronation of Norway's King Haakon and Queen Maud in Trondheim Cathedral in 1906." (Davis, 59)

Name of Property County

Address City

Klemet Iver Hagen - K.I. Haugen chronology (with notes on ownership of relevant properties)

1850 K.I. Haugen born in Berkeshauge, Sigdal, Norway
1867 K.I. arrives in the United States - settles in Spring Grove MN with relatives
1871 K.I. moves to Decorah, IA - employed as a clerk at Seversons Dry Goods Store
1877 K.I. purchases Severson Dry Goods Store in partnership with Gunder Rierson
1877 K.I. purchase of Lot 2, Block 13 Morse Addition, South Street from James T. Relf
1881 Haugen buys out Rierson of store partnership
1882 K.I. purchase of Lot 3, Block 13 from Ira Protheroe
1883 Klemet Haugen marries Minnie Boyd. They have 7 children born between 1884 and 1900.
1890 Haugen builds “double store” at **311 W Water St,** known as the *Big Daylight Store*
1932 K.I. Haugen closes his store after 55 years in business
1935 K.I. Haugen sells Lots 2&3 to Idella Haugen Preus (daughter) for “protection of loss”
1940 Idella Preus sells Lots 2&3 to Donald Haugen (son)
1941 K.I. Haugen dies in Highland Park, IL (at Idella’s home)

Historical Documentation

A house identical to the Lot 3 house was built on Lot 1 (now 501 Fifth Ave) by the Relf Brothers in 1876. “The Relf Brothers have commenced work on their new residence.” (Decorah Bee, April 22, 1876) The placement of windows and doors on the north, east and western sides of both 501 and 505 support that these homes were identical when built. The dimensional details of both homes as shown on the County Assessor's building sketch are identical. Historical photos show that the porch, roof line and Italianate trim details of both homes are also identical. It was reported by Donald Haugen (Klemet’s son) that 505 Fifth Ave was originally a one story home identical to 501 Fifth Ave, which remains a one story structure today.

A copy of the deeds provided by the current owner reveals that the purchase price for Lot 2 was $1300 in 1877 (from James and Fannie Relf) while Lot 3 was purchased for $100 from Protheroe in 1882. Given this cost difference, It is probable that the house identical to the James Relf home was built on Lot 2 by William and James Relf prior to April 1876. A clip from the newspaper states “James Relf is building a house on the lot south of his brother Will’s house, in West Decorah. Jim’s house will be in the same style of Will’s house” (Decorah Republican June 23, 1876).

The Decorah Republican later printed comments on Haugen’s house: “KI Haugen has moved his house on his lot opposite JJ Marsh’s residence in West Decorah, and will build a large addition.” (Decorah Republican April 23 1885), and then “KI Haugen is improving his residence in West Decorah” (Decorah Republican August 6 1885). It appears that Haugen moved the house from Lot 2 to Lot 3 between 1882 and 1885 before adding the second floor addition in 1885. A photo of the Relf home from this time period (which is included below in this Site Inventory) shows an identical structure standing some distance to the west of the Relf home and appears to be on Lot 3. There is no record of the Relf

brothers owning any lots other than Lots 1 & 2 on Block 13 in West Decorah. A 1886 Winneshiek County plat book shows a home on lot 3 in the same outline as it is today.

Construction Chronology with Historical Documentation

In 1876 the Relf brothers built a one-story Italianate house on Lot 1 (501 Fifth Ave.) (““The Relf Brothers have commenced work on their new residence” [Decorah Bee, April 22, 1876].) They soon thereafter evidently built an identical house on Lot 2, as the newspaper reports: “James Relf is building a house on the lot south of his brother Will’s house, in West Decorah. Jim’s house will be in the same style of Will’s house” (Decorah Republican June 23, 1876). Courthouse records show that the Relf brothers owned both Lots 1 and 2 in Block 13 in West Decorah, and that they did not own any other West Decorah property.

K. I. Haugen purchased Lot 2 from James and Fannie Relf in 1877 for $1300 (the cost probably reflecting the presence of the Relf home). In 1882 K.I. Haugen purchased Lot 3, Block 13 from Ira Protheroe for $100, the cost suggesting that the lot was unimproved.

It appears that before the Spring 1885, Haugen moved the house from Lot 2 to Lot 3: “KI Haugen has moved his house on his lot opposite JJ Marsh’s residence in West Decorah, and will build a large addition” (Decorah Republican April 23 1885). An undated photo of the Relf home (which is included below in this Site Inventory) shows an identical structure standing some distance to the west of the Relf home on Lot 1 (501 Fifth Ave.) and appears to be on Lot 3 (505 Fifth Ave.). Corroboration of this move is found in the 1886 Winneshiek County plat book, which shows identical-shaped houses on both Lots 1 and 3.

Finally, K. I Haugen soon thereafter expanded his house on Lot 3 and added a second story. As already noted, the Decorah Republican announced in April that “KI Haugen has moved his house on his lot opposite JJ Marsh’s residence in West Decorah, and will build a large addition” (Decorah Republican April 23 1885), and then in August 1885 noted that “KI Haugen is improving his residence in West Decorah” (Decorah Republican August 6 1885). The placement of windows and doors on the north, east and western elevations of both 501 and 505 support that these homes were identical when built. The dimensional details of both homes as shown on the County Assessor's 2025 building sketch are identical. Historical photos show that the porch, roof line and Italianate trim details of both homes were also identical. And it was reported by Donald Haugen (Klemet’s son) that 505 Fifth Ave was originally a one story home identical to 501 Fifth Ave, which remains a one story structure today.

Name of Property County

Address City

Bibliography

https://winneshiekcounty.advantage-preservation.com Wiineshiek County Newspaper Archives

Winneshiek County Land Transfer Books, Block 13, Morse Addition, West Decorah, Iowa

Gazetteer and Directory of Winneshiek County. 1875.

Alexander, W.E., History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties, Moneckpl Press, 1882

Plat Book of Winneshiek County Iowa, Warner & Foote, Minneapolis Minnesota, 1886

K.I.Haugen Obituary, Decorah Republican, April 1, 1941, Decorah, Iowa

Decorah Genealogy Assn. 808 River St, Decorah, IA

Interview with Donald Haugen conducted by Elizabeth Lorenzen at 505 Fifth Ave, August 1975

Davis, Robert H., Decorah Visitors Guide, The Winneshiek Historical Society, 1996, pg.59

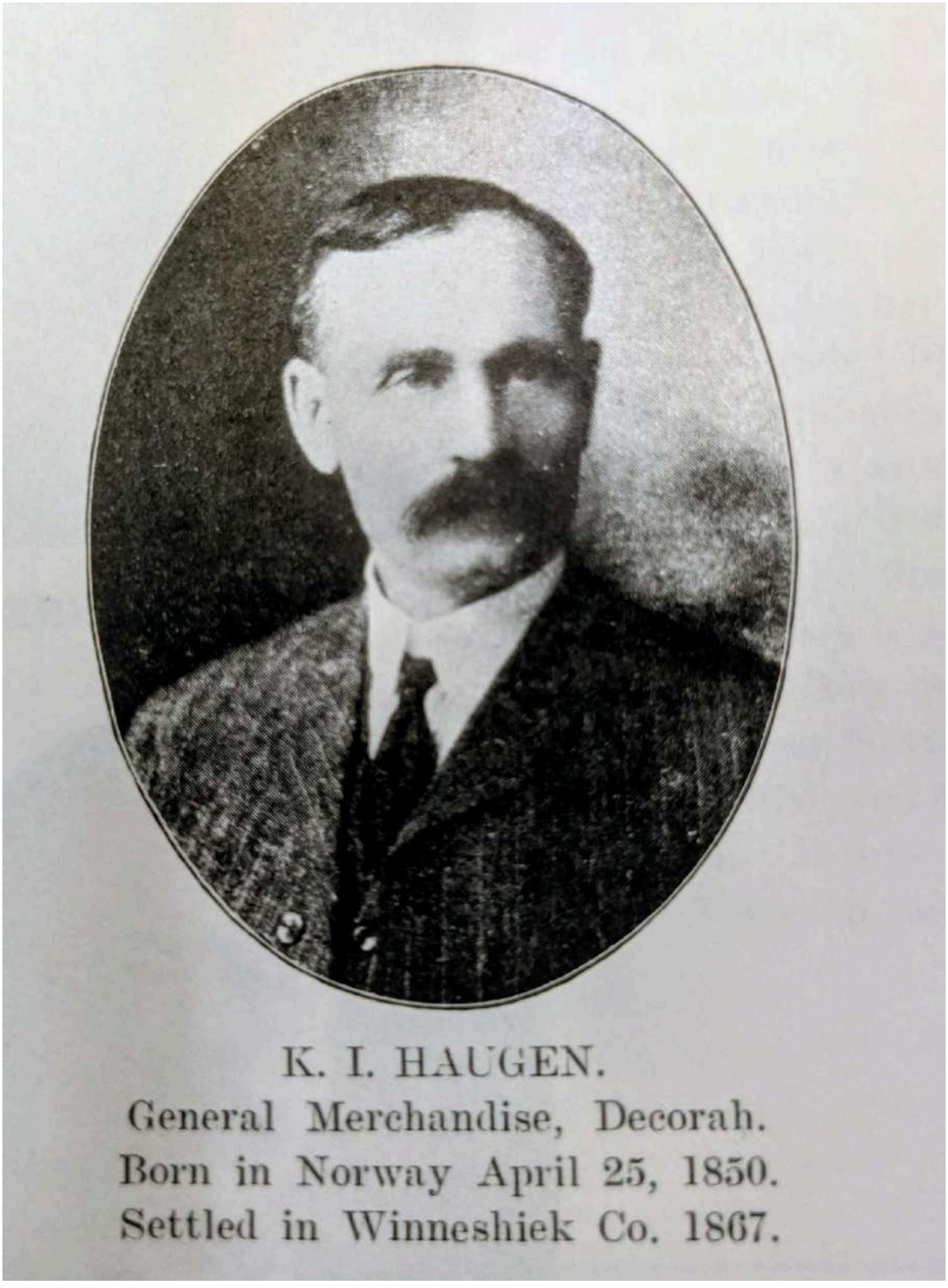
Parcel ID 111630100300 Winneshiek County, IA, beacon.schneidercorp.com

505 Fifth Ave - Lots 2&3 Block 13 Morse Addition Decorah, Iowa

Abstract for 501 5th Ave held by current owners of that property

Name of Property County

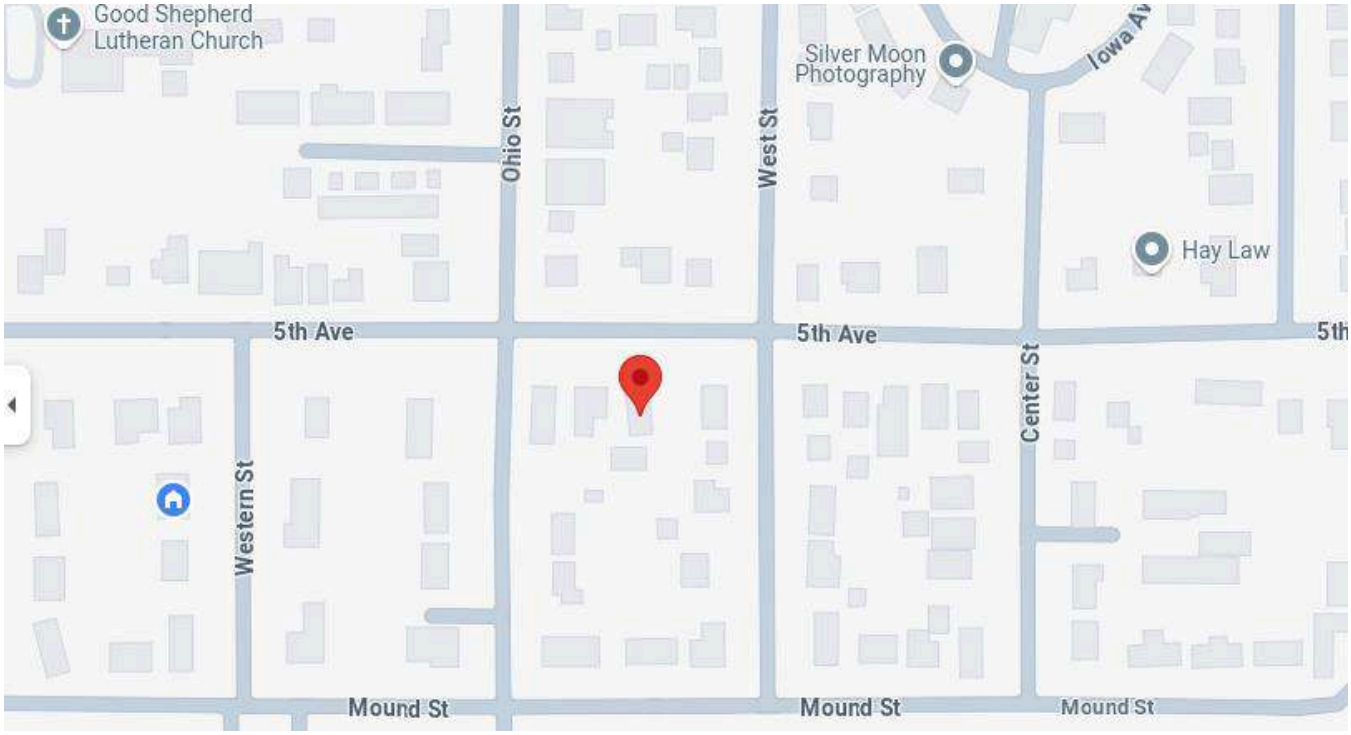
Address City



K. I. HAUGEN.
General Merchandise, Decorah.
Born in Norway April 25, 1850.
Settled in Winneshiek Co. 1867.

Name of Property County

Address City



Name of Property County

Address City

505 Fifth Ave. Jan 2025. East and north elevations. Photo by James Buzza.

Name of Property County

Address City

505 Fifth Ave. Jan 2025. Porch facing North. Photo by James Buzza

Name of Property County

Address City

West side of 505 5th Ave. April 2025 - photo by Jenny Werner

Name of Property County

Address City

Rear view of 505 5th Ave April 2025 photo by Jenny Werner

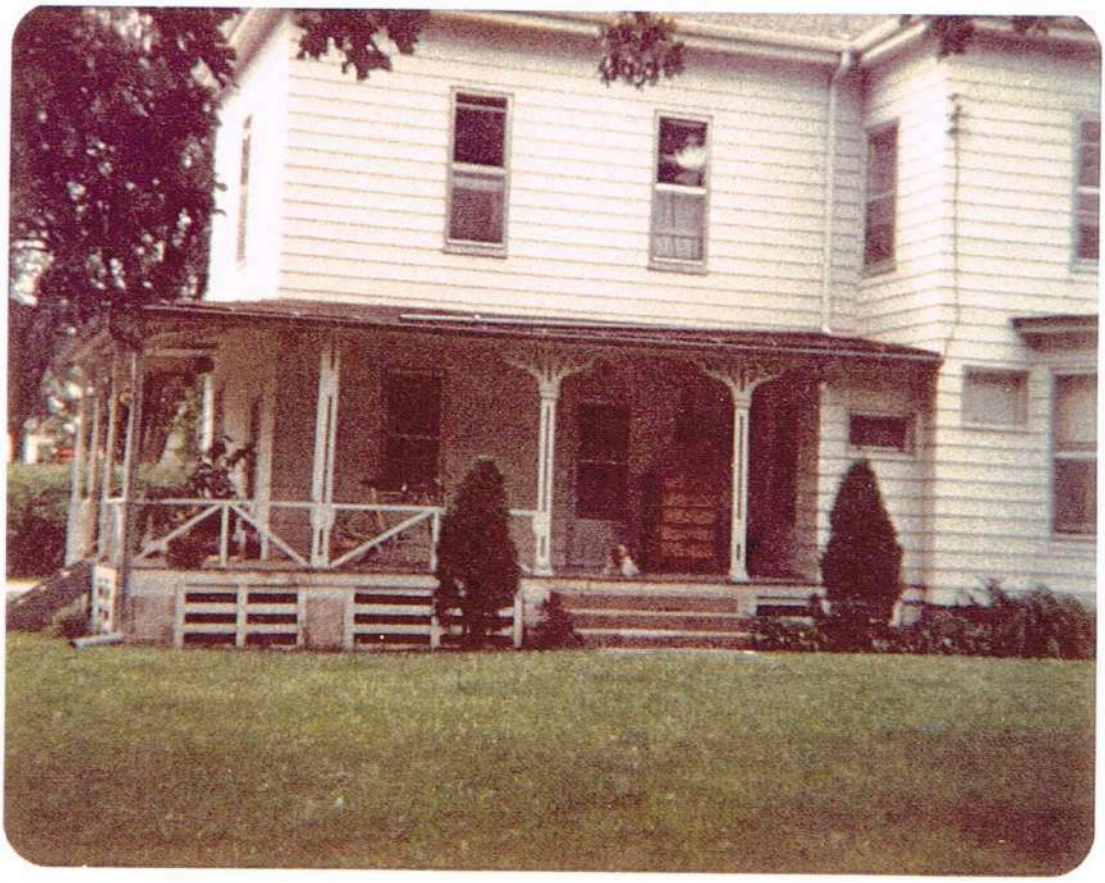
Name of Property County

Address City

Salvaged door on north-facing main entrance, placed in 2005. Photo by Jenny Werner.

Name of Property County

Address City



Back Porch East Side 1975 - Note Consumption Closet at the right corner

Name of Property County

Address City

505 Fifth Ave - 1980 with aluminum siding

Name of Property County

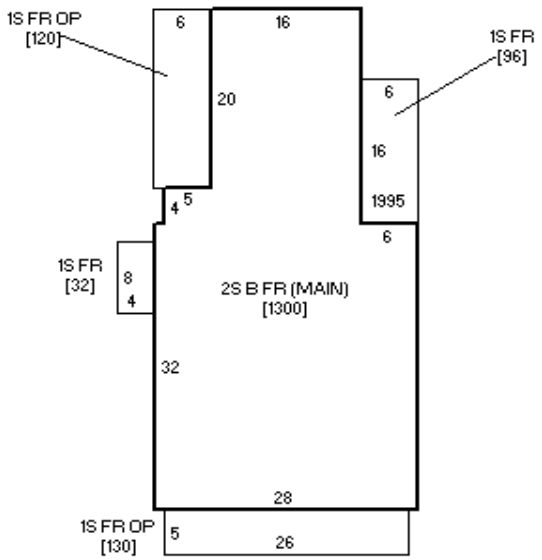
Address City

505 Fifth Ave 1920 or 1930? This photo guided the restoration in 2005

Name of Property County

Address City

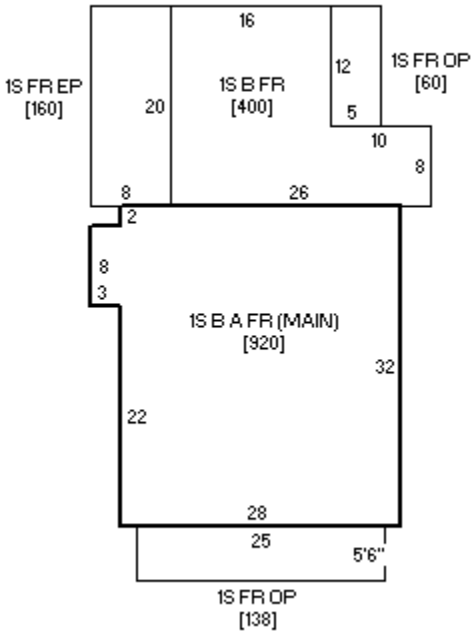
B-1910
GAR- 1984- 42x24



Sketch by www.camavision.com

505 Fifth Ave - https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/

B-1860
GAR-2005- 24x24



Sketch by www.camavision.com

501 Fifth Ave - https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/

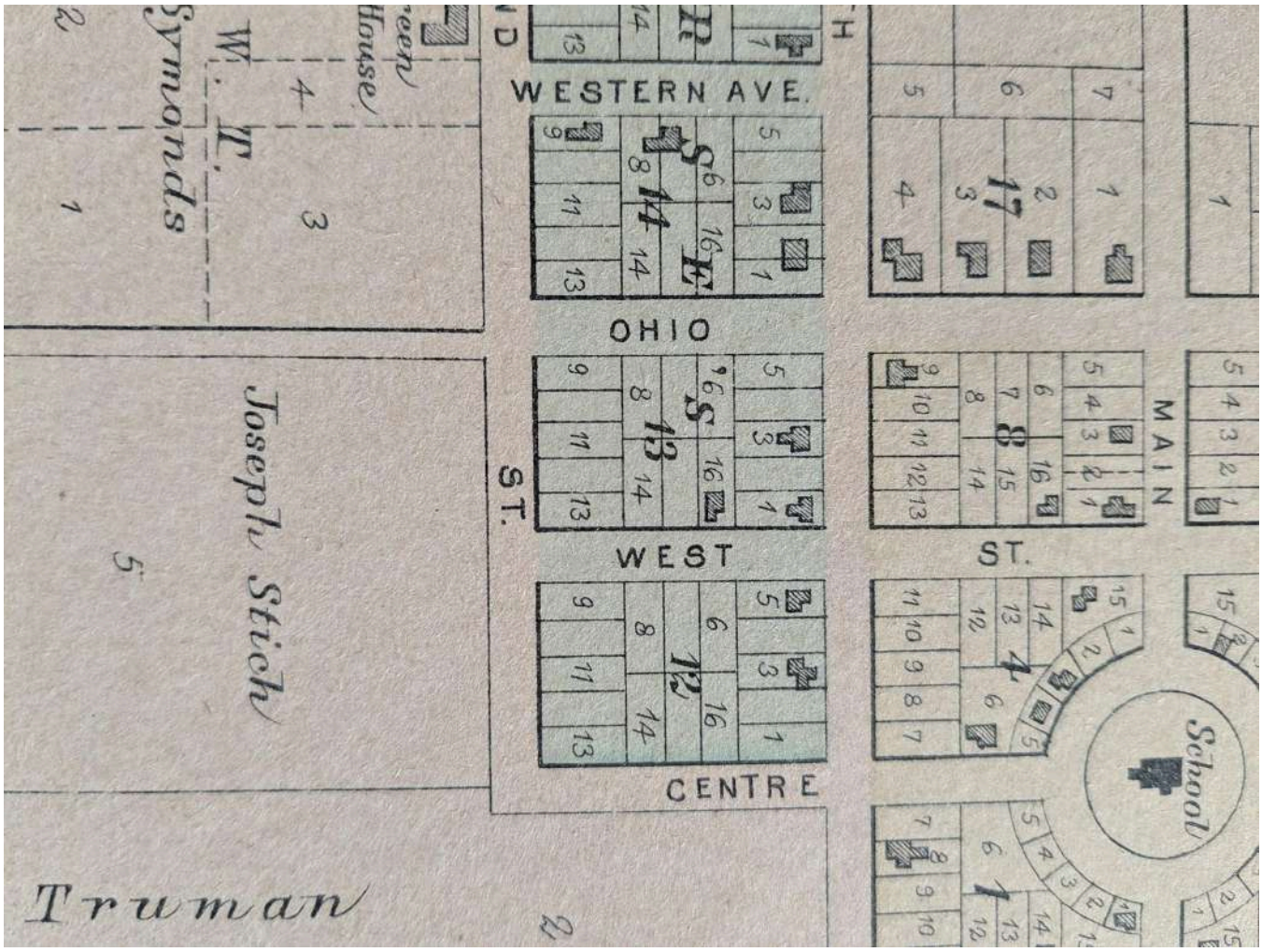
Name of Property County

Address City

501 Fifth Ave 1877-1885? 505 Fifth can be seen on the far right in its duplicate one story original build. Both homes were built in 1876 by James & William Relf.

Name of Property County

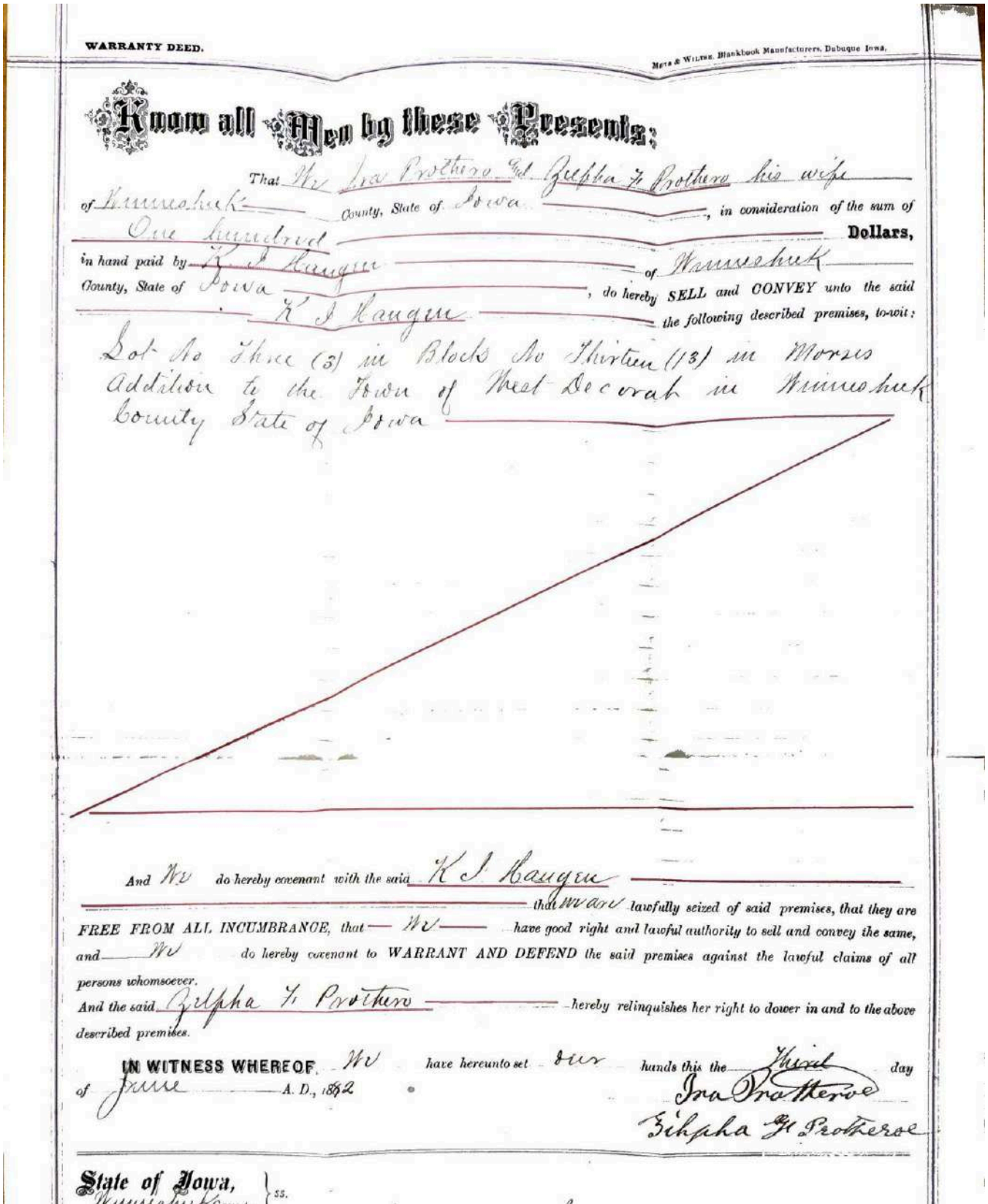
Address City



Plat Map of West Decorah 1886, 501 & 505 Fifth Ave on Lots 1 & 3, Block 13, Morse Addition. Note identical house shapes.

Name of Property County

Address City



WARRANTY DEED.

Mets & Wilms, Blankbook Manufacturers, Dubuque Iowa.

Know all Men by these Presents:

That We Ira Prothero & Zilpha H Prothero his wife of Winneshiek County, State of Iowa, in consideration of the sum of One hundred Dollars, in hand paid by K J Haugen of Winneshiek County, State of Iowa, do hereby SELL and CONVEY unto the said K J Haugen the following described premises, to-wit:

Lot No Three (3) in Block No Thirteen (13) in Morses Addition to the Town of West Decorah in Winneshiek County State of Iowa

And We do hereby covenant with the said K J Haugen that we are lawfully seized of said premises, that they are FREE FROM ALL INCUMBRANCE, that We have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same, and We do hereby covenant to WARRANT AND DEFEND the said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

And the said Zilpha H Prothero hereby relinquishes her right to dower in and to the above described premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands this the third day of June A. D., 1892

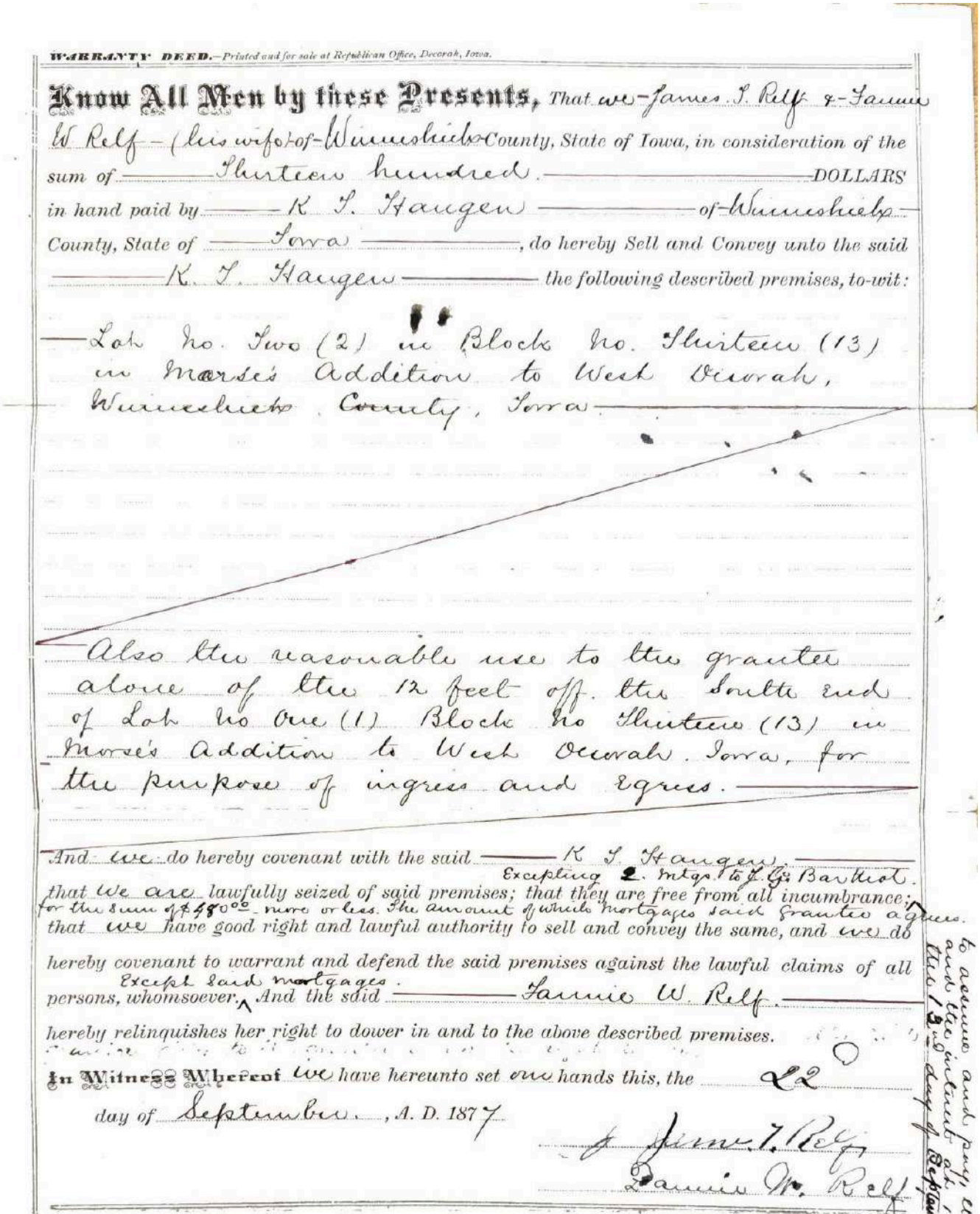
Ira Prothero

Zilpha H Prothero

State of Iowa, } ss.

Name of Property County

Address City



WARRANTY DEED.—Printed and for sale at Republican Office, Decorah, Iowa.

Know All Men by these Presents, That we—James I. Relf & Fannie W Relf—(his wife)—of—Winneshiek County, State of Iowa, in consideration of the sum of Thirteen hundred DOLLARS in hand paid by K I. Haugen of—Winneshiek—County, State of Iowa, do hereby Sell and Convey unto the said K. I. Haugen the following described premises, to-wit:

Lot No. Two (2) in Block No. Thirteen (13) in Morse's Addition to West Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa

Also the reasonable use to the grantee above of the 12 feet off the South end of Lot No One (1) Block No Thirteen (13) in Morse's Addition to West Decorah, Iowa, for the purpose of ingress and egress.

And we do hereby covenant with the said K I. Haugen Excepting 2 Mtgs. to J. G. Barthot. that We are lawfully seized of said premises; that they are free from all incumbrance; for the sum of $480.00 more or less. The amount of which mortgages said Grantee agrees. that we have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same, and we do hereby covenant to warrant and defend the said premises against the lawful claims of all persons, whomsoever, Except said mortgages. And the said Fannie W Relf hereby relinquishes her right to dower in and to the above described premises.

In Witness Whereof we have hereunto set our hands this, the 22 day of September, A. D. 1877

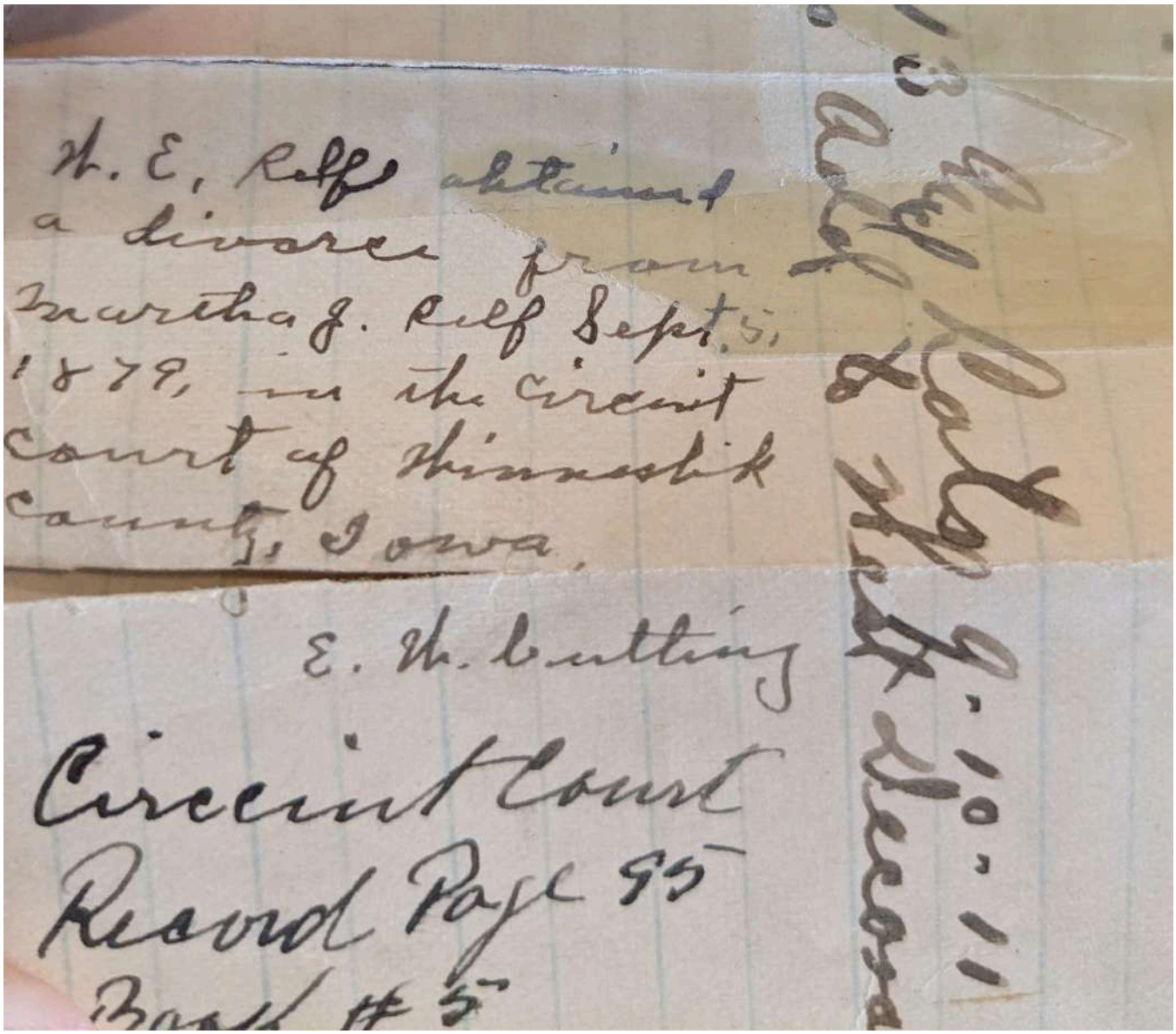
James I. Relf

Fannie W. Relf

to assume and pay the amount of the 1 & 2 mtgs.

Name of Property County

Address City



Entry on the abstract for 501 5th Ave; noting the divorce of William and Martha Relf in 1879. Most likely this was the impetus to sell the home on Lot 2 to K.I. Haugen.

Name of Property County

Address City

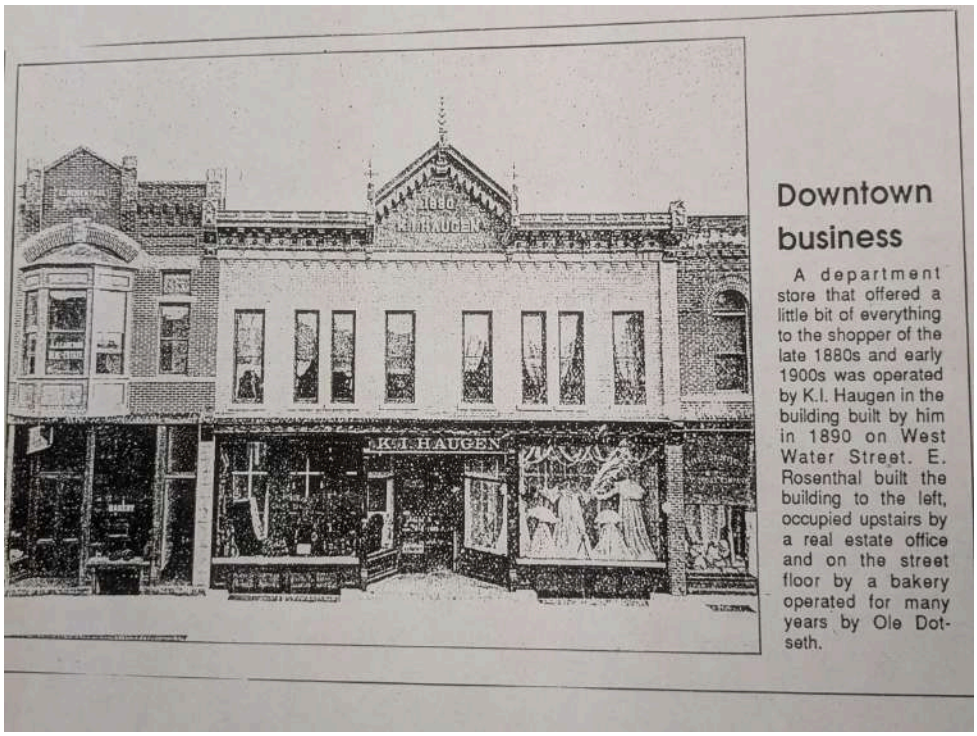


Photo of the Big Daylight Store (311 W. Water St.) circa 1900. Photo published In Decorah Public Opinion November 26,1991.

311 W. Water Street in 2025, photo by J. Werner

Name of Property County

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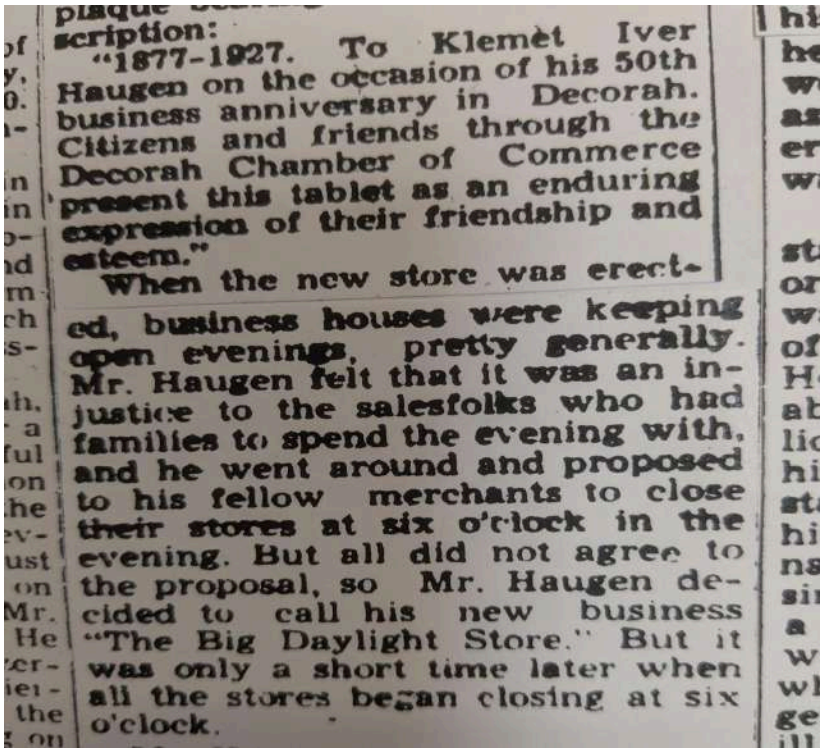

scription:
"1877-1927. To Klemet Iver Haugen on the occasion of his 50th business anniversary in Decorah. Citizens and friends through the Decorah Chamber of Commerce present this tablet as an enduring expression of their friendship and esteem."

When the new store was erected, business houses were keeping open evenings, pretty generally. Mr. Haugen felt that it was an injustice to the salesfolks who had families to spend the evening with, and he went around and proposed to his fellow merchants to close their stores at six o'clock in the evening. But all did not agree to the proposal, so Mr. Haugen decided to call his new business "The Big Daylight Store." But it was only a short time later when all the stores began closing at six o'clock.

Story enscripted on a plaque given to KI Haugen on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in business. Source: KI Haugen obituary Decorah Public Opinion April 1, 1941.

Name of Property County

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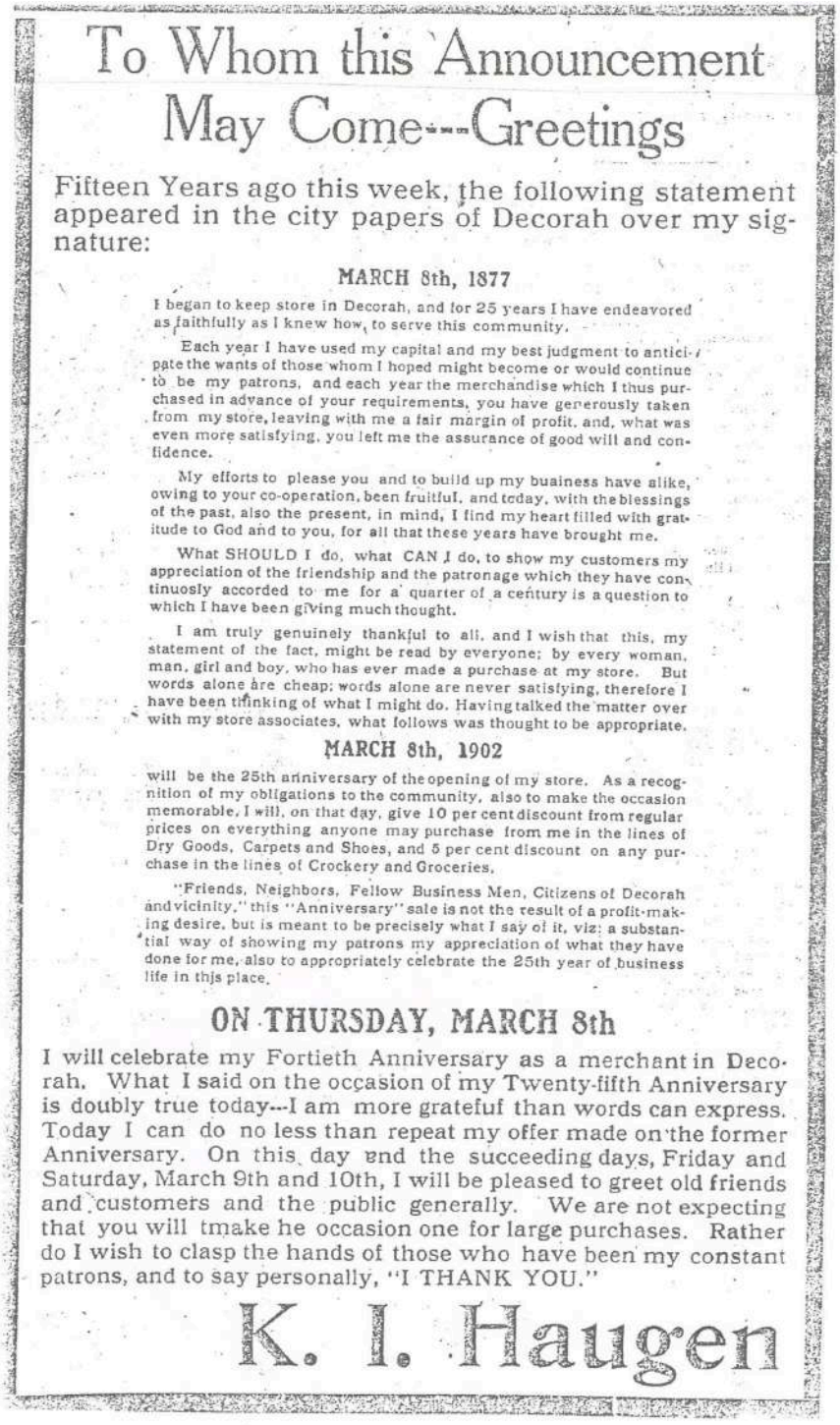

To Whom this Announcement May Come---Greetings

Fifteen Years ago this week, the following statement appeared in the city papers of Decorah over my signature:

MARCH 8th, 1877

I began to keep store in Decorah, and for 25 years I have endeavored as faithfully as I knew how, to serve this community.

Each year I have used my capital and my best judgment to anticipate the wants of those whom I hoped might become or would continue to be my patrons, and each year the merchandise which I thus purchased in advance of your requirements, you have generously taken from my store, leaving with me a fair margin of profit, and, what was even more satisfying, you left me the assurance of good will and confidence.

My efforts to please you and to build up my buainess have alike, owing to your co-operation, been fruitful, and today, with the blessings of the past, also the present, in mind, I find my heart filled with gratitude to God and to you, for all that these years have brought me.

What SHOULD I do, what CAN I do, to show my customers my appreciation of the friendship and the patronage which they have continuosly accorded to me for a quarter of a century is a question to which I have been giving much thought.

I am truly genuinely thankful to all, and I wish that this, my statement of the fact, might be read by everyone; by every woman, man, girl and boy, who has ever made a purchase at my store. But words alone are cheap; words alone are never satisfying, therefore I have been thinking of what I might do. Having talked the matter over with my store associates, what follows was thought to be appropriate.

MARCH 8th, 1902

will be the 25th anniversary of the opening of my store. As a recognition of my obligations to the community, also to make the occasion memorable, I will, on that day, give 10 per cent discount from regular prices on everything anyone may purchase from me in the lines of Dry Goods, Carpets and Shoes, and 5 per cent discount on any purchase in the lines of Crockery and Groceries.

"Friends, Neighbors, Fellow Business Men, Citizens of Decorah and vicinity," this "Anniversary" sale is not the result of a profit-making desire, but is meant to be precisely what I say of it, viz: a substantial way of showing my patrons my appreciation of what they have done for me, also to appropriately celebrate the 25th year of business life in this place.

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 8th

I will celebrate my Fortieth Anniversary as a merchant in Decorah. What I said on the occasion of my Twenty-fifth Anniversary is doubly true today---I am more grateful than words can express. Today I can do no less than repeat my offer made on the former Anniversary. On this day and the succeeding days, Friday and Saturday, March 9th and 10th, I will be pleased to greet old friends and customers and the public generally. We are not expecting that you will tmake he occasion one for large purchases. Rather do I wish to clasp the hands of those who have been my constant patrons, and to say personally, "I THANK YOU."

K. I. Haugen

Letter to the public published in 1917. News paper source unknown

Name of Property County

Address City

Home From Norway.

Aug 17 1911 Rep

On Thursday last Carl Larson, foreman of the bindery at the Lutheran Publishing House, arrived home from his trip to Norway, having been absent twelve weeks. He reports a very enjoyable time and an improvement in health that was well worth the trip. He was not ill a moment while on the water and his voyages on land were one constant change of beautiful and thrilling scenery. His most unique experienc was to indulge in snowballing on July 3d. He was on his way from Christiania to Bergen and the train halted on the summit of a mountain where winter reigns perpetually.

During part of the time he was with K. I. Haugen, who left here in June. Mr. Larsen tells us that Dr. Stabo and family and Mr. Haugen will not return until late September, owing to inability to secure passage on any of the steamship lines.

Home About Oct. 14th.

Letters received last week from K. I. Haugen announce that he expects to sail from Norway the last of this month and hopes to be home in time for the semi-centennial celebration at Luther College. He had expected to be home earlier but the return passage from Europe was so thoroughly booked up that he had to wait fully two weeks longer than he intended when he left home.

Sept 14 1911 Rep

LETTER FROM K. I. HAUGEN.

Gives Short Sketch of His Summer's Visit to His Boyhood Home.

Oct 5 1911 Rep

SIGDAL, Norway, Sept. 16, 1911.

Editors REPUBLICAN:—

In 1906, when, in company with my good friend B. Anundsen I visited Norway, we had certain duties regarding the coronation delegated to us, routes laid out for our travel, etc., which left but a few days in our birthplace,—just enough to awaken a desire to make another visit.

Arriving in Christiania July 17th, after a pleasant voyage, a few days were spent there, during which time I met my good friends Dr. Stabo and family and C. Larsen. On July 22d I left for Sigdal, my birthplace, arriving there on the 23d, and have stayed here all the time since, except a ten days' trip to Bergen and Aalesund, from Aug. 5th to the 15th. My purpose was not to travel much but to have a quiet recreation, which I have realized in full measure. The weather has been almost continuous sunshine, and the natives call it warm, but just enjoyable to an American used to several degrees more.

My special pleasure, however, has been in retracing my childhood paths, and memories of home, school, plays, and work up to my 15th year, at which time I had to go out and earn my support, like thousands of other boys brought up under similar surroundings back in the sixties, and whom, like myself, in their teens left for a supposedly sunnier land.

It was a great disappointment to find that the old log house, my childhood home, was torn down, and a wooden villa in its place. The little home, perhaps 15x15, where mother managed to rear six children on a very meager income, but how happy this home was just the same—to me.

My school days were not many—I think some 8 or 10 weeks in the year. No school house at that time—a movable school from farm to farm, a few days at each, and only one teacher. Such text books as grammar, geography, history, I never saw. But I am sure we had just as much fun as boys nowadays. In this same district to-day they enjoy a fine school house and 36 weeks' school a year, and a continued school where the practical branches suitable for the community are being taught.

Most of the primitive tools for the different kinds of farm work are now replaced with modern machinery in keeping with civilization in other countries.

Norway the past six years or so has made great progress industrially. I will but mention the fact that her great water falls are being utilized for power and manufacturing interests are springing up very rapidly.

Referring to my trip on the greatest northern engineering works, the Bergen railway, I would say that it was very amusing to see the trains play peek-a-boo through the mountains. I divided the ride from Gulsrik to Bergen in three days, stopping at Ulgedal and Finse one day each place. At Finse I went up on the glacier and had a slide on skis on August 8th, and that with only ordinary summer clothes on.

Being so near to Aalesund I considered it almost a duty to call on Miss Gjermo. She was in Decorah many years previous to 1902, when she returned to this country to nurse a sick mother. Many of my patrons will also remember her, as she worked in my store several years. I found her in the best of health and she wanted to be remembered to her Decorah friends. From Bergen to Aalesund I traveled in one of those fine coast steamers, not large but just as fine service as on the large ocean steamers. On the return trip I met with a party of Englishmen who had made a two weeks' trip from Newcastle to recreate in the fjords of western Norway. One of them said to me at the supper table, "I think you speak English," to which I replied, "a little," and he said that means much and we sat on the deck nearly all night talking. The night was warm and not quite dark, even so late as Aug. 11.

They were nice men and you may believe I enjoyed trying to speak American —which I had not had an opportunity to do for so long, nor since up to the present, and will not have again until I reach New York. Of course if one wants to pretend not knowing any Norwegian he may get a chance to speak some English most anywhere.

It is not in my line to write for publication and therefore shall not attempt any further description of my fatherland and its people. Every reader of the daily press knows more about them than I would be able to tell. In a few days I shall cross the interior for Christiania, and about the middle of October expect to be home again to my friends, to my little business which, I am sure, has been in good hands and has not suffered through my absence, and to my little girls who sacrificed so much that papa might enjoy this long vacation.

With the hope that old Winneshiek county has reaped a good harvest and with personal regards to all who may read this, I remain,

Respectfully,
K. I. HAUGEN.

Letter to the public about a trip to Norway in 1911. Decorah Republican, 8/17, 9/14, 10/5, in 1911