

Building Wadena

One House Move at a Time



By: Douglas Aylsworth
2025

Introduction

Many of these dates are estimates on the year moved. Unless otherwise noted most of these houses were moved by Aylsworth Housemoving.

Aylsworth Housemoving was started by Warner B. Aylsworth in Fayette in 1864. It is currently in its 5th generation of house moving.

Wadena, IA was established in 1857 and incorporated in 1895. The town now has a population of approximately 200. There have been 30-40 houses and buildings moved into Wadena and surrounding areas to make it the town it is today. Some garages and small buildings are not mentioned.

Doug and Rhonda Aylsworth
123 E Herriman Ave.



Home was built in 1925 and moved to its current location in Wadena in 1970 (during rock fest). The house's original location was about a half mile south of Volga Lake on the east side of the road. Before the Aylsworth residence there were two previous owners, Sterns and Kelly families. On the site where the house currently lies, there used to be a small Lutheran church. The church was moved in the 1960s to EWALU bible camp near Strawberry Point. The church remains in use and is called the Wadena Chapel.

Lowell and Lyla Lamphier
324 N. Iowa St.



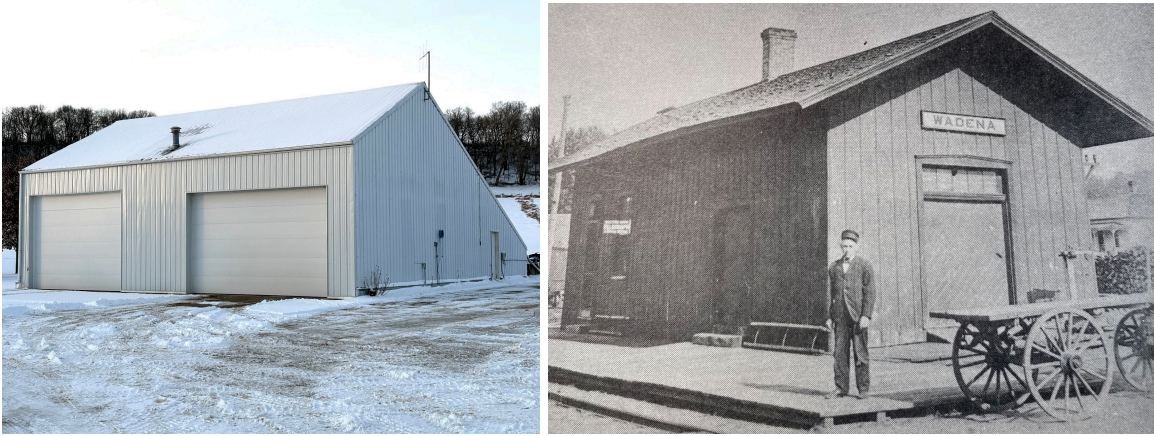
Main part was moved in 1950 by Lyle Whittenbaugh and remodeled by
Lowell Lamphier.

Lisa Torkelson
117 E. Springwater Ave



The house was moved in 1996 from its original location which was about 2.5 miles NE of Maynard, IA. The detached garage next to the house was moved in within several weeks of the house. The garage across the street was moved in years later (roughly 2008).

County Shed



This building was originally the Wadena depot. It sat on the NE corner of city park. Estimated date of move, 1920s-1930s.

Pictured on the left is the county shed and pictured on the right is the old Wadena Depot

Holly Nagle (Jared and Sabrina Kent)
324 N. Mill St.



This home was originally built during WWI. It was called the Airdome and sat where The All Veterans Memorial now is located. The floor of the upper store was cement and used as a roller rink. It was divided and moved. Half went to the present location and was once owned by Ray Herwig. The other half was put on the lot south of the house and owned by Mary Lou Daisy. It has now been torn down and replaced with the garage pictured above.

Steve and Kristan Lane
123 W. Springwater Ave



The home was moved in 1995 by Dan and Teresa Burrack from the Volga Lake area. It was previously used as the park rangers house at Volga Lake.

Steve and Cyndii Lamphier
231 N. Cline St



The house was moved to its current location in the 1950's. It was moved from a site south of the old Wadena school. There is an apartment complex in that spot now.

Matt and Jeannie Krambeer
127 N. Cline St.



In 1994 the home was moved to Wadena from a site between Fayette and West Union on Highway 150. It was moved by Dave Aylsworth and remodeled by Lowell Lamphier.

Dave and Becky Aylsworth
111 N. Cline St.



The home was moved in 1977 from Probert farm on Kornhill Rd. It was later remodeled by Lowell Lamphier.

This was the second time this home was moved.

Dan Alsip
129 S. Cline St.



House was moved from Clarion Mathy's farm on Kornhill Rd. in about 1983
for Sharon Smith.

Austin Aylsworth
118 W. Willow Ave.



House was moved in 2024 from 11857 St. Highway 56, NE of Wadena. In the photo above the house has not been placed onto the foundation.

Mary Moyle
204 S. Cline St.



Home was moved in 1990 for Les and Mary Moyle from the Starmont School grounds. It was used as the Starmont Superintendents home.

Lynne Finzel
132 W. Sacramento Ave



This small home was moved for Jason Knox in 1999. It was a small motel unit in Waverly, IA.

Ron and Beth Aylsworth
114 W. Water Ave.



This house was moved in 2022 from the Sweet Marsh area near Tripoli, IA.
The double stall garage was also moved in. Home was remodeled by
Lowell Lamphier.

Brandon and Kristi Elsberry
330 S. Mill St.



Home was formerly a Grange Hall between Dundee and Manchester. It was moved into town in 1990 by Ron and Beth Aylsworth and remodeled by Lowell Lamphier.

Cam and Kaitlin McDowell
131 E. Water Ave.



In 2012 both the house and garage were moved into town.

Frank and Rhoda Burgin
2005 River St.



Home was moved in 1985 from the Rick Derr farm southwest of Arlington.

Larry Popenhagen
224 E. Water Ave.



Main part of the home was moved in the late 1920's from the Kreps farm which is 4 miles southeast of Wadena on B Ave.

Bert and Hazel Aylsworth
102 River St.



The main part of the home was moved in 1949. The south part was the country school on Hwy 56 and moved in 1954.

Jeff and Greg Erickson
224 E. 4th Ave.



Home was moved in 2000 from Volga after a flood for Larry and Kelly
Voshell.

Alex and Loree Moyle
204 E. 5th St.



Home was moved in 1995 from Waverly, IA for Steve and Jill Aylsworth.
Alex Moyle added his own addition in 2024.

Suzanne Malo
121 N. Mill St.



House was moved in 1990 from Waverly for Ron and Beth Aylsworth.

Gene and Gloria Aylsworth
221 N. Mill St.



Home was moved in 1970 from the Volga Lake area. Before it was moved,
it was called the Jones house and sat at a T intersection in Volga Lake
Park.

Dave and Roberta Moyle
106 E. Herriman Ave.



House was moved in 1992 from the Torkelson Motor's parking lot in Elgin.

Paula Olson
123 E. 2nd Ave



Home was moved in 1991 from the Bill Bennett farm near Elgin for Alfred Burrack.

Homes moved to rural Wadena

Eric and Cindy Boehm
12663 D Ave.



Home is located 1.5 miles south of Wadena. It was called the Whiteley house. It was moved from the east side of the Volga Lake area in 1983.

Jim and Darlene Opperman
5959 Kornhill Rd.



Home was moved in 2011 from the Keifer farm on Eastern Rd. one mile north of Gary Fox farm. It was a Sears and Roebuck house built in 1903.

Brehme
12315 B Ave.



Home was moved in 1984 from the Volga Lake area for Jerry and Marge Brehme.

Roger and Leta Erickson
13245 B Ave.



House was moved in 2000 from Independence after a flood.

Rob and Carla Paulson
12581 B Ave.



Home was previously a country schoolhouse and was moved for Lyle Corbin in the 1950's.

Coon Den Hunting Lodge
Corner of Acorn Rd. and Bush Rd.



The Coon Den was moved from Volga after a flood in 2000.

In 1999 there was a small motel unit from Waverly moved onto the same property.

Russ and Sue Medberry
3267 Filmore Rd. (State Hwy 56)



Moved in 2006 for Russ Medberry. It was moved from the south side of
Clermont.

Lonnie Lenth
2704 147th St.



Home was moved in 2009 from a flooded area in Elkader for the Lenth family. It sits where the old brick Herriman mansion was located (half mile east of Wadena).

The 16'x60' cement silo was also moved from one end of the barn to the other and was raised 14' in about 1975.

Houses moved out of Wadena

Allen and Dee Coan
14392 Acorn Rd. (2 miles east of Wadena)

This home was moved from 231 N. Cline St in the 1940s. This is currently where the Steve and Cyndii Lamphier home is.

East Water Ave

House set east of present Lawrence Fettkether home. Identical house was moved to a site half a mile east of Sumner on the north side of Highway 93. House is now yellow and in very good condition. It was moved in about 1948 by Claude Carrol House Moving from Frederika.

United Brethren Parsonage

It sat on the NE corner of school property, across from Frank and Rhoda Burgin's house. It was moved for Ray Herwig to a location near West Union Cemetery on Highway 150. Moved by Lyle Whittenbaugh.

114 W. Herriman Ave.

This house sat on the lot that is now owned by Jim and Julie Holt. It was moved in about 1945 to a site on the north side of Highway 56, about 5 miles east of West Union.

Lutheran Church
123 E. Herriman Ave.

This small Lutheran church at one time sat where Douglas and Rhonda Aylsworth's home is now located. The church was moved in the 1960's to EWALU bible camp near Strawberry Point. The church remains in use and is called the Wadena Chapel.



Thank You Note

I want to thank everyone who has helped me put this booklet together. I especially want to thank my granddaughter, Anna Torkelson. I couldn't have done it without her.

Thank you to Sue Anne Opperman for giving me the idea and inspiration to share some of this information about the town I have lived in my whole life.