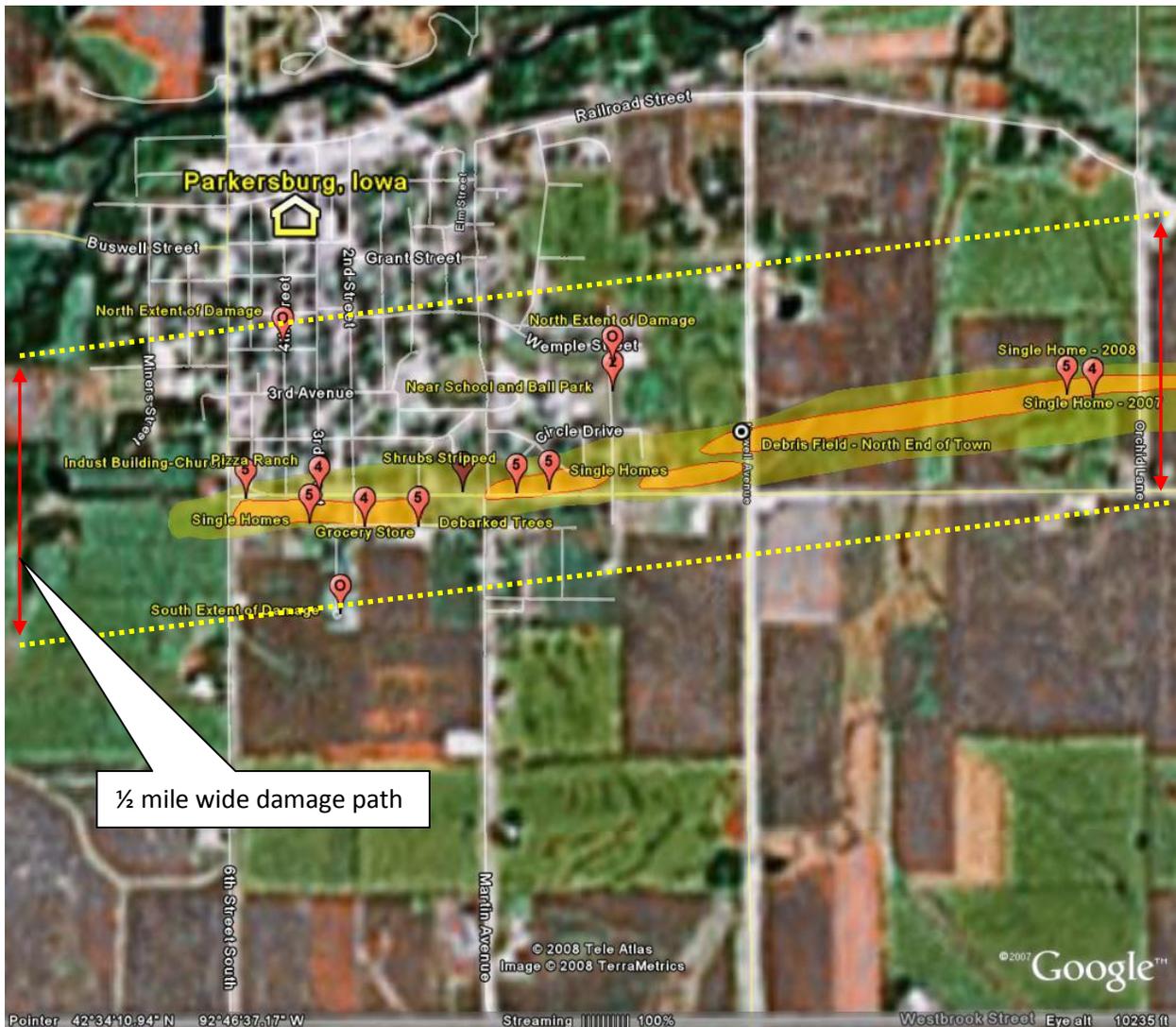




Details of the Parkersburg Storm Damage Survey



Below is a map of the worst damage in Parkersburg from the May 25, 2008 Parkersburg, Iowa tornado which continued for 43 miles to near New Hartford and points east. This is a detailed summary of the main core of EF4 and EF5 damage as surveyed by two storm survey teams on Monday May 26 and Tuesday May 27. The yellow path on the graphic represents the EF4 damage path with the darker path representing the areas of EF5 damage. On the graphic below the north and south extent of the damage was located with global positioning satellites.



The distance between the damage on Dorothy Avenue (south side of town) to Colfax Street (north side of town) was measured at .55 miles, or just more than one-half a mile wide through town. As the storm entered the western portion of the City of Parkersburg, EF4 and EF5 damage occurred immediately.

At the corner of 6th Street South and Highway 57/14 an industrial building (Figures 1 and 2) was being converted into a church suffered EF5 damage. Just from that point northeast, there was a path of EF5 damage to single family residences which were swept clean of their foundations (Figures 3, 4, 6, and 7). Along with the extensive damage to the single family homes, many trees were sheared in half with extensive examples of debarking taking place on healthy, full grown trees (Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7). A couple of locations within this EF5 corridor also had shrubs which were nearly pulled from the ground (Figure 8). The grocery store and Pizza Ranch restaurant damage were both rated EF4 and were just outside the center of the worst damage at this location in town (Figure 9).

Prior to reaching North Johnson Street, both the First State Bank and local coin operated car wash suffered extensive EF2 to EF3 damage (Figures 10 and 11). Though the brick construction of these two structures helped maintain the integrity of the walls and offered additional protection to the structures, there was extensive internal damage to the wind bearing wall of the bank as well as interior damage and wind driven debris throughout the bank due to the ferocity of the tornadic winds.

As the tornado crossed North Johnson Street, another area of tremendous damage occurred with many single family homes again totally destroyed by the tornado. Most homes in this area experienced EF5 damage as the tornado moved northeast. This damage was surrounded by an extensive field of EF3 damage for several blocks. Once north of Circle Drive the number of residences decreased with more open field toward Newell Avenue.

It is in this area that an extensive debris field was found with numerous medium to large sized pieces of structure along with significant granulated debris (Figures 12 and 13). After crossing Newell Avenue, the tornado continued over a golf course toward a new subdivision which consisted of construction from the past three years.

Two structures were removed from site with no debris within view of the area downstream. This area was rated low end EF5 as one structure having been built this year with above standard construction methods was swept clean of its foundation (Figures 14 and 15).

Additional survey photos and information from Parkersburg, Sinclair, New Hartford, and Dunkerton will be forthcoming over the next several weeks as additional information and photos are reviewed and as time permits.



Figure 1 Damage to industrial building on south edge of town rated EF 5



Figure 2 Metal support beams bent at base at industrial site



Figure 3 Main debris field of EF 4 to EF 3 damage in background



Figure 4 Main debris field of EF 5 damage



Figure 5 Totally debarked but healthy mature tree



Figure 6 Main debris field of EF 5 damage



Figure 7 Main debris field of EF 5 damage with nearly all trees debarked



Figure 8 Evidence of shrubs nearly pulled out of the ground



Figure 9 Pizza Ranch Restaurant rated EF 4 damage



Figure 10 First State Bank on Highway 57/14



Figure 11 Initial impact at First State Bank



Figure 12 Extensive debris field east of Florence Street



Figure 13 Fine granulated structural debris. A quarter is placed for size comparison.



Figure 14 Newly constructed home in 2008 completely leveled. Debris collected in basement is from Parkersburg to the west. Wind bearing basement wall pushed inward and basement floor cracked at the wall – floor juncture.



Figure 15 Close up of wall with debris from town