Freda Ahrens, 75, of rural Marshalltown, formerly of Grinnell, died Monday, Feb. 14, 2011, at Grandview Heights Nursing Home in Marshalltown under the care of Iowa River Hospice.

A graveside service will be held Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. Visitation will be Thursday, Feb. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Mitchell Family Funeral Home in Marshalltown. Memorials may be made to the Animal Rescue League of Marshalltown, Mercy Medical Center Oncology Department, or Iowa River Hospice. Condolences may be submitted at www.mitchellfhh.com.

She was born Sept. 7, 1935, in the family farm home in Poweshiek County, south of Grinnell, the daughter of Ralph and Emma McIlrath Claybrook. She attended school in Grinnell, graduating from Grinnell High School in 1955.

In June 1955, she was united in marriage with Jerry Ahrens. She worked as a secretary, receptionist and in other office positions for 30 years. She then was a caretaker for her mother who had suffered a massive stroke.

She and her husband purchased a business of their own in Gilman prior to retiring.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Jerry, and her daughters and son, Cheryl Villebrum of Appleton, Wis., Susan Stallwood of Mason City, Marshall Hinch of Fort Dodge and Randall Ahrens of Rhodes; five grandchildren and two step grandchildren; one great grandson; one brother, Duane Claybrook of Omaha, Texas; and one sister, Evelyn Osborn of Grinnell.