

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0674516

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RECEIVED	MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 19 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ringgold County Jail (former)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 E. Monroe St.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mount Ayr

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Ringgold

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leta E. and James M. Ross

STREET & NUMBER

220 Shellway Drive

CITY, TOWN

Mount Ayr

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50854

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ringgold County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mount Ayr

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building, the second Ringgold County Jail, was built in 1895. It is a two-story, side gable structure with exterior walls of brick on a random ashlar foundation. Dimensions are approximately 38' x 27'.

Front and rear elevations are nearly identical. The east half of each facade has two very tall windows with segmental arched tops (marking the original cellblock). The west half, which originally contained an office, bath and juvenile cells, has shorter windows on both floors. There are two windows at first floor level on the east end, one on the west end, and small louvered openings in the attic story on both ends.

The side walls originally culminated in shallow shoulder parapets. Remains of a brick chimney are found toward the south end. Decorative elements are confined to a narrow beltcourse of raised brick at the level of the second floor window heads, and corbelling just beneath the eaves on the front and rear elevations.

Besides the loss of the end parapets, exterior alterations are limited to removal of the bars on the windows, and replacement, in brick and corrugated metal, of the original small wooden entrance porch.

The steel cells and other jail accoutrements have long since been removed. The building was sold to the local American Legion post following completion of the fourth county courthouse (which included a new jail) in 1927. The present owners plan to use the building as an art studio, and have given some thought to replacing the original end parapets.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Pauly Jail Building and Mfg. Co.
James McCombs, Mt. Ayr

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is locally significant as an artifact of Ringgold County's government architecture. The original jail, and first three courthouses, are no longer extant. Generally speaking, it was the custom to tear down obsolete county facilities as new ones were erected. Thus those that remain from earlier periods of a county's history have a certain cultural value.

Ringgold County was not settled until about 1855, when the county was formally organized. Mount Ayr was established as the county seat in that year; but until the railroad arrived in 1879, the town grew but slowly. The first county government facility was a log courthouse, erected in 1856. A frame courthouse was built in 1859, replaced in 1882 with a brick, vaguely Gothic Revival structure. The first county jail was built in 1876: a log building with a metal roof. The second jail (the subject of this nomination) was built in 1895 by a local brickmason, James McCombs. The basic design of the building, and the steel cells, were supplied by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Co. of St. Louis. When the fourth courthouse was completed in 1927, it included correctional facilities, so the 1895 jail was sold. The local American Legion post occupied the building until 1978.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Portrait Album of Ringgold and Union Counties, Iowa. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887, pp. 447, 450.
 Lesan, Mrs. B.M. Early History of Ringgold County. Privately printed, 1937, pp. 138, photo facing p. 166.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Nebraska City, Neb.; Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 39.561010 4510.731010
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The North 70 feet of Lots 309 and 310, Original Plat of Mount Ayr, Ringgold County, Iowa.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/4/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Brannan

DATE

6.19.79

ATTEST: William H. Brannan

DATE

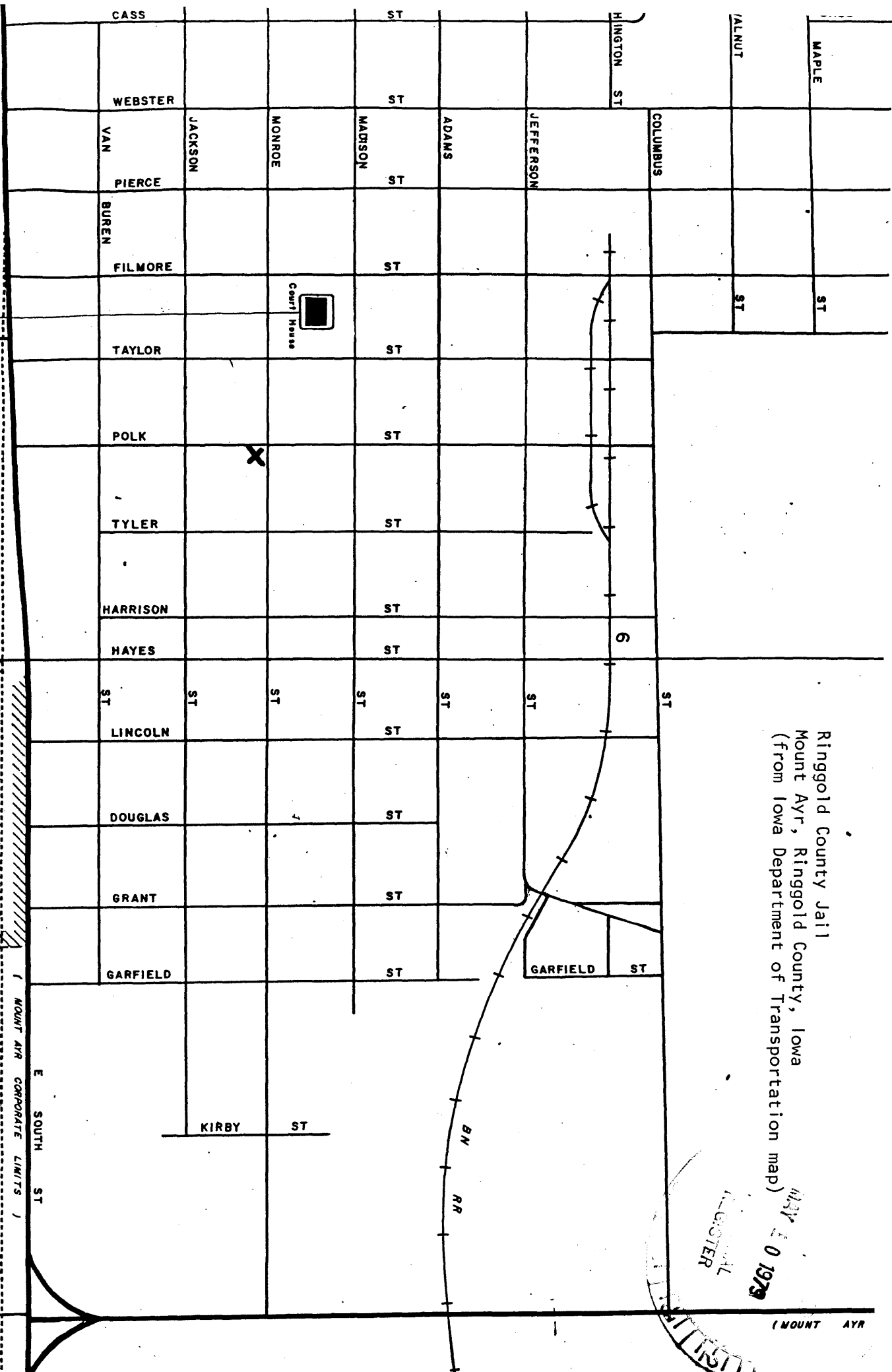
6.18.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Ringgold County Jail
 Mount Ayr, Ringgold County, Iowa
 (from Iowa Department of Transportation map)

MAY 10 1979
 REGISTER

(MOUNT AYR



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