

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received G-14-85

date entered JUN 27 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Agricultural Hall

and or common Botany Hall

2. Location

street & number Iowa State University Campus not for publication

city, town Ames vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Story code 169

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Iowa Board of Regents

street & number 6th Floor, Lucas Building, Capitol Complex

city, town Des Moines vicinity of state IA 50319

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Story County Courthouse

city, town Nevada state IA 50201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Agriculture Hall (1892-3) is the last surviving well preserved 19th century building on the Iowa State University Campus. Its key central placement on the original campus makes it an important visual landmark. A notable Cedar Rapids architectural firm, Josselyn and Taylor, designed the building.

The architectural style of the original portion of Agriculture Hall is Queen Anne Revival, a late nineteenth-century picturesque style incorporating Renaissance motifs with medieval features such as steep roofs, dormer windows, rock-faced stonewrok, and patterned brickwork. The massing of the building, however, is symmetrical: a central block with projecting towers at each end of its south facade. Characteristically for the style, a prominent non-symmetrical feature is present. The main entrance at the second level is to one side of the center.

It is the massing of this building that gives it a special character, unlike that of any other campus building. The large bold forms, such as the corner towers, the ground level entrance arches, the broad planes of the roof, and the broad horizontal sweep of the facade, these express the vigor with which the Old Botany was composed. Put simply, there is a large building mass very little of which has been carved away for fenestration or porches.

The massiveness of the form is reinforced by the low ratio of windows to wall on all elevations. In the corner towers, for example, the windows are paired and aligned on the center axis of the tower, which creates wide, thick edges on the towers. Similarly the rock-faced ground level, which projects slightly beyond the plane of the upper brick walls, has very few openings so that the coursed stone appears broad and solid.

Ornamental relief for the large elements includes shallowly rusticated corners on the towers, a corbelled arcade along the attic level, belt courses, the piers and rails of the two porches, and dormers. All of the ornament contributes to the powerful massing in that each kind appears at the edge of an element, thus broadening or thickening that element. Scale is handles consistently throughout the design.

Symbolically, Old Botany-Agriculture Hall achieves the kind of visual significance that it designers saw in it being the first agriculture building for Iowa State University. It is a substantial design, built in the heart of the campus, suggesting something positive, something forceful yet reassuring, about Iowa's commitment to Land-Grant education. For this reason, it was also the right place from which to launch the country's first county extension program.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	XX architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
XX 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

**Specific dates** 1892–93

**Builder/Architect** Josselyn & Taylor, Arch., Cedar Rapids

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Agriculture Hall (1892-3) is the last surviving well preserved 19th century building on the Iowa State University Campus. Its key central placement on the original campus makes it an important visual landmark. A notable Cedar Rapids architectural firm, Josselyn and Taylor, designed the building.

Known originally as Agriculture Hall, the building was designed by the Cedar Rapids architectural firm of Josselyn and Taylor. Construction was begun in June 1892 and completed in October 1893 by Wilding and Wood, Contractors, for approximately \$35,000. The basement was to be devoted to the horticulture department, the first floor to the agriculture department, the second to office and recitation rooms, the third to offices for the veterinary and bacteriology departments, and the fourth to literary and scientific societies. An addition was built to the back (north) in 1903 for the Departments of Soil Physics and Farm Mechanics. Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines were the architects and C.E. Atkinson was the contractor. In 1909 the building was renamed Agriculture Annex, Agricultural Engineering in 1910, and Botany Hall in 1928.

Henry S. Josselyn (1845-1934) received his architectural training at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Europe, and in architects' offices in Chicago and Des Moines. Eugene Hartwell Taylor (1855-1924) graduated from Grinnell College in 1875, where he had received preparatory training in architecture, and took supplementary studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The two men formed a partnership in 1882 and practiced in Des Moines until about 1884 or 1885, when they moved their practice to Cedar Rapids. They are among the first academically trained architects practicing in Iowa, as distinguished from those having received apprenticeship training as was prevalent. They were also the architects for Morrill Hall, built on the Iowa State Campus 1890-1891, and for the State Hospital for the Insane, Main Building, Cherokee, Iowa (1896-1902). Proudfoot and Bird--and in the 1920's with Rawson or Souers as a third partner--were the architects for the large limestone Neoclassical Revival or Renaissance Revival buildings which ring the central campus: Marston, Beardshear, and Curtiss Halls, and the first portion of MacKay Hall (using the present names of these buildings), built from 1900 to 1911; and the Library, the rest of MacKay Hall, Dairy Industries Building, and the first portion of the Memorial Union, built from 1923 to 1928.

The architectural style of the original portion of Agriculture Hall is Queen Anne Revival. The British architect Richard Norman Shaw pioneered the style, but a similar picturesque approach also appears in the work of the American architects H. H. Richardson and McKim, Mead and White. The turn of the century and the limestone buildings of Proudfoot and Bird, reflect the impact of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, a severe Neoclassicism takes over.

The second floor of the building originally contained offices for Professors Wilson, Curtiss, Budd, Hensen, and Kent. The first three were figures of note. James Wilson ("Tama Jim") headed the Iowa State program in agriculture from 1890 to 1897, and then became United States Secretary of Agriculture, a post which he held for sixteen years. He is a figure of national significance. Charles F. Curtiss joined the college faculty in 1891 and became Dean of Agriculture in 1902, developing the nation's first fully organized

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-1

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ames West

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Refer to Continuation Sheet 10-2

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Text by Ms. Jan Jennings, Mr. Wesley Shank  
Form by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa Office of Historic Preservation date 20 May 1985

street & number East 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 *Ronell J. Sotke*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 20, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Melvyn Bryan*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6-27-85

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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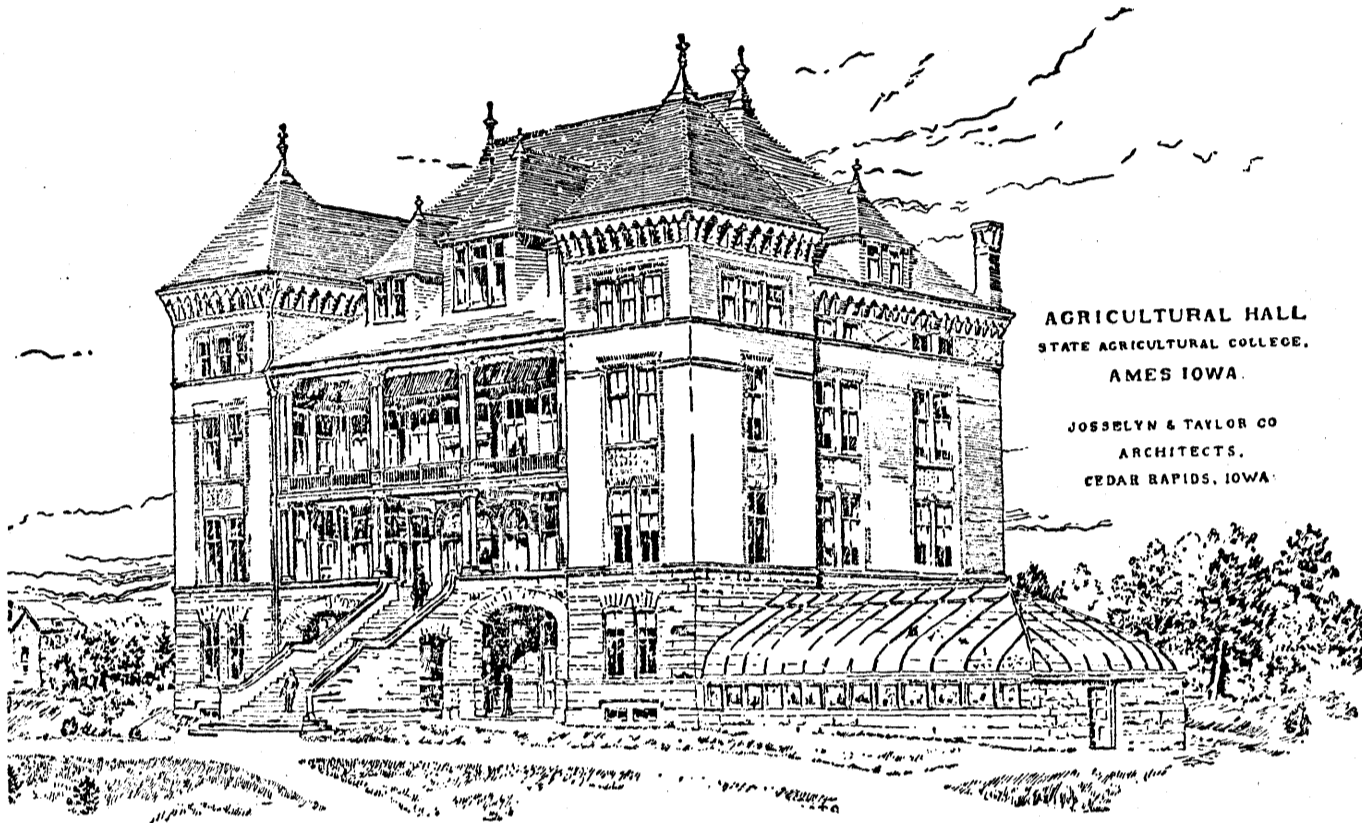
5/20/85

date entered

Continuation sheet Physical Description

Item number 7

Page 2



Architect's rendering, Agricultural Hall, 1892-3.  
Iowa School Reports, Des Moines; Iowa Department  
of Education, 1892-3.

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

1891 and became Dean of Agriculture in 1902, developing the nation's first fully organized county cooperative extension service and the first departments of agricultural engineering and journalism. His efforts were largely responsible for introducing soybeans and alfalfa as major crops in Iowa. He was dean of the college from 1902 to 1932. Joseph L. Budd, with Iowa State from 1877 to 1898, was a pioneer horticulturalist in the United States. He was made professor of horticulture in 1887 and was a founder and for seventeen years president of the Iowa Horticulture Society.

Located at the northern edge of Iowa State University's central campus, Agriculture Hall is a strongly stated boundary element. It is one of the two, predominantly brick buildings of significant dimensions bounding the central campus, and with three two-story, residential scaled buildings, contributes an element of life and vitality to this noteworthy landscape.

The significance of Agricultural Hall lies, architecturally, in its distinctive design as the work of early professionally trained architects, in the historical significance of some of the early professors whose officers were in the building, and in its key position and function in the landscape of the university's central campus.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

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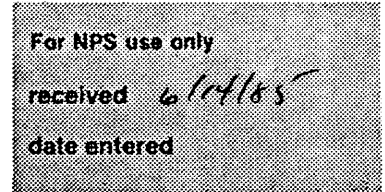
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Continuation sheet Geographical Data

Item number 100

Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The subject property is located in the center of the Iowa State University campus and as such has never been distinguished by having its own legal description. The following description attempts to make up for this.

Being part of the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4, T83N, R24W, described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the south side of Osborn Drive, that point being west of the northwest corner of Bessey Hall, and west of parking lot #43, and 27' east of the boundary line of the subject building, thence 140' south, to a point halfway between the subject property and McKay Hall to the northwest, thence west 157' (intersecting with a manhole along the way), thence 397' south, thence 157' east along center line of sidewalk (which parallels front of subject building, being located 129' south of same) to point of intersection with centerline of sidewalk which runs along east side of subject property, thence north 531' to place of beginning. Contains subject property and rear addition.