

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 11 1979
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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
Canton School

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Canton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Iowa

___ VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Jackson County Conservation Commission

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Maquoketa

___ VICINITY OF

Iowa 52060

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Maquoketa

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

Canton School is a one-room building, erected in 1877 near the Maquoketa River in the unincorporated community of Canton. It is situated on about an acre of ground, with several large trees, that is now a picnic and park area. The school is 24 feet wide and 40 feet long, constructed of locally-quarried, roughly-dressed limestone, laid in a random ashlar pattern on a stone foundation. The front of the school is faced with concrete brick.

The gable roof is covered with wood shingles, the eaves edged with rather delicate wooden trim. Toward the front gable end is a two-stage wooden belltower, the roofs of each stage slightly concave and decorated with wooden trim. Windows (four on each side) are tall, with 4/4 double hung sash, round heads, and keystone hoods. Hoods and sills are also of concrete. The main entrance has double wooden doors and a semicircular fanlight, set with plate glass.

Originally, the interior, which has plastered walls and a relatively new floor, contained a single classroom, and a cloakroom across the front end. Following the school's closing (1966), the cloakroom was partitioned into two rooms for Sunday school use, and the main room used for local worship services. The building has not been actively used for any purpose since 1968.

The community of Canton now consists of some dozen houses, scattered somewhat randomly near the west bank of the Maquoketa River. No commercial structures exist. The small wooden shed behind the school does not detract from the significance of the latter building, but also does not contribute. It is, and has been, used for storage.

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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Canton School is representative of the thousands of one-room schools, of log, brick, stone or frame construction, which were an important part of Iowa's public educational tradition until well into the 20th century. Unlike many rural schools of this vintage, most of which were extremely plain, the Canton School exhibits some nice details, notably the window hoods and eaves trim. The concrete-block facing on the front facade is competently integrated into the limestone walls through quoining on the front corners. The concrete elements are most certainly a part of the original construction, but the use of this relatively sophisticated building material on a structure that is essentially folk architecture in stone, is rather interesting.

Canton School was built in 1877, for a little community whose promise and prosperity were by then largely things of the past. In 1842, Joseph Hildreth established a sawmill on the Maquoketa River which burned in 1844, only to be acquired and rebuilt by John J. Tomlinson. By 1846, the town of Canton was laid out, a post office opened, and saw-, grist-, and wool-carding-mills in operation. In 1854 the community had a population of 133 and, reportedly, a small selection of stores, blacksmith shops, and a hotel. The mills burned that year, however, and only the gristmill was rebuilt. Ten years later, the town founder, Tomlinson, sold out and went to Montana. In 1866, Canton lost the opportunity to have a railroad, the Midland line instead going south and west of this little river community -- and many local merchants went with it. As a result, Canton, like many Iowa towns bypassed by the railroads, remained small and unincorporated, although as late as 1879 boosters were saying "...what are wanted to make Canton an important point are railroad facilities, which in time it will get."¹ Although the railroad never did come to Canton, there were enough local families to keep a school functioning in the community until reorganization of the area's school districts in 1966.

¹History of Jackson County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879, p. 608.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holihan, Grace. History of Canton and Canton School. MS, Jackson County Historical Society, Maquoketa IA. Copy on file at SHPO, Iowa City IA.
 History of Jackson County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879.
 Ellis, James W. History of Jackson County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1910.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Dubuque, IA; ILL, Wisc.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:250,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 6, 7, 3, 8, 0, 0 4, 6, 6, 9, 8, 0, 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The whole of Block 20, situated in the Town of Canton, Jackson 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

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

5/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting Clerk of the National Register

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-24-79

ATTEST:

William K. Maxham

7-28-79

DATE

CLERK OF REGISTRATION