

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Montgomery County Jail

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 100 West Coolbaugh Street  not for publication n/a

city or town Red Oak  vicinity n/a

state Iowa code IA county Montgomery code 137 zip code 51566

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

10/23/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action 12.18.92

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Municipal, County, and State Corrections Properties in Iowa

none

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne  
Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone  
walls BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Slate  
other Iron  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LAW

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1899-1942

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Fischer and Lawrie, Omaha

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Montgomery County Auditor, Red Oak

Montgomery County Jail  
Name of Property

Montgomery Co., IA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5
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3	1	2	3	0	0
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4	5	4	1	9	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant

organization private consultant date April 10, 1992

street & number P.O. Box 258 telephone 608-424-6315

city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name County of Montgomery, Sheriff's Department

street & number 100 West Coolbaugh Street telephone 712-623-5107

city or town Red Oak state Iowa zip code 51566

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Description

The Montgomery County Jail<sup>1</sup> faces north onto West Coolbaugh and is located at the northwest corner of Broadway and Coolbaugh Street one block west of the courthouse square in Red Oak, Iowa. It occupies city lots 5 and 6 in block 41 of the original town and sits immediately west of the recently constructed sheriff's office on lot 4. Located at the southwest edge of the city, the county jail is placed at the edge of the business district adjacent to a small residential area along one of the city's main streets. Although relatively recent business buildings now surround it, the mix of residences and business buildings existed in the area at the time of its construction. The building, exercise yard, and small surfaced parking lot at the rear fill much of the property's setting. The remainder is planted in lawn. The boundaries of the property follow those of lots 5 and 6: the south edge of West Coolbaugh, the east edge of Broadway, the north line of the alley, and the east line of lot 5.

The county jail belongs to the sheriff's quarters/jail property subtype (2c) of the County and Municipal Corrections Properties in Iowa Type (2) of the Municipal, County, and State Corrections Properties multiple property listing. Relatively typical of its property subtype, the property includes a residence at the front and the jail attached to the rear or south elevation. While the residence contains two stories, two separate basements with separate entrances, and an attic, the jail is one story without basement or attic. Irregular in shape, its greatest dimensions measure 61.4 feet east-west and 90.6 feet north-south. Its red, pressed brick walls which are laid in a running bond rest on a rough-faced coursed ashlar limestone foundation. Below grade, the foundation is random rubble limestone. Slate shingles cover the hip roof of the residence and the intersecting gable roof of the jail. The building has solid masonry construction with frame floor supports including 2 by 12 foot joists and iron beams under the dwelling. Iron supports supplement the wood framing under the jail. Wood trusses support the roof of the dwelling and jail. Windows are both double and single and irregularly placed along the residence. Most of the windows along the residence are the 1/1 light, double hung type except for several 2/2 light windows along the rear. Windows have a plain, brick lintel and stone sills. The jail windows are the hopper type. Steel grating is placed across the inside of the jail windows and security screen covers the outside. Steel grating placed across the exterior of several rear windows of the residence protect the rooms originally associated with the juvenile and female cells and the sick room.

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<sup>1</sup> References to the context of municipal and county corrections facilities in section E and to the property subtype in section F may be found on pages 94 to 105 and 116-17, 119-22, and 123-27 respectively.

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The heavy, irregularly massed building is elaborated with Queen Anne detailing. Most of this detailing occurs along the residence. The building has a squarish core and a two and a half story projecting gable with steep return along the north facade and three-sided, two story bays along each side elevation. A round headed window with round arch, iron lintel and keystone occurs just under the front gable. An iron lintel and corbel stop emphasizes the double window along the floor below. An iron cornice and dentils occur under the broad overhang of the residence. Some of the original iron cresting rail remains to accent the ridges. A modified, fixed Palladian window with stone lintel is located in the projecting gable which opens into the sitting or living room. It is elaborated with corner blocks displaying a floral design. A round arch window with fanlight illuminates the stairway along the west elevation. Tuscan columns support the flat roof of the one story porch across the front of the residence. Dentils elaborate the porch frieze. A wood rail runs along the wood floor of the porch. The side entry porch is enclosed but also elaborated with dentils. The windows along the jail have segmental arch, brick lintels. A corbeled cornice elaborates its eaves. The stepped parapet of the west gable is detailed with iron scrollwork. A circular window emphasized with iron detailing opens its gable.

The residence includes a reception hall, sitting room, parlor, dining room, and kitchen and pantry on the first floor. Three bedrooms at the front and the servant's bedroom and sick room presumably once intended for prisoners as well as storage space and bathroom at the rear occupies the second floor. An enclosed rear stairway and an open front stairway rise to the second floor. A square, carved newel and turned balusters enhance the front stairs. Interior walls and the ceilings are plaster. The floors are hardwood. Window and door trim is plain wood, and the high baseboards are molded. Overlights occur above some of the doors. Sliding doors close the two entrances into the dining room. The original, wood, six panel doors remain.

The jail is entered from a rear hall along the west side of the dwelling as well as a side entrance along the jail's west elevation. This entrance hall also leads to two rooms to its west, one for female and one for juvenile offenders. They have concrete walls and floors and steel plate along the ceilings. A barred door and wood door close the juvenile cell. The women's cell is now a laundry room, and the barred door is eliminated. A large central area in the jail proper is located north of the hall. This area contains the booking room, the staff room, once the former jailor's office, and other small rooms which are separated by steel bars rather than walls. Doors of steel lattice close most of the entrances into the room. The jail includes two separate cell blocks at the east side of this central area. The two separate entrances are closed with solid steel plate and steel lattice doors. The south or rear cell area contains a single, 6.5 by 7.5 foot cell closed with steel bars and surrounded by a guard's corridor. The walls and ceiling of the cell room are steel plate and the floor is concrete. Composed of steel grating, the cell has an entrance area providing

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two doors into the cell. Used as the solitary or intoxication cell, it contains two bunks. Placed north of this cell room on the east side of the building, the second cell room includes one cellblock which is placed in its center. The room contains four cells each measuring 5.5 by 8 feet. The cells are separated by steel plate and steel grating composes the remainder of their walls. Each cell now contains two bunks. The cellblock originally included sanitary facilities at the east end. These cells open into a common or day room surrounded with steel grating and containing a dining table. A guard's corridor surrounds the cellblock. The cell room itself has concrete walls and floor and a steel plate ceiling. A feeding door connects the cell room to the kitchen in residence.

The surrounding grounds in lots 5 and 6 were not tested for archaeological remains. Research did not identify potential deposits. The grounds may contain discrete trash pits established before the use of municipal sanitation which relate to the operation of the jail.

The Montgomery County Jail has undergone relatively minor changes (Fischer and Lawrie 1898). Exterior alterations include the replacement of the double front entry and its wood trim with a single door and metal siding. The railing along the roof of the porch no longer remains (Iowa, State Historical Society of n.d. [photograph: Schwinn, glass plate #113]). The side entry porch is enclosed and part of the cresting rail and the finials along the gables of the jail are removed. The 1/1 and 2/2 light windows replace the 4/4 lights. As at most county jails, security cloth covers the jail windows. The jail's west side entrance and its porch are also replaced, and a chain link fence surrounds the exercise yard along the rear of that elevation. This addition is also common to county jails. Interior changes include alteration of room function such the women's cell and removal of or replacement of several doors.

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8. Significance

The Montgomery County Jail gains significance under the Iowa Corrections Institutions context through the sheriff's quarter/jail subtype. It possesses significance under criterion A in the area of law as an example of the operation of a county jail facility. The jail acquires significance under criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of the sheriff's quarter/jail subtype. The preservation of its interior arrangement assists the interpretation of the operation of such facilities. The Queen Anne and Colonial Revival detailing of this imposing building is distinctive. It gains significance from its construction date in 1899 to the beginning of the modern era in 1942. This period reflects the continued operation of the facility. The significant date of 1899 reflects its construction date. The jail is locally significant since it serves a county-level function.

**Historical Background**

Montgomery County established its county seat at Red Oak in 1865. It moved its courthouse from the first county seat founded at Frankfort in 1854 to Red Oak in that year. The county replaced this courthouse with one built in the Richardson Romanesque style in 1890. By 1898, the county determined that its county jail was inadequate, and the county building committee gathered to consider the building of a new jail in July, 1898. On August 1, the committee accepted the plans for the residence and jail from Fischer and Lawrie, architects of Omaha, Nebraska. Also from Omaha, Newman and Johnson contracted to build the jail for \$11,870. The committee purchased their cells from the Champion Iron Company in October of that year. The building committee accepted the completed building on March 8, 1899. Although the sheriff's office is now located just to the east of the jail, the jail continues to operate in its original building. It remained one of two sheriff's quarters with attached jail in which the county sheriff maintained his residence until his departure in the summer of 1991 (Pratt 1977: 236-37; Red Oak Express 7/26/98: 1; 8/2/98: 3; 10/15/98: 1; 3/8/99: 1; Montgomery County Building Committee 7/2/98; Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1899 [drawn from plans]; Fischer and Lawrie 1898).

**Statement of Significance****Law**

The Montgomery County Jail gains significance in the area of law by the manner in which it reflects the operation of the county jail. Historical syntheses analyzing the history of county jails in Iowa focus almost exclusively on the



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condition but not the manner in which the counties oversaw their jails. This omission may reflect the autonomy with which each county operated its corrections facility and the potential variation in their programs. The state provided few regulations or standards for jail construction and maintenance, the manner of operation, and the level of care or training of the personnel. And, the continued focus on jail condition also likely results from the stability of the local corrections programs during the last half of the nineteenth and first third of the twentieth century.

Although the development of the jail system varied in each county, the management of the county jail generally followed common trends part of which are reflected in the arrangement of the county sheriff's dwelling and jail. The administration of the county jail remained in the hands of the county sheriff and perhaps his jailor. Elected to his position, the sheriff did not necessarily remain in his office or the sheriff's dwelling and jail for long periods. He frequently lacked the training to provide adequate care and supervision of his prisoners. The sheriff ran his program through a per diem fee system charged to the prisoner for food, clothing, and upkeep. After the turn of the century, state support paid to the counties as a set rate per meal replaced the fee system. Both approaches led to the retention of part of the fee or subsidy by the sheriff in many counties not only in Iowa but in the rest of the country.

The state also failed to establish clear guidelines defining the type of criminal to be housed in county facility or the period of incarceration for a particular offense. Practices in each county varied considerably. Generally, county jails imprisoned those suffering from chronic intoxication, those committing misdemeanors, and felons accused of affecting property of a limited value. The period of incarceration at the facility ranged from several days to a year. By the turn of the century in Iowa, penologists believed that short term imprisonment failed to accomplish prisoner reform. The lack of prisoner segregation, particularly minor and multiple time offenders, inhibited the creation of an effective reform program. By 1897 just prior to the opening of the Montgomery County Jail, the state required the separation of female and juvenile prisoners in cities serving more than 25,000 inhabitants. In its plans, the Montgomery County Jail provided for the separation of females, juveniles, sick prisoners, and male prisoners. The single cell at the rear of the building allowed the segregation of particular classes of male prisoners probably depending on the kinds of occupants at any given time. Overcrowding in limited cell space remained a problem in many county jails. Although counties adopted the Auburn type cellblock which had the capacity to isolate one prisoner in each cell, the small, 5 by 8 foot cells often contained two or more bunks as did the Montgomery County Jail. Given the location of the female, juvenile, and sick cells near the front of the jail at Montgomery County, it appears that rather than hire a matron, the county relied on the sheriff's wife to care for these classes of prisoners.

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The poor physical condition of the county jails in Iowa plagued these institutions from their construction through the 1940s. The Cosson report documented this problem in 1912. The design of most jails provided inadequate ventilation, lighting, heat, and sanitation. The fee and subsidy system did not encourage adequate maintenance or cleanliness of these facilities. The design of the Montgomery County Jail appears to have circumvented some of these problems. Unlike many facilities, it originally contained accessible water closets and basins and a bath tub as well as a laundry and coal furnace. As indicated by the feeding window along the north wall of the larger cellblock, the sheriff's kitchen provided prisoner sustenance, a common arrangement in other counties.

Often operated by untrained personnel until the 1940s, county prisons maintained little if any disciplinary, work or other social programs such as those found at the Iowa Men's Reformatory and Iowa State Penitentiary. Most county jails permitted the interaction of prisoners during the day in their day or common room. At the Montgomery County Jail, this room stood immediately outside the four cells in the main cellblock. The position of other cells along the jail office suggests separation of prisoners by cell area. As elsewhere, there appears to be no provision for work programs or outdoor exercise. The present outdoor exercise area is a relatively recent addition to the grounds. Only a few jails required the performance of public work within the county seat or repetitive labor such as the breaking of stone. Although prisoners probably remained idle as at most facilities, the approach to this issue at the Montgomery County Jail is unknown.

Thus, county facilities punished prisoners through detention according to the severity of their crime. But, unlike state facilities, they did not attempt to reform the prisoner through religious training, educational programs or work. By its physical arrangement, the Montgomery County Jail provides some insight into the operation of county facilities by the turn of the century (Cosson 1912; Ensign 1909; 1912; Haynes 1939: 2; Burns 1971: 19-21; McKelvey 1977: 106, 192-93, 257, 309; Queen 1920: 3, 10-12; Hollowell 1922: 132; Moynahan and Steward 1980: 64; DeFord 1963: 90; Haynes 1946; Bannister 1899; Lewis n.d.: 268-71; Hopkins 1930: 18-19; Briggs 1919a; 1919b).

### Architecture

The Montgomery County Jail gains significance in the area of architecture as a representation of the sheriff's quarter/jail property subtype. Representatives of this subtype achieve significant in part because they remained the overwhelmingly predominant county jail facility in Iowa beginning by the 1850s to the 1940s in Iowa as in most other states. The subtype retained popularity in part because it ensured the continuous care and supervision of prisoners.

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By the 1890s, the most common version of the sheriff's quarters/jail subtype placed a two story residence at the front of the building and the one story, attached jail to the rear. Although stone remained the preferred material in at least the jail during the nineteenth century, by the 1890s the subtype was also entirely constructed in brick. Brick became the most common material in the early twentieth century. Although reduced in emphasis by the 1890s, the heavy massing of the subtype remained an important architectural element. The residence usually followed the side-facing, end-facing, or ell forms. Some of the turn of the century and twentieth century forms were squarish or irregular in shape depending on the style of architecture as is the case with this example.

The dwelling commonly contained a parlor, dining room, kitchen, pantry, cellar, and bedrooms. The additional provision of the laundry, sick room, and the female and juvenile cells in the main portion of the dwelling as in the Montgomery County example is less common. By the 1870s, county jails had generally shed the exterior cells which lined the wall in favor of small, Auburn-type, interior cellblocks surrounded by a guard's corridor. They generally opened into an adjacent day room. Large county jails tended to contain several tiers of these interior, maximum security cells in one cellblock but rarely include a single, isolated cell with guard's corridor as in this example. Possessing a comparatively small capacity, the Montgomery County Jail contains the interior cellblock of four cells as well as the isolation cell. This county appears to have paid closer attention to the separation of different types of male prisoners. The 5.5 by 8 foot size of the cells, the steel grating which forms the walls, and steel plate separating the cells and placed along the floors are typical of the era. None of the county jails appear to have contained additional interior or exterior exercise areas at the time of their construction.

County Jails usually received decorative elaboration appropriate to the period of their construction and the heavy massing of their subtype. The Montgomery County Jail provides a relatively elaborate example. While late nineteenth century county jails of a similar size such as the Hardin or Plymouth county jails are rendered in the Romanesque Revival style, the Montgomery County Jail displays Queen Anne detailing with some Colonial Revival elements. This detailing includes its irregular massing with projecting front gable and two story bays, round and round-headed windows, round and segmental arch lintels, the iron lintel with corbel stop, and iron cresting rail. The Colonial Revival elements include the iron cornice with dentils and modified Palladian window with corner blocks. The porch with its Tuscan columns and dentils along the frieze were common to the Colonial Revival style by the turn of the century. The stepped parapet with its scrolled detailing and circular window provide a less common revival style detailing along the jail.

Fischer and Lawrie of Omaha supplied the plans for the building in 1898. The minutes of the Montgomery County Building Committee imply that Fischer served as

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the main architect for the project (Montgomery County Building Committee 7/2/98; Fischer and Lawrie 1898). However, his identification remains unclear. His partner, Harry Lawrie, was born in Scotland and received his training at Glasgow. Lawrie came to the United States in the 1880s and settled first in Chicago where he worked under Burnham and Root as a draftsman. In 1886, he accepted a position with W.W. Clay, an architect of Chicago. By 1898, Lawrie had established an office in Omaha. He became a member of the Nebraska American Institute of Architects in 1919. Lawrie died in 1935 (Withey and Withey 1970). The Champion Iron Company of Kenton, Ohio provided the cell fixtures (Red Oak Express 10/15/98: 1). They also provided jail equipment to the Cedar County Jail in 1892. This jail included one interior, Auburn type cellblock with two cells and two steel cells along one wall. These cells measure 7 by 7 feet and 5 by 7 feet respectively (Aurner 1910; Stout 1981).

#### Period and Area of Significance

The Montgomery County Jail gains architectural significance at the date of its construction in 1899. The period of significance relating to the area of law includes the period from its building date in 1899 to the beginning of the modern era in 1942. This period reflects continued operation of the county jail in this building. The significant date of 1899 denotes its construction. Because the county jail served the county level government, it is locally significant.

#### Architectural Integrity

The Montgomery County Jail displays high architectural integrity particularly in comparison with other county jails belonging to the sheriff's quarter/jail subtype. Members of this subtype occur adjacent to or within several blocks of the courthouse because their functions closely tie to that building and because the two buildings together usually communicate the permanence and strength of the county government. The Montgomery County Jail retains its original location at the corner of the two main streets in Red Oak, and the county government continues to function in the Richardson Romanesque style, 1890 courthouse one block to the east. The courthouse was placed on the National Register in 1981 as part of a thematic study of Iowa courthouses. Thus, the linkage is clearly maintained. Although buildings have been replaced adjacent to the jail, the mix of residential and business buildings continues to characterize the setting. The immediate setting of the property underwent alteration with the addition of the sheriff's office in the adjacent lot. This loss of integrity of setting is relatively common for examples of this subtype.

The Montgomery County Jail also maintains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Exterior changes include the addition of security cloth along the

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jail windows, the removal of the railing from the roof of the porch, the loss of part of the cresting rail and the finials along the roof of the building, the alteration of the west elevation side entrance, and the covering of the double door, main entry. Interior changes are minor and primary include alteration of the function of the women's cell to a laundry. These changes do not affect the overall appearance of the building or the arrangement of the floor plan. In a majority of the sheriff's quarter/jails, the decorative elaboration along the exterior has been altered or removed, additions enclose one or more sides of the building, and the modification of the residence to an office has resulted in the changing of room functions, the covering of most walls with paneling, the removal of trim, and the alteration of some cell areas to other functions. These changes entail substantial alterations in both interior and exterior design, materials, and workmanship. However, like the Montgomery County Jail, most of these examples have retained part or all of their cell areas.

Because the Montgomery County Jail's appearance and general location remain intact, the property continues to communicate its original association with the corrections function and its feeling of strength and security portrayed through the massing, style, and location of the building.

Thus, because the Montgomery County Jail has undergone little interior and exterior alteration, it continues to represent its subtype and provides documentation about the operation of the county jail at the turn of the century.

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Montgomery County Jail property follow the exterior lines of lots 5 and 6 of block 41.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Montgomery County Jail property follow the original property lines associated with the county jail and exclude the recently built sheriff's office on lot 4 to the east (see sketch map and USGS map).



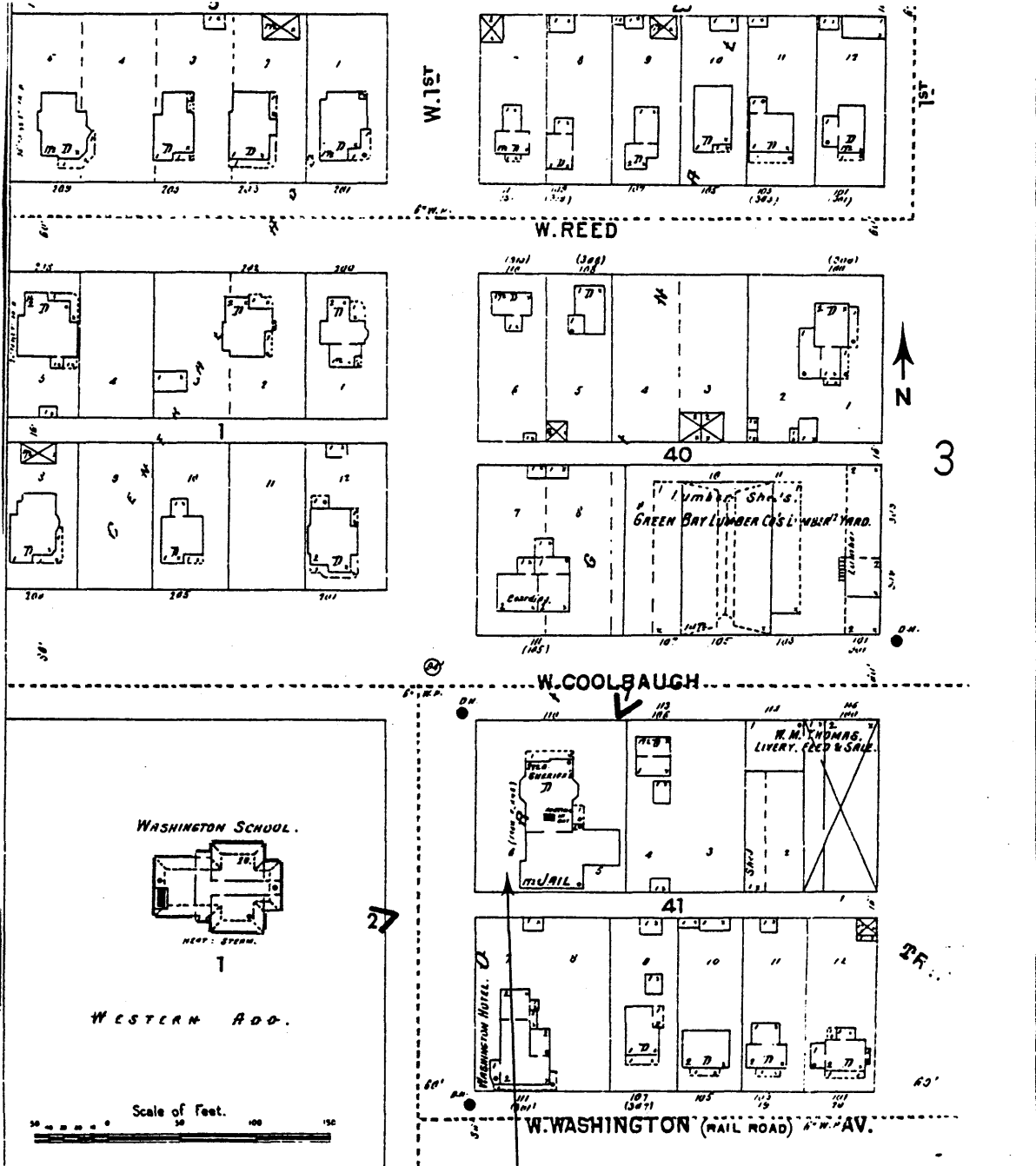
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County Jail

(Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1899)

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Photographic Documentation

Name: Montgomery County Jail

Location: Red Oak, Montgomery County, Iowa

Photographer's name: Joyce McKay

Date of photographs: 8/8/91

Location of negative: Historic Preservation Bureau, State Historical Society  
of Iowa, Des Moines

1. View of the north facade and east elevation of the dwelling facing southwest (16/23).
2. View of the west elevation of the dwelling and the west and south elevations of the jail facing northeast (16/19).