

JUL - 2 1981

MAY 29 1981

Site Number 48-016-001
District Name _____
Map Reference # 48-016-001
Topo Map Marengo 1:24,000

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Site Name Iowa County Courthouse
- 2. Village/Town/City Marengo Township _____ County Iowa
- 3. Street Address Court Avenue between Hilton and Manon Streets
- 4. Legal Location OT Courthouse Square
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section 1/4 section-1/4 section
- 5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 577210 northing 4627550; Acreage Less than 1 ac
- 6. Owner(s) Name Iowa County Board of Supervisors
- 7. Owner(s) Address _____
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
Marengo Iowa 52301
- 8. Use: present Courthouse original Courthouse

DESCRIPTION

- 9. Date of Construction 1892-93 Architect/Builder Foster & Liebbe, Des Moines, Arch.
- 10. Building Type: single family dwelling multiple family dwelling commercial
 industrial educational other institutional public religious agricultural
- 11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board & batten shingles stucco
 other _____
- 12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints
 wood frame with light members (balloon frame) masonry load-bearing walls
 iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
- 13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
- 14. Integrity: original site moved-if so, when? _____
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Glass and aluminum main entrance - upper portions of segmental arched windows filled in - aluminum sash throughout - main hall has ceramic tile floor - original safe with painted door and curved pediment above.
- 15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures
 carriage house garage privy other _____
- 16. Is the building endangered? no yes-if so, why? _____
- 17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings
 densely built-up commercial industrial residential other _____
- 18. Map _____
- 19. Photo
Roll _____ Frame _____ View _____

SIGNIFICANCE (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

20. Architectural Significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure c. Not eligible/intrusion

A good example of Richardsonian influence on courthouse design. Square tower base ends in an octagonal top stage and high, pointed roof, a treatment not found in other Iowa examples of this courthouse style.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Politics/Government

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is locally significant as the historical focus of county government, and of the political power and prestige derived from the community's status as the county seat. As center of county government, an Iowa town was reasonably assured of economic and population growth, and a prominent role in local social and political life. The county courthouse represents a significant public investment in a structure built not simply for utilitarian purposes, but also as a monument associated with the historical importance of county organization and development. This is the fourth courthouse in Iowa County.

See Continuation Sheet

22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.

Pratt, LeRoy G. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Co., 1977.

Stanek, Edward and Jacqueline. Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.

Prepared by _____ Date January 1980
 Address _____ Telephone _____
 Organization DHP

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY

1. OFFICE INFORMATION SOURCES ON THIS PROPERTY

<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCE FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/> WINDSHIELD SURVEY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL REGISTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTS-IN-AID: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____

2. SUBJECT TRACES

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

3. PHOTO IMAGES _____

IOWA SITE INVENTORY

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item Number(s)

IOWA COUNTY

The Board of County Commissioners of Iowa County gave the order for the erection of their first county courthouse on April 14, 1847. The order specified that a one-room building be constructed but no specifications for dimensions or cost were given. William Hench won the contract for construction of the courthouse and finished it the same year it was begun. The board of supervisors, however, decided that the building was not what they wanted after inspecting it. Rather than going to court over the courthouse, the builder gracefully accepted the decision of the commissioners and rented the building to the county until the second courthouse was built.

In 1851 the second courthouse, valued at \$300, was insured against fire for a three-year premium of \$4.50. Unlike the fate of many other courthouses in Iowa, the second Iowa County courthouse was not destroyed by fire but rather, was outgrown.

The third courthouse was authorized in 1861 and was built of brick. The authorization required that the building be as large as its \$2,000 appropriation would allow. An addition was added in 1869, but the structure was outgrown soon after, nonetheless.

In 1891, an election was held to see if the voters of the county would favor the construction of a new county courthouse. Those favoring construction of a new facility won by a narrow three percent of the votes cast. In order to raise the money necessary for the new construction Iowa County sold at auction swamplands which it owned in Ida and Cherokee counties. The money raised totaled nearly \$50,000, which was more than \$3,000 in excess of the appraised value of the land. The present courthouse was built for \$57,608.16, and was dedicated on December 20, 1893. The tower is 137 feet high. The building is a two-story structure made of Berea stone and is 93 feet by 74 feet in size.

—from Stanek, Edward, and Jacqueline Stanek,
Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des
Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.