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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	NOV 9 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 11 1977

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
 AND/OR COMMON

Allamakee County Courthouse
 Allamakee County Historical Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 107 Allamakee Street

CITY, TOWN: Waukon

STATE: Iowa

VICINITY OF: _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

COUNTY: Allamakee

CODE: 005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Allamakee County

STREET & NUMBER: _____

CITY, TOWN: Waukon

STATE: Iowa

VICINITY OF: _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Allamakee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: _____

CITY, TOWN: Waukon,

STATE: Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

CITY, TOWN: _____

STATE: _____

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED (interior)

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former Allamakee County Courthouse is a vernacular Greek Revival structure in a temple form without portico, of faded red brick on a limestone foundation. Its standing-seam metal roof bears a two-stage cupola and a small brick chimney to the rear. The cupola has cornice work and paired brackets on both stages. Louvred openings in the second stage indicate the former presence of a bell. The edge of the upper stage exhibits standing Greek-wave scrollwork with finials at the corners. A finial caps the tin-covered dome of the cupola.

The courthouse is 43' x 37', three bays wide and four long. The classical pediment has a returned cornice and paired bracketing. Simple brick pilasters decorate all four facades. Windows throughout the structure have stone sills and lintels. Particularly interesting is the double-door entrance, each door being double-hinged, and the whole topped by a fanlight and hoodmold with keystone. The entrance is reached by a wide flight of stone steps.

The interior has been remodelled (1964-66) to accommodate museum facilities, but a number of interesting items remain from the original use of the building. A symmetrical, divided-flight stairway with two outside ascending flights still retains large wooden newel posts and slender spindles. The ceiling of the first floor between the flights is covered in decorative pressed tin. Most of the original woodwork is still intact, the majority being of a simple Greek Revival style; that of the courtroom bears paired scrollwork brackets below the window cornices.

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"/> 1499-1599	<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 1859-61

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Greek Revival architecture of the high quality exhibited in this structure is exceedingly rare in Iowa. The vernacular details (scrollwork and bracketting) add an interesting element without detracting from the classic character of the building as a whole. The stylistic character of the courthouse is reminiscent of civic architecture in the Western Reserve of Ohio. Since early settlement in this area of Iowa was at first largely drawn from the Western Reserve, it is highly likely that the architect for this courthouse came from Ohio and repeated at Waukon the familiar style of his former surroundings.

When Allamakee County was organized in 1853, Waukon was designated the seat of government. From about 1854 to 1857, the courthouse was a frame building, of hardwood lumber and basswood siding. In 1857 a similar structure was erected beside it to hold the increasing amount of county government activity, and both were used until 1861.

The courthouse described in this nomination was built across the street from the other buildings, begun in 1859 and finished in 1861. In that year, however, political pressures forced the county seat from Waukon to Lansing, and the handsome new building was put to other, mundane uses. In 1867, however, the county government returned to Waukon, and this building served as the courthouse until 1941, when the continually burgeoning civic offices could no longer fit into its small interior.

The former courthouse now houses the county historical museum.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hancock (ed.) Past and Present of Allamakee County. 1913

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

15	623440	4791810
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Leslie Steiber

ORGANIZATION

Allamakee County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box 93

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lansing, Iowa

STATE

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 D. Johnson

TITLE Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
CHIEF	DATE 4/11/99
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <i>Charles Adams</i>	DATE 3-18-77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	