

PH036114x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 19 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976

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 *sh*
Clayton County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
111 High Street N.E.
CITY, TOWN Elkader VICINITY OF CODE
STATE Iowa COUNTY Clayton CODE
Iowa Clayton 02 100

3 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Clayton County, Iowa
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clayton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
111 High Street, N.E.
CITY, TOWN Elkader 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Clayton County Courthouse is located on the bank of the Turkey River, overlooking the town of Elkader and the Keystone Bridge. The first part of this two story building, 25' by 75', was constructed in 1867-68 on a parcel of land 130' by 325'. It has a rock foundation and is finished in red brick. The front facade exhibits arched windows and finely dressed capstones. There were in this first structure two offices on each floor, with two vaults between the downstairs offices.

In 1877-78, a 50' by 75' addition was constructed, resulting in the present square dimensions of 75' by 75'. The rock for the foundation was from a local quarry. The exterior of the new addition is of the same red brick as the original structure. The trim is wood painted white.

On the first floor of the Courthouse, county officer are located on either side of a central hall which extends the length of the building, with a double stairway starting near the front and back doors and rising to the second floor, where the length of bannister encloses the stairwell. The original walnut bannisters are still in good condition. There is a similar stairway rising from the second floor to a clock tower. On the second floor are additional offices as well as the District Court chambers and legal library. At the time of construction, fire-proof vaults, 8' by 16', were built to house the records of the Clerk's and Auditor's offices.

The Courthouse is in a simple Italianate style, having a hip roof and bracketed cornice. A white, two-stage clock tower, surrounded by an observation platform was added in 1896. It is topped by a black arrow weathervane.

In 1931, the interior was "redecorated throughout", and "the courtroom was remodeled to conform with modern ideas of what a courtroom should be". In 1971 the brick of the building was cleaned and tuck pointed, and the wood trim given a coat of paint. The interior of the building has been kept in good repair. Very little change has been made in room arrangements, but the floors have been replaced, as well as the double stairway. The original bannisters and newel posts were retained. A new front entrance was installed in 1971.

Because it is such an integral part of the Courthouse grounds, we would like to include in this form the monument which was erected in 1919 to Civil War sailors and soldiers, on the south side of the courthouse. It is a Barre Granite structure, 18 1/2 feet long, 8'3" wide and 15' high. Figures of an infantry man and a sailor, each 6' high, are on either side. Five oblong bronze panels are modeled pictures of battle scenes, and are on either side of an upright panel bearing a portrait of Lincoln, beneath which is the text of the Gettysburg Address. This monument has figured prominently in Memorial Day services since its erection.

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 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 1867-68; 1877-78

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O.F. Davis, Lyman Tyler,
C.R. Moulton, A.E. Tyler

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From 1840 to 1860, county politics resulted in no less than seven changes in the location of the Clayton county seat. In the latter year, a final move put the county seat at Elkader. The courthouse then erected to contain the workings of local government has remained in active use for over a century, and today serves as a focal point of local heritage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clayton County History, 1882
 Elkader Register, May 22, 1918; June 5, 1919
 Clayton County Register, Sept. 7, 1938; September 14, 1938
 The Palimpsest, January, 1931 (publication of the Iowa State Historical Society)
 The Journal, Dubuque, Iowa, December 27, 1931
 Records in the Clayton County Courthouse

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6 3 0 4 5, 5	4, 7 4, 5 7, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded northeast by High Street, southeast by Bridge Street, southwest by the Turkey River. Corner location.

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. L.J. Ehrhardt

ORGANIZATION

Elkader Historical Society

DATE

June, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

608 North Main St.

TELEPHONE

319/245-2622

CITY OR TOWN

Elkader

STATE

Iowa 52043

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

John A. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

April 17, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Clayton County
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/8/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/7/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DATE ENTERED

OCT 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

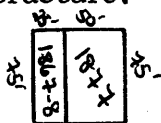
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Clayton County Courthouse, Elkader, Clayton County, Iowa

Addenda to #7:

1. The original (1867-68) structure was a flat-roofed rectangle, 6 bays (75') long (south side) and 3 bays (25') wide (east side -- windows are rounded, with keystones in the caps). The addition on the north side (1877) was carefully designed to match the original structure. It was 75' long and 50' wide, thus creating a 75' square structure.



At that time, the hip roof and cupola were added. The war monument sits in front of the south face. In the photo, the 1877 addition begins at the first pilaster on the front and extends to the right.

2. We have been unable to discover which of the four builders listed worked on which sections. It is very possible that all four worked on both, since only 10 years separated the original structure from the addition.

3. The war monument: contract awarded 16 May 1918 to Edmund Prior of Postville, Iowa (Allamakee County) to erect the memorial. No information available as to whether Prior did the statues himself or arranged to have them done by someone else.

4. Architectural significance: Simple and attractive adaptation of the Italianate style. Details of the courthouse in keeping with this style include wide, bracketed eaves, rounded windows with hoodmolds and the square belvedere.

The original (1867-68) structure was relatively undistinguished: a flat-roofed boxy building ornamented only by rounded windows on the east face. The 1877 addition transformed the courthouse into a well-proportioned, attractive building which reflected a fairly sophisticated knowledge of prevailing architectural style.