UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

MAY 31 1978 Received	FO	RN	PS U		0.4	
RECEIVED				MAY	3 T	1978
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DATE ENTERED

NUV 1 4 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Iowa State Historical Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER			
East 12th and Gra	nd Avenue	NOT FOR PUBLICAT	ION
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL D	ISTRICT
Des Moines	VICINITY OF	Fourth	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Iowa	' 4	Polk	1.5.3

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	NTUSE
DISTRICT	X_public	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X_museum
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME		_
STREET & NUMBER	owa (State Historical Depart	ment)
Shiel a homoen		
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Des Moine	S VICINITY OF	Iowa 50319
LOCATION OF LEC	AL DESCRIPTION	
-		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Co	constants of State O is 1 D	· - · ·
STREET & NUMBER	cretary of State, Capitol Bu	ilding
STREET & NUMBER		
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Des Moines		Iowa 50319
REPRESENTATION	N IN EXISTING SURVEYS	5
TITLE		
DATE		
	FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
SURVEY RECORDS		
CITY TOWN		STATE

7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE		
_Xexcellent	DETERIORATED	XUNALTERED	XORIGINAL	SITE	
G00D	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE	
FAIR	UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The State Historical Building was designed by 0.0. Smith in 1898. The west wing was completed in 1899, the central and east sections by 1910. The building is Beaux Arts in style, 260' across the front and 70' deep. Exterior walls are of hollow tile, faced with limestone. The facade is organized into five parts, with three projecting pavilions connected by hyphens. The elevation has three stages: a basement level faced in rusticated stone, a two-story second stage, and a high parapet stage. The central pavilion is dominated by a portico which is distyle in antis and which uses the Ionic order. This configuration is reflected in the end pavilions, which feature recessed loggias screened by a minor Ionic order (two columns set in antis). The screen is contained within an arch; above the entablature is a tripartite thermal window featuring a metal grill (since replaced with glass block). Fenestration is marked by a gradual decrease in window height from first story to parapet. First story windows have flat pediments, while windows of the second story have flat, dogear surrounds. Inscriptions in the parapet panels of each of the three pavilions indicate original uses of the building. East and west elevations vary slightly in window treatment and arrangement. Pilasters divide the west facade into five regular bays, with round-arched windows in the three middle bays of the second story. The east facade features a center frontispiece -- tripartite windows between coupled pilasters -- flanked by blank wall surface to either side.

The central pavilion is a Greek cross in plan, in which wide halls radiate from the central rotunda on all floors. Small rooms (offices, special collections, etc.) fill in the angles between the arms of the cross, while the wings contain large open areas (reading rooms, stack areas, galleries, etc.). The dome is covered in copper.

Walls and ceilings are plastered, and wainscoting and main hall pilasters are executed in scagliola marble. Molded stucco forms interior cornices and ceiling decoration. The main staircase has marble treads and risers, brass or oak rails and iron balustrades. The floor of the rotunda is vovered with a mosaic of marble. Art glass decorates windows above the north and south main entrances, as well as windows above some interior doorways, and is also found on the rotunda ceiling.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	A AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	I_{γ}
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS		SCULPTURE
1600-1699	$\underline{X}_{ARCHITECTURE}$	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS		POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-9; 1904-10

BUILDER/ARCHITECT 0.0. Smith, Des Moines

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

جني رأ ر The State Historical Building is a good example of Beaux Arts classicism. Tmportant features of the style exhibited in this building include the fivepart facade with domed, prominent central mass, and the clearly articulated terminal features of the wings. Along with the State Capitol, the Historical Building is among the oldest structures of the "capitol complex", which overlooks the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. The Historical Building, located across Grand Avenue from the capitol, presents a low, horizontally-distended character which contrasts nicely with the relatively compact verticality of the latter building. In this, the Historical Building complements the capitol but does not seek to compete with it.

Oliver O. Smith (1868-1916) was associated with a number of well-known Des Moines architectural firms during his career, including Foster and Liebbe, F.A. Gutterson, and Wetherell and Gage. At the time he designed the Historical Building, Smith was working with Gutterson. Among his other buildings are exhibition pavilions on the state fairgrounds, the Monroe County Courthouse, and a number of libraries and other public buildings. roživini klasili

The State Historical Department was formally established by the state legislature in 1892, and was in the first years housed in three rooms of the capitol building. The west wing of the Historical Building was completed in 1899 and occupied by March, 1900. In 1904, the legislature appropriated funds for the completion of the building, which was not achieved until 1910.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Aldrich, Charles (ed.) Biennial Reports of the Historical Department of Iowa. Des Moines: State Printer, 1895, 1897, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907. Clarey, J.E. (ed.) "Historical Building and Art Hall," Illustrated Iowa. Des Moines: Illustrated Iowa Co., Feb. 1898, pp. 33, 37. Secretary of State. Report of the Historical Department. General Assembly, Iowa Official Register, Des Moines: State Printer, 1900-1902, 1906-1912. Stiles, Ray C., "The Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa," Annals of Iowa XXI (1) July, 1937, pp. 6-16. **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** acreage of nominated property $_approx.1$ UTM REFERENCES A 1,5 4 4 9 7 8 0 FASTIN ZONE ZONE NORTHING С D VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 of Block 5, Lyons Addition to the City of Des Moines, Iowa LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE **T**FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Jack D. Musgrove, Director DATE ORGANIZATION Division of Museum and Archives, State Historical Department STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE East 12th and Grand Avenue CITY OR TOWN STATE Iowa 50319 Des Moines STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL X NATIONAL ____ STATE 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 Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE TITLE FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE BILL MART MEDDIFICHE (D)8 IONAL REGISTER ATTEST: DATE marcoll -8-28

GPO 892.453