

JUL - 2 1981

MAY 29 1981

IOWA SITE INVENTORY

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

Site Number 86-028-001
District Name _____
Map Reference # 86-028-001
Topo Map Des Moines NK 1:250,0

IDENTIFICATION

1. Site Name Tama County Courthouse
2. Village/Town/City Toledo Township _____ County Tama
3. Street Address State Street between Main and Broadway.
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 535000 northing 4649300; Acreage less than 1 ac
6. Owner(s) Name Tama County Board of Supervisors
7. Owner(s) Address _____ Toledo Iowa 52342
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: present _____ original _____

DESCRIPTION

9. Date of Construction 1866-67 Architect/Builder P.B. McCullough, H.B. Belton, Builders
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: Storm windows - acoustical tile ceilings - pressed tin in first floor offices - exterior sandblasted.
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 fairly early courthouse in Victorian Romanesque style. Principal feature is clock tower, the base of which is a heavy stone entrance porch. Note decorative brickwork in gable ends, frieze, and clock tower.

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.

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

3. PHOTO IMAGES

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| a. _____ | _____ |
| b. _____ | _____ |
| c. _____ | _____ |
| d. _____ | _____ |
| e. _____ | _____ |

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item Number(s)

TAMA COUNTY

Tama County built its first courthouse at Toledo in 1854 for a cost of \$1,300. It was a frame structure, two stories high, and was used until it was outgrown in 1866. In 1865, a Courthouse Association was organized to decide what to do about a new courthouse. Appropriately, the intent to build a courthouse was advertised, and bids were requested from interested contractors. P. B. McCullough of Toledo submitted the lowest bid and won the contract. In modern times we often find parties bidding artificially low in order to secure a government contract. In general, the government agency of today ends up as the loser because it has to raise additional monies in order to complete its project. However, in the Iowa of more than 100 years turned over to H. B. Belden. The final cost of the building was over \$22,000, but the county paid only \$5,000.

The building still stands in the public square at Toledo and looks not very different from the year in which it was completed, 1866. The building was constructed to cover an area of 45 by 72 feet. The foundation is stone and the walls are made of brick with a roof fashioned, well over 100 years ago, from corrugated iron. The belfry was constructed so that it can be reached from a second story stairway.

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