

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 30 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

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

Shelby County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7th and Court Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Harlan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY
Shelby

CODE
165

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Shelby County

STREET & NUMBER

7th and Court

CITY, TOWN

Harlan

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51537

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

7th and Court

CITY, TOWN

Harlan

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shelby County Courthouse is a Richardsonian government facility set ponderously on the central square in the downtown area of Harlan. It measures 63' x 113, of rusticated stone on a high basement. The hipped roof is broken by the gables of the pavilions which protrude slightly at each corner and at the center of the east and west facades. All elevations are symmetrical, with east and west, and north and south, being identical.

The round arch, with large voussoirs, is liberally utilized. It is found in all four entrances, in the paired first-floor windows, and on the second story of each pavilion, where triple windows give an arcade effect. Basement windows have flat heads, and broad stone lintels.

Main entrances are on north and south ends, reached by stone steps. The doorways are recessed beneath large stone porches supported by pairs of very short, squat pillars. East and west entrances, which open directly from the basement level, have been filled in. Above each of these is a small blind arcade, formed by pilasters, with a single short pillar between them. The gable ends of the pavilions have small pediments and finials. Centered above the north and south entrances are small, pedimented roof dormers. Of interest is the wide cornice, which has a course of arcaded corbelling.

The courthouse was originally designed and built with a tower common to expressions of this style. The tower was removed in 1899, apparently for structural reasons, since the order for removal was coupled (in Supervisors' minutes) with an order to reinforce or double the existing truss system. The windows have also been altered: the upper sections, including tympana, are filled in with a narrow ashlar. The lower window sections now combine plate glass and glass block.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT C.E. Bell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although removal of the tower and filling-in of window openings has considerably altered architect Bell's original design, the Shelby County Courthouse retains its essential Richardsonian character. The impression of overwhelming mass is strong in this building, partly due to the inherent nature of the style, but reinforced by the loss of the tower, which originally may have drawn the eye upward and away from the ponderous block.

This structure is Shelby County's fourth courthouse. The first, erected in the 1850's, was at the then county seat of Shelbyville. Harlan became the county seat in 1860, and a courthouse was erected on the main square. A larger facility, built in 1875, was about 1890 sold and moved for use as a livery stable. The present structure was built in 1892, the tower removed seven years later.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goeldner, Paul. Temples of Justice. Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1970 (reproduced 1971 by University Microfilms, Ann Arbor), pp. 372-3.
 White, Edward S. Past and Present of Shelby County, Iowa (Vol. I). Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Co., 1915, pp. 200-202.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	3	0	6	9	0	0	4	6	1	4	0	0	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

One city block, bounded on the north by Market St.; on east by 6th Street; on south by Court St.; on west by 7th Street, Harlan, Iowa

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Philip J. Phelps, County Supervisor

ORGANIZATION

Shelby County Board of Supervisors

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1104 Willow Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Harlan

STATE

Iowa 51537

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

Philip J. Phelps

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 5/12/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11-14-78

ATTEST:

Marcelle Hoops

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-8-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER