NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name <u>lowa Highway Commission, District</u> 6 bu	uilding
other names/site numberlowa Department of Transpor	tation building
. Location	
treet & number _ 430 16 th Avenue SW	not for publication N/A
ity or town Cedar Rapids	vicinity N/A
tate lowa code IA county Linn	code <u>113</u> zip code <u>52404-5810</u>
. State/Federal Agency Certification	
National Register Criteria recommend that this property be corsheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA State or Federal agency and bureau	36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property_X meets does not meet the nsidered significant nationally statewide_X locally. (See continuation
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the	National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
National Park Service Certification	ABU
nereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register	Signature of Keeper A Boall Date of Action
removed from the National Register	
other (explain):	

Iowa Highway	Commission,	District 6	building
Name of Proper	ty		-

Linn County, Iowa	
County and State	-

5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)			esources within Property viously listed resources in count)
X private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ public-local ☐ public-State	☐ district ☐ site	1	buildings
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure☐ object		sites
			structures
			objects
		1	Total
Name of related multiple property lis (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property		Number of cor in the Nationa	ntributing resources previously listed I Register
N/A		0	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instruction)	ons)
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)	VACANT	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification		Materials	
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instruction	ons)
LATE 19 TH AND EARLY 20 TH CENT	TURY REVIVALS/	foundation CONCE	<u>RETE</u>
Classical Revival		walls BRICK	
		roof OTHER	<u> </u>
		other CONCRETI	-

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

lowa Highw Name of Pro	ray Commission, District 6 building perty	Linn County, Iowa County and State			
8. Statem	nent of Significance				
Applicable (Mark "x" in one for National Re	e National Register Criteria e or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property egister listing)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)			
ХА	Property is associated with events that	TRANSPORTATION			
Α Α	have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	SOCIAL HISTORY			
□В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.				
□ c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics				
	of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	Period of Significance			
	and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1939-1966			
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.				
Criteria C	onsiderations	Significant Dates			
(Mark "X" in all	the boxes that apply.)	1939			
Property is	S:				
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)			
□В	removed from its original location.	n/a			
□ C	a birthplace or a grave.	Cultural Affiliation			
□ D	a cemetery.				
□ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.				
□F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder			
□G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	unknown			
	Statement of Significance gnificance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)				
9. Major	Bibliographical References				
Bibliograp (Cite the books	ohy s, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more con	tinuation sheets.)			
prelimir has be previou previou designa	ocumentation on file (NPS) nary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) een requested. Isly listed in the National Register Isly determined eligible by the National Register Isted a National Historic Landmark Isted by Historic American Buildings Survey	Primary Location of Additional Data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other			
#	ed by Historic American Engineering Record	Name of repository:			

Linn County, Iov	wa
County and State	

Name of Property 10. Geographical Data Acreage of Property 2.188-acres Latitude/Longitude Coordinates Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places) 1. Latitude: 41.962171 Longitude: -91.675824 2. Latitude: Longitude: Longitude: 3. Latitude: 4. Latitude: Lonaitude: **Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) **Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) 11. Form Prepared By name/title Alexa McDowell, Architectural Historian email akaymcd@hotmail.com organization AKAY Consulting date 01/15/2016 street & number 103 W. Island Avenue telephone 515-491-5432 city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401-1509 Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: **Continuation Sheets** Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) **Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) name Succession LC (Steve Emerson) street & number 221 2nd Avenue SE, Suite 400 _____ telephone ____319-364-7444 city or town Cedar Rapids state IA zip code 52401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page	1	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

Site Description

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building is located in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa (Figure 1). Situated in southeast Iowa, Cedar Rapids (pop. 126,326) is the largest city in the southeast quadrant of the state and ranks second among Iowa's cities overall - exceeded only by the state capital at Des Moines with a population of 203,433. Cedar Rapids covers an area of some 70.80 square miles and is bisected by the north-to-south running I-380 and the east-to-west running U.S. Highway 30.

Figure 1. Map of Iowa – 2015



(SOURCE: https://www.google.com/maps/place/Cedar+Rapids,+IA. Accessed 10/20/2015)

The location of Cedar Rapids, Iowa is indicated.

^{1 &}quot;Iowa's Largest Cities," *Quad City Times*, February 10, 2011. Online at http://qctimes.com/iowa-s-largest-cities/article_c5d8850a-3556-11e0-ba3b-001cc4c002e0.html. Accessed 07/25, 2014.

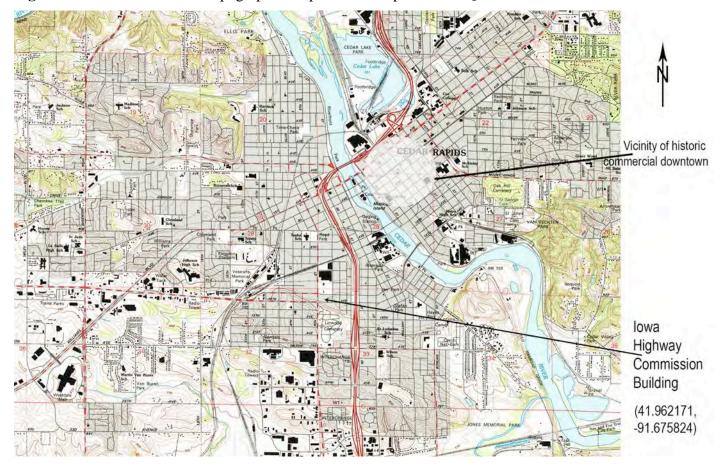
United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, lowa

Figure 2. 7.5 Minute USGS Topographic Map – Cedar Rapids South Quad – 1994



The location of the Iowa Highway Commission building is indicated.

The original town of Cedar Rapids was laid out on the east side of the Cedar River with a gridded plat of just over 60 blocks oriented with its streets running perpendicular to the course of the river. As a result, the street grid is rotated approximately 45 degrees to the cardinal directions. Street names were changed in the early 20^{th} century and today these streets start east of the river with 1st Street, numbering ordinally eastward. Avenues bisect the streets with those south of 1^{st} Avenue numbered ordinally.

² Marlys A. Svendsen, "Commercial and Industrial Development of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, c.1865-c.1945," Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1997:E-3.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Pogistor of Historic Places

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page 3	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Cedar Rapids developed on both sides of the Cedar River, the construction of bridges and the development of mass transit acting as a catalyst to industrial, retail, and residential growth in west Cedar Rapids. It was, however, the rise of the automobile that, after c.1920, pushed development to the southwest.

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building, at 430 16th Avenue SW, is situated west of the Cedar River, a little more than one-mile southwest of the historic commercial downtown. The building was constructed on 16th Street SW in 1939 (Figure 2).

Figure 3. Aerial Map – 2015



(SOURCE: https://www.google.com/maps/place/Cedar+Rapids,+IA. Accessed 08/31/2015)

The location of the District 6 building is indicated, with the property parcel outlined.

The neighborhood in which the building is located is currently comprised of a cross-section of property types including early 1940s-era single-family homes and contemporary commercial and governmental buildings. The Iowa Highway Commission building is sited near the center of a 2.188-acre parcel on the north side of 16th Avenue SW four blocks west of I-380; the building's façade faces south (Image 1).

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page	_4	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa
			County and State	Lilli County, Iowa

The property upon which the building is located is flat and heavily vegetated on the south, east, and west, with most of the north side of the site paved for parking and devoid of vegetation. A circular driveway provides access to the building on the south. Small parking areas are located adjacent to the driveway both east and west of the building. The driveway continues north along the west side of the building to the rear parking lot. The historic site plan documents these elements as original to the property (Figure 7). A public sidewalk runs the length of the block on the north and the south. On the south, the sidewalk connects to a private walkway to the primary entrance. A chain link fence runs along the east, north, and west property lines.

Image 1. Site View



(Image by AKAY Consulting - 08/26/2015)

View of the Iowa Highway Commission site, looking northeast across 16th Avenue SW.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page	5	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
	_		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Property Description

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building is a two-story, brick building with design elements expressive of the early 20th century Classical Revival (Image 1). The 1938-1939 construction of the building was undertaken by the Iowa Highway Commission, and partially funded by the Public Works Administration, to serve as the agency's new District 6 engineering office. As such, the interior is arranged to contain garage space, office spaces, and meeting spaces. Overall, the building retains a very high level of historic integrity both inside and out, making it an important representative of a project of the New Deal era Public Works Administration.

Exterior

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building is a two-story building with a basement. The building is a brick construction on a poured concrete foundation. The nearly square form (60- x 64-feet) with flat roof creates a box-like shape; the sole break being the penthouse, which rises above the roofline near the center of the building. The simple form provides a blank canvas for the elements that define the building's stylistic character.

Classical design is predicated on a sense of order and the use of restraint in the application of decorative elements. In the District 6 building a strong sense of classicism is evident in its highly ordered symmetry, the simple interplay between finish materials, and the use of classically inspired details.

The building's exterior is finished in alternating fields of brick and limestone. The brick is varying shades of red with a rough surface and is laid in a common bond with the seventh course of header bricks being recessed. Against this brick background is set fields of limestone elements, which create the organizational structure for the fenestration. While that organization varies by elevation, each limestone field contains fluted pilasters surrounding rectangular spandrels.

The building façade (south elevation) is organized around a central axis with the primary pedestrian entrance located on-center. Limestone fields are symmetrically arranged around that axis. Each field features the elements noted previously: fluted pilasters and rectangular spandrels. Three windows at both floors are aligned within the limestone field. Each window of the second floor has a stone sill, while a belt course serves as the sills for the first floor windows. The windows throughout the building replaced the historic in 1979.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, Iowa

Image 2. Exterior – Detail



(Image by AKAY Consulting – 08/26/2015)

View of a limestone field with its fluted pilasters, stone sills, and spandrels.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page _ 7	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
	•		
		County and State	Linn County Iowa

Image 3. Exterior – Detail



(Image by AKAY Consulting - 08/26/2015)

View of the primary entrance. The incised limestone nameplate remains beneath the black panel.

The entrance and a single window above it at the second floor level are also set in a limestone field (Image 3). The field is irregular in shape, conforming to the variation in the widths between the entrance and the window. The field is comprised of a stone entrance surround with a fluted label molding and the building name incised into the field over the door. The surround narrows to stone blocks flanking the window. Like all of the building's second floor windows, this window has a dedicated sill.

The entrance also features a stone threshold and paired, steel doors with a transom set in a steel frame. The

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page	8	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

transom (also steel) is decoratively paned, with the doors featuring 3 x 15 divided lights. Long, narrow light sconces flank the entrance.

The east and west elevations carry on the building's sense of order and classicism (Photograph 4). Four limestone fields are arranged on these elevations. The two center fields each accommodate two windows on each floor. Narrower fields are set at either end of the elevation – each with a single window at each floor.

The rear (north) elevation features three, limestone fields spaced evenly across the wall plane (Photograph 5). At ground level the center field has a vehicular entrance (now covered by a small frame bump-out). A pair of windows is situated at the second floor level, above this opening. Paired windows at the first and second floors are aligned in the flanking fields. The symmetry of the rear elevation is broken by the placement of an emergency exit from the second floor.

From elevation to elevation, the limestone fields set against the red brick with its recessed seventh course create a visual structure with a clear classical precedent. That classical sense of order and cohesion is further strengthened by the use of a limestone stringcourse above the second floor windows and a stone parapet cap. On the whole, the Iowa Highway Commission building is a restrained and elegant example of the Classical Revival style in a small-scale office building.

Interior

Reflective of its historic function as the District 6 engineering headquarters, which was responsible for various aspects of regional road design, maintenance, and construction, the interior of the Iowa Highway Commission building is generally utilitarian in appearance. Decorative elements are confined to terrazzo floors, the ironwork of the stair balustrade, and the faux graining of some of the building numerous steel doors.

The building's first floor was designed to house the garage and a testing lab. That level is entered at grade, with the initial pedestrian entry made into a vestibule. With the decorative paning of the entrance transom, terrazzo floors, and detailed ironwork on the staircase, the vestibule is the most decorative space in the building (Photograph 7). The walls and ceilings of the space are plaster and trim work is limited to a simple cornice and picture molding.

The remainder of the south one-third of the first floor housed the testing lab, a large janitorial space, and a restroom. Most recently, the former testing lab (located in the southeast corner of the first floor) functioned as an office. The room has smooth-coat plaster walls, an acoustical tile ceiling, industrial carpet over a concrete floor, and is void of millwork (window sills are steel and the baseboard is rubber). Florescent lights

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

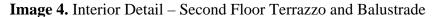
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page	9	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

are suspended from the ceiling and heating units are wall mounted. As fully utilitarian spaces, the first floor restroom and the janitorial space both have clay block tile walls and concrete floors.

The garage spaces occupy the north two-thirds of the first floor. The addition of acoustical tile, temporary partition walls, and suspended lighting indicate that portions of this area were most recently used as office space (Photograph 9). The remainder of the space, however, retains bare concrete floors with drains and exposed mechanical systems (Photograph 10). Wall finishes also vary, with some of smooth coat plaster and some painted brick.

The janitorial room and the interior stair to the basement have glaze tile block walls.





(Image by AKAY Consulting – 08/26/2015)

Decorative details on the interior are limited, with the terrazzo floors and iron balustrade being the most prominent.

The building's second floor is divided into a reception area, offices, workroom, restrooms, and storage spaces situated around an irregularly shaped corridor.

The corridors have smooth-coat plaster walls and ceilings, crown molding, and terrazzo floors (Photograph 11). The base trim is integrated with the flooring.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page 10	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

The offices uniformly have smooth-coat plaster walls, dropped ceilings, and industrial carpeting over concrete (Photograph 12). Millwork is limited to a simple crown and baseboard moldings with door openings typically steel framed with no trim. The single panel doors are also steel, with the original hardware retained. Many of the doors are finished with a faux wood-grain. Windowsills are also steel. Each office has wall-mounted heating units.

The men's and ladies restrooms both have smooth-coat plaster walls and ceilings, crown and picture moldings, and terrazzo floors. Both include steel stalls, with the men's set on a raised platform (also terrazzo). The ceramic fixtures appear to be original to the building. Typical of the building, the restroom windows are without trim save a steel sill.

The building penthouse historically housed the storage room for project plans. The small space is utilitarian, with smooth-coat plaster walls and ceiling, and a concrete floor (Photograph 14). Small fixed-paned, four-light windows are set into the upper walls of the north and south elevations to provide natural light.

The basement of the Iowa Highway Commission building houses the mechanical room and a large storage space around a hallway. Walls, floors and ceilings are painted, but otherwise unfinished. The building's structure is exposed – the underside of the first story floor revealing poured concrete beams with clay block infill.

The interior of the Iowa Highway Commission remains much as it did upon construction, with alterations confined to temporary walls in the garage area of the first floor, the minor changes to finishes (e.g. carpet and acoustical tile), and a new door opening between the offices on the north, which were, historically, the drafting room and the office of the district engineer (Figure 10).

Statement of Historic Integrity

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building retains a very high level of historic integrity as it relates to all seven aspects of integrity: location, setting, association, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling.

Because the Iowa Highway Commission building remains on its original site, the level of integrity as it relates to location is high. The building is sited on its original 2.188-acre parcel with the historic street setback intact.

Because of the scale of the site with its mature vegetation is integral to the character of the setting, its retention results in a high level of integrity as it relates to historic setting. The vehicular-related elements of

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page 11	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

the site (curved driveway and parking) are also associated with the building's historic function and as such are relevant to integrity of setting.

The 1939 District 6 building was constructed adjacent to U.S. Highway 30, which had been rerouted to follow this section of 16th Avenue SW concurrent with the design and construction of the District 6 office building. It has been difficult to verify a direct connection in the timing of the two events, but the building has from its construction been associated with the roadway that it faces. In 1953 much of US-30 was relocated to bypass Cedar Rapids, resulting in an adverse impact to integrity of association. However, because the road structure itself remains in place, integrity of association remains very good.

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building retains a high level of integrity of design and materials on both exterior and interior. The building retains all of its character-defining features including historic form (with only the addition of a small bump-out on the rear elevation, which is easily removed); the contrasting masonry (red brick and limestone); classically derived elements (fluted pilasters and symmetry); and its overall sense of controlled elegance. The sole significant breach of integrity of design and materials on the building's exterior is the replacement of the historic windows. However, like the historic windows, the current windows have steel frames and are simple in their light configuration. As a result, the adverse impact is minimized.

The interior of the District 6 building remains much as it did when constructed, with alterations limited to temporary walls added on the first floor, one opening cut between offices on the second floor, the addition of carpeting in most offices, and the introduction of drop ceilings in the second floor offices. As a result integrity of design and materials on the building's interior is very high.

As a PWA project it is perhaps of particular importance to call out integrity of workmanship. As a New Deal program designed to support the American economy by putting the unemployed to work, how the varied skills of the PWA works were applied to the District 6 building is interesting to consider. In this case, integrity of workmanship is evident in the quality of the masonry – the skill of the bricklayer and of the stone mason was high and the historic integrity of those elements remains very high today. As a result, historic integrity as it relates to workmanship is very high.

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building also retains a high level of integrity as it relates to feeling. Because the building retains a very high level of integrity as it relates to the previous qualities, visitors from the Period of Significance would readily recognize the resource today and experience it very much as they did at the time of its construction in 1939.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7	Page	12	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

FUTURE PLANS

An historic rehabilitation of the Iowa Highway Commission building for re-use as an early childhood education center is currently in the planning stages. The project will likely utilize historic tax credits; the rehabilitation undertaken following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation, with work respectful of the character-defining features of the historic building.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	_13	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Iowa Highway Commission building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The resource is locally significant in association with the history of transportation, specifically related to the role of the Iowa Highway Commission in the development of policy and the design and implementation of construction projects. Further, the building is locally significant in association with the Public Works Administration, the New Deal program initiated in 1939 to boost investment in construction and related industry.

The Period of Significance for the Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building is 1939 through 1966, which marks the year the building was placed in service through the 50-year window recommended by the Secretary of the Interior. The Period of Significance embraces all aspects of the building's significance, including its 1939 construction as a PWA project, its function as the district office of the Iowa Highway Commission, and the years in which the US-30 (the former Lincoln Highway) was routed along 16th Street SW to pass in front of the property. The Significant Date for the Iowa Highway Commission building is 1939, the year the building was placed in service.

The building in Cedar Rapids was placed in service in 1939 to house the District 6 engineering facility of the Iowa Highway Commission (headquartered in Ames, Iowa). The building and its site provided space for the various staff and equipment required to service the district. With a mix of office, work, storage, and garage space, the district building was responsible for the design and implementation of highway construction and implementation for an area covering up to nine Iowa counties. The District 6 office occupied the building through the period of significance (1939 -1966). In November of 2012, the district offices were relocated to 5455 Kirkwood Boulevard SW in Cedar Rapids.

The District 6 building was constructed on US-30, which is historically tied to the Lincoln Highway – the country's first east to west transcontinental roadway. During the course of its history as the Lincoln Highway and, after 1926 as US Highway 30, the route of the roadway was altered numerous times. From ca.1939 through November 1, 1953, the roadway traveled along 16th Avenue SW adjacent to the Iowa Highway Commission building.

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building was constructed as Public Works Administration project No. 1623. A New Deal program, the Public Works Administration (PWA) was established for the purpose of "providing employment, stabilizing purchasing power, improving public welfare, and contributing to a revival of American industry" in the midst of a national depression.³ Although the PWA focused on heavy

³ The Social Welfare History Project, http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/eras/great-depression/public-works-administration-2/. Last accessed 11/21/2015.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page _	14	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

construction and building projects like the Lincoln Tunnel and Grand Coulee Dam, the program also resulted in the construction of smaller-scale buildings such as schools, auditoriums, and government buildings. The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building is an example of the work of the PWA and representative of New Deal programs and their impact on the state's built environment.

Historical Background

The original town of Cedar Rapids was laid out on the east side of the Cedar River and grew outward from the commercial sector, which was initially concentrated adjacent to the river along 1st through 3rd Streets SE between 1st and 4th Avenues SE. Transport across the river and the mass transit that followed was critical to the growth of the city's west side, which was first known as the village of Kingston. Annexed in 1870, Kingston became familiarly known as West Cedar Rapids.⁴ These factors played into the initial development of the city's west side, but it was the growing population and the rise of the automobile that pushed development to the southwest.

In the early years of automobile travel, Cedar Rapids was an important city on the Lincoln Highway, America's first east-west transcontinental highway. Although not the first section of concrete roadway poured in the state, construction of Iowa's "Seedling Mile" on the Lincoln Highway a few miles east of Cedar Rapids opened to traffic on June 18, 1919. The Lincoln Highway originally followed 1st Avenue through downtown Cedar Rapids and a series of city streets in Marion before heading southeast to Mount Vernon. The highway route changed multiple times in subsequent years, adjusting to the growing city and the rising demand for good roads.

In 1926 US Highway 30 was designated as part of the Federal effort to create some organizational clarity for the country's roadways, which until that time were named rather than numbered. The Lincoln Highway became part of the US-30 route, signaling the end of the active operations of the Lincoln Highway Association, which since its organization in 1913, had worked diligently for the cause of good roads.

The 1938 construction of a new bridge over the Cedar River at 8th Avenue created a shorter route for US-30. According to the organization Iowa Highways, ⁷ in 1938 or 1939 US-30 was routed to follow 16th Avenue SW, Williams Boulevard, and 1st Avenue west of 1st Street SW – a route that did not pass the District 6

⁴ Svendsen, E-6.

⁵ Leah D. Rogers and Clare L. Kernek, "The Highway Association's 'Object Lesson:' The Seedling Mile in Linn County, Iowa," Sponsored by Linn County, Iowa through agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation, 2004, 6.

⁶ Highways of Cedar Rapids. http://www.iowahighways.org/highways/cedarrapids.html#us30. Last accessed November 21, 2015.

⁷ Although not affiliated with the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Highways website was a recommended resource by the department.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, lowa

Figure 4. US Highway 30 - Historic Route Map



(SOURCE: Basemap, Google maps, 2015.)

The map shows the route of US-30 in the vicinity of the District 6 building (noted). In 1938 or 1939 the highway followed the route (noted in double-lines), which left 16th Avenue SW at Williams Boulevard about 1.5-miles west of the building. The dashed line marks the route as it was in 1940 when it continued east along 16th Avenue SW past the newly completed District 6 building. In November of 1953 the route of US-30 was again altered, turning south at 6th Street SW toward a newly constructed cut-off at Waconia Avenue (dotted line).

office, rather left 16th Avenue SW at Williams Boulevard about 1.5-miles west of the Iowa Highway Commission building (Figure 4). In 1940 US-30 was moved onto 16th Avenue SW, K Street SW, 2nd Street SW, and 8th Avenue SW/SE between Williams Boulevard and Mount Vernon Road, sharing US-218 west of K Street SW. This altered route ran along the section of 16th Avenue SW where the District 6 office had just

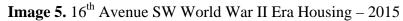
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page 16	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

been completed.⁸ In conflict with that record, the Lincoln Highway Association states that from 1939 through 1954 the route of US-30 left Mt. Vernon Road at 8th Avenue, crossed the river and then jogged briefly on 2nd Street and K Street to 16th Avenue SW where it passed the recently construction Iowa Highway Commission building.⁹ Regardless of the minor discrepancy in dates, construction of the District 6 office occurred very near the time the US-30/Lincoln Highway route was altered to run along 16th Avenue SW and the building retained its direct association with the highway for some 14 years.

In the late 1930s and into the 1940s, residential development was underway in the area around the Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building. Modest houses sprung up along 16th Avenue SW, 4th Street SW, and 6th Street SW, joining a handful of earlier constructions. The houses built during that period reflect the economy of the period – they are small in scale and simple in design and materials.





(Image by AKAY Consulting 08/26/2015)

The houses see here on 16th Avenue SW, across from the District 6 building, are representative of those in the neighborhood in general. The large majority of the houses were constructed between 1931 and 1946.

⁸ Highways of Cedar Rapids. http://www.iowahighways.org/highways/cedarrapids.html#us30. Last accessed November 21, 2015.

⁹ Koehler History Center, vertical files.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	_17	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

The routes of major roadways invariably impact the patterns of growth in a community. Such is the case in Cedar Rapids where, in the early days of road construction, the route of the Lincoln Highway dictated the rise of commercial enterprises catering to the automobile and to those who drove them. After the 1926 numbering of the country's named roadways, it was the path of US-30 that impacted development in Cedar Rapids, spurring growth in the southwestern section of the city. The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building was constructed in a neighborhood whose development was surely tied to the route of that highway.

The Iowa Highway Commission

The history of the State Highway Commission and that of road building in Iowa are virtually one and the same. Established in 1904, the commission's primary duty was to educate the public about the value of good roads, thereby laying the foundation to build an organizational structure capable of directing the construction of a statewide highway network. That organization changed and adapted through the years, but its work remained central to the successful development of Iowa's roads system.

Discussion about creating a highway commission was undertaken at the 30th General Assembly in 1904. A lack of public understanding about the importance of good roads became a central issue in the creation of a commission and in the appropriation of the funding necessary to support the work of such a commission. It was determined that until the public was properly educated a separate, state-funded department would not be created. Rather, the General Assembly directed the Iowa State College at Ames to act as the state's highway commission. A small biennial appropriation of \$7,000 funded the newly established commission; the funds were included in the college's regular budget for experimental purposes and were controlled by the Iowa State College board of trustees.

The board of trustees appointed Charles F. Curtis, Dean of Agriculture and Anson Marston, Dean of Engineering at Iowa State College as commissioners. They also hired Thomas H. MacDonald as an assistant in charge of field operations. These three were charged with the responsibility of creating a system of highway construction specific to the requirements of the state's various counties; to at least once a year provide a demonstration about the plans for highway construction to county supervisors, township trustees, superintendents, and students of the college; to disseminate information about highway construction and maintenance; and, to properly record all significant commission operations for annual reporting to the governor.¹⁰

Despite the limitations posed by scant funding, MacDonald published a bulletin titled *The Good Roads Problem in Iowa* in June of 1905. The bulletin reviewed the commission's early work and outlined plans for the future with particular attention paid to issues of road legislation and administration. The bulletin also

¹⁰ William H. Thompson, Transportation in Iowa: A Historical Summary (Ames, IA: Iowa Department of Transportation, 1989), 76.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page 18	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

reported on the commission's investigation of road conditions in the different sections of the state, their work to create road maps for some 12 counties, and the bulletin detailed funds collected from counties, methods of collection, and subsequent expenditures.¹¹

Following on the heels of an analysis of Iowa's progress in road building relative to other states, the commission's annual report for 1908 pressed for additional responsibility and control. Further, the commission urged the state to incorporate many of their findings into the road laws.¹²

The highway commission was newly established when an organizational structure was put in place. In its earliest form, the commission operated with four departments: Office, Design, Field and Education. Lacking any precedent for road law based on the principle of state supervision or control of highways without state aid (the road laws of all other states had measures for state aid of some kind), the structure was developed without benefit of a previously tested model.

In July of 1911 the commission had a staff of three full-time employees - a highway engineer (MacDonald), an assistant engineer, a stenographer, and two part-time employees. The staff was employed by and received their salaries from the Iowa State College. In 1913 a new law established a highway commission separate from but still housed at Iowa State College. The law increased the powers and duties of the commission and named three members, appointed by the governor for four-year terms. The existing employees found jobs in the new commission, with additional staff added in order to meet the requirements of the new law. The new commission had a highway engineer, a consulting bridge engineer, two assistant engineers, two stenographers, and a draftsman.

The work of the commission continued to grow and by 1918 the commission had a staff of 62. The Federal-Aid and State Primary Road Acts, together with the end of World War I, further expanded the work of the highway commission and by 1919 the number of employees had risen to 156. The growth triggered an extensive reorganization with new departments created. The increased volume of work required an increase in the number of district engineers from six to nine. This arrangement brought the commission into more direct contact with the actual work of road building and maintenance. Each district engineer was responsible for all work undertaken in their district, including direct charge of the surveyors, control of material inspectors, and supervision of all maintenance work.¹⁴

Responsibilities of the commission were further expanded in 1927 when the General Assembly rewrote the Primary Road Law, transferring the power and duties of the county supervisors relevant to construction and

¹¹ Thompson,76

¹² Ibid., 77.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid., 77 and 80.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	19	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

maintenance of primary roads to the highway commission. This change was the final piece in moving complete jurisdiction of primary roads to the state. The Primary Road Law also reorganized the commission, increasing the membership from three to five-persons.¹⁵

During the 1920s the cost of road building in states across the country was such that together the states could obligate \$100 million of federal aid annually – an amount that exceeded congressional authorizations, but which was met through surplus funds from prior years. With that surplus exhausted by 1928, the states had to reduce their highway programs to fit the \$75 million annual authorization. As a result, federal-aid mileage fell from 10,194 in 1928 to 9,386 in fiscal year 1929, with that trend continuing into 1930. To assist the sagging economy, special appropriations for public works (including highways) were made in 1930, with a total of \$125 million available to be distributed through 1933. ¹⁶

With 896 people on the payroll at the end of 1929, the highway commission was again reorganized, while retaining its basic structure. The commission was then had seven primary departments: Executive, Construction, Administration, Design, Maintenance, Materials and Tests, and Purchases and Accounts.¹⁷

The Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932 was aimed at supporting employment in the declining national economy. Federal funds in the amount of \$120 million served as temporary advances to states for work to be completed by July 1, 1933. Other federal relief programs contributed to stabilizing the national economy during the course of the depression years.¹⁸

The depression played havoc with highway commission employment, wages, and salaries, with 688 payroll cuts in an 8-month period beginning in August of 1931. For those that kept their jobs, salaries were reduced by 7.5 percent. By 1933 the highway commission rolls had been reduced to 531 employees. ¹⁹

The post-war period saw a quick rise in the average daily traffic per mile of primary roadway; between 1941 and 1959 that average increased by 69-percent. The significant increase in truck traffic was an additional concern – the weight of a truck increasing road damage and general deterioration. In response to the increase in traffic and the public's demand for improvements, road expenditures rose to \$650 million between 1946 and 1960.²⁰ The 1954-1955 construction of two district offices (District 2 in Mason City and District 5 in Fairfield) appear to support the need for increased support for the work of road construction in the state.

¹⁵ Thompson.,78.

¹⁶ Ibid., 178.

¹⁷ Ibid., 79.

¹⁸ Ibid., 179.

¹⁹ Ibid., 179.

²⁰ Ibid., 219.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	_20	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Once again the highway commission responded to the increase in highway work by adding departments, boards, and subdivisions within the existing structure. In addition to the Office of Chief Engineer, seven departments functioned with 623 full-time employees in 1940. By 1959 there were 13 departments employing 1,826 full-time employees. Added over the period were the Administrative, Bituminous, Right-of-Way, Secondary Road, Research and Urban Departments. A computing center was established in 1958 and a Reciprocity Board in 1959. ²¹

The 1960s were a period of transition in both State and Highway Commission Administration. Under staff reorganization, 21 departments and sections operated under three Divisions and six Operating Districts in 1960 – a move designed to coordinate the activities of the departments into functional working groups.²²

Additional reorganization and addition of departments came in 1960 and 1966. Like those before, these changes were made to maximize efficiency, streamline operations, and best respond to the circumstances of the time. From the time of its creation in 1904, the commission had evolved from a three-man group that functioned within the structure of the Iowa State College with its focus on developing a system for developing the state's highway system and educating the public to an independent, state-funded board with nearly 2,000 employees tasked with the ongoing construction and maintenance of a highly developed state highway system.

The Public Works Administration

A New Deal program, the Public Works Administration (PWA) was established for the purpose of "providing employment, stabilizing purchasing power, improving public welfare, and contributing to a revival of American industry" in the midst of a national depression. Although the PWA focused on heavy construction and building projects like the Lincoln Tunnel and Grand Coulee Dam, the program also resulted in the construction of smaller-scale buildings such as schools, auditoriums, and government buildings. The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building (PWA project no. 1623) is an example of the work of the PWA.

As officially described, the PWA "was established as the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (FEAPW) by Executive Order 6174 on June 16, 1933, pursuant to the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) to prepare a comprehensive public works program for the promotion and stabilization of

²¹ Thompson, 219.

²² Ibid., 242.

²³ The Social Welfare History Project, http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/eras/great-depression/public-works-administration-2/. Last accessed 11/21/2015.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	_21	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

employment while improving the nation's infrastructure."²⁴ The FEAPW was soon renamed the Public Works Administration and was placed under the Federal Works Agency which was tasked with administering the massive program. Architectural and engineering projects such as the Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building in Cedar Rapids, were managed under the Engineering Division of the PWA.²⁵

Unlike the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that was created two years later, the PWA was not a work-relief program. Although intended to reduce the number of people receiving public assistance, those working on PWA projects were not required to be on relief.²⁶ The primary goal of the PWA was to increase employment in the labor sector while constructing permanent and useful public projects. Creating jobs in construction related industry was also a goal of the program.²⁷

As a New Deal program focused on large-scale projects, the PWA is responsible for some of the most ambitious public works projects of the century. They include the Overseas Highway connecting Key West to Florida, the Triborough Bridge, the Grand Coulee Dam, and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. On a smaller scale, the PWA also funded public housing projects, flood control, and reclamation projects, as well as a modernization program for the nation's railroads. As noted, construction of schools and governmental buildings were also undertaken as PWA projects. However, because of the lengthy planning and implementation process associated with the large scale of some of the PWA projects, the program did not have an immediate impact on the economy. The creation of subsequent programs such as the Civil Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which focused on smaller, easily implemented projects, were established.²⁹

The PWA was open to proposals from across the country, with opportunity for fully federally funded or partially funded projects – the latter being federal-local partnerships. In its large-scale, federally funded projects the PWA hired skilled workers with a background in civil engineering and construction, commonly drawing its personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers, private engineers, and municipal officials with experience in public works construction.³⁰

²⁴ National Archives website, http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/135.html. Last accessed 11/21/2015.

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ The Social Welfare History Project, http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/eras/great-depression/public-works-administration-2/. Last accessed 11/21/2015.

²⁷ C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 With the Assistance of the Public Works Administration* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), X.

²⁸ Jason Scott Smith, A Concise History of the New Deal (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 51-52.

²⁹ The Social Welfare History Project.

³⁰ Smith, 50-51.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	22	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

In contrast, projects formed of federal-local partnerships were planned and designed by architects and engineers in private practice, hired by the property owner. That owner would have submitted an application to the PWA containing a summary of the project, the estimated cost, a preliminary design plan, and some description of materials to be used. The application also required data about the owner's financial status and a statement indicating an understanding of how the proposed project meets the legalities of the PWA program. Such an application was judged for its "usefulness, suitability, necessity, and desirability of the project; the adequacy in scope of the project for the purpose for which it is intended; the reasonableness of cost; and the financial ability of the owner to complete the project and, where a loan is made, if the loan is adequately secured." **

By 1939 the PWA had authorized the construction of 34,508 projects, costing about \$6 billion, and had completed 34,448 of them. Of those, 17,831 projects costing a total of \$1.9 billion were built by federal agencies and 16,677 projects costing \$4.2 billion being sponsored by non-federal bodies. Representing 33 percent of all PWA projects and more than 15 percent of the program spending, streets and highways were the most common PWA projects. Schools made up 22 percent of all PWA projects, or about 14 percent of program investment, while public buildings (including sewer and water projects) constituted 25.3 percent of PWA projects and 20.3 percent of spending. Generally speaking, road and bridge construction, schools, and public buildings (e.g. courthouses, post offices, and auditoriums) were the types of projects most representative of the PWA.

Many examples of New Deal projects remain extant in Iowa. Those associated with the Public Works Administration are far less common than those of the later Works Progress Administration. Given the PWA's focus on large-scale projects, this imbalance is not unexpected. Because a systematic documentation of the state's PWA projects has not been undertaken, this document combines findings from multiple resources in the effort to provide a reasonably accurate record of PWA projects undertaken in Iowa.

Firstly, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Iowa has documentation with varying levels of detail for 13 buildings or structures identified specifically as PWA projects. Of the 13 resources, seven are bridges, one is a dam, one is a county park, two are buildings located on the grounds of the Iowa State Fair, one is a post office, and one a school. Four of the 13 are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Secondly, the 1939 Short and Stanley-Brown report on the work of the Public Works Administration notes

³¹ Short, III.

³² Ibid.,VI.

³³ Smith, 52.

³⁴ Ibid., 53.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	23	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

that a total of 45 buildings funded by PWA grants were completed in Iowa by the time of that report. Of that number, the report notes that 26 were new buildings and 19 were additions to existing buildings. Although the report provides little in the amount of detail, it does note that 17 of the state's 45 projects were new school buildings. A handful of projects from each state were photo-documented in the 1939 report. A comparison against the properties included in the Iowa SHPO database reveals several properties either not included in the database or, most likely, improperly coded so they did not appear in a record search of PWA resources. All of those listed on the National Register are representative of the latter.

And thirdly, the online resource, The Living New Deal, is actively documenting and mapping New Deal Resources across the country. The project, which is associated with the Department of Geography at the University of California Berkeley, is creating a national database of documents, photographs and personal stories about public works of the New Deal. The Iowa PWA projects documented as part of that undertaking are included in Table 1.³⁷ True to the patterns identified in the 1939 report on the Public Works Administration, the mapping project indicates that the majority of PWA funded projects completed in Iowa were new school constructions. Bridge construction was also well represented. Government buildings (as the Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building is categorized) represent a minority of the PWA projects completed in Iowa.

A table of known PWA projects (a synthesis of the records noted above) constructed in Iowa follows.

Table 1. PWA Resources in the State of Iowa

Resource	Built	Location	Resource Type	NRHP
Quasqueton Dam	1934	Buchanan County	Dam	No
Squirrel Hollow County Park	1934	Jefferson	Park	Yes
Historic District		Greene County		
South Omaha Bridge to Council Bluffs	1934-1936	Council Bluffs	Bridge	Non-Extant
		Pottawattamie		
Cass County Courthouse	1935	Atlantic	Courthouse	Yes
·		Cass County		
Matsell Bridge #222050	1938	Springville	Bridge	Yes
		Linn County		
Maintenance Building; Iowa	1936	Des Moines	Building	Yes
State Fair Grounds		Polk County		
DeWitt Post Office	1936	DeWitt	Building	No
		Clinton County		

³⁵ Short, 683, 685.

³⁶ It is likely that a number of Iowa projects documented in the SHPO database were misidentified as WPA projects and so were coded as such. 37 https://livingnewdeal.org/us/ia/. Last accessed 12/27/2015.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 24	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
_	County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Swimming Pool and Bathhouse	1936	Des Moines	Recreational	No
		Polk County		Extant?
University Theater	1936	Iowa City	Educational/	No
State University of Iowa		Johnson County	Fine Arts	Extant?
Fine Arts Building	1936	Iowa City	Educational/	No
State University of Iowa		Johnson County	Fine Arts	Extant?
Union Footbridge	1936	Iowa City	Bridge	No
		Johnson County		Extant?
Jefferson School	1937	Creston	School	Yes
		Union County		
Veterinary Clinic Building	1937	Ames	Educational	No
Iowa State University		Story County		
Jefferson Elementary School	1937	Davenport	School	No
		Scott County		
Jefferson Hospital	1938	Jefferson	Hospital	No
		Greene County		
Fire Department Headquarters	1938	Des Moines	Fire Department	Yes
(900 Mulberry Street)		Polk County		
Police Department	1938	Cedar Rapids	Police Department	No
		Linn County		
Iowa City High School	1938	Iowa City	School	No
		Johnson County		
Automobile Bridge over	1938	Council Bluffs	Bridge	No
Indian Creek Channel		Pottawattamie County		
Automobile Bridge over	1938	Council Bluffs	Bridge	No
Indian Creek Channel		Pottawattamie County		
Union Pacific Railroad	1938	Council Bluffs	Bridge	No
Bridge over Indian Creek		Pottawattamie County		
Channel				
Automobile Bridge over	1938	Council Bluffs	Bridge	No
Indian Creek Channel		Pottawattamie County		
Automobile Bridge over	1938	Council Bluffs	Bridge	No
Indian Creek Channel		Pottawattamie County		
Automobile Bridge over	1938	Council Bluffs	Bridge	No
Indian Creek Channel		Pottawattamie County		
Springville Junior-Senior High	1938	Springville	Building	No
		Linn County		
4H Club Livestock Building	1939	Des Moines	Building	Yes
Iowa State Fair Grounds		Polk County	-	
Lincoln Elementary School	1940	Davenport	School	No
•		Scott County		

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	25	Property na	me <u>lowa Highway C</u>	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building		
			County and State Linn County, Iowa				
Monroe Elementary School 1940 Dave		Davenport	School	No			

1940	Davenport	School	No
	Scott County		
1940	Davenport	School	No
	Scott County		
1940	Davenport	School	No
	Scott County		
1940	Davenport	School	No
	Scott County		
	1940 1940	Scott County 1940 Davenport Scott County 1940 Davenport Scott County 1940 Davenport 1940 Davenport	Scott County 1940 Davenport School Scott County 1940 Davenport School Scott County 1940 Davenport School

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building (PWA project no. 1623) was a federal-local partnership project of the Public Works Administration. The building is an important representative of that specific New Deal program's mission to support the construction of useful and reasonable projects. The Highway Commission is also representative of the New Deal in general. As a multi-pronged Federal approach to supporting a failing economy, the various programs of the New Deal worked together to stimulate the economy through job creation and increased production; provision of work relief to the unemployed; and the bolstering the country's infrastructure from roads, bridges, and dams to schools, courthouses, and city halls.

Figure 5. Political Cartoon - Alphabet Soup - 1934



The many abbreviations used to identify the numerous programs of the New Deal created (and continues to create) confusion. This is particularly true of the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

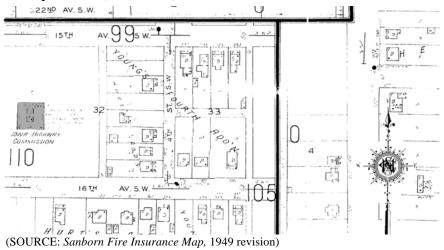
Section 8	Page	26	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

The District 6 Building

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building was constructed as PWA project no. 1623. A federal-local partnership, the building was constructed for the purpose of housing the staff of the new district office, recently moved to Cedar Rapids from Waterloo. Constructed on a full block site in a developing residential area in the southwest section of the city, the building was completed and placed in service in the autumn of 1939. The building was renovated in 1979 (accounting for the replacement windows) and remained occupied by the District 6 engineers until November of 2012.

On November 22, 1938 the contract was let for a building to house the District 6 engineering office. The 60-by 64-foot, two-story building housed the district engineer, the assistant district engineer, the district materials inspector, the division maintenance engineer, and the resident engineers, assistants and helpers, with offices on the second floor and the lower story used as a garage. With a poured concrete structural system, clay block infill, and brick facing, the building was touted as a "fireproof" construction. ⁴² Although historic design plans are held in the archives of the Iowa Department of Transportation, neither the architect or builder are known.

Figure 6. Fire Insurance Map – 1949 (1913 Rev.)



The District 6 building was constructed at a time when the residential neighborhood surrounding it was under development. According to the Cedar Rapids assessor's records, the majority of the homes in the immediate vicinity were constructed between c.1932 and 1945 – their visual character is indicative of that period.

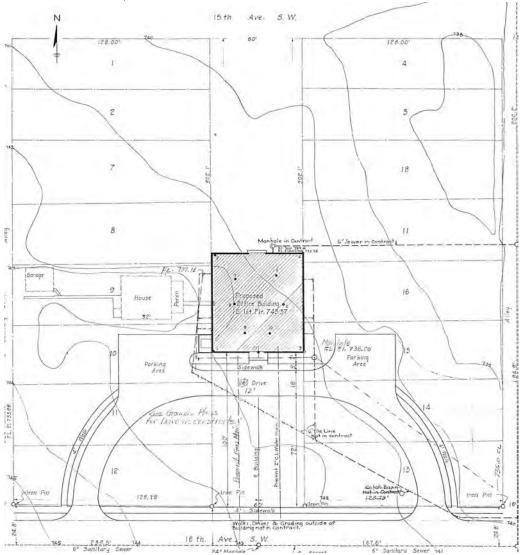
^{42 &}quot;Report of the State Highway Commission for the Period December 1, 1938 to June 30, 1939; Twenty-Seventh Annual Report Issued by the State Highway Commission, Ames, Iowa," Published by the State of Iowa, Des Moines, 1939:17-18. Provided via email communication from Leighton Christiansen, Librarian, Iowa Department of Transportation Library, Ames, Iowa. November 18, 2015.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 27 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, lowa

Figure 7. Plot Plan – October 28, 1938



(SOURCE: Iowa Department of Transportation, Historic Archives, Ames, Iowa.)

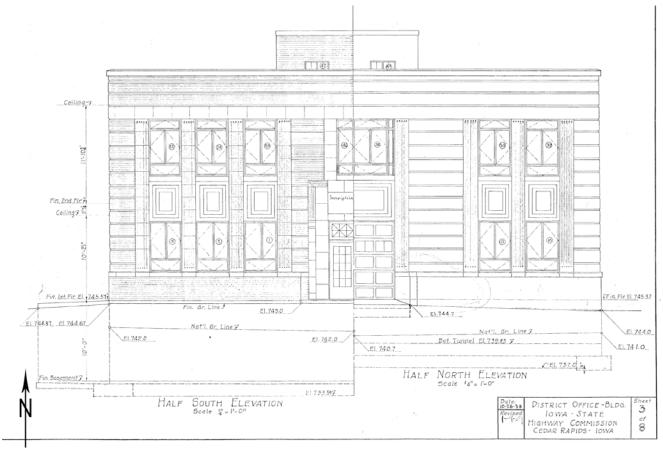
The District 6 building was constructed on a full-block site. This site plan shows the original plan for vehicular access to the site, which remains much the same today – particularly on the south.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 28 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, Iowa

Figure 8. Historic Design Plan/Elevations – October 28, 1938



(Plans courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Historic Archives, Ames, Iowa)

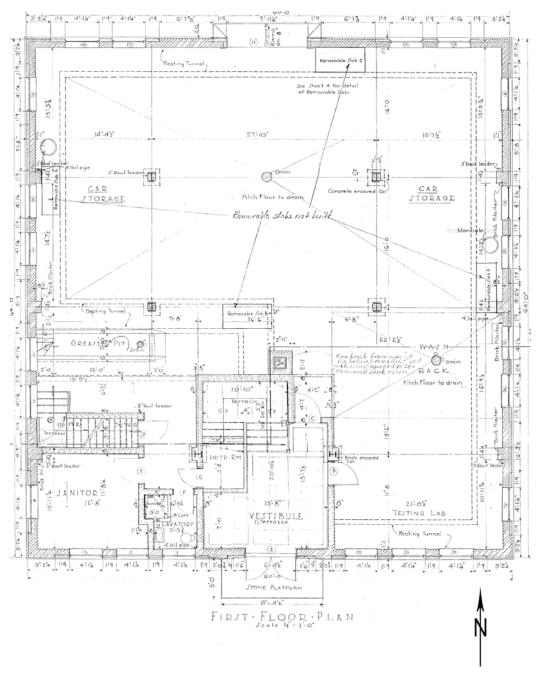
Although the historic design plans are archived at the Iowa Department of Transportation's facility in Ames, no record of the project architect or builder has been found.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 29 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, lowa

Figure 9. Historic Design Plan/First Floor Plan – October 28, 1938



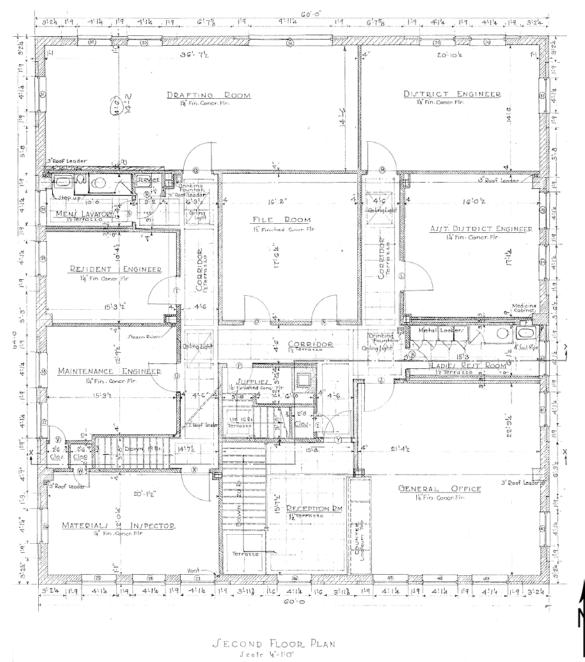
(Plans courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Historic Archives, Ames, Iowa)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 30 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, lowa

Figure 10. Historic Design Plan/Elevations – October 28, 1938



(Plans courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Historic Archives, Ames, Iowa)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 31 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, lowa

The Iowa Department of Transportation records provide the following breakdown of construction costs:

Lot (one full block) = \$8,121.96 General contract = \$46,765.00 Grading drives, etc. = \$7,791.80 Window abades = \$109.32 Light fixtures = \$301.88 Linoleum = \$589.86 Water, sewers and misc. = \$122.22 Total = \$63,802.04

To fund the project, the state received a PWA grant of \$22,500.00 leaving approximately \$41,302.04 for which the state was responsible.

Image 7. Historic Image – 1939



(Image courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation, Historic Archives, Ames, Iowa)

This image documents the District 6 building shortly before it was placed in service in early autumn 1939. A note on the rear of the photograph notes "construction workers planting new trees in from of the District 6 Iowa Highway Commission Building – Public Works Administration constructed."

⁴³ Email communication from Beth Collins, Historic Archives Committee, Iowa Department of Transportation, August 28, 2915.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8	Page	32	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Construction on the District 6 building was underway throughout 1939, with the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reporting on August 13, 1939 that the building was expected to be ready for occupancy by September 1. The news report indicates that the cost of construction was estimated at \$60,000.⁴⁴

Records of the Iowa Department of Transportation do not delineate the history of district offices to the degree that identifying construction dates over a long period of time has been possible. However, of the six district offices in use today, two – District 2 in Mason City and District 5 in Fairfield – were constructed in 1954-1955. Both buildings were built from the same design plans, which were drawn by Herbert A. Arthur, consulting architect. Both are one-story, brick buildings with the simple form and clean lines indicative of mid-century modern architecture. The remaining district offices post-date those at Mason City and Fairfield.

The Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building was renovated in 1979. Plans for that work indicate that the renovation included replacement of the windows, addition of the rear fire egress and bump-out (new vestibule), sub-division of the former garage space on the first floor into offices, relocation of one wall on the second floor (the north-south wall between the two offices), and modifications to the HVAC systems.⁴⁵

The State of Iowa sold the Iowa Department of Transportation District 6 office and land at auction on June 6, 2013. The DOT staff vacated the building the November prior, when the office moved to 5455 Kirkwood Blvd. SW in Cedar Rapids. 46

⁴⁴ Cedar Rapids Gazette, "Building Activity Has Been Increasing In Cedar Rapids," August 13, 1939:8.

⁴⁵ Email communication from Mike Harvey, Director, Office of Support Services, Iowa Dept. of Transportation. December 21, 2015.

⁴⁶ http://www.thegazette.com/2013/05/14/state-to-sell-former-dot-district-office-in-cedar-rapids. Accessed 08/29/2015.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9	Page	33	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
	_		County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Relevant Cultural Resource Documents

No previous evaluation of the Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building had been conducted prior to the present National Register nomination. However, many historical and architectural surveys have been completed in the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa that provided a solid background for understanding the early history and subsequent growth and development of the city. Of particular relevance to that end is the 1997 Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Commercial and Industrial Development of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, c.1865-c.1945," by Marlys A. Svendsen. The 2015 "Cedar Rapids 2nd Avenue SE Automobile Row Historic District" by Alexa McDowell provided useful information regarding the changing route and local impact of the Lincoln Highway (later, US-30).

Potential for Historic Archaeology

The potential for historical archaeology was not assessed as part of the present National Register nomination. The presence of the paved roadways and paved parking areas suggests the likelihood that the ground disturbance resulting from the construction of those elements may have destroyed localized archaeological resources in those areas. However, the paving may have been laid over ground with a minimum of earth movement. In that case, archaeological resources may merely have been encapsulated. Further, the majority of the parcel upon which the building is sited remains relatively undisturbed. Any ground disturbance should be undertaken with a level of awareness of the potential for historic archaeological findings.

Research Methodology

This National Register nomination draws heavily on the historical resources of the Iowa Department of Transportation, the archive and library staff of which were very helpful in locating the records documenting construction of the District 6 office, including sharing the historic plot plan, image, and design plans. William Thompson's history of Iowa transportation was an important resource for understanding the establishment and growth of the Iowa Highway Commission.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Tradional Fant Scribe

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9	Page	34	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

9. Major Bibliographic References

Brewer, Luther A. and Barthinius L. Wick. *History of Linn County, Iowa from its earliest settlement to the present time*. Vol. 1. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1911.

Carl and Mary Koehler History Center. Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Conard, Rebecca. "The Lincoln Highway in Greene County, Iowa." Multiple Property Documentation Form. Prepared by PHR Associates, Lake View, Iowa. 1992.

Harris, Cyril M. American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998.

Hokanson, Drake. *The Lincoln Highway: Main Street Across America*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1988.

Iowa Department of Transportation Archives. 2015.

Fire Insurance Maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Company, 1913 and 1949 (revision).

McDowell, Alexa. "Cedar Rapids 2nd Avenue SE Automobile Row Historic District." National Register of Historic Places nomination. 2015.

Rogers, Leah D. and Clare L. Kernek. "The Lincoln Highway Association's 'Object Lesson:' The Seedling Mile in Linn County, Iowa," Sponsored by Linn County, Iowa through agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation, 2004.

Short, C.W. and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 With the Assistance of the Public Works Administration*. Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 1939. Electronic version https://archive.org/details/publicbuildingss00unitrich.

Smith, Jason Scott. A Concise History of the New Deal. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Svendsen, Marlys A. "Commercial and Industrial Development of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, c.1865-c.1945." Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1997.

Thompson, William H. *Transportation in Iowa: A Historical Summary*. Ames, Iowa: Iowa Department of Transportation, 1989.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Archives website.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet						
Section 9	Page <u>35</u>	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building			
		County and State	Linn County, Iowa			
				_		
Newspapers						
Cedar Rapids C	Gazette, "Building	Activity Has Been Ir	ncreasing In Cedar Rapids." August 13, 1939.			
			ice in Cedar Rapids." May 14, 2013. Online article, ormer-dot-district-office-in-cedar-rapids. Accessed			
Online Sources						
Cedar Rapids C http://ce	•	sessors.com/parcel.ph	ap?gid=470285. Last accessed 11/22/2015.			
-	street and aerial m www.google.com/	-	apids,+IA. Last accessed 08/29/2015.			
_	w Deal. Iowa New ivingnewdeal.org/	Deal Projects./us/ia/. Last accessed	12/27/2015.			

 $http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/135.html.\ Last\ accessed\ 11/21/2015.$

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 36 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, Iowa

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

HURT'S LOTS 7 THRU 18 & YOUNG'S 4^{TH} LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 31 & LOTS 3 & 4 BLK 32 &VAC 5^{TH} ST BET STR/LB.



The location of the resource (parcel #14332-31002-00000) is highlighted.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the Iowa Highway Commission building and the site to which the building is historically associated. The site is bound by the public sidewalk on the south side of 15th Avenue SW on the north, an alley on the east, by the public sidewalk on the north side 16th Avenue SW on the south, and an alley on the west.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 37 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, Iowa

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Map of Iowa Showing Location of Cedar Rapids, 2015
Figure 2.	USGS 7.5 Minute Topographical Map – Cedar Rapids South Quad - 1994
Figure 3.	Aerial View - 2015
Figure 4.	US Highway 30 – Map of the Historic Route
Figure 5.	Political Cartoon - 1934
Figure 6.	Fire Insurance Map – 1949 (1913, Rev.)
Figure 7.	Historic Plot Plan – October 28, 1938
Figure 8.	Historic Plans – Elevation – October 28, 1938
Figure 9.	Historic Plans – First Floor Plan – October 28, 1938

Historic Plans – Second Floor Plan – October 28, 1938

LIST OF EMBEDDED IMAGES

Figure 10.

Image 1.	Site View: Looking north east across 16 th Avenue SE
Image 2.	Exterior: Detail
Image 3.	Exterior: Detail
Image 4.	Interior: Detail
Image 5.	16 th Avenue SW World War II Housing - 2015
Image 6.	Historic Image – 1939

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. PWA Resources in Iowa

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 38 Property name Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, Iowa

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building 430 16th Avenue SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa

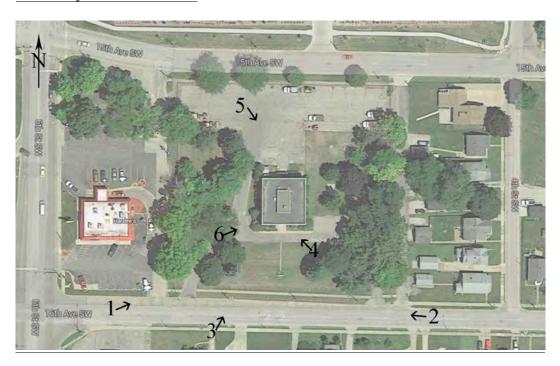
Linn County, Iowa

Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 26, 2015

CD-ROM on file with property owner, the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service

Photo Key – Exterior Views



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 39 Property name lowa Highway Commission, District 6 building

County and State Linn County, Iowa

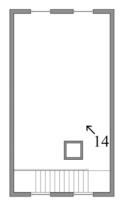
Photo Key – Interior – First Floor

Photo Key – Interior – Second Floor





Photo Key – Interior – Penthouse



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos	Page	40	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
			County and State	Linn County, Iowa

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001. Context: View looking northeast along 16th Avenue SW IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0001.tif
- 0002. Context: View looking west along 16th Avenue SW IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0002.tif
- 0003. Site: View looking northeast across 16th Avenue SW IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0003.tif
- 0004. Exterior: View of the façade (south) and east elevations, looking NW IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0004.tif
- 0005. Exterior: View of the rear (north) and west elevations, looking SE IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0005.tif
- 0006. Exterior: View of the west and south (façade) elevations, looking NE IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0006.tif
- 0007. Interior: View of the first floor vestibule, looking south toward entrance IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0007.tif
- 0008. Interior: View of first floor office space, looking SW with vestibule in view at right IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0008.tif
- 0009. Interior: View of first floor office/garage space, looking south IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0009.tif
- 0010. Interior: View of first floor garage space, looking west IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0010.tif
- 0011. Interior: Second floor corridor (typical)
 IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0011.tif
- 0012. Interior: Second floor office space (typical), looking SE IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0012.tif
- 0013. Interior: Second floor reception area, looking SE IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0013.tif

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 41	Property name	Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 building
	County and State	Linn County, Iowa

0014. Interior: View of the penthouse, looking NW IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0014.tif

0015. Interior: Detail of staircase balustrade and terrazzo floor (second floor reception) IA_LinnCounty_IowaHighwayCommissionBuilding_0015.tif































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nominatio	n							
Property Name:	Iowa State Highway Commission, District 6 Building								
Multiple Name:									
State & County:	IOWA, Linn								
Date Rece 12/2/20		Date of Pending List: 12/27/2016	Date of 16th Day: 1/11/2017	Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2017	Date of Weekly List: 1/25/2017				
Reference number:	SG10000	0486							
Nominator:	State								
Reason For Review	•								
X Accept		ReturnR	eject 1/17	7/2017 Date					
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets Re	gistration Requirement	ts						
Recommendation/ Criteria									
Reviewer Edson	Beall		Discipline	Historian					
Telephone			Date						
DOCUMENTATION	: see at	ttached comments : No	see attached SI	LR : No					

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the

National Park Service.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY COWNER DESIGNOR
DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR

STATE INSTITUTE

MUSEUM G. LOW!

HISTORIC

OFFICE OF LOWA

31/19/19/19



November 30, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief National Register and National Historic Landmarks 1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

- Bricker-Price Block, 105-115 S. Chestnut Avenue, Earlham, Madison County
- The Priester Building, 601 Brady Street, Davenport, Scott County
- Home Federal Savings and Loan Association of Des Moines Building, 601 Grand Avenue,
 Des Moines, Polk County
- Mack-International Motor Truck Corporation Building, 121 12th Street, Des Moines, Polk County
- Washington and Elizabeth Miller Tract-Center-Soll Community Historic District, roughly 35th St. west to 38th St. between 3500-3607 Grand Ave. north to Center St., Des Moines, Polk County
- Walnut Tire & Battery Co. Globe Publishing Company Building, 1417-1425 Walnut Street, Des Moines, Polk County
- · Storm Lake High School, 310 Cayuga Street, Storm Lake, Buena Vista County
- · Hotel President, 500 Sycamore Street, Waterloo, Black Hawk County
- Park Hotel, 115 NW State Street, Sac City, Sac County
- Hamburg Historic District (amendment, increase, decrease), hill to northwest of downtown: roughly W. 5th St from Western to Brown, W. 6th St from Harrison to Warren, W. 7th St, W. 8th St and W. 9th St from Ripley to Vine, Davenport, Scott County
- Iowa Highway Commission, District 6 Building, 430 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Linn County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster

Make the tester

National Register Coordinator State Historical Society of Iowa