

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 9 1976  
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

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  
\*\* Coralville Union Ecclesiastical Church  
AND/OR COMMON  
Coralville Town Hall

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
405 Second Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Coralville  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF  
First  
COUNTY  
Johnson  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CODE  
103

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
City of Coralville  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Coralville  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Johnson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Clinton Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Iowa City  
STATE  
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coralville Town Hall is a plain, one-story building of red brick. Its gable roof is covered with sheet metal, and a brick chimney is at the rear. On each side of the upper floor are segmental arched, 4/4 sash windows. Windows in the raised basement are half the size of those above. Star bolts on the front and side faces provide decoration as well as structural support.

Extensive renovation in 1953 resulted in new plumbing, heating, lowering the main floor ceiling, and conversion of the whole interior into space for local government offices. In 1972, new front step railings were added, and an old maintenance building removed. The exterior, however, remains essentially as when first constructed.

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

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coralville Union Ecclesiastical Church was built for the somewhat unusual purpose of providing a place of worship and an early local government facility in one structure. The first church in Coralville was a frame building, built by members of the Methodist Episcopal congregation. After it burned (ca. 1880), 12 citizens, including members of this church, formed the "Coralville Union Ecclesiastical Society". According to the Society's constitution, the goal of the group was "to promote true religion in connection with the church services in this village". An additional purpose, cited in the Articles of Incorporation (1888-89) was "to hold property for the conducting of religious meetings, including ...preaching...sunday school and prayer meetings."

The property held by the Society was the one-story brick building, built in the late 1880's. Land for the church was donated by Charles E. Robinson, with the stipulation that the first floor of the building would serve as a town hall and community center and the upper floor for multi-denominational services. Robinson's wishes were documented in the Articles of Incorporation, stating that "any orthodox church (not Unitarian or Universalist) shall be allowed th use" the building. On 29 July, 1889, further provision was made, that the basement could be used "for all moral purposes (but not for dancing), such as a municipal or town hall is used for, council meetings, socials...only the upper room shall be dedicated for worship".

This dual use of the small building was maintained until church groups no longer met there, whereupon ownership reverted to the Robinson family. The town purchased the building in 1921, and since then it has been used as a school, meeting house for the Evangelical Free Church, and, most recently, as an administrative center for the town government, and is now a museum.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Coralville -- Lest We Forget", Effective Communications, Inc., 1973.  
 Coralville Union Ecclesiastical Society, Constitution and Articles of Confederation,  
 Manuscript Department, Iowa State Historical Society, Iowa City.  
 Interviews with Clem Shay, Ray Bowers and E. Virgil Bowers, Coralville,

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	1	9	3	8	5	4	6	1	4	2	3	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Virginia West

ORGANIZATION Johnson County Historical Society DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER Highway 6 West, Western Hills TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN Iowa City STATE Iowa

# 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 *Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation DATE 11/2/76

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

CHIEF *James A. [Signature]* DATE 4/11/99

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]* DATE 3.8.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER