

JUL - 2 1981

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

MAY 29 1981

Site Number 43-014-001  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # 43-014-001  
Topo Map Logan 1:24,000

**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. Site Name Harrison County Courthouse
- 2. Village/Town/City Logan Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Harrison
- 3. Street Address 7th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues
- 4. Legal Location Reel's Add. 41  
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel  
Rural: township range section 1/4 section-1/4 section
- 5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 267660 northing 4613750; Acreage less than 1 ac
- 6. Owner(s) Name Harrison County Board of Supervisors
- 7. Owner(s) Address Logan Iowa 51546  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
- 8. Use: present Courthouse original Courthouse

**DESCRIPTION**

- 9. Date of Construction 1910-11 Architect/Builder Joseph E. Mills, Detroit, Arch.
- 10. Building Type:  single family dwelling  multiple family dwelling  commercial  
 industrial  educational  other institutional  public  religious  agricultural
- 11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board & batten  shingles  stucco  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  
 wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  masonry load-bearing walls  
 iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other Hollow tile
- 13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 14. Integrity:  original site  moved-if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Note low cupola with cut corners and triple oculus windows, & low, curved tile roof - wide modillion cornice - tall round arch set between Ionic columns in antis. Lozenge-shaped rotunda, richly-patterned tile floors, metal staircase - rotunda set off from hall by column screens.
- 15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  
 carriage house  garage  privy  other \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes-if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  
 densely built-up  commercial  industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Map \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Photo  
Roll \_\_\_\_\_ Frame \_\_\_\_\_ View \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE** (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

**20. Architectural Significance**

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure  c. Not eligible/intrusion

The relative simplicity of this courthouse's neoclassical exterior contrasts with the richly-appointed interior public spaces.

**21. Historical Significance**

Theme(s) Politics/Government

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure  c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is locally significant as the historical focus of county government, and of the political power and prestige derived from the community's status as the county seat. As center of county government, an Iowa town was reasonably assured of economic and population growth, and a prominent role in local social and political life. The county courthouse represents a significant public investment in a structure built not simply for utilitarian purposes, but also as a monument associated with the historical importance of county organization and development.

See Continuation Sheet

**22. Sources** (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.

Pratt, LeRoy G. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Co., 1977.

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

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization DHP

**FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY**

1. OFFICE INFORMATION SOURCES ON THIS PROPERTY

<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCE FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/> WINDSHIELD SURVEY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL REGISTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTS-IN-AID: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____

2. SUBJECT TRACES

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

3. PHOTO IMAGES \_\_\_\_\_

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

Item Number(s)

### HARRISON COUNTY

The early records of Harrison County were destroyed in September of 1854 by a fire in the first crude log cabin used as a courthouse. The cause of this fire at Magnolia, the first county seat, remains unknown. Shortly after the fire, a small frame structure, two stories high, was erected for the purpose of housing county records and conducting county business. In 1873 the building was condemned by the authorities as unsafe and a new building was ordered to accommodate county records and county officials until 1876 when the courthouse was moved to Logan.

The first courthouse at Logan was a brick structure, 55 by 70 feet and two stories high, which was completed in 1876. The total cost was \$14,000, \$5,000 of which was appropriated by the board of supervisors and \$9,000 of which was donated by the people of Logan.

As early as 1890, citizens of the county realized that a new courthouse would soon be necessary to serve the growing needs of the county. In January of 1905, an architect from Omaha was secured to estimate the cost of repairing the old courthouse and building a new one. When the estimate was submitted to the board of supervisors, it informed them that over \$14,000 would be necessary to repair the old structure and attach the necessary additions. The cost of a new building would be nearly six times that much. The question of a new courthouse was put to the electors of the county several times before it met with success. After the old courthouse was condemned in January of 1909, the county voted to sell bonds to raise money for a new building.

The cornerstone of the present courthouse was laid on October 5, 1910. The building is 100 feet by 72 feet and the top of its dome sits 77 feet above the street. The stone courthouse is made of 672,000 bricks and had a total cost of about \$103,000.

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