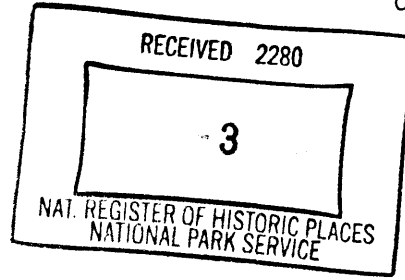


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration 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 an 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.

1. Name of Property

historic name American Legion Memorial Building

other names/site number Atlantic National Guard Armory

2. Location

street & number 201 Poplar Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Atlantic [N/A] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cass code 029 zip code 50022

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide  locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Ronell J. Sate Deputy SHPO November 1, 2006  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

hereby certify that the 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12/12/06

American Legion Memorial Building  
Name of Property

Cass County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense/arms storage \_\_\_\_\_

Defense/Military Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Social/meeting Hall \_\_\_\_\_

Recreation & Culture/Sports Facility \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation And Culture/Auditorium \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement/Moderne \_\_\_\_\_

Modern Movement/Art Deco \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** 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 and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

### Period of Significance

1930

1953

### Significant Dates

1930-1956

### Significant Person

(N/A)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Spoooner, George A.

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Iowa National Guard, Camp Dodge

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property Less than one acre**

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1][5]	[3][3][1][6][8][0]	[4][5][8][5][8][8][0]	2	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
3	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]	4	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

See continuation sheet

**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 James E. Jacobsen

organization History Pays! Historic Preservation Consulting Firm date October 27, 2006

street & number 4411 Ingersoll Avenue telephone 515-274-3625

city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50312-2415

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the complete 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name ARISE c/o David Williams, President

street & number 315 Poplar Street telephone 712-243-5682

city or town Atlantic state Iowa zip code 50022

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

**7. Narrative Description:**

The American Legion Memorial Building or Atlantic Armory (1929-30) in Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa, is a two-story brick and stone veneered tile core building and its design that was executed in the Modernistic style with Art Deco detailing. Designed as a combination auditorium and National Guard armory, the building plan consists of three component parts. These are the two-story front "head house" that contains the entryway, stairwells and office areas; the two-story open drill hall that comprises the bulk of the building massing; and a single-story attached vehicle storage (1953) added at the south side of the plan. The former armory is located in the northwest corner of Atlantic's downtown and occupies a quarter of a city block. The building measures 103x62 feet exclusive of the vehicle storage room (1953) which measures 81x29.

The armory was successfully acquired by a local history preservation group (ARISE) and future plans envision a grouping of community veterans' organizations within the building. The former drill hall will serve a variety of community public and special events.

The building massing assumes the expected form of a post-World War I single-unit community armory building, with a raised central front entrance, front office area and lower rear drill hall. Raised monumental entrances are less common in armory design and this example speaks to the combination of public, community and guard use of the facility. The main façade is symmetrical in its design, with a raised central stone pavilion and flanking subordinated red brick side wings. The Art Deco style entrance is exceptional for a community building in a county seat town. The slightly projected pavilion is flanked by broad square-cut engaged columns with distinctive square capitals. These consist of concentric squares recessed in a stepped fashion. A stone cornice with framed inscription, bears the building name, "American Legion Memorial Building." Below, three two-story entrance bays are defined by intervening fluted engaged flat columns and each bay contains a two-door entrance (originally) and a window above. Intervening stone spandrels bear the names of major World War I battles in which units of the Iowa National Guard participated (left to right, Saint Mihiel, Meuse Argonne, and Chateau Thierry).

Certainly the most distinctive and curious feature of the building façade was the architect's use of a bull symbol that was integrated with Classical motifs in the cornice line (Figures 1, 2). Particularly unusual for an armory, this stone cornice line fronts each of the side wings and is continued along each side wall to the front of the drill hall section. Some have linked the bull symbol with that of the Red Bull 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of World War II, but the latter image used a skull and its origin postdated this building design by many years.



Figure 1: Cornice detail from architect's plans

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American Legion Memorial Building

Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa



Figure 2: Southeast cornice detail, view northwest (Jacobsen, 2006 photo)

Armories are not commonly titled as is this one. There are a few memorial hall designations and these commonly occur only in the larger cities. The cornerstone (Figure 3), located on the elevated water table line in the northeast corner, bears a variation of the official building title "The American Legion Memorial." A stone water table distinguished the basement from the ground floor.

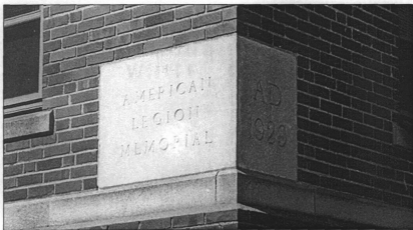


Figure 3: Cornerstone photo, view southwest (Jacobsen, 2006 photo)

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

The drill hall end walls assume a gable roof profile but the drill hall roof is vaulted or semi-circular in its form. The front portion of the building design hides the front (east) gable end wall and consequently the roof itself is visible only from the south or north.

The brick veneer (on tile) side walls are divided into five equal-sized structural bays by four prominent square pilasters. Each of these supports one end of a roof truss within the drill hall. Each pilaster is capped with a fairly distinctive stone cap that slopes inward to support the cornice line above. The side cornice is fairly plainly detailed (Figure 4) with a stone coping and stone drain inserts above the center of each bay. Upper and lower window sets are placed within each bay. Industrial steel sash with operable lower sections are contained within each window opening.

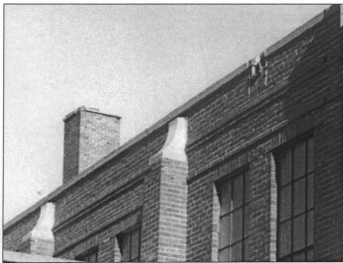


Figure 4: South side cornice detail, view northwest (Jacobsen, 2006 photo)

The rear (west) wall is plainly executed with no window openings apart from the raised basement level. There is one surviving basement entry with exterior stairs and brick sidewalls, which enters into the furnace room. There are two attic level vents (into the drill hall) and there is a first floor door with steel stairway in the northwest corner. The entire basement level is elevated around the perimeter of the plan, allowing for full-sized basement windows on all sides.

All but six exterior ground floor windows retain original industrial metal sash. Eight front windows have been replaced. The basement level openings have been largely replaced or filled in with brick.

The single-story attached vehicular storage area (29x81) is stepped back so as to cover only the lower south side wall of the drill hall. It has a flat roof and a finished east façade with raised plain cornice. Five square window openings span its south sidewall, and there is a large garage door on the west end wall. The south and west walls are of concrete block construction.

Interior Plan and Features:

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American Legion Memorial Building

Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa

A number of interior features or materials are worthy of special note. An unusual brown glazed and textured concrete block was used in the lower drill hall wall. A caramel colored angled cap complements the base wall (which continues up to the sill level). Within the ground level front of the plan, the doors and particularly the double-door drill hall entrance featured arched lintels with transoms set above each door or doors. The doors are further recessed within the walls so that the trim work is framed by the wall surfaces. This treatment, along with a ticket office, set immediately inside the drill hall entrance on the left side, conveys a public feeling to the building interior.



Figure 5: Basement columns and beams, view west (Jacobsen, 2006)

Basement Plan Description:

The distinctive feature of the basement is the column pattern. Columns are arranged in two rows of five columns each but the rows are not equally distributed across the plan. The southernmost row is set just ten feet inside of the original south side wall, in keeping with an original intention to locate a narrow practice gallery along that same wall. The central row of columns is placed 26 feet to the north of the south row and 20 feet inside of the north side wall. Consequently, these columns intrude into the otherwise open center area of the basement (Figure 5). The end bays (east and west) are broader than the internal bays. The free-standing columns (not depicted on floor plans) are spaced fifteen feet apart. The westernmost columns are incorporated into interior tile partition walls. The most important consequence of the column layout is that the side walls that comprise the side rooms along either side of the basement run along either side of the twin rows of columns that intrude into the central basement area. This reflected the intention to place a swimming pool in the open central area. Columns would have immediately flanked the pool proper and the sidewalls necessarily were stepped back from the pool edge. Columns and



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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

beams are enclosed steel I-beams. The beam components are composite in their assemblage, with riveted upper flanges. Columns are seated on 2x2 feet concrete footings and bolted steel bases. The basement ceiling is framed with 2x12 joists set 16 inches on center, and these are topped with a diagonally placed sub-floor of six-inch wide boards.

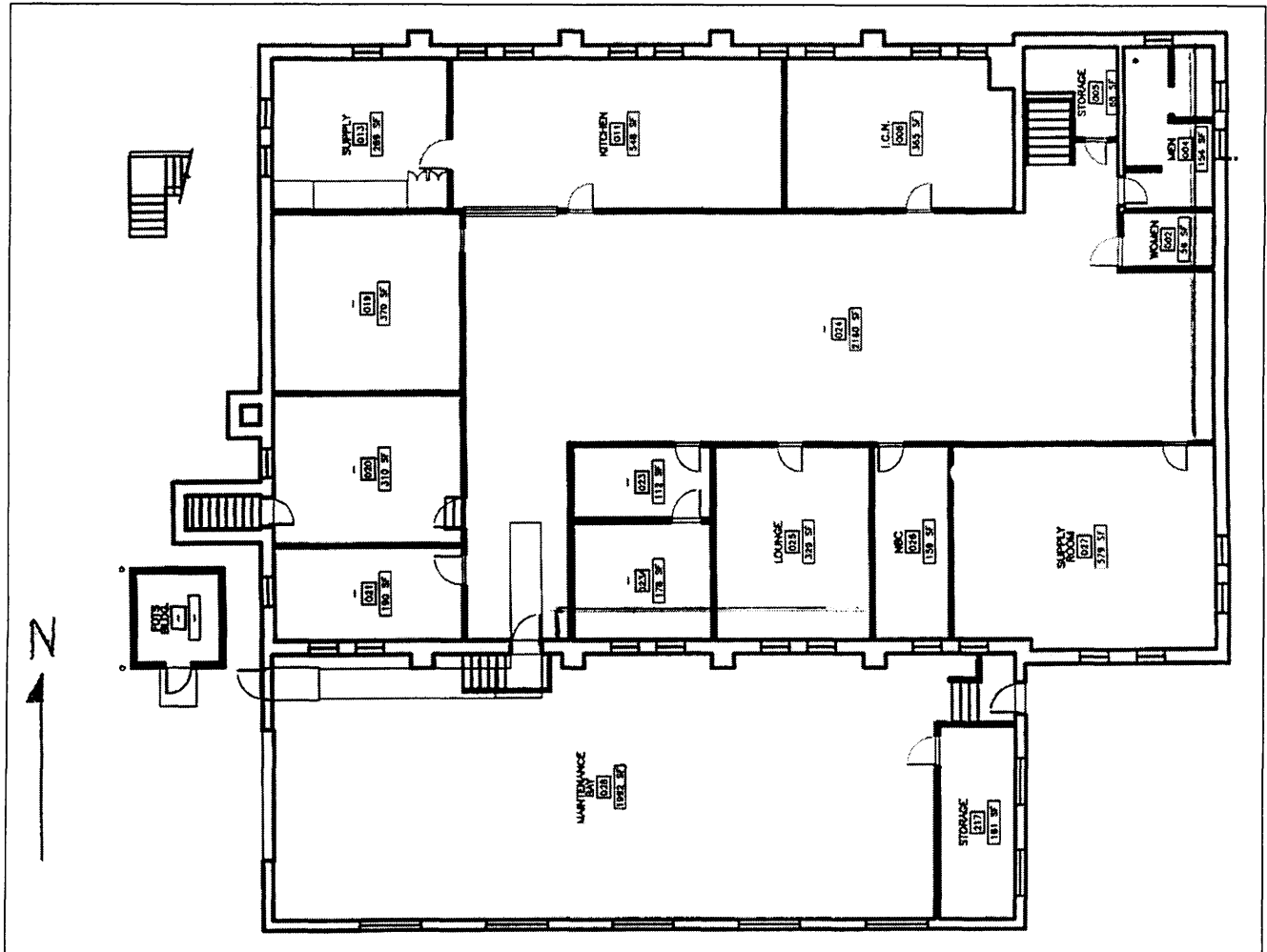


Figure 6: Current Basement Plan (plan by Iowa National Guard)

Because the American Legion and Auxiliary occupied the second floor of the office area, Guard functions were necessarily compressed into the basement (Figure 6). The north tile partition wall is original with original wood trim and doors, and its elongated rooms housed two twin locker rooms with associated small bath and shower rooms. There is a storage area beneath the stairs in the northeast corner (which connects with the drill hall and upper floors) and there is a men's bathroom in that same corner. While the original interior firing range first occupied the south side of the basement, the center room later housed the same function, with targets on the west end of the room. A painted firing line remains on the east end of the floor. The concrete floor is likely original and a curved concrete baseboard is useful in distinguishing replacement from original walls (the original walls have the baseboard). The south side wall is of more recent origin given the absence of the cast concrete

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 6**American Legion Memorial Building****Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

baseboard, and its rooms are deeper in size than the north side counterparts. Four rooms (the westernmost is a double roof) are separated off, the westernmost having a front and back section. The easternmost room served as an office and supply center in more recent years. The westernmost room in this row has barred windows on the south side and housed sensitive stores. A western bank of rooms housed the weapons on the south end, the boiler room and three storage rooms (the latter were interlocked and accessed from a single door at the west end of the center of the plan). The original kitchen was likely located in one of these rooms. More recently a kitchen occupied the westernmost of the two locker areas previously described. In its last iteration, the equipment consisted of free-standing steel fixtures and an oven hood. All of this kitchen equipment was removed when the army was closed. All walls and ceilings are plastered (on a wire mesh base). The furnace dates to 1953. A former exterior door near the southwest corner links the south vehicle storage addition.



Figure 7: Drill hall interior, view west, c. 1999  
(Photo, Iowa National Guard)

**First Floor Description:**

The northeast front rooms of the ground floor of the front of the plan are consigned to women's toilets and a lounge area. One of the south front rooms is used as a cloak room, so only the two southernmost office areas (Figure 8) are available for Guard use. The ticket hall remains just inside the foyer, on the south side of the drill hall entrance these are allocated to the company officers and their key support staff. The southernmost door, leading into the drill hall, retains the painted label "Orderly Room." The doorways in this front section feature the rounded arches and transoms previously noted. The stairs in the northeast corner link the drill hall and other floor levels. The drill hall is one unobstructed space and measures 60x80 feet. Figure 8 depicts this room arrangement and overall layout. Figure 7 depicts the steel truss form, the open drill hall plan, and the

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

vertical separations between the block side walls, coping and wall areas. Angled cold air returns in each corner have a pulpit-like appearance. Side walls are fully fenestrated as noted, with ten paired window openings on each side of the drill hall.

The structural roof consists of 2x10 wood joists placed 16 inches on center. Steel cross bracing is employed between the trusses. A rear door exits the drill hall via a raised steel exterior stairway in the northwest corner. The upper drill hall walls were plainly plastered. A large World War I themed mural, depicting an "Over The Top" theme formerly ornamented an end wall in the drill hall. It was painted by a local artist but did not have a Works Progress Administration (WPA) linkage.

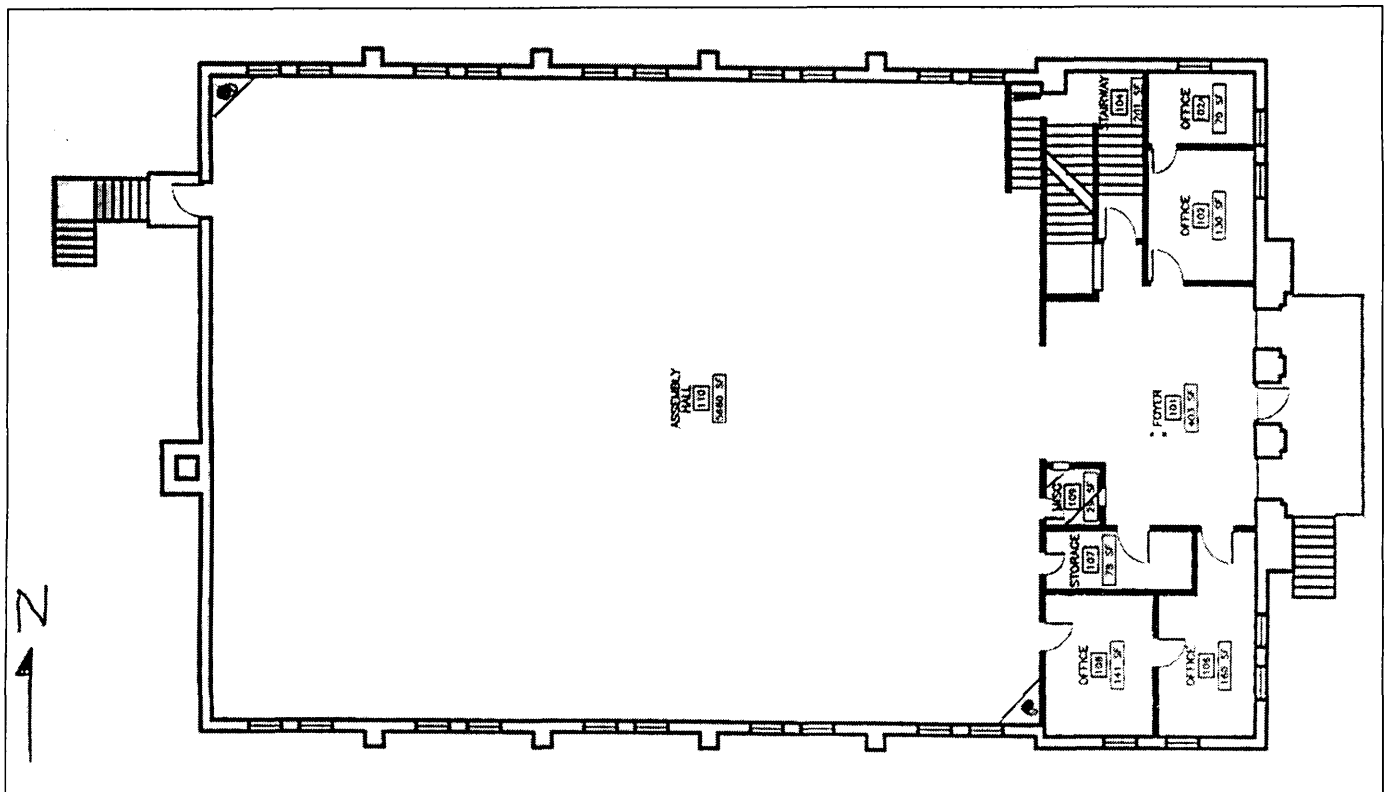


Figure 8: First Floor plan (Iowa National Guard)

Second Floor Description:

The single large space located in the front of the plan was originally subdivided by eight folding wooden doors to provide offices for the Legion and its Auxiliary. The second floor level is well preserved on its north end; it retains original room partitions and the stairway and hall are fully intact. A Dutch door with small counter top marks the location of the Legion kitchenette in the northeast corner. There is a short stage built across the south end of the Legion room, but it dates to the post World War II years. The Legion offices have their own stairway that ascends from the first floor. Twin projection booth windows are centered on the west wall of the Legion rooms/classroom and these were included in the original building plans. An attic hatch is located in the northeast corner.

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**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

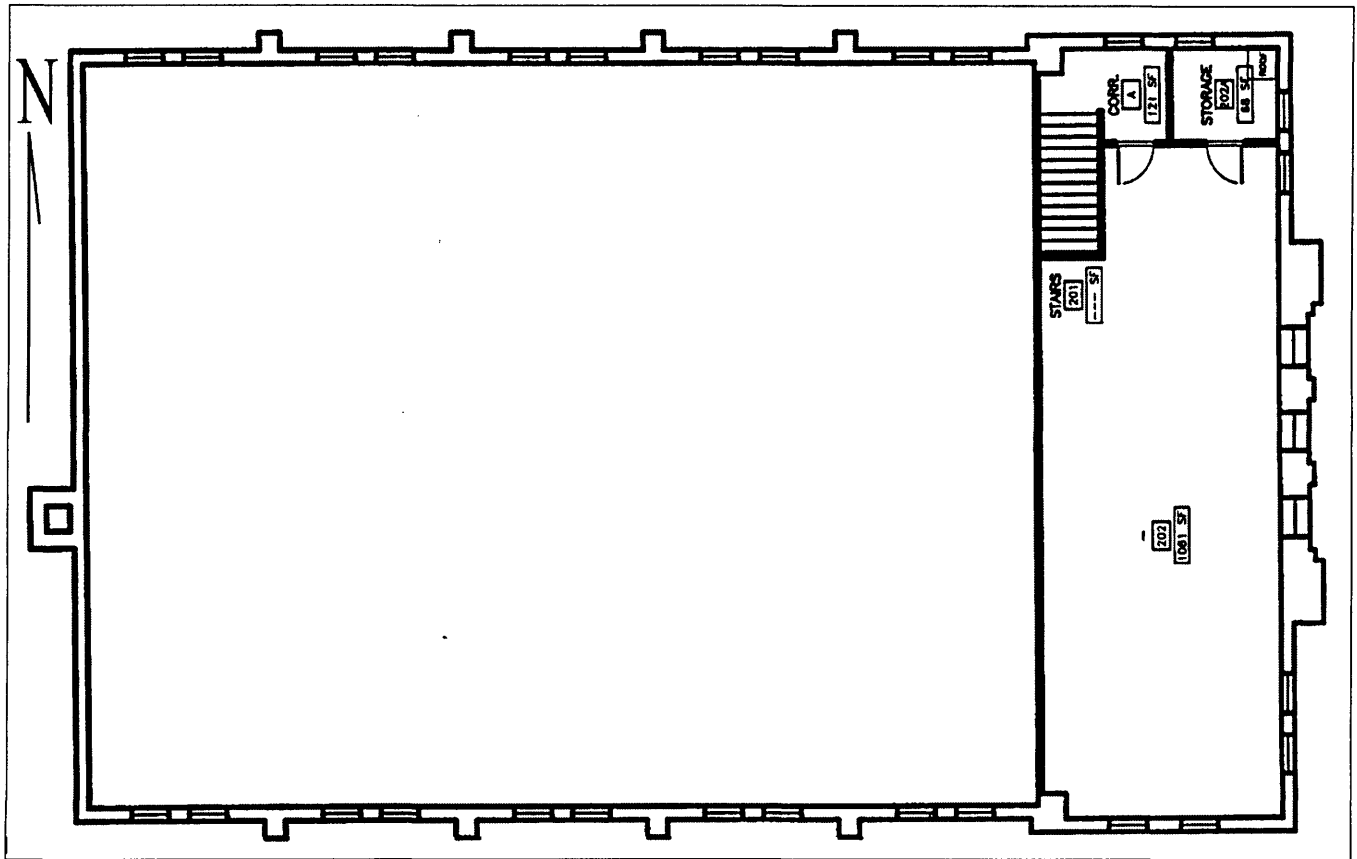


Figure 9: Current Second Floor Plan (National Guard)

Building Alterations:

In 1953, the attached vehicle storage building (29x81, see Figure 6) was added along the south side of the building. Raised basement level windows were blocked up or reduced in size within the garage addition. The addition was of concrete block construction with brick veneer on its east end. Some attention to design was represented in the recessed front, set in line with the drill hall, and the parallel set of pilasters which complemented the main building design. The window cadence also aligned with the original, although the openings were square rather than rectangular. Wever Engineering of Corning Iowa, prepared the addition plans (final date June 4, 1953). The façade plan of the addition plan was altered from the original design, relocating the single door entrance from the center of the end wall to the north side. A half-run of stairs leads from a raised interior platform to the ground floor level. The original overhead door on the west end was multi-paneled so as to match the light pattern in the windows. The current door lacks the original paneling and is a simple multi-paneled metal door. The present heating plant was installed in 1953. The most recent kitchen location appears to date to this remodeling, when it was placed along the north basement wall, replacing a locker room and its associated bathroom/shower area.

The front stairs, with side entries that led directly into the east end of the basement, were removed due to street widening, c.1960. The new and present stairs consist of a brick landing and an open cast concrete stairway to the south.

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American Legion Memorial Building

Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa



Figure 10: Original façade and entryway, 1938, view southwest, note the antenna base and the absence of a flag pole (1938 Iowa National Guard Historical Annual, p. 149).

Asbestos removal was accomplished in 1985. General remodelings in May 1988 replaced ground floor windows on the front of the building with reduced window infills, consisting of 1/1 metal sash, with panels covering the upper third of the original opening. In June 1995 a 10x10 foot square wood frame metal clad fiber optics structure was placed upon a concrete pad at the southwest corner of the building. A new electrical service was installed in 1996. A 500-gallon fuel oil tank was excavated and removed from the northwest corner of the property in 2002. The roof was replaced by the current owners in 2005. When the armory was closed in 2001, the vault door was auctioned off and removed.

The exterior of the armory building maintains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of the immediate setting of the building, illustrated by its commercial setting and streetscape, contributes to the building's ability to maintain integrity of feeling and association. The overall form of the building has remained unchanged once it assumed its intended scale in 1929 save for its 1953 addition which were subordinated to the original design. The great majority of the original architectural materials and detailing, including cornice, window openings, ornamentation, and particularly the interior and drill hall, remain as built. The 1953 vehicular storage addition is subordinated to the original building by setback and vertical scale. The three substantial alterations include the replacement of the front steps, the reduction and infilling of the original three front double doors, and the partial replacement of eight ground floor front windows and four southeast corner basement windows. The vast majority of the original windows remain in place.

Original Plans Versus As Built:

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American Legion Memorial Building

Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa

The original vision for the building, and one that was reflected in the 1929 architect's plans, was to have a public swimming pool centered in the basement. The column distribution was altered to fit this need as well as that of a south side firing range. The pool was removed even before construction began as costs exceeded funds raised (see Figure 11, pool area crossed out by architect). Also not built were twin spiral metal staircases, to have been located in the southeast and northwest corners. The former linked the drill hall and Legion office level, the latter, the drill hall and basement locker rooms. A northeast corner drill hallway, also in the original plans, was retained. Another eliminated feature, was a rear wing that housed the coal bunker and furnace room in the basement and a ground level kitchen and bleachers storage area. This feature likely also reflected the planned public extensive use of the building. One retained feature was the twin projection booth holes in the west interior wall of the second floor, to be used to show films. The architect also provided basketball backboard supports and these were built and appear to be original.

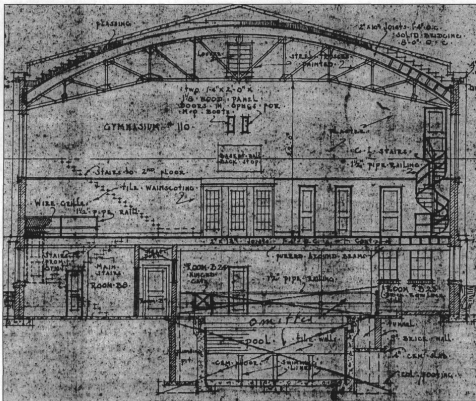


Figure 11: Sectional view, architect's plans, viewed east from the drill hall, February 1929

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American Legion Memorial Building

Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa

No architects specialized in armory design in Iowa, given the meager number and scattered nature of armory commissions. Council Bluffs architect George A. Spooner designed just this single armory but he did design a number of Spanish Mission style themed buildings for Camp Dodge, Iowa's permanent National Guard camp. That facility was to have been rebuilt following World War I but the bad economy prevented the work. Several contemporaneous buildings that are stylistically similar to the armory (but not designed by Spooner) are found in Atlantic. A similar decorative element is found on the front porch of the courthouse (1932-34, Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, architects). There is no comparable building design to be found in Atlantic. The town has a number of contemporary designs, notably the Coca Cola building (1940, Moderne style), the Cass County Courthouse, the high school (1936, Art Deco style), Jackson School (c.1928, Collegiate Gothic, Keffer & Jones, architects), and First Presbyterian Church (1927, Wetherell & Harrison). A comparison of other known works by architect Spooner (see Appendix C) reveals no other similar commissions.



Figure 12: New Cass County Courthouse, Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, architects, Des Moines (State Historical Society of Iowa, State Archives Photo Collection, CCC and WPA Project photos)

Armory Location and Site Plan:

The armory location, on the northwest corner of the downtown, combined rail and highway access. The armory was just a few blocks from the passenger railroad depot and is located in the northwest corner of the downtown commercial area. Residences are located immediately to the west, across the alleyway. State Highway 83 passes east/west immediately north of the armory. Figure 13 depicts the armory still in operation. At that time a fenced vehicular parking area was adjacent to the south side of the armory and alongside the alley. Today, a multi-unit public recycling drop area occupies the same site. There is a parking area immediately in front of and to the east of the south addition.

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**



Figure 13: Aerial photo, 1980, view north (Iowa National Guard photo)

**Building Integrity Evaluation:**

The exterior of the American Legion Memorial Building maintains a high degree of six aspects of integrity: location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of the immediate setting of the armory building, illustrated by its being located on the boundary of commercial and residential land uses, contributes to the building's ability to maintain integrity of feeling and association. Workmanship, reflected in the well-preserved stone ornamentation, brickwork, and the majority of its window openings, is also of particular importance. The overall form of the building has remained unchanged since it was built, apart from its garage addition, which was designed to be subordinated to the original armory. In terms of design, it has been determined that the loss of the original monumental east stairway has so impacted the façade so as to preclude eligibility under Criterion C. The armory interior is particularly well preserved, with original room configuration, wall, floor and ceiling surfaces, and considerable architectural and historical detailing.



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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

**8. Significance Statement:**

The American Legion Memorial building is locally significant for its historical association with the Atlantic community and its Iowa National Guard military unit (Criterion A, military). The building was determined to be National Register of Historic Places eligible by State Historical Society of Iowa staff in 2006 on the basis of its architecture, however, additional research has shown that changes to the front entry have impacted the property's integrity of design such that it is not considered eligible under Criterion C (Letter, Architectural Historian Jack C. Porter to Mary Jones, Iowa National Guard, September 17, 2004).

While there is no finalized multiple property documentation form treating Iowa's National Guard armories, a great deal of recent survey and evaluation work has considered armories of the pre- and post-World War II years in this state. James E. Jacobsen conducted a statewide survey of pre-war armories and prepared a historical report titled *The Iowa National Guard From the Bottom Up: Community Participation In the Guard, 1839-1955* in 2005. That report began the process of defining the armory property type and established significance and integrity guidelines. Those guidelines will eventually be further refined and it is hoped that a multiple property nomination of Iowa armories is to follow.

The armory property type is not a simple one. It encompasses converted buildings, multiple-use buildings, as well as single and multiple unit armories. The Atlantic Armory fits the "between the World Wars" subtype of a community-built building that was principally intended for use as an armory.

The study also determined that a surprisingly small number of communities provided the vast majority of support for the Iowa National Guard and consequently, the total number of buildings built as armories is not large. Because a local Guard company was as much a community component as a military one, compelling Criterion A associations can be developed along with Criterion C significance claims. The bottom line, then, argued that any well-preserved Iowa armory, built locally prior to World War II, and having a sustained Guard association throughout that period, merits National Register listing.

Atlantic Iowa National Guard History:

Atlantic had a National Guard company (Company H, 55<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry) until 1907, when lack of local interest caused it to be disbanded. The company was inspected as part of a statewide inspection on March 19, 1907, and it was one of four poorly rated units that, along with a hospital corps, were recommended for disbanding. The company was ordered mustered out on April 24, 1907 (Adjutant General, State of Iowa Biennial Report, 1907, pp. 17, 19, 131; Biennial Report, 1908, pp.; 5, 229, 245, 243-47).

During World War I Cass County provided 979 volunteers (and seven draftees), 63 of whom were members of six companies of the 168<sup>th</sup> Iowa National Guard Regiment. Thirty county men lost their lives, 17 of these being killed or mortally wounded in combat. Six of the dead were from Atlantic. As the onset of war neared, Atlantic leaders asked to have a Guard unit as part of the Third Iowa National Guard Regiment, but the request was denied, given that the regiment's quota of companies was full. Only the 168<sup>th</sup> saw actual combat of all of Iowa's Guard units (Beard, pp. 14-15, 123, 126, 128-29, 143, 153).

On the home front, the county raised \$4.5 million in the five Liberty Loan campaigns. An impressive patriotic wartime accomplishment was the planning and erection of the Cass County Soldiers Monument in City Park, circa 1918. Architect Edward A. Pryor, of Postville, designed the monument and the total cost was \$22,894. The monument design was unusual,

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

given that it honored county veterans from the Civil War, Spanish American War and the First World War. In addition, a cast iron fountain had honored the Civil War veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic. It was lost to World War II scrap metal drives in 1943. The Soldiers' Monument later gained two large French artillery pieces, also lost to the 1943 scrap drive.

After the war, Cass County veterans of the First World War were quick to organize an American Legion Post (#43) on June 19, 1919 with 24 charter members (a Legion Auxiliary was formed on May 7, 1925). Nearby cities of Anita and Cumberland also had Legion posts. The organization appears to have been a by-product of the local campaign that placed the war monument in the city park (Cass County Iowa, 1980, p. 55; Simpson, p.38; *Atlantic News-Telegraph*, December 5, 1929).

A Meeting Place for the Legion:

On June 15, 1927, Legion officers announced plans to meet in the near future with town merchants "to discuss an armory here or a National Guard unit which has been offered Atlantic." The Legion announced plans to build a \$40,000 community building and armory. The plan would include "a gymnasium and floor for indoor athletic events" as well as adequate quarters for the legion and auxiliary. Building and financing committees were organized. The Legion post and auxiliary both endorsed the community building plan on July 8 and I. W. Grant, an architect from Beatrice, Nebraska, was hired to prepare plans and specifications (his son J. N. Grant, lived in Atlantic). The new building would be a memorial building for soldiers of the First World War and it would be called the Gold Star Memorial Building. A prominently placed tablet would bear the names of county soldiers who had died in that war. The building committee proposed to incorporate as a building association, but this was not done until January 1929 (*ibid.*, June 21, July 9, 1927).

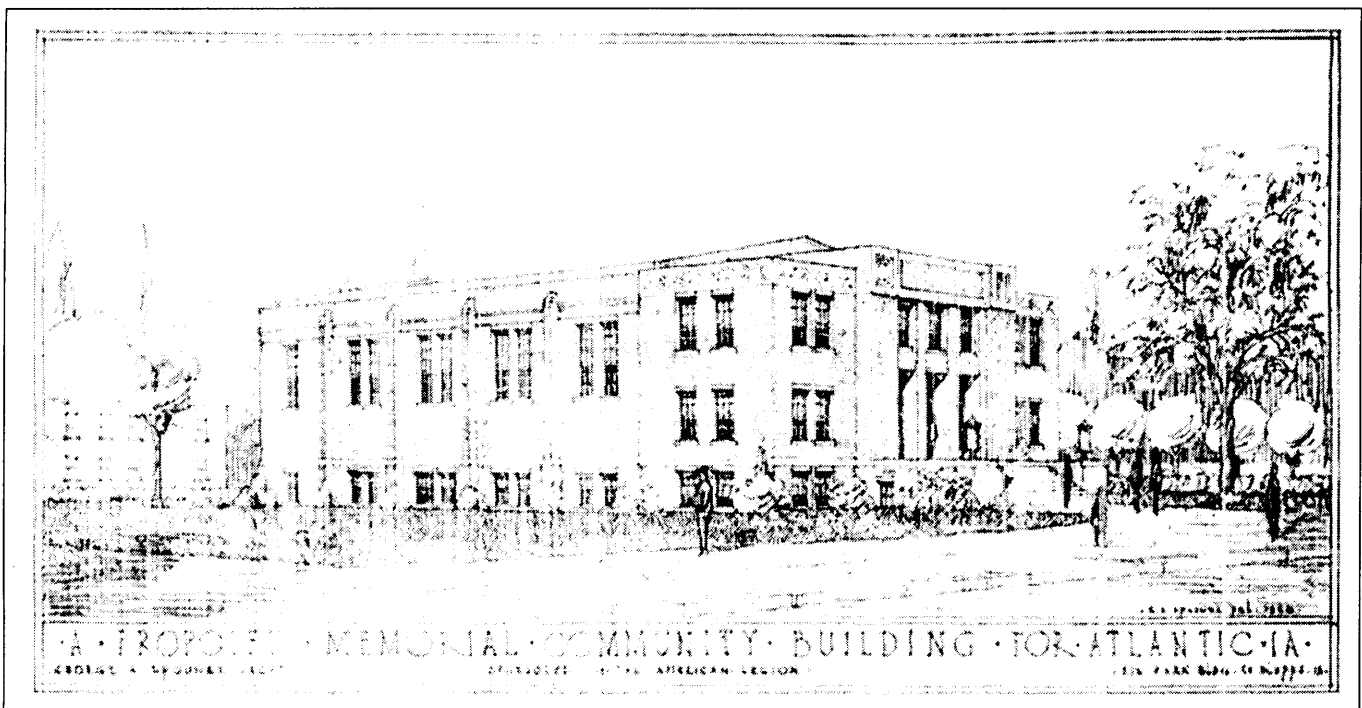


Figure 14: Architect George A. Spooner's sketch of the proposed American Legion Memorial Building  
(*News-Telegraph*, August 25, 1928)

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American Legion Memorial Building

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Nothing came of these initial plans and no further mention was made of architect Grant's design, if it was ever prepared. The next mention of the project came in mid-1928. By this time the project was to be called the "Billy Williams Legion Memorial Building." Williams was a World War I vet, but he was neither killed nor wounded, and never got overseas. He had just died, however, on March 20, 1928, and his loss must have been sufficiently felt to at least briefly link his name with the project. A Legion committee asked the Board of Supervisors for the donation of the southwest corner of the county courthouse grounds (between 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, Poplar and Chestnut streets) for use as a building site. The *News-Telegraph* noted, "the Legion has been making plans for the erection, if possible, of a memorial building here for more than a year." The planned building "would be for the use of not only people of the Atlantic vicinity, but for the entire county" and for that reason, the county was approached to help with a location. The building plan included "a large auditorium, a gymnasium, swimming pool, armory space and other accommodations." The board was informed that the project had been "endorsed by other Legion posts in the country" (*News-Telegraph*, June 1, 1928).

Rebuffed by the county, the Legion announced the purchase of four lots that were located at the southwest corner of Second and Poplar streets in mid-August 1928. The Clyde Herring family (owners of the Atlantic Automobile Company) sold the lots at cost for \$4,000 and later donated \$2,000 to the building. The Legion favored this site because of the advantageous cost and because the property was large enough and was unimpeded by other nearby buildings. A fund-raising campaign was started on September 30, 1928, to raise an estimated \$45,000 for the planned building. By this time the official title was the "Atlantic American Legion Memorial Building" (not the "Cass County American Legion Building" given the lack of cooperation by the county). The building plan, now under preparation by the architect George A. Spooner, of Council Bluffs, Iowa (the architect's elevation sketch was first presented at this time, Figure 14), still contained the previously announced public spaces, but in addition, offices or meeting space would be provided for the Legion, its auxiliary, "national guard headquarters [an apparent reference to the Coming company] and a Boy Scouts headquarters." The *News-Telegraph* promised, "A large part of the money necessary for the maintenance of the building will be secured from the state, as the post has the assurance of the location of a national guard unit here." The rest of the operating expenses "will be provided by gymnasium memberships and the revenue from enterprises staged by the post, and from other sources." Campaign headquarters were established at the "old" Farmers Savings Bank, at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut (*News-Telegraph*, August 25, October 17, 1928).

## The American Legion Memorial Building

# Campaign Week Sept. 30-Oct. 6

### SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 29—  
Divide Announcements

Monday, Oct. 1—  
Greater Alliance Club Day

Tuesday, Oct. 2—  
Lions and Rotary Day

Wednesday, Oct. 3—  
Preserved Day  
Special Dinner at City Hall

Thursday, Oct. 4—  
Farming and Seasonal Day

Friday, Oct. 5—  
Federation of Women's Circle Day

Saturday, Oct. 6—  
Patrol Day

*In The Interest Of Community Service*



A. SPONER ARCHT. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

"OVER THE TOP"

The American Legion Memorial Building

### WANTED

The Friends of this Campaign are Asked to seek for the names of the following: The name of the person who...

See Your Township Chairman

Bear Grove—Ray Malone

Boston—Clayton Acker

Brighton—Fred Shaw

Cass—Glenn Jones

Franklin—C. E. Bartholdt

Grove—Archie Prall

Prussia—Scott Wilburn

Washington—Wayland Hopley

Figure 15: Legion guns loaded for building fund-raiser

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

*(News-Telegraph, September 28, 1928)*

The town mayor issued a proclamation for the week of September 30 through October 6, 1928. The Legionnaires constructed a "campaign hut" (mounted on a platform, and enclosed with a fence of cornstalks) as their downtown fund raising headquarters. "Zero-hour" was set at 9:00 a.m. on September 30. A cumulative "clock" registered each \$1,000 raised in pledges. The public was promised that the Second and Poplar site was not absolutely determined, a clear hint that early concerns had been voiced about that location. As the weekly schedule (Figure 15) indicates, the week was thoroughly organized and involved every county sector and organization. Answers to other questions were also forthcoming. Who would manage the building? The Legion would manage it. Would the Legion "make money" on the building? No. Would the pool and gymnasium be supervised? Yes. Would the building be available to all organizations? Yes. Would donations be returned if the fund-raising effort failed? Yes (*News-Telegraph, September 28, October 1, 1928*).

On October 6, the \$18,000 mark was reached and the drive was declared successful. Fund-raising would continue and it was predicted that the \$20,000 level would be reached by the next week. The Legion Committee pledged to build the next spring and that final plans would be approved. They also promised to take up the matter of a final site selection. A mass meeting was promised to give the public an opportunity to review the building plans (*News-Telegraph, October 6, 8, 1928*).

The public meeting was held on October 17, carefully scheduled so as to not conflict with an evening boxing match at the Atlantic Theater. The turnout was smaller than the Legionnaires had hoped for and it was mostly post members and spouses. Two issues were at hand. The local YMCA had \$18,000 in hand to build a building and they couldn't build their own facility under state guidelines until they had \$100,000, sufficient to provide an endowment to cover operations. The Legion members proposed that the YMCA loan the Legion building fund \$15,000 so that, combined with the \$30,000 they expected to have raised by early 1929, they would have covered their \$45,000 building costs. The second issue was site selection and a strong minority, led by principal donor Dr. Mullins and others, opposed the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Poplar Street location. The opponents felt that more donations would be forthcoming if a more public location was chosen. A site selection committee that included non-Legionnaires was organized to consider the alternative sites. One option was leasing public park space for the building for a period of 50 years, at which time the building would transfer to the city's ownership. The committee had no discretionary power and was only to report its findings to a second public meeting. The actual site decision would be made by "those who have subscribed the money to build the building." There were six other potential sites, five of which fronted on or stood on the public park, which was located a block north of the county courthouse (*News-Telegraph, October 13, 17, 18, 1928*).

The American Legion Memorial Building Association finally filed its articles of incorporation on January 11, 1929. The articles empowered the association to operate for 50 years, with the following stated purpose:

...to acquire and hold in the city of Atlantic, Iowa, such real estate and property as may be deemed necessary and proper for the use and occupation by the members of Atlantic Post 43 of the American Legion, and for such community purposes of an athletic and military character as may be deemed advisable by said post and to erect a proper building or buildings upon said premises or property for such purposes...

The corporation was limited to a secured indebtedness of no more than \$30,000 and an unsecured indebtedness of no more than \$5,000. A seven-member board of directors would serve staggered terms of up to six years. The land transaction was finally and quietly (as far as local newspaper coverage was concerned) finalized between January 16 and 24, 1929.

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

Construction bids had been called for on March 22 and the next newspaper report announced that construction bids were to be submitted by the Legion board of trustees on April 5, 1929. Construction was to begin in early May with the anticipated completion date to be prior to Armistice Day of that same year. Final plans and specifications had been approved and were the same as those announced the previous October. A second fund-raising campaign was announced and previous pledges were to be honored by April 1. The issue of the YMCA "loan" arose once again and a two-man committee was formed by the Legion to approach the YMCA. The Second and Poplar site, already purchased, was finally reported to be the final site choice, being approved "by a committee of local business men" (*News-Telegraph*, March 20, 22, 1929).

A dozen bids were received, coming from Council Bluffs, Manning, Harlan, Humboldt, Exira, Sioux City, Carroll, and Red Oak. Bids were prepared for general contracting (ten bids), heating and ventilating (seven bids), electric work (seven bids) and plumbing and steam heating (six bids). Despite community expectations, there were no local general contract bidders. The lowest bid was for \$56,477 and the trustees consequently rejected all of them on April 5, 1929.

The trustees and architect then met with the lowest general bidder, G. F. Construction Company, of Exira, Iowa (Tom Godwin, manager), and made an agreement to delete the swimming pool, deducting \$10,000 from the total bill. "Provisions" were made for adding the pool at a later date and the public was notified that if further contributions were forthcoming, the pool could be put back in the plan. The YMCA voted to make the requested loan (at five percent interest). The second fund-raiser goal would be \$15,000. The architect went to work revising the plans. This scaling down of the project and the promise to keep the pool as a future possibility, explains why the basement support columns were placed as they were (*News-Telegraph*, April 6, 1929).

The building architect, George Spooner, of Council Bluffs, wasn't mentioned by name until this time, when the trustees, Mr. Godwin, and architect Spooner met to approve the revised plans and final bid. No explanation was given as to how Spooner had been chosen. The architect was paid \$2,208 for his work (*News-Telegraph*, April 26, June 27, 1929).

The construction contract was let at the end of April 1929 with work to begin within a week. The general contract was for \$35,240 and the awarding of sub-contracts indicates the importance of selecting local contractors and suppliers. The plumbing and heating contract for \$7,611 was awarded locally to Lou Camblin, the electrical contract, for \$965 was also locally let to Wiard & Pickens Electric Company, for a total cost of \$43,816. General contractor Godwin further promised to hire local labor. The "Buy A Brick" campaign was also announced. The *News-Telegraph* welcomed word that the building, which "answers a long felt need" in the community, was now assured. The following interior plan description of the memorial building was offered:

The banquet hall and lockers and showers will be in the basement. The banquet hall will permit the seating of 450 persons at tables. Store rooms and offices for the national guard unit which may be brought here when the building is completed, a rifle range, bowling alley and furnace and fuel rooms will also be in the basement of the building.

On the first floor will be an auditorium gymnasium, dance floor, two national guard offices, check room, foyer, ladies' parlor and national guard drill hall and on the second floor will be the American Legion and Auxiliary assembly rooms and kitchenette.

The gymnasium floor will be 60x80 feet, giving Atlantic such a recreation hall and auditorium as have been needed for years. The room will be equipped for basketball, volleyball, handball, boxing, wrestling, indoor baseball and other athletic games. It will provide seating capacity for about 900 persons at basketball games.

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With such a gymnasium, Atlantic is expected to land many important high school basketball tournaments when the building is complete.

Another outstanding feature of the building is the headquarters for the national guard unit. A national guard company would bring to this community about \$12,000 annually in officers' and privates' salaries, together with rental to be paid on the building. Boy Scouts of Atlantic will also be granted use of the building and gymnasium, giving proper recreation to the youth of the city (*News-Telegraph*, April 30, 1929).

There were relatively few construction progress reports offered to the public while the armory was being built. Two early reports appeared in May 1929:

**Excavating:**

The work of excavation for the new Legion Memorial building to be erected at Second and Poplar streets has been started by the G. F. Construction company of Exira, which concern has the contract for erecting the new building. The Exira company is pushing the work along as rapidly as possible and it is quite evident the construction of the building will proceed on schedule.

*News-Telegraph*, May 7, 1929.

**Work Progressing:**

Work on the new American Legion Memorial building at Second and Poplar streets is progressing rapidly. Work on the structure was at a standstill today, however, as brick to be used above the basement walls had not arrived, holding up the progress until it is received. The basement wall has been completed.

*News-Telegraph*, May 28, 1929.

On July 13, work was reported stopped because the contractor was awaiting face stone from Sioux City. This would imply that the tile walls and the brick veneer were quickly going up (*News-Telegraph*, July 13, 1929).

**"Buy a Brick" Campaign**  
The American Legion Memorial Building

June 23  
to  
July 4

BUY A BRICK  
FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MEMORIAL BUILDING

In 1917-1918  
You Gave Till It Hurt--  
Now Give With Pleasure and Profit.

Buy a Brick  
At Your Own Price  
By the Sale of ONE  
of these  
500,000 BRICKS

Atlantic's New Civic Center  
For Entertainment --  
For Recreation --  
For Sociability --  
For Education

Figure 16: The second fund-raising campaign, conducted in mid-1929 (*News-Telegraph*, June 22, 1929).

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The "Buy a Brick" campaign began on June 23 but failed to meet the hopes of the project leaders. A week later "a concerted and widespread action" was unleashed. Following an evening pep rally, 25 two-man canvassing teams fanned out to comb the city for contributions, targeting those who had not yet contributed. Each team carried with it "souvenir brick" examples. The plan was to sell 1,000 of these bricks that were "neat in appearance," but offered at no set price. The first fund drive had netted slightly less than \$20,000 in contributions from 500 donors. The newspaper stressed the fact that the building was not just "a Legion project" but was rather a community effort. The \$15,000 goal was lowered to \$10,000 and the promoters counted on obtaining the remaining \$5,000 from a series of special events, the most notable being a Fourth of July celebration at Sunnyside Park. The event would be held in conjunction with the dedication of the cornerstone of the Memorial building. Governor John Hammill would be the special guest. Plans included a 10 a.m. dedication, followed by a parade, lunch in the park, an address by the governor, sports programs, a midway, parachute jump, airplane rides, free boxing show, and evening fireworks. The day was a success with 12,000 in attendance and \$1,000 for the Memorial building from the Legion midway. A crowd of 1,000 attended the cornerstone-laying ceremony. Mayor Martin was master of ceremonies and drew special attention to the Grand Army of the Republic Fife and Drum Corps, which participated, noting that few southwestern Iowa towns could boast of having so active an organization. The governor's major address, made in the park, focused on preserving "Americanism" and warned against such evils as "undesired immigration from overseas." The *News-Telegraph* reporter deemed the address "a splendid speech and [one which] contained so much high minded thought and common sense as to go down as one of the best of its kind ever heard here" (*News-Telegraph*, June 3, 27, 29, 1929).

On the evening of July 18, the Legion held a dance and the special draw was a drawing for a new Chevrolet automobile, valued at \$775. Vern Wilson's nine-piece band provided the music and the event was reported as being a "huge success." Most of the dancers came from the region. The *News-Telegraph* claimed it was "the largest crowd ever to assemble for such an event." Proceeds, \$822, went towards the new building (*News-Telegraph*, July 7, 20, 1929).

The next local reference to the armory came in late September when dedication plans were divulged. As planned, these would take place on Armistice Day. A "unique and never to be forgotten twist" was the timing of the program, to begin exactly on the anniversary minute when the war had ended. The state Legion commander, Col. Glenn C. Haynes, of Des Moines, would officiate at the dedication. Other dignitaries would include an Iowa National Guard representative; the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Mary Virginia Macrae, of Council Bluffs; delegates from the Legion's Ninth District posts; and Frank Miles, editor of the *Iowa Legionnaire* magazine. Efforts would be made to raise the funds needed "to warrant the dedication at this early date." There were two problems. The greatest was the failure of the summer fund-raising effort. Just \$3,000 of the \$15,000 goal was in hand. The second problem was that the building was apparently not finished. The Legion had determined to hold with their target dedication date anyway. The new fund-raising program now focused on Legion members rather than the community as a whole, an effort to show that "all members of the Legion [are] doing their bit to the end that the people of Atlantic and community may know that the Legion as a whole is backing this worthwhile enterprise." Dr. and Mrs. U. S. Mullins were publicly thanked for delivering their \$3,000 pledge for the building and the payment of other pledges were called in (*News-Telegraph*, September 23, November 7, 1929).

Just two weeks before the dedication, Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929, marked the collapse of the stock market and the beginning of the Great Depression. Area banks would begin to fail within the subsequent few months and the national events certainly greatly hindered the already faltering local fund raising effort.

The dedication came off on November 11 but coverage in the newspaper was surprisingly sparse. Usually an important building would be pictured and pages of congratulatory advertisements would celebrate the opening of the facility. This was

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the case when the Atlantic Theater, which burned in December 1929, was re-opened in early 1930. Coverage was limited to a half-column that was headed by the banner headline "Atlantic Honors War Heroes." The dedication program started with a 10:30 morning parade that honored veterans who served before the Great War. A luncheon was held in the Memorial Building drill room and a football game followed at Sunnyside Park at 3:00 p.m. (*News-Telegraph*, November 11, 1929).

The *News-Telegraph* editorialized on the need to raise the additional \$9,572. Not only was this deficit needed, but if it weren't raised, the \$14,000 YMCA loan would be forfeited as well. That loan was conditional on the raising of all other funding for the building. The editor noted "The G. F. Construction company of Exira, which had the general contract for the building, has gone ahead with its work and the structure is practically completed." The Legion had raised \$5,000 itself, an impressive accomplishment. The newspaper urged "It is unthinkable that Atlantic can not finance this proposition... There always has been a considerable Atlantic spirit, and this spirit has overcome many obstacles in the years gone by... Why not put this Legion building fund over and have done with it?" (*News-Telegraph*, November 21, 1929).

The same newspaper editorialized about the importance of the planned building to the community of Atlantic and linked the success of the fund-raising effort to the community's public image:

The new Legion Memorial building is a thing of beauty and a most attractive ornament to the city. Moreover, it is a structure that has been badly needed in that it will provide an amusement and recreation center for the entire community, the need for which has long been felt. In addition it will provide headquarters for Legion activities. Had the building been promoted the first year following the signing of the armistice in the world war it is safe to assume that all the money would have been raised by subscription. Coming ten years later it has been a little harder. If this community desires to honor the men who served in the world war and to help erect a monument to their service which will endure, it should be just as easy to do it ten years after as one year after. Atlantic certainly does not wish to occupy the position, or have the reputation, that its patriotic ardor has cooled as time has gone on. But leaving this out of the question altogether, the Memorial building is now a community proposition. Atlantic cannot afford to have it go on the rocks. Certainly we do not want that kind of advertising which would result were the contractor forced to file a lien against the structure (*News-Telegraph*, November 21, 1929).

The previous day, the *News-Telegraph* printed a complete list of individual and organizational contributions to the Memorial Building fund. This technique was commonly used during World War I during the successive Victory Loan drives. The public omission of one's name was an effective inducement that helped sell bonds. Total receipts were \$19,970, expenditures were \$18,566, with a cash balance of \$1,404. Liabilities totaled \$32,117, \$25,350 of which was due the general contractor; the rest was due the two sub-contractors and the architect. Outstanding pledges were \$1,092. New Legion pledges totaled \$5,000 (these were \$100 pledges to serve as collateral against a local bank loan). The YMCA loan was \$14,273 and the deficit was \$9,572. The \$19,970 represented 764 individual contributions, but \$10,800 was raised from just 45 pledges. Contributions of \$1.50 to \$35.00 numbered 529. Pledges of \$.10 to \$1.00 totaled 190. Organizational givers numbered 30, and raised a total of \$1,873. The farmers' stock sale accounted for \$501 of this, while Legion contributions were \$372. The top individual contributors were Dr. and Mrs. Mullins (\$3,000), Atlantic Auto (\$2,000), Whitney Loan and Trust (\$500), and Fred R. Hunt (\$250) (*News-Telegraph*, November 20, 1929).



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No liens were ever filed against the building and it was finally ready for use by late February 1930. The Legion was apparently able to raise the necessary collateral and a bank loan made the YMCA funds available to pay off the contractors and architect. The resulting debt was carried by the building association until the State of Iowa bought the armory in 1952 using a lease/purchase arrangement.

**Using the Building – Organizing An Iowa National Guard Unit:**

The Building Association met at the new building on January 9, 1930. The directors made “arrangements for the more complete heating of the Memorial building and preparations were begun to insure its more frequent use for local activities.” Association officers, newly re-elected, were president Bert Carey, treasurer Harry Swan, and secretary Rev. McDermott. The reference to more frequent public use indicates that some usage had taken place. One subsequent event was a district Legion meeting and dance that was held there on February 25, 1930 (*News-Telegraph*, January 10, February 26, 1930).

The *News-Telegraph*, on January 10, 1930 announced “Organization of the proposed National Guard unit for Atlantic will take place immediately, with George Applegate as temporary recruiting officer. This officer will secure names for presentation to Chairman Harry Jordan of the building association and Chairman Guy Cannon of the local Legion post.” Additional information about the process of creating a guard unit is found in a recollection penned in early 1972 by Ralph W. Cockshoot, the company’s first commanding officer:

I do not know whether you know it or not, but the reason we have the building is because in 1930 the Legion was deeded the lot where the National Guard building is by Senator [Clyde] Herring and the Legion raised \$40,000.00 to build the building. They hired a contractor from Exira to build it and he had it pretty well along when we ran out of money and he didn’t want to go ahead until he was sure he would get his money. We had a meeting of the American Legion and we decided the only way to ever get the building completed was to get a National Guard in Atlantic and have them use the building for an armory. Someone at the Legion meeting said to me, “Ralph, you are the only one of us who has kept up his military service so why don’t you organize the Guard?” I said I would do it on one condition and that was that Pat Edwards, the deputy sheriff, would be my second lieutenant in charge. After some argument, Pat agreed and as Corning was giving up their Guard, we asked those in charge to move the company to Atlantic. I went to Des Moines and took an examination and then Pat went down later and then Pat and I enlisted twenty some men to form the Guard (Letter, Cockshoot to Don Cook, January 26, 1972).

Available documentation at this point differs from Cockshoot’s account on a number of points. First, the armory building was nearly enclosed by the fall of 1929, well before it would have been possible to organize a Guard unit. In addition, the income from that unit came in the form of rent for a completed building. Cockshoot is two years off in the start of the construction project. The Corning Guard company wasn’t disbanded until November 15, 1937 (per authority of Chief, National Guard Bureau letter, dated October 26, 1937). As late as mid-1937, the unit was still at full strength. The Atlantic company was re-designated Company K, 168<sup>th</sup> Iowa National Guard Infantry on December 1, 1937 (per authority of Chief, National Guard Bureau letter, dated November 11, 1937), long after the armory was finished. Cockshoot’s unit was a newly established headquarters company for a battalion of the regiment. The 1940 *Who’s Who In Iowa* states that Cockshoot was as of 1930 the “1<sup>st</sup> commanding officer [of the] headquarters company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 168<sup>th</sup> infantry ING, Atlantic.” Headquarters companies were smaller and it would have taken time to build up the unit to qualify as a rifle company (1940 *Who’s Who In Iowa*, p. 195; Adams County *Free Press*, 1930-1931, August 20, 27, 1931; Biennial Report, 1936-38, pp. 13-14, 71).

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The amount of annual armory rent to be anticipated from the State was small. General Orders #5, dated July 1, 1929, set annual rents for each Iowa National Guard unit. A headquarters company rated only \$270 annually. A full infantry company, such as that at Corning, generated \$1,800 (Biennial Report, 1930, pp. 108-11).

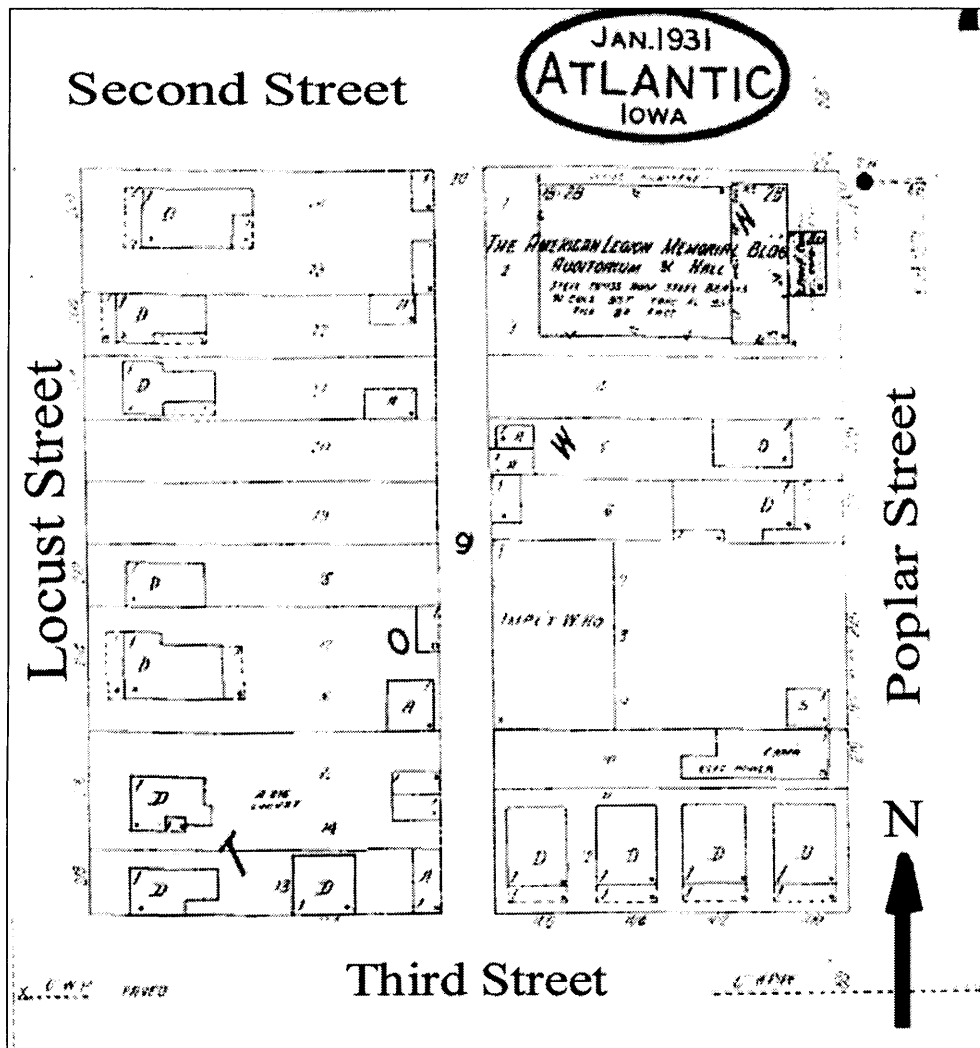


Figure 17: detail, 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Capt. Cockshoot's tenure as company commander was rather brief and he wouldn't have held the rank of captain when he did lead it. The 1931 company photo included just a single officer, Lieutenant Edwards, four sergeants, four corporals and 15 privates. The 1933 Adjutant General's Biennial Report lists First Lieutenant Paul Edwards as commanding the Headquarters Company, First Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment, since January 6, 1932. Dwight E. Crabtree was Second Lieutenant. The same officers continued to command the company through 1936. The company had two officers and 30 enlisted men on its roster as of mid-1937. The authorized strength of the unit was set at 30 men given that that number is regularly reported. It is likely that

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a small company rated a lower state rent subsidy, and at any rate, the state slashed armory rent payments in mid-1933. All inspection reports made over this time period were uniformly satisfactory (Biennial Report, 1933, pp. 36, 73, 103; *ibid.*, 1936, pp. 54, p. 57, 83, 126; *ibid.* 1936; *Des Moines Register*, June 2, 1933).

The local newspaper first announced that Corning was giving up its infantry guard company in mid-November 1937. The unit had been in that community for 44 years, but the *News-Telegraph* noted "the Corning company was ordered disbanded after it had failed to measure up to requirements." The unit designation was to be transferred to Atlantic by December 1. Lieutenant Edwards declined to comment on the development. The elevation of the Atlantic Guard unit to a full infantry company was a financial boon to the town, which stood to gain an additional \$5,000 drill fees or soldier income, and it was important to the Memorial Building committee because state rents would be higher by \$2,000 annually, for a 61-man unit (plus three officers) than they were for a 30-man unit (plus two officers). Atlantic was challenged to quickly double the size of its Guard unit. The company transfer was dependent upon finding the recruits by December 1. Lieutenant Edwards appealed to the entire community to find the additional men. By November 26, all but 11 of the recruits had been signed up. By November 27, the shortfall was down to just six men, but the rest were assured. The re-designation ceremony was scheduled for December 1. Special guests were to include Adjutant General Grahl (he was finally unable to attend, but 20 Guard and regular Army officers did make the event), Lieutenant Colonel R. L. Lancaster, from Des Moines and Col. G. Folsom Everest from Council Bluffs, the regimental officers. The Atlantic high school band, led by Irvan Rich, would provide an evening concert (*News-Telegraph*, November 16, 17, 26, 27, 29, December 2, 1937).

A large crowd attended the ceremony at the armory. Col. Everest presented his newest company to the community and issued a challenge to Atlantic, noting "If the community supports the company as it should, Atlantic will have a company to be proud of. If it does not support it the company can not stay up to standard and [it] will be transferred to another station." Captain M. B. Finney, U.S. Army Instructor, performed the official company inspection. The new company was full, the final four recruits having joined only since November 29 (*News-Telegraph*, December 1, 3, 1937).

First Lieutenant Edwards was promoted to company captain effective December 1, 1937. The end-of-year 1937 roster reported no first lieutenant, due to Edward's recent promotion, and Crabtree continued as second lieutenant. This was the first state Guard roster that carried the Atlantic unit as Company K, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The June 30, 1938 Guard roster first listed Crabtree as First Lieutenant (effective June 1, 1938) and Raymond G. Wallace as Second Lieutenant (as of January 24, 1938) (*Biennial Report*, 1936-38, pp. 110, 131).

The same officers remained with the unit through the end of 1939. Company strength was reported as three officers and 77 enlisted men as of 1940. On June 1, 1940 the unit was re-designated "168<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Rifle) Iowa National Guard, Company K." At the end of June 1940, the company had just two officers, Edwards and Crabtree, with no second lieutenant (*Biennial Report*, 1939-40, pp. 37, 58, 85, 112, 135, 151).

As a part of the national military peacetime mobilization of early 1941, the company was ordered to fill up its ranks and to undergo a full year of "intensive" military training. The recruits were drawn by the promise of a paying job. Necessarily, the surprise Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, transformed what was already an unusually lengthy training exercise into a four-year wartime commitment. The Guard company was inducted into the United States Army on February 10, 1941, as part of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry "Red Bull" Division, under its new designation. All four of its Guard officers entered federal service with the company. Remarkably, of the company roster of 1938, just one man, Sergeant Victor J. Rasmussen, remained with the unit in 1941. The company strength at induction was four officers, 11 sergeants, 14 corporals, 29 first class privates and 60 privates. This larger unit, 111 enlisted men and four officers, represented nearly a doubling of Company K. The

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recruiting effort was so successful that 18 men were reassigned to the Clarinda tank company to bring that unit up to strength (Biennial Report, 1940-42, pp. 7, 60, 93, 95-102, 1; Supplemental Report, 1941, pp. 128, 129, 132, 210-216; *News-Telegraph*, February 11, 1941).

The company reported for a two-week-long stay at the armory on their date of induction. They would remain at the armory through March 1 and this episode marked the most significant military event to take place in the building. Many of the local men were allowed to sleep at their homes, but enough remained to require the setting up of cots in the upstairs of City Hall to handle the overflow from the armory. The men were issued equipment, given physical examinations, and drilled. Sergeant Marmin and five privates did the cooking, using the basement armory kitchen. One special occasion was the father-son lunch that Captain Edwards arranged. The fathers of company members were invited to the armory, and some of these were veterans of the soon-to-be renumbered World War I (*News-Telegraph*, February 10, 1941; Mallett, p. 2).



Figure 18: Company K departs for Camp Claiborne, March 1, 1941  
(Courtesy of Gene Mallett)

The day of departure for the company was marked by an afternoon community open house at the armory. The soldiers' day started at 3:30 a.m., and the departure train was scheduled for 6:10 p.m. Fifteen minutes prior to the departure time, the company was accompanied to the station by the High School band, Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars color guards, the two organizations and most of the town's population. A special soldiers' fund raised \$715 for the company and the newspaper promised to supply the unit with 20 area newspapers. It is important to realize that these men were not departing for war, although they were departing for an unusually long time. Most of the men were young and unmarried and this departure offered a paid adventure. There were at least eight sets of brothers amongst the company's roster. Nobody would have envisioned the

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unforeseen developments of the end of 1941. The military draft would not be begun until September of that year (*News-Telegraph*, March 1, 1941; oral histories; Mallette, p. 1).

Surviving veterans of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division recall that theirs was the first division mobilized for World War II and the last one to be mustered out at the war's end. In fact, the federal mobilization of February 1941, under authority of the National Defense Act of the previous year, involved only that division. Across the state, 5,500 Iowans, comprising four regiments of that division, assembled in 34 communities, preparatory to being shipped to four training camps in Louisiana. Most of the men were given 15-day furloughs home the following October, the last time that they would see home until the war's end. The early training on the part of the division meant that it was ready for the earliest American landings in North Africa. Nearly the complete Third Battalion of the 168<sup>th</sup> would be captured en masse at Kasserine Pass in March 1943. It is estimated that the company was refilled by draftees or other replacements eleven times during the course of the war, and its original officers were quickly replaced by non-local appointees (Captain Crabtree was transferred to the Army Air Corps on December 27, 1941). It wasn't long before the Cass County contingent of the unit was reduced to a mere handful, a process that was hastened by the loss of so many members as prisoners. Still, from Atlantic's standpoint, the company remained its community connection with the greater war. While Company K's contingent would finally represent just a fraction of the total number of the county's wartime enlistees, it was symbolic of that community commitment. Many company members would transfer or were promoted out of the unit. At the war's end, there was no formal unit "return home". As was the case in World War I, the federalized Guard units were demobilized. Their three-year Guard enlistments had long since lapsed. Surviving company members recall that they never received their homecoming parade. Instead they dribbled home individually or in small groups, and their military service was done. When the Guard unit was reconstituted, the World War II veterans were not motivated to add any more military experience to their resumé's. A few, returned to regular military service, seeking careers in the military (Mallette, pp. 1, 2, 28, 30; oral histories).

With the departure of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division, the Adjutant General of Iowa was left without an army. The Iowa State Guard was then organized to provide state security during the absence of the National Guard units. An Atlantic State Guard company was formed beginning December 23, 1941. Men aged 18 to 50 were eligible. The unit would consist of 45 privates (15 of the first class), seven sergeants and eight corporals, and three officers. Applications were available at the newspaper office, the city clerk's office, the county engineer's office and the office of Dr. J. D. Shoeman. Governor George Wilson would appoint the officers, and candidates were called to Red Oak to plan the organization of the company. Draft-threatened 1-A men could not join the company, but those in other classifications could, and membership offered some draft protection. Veterans were particularly encouraged to join up. Soldiers would not be paid for weekly drills, except when called into emergency service by the governor. The new unit offered an opportunity for "every patriotic able-bodied citizen with the ages prescribed [an] opportunity to contribute his bit for the maintenance of order and protection of property during the period of the emergency." The initial officer appointments were: Dr. J. D. Shoeman, a local veterinarian, as captain. He had a R.O.T.C. captain's commission. Raymond Graham Wallace was first lieutenant (and was a former local National Guard officer). Gilbert McQueen, Cass County Engineer, was second lieutenant. McQueen was a second lieutenant in the engineer corps of the organized reserve. Capt. Shoeman and the Chamber of Commerce led the recruitment drive. As of January 6, 1942, just 26 names were enrolled, but within two days, 65 names were on the roll, an oversupply that assumed some would fail to pass their physical examinations. The new unit was mustered into service on January 12, 1942, by Major Williams, Iowa State Guard. At that time the roster included 62 names, with two men serving as reserves (*News-Telegraph*, December 23, 24, 1941; January 6, 8, 12, 13, 1942).

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This unit had some undisclosed organizational problems, this being reflected in the belated appointment of its captain and the resignation of both of its lieutenants (although this might have represented their going into active military service). Each of the State Guard regiments contained 16 companies, each of which was allotted three officers and 60 men (seven sergeants, eight corporals, six technicals and 39 privates (up to 13 of the first class) (Biennial Report, 1940-42, pp. 7, 60, 93, 95-102, 122).

The State Guard company ran through its officers at a fast pace, and the list of appointments is impressively long, with nine men holding commissions in the unit over the four years of service, 1942-46.:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Promotions</u>
Beardsley, Chas. D.	Second Lieutenant	May 26, 1944	
Braman, James A.	Second Lieutenant	February 1, 1944	
Linfo, William A.	Second Lieutenant	April 18, 1944	First Lieutenant 5-26-44
Nord, Charles	First Lieutenant	July 7, 1942	
Pross, James H.	Second Lieutenant	October 15, 1943	
Shannon, Robert L.	Captain	August 1, 1943	
Smiley, Don B.	Second Lieutenant	same	First Lieutenant 6-1943
Roland, Burdette L.	Second Lieutenant	same	First Lieutenant 10-15-43 Captain 1-1-44

Most of these officers were promoted out of the ranks of the State Guard company. During August 1945, the Iowa State Guard had the dubious distinction of being called up for its longest emergency assignment, quelling a 92-day long disturbance at the Eldora Training School For Boys. This and a long number of special and emergency assignments kept the units busy between 1944 and 1945, but Company M was not called up for any of these. The June 30, 1946 officers' roster was as follows:

Capt. Svend B. Christensen	(since May 1, 1945, Atlantic)
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. William A. Linfo	(from Anita)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles D. Beardsley	(from Atlantic)

For whatever reason, the officers were all new (Biennial Report, 1943-44, p. 26; *ibid.*, 1944-46, pp. 7, 11-20, 30).

Deactivation of the Iowa State Guard was begun February 19, 1947 and was completed by September 17 of that same year. The Iowa National Guard was reorganized. Following the First World War, the former Guard units had been simply disbanded and great difficulty was encountered in reconstituting the local Guard companies, virtually from scratch. A similar situation now prevailed and new companies had to be assembled from scratch. Company K was reactivated on April 30, 1947 with 24 men and First Lieutenant Philip Sims as its first commanding officer. The company was the 11<sup>th</sup> of 20 units of the 168<sup>th</sup> to be reactivated. A bevy of Guard and regular army officers attended the ceremony at the armory and two of these were of particular note. Major D. E. Crabtree was the former company commander and Rev. Patrick McDermott was a lieutenant colonel on the governor's staff. A Rotary supper preceded the reactivation ceremony. Company K was back at its "Legion Building" armory. It was mustered in on April 29, 1947 with three officers and 118 men. Its roster included no captain, but its junior officers were:

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1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Philip Sims, Jr. (from April 29, 1947, from Atlantic)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Emil E. Kluever (from April 29, 1947, from Atlantic)

The new roster contained all new names. The new company core was made up without any former state Guard members or former National Guardsmen. Sgt. Hansen was a World War II Marine veteran. Atlantic was also the residence of the new commanding officer for the 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Col. Chauncy H. Carl. Colonel Carl was present at the reactivation ceremony (Biennial Report, 1946-48, pp. 5, 17, 24, 43, 48; *News-Telegraph*, April 29, 30, 1947).

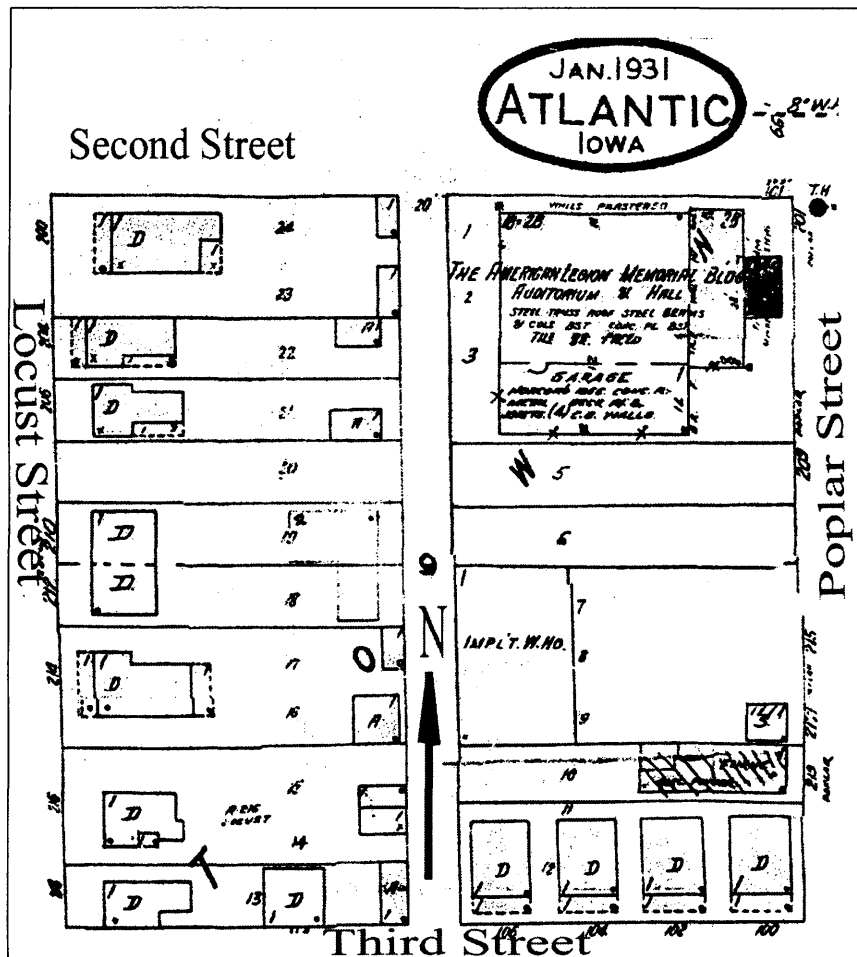


Figure 19: 1931 Sanborn Map Detail, updated post-1956

The postwar company was substantially larger than was the pre-war one. By the end of June 1950, the company officers were Captain Donald J. Wells, first lieutenants Leo M. Brindley and Frank T. Tucker, Jr. and Second Lieutenant Earl M. Brindley. All were Atlantic residents save for Leo Brindley, who lived in Anita. The mid-1952 officers roster included Tucker as captain and the two Brindley's as first lieutenants. The second lieutenants were William H. Evans Jr. and Leroy Nielsen. The Warrant Officer Junior Grade was Gilbert E. Lacey. The mid-1954 roster had Leo Brindley as captain, four first

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lieutenants (Earl Brindley, Leroy Nielsen, Millard L. Michalski, and Ronald L. Moon), and Second Lieutenant Robert E. Nipp (Biennial Report, 1951-52, p. 22; *ibid.*, 1953-54, p. 106; *ibid.*, 1955-56, p. 103).

The State financial support for the armory as of mid-1958 was just \$157.50 a month. The State had a lease with purchase option of \$4,281.75. Annual insurance was \$437.58, utilities cost \$981.70, supplies totaled \$260.77, for a total annual expense of \$6,119.30. The officers roster at that time included Captain Millard Michalski, First Lieutenant Leroy Nielsen, second lieutenants Franklin E. Nielsen, Bernard T. Shea, and Arnold E. Wilson, all Atlantic residents (*ibid.*, 1957-58, pp. 106, 125).

The company was designated Company B, First Battle Group, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment as of mid-1960. The company strength was six officers and 109 men. By mid-1964 the unit was designated Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment and the strength was eighteen officers, one warrant officer and 141 enlisted men, for a total of 160 members. The company was substantially over-strength, the authorized number being just 149 men. This abundance of members was attributable to the pressure of the military draft. Between the late 1950s and the early 1970s, Guard officers had waiting lists of men who were highly motivated to avoid conscription by joining the local Guard unit. Oral history accounts also note that the unit was briefly re-designated the 3567<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company, during the early 1960s. The company was the headquarters company for the Second Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment but was re-designated when that battalion went out of existence. By mid-1968, the company was back to its designation of Company B, First Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment, with Captain Wayne B. Denham in command. Company strength was down to a single officer and 91 enlisted men. Two years later, Captain Thomas N. Bolton was in command, and the unit contained five officers and 173 enlisted men (*ibid.*, 1959-60; *ibid.*, 1963-64; *ibid.*, 1966-68, p. 51; *ibid.*, 1969-70, pp. 45, 47; interview, Lennie Jave, Gary Lorenzen, Al Gibson, February 18, 2003).

By the early 1950s, the armory was being used only by the Guard and occasionally as an overflow-facility for the school district. Occasional basketball games and wrestling matches were held in the gym/drill hall. A projection booth area apparently filled the former ticket booth but no public films were shown. Even the American Legion had abandoned their offices on the second floor. The Guard found uses for all of the interior spaces and the local police force occasionally used the target range that was set up in the basement (interview, Lennie Jave, Gary Lorenzen, Al Gibson, February 18, 2003).

By early November 1952, the armory building was in poor condition. It was just 22 years old, yet its heating plant had been condemned, as had the internal wooden stairs. The roof and walls were in need of extensive repairs. The heating plant replacement alone would cost from \$8,000 to \$10,000. The building association was receiving just \$2,700 annually from the state for the use of the armory by the Guard and it had to pay \$420 of that for off-site leased vehicular storage. The state was no longer able to use federal funds to pay rent for armories but it could use those funds to cover up to three-fourths of new armory construction. The current state lease was to expire at the end of the year and the state was only willing to renew the lease for two years, preparatory to building a new armory in the town. The new lease also mandated the construction of a vehicle storage building for Guard vehicles. The Memorial building was no longer as suitable for Guard purposes given that class work had largely displaced the traditional close order drill in a changing postwar military. Non-military building uses no longer provided additional funding to the armory rent ("the building is no longer in demand for community activities"). Legion Post #43 assembled on the evening of November 6, 1952, and members voted to sell the building to the state for \$35,000. A new Atlantic Armory Corporation was formed to administer the building during the 20-year amortization of a \$75,000 mortgage. The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company released the mortgage as satisfied on October 5, 1972 and the State acquired the armory on November 14, 1972. The armory corporation oversaw the construction of the vehicle storage addition, with the State providing the plans (*News-Telegraph*, November 6, 7, 1952).



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The armory gained its vehicle storage annex in 1953 along with a new heating plant (the stairs were not replaced). Five additional lots were acquired in 1982 to provide room for a fenced parking area.

As of 1987, the Guard unit was designated the Combat Support Company, First Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry I.N.G. The final Guard unit designation was that of "Detachment 1, Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion -168<sup>th</sup> Infantry." This unit was deactivated in August 2001. The Atlantic Armory was then closed by the State of Iowa, with ownership of the building being transferred to the City of Atlantic.

The Public Use of the Building:

The Memorial Building was extensively used prior to World War II for a variety of non-military, community purposes. These uses included dances (performers such as Lawrence Welk), district and state high school sports events (basketball games, wrestling matches; the high school had no good gymnasium until the new building was finished in 1937), and the like. The drill hall had fixed bleachers (a part of these failed on one occasion). There were many dances and organizational events, but it is not known whether these were all under American Legion auspices, or whether the events generated revenue for the armory. The 1952 report that the building was no longer being used for such purposes by that time also noted that the only building revenue came from Iowa National Guard rent, a clear indication that these events did help support the building. There were other community buildings in Atlantic. Sunnyside Park had an open-air pavilion and there was a dance hall on the west end of the town that competed with the armory. By the early 1950s both the Legion uses and other uses of the building had ended, save for spillover school athletic events.

The American Legion took some initial steps to form a drum and bugle corps in 1933 but the group was never finalized. An annual Christmas holiday "gym frolic" was an established local event by 1934. Atlantic high school teacher Marjorie Earl used the Memorial Building as the site for a special gym frolic that was held on December 19, 1934. The 300 girls were organized in seven uniformed theme teams and these performed a range of physical training demonstration in the building. The building was "beautifully decorated" and the auditorium setup featured thrones for the crowning of a king and queen. The crowd overflowed the armory (*Javelin*, p. 38; oral interview, Deb Herbert; undated *News-Telegraph* article "Legion Building Packed Last Night For Gym Frolic").



Figure 20: The 1934 Gym Frolic, three of seven girls' teams  
(1934 Atlantic High School *Javelin*, p. 38)

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Figure 21: Atlantic High School Basketball Team, 1934, in Armory Gym, 8-5 winning season (1934 Atlantic High School *Javelin*, p. 48)

The building was extensively used for public events prior to World War II. Known events included a Legion clambake (January 22, 1936), a Lawrence Welk dance concert (December 9, 1936, ladies paid \$.35, "gents" \$.65), a New Year's Eve Dance that featured Kelly's ten-piece swing band (December 31, 1936, "regular admission"). The Harlem Globe Trotters played a demonstration basketball game against the "House of David" on March 16, 1937 ("Atlantic's Greatest 1937 Basketball Classic: Two Famous "Unbeatables").

The building was used for Works Progress Administration training classes during the late 1930s. An annual Christmas dance was a tradition by 1948 (held December 25, 1948). In later years the armory was the preferred venue for settling local bar disputes. The involved parties would be invited to report to the armory drill room on the following next Saturday for a physical resolution of the matter (Interview with Ruby Beech).

Architect George A. Spooner.

George Ashton Spooner (1890-1974) was born in Council Bluffs. He completed an engineering degree at the University of Nebraska, and obtained a B.S. in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1916. He was first employed by architects Proudfoot & Bird in Des Moines between 1918-22. He then entered into partnership with Alvin C. Anderson of Council Bluffs and bought out his partner in 1927, at which time he registered as an architect by exemption. In 1923 the firm designed a series of buildings for the Iowa Army National Guard at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He later practiced alone in La Grange, Illinois, circa 1930-32, but was working in Des Moines by 1937. Spooner had a series of partners and in 1940 prepared another Iowa National Guard design for Camp Dodge. He was retired by the late 1960s and died in Denver, Colorado in July 1974. Spooner was a member of the American Institute of Architects, Sigma Nu fraternity and the Optimists (Shank, pp. 154-55; Des Moines city directories, obituary, Des Moines *Register*, July 3, 1974; *Tribune*, November 11, 1938).

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Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1934-June 30, 1936. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1936

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1936-June 30, 1938. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1938

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1938-June 30, 1940. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1940

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1940-June 30, 1942. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1942

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1942-June 30, 1944. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1944

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1944-June 30, 1946. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1946

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1946-June 30, 1948. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1948

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1950-June 30, 1952. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1952

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1952-June 30, 1954. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1954

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1954-June 30, 1956. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1956

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**American Legion Memorial Building Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1956-June 30, 1958. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1958

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1958-June 30, 1960. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1960

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1962-June 30, 1964. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1964

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1966-June 30, 1968. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1968

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General, July 1, 1968-June 30, 1970. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1970

Supplemental Report of the Adjutant General, 1941, Induction Roster of Personnel, Iowa National Guard. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1941

Oral Interviews:

Atlantic, February 27, 2003: Deb Herbert, Steve Livengood

Atlantic, February 28, 2003: Deb Herbert, Dick Cook (son of Don Cook), Janet Onan, John Lange, Wally Roscoe, Phil Chintz, Shorty Parrott, Gene Mallette, Steve Livengood, and Ruby Beech

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**American Legion Memorial Building**

**Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

**10. Geographical Data:**

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 9, City of Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification:

This four-lot land parcel was the original land that was associated with the location and construction of the armory and with which it has been associated throughout its history. Five additional lots were acquired to the south of the property in 1983 to make room for a fenced vehicular parking area. This area is excluded from the nomination because it was acquired recently and had no association with the building's historical period.

Map:

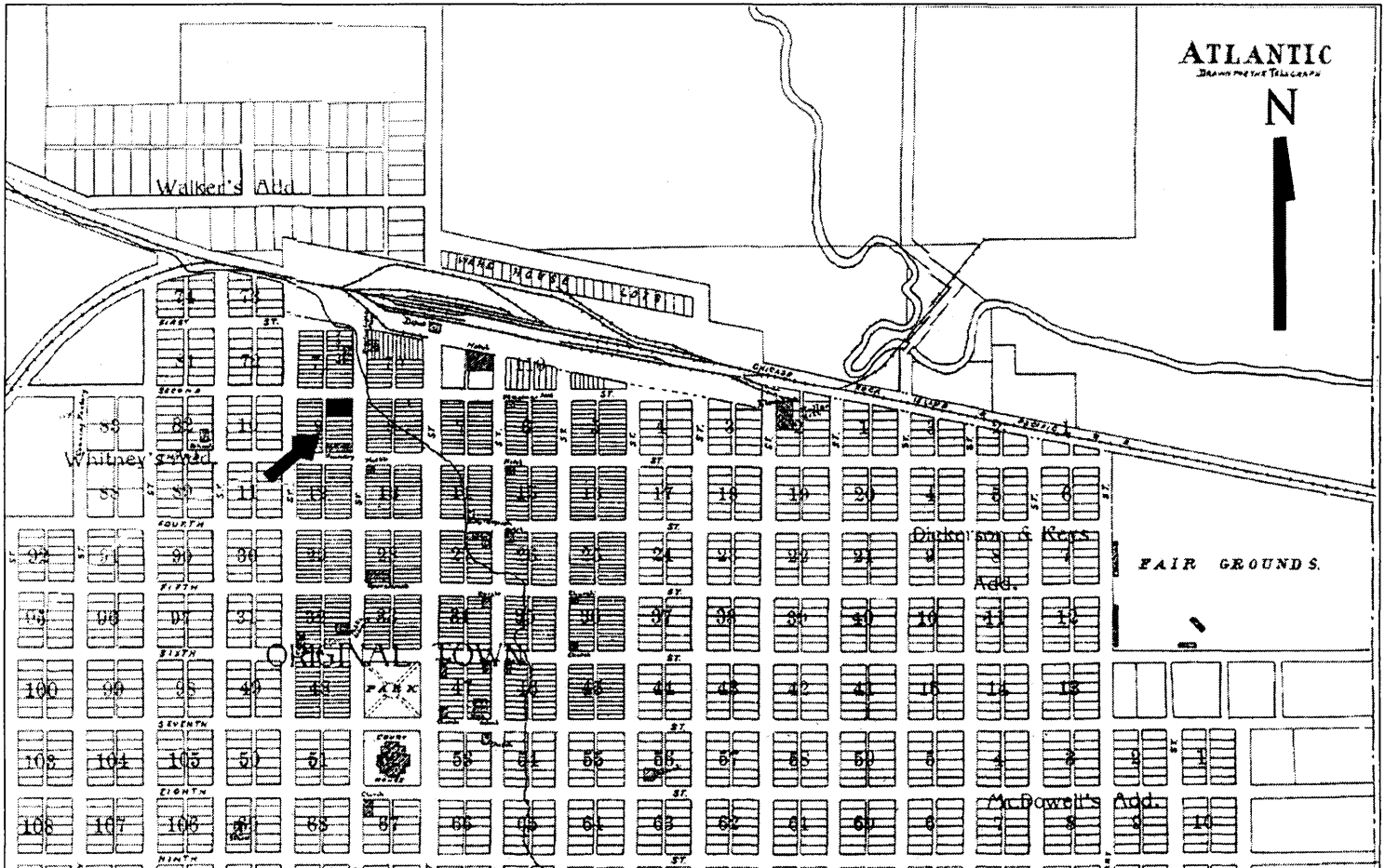


Figure 22: Site location (Atlantic, Iowa Plat Map, north arrow added)

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**American Legion Memorial Building** **Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa**

Photographs:

Photographer: James E. Jacobsen  
Date of Photographs: April 19, 2006  
Film Type: Ilford 400 b/w  
Location of Negatives: Property owner

Photo Number	View	Description:
1	Southwest	Façade, north side
2	Southwest	Façade, closer view
3	Southwest	Entry pavilion detail, facade
4	Northwest	Cornice detail, south side wing
5	West	East front of 1953 side addition
6	Northeast	South side wall and 1953 side addition, rear (west) wall
7	Northeast	Rear (west) wall and fiber optics building
8	Southwest	North side wall, cornerstone
9	Southwest	Drill hall interior from second floor film projection opening