

NOV 17 2011

OMB No. 1024-0018

1057

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
other names/site number Decorah Municipal Swimming Pool

2. Location

street & number 701 College Drive not for publication N/A  
city or town Decorah vicinity N/A  
state Iowa code IA county Winneshiek code 191 zip code 52101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Barrina A. Mitchell / DSHPO December 7, 2011  
Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Patrick Andrews  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action

1/30/2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Name of Property

Winneshiiek 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 count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>1</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>        | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

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

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1 Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

**7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool is located in Swimming Pool Park on the eastern edge of the Luther College campus, northwest of downtown Decorah. The building fronts southeast, onto Pool Street, and is oriented perpendicular to the axis of College Drive, which was formerly US Highway 52 (Figure 1). The site includes a large off-street parking area that is situated east of the bathhouse, directly across the street from the main entrance, with access to College Drive via Pool Street. The pool and grounds are owned and operated by the City of Decorah and the facility has been in continuous public use since it opened in 1937.

The subject property consists of two historically and functionally related structural elements, the bathhouse and the swimming pool. For purposes of National Register registration, the bathhouse and pool are considered as one contributing resource (building); the site itself, including the facility grounds and parking area, is considered a noncontributing resource. The bathhouse (pool house) is the primary focus of preservation interest because it retains its original form, plan, and materials. Built in 1937-38, it is a one-story masonry building with an asymmetrical rectangular ground plan, concrete block load-bearing walls, and a flat roof with a small ledge coping. The swimming pool represents recent construction, but retains some of the physical characteristics of the original concrete-lined, in-ground pool.

The core functional element of the bathhouse is the central block which houses the main entrance lobby, front desk, and check room (Figure 2). It has an open plan and receives abundant day-lighting from the band of tall steel sash windows in the clerestory. The lobby area projects from the front of the bathhouse and has curved side walls that are vented with narrow horizontal openings. Patrons enter the building through three sets of double doors and come to a service counter that partitions the lobby from the office area and check room. The walls are unadorned concrete block, except for the sign band above the entrance, which identifies it as the "DECORAH MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL." There are two cast bronze plaques mounted on the inside wall of the front foyer area. The names of the municipal officials responsible for building the facility are engraved upon the larger plaque, which is affixed to the wall above the standard rectangular WPA building dedication tablet. Upon admission, patrons are directed to the men's and women's changing rooms, which are housed in separate wings entered through open doorways (originally equipped with turnstiles) on opposite sides of the lobby. The changing rooms, which are unroofed, contain privacy cubicles and shower stalls, as well as toilet rooms. From the changing rooms, patrons may return to the check room with their belongings (which are stored in wire baskets) or proceed directly to pool-side by means of separate men's and women's entrances located at the rear of the central block. There is also a pool-side entrance through the rear wall of the check room that is reserved for staff use. The refreshment room and concession sales area occupies a separate unit

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7      **Page** 2      **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

on the north end of the bathhouse, adjacent to (but not internally connected with) the women's changing room. The filter house, containing the filter pit, reaction basin, and chemical storage area, is located at the opposite end of the building. A maintenance/storage structure has been added to the side of the filter house facing the pool. The bathhouse rests upon a poured in place concrete slab foundation and the rooms have concrete floors and painted block walls.

From the perspective of style, the bathhouse is classified as an example of the Modern Movement in twentieth century American architecture. It exhibits details characteristic of the Art Moderne style in its streamlined façade, which has a strong horizontal emphasis and stylized geometry; the overall impression is of a durable, utilitarian structure that strives for a simplified artistic expression of the modern technological or "machine age" aesthetic. The building's most important historic character defining elements are its asymmetrical massing, smooth wall surfaces decorated with horizontal grooves, flat roofs, stepped roofline (clerestory), curved corners with narrow wraparound windows where the minimal framing creates the illusion of curved windows, steel door and window frames, and metal sash clerestory windows with horizontally stacked rectangular lights. The smooth walls, curved corners, and muted decorative detailing are echoed in the interior features.

The subject property is in an excellent state of preservation but has been altered somewhat from its historic appearance. The bathhouse has been re-roofed with a laminated wood beam system that retains the original shape; the cantilevered roof over the pool-side entrances at the back of the central block is a 1980s addition that does not detract from the building's original character. All of the doors and windows have been replaced without changing the original openings and some of the original interior features and finishes have been replaced or altered for safety and efficiency. Inside the filter house, new filtering and chemical equipment has been installed to comply with contemporary health and sanitation requirements. The maintenance/storage building addition to the filter house dates from 1974 and is compatible with the original construction in size and materials. As built, the in-ground, concrete-lined outdoor swimming pool was a simple rectangle, 165 feet long and 75 feet wide, with a variable depth of water (3 feet to 10 feet 3 inches), enclosed by a curbed concrete deck that was bordered on three sides by a gravel walkway. In 1983 the pool (including the lines and drains) was replaced by the current zero-depth entry structure, which has an irregular plan and a larger deck area but is nevertheless similar to the original in size, scale, color, and material. The 1983 renovation resulted in removal of the circular wading pool (50 feet in diameter), which was by then functionally obsolete and hygienically unsafe; its place is now occupied by the playground and volleyball court. These alterations did not destroy significant architectural features and are evidence of the property's history and development. Nearly all of the 1930s landscaping and outdoor furniture has also been removed over the years, including the entrance monuments and flagpole, and the former "sand beach" next to the wading pool is now a grass-covered play area. These changes are reversible and restoration could be readily

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7      **Page** 3      **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

accomplished, using new materials and basing their design on accurate duplication of the original flagpole, entrance monuments, picnic tables, benches, and other landscape features. Given that the design lifespan for the swimming pool concrete work is 30-40 years, the pool and deck will need to be replaced in about twenty years. When this renovation is undertaken, the city will be able to more accurately recover the form and details of the WPA-era deck and surrounding greenspace, using contemporary materials and construction methods.

The Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The property occupies its historic location and is complemented by its setting adjacent to the Luther College campus. The bathhouse retains its as-built form, plan, space, structure and style and its current configuration and use reflects historic functions and aesthetics. New construction has been kept to a minimum and the small additions to the bathhouse are visually unobtrusive and compatible in scale, building materials, and texture with the historic building. The alterations to doors, windows, and interior finishes have not compromised historic integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. The swimming pool represents a modification of the original structure's form and details to allow an efficient contemporary use that complies with modern-day health and safety regulations; more importantly, the replacement structure is also compatible in materials, size, scale, color, and texture with the essential character of the building and its environment. The pool-side fixtures and furniture do not detract from the integrity of design, materials, and feeling. Alterations of the swimming pool grounds and parking area have not significantly altered the property's historic character and mood.

Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Name of Property

Winneshek County, Iowa  
County and State

## 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 a 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT: recreation

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1937-1961

### Significant Dates

1937

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Altfillisch, Charles

Fred Carlson Company

### 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

### Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 4    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

**8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of recreation on the basis of its association with the development of the city's park and recreation system and in the area of social history for its association with Federal relief construction during the New Deal era. It illustrates the successful collaboration between Federal, state, and local government bodies in carrying out needed infrastructure improvements in order to provide work for the unemployed. Since its construction in 1936-38 under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the bathhouse and outdoor swimming pool has been a vital recreation facility used by residents and visitors of all ages. The property attained the historic significance qualifying it for the National Register when it was built in 1937; the terminal date is the arbitrary fifty years before the present cutoff for National Register eligibility. The significant dates refer to the year the bathhouse and pool were completed and opened to the public and the year WPA-funded landscape work was completed. Evaluated under Criterion C, the bathhouse represents an outstanding, well preserved example of Art Moderne-styled WPA public works construction.

**History of Construction**

The subject property was planned and built by the city of Decorah. The earliest mention of the "Swimming Pool" project appears in the minutes of the city council meeting held on May 21, 1935, when the aldermen authorized the mayor and clerk to make application for funding from the State Planning Board. On July 23, the council formally authorized an application to the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (later renamed the Public Works Administration), seeking Federal funds equal to 45% of the estimated cost of construction, with the rest of the cost to be financed with the proceeds of a municipal bond issue. A few weeks later, on September 4, the city applied to the WPA for men and materials to be used specifically for "construction of a concrete swimming pool." The referendum authorizing the sale of \$15,000 worth of general obligation bonds passed handily on September 4, 1935 and the city was officially notified of the WPA's agreement to participate in the project on January 7, 1936.

While the idea of a municipal swimming pool enjoyed considerable support within the community, the site selection process was somewhat controversial. The site originally chosen by the city (presumably on the recommendation of the city engineer and the parks commissioners) was located on a piece of low-lying ground then commonly known as the "Hitching Grounds," which would have required a considerable investment in grading, filling, and channelization. There was also the question of whether to excavate an artificial lake or construct an in-ground concrete pool. On September 4, 1935 the parks commissioners reported to the council that they believed "an

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 5    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

artificial lake was more sanitary [than] a concrete pool," a concept that had been endorsed by the district engineer working out of the WPA's Waterloo field office. For its part, the city council rejected the notion of an artificial lake and authorized the city engineer to draw up preliminary plans for a concrete pool at the Hitching Grounds. However, in the end the riverfront site was deemed unsuitable, and on January 18, 1936 the council rescinded its earlier decision and ordered the engineer to develop plans for construction of a concrete swimming pool on land that had been acquired by the city from Luther College in 1935.

Although the municipal pool project was initiated by the city, the final revised plans (which are dated July 18, 1936) were subject to the approval of the Iowa office of the WPA, which exercised administrative control over the project through its district and local organizations. As the project sponsor, the city was required to document the estimated cost of the undertaking (including the portions of the cost to be borne by the city and the Federal government) and show how it would provide employment for Decorah's needy unemployed. City Engineer Charles Altfillisch was responsible for the planning and design work, possibly with some input from the WPA district engineer office in Waterloo. Altfillisch (1891-1978) was an experienced and highly capable architect and civil engineer who had been trained at the University of Iowa and the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University). In addition to his private practice, he served as city engineer from about 1927 until his retirement in 1974. Review by the WPA Division of Engineering and Construction in Washington, DC was required before the project could be approved by the WPA Division of Operations. After the project received final approval from the President, the project was authorized to proceed by Iowa's WPA Administrator.

The architectural design process for the municipal swimming pool culminated with the revised set of scaled construction drawings, which were used to determine construction costs. The seven sheets of hand-drawn schematic plans produced in 1936 depict the design and layout of the building site, swimming pool, bathhouse, mechanical and plumbing systems, and equipment; in 1938 three sheets of landscape plans were generated to address the outdoor elements. Together, these drawings cover in detail every aspect of how the project was carried out (see Figs. 3-5). While there may have been some minor changes, the drawings represent as-built conditions and are therefore indispensable aids to preservation.

The timing of the construction was dependent upon the number of qualified unemployed persons available for work, as determined by the local WPA office. Many WPA projects were delayed weeks or months until enough qualified unemployed workers had been certified for relief work. However, in this case the Federal funds must have been released fairly quickly after the project was given the go-ahead from the state WPA administrator, because the city began soliciting bids for the construction work in June, 1936, before the final revised plans were submitted on July 18



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 6    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshek County, Iowa

---

and the sale of the municipal bonds was approved on October 15. Actual construction work appears to have begun sometime during the late summer or fall of 1936 and continued through 1937, with the final WPA-financed work completed in late 1938. Because most of the WPA workers were unskilled laborers, the city was required to use its own funds to hire the skilled workers and supervisory personnel that were needed to complete the project. No detailed work records kept by the WPA have survived, but like other public building projects the swimming pool construction appears to have required a high proportion of skilled workers, for the monthly accounts listed in the city council minutes show that the city had to contract with local tradesmen to carry out many of the critical tasks.

Fred Carlson Company of Decorah was selected as the general contractor, having submitted the low bid of \$3150. However, on June 30 "after considerable discussion" the council was able to persuade Hjalmar Carlson, president of Fred Carlson Company, to oversee the work for a fee not to exceed \$2800. Various local contractors and vendors were placed under contract to provide the needed material and skilled labor. The contract for the filter equipment, one of the largest items budgeted, was awarded to Graver Tank & Filter of Chicago for \$4610 on February 2, 1937. No serious problems seem to have been encountered during construction and the swimming pool was opened to the public less than five months later\*—an official photograph taken on August 6, 1937 shows the bathhouse still under construction, but when the WPA photographer returned on June 9, 1938, the exterior work had been completed (Figures 6-9).

Work on the swimming pool included grading the site and installing water and sewer lines, fences, and a sand beach. There was also a landscape architecture component (funded as a separate WPA project) that included walkways, signs, entrance monuments, benches, picnic tables, trees, shrubs, and flower beds. City engineer Altfillisch's plans and specifications for the landscaping were approved by the WPA in March, 1938, although planting was delayed until the fall and the last of the ornamental shrubbery ordered from the Fillmore County Nursery in Canton, Minnesota was not delivered until November. The record of monthly bills paid by the city council indicate that carpentry and electrical work was still going on indoors through the end of 1938 and some minor finishing work may not have been completed until early in 1939.

### **The WPA Legacy**

Part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Second New Deal," the Works Progress Administration

---

\* City council records show that L. W. Buckton was hired as swimming pool manager in 1937; Robert Bee, Robert Hunt, Lyle Goltz, Bernard Borlaug, and Lloyd Rima made up the first group of lifeguards, with Robert Nelson employed as ticket-taker and Mrs. Frank Goltz as matron.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7 Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

(WPA) was established by executive order on May 6, 1935 under authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. It was one of a slew of New Deal "alphabet soup" programs created by the Roosevelt Administration to stimulate economic recovery during the Great Depression. The WPA was the brainchild of Harry Hopkins (1890-1946), the Iowa-born social worker, political trouble-shooter, and Roosevelt confidant who supervised the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), which coordinated public improvement and job creation projects during 1933-35. The program was underpinned by the conviction that work was better than direct relief. † Various public works programs for the purpose of stimulating the economy had been floated by the Federal government and the states during the early 1930s, setting the stage for the National Industrial Recovery Act that was signed into law on June 16, 1933. This landmark legislation created the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (FEAPW) and charged it with developing a comprehensive Federal work relief program. The first public construction initiative under FEAPW was the Civil Works Administration (CWA), which pumped over a billion dollars into the economy and provided work for four million people between October, 1933 and March, 1934, but was widely criticized for its inefficient "leaf-raking" projects and lack of success in significantly reducing unemployment. Its successor, the Public Works Administration (PWA), was much better organized and eventually spent over \$6 billion on schools, courthouses, dams, sewage treatment plants, airports, roads, bridges, parks, housing, and other Federal and nonfederal construction projects before it was liquidated. After the creation of the WPA, the PWA, which was controlled by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes (1874-1952), continued to be responsible for "heavy" public works projects and contracted with private corporations for their design and construction. The WPA (reorganized and renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939) was unique however, in that its primary focus was jobs creation rather than industrial stabilization and the opportunities it offered unskilled laborers and small businesses to participate in public sector projects. More than any other New Deal program, the WPA also provided a framework for community development planning at the local level and a means of distributing Federal relief funds to projects in small towns and rural areas throughout the United States.

By the time the program was terminated in June, 1941 the WPA had spent slightly less than \$11 billion and employed more than 8.5 million people in nineteen different program areas, principally infrastructure improvements and other useful projects designed to assure a maximum of employment. (Intended primarily as an emergency program to provide work and wages for those citizens over the age of 18 who were unable to find private-sector jobs, the WPA did not give relief without work and did not provide for the care of the aged, infirm, or other unemployable people.) It has been calculated that nation-wide, over 75% of all WPA employment was provided by public

---

† It was Hopkins who famously observed: "Give a man a dole, and you save his body and destroy his spirit. Give him a job . . . and you save both the body and the spirit."

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 8    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

works construction and of this over 95% was for projects sponsored by state and local governments. From the beginning, conservative Republicans tended to discredit the WPA's job creation record and liked to characterize it as a Democratic boondoggle, though the most negative assessments seem to have been based on exaggerated claims of widespread waste, inefficiency, and fraud. Notwithstanding the program's obvious shortcomings, most New Deal supporters continued to assert that the WPA had in fact "primed the pump" for economic recovery and helped lift millions of citizens from the depths of despair. (There was definitely a political aspect to the WPA; for example, it was generally understood that the Democratic party "ruled" the WPA in Iowa, where Harry Hopkins and state WPA administrator L. S. Hill were widely suspected of swapping jobs for votes in the 1938 primary election. To help shore up Congressional support for the WPA among moderates, Hopkins resigned as Federal relief administrator on December 23, 1938, so that Roosevelt could appoint him Secretary of Commerce.)

Seventy years later, many scholars believe Uncle Sam got his money's worth. By 1939, the peak year of the WPA program, it was the largest employer in the county, with more than 3.5 million people on its payrolls, a figure which represented roughly one-third of the total number of unemployed. While the program was never adequately funded or even particularly well managed, there can be no doubt that the WPA provided some measure of economic security for hundreds of thousands of families who were down on their luck and whose breadwinners might not otherwise have been able to find meaningful work. The WPA was also noteworthy for its generally respectful treatment of its workers, who were paid fair wages (monthly earnings for unskilled workers averaged around \$50) and provided with safe working conditions.

While it was unsuccessful in returning the level of employment to pre-Depression levels, the WPA's bricks-and-mortar accomplishments were impressive by any standard of measure. When the Federal government issued its final report on the WPA, it enumerated over 1.4 million completed projects, including the building or repair of 125,110 public buildings, 124,031 bridges, 651,087 miles of roads and highways, 3,900 schools, 2,500 hospitals, 12,900 playgrounds, 8,192 parks, and 1,000 airports. (Unfortunately, no catalogue exists of the WPA's work in Iowa, although a good start has been made on identifying historically significant New Deal structures.) Built to last, many WPA structures were textbook examples of sustainable design and remained in service into the next century.

In Iowa, where the New Deal legacy of public works includes schools, post offices, roads, bridges, auditoriums, libraries, dams, and airports scattered across the state, the WPA employed as many as thirty thousand persons every month. With the exception of the New Deal agricultural programs, no Federal government relief program was more geographically widespread within the boundaries of the state. The desperate condition in which large numbers of Iowans found themselves created

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9 Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

a willingness to cooperate in carrying the WPA into effect, so that the scope of the WPA's efforts in Iowa expanded rapidly between 1936 and 1938. As a result, hundreds of communities, both urban and rural, gained important infrastructure improvements and the self-respect of thousands of unemployed was saved by giving them jobs rather than handouts. By 1939, however, the WPA was coming under increasing Congressional criticism and the steadily increasing private sector employment prompted deep cuts in Federal works appropriations (though the agency did not officially pass out of existence until June, 1943). WPA construction work in Iowa fell off rapidly in 1940 and the last projects in the state were closed out shortly before the end of 1941.

Social and recreational facilities such as swimming pools were specifically eligible for WPA funding; by December, 1938 the WPA had spent approximately 11% of its funds on parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and other recreation centers. The WPA was particularly instrumental in the construction of municipal swimming pools and bathhouses in communities where such facilities had been absent or neglected during the depression years. According to a report on the physical accomplishments of the WPA through September 15, 1936, it had coordinated construction of 248 new swimming pools and improvements to 61 others during the program's first fifteen months of existence—writer Jeff Wiltse estimates that of the approximately two thousand outdoor swimming pools built in the United States between 1920 and 1940, over 700 were constructed by the WPA. To qualify, recreational facilities projects had to secure useful public improvements and provide employment for the needy, able-bodied unemployed residing in the local community. The act of Congress authorizing the expenditure of Federal funds specified that the sponsor (usually the local unit of government) had to pay a portion of the cost, although there was no fixed minimum cost-sharing percentage until 1938, when Congress set the sponsor contribution at 40% of the total estimated cost.‡ In addition to cash, the sponsor was also responsible for the materials, equipment, tools, technical supervision, and other non-labor costs. (It was not until the WPA was reorganized in 1939 that the minimum required sponsor contribution was fixed at 25% in aggregate of the total cost of all projects within each state.) Once completed, the WPA's involvement ended and the project belonged to the community.

While projects such as swimming pools and bathhouses were not designed by architects or engineers employed directly by the Federal government, the sponsors could not have helped but be influenced by the tremendous body of park and recreation planning and facilities design work that had been generated by the National Park Service since the early 1900s. While the WPA encouraged what we would today call comprehensive planning for park and recreation systems as

‡ For Public Works Administration projects, the cost sharing was 55% federal and 45% sponsor, and because the Decorah swimming pool was initiated as a PWA undertaking, this was the formula used by the city during the project planning phase.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10 Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

well as the development of master plans for individual facilities as a matter of policy, the Federal bureaucrats generally seem to have resisted the temptation to impose any restrictions on the design of recreational buildings and structures. The WPA's seeming predilection for modernistic park buildings and swimming pool bathhouses reflects the standards and tastes of 1930s architects and engineers; by 1939, most American design practitioners would have been familiar with the Moderne mode and regarded it as an appropriate style for public architecture. There was no need for anything like a WPA manual of architectural style.

The Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool is typical of social and recreational facilities constructed with WPA funds. As a group, these structures reflected the state of the art in park and recreation planning. The styling of the bathhouses and swimming pools built under the auspices of the WPA varied from rustic to Moderne and the primary construction materials were typically stone and concrete. WPA swimming pools were most often located in municipal, county or state parks and their plans usually included amenities such as shelters, tables, benches, drinking fountains, paved sidewalks, and ornamental plantings. Like other Federal relief construction during the 1930s, these projects were carefully designed to be more labor intensive than traditional public works, in order to provide maximum employment for out-of-work laborers while saving on the cost of machinery and materials (which were paid by the sponsors). The result was a set of public buildings that were functional, durable, and an enduring source of community pride.

### **The Place of the Swimming Pool in Community Life**

The development of public swimming pools in the United States went hand in hand with the development of parks and recreation as an important government service. Although public outdoor recreation facilities were limited before the late Victorian period, most communities located on rivers or lakes had some kind of informal outdoor bathing place. Notwithstanding the widespread belief that communal bathing helped to spread disease, by the end of the nineteenth century recreational swimming had become popular among the middle and upper classes and was eventually adopted by Progressive Era reformers as a socially beneficial form of exercise for the working classes. Public interest in aquatics intensified rapidly after the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896 and by the 1920s nearly all major American cities had invested in the construction of municipal swimming pools. At the same time, the teaching of swimming and the promotion of water sports was also taken up by the schools and organizations like the YMCA which sought to further the cause of swimming because of its safety and all-around exercise values.

In Decorah it was inevitable that the Oneota or Upper Iowa River would provide the community with its first opportunities for open water bathing and swimming. As public knowledge of the health and education benefits of swimming grew, the belief became general that the town needed to build

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 11    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

a modern aquatic facility. The onset of the Great Depression foreclosed any serious consideration of building a pool at public expense. Nevertheless, the crisis years 1929-34 were followed by a period of slow but steady improvement and by the spring of 1935 it was widely sensed that the depression had run its course. Although hard times persisted for many of their constituents, Decorah's political and business leaders were sufficiently encouraged by the New Deal works program to decide to go ahead with building their municipal swimming pool with financial assistance from the Federal government.

The result was an attractive, state-of-the-art facility that met or exceeded all of the community's needs. Open from the beginning of summer until around Labor Day, it provided swimming programs for people of all ages and a place for families to play and exercise. Generations of Decorah children learned to swim at the pool, which was also an important source of employment for young people looking for summer vacation work as lifeguards, instructors, and attendants. Historically, use of the pool has been open to all, with the city charging modest admission and activity fees, and there is a long-standing tradition of offering reduced-fee or free swim days. Since the day it opened in 1937, the facility has been patronized not only by Decorah residents, but also by people from surrounding farms and villages. Because of its location on a major thoroughfare (a primary trunk highway route when the pool was built) and its unusually attractive physical setting, the swimming pool park was attractive to auto tourists. Clean, well maintained, and serviceable, the facility very quickly became a major source of community pride which endures to the present day.

The enduring value of the Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool is the product of its 74-year legacy of service to the people of Decorah; its tangible links to the Great Depression and Federal Relief civil works construction, and in particular its association with the WPA; its distinctive Art Moderne architectural character; and the functionality and sustainability of its design.

The activity that is the subject of this National Register nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 8    **Page** 12    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

facility as described above or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1449 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20204.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 13 Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

**Books and Published Reports**

Federal Work Agency, U.S. *Final Report of the WPA Program*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1947.

Gebhard, David and Gerald Mansheim. *Buildings of Iowa*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. [Decorah Municipal Swimming Pool, p. 380]

*Report on the Progress of the Works Program*. Washington, DC: Works Progress Administration, March, 1937.

Shank, Wesley I. *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999. [Charles Altfillisch, pp. 11-12]

Wiltse, Jeff. *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

**Unpublished Duplicated Material**

"The Decorah Municipal Swimming Pool Building." Report prepared by the City of Decorah Historic Preservation Commission, March 9, 2009.

**Archival Materials**

Ames, IA. Iowa State University, Parks Library, Special Collections Department. United States Work Projects Administration, Iowa Project Photographs, 1935-1940. MS 260. [Four photographs of Decorah Swimming Pool taken August 6, 1937 and June 9, 1938]

Decorah, IA. City of Decorah, City Clerk. City Council Minutes, Books L and M, 1935-1939.

Decorah, IA. City of Decorah, Parks and Recreation Office. Municipal Swimming Pool plans, 1936-38. [Seven sheets of plans for the swimming pool and bathhouse, on vellum, dated July 18, 1936; three sheets of landscaping plans, on tracing paper, dated March, 1938]



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Name of Property

Winnshiek County, Iowa  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone        | Eastings      | Northing       |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u>   | <u>597208</u> | <u>9796341</u> |
| 2 | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>   | <u>    </u>    |

|   | Zone        | Eastings    | Northing    |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3 | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| 4 | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

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 Robert C. Vogel, Senior Historian (rcvogel@springgrove.coop)

organization Pathfinder CRM, LLC (www.pathfindercrm.com) date August 2011

street & number 118 East Main Street telephone (507) 498-3810

city or town Spring Grove state Minnesota zip code 55974

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

**Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Decorah

street & number 400 Claiborne Drive telephone (563) 382-5975

city or town Decorah state Iowa zip code 52101

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 10    **Page** 14    **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the property being registered are shown on the accompanying map (Figure 1). The boundaries are defined as the legal lot lines of the parcels constituting the city-owned property and the inside curb-line of existing thoroughfares.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the swimming pool, bathhouse, parking area, and grounds that have historically been part of the Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool. The west, south and east boundary lines follow the inside edge of the existing roadways. Swimming Pool Park comprises three contiguous lots (Parcel Nos. 110935200200, 1109325200400, and 1109325200500) in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 9, T98N R8W.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Photos **Page** 15 **Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

---

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this nomination:

Property name: Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
City, County, State: Decorah, Winneshiek County, Iowa  
Photographer: Kyril Henderson  
Date: July, 2010 and August, 2011  
CD-R number: 249

**Photograph Numbers and Descriptions of Views**

- 001 Front view of bathhouse, looking northwest
- 002 Side view of bathhouse, looking southwest
- 003 Side view of bathhouse, looking northeast
- 004 Filter house and central block, looking west
- 005 Main entrance to bathhouse, looking northwest
- 006 View of pool, deck and rear of bathhouse, looking southeast (from water slide)
- 007 View of pool, playground (former wading pool), looking east (from water slide)
- 008 Front desk in check room and lobby, looking southeast
- 009 Men's changing room, looking northwest
- 010 Men's changing room, looking southeast
- 011 View of parking lot and bathhouse grounds, looking northwest

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Property name** Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

**County and State** Winneshiek County, Iowa

**Section** Additional Information **Page** 16

---

**List of Figures**

1. Site Plan
2. Floor Plan
3. Excerpt from original "Plot Plan" (i.e., site plan), July 18, 1936
4. Excerpt from original architectural drawing of the bathhouse, July 18, 1936
5. Excerpt from original landscaping plan, March, 1938
6. WPA photograph of swimming pool and bathhouse under construction, August 6, 1937
7. WPA photograph of bathhouse entrance, June 9, 1938
8. WPA photograph of swimming pool and bathhouse, June 9, 1938
9. WPA photograph of swimming pool and wading pool, June 9, 1938
10. Site Location Map

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information Page 17

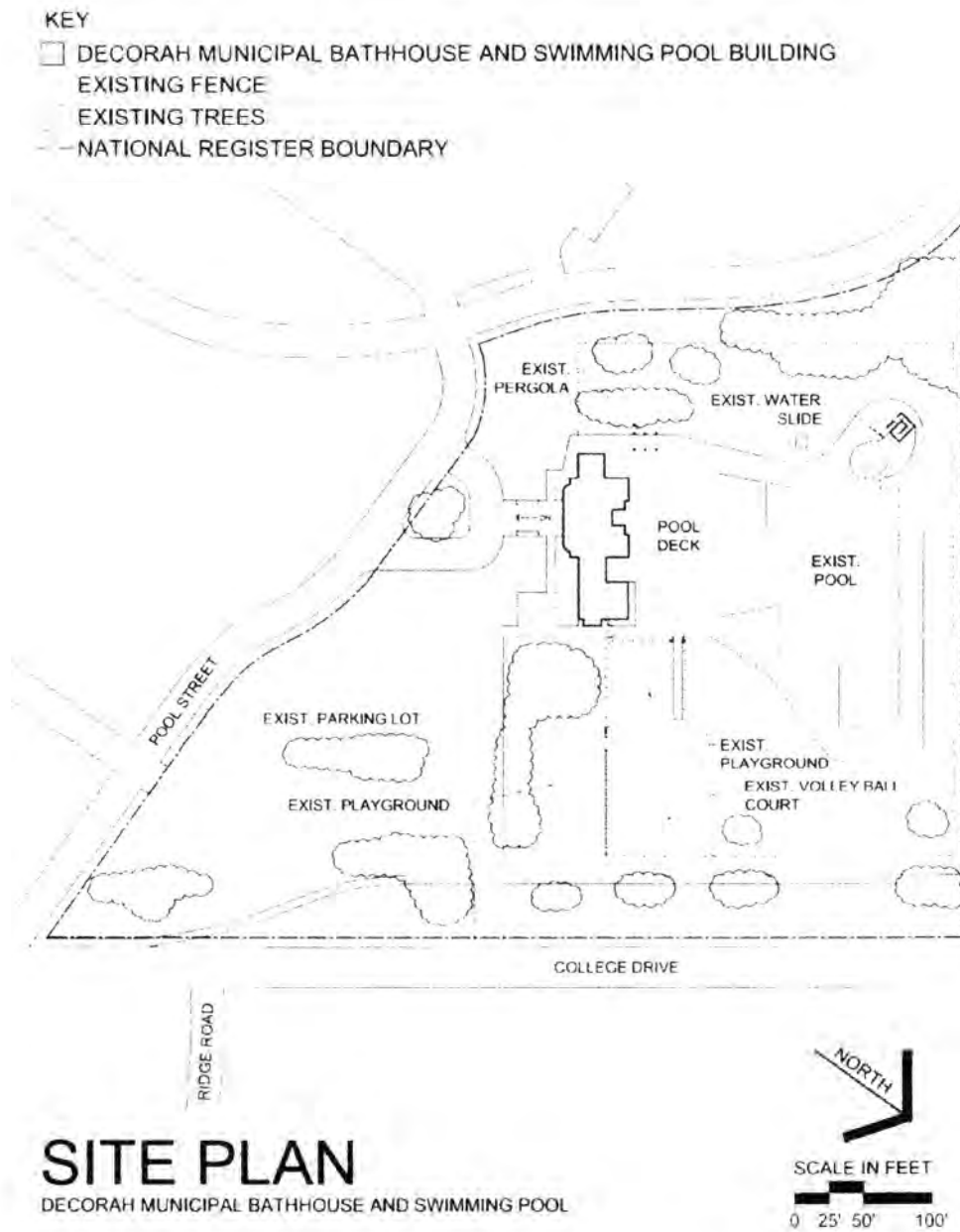


Fig. 1.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

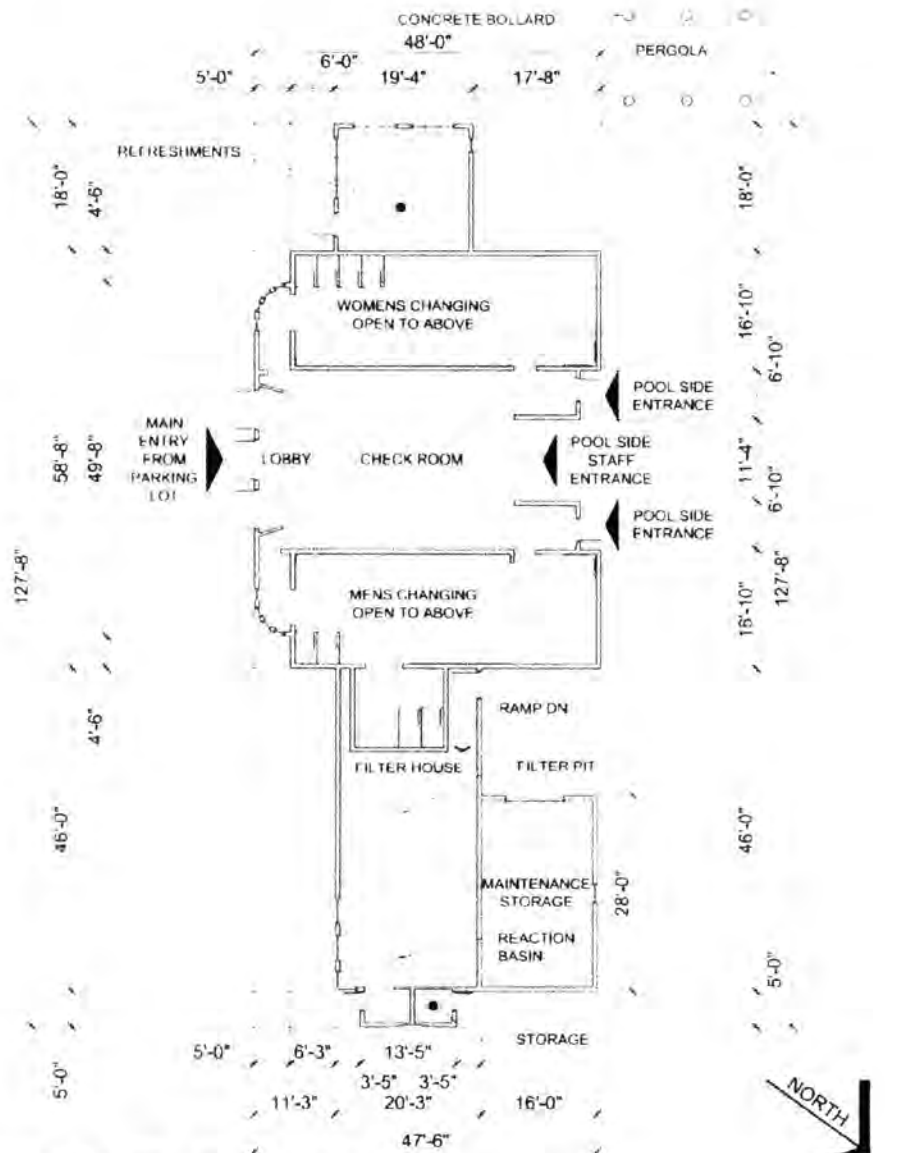
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

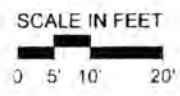
Section Additional Information

Page 18



**FLOOR PLAN**  
DECORAH MUNICIPAL BATHHOUSE AND SWIMMING POOL

Fig. 2.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information Page 19

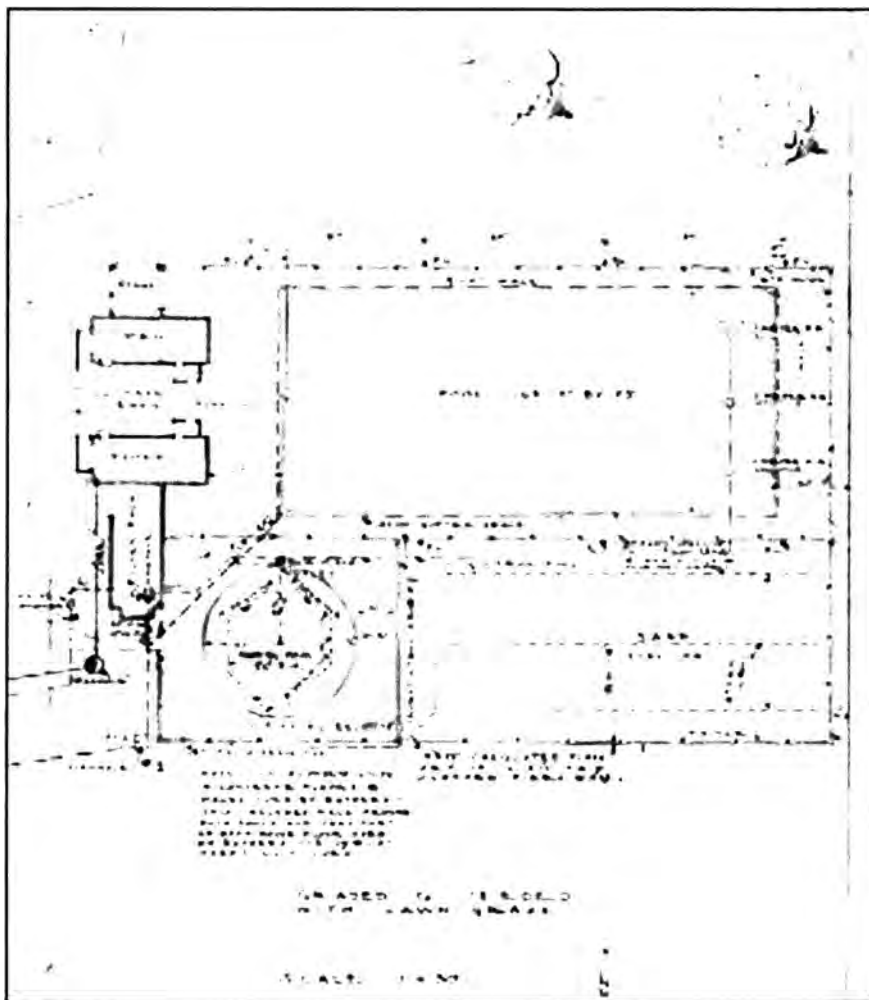


Fig. 3. Excerpt from original "Plot Plan" (i.e., site plan) July 18, 1936.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information Page 20

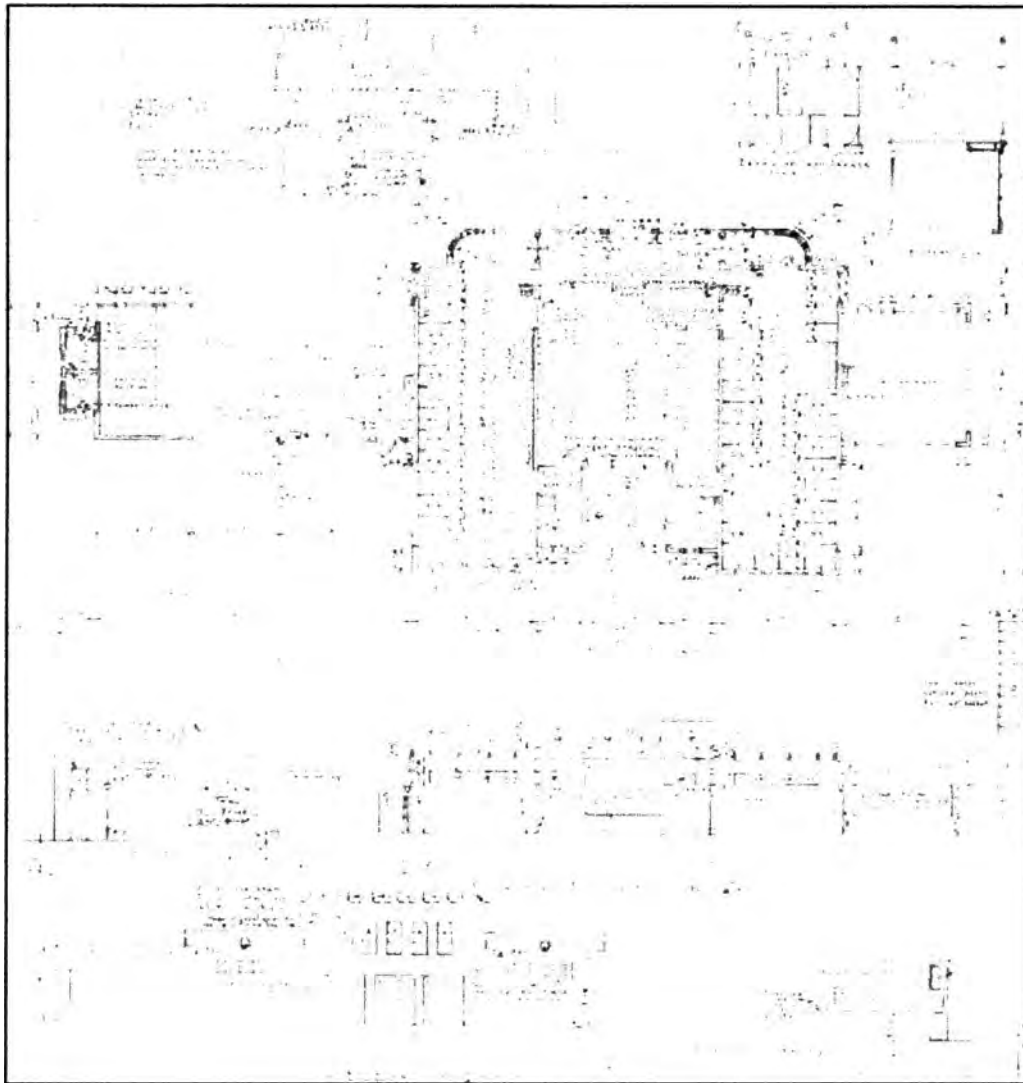


Fig. 4. Excerpt from original architectural drawing of the bathhouse, July 18, 1936.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information Page 21

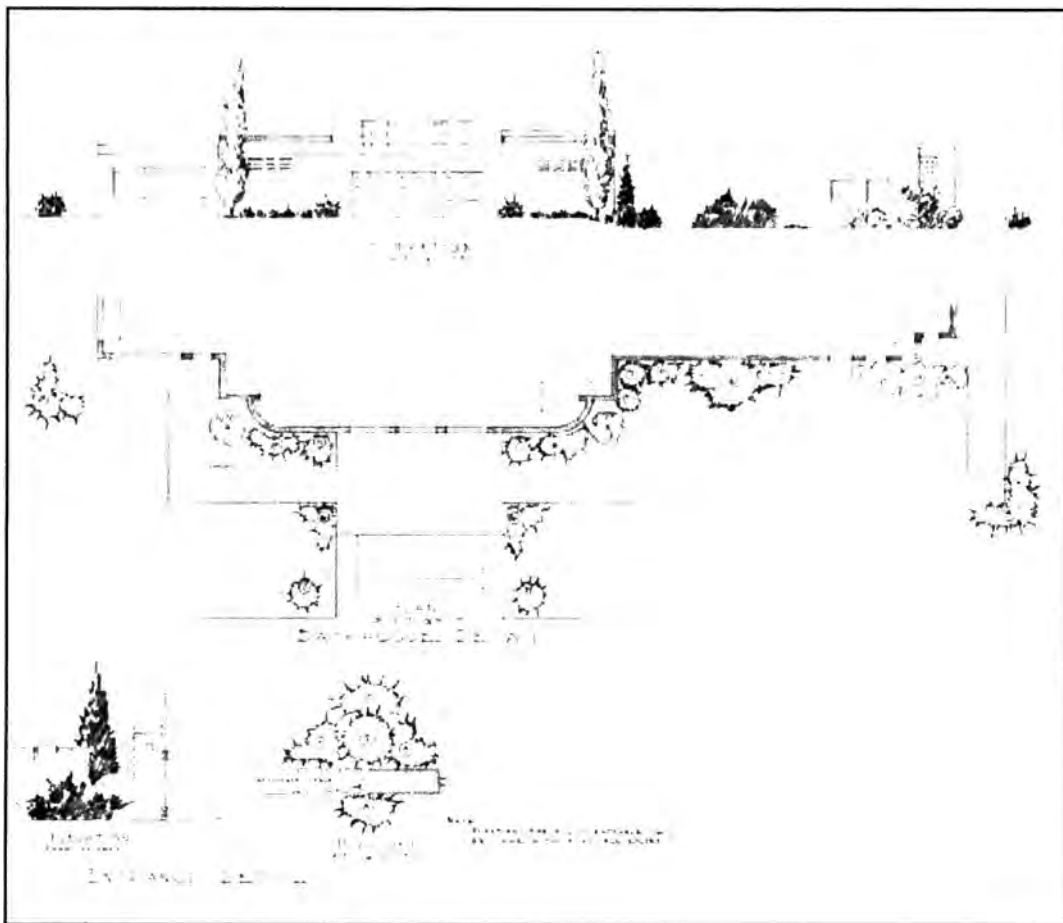


Fig. 5. Excerpt from original landscaping plan, March, 1938.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information

Page 22



Fig. 6. WPA photograph of swimming pool and bathhouse under construction, August 6, 1937.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information

Page 23

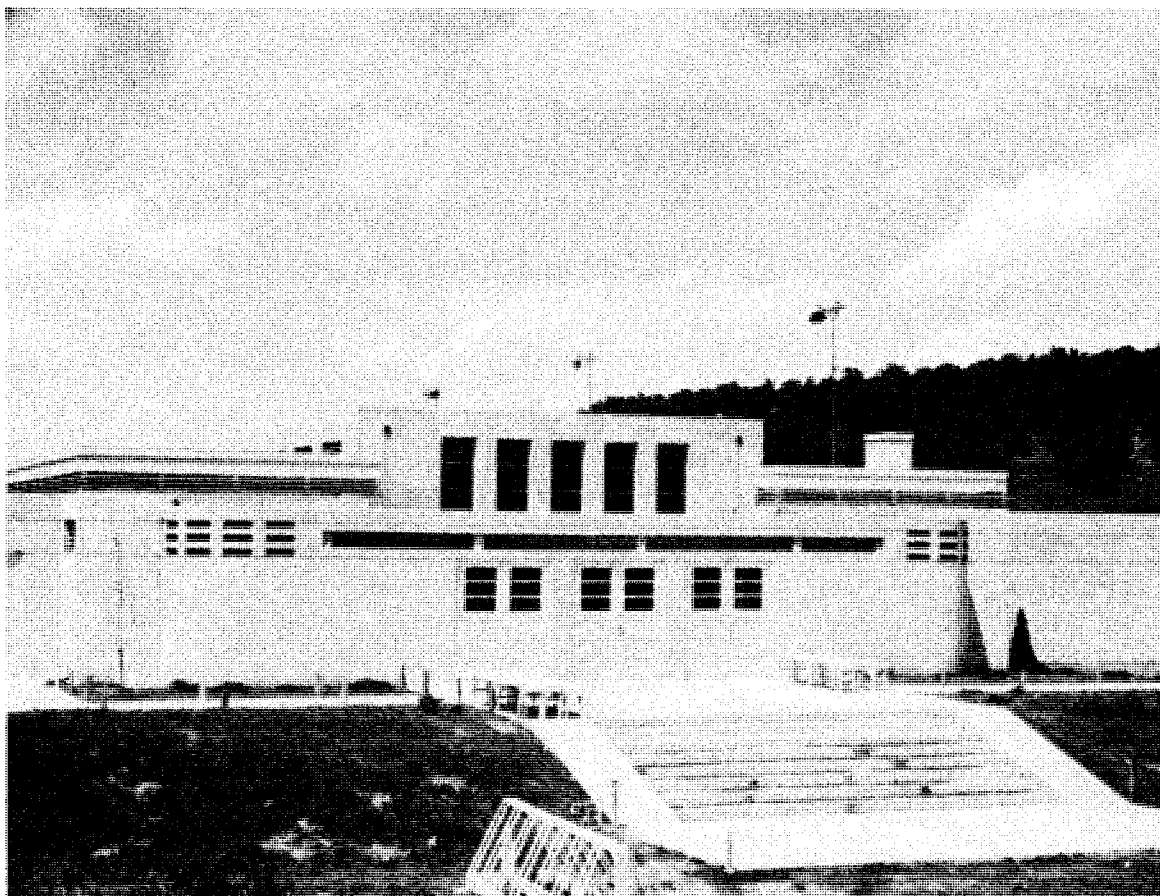


Fig. 7. WPA photograph of bathhouse entrance, June 9, 1938.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information

Page 24

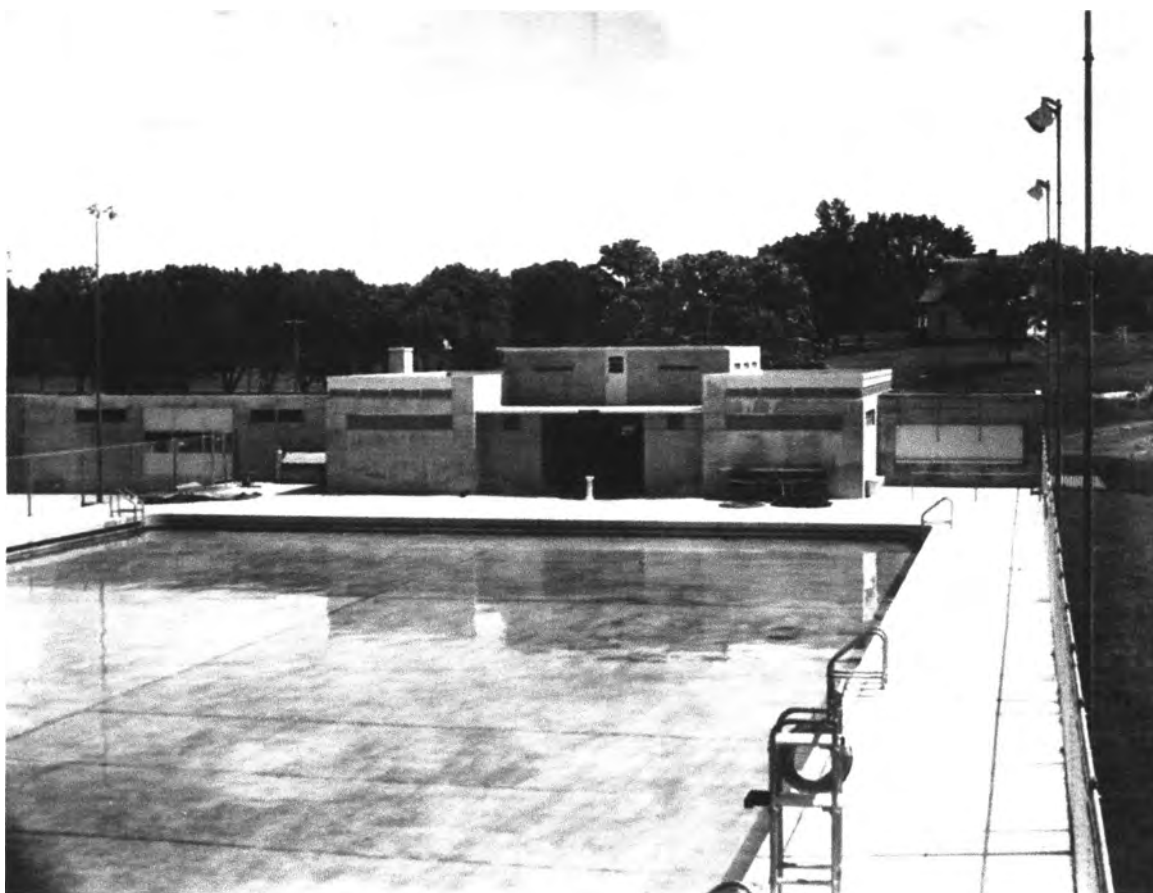


Fig. 8. WPA photograph of swimming pool and bathhouse, June 9, 1938.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information Page 25

---



Fig. 9. WPA photograph of swimming pool and wading pool, June 9, 1938.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

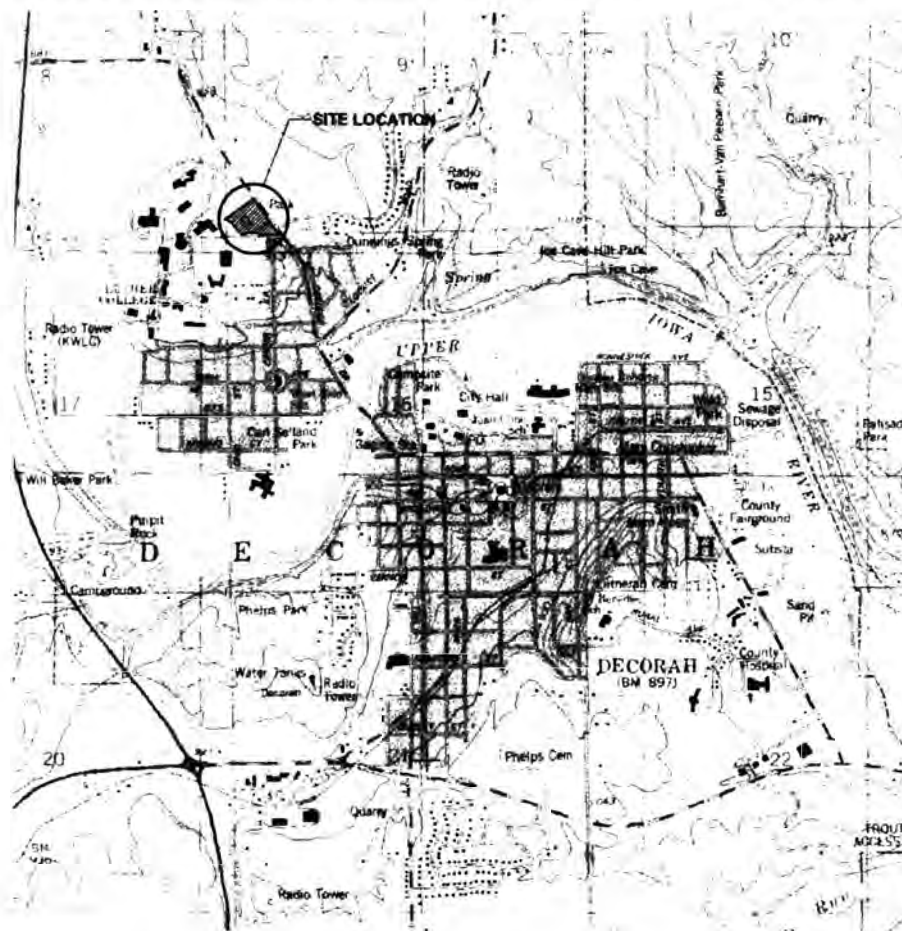
Property name Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

County and State Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section Additional Information Page 26

KEY

 DECORAH MUNICIPAL BATHHOUSE AND SWIMMING POOL BUILDING SITE



**SITE LOCATION MAP**

DECORAH MUNICIPAL BATHHOUSE AND SWIMMING POOL



SCALE IN FEET

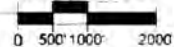
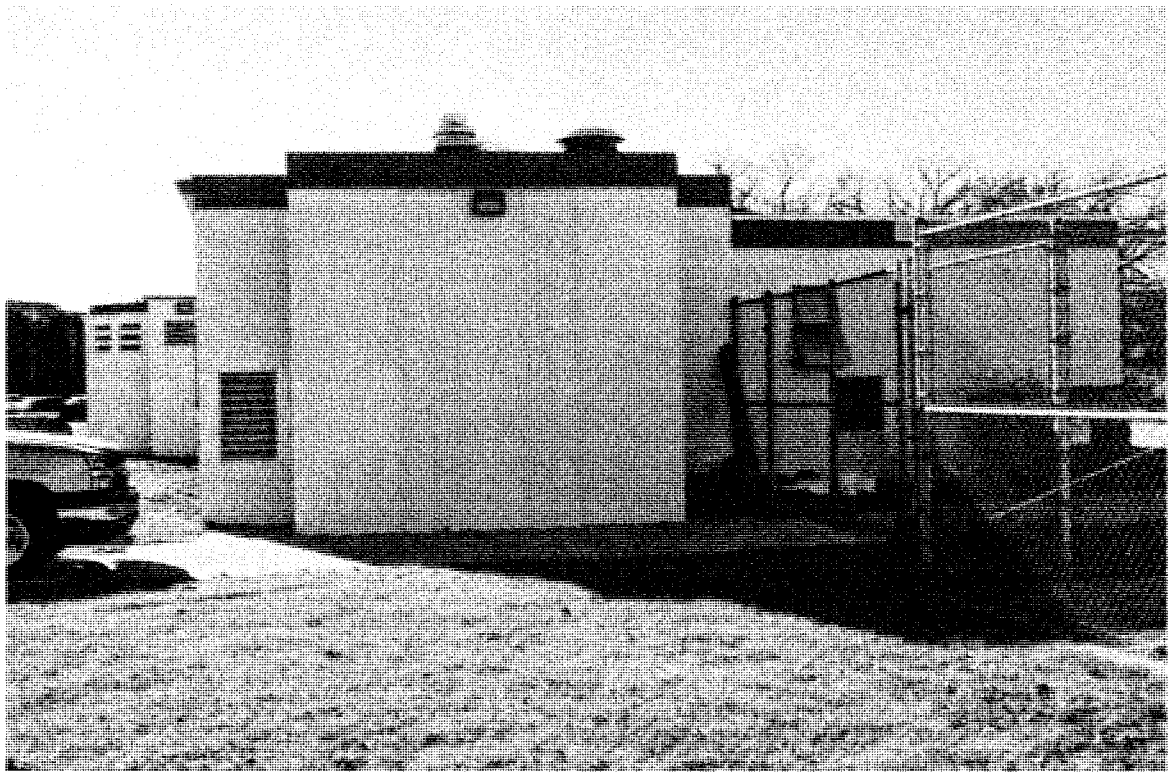


Fig. 10.



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #001



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #002



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #003



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #004





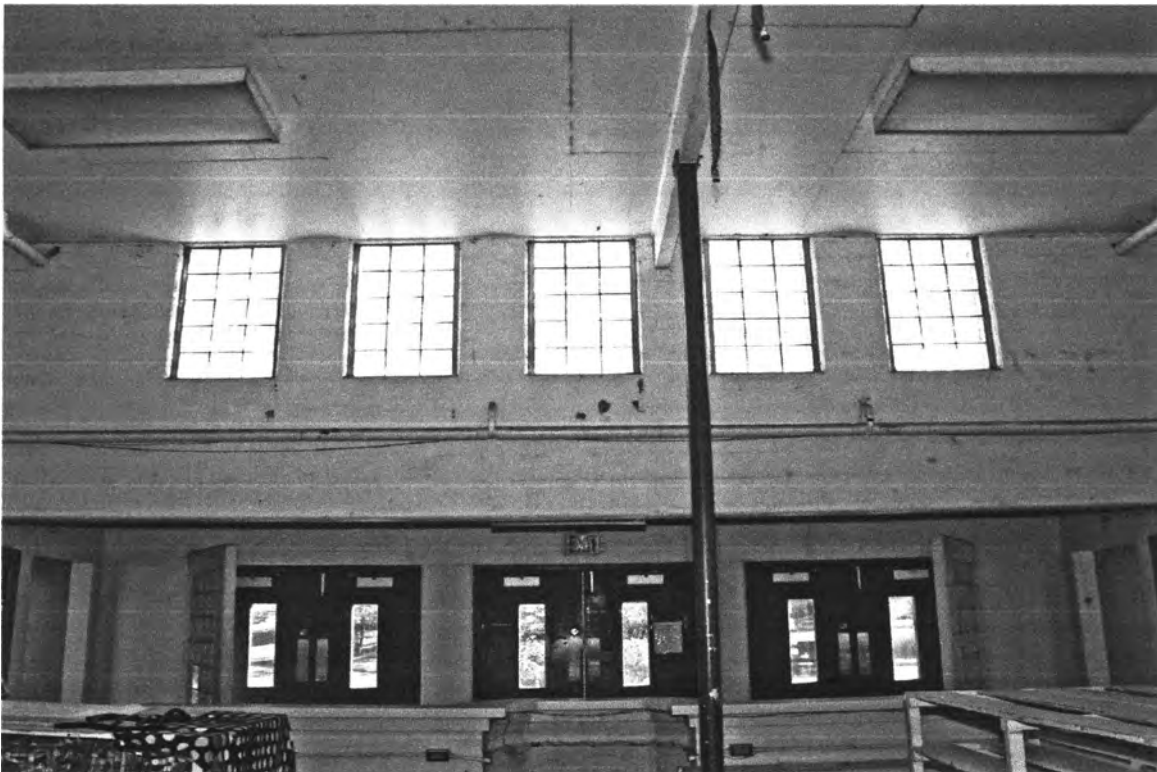
Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #005



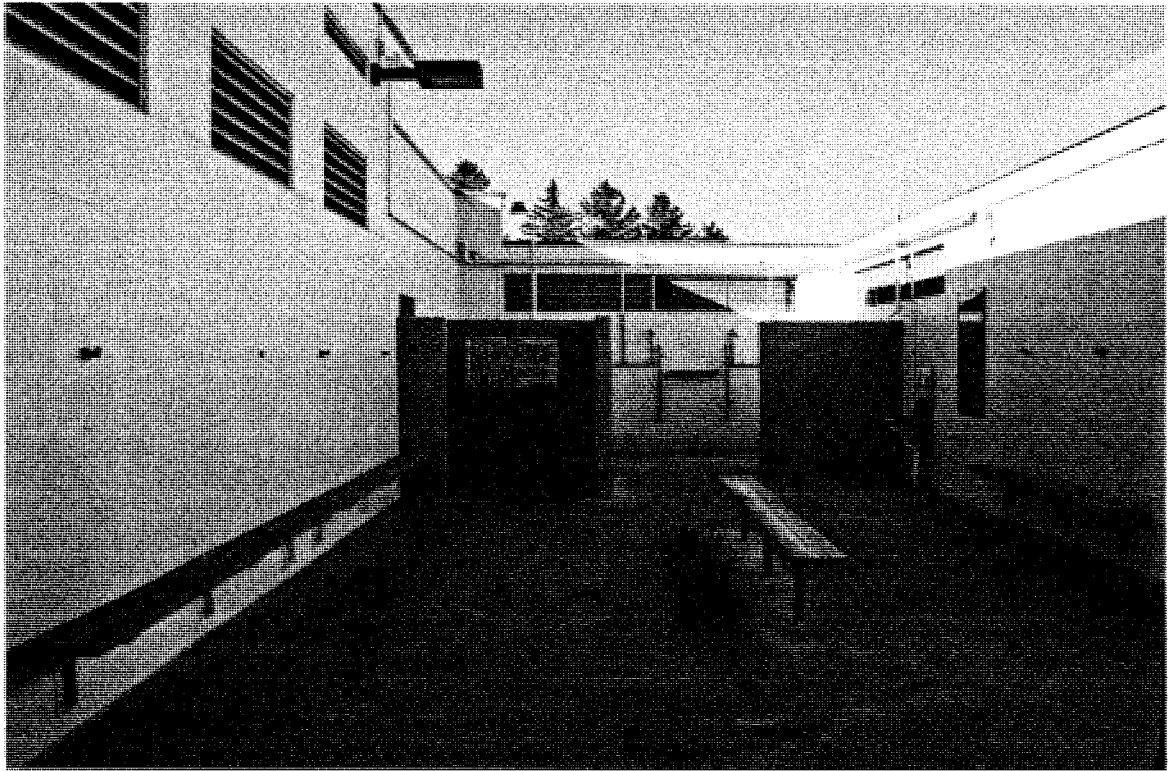
Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #006



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #007



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #008



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #009



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #010



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #011

Recommendation: SLR Return      Action: SLR Return None

**Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet**

State Name: IA County Name winnesheik Resource Name Decorah Munic. Bathhouse & Pool

Reference No. 11-1057 Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Solution:**

I asked the State to provide a new disc.

P. Andrews

1/30/12

**Problem:** Images on disc are in docx. format rather than Tif

**Resolution:**

SLR: Yes      No

Database Change:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Winneshiek

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/26/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/31/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001057

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: Y    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1/30/2012 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER Patricia Andrus      DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE 1/30/2012

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse &Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #001



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #002





Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #003



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #004



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #005



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #006



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #007



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #008



Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #009

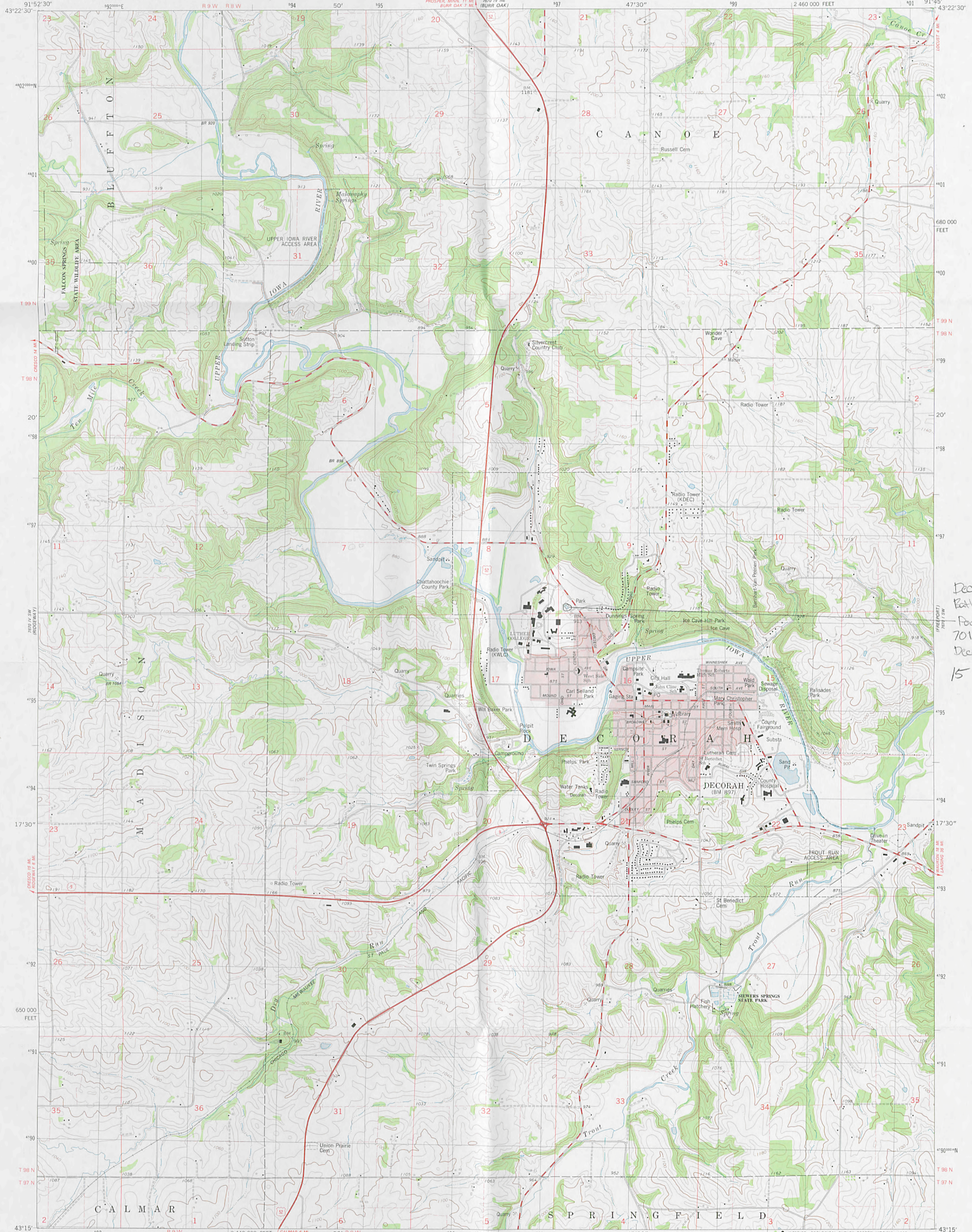


Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #010



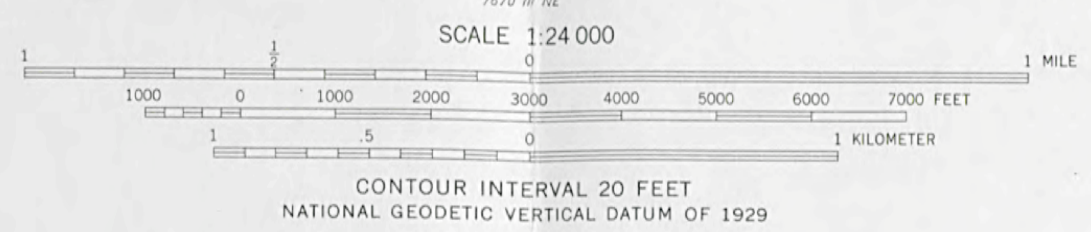


Decorah Municipal Bathhouse & Swimming Pool  
Decorah, Winneshiek County, IA Photo #011



Decorah Municipal  
Bathhouse & Swimming  
Pool  
701 College Dr  
Decorah, Winnebiew Co, IA  
15 597208  
9796341

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1975. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1981  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate  
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 6 meters north and  
14 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

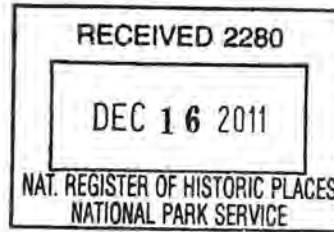
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DECORAH, IOWA  
N4315-W9145/7.5  
1981  
DMA 7670 IV SE-SERIES V876

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

# CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY TIFFANY COWNIE, DIRECTOR



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY of  
IOWA

JEROME THOMPSON  
ADMINISTRATOR



MATTHEW HARRIS  
ADMINISTRATOR

600 E. LOCUST  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
50319

T. (515) 281-5111  
F. (515) 282-0502

CULTURAL.AFFAIRS.ORG

December 15, 2011

Carol Shull, Chief  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

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

- Decorah Municipal Bathhouse and Swimming Pool, 701 College Drive, Decorah, Winneshiek County
- Civillian Conservation Corps/Prisoner of War Recreational Hall, 301 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eldora, Hardin County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster Hill".

Elizabeth Foster Hill, Manager  
National Register and Tax Incentive Programs