

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 13 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

LaPorte Town Hall and Fire Station

AND/OR COMMON

F.F.A. Agricultural Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

413 Chestnut

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

LaPorte City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Blackhawk

CODE

013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

X BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

X MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Support LaPorte, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

612 W. 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

LaPorte City

VICINITY OF

Iowa

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Blackhawk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Waterloo

Iowa

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The former LaPorte Town Hall and Fire Station contains three building phases. The first, in 1876, created a two-story brick structure, 36' x 58', with a gable roof and metal false front. Two round-arched double door entrances with three-tier brick hoods in the front mark the fire station. On the second, town hall, level, are segmental arched windows with 4/4 lights and brick hoods. A side entrance at this level, reached by wooden stairs, displays a similar treatment.

The second phase, in 1911, added a two-story brick jail, 16' x 16', to the north side of the firehouse. Window and door treatment were copied from the main structure, and a brick cornice was added below the flat roof. In 1950, a one-story addition, 36' x 24', was made to the rear of the fire station. It is made of concrete block, with a metal shed roof, and is used for equipment storage. Also in 1950, the originally round-arched fire station doors were enlarged and squared to accommodate new (and presumably larger) engines. These doorways have within the past year been restored, with great care and fine workmanship, to their original 1876 form.

The original interior arrangement on the second floor is not known, but, given the city's small population (around 1200) in the mid-1870's, there probably were only one or two rooms. This floor housed the town office(s) from 1876 until the 1930's, when it was rented to the LaPorte Community Schools for classroom and band rehearsal space. It is now one large room, with no partitions. The ground floor was the fire station from its construction until 1968. The date of the removal of the jail to other quarters is not known.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1876; 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is locally significant as LaPorte City's first town hall and fire station, erected five years after the town was organized and the first officials (a mayor and a clerk) were elected. City offices remained here into the 1930's (they are now in the library), perhaps because the population of this farming community, around 1200 in the 1870's, remained relatively small (today there are about 2200 people in the town). Then the government office space was rented to the town high school, which used it as a classroom facility until 1974. A new fire station was built in 1968, and the ground floor of the old structure converted into a local history and agricultural museum. The museum has since expanded to include the whole building and the old jail, as a result of community bicentennial activities. Thus the structure still acts as a center of local interest, although in ways different from its original use.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

City Council Minute Books, LaPorte City
 City Hall
 202 Main Street
 LaPorte City

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

620

A	1 5	5 6 6 7 5 0	4 6 8 4 7 1 0	B		
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C				D		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Karen Lund, F.F.A. Bicentennial Co-Chairman

ORGANIZATION

LaPorte City F.F.A.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

200 Adams

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

LaPorte City

STATE

Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Andersen

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 3 December 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Tom Muntz

DATE

5/12/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

5-10-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER