

PH035092X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

RECEIVED APR 30 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 13 1976

# 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

\*\* *W* Madison County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

City Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Winterset

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

121

## CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

### ACCESSIBLE

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

### PRESENT USE

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Madison County

STREET & NUMBER

City Square

CITY, TOWN

Winterset

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

City Square

CITY, TOWN

Winterset

STATE

Iowa

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set in the middle of the public square in Winterset, the Madison County Courthouse is a Renaissance Revival limestone greek cross plan structure dominated by a dome at the crossing. The bi-axially symmetrical building has a crosswise dimension of 100 feet, each wing fifty feet in width. A description of the exterior and interior, written by Wes Shank, of Iowa State University, is quoted below.

### Exterior

- 1) Foundations: tooled face ashlar, flush joints, capped with a watertable. The stone is an orange-beige color. At the side of the porches the stone has been cement plastered and scored to resemble stone. This foundation belonged to an earlier structure.
- 2) Wall construction: stone masonry bearing walls, rusticated at first floor with tooled surfaces within smooth margins. At the sill line of the second floor window there is a belt course of the same height and general form as the cornices on the first-floor porches. The belt course and cornices form a continuous horizontal band. The walls above this band have rusticated quoins at the corners of the four projecting wings and flush jointed ashlar surfaces otherwise. All stone matches that of the basement level.
- 3) Porches: Each of the four wings has a porch at the first floor level. The porch projects one bay and is three bays wide. On its length it has paired Tuscan columns, octagonal in cross section at the lower third and circular above. The pairs of columns support shallow segmental arches. Columns and entablature are stone, but the porch ceiling is wood, tongue and groove pattern, now painted gray.
- 4) Chimneys: There are chimneys at each corner of each of the four projecting arms of the cross-shaped plan.
- 5) Openings - doorways and doors: The exterior doorways are capped by stilted segmental arches supported by flanking pilasters the main element of whose capitals consists of what appears to be Greek triglyph. Arch and pilasters are in stone. The entrance doors are paired, with glazed transom above. The upper lights of the doors are glazed. The doors and a portion of the depth of the reveal are of wood and are very thick and heavily molded.
- 6) Openings - windows: The first floor windows are paired, and segmental arched. The column between pairs is stone and resembles the pilasters flanking the doorways. Second floor windows are grouped in pairs, except at the south wing where they are single and rise the full height of the courtroom within and are arched; those at the other wings are of the same overall size, but the upper, arched portion serves to light the third floor. Aluminum double hung sash have replaced the original sash at the first and second floor.
- 7) Roof: The roof is gabled, of low pitch, and is covered with slates coated with asphalt. Over the outer portions of each pediment the roofing is sheet metal painted with aluminum paint.
- 8) Cornice, eaves: The cornice is of sheet metal work, painted gray. The cornice has a frieze of panels between suppressed brackets.
- 9) Dome: This is the crowning feature of the building, now painted with aluminum paint. The cupola consists of three stages. The lowest is a tapering octagon on which the octagonal drum of the main stage rests, and this is in turn capped by a cloister-vault dome. The outer surface of all three stages is sheet metal, much of which is fashioned to imitate stone construction and would have been painted originally the color of the stone. The cupola is framed in iron. At the eight corners, within the metal cladding, are eight columns that are circular in cross section, about 8 3/4" in outside diameter, with four molding-like forms running the length of the columns, equally distributed on their circumference.

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Interior

1) Floor plans:

Cellar. The central portion of the cellar is generally open, following the cross-shape of the central corridors of the four first floor wings above.

First floor. Central corridor, cross-shaped. The east and west wings contain stairways running at the side of the corridor. Offices lie on each side of the corridor at the outer ends of each wing. Vaults are placed toward the inner portions of the building.

Second and third floor. The corridor goes from west to east with a jog around the central space occupied by the courtroom.

Fourth floor (dome). An enclosed stair leads here from the third floor corridor.

Fifth floor (dome). An iron stair rises to this level, which is in effect only a gallery around the outside of the dome.

2) Stairways: The main stairways are of extremely heavy hardwood detailing with massive newells.

3) Flooring: In the main corridors of the first and second floors this is black and white square marble tile, joints running 45° to the walls. Much of the other flooring is hardwood.

4) Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Wherever the original ceiling is visible it is found to be segmental arched vaulting. In the corridors the vaulting spans across the width of the space except where iron beams are used to frame openings through which the stairways pass. Elsewhere, iron beams spaced about five feet apart with ceiling arches between the beams. In the cellar there is no plaster and brick vaulting visible. Presumably this is the vaulting material elsewhere.

5) Doorways and doors: Interior doors are framed in wide hardwood moldings. At the first floor the door frames have ears, as in the Greek Revival work, but here they occur at both the door head and at the base of the door frame. Door reveals are paneled also. Doors are of four panel pattern with one rail at height of the door knob two tall vertical panels above this rail and two smaller vertical panels below it. The door panels have raised panels within. In general, light and dark hardwoods alternate.

6) Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: Window trim is similar to door trim, but is formed at the top to resemble a classic pediment.

7) Notable hardware: Doorknobs and keyhole escutcheons are bronze and patterned.

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

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SPECIFIC DATES 1877

~~BUILDING~~ ARCHITECT A. H. Piquenard

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Madison County Courthouse is sited in the middle of the town square of Winterset, as is often found in this portion of the midwest. The building, however, is unusual in its stone construction and in the relatively simple interpretation of the classic-inspired version of the Victorian idiom. The architect was A. H. Piquenard, who with John C. Cochrane, was the architect of the state capital in Des Moines.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shank, Wesley, Madison County Courthouse. Studies of Historic Iowa Architecture, Engineering Research Institute, Iowa State University, Ames, 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	41,048,0	4900	4,57,06,0,0	6000	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Henry C. Miller Madison County Liaison Officer Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Madison County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

515 W. Fremont St.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Winterset

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

*William H. Anderson*

TITLE

*Director, Div. of Historic Preservation*

DATE 4-22-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William J. Sturtevant*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*8/13/76*

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

*8.13.76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Addenda to #8:

The courthouse is described by Goeldner (1970) as "county capitol" style. This is not surprising, (even given that it was built on the foundation of the earlier courthouse) because A.E. Piquenard (with John Cochrane) had worked on both the Illinois and Iowa state capitols only a few years previously. It is perfectly suited to its location (a central square surrounded by commercial structures), with its Greek-cross plan, identical facades and entrance piazzas on all four sides.

Madison County was organized in 1950, and Winterset chosen the seat of government the same year. County officials and the court first met in various stores and taverns, until a double log cabin was built in the central square. This served until around 1866 as court, school, meeting house, and home of county offices.

The second courthouse was begun in 1868, designed by G.P. Randall. It was a Greek cross, with two floors and a high, octagonal dome, made of locally-quarried limestone. When it burned in 1875, this second courthouse was dismantled, much of the stone, doors; sashes and ironwork salvaged, and the foundation left intact. The county officials promptly hired Piquenard (without competitive bids) to exercise his "firm adherence to the French Renaissance style" in the designing of a new building. The result was very similar to the burned courthouse, of the same dimensions and elevations, but with more refinement of detail. Most of the salvaged stone was reused, but had to be recut; additional stone was obtained, as before, from local quarries.

A.E. Piquenard was born in France about 1825, and came to the United States in 1848. He lived for a time in a communal society in Nauvoo, Illinois, and worked for many years with architect George Barrett of St. Louis. In 1867 he joined John C. Cochrane, who that year won the competition for the Illinois capitol at Springfield. Both were very much involved in its construction. In 1870, Piquenard and Cochrane's design was chosen for the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. The prompt choice of Piquenard for the third Madison County Courthouse may have been based upon his sudden eminence in Iowa due to the capitol building. Piquenard died in 1879.

Addenda to bibliography:

Paul Goeldner, Temples of Justice, Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1970.