

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 91001763

**Date Listed:** 12/13/91

**Oskaloosa Fire Station**  
**Property Name**

Mahaska  
County

IA  
State

Oskaloosa MPS  
**Multiple Name**

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland  
**Signature of the Keeper**

12/13/91  
**Date of Action**

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**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The period of significance was omitted; it is the same as the significant date, 1908.

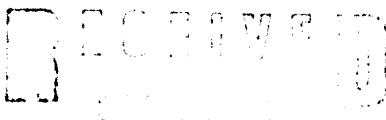
This information was confirmed by Lisa Linhart of the SHPO staff.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See *Instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Oskaloosa Fire Station  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number	109-111 2nd Avenue East	<input type="checkbox"/> not for publication			
city, town	Oskaloosa	<input type="checkbox"/> vicinity			
state	Iowa	code IA	county Mahaska	code 123	zip code 52577

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously

Architectural & Historical Resources of Oskaloosa, IA

listed in the National Register 1

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

10/14/91

Signature of certifying official

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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Beth Boland

10/13/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th &amp; 20th Century Revival:

Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tile

other Stone Trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Oskaloosa Fire Station is a three story building of dark brown brick (laid in running bond) on the north side of Second Avenue West, immediately adjacent to the City Hall. On the facade (south elevation) it features three large segmental arched openings at the street level for the fire engines. The second and third floors have three pairs of windows with stone jack-arched tops. Stone string courses are located at sill level on both floors, and a wider string course is found just below the corbelled brick cornice. Corners of the building are stone quoined. The four and one-half story bell tower features the same jack-arched windows and stone quoins (the tower was designed and built at the same time as the Fire Station, but received its copper roof when City Hall was built three years later). The east and north elevations of the Fire Station are of red orange brick laid in common bond. The windows have segmental arches. First floor windows feature 9/9 sash, while shorter windows on the second and third floors are 1/1. The hip roof is of red tile.

The Fire Station has an alley on the east side, a drive on the north that connects Market Street with the alley, and City Hall is attached on the west side. The Fire Station and City Hall are located one block south of the Square, and both are included in the City Square Commercial Historic District.

The plans for this building on file in the Wetherell & Ericsson office were drawn by Frank E. Wetherell when the firm was Wetherell & Gage. Both floor plans and elevations are available. These show that the third floor was originally to have been added when the City Hall was built at a later date. There are few differences between the plans and building as constructed. This project has dealt primarily with the exterior of the Wetherell designed buildings, and the nominations are based on exterior significance and integrity. Exterior alterations appear to be limited to new garage doors.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1908

Cultural Affiliation  
N.A.

Significant Person  
N.A.

Architect/Builder  
Wetherell, Frank E. (Archt)  
Guthrie & Holtz of Albia (Cont)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Oskaloosa Fire Station is significant under Criterion C as a good example of Wetherell's public building design from the early 20th century (as noted in the "Works of Frank E. Wetherell: 1892-1931" context), and illustrates the concept of phased development. This building was designed to be built before the City Hall, but the two were to match. There has been a great deal of confusion over exactly who designed both the City Hall and Fire Station. S.B. Sinclair, a local contractor who sometimes advertised himself as an architect, has often been credited with the design of both buildings. This confusion evidently arose because of the length of time between the drawing of the plans, and the actual construction of the buildings. Records show that plans for both of these buildings from 1905 are on file in the Wetherell & Ericsson office, but only the 1908 plans for the Fire Station have been located. These plans are so close to the building as constructed that there can be no doubt as to the architect.

In July 1908 the Weekly Herald headlined on page one, that "Oskaloosa Will Erect Building...New Home for Fire Department is Ordered...A part of City Hall."

Oskaloosa will have a new fire department building erected this year..... The plans will in the main follow those made heretofore in that the new department will be erected on the east end of the lots owned by the city at the corner of Market and Second Avenue and will be a part of the city hall that will be constructed on the other parts of the lot later on.....It will have ample provisions for the fire and ambulance or patrol apparatus and will contain the apartments of the men and stables for the horses and places for the feed,etc.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Oskaloosa Weekly Herald, 2 February 1905, p.8, c.1.  
16 July 1908, p.1, c.5.

Tracings in the files of Wetherell & Ericsson, Des Moines, IA.

See continuation sheet

### 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

Specify repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

### UTM References

A 

1	1	5	5	1	2	1	9	1	7	1	9	1	0
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4	1	5	1	7	1	1	2	1	1	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

Original Plat, Blk 28, S 1/3 Lots 7 & 8, City of Oskaloosa.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

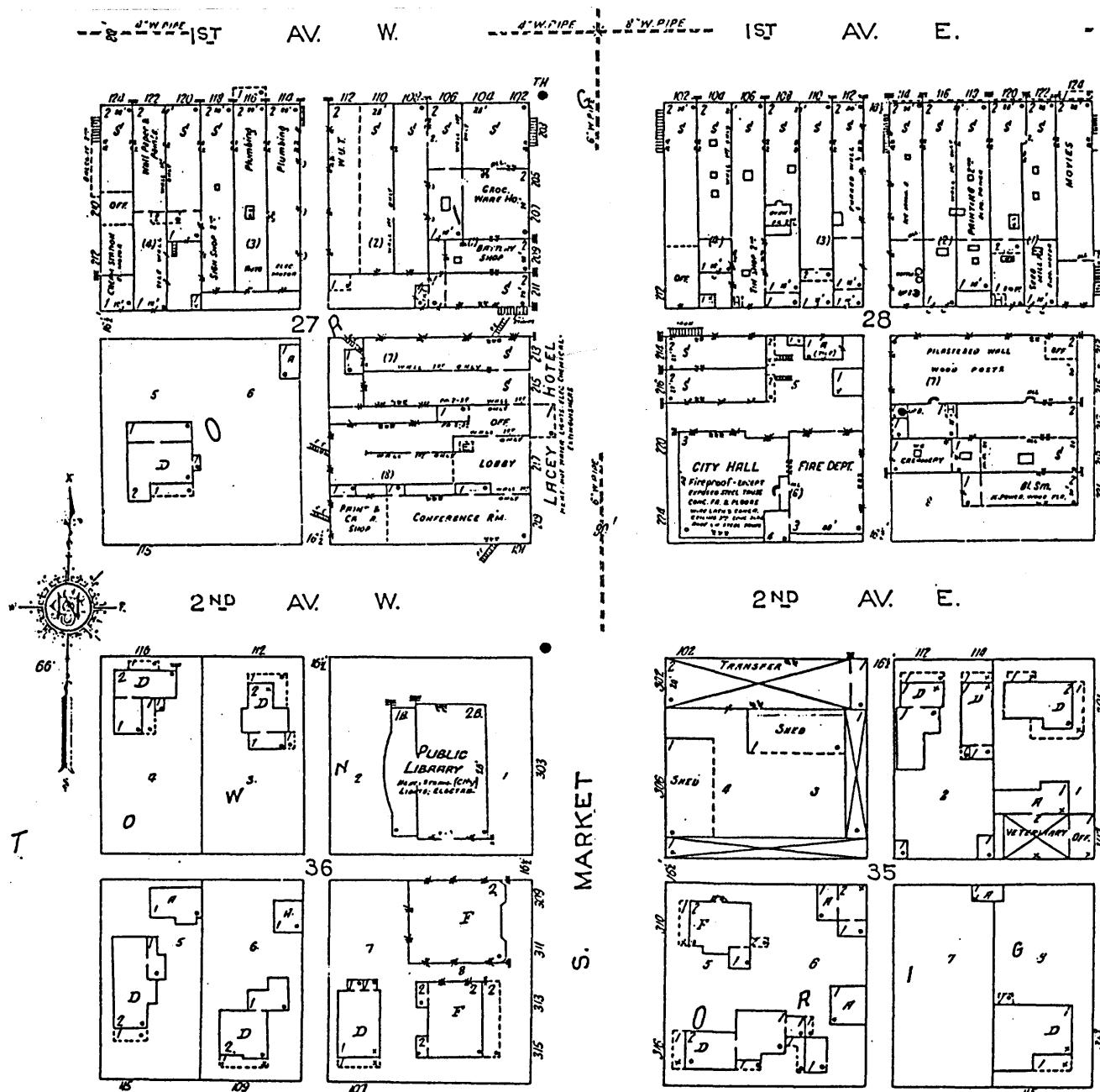
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Comm. date June 1991  
street & number City Hall, P.O. Box 1010 telephone (515) 673-8361  
city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52577

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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CFN-259-1116

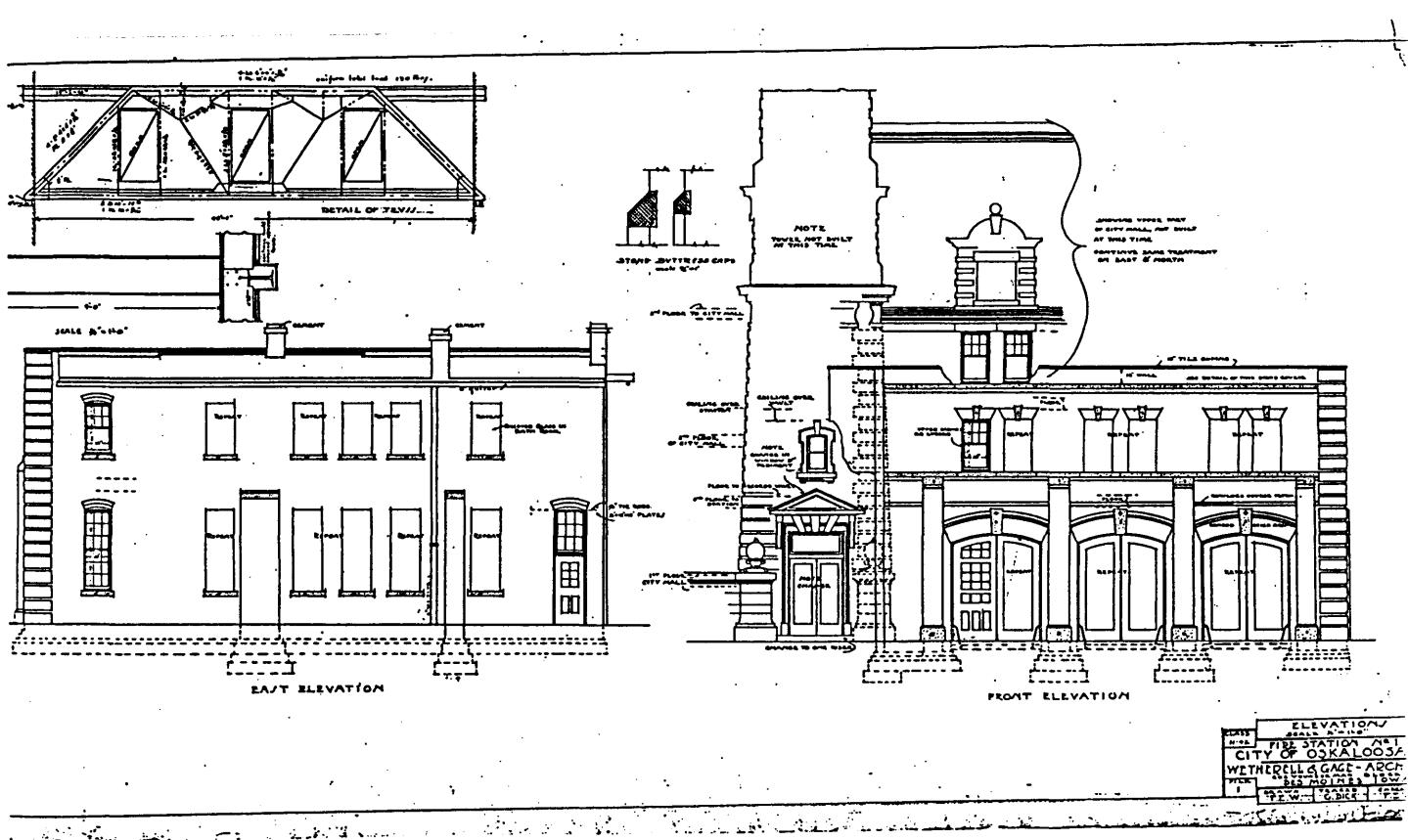


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CFN-259-1116



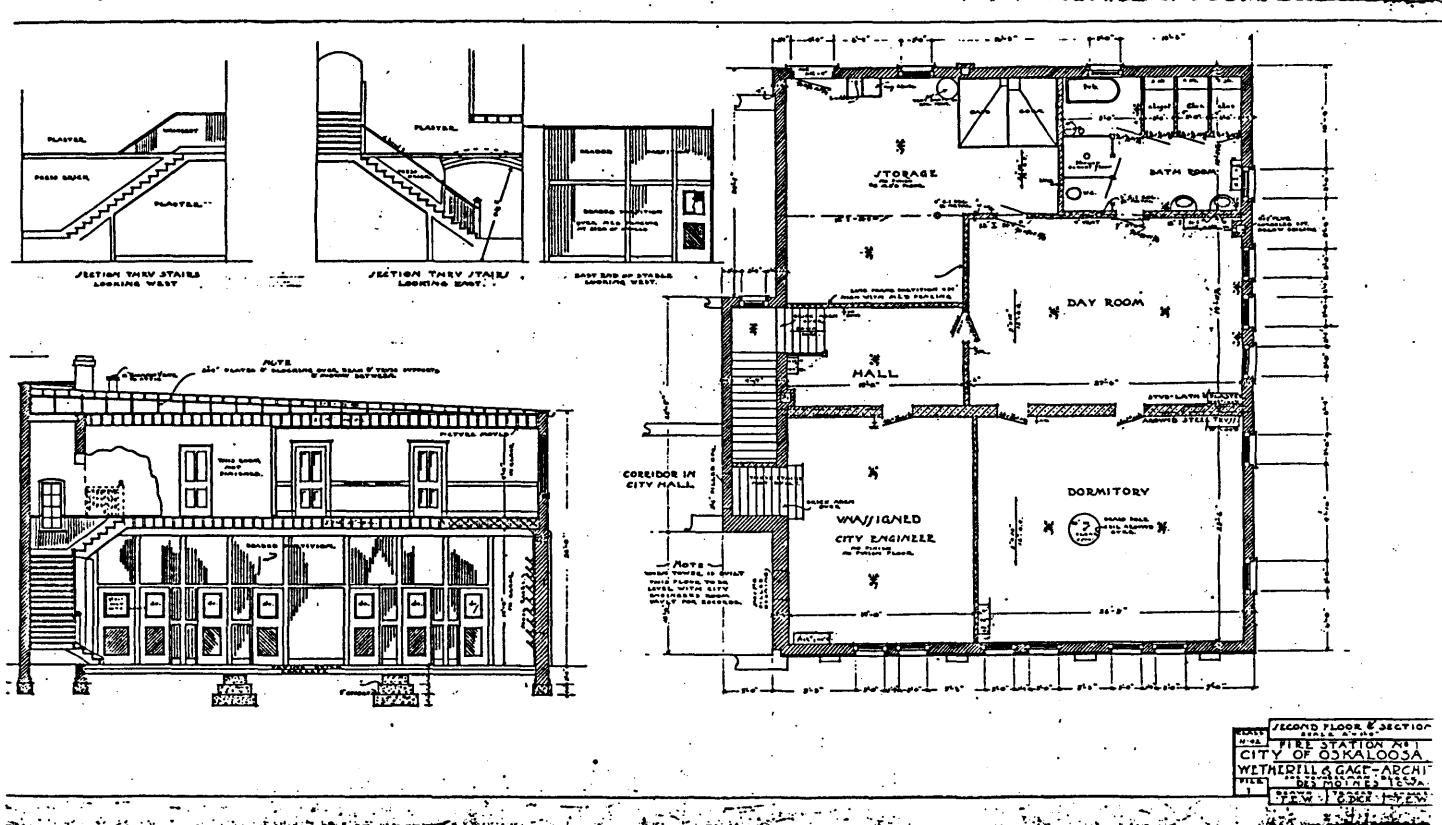
Wetherell's 1908 plans for the Oskaloosa Fire Station.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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CFN-259-1116



Wetherell's 1908 plans for the Oskaloosa Fire Station.

United States Department of the Interior  
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CFN-259-1116

Some modifications will be made from the plans made for the new fire department three years ago, but the ideas developed at that time are carried out in the main.

The 1905 plans were drawn by Frank E. Wetherell, after a great deal of discussion with the city council as to cost. No information has been located as to exactly why it took three years to begin construction of these new municipal buildings. One newspaper article noted that the contract called for the architect to "change and revise the plans and drawings until absolutely in harmony with the idea of the building committee." That in itself may have taken three years. The members of the committee had visited fire stations in Des Moines, Marshalltown, Waterloo, and Ottumwa before approving these plans.

It is important to note that Wetherell continued to be involved with Oskaloosa projects even in the early years of his Des Moines residency.

The Oskaloosa Fire Station meets the integrity requirement set out in the Multiple Property Document for Wetherell related works.