

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

**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 Stock Judging Pavilion

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Southern Iowa Fairgrounds not for publication

city, town Oskaloosa vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Iowa code 019 county Mahaska code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Exhibition

4. Owner of Property

name Southern Iowa Fair, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 528

city, town Oskaloosa vicinity of Iowa state Iowa 52577

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Mahaska County Courthouse

city, town Oskaloosa vicinity of Iowa state Iowa 52577

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town vicinity of 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

P.W. Sparks -- a notable Oskaloosa building contractor -- built the Stock Judging Pavilion in 1919. The structure is polygonal with 14 sides. It features a truss roofing system and reflects a building form briefly popular between 1915-1920. The pavilion is a rare form on Iowa fairgrounds.

The Pavilion measures 156' x 116'. Each end of the structure consists of six walls, 30' each, arranged geometrically to form equilateral chords on a semicircle with 58' radius. Two 40' walls form the middle section of the Pavilion (see diagram below).

A foundation of reinforced, poured concrete supports 16 load-bearing piers of the same material. Brick veneer faces the piers. Curtain walls are stucco. Window openings, now covered, provided interior display area for outside pedestrians. Each of the walls contains a band of seven windows with six lights each directly under the roof. Composition siding covers the stucco.

The Pavilion originally had two monitor roofs. The structural system is noteworthy. Concerning the extant monitor: 16 load-bearing, timber columns support a truss system of wood, metal beam and metal rod chords. Twelve metal beams, lying in an horizontal plane, form bottom chords of the system. They tie into the top of the timber columns. Timber columns are grounded inside the structure and define the pavilion's arena. The shape of the monitor conforms to the polygonal floor plan. Bands of windows surround the monitor albeit covered with metal siding.

Concerning the non-extant monitor: the 12 metal beams mentioned above also form bottom chords for this trussing. At either end of the Pavilion, wood chords form an inverted, semiconical system which rests on the metal beams. These and other trusses support a purlin system which supported the non-extant monitor. This monitor was removed sometime before 1945.

On the interior, the arena measures 115' x 69'. There are three entrances. Five rows of wooden seats circle the arena and are stepped seriatim. A stage for band music is in the southeast corner. Spectator guard wall and a portion of the timber support columns are painted white. Other woodwork is rough and left unfinished.

A road surrounds the Stock Judging Pavilion and a number of livestock barns and stables are situated nearby. The Pavilion and the Exhibit Hall (1917) dominate the collection of buildings on the fairgrounds. Land is level with a slight roll to the southwest in the areas around the Pavilion. The fairgrounds now comprise 52 acres.

Alterations, noted above, cover the original surfaces of the Pavilion but they are reversible. The concrete foundation has broken in places. The Southern Iowa Fair is exploring options to insure the preservation of the building. The Pavilion is used on a regular basis during the fair and as a rental for circuses, rodeos, 4-H and other events.

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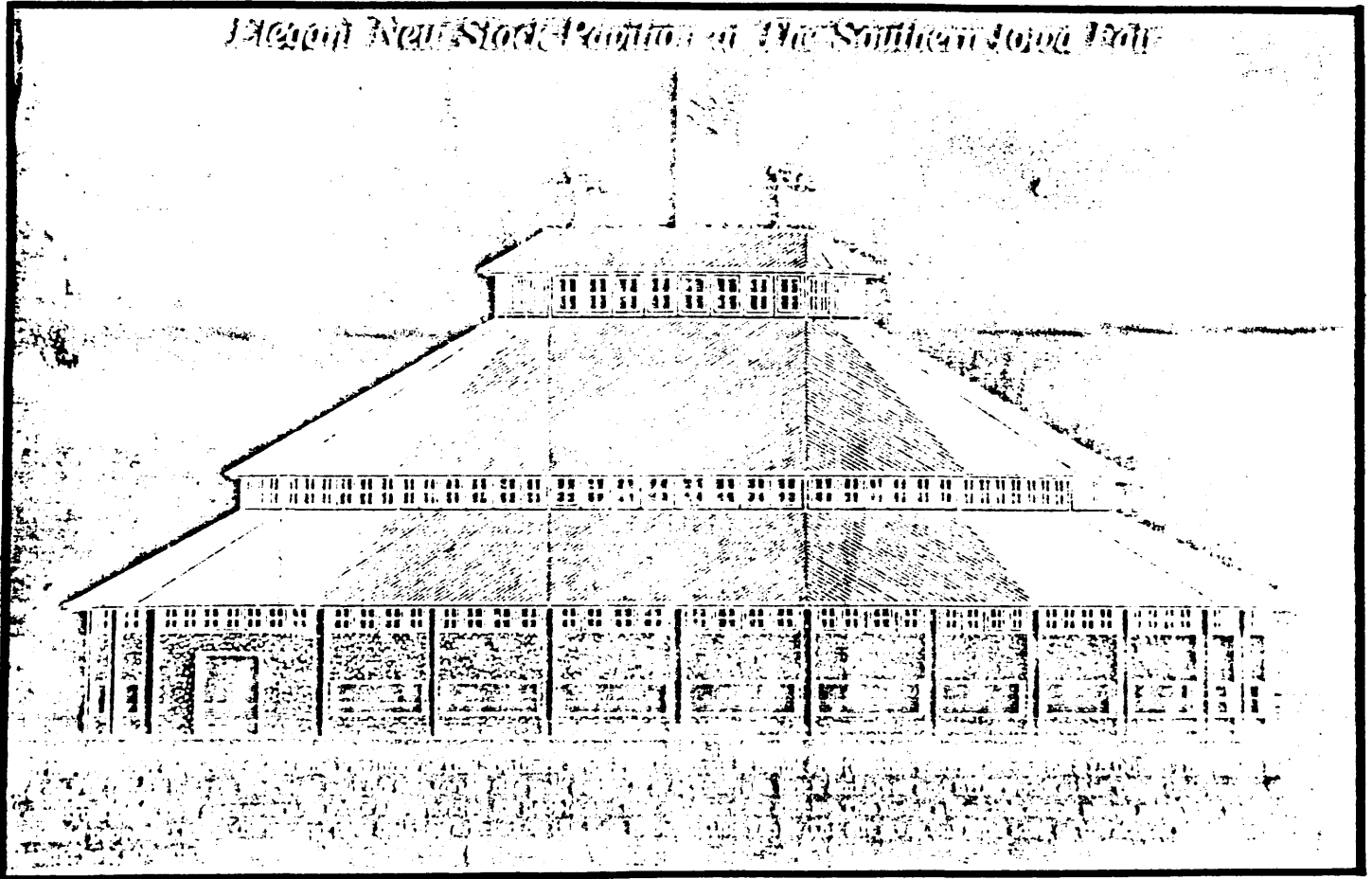
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Physical Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2



Source of drawing: Trade Extension Edition; Oskaloosa Daily Herald; Oskaloosa, IA; 18 August 1919; p 1. Whereabouts of original drawing unknown.

The building departs in minor details from the drawing.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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		

Specific dates 1915, 1920

Builder/Architect P. W. Sparks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

P.W. Sparks (1876-1944) constructed the Stock Judging Pavilion in 1919. He also built some of Oskaloosa's finest commercial and institutional houses: City Hall (1912); Spencer Chapel, William Penn College (1923); First Congregational Church; and "Oskaloosa Herald" Building (1929). Architects designed these buildings.

A drawing of the Pavilion's southern elevation survives, reproduced in a 1919 newspaper.* Indications are that Sparks designed the Pavilion himself. A later owner of the construction company says this is the case* and an architect's name is unassociated with the structure. Sparks might have used a patternbook.

The Southern Iowa Fair dates to 1852 when its predecessor, the Mahaska County Agricultural Society hosted the county's first fair. The Iowa State Fair was held in Oskaloosa in 1858 and 1859 on 20 acres still included in the Southern Iowa Fairgrounds. The SIF has been reorganized three times, the last in 1934. Before 1916 the fair included Mahaska, Wapello, Monroe, Marion, Jasper and Poweshiek Counties.**

During the World War I period, the fair enjoyed a boom. Witness construction: Exhibit Hall (1917); non-extant wood grandstand; Stock Judging Pavilion (1919); Swine Pavilion (1920). In 1919 the fair drew an attendance bigger than all others in Iowa save the state fair. The large scale of the Stock Judging Pavilion reflects the prosperity of south-central Iowa during the Golden Age of midwestern farming.

The Pavilion is a rare form on Iowa fairgrounds. Besides the Stock Judging Pavilion at Oskaloosa, other pavilions survive at the Iowa State Fairgrounds (Des Moines) and Dairy Cattle Congress (Waterloo). Floral Hall (NRHP) is an octagonal structure on the Cedar County Fairgrounds at Tipton.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Oskaloosa

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification The north 170' of Lot 38 in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13 T75N R16W, minus the east 40' of said north 170' of Lot 38. Also the east 30' of Lot 22, which is located in the same portion of the same section. A total of 31,000 Square feet, this parcel includes only the pavilion.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Research, text by William Page, Public Historian, SIEDA
 Form by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO **date** 6 March 1984

street & number Historical Building
 E. 12th & Grand Ave. **telephone** 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines **state** Iowa 50319

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 *John D. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department **date** 3/6/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John D. Anderson **Keper of the National Register** **Entered in the National Register** **date** 4/12/84

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Andreas, A T; Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa; Chicago; A T Andreas Co; 1875; p 133. Pictures fairgrounds.

The History of Mahaska County, Iowa; Union Historical Co; Des Moines, IA; 1878; p 351.

**Premium Booklet; Southern Iowa Fair & Exposition; 1916. Property Max C Browneller; Oskaloosa, IA.

Photographic Image; Shows Stock Judging Pavilion under construction; "1919" in pencil on back. Property Southern Iowa Fair; Oskaloosa, IA.

#Drawing of Southern Elevation; Stock Judging Pavilion; Trade Extension Edition; Oskaloosa Daily Herald; Oskaloosa, IA; 18 August 1919; p 1. Whereabouts of original drawing unknown.

Iowa Homestead; Des Moines, IA; 18 Sept 1919; p 16 c 1-4 (cont p 17); "Southern Iowa Fair and Exposition--Oskaloosa Held an Exceptionally Fine and Well-Attended Show Last Week--Great Local Enterprise Shown."

P W Sparks Obituary; "P. W. Sparks Died Today;" Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 11 May 1944; p 1. Page One obituary indicates stature of Sparks in community.

Image of Completed Stock Judging Pavilion; Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 28 August 1920; p 8. Pictures non-extant monitor roof.

Oskaloosa Daily Herald: "Pleases Everyone/New Stock Pavilion Wins Praise From Every Side;" 8 Sept 1919; p 11 c 6-7.

"The new stock pavilion was the chief attraction on the grounds today;" 9 Sept 1919; p 1 c 1.

"Fair maintains position of second largest fair in Iowa;" 16 Sept 1919; p 7 c 4.

O R A L H I S T O R Y

*Telephone Interview: James DeReus; 1206 Scott; Ames, IA 50010 with Duane Jager; Eddyville, IA. DeReus is a septuagenarian who holds an engineering degree from Iowa State University. He bought an interest in P W Sparks' construction company following Sparks' death.

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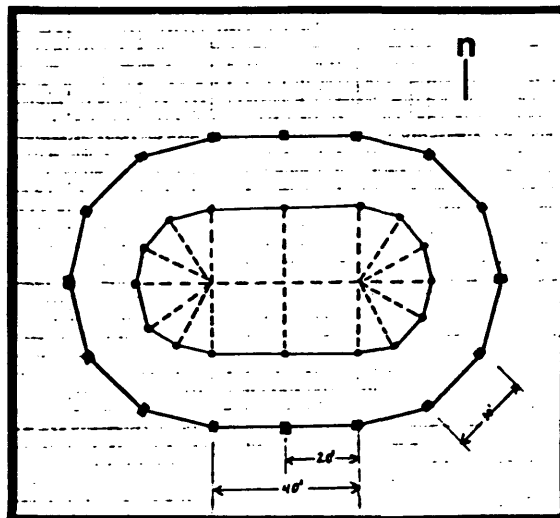
CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 3

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- Stout, Donald F; "Floral Hall, Cedar County Fair Grounds;" National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form; Office of Historic Preservation, Iowa State Historical Dept; Des Moines, IA.
- Reneker, W Daniel, Senior Consultant, French-Reneker-Associates, Inc; Fairfield, IA. Conversation with W C Page.
- McClure, Judith, Preservation Architect; Office of Historic Preservation, Iowa State Historical Dept; Des Moines, IA. Conversation with W C Page.
- Browneller, Max C; Statement/Southern Iowa Fair; Oskaloosa, IA. 2-page ms; 1983.
- Page, W C; "Livestock Show Pavilion; Southern Iowa Fair;" Mahaska County Iowa; An Historical Survey of Buildings; Unpublished inventory for Office of Historic Preservation; Iowa State Historical Dept; 1981.



- bottom chord system
- concrete piers
- timber support columns