

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 19 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic J. D. Craven Woman's Relief Corps <sup>Hall</sup> #322 Building  
and or common

2. Location

street & number South Street not for publication  
city, town Macksburg vicinity of  
state Iowa code 019 county Madison code 121

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name J. D. Craven Woman's Relief Corps #322  
street & number South Street  
city, town Macksburg vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office  
street & number Madison County Courthouse  
city, town Winterset state Iowa 50273

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 state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent A good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered Xx altered**Check one** original site moveddate ~~note new foundation, 1976~~

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The J. D. Craven Woman's Relief Corps Hall (1901) in Macksburg exhibits the uncommon use of the vaulted roof form in vernacular frame construction in this state. This room form is combined with an Italianate style bowed cornice.

The Woman's Relief Corps Hall is a two story framed building, rectangular on plan (24' x 50') and is basically commercial in its design, with first floor store front. The main noteworthy feature is the vaulted roof (rolled composition surface) which is highlighted by a bracketed cornice which encircles the building at the eavesline. Windows upstairs are original, 4/4 sash with molded headings and flat wooden surrounds. First floor side windows have been shortened but are aligned vertically with those on the second floor. In the rear, a door and two second floor windows penetrate the wall. The exterior consists of narrow clapboard. Thin vertical boards define the corners. The storefront consists of a centered single door with flanking pairs of 1/1 window sets. One brick chimney penetrates the roof. A single associated outbuilding (not included in this nomination) is a delapidated coal shed which is behind the hall.

Most alterations to the building have occurred in recent years, including the rebuilding of the original storefront (no date), the total replacement of the original limestone foundation with one of concrete (October-December 1976), new cement steps (same), and a recoating of the roof (1981). The interior is totally rebuilt with lowered ceiling, paneled walls, etc. A rear interior stairway leads upstairs and there is a raised speaker's platform on the north end of the upper floor.

The hall is the only commercial building surviving on the south side of the town square, and is possibly the only one to have been constructed there. The other sides of the square include scattered storefronts, bank, garage, and one church. This is one of two identical buildings in town to include the vaulted roof. The IOOF building predates 1898, is north of the square, and has the same cornice, fenestration, and plan. The presence of two such buildings hints strongly that a single builder influenced the use of the vaulted roof concept. The hall is the better preserved of the two in terms of alterations to the storefront.

The building's past commercial usage is contested by the members of the Corps. The evidence for suggestive this connection includes a 1930 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, which identifies the building as a store, the commercial lines of its architecture, and most significantly, the lack of any information which addresses how the first floor of the hall was used prior to 1955 when the Corps finally occupied the entire building.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1901 **Builder/Architect** Unknown.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The J. D. Craven Woman's Relief Corps hall (1901) is an uncommon example of a vaulted roof commercial building. Prominently situated in a small Iowa community, the building is locally valued for its various associations with community organizations. As an organization, the Woman's Relief Corps is representative of the largely unrecognized role and contribution of Iowa's women to the community support of needy veterans, and the furtherance of patriotic observances. As an organization, the W.R.C. has survived over time, evolving to meet changing social needs while the various veterans' organizations have come and gone. The J. D. Cravens W.R.C. #322 building as the last functioning hall of this organization, appropriately represents this important historical theme.

The J. D. Craven Post of the Grand Army of the Republic Post #198 organized in 1883, and in early 1898 the post organized an auxiliary which took the same name and was chartered as Corps #322. The latter organization constructed this building in late 1901, using local donated labor and lumber from nearby Lorimor. The building locally claims to be the last surviving building in use by this organization in the state. The first floor was used as a storefront as of 1935, and the whole was used for meetings after October 1955. The organization has continued to serve the needs of area veterans. The building also serves as a community hall for such organizations as 4-H, garden clubs, houses local elections, and temporarily housed the local public school in the years 1920-21 while the new school was under construction.

The Woman's Relief Corps organized in 1883 nationally, and as a state organization in Iowa in mid 1884. The organization had its origin as an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, but is of interest in its own right due to the fact that it has continued to serve as an organizational framework for the veterans relief work by women ever since. This work over time has included the support of orphanages, soldiers' homes, and needy veterans of all wars, the introduction of patriotic curriculum in the public schools (including active participation in what is termed the "Americanization" movement of the 1920's), and the erection of memorials and monuments. Today the Macksburg Corps has also incorporated seasonal assistance to the elderly along with its concerns for veterans throughout the state. In Iowa nearly four hundred local corps were organized between 1883 and the mid-1920's. At least six local corps are known to have erected or to have owned their own meeting halls. Only two of these corps exist today and only Macksburg occupies its own hall. The Macksburg Corps #322 is rated "Number One Corps" by the state organization in recognition of its service, and its retention of its hall. The Corps originally was one of six W.R.C.'s in Madison County, and in 1929 had the smallest membership of all six. Today, J. D. Craven Corps #322 has outlived the other five in the county and is one of thirty four functioning corps in Iowa.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Omaha-Nebraska-Iowa

Quadrangle scale 1/125,000

### UTM References

A 15 403000 4561600  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The north 75' of Lot 24, Town of Macksburg. Includes only hall building and front of lot.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 12 December 1983

Historical Building  
street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-8152

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 Adrian S. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 12 December 1983

### For NPS use only

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

~~entered in the~~  
National Register

date 1/19/83

for Belores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

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Bibliography:

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Iowa Insurance Service Bureau, January 1935, Macksburg, Iowa.

"A New Foundation For The WRC Building in Macksburg," Winterset Madisonian,  
\_ October 1976.

"Macksburg Auxiliary Seeking to Register Building As Historic Site." Winterset  
Madisonian, 20 July 1983.

"Macksburg club wants hall history recognized." Creston News Advertiser, 22 July 1983.

"Macksburg Auxiliary Seeks to Register Historic Building." Adair County Free Press.  
27 July 1983.

Various local scrapbooks, etc.

"Journal of the Seventy-Ninth Annual Convention of the Department of Iowa Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, Held at Des Moines, Iowa June 17-19, 1962."