

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH068 4031

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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# 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

Alumni Hall

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Iowa State University Campus

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ames

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Story

CODE

169

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Alumni Hall Board of Trustees (building)/Iowa State University (land)

STREET & NUMBER

Iowa State University

CITY, TOWN

Ames

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50011

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Story County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Nevada

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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

Iowa State University's Alumni Hall, completed in 1907, is 2½ stories, 55' x 88', with exterior walls of brick laid in Flemish bond and a tiled gambrel roof. Front and rear elevations have 9 bays, with 6/6 sash windows and five-part jack-arch lintels in stone. Roof dormers are set in groups of three: all have round-arched windows beneath alternating triangular and segmental pediments with partial returns over corner pilasters. The parapetted gable ends of the building each have two high, panelled chimneys set flush with the walls. All corners are quoined in brick.

The most prominent elements of the building are the giant porticoes, on north, east and west sides. All feature the Ionic order in fluted columns and pilasters; blind medallions on the cornice frieze; and are crowned with balustrades with turned balusters between pedestals supporting urns. The north portico shelters the main entrance, with its aedicular frame and segmental pediment. A small winter vestibule is set within the doorway. The windows beneath this portico, unlike those elsewhere on the building, are set in flat, dog-eared surrounds. Above this portico is a large roof dormer, with Palladian window and swan's-neck pediment.

The east and west porticoes are semicircular. Centered in the walls beneath them are shallow polygonal window bays, with French doors onto the terraces. Above each portico is a Palladian window, which seems to continue the window bays up through the roof of the pediment. Just below the roof peak on east and west sides are single oculi with feathered surrounds in stone.

The south elevation originally featured a large, <sup>slightly-protruding</sup> parapetted pavilion. Much of this feature is obscured by a flat-roofed, two-story wing, three bays long. The basement and first story of this section were built in 1914, the second floor added in 1943. First floor windows repeat the stone jack-arches of the main block; second story windows have broad, flat stone lintels.

The basement and second floor of the building have been extensively rearranged since the original construction. Originally, the basement contained a swimming pool, cafeteria and locker rooms. The pool was covered in 1914, and new lounge and recreation areas created (under the direction of the original architects). The second floor had an assembly room at the east end, a large center hall, and classrooms to the west. This floor was remodelled in 1937 to create a number of small bedrooms and study areas. Relatively intact are the main floor and third floor. The former has a center hall with large lobby area, with offices to either side. The third floor is partitioned into many small bedrooms with adjoining parlors.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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 1907 ~~XXXXXX~~ BUILDER/ARCHITECT Proudfoot & Bird, Des Moines

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alumni Hall is an excellent example of the Georgian Revival style popular at the turn of the century. This style was particularly favored for "club architecture" in the U.S. Examples include the Germantown (PA) Cricket Club (McKim, Mead and White, 1890), and, in Iowa, the Davenport Outing Club (Park Burrows, 1905). Significant features of Alumni Hall include the three giant porticoes, pedimented dormers, and the Palladian windows above the porticoes. An interesting element is the fact that the second-story windows, although identical in form to those of the first story, are slightly smaller, thus increasing, visually, the height of the building.

Alumni Hall was designed by Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines, a firm that accounted for many buildings on the state university campuses at Ames and at Iowa City around the turn of the century. The addition was also planned by this firm, and the first story built under their supervision. They were also responsible for the remodeling of the basement, which resulted in the covering of the swimming pool. The building was originally used for office and meeting space (along with recreation) for university alumni, the YMCA and assorted campus literary societies, functioning much as a student union does today. It presently houses offices for the YMCA and YWCA, and dormitory facilities for students.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Day, H. Summerfield (comp.) Excerpts from Iowa State University Publications: The Aurora (1890-1893) and the I.A.C. Student (1890-1914).  
 Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Iowa State College (1890-1914).  
 Interviews: Professor Henry Black, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, ISU (Feb. 11, 1977)  
 H. Summerfield Day, Planning Coordinator, University Architect's Office, ISU (14 Feb. 1977).  
 Building Plans: 1904, 1914, 1937, 1938, 1943, 1961 (microfilm, Physical Plant, ISU).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one (building only)

QUADRANGLE NAME Ames West, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 446280 4652550

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Includes only the area immediately around the building, which is located toward the southwest corner of the central campus area.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gareld Whitehill, graduate student, Department of Architecture

ORGANIZATION

Iowa State University

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ames

STATE

Iowa 50011

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL   X  

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

Alan D. Anderson (MBS)

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

9/6/48

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11-15-78

ATTEST:

William H. Brannan  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Brannan 11-15-78