

IOWA SITE INVENTORY

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 43-016-001
District Name _____
Map Reference # 43-016-001

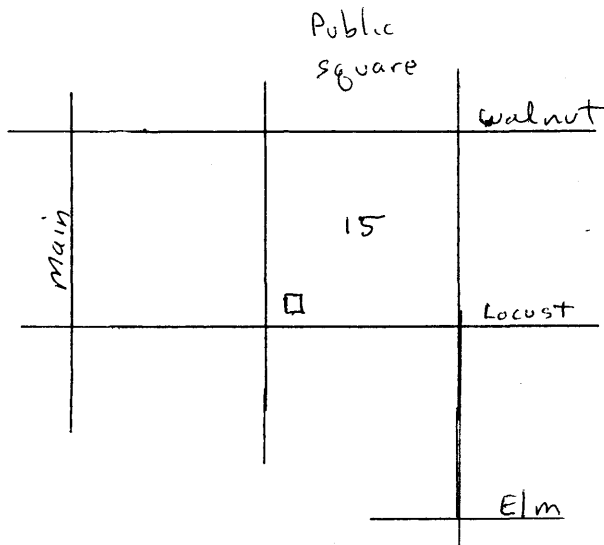
IDENTIFICATION

1. Site Name old Former Harrison County Courthouse (County Courthouses in Iowa, IA)
2. Village/Town/City Magnolia Township _____ County Harrison
3. Street Address 401 Locust
4. Legal Location 15 S 60' Lot 5, W 9' Lot 6
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section 1/4 section-1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 261,020 northing 4,619,580; Acreage less than 1 acre
6. Owner(s) Name American Legion Post
7. Owner(s) Address _____ Magnolia Iowa 51550
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: present American Legion Hall original County Courthouse

DESCRIPTION

9. Date of Construction 1872-3 Architect/Builder Unknown
10. Building Type: single family dwelling multiple family dwelling commercial
 industrial educational other institutional public religious agricultural
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board & batten shingles stucco
 other _____
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints
 wood frame with light members (balloon frame) masonry load-bearing walls
 iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved-if so, when? _____
 Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:
 Front door narrowed to single width.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures
 carriage house garage privy other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes-if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings
 densely built-up commercial industrial residential other _____

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll 408 Frame 19A View _____

SIGNIFICANCE (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

20. Architectural Significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure c. Not eligible/intrusion

Noteworthy chiefly as among the few "former" courthouses remaining in Iowa. Rectangular on plan with centered entry porch enclosed. Front porch has pilastered projections which frame a narrowed front door. Possible originally had a tower of some sort. Hip roof, common bond brickwork, and stone sills beneath 2/2 windows. Segmental arched lintels are shaped into hood-like caps above each window.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Politics/Government

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is locally significant as the historical focus of county government, and of the political power and prestige derived from the community's status as the county seat. As center of county government, an Iowa town was reasonably assured of economic and population growth, and a prominent role in local social and political life. The county courthouse represents a significant public investment in a structure built not simply for utilitarian purposes, but also as a monument associated with the historical importance of county organization and development. This courthouse was used from 1873-1876 for courthouse purposes, until county seat was moved to Logan. The building is representative of the many early contests for county seat status between newly organized communities in Iowa. The Building served as the Methodist Episcopal Church until at least 1938.

22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

- Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.
- Pratt, LeRoy G. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Co., 1977.
- Stanek, Edward and Jacqueline. Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.

Prepared by _____ Date Jan. 1980
Address _____ Telephone _____
Organization DHP

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY

1. OFFICE INFORMATION SOURCES ON THIS PROPERTY

<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCE FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/> WINDSHIELD SURVEY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL REGISTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTS-IN-AID: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____

2. SUBJECT TRACES

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

3. PHOTO IMAGES 408/19A-21A