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Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Iowa
COUNTY:	Johnson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	JUL 23 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
College Block Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
125 East College Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Iowa City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14** COUNTY: **Johnson** CODE: **103**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Acquired for Urban Renewal - Formerly commercial.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dept. of Urban Renewal, Iowa City

STREET AND NUMBER:
East College St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Iowa City

STATE:
Iowa

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Johnson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Clinton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Iowa City

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historical American Buildings Survey Inventory--Iowa

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
University of Iowa

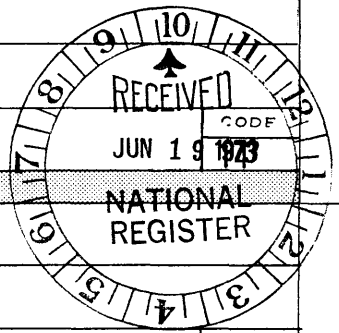
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Iowa City

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 23 1973

DATE:

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1883**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

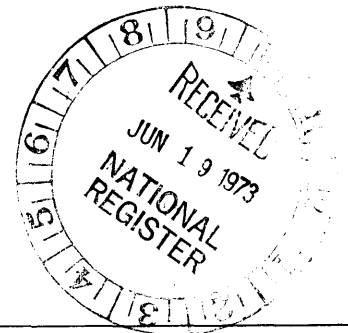
The earliest known commercial building in Iowa City to have been designed by a known architect, Chauncey F. Lovelace, the College Block Building demonstrates a late-nineteenth century appreciation for massive ornamental detail. Although the massive cornice that crowns the second story appears today to be outrageously ornate and impossibly heavy, it shows fearless architectural daring and actually weighs very little as it is made of pressed tin. Since 1883, the College Block Building, so-named due to its location on College Street, has presented an outstanding and unique profile among the few blocks of two-story brick commercial architecture in "downtown" Iowa City.

Although there are several examples of the more simple craftsman style brick architecture remaining in Iowa City, many of the more Victorian ornately decorated buildings are scheduled to come down.

To attest to the building's importance in its own time, Chauncey Lovelace, the only architect working in Iowa City, not only designed this building but chose it as the location for his own office.

The History and description of the College Block Building have been well-documented in a Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory form.

The College Block is in immediate danger due to Urban Renewal.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson County Plat Books

Harlan, Edgar Rubey. A Narrative History of the People of Iowa.

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory Form

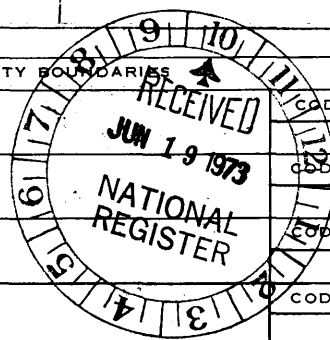
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 39' 32"	91° 32' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

VITM
15/622690
4612700
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elisabeth Foxley

ORGANIZATION: State Historic Preservation Program DATE: March 8, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 129 South Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Iowa City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Adrian W. Anderson

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 12 June, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert A. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

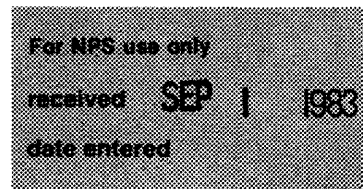
Date: 7/23/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7 13 73

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

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The earliest known commercial building in Iowa City to have been designed by a known architect, Chauncey F. Lovelace, and one of the first commercial examples of massive pressed tin cornice and ornamentation, the College Block Building survives today as an outstanding representative of the business district of Iowa City in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century. Since 1878, the College Block Building, so named due to its location on College Street, has presented an outstanding and unique profile among the few blocks of two-story brick commercial architecture in downtown Iowa City.

Chauncey Lovelace is one of a few identifiable Nineteenth Century architects living and working in Iowa City. Until 1880, he was a member of the architectural firm "Finkbine and Lovelace." His partner, Robert Spencer Finkbine, left Iowa City in 1889 to serve as the Superintendent of Construction of the present-day State Capitol building in Des Moines. After 1880, Lovelace continued as an architect in his own business and c. 1895 moved his office into this building.

Contemporary newspaper accounts trace the progress of the College Block Building beginning on 15 August 1878. "The front of Mr. Lovelace's new block will be decidedly handsome and ornate. The windows will be of plate glass and capped with elaborate galvanized iron work, the top of the building to be surmounted with a conspicuous cornice. It is something new, just what the street architecture of this city needs" (Daily State Press). Apparently the writer mistook the pressed tin for the real thing. This reference attests to the new ornamental emphasis which Lovelace employed. On 30 August, the same source noted "Lovelace began the stone work on his cellar yesterday." On 5 September "Lovelace's new building is ready for the brick work, Mr. Ebert put in the foundation and it is a good one" (Ibid.) On 29 September it was reported "Maresh & Holubar are putting up some galvanized iron work on Lovelace's new buildings." This firm was a most noted tin cornice and roofing firm, and served a very broad western market. On 15 October "Lovelace's new buildings have the finest front of any business structure in the city. It is quite a departure in architecture" (Ibid.) Lastly, on 6 November "The facade of Lovelace's new buildings is finished and bears the name of College St. Block" (Ibid.)

At the time of its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the building was threatened, indeed doomed to demolition. This parcel and the building upon it gained notoriety when court action forced the local urban renewal process to offer redevelopment parcels to individual investors. The present owner restored the original facade, added apartments on the second floor, and combined the two lower commercial spaces into a most successful restaurant.