

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0684040

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

Greene County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E. Lincoln Way & Chestnut Streets

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Greene

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Supervisors, Greene County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50129

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greene County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

STATE

Iowa 50129

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Greene County Courthouse, built in 1917, is located in the center of the public square in Jefferson. The building measures 123'7" x 86', and is faced with Bedford limestone. East and west elevations are identical, as are those of the north and south. The masonry is rusticated to the level of the cornice. The windows of the first and second floors, uniformly finished with square heads, are joined by sunken spandrel panels. The windows of the basement level are finished with slightly arched heads with boldly articulated voussoirs.

The 11-bay, 3-part main elevations are dominated by engaged Ionic porticos with triangular pediments. Clocks are set in the tympana of the pediments, which are decorated with figures and swags executed in bas-relief. East and west elevations are each 7 bays, the center five bays organized into a slightly advanced frontispiece consisting of an Ionic pilastrade set in antis between one-bay piers.

The interior is arranged around a central rotunda with stained-glass ceiling. Access to the surrounding rooms and corridors is through wide, two-story round-arched openings, screened by pairs of Tennessee marble columns (Doric first floor, Ionic second floor). The tympana of these arches feature wall murals showing (according to the dedication program) "the progress of civilization as actually recorded in Iowa". The murals, executed originally by artist William Peaco, of the Andrews Decorating Company, were originally entitled "The Buffalo Hunt", "The Pioneers", "The Emigrants", and "The Modern Farm". In the 1950's, artist John Pritchard replaced "The Buffalo Hunt" with a farm scene featuring a combine, with a city in the background, and reworked "The Modern Farm". The rotunda floor is a mosaic in ceramic tile, depicting the county seal. The main staircase is marble, with ornamental balustrades of bronze-plated iron.

The ground floor is occupied by county offices, those in the northeast corner replacing a large assembly room. The second floor contains treasurer's, recorder's and auditor's offices (with accompanying vaults) and a room for the Board of Supervisors. Judicial functions are contained in the third floor: courtroom, judge's chambers, jury rooms, and office for the county attorney.

Besides the courthouse, the public square contains two other objects. Centered in the south edge of the square is a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln on a granite base, which was erected in 1918 as a gift from E.B. Wilson of Jefferson. It was made by Bureau Brothers of Philadelphia, as a monument to the Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30), a portion of which (E. Lincoln Way) forms the south edge of the square. To the west of the Lincoln statue is the Manahay Memorial Carillon Tower, 162 feet high, its three concave sides constructed of steel and concrete, with an observation platform accessible by public elevator. The carillon, made by J.C. Deagon Co. of Chicago, has 32 bells. At the top of the tower is a chime of 14 bells, cast at Pelit and Fritzen, Aarle-Rixten, Holland. The tower, financed from the estate of Dora and William Floyd Manahay, was completed in 1964.

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 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

1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, Des Moines

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Greene County Courthouse is a well-preserved example of Beaux-Arts government architecture, which found expression in a number of Iowa courthouses during the first decades of the 20th century. Prominent features include the 3-stage elevations, 3-part facades, and engaged porticos, all executed in Bedford limestone, a popular material for this style. As in many courthouses of this period, a principal (and perhaps most significant) feature of the courthouse at Jefferson is the domed rotunda, which extends through the building from basement to attic, with superimposed column screens on the two main levels separating the rotunda from the surrounding corridors.

Of some interest from an historical perspective is the Lincoln statue on the south edge of the public square. Erected in 1918, the statue was meant to commemorate the Lincoln Highway, essentially a public-relations project by Detroit manufacturers which inaugurated the era of well-marked, concrete highways in the U.S. Other such markers in Iowa are the Lincoln Highway Bridge at Tama, and a plaque in Clinton County.

This courthouse is the county's third, replacing "a commodious two-story brick building" erected in 1870. The architects for the present structure were Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson of Des Moines, whose extensive use of the Beaux Arts may be found in other Iowa courthouses (Polk and Jasper Counties) and, most monumentally, in the four buildings which form the outer corners of the quincunx known as The Pentacrest at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dedication of Greene County Courthouse (souvenir program), 27 October 1917.
 "How the Statue of Abraham Lincoln Came to Jefferson", statement by E.B. Wilson,
 filed with the Clerk of Courts, Greene County, 23 July 1957.
 Pratt, LeRoy. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City: Klipto Printing and
 Office Supply Co., 1977, pp. 131-133.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Jefferson, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES 250

A 1,5 3,8,6,0,2,1,5 4,6,5,2,0,2,3

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City square, bounded on north by E. State, on south by E. Lincoln Way, on west
 by Wilson Ave. N., on east by Chestnut Street, Jefferson, Iowa.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Harris, Justice, Supreme Court of Iowa

ORGANIZATION

Board of Supervisors, Greene County

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 197

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson

STATE

Iowa 50129

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

Richard D. Anderson (MR)

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

9/6/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

12/14/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Dec 4, 1978

fn