

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 RECEIVED APR 19 1976  
 DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1976

**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**

*The Iron Post*  
 HISTORIC  *the*  
 AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

Iowa Twp. Section 11, 100N-R4-3W  
 STREET & NUMBER North end of Main Street

CITY, TOWN New Albin  VICINITY OF  NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2  
 STATE Iowa CODE 19 COUNTY Allamakee CODE 005

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME United States Government

STREET & NUMBER Department of Interior, Geological Survey

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.  
 VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. (A) Genral Land Office (B.) Archives

STREET & NUMBER Department of Interior Secretary of State of Iowa

CITY, TOWN Washington, D.C. STATE Des Moines, Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Establishing, running and marking the northern boundary of Iowa

DATE 1849  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington D.C.

CITY, TOWN also Archives, State of Iowa Des Moines Iowa STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Measuring 54 inches in height. The cast iron boundary marker post has the appearance of a small stone obelisque.

John Ross brought it across the Mississippi River from Victory, Wisconsin on the ice by oxen and sled after which it was placed in position at the spot surveyed by Captain Thomas J. Lee of the U.S. Topographic Engineer Corps.

At one time gravel was mined from around it until it attained a precarious position. Since that time, the pits have been filled with sawdust, topsoil added, the ground leveled and planted to grasses. It now is in a cement slab about seven feet square atop a mound. There is a brass inplate at its east base containing the "History of Captain Lee's Iron Monument". It has been painted aluminum with the following inscriptions painted black: North face-MINNESOTA: South face-IOWA; East face-1849 and West face-Lat 43 degrees 30 minutes.

The post is located about a block east of the Great River Road and Iowa Highway 26 and the north end of New Albin's main street loops past it to the highway. To the west, between it and the highway, runs a double track of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. There is a city lot between the post and a Bulman farm supply building and tanks; to the east is the downwind modern sewer plant. To the northeast there is about an acre of land owned by the town which used to contain the city dump. Near the mouth of the Winnebago Creek, a mile from the Upper Iowa River, it is surrounded by beautiful hills as it looks out over the flood plain of the Mississippi River Valley.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. Dowling

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Iron Post was important to the early settlement of the territories of Iowa and Minnesota. It was the reference point for the running and marking of the northern border of the State of Iowa ordered through an act of Congress of March 3, 1849 to help solve boundary problems between Iowa and Minnesota.

In 1849 Captain Thomas Lee placed the post at New Albin, Iowa, which was the site of his determination of North latitude 43 degrees 30 minutes by astronomical observation. 43 degrees 30 minutes had been designated the northern border of Iowa by Congress on August 4, 1846.

This survey line was a correction line for townships previously established from below in order to avoid double corners on the state line. It served in addition as a practical surveying base for the vast public domain north of it and far to the west of its terminus at the Big Sioux River.

