

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 29 1982  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Engineering Hall

and/or common Laboratory of Mechanics

2. Location

street & number (Iowa State University Campus)  
Union Drive, north side, east of Bissell Road — not for publication

city, town Ames — vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Iowa code county Story code 169

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Iowa State University

street & number

city, town Ames — vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Story County courthouse

street & number

city, town Nevada state Iowa 50201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title CIRALG SURVEY has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Iowa SHPO

city, town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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## 7. Description

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**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**

The building follows a simple version of the Second Empire Style, having two stories and a mansard roof. There is a low basement story. The windows are regularly disposed and in the first and second stories have segmental-arched hoods, as does the entrance door. At the mansard story (the third), there are round-arched dormer windows in round topped dormers. A three story tower with a mansard roof marks the entrance, placed at the right of the center of the south elevation. The walls are of machine cut red brick in common bond. The header courses are slightly darker in color. The hoods in the brick walls are brick as well. The gutters and the dormer roofs are sheet metal covered. The visible slopes of the mansard roofs have medium gray composition roofing material.

In plan, the building formed an L originally, the outer faces of which comprise the south (entrance) and the east elevations and are, respectively, approximately 85' and 55' long. The distance through each wing is about 28'. Now a one-story addition fills in the first floor of the L, making the plan into a rectangle.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The building was built in two phases. The first, 1882–1883, was the east leg of the L ending with the tower. J.B. Ballinger was the architect and V. Tomlinson the contractor. The south side, west of the tower was built in 1884–1885 and Foster and Liebke of Des Moines were the architects and Tomlinson, again, the contractor. The building housed Iowa State Agricultural College's Department of Mechanical and of Civil Engineering, containing classrooms and shops. It was remodeled into a laboratory building in 1907. Toilets were added in 1923 and a one-story addition built in 1933, filling in the L to a rectangle at ground level. Further remodeling was done in 1967.

The building was the first engineering building on the campus and survives as the oldest building devoted to instruction. It is one of a small number of high educational buildings in the state surviving from this time, and its exterior is little changed.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuance sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ames West

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	4	4	6	1	3	0	4	6	5	2	6	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Includes the immediate area around the building, using the street and sidewalk to the south, the sidewalk to the east, a fifteen foot open area to the west, and the adjoining and connected building to the north as

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries a boundary.

state Iowa code county Story code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date October 27, 1982

Historical Building  
street & number East 12th and Grand Ave. telephone

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 *John W. Anderson*

title date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 1/10/83

*John A. Brown*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Bibliography      Item number 9.      Page 1.

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H. Summerfield Day. Iowa State University Campus and its Buildings, 1859-1979. Ames, Iowa. Iowa State University, 1980, pp. 309-310.

Iowa General Assembly Legislative Documents. Vol. 2, 1882. Same for 1882 and for 1886. Biennial Reports of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm.