

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

**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 Maysville Schoolhouse

and/or common

**2. Location**

S of Hampton

street & number Route 1, Reeve Township, Section 27-91-20 not for publication

city, town Hampton X vicinity of 3 congressional district

state Iowa code 19 county Franklin code 069

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 Reeve Township Trustees (John Lauterbach, Chairman)

street & number Route 1 Box 70

city, town Hampton vicinity of Iowa state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Franklin County Courthouse

city, town Hampton Iowa state

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Iowa Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Preservation

city, town Iowa City Iowa state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Maysville Schoolhouse, for many years a visual landmark for travelers along U.S. 65 in southeast Franklin County, is a good example of vernacular stone architecture and the oldest extant public building in Franklin County composed of that material. This two-story, rectangular-shaped edifice was constructed in 1867, utilizing locally quarried Hampton Formation dolomite as the principal building material. The 30 by 50 foot structure has eighteen inch thick stone block walls that rest on four feet deep foundations of similar material. The eastward-facing building has six-over-six wood sash type windows whose light colored sandstone lintils create a striking contrast with the yellowish orange dolomite walls. The edifice is capped with a gable roof of medium pitch that features a plain box cornice and projecting eaves.

The schoolhouse appears to have undergone no major alternation. The only noticeable change occurred in the 1920's when the original shed-roofed porch with enclosed cob house was removed and replaced by the present and smaller hip-roofed one. The fire escape on the west end dates from the 1930's.

The main entrance opens into a small hall flanked by a stairway and cloakroom and leads into a large classroom featuring a raised teacher's stand. Except for a small hallway, the second floor is devoted entirely to a large auditorium and stage. There has been no significant change in the arrangement of the interior over the years, and most of the original fabric, including flooring, wainscoting, woodwork, and staircase, remains intact. Although the building has not been utilized as a school since 1957, it is still publicly owned and generally well maintained. An object of great community interest, present plans for the school call for it to undergo tuckpointing, painting, guttering, and landscaping.

## 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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** 1867–Present **Builder/Architect** James Carn

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Maysville Schoolhouse is the only remaining structure in Franklin County's first town and stands as a visual embodiment of the nineteenth century contests between Iowa towns for county seats and railroad service. Platted in 1865 by William May, Maysville was laid out on thirty-two square blocks and featured a public square most people believed would eventually contain the county courthouse. Because of its location on the stage line between Ackley and Hampton, the village soon flourished, and it attracted many of the first doctors and lawyers in Franklin county. Although the county seat was located in Hampton about six miles north, Maysville residents believed that ultimately their town would boast the county courthouse.

Maysville's citizens entered the post Civil War era on a wave of euphoria, believing their town was destined to become the political and commercial center of Franklin County. Caught up in this general sense of boosterism, the people decided to build a combination schoolhouse and meeting hall, which would be the finest facility of its kind in the county. James Carn was hired as contractor for the project, and the building, which was ready for occupancy by the fall of 1867, cost \$5,000 to complete. Local tradition holds that most of the labor on the school was performed by unemployed Civil War veterans, making the project something of a forerunner of future New Deal programs.

At the time the schoolhouse was completed, Maysville's future seemed assured. In addition to its stone schoolhouse, the town boasted a hotel, two blacksmith shops, two stores, a steam saw mill, and a population of 150. In short order, however, Maysville's bright promise faded. By 1872 the plans and dreams for becoming the county seat had been quashed. During the next few years, the decision of railroad builders to construct their lines through Hampton and nearby Geneva doomed Maysville's hopes to become a commercial center. During the 1880's, most of the town's merchants and professional people moved away and in 1890 the post office closed. By the turn of the century, Maysville was virtually a ghost town with only the schoolhouse remaining fully utilized.

Despite the demise of Maysville as an urban entity, the schoolhouse continued and has continued to play an important role in the lives of people in the surrounding community. School continued to be held here until 1957, and over the years the auditorium on the second floor was used by a wide variety of local organizations. For a number of years, the Methodists regularly held services here, and the Lyceum, Farm Bureau, Good Templers Lodge, and other organizations met here as well. It has and continues to be used for voting, and presently serves as a meeting place for the local arts council and reunions.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Hampton South

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5	4	8	3	3	5	0	4	7	2	3	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

The NE corner of S $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, Twp. 91 Range 20.

### 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 Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date

street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 353-6949/353-4186

city or town Iowa City state Iowa

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John D. Anderson

title Director, Division of Historic Preservation date 7 May '81

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Brantnam</u>	date <u>June 17, 1981</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 19 1981
DATE ENTERED	JUN 17 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foster, Mrs. J.E. (ed.), Franklin County History, 1852-1970  
(Hampton: Hampton Publishing Company, 1970).

Franklin Reporter, October 18, 1867.

History of Franklin & Cerro Gordo Counties, Iowa (Springfield:  
Union Publishing Company, 1883).

Mason City Globe-Gazette, June 17, 1968.

Stuart, I.L. (ed.), History of Franklin County, Iowa, two  
volumes (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914).