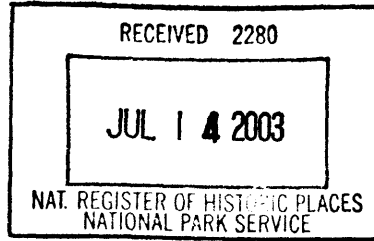


JUL 10 2003

GNPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Name of Property

historic name Jones County Court House

other names/site number P.W.A. Docket IA 1068-R

2. Location

street & number 500 West Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Anamosa N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Jones code 105 zip code 52205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Rowell J. Sorke July 10, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper

AUG 28 2003

Date of Action

Jones County Court House
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		1	2
		4	2

Name of related multiple property listing
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
PWA-Era County Courthouses of Iowa MPD

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>GOVERNMENT/courthouse</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT/courthouse</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>OTHER/ PWA Moderne</u>	foundation <u>CONCRETE</u>
_____	walls <u>BRICK</u>
_____	<u>STONE/limestone</u>
	roof <u>ASPHALT</u>
	other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1937 - 1953

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dougher, Rich and Woodburn

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Jones County Auditor's Office

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7. Description

Site: The Jones County Court House (contributing), the county's third courthouse, was completed in 1937. It is located on a two-block site adjacent to the Anamosa State Penitentiary. It is bounded by West Main Street on the south, Jackson Street on the west, Park Court on the north, and High Street on the east. St. Patrick's City Park is located along a portion of the eastern edge with the multi-acre prison site with its monumental Gothic Revival stone building complex extending to the north. The courthouse square (contributing) is an elevated site with substantial slopes along the south and west sides. A dramatic lawn extends from the front of the building down to West Main Street with curved wide sidewalks connecting the front entrance to Jackson and High streets. The site previously was used as a city park and contained no county buildings. No historic archeological investigation was made to determine the presence of foundations associated with the earlier park use. The courthouse's original flagpole (contributing) remains in place approximately 50 feet from the front entrance. Two veteran memorials (both non-contributing) are located at separate locations on the courthouse square. The older memorial commemorates the service of all Jones County veterans and, though undated, appears to be 20 to 30 years old. It is located southeast of the courthouse near West Main Street and includes Anamosa limestone pediments and benches in its design. The second memorial installed in 2002 along High Street in front of the east entrance to the building features granite commemorative markers and a series of flagpoles.

Mature deciduous trees are scattered throughout the courthouse site with a notable stand of bur oak trees along High street north of the building. Parking spaces line the curbs along Jackson and High streets and a large asphalt paved parking lot extends along the rear of the building. A small single-bay garage is built into the hillside along Jackson Street west of the building. Its flat roof is level with the upper level of the site with steps leading from the street to the west entrance. Ashlar faced pyramid shaped light standards, some with their original glass globes, line Jackson, West Main, and High streets. The light standards are located in the street right-of-way and are, therefore, not counted as historic resources for purposes of this nomination.

The courthouse site is located two blocks west of the central business district. Main Street serves as Anamosa's principal retail street connecting the courthouse and surrounding blocks of residences on the west end with the shopping district on the east end.

Exterior: The Jones County Court House erected in 1936-1937 is one of ten courthouses built in Iowa during the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) program's operation in the 1930s. It has a rectangular footprint measuring 119½ feet by 77 feet. The courthouse has a reinforced poured concrete structure with a brick and stone facing. The foundation and walls are faced in tan-colored sand-faced brick set in a light gray-colored mortar. Bedford limestone with a rubbed finish is used for decorative cut stonework. Shop drawings in the original plans retained at the Jones County Auditor's Office show that the stone was provided by Sare-Hoadley of Bloomington, Indiana. Use of Anamosa limestone, a local stone used for many Jones County buildings, was rejected because it was less hard than the Bedford stone favored by architects in this period. A small

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communications tower is located on top of the courthouse roof.

Front elevation: The front or south elevation is composed of a wide central section with a height of 3½-stories or approximately 38 feet flanked by lower 1½-story wings. Although this composition is typical for PWA-Era courthouses, the building's central section is wider than that of the other courthouses built in Iowa during this period. It has twelve narrow window bays; the wings located at the west and east ends of the building have only one window bay and are less than half the height of the central section. A raised basement extends beneath the entire building. A wide stone watertable separates the basement level from the first floor in the central section with no watertable used for the wings.

All of the windows have stone sills. The continuous stone lintel band for the first floor windows in the center section has a course of dentils. The continuous stone lintel band above the third floor windows in the central section has a series of vertical cuts. Each of the window bays in the central section is slightly recessed. Raised brick panels are located between the first and second floor windows in each of these bays. Cast-bronze block lettering over the eight center bays reads "Jones County Court House." Decorative metal squares are at each end of the lettering. The building's stone cornice consists of three curved horizontal bands with a slopping upper edge. Floral patterned stone squares are widely spaced along the bands. The cornice design is identical to that of the Cass County Court House designed by the same architectural firm several years earlier. Additional cut stone patternwork is found in the panels above the windows in the east and west wings. These Art Deco designs are a combination of geometric shapes and abstract floral shapes.

The courthouse's main entrance is centered on the front façade within a stone surround that retains all of its original detailing. Double doors fabricated with a bronze finish have a geometric pattern in their applied grillwork. They are set beneath a clear glass transom that has its original Art Deco patterned grillwork intact. Brickwork to either side of the entrance is a series of receding stepped sections. The outer edge features narrow 1/1 windows topped by narrow stone panels with Art Deco patterns. Another stone panel with a similar patterned design is centered above the three-sided projecting metal entrance hood. The hood has an Art Deco design consisting of alternating half diamonds decorated with fans of petals and floral motifs. The dentils along the upper edge of the canopy are continued in the stone window lintels located to either side of the entrance surround.

The entrance steps are constructed of stone and contemporary newspaper accounts note that a battery of radiators beneath the front and east steps was designed to keep them free of snow and ice in the winter. The front steps are centered between solid cut-stone balustrades. The building's original light standards remain in place. They have a tall cylindrical shape with black metal bands and strips forming a simplified Art Deco design over an opaque white glass shade. They are set on the top tiers of the stone balustrades adjacent to the wall on each side of the entrance steps and remain operable.

All of the courthouse's windows are replacement sash. The new sash were installed in 1977 and

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are fabricated of an aluminum alloy. Each unit is configured with a transom or insulated infill panel in the top and a 1/1 double-hung window in the lower two-thirds to three-fourths of the opening. Because most of the building does not have central air conditioning, window AC units are installed in several of the lower sashes. All of the windows have stone sills and lintels of varying dimensions.

Side elevations: The east elevation is the principal entrance used by courthouse visitors because of its proximity to curbside parking and the rear parking lot. Limestone bands and moldings for the waterable between the basement and first floor, the windowsills and lintels, and the coping for the 1½-story wing. The cut stone panel above the entrance doors and clear glass transom has an Art Deco design that matches that of the panels above the windows in the wings on the front façade. Tall wall sconces are mounted to either side of the entrance doors, each featuring a geometric pattern in the black metalwork with a white opaque glass shade. Four 1/1 double-hung aluminum windows are located to either side of the entrance opening. Concrete entrance steps flanked by a solid cut-stone balustrade lead to new metal and plate glass double doors. The east elevation of the main block of the building has ten window bays grouped in a 4-2-4 pattern on the second and third floors. Replacement windows match those found on the front façade and were also installed in 1977.

Because of changes in elevation on the courthouse site, the entrance into the west elevation is at the basement level, which is also the sidewalk/street level. The footprint of the west wing has a small bump-out section centered on the façade that houses the entrance vestibule. Brickwork to either side of the entrance is a series of receding stepped sections. A wide band of stone between the basement and first floor has "Jones County Court House" incised above the door. Three tall window openings are above the entrance and three windows are located to either side of the bump-out section. The second and third floors also have a bump-out section in the center of the wall. Groups of three windows are located in this section and to either side of the bump-out wall.

Other special features of the west elevation include a switch-back concrete ramp with pipe railing connecting the rear parking lot with the west entrance and a set of metal stairs at the northwest corner of the building providing protected access to the jail cellblock on the second floor. Cornice stonework on the main section of the building matches that of the front and rear façades.

Rear elevation: The rear or north elevation contains an unusual arrangement of entrance and window openings. Like the front façade, the three-story central section is divided into twelve bays on the basement and first floors. A continuous stone sill and lintel delineate the first floor window openings. The second and third floors have a different arrangement of openings due to the placement of the courtroom in this unusual rear location. Three two-story windows are centered on

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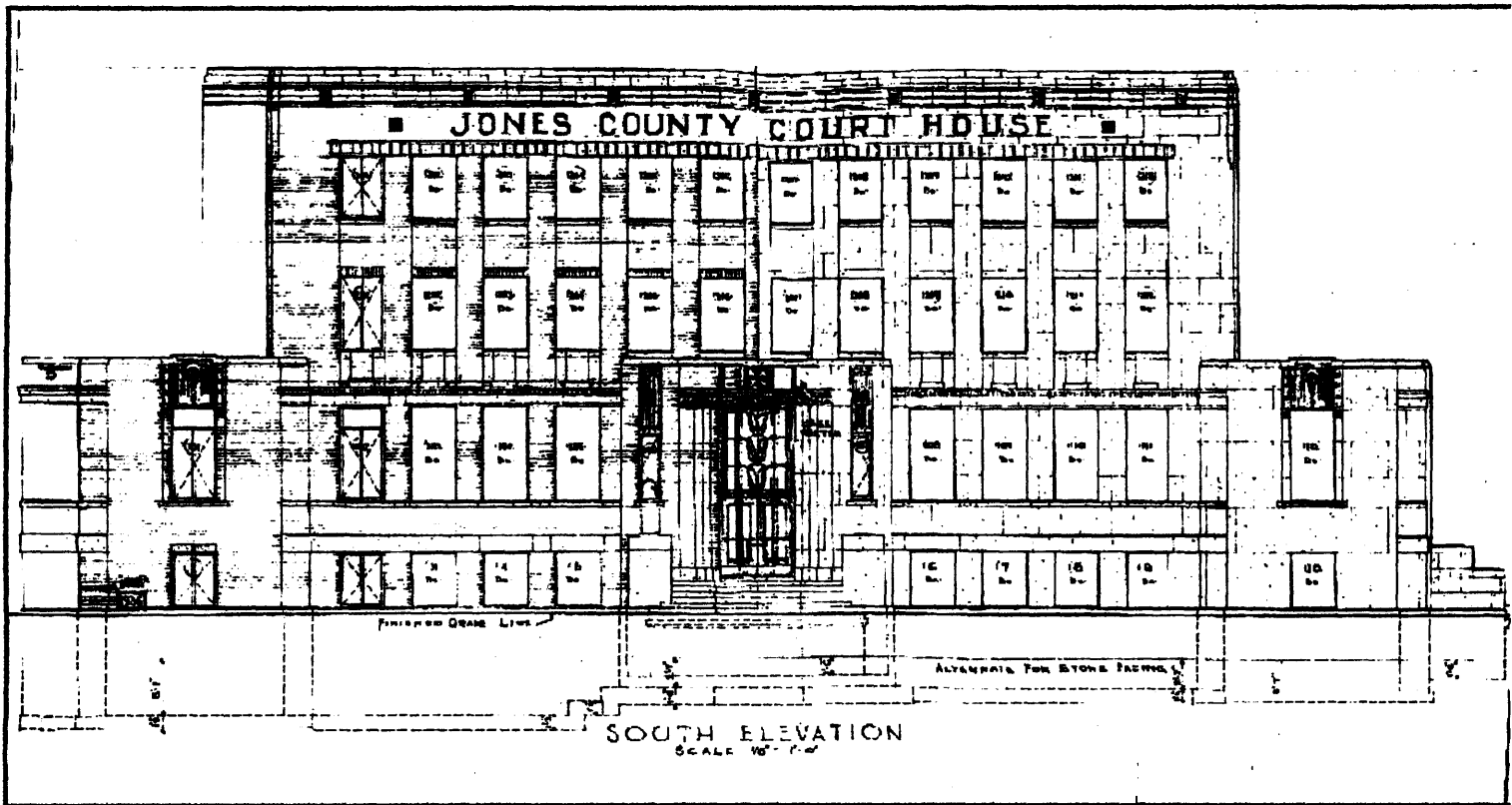
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the wall with a pair of windows to either side at each level. Window treatment and stone decoration is identical to that of the front façade. The only entrance in the rear façade is located in the east half. The location of the courtroom at the rear of the building is unique to this PWA-Era courthouse and may be explained by the clear view of the Anamosa State Penitentiary afforded courtroom visitors, witnesses, and jurors.

Jones County Court House, Front or South Elevation, 1935¹



¹Floor Plans prepared by Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, (Auditor's Office, Jones County Court House), December 1935. Quality is very poor for the original floor plans reproduced in this nomination accounting for the bad images seen here. The original sources for plans and drawings reproduced in this and other PWA-Era Courthouse nominations came in various sized formats from original documents, old newspaper clippings, microfilmed newspaper articles, old photo copies, and reverse print images, all of varying quality. The purpose of including images here is to provide a sense of the overall form and delineation of space in the building's principal unaltered floors.

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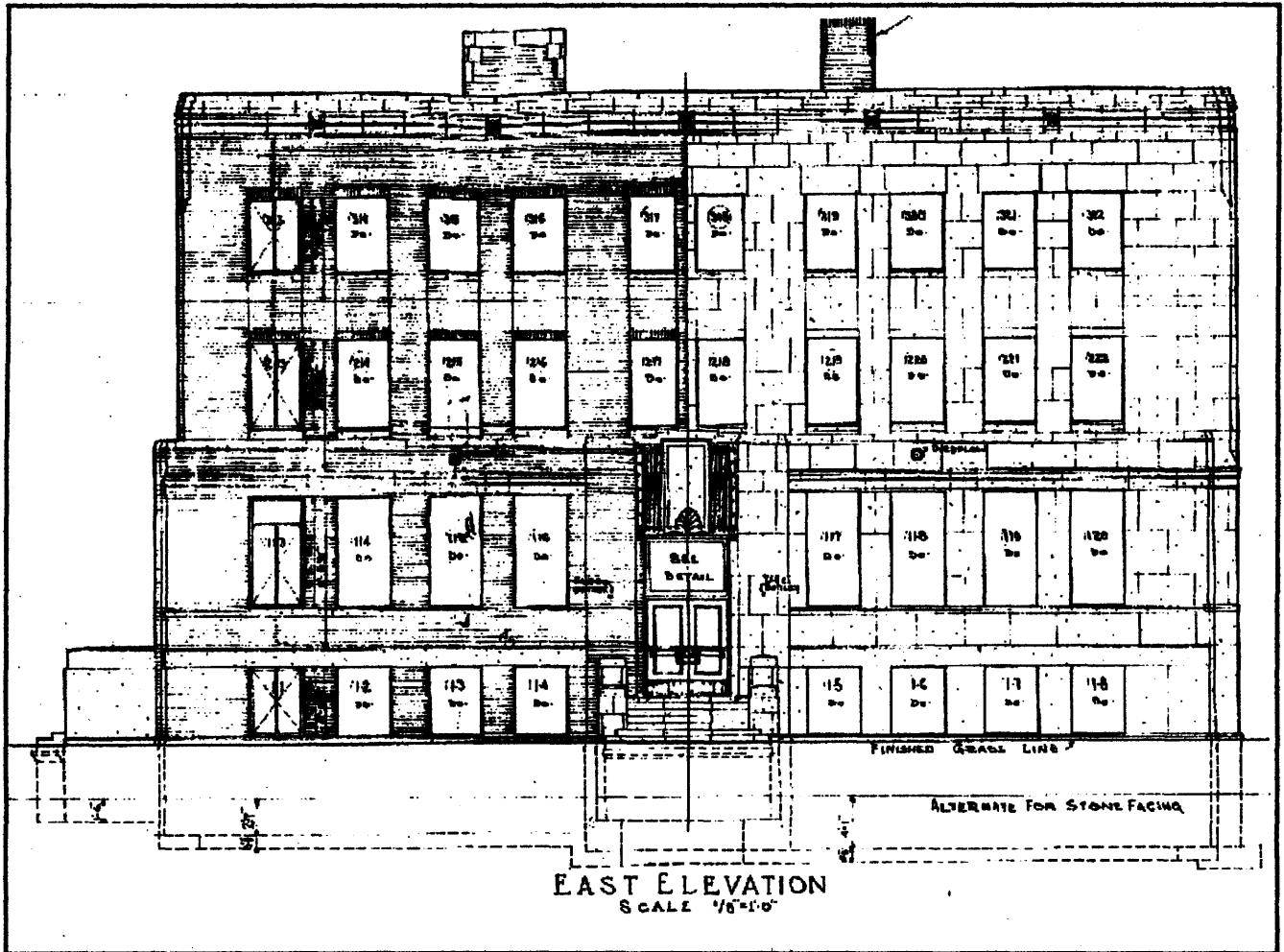
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Jones County Court House, East Elevation, 1936



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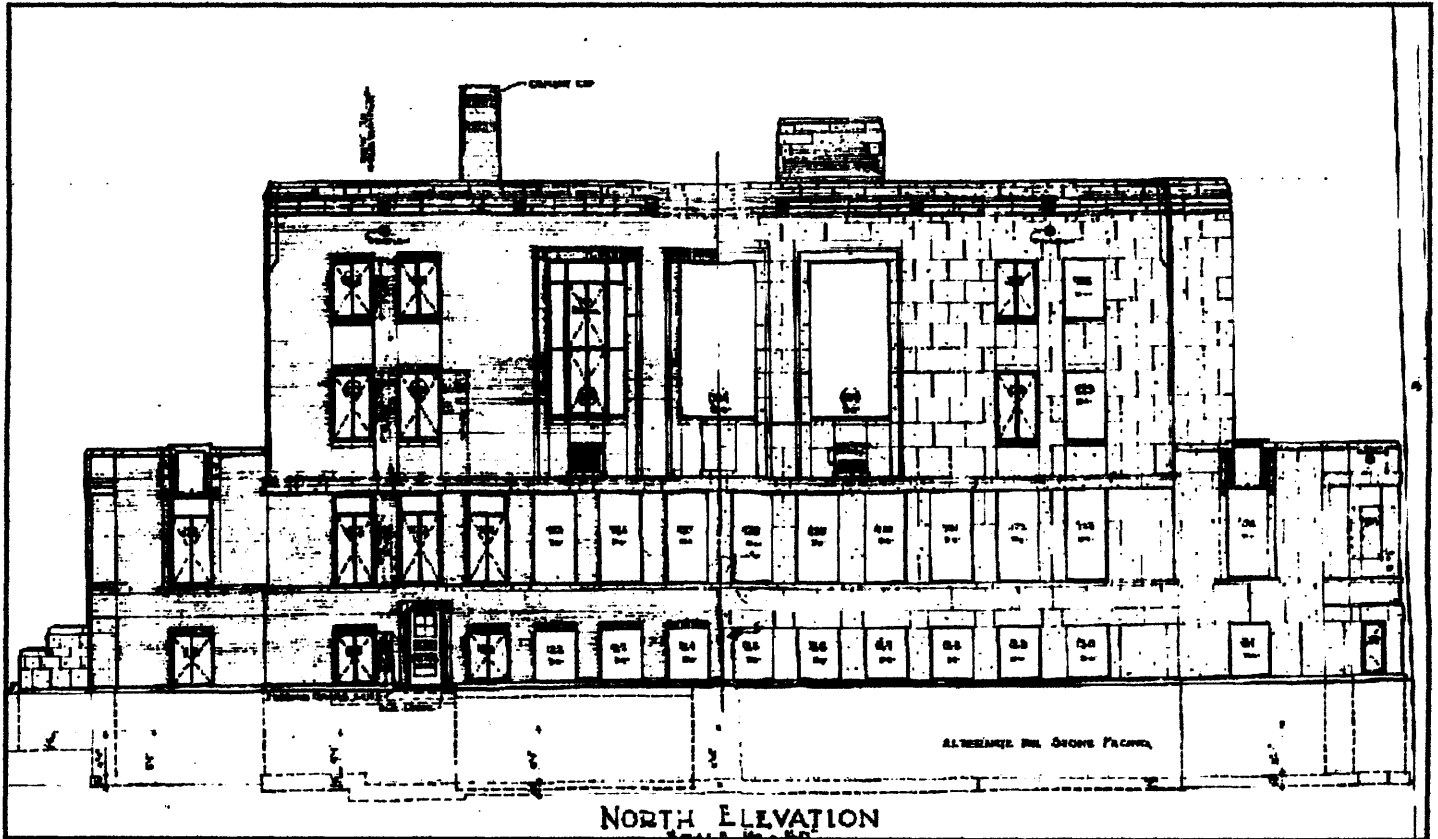
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Jones County Court House, Rear or North Elevation, 1936



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Interior Floor Plan: The Jones County Court House has a central corridor plan like those of the other nine PWA-Era Courthouses in Iowa except for the location of the main staircase. The front entrance located midway along the south façade opens into a vestibule set between the basement level and the first floor. On the interior, this vestibule is set perpendicular to the central corridor, which runs the full length of the building. On the main public floors on the first and second levels of the building, the west end contains the main staircase connecting the floors. Individual county offices outfitted to meet the needs of specific county functions open onto the public corridor. Circulation between floors in the courthouse is via the main staircase in the west end or the secondary staircase located in the northeast corners of the building. An elevator shaft was designated in the original plan along the south side of the central corridor west of the main entrance and installed at the time of construction. The district courtroom is located on the second floor along with other offices, the law library, and meeting rooms. The county jail is located in the west end of the basement along with portions of the second and third floor. Portions of the jail were redesigned in 1997 by OPN Architects of Cedar Rapids. Design elements and finishes for the most important spaces in the courthouse are discussed in greater detail below.

Entrance vestibules: The front entrance vestibule is divided into multiple levels but unlike the original plan, has a single set of double doors opening onto the public corridor rather than the base of the stairs. The floor has a two-tone terrazzo finish (dark gray/black borders with a reddish/gray field) with a recessed area in the center designed to hold an absorbing floor pad. The walls are finished with polished Anamosa limestone wainscoting and a combination of polished limestone and American walnut paneling. The permanent commemorative plaque on the west wall is constructed of a dramatic black marble identical to that found in the Cass County Court House. A changeable type sign is on the east wall. Wood molding strips serve as vertical dividers separating the wood panels on either side of the plaque and sign. A decorative plaster cornice with an Art Deco design consisting of alternating half diamonds decorated with fans of petals and border designs extends around the ceiling. The ceiling light was originally a single school light fixture but the globe is currently missing. The outer doors have a bronze finish and the inner doors are a similar design but constructed of wood with metal trim. The radiators are set in recessed openings with metal grates featuring geometric patterned Art Deco designs. The grates have a black painted finish.

The east vestibule opens into the building midway between the basement and first floor levels. The floors are gray and black terrazzo with a reddish field in the upper landing area. Walls are plastered with a wood mid-rail. Separate single doors flank a wide horizontal window leading to the rear side of the central staircase. The plaster ceiling molding matches the design of those in the public corridors with a half diamond and scrolled cut pattern.

Public corridors: The first floor corridor has a terrazzo floor (dark green for the border and base board and alternating pink/gray and terra cotta/cream 24 inch squares in the field). The walls have polished Anamosa stone wainscoting and painted plaster with a textured swirl pattern on the upper walls. A decorative plaster cornice consists of half diamonds with scrolled patterns set between two narrow borders. The central sections of the ceiling in the public corridor are finished in painted

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plaster but were likely originally finished in "Celotex" acoustic tile (12 inch squares) used elsewhere in the building as well as other PWA-Era courthouse projects. Original school light fixtures are widely spaced along the ceiling in the corridor in both directions. All office doors opening onto the corridor are wood with full-length glass panels and brass hardware. The trim is painted metal and the recessed radiator covers are identical to the geometric patterned grills in the front and east entrance vestibules, including the black painted finish. Clear glass transoms were originally operable above many of the office doors but are now fixed. Some of the office doors retain their original county office signs.

The second floor corridor is finished in a similar manner as the first floor with a few exceptions. The west end of the corridor ends in the stair well leading to the first floor and the east end has an off-center opening leading to an internal corridor that accesses the judge's chambers, law library, and jury room. The basement's central corridor is narrower than the other levels with plaster walls and ceilings, a wood mid-rail, and a combination of flush wood doors and wood doors with lights. The basement retains a meeting room in the northwest corner though its configuration has been rearranged in order to accommodate the presence of offices for the sheriff's department in the former assembly room along the north side of the corridor.

The third floor serves as the jail with many of the original walls retained. The original cell area is retained and the former janitor's apartment has been added to the cellblock for a total of seven cells. The former sheriff's apartment has been converted to offices and a booking room with the kitchen retained in the northeast corner. Walls have a painted plaster finish with wood mid-rails present in some areas. The original acoustic tile ceiling is present throughout many areas of the third floor. The jail received a general remodeling in 1997.

County offices: Each of the county offices on the first floor contains a service counter at which public business is transacted, a public lobby in front of the counter, a staff work area to the rear of the counter, and one or more private offices. In most of the offices the original metal counters have been replaced with new counters. Work vaults for storage of public records are located in three of the four corners of the building. Walls in these offices are plastered with wood chair rails. Flooring is a combination of replacement floor tile and carpeting (non-original). The ceilings retain their original height but are now covered with replacement acoustic tile. Lighting is provided by suspended fluorescent fixtures. Restrooms have been modified for handicapped use with new fixtures and rearrangement of stalls.

Main staircase: The main staircase in the Jones County Court House is located at the west end of the central corridor. Decorative ceiling brackets fashioned of plaster in simple Art Deco design set off the stair opening. The staircase features a central, double-wide run leading up to a wide landing between flights with return runs along the walls leading from the main landing to the second floor. From the first floor, a single run leads down to the basement level with a return between flights. The steps are finished in gray terrazzo and have a wrought iron balustrade painted with a black paint to match the radiator grills. A brass handrail sets on top of the wrought iron balustrade. The

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balustrade pattern includes simple square posts mixed with bent metal in the shape of Art Deco styled lilies and scroll shapes. Similar scroll design pieces are set at 90 degrees to the outer sides of the balustrade between the first and second floor. On the main landing between the first and second floors, three windows are located above the polished stone wainscoting and a recessed radiator. The windows provide abundant light for both the first floor and second floor corridors. At the second floor, the dual balustrades and rails along each run connect.

Courtroom: The most important space aesthetically and functionally in a courthouse is usually the courtroom. As was noted previously, the Jones County Court House's district courtroom is located on the second floor facing the rear of the building (north) rather than the more prominent front-facing location found in other PWA-Era courthouses. It has a two-story ceiling height that extends into the third floor with original floor dimensions of 53 feet by 23 feet. The judge's bench, witness stand, clerk's desk, and reporter's desk are located in the east end of the room with the jury box on the right or south side. This location affords the jurors as well as the judge and witnesses a clear view of the Anamosa State Penitentiary located about a block north of the courthouse. The original proportions and configurations of the windows, sidelights, and transoms have been retained for these dramatic openings. Spectator seating in the west half of the room consists of six rows of American walnut pews placed theater style with a center aisle and a single pew against the rear wall. There is no railing or bar between the spectator area and counsel tables. The original aluminum gate is mounted on the ends of the first row of spectator pews.

A 4-foot tall wainscoting fashioned of walnut panels extends around the perimeter of the room. The finish molding for the wainscoting contains a series of convex vertical cuts. The wainscoting rests on a black marble base, and above the wainscoting along the south wall, the upper walls are finished with alternating vertical sections of plaster and acoustic tile. On the north wall the plaster walls and windows mirror this arrangement. The plaster has a swirl finish similar to the public corridors and the "Celotex" tile has been painted a rust-red color. The ceiling and both the front and rear walls of the courtroom have alternating bands of plaster and acoustic tile. These continuous bands have the plaster painted white and a repeated Art Deco style pattern stenciled in red along the tile. A decorative plaster ceiling cornice repeats the half-diamond and fan designs used elsewhere in the building.

Ceiling lighting is provided by room-length tubing that hides bulbs behind molded shades that have a curved and fluted shape. A brass strip joins each section but the effect of the light tubes remains continuous rather than segmented. This lighting was described as "shadow proof" and considered "the finest and most modern available" in a local newspaper account of the building's completion.² This lighting is no longer in use with new bands of fluorescent fixtures installed between the stenciled ceiling bands.

The "niche" or recessed wall at the front of the courtroom has a dramatic design. Stepped edges form a recessed opening that surrounds the area behind the judge's bench. A large Art Deco styled

²"Dedicate New Court-House September 10," *The Anamosa Journal*, September 9, 1937.

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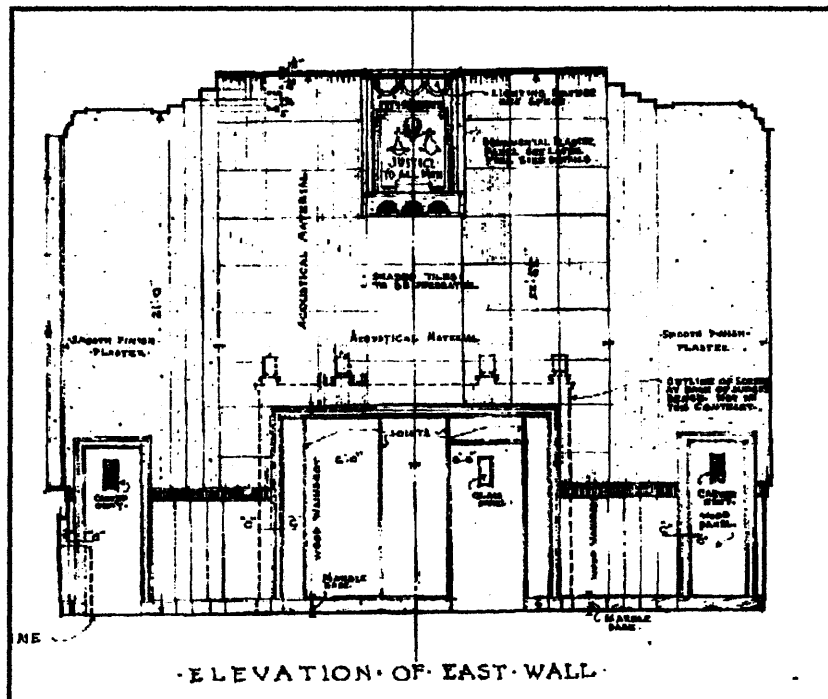
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plaster panel is centered in the niche and reads "Justice for All Men" beneath the scales of justice. In front of the niche is a freestanding screen finished in American walnut veneer. It has square panels, curved corners, bands of convex vertical cuts that match the finish molding on the wainscoting, and several inlay stripes. The front of the judge's desk that sets forward of the screen has an ornamental Art Deco styled panel that is repeated in each of the passage doors that flank the niche. The screen hides a private passage door between the judge's chambers and the bench. Elements of the judge's bench are fashioned of American walnut and include panels similar to those in the wainscoting and a trim molding consisting of multiple curved bands. The judge's desk is flanked by dual witness stands. The judge's bench and witness stands are all set on black marble baseboards. Original chairs continue in use.

Jones County Court House, detail for wall behind judge's bench in courtroom, 1935



Walnut paneling set on a black marble base is also used to form the jury box located along the south wall of the courtroom. Like the judge's bench it has inlay stripes and a matching curved finish molding. The jury box contains its original seating with open vertical slat-back chairs on cast iron pedestal bases.

The judge's chambers, law library, jury room, and other related offices are located along the east end of the second floor. They are accessed through doors located to either side of the judge's bench or through a separate access at the end of the central corridor. The jury room is in the southeast corner and has had a handicapped accessible restroom added. Air conditioning and new

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plumbing in this space was accommodated by a change in floor heights and an in-room ramp. The balance of the rooms in the east end have a combination of original asphalt tile floors and carpet with new ceiling fans and fluorescent fixtures.

Floor plan: As originally conceived, the principal county offices for the Jones County Court House were to be located on the first floor. They included offices for the board of supervisors, the auditor, treasurer, recorder, and clerk. The second floor contained the courtroom, judge's chambers, law library, jury rooms, attorney's office, and county superintendent's office. The third floor contained the sheriff's residence, dormitory rooms for women and men jurors, and a small jail space. The basement contained an additional storage vault, a large assembly room, a war veterans' room, a social worker room, and space for the county engineer. The assembly room was particularly well appointed with a platform stage, store room, dressing room, and ticket booth adjacent to the west entrance vestibule.

During the past several decades in a series of small to medium sized, phased remodelings the original allocation of space in the courthouse has been altered somewhat. Changes were based on the obsolescence of certain offices (county school superintendent) and functions (sheriff's residence and dormitory space for jurors). In other instances, the expanded needs of specific offices were accommodated by the allocation of vacant areas. Changes made to meet access requirements were done within the original space allocations (ADA rest rooms) or through sensitive alterations (addition of hillside sidewalk ramps at the west entrance). The third floor jail area has experienced significant modifications through the years as jail operations have changed. As noted previously, the sheriff's residence is now used as offices and additional cells.

Summary of contributing and non-contributing resources:

All historic resources associated with the courthouse were evaluated according to rules set forth in *National Register Bulletin 16A, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (1991). The evaluation was made according to procedures further specified in Section F.v. "Individually Eligible Properties," p. 47 of the PWA-Era County Courthouses of Iowa MPD. A summary follows.

- 2 Contributing Buildings: courthouse, garage
- 1 Contributing Site: courthouse square
- 1 Contributing Object: flagpole
- 2 Non-contributing Objects: veterans memorials southeast of courthouse and east of courthouse

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Summary of alterations:

- New metal windows, 1977
- Courtroom air conditioning, ca. 1980s
- New corridor light fixtures, 1986
- Minor remodeling of various offices and ADA changes in rest rooms, late 1980s and 1990s
- Install west entrance ramp on, ca. 1997
- Jail remodeling, 1997
- Re-roofing, 1975, 2000

The changes made to the Jones County Court House are consistent with the registration requirements set forth under Section F.iv.c of the "PWA-Era County Courthouses of Iowa" MPD, pp. F45-F48. The most important alteration has involved window replacement. As in other PWA-Era courthouses, all of the window openings have retained their original size with replacement sash incorporating metal transoms where reduced size sash have been installed. In this courthouse, the original configurations for the courtroom windows on the rear façade have also been retained. Re-roofing and minor office changes have had minimal impact on the building and are expected with its continued use as a modern office building. The jail area has been modified in order to continue its use according to modern jail standards. In addition to the expansion of the cell block, rehabilitation of the day rooms, discontinuation of the sheriff's apartment, and various office remodeling change on the third floor, modification has included the installation of a wire enclosed exterior staircase. Another exterior change involved the construction of a switchback ramp for one of the entrances of the building in order to accommodate ADA requirements. The jail changes and ADA modifications are considered acceptable and consistent with the integrity requirements of the MPD.

Selected floor plans prepared in 1935-36 by the architectural firm of Dougher, Rich & Woodburn of Des Moines prior to the courthouse's construction appear on the following pages.

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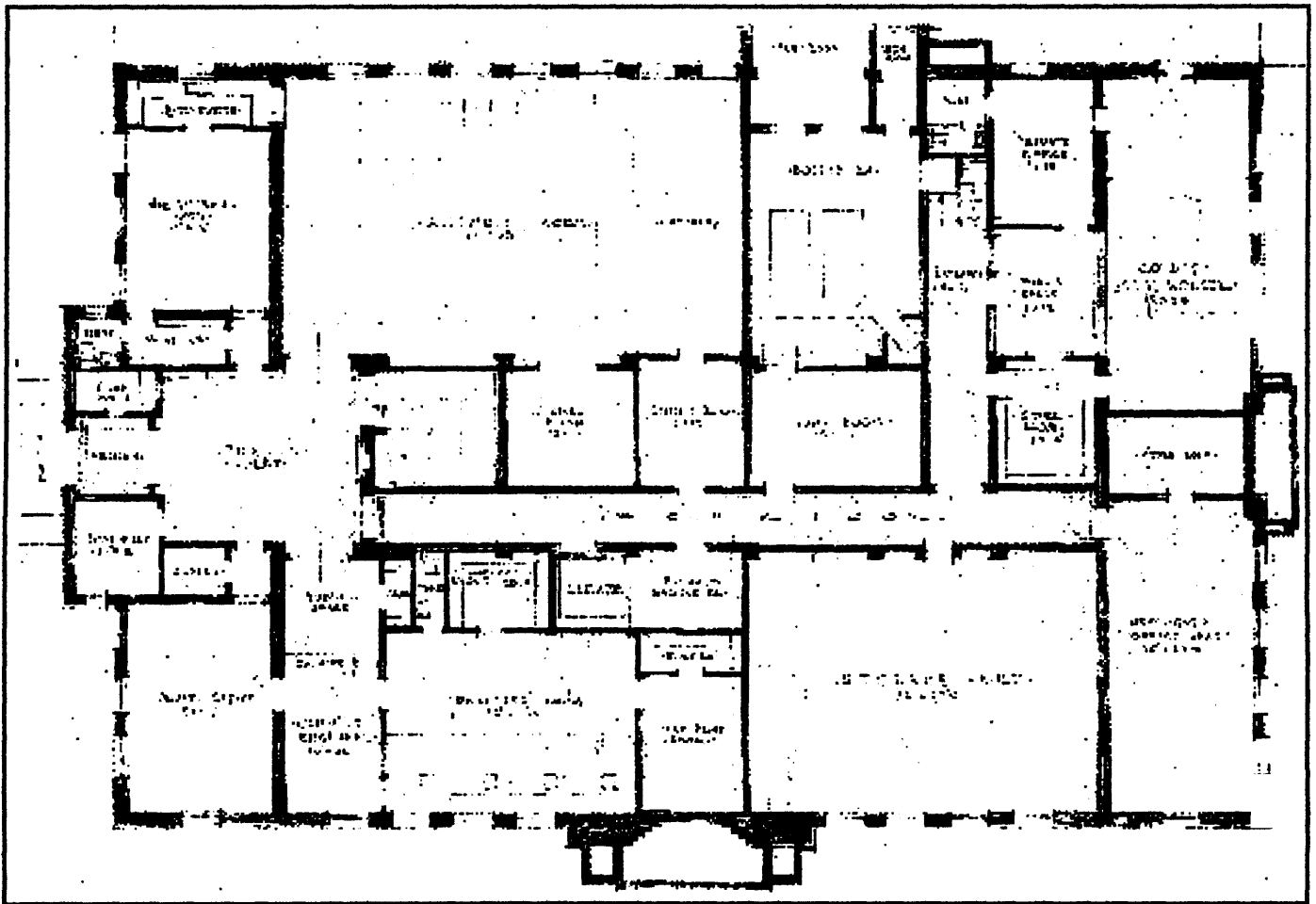
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Jones County Court House, Basement Floor Plan, 1935³



³Floor Plans prepared by Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, (Auditor's Office, Jones County Court House), December 1935. Quality is very poor for the original floor plans reproduced in this nomination accounting for the bad images seen here. The original sources for plans and drawings reproduced in this and other PWA-Era Courthouse nominations came in various sized formats from original documents, old newspaper clippings, microfilmed newspaper articles, old photo copies, and reverse print images, all of varying quality. The plans were included here despite their poor quality in order to provide a sense of the overall form and delineation of space in the building's principal unaltered floors.

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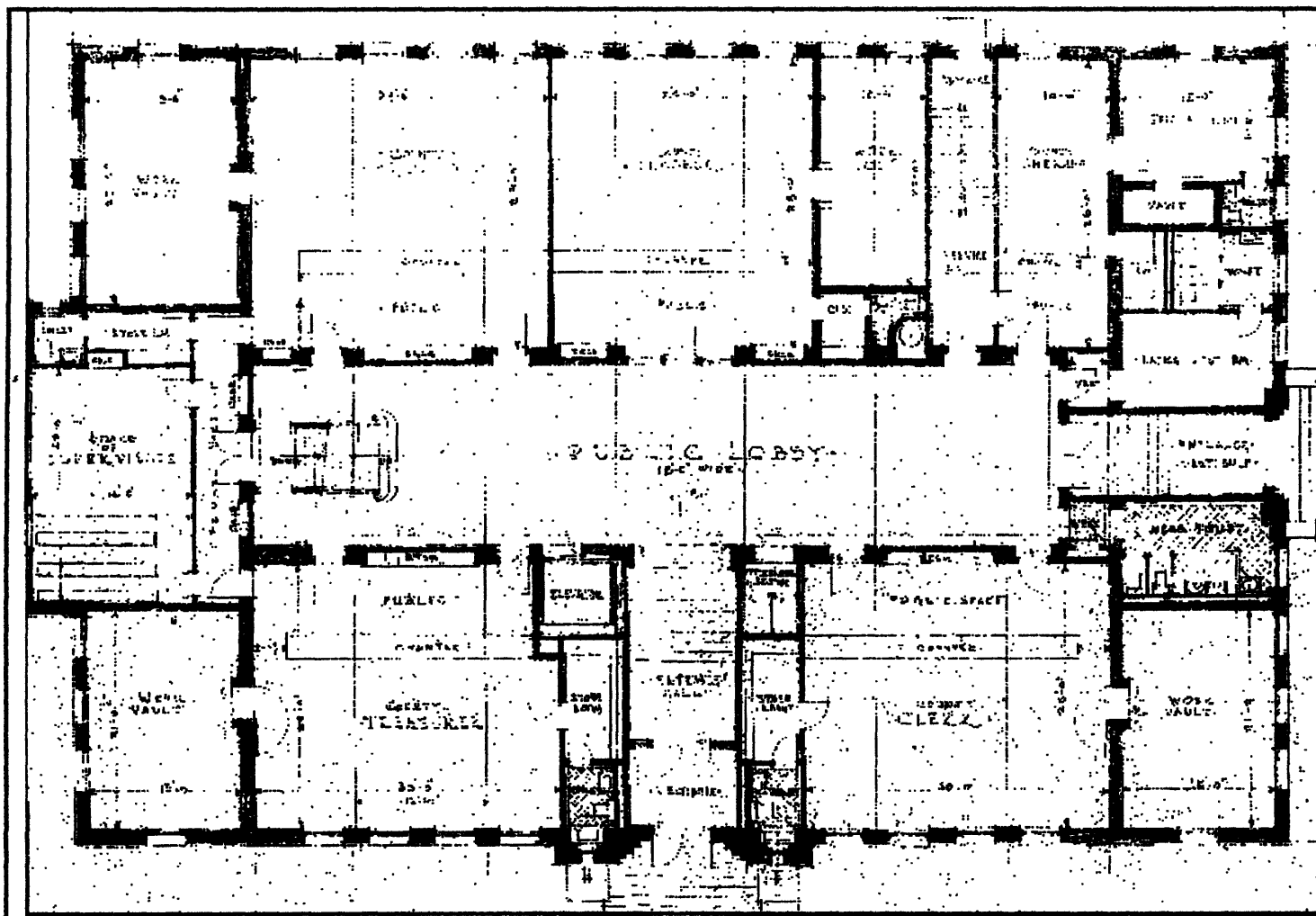
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Jones County Court House, First Floor Plan, 1935



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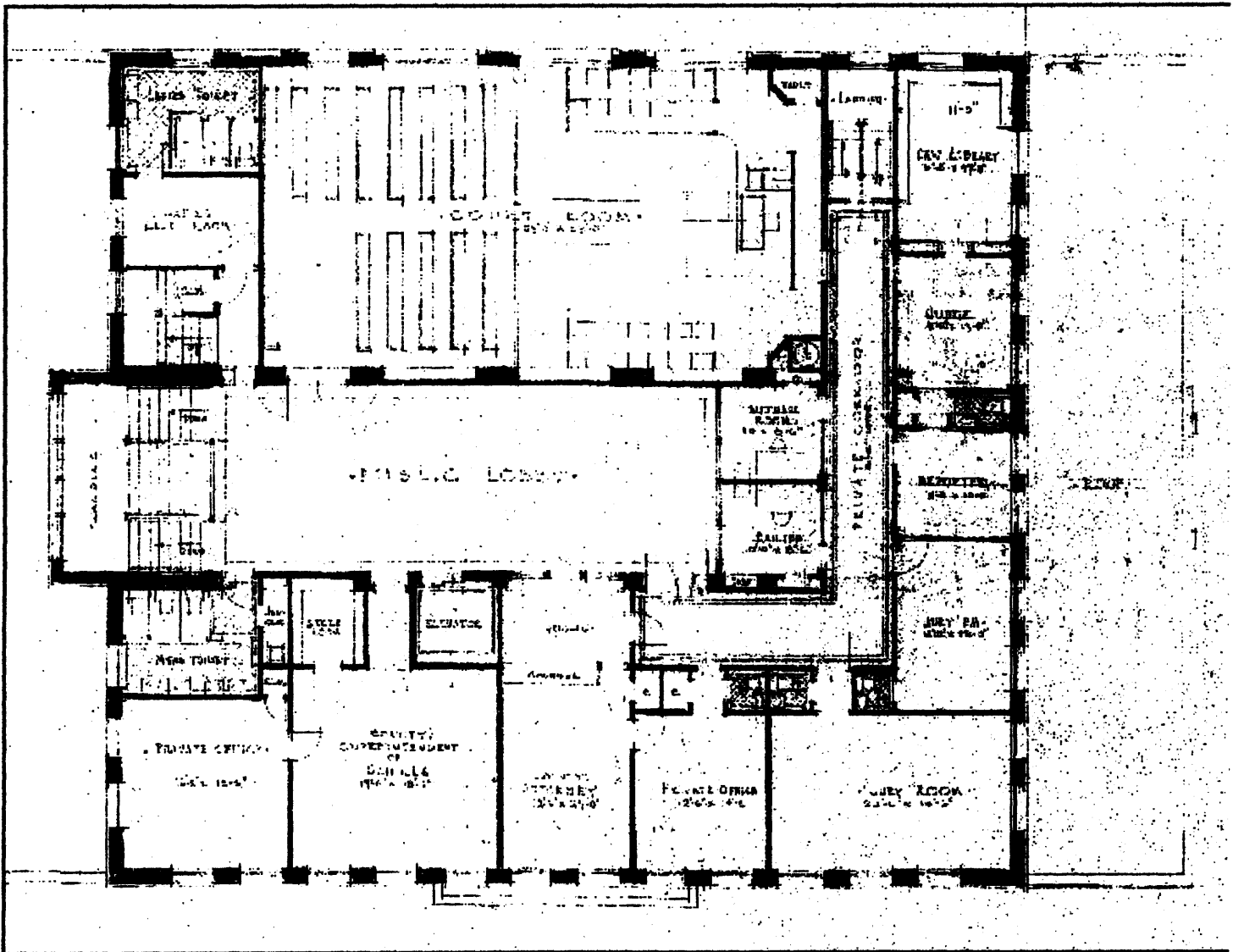
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Jones County Court House, Second Floor Plan (partial), 1935



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8. Statement of Significance

Architect/Builder: (continued)

OPN Architects, Cedar Rapids, jail remodeling, 1997

Introduction:

The Jones County Court House is significant under Criteria A and C as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era. Its construction was funded through the federal Public Works Administration and represented a significant public investment of federal and local dollars by voters during a time when the economy was pressed by the effects of the Great Depression. Designed by Dougher, Rich & Woodburn of Des Moines, an important Iowa architectural firm responsible for the design of numerous PWA funded public buildings, it is a well-preserved example of the PWA Moderne Style of public building architecture developed during the 1930s and early 1940s. Its design blends Art Deco and Moderne elements with the utilitarian advantages of modern office building construction. Nomination of the Jones County Court House is consistent with the registration requirements set forth in Section F of the "PWA-Era County Courthouses of Iowa" MPD.

Historical Background:

i. New Deal Era and the Public Works Administration:

In June 1933 near the end of Franklin Roosevelt's first one hundred days in office, Congress passed the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) creating two important federal initiatives designed to combat the Depression. The National Recovery Administration or NRA was established to set up code agreements with private industries that would encourage greater employment and at the same time, regulate wages and affirm union organizing. The other new agency was intended to serve an emergency role hence the name, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. A short time later, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed General Hugh Johnson to head the NRA. During the next two years it would have a fractious history until the Supreme Court struck it down in May 1935.

Roosevelt's second initiative on behalf of industrial workers was intended to serve as an emergency program that would soon outlive its useful life.⁴ He appointed his good friend Harry Hopkins to head the newly established Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and Civil Works Administration (CWA). Responsibilities for the new Public Works Administration (PWA) were assigned to Harold Ickes, Roosevelt's fiscally conservative Secretary of the Interior. The following

⁴Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Age of Roosevelt: The Coming of the New Deal* (Boston, 1959), p. 104 as quoted in Lisa B. Reitzes, "Moderately Modern: Interpreting the Architecture of the Public Works Administration, Volume II," Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Delaware, May 1989, p. 370.

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year the CWA efforts were also transferred to Ickes. Under their direction a series of federal undertakings were given form and substance. Management structures were created, distribution systems organized, administrative practices reorganized, and funding set in motion. By June 1934, Ickes had overseen expenditure of \$3.3 billion to 13,266 federal projects and 2,407 non-federal projects. The popular federal program would see a series of successive appropriations continue for nearly a decade until the PWA was dismantled in 1943. It is this aspect of the NIRA that comprises the balance of this discussion.

It is not surprising that the first public works projects to be funded through the FERA were for federal agencies. The Federal Employment Stabilization Board created in 1931 was responsible for establishing a six-year program of federal construction projects. However, under President Hoover's administration that was as far as the planning had gone. Now, with federal funding in place, many of these construction initiatives were ready to move forward. As a result, Washington, D.C. was among the first cities to benefit from the demand for both skilled and unskilled workers created by these federal programs.

The other part of the NIRA was intended to stimulate non-federal projects where the national government would serve as a partner with states, local communities, schools, and other non-governmental groups. For these projects to get off the ground, considerable planning would have to take place first. Soon after FERA was established, each state was asked to establish an advisory board with three members. Their purpose would be to stimulate applications for the non-federal funds, forward reports to Washington, and handle requests for funds once they were received. These boards were criticized and by February 1934 were discontinued.⁵

State level offices staffed by federal employees soon replaced the state boards. These offices were headed by "state engineers" and despite their titles, their responsibility was to the federal government. In a major effort at decentralization, legal, engineering, and financing experts were transferred from Washington to the State Engineer offices. Over time, there were problems with these offices as well. Their titles lead to confusion as local officials sought to learn how to apply for federal assistance and were unclear as to whether the "State Engineer" was a promoter or administrator.

Despite these problems, Congressional appropriations continued annually, each year accompanied by mandated changes in the operation of the PWA program. Among the most important were provisions in the Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 that allowed the federal share of PWA projects to be increased from 30 percent to 45 percent. Another provision allowed the grants to cover the cost of architects and engineers, acquisition of necessary land, legal fees, and administrative costs. By including these costs, more localities were able to participate and the quality of projects was enhanced. An executive order issued by President Roosevelt added the requirement that prevailing wage rates be observed on PWA projects.

⁵Jack F. Isakoff, "The Public Works Administration," *University of Illinois Bulletin*, Volume XXXVI, (November 18, 1938), p. 36.

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When the 1936 appropriation bill came up the following year, Congress expressed its continuing concern for the large numbers of unemployed Americans by enacting new measures in the PWA designed to accelerate the expenditure of PWA funds. Historian Lisa Reitzes summarized the conflict:

...it was widely agreed that, for the PWA to have a visible effect on unemployment and poverty, it needed to move quickly on labor-intensive projects; but Ickes insisted that to produce permanent useful public works whose execution would be economical and free from scandal, the PWA had to move slowly and apply strict standards for inclusion in the program...many in the government believed that the PWA needed to dictate what and where projects were undertaken; however, to enlist local support and ensure the "usefulness" of public works projects, many felt that distribution of PWA funds and designation of construction priorities needed to be guided by local decisions.⁶

In the end, Congress prevailed seeking to increase the ranks of the employed by speeding up spending on PWA projects. Setting an aggressive timetable for completion of projects did this.

The following year, Congressional sentiment shifted again. Funding under the PWA Extension Act of 1937 was drastically cut and July 1, 1939 set as the date for completion of all projects. The PWA's administrative staff was cut as it moved towards "liquidation" with state offices among the first to be shut down. Although seven regional offices, each with three or more states, had been in place since early in the life of the PWA, they had not had major responsibilities for project oversight.

This changed in the fall of 1937 as the state PWA offices closed. Thereafter, all grant applications, approvals, bidding and contracting, monitoring of wage scales, correspondence, payments, and auditing would flow through the regional offices. Though final authority remained in Washington, the day-to-day management of the PWA shifted to the regional offices. Iowa was one of eight states included in Region No. 4 headquartered in Omaha. Other states in Region No. 4 included Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Missouri. The other regional offices were headquartered in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Worth, San Francisco, and Portland.

By June 1938 with liquidation measures well underway, Congress reversed itself again. Measures to shut down the PWA were temporarily halted and a new appropriation of nearly \$1 billion was authorized. To keep the money flowing as quickly as possible, the appropriation law specified that new projects must be completed by July 1940.

In early 1939 a series of government publications appeared describing the story of the PWA. Some

⁶Lisa B. Reitzes, "Moderately Modern: Interpreting the Architecture of the Public Works Administration, Volume II," Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Delaware, May 1989, p.372-373.

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were designed to respond to criticism of the PWA and others were published to document for posterity the success of this experiment in public works construction. *The Story of PWA* came out in the spring of 1939, the lengthy *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and other Governmental Bodies between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration* came out later that year, and *America Builds the Record of PWA* came out before year's end.

The PWA officially ended in July 1939 as the focus of the Administration began to shift toward readying for war. President Roosevelt's reorganization plan consolidated the efforts of a number of the "alphabet agencies" under the umbrella of the Federal Works Agency (FWA). It absorbed not only the PWA but also the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Supervising Architect's Office in the Treasury Department (responsible for post office construction), and the U.S. Housing Authority. John M. Carmody was selected to head the new agency. The regional offices continued to operate until 1943 with Iowa projects still in the pipeline managed through the Omaha office through 1941.

ii. The PWA at Work in Iowa: County Courthouse Building (1934-1941):

Establishment of the Public Works Administration in June 1933 prompted formation of a network of 48 state PWA offices. There was no precedent to guide the federal-state-local partnership resulting in considerable time spent during the first months in simply setting up the state offices. Communities were not prepared to respond quickly to a call for PWA projects and as a result, the federal government turned to two other programs to speed federal money into the pipeline – the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the short-lived Civil Works Administration (CWA).

Meanwhile it became clear that antiquated municipal and county laws governing public building and the poor credit ratings of many cities and counties in the wake of bond failures would further prohibit a prompt set of applications. The PWA responded by sending financing and legal experts to states to assist in drafting new state enabling legislation and arranging for federal loan guarantees. Although no history of Iowa's State PWA Office has been written, it is likely that similar problems and responses were experienced there. The acting state director of Iowa's PWA Office by the time the first county courthouse was being planned in Cass County was P.F. Hopkins.⁷ Based on the correspondence record from that office, it appears that he continued in that capacity throughout the office's life.

The process of selecting PWA projects would be the same in Iowa as in other states. Initially applicants would be able to apply for grants amounting to up to 30 percent of the project's costs. Funding could be used for labor and materials but not for project management, architectural and engineering fees, and land acquisition. There would be five "yardsticks" by which local projects would be measured:

⁷P.F. Hopkins' familial relationship, if any, to PWA Administrator Harry Hopkins is unknown.

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1. The social desirability of the project and its relation to coordinated planning.
2. The economic desirability; that is its relation to unemployment and the revival of industry.
3. The soundness of the project from engineering and technical standpoints.
4. The financial ability of the applicant to complete the work and "reasonably secure" any loans by the United States.
5. The legal collectibility of the securities to be purchased or the enforceability of any lease entered into.⁸

In the case of county courthouses, the application would need to be submitted by the county board of supervisors with the actual applications usually prepared by the county auditor. In some Iowa counties, courthouses had been under discussion for years. In the case of Jones County, space for county offices and a courtroom was maintained in rented quarters for more than six decades prior to the completion of the new Jones County Court House in 1937. In Bremer County, the county offices and courtroom were housed in seven buildings including the 1857 courthouse, three banks, and above a hardware store. In the case of three counties, multiple referenda were held to consider building a new courthouse. One unique example involved the Cass County Court House in Atlantic. After a fire destroyed the old courthouse in 1932, a referendum vote was scheduled two months later. Faced with grim economic conditions voters turned down the referendum by a substantial margin. By the time the second vote was held, a citizens group had prompted the board of supervisors to apply for a PWA grant to underwrite a portion of the costs. After the second referendum was held year later, local officials were certain that the availability of a PWA grant had contributed to its passage. In several cases in Iowa when courthouse referenda votes were held in conjunction with a general election they failed. Passage appears to have been more likely when scheduled as part of a special election.

It was necessary for a PWA applicant to provide considerable information about their intended project. The only surviving application for a county courthouse in Iowa is believed to be the application prepared for the Jones County Court House in Anamosa in 1935. It is likely that it was typical of other applications filed. It contained the following:

- a general description of the project
- a statement regarding the status of drawings and specifications
- a breakdown of labor expenses by category of worker, amount, and percentage of grant allotment
- a breakdown of expenses for superintendence, architects, and engineers
- a breakdown of expense for land, materials, equipment, and contingent expenses
- a list of skilled laborers by specific trade and number to be employed
- estimated average worker yearly wage

⁸*America Builds. The Record of PWA. Public Works Administration.* Prepared in the Division of Information by the United States, Public Works Administration. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

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- estimated total number of man-hours
- estimated daily average number of employees each month for term of the project
- a statement regarding source of other funds and statutory authority to undertake project
- a copy of the application resolution by the board of supervisors
- supplemental information regarding outstanding bonds, borrowing capacity, county population, and assessed valuation⁹

To answer these questions, an applicant-county would need to have preliminary cost estimates in hand. It would be impossible to determine the overall cost figure or any of the breakdowns required in the application without first having a general building plan in hand. To do this it appears that several architectural firms in Iowa were prepared to work for little or no fee during this first phase. In courthouses where Keffer & Jones of Des Moines were involved, the firm signed a contract stipulating that no fee would be charged until the PWA grant was approved and the bonds sold. Their services were limited to preliminary sketches until that time.¹⁰

The willingness of an architectural firm to work with a county in such a manner allowed two things. First, it enabled the county to prepare an application and respond in an educated manner to the questions posed by federal reviewers. Second, it gave the board of supervisors a building concept and design to promote during the referendum process. If the grants were awarded and the county's voters approved, the architect who had supported the local efforts was likely to secure the design services contract.

Once a PWA application was approved at the state, regional, and national levels, the board of supervisors moved to the next step – the referendum campaign. In virtually every county in the Iowa, these campaigns looked the same. A citizens committee, either formal or informal, undertook a public information campaign to persuade voters of the merits of building a courthouse with the help of a PWA grant. Presentations were given by members of the committee or the board of supervisors to civic organizations. Using the front pages of the local newspapers, articles appeared regularly touting the merit of grants that would underwrite 45 percent of the cost. Voters were encouraged to think themselves fortunate to be able to get more courthouse than their tax dollars would normally buy.

An example of such a campaign was seen on the front pages of the *Indianola Record* in 1936 and 1937. During the summer of 1936 the Warren County Federated Women's Clubs had the courthouse as part of their quarterly meeting. Following the meeting the *Indianola Record* carried an extensive article with the opinions of various members, both pro and con, cited. The newspaper carried similar articles when the Indianola Chamber of Commerce considered it on its several

⁹Application for Grant, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, PWA Form No. 175 for Court House for Jones County," dated July 5, 1935, on file in Auditor's Office, Jones County Court House, Anamosa, Iowa.

¹⁰Agreement between Architects and Owners, for Court House for Audubon County," dated July 29, 1938, on file in Auditor's Office, Audubon County Court House, Audubon, Iowa.

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months later. The opinions of those who favored the new courthouse were best summarized in the comments of one Warren County woman when she said that "she had always been taught to take a piece of pie when it was passed to her. She was heartily in favor of constructing a new courthouse now when the county can get a \$145,000 building for \$80,000."¹¹ The referendum vote was held in conjunction with the general election in 1936 and failed. Two years later at a special election following a continuing campaign by promoters, the measure passed.

Other pro-courthouse campaign messages stressed the need for a new courthouse to keep records safe. In Cass County, a referendum information pamphlet made the case for approval by pointing out that in Douglas County, Nebraska the county had spent nearly \$300,000 to recreate records lost or damaged in a fire. When Jones County began to make a case for its courthouse in 1935 it contacted Cass County's auditor who happily shared a copy of the information pamphlet.¹²

A third reason frequently given for erecting a courthouse in the midst of a national economic depression related to the cost of bonds. Architect Karl Keffer combined all of these arguments when he spoke to the Audubon Board of Supervisors in August 1938. He said that the "primary reason Audubon County should have a new courthouse is because county records are not safe in case of fire in the present building. The secondary reason is that it would be to the county's financial advantage not only to secure the government grant but to take advantage of present low interest rates county bonds carry."¹³ Keffer's assessment of bond rates proved prophetic when the county was able to secure a favorable rate of just 1¾- percent later that year. This rate was less than half that paid four years earlier in Jones County.

Soon, the success of one PWA-funded courthouse encouraged other counties to undertake the application process. By the time Warren County voters were asked to consider approving a referendum the second time, the *Indianola Tribune* was able to feature photographs of three completed buildings – two were completed with PWA grants in Jones and Cass counties while a third, much smaller building, was erected before the PWA was available in Ringgold County.¹⁴

The first county to successfully complete the application, referendum, and courthouse construction process was Cass County in southwest Iowa in 1934. Both Governor Clyde Herring and Lieutenant Governor N. C. Kraschel were on hand for the cornerstone ceremony in March 1934 when 1,200 Atlantic school children turned out to greet them. Groundbreaking ceremonies, cornerstone laying events, courtroom dedications, and courthouse openings were celebrated with parades, keynote speakers, and historical pageants. In most communities completion of the courthouses was viewed as an opportunity to pass the torch from one generation to another and the county's old settlers were given special honors. In all but the last several courthouse completions community boosters

¹¹"Women's Clubs Talk Building a Courthouse," *Indianola Record*, July, 1936.

¹²"Suggest for the New Court House for Cass County," prepared by the Board of Supervisors of Cass County, Iowa for November 8, 1932 referendum, on file in Auditor's Office, Jones County Court House, Anamosa, Iowa.

¹³"PWA Grant for Court House is Asked by Board," *The Advocate-Republican*, August 4, 1938.

¹⁴"County Board Reserves Right to Reject Any and All Architectural Plans for Courthouse," *Indianola Tribune*, August 3, 1938.

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used these events to look to better times ahead.

A chronological list of PWA-Era courthouses completed between 1934 and 1941 appears below. All received federal assistance except the Floyd County Court House, which was denied funding when the federal appropriation available for the state ran out.

Figure 2: Chronological List of PWA-Era Courthouses, 1934-1941

County/City Federal Project #	Year Completed	Architect	General Contractor	Original Cost ¹⁵
Cass Co., Atlantic Federal Public Works Project No. 1410	1934	Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, Des Moines, Iowa	C.C. Larsen Co., Council Bluffs, Iowa	\$130,000
Bremer Co., Waverly P.W.A. Docket IA 1338-R	1937	Mortimer Cleveland, Waterloo, Iowa	Drape Construction Co., Tripoli, Iowa	\$135,000
Jones Co., Anamosa P.W.A. Docket IA 1068-R	1937	Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, Des Moines, Iowa	C.C. Larsen & Sons Co., Council Bluffs, Iowa	\$200,000
Humboldt Co., Dakota City P.W.A. Docket IA 1351-DS	1939	Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, Des Moines, Iowa	Holtze Construction Co., Sioux City, Iowa	\$185,000
Warren Co., Indianola P.W.A. Docket IA 1290-F	1939	Keffer & Jones, Des Moines, Iowa	F.B. Dickinson & Co., Des Moines, Iowa	\$145,000
Audubon Co., Audubon P.W.A. Docket IA 1586-F	1939	Keffer & Jones, Des Moines, Iowa	J.C. Mayer, Clarion, Iowa	\$133,000
Buchanan Co., Independence P.W.A. Docket IA 1447-F	1940	Dougher, Rich & Woodburn, Des Moines, Iowa	C.C. Larsen & Sons Co., Council Bluffs, Iowa	\$254,000
Des Moines Co., Burlington P.W.A. Docket IA 1529-F	1940	Keffer & Jones, Des Moines, Iowa	Paul Steenberg Construction Co., St. Paul, Minnesota	\$280,000
Allamakee Co., Waukon Federal project # unknown	1940	Charles Altfillisch, Decorah, Iowa	Rye & Henkel, Mason City, Iowa	\$202,000
Floyd Co., Charles City Not funded with PWA assistance	1941	Hansen & Waggoner, Mason City, Iowa	James Thompson & Sons, Ames, Iowa	\$265,000

iii. Building the Jones County Court House:

Anamosa was established as the third county seat of Jones County in 1847 when the town was named Lexington. A two-story frame courthouse was erected in 1848 and served until 1864 when county offices were moved to a rented quarters in a downtown building known as Shaw's Block. Space was leased in additional downtown buildings as needed.

¹⁵Original cost figures include all expenses for completion of the courthouse including site acquisition if applicable, architectural fees, excavation, general contract, subcontracts, furnishings and equipment, and landscaping. Cost figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

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Population in Jones County grew from 19,731 in 1870 to a peak of 21,954 in 1900. By 1930 population had dropped to 19,206 and would remain nearly unchanged during the subsequent decade. Relative stable population continued in Jones County as a result of steady employment provided by the state penitentiary.

A move to erect a new courthouse was brought before voters in 1920. The ensuing fight over whether to issue bonds for a new building became known as "The Battle of 1920." Voters in the rival Jones County communities of Anamosa and Monticello debated the issue intensely. An agricultural depression hit the county during the summer of 1920 and the following November voters rejected the courthouse referendum. During the next several decades, the county's offices continued to occupy leased quarters downtown with office conditions and record safety worsening.

In the summer of 1935 with the federal PWA program well underway in Iowa, the board of supervisors decided to apply for funding assistance for a new courthouse. Several factors now seemed to favor such a campaign. The first resulted from the move to have the county fair permanently headquartered in Monticello, a decision that led to a reduction in the rivalry between Monticello and Anamosa. The second factor, was an offer from the City of Anamosa to provide a free building site for the courthouse on the Anamosa City Park. These two factors combined with the prospect of a federal grant made prospects for the referendum favorable.

The grant application to the PWA was submitted in July 1935 and a referendum to have the county issue approximately \$93,300 in bonds was scheduled for September. The total building cost was estimated at \$165,000 at the time. Despite the fact that the state was in the midst of a serious economic depression, the referendum was approved by 77 percent of voters on September 10, 1935. In a sign of countywide solidarity, the measure was approved by 65 percent of voters outside of Anamosa.

A snag in the approval of the PWA grant surfaced shortly after the referendum was approved, however. On September 12 the State PWA Office notified Jones County that their application had been denied in Washington because of the high annual wage cost for courthouse construction workers in the application. Later, the State PWA Office asked if Jones County would consider a grant of 30 percent of the project cost rather than 45 percent. The county responded with letters of explanation and requests for assistance from their congressman. On December 5, 1935 official notice was received that PWA Docket No. IA-1068 for the Jones County Court House had been approved. The PWA would provide a grant totaling \$74,250. State Director P.F. Hopkins expressed his frustration stating that "I assure you that the whole sorry mess in which we now find the Works program, is one for which this office has nothing but apologies."¹⁶

With approval in hand, work commenced in earnest on the courthouse. On December 14, 1935 the excavation and grading contract was awarded and work commenced a short time later. Selection of

¹⁶Letter from P.F. Hopkins, Acting State Director PWA (Iowa) to George F. Specht, County Auditor, Jones County, Iowa, dated September 16, 1935.

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an architect for the project had been made before the PWA grant application was submitted. Letters stating interest in the project were received by a number of architects in the state including Keffer and Jones of Des Moines, Howard Muesse of Davenport, Ralston & Ralston of Waterloo, and Tinsley, McBroom & Higgins of Des Moines. Architects Dougher, Rich & Woodburn of Des Moines were eventually selected to complete the design for the new building. This was to be the firm's second of four federally funded courthouse projects in Iowa during the 1930s. A letter from the Cass County Auditor's office praised Dougher, Rich & Woodburn noting that "They gave us a very wonderful courthouse for the amount of money invested."¹⁷

As with other PWA projects, the architects completed preliminary plans before final approval for the grant was actually received. After the PWA grant was approved in December, work on final plans began. Numerous meetings were held in early 1936 with the board of supervisors and on April 15, 1936 bids were let and construction contracts signed. C.C. Larsen & Sons Co. of Council Bluffs, Iowa received the general contract for \$139,973. The electrical contract was awarded to Metcalf Electric Co. of Anamosa and Carstens Brothers of Ackley, Iowa received the plumbing and heating contract for \$4,389 and \$22,475 respectively. Both the general contractor and electrical contractor had previous PWA experience having worked on the Cass County Court House in Atlantic in 1934. Bonds to finance the County's portion of the project were sold later that month to the White-Phillips Corporation. A favorable interest rate of 2 percent was set for the bonds well below pre-Depression rates of 5 percent.

Throughout the course of construction, the federal government required that workers be paid minimum wages based on the prevailing wages for various trades. At the national level this measure had been established to stabilize wage rates and make sure that public works contracts did not see workers suffer in a competitive environment. For the Jones County Court House project, more than 30 different trades were represented in the workforce. The highest paid workers were anticipated to be arc welders, structural ironworkers, and reinforced ironworkers at \$1.00 per hour. However, as the project progressed, shortage in skilled workers saw composition floor layers and elevator mechanics paid \$1.25 and \$1.35 respectively. The rates paid bricklayers, plumbers, steamfitters, sheetmetal workers, asbestos workers, plasters, and terrazzo workers were in the \$.85 per hour range. Making slightly less were carpenters, electricians, glaziers, painters, roofers, cement finishers, and hoist engine operators. The poorest paid workers were truck drivers, teamsters, and helpers for various trades who were paid between \$.40 and \$.50 per hour.¹⁸

Construction proceeded steadily but slowly with the cornerstone laid at ceremonies August 9, 1936. Supervisors were kept busy reviewing equipment plans and bids for the jail, offices, and courtroom. Dozens of separate firms provided construction services, equipment, or supplies to the courthouse project. By the time the project was completed, pride would be taken in the fact that materials and equipment came from all over the country – brick from Ohio, limestone from Indiana, plaster from

¹⁷Letter from Jennie M. Ward, Auditor, Cass County, Iowa to George F. Specht, County Auditor, Jones County, Iowa, dated April 13, 1935.

¹⁸"Schedule of Minimum Hourly Wage Rates, Court House Building, Audubon, Iowa," November 10, 1938.

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Illinois, terrazzo from Nebraska, windows from New York, jail equipment from Missouri, and lumber from Washington and Idaho.

Original estimates by the board of supervisors were that the project would be completed by the spring of 1937. Delays in several contracts and the addition of several work items saw work continue into the summer. As the work progressed it became apparent that the PWA grant and the bonds sold for the project would be insufficient to see the building completed. The county handled this cost overrun by issuing warrants of \$25,000 to cover the cost of furniture, furnishings, and equipment. The Iowa State Legislature passed a "legalizing act" on March 24, 1937 to authorize the warrants and actions of the board of supervisors. Completion of the project came by late summer.

County offices were moved the end of August and dedication ceremonies were set for September 10, 1937. Schools and businesses closed in the county for the day to allow all to attend the dedication ceremony. The *Anamosa Journal* described the building in laudatory terms for readers noting that the location and setting had been "pronounced by visitors to be one of the very best in the state, if not the best." The paper went on to note that "Jones County citizens can well be proud of the seat of its county government and its dedication will be a red letter day in the county history."¹⁹ Nearly 6,000 people were on hand to hear Governor Nelson G. Kraschel deliver the feature address. Other guest speakers included State PWA Director P.F. Hopkins and State Supreme Court Justice J.M. Parsons, a native of Jones County. The courthouse was open to a steady flow of visitors before and after the speeches.

A Sanborn map depicting the courthouse appears on the following page.

iv. Architectural significance:

The Jones County Court House was designed by the architectural firm of Dougher, Rich and Woodburn with offices in Des Moines, approximately 150 miles southwest of Anamosa. James A. Dougher (1894-1976), Herbert E. Rich (? – ca. 1949), and Chester C. Woodburn (1893-1960) formed their partnership in 1923. Both Dougher and Rich had worked for the Des Moines firm of Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson. Woodburn worked as a structural engineer for Keffer and Jones, also in Des Moines. Dougher's strength apparently lay in administration while Rich's aptitude was for design and Woodburn's interest was in engineering and the business rather than professional side of architecture according to historian Wesley Shank.²⁰

During the 26 years that the firm practiced, the firm developed a substantial reputation in the state eventually receiving commissions for many schools, churches, and hospitals. The firm designed the

¹⁹"Program Complete for Dedication Program Sept. 10," *The Anamosa Journal*, September 2, 1937.

²⁰Shank, Wesley I., *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1999, pp. 52, 141, & 178.

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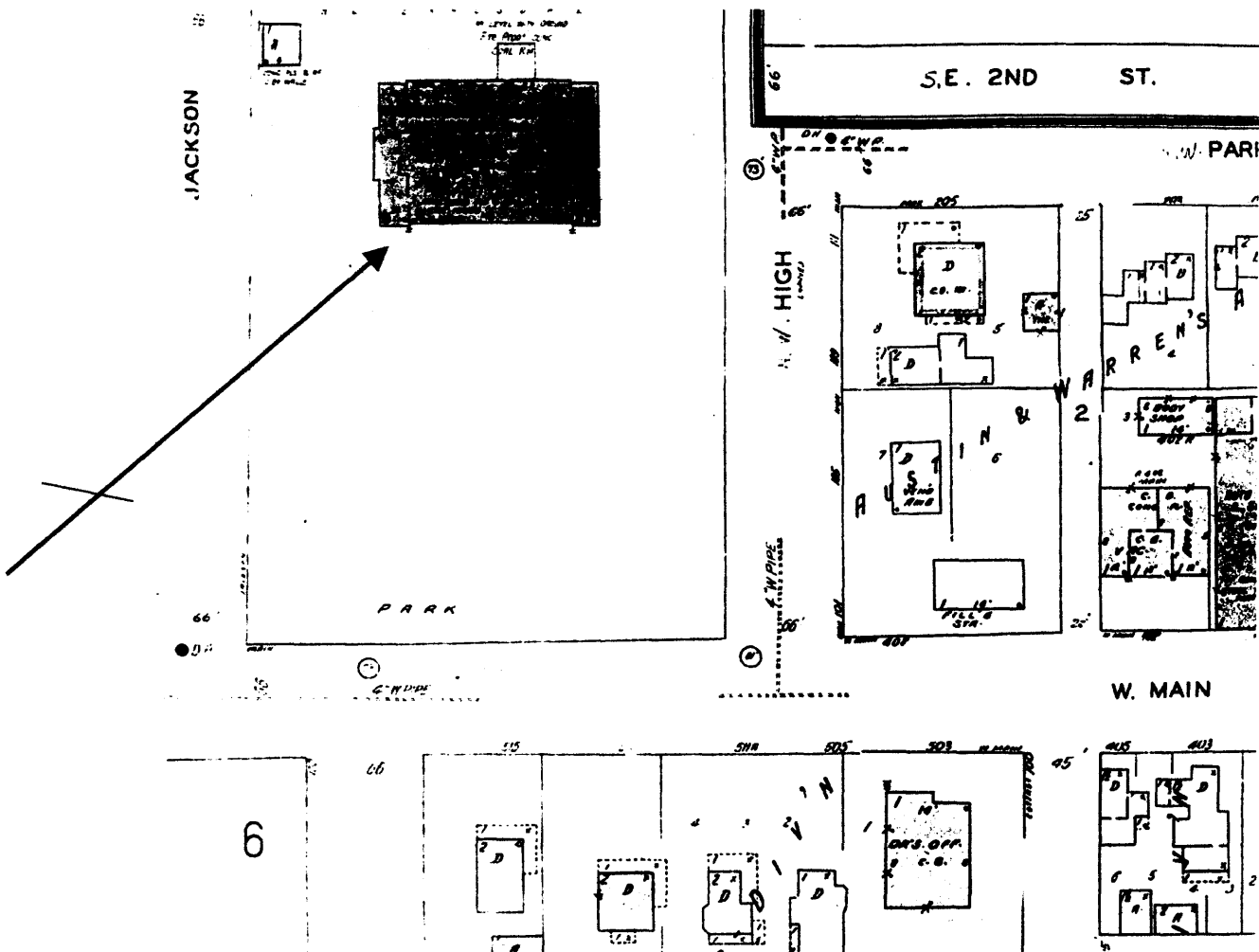
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Temple B'nai Jeshurun, St. Lukes Parish House, and Plymouth Congregational Church, all in Des Moines during the 1920s as well as the Presbyterian Church in Fairfield, the Methodist Church in Indianola, and the Methodist Church in Macedonia. Among their Iowa school projects were buildings in Boone, Hampton, Marshalltown, Muscatine, Marengo, Washington, Macedonia, Mt. Ayr, Dawson, Avoca, Creston, Hamburg, Keosauqua, Woodbine, Coon Rapids, Stratford, Sac City,

Jones County Court House, 1957²¹

N ↑



²¹Insurance Maps of Anamosa, Iowa. (New York: The Sanborn and Perris Map Company) 1928 updated to 1957, p.7.

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Pomeroy, Shipley, and Altoona.²²

The firm developed a solid reputation for their work on county courthouses in the state as well. Commissions included the Cass County Court House (1933-1934) in Atlantic, the Jones County Court House (1936-1937) in Anamosa, the Humboldt County Court House (1938-1939) in Dakota City, and the Buchanan County Court House (1939) in Independence. These four New Deal Era courthouses designed by the firm share a number of design attributes including basic form, floor plan, and materials. Each building has a symmetrical façade with a central section (two to four levels) flanked by lower height wings at each end. In each case a central corridor extends the length of the building and county offices opening onto the corridor. The Jones County Court House differs from the others with its main staircase at the end of the corridor rather than midway opposite the main entrance. Common materials include buff colored brick, Bedford limestone, multi-colored terrazzo floors, polished stone wainscoting, and acoustic tile. Though the courtroom designs are distinctly different, each originally used dark wood tones and Art Deco ornamentation.

The Jones County Court House is the second, and in some respects, the best preserved of Dougher, Rich and Woodburn's PWA courthouses. The architectural details in each of the three primary entrances, the decorative plaster cornices in the corridors, terrazzo floors, polished limestone wainscoting, and the main staircase elements remain unaltered. The courtroom has been changed minimally leaving window openings, stencil patternwork, tubular light fixtures, and all wood elements as originally built.

Summary:

In summary, the Jones County Court House derives its significance as one of ten county courthouses built in Iowa during the New Deal Era with planning or funding assistance from the federal Public Works Administration. Its construction represented a significant public investment of federal and local tax dollars made at a time when this rural county was hard pressed by the Great Depression. Designed by Des Moines architects Dougher, Rich and Woodburn, it is a well-preserved example of the PWA Moderne Style of public building architecture that dominated the 1930s and early 1940s in Iowa.

²² Architect's Description of Building," *Humboldt County Republican*, Humboldt, Iowa, March 10, 1939; and Barbara Beving Long, "Architects in Iowa Study," various working files prepared for the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa, September 1984.

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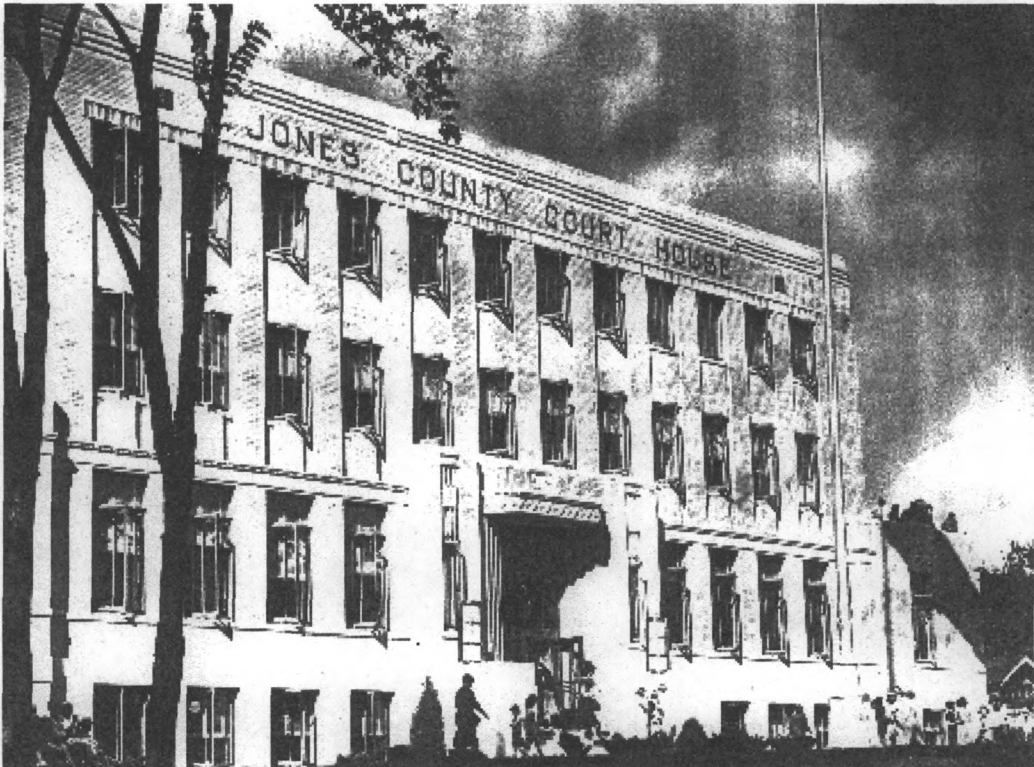
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New Jones County Court House, September 1937 (as published in the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*)²³



Acknowledgement:

Preparation of this nomination was funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the State Historical Society, Community Programs Bureau through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, under the provision of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the State Historical Society of Iowa, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the State Historical Society of Iowa.

²³ Jones County Court House," Photograph Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

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10. Verbal Boundary Description:

Courthouse square includes the two block site bounded by West Main Street on the south, Jackson Street on the west, Park Court on the north, and High Street on the east in the city of Anamosa, Jones County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries comprise the original site for the Jones County Court House when it was erected in 1936-1937.

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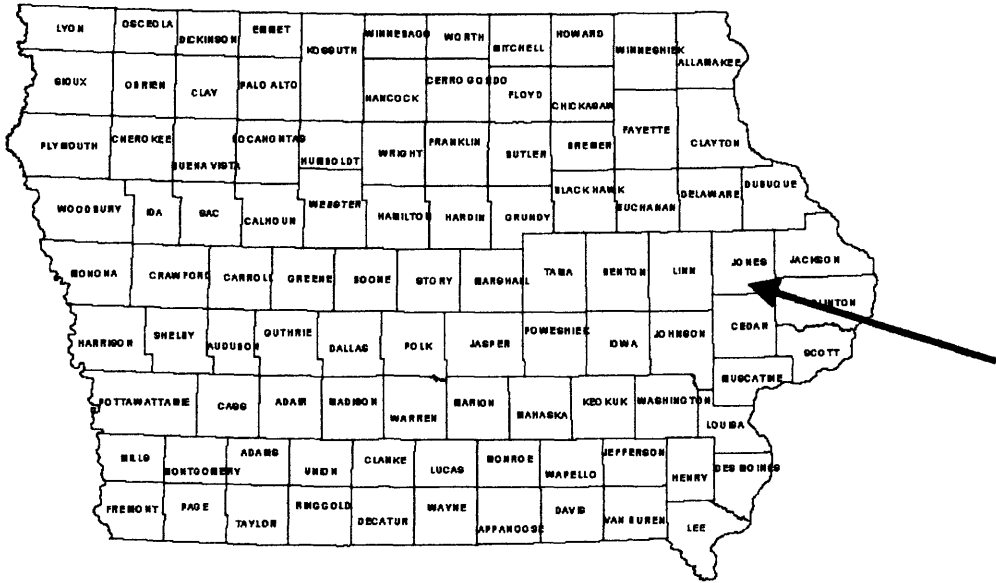
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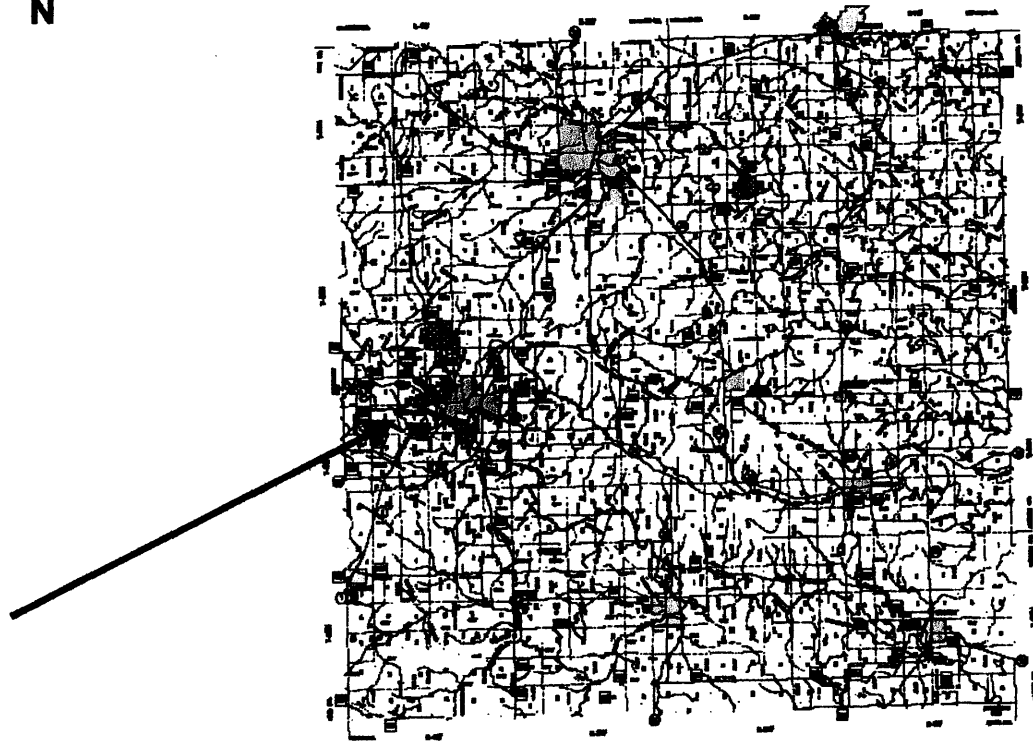
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Map: Jones County, Iowa



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INDEX AND EXPLANATION MAP
JONES COUNTY
IOWA

Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

Legend:

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Water
- Highway
- Railroad
- Other

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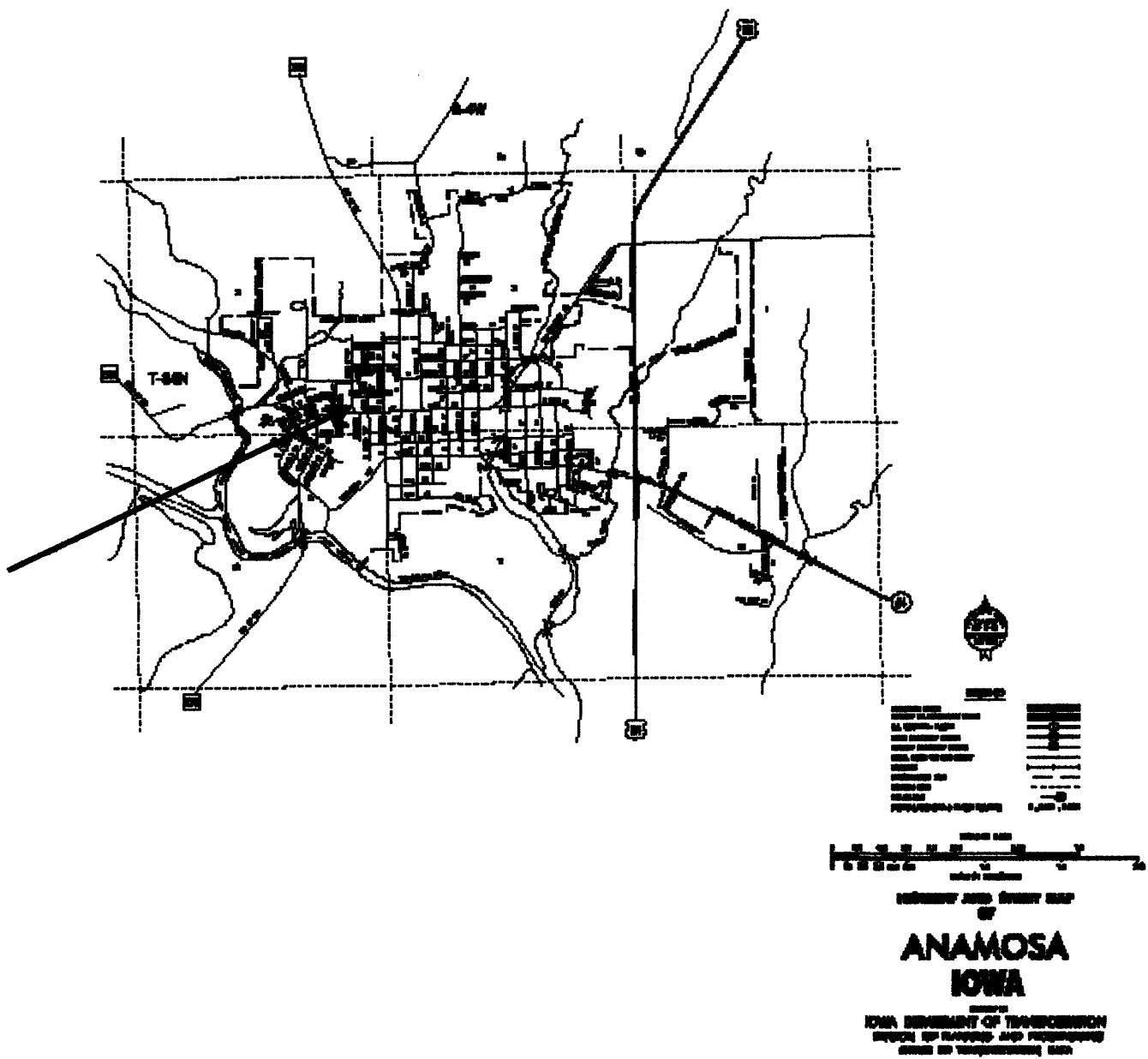
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Photographs

Bruce Meyer, photographer

Date taken: October 22, 2002

1. Front façade, looking north
2. Front entrance, looking north
3. Front entrance light fixture, looking northwest
4. Front & west façades, looking northeast
5. West façade, looking east
6. Rear & west façades, looking southeast
7. Rear & east façades, looking southwest
8. Front entrance vestibule, looking south
9. Main staircase, between first and second floors, from landing looking west
10. Courtroom, towards front of room, looking east
11. Courtroom, judge's bench, looking east
12. Courtroom, jury box, looking southeast
13. Courtroom, towards rear of room, looking west
14. Courtroom, ceiling towards front of room, looking east
15. East façade, veteran memorial with flagpoles and stone streetlight, looking west
16. West façade, garage, looking southeast
17. Courthouse site, looking north