

**IOWA SITE INVENTORY**  
Division of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Site Number 78-002-001  
District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Map Reference # 78-002-001  
Topo Map Avoca 1:24,000

**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. Site Name Pottawattamie County Sub Courthouse
- 2. Village/Town/City Avoca Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Pottawattamie
- 3. Street Address Elm Street between Wool and Crocker
- 4. Legal Location Orig. Plat \_\_\_\_\_ 34 1,2,3  
Urban: subdivision block parcel  
Rural: township range section  
1/4 section-1/4 section
- 5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 304730 northing 4594260; Acreage less than 1 ac
- 6. Owner(s) Name Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors
- 7. Owner(s) Address Courthouse Council Bluffs Iowa 51501  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
- 8. Use: present Branch courthouse original Branch courthouse

**DESCRIPTION**

- 9. Date of Construction ca. 1885 Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Building Type:  single family dwelling  multiple family dwelling  commercial  
 industrial  educational  other institutional  public  religious  agricultural
- 11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board & batten  shingles  stucco  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  
 wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  masonry load-bearing walls  
 iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
- 14. Integrity:  original site  moved-if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Painted red with grey trim - upper portion of windows filled in - new aluminum doors and sash.  
Note location of stairs outside the main block, in a small rear extension.
- 15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  
 carriage house  garage  privy  other \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes-if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  
 densely built-up  commercial  industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Map \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Photo Roll \_\_\_\_\_ Frame \_\_\_\_\_ View \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE** (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

**20. Architectural Significance**

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure  c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is not of major interest architecturally. It is simple, compact and functional.

**21. Historical Significance**

Theme(s) Politics/Government

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure  c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is locally significant as the historical focus of county government, and of the political power and prestige derived from the community's status as the county seat. As center of county government, an Iowa town was reasonably assured of economic and population growth, and a prominent role in local social and political life. The county courthouse represents a significant public investment in a structure built not simply for utilitarian purposes, but also as a monument associated with the historical importance of county organization and development. Significant as Iowa's only "branch" courthouse, established at a very early date. County is very wide, and county seat is located at extreme western edge. Continued existence of this courthouse testifies to strength of rural political interests.

(See Continuation Sheet)

**22. Sources** (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.

Pratt, LeRoy G. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Co., 1977.

Stanek, Edward and Jacqueline. Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Date January, 1980  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization DHP

**FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY**

**1. OFFICE INFORMATION SOURCES ON THIS PROPERTY**

- COUNTY RESOURCE FILE  REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_
- WINDSHIELD SURVEY \_\_\_\_\_
- NATIONAL REGISTER  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- GRANTS-IN-AID: \_\_\_\_\_  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**2. SUBJECT TRACES**

**3. PHOTO IMAGES**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_