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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lake City Community Memorial Building
other names/site number none

2. Location

street & number 118 E. Washington Street not for publication
city, town Lake City vicinity
state Iowa code 19 county Calhoun code 025 zip code 51449

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Lake City Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0
Iowa, 1854-1940; Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot and Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] Date 7/3/90
Signature of certifying official
Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

Beth Boland 8/21/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Civic

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other limestone trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

1919-1920
1919-1920

Significant Dates

1919-1920
1919-1920

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

none

Architect/Builder

Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, architects [Des Moines]
Arthur H. Neumann & Co., builder [Des Moines]

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property .2 acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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3	5	7	0	7	0
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4	6	8	0	8	2	5
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The building occupies Lot 4 of Block 6 of the Original Town Plat. Beginning at the southeast corner of the Block, the lot measures 132' north along Illinois Street, then 66' west to the northeast corner of Lot 3, then 132' south to Washington Street, then 66' east to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Lot 4 houses that portion of the planned project which was realized. A gymnasium which was intended to occupy Lot 3, adjacent to the west, was never built.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard, Ph.D. (Research assistance by Vivian Campbell and Rose Rosendahl)
organization PHR Associates date March 22, 1990
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7. Description

The Community Memorial Building is a substantial, but unimposing, two- and three-story brick structure situated adjacent to and northeast of the Public Square, on the corner of Washington and Illinois Streets. It reflects the public spirit which was particularly evident during the Progressive Community Era. The building, constructed in 1919-1920, was designed by the firm of Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson, one of Iowa's most important architectural firms. It has been altered very little on the exterior, providing an excellent example of the firm's design contributions to smaller communities in Iowa.

Rectangular in plan and measuring 62'x120', the Community Memorial Building occupies nearly all of Lot 4, Block 6 in the Original Town Plat. It sits on land deeded by Peter and Sarah Smith to the Town of Lake City in 1856. The front divides into three bays and the sides into five bays with several sets of paired windows. The fifth bay rises to three stories in order to accommodate an interior stage (since removed). The first and second stories are delineated by a beltcourse of projecting brick that connects with limestone window sills on the front facade and with transoms on the side facades to form a continuous line. A brick parapet rises above a corbelled brick cornice to screen a wood-truss roof. A brick chimney is located left of center toward the front of the building. An abundance of wood sash windows light the interior. Along the first story, windows are 6/9 light except in the third and fourth bays of the side facades, where there are paired 9/9 windows with 4-light transoms. The second story has 6/6 windows. Some of the openings have been filled with brick along the rear facade and the fifth bay of the side facades where the stage was located. Elsewhere, the original windows are intact. Originally, the front windows were set off with functional shutters, but these have been removed.

The front facade incorporates a memorial to war veterans in the design of the middle bay, which projects slightly in front of the two side bays. Four concrete steps lead to a broad platform measuring approximately 30' wide. Three entry doors are set inside limestone arches and flanked by block-like limestone pilasters. The names of important battlegrounds of the Civil War, the Spanish American War, and World War I are inscribed in the arches above the three doors: in the first, "Shiloh, Gettysburg, Antietam;" in the second, "Santiago, Manila, San Juan," and in the third, "St. Mihiel, Argonne, Chateau Thierry." These inscriptions are echoed by the words "Soldiers," "Sailors," and "Marines" which are inscribed in three limestone panels set into a separate parapet on the middle bay. The front facade is further embellished with a dentilated limestone cornice, limestone lintels, and limestone sills.

Exterior alterations have been minor. In addition to closing rear windows and removing the shutters from the front windows, the front entry doors, originally multipane double doors, have been replaced with more institutional single-pane double doors. A ramp for handicap

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entry has been added to the east side. While these changes have removed some of the elements that softened the austerity of the building's original appearance, they have not altered the original design to any appreciable degree. If anything, the changes have made the memorial bay of the front facade more prominent.

The architects designed the building to seat 750 people in its main auditorium, the floor of which measures 56'x62'. As originally constructed, a 24'x40' stage was located at the north end of the auditorium. The feature has been removed in order to accommodate larger gatherings. The main floor was also designed with a 16'x20' room east of the front foyer for City Council meetings, this room has an adjacent fireproof vault for records storage. The Council no longer meets here, but City records are still stored in the vault. Opposite the Council Room, on the west side of the foyer, a similar space was devoted to a kitchen and serving room. A basement level measuring 40'x62' at the front of building included a women's meeting room, a boiler room, and a coal room. The upper story included an auditorium balcony (since converted to a furnace room), a women's lounge and restroom, a men's restroom, and a Memorial Hall reserved for use by the American Legion. Except for the stage and the auditorium balcony, the interior design remains intact. However, the City plans to remodel the interior in the near future in order to modernize kitchen facilities and to enlarge the auditorium further.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Community Memorial Building was erected as a tribute to young men who had given their lives in three wars. Today it also stands as a tribute to the Lake City Civic Improvement Society, a Progressive Era group organized by women who sought to develop, improve, and beautify the town's public facilities. The building is significant under Criterion A as the primary resource in Lake City exemplifying the civic involvement and community cohesiveness associated with the Progressive Community Era. It is a public place in the most democratic sense of the word. Under the leadership of the Civic Improvement Society, the citizens of the town donated the entire \$85,000 cost of its construction with monies raised from scores of cash contributions ranging from \$1 to \$1000, from contributions of liberty bonds and victory notes, from bake sales and community dinners, and from the proceeds of a benefit livestock and farm machinery auction. The cornerstone, laid on January 23, 1920, reportedly contains histories of nearly every church, lodge, club, and society then active in Lake City. In this respect, the Community Memorial Building reflects a tradition of public spirit that is particularly associated with the Progressive Community Era in Lake City.

The minutes of the Civic Improvement Society [CIS] record that on March 11, 1919 the women who founded the group entertained an "informal discussion in regard to a community building." Considering the activities which the group undertook in the next several years, it seems clear that the CIS's founding purpose was to promote the construction of a community building.

Events moved swiftly during the next few months. After the March meeting, the CIS hosted a banquet for the Chamber of Commerce, which donated \$400 to the newly established Community Memorial Building Fund. On April 22, 1919 J.B. Smith, a local realtor, offered to sell the lot on which sat the old Park Hotel. The CIS accepted his price of \$1750, whereupon Smith's wife, Alice, immediately donated \$50 toward the purchase of the lot, suggesting that she may also have engineered the offer. Thereafter the CIS began to canvas the town for donations. The local newspaper aided the cause by running regular feature stories and editorials designed to whip up support and by publishing the names of cash donors to the building fund. By July of 1919 the lot was paid for in full, and the CIS had pledged another \$1000 toward the building.

Meanwhile, the City Council, through an appointed Civic Congress, assumed project development responsibilities. In October 1919 the City received title to two lots, one from J.B. and Alice Smith (the Park Hotel was torn down), and the other from Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Herrick. The two lots gave the City a 132'x132' parcel on which to erect the building. Originally, the City hoped to erect a gymnasium adjacent to the Community Building, but this

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part of the plan never materialized, thus the lot on the west side of the building remained as an open space.

By late October 1919, contributions exceeded \$35,000, and the City let contracts to the architectural firm of Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson and to Arthur H. Neumann & Co., the builder. Work actually began before the contracts were let. On October 9, 1919, the Graphic reported that excavation and grading had begun with local residents doing the work: "Harry McCaulley and his crew did the loading, and Bradley Brothers had charge of hauling the dirt." The manner in which the story was reported suggests that labor may have been donated in order to break ground before cold weather set in.

While construction proceeded, community organizations staged numerous benefit performances; bake sales; box suppers; a hat sale; and auctions of donated livestock, farm machinery, household goods, and a city lot in order to finish paying for the building. From an original estimate of about \$60,000, the actual cost rose to \$85,000, paid for entirely with contributions from individuals, veterans' associations, church groups, fraternal lodges, ladies' societies, and the high school (the latter anticipating construction of a gymnasium, which never happened).

The building was finished in October 1920 and dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11. Prior to the dedication ceremony, volunteers cleaned up the grounds as well as the interior rooms, and the CIS held a "shower" for the building in order to obtain kitchen equipment and utensils. Members of the community were asked to purchase maple chairs at a cost of \$3.65 each. The dedication was a full-day affair which started with a parade in the morning, vocal addresses and musical selections in the early afternoon, a football game at 4 p.m. pitting the Rockwell City American Legion team against the Lake City American Legion players, and an evening of more speeches and musical numbers, capped by a community social hour.

After the building was dedicated, the CIS took on the responsibility of completely furnishing the kitchen as well as the Women's Room. Over the next several years, the CIS held more benefits, banquets, and bake sales in order to maintain the building as well as the grounds and to furnish it from time to time with needed items. In addition, the CIS paid the insurance premiums on the building for a number of years.

The Community Memorial Building is also significant under Criterion C as an example of the public buildings that Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson designed for smaller Iowa communities. The firm, which evolved from the predecessor firm of Proudfoot & Bird, was the dominant architectural firm in Iowa at the time the Lake City Community Memorial Building was designed. Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson maintained a varied practice, accepting small and large commissions alike. The firm designed houses and apartments, hotels, office and commercial buildings, industrial buildings, banks, lodge halls, schools, churches, public buildings, filling stations, auto showrooms and commercial garages, and libraries.

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The Community Memorial Building is an fine example of one of the major subtypes of buildings associated with the firm: public and semipublic buildings. Not only is the historic architectural integrity of the building substantially intact, but it also exemplifies the firm's conservative architectural philosophy, that is, its design reflects the intended purpose of the building, as a memorial to war veterans, rather than the personal taste of an architect. The firm is known to have designed buildings for at least 117 Iowa communities, although its major works are to be found in the state's urban areas and larger regional centers as well as on the campuses of the three state universities. As a smaller public building retaining good integrity, the Community Memorial Buildings contributes to body of work that is the legacy of Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson in Iowa.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Civic Improvement Society. Minutes, 1919-1935.

Iowa State Historical Society, Bureau of Historic Preservation. "The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1882-1940" [Multiple Property Listing].

Lake City, City of. Abstract of Title for Community Memorial Building

Lake City, City of. City Council Minutes, 1919-1920.

Lake City Graphic, numerous articles and items, passim 1919-1920.

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Map 2: Community Memorial Building Site

