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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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chariton City Hall & Fire Station

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 115 S. Main Street [N/A] Not for publication

city or town Chariton [N/A] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Lucas code 117 zip code 50049

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, Deputy SHPO, July 26, 2006
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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson R. Beall

9-6-06

Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Name of Property

Lucas County, IA
County and State

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.)

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

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

The Architectural Career of William L. Perkins in Iowa: 1917-1957 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: City Hall

GOVERNMENT: Fire Station

GOVERNMENT: City Hall

GOVERNMENT: Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals:

Classical Revival

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

other STONE

Narrative Description

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

Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Name of Property

Lucas County, IA
County and State

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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931-1956

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Perkins, William L.

Best, E.H. and Sons

Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Name of Property

Lucas County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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3 [1]5 [0]0[0]0[0]0 [0]0[0]0[0]0 4 [1]5 [0]0[0]0[0]0 [0]0[0]0[0]0
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant
organization _____ date March 2006
street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone 641-682-2743
city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Chariton
street & number 115 S. Main Street telephone 641-774-5991
city or town Chariton state IA zip code 50049

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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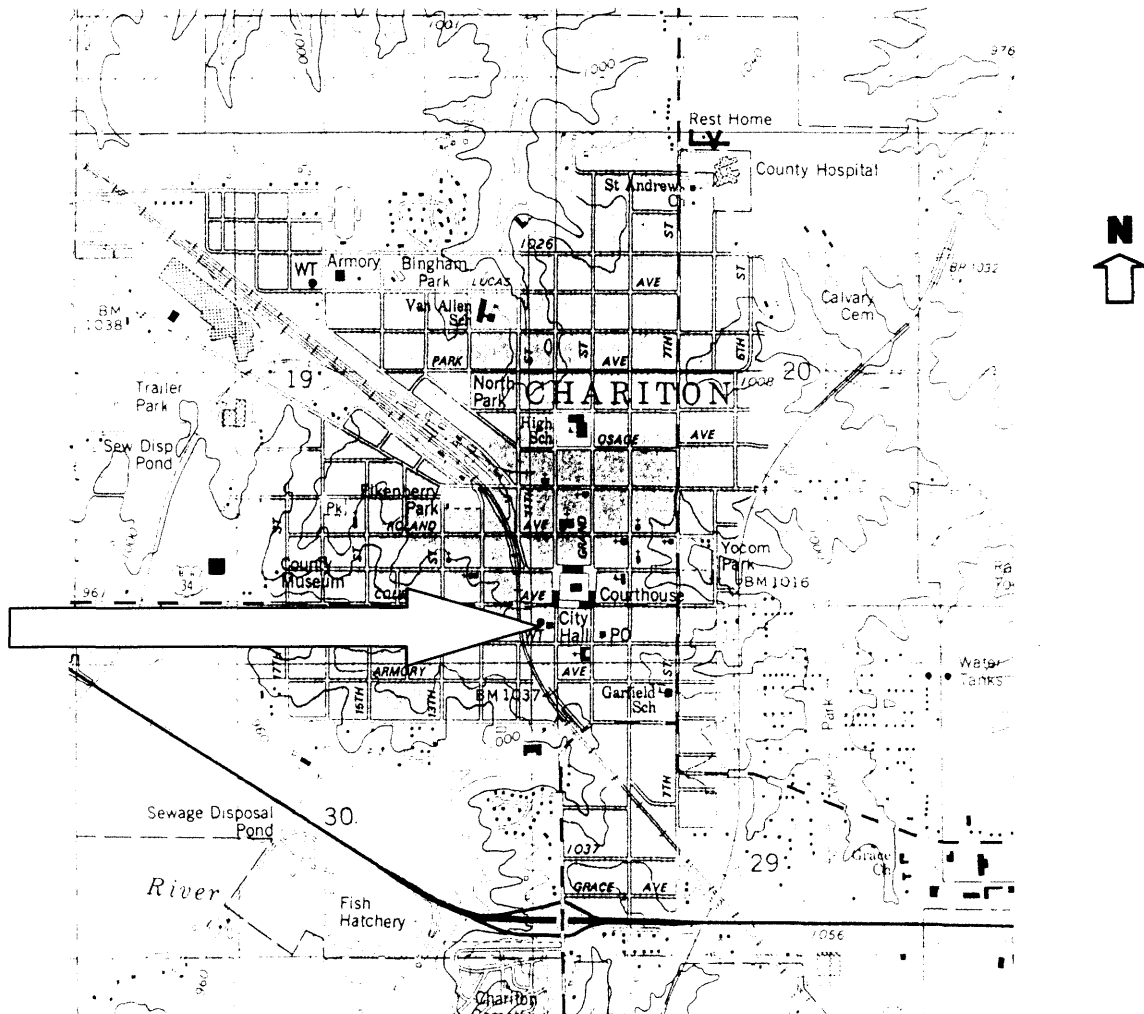
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Chariton City Hall & Fire Station Lucas County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Chariton City Hall and Fire Station (1931) was designed by Chariton architect and city engineer, William L. Perkins. Chariton is the Lucas County seat. Lucas County is the second county north of the Missouri line, the sixth county west of the Mississippi River, and the sixth county east of the Missouri River. The City Hall is located one-half block south of the southwest corner of the Chariton Public Square on the west side of S. Main St. It is a free-standing structure with a well kept lawn along the front (east) and north sides.



U.S.G.S. Map of Chariton
Arrow indicates location of resource
(Note Public Square in the Center)

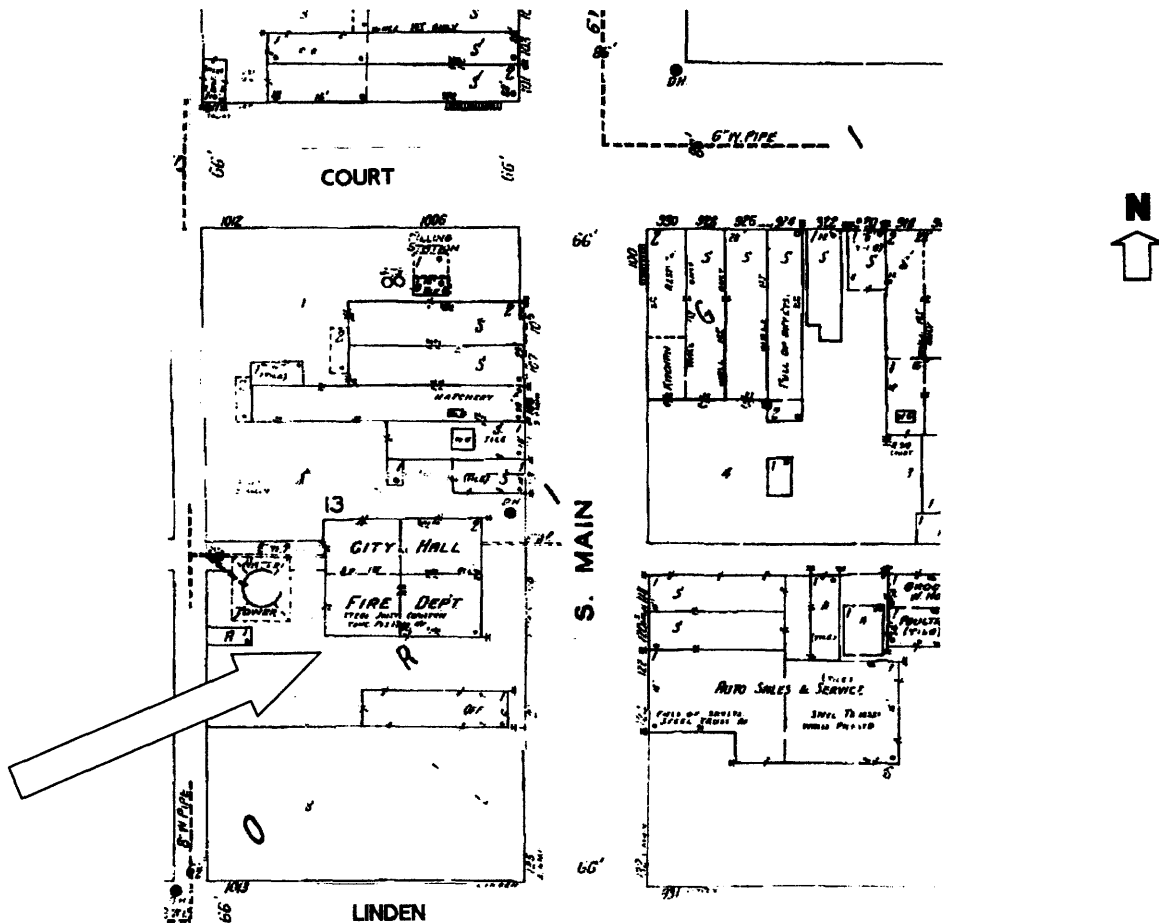
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Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Lucas County, Iowa

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1927+), p 2
Arrow indicates location of resource

Exterior:

This two-story brick building is rectangular in shape, the original block measuring 60 feet by 80 feet, with a 1979 addition on the south measuring 51 feet 6 inches by 108 feet. A single chimney is located on the north wall, and a flat roof slopes gently to the rear. It is of fire-proof construction with brick curtain walls. The east elevation (the narrow end of the rectangle) of the original 1931 design contains the asymmetrical façade with a projecting pavilion surrounding the main entrance. The brick is highly textured and variegated in color, ranging from red to tan to charcoal. It is laid in running bond. To the right (north) of the entrance there are two windows on each floor, and originally to the left (south) of the entrance there were four windows on the second floor and large folding garage doors on the main floor. This was necessary as the fire trucks and equipment were housed in the south part of the building. When the large wing was added on the south in 1979 to house the fire department, the original garage doors were

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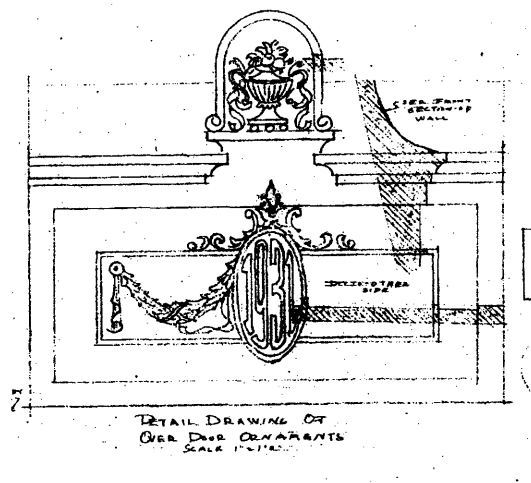
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Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Lucas County, Iowa

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replaced by four windows, located directly below those on the second floor. At that time most of the original windows (all on the façade) were replaced with similar divided lights. Care was taken in the selection of the brick and trim to coordinate with the original materials. The façade of the 1979 addition has three large garage doors and a single entry door at the south end. The building rests on a concrete slab with a foundation of brick and concrete.

The massing of the façade has a strong Art Deco feeling, but the detailing is all Neo-Classical. The double entry doors (modern metal-clad replaced the originals prior to 1962) feature a transom and are flanked by simple stone pilasters the height of the doorway, with simple monumental pilasters with Corinthian capitals to the outside. Above the entry doors is a stone panel containing a Neo-classical swag or festoon with a vertical oval medallion containing the number "1931," the year of construction. A bas-relief flower filled urn/vase is centered above the date.



Drawing of Façade Detail
William L. Perkins, 1931

A large multi-light window is located on the second floor above the entrance, and a broad stone panel at the top engraved with the words "City Hall" completes the design. A flat stone pediment caps the pavilion. One ornamental detail that is no longer extant was described in a 1932 newspaper article as follows: "a pier lantern of statuary bronze surmounts the building. Panes of circular glass enclose six 100 watt bulbs and when the lantern is lighted a yellow glow is shed over the building." (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 23 Feb 1932, p 3)

A rectangular stone panel is found above each pair of windows on the second floor of the façade. These panels are carved with a medallion in the center and a swag or festoon on each side. Each of the medallions contains a different design: the scales of justice to represent a courtroom; a lyre with horns to represent the music events to take place upstairs; and, crossed hose nozzles representing the fire department. The area between first and second floor windows

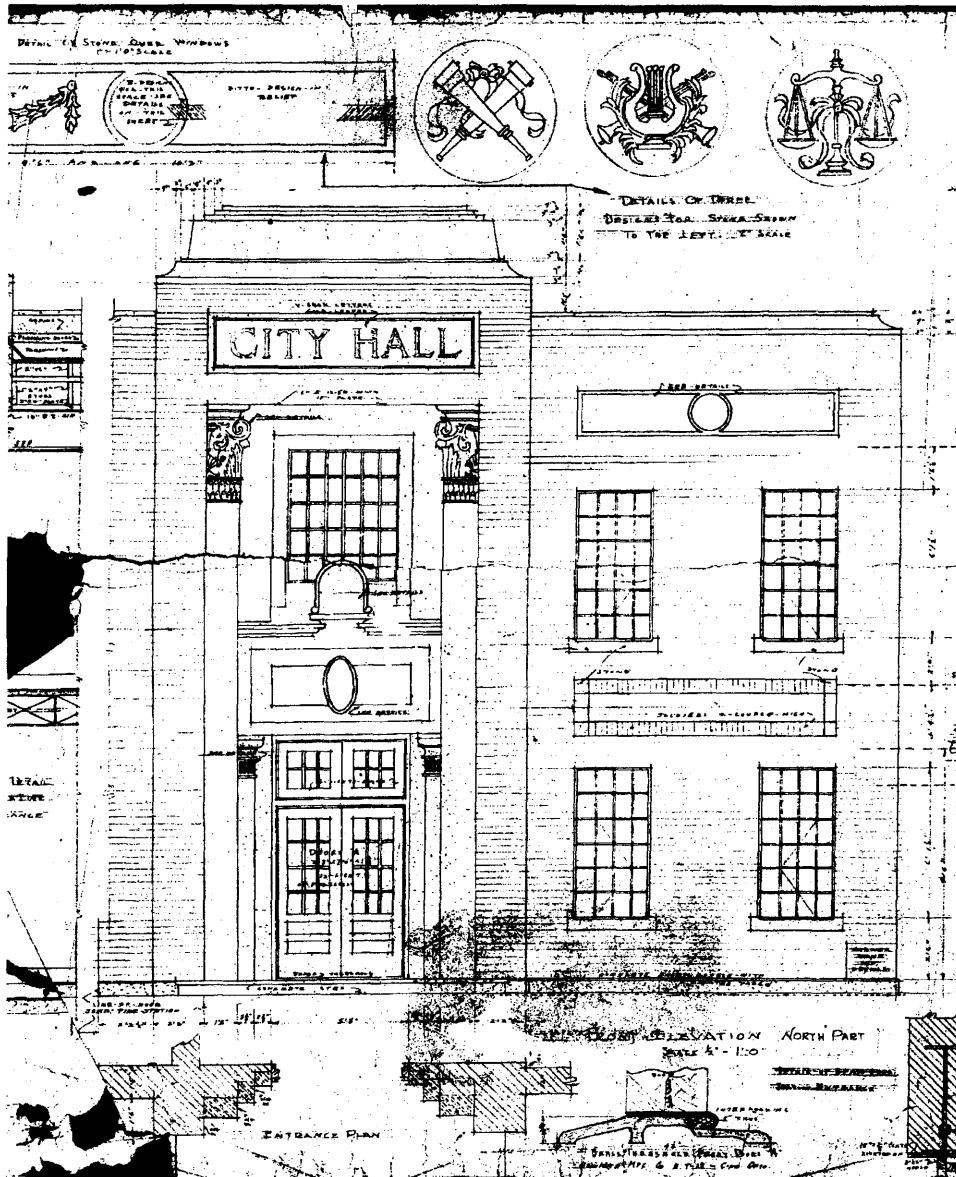
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Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Lucas County, Iowa

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also contains a rectangular panel above each pair, but in this case the panels are defined by brick patterning and small stone blocks at each corner.



Drawing of north part of façade with medallion details
(William L. Perkins, 1931)

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The side elevation on the north has an irregular fenestration pattern. There are four second floor windows in the front portion. On the first floor there is a new window located about 18 feet west of the corner that has been placed in a square opening requiring a wood panel above, then two replacement windows with top wood panels, and then two broad metal casement windows near the rear, or west end. The brick chimney rises up through this north wall. The rear (west) elevation contains three symmetrically arranged second floor windows the north one being a smaller replacement window that requires wood panels on each side. On the first floor there is a double door on the north, with a broad metal casement window in the center and a single door at the south end. The 16 foot square hose tower connects the original building and the 1979 addition. The west wall of the addition has two large garage doors and a single entry door. The south wall of the addition is a blank brick wall.

The 1979 addition on the south side was designed by Garden & Associates of Oskaloosa to house the fire equipment with the original 1931 building remodeled on the entire to house expanded city services. This 1979 addition was sympathetically designed, to co-exist with the original portion, with both the brick and stone used being carefully selected. Although the addition is almost as large as the main block, it is not visually intrusive.



Drawing of Façade with Fire Station Addition
(Garden & Associates, April 1978)

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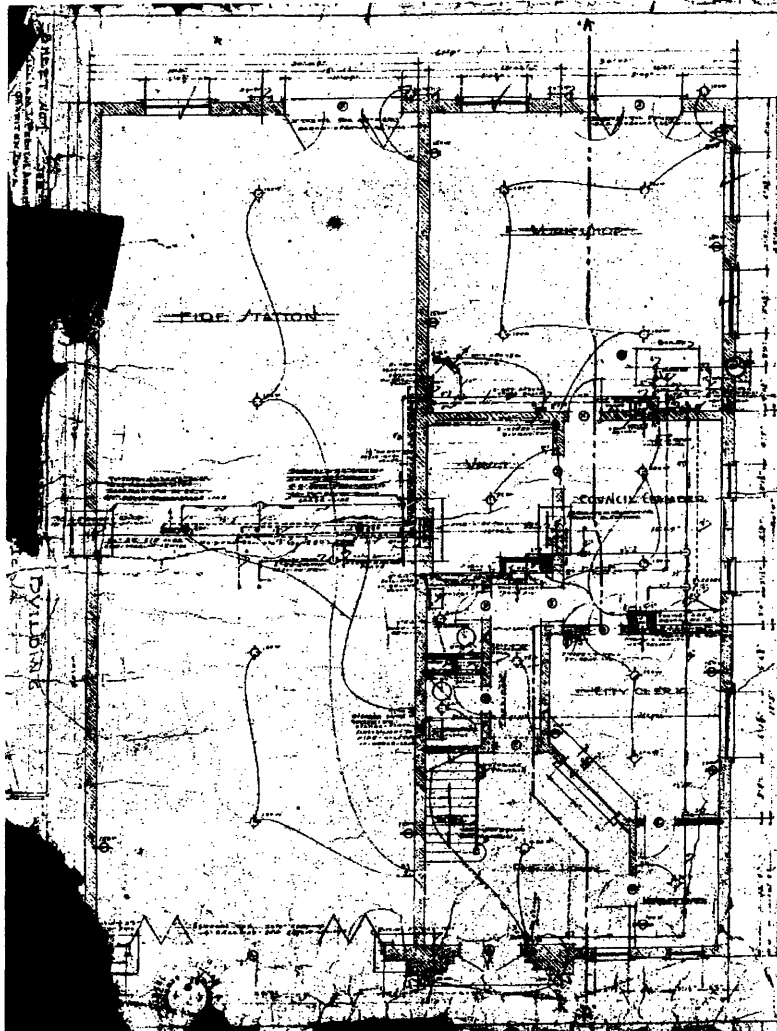
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Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
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Interior:

Immediately inside the front door is a broad entry hall with stairs to the second floor on the left. A diagonal wall creates an unusual shape for the foyer. Floors in the public areas are terrazzo, and the walls in the hall are of golden colored glazed tile (8 inches by 5 inches). The wall under, or behind, the staircase contains an elaborate fountain of the same golden glazed tile. The rooms located along the north wall have not been altered during the construction of the 1979 addition, but those along the south wall were divided.



Original Plan of 1st Floor
(William L. Perkins, 1931)

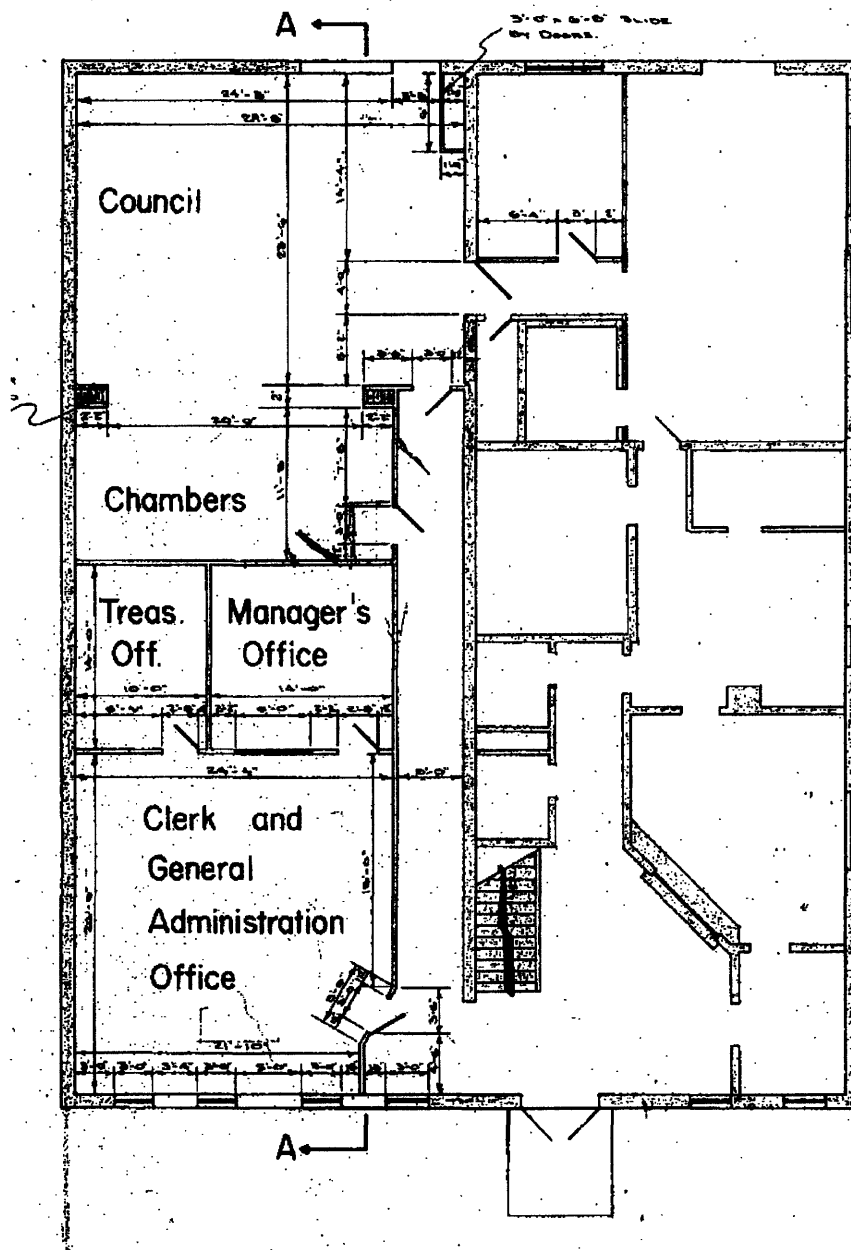
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1st Floor Following Remodeling
(Garden & Associates, 1978)

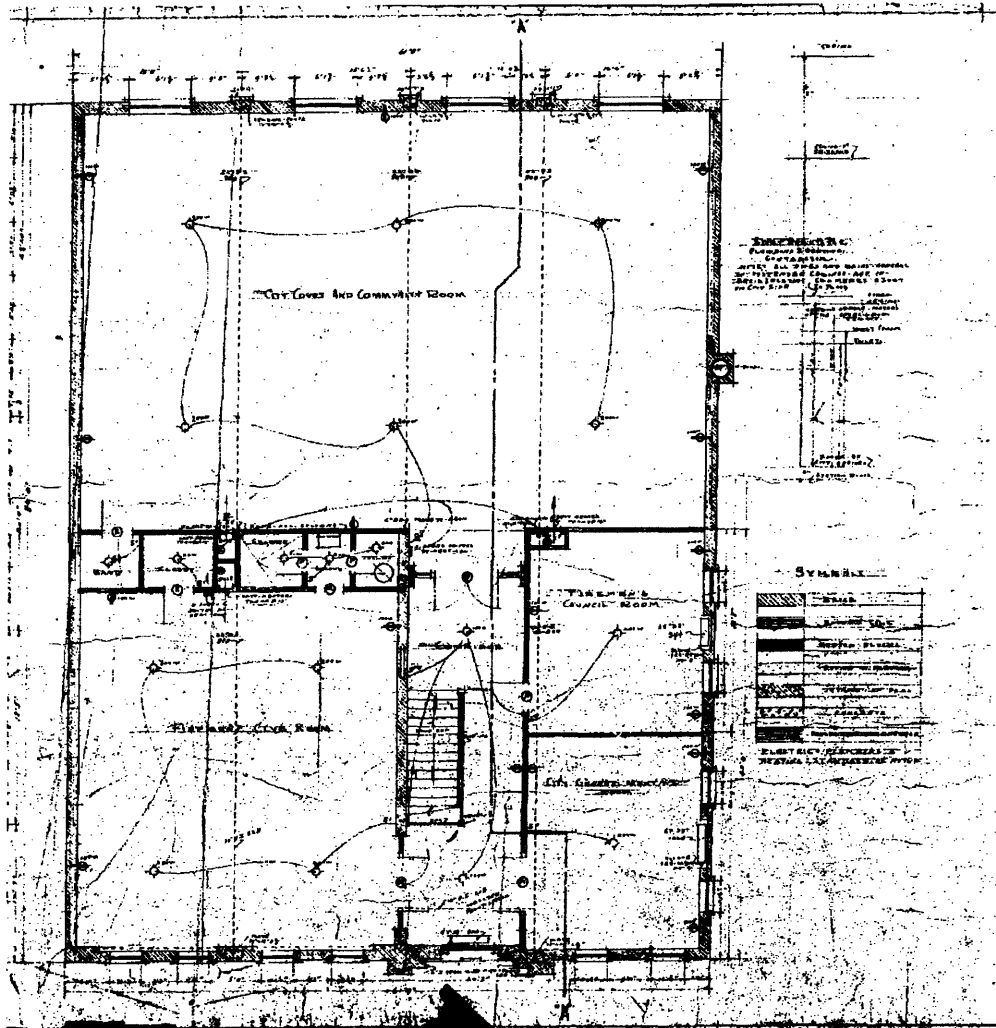
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In the original plan, the mayor's office was the first room on the right, with the city clerk's office directly behind it, with business conducted through the large griled window (extant) set on the diagonal. The city council room, complete with a mural (non-extant), was located behind the clerk's office. A 12 feet by 14 feet vault opened off the council chambers. Behind all these offices, in the northwest corner of the building, was the furnace room and workshop. The south half of the building originally was the fire station. Today it houses the city clerk's office, with two offices and the council chambers to the west.



Original Plan of 2nd Floor
(William L. Perkins, 1931)

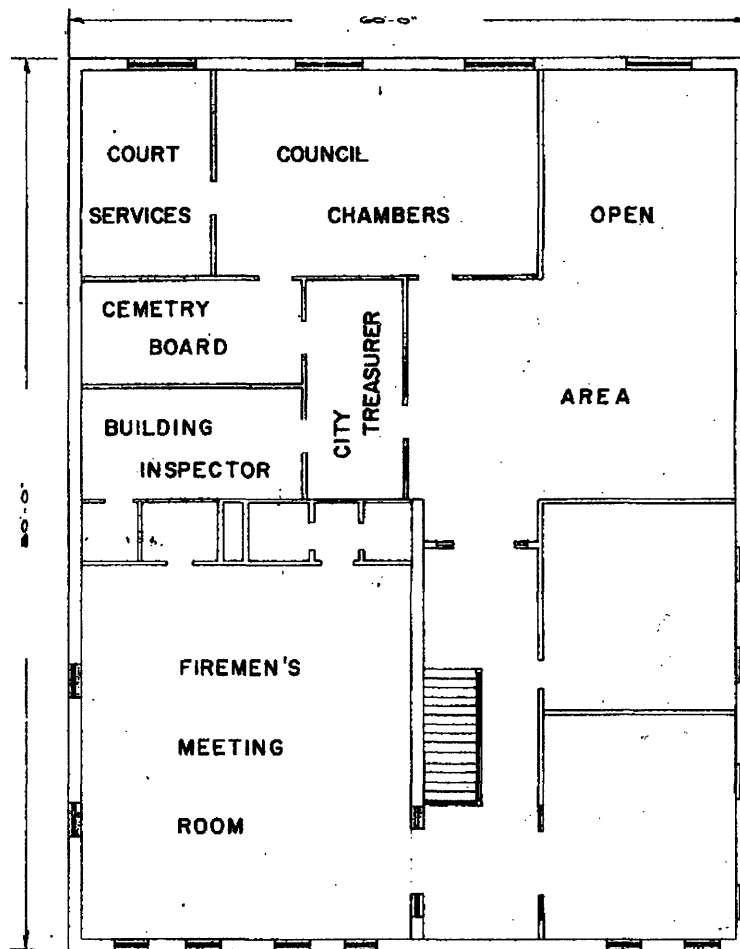
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On the second floor the major walls remain in the same place following the 1979 remodeling, but the rooms serve different functions. The large community room has been divided into offices and storage. The stairs and floor in the hallway are of terrazzo, with original oak flooring in the other areas. Not only have the terrazzo floors been retained, but the staircase retains the original metal railing, and the original metal ceiling fixtures are in place. On the second floor there were originally three sets of French doors opening off the hallway. The south set, opening into the firemen's meeting room, has been replaced.



2nd Floor Following Remodeling
(Garden & Associates, 1978)

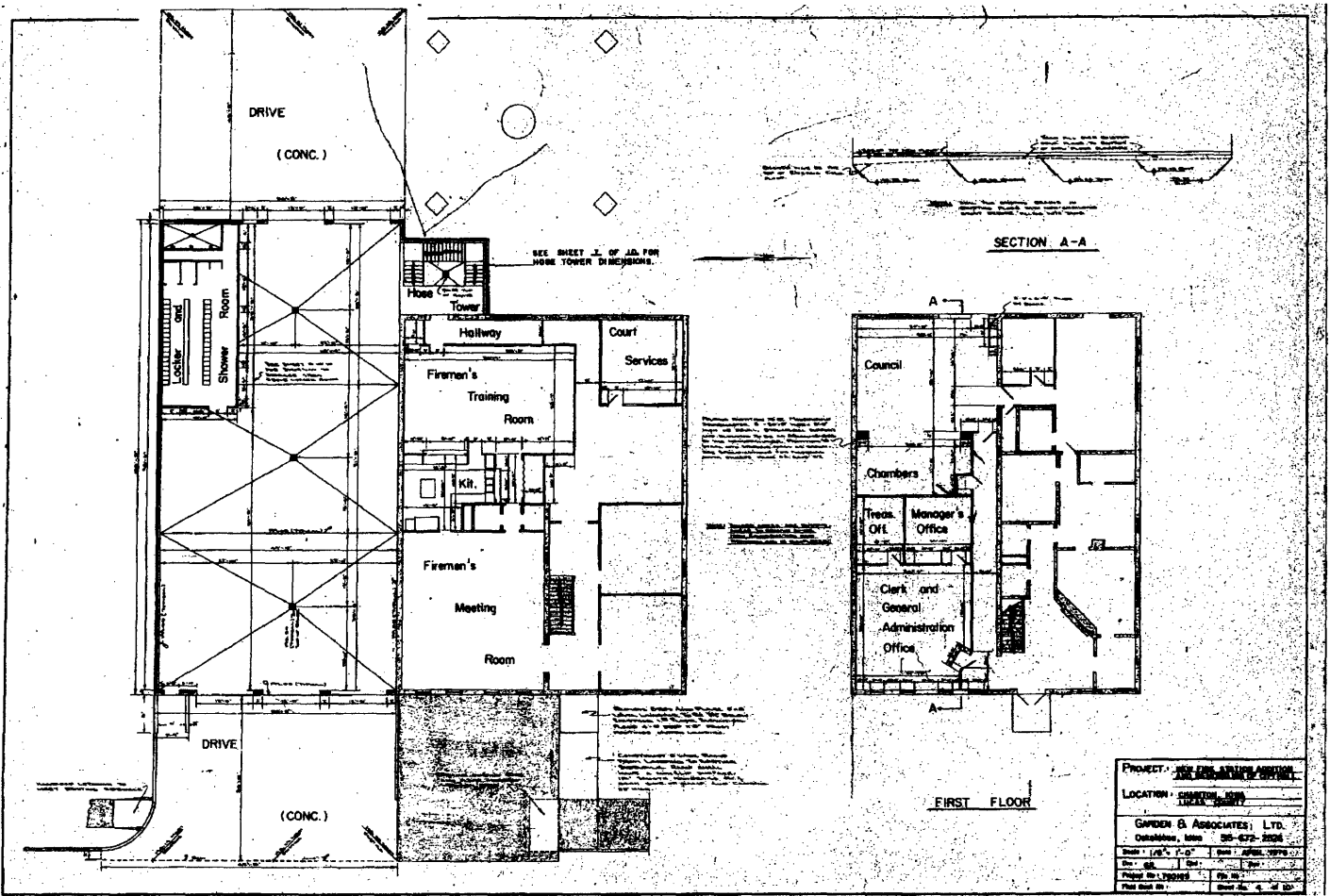
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Plans for remodeling and addition
(Garden & Associates, 1978)

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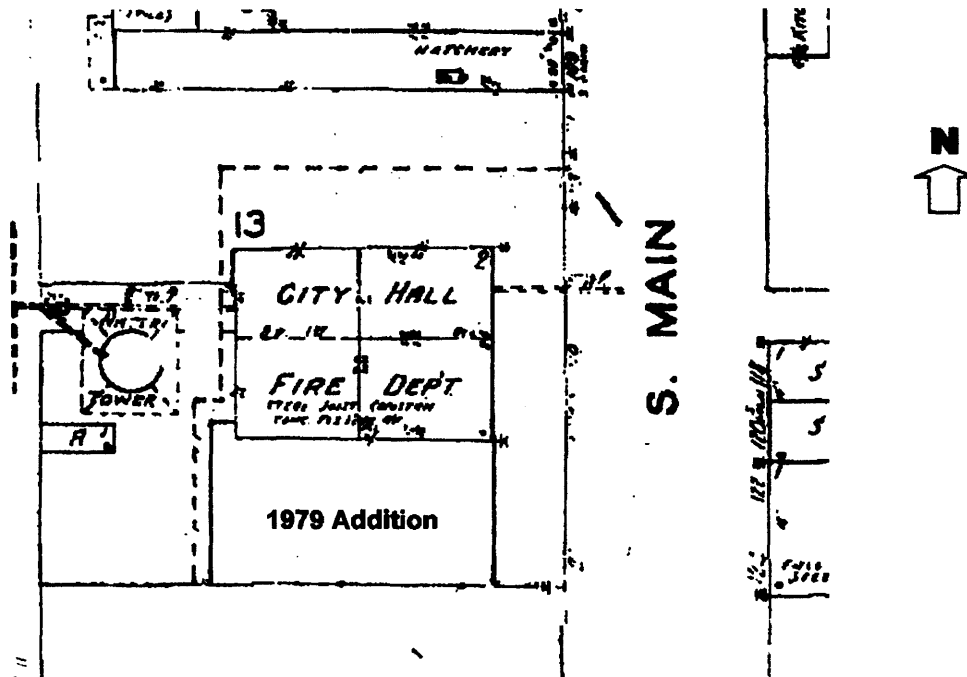
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Integrity:

The Chariton City Hall & Fire Station visually retains a high degree of integrity, both exterior and interior, despite the 1979 addition. The original front entrance doors were replaced prior to June 1962, and the windows throughout the building were replaced when the fire station addition was made in 1979. A major design change occurred when the addition was made and the original garage doors replaced by brick and four windows. The 1931 portion of the building exhibits the feeling of the original design, while retaining the materials, and quality workmanship appropriate for a government building, and it continues to function as the City Hall & Fire Station. On the interior, the 1931 part of the building experienced changes in both layout and function during the 1979 project, but the front entry hall, stairs, and clerk's office retain Perkins' original design and materials. A major loss on the exterior is the large bronze "lantern" that was originally above the front entrance. The current project has been unable to locate anyone who remembers the lantern being in place. The general belief is that it was removed and sold as "scrap" during a World War II metal drive. The water tower has not been addressed in this nomination and is not included within the boundaries as it is not the work of William L. Perkins.



Site Plan for City Hall and Fire Station
Dotted line indicates boundary
(1927+ Sanborn map used as base)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Chariton City Hall and Fire Station (1931) is locally significant under Criterion C as a design by Chariton architect William L. Perkins and as a good example of a public building with Neo-Classical elements. It is locally significant under Criterion A as it illustrates the growth of the county seat over the years, and the importance attached to public facilities. It meets the Registration Requirements established in the Multiple Property Document "The Architectural Career of William L. Perkins in Iowa: 1917-1957" as a design by Perkins, located on its original site, with the original materials and craftsmanship readily visible, and the site itself retaining the open space surrounding it.



Chariton City Hall and Fire Station, 1937
(Historic postcard courtesy of Chariton Free Public Library)

Criterion C:

At the time that Perkins was selected to design the new City Hall, he had served as the city engineer for over a decade and had become well known locally for both residential and commercial/public designs.

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Just as he had with the Chariton Herald-Patriot and Hotel Charitone designs, Perkins turned to the Neo-Classical style for the elegant detailing on the municipal building. However, the façade did not follow the symmetry of the Neo-Classical. Perkins used the asymmetry more common to the newly popular Art Deco for this building. The limestone surround at the entrance recesses back in the Art Deco manner, but it has Classical pilasters flanking the entry. The stone panels with low relief emblems and festoons are pure Neo-Classical, while the brick patterned panels with stone corner blocks are representative of simplified early 20th century commercial design. All in all, Perkins' blending of these diverse styles results in a harmonious design.

Local contractors E.H. Best and Sons of Chariton were awarded the contract for this building. Perkins worked with these contractors on most, if not all, of his Chariton projects.

The Best bid was approximately \$30,000. Eleven other bidders, including contracts for plumbing, heating and terrazzo floors filed bids for the work.

The plumbing and heating contract went to C.B. Ensley Company of Chariton, while J.T. Ure Company of Cedar Rapids received the contract for the terrazzo floors. (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 18 June 1931)

Fred Anderson, well known Chariton carpenter and contractor, has been employed by the city council of Chariton to act as inspector during the construction of the new building....he will receive \$6 a day. (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 23 July 1931)

Perkins designed a building that would be an appropriate symbol of the county seat town. Though it was in the midst of the Great Depression, the materials used (variegated brick exterior, terrazzo flooring, glazed tile for interior walls, brass for the city clerk's grill and staircase railing) created a rich environment, making a statement that Chariton was a community of substance.

Criterion A:

As the Lucas County seat, Chariton grew substantially between 1900 and 1930, increasing from 3,989 to 5,365 inhabitants. During the early decades of the 20th century the town gained the impressive buildings, both public and private, ordinarily only found in county seats: the public library (NRHP) in 1904, the U.S. Post Office in 1918, the Hotel Charitone in 1923, and the American Legion Hall and Yocom Hospital in 1924. The completion of the City Hall and Fire Station in 1932 was the culmination of the town's development.

The worst fire in the city's history occurred in March 1930. The center of the south side of the Public Square went up in flames despite assistance from fire crews from Albia, Russell, Indianola, and Ottumwa. The fire was so great the *Des Moines Register & Tribune* sent reporters and photographers to Chariton aboard its airplane "Good News." The major loss was the Lincoln, aka Temple, Theater. This fire illustrated the inadequacies of the local fire department

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and talk began of how to achieve the needed improvements. The fire equipment was housed in an 1881 building that was not large enough to house the city offices. "It was decrepit and in a far advanced stage of disrepair and had outlived its usefulness." (*Chariton Leader*, 23 February 1932) City offices were housed in a building on Braden, immediately east of the Hotel Charitone.

On 6 January 1931 the Fire Department presented a petition to the City Council to call a special election to approve \$40,000 in bonds for a new city hall/fire station. It was discovered that the amount was too large for a city of Chariton's size. A building committee was appointed to work with city engineer/architect Perkins in the preparation of preliminary plans and estimates on the cost of a new building to house both services. (City Council minutes) On 19 February the council passed a resolution to construct a new city hall "at a cost not to exceed \$35,000." During the month of March a number of public meetings were held throughout the community explaining the need for the new facilities. There was a "Smoker for Business Folk" to reach the downtown businessmen, "City Tax Payers Cite Reasons for A New City Hall," and, a personal favorite, "Chariton Orators Seek Votes of the Femmes for New City Hall." The latter article began,

The ladies of the Chariton P.E.O. Society sat enthralled Tuesday evening while two of the city's most gifted and convincing orators and logicians in suave and convincing manner presented the merits of the proposed new city hall. The gentlemen referred to are Vincent Pyle and Lester Clark. They are responsible for the statement that no attentive or intelligent audience ever gave a more courteous reception to a couple of poor "firemen," and that they are convinced that when election day rolls around, the precincts where the P.E.O. Sisterhood vote will roll up an unprecedented vote for the proposed new Chariton improvement. (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 12 March 1931)

The speakers at the meetings pointed out that building at this particular time would be economical due to the decreased cost of materials and the low interest rate that would be entailed by the issuance of bonds. "Partial relief for the unemployment situation would be provided too, by acceptance of the project it was pointed out, and a considerable number of local men would be given employment in the construction of the building." (*Chariton Herald-Patriot*, 12 February 1931) All of this work paid off when the bond proposal easily carried in the March election.

By late May 1931 Perkins had completed the plans for the new building, and bids were let. The 18 June 1931 front page of the *Chariton Herald-Patriot* headlined "City Starts \$100,000 Building Program."

New City Hall Heads List of New Buildings
Numerous New Homes Boost Total of Extensive Improvement Program in the City
\$12,000 Oil Station

A construction program in Chariton this summer in the amount of approximately \$100,000 will be completed in a number of new houses, new business buildings, new city improvements and a new city hall.

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E.H. Best and Sons are at present remodeling the Beardsley Funeral Home on South Grand street, an improvement that will approximate a \$7,000 expenditure and will create one of the finest funeral homes in the state upon its completion. Best and Sons were the successful bidders on a new city hall this week also, a proposition that will cost approximately \$30,000.

On 30 July 1931 the cornerstone for the new city hall was laid in an elaborate ceremony conducted by the Masonic Grand Lodge Officers. It was said that several hundred master Masons were in Chariton for the ceremony. The parade to the construction site included not only the Masons, but local Boy Scouts, the Chariton Band and six former mayors of the city.

Construction had started in early June 1931, and on 21 December the city officially took possession of the new facility. The building was not actually dedicated until March 1932. At that time Albia attorney Charles E. Miller spoke saying,

You have given a concrete expression of faith in the future of your community by the construction of this beautiful new city hall, and a similar expression of faith and confidence in all undertakings will assure a future for Chariton commensurate with the splendid record of achievement that is yours....

I could come here and tell you that you have the finest city hall in the finest little city in Iowa, but this is unnecessary, for you admit it, and I am perfectly willing to grant that it is true. But unless this new building becomes something more than merely the seat of your city government it will all have been in vain.

This building must be to every resident of this city and community just what your splendid school buildings are to the boys and girls. Around it must center the spirit of helpfulness and service which made it possible. Then indeed, will it have become a worthy monument to a people who have sensed their individual responsibilities and met them unflinchingly.
(Chariton Leader, 1 March 1932)

The new City Hall and Fire Station served as more than just the center of municipal governing and the home of the fire equipment. The large auditorium on the second floor could accommodate 300-400 people and was used by community groups for a variety of purposes, including general meetings, lectures and music recitals. In the late 1970s when it became apparent that the fire department was in great need of additional space, the decision was made to add onto the 1931 building rather than constructing a new facility somewhere else in the community.

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Conclusion:

The Chariton City Hall and Fire Station (1931) is basically unaltered except for the 1979 fire department addition, and this addition was made very sympathetically. The building is locally significant under both Criteria A and C as an illustration of the development of Chariton as a community and as a fine design by Chariton architect William L. Perkins. The sense of pride exhibited by the citizens of Chariton when their municipal building was dedicated in 1932 continues today. This pride can be seen in the way that the building is maintained, and in the desire to have the building included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Chariton City Hall and Fire Station meets the Registration Requirement established in the Multiple Property Document "The Architectural Career of William L. Perkins in Iowa: 1917-1957."

The preparation of this National Register of Historic Places nomination has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

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National Park Service**

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Abstract of Title.

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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**Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Lucas County, Iowa**

Section number **10** Page **19**

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Original Town, the E part of Lot 5 and S ½ Lot 4, Block 13, beginning at the NE corner of the S ½ of Lot 4, thence W to a point that is 10' W of the W wall of the 1931 building, thence S to a point 10' N of the 1979 addition, thence W to a point 10' W of the W wall of the addition, thence S to the S boundary of Lot 5, thence E to the SE corner of Lot 5, Block 13.

Boundary Justification:

This is the geographic area historically associated with this resource

**United States Department of the Interior
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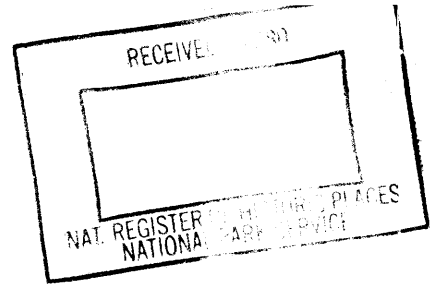
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Lucas County, Iowa**

Section number **Photos** Page 20

The photographs submitted with this nomination were taken by Jeri Reeve for the Chariton Historic Preservation Commission in November 2005. The negatives are on file in the Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 E. Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

1. Façade looking W
2. Detail: Cornerstone from NE corner of façade
3. Façade to SW
4. Rear (west elevation with water tower in foreground, 1979 addition at right (south))
5. Façade to NW
6. Detail of entrance to W
7. Detail of date panel to W
8. Detail of stone panel with fire hose medallion to W
9. Detail of stone panel with scales of justice medallion to W
10. Detail of stone panel with musical medallion to W
11. Interior: 2nd floor looking W toward French doors, stairs on left
12. Interior: 2nd floor looking downstairs to the E



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Chariton City Hall & Fire Station
Lucas County, Iowa**

Section number **Photos** Page 16

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