

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

JUN 23 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Troy Academy

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Sec. 26

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Union Township Troy

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Fourth

STATE

Iowa

CODE  
14

COUNTY  
Davis

CODE  
051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Davis County Community Schools

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Davis County Courthouse, Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield, Iowa

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1948</u>

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Troy Academy is a two story rectangular structure 3 bays long and 2 bays wide. Resting on four acres of school property on a stone foundation (now faced with cement,) the clapboard frame building measures 26 X 42 feet. Two inside end chimneys of brick pierce the gable, asphalt (formerly wood) shingle roof. The gable ends of the roof show evidence of decorative wood imbrication. Windows are evenly spaced and a new doorway has been added. Once painted, the academy now stands deteriorating and altered. Its befry and two story entrance pavilion have been removed. Windows, which were original wood shingles have been covered up and the entrance has been moved. Major alterations took place on the exterior in 1904 when the building was adapted for use by the Independent School District and again in 1948 when it was moved to make way for a gymnasium. In particular, the removal of the entrance pavilion altered the exterior plan and the interior use of a vestibule and 2 small recitation room spaces. Plaster walls and wood wainscoting remain.

An historical group has initiated plans to restore the academy.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1853                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unlike the educational systems of today, that of the settlement and territorial eras relied on little support by the state. A considerable number of private schools were begun and flourished for a time, but few lasted for more than a generation. The earliest known academy in Iowa was organized in 1844 and Troy Academy must be counted among the oldest, for it was organized within a decade thereafter.

While the promoters of this "seminary of learning" were nearly all Presbyterians, Troy Academy was not sectarian. Clarence Ray Aurner, who published his history of education in Iowa in 1915, describes the school's early history:

In 1853 Mr. Jonathan Piper came from New Hampshire to Troy in Davis County, Iowa, and established a normal school. He was then a young man with some experience as a teacher in Hampton Academy, New Hampshire, and he was destined to become well known in the educational history of Iowa. After serving for two years as principal of the Troy Normal School, he managed an academy in Missouri for five years, returning in 1861 to Eddyville, Iowa, where he opened a private school. But the Normal School at Troy continued its course...

According to Aurner, Troy was probably the first private school to assume the name "Normal". This perhaps reflected an effort by independent organizations such as these to accommodate themselves to plans set forth by the State to train teachers in normal schools. The fortunes of the school evidently varied considerably. In 1873, seventy-three women and ninety-four men in attendance at Troy were being taught by a staff of four instructors. In 1879, however, there were apparently but forty students and one member in the faculty. The enrollment again rose to fifty by 1882 under three instructors, but this was reduced to one instructor the following year. Troy Academy ceased to operate after 1888.

In 1904 the title of the Academy was turned over to the Independent School District of Troy for public school purposes. About 1916, when a new brick building was constructed, Troy Academy then served as a manual arts and storage facility.

As to its local historic importance, one history was noted that in the early years the struggling Academy was "the then Athens of Davis County. It drew students from all this County and its graduates carried its influence in an ever widening circle. No doubt its influence later caused the organization of the Southern Iowa Normal School at Bloomfield."

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John H. Landis, "History of Troy Academy," in Pioneer History of Davis County, Iowa, compiles and published by Federated Women's Clubs of Davis County, 1927, pp. 190-199.

Bloomfield Democrat, May 22, 1975.

Clarence Ray Aurner, History of Education In Iowa, Volume III. Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1915, pp.105-112

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

13 2074 2110 2110

A	1, 5	5, 6, 7, 4, 6, 5	4, 5, 1, 0, 7, 1, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

on southeast corner of Davis County Community School property

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Harry E. Rector

ORGANIZATION

DATE

October 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

507 West 13th Street

TELEPHONE

(319) 472-3193

CITY OR TOWN

Vinton

STATE

Iowa

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adeline N. Anderson*

TITLE

*Dir. of Div of Historic Preservation*

DATE

*4/22/76*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Attesting*

*[Signature]*

DATE

*6/23/76*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles Anderson*

DATE

*6.23.76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER