

PH 036100X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	APR 27 1976
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# 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

Benton County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Fourth Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vinton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

~~First~~ 04

STATE

Iowa

CODE

19

COUNTY

Benton

CODE

011

## 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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Benton County

STREET & NUMBER

East Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Vinton

VICINITY OF

Iowa

STATE

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Benton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Vinton

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Benton County Courthouse is a large three story hip-roofed Buckeye sandstone building with a prominent elevated tower (lantern). A 1905 streamlined version of the Beaux-Arts Renaissance tradition, the courthouse is basically rectangular in plan (112 x 77 feet) with one central and two side pavilions on both the front and rear. The central pavilion is pedimented and distinguished by two major arches, one at the entrance on the ground level and the other at the second story level. Stone banding separates each story from the other as does the treatment of each level's window openings. The first floor shows simple round arched openings with no ornament. Also with no ornament are the second level openings which are double hung sash rectangles with smaller openings just above. The third level shows the same treatment as that of the second, with the addition of hemispherical openings above the smaller rectangles. The first or basement level has a high foundation of rusticated Kettle River sandstone while the rest of the building is made of dressed blocks of Buckeye sandstone (gray). The only parts of the building that could be considered ornamental are the arch and pilaster treatments of the openings on the central pavilions and the open Palladian motifs of the lantern plus the segmental arch pediments, also on the lantern. The 1500 lb. clock in the tower rings with a resounding B-flat on the hour.

Resting on a typical, if small, Iowa square of green space, the Benton County Courthouse has been unchanged on its exterior and changed very little on its interior since its construction.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE <i>EDS</i>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT <i>EDS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1905-6

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Geo. Rickman and Sons/ C.A.Bell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

~~and~~  
M.S. Detweiler

The significance of the Benton County Courthouse is derived from its architectural style, its importance to the political-governmental growth of the community and county in which it stands, and from its role as the visual center of the town of Vinton. A representative of the Beaux Arts Renaissance classicism, the Benton County Courthouse was constructed in 1905-6. The first Benton County Courthouse, a small two-story frame building, was begun in 1851 and destroyed by fire prior to its completion. This present courthouse replaces the small two-story brick building that was built in 1856-57, also at this location. Although not unique in style, it is a well-maintained example of the repose, delicacy and scholarship of the turn of the century government building tradition. Its location at the center of the central business district in the county seat of Vinton typifies the urban planning concepts established in the century before. Rising 112 feet above the ground, it serves the community well as one of its most prominent landmarks.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- \_\_\_\_\_. History of Benton County. Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1910.
- \_\_\_\_\_. History of Benton County. Western Historical Publishing Co., Chicago, 1878.
- Ransom, Harley. Pioneer Recollections. Vinton: Historical Publishing Co, 1941.
- Goeldner, Paul Kenneth. Temples of Justics. Unpublished thesis, Columbia University, 1970.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 8 10 6 16 10	4 16 6 8 6 18 10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Olive Strawn

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

TELEPHONE

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

*Adrian A. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

4-22-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Raymond J. [Signature]*

DATE

10/8/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

10/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER,