

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Security Building

AND/OR COMMON

Iowa Power and Light Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Second Avenue and Second Street SE

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Linn

CODE

13

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

Iowa Land and Building Company (subsidiary Iowa Electric), c/o Steven Smith

STREET & NUMBER

200 1st Street SE

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

STATE

Iowa

52403

___ VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mr. Steven Smith, Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

STREET & NUMBER

200 1st Street SE

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

STATE

Iowa

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Security Building was built in 1908 in the downtown commercial section of Cedar Rapids. The skeleton is concrete and steel, at the time representing a significant departure in construction methods heretofore used in Cedar Rapids building techniques. Frontage is 66' on the northeast and 60' on the northwest. The first of the eight stories was originally 14' high (increased to 19' in 1932), the other floors are 10' each. Facades are asymmetrical (7 bays on the northwest side, 8 bays on the northeast), with rectangular windows of slightly varying sizes whose placement reveals the interior structural system. The first floor contains entrances and wide, plate-glass shop windows. Asbestos and gravel covers the flat roof. There is one chimney at the southeast corner.

The ground floor exterior is faced with Bedford limestone; the floors above are of iron-clay pressed brick. An eight-course stringcourse of terracotta is located below the eighth floor; this material is found again in a narrow band beneath the cornice. The cornice is copper, and features modillion blocks beneath its wide overhang. The cornice also has a blockcourse with paneled pedestals, with ball finials at the corners.

The exterior has been altered only in the lowering of the ground level five feet to the sidewalk, with concomitant redesigning and enlarging of the shop window area (1932). The interior is basic office space, from which non-structural walls were removed in 1954 to create large working areas. The only features dating from the original construction are wooden wall casings on the second and third floors.

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	<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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Josselyn and Taylor, Cedar Rapids

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Security Building is a locally significant example of turn-of-the century highrise construction. The architects, Henry S. Josselyn and Eugene H. Taylor, were partners in a major Iowa firm who designed a number of prominent structures in the state, including Morrill Hall and Old Botany buildings at Iowa State University at Ames and the Cedar Rapids Savings Bank and Cedar Rapids Public Library, and also the Iowa State Pavilion at the Columbia Work Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The Security Building utilizes Louis Sullivan's format for highrise construction: base, middle and top sections, corresponding to the tripartite form of the classical column. The arrangement of the bays reveals the structural system within and is an interesting design feature.

The Cedar Rapids Sunday Republican for 12 April 1908 described this structure as the "first absolutely fireproof, steel framework, reenforced concrete structure" in Cedar Rapids, and "one of /the city's/ notable achievements this year". Interestingly, the Cedar Rapids Savings Bank, built also by Josselyn and Taylor in 1896, was at the time considered the first fireproof building. Locally, however, it seems that the the then unusual construction methods were most noteworthy, observed by the public "with intense interest" and "amazement".

The Linn County Historical Museum Association is presently negotiating the purchase of the Security Building from the Iowa Power and Light Co. If acquired, the building will house the county historical museum on two floors, the remaining space to be rented to nonprofit and commercial organizations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cedar Rapids Sunday Republican. 12 April, 1908.
 Cedar Rapids Commercial Club. The Spirit of Cedar Rapids. 1915.
 Cedar Rapids Tribune, 1 April 1908.
 History of Linn County, Iowa, Vol. I (1911), p. 445.
 McCoy's Cedar Rapids Street Directory, 1913, p. 580.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	61,03,9,5	4,64,719,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

corner lot, with frontage 66' x 60', bounded on northwest by 3rd Ave. and on northeast by Second Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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

Robert Edgar Lee, President

ORGANIZATION

Linn County Historical Museum Association

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

915 Oakcrest, #3

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

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

Arlin D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...

DATE

12/5/75

ATTEST:

Charles ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-5-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER