

IOWA SITE INVENTORY
 Division of Historic Preservation
 Iowa State Historical Department
 26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

MAY 29 1981
 Site Number 8-008-002
 District Name _____
 Map Reference # 8-008-002
 Topo Map Boone West 1:24,000

JUL - 2 1981

IDENTIFICATION

1. Site Name Boone County Courthouse
2. Village/Town/City Boone Township _____ County Boone
3. Street Address N.W. corner N. State and W. 2nd Street
4. Legal Location OT Courthouse Square
Urban: subdivision block parcel
 Rural: township range section subparcel
 1/4 section-1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 425040 northing 4656500; Acreage less than 1 ac
6. Owner(s) Name Boone County Board of Supervisors
7. Owner(s) Address _____ Boone Iowa 50036
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: present Courthouse original Courthouse

DESCRIPTION

9. Date of Construction 1916-17 Architect/Builder Norman T. Vorse, Architect
10. Building Type: single family dwelling multiple family dwelling commercial
 industrial educational other institutional public religious agricultural
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board & batten shingles stucco
 other _____
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints
 wood frame with light members (balloon frame) masonry load-bearing walls
 iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved-if so, when? _____
 Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:
Well intact. Excellently-preserved interior spaces, including coffered ceilings, stained glass skylights, original light fixtures.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures
 carriage house garage privy other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes-if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings
 densely built-up commercial industrial residential other _____
18. Map _____
19. Photo
 Roll _____ Frame _____ View _____

SIGNIFICANCE (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

20. Architectural Significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure c. Not eligible/intrusion

Excellent courthouse in the Renaissance Revival idiom. Fine detailing inside and out.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Politics/Government

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
- b. Contributing structure c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is locally significant as the historical focus of county government, and of the political power and prestige derived from the community's status as the county seat. As center of county government, an Iowa town was reasonably assured of economic and population growth, and a prominent role in local social and political life. The county courthouse represents a significant public investment in a structure built not simply for utilitarian purposes, but also as a monument associated with the historical importance of county organization and development.

See Continuation Sheet

22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.

Pratt, LeRoy G. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Co., 1977.

Stanek, Edward and Jacqueline. Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.

Prepared by Division of Historic Preservation Date January 1980
Address 26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240 Telephone 353-6949
Organization _____

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY	
1. OFFICE INFORMATION SOURCES ON THIS PROPERTY	
<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCE FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/> WINDSHIELD SURVEY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL REGISTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTS-IN-AID: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
2. SUBJECT TRACES	3. PHOTO IMAGES _____
a. _____	_____
b. _____	_____
c. _____	_____
d. _____	_____
e. _____	_____

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item Number(s) _____

BOONE COUNTY

In the middle of a session of court, a terrific clap of thunder and flash of lightning, along with the roar of the wind and patter of the rain, prevented Judge Cave J. McFarland from hearing testimony in the courtroom. The judge, who became prominent in the histories of several counties, cried out at the top of his voice, "Court's adjourned: the Almighty rules above and Judge McFarland below, but as the former has invaded my jurisdiction, I give way." These immemorable words were spoken in a double log house, the first structure erected in Boonesboro, not long after it became the first Boone County seat in 1851.

The first formal Boone County courthouse was begun in the summer of 1856. Its construction was ordered under the rule of County Judge Montgomery. The creditable building, which served its purpose, was two stories high and cost over \$2,100.

In 1865, the county had grown sufficiently that a number of citizens in Boonesboro thought it would be appropriate to build a new \$50,000 courthouse. The measure was defeated at the polls by the town of Montana, now known as Boone, which was growing rapidly only a short distance away and had aspirations of becoming the county seat. The measure was revived again later the same year, with many citizens divided on the issue because of the tax which was proposed to finance it. On election day, physical violence erupted on the streets of Boonesboro but the "day closed without any homicides" according to an 1880 history. The measure won by a clear majority and the courthouse was completed in 1868. It was a three-story brick building 56 by 66 feet, which cost \$38,000. The courthouse had several huge stone columns and, for a while, an imposing dome which rose 68 feet above the ground.

As time passed, the walls of the courthouse described above became highly frescoed by amateur artists and the space within those walls became insufficient. The present Boone County courthouse was erected in 1917, after Boone's city limits were expanded in 1892 to incorporate the former town of Boonesboro. This present courthouse was built for approximately \$250,000.

--from Stanek, Edward, and Jacqueline Stanek,
Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des
Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.