

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUL 6 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Jay Funeral Home

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 220 North Court N/A not for publication

city or town Ottumwa N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Wapello code 179 zip code 52501

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.)

Patricia Cherkins SHPO 6-27-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Iowa
State of 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

Entered in the National Register 8-11-95
Date of Action

Jay Funeral Home
Name of Property

Wapello County, IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

0

Architectural & Historical Resources of Ottumwa, Iowa

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Mortuary

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Mortuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival:
Mediterranean Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Tile
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Jay Funeral Home
Name of Property

Wapello County, Iowa
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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Eaton, Archie of Ottumwa, Archt.

Ottumwa Mill & Construction, Cont.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Jay Funeral Home
Name of Property

Wapello County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5
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5	4	9	6	4	0
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4	5	4	0	9	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

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--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 (515) 682-2743

organization Ottumwa Historic Preservation Comm. date February 1995

street & number 105 East Third telephone (515) 683-0606

city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 Jay Funeral Home, Inc.

street & number 220 North Court telephone (515) 682-8031

city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501

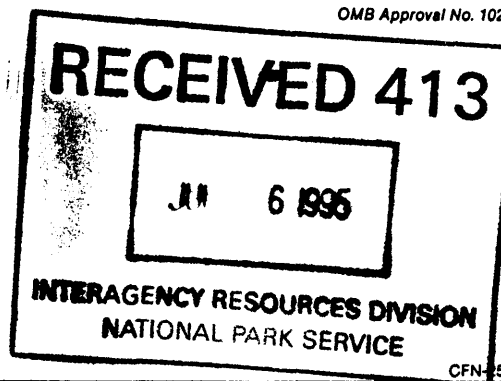
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION:

The two story brick building that houses the Jay Funeral Home is a noteworthy example of Mediterranean Revival design from 1929. This was the first building constructed specifically for use as a funeral home in the community. It is located at the corner of 5th and Court streets, just north of the public buildings around Central Park and the Ottumwa central business district. The building is rectangular in shape, measuring 37' x 75' with 12 1/2' entrances projecting out on both the primary (Court Street) and secondary elevations. A porte cochere and circular drive are located on the south end.

Resting on a concrete foundation, the building is constructed of "dew drop" high test brick in a variegated dark red color with chocolate colored mortar joints (Ottumwa Courier, 11 Dec 1929). First floor windows feature round arched tops with trim of bedford stone, while the basement and second floor windows are rectangular in shape. Metal windows produced by the Rolscreen Company of Pella, IA are used throughout. Since the building is situated on a sloping lot, it is two stories along Court Street, but appears to be only a single story from the 5th Street side. The hip roof with broad eaves is covered with red tile and features a Mission style dormer on the primary and side elevations over each entry. The facade appears asymmetrical due to the projecting front entrance which contains a small room located to the left of center, and the placement of a single chimney to the right of this main entrance. However, the front door is actually located directly beneath the central dormer. An enclosed "porch" to the south side contains the organ and choir room, while an open porch is located directly above at the second floor level. The porte cochere is placed on the diagonal to make it more accessible to the circular drive which opens onto both Court and the alley between the funeral home and St. Mary's Church.

On the interior, the basement level was originally used primarily as garage with some storage. The main (first) floor served as the funeral home proper, and the second floor contained three apartments (one for the Jays, plus two rental units) and a self-contained "operating room". The interior woodwork was of oak, with French doors used in several places. The main entrance leads into the reception hall, with a staircase leading to upstairs apartments. The chapel is located to the right of the reception hall, along the front of the building. It features an apse at the south end and a large tiled fireplace along the west wall. A long narrow hall running parallel to the chapel allows access to the porte cochere and several smaller rooms along the rear side of the building (according to the newspaper advertisements during the grand opening, these included the family room and the slumber room). To the left of the front entrance are the reception room and office. New features which were part of the original design of this building included the use of Crane unit heaters instead of radiators, a built-in public address system and full radio equipment, and the newest pipe organ obtainable for use in funeral homes, the Reproduco Pipe Organ. A combination passenger and freight elevator (housed in the tower seen in the rear) linked all levels from basement to attic. The sign above the main entrance was of neon tubes "the latest and most artistic form of electrical advertising and illumination". Although the sign has been replaced the placement of the sign remains the same today. Both the exterior and interior of this building retain a high level of integrity, with decorating changes being the major interior alteration.

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National Park Service

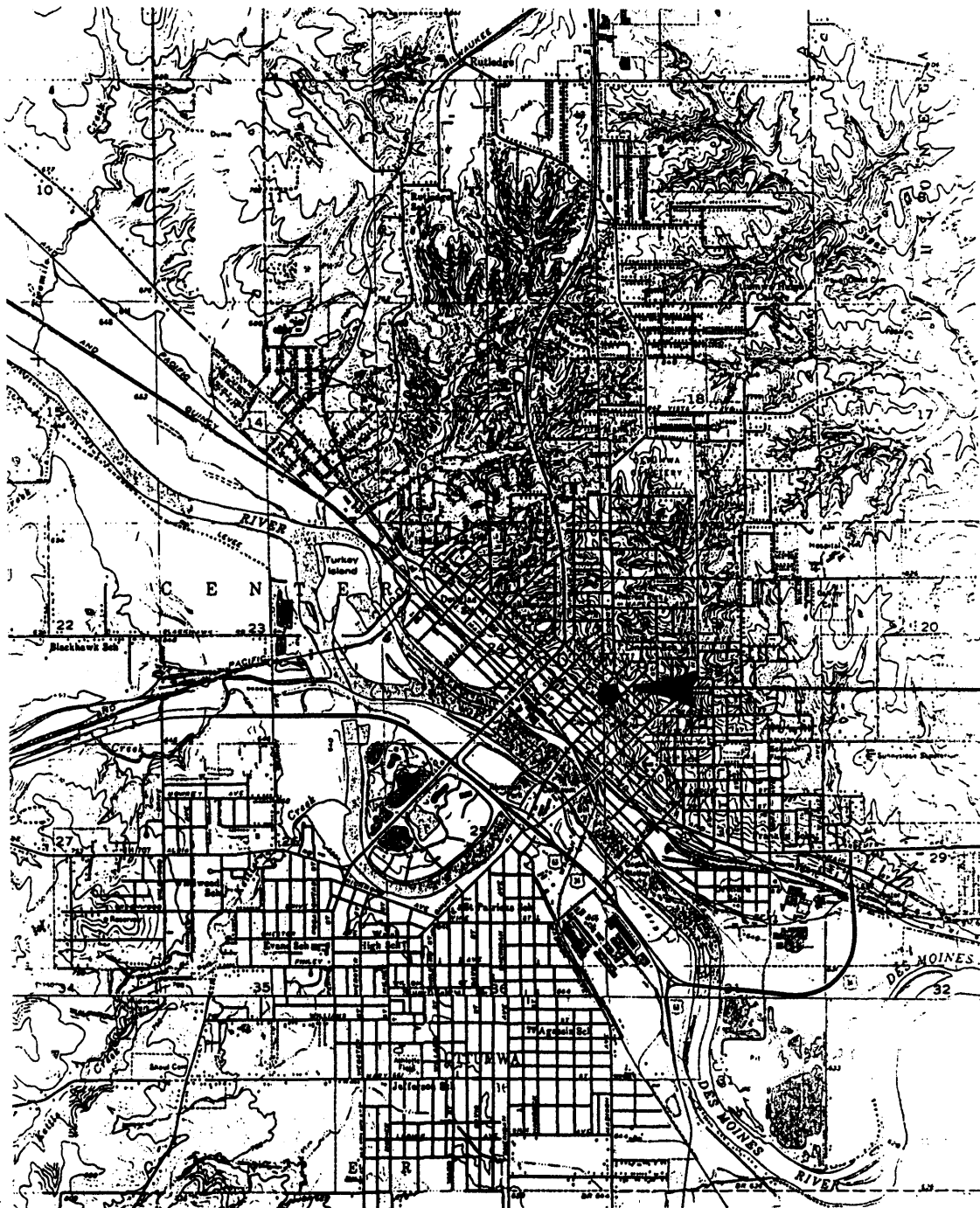
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (continued): U.S.G.S. map (reduced) indicates location in community.



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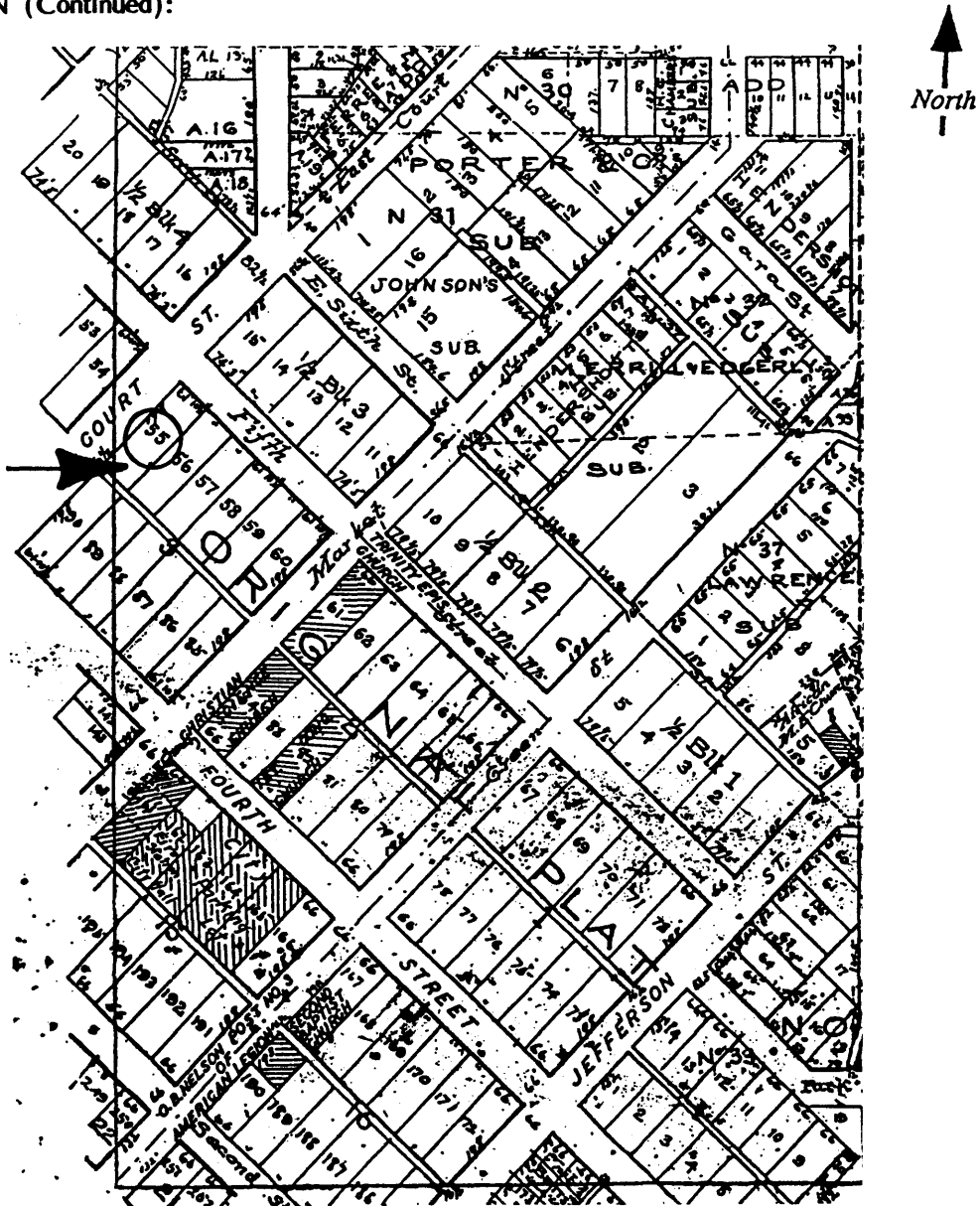
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



1939 Plat Map shows exact location.

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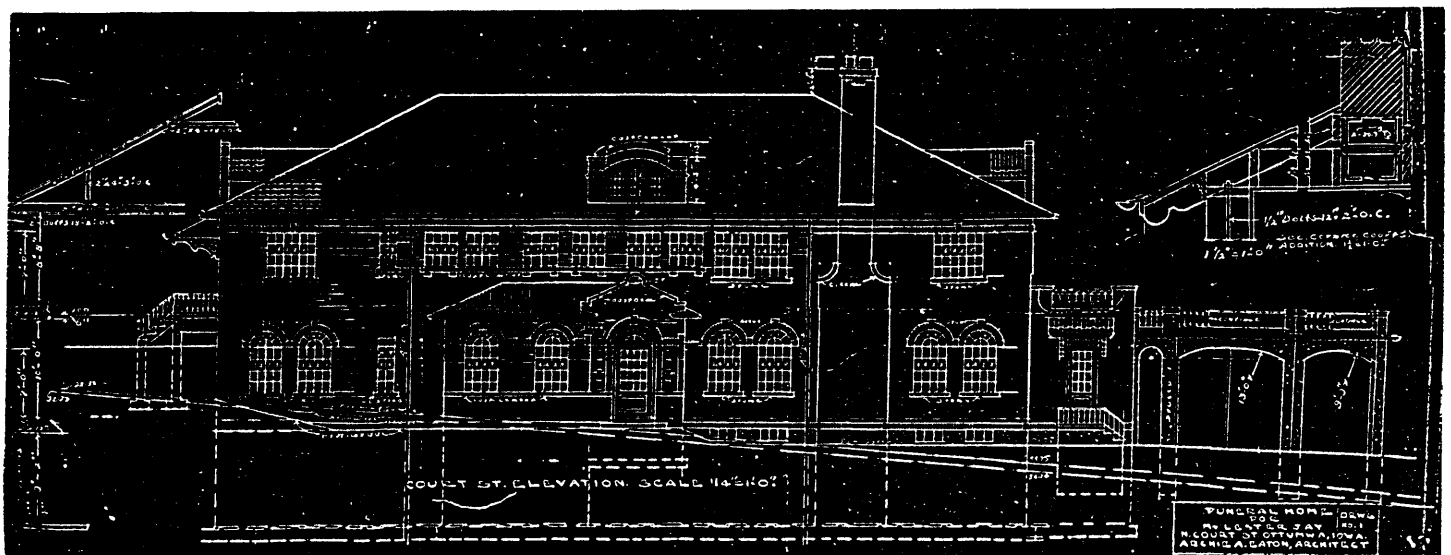
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Court Street elevation

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

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National Park Service

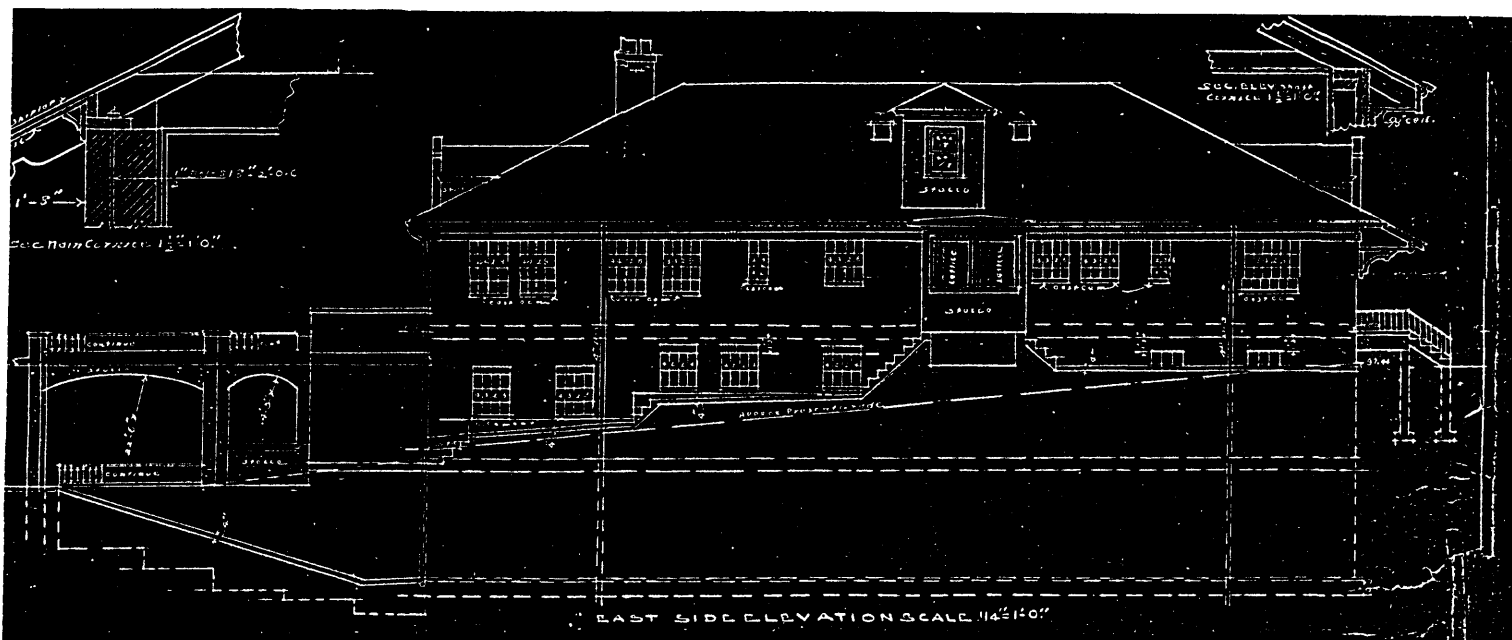
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Rear (east) elevation

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

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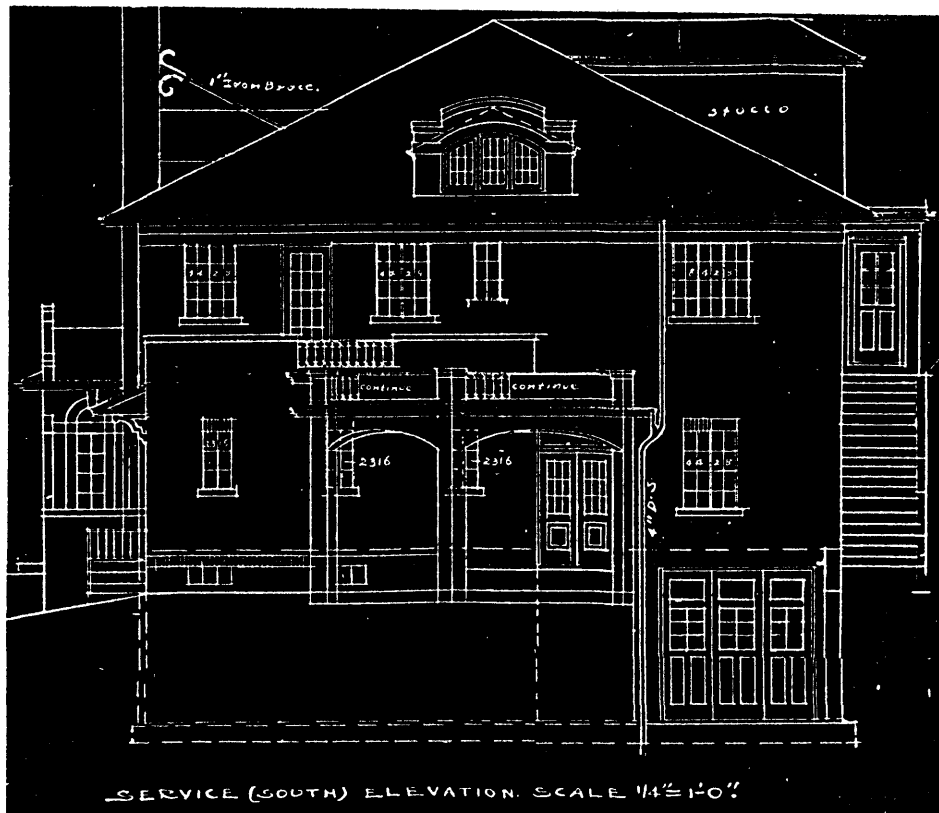
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Service (south) elevation

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

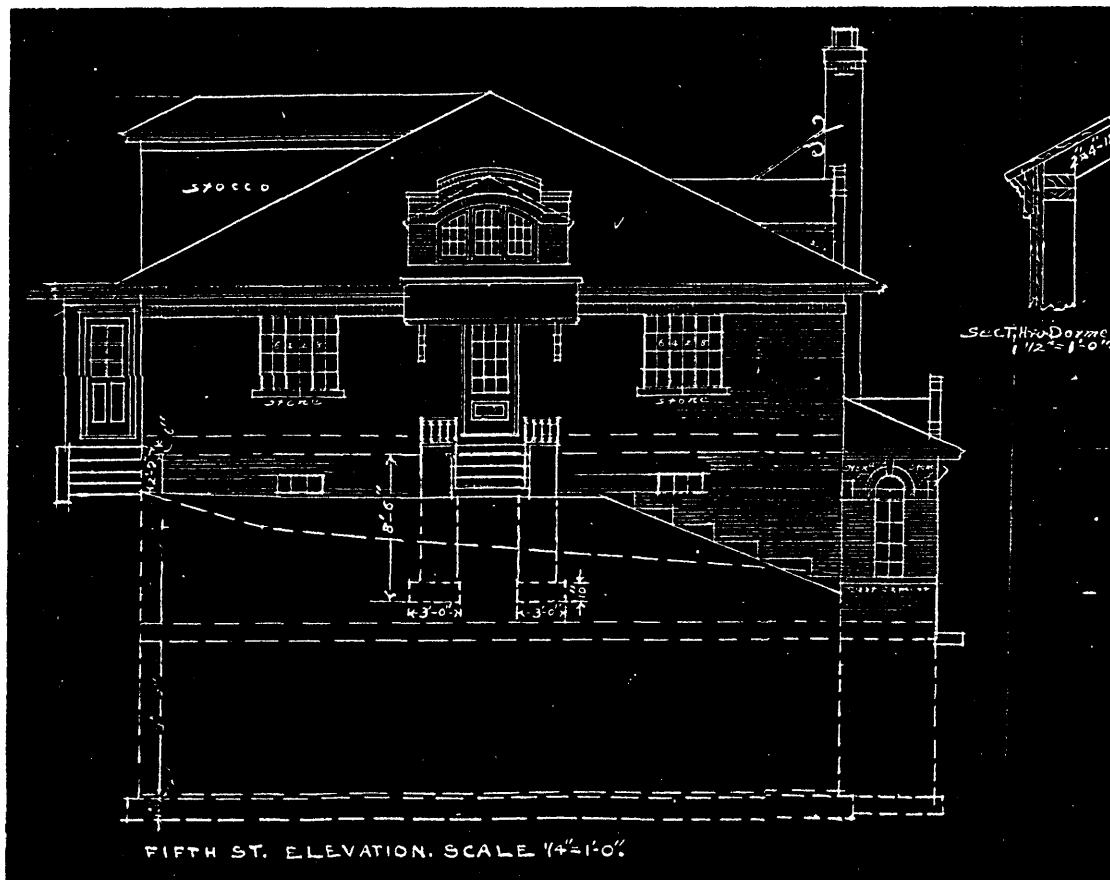
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



5th Street elevation

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

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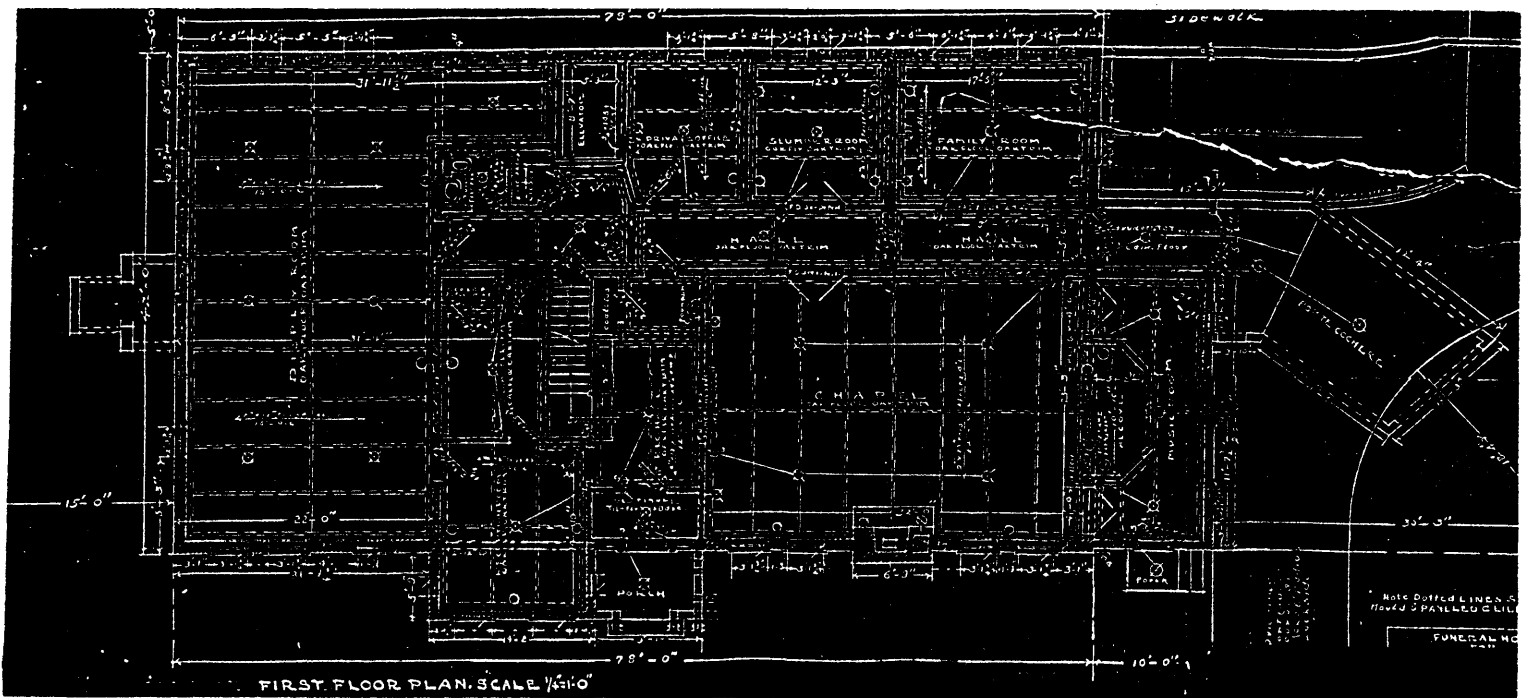
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



First Floor Plan

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

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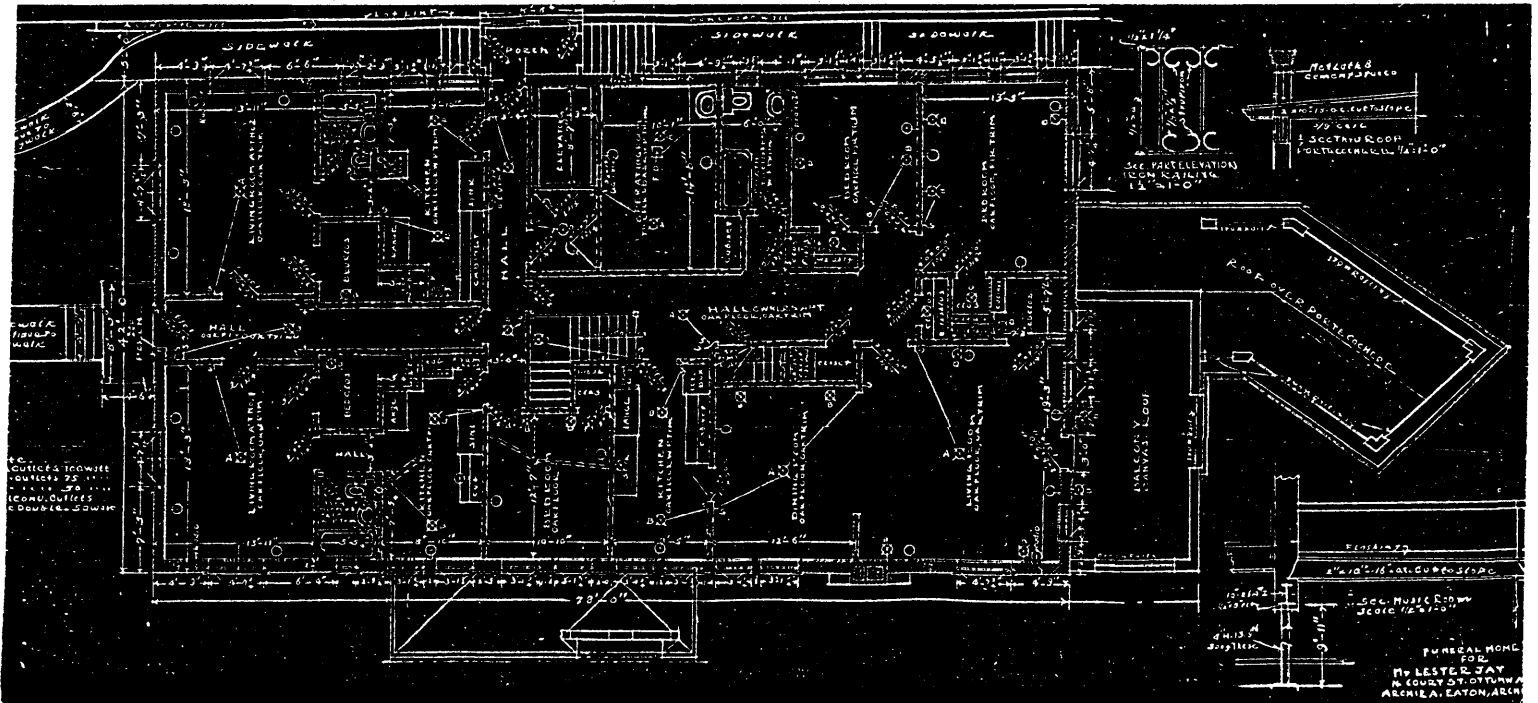
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Second Floor Plan

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

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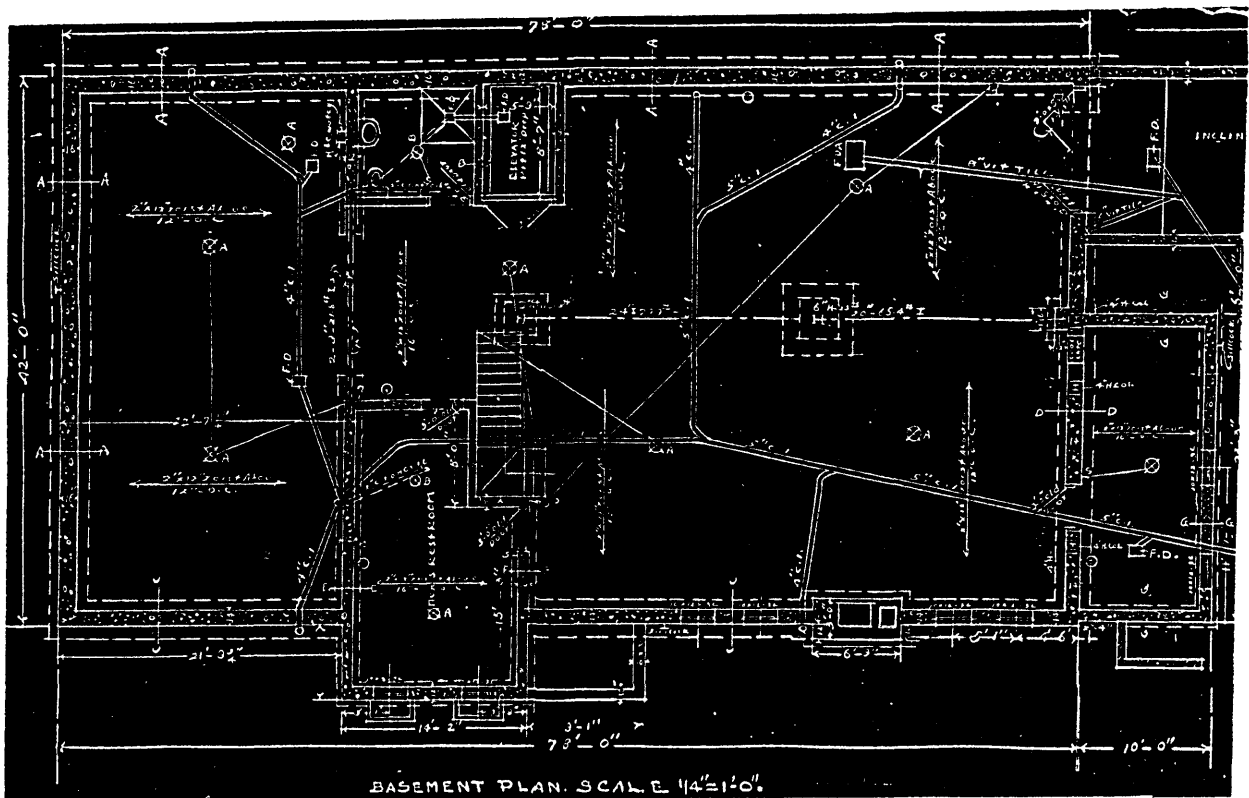
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Basement Plan

Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).

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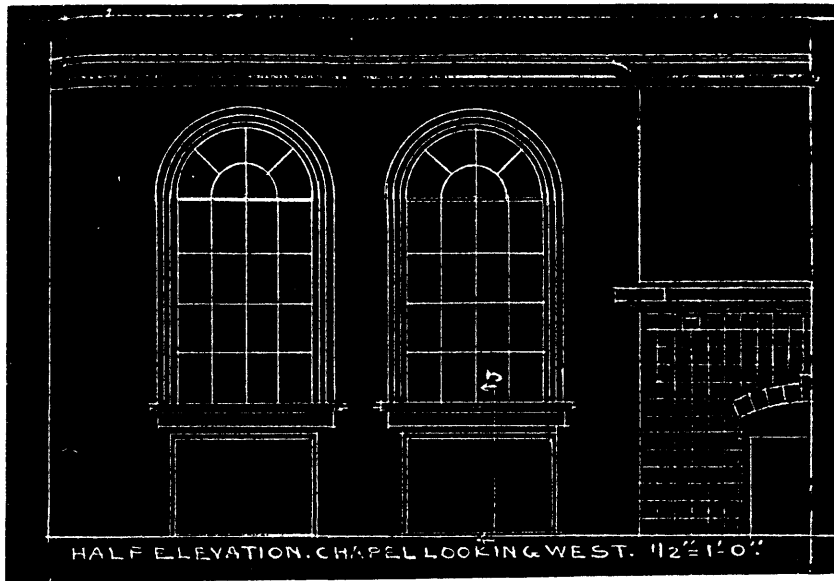
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

CFN-258-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

DESCRIPTION (Continued):



Interior details
Original drawings by Archie A. Eaton (reduced).



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Jay Funeral Home is locally significant under Criterion C as a noteworthy example of Mediterranean Revival architecture from 1929 and as an early example of funeral home design. This was the first building in Ottumwa designed specifically for use as a funeral home, and the only one for over thirty years. Other local funeral homes were housed in what were originally large residences or in commercial storefronts.

This building was designed by Ottumwa architect Archie Eaton. In the Ottumwa Courier edition celebrating the Grand Opening of the new funeral home the architect explained,

There are two types of funeral homes. One carries out the church idea in the chapel and the other carries out the home idea. Mr. Jay requested that the architect make a special effort to provide a home atmosphere of simple dignity and quiet repose. In designing the funeral home for Lester Jay, several essential requirements had to be met. The building site on Court Street presented some difficulties at the start but after considerable study it was found to be ideal for the purpose of the building. Mr. Jay required that there be no steps to climb in any part of the first floor so that patrons entering the house should be assured the maximum of comfort and safety. The Italian rural type home suggested the design for the exterior, and while no attempt was made to copy the style, the building and its setting on the site is typical of the many rural homes in the vineyard covered hills of Italy.

Eaton even noted that the sweeping curve of the drive with porte cochere and the red tile roof added much to the Italian atmosphere of the funeral home. The inclusion of the driveway as part of the overall design is of interest. It was noted that since there was increasing traffic on Court Street (a major north/south thoroughfare in the city) it was decided to provide a private driveway with an entrance to the chapel, so that an entire funeral cortege could be taken care of on the premises.

This funeral home exhibits the major characteristics of the Mediterranean Revival style with brick walls, stone trim, low pitched tile roof with broad eaves and dormers, metal windows, wrought iron detailing, and a porte cochere. It is one of less than half a dozen examples of this style in Ottumwa, the other two notable examples being the Water Works Power House and the Arthur and Mabel Beck residence (a key structure in the Vogel Place Historic District).

Archie Eaton was a popular and busy architect in the community during the 1920s and '30s. In addition to this funeral home, he is known to have designed the Max Roth house at 101 West Alta Vista and the Homer Jones house at 147 Vogel (both key structures in the Vogel Place District) as well as other residences and business buildings.

The integrity of both design and function of the Jay Funeral Home make it a significant structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Abstract of Title, City of Ottumwa, Original Plat, Block 3, Lot 55.

Eaton, Archie. Original drawings for the Lester Jay Funeral Home.

Interviews with owners Doug and Diana Robertson, Spring 1984, August 1985, Fall 1992.

Ottumwa Daily Courier, December 11, 1929, pp 15 & 16.

Rolscreen Topics. January, 1930, Rolscreen Company, Pella, Iowa, pp 4 & 5.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1925 updated.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

City of Ottumwa, Original Plat, Block 3, Lot 55.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

PHOTOGRAPHS: Jay Funeral Home
220 N. Court St.
Ottumwa (Wapello County), Iowa

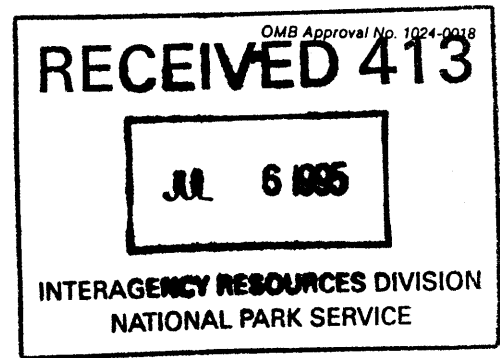
Photographs #2, 3, and 4 were taken by Molly Myers Naumann in November, 1994. Photograph #1 was taken by the team of Bowers & Stueckradt, and #5 by the team of Olinger & Gould, both during November 1992. Naumann verifies that the two 1992 photographs provide an accurate picture of the building today. All negatives are located in the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), Des Moines, IA.

- #1 Facade, looking SW.
- #2 3/4 view of facade and secondary elevation with porte cochere, looking east.
- #3 Full view of secondary elevation with porte cochere, looking NE.
- #4 Full view of rear of the building, looking NW.
- #5 Secondary elevation on 5th St., looking SW.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____



CFN-259-1116

Jay Funeral Home
Wapello County, IA

PHOTOGRAPHS: Jay Funeral Home
220 N. Court St.
Ottumwa (Wapello County), Iowa

Photographs #2, 3, and 4 were taken by Molly Myers Naumann in November, 1994. Photograph #1 was taken by the team of Bowers & Stueckradt, and #5 by the team of Olinger & Gould, both during November 1992. Naumann verifies that the two 1992 photographs provide an accurate picture of the building today. All negatives are located in the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), Des Moines, IA.

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- #3 Full view of secondary elevation with porte cochere, looking NE.
- #4 Full view of rear of the building, looking NW.
- #5 Secondary elevation on 5th St., looking SW.