

PH035103X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 19 1976  
DATE ENTERED AUG 13 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  U. S. POST OFFICE  
AND/OR COMMON   
OTTUMWA MUNICIPAL BUILDING

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Court and Fourth Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Ottumwa  
STATE  
Iowa  
VICINITY OF  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Fourth  
COUNTY  
Wapello  
CODE  
179

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Ottumwa  
STREET & NUMBER  
Court and Fourth Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Ottumwa  
STATE  
Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wapello County Courthouse and City Clerk's Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
Court and Fourth Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Ottumwa  
STATE  
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Ottumwa Original Plat  
DATE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Wapello County Courthouse, Auditor's Office  
CITY, TOWN  
Ottumwa  
STATE  
Iowa

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Ottumwa Municipal Building is a three story U-shaped structure seven bays long and five bays wide. Representative of the Renaissance Revival Style popular in America from the 1880's to the 1930's, this white limestone structure was designed by a U.S. Department of the Treasury architect, James Knox Taylor, as a Post Office. Continuing as a public facility, it has been used for city offices since 1964.

The Municipal Building rests on a slope to one side of a city park across from another "federal" building, the Ottumwa Public Library. It is part of a complex, the Ottumwa Center Project I, which calls for the development and improvement of the park area and the street which extends from the park to the Des Moines River, three blocks away.

Interesting exterior features of the Municipal Building are its green tile hip roof, its rusticated first floor and the restrained classical treatment of the facade. Stone dentils, paneling, medallions and Ionic pilasters combine with small rectangular and large round-arched openings.

While the exterior of the Municipal Building remains in its 1912 condition, the first and ground levels of the interior have been renovated to accommodate the city offices. The floor plans of the second and third floors have not been altered, however. Rooms still extend off a central corridor. Interior finishings include a white marble staircase with brass handrails, a green marble winscot, graceful plaster vault arches, terrazzo floors and decorative glass light fixtures.

# 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 1909-1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ottumwa Municipal Building derives its significance as an architect-designed public building which, as a part of a 1975 city development plan, will continue to be a vital part of the Ottumwa city government and cityscape.

Designed in 1909 by James Knox Taylor, a U. S. Department of the Treasury architect, and completed in 1912, this large-scale Renaissance Revival building stands as a good Iowa example of that style as it was popular in the United States from the 1880's to the 1930's. It was used as a post office from 1912 to 1964. Recognizing the building's potential for adaptive use, the city adapted the building for their use in 1965. As little of the building has been altered it still is a major part of downtown Ottumwa. Its proximity to the central park has resulted in its incorporation into the city's plans for development of that park and the artery which connects the park to the nearby river. While much Ottumwa architecture is brick, few buildings have been built in either rough or dressed stone. The three story Municipal building, then, is a fitting choice as a pivotal building in the new urban Ottumwa plan.

Another design by the same architect produced the somewhat more monumental and elaborate U.S. Post Office in Des Moines.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspaper articles published in the Ottumwa Courier.

Taylor, James C. Ottumwa, One Hundred Years A City. (Published privately), 1948.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
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5	4	9	5	6	5
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4	5	4	0	7	9	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded by Fourth, Court, Third streets and an alley, the Municipal Building and its property comprises approximately one-half city block or approximately one acre.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James C. Taylor, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

James C. Taylor Advertising Company

DATE

May 12, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

120 South Court Street

TELEPHONE

515-684-4054

CITY OR TOWN

Ottumwa

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 D. Anderson*

TITLE

*Director, Div. of Historic Preservation*

DATE

*April 14, 1976*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. H. ...*

DATE

*8/13/76*

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Charles ...*

DATE

*8.13.76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER