

PH0502111

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 8 1977
DATE ENTERED	OCT 21 1977

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 Cedar Falls Ice House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin Avenue and First Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Cedar Falls

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

Black Hawk

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Cedar Falls

STREET & NUMBER

220 Clay Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cedar Falls

VICINITY OF

Iowa 50613

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Assessor's Office, Black Hawk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Waterloo

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 Cedar Falls Ice House is a round building, 97'4" in diameter and 28' high to the eaves. It was constructed 1921-22 on a concrete foundation, of 8" hollow clay tiles. The trussed, double-pitched room (which peaks 24' above the eave line) is covered with composition shingles. Small ventilation openings are located at intervals about 6' above the ground; an additional metal ventilator is situated in the center of the roof. The original access to the interior of the ice house, which extended from ground to cornice line and accommodated a conveyor belt, has been filled in, and two short, wide doorways for small boats have been cut into the walls.

The icehouse is located on its original site, in the original town plat, on the south bank of the Cedar River at the Franklin Avenue bridge. No machinery remains from the structure's function as an ice house.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1921-2

BUILDER/ARCHITECT ~~ABC~~ Cedar Falls Construction Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cedar Falls Ice House is an artifact from a now-defunct industry. Although ice is sold commercially today, it is the result of manufacture; no longer is ice laboriously cut out of rivers for wholesale or retail markets, as was the case when this structure was erected. The shape of the building, too, is noteworthy: although many icehouses were rectangular, the circular form used here was far more efficient, in that it allowed only one wall to touch the stacked blocks of ice, rather than two (in corners), thus retarding the inevitable melting.

The icehouse was built by the Cedar Falls Construction Co. for Hugh Smith in 1921-2, to replace a wooden icehouse which burned earlier in 1921. Smith acquired the Cedar Falls Ice and Fuel Co. in 1917, selling both ice and coal. During the 1920's the firm was the only supplier of ice in the city, but by 1934 it was one of four. That year, Smith apparently went bankrupt, and the property was taken over by a local bank.

The 25 years following World War I saw gradual improvements in refrigeration, which virtually guaranteed that operations like High Smith's would become obsolete. The centuries-old tradition of harvesting ice from frozen ponds, lakes and rivers was in the U.S. after the Civil War augmented by the development of equipment by which ice could be manufactured, regardless of season. During the 1920's, the sale of natural ice (such as that provided by Smith) declined significantly in competition with the manufactured substance. The perfection of mechanical refrigeration (cheaper, more reliable, cooler, more sanitary and convenient) during this period completed the demise of natural ice as a commercial venture. The inevitable result was to render businesses like Hugh Smith's effectively extinct.

Following Smith's bankruptcy, the ice house was used as a sales barn, skating rink, and boat storage facility. It will become a centerpiece of a proposed riverfront park, and will be outfitted as a local museum.

