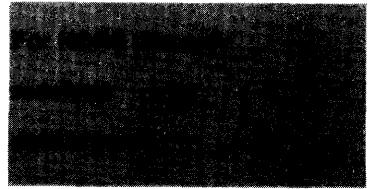


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Delmar Calaboose

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Vane Street not for publication

city, town Delmar vicinity of congressional district 2

state Iowa code county Clinton code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Delmar

street & number Town Hall

city, town Delmar vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Clinton Courthouse

street & number

city, town Clinton vicinity of state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town vicinity of state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Delmar Calaboose, located south of that town's major residential area and near its business and governmental center, is an outstanding example of vernacular architecture applied to meet the exigencies of pioneer life. Erected in 1878, two years after Delmar formally came into existence, the jail was designed and constructed by local builder A.T. Phillips. Phillips utilized locally quarried sandstone as the principal building material for the structure's nearly two feet thick walls. Built more along utilitarian than humanitarian grounds, the jail measures approximately ten by twelve feet and is around eight feet high.

In erecting the calaboose, Phillips seems to have adhered to the concept of form following function. Its vaulted roof, which is its most noteworthy exterior feature, heightens the effect of the coursed stone walls and gives the entire edifice a strong sense of impregnability. This sense is heightened by narrow window slits with grated openings on the east and west sides and a heavy cast iron door with strap hinges and grated opening on the front (south) facade. The roof is covered with cement except for a small opening near the center of the north end where a small brick-lined opening holds a metal pipe which allows smoke to escape from the stove inside. The one room interior is sheathed in plaster and devoid of ornamentation. The stove, folding cot, bureau, table, and chair that constitute the only furnishings inside appear to be of early twentieth century vintage.

Exterior alteration to the calaboose over the years appears to have been minimal. Delmar Town Council minutes indicate that the edifice was damaged early in 1878 but do not indicate the degree or extent of damage. Late in 1881 a wooden roof was built over the cement one. Around 1920, the county board of supervisors declared the wooden roof a fire hazard and ordered its removal. At that time the cement roof was returned to its original state. Immediately south of the calaboose and occupying the same lot is a one-story wood frame building erected around 1890. Utilized for many years as a fire station and currently used as a city garage, it is now somewhat deteriorated. Current plans call for its demolition in the near future.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 1878-ca. 1940 **Builder/Architect** A. T. Phillips

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Delmar Calaboose is that town's oldest extant public building, as well as a unique example of local vernacular architecture. The principal impetus to its erection appears to have been a flourishing liquor traffic in the town. Several years prior to incorporation, Delmar attracted numerous liquor dealers and saloom keepers who did a huge business supplying alcoholic beverages to construction crews and railroad men on the Davenport and St. Paul and Midland lines which ran through the town. By the time Delmar incorporated in 1876, the liquor trade had become so large and troublesome that the town council turned to increasingly higher licensing fees as a means of regulation. The licensing arrangement, however, had little effect on the trade because dealers simply refused to buy the licenses. As a result, law abiding citizens began to demand a town jail where inebriates and other law breakers could be locked up to assure public safety.

In March 1877 Delmar's mayor appointed a three man committee to study the possibilities for jail construction. Before the end of the month, they had recommended that the town adapt the old school building for use as a jail. Although a committee was appointed and given power to carry out this project, town council records do not indicate whether or not it was ever completed. At any rate, by early 1878 there was strong sentiment in Delmar to build a new jail. In April a committee was appointed to plan a new structure and recommend a site. By early summer, the town council had approved the construction of a small jail with heavy stone walls and purchased a lot on Vane Street for \$50. Local builder A.T. Phillips submitted the low bid of \$175 for the project and construction began immediately. In early October 1878 Phillips completed his work, and Delmar took possession of the calaboose it would utilize well into the twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet Item Number 9)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Dubuque

Quadrangle scale 1:250,000

UMT References

A 15 698300 4652400
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

North section of Block 28, Lot 5, Town of Delmar, Clinton County, 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 Ralph Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date October 1980

street & number 26 East Market Street telephone 319-353-6949 or 353-4186

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Adrian A. Johnson

title Director date 1/28/81

For HCPRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 3/16/81
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1981
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen L.P., The History of Clinton County, Iowa (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879).

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Woolfe, Patrick B. (ed.), Wolfe's History of Clinton County, Iowa (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Company, 1911).