

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 St. Olaf Auditorium

other names/site number St. Olaf Opera House and Auditorium

2. Location

street & number 118 South Main Street N/A  not for publication

city or town St. Olaf N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Clayton code 043 zip code 52162

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.)

[Signature] 10/30/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historical Society of 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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 12-9-94

Entered in  
National Register

St. Olaf Auditorium

Name of Property

Clayton County, Iowa

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	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement/Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/limestone

walls stone/limestone

roof metal/steel

other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, Social History

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Works Projects Administration

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

St. Olaf Auditorium  
Name of Property

Clayton County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 63117115 4753840  
Zone Easting Northing  
2         

3           
Zone Easting Northing  
4         

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 Robert C. Vogel, historic preservation planning consultant  
organization Robert C. Vogel & Associates date June 1994  
street & number 270 Brimhall Street telephone (612) 698-8224  
city or town St. Paul state MN zip code 55105-2824

**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 City of St. Olaf  
street & number City Hall telephone (319) 783-7777  
city or town St. Olaf state IA zip code 52070

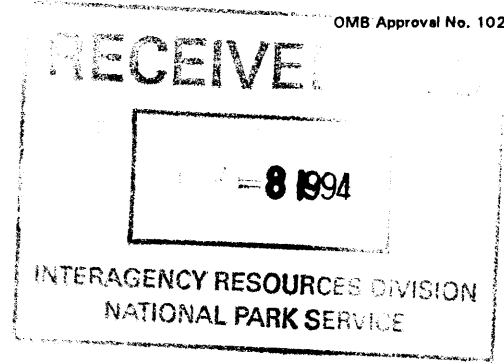
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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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**St.Olaf Auditorium**  
**Clayton County, Iowa**

### Description

The St. Olaf Auditorium is a two story detached stone building located at 118 South Main Street (Lot C of Block 8), opposite the post office and the new community center in the central business district of St. Olaf (see Figure 1). Main Street is a broad paved thoroughfare with wide sidewalks. The two properties on either side of the auditorium are residential, although the streetscape is predominantly commercial. A small concrete block storage building is located behind the auditorium.

The most prominent features of the 1939 building are its two story high rubble facade with stone pilasters, and large multi-paned windows. The ground plan consists of a simple rectangle oriented perpendicular to the street. The load-bearing exterior walls are 24 inches thick, constructed of coursed limestone rubble. The stone was quarried locally and is a porous, granular rock, gray in color. Masonry pilasters, finished in the same rubble style as the walls, are attached to the exterior walls, which rest upon a limestone foundation. Fenestration is symmetrical throughout. Five large windows dominate the principal facade: the two ground floor windows (flanking the entry) are square, while the upper level balcony windows, as well as the side wall windows, are rectangular in shape, containing multiple panes of light-diffusing glass, with ashlar lintels, concrete sills, and steel muntins and sashes. The principal facade has a "false-front" appearance, created by the parapet formed by the extension of the front wall. The building is otherwise unadorned, except for the "ST. OLAF AUDITORIUM" inscribed on a concrete panel above the entry, and

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

the small metal plaque above the doorway which reads: "Works Progress Administration 1939."

There are two exterior stairways on the south side of the building, providing access to the basement and the auditorium hall by way of concrete stairways. The building has a low-pitched gable roof with a masonry cornice. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheeting and has galvanized steel gutters and a tall, slender chimney faced with the same stone as the exterior walls. There is a small detached flat-roofed concrete block outbuilding located in the rear of the auditorium that does not contribute to the significance of the property.

The floor plan features a recessed entry with lavatories on one side and a small ticket office and adjoining kitchen area on the other. Double doors lead to a large auditorium hall with three-inch wide pine board flooring and a dropped ceiling covered with square acoustic panels. There are two pairs of large 10-paned casement windows on each side wall, the interior surfaces of which are finished with glazed vitreous clay tile laid in running bond. At the east end of the hall there is a raised proscenium stage, originally equipped with prompter boxes for stage lighting. (Neither the stage lights nor the curtain were ever installed.) At the west end of the building is the wooden balcony with its six rows of seats. The door fitted into the exterior wall of the balcony was originally intended for a fire escape that was not installed.

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## St. Olaf Auditorium Clayton County, Iowa

The building has a partial basement under the stage and a basement furnace room under the ticket office and lavatory area. The furnace room, accessed through the kitchen, has rough limestone walls and a poured concrete floor. There is also a small coal room with a coal scuttle. The east basement, used for general storage, has plastered walls, a poured concrete floor, and wooden ceiling.

The building has been minimally altered over the course of its history. A photograph of the auditorium as it appeared shortly after completion (see Figure 2) indicates that the facade has been virtually untouched except for the addition of a small external light fixture to the right of the entry. Alterations to the interior seem to have been limited to adapting the auditorium to basketball (one hoop affixed to the front of the balcony, lines painted on the floorboards) and boarding up the ticket office window. The building does exhibit some signs of deterioration: in addition to several broken window panes, there is considerable cracking and spalling of the concrete steps and stoop. Water infiltration in the basement is a recurrent problem and is probably the result of mortar joint failure. According to local sources, the unheated lavatories are an inconvenience during the cold weather months, limiting the building's utility, and are the major cause of the auditorium's virtual abandonment after the opening of the new community center built across the street in 1982.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Joan Busch, personal communication to Robert C. Vogel, June 1993. Ms. Busch is the St. Olaf city clerk. Cf. Harvey Busch, unpublished notes, 18 April 1990, and Vanette Grover, "St. Olaf Opera House and Auditorium," Iowa Historic Site Inventory form; both

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

The St. Olaf Opera Auditorium is presently vacant but is structurally sound. The City of St. Olaf plans to restore the old community building for use as a community center, tourist information center, and community theatre. Key issues to be addressed during the building's rehabilitation include restoration of the windows, doors, and steps, repair of the foundation and basement walls, and installation of a modern heating plant that will enable year-round use.

### **Statement of Significance**

The St. Olaf Auditorium is architecturally significant at the local level in the context of federal relief construction in rural Iowa communities between 1935 and 1943. The property's historical significance is the product of its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA), the Federal agencies responsible for the building's funding and construction in 1939. In comparison with other WPA/PWA buildings in Iowa, the St. Olaf Opera Auditorium is a good example of the property type, both in terms of its design elements and state of preservation. From an architectural history standpoint, it exhibits many of the characteristics of the PWA Moderne style and is noteworthy for its stone construction. Although it is arguably not an outstanding work of architecture, locally it is an established landmark that dominates the streetscape of St. Olaf.

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on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. Mr. Busch observes that



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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

Built in 1939, near the end of the Great Depression, construction of the St. Olaf Auditorium was completed by the city with the assistance of the PWA. Government labor was furnished under the auspices of the WPA, employing low-income men from the local community. The St. Olaf Auditorium was built for and maintained by city government for the use of the general populace, either free or at a nominal cost, for a variety of social activities that required space or facilities that were not privately available, and to foster "community spirit" and civic pride. While it never housed an opera, the building was used extensively for a combination of recreational, athletic, cultural, educational, and civic functions such as community dances, games, and other public gatherings, and was also occasionally a venue for vaudeville and minstrel shows, touring company performances, and cinema.<sup>2</sup>

St. Olaf (the name commemorates Olaf (d. 1030), the eleventh century Norse king regarded as Norway's patron saint) is a rural village in Clayton County located in Sections 25 and 26 of Wagner Township. The community was founded in 1872 and incorporated in 1900 and developed as a market and farm trade center, serving the needs of its agrarian neighbors with stores, a creamery, banks, a railway freight and passenger depot, an opera house, a post office, a public school, and churches. The physical environment of the townsite is dominated by the rolling, wooded

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except for the lavatories, "the building is well planned and of sound construction."

<sup>2</sup>Information on the use of the auditorium was provided by Joan and Harvey Busch, op cit., and other residents of the St. Olaf community.

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

hills overlooking the valley of Roberts Creek, which flows through St. Olaf and is joined by Howard Creek within the city limits. A branch line of the Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad (built in 1886 and abandoned in 1960) followed the Roberts Creek valley to the village of Farmersburg, two miles northeast of St. Olaf. Today, St. Olaf boasts a population of approximately 130 persons and functions as a commercial node and social center for a sizeable rural neighborhood.<sup>3</sup>

The years between 1923 and 1929, sometimes referred to as the "Roaring Twenties," a period in the nation's history characterized by wage and price inflation and widespread stock market speculation, was followed in late 1929 and during the entire decade of the 1930s by an economic crisis known to history as the Great Depression. Depressions were hardly a new phenomenon -- Iowans, for example, experienced financial "panics" on a somewhat comparable scale in 1857, 1873, and 1893 -- but the stock market crash of 29 October 1929 was the beginning of a particularly long and deep economic decline which officially continued until 1933, but which generally affected the country up until the United States' entry into World War II. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) was inaugurated President of the United States on 4 March 1933, the depression was at its height and the situation was desperate, with the economy and the country's social fabric close to shreds. In response to the crisis, Roosevelt prevailed upon Congress to enact emergency legislation dealing with various aspects

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<sup>3</sup>Realto E. Price, History of Clayton County, Iowa (Chicago, 1916), I:361-362; Clayton County Genealogical Society, 1984 History of Clayton County (Elkader, 1984), 837-838.

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## St. Olaf Auditorium Clayton County, Iowa

of the national economy. Collectively, these acts, which created a veritable "alphabet soup" of new Federal government agencies, came to be known as the "New Deal."

The Works Progress Administration (renamed the Works Projects Administration in 1939) was established by executive order on 6 May 1935 as part of Roosevelt's Second New Deal package. One of the administration's pet projects, the WPA was conceived by Roosevelt's "Brain Trust" as a Federal alternative to the public dole and part of a national strategy to put able bodied unemployed men back to work. Authorized under the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) of 1933 and funded under authority of the Civil Works Emergency Relief Act of 15 February 1934, it was an outgrowth of the experimental Civil Works Administration (CWA), a temporary public employment program which employed four million men in school repairs, highway work, and flood control projects in 1933-1934. As opposed to the PWA, which built "heavy" public construction projects, the WPA was directed at "light" public works such as construction of parks and playgrounds, schools, athletic facilities, and auditoriums, natural resource conservation and outdoor beautification projects, and refurbishing public buildings. Both the PWA and the WPA were under the direction of Harold LeClair Ickes (1874-1952), Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>For background on the WPA, see: Donald Stevenson Howard, The WPA and Federal Relief Policy (New York, 1973); Arthur Whittier Macmahon, John D. Millet and Gladys Ogden, The Administration of Work Relief (New York, 1971); and U.S. Federal Works Agency, Final Report of the WPA Program, 1935-43 (Washington, 1947).

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

Under the energetic leadership of Harry Lloyd Hopkins (1890-1946), the WPA's Iowa-born administrator from 1935 to 1938, and his successor Col. Frances Clark Harrington (1887-1940), the WPA established itself in every state and territory. By 30 June 1940, the agency had built 4,383 schools, 132 hospitals, 3,300 dams, and several thousand parks, playgrounds, tennis courts, golf courses, and swimming pools. In addition to new construction, the WPA also repaired and rehabilitated thousands of public buildings, built or repaired nearly half a million miles of roadways, and laid almost twenty thousand miles of storm and sanitary sewer.<sup>5</sup>

In the areas of needs assessment, project planning, and supervision, the WPA was virtually a grassroots organization, one in which local operatives proposed projects to district and state WPA offices, which submitted applications for project funding to the Project Control Division in the WPA headquarters in Washington. Applications for construction projects were processed by the WPA's Division of Operations, which in almost all cases simply rubber stamped the state office proposals. Before any project went into construction, however, it had to be authorized by the Bureau of the Budget and required the signatures of the Comptroller General and the President. Notwithstanding charges of waste and inefficiency, between 1935 and 1940, WPA spent more than \$11.3 billion (\$767 million of it on

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<sup>5</sup>Macmahon, et al., The WPA, 3-6.

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

public buildings) and employed eight million men, mostly unskilled or semi-skilled laborers.<sup>6</sup>

Nevertheless, the WPA was plagued by image problems. The WPA never attained its goal of providing jobs for all who could work; it never employed more than 3.2 million workers at any one time, or about one-third of the unemployed work force. Wages were intentionally low (the so-called "security wage" was both an economy measure as well as an inducement for workers to seek private sector jobs), averaging about \$55 a month, which although somewhat higher than the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) dole was nevertheless a poverty wage. WPA employees, known as "reliefers," were the butt of jokes about "boondoggling" and shovel-leaning. The WPA was also unabashedly political: the program's expansion in 1938-1939 was at least in part a strategy for attracting voters to the Democratic ticket, and the political manipulation practiced by local WPA bosses led to a Congressional investigation which in 1939-1940 resulted in the dismissal of more than a million WPA workers who had been employed more than eighteen months. The WPA imbroglio was also a factor in the passage of the Hatch Act, which prohibited Federal employees from actively engaging in political

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<sup>6</sup>Except for supervisory personnel, the WPA work force was recruited locally, its members drawn from municipal and county relief rolls. Under the terms of Executive Order No. 24 (19 September 1935), WPA workers were limited to eight hours' employment per day, not to exceed forty hours in any week or one hundred forty hours in any month. The number of Iowans employed by the WPA during its heyday (including participants in non-construction efforts such as the Federal Writers Project) ranged from 30,760 in March 1936 to 26,611 in March 1940; see Macmahon, et al., The WPA, Table 12, 199.

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

campaigning. To many Republican Party faithful, the WPA remained an enduring symbol of liberal Democrats' misguided efforts at having government use taxpayer dollars to "prime the pump" of a troubled economy.

Signs of economic recovery were visible everywhere by the time the St. Olaf Auditorium was completed. While national income had not regained the ground lost between 1929 and 1936, farm income quadrupled between 1932 and 1936. Full recovery had to wait until 1941-1945, when war production brought back prosperity. Wartime manpower demands eliminated unemployment, and on 30 June 1943 the WPA received its "honorable discharge" and passed into the history books.

No documents pertaining to the planning which led up to the decision to build the St. Olaf Auditorium have been found, nor are any construction documents known to exist. Nevertheless, it appears that the project was funded largely through PWA bonding; the City of St. Olaf is said to have contributed some cash and local businessmen donated lumber and cement.<sup>7</sup> The project was planned and supervised by one of Iowa's six WPA district offices and the actual construction work was performed by gangs of locally recruited workers under the supervision of W. E. Hodgin, who was a resident of Onawa, Iowa. Limestone for the walls was quarried from local beds a few miles west of town, at the Gottchalk and Bente (also known as

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<sup>7</sup>Harvey Busch, unpublished notes. Mr. Busch's father owned the lumber yard in St. Olaf at the time the auditorium was built.

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**Clayton County, Iowa**

the Watson) quarries on Highway 13 near Elkader. Limestone was quarried by channeling and drilling, using hand tools, mechanical drills, and explosives; afterwards, the stone was dressed, rough pointed, crandalled, axed, and bush-hammered.<sup>8</sup> Work progressed slowly because of the workers' unfamiliarity with stone masonry and the exacting chore of preparing the "rubble rabble" rock facing. According to one source, the construction timetable was flexible and the project proceeded at a slow pace because the "men were all inexperienced masons and were encouraged to work slow . . . just to keep busy."<sup>9</sup>

St. Olaf benefited socially and economically from the construction of its new auditorium.<sup>10</sup> Not only was the project a welcome source of steady income for an unknown number of local farmers and unemployed workers, but local suppliers of building materials must also have benefited from the WPA's presence. Except for the post office and the military (hardly anyone had paid any income taxes), most people in St. Olaf had had no prior direct contact with the Federal government, and the New Deal

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<sup>8</sup>Joan Busch, personal communication. There are numerous stone quarries along Roberts Creek, including the one shown on the 1965 U.S. Geologic Survey St. Olaf Quadrangle topographic map in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 25, a short distance from St. Olaf.

<sup>9</sup>Harvey Busch, unpublished notes.

<sup>10</sup>The WPA-built Auditorium assumed many of the cultural and civic functions of the St. Olaf Opera House and Dance Hall, which had been established ca. 1922 and closed ca. 1930. In 1933, the old opera house building was purchased by the National Yeast Co., which used it to manufacture mineral products for many years before the structure was razed in 1976; Clayton County Genealogical Society, *History*, 387; cf., the fire insurance map published by the Iowa Insurance Service Bureau, *St. Olaf, Clayton County, Iowa* (1932).

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**St. Olaf Auditorium**  
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changed forever the relationship between the government and the people. In more concrete terms, the auditorium built by the WPA was something of a local showplace and a source of civic pride for the people of St. Olaf and their neighbors. In spite of its functional limitations, the cost of maintaining it was minimal and the building served the needs of the community for nearly half a century.

Evaluation of the St. Olaf Auditorium's architectural significance was accomplished partly through comparison with other WPA resources in Iowa. The distinctive limestone construction employed by the WPA at St. Olaf was also used at the Mallard Community Hall, the Martelle Fire Station, the Oskaloosa Pool House, the LeMars Golf Club, and doubtless other public relief buildings constructed with Federal assistance during the 1930s.<sup>11</sup> In terms of style, the St. Olaf property falls generally within the PWA Moderne, a somewhat ambiguous term applied to a Modern Movement design mode routinized by both the PWA and the WPA. A recent work on Iowa's architectural history has defined PWA Moderne in the following terms: "A synthesis of Moderne (i.e., Art Deco or Streamline Moderne) with an austere late type of Beaux-Arts Classicism, often associated with federal government buildings of the 1930s and 1940s during the Public Works Administration."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>See items #17838, 17937, 17938, and 17943, WPA and CWP Public Buildings (photographs), op cit. A number of PWA buildings are included in David Gebhard and Gerald Mansheim, Buildings of Iowa (New York, 1993).

<sup>12</sup>Gebhard and Mansheim, Buildings of Iowa, 539.



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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

In this architectural context, the St. Olaf property represents a virtually unaltered example of such a PWA/WPA designed public building in the Moderne mode, one that possesses an unusually high degree of structural integrity. These qualities support its listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Bibliographical References**

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Busch, Joan. Personal communication to Robert C. Vogel. June 1993.

Clayton County Genealogical Society. 1984 History of Clayton County. Elkader: Griffith Press, 1984.

Gebhard, David, and Gerald Mansheim. Buildings of Iowa. Society of Architectural Historians, Buildings of the United States. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Grover, Vanette. "St. Olaf Opera House and Auditorium." Iowa Historic Site Inventory Form, on file, Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, 1990.

Howard, Donald Stevenson. The WPA and Federal Relief Policy. New York: Da Capo Press, 1973. Originally published in 1943.

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

Interstate Publishing Co. History of Clayton County, Iowa. Chicago, 1882.

Iowa Insurance Service Bureau. St. Olaf, Clayton County, Iowa. Fire insurance map dated March 1932 [1942?]. Microfilm in Library/Archives Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

Macmahon, Arthur Whittier, John D. Millett, and Gladys Ogden. The Administration of Work Relief. New York: Da Capo Press, 1971. Originally published in 1941.

Price, Realto E. History of Clayton County, Iowa. 2 vols. Chicago: Robert O. Law Co., 1916.

U.S. Federal Work Agency. Final Report of the WPA Program, 1935-43. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1947.

U.S. Geological Survey. St. Olaf Quadrangle. 7.5 minute series (topographic). 1965.

WPA and CWP Public Buildings (photographs). Library/Archives Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa**

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The St. Olaf Opera House and Auditorium occupies Lot C of Block B of the plat of St. Olaf, otherwise known as 118 South Main Street, and the lot lines define the boundaries of the historic property.

### **Boundary Justification**

The property includes the entire city lot that has been historically associated with the property.

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St. Olaf Auditorium  
Clayton County, Iowa

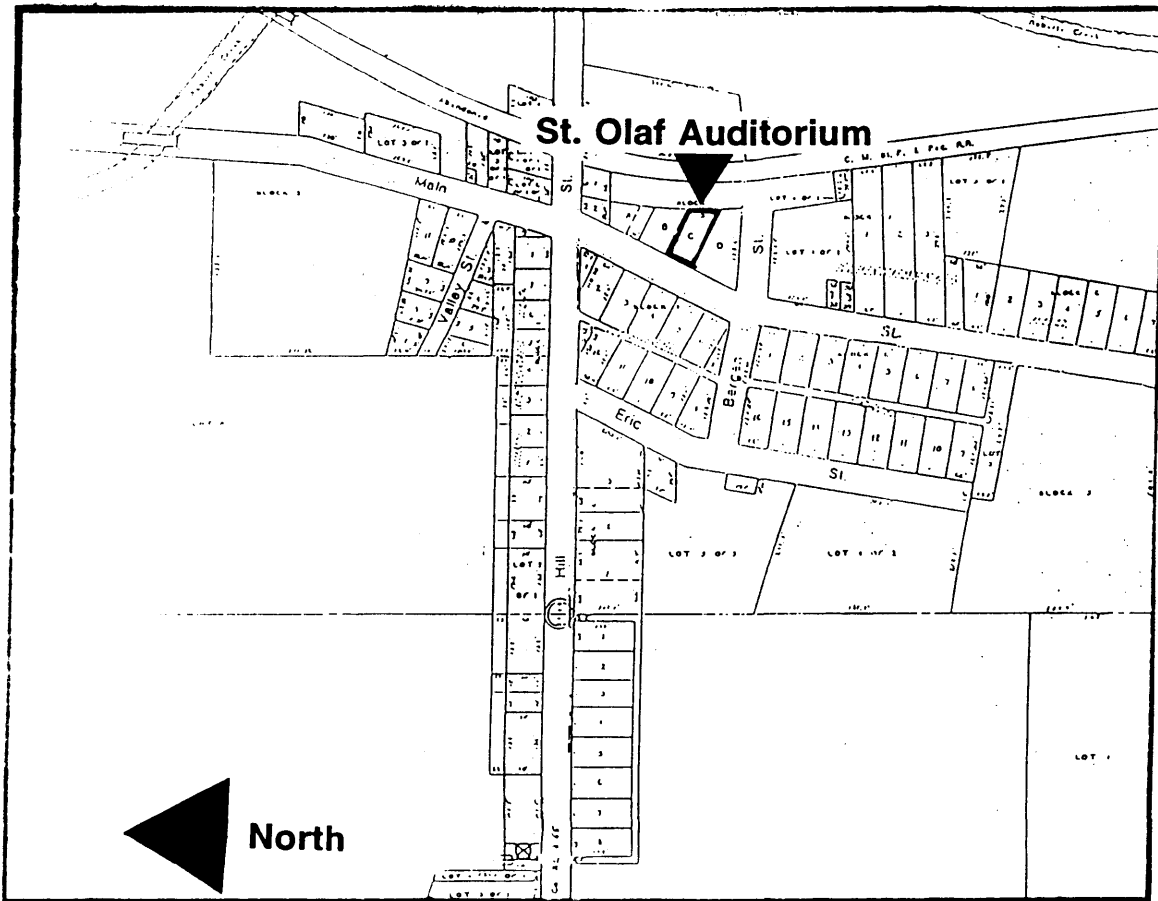


Figure 1. Location of the St. Olaf Auditorium, St. Olaf, Clayton County, Iowa.

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**St. Olaf Auditorium  
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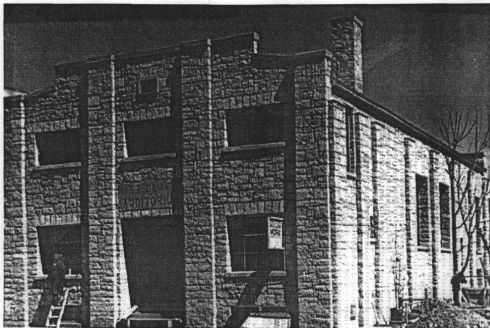


Figure 2. St. Olaf Community Building, 1939. (WPA and CWP Public Buildings, State Historical Society of Iowa, Library/ Archives Bureau (Des Moines), item #17943.)