

IOWA SITE INVENTORY

Division of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
26 E. Market St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

JUL - 2 1981
MAY 29 1981

Site Number 95-004-001
District Name _____
Map Reference # 95-004-001
Topo Map Forest City 1:24,000

IDENTIFICATION

1. Site Name Winnebago County Courthouse
2. Village/Town/City Forest City Township _____ County Winnebago
3. Street Address J Street between 6th and Clark
4. Legal Location OT 50
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section 1/4 section-1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 448160 northing 4790000; Acreage less than 1 acre
6. Owner(s) Name Winnebago County Board of Supervisors
7. Owner(s) Address Forest City Iowa 50436
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: present _____ original _____

DESCRIPTION

9. Date of Construction 1896 Architect/Builder Kinney & Orth, Minneapolis, Arch.
10. Building Type: ☐ single family dwelling ☐ multiple family dwelling ☐ commercial
☐ industrial ☐ educational ☐ other institutional ☒ public ☐ religious ☐ agricultural
11. Exterior Walls: ☐ clapboard ☒ stone ☒ brick ☐ board & batten ☐ shingles ☐ stucco
☐ other _____
12. Structural System: ☐ wood frame with interlocking joints
☐ wood frame with light members (balloon frame) ☐ masonry load-bearing walls
☐ iron frame ☐ steel frame with curtain walls ☐ reinforced concrete
☐ other _____
13. Condition: ☐ excellent ☒ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated
14. Integrity: ☒ original site ☐ moved-if so, when? _____
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site: Interior remodeled. Aluminum sash and main entrance doors - tower roof lowered - glass brick added.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: ☐ barn ☐ other farm structures
☐ carriage house ☐ garage ☐ privy ☐ other _____
16. Is the building endangered? ☒ no ☐ yes-if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: ☐ open land ☐ woodland ☐ scattered outbuildings
☐ densely built-up ☒ commercial ☐ industrial ☐ residential ☐ other _____
18. Map
19. Photo
Roll _____ Frame _____ View _____

SIGNIFICANCE (Indicate sources of information for all statements)

20. Architectural Significance

- ☒ a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
☐ b. Contributing structure ☐ c. Not eligible/intrusion

One of two courthouses (the other Hancock County, 1890) designed by F.W. Kinney in the 1890's in the Victorian Romanesque style. Common feature of both (and perhaps the most interesting) is treatment of main entrance, which is recessed within arcade of three round arches.

21. Historical Significance

Theme(s) Politics/Government

- ☒ a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
☐ b. Contributing structure ☐ c. Not eligible/intrusion

This courthouse is locally significant as the historical focus of county government, and of the political power and prestige derived from the community's status as the county seat. As center of county government, an Iowa town was reasonably assured of economic and population growth, and a prominent role in local social and political life. The county courthouse represents a significant public investment in a structure built not simply for utilitarian purposes, but also as a monument associated with the historical importance of county organization and development.

See Continuation Sheet

22. Sources (for primary and secondary sources, give complete facts of publication: author, title, place of publication, date, etc.):

Andreas, A.T. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.
Pratt, LeRoy G. The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Co., 1977.
Stanek, Edward and Jacqueline. Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.

Prepared by _____ Date January 1980
Address _____ Telephone _____
Organization DHP

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY

1. OFFICE INFORMATION SOURCES ON THIS PROPERTY

- ☐ COUNTY RESOURCE FILE
☐ WINDSHIELD SURVEY
☐ NATIONAL REGISTER
☐ GRANTS-IN-AID: _____
☐ DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT:

- ☐ OTHER _____
☐ OTHER _____
☐ OTHER _____

2. SUBJECT TRACES

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. PHOTO IMAGES

- _____

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Site Number _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item Number(s) _____

WINNEBAGO COUNTY

The records of the earliest county proceedings in Winnebago County were destroyed by fire in the fall of 1861. There exists only sparse information on finding a suitable spot for the county seat and nothing that can be found on the structures in which the first courts were held.

At the time that county government was run by the county judge, the issue was raised of building a courthouse in Forest City. Robert Clark was the county judge immediately preceding the Civil War days. A petition was presented to him bearing the signatures of all but one of the voters of the county, asking that a \$20,000 courthouse be built. Bonds were issued and a contract was let, but no work on a courthouse was commenced for some time because the contractor was primarily engaged in the mercantile business.

Under pressure from the county citizenry, a foundation for the courthouse was laid at about the time that the system of government had changed to vesting the primary county authority in a board of supervisors. The first action of the board was to disapprove the courthouse contract for being too extravagant. An injunction was served on the contractor, restraining him from continuing his work.

The courts finally decided that the action of Judge Clark was binding on the county, and that the board of supervisors was still responsible for the bonds. In the meantime, the contractor built a smaller and cheaper courthouse. The board finally made a settlement for \$3,500 as compensation for the construction.

Funds raised through local subscriptions were used to build the present Winnebago County courthouse. The construction began in 1894 and was completed by 1896. The brick structure with its tall outstanding clock tower cost approximately \$25,000 to erect.

--from Stanek, Edward, and Jacqueline Stanek,
Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses. Des
Moines: Wallace-Homestead Book Co., 1976.

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name County Courthouses in Iowa Thematic Resources
State IA

Nomination	Type of Review	Decision
49. O'Brien County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
50. Osceola County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
51. Page County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brabham 7.2.81</u>
52. Plymouth County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
53. Pocahontas County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
54. Polk County Courthouse	-	Previously listed 4.30.79
55. Pottawattamie County Sub Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
56. Poweshiek County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
57. Ringgold County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brabham 7.2.81</u>
58. Sac County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
59. Shelby County Courthouse	-	Previously listed 11.14.78
60. Sioux County Courthouse	-	Previously listed 4.11.77
61. Tama County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
62. Taylor County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
63. Van Buren County Courthouse	-	Previously listed 11.9.77
64. Wapello County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
65. Washington County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brabham 7.2.81</u>
66. Webster County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
67. Winnebago County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
68. Woodbury County Courthouse	-	Previously listed 12.18.73
69. Worth County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
70. Worth County Courthouse (former)	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
71. Wright County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brabham 7.2.81</u>

Name Winnebago County Courthouse
 State, County IA Winnebago
 Working Number 5.29.81.172

Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____
 Federal Register Date 2.2.82

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)
☐ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☒ Thematic Group

Maps 1
 Photos 1

Nomination prepared by:
☒ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

Entered in the
 Action: National Register
☒ ACCEPT 7.2.81
☐ RETURN _____
☐ REJECT _____

Check if Appropriate:
☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☐ No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☐ No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____

See Attached _____



Co. Courthouses in 1A Item. Res.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
FOREST CITY, WINNEBAGO CO IOWA

PHOTO BY: GERALD MANSHEIM
JUNE 79

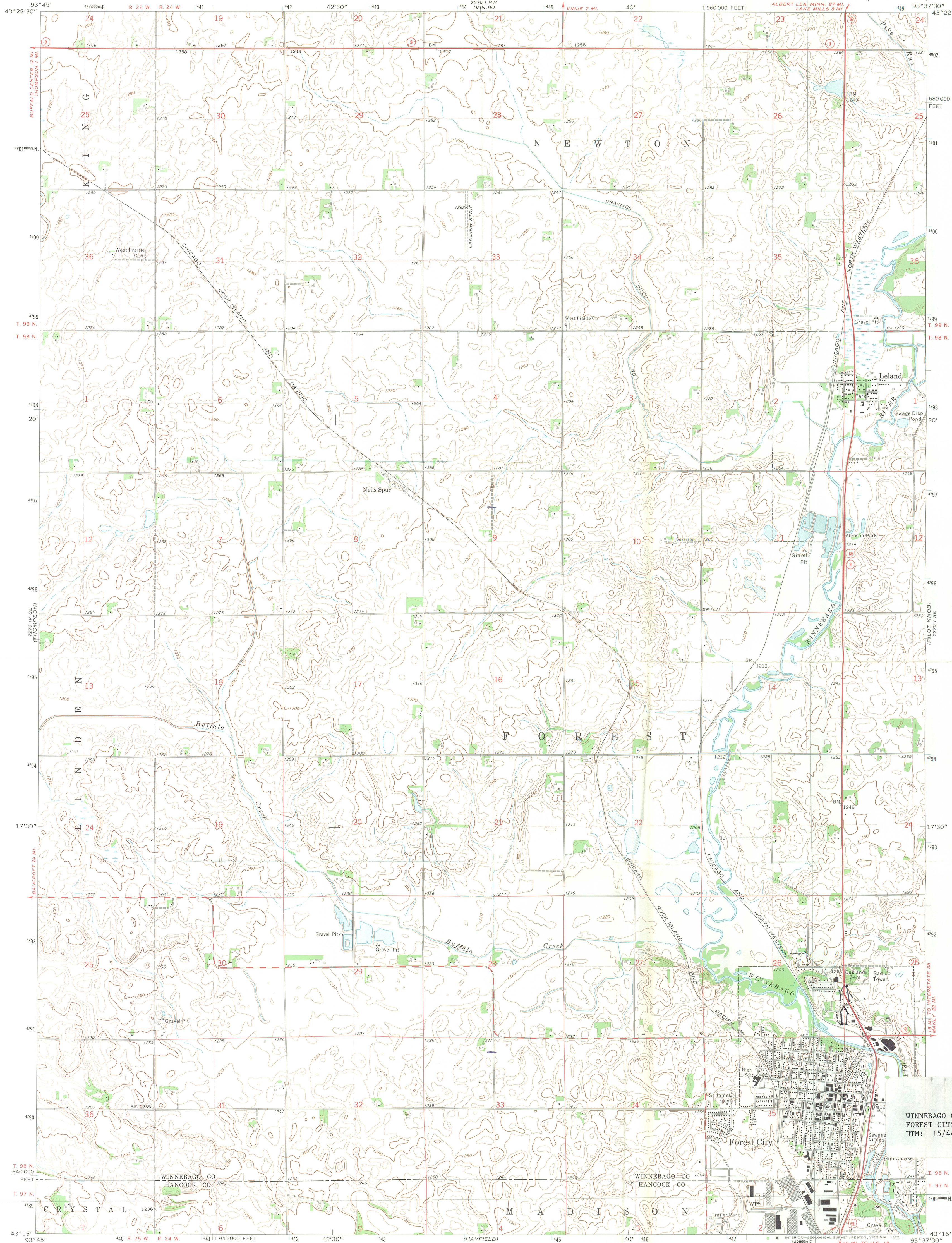
MAY 29 1981

JUL - 2 1981

Winnebago
557/14A

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FOREST CITY QUADRANGLE
IOWA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1972
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road, hard or improved surface
U. S. Route
State Route

FOREST CITY, IOWA
N4315-W9337.5/7.5

1972
AMS 7270 I SW-SERIES V876

JUL - 2 1981

