

IOWA SITE INVENTORY

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

MAY 29 1981

JUL 2 1981

Site Number 70-011-007
District Name _____
Map Reference # 70-011-007
Topo Map Muscatine 1:24,000

IDENTIFICATION

1. Site Name Muscatine County Courthouse
2. Village/Town/City Muscatine Township _____ County Muscatine
3. Street Address 3rd Street between Walnut and Mulberry
4. Legal Location OT 59
Urban: subdivision parcel
Rural: township block range section
1/4 section-1/4 section
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 663540 northing 4587520; Acreage less than 1 acre
6. Owner(s) Name Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
7. Owner(s) Address _____
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
Muscatine Iowa 52761
8. Use: present Courthouse original Courthouse

DESCRIPTION

9. Date of Construction 1909 Architect/Builder J.E. Mills, Detroit, Architect
J.W. McAlpine, Dixon, Ill., Bldr.
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:
Rotunda area somewhat modernized - aluminum sash and doors.
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

A courthouse somewhat of the Beaux Arts style - note pairs of giant columns and pediment above the main entrance. Two-stage bell and clock tower features domed roof. Note oculi above third floor windows, sited on large square near CBD.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item Number(s) _____

MUSCATINE COUNTY

Bloomington was established as the seat of Muscatine County shortly after the county was organized in 1837. The original courthouse was built in 1840 from bricks that were nine inches long, five inches wide, and two and one-half inches thick. Using plans and specifications which cost \$200, the edifice was set upon a stone foundation. Upon its completion, the cost of the building totaled \$15,000. It was placed upon land that had been reserved for it in 1838. The county paid \$1.25 per acre for the site. Upon the adoption of a special charter by its citizens, Bloomington was incorporated as the city of Muscatine on February 21, 1851.

The old courthouse was destroyed by fire on December 17, 1864. A new courthouse was built in the summer and fall of 1867 for \$29,000 after the ashes and rubble from the fire had been cleared away. The handsome two-story brick building was surmounted with a well-proportioned and neatly designed dome, the crest of which was ornamented with a large and elegant statue of the goddess of justice. The goddess held the scales of justice in her left hand until one day when a high wind amputated her left arm. She stood in this manner for several years until her condition deteriorated further and she was removed from her pedestal.

The front of the 1867 structure had six grand pillars which had to be removed in 1907 to make room to dig the foundation of the present courthouse. This grand edifice sits high atop the square, which has been reserved for Muscatine County courthouses for nearly 150 years. Although no goddess adorns this structure, a beautiful dome with a public timepiece surmounts it.

--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
25. Hardin County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
26. Harrison County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
27. Henry County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
28. Howard County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
29. Ida County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 3.15.74</u>
30. Iowa County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brachman 7.2.81</u>
31. Jackson County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
32. Jasper County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
33. Jefferson County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
34. Johnson County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 3.27.75</u>
35. Keokuk County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
36. Lee County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 9.30.76</u>
37. Louisa County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brachman 7.2.81</u>
38. Lucas County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
39. Lyon County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 10.1.79</u>
40. Madison County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 8.13.76</u>
41. Mahaska County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
42. Marion County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
43. Marshall County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 11.21.72</u>
44. Mitchell County Courthouse	-	<u>Previously listed 8.29.77</u>
45. Monona County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
46. Monroe County Courthouse	- Substantive Review	<u>William H. Brachman 7.2.81</u>
47. Montgomery County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>
48. Muscatine County Courthouse	- Entered in the National Register	<u>Delores Byers 7.2.81</u>

Name Muscatine County Courthouse
 State, County IA Muscatine Fed Nom or Request—Agency _____
 Working Number 5-29-81-172 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 +

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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
IA Them. Resources

JUL - 2 1981

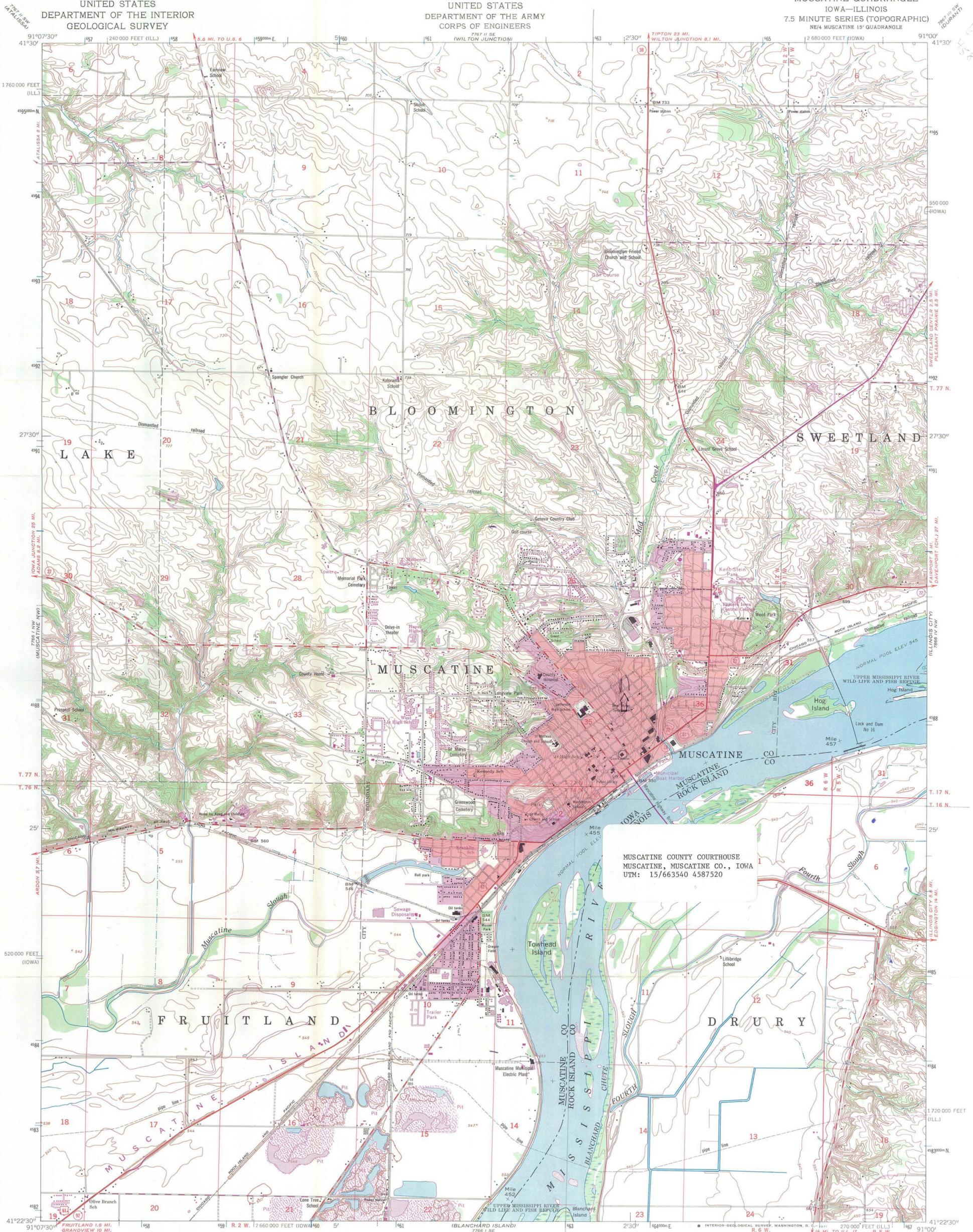
MUSCATINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MUSCATINE, MUSCATINE CO., IOWA
PHOTO BY: MARIEA H BOWERS

MAY 29 1981 1980

SOUTH & WEST ELEVATIONS

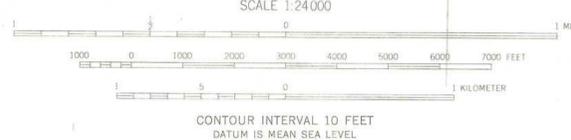
Muscataine

1318/33A



MUSCATINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MUSCATINE, MUSCATINE CO., IOWA
UTM: 15/663540 4587520

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCG&S, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952-1953. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Iowa coordinate system, south zone
and Illinois coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



RECEIVED
MAY 29 1981
NATIONAL REGISTER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Light-duty
Medium-duty
Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route
State Route

MUSCATINE, IOWA-ILL.
NE/4 MUSCATINE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4122.5-W9100/7.5
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 7266 1 NE-SERIES V876

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242,
IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240,
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

JUL - 2 1981

4587 540
4587 520