

**Site Inventory Form**  
**State Historical Society of Iowa**  
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 61-02613

New  Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 61-00001

Relationship:  Contributing  Noncontributing

Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries

National Register Status:(any that apply)  Listed  De-listed  NHL  DOE

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Extant (enter year) \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Madison County Courthouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 112 John Wayne Dr. N

city or town Winterset

vicinity, county Madison

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name \_\_\_\_\_

Township No. \_\_\_\_\_

Range No. \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter of Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town

Block(s) Public Square

Lot(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]**

**4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]**

**5. Classification**

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

*If Non-Eligible Property*

Enter number of:

— buildings  
 — sites  
 — structures  
 — objects  
 — Total

*If Eligible Property, enter number of:*

Contributing      Noncontributing

1      — buildings  
 —      — sites  
 —      — structures  
 —      — objects  
1      — Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title

Historical Architectural Data Base Number

Intensive Survey & Evaluation of Commercial District, Winterset, IA

61-007

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

04J01 GOVERNMENT/courthouse/county courthouse

04J01 GOVERNMENT/courthouse/county courthouse

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

05H Renaissance Revival

foundation 04 STONE

walls (visible material) 04 STONE

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** ( SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

- Yes  No  More Research Recommended

- A Property is associated with significant events.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Madison  
City Winterset

Address 112 John Wayne Dr. N

Site Number 61-02613  
District Number 61-00001

**Criteria Considerations**

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

02 ARCHITECTURE

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1876-78  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates, including renovation \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

**Architect/Builder**

Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Builder Piquenard, Alfred H.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** ( SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bibliography  See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

**10. Geographic Data**

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Leah D. Rogers, Roslea Johnson and Project Volunteers  
organization Tallgrass Historians, L.C. date May 2014  
street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone (319)354-6722  
city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** (Submit the following items with the completed form)

**FOR ALL PROPERTIES**

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____	Frame/slot # _____	Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

**FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL**

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
  - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
  - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
  - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line**

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:  Yes  No  More Research Recommended  
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluated by (name/title): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Madison County Courthouse	Madison
Name of Property	County
112 John Wayne Dr. N	Winterset
Address	City

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## 7. Description

This Renaissance Revival style building was constructed in 1876-78 and replaced the previous courthouse, which burned down in 1875. This building was built to look nearly identical to the courthouse it replaced. It is built of stone (walls and foundation) in a cruciform ground plan with Classical front-gabled pediments on each of the wings along with colonnaded porches. A massive iron cupola rises several stories above the center of the roof. The building retains very good if not excellent integrity having been well maintained and preserved through the years.

## 8. Statement of Significance

This building is a local landmark and is the center focal point of Winterset's commercial district. The courthouse is at the center of a block dedicated to the courthouse building, with the commercial district lining the opposite sides of the four streets that bound the courthouse square on all sides. The courthouse was built by well known architect, Alfred H. Piquenard, who was the architect and superintendent of construction for the Illinois State Capitol building. The new courthouse was determined to be "the same size and general shape as the old one, using the floor plan of a Greek Cross and the same interior arrangement. The central dome with the four clock faces and the four stone porticos were also retained in the new building" (Madison County Historical Society 2010:7). The building was begun in 1876 and ready for occupancy by 1878. It is this courthouse that remains standing in the center of the public square and around which the Winterset commercial district is built.

The stone used in the second stone courthouse "was quarried, cut to shape and built into the walls mostly by local men, some of whom were natives of England, Wales, Ireland and Germany and the foreman stone cutter was a Frenchman" (Madison County Historical Society 2010:8). Because of the loss of the first stone courthouse to fire, the second was built to be more fire proof, with the "floors consisting of brick arches leveled up with concrete and walls either of stone or brick and the dome constructed of metal" (ibid.).

The importance of the county seat to the growth and development of Winterset cannot be understated. It was the reason there was a town at this central location within the county in the first place. It was a major impetus for early commercial and professional growth in the town because the courthouse brought with it a need for lawyers and other professionals whose business was tied to that of the courthouse. The courthouse also brought in potential customers to Winterset's businesses when people came to town to do their courthouse business, such as recording deeds, they usually needed places to eat and places to purchase goods they would not otherwise have access to in their rural homes and smaller towns around the county.

The importance of this role in the continued growth and development of Winterset was no more evident than when the town failed to acquire a main line railroad and had to settle for a branch connection to the main line in Des Moines. While this branch line certainly helped to keep Winterset progressing forward, it was not the big boom impetus to commercial development that the rail line typically meant to towns in Iowa. Instead, the late nineteenth century commercial boom in Winterset had to be based largely on its place in the county as the seat of government, the largest town in the county, and the hub for roads coming and going through the county.

The extant building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The building also contributes to the architectural (C) and historical (A) significance of the Winterset Courthouse Square Commercial Historic District because it is the center focal point around which the commercial district developed and from which the local economy drew its strength. This is a key building in the district. There may be some potential for archaeological deposits of significance associated with the evolution of the courthouse on this square in the lawn area surrounding the courthouse. However, a survey would have to be conducted in order to claim significance under Criterion D.



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Madison County Courthouse

Madison

Name of Property

County

112 John Wayne Dr. N

Winterset

Address

City

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Photograph taken by Tallgrass Historians L.C., August 2013, Looking North



Photograph from 1873 showing the first stone courthouse built 1868 and burned in October of 1875.  
Photo courtesy Madison County Historical Society Photograph Collection.



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<u>Madison County Courthouse</u>	<u>Madison</u>
Name of Property	County
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Address	City

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c.1900, probably July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. This is the extant courthouse.  
Photo courtesy Madison County Historical Society Photograph Collection.



Historic 1880s photograph shows a gathering of mostly women. The gathering is unidentified but the paper to which the speaker at left is referring to is a list of schools in Madison County. Winterset was a temperance town; however, it is unknown if this meeting was related to the temperance movement.

Photograph courtesy Madison County Historical Society Photograph Collection.



Madison County Courthouse	Madison
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1984 *Madisonian* looking back.

## Old Papers Give Insight Into Construction Of Courthouse

by Emery Bubany

"Slate, laid in roof—\$904.80. Zinc flashings—\$73.78. Gas fixtures—\$637.37. Iron work material—\$11,273.38. Marble work—\$1,588.70. Wages, painting and glazing—\$487.19."

These are some of the costs listed by Judge W.H. Lewis back in 1877 when the present Madison County Courthouse was rebuilt after a fire ravaged the first stone Courthouse in 1875.

The detailed list of expenses was part of old papers found stuck away in storage when Courthouse remodeling took place in the 1970's during the installation on an elevator and improvements made in various offices, said Mary Welty, county recorder.

An examination of the old papers would make anyone with a sense of history take notice in the efforts of

planners and the skilled craftsmen who, with tools considered archaic by today's standards, put today's stately Courthouse back into place.

Welty, who is somewhat of a Courthouse historian in her own right, finds the papers most interesting. She and other officials were looking over the old figures last week to see what the original costs were.

According to Judge Lewis, who was chosen as supervisor of the rebuilding efforts, the cost of building the Courthouse in 1876 was \$116,087. His list of costs were in a report upon completion to the then board of supervisors.

Lewis, a superb craftsman himself, was responsible for the large black walnut newel posts at the foot of each stairway. The interior of the Courthouse is finished

in native black walnut and oak, and the limestone was hauled laboriously from nearby quarries.

The Courthouse of today is a close replica of the first limestone Courthouse built in 1868. At about that time, the Iowa State Capitol was being built and both structures were designed by A.H. Piquenard, a famous French architect.

The first stone Courthouse had square pillars and a number of tall smokestacks for the coal furnaces. In the rebuilding, rounded pillars were used and the smokestacks eliminated for a central flue to handle steam heating.

The fire was a calamity for Winterset residents. It destroyed the Courthouse completely just about four years after being finished and there was no in-

(Continued on next page)

*unclassified material*  
 Architect  
 All other labor  
 Freight not otherwise included  
 Express Charges  
 Gas Fixtures  
 Gas Machine  
 Bell  
 Block  
 Steam Heating Apparatus  
 Boilers & Fixtures  
 Furniture  
 Total money involved in house  
 Less credits as per schedule  
 Net cost of house

1637.38
2000.00
4553.53
133.86
67.78
637.37
500.00
432.79
475.00
2948.93
591.10
2843.11
11723.42
1725.74
116087.68

### COURTHOUSE BUILDING COSTS

These are some of the figures compiled by Judge W.H. Lewis in 1877 showing the itemized building costs of the Madison County Courthouse. Lewis was the superintendent when the Courthouse was rebuilt in 1876. The old documents were uncovered in recent years from storage. Note the bottom line which reads, "Net cost of house."

Madison County Courthouse	Madison
Name of Property	County
112 John Wayne Dr. N	Winterset
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2011 *Madisonian*

*Madisonian*, Wednesday, October 12, 2011

9A

stripper issue revisited

claims it shouldn't have taken 605 gallons

er  
 From page 2A

inally anticipat-  
 the project.

s show it took  
 ns of stripper to  
 ie paint from the  
 se. Of those,  
 ins were of the  
 specified prod-

originally esti-  
 at it would take  
 ns.

lating, the arch-  
 s he can see  
 might have  
 ser to 366 gal-

over \$42 per  
 id another \$49  
 er gallon, it's a

ainter

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who had previ-  
 county super-  
 at he thought  
 or had uncer-  
 the amount of  
 hat would be  
 hen he bid the  
 to the same  
 sday, indicat-  
 lknew full well  
 as getting into  
 specifics were  
 it in bid docu-

delivered a  
 ed Tuesday, to  
 iversors from  
 itects stating

tract by name.

It also was a product  
 with which Taylor appar-  
 ently was unfamiliar. So  
 he relied on the label  
 directions.

Using those label  
 instructions, assuming  
 each gallon would cover  
 100 square feet, Taylor  
 calculated he would  
 need 165 gallons of  
 stripper to remove the  
 paint on the 11,000  
 square feet of surface  
 area on the dome. The  
 estimate called for  
 applying one and one-  
 half coats of stripper.

It ended up taking three,  
 four and even more coats  
 of stripper to do the job  
 on some areas of the  
 dome.

When it was all said and  
 done, Taylor had used  
 605 gallons of the con-  
 tract-specified stripper on  
 the dome, and over 100  
 gallons of another prod-  
 uct, particularly when it  
 came to trying to remove  
 the tar-like substance  
 was found buried under  
 several layers of paint.

Seely indicated, after  
 he had consulted with  
 the product manufactur-  
 er, that it would be rea-  
 sonable, given the multi-  
 ple layers of paint, that  
 each gallon of stripper  
 would probably cover  
 about 75 square feet,



*Rediscovered ornamentation*

**Ornamental eyebrow, or cat's eye:** When crews were working on the courthouse this summer, they discovered that the space above the double windows on the tower used to have windows. The ornamental windows, eight in all, one above each of the eight double windows, had been painted over some years ago. Some had tin or plywood in place of the glass, and all had been painted over to make them uniform. The wood, believed to be burr oak, is original, and new glass was cut to form the round and the eyebrows. Painters have been calling them cat's eyes. Here, OPN architect's assistant Isaac Bracher examines an eyebrow, which was painted in the color lavender wisp.

The architect went on  
 to say that invoices  
 show it cost Taylor paint-  
 ing about \$49.41 per  
 gallon to apply the strip-  
 per, and, according to  
 Tuesday's memo, "reim-  
 bursement for additional  
 labor can be considered  
 on 239 gallons of addi-  
 tional stripper used on  
 the project."

from completion, Seely  
 says he doesn't expect  
 any more surprises, or  
 any other cost overruns.

"I think we need to find  
 out how much money  
 we have left," supervisor  
 Bob Duff said.

Any decision on the  
 stripper costs will be  
 revisited, yet again.

—dkB



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Madison County Courthouse

Madison

Name of Property

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112 John Wayne Dr. N

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*The bell is now on display in the courthouse yard.*

