

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
____ prehistoric	____ archeology-prehistoric	____ community planning	____ landscape architecture	____ religion
____ 1400–1499	____ archeology-historic	____ conservation	____ law	____ science
____ 1500–1599	____ agriculture	____ economics	____ literature	____ sculpture
____ 1600–1699	xx architecture	____ education	____ military	____ social/
____ 1700–1799	____ art	____ engineering	____ music	____ humanitarian
xx 1800–1899	____ commerce	____ exploration/settlement	____ philosophy	____ theater
____ 1900–	____ communications	____ industry	____ politics/government	____ transportation
		____ invention		____ other (specify)

Specific dates 1892–93

Builder/Architect Josselyn & Taylor, Arch., Cedar Rapids

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Agriculture Hall (1892–3) is the last surviving well preserved 19th century building on the Iowa State University Campus. Its key central placement on the original campus makes it an important visual landmark. A notable Cedar Rapids architectural firm, Josselyn and Taylor, designed the building.

Known originally as Agriculture Hall, the building was designed by the Cedar Rapids architectural firm of Josselyn and Taylor. Construction was begun in June 1892 and completed in October 1893 by Wilding and Wood, Contractors, for approximately \$35,000. The basement was to be devoted to the horticulture department, the first floor to the agriculture department, the second to office and recitation rooms, the third to offices for the veterinary and bacteriology departments, and the fourth to literary and scientific societies. An addition was built to the back (north) in 1903 for the Departments of Soil Physics and Farm Mechanics. Proudfoot and Bird of Des Moines were the architects and C.E. Atkinson was the contractor. In 1909 the building was renamed Agriculture Annex, Agricultural Engineering in 1910, and Botany Hall in 1928.

Henry S. Josselyn (1845–1934) received his architectural training at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Europe, and in architects' offices in Chicago and Des Moines. Eugene Hartwell Taylor (1855–1924) graduated from Grinnell College in 1875, where he had received preparatory training in architecture, and took supplementary studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The two men formed a partnership in 1882 and practiced in Des Moines until about 1884 or 1885, when they moved their practice to Cedar Rapids. They are among the first academically trained architects practicing in Iowa, as distinguished from those having received apprenticeship training as was prevalent. They were also the architects for Morrill Hall, built on the Iowa State Campus 1890–1891, and for the State Hospital for the Insane, Main Building, Cherokee, Iowa (1896–1902). Proudfoot and Bird--and in the 1920's with Rawson or Souers as a third partner--were the architects for the large limestone Neoclassical Revival or Renaissance Revival buildings which ring the central campus: Marston, Beardshear, and Curtiss Halls, and the first portion of MacKay Hall (using the present names of these buildings), built from 1900 to 1911; and the Library, the rest of MacKay Hall, Dairy Industries Building, and the first portion of the Memorial Union, built from 1923 to 1928.

The architectural style of the original portion of Agriculture Hall is Queen Anne Revival. The British architect Richard Norman Shaw pioneered the style, but a similar picturesque approach also appears in the work of the American architects H. H. Richardson and McKim, Mead and White. The turn of the century and the limestone buildings of Proudfoot and Bird, reflect the impact of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, a severe Neoclassicism takes over.

The second floor of the building originally contained offices for Professors Wilson, Curtiss, Budd, Hensen, and Kent. The first three were figures of note. James Wilson ("Tama Jim") headed the Iowa State program in agriculture from 1890 to 1897, and then became United States Secretary of Agriculture, a post which he held for sixteen years. He is a figure of national significance. Charles F. Curtiss joined the college faculty in 1891 and became Dean of Agriculture in 1902, developing the nation's first fully organized

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1891 and became Dean of Agriculture in 1902, developing the nation's first fully organized county cooperative extension service and the first departments of agricultural engineering and journalism. His efforts were largely responsible for introducing soybeans and alfalfa as major crops in Iowa. He was dean of the college from 1902 to 1932. Joseph L. Budd, with Iowa State from 1877 to 1898, was a pioneer horticulturalist in the United States. He was made professor of horticulture in 1887 and was a founder and for seventeen years president of the Iowa Horticulture Society.

Located at the northern edge of Iowa State University's central campus, Agriculture Hall is a strongly stated boundary element. It is one of the two, predominantly brick buildings of significant dimensions bounding the central campus, and with three two-story, residential scaled buildings, contributes an element of life and vitality to this noteworthy landscape.

The significance of Agricultural Hall lies, architecturally, in its distinctive design as the work of early professionally trained architects, in the historical significance of some of the early professors whose offices were in the building, and in its key position and function in the landscape of the university's central campus.

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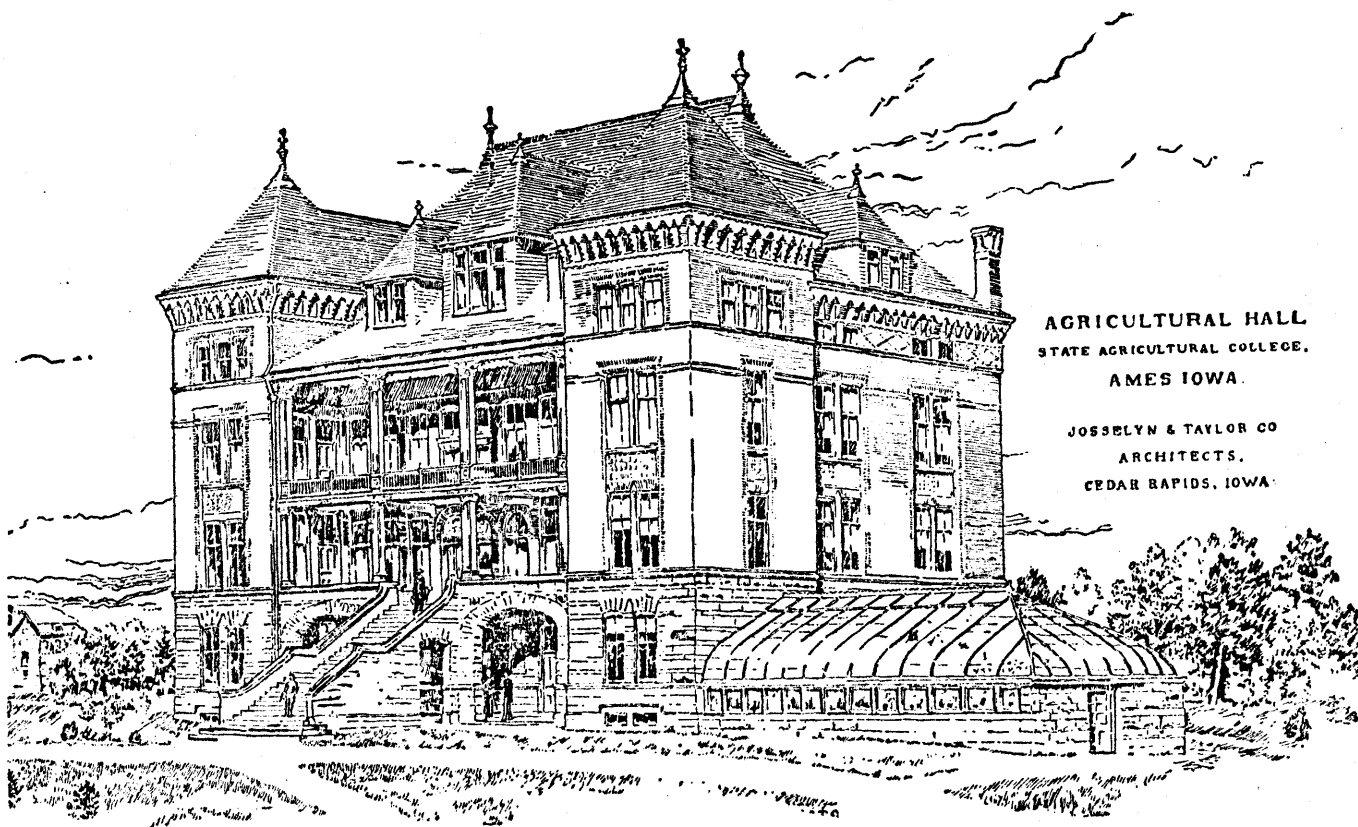
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Continuation sheet Physical Description

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Architect's rendering, Agricultural Hall, 1892-3.
Iowa School Reports, Des Moines; Iowa Department
of Education, 1892-3.