

Name of Property or District
County, State

Ames High School
Story County, Iowa

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions):

Cat: LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS Sub: Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions):

foundation CONCRETEroof ASPHALTwalls BRICKother CONCRETE

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.)

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| <u> X </u> | A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. |
| <u> </u> | B | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. |
| <u> X </u> | C | Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. |
| <u> </u> | D | Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. |

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Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B removed from its original location
- ☐ C a birthplace or a 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):

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1952

Significant Dates

1938

1990

Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Tinsley, McBroom and Higgins

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3 name of property: Ames High School
county, state: Story County, Iowa

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Ames High School is locally significant under Criterion A as it is associated with development and early consolidation of high school educational facilities in Ames, Iowa and is locally significant under Criterion C as it embodies significant characteristics of the Classical Revival style. Evaluation of the Ames High School for National Register eligibility is based upon criteria outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form *Public Schools for Iowa: Growth and Change, 1848-1966* (Beedle and Deiber 2002) under the property type "City High School." Ames High School was built to accommodate the city's entire high school population, which was previously housed in schools on the north and south sides of the city. The school, which was designed by Tinsley, McBroom and Higgins, has all of the hallmarks of the Classical Revival style including three entrance pavilions comprised of limestone pilasters, limestone entablatures with dentil molding, and pediments. The school has a high degree of integrity on its exterior and retains its integrity of design, location, feeling, setting, and association. Despite major renovation of the interior, the school building does retain its integrity of feeling, setting and association, with a number of key interior spaces remaining intact to convey the building's original character and finishes. Ames High School meets all of the requirements for registration of the city high school type including separate gymnasium and auditorium and specialized rooms for courses like home economics and art.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

Old Central School was built in 1887 on Clark Avenue and housed both elementary and high school grades. By 1900, an addition was constructed to accommodate an increasing enrollment. In 1911, the first high school building in Ames was constructed across the street from Old Central. It contained a 700-seat auditorium, gymnasium, specialized classrooms, and a library. A second high school building, called Lincoln, was approved for the south side of town that same year.

Increases in high school enrollment in the 1930s led to the construction of Ames High School on the site of Old Central School, which was razed in 1936. Original plans for the school called for classrooms only. The city unexpectedly received a PWA grant to construct an auditorium and gymnasium. Construction began in 1937 and was not completed until 1939. Junior high and high school students attended half-day classes during construction. The school continued to be used as a high school until 1967 when a new high school was constructed on 20th Street. The Ames High School then became Central Junior High School. The school was abandoned in the mid 1980s when a new middle school was built. The city administration reoccupied the former high school in 1989 to consolidate scattered city offices.

The firm of Tinsley, McBroom and Higgins was established in 1929 after Burdette Higgins joined the firm of Tinsley and McBroom. The firm's first major commission was the Bankers Life Insurance Company building in Des Moines, which was featured in an article in Architectural Record magazine. Other major commissions by the firm include the Physical Education Building, Wilhem Hall, and Spedding Hall at Iowa State University, the United Benefit Life Office Building in Omaha, Nebraska, and numerous homes in Ottumwa, Iowa.