

TYPED DOCUMENT ON FILE AT HAMPTON CITY HALL - 1951

FACTS ABOUT HAMPTON, IOWA

ALTITUDE 1150 feet above sea level.

AIRPORT Municipally owned, three miles northwest of city near Beed's Lake. Charter and private line connections.

BANKS Two banks with combined resources of over \$9,000,000.

BUILDING PERMITS More than 200 new housing units built during the past five years.

BUSINESS TRADE TERRITORY 250 retail outlets employing 1250 people, serve approximately 24,781 people within a radius of 18 miles. Total retail sales of \$9,381,400. in 1951.

CHURCHES 11 churches serve the needs of many faiths.

CITY DATA Size, 1 square mile. Government, Mayor and City Council form. Fire Department, Volunteer Department, 16 members. Police Department, one station, 5 men. Streets and sewers, total street mileage 55, paved 12, 16 miles of sewer.

CLIMATE Average winter temperature 20.8 degrees. Average summer temperature, 67.4 degrees. Annual rainfall, 45.22 inches.

HIGHWAYS U.S. 65 and State 3.

HOSPITALS Lutheran Hospital, 50 beds.

HOTEL AND MOTELS One hotel with 70 rooms, Four motels with 28 units.

INDUSTRIES - - PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED Nursery stocks, canned corn and vegetables, tools, and washing machine parts, dressed poultry, concrete tile and culverts, hybrid corn and hogs.

LIBRARIES Hampton Public Library, over 17,000 volumes. Average yearly circulation over 39,000 volumes.

NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATION 2 weekly newspapers, Hampton Chronicle, circulation about 4,000. Hampton Times, circulation about 4,000. Radio Station KSMN 1010 on your radio dial, 500 watts.

POPULATION 1940 - 4,006, 1950 - 4,432. 1,166 families, average 3.8 per family. Franklin county population 1950 - 16,781.

PUBLIC UTILITIES, Electric customers, 1893. Gas Meters, 763. Water Meters, 1300, Capacity of water plant 1 ½ million gallons per day, storage capacity 600,000 gallons. Telephones 2365.

RECREATION Facilities include over 65 acres of public parks; 2 theaters; 1 golf course; boating, fishing and swimming on Beed's Lake northwest of city; tennis courts.

SCHOOLS One public high school and two grade schools, total enrollment 1100.

TRANSPORTATION Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, Chicago Great Western Railroad, Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad, Jefferson Transportation Lines, five motor freight lines operate out of city. Private air plane service.

EARLY HISTORY OF HAMPTON, IOWA

Hampton, the county seat of Franklin County, is located two miles east of the county center line, on U.S. highway 65 and state highway 3, and on the main lines of the Rock Island, Chicago Great Western and Minneapolis & St. Louis rail roads. The city is in the approximate center of Iowa's rich northern agricultural land.

Hampton was founded in 1855 when Job Garner and George Ryan, first settlers in the community, chose this spot to build their log cabin homes. Garner and Ryan platted the original town boundaries. When the site of Hampton was selected to be the county seat in March 1856, 40 acres of land was sold and proceeds used to start building a county courthouse.

The first commercial building erected in the settlement was a story and a half log structure used as a community trading post. T.T. Rawson and his brother-in-law, Frank Geiger, operated this store selling groceries, dry goods and hardware to the settlers nearby. A. Freetow brought machinery to the settlement and built a saw mill which developed a capacity of 3,000 foot of lumber a day.

Benjamin was the name chosen by Garner for the new town and remained the name until after the town was named the county seat. To avoid confusion with another town in the state called Benjamin, R.F. Piatt, an attorney and prominent citizen, induced Judge Reeve to change the name to Hampton.

The first courthouse in Hampton was a one-story, one-room building. It was erected on the southeast corner of Courthouse Square in the summer of 1857 by F.A. Denton. J.D. Thompson, district judge, was the first jurist to preside over the court in Franklin County.

Dr. Guthrie was the first physician to locate in Hampton. He came in 1856 and, in addition to following his profession, operated a small hotel in a building which stood on the northeast corner of Reeve and 4th Streets.

During Hampton's first years, mail was obtained at Cedar Falls. A post office was established in Hampton in December 1857. Robert F. Piatt was Postmaster.

The community's first school house was built in 1857, and the next year another was built for want of room. A new two-story building was erected in 1892, it was destroyed by fire the following year and replaced in 1894. In 1913 the high school which is now in use was built.

A grist mill was erected by Chanuncey Gillett and George Beed in 1859. That year a newspaper was organized called the Franklin Record. It was housed in a small frame building where the Baptist Church now stands.

During the years 1860 and 1865, Hampton's population decreased. Many of the able-bodied men were away to war, money was scarce and business slowed to a standstill. At one time there was not a store operating in the community. Following the war, business revived and the town grew and prospered. The stone courthouse was completed at a cost to the county of \$15,000. J.F. Latimer and A.G. Kellam opened a bank which later became the Franklin County State Bank. The predecessor of the bank of Hampton was established late in the '70's, and the Citizens National Bank of Hampton was organized in 1875.

In the spring of 1868 the St. Louis and St. Paul Company was organized for the purpose of building a railroad from Ackley north via Hampton, Mason City and Northwood to the Minnesota line. This road was completed the following year and greatly helped to advance the growth of the community. The Dubuque and Dakota Railroad, now the Chicago Great Western, was extended into Hampton from Waverly in 1876.

William Raymond became the town's first mayor when Hampton was incorporated in 1871.