

# Historic Sites in Iowa Wrestling

This state's stellar reputation in high school and college wrestling is well documented in record books and sports histories. But the story is also preserved in a handful of historic structures identified in a statewide survey. Here are three of these important structures.

► Built in 1909, the gymnasium on the Cornell College campus in Mount Vernon was the site of Cornell's outstanding wrestling program. Cornell was the first school in the nation to win National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championships in wrestling in the same year, 1974. The gym was an excellent architectural example of an early college gym in Iowa and had space for wrestling, men's and women's basketball, and swimming. Today McWethy Hall is used for art classes and studios. It is a contributing structure in the Cornell College Historic District.



◀ The remarkable wrestling program of Cresco High School qualifies its school gymnasium as historically significant. The Cresco program produced 67 individual state wrestling champions, seven team championships, four Olympic wrestlers, and seven NCAA individual gold-medal winners starting in 1922. The school won its first team state title in 1928. After this gym was built in 1936, in the Moderne style, the success of the program continued. Cresco's premier coach was George "Chris" Flanagan, whose team won 262 meets; state titles in 1948, 1958, 1960, and 1964; and 20 Northeast Iowa Conference Championships.



► The gymnasium on the Iowa State University campus in Ames was designed by the Des Moines architectural firm of Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson. Built in 1911–1913, the building is historically significant as the site of the first NCAA wrestling tournament in the nation. Iowa State's powerhouse wrestling program began in 1916 under the leadership of Charlie Mayser, who laid the foundation for the Iowa State team. The team was considered the best not just in Iowa but in the nation in the 1920s and '30s.



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