

SHSI (DES MOINES); DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE



The press photographs the Drake Relays on a rainy April day in 1937.

The places where records are broken

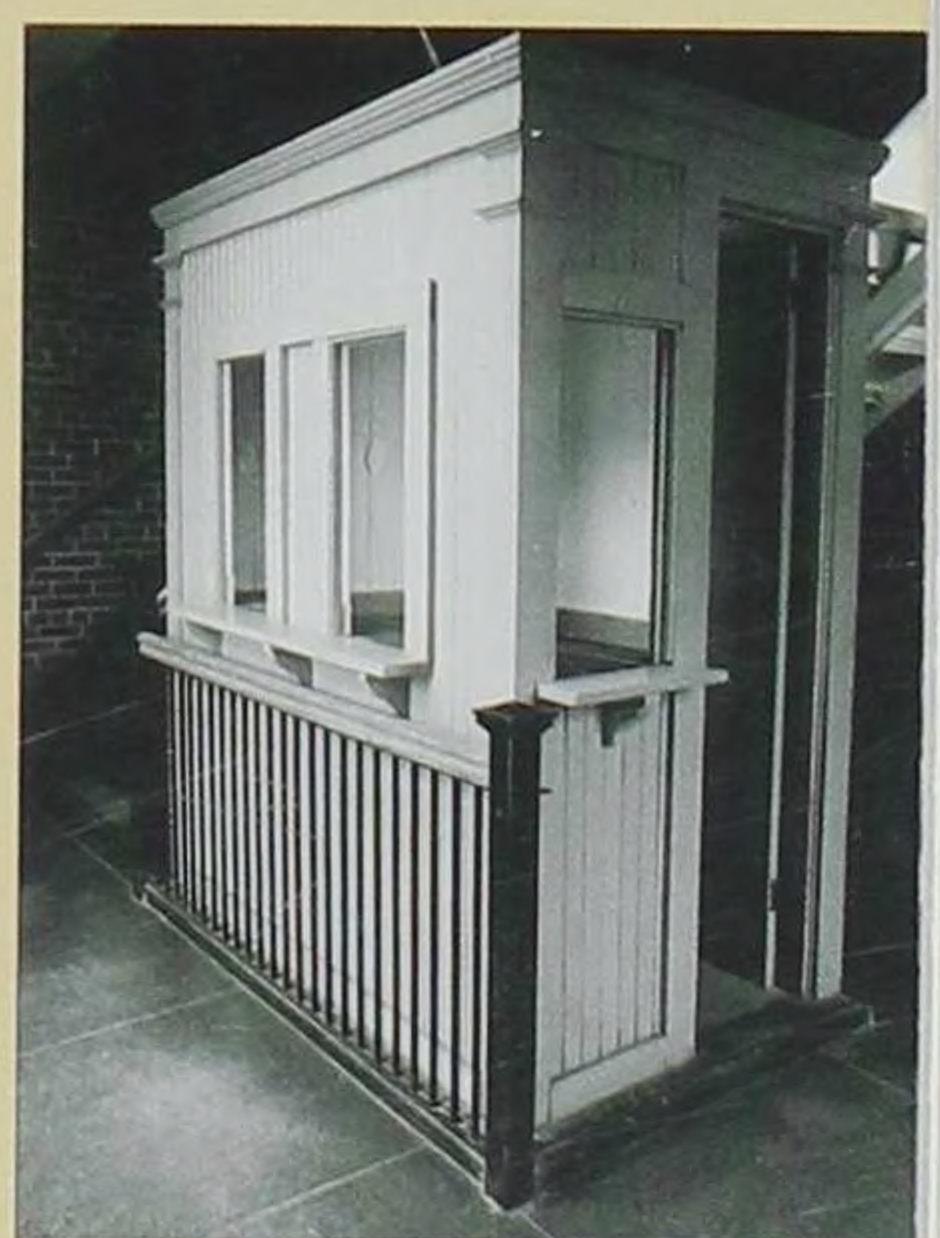
Track and field events were originally held on mown areas or dirt tracks in pastures and at fairgrounds. In the early 20th century, however, it became the norm to hold meets in football stadiums, gymnasiums, and field houses. These structures changed over the years.

Only a few properties in Iowa associated with track and field retain sufficient physical evidence to be considered historically significant. One is on the campus of Drake University in Des Moines. Another is at Loras College in Dubuque. These structures and sites still evoke a sense of time and place.

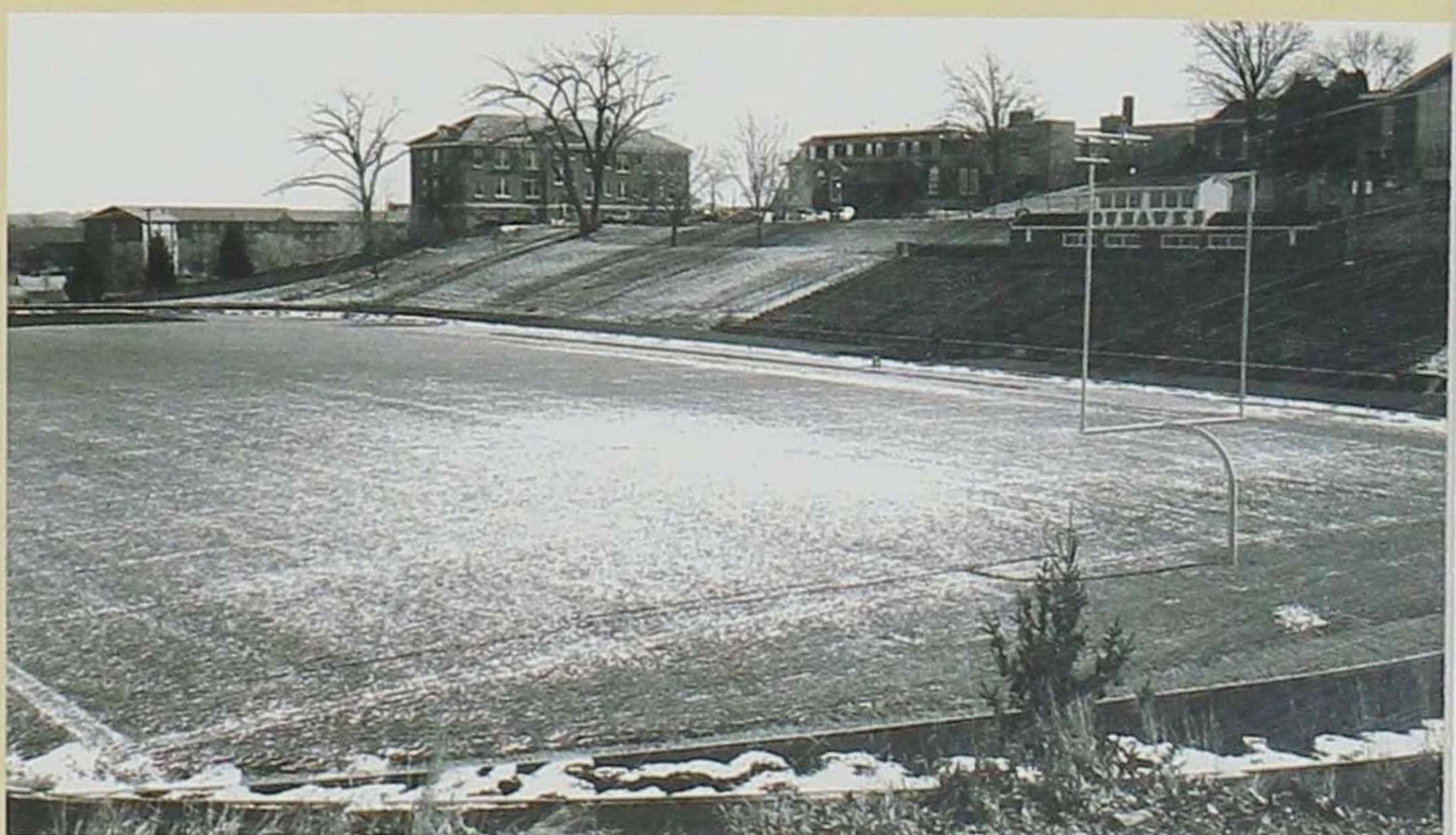
Adapted from "Survey of Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, and Districts Related to the Development of Team Sports in Iowa, 1850–1960," by Leah D. Rogers and Clare L. Kernek, Tallgrass Historians L.C., (2003).



ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE SHS: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



Top: Best known as the site of the world-famous Drake Relays, Drake Stadium in Des Moines is the oldest of three major Iowa stadiums designed in the 1920s by Proudfoot, Rawson and Souers, then the state's leading architectural firm. The firm also designed the Drake Field House (*above*) for indoor track events and basketball. Photographed in 2003, the ticket booth and the curved walkway under the seating contribute to a sense of time and place.



Designed by C. I. Krajewski and built in 1939–1940, the Loras College Stadium in Dubuque was carved into a natural limestone bluff. Notable features include the original limestone entry gates and wood-and-concrete bleachers built on a natural limestone foundation. Called the Rock Bowl, the stadium is also used for football.