

New to the National Register

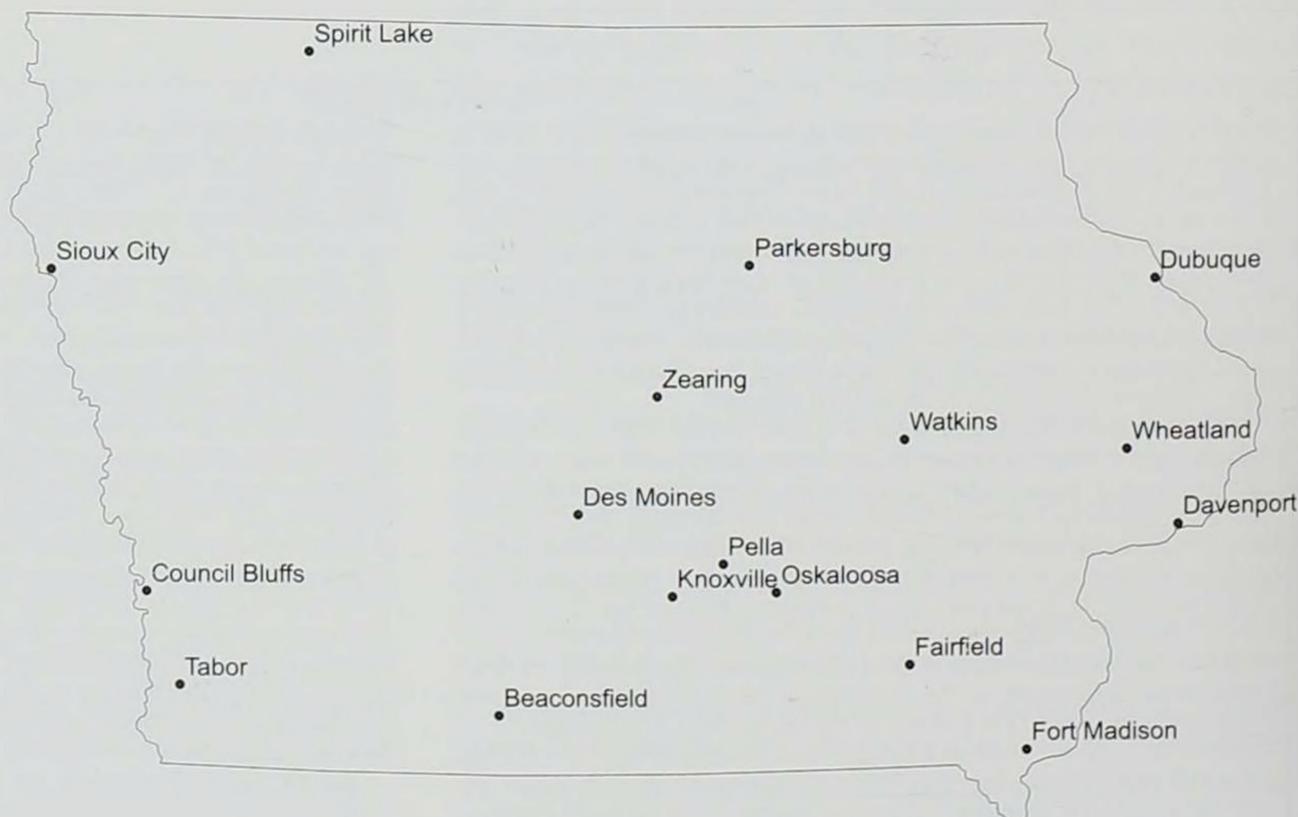
by Barbara Mitchell,
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's list of properties that are considered most worthy of preservation. The properties are tangible links to community, state, and national history.

Iowa properties listed on the National Register for 2007 are located across the state and represent a wide range of types: rustic, rural, and religious; commercial buildings and hotels; the homes of famous individuals; buildings used as advertisements; a brewery; and a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Curious about the National Register of Historic Places — and other matters related to historic preservation? The staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa can assist you.
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600 E. Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50319





Netcott-Pfeiffer House

The Netcott-Pfeiffer House in Parkersburg is an Italianate double house, exhibiting the high artistic values of a master builder. Built in 1894, it is a fine early example of the work of the Netcott family, a well-known architectural and contracting firm in the region. The Netcotts were actively working in Parkersburg during a growth spurt and housing shortage after the city's disastrous 1893 fire. The house served as the Netcotts' residence and possibly their base of operations. In 1896, it was purchased by brothers Gustavus and Paul Pfeiffer, who were Cedar Falls druggists whose joint venture and partnership in Parkersburg would eventually become Pfizer, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. Although their company would not see large success until after they moved to St. Louis, the brothers continued to support Parkersburg throughout their lives. Other renowned residents of the property included Edwin Thomas Jaynes, an international leader in statistical physics and probability theory; and Pauline Pfeiffer-Hemingway, who was but a toddler in this house, and later married Ernest Hemingway. Melodie McLean prepared the nomination and owns the house.

Beaconsfield Supply Store

The name Hy-Vee is ubiquitous throughout Iowa and neighboring states. The Beaconsfield Supply Store was the first home of the grocery chain with the "helpful smile in every aisle." Built in 1916 to serve the small town of Beaconsfield in southern Iowa, the modest brick building was purchased by Charles Hyde and David Vredenburg—Hy and Vee—around 1930. Although both men had other retailing experience, this building represents their first partnership. For three years it provided food and general supplies while operating under three different managers. All the while, Hyde & Vredenburg were opening stores in Iowa and Missouri. After they closed this store in 1933, other retailers operated out of the building until the Beaconsfield Telephone Co-op bought it in 1956. Today, Hy-Vee is Iowa's largest private employer and operates stores in seven states. Beaconsfield, on the other hand, is Iowa's smallest incorporated city with a population of just 20. This building stands as a rare remnant of Beaconsfield's role in Iowa's Golden Age of Agriculture. It is listed at both the local and state levels of significance. Marilyn Gahm, Hy-Vee History Center Coordinator, prepared the nomination for the City of Beaconsfield.



Williges Building

Sioux City's Williges Building, built in 1930, represents one of the great preservation successes of 2007. Threatened with demolition in early spring, the building became the focus of local, state, and national preservation groups, who banded together to convince the building owner to sell rather than demolish. The building is nationally significant as a late manifestation of early Prairie School commercial architecture in the United States. Designed by William Steele and his partner George Hilgers, the building exhibits an enduring allegiance to the architectural ideas of Louis Sullivan, who advocated the integration of function and rich architectural ornament rendered in terra cotta (see opposite page). It is the last building William Steele designed for Sioux City and one of the few commercial buildings by him to survive. It is also significant as one of the last surviving examples of a manufacturing and retail facility for Sioux City's fur industry, represented on the facade by terra cotta capitals ornamented with stylized animal pelts set in foliage. The nomination was prepared by Matthew W. Anderson and Glenda Castleberry of SiouxLandmark, with assistance by Paula Mohr and Barbara Mitchell of the State Historic Preservation Office.



ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, SHSI (DES MOINES). MAP BY DON HIRT

D. S. Chamberlain Building

The D. S. Chamberlain Building in Des Moines is the earliest surviving automobile salesroom and garage designed by Iowa architects Proudfoot, Bird, and Rawson, Iowa's preeminent architectural firm from the early 20th century. Proudfoot and Bird first worked in Kansas and Utah before settling in Des Moines in 1896. Within five years, they gained statewide prominence with several university commissions and the design of the Polk County Courthouse. Des Moines was once a state and regional wholesale and manufacturing center, with auto sales exploding after 1910. Once a common property type in downtown Des Moines, the auto salesroom and garage is now rare—even along "Auto Row" on Locust Street just west of downtown. By 1917, when the building was constructed, Iowa led the nation in auto ownership. Over 100 motorcar-related businesses were located in Des Moines, including dealers, garage/repair, accessory sales, and manufacturers. Jim Jacobsen of History Pays! prepared the nomination as part of a historic preservation tax credit project.



Hunter School

In the rural area outside of Tabor, Hunter School is the only remaining of 11 country schools in Green Township, Fremont County. The common one-story, gable-front school is augmented here with an asymmetrical vestibule and belfry. Built in 1901 to replace an earlier rural school nearby, Hunter School was designed and constructed by a local contractor, G. W. Clark. It served as a school until 1920, when the Tabor School District was consolidated and students began to be bussed to Tabor. Until 1990, the building continued to serve as a township meeting and polling place, but without modern restrooms, running water, and electricity, it recently fell into disuse. Today it remains a local landmark, preserved by the community for the history it represents. Although it has been covered in vinyl siding, the original wood remains underneath and it still very much reads as the quintessential one-room country school. Patricia Eckhardt of Eckhardt Research prepared the nomination. Jane Dwornicki is the owner.

Evergreen Ridge Stock Farm Historic District

South of Fairfield, the Evergreen Ridge Stock Farm Historic District calls attention to the importance of draft horses for powering farm equipment before mechanization. In 1910, Jacob Maasdam and Edward Wheeler expanded an existing farmstead on this site to import, breed, and sell Percheron draft horses, America's most popular workhorse for breeding from the 1880s to the 1930s. The design of the buildings is attributed to the Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield, a leader in the Progressive architectural movement of the early 20th century. Extensive use of poured concrete, efficient floor plans, and labor-reducing mechanical devices all point to Loudon Company's work. Loudon



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Lincoln Township Mausoleum

The Lincoln Township Mausoleum in Zeoring is architecturally significant as one of the first monolithic concrete buildings in Iowa. It is also a rare example of a public mausoleum in a small Iowa town. The mausoleum was built between 1911 and 1912, when the use of poured concrete as a building material was not quite as ubiquitous in America as it is today. Rather than leave the concrete exposed with seam lines from the wood formwork, the builder covered it with stucco and painted it white. Originally the buttresses were left a natural concrete color. The interior, which holds over 200 crypts, is faced with white marble. The building was probably designed and built by the Iowa Mausoleum Company of Waterloo, and blends several architectural styles including Mission, Late Gothic Revival, and Classical Revival. The mausoleum was built with the enterprise and energy of the Lincoln Township Mausoleum Association, which raised the funds by selling vaults in the small town of 461. William C. Page prepared the nomination for the Cemetery Trustees, who are working to preserve the historic building.



Julius and Anine Oversen House

The Julius and Anine Oversen House in Sioux City is an excellent local interpretation of the Italianate style. Located in the Morningside neighborhood, the property retains its original carriage-house, hitching posts, cistern, and retaining wall. Built around the turn of the last century, the house may have been designed and constructed by Julius Oversen himself; the home of a builder often served as an advertisement for his work. A bricklayer and mason, Oversen was locally known for having been in charge of purchasing materials and constructing the Sergeant Floyd Monument, today a National Historic Landmark. As the *Sioux City Journal* of 1901 noted, "A few deft turns of the trowel in the hands of Julius Oversen and the little piece of Kettle River sandstone had found its resting place for unknown years to come." The Oversen House is a very late example of the Italianate style, exhibiting a low-pitched roof with decorative brackets and tall, arched windows. The wrap-around porch—not typical for an Italianate house—more than likely represents Oversen's personal tastes. Two smaller houses built by him in the neighborhood feature the same Italianate features paired with wrap-around porches. Glenda Castleberry of SiouxLandmark prepared this nomination for the owner, Patricia Glisar.

First Christian Church

The First Christian Church, built between 1858 and 1862, calls attention to an unstable time in the religious and social history of Pella. Dutch immigrants had begun settling in Pella in 1847 under the leadership of Henry P. Scholte, who had managed the business and religious affairs of the immigrants since before their departure from Holland. The immigrants, dissenters from the state Reformed Church in the Netherlands and suspicious of centralized authority in the church, sought no affiliation with existing denominations in the United States, Reformed or otherwise. Instead, they formed the "Christian Church." By the mid-1850s, frustrated with Scholte's leadership in secular matters, the church removed him from the pulpit. The ensuing split in the church, exacerbated by a national schism among Dutch Protestants in the U.S, resulted in the founding of the "First Christian Church." The split shattered Pella's otherwise religious homogeneity and plagued the community throughout the rest of the 19th century. The church is the only Pella religious building surviving from this period of great divide. William C. Page prepared the nomination for the Historic Pella Trust, which purchased the building in 1995 to protect its future.





Youngville Café

Built in the early 1930s as a one-stop roadside business on the transcontinental Lincoln Highway, the Youngville Café near Watkins is a great example of the new options available to female business owners in the early 20th century. Built by Joe Young for his widowed daughter, Lizzie Wheeler, the café developed a family-friendly atmosphere with fried chicken, homemade pie, live piano music, groceries, and even a few slot machines. Three small rental cabins completed the operation but are no longer standing. It also served as the living quarters for Lizzie and subsequent operators who ran the business for her when she moved to Cedar Rapids. The Youngville Café was in operation until 1967, when it could no longer accommodate the number of cars, trucks, and buses that stopped there. Designed in a Tudor Revival style, the distinctive building features a dynamic roof shingle pattern and bright red trim. The facility was recently reopened, featuring a museum, café, and farmers market. Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for the owner, the Youngville Highway History Association.

Louis C. and Amelia L. Schmidt House

The Louis and Amelia Schmidt House in Davenport is an excellent example of the middle-class interpretation of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The Schmidt House has a standard core of a two-story, hipped roof box with lower projecting gables. This asymmetrical arrangement is augmented with other Queen Anne elements, which provide further interest and detail, including fishscale wood shingles, dentils, beads, and multi-light windows. The interior of the Schmidt House reflects the style and craftsmanship of the original owner, with turned spindles, decorative newel posts, and carved detailing on the stairs, as well as large pocket doors, and a built-in china cabinet. Most likely built by Louis Schmidt in 1895, the house may also have served as an advertisement for his construction business. The later porch addition exhibits the Craftsman influence of the 1910s and 1920s, when Schmidt likely constructed it, too. Louis and Amelia Schmidt lived in the house until their deaths in the 1940s. Rebecca McCarley of SPARK Consulting prepared the nomination. She is also the proud owner of the house.



Chevra B'nai Yisroel Synagogue

The Chevra B'nai Yisroel Synagogue in Council Bluffs is significant as a notable example of a public building designed by local architect J. Chris Jensen and for its significant association with the settlement and evolution of the Jewish religious and ethnic community in the Council Bluffs-Omaha region. The building was constructed in 1931 to replace the city's first synagogue, destroyed by a disastrous fire. The building's design is subdued and somewhat stylish with its tripartite facade and projecting main entryway. The architect was born in Denmark in 1873 and was working in Omaha by the time he reached his early 20s. One of only 14 remaining synagogues in the state, Chevra B'Nai Yisroel represents what was once a thriving Jewish community. The prosperity of the congregation required the building to be enlarged in 1962, but today it struggles to maintain membership. The synagogue is one of the longest-lasting and most prominent symbols to represent the Jewish heritage of Council Bluffs. Leah Rogers and Megan Masana of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for the current B'nai Israel congregation.



Edmundson Park Historic District

Oskaloosa's Edmundson Park is named after James Edmundson, who grew up in Oskaloosa and became a prominent lawyer and businessman in Council Bluffs. The park is significant as an example of a local public works project, accomplished through the New Deal's Works Progress Administration, and as a fine example of landscape design by noted landscape architect Ray Wyrick. Wyrick was well known in early 20th-century landscape architecture. He served on the Des Moines Boulevard Committee and drew plans for several green spaces in Des Moines and cemeteries throughout Iowa. In 1936, Wyrick developed the park's natural amphitheater so that it could be used for outdoor plays, concerts, and meetings, and planned the rustic stone and log entrance gates, bridges, shelters, and fireplaces, built by the WPA. A bathhouse and swimming pool finish out the park design. Today a new recreational trail links the historic and modern features of Edmundson Park. Molly Myers Naumann prepared the nomination for the Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission.

Lincoln-Fairview Historic District

The Lincoln-Fairview Historic District in Council Bluffs represents over 100 years of residential design and development, beginning with the establishment of a burying ground for Mormon migrants who died on their way west in 1846. The picturesque Fairview Cemetery includes a monument to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's 1859 visit to Council Bluffs, and the cast bronze Black Angel, memorializing Ruth Anne Dodge, wife of Grenville M. Dodge. Located along a south-facing hillside of a high bluff, the historic district includes over 200 properties, including several architect- and contractor-designed homes built by prosperous merchants, contractors, politicians, and professionals. Eight of the homes belonged to people associated with the Woodward Candy Company, which at its peak was the town's largest employer and was thought to be the largest candy business west of the Mississippi. Most of the homes were built between 1880 and 1920 and represent the typical architectural styles and house types of that period: Gothic, Colonial and Tudor Revivals, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Craftsman, as well as vernacular foursquares, cottages, and double houses. Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination.



City Hotel

This colorful 1893 building in Wheatland was designed and built by an Italian artist who worked as a photographer, carpenter, mason, and self-taught architect. Antheona Araah immigrated to America in 1859 at the age of nine and in 1881 married a native Iowan. By then, he was already working as a photo-artist under the name "Professor Araah," and traveling from town to town in eastern Iowa with his photo-gallery wagon in tow. When he worked in Wheatland in the early 1890s, it was a hustling market stop on one of Chicago & North Western's main lines. Wheatland was experiencing growth but was also plagued by fires, which set in motion civic improvements including waterworks and a new brick-and-tile plant. This hotel replaced one destroyed by fire just months before. Professor Araah was given the job of rebuilding, using local brick. His creative use of colored brick, curving forms, and skilled masonry techniques created a functional and aesthetically pleasing design based in the late Victorian era of its construction. Jan Olive Nash with Eric Lana and Amy Smothers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for owner Kenneth Rohling of Rohling Enterprises.





Todd House and Tabor Antislavery Historic District

Built in 1852, the John Todd House was first listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 as the most visible building associated with Tabor's involvement in the Underground Railroad. The nomination was amended last year to recognize the property's broader national and regional significance and to include Tabor City Park as a key element in the Tabor Antislavery Historic District. In the 1850s, national unrest revolved around the creation of Kansas Territory, and hostility broke out between proslavery groups and antislavery settlers, known as "Free Staters." In 1856, Tabor's location in southwest Iowa and its antislavery populace, including Reverend John Todd, made it the ideal destination for Free State settlers, a safe harbor for Free State fighters, and a storage site for weapons and supplies. By 1857, John Brown would adopt Tabor as a training ground for his men, working on plans that would conclude in his attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859, cementing his legacy and leading to his execution for first-degree murder, treason, and inciting a slave insurrection. The district will be nominated for designation as a National Historic Landmark in the coming year. Rebecca McCarley of Spark Consulting prepared the nomination, which was edited by Lowell Soike.

Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District

The Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District is one of the great preservation "wins" of the last few years. Thanks to the Save Our Stadium Committee, Knoxville citizens, school board members, and a lot of hard work, the Athletic Field is not only listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it will be preserved for future generations of athletes and fans. Locally significant as a well-preserved and notable example of a make-work project of the Great Depression era, it is also a unique example of an Iowa recreational facility executed in a Medieval-inspired version of Rustic architecture. It is one of only two known examples of WPA high school stadiums in Iowa to use native stone and the only known Iowa example to use rustic stonework in a castle-themed design. Built on a former city reservoir, the athletic field takes advantage of the existing basin and is situated below the surrounding ground level. A public pool also took advantage of the basin until it was filled in several years ago. The bathhouse and mother's pavilion remain, along with the city water tower, a stone storage building, stone gateways, retaining walls, stone seating areas, a track, and a playing field. Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for the Save Our Stadium Committee.

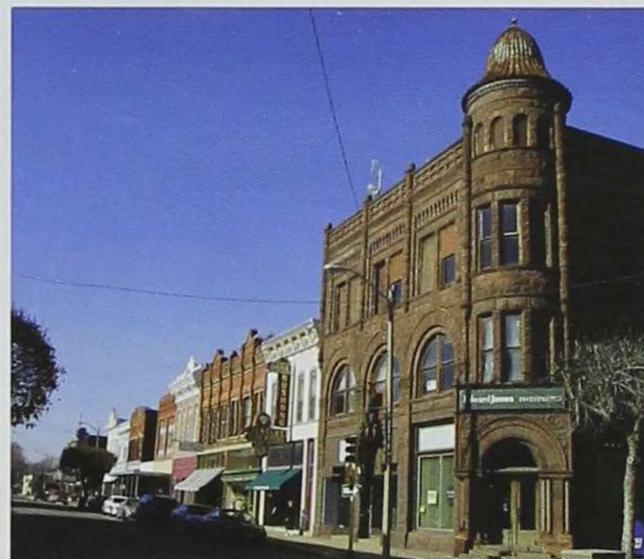


Antlers Hotel

Antlers Hotel represents early 20th-century railroad tourism in Spirit Lake and the Iowa Great Lakes Region. Beginning in the late 1880s and continuing to the early 1920s, a coalition of railroad companies, local and national entrepreneurs, and sportsmen turned northwest Iowa into an upscale tourist destination. The Antlers Hotel was built in 1902, during the heyday of this tourism boom, and was widely regarded as the finest hotel in Spirit Lake and the surrounding communities. Increasing tourism throughout the early 1900s resulted in an addition to the hotel in 1910. As the automobile culture took over in the 1920s and later, however, Iowa Lakes tourism evolved and the railroad-era resorts began a steady decline. Today, the Antlers Hotel is one of a small number of surviving buildings directly associated with the railroad era's tourism in the region. Sam Erickson of Community Housing Initiatives prepared the nomination as part of a historic preservation tax credit project.

Fort Madison Downtown Commercial Historic District

Situated at a bend on the Mississippi, Fort Madison developed east to west along a natural plateau between the river and the bluffs. Though Fort Madison's rich history reaches back much earlier, the oldest buildings within the Downtown Commercial Historic District date to the 1850s. River traffic and the eventual arrival of the railroad helped Fort Madison evolve into a vibrant commercial and industrial center. The historic district remained the heart of the community even as other commercial nodes developed to serve the growing city. Fort Madison's commercial district has stylistic attributes dating from all of the architectural periods through which construction spanned: Federal and Greek Revival during the early years, Romanesque Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque during the late 1800s, Queen Anne and various Revival styles at the turn of the last century, and Craftsman, Art Deco, and Streamline Moderne during the early 1900s. The architecture also illustrates postwar attempts to improve the district with new street lighting, storefronts, and general modernizing. Rebecca McCarley prepared the nomination for the Fort Madison Historic Preservation Commission.



Dubuque Star Brewery

Dubuque was home to a large number of brewers beginning from its earliest years, perhaps due to the city's prime location on Iowa's northern reaches of the Mississippi River, a natural source for ice before modern improvements in pasteurization and refrigeration. Representing a late phase of brew-complex design and construction, the Dubuque Star Brewery has statewide architectural significance for its Romanesque styling by Chicago architect Fred Rautert—a German, of course. His design integrated the chimney of a previous distillery on the site, allowed for future expansion, and, naturally, included a saloon. The Dubuque Star Brewery is also significant for its role in the brewing industry in Iowa. Built in 1899, it was the first Iowa brewery to reopen after prohibition ended in 1933, with Dubuque's Mayor Mark Kane filling the first keg for shipping directly to Governor Clyde Herring. For years Dubuque Star was Iowa's only functioning brewery before the re-emergence of microbrews. Jim Jacobsen of History Pays! prepared the nomination as part of a historic preservation tax credit project.