

New to the National Register

by Barbara Mitchell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
based on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places

The year 2009 was a busy one for State Historic Preservation Office staff and Iowans interested in honoring historic properties. Thirty-one properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The properties include commercial, industrial, and business buildings; farmsteads, single-family homes, apartment complexes, and hotels; entertainment venues; public and educational buildings; and an archaeological district. With National Register listing, these properties are recognized for their historical, architectural, or archaeological significance to the state of Iowa.

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East Park Band Shell

In a town known for Meredith Willson and *The Music Man*, the East Park Band Shell represents a Mason City tradition dating back to 1920: the municipal band. Built in 1924, the shell-shaped bandstand was considered to be the ideal acoustical shape for live performances by professional musicians who came to Mason City from across the country. Although the Mason City Band Shell was in danger of demolition for the construction of a new music pavilion, the park board decided to preserve this historic structure for another generation of music lovers. Molly Myers Naumann prepared the nomination for the city.



Fowler Company Building

Built in 1884 and one of the oldest buildings of its kind in Waterloo, the Fowler Company Building is an outstanding example of Late Victorian commercial architecture, with Queen Anne influences on the red brick facade. Richly decorated pilasters, corbeling, and stonework provide a visual excitement heightened by an ornate metal cornice with finials, pediments, floral patterns, and quilt-like textures. The building served as a base of operations for the Fowler Company, a wholesale grocer, until the 1930s. Jan Olive Nash of Tallgrass Historians LC prepared the nomination for the property owner as part of a historic tax credit project.



← Big Stone Mills

Built in 1866 on the water's edge of the Turkey River in Spillville, Big Stone Mills is a rare example of a stone mill dating from the period when Iowa led the nation in wheat and flour production. The mill had two sets of millstones for grinding: one for wheat, the other for barley, buckwheat, and corn. As the agricultural focus of the area switched from wheat to corn, oats, and rye in the last decades of the 19th century, the millstones were replaced with steel roller mills. Successfully converted to feed production, the building continued to serve the local agricultural community for nearly another century. *Cyril, Michael, and Steven Klimesh prepared the nomination.*

Linograph Company Building →

From 1920 until 1952, the Linograph Company Building in Davenport was home to two distinct industries, both run under the watchful eye of Richard Englehart. The first manufactured the Linograph machine, a typesetting machine preferred by small newspapers and printing houses because it was more affordable, more efficient, and easier to use than its competitors. Unfortunately, the competition eventually outpaced it, and Intertype Company purchased Linograph in 1944. Englehart kept the Linograph Company Building, however, and began to manufacture Caterpillar Tractor Company machine parts. As Caterpillar grew, so did Englehart Manufacturing. Despite an addition to the building in 1949, the company moved out in 1952. In 1956, Caterpillar acquired Englehart Manufacturing. *Alexa McDowell of AKAY Consulting prepared the nomination as part of a historic tax credit project.*



← Iowan's Hotel

The community of Essex was established in 1870 as a station on the Burlington and Missouri Railroad, later the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. The Iowan's Hotel was built in 1906 directly across from the depot to provide lodging for travelers. Used for meetings, lodging, dining, and dancing, the hotel also served as a social center for the small community. Its design is reminiscent of early 20th-century modern school architecture and allows natural light to infiltrate the interior. As the only hotel from Essex's railroad era, the structure is the last tangible remnant of the town's railroad history. *Robert Samon prepared this nomination for the Railroad Inn Bed and Breakfast.*

Clemens Automobile Company Building →

From 1909 to 1923, the Clemens Automobile Company in Des Moines sold Willys and Overland automobiles. This building was constructed in 1916 as an automobile department store with sales and service facilities. The company claimed that it was the largest building in Des Moines devoted to automobiles, and presumably the largest such in Iowa. This may have been the case, as the Willys-Overland range of automobiles was one of the top three nationally that year. In 1923, the death of Ashton Clemens, one of the founders, precipitated the relocation and eventual demise of the company. *James Jacobsen of History Pays! Historic Preservation Consulting prepared this nomination for the property owner as part of a historic tax credit project.*



← Minnie Y. and Frank P. Mattes House

Built in 1910 for Minnie and Frank Mattes, this house was a pioneer in the use of Tudor Revival as a residential style in Des Moines. Intersecting roof gables, half-timbering, and a prominent chimney all characterize the style, which became extremely popular in the 1920s and 1930s. The house and automobile garage were designed by Proudfoot & Bird, one of the preeminent architectural firms in Des Moines at the turn of the last century. *William Page prepared the nomination for the property owners.*

Methodist Deaconess Institute—Esther Hall →

This imposing structure was built in 1922 in Des Moines as a collaboration between the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, the Women's Home Missionary Society, and the Iowa Bible Training School, all associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. The property was to serve as an educational facility and residence for young women on the road to becoming social workers, missionaries, and deaconesses. Through this education, women were encouraged to pursue careers outside the home—a novel idea for the early 20th century! *William Page prepared this nomination for the property owner as part of a historic tax credit project.*



Malek Theatre →

The Malek Theatre in Independence is an exceptional example of an Art Deco movie theater. Designed by the Des Moines architectural firm Wetherell & Harrison and built in 1947, the theater features a central stepped tower with glass block, Lannon stone, metal trim, and Glastone, which is a concrete masonry tile faced with Vitrolite, an opaque pigmented glass. The Art Deco characteristics extend from the original marquee to the interior lobby and auditorium, which feature curved walls, neon-lit coved ceilings, stylized floral motifs, and decorative metal light fixtures. *Anthony Fitz and Camilla Deiber prepared the nomination.*



Sometimes it takes just a few decent, determined citizens to save a historic building from demolition. National Register listings in 2009 include two such buildings saved through relocation.

Isaac A. Wetherby House →

This Iowa City house was saved, moved, and rehabilitated through the resolute efforts of Marybeth Slonneger, Mary Bennett, and other local preservationists. It is the only extant building associated with Isaac Wetherby, an important local and statewide photographer and artist in the 19th century. From 1860 to 1887, the building served as home to Isaac and his family. In 2008, it was moved four blocks to make way for new construction. *Marybeth Slonneger and Mary Bennett prepared this nomination.*



← Murillo Flats

In Des Moines, a preservation battle was won when the massive Murillo Flats building was relocated to the Sherman Hill neighborhood in order to clear the way for new construction. Built in 1905 on the west end of downtown, the three-story brick building originally comprised six apartment "flats." Investor James McNamara had seen the success of similar investments in New York City and Chicago and believed that he, too, could capitalize on Des Moines's growing population. The Murillo was one of several apartment buildings built in the early 20th century. *William Page prepared this nomination for the property owner as part of a historic tax credit project.*



Four downtown commercial districts were added to the National Register in 2009, paving the way for preservation incentives to be used as part of downtown revitalization efforts in each town.

Adel Public Square Historic District →

In the 1870s local promoters ensured Adel's longevity by bringing a railroad connection to town. Just over a decade later, downtown businesses rallied to pave the streets with brick. At the turn of the century, the progressive movement captured Adel, resulting in the impressive Dallas County Courthouse. *William Page prepared the nomination for the Adel Historic Preservation Commission as part of a Certified Local Government grant project.*



Anamosa Main Street Historic District →

Developed organically as a corridor through the center of town, Anamosa's commercial district eventually encompassed three commercial nodes. Extensive use of local limestone for building and ornamentation visually unifies a seemingly unsystematic development. *William Page prepared the nomination for the Jones County Historic Preservation Commission as part of a Certified Local Government grant project.*



← Marion Commercial Historic District

The Marion Commercial Historic District represents the prosperity and challenges faced by Iowa's early communities. Marion was the county seat and a division point for the Milwaukee Railroad until the early 20th century, when the county seat shifted to Cedar Rapids, railroad shops moved to Atkins, and the population moved with them. Lesser communities might have succumbed, but Marion stepped up to promote itself as a beautiful, modern city determined to benefit from its proximity to the urban and industrial center in Cedar Rapids. *Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for the Marion Historic Preservation Commission as part of a Certified Local Government grant project.*



← Eldora Downtown Historic District

In many Iowa towns, a public square is a community hub. Eldora's Downtown Historic District follows this trend. It also features the Romanesque Revival Hardin County Courthouse, built in 1893. This heart of Eldora's commercial, public, religious, and educational activities was ravaged by a severe hailstorm just three months after being listed on the National Register. The listing is a point of pride, and today Eldora is working its way back from the devastation. *Rebecca Lawin McCarley of SPARK Consulting prepared the nomination for Hardin County Historic Preservation Commission as part of a Historical Resource Development Program grant.*



↗ **Tyden Farm No. 6 Farmstead Historic District**

Swedish immigrant Emil Tyden made a fortune as an inventor, businessman, and industrialist. During the progressive era of the early 20th century, Tyden turned his attention to modernizing agriculture through science and technology. Over 25 years, starting in 1915, he purchased eight farms in north central Iowa, amassing over 2,500 acres. Tyden Farm No. 6 (near Dougherty in Floyd County) served as a base of operations during his frequent visits to Iowa from his home in Michigan. His influence can be seen in the orderly arrangement and modern design of the farm buildings. *Jan Olive Nash of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination with assistance from Jennifer Price.*



Roswell and Elizabeth Garst Farmstead Historic District →

Just over 50 years ago, Iowa had the attention of the world when Nikita Krushchev visited Roswell Garst's farmstead near Coon Rapids, the capstone of Garst's attempt to create a bridge between two Cold War countries and to promote his agricultural and business acumen. Krushchev and Garst had met in 1955 while Garst toured the Soviet Union, Romania, and Hungary, disseminating information about agricultural innovations and negotiating the sale of hybrid seed corn. The men formed an unlikely bond due to their similar personalities and backgrounds. *The Garst Farmstead was nominated just in time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Krushchev's visit. Jan Olive Nash and Rebecca Conard prepared the nomination for the Garst family.*



← **Christian Bloedel Wagon Works**

Christian Bloedel moved from Guttenberg to McGregor in 1860 after having lived and worked in Saginaw, Detroit, and Philadelphia. A German immigrant, Bloedel had experience as a wagon maker, grocer, and farmer. Once in McGregor, he set up his shop a few blocks from the business center in order to cater to local clients and farmers rather than those arriving at the river port. These beautiful brick buildings served as both business and residence for Bloedel and his family, who joined him in his trade. The family partnership dissolved around 1887. Although his sons moved to Minnesota, Bloedel remained in McGregor until his death in 1901. *Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for the property owner.*



National Biscuit Company Building →

This rather nondescript four-story brick factory building serves as a direct connection between the city of Des Moines and the National Biscuit Company, better known today as Nabisco. After the National Biscuit Company absorbed the Continental Biscuit Company in the early 1900s, it assumed control of the market throughout Iowa. The construction of this building in 1906 followed the company's nationwide design standards. The building served as a regional center for production and distribution of the company's products, including the popular Uneeda Biscuit. By 1909, the plant served the company's third-largest sales territory; by 1921 the workforce had tripled in size. *James Jacobsen of History Pays! Historic Preservation Consulting prepared this nomination for the property owner as part of a historic tax credit project.*



← Kent Union Chapel and Cemetery

Kent Union Chapel, built in 1909 near Brooklyn in Poweshiek County, functioned as a rural social center and served local families of diverse religious backgrounds, including Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Mormons, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Catholics, Dunkards, Quakers, and United Brethren. The church would not exist without the Kent Cemetery Aid Society, a group of women living around the settlement of Kent Corners who were determined to build a chapel and raised the money needed for its construction. Today, another group is just as determined to preserve the building and return it to its original function. The Brooklyn Community Foundation is assisting with fundraising and administration of the rehabilitation project, which is spearheaded by local preservationist Jan Bittner. *Jan Olive Nash and Jennifer Price of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination as part of consultation on a federal undertaking.*

Boyt Company Building →

Established in Des Moines in 1901, the Walter Boyt Saddlery Company fabricated leather goods. In 1904, it expanded into this two-story brick building next door. By 1908 it had outgrown both buildings. Boyt Company contracted with the government during both world wars, supplying bags, belts, bridles, field packs, saddles, and holsters. During World War II, the company expanded production and so returned to this building. Boyt received five Army and Navy "E" Awards for serving the nation. *William Page prepared the nomination for the property owners as part of a historic tax credit project.*





These three adjacent buildings in downtown Des Moines are at Court Avenue and 4th Street. Their proximity ensured that their histories would eventually intertwine, but separate nominations to the National Register highlight their individual architectural significance.

← Youngerman Block

Built in 1876, this is the oldest of the three and a rare extant example of the work of architect William Foster and stonemason Conrad Youngerman. The stone-like upper facade is actually the only known Des Moines example of a cast stone called asbestine, visible in its cast form in the window surrounds and as a trowel-applied finish on the facade.



Earle & LeBosquet Block →

Built 20 years after the Youngerman Block, this structure's style is now known as the Chicago Commercial Style. Its tripartite organization follows the classical formula of base, shaft, and capital. Above the storefront base, Des Moines architect Charles E. Eastman creatively mixed creamy buff brick and dark terra cotta with stylized leaf forms to outline and ornament the soaring, arcaded three-story window bays. The shaft is capped by an intricate brickwork cornice featuring terra cotta tiles.

← Hotel Randolph

This is the youngest of the trio, opening in 1912, a year that would see six major fires in downtown Des Moines. Designed by H. L. Stevens Company of Chicago, the building pioneered the use of reinforced concrete in Des Moines hotel construction and is believed to be the first of several "fireproof" hotels throughout Iowa designed by the firm. Although the combination of concrete and brick could not make the building truly fireproof, assurances of an "absolutely fireproof hotel" enticed potential guests.

William Page, with Alexa McDowell of AKAY Consulting, prepared these nominations for the property owners as part of a historic tax credit project.



← Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Depot

Currently owned by the City of Osceola and served by AMTRAK, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Depot is a rare Iowa example of a railroad depot still in use for its original purpose. Built in 1907 to replace an earlier wood-frame structure, the brick depot is located near the crossing of two primary railroad lines in Osceola and is one of a series of at least 12 similar Iowa depots built by the CB&Q between 1902 and 1912 during a push to bring its facilities up to modern standards. Soon after the building was completed, other railroad-related enterprises sprang up around it, including the Depot Café and the Depot Hotel. Although these no longer exist, the CB&Q depot still welcomes travelers to Osceola. *Molly Myers Naumann prepared the nomination for the City of Osceola.*





← Folkert Mound Group

Located in the Iowa River Greenbelt near Steamboat Rock, the Folkert Mound Group comprises 27 mounds of various shapes—including linear, conical or oval, and cruciform—distinctly laid out in relation to each other roughly one to two thousand years ago. Although some have compared the arrangement to an anthropomorphic figure, much more research into the history and construction of the group remains to be done. This National Register nomination, future investigation of the property, and the maintenance and protection of it are integral parts of a cultural resource management plan by the Hardin County Conservation Board. *James Collins and William Whitaker of the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist prepared this nomination as part of a Historical Resource Development Program grant.*

Early immigrants to Iowa made use of building materials at hand, which was often wood and native stone. Limestone was used on these two farmsteads.



William and Mary (Messersmith) Seerley Barn ↗ and Milkhouse-Smokehouse

William and Mary (Messersmith) Seerley came to the Earlham area of Madison County from Indiana in 1856. Among the first settlers and a successful farming family, their agricultural outbuildings took on the stone building tradition of the early years of Madison County. Their milkhouse-smokehouse (built around 1860) and barn (1876) feature locally quarried limestone. Stone walkways connect the buildings. *Property owner Sara Tessmer prepared the nomination.*

John and Marie (Palen) Schrup Farmstead Historic District ↓

This farmstead is one of the few remaining rural Luxembourgian properties in Dubuque County. Settlers from Luxembourg arrived in Iowa during the mid-19th century to escape economic and political upheaval. The 1854 house, barn, and well house feature both fieldstones and cut limestone. The house, in particular, exhibits Luxembourgian traditions in its kitchen-parlor design and symmetrical arrangement of windows and doors framed with stone. *Property owner Calvin Gatch Jr. prepared the nomination.*



Lockkeeper's House →

The building long known as the Lockkeeper's House in Davis County is believed to be associated with the Des Moines River Improvement Project, a failed federal project intended to make the Des Moines River navigable from Keokuk to Des Moines. The building may be associated with Lock and Dam #10, constructed on the Des Moines River just downstream from Eldon, above lowaville. However, because no research has directly linked the house and the lock and dam, and no one knows whether the building was ever actually used as a house, the building is instead listed on the National Register as a fine example of mid-19th-century vernacular limestone design. *Molly Myers Naumann prepared the nomination for the City of Eldon.*



← Iowa Hotel

The Iowa Hotel was built in Creston in 1919–1920 in response to a series of fires that had destroyed previous hotels in town. The Creston Club, a group of prominent businessmen, raised capital for the venture through a patriotic postwar campaign. The Hotel Investment Company acquired the land and hired H. L. Stevens & Company of Chicago to build a modern, “fireproof” hotel. Known for such designs, the company also designed several other hotels in Iowa, including the Martin Hotel (Sioux City), Jefferson Hotel (Iowa City), and Brown, Randolph, and Savery hotels (Des Moines). *Clayton Fraser of FRASERdesign prepared the nomination for the City of Creston.*

Hawarden City Hall, Fire Station, and Auditorium →

This building, which served as Hawarden's city hall, fire station, and auditorium, was built in 1918 during a period that saw local boosters, civic leaders, and residents pushing for several progressive improvements. Although Hawarden had seen a number of new public improvements in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the construction of the city hall was especially well received by the citizens, perhaps because the building also served as a community center. Its completion sparked a number of other local improvements, including the installation of street paving and lighting, establishment of a state park, and construction of a passenger depot, a municipal power plant, and sanitary and storm sewers. *William Page prepared the nomination for the City of Hawarden.*





Once listed with pride on the National Register of Historic Places, these four historically significant structures in Iowa have been lost to demolition within the last decade.

← Gilruth District #4 Schoolhouse

Associated with early educational trends in Iowa, Gilruth District #4 Schoolhouse in Davenport was built in 1871. It housed a private "subscription" school founded by Rev. James Gilruth in 1861. The school was intended for use by Gilruth's grandchildren, although neighbors also paid to enroll their children there. The schoolhouse was demolished sometime before 2002. (Photograph dates to earlier decades.)

Fields Barn →

Built by William and Charles Fields, the Fields Barn near Cedar Falls was one of the largest stone barns in Iowa. The farm gained a national reputation for Cleveland Bay and English draft horses imported from Europe. The barn deteriorated for many years until the owners had it demolished in 2008.



← Brady-Bolibaugh House

Significant for its unusual combination of Second Empire, Gothic, and Italian villa styling, the Brady-Bolibaugh House in Osceola was built by local dentist F. M. Brady sometime before 1869. Dr. L.O. Bolibaugh purchased it in 1895 for his office and residence. The house was severely damaged by fire a few years ago and was demolished in 2008.



Union Hotel →

The Union Hotel was the largest and best-preserved example of an Italianate hotel design in Burlington. Built between 1865 and 1868 across the street from the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad depot, it was significant for its local association with the railroad and with Senator James Wilson Grimes, who helped secure the construction of the railroad complex and the hotel. It was demolished sometime before 2002.

