

# Youngville Cafe on Lincoln Highway Added to National Register of Historic Places, 2007

## 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.

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#### **Youngville Cafe**

Built in the early 1930s as a one-stop roadside business on the transcontinental Lincoln Highway, the Youngville Cafe near Watkins is a great example of the new option available to female business owners in the early 20th century. Built by Joe Young for his widowed daughter, Lizzie Wheeler, the cafe developed a family-friendly atmosphere with fried chicken, homemade pie, live piano music, groceries, and even a few slot machines. There 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 Cafe 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 rood single pattern and bring red trim. The facility was recently reopened, featuring a museum, cafe, and farmers market. Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. prepared the nomination for the owner, the Youngville Highway History Association.