

New to the National Register

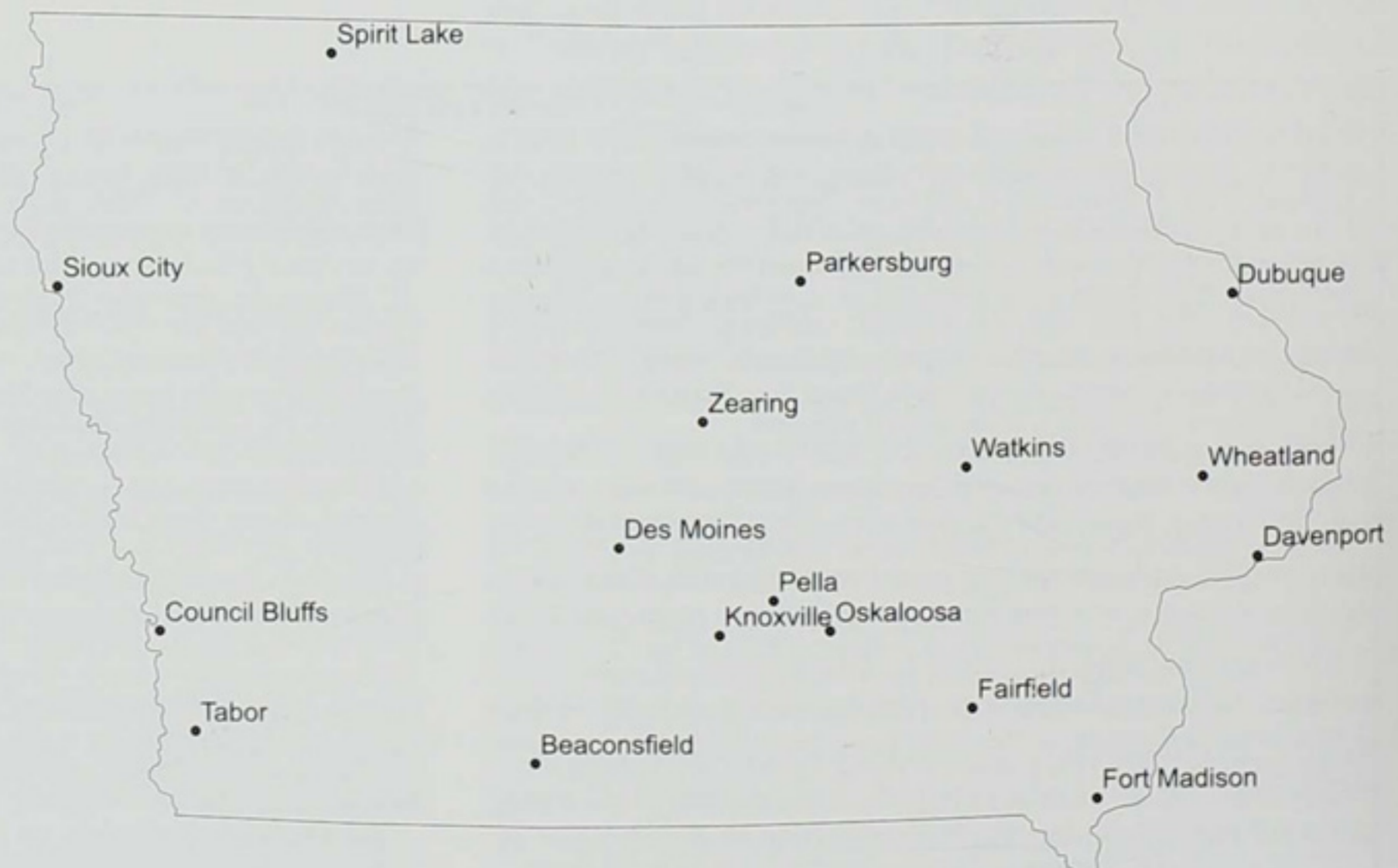
by Barbara Mitchell,
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The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's list of properties that are considered most worthy of preservation. The properties are tangible links to community, state, and national history.

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.
www.iowaHistory.org/preservation
Phone: 515-281-8743.
600 E. Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50319





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.

