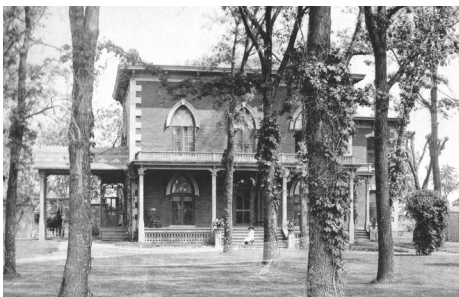
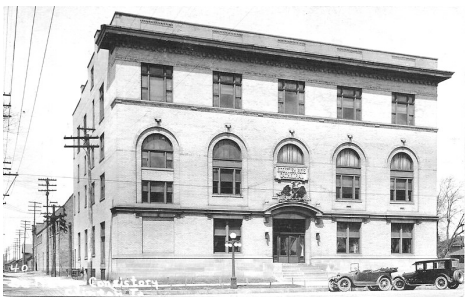


# BUILDING CHARACTER

EXPLORING THE 16 HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN CLINTON, IOWA THAT  
ARE LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

A PUBLICATION OF THE CLINTON HERALD & GATEWAY HISTORY CLUB







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# BUILDING CHARACTER

HISTORY TAB | SUMMER 2024



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A PUBLICATION OF THE CLINTON HERALD & GATEWAY HISTORY CLUB



# Ankeny replaced the 1866 Toll Block Building

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

The Ankeny Building is a large two-story building located at 201-211 Fifth Avenue South in the heart of downtown Clinton. Chicago architect Harold Holmes was hired to design the Art Deco building in 1930. Daniel Haring was awarded the contract as the general contractor. The building was completed and open to the public in 1931.

The Ankeny building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 2, 2006. The building is also listed in the archives of the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. It is the 13th building in Clinton to be listed on the NRHP.

## TERRA COTTA AND ART DECO

The Art Deco style originated in Europe during the 1920's and became popular in the United States during the 1930's. The style grew out of the Art Nouveau movement and other aesthetic movements such as Cubism, Futurism and Constructivism.

The NRHP website notes how terra cotta was used on several key buildings in the downtown area. Cream-colored terra cotta was used on the exterior of the Ankeny Building. White terra cotta was used on the exterior of the Wilson Building. Adding further interest to the Fifth Avenue area, Sullivan used terra cotta on the Van Allen Building. Rice and Morrell used terra cotta on the Howes Building.

It is interesting to note that records from the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company of Chicago show at least 17 other buildings in Clinton that utilized terra cotta from this company.

The Ankeny Building measures 75 feet on the Second Street façade and measures 127 feet in length on the Fifth Avenue façade.

## ALTERATIONS OVER THE YEARS

Since 1931 various alterations have been made to the first-story display windows and store entrances. The upper story continues to possess a high degree of architectural and historical integrity. In 2006, it was noted that the flat roof is lined with a rubber membrane and was in excellent condition.

The exterior street level of the building has also been altered several times since 1931. The ground floor originally had five stores. Today the Fifth Avenue side of the building has eight stores and at least two new entrances have been added. The original polished granite trim on the lower portion of the building remains in some places and in other places brick or tile has been added.

The building has fluted bronze dividing pilasters between the display windows. The original bronze grill lettering on the east side of building once displayed the words Ankeny Building high up on the second story. The Ankeny Building sign has been removed and is currently in storage. Perhaps someday it can be remounted.

The second story facade of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

## In this Mike Kearney photograph, the Ankeny Building is shown in modern downtown Clinton.

the Ankeny Building remains predominately unaltered. The second level exterior of the building retains historical integrity with iron-framed windows and terra cotta ornamentation. There are 12 window units on the Fifth Avenue side and six on the Second Street side. The window openings are 80 inches wide and 84 inches high.

Since 1931 the first-floor interior of the Ankeny Building has been used primarily for retail space and as a result this area has sustained the most changes. Building alterations in 1946 and 1956 removed several of the original interior walls and in other places new walls were added. The first floor of the Ankeny Building has about 10,538 square feet. The Ankeny Building also has a basement with around 10,538 square feet.

The second story of the Ankeny Building originally contained 15 offices. Now the second story is primarily open space, except for a small room in the

northwest corner and bathrooms in the southwest corner. All of the light fixtures are now in storage. Street entrances, landings and portions of some walls are tiled.

The second floor is around 10,470 square feet. A third floor was considered but never built. The third floor would have been around 10,470 square feet.

Some early businesses in the Ankeny Building included E.N. Woodbury Company plumbing, Rockwood & Rohwer electrical and fixtures, and The Clinton Bridge Works steel fabrication. In more recent times, some would remember retail stores such as Roses Gift Shop, The Smoke Shop, Cook's Shoe Repair business, The Big Shoe Store and Albert's Jewelry Store.

## REPLACING TOLL BLOCK

In 1930, contractor John Lake was awarded a contract for \$100,000 to tear down the existing Toll Block Building and construct

the new Ankeny Building at the Fifth Avenue and Second Street location. The Toll Block Building was built in 1866 by Major Charles H. Toll.

Toll arrived in Lyons in 1854. He soon was hired as superintendent to construct the Chicago, Iowa, and Nebraska Railroad from the Mississippi River to Council Bluffs. He was also superintendent of the CI&N RR ferryboat operation and was assistant treasurer to the Iowa Land Company.

Toll was elected Mayor of Lyons in 1855. He served with the Union Army during the Civil War (1861-1865).

After the war, Toll returned to Clinton and soon after started making plans to build the Toll Block. It was a large three-story brick building located at the corner of Fifth Avenue South and Second Street. The total cost was \$50,000 to construct.

The Toll Building was an early three-story brick retail building in



downtown Clinton. Most downtown buildings at that time were wooden frame one- or two-story buildings. The Toll building stood as a prominent downtown landmark for nearly 65 years. Financial difficulties and losses from a fire resulted in Toll selling the building.

Toll was appointed Clinton Postmaster in 1875. He was born 1817 and died in California in 1887.

P.S. Towle (1836-1898) purchased the Toll Block Building sometime around 1870. The Toll Building had several partners over the course of time. Some retail partners with P.S. Towle included Spreter (1880-1912) Towle & Meyer (1912-1917) and Towle & Hypes (1917-?). Even with all of the ownership changes the Towle department store continued to be an important fixture in the downtown retail community.

#### AUGUSTUS ANKENY BUYS THE PROPERTY

At some point Dr. Augustus L. Ankeny (1882-1887) acquired the Toll Block Building and became the sole owner of the property. It was noted that Dr. Ankeny owned a significant amount of real-estate in both Clinton and Lyons. Dr. Ankeny and his family were also the first owners to live in the 1870 Lyons Cherry Bank mansion.

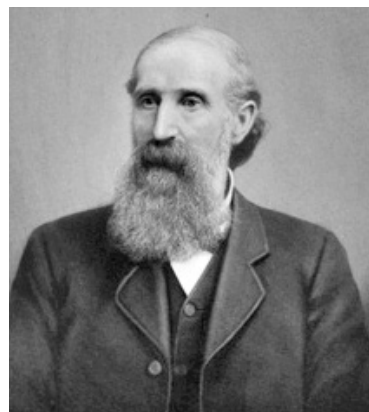
Some sources show that the Ankeny Company of Chicago commissioned the construction of the Ankeny Building in 1930 and the removal of the Towle Building. Not sure if there was a connection between the real-estate holdings of Augustus and Valeria Ankeny owning the Toll Block and the Chicago Ankeny Company (1930). More research is needed.

Valeria M. Perrin married Dr. Augustus Ankeny in 1861. The Perrin family came to Iowa in 1837 and was the second family to build a home in Clinton. The Perrin's lived in a log-cabin near the river. Later the C&NW RR bridge would be built just north of where their

log-cabin once stood.

Valeria Perrin is considered a prominent early pioneer woman in Iowa and Clinton County history. She was born 1832 and died 1924. She is buried in Springdale Cemetery alongside her husband.

Local history followers may find this fact interesting. The Pearce family is credited with establishing the first home in Clinton. Their home was located at the end of Fourth Avenue South near the river. Some will remember that location as where the former Clinton Boat Club once stood. Today, a children's playground has been established at this location.



**Dr. Augustus L. Ankeny 1828-1887, was an early pioneer physician that came to Lyons in April 1850. He was the first owner to live in Cherry Bank Mansion 1870.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Clinton turned out for a parade to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1948. The Ankeny Building and Wilson Building are the backdrop for replica railroad engines from the C&NW railroad.**



**Pictured is an interior view of the Ankeny Building's restaurant in 2006.**



**This circa 1890s photograph shows the Toll Block Building at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Second Street in downtown Clinton.**



**The Towle & Meyer Department Store operated in the Toll Block Building from 1912-1917.**



**Employees of Towle & Spreter, which operated in the Toll Block Building from 1880-1912, stand along the Second Street portion of the building. Howes Brothers Jewelry Store is on the far right.**



**The original bronze grill lettering on the east side of building once displayed the words Ankeny Building. It has been removed and is currently in storage.**



# English home design on an Iowa terrace

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

## CREATING AND KEEPING A CERTAIN STYLE

The Castle Terrace Historic District is a seven-acre parcel of land that was first platted in May 1893 as "Castle Terrace Addition." The property currently contains 15 dwellings. Fourteen were built between 1927 and 1931 in the Tudor Revival Style or as English Cottages. All 14 of the properties are considered historic and were placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 7, 1998 as the Castle Terrace Historic District.

## PLANNING, INVESTING AND PLATTING

The area known as Castle Terrace was first associated with members of the Curtis Company in 1892 when George M. Curtis, Charles F. Curtis, and W.W. Leslie purchased lots in Flourney's subdivision. In 1893 they platted the land as Terrace Addition.

Hallack Seaman acquired the property in 1919 and sold the property in 1926 to Castle Terrace Inc. The land was soon re-platted once again and became Castle Terrace without the word addition.

Castle Terrace Inc. was established as a special development corporation and all of the investors were members of the Curtis Company. H.H. Hobart was listed as the president and E.E. Green was designated as the chief architect on the project. Others listed as architects on the project were R.J. Alexandar, Charles O. Lamond, and Tage Miller.

The 1927 deeds for all of the homes built in the subdivision contained several clauses that all of the buyers must follow. The house shall be the English type, in harmony with homes in the balance of Castle Terrace, and all architectural work furnished by the architects of Castle Terrace Incorporated. The subdivision would obviously, highlight Curtis Company homes and interior wood products for the local market.

Daniel Haring local contractor built a good example of a Tudor style house at 711 Terrace Drive in 1928 for his family. Haring also built two other houses to the north. One for his daughter and son-in-law Ida and T. W. Nason at 705. The second home at 707 for his daughter and son-in-law Grace and Robert Bell. A single drive curving off Terrace went to all three houses.

Daniel Haring (1869-1950) was a well-known and highly sought Clinton contractor that built numerous important buildings in Clinton. Some of the noted buildings Haring constructed included the Van Allen Building, the Wilson Building, the City National Bank / First National Bank building, the Ankney Building, the Iowa National Guard Building, and the First Presbyterian Church located at 400 5th, Avenue South.

Ejnar and Karen Heiberg built an English Style Cottage at 1332 Caroline Avenue in 1926. The one



PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Here is an early view of the Tudor Revival Style home at 703 Terrace Dr. Construction began not later than March 1, 1927.**

and one-half brick house with half timbering was one of the earliest homes in the subdivision. The Heiberg's photographed and documented the construction of their house from the day the foundation work started until the house was completed.

The Heiberg's were originally from Denmark. Ejnar Heiberg operated businesses on Harrison Drive and Liberty Avenue in Clinton.

The Heiberg's Cottage Style home has been altered somewhat since first constructed by replacing the original entry with three windows and the façade was remodeled by moving the front door to the left and creating a small balcony above it. Despite the alterations the house retains a strong sense of the original design and is a good contributing structure

## ENGLISH AND TUDOR REVIVAL FEATURES

The English style cottages and the Tudor style homes were very popular in the 1920's and early 1930's. The houses along Caroline Avenue are one and one-half story English Cottages. The houses on the bluff side of Terrace Avenue are larger, more elaborate examples of the Tudor Revival style.

The English style homes were

featured in the Curtis Company's 1920's Better Built Homes Catalogues along with Colonial, Southern and Western model homes.

The English style homes are easily identified by the steep roofs, tall chimneys, arched doorways, fireplaces, tall sashed windows, garden walls and the use of half timbers on the exterior. Other materials used on the exterior of English style homes include plaster, stucco, wood, stone and brick. Exterior wood is generally stained brown or green.

There are numerous examples of English cottages scattered throughout Clinton, several are along North Second Street and North Third Street.

Everitt Streit, long-time Clinton Herald editor, wrote several articles on the Curtis Company and the Castle Terrace subdivision. Streit noted "that the Curtis Service Bureau began publishing the Better Built Homes catalogs in the 1920's which featured plans that could be ordered by mail. New York architects Trowbridge and Ackerman designed a series of small houses for the Curtis catalogs. Each home could be built of standard materials in stock sizes, including of course with Curtis interior woodwork products."

## REQUIREMENTS TO PURCHASE

Castle Terrace subdivision



**Curtis Company factory in South Clinton around 1910. Several key management employees of the Curtis Company were instrumental in building the 1928-1931 Castle Terrace Subdivision in Clinton.**



had requirements that the buyer must follow in order to build. The minimum starting price for a house was to be \$6,500. It was also noted that Curtis Products were to be used for all of the finished woodwork, doors, stairways and all cabinet work.

Architect E.E. Green insisted that all utilities would be underground.

Bruce Green son of E.E. Green recalls "that the architects viewed the acquisition of the property as a business venture. The architects would design their own homes, plan to live in the home for a few years and then sell the property."

### ADDED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

In 1998, the following properties were listed on the NRHP. The homes at:

- 1354 8th Ave. S,
- 637 S 14th St.,
- 1332 Caroline,
- 1338 Caroline,
- 1354 Caroline,
- 1355 Caroline,
- 703 Terrace,
- 705 Terrace,
- 706 Terrace,
- 707 Terrace,
- 711 Terrace,
- 715 Terrace,
- 716 Terrace, and
- 719 Terrace.

All of the homes are highlighted in a local Clinton Historic District that is suitable for walking tours. Brochures for the walking tour are available at the Clinton County Historical Museum.

Construction on the first houses started in 1926 and 11 of the houses were completed by the end of 1928. The other three houses were finished by 1931.

### THE LAST HOUSE

The last property built in the subdivision was at 1350 Caroline. The home was built in 1951 and was considered

non-conforming for the NHRP in 1998. Property that is listed on the NRHP must be at least 50 years old or more at that time of registration.

The home at 1350 Caroline was built by John Ward, the last owner of Eclipse Lumber Company. Eclipse lumber was a well-known Clinton Lumber Company located at 1100 S. Second St. Eclipse lumber was used almost exclusively in constructing most of the early homes built in the Castle Terrace subdivision.

In 1910 Eclipse Lumber moved their headquarters from Minneapolis to Clinton. George

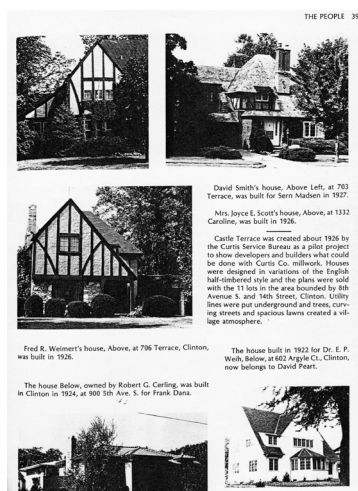
E. Dulany purchased the former Lamb & Sons office building on South Second Street for the Eclipse Lumber Companies headquarters. Dulany was chairman of the board and president of Eclipse Lumber Company.

Eclipse Lumber, the Curtis Company, and the members of Castle Terrace Inc. all worked closely together on completing the homes in the Castle Terrace subdivision. In 1931 F.J. Ward was as vice-president and general manager of Eclipse Lumber Company. F.J. Ward was the father of John Ward.



PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Curtis Company President Charles F. Curtis's home was built 415 5th Ave. South. Castle Terrace Inc. was established as a special development corporation and all of the investors were members of the Curtis Company.**



**This brochure shows several homes in Castle Terrace Historic District**



**This Curtis kitchen is probably from the early 1950's.**



**Early 1910 Eclipse Lumber Company truck. Note the chain drive on the rear wheels.**



**This building at 1100 S. Second St. was the former main office building for C. Lamb & Sons Lumber Mill Company. The building was designed by Clinton Architect W. W. Sanborn, in 1879. In 1910, George Dulany purchased the building for Eclipse Lumber Company.**



**Pictured is an early view of the 1926 English Cottage Style home at 1332 Caroline Ave. Clinton. The house was built by Ejnar and Karen Heiberg.**



# Cherry Bank is Clinton's 10th National Register listing

JOHN ROWLAND

Gateway History Club

Cherry Bank is a residential house located at 1458 Main Avenue in Clinton, Iowa. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 22, 1999. This was the tenth property in Clinton to be placed on the NRHP. The house has important architectural significance and is best described as a "Late Victorian Italianated Country Style Home."

According to the NRHP website Marcus Warren purchased twelve acres of land from Priscilla Winchell in 1869. Marcus soon after transferred the property on September 7, 1870 to his nephew Andrew Warren Jr. as a wedding gift for \$600 dollars. It was noted that Andrew lived in Chicago. Construction on the house started in 1870 and was completed in 1871.

Marcus Warren described as a man of means is credited with building and furnishing the house. According to the NRHP information Marcus the uncle and Andrew the nephew had some sort of disagreement and neither Marcus or Andrew ever lived in the house.

On May 3, 1871 Dr. Augustus L. Ankeny, a well-known Lyons pioneer physician purchased the property for the remarkable price of \$20,000 dollars. Dr. Ankeny and his wife the former Valeria Perrin with their six children

were the first people to actually move into the new home. It was reported that Dr. Ankeny planted a large number of cherry trees on the property shortly after acquiring the house. The name Cherry Bank soon became synonymous with the house.

In 1999 the large brick house with an attached garage was placed on the NRHP. A modern barn - machine shed was located on the northeast corner of the narrow twelve-acre plot. When the property was nominated for consideration to the NRHP mainly the house on 1.3 acres was considered. The house is marked on three sides with the existing fence lines. The driveway acts as the boundary on the fourth side of the 1.3 acres.

The two-story brick house called Cherry Bank was built in 1871. The house has a truncated hip roof with asphalt shingles. The roof has an overhang with scrolled brackets attached to a wide frieze board decorated with a circular cut pattern and dentils. The dwelling is wood frame with locally manufactured red brick veneer and accented with bluff-colored bricks. The foundation is built of limestone blocks obtained from a local quarry.

The front façade has a double wide door to the west, with two tall, narrow arched windows to the right. The front door is round-arched with an arched transom window. The double doors are replacements from around



PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The Cherry Bank house at 1458 Main Ave., pictured here from the side, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 22, 1999.**

1960 with a concrete stoop and concrete steps. The second floor above the front double doors has three arched windows with stone sills.

The east side has a one-story rounded bay window. Behind the main core is another two-story addition that is original to the house. The addition has the same window treatments and decorative details as the front portion of the house. The addition does not have the same full height as the front. Added to the east side is a screened in porch from the post 1960-time frame. Older photos from 1884 show the east side porch extended the full length of the rear edition.

The original front porch was an open portico-type porch, with steps, over the front entry. The porch was supported by chamfered post and had a railing around the roof edge. A third porch was on the east side. The style of the third porch matched the other two. All three of the original porches were removed sometime in the early 1900's. There was also a one-story brick addition at the rear of the

house. The addition served as the original summer kitchen for the house. The rear addition and all three of the porches are visible in the 1884 photo that is listed.

Earl & Sylvia Cottrel acquired Cherry Bank in 1963 and lived there until 2011. Remnants of other older buildings were on the property when the Cottrel's acquired the property. This included a two-story brick coach house, a blacksmith shop, a stable, a smokehouse, and even a brick three-hole privy. All of these buildings were in great disrepair and the Cottrel's had little choice but to remove them and cleanup the property.

The Cottrel's also removed the summer kitchen that was built onto the back of the house. A short time later they built a two-stall garage on that portion of the property. In the 1970's the Cottrel's built a two-level barn / machine shed on the northwest corner of the property.

The NHRP website contains some early information about the sale of the property that was hard to verify. The website states that Marcus Warren, a man of

means, from Sauk City, Wisconsin purchased the property from Priscilla Winchell in 1869. Marcus is also identified as possibly being known as Dennis Warren. It also states that Marcus built the house for his nephew Andrew Warren of Chicago as a wedding gift. Shortly after buying the property on 9-7-1870 Marcus / Dennis transferred the property to Andrew Warren Jr. of Chicago, IL for \$600.

Andrew Warren now owned the house in 1870. On May 3, 1871 shortly after the house was completed Andrew sold the house to Dr. Augustus L. Ankeny an early Lyons physician for the handsome sum of \$20,000 dollars. The Ankeny family lived on the property for the next sixteen years. Neither Marcus or Andrew ever lived in the house they built. Some of these stories just did not seem right and raised several questions and red flags.

Who was Marcus or Dennis Warren that purchased the property? Who was Andrew Warren from Chicago. Why build a house, furnish the house, and never live in it? Most stories



leave small clues. Thanks to the internet and a ton of digitized online records instant answers are only a click away. Trying to verify results can take much longer.

A search in Wisconsin for Sauk City or Sauk County shows that a man named Thompson M. Warren existed in Sauk County. Thompson was born in 1812-1892. Thompson Warren owned several businesses and banks. Thompson had two brothers Dennis and Andrew Warren. All three brothers were extremely successful business men. They were in various partnerships in WI. & IL. under the name of Warren Brothers. Another, biographical source shows the Warren brothers names listed as Thompson, Marcus, and Andrew Jr.

Thompson Warren had five children. The oldest son was Marcus A. Warren. Marcus was born May 25, 1857. It's very doubtful that twelve-year-old Marcus purchased the Cherry Bank property in 1869 or signed his name on the abstract. This was the only Marcus Warren of that era I could find. Did Thompson the father put his sons name Marcus on the property deed? If so, why? Or was Dennis and Marcus actually the same person?

The Warren brothers were known as land speculators, lumber men, financiers and shrewd business men. Why in 1869 would the Warren Brothers buy a small amount of land in Lyons? Did they have something more in mind besides building and selling a single house? The story about building the house for Andrew, the nephew, as a wedding gift rings hollow.

Here is some information on Andrew Warren. In 1870 Andrew was given Cherry Bank for \$600 dollars. In 1871 Andrew sold the house for \$20,000. In 1871 Andrew Warren is listed as an extremely wealthy man living

in Chicago with vast lumber and land holdings in Merrill and Wausau, WI. Today there is even a NRHP historic district in Wausau named in honor of Andrew Warren.

How much wealth did Andrew or Thompson Warren have? One example shows that in 1872 right after selling Cherry Bank. Thompson & Andrew Warren purchased 400 acres of land south of Oak Park, IL in Cook County for \$400,000 dollars. At this time less is known about Dennis Warren. However, he is listed as a partner in Warren Brother's business.

Were the Warren brothers here to check out the Clinton Lumber market? Perhaps. The Clinton lumber market was booming in the 1870's. Clinton was also located on the Over-land transcontinental railroad route to the west coast. A very important rail line that appealed to many savvy business owners. The Warren brothers usually had a purpose and strong reasons to support their business decisions. More time and research will be needed to find better answers.

The early history of Cherry Bank and the reasons the Warren brothers built a house in Lyons are unclear to this day. The Warren brothers involvement with Cherry Bank only adds to the legends and lore of Lyons. The Cherry Bank home however, still stands as an outstanding example of a late Victorian Country Style Home with notable historic significance.



**The Cherry Bank house at 1458 Main Ave., pictured here from the side.**

PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION



PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The home at 1458 Main Ave. became known as the Cherry Bank house after the planting of multiple cherry trees.**



SLYVIA CONTRAL PHOTO | NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES WEBSITE

**Pictured is the interior front door at the Cherry Bank house.**



SLYVIA CONTRAL PHOTO | NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES WEBSITE

**Pictured here is an interior room of the Cherry Bank house.**



SLYVIA CONTRAL PHOTO | NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES WEBSITE

**This historical picture of the outside of Cherry Bank is posted on the National Register of Historic Places.**



# 'One of the finest school buildings in the state of Iowa'

JOHN ROWLAND

Gateway History Club

The first day of school for students in the new Clinton High School/Public Library at 600 South Fourth Street was Sept. 2, 1889.

The new high school building was a large two-and one-half story building and one of the finest school buildings in the state of Iowa. The Aug. 31, 1889 Clinton Daily Herald reported. The school was built of red brick, with stone trimmings, and had a slate roof. The building had 83 feet of frontage on South Fourth Street and 93 feet of frontage on Sixth Avenue South.

The high school was built on property purchased from the Catholic Church for \$5,500 dollars.

Architect Ronald Schmitt in his 1980 book "Architectural Heritage" described the building "as a massive structure of Richardson Romanesque design. It has a stone foundation and exterior walls of brick with stone sills, string courses, arches, and trim. The Romanesque building uses engineering simplicity with Roman architecture on arches for windows and door openings."

Clinton is fortunate to have two Richardson Romanesque buildings still standing in good condition. The Clinton County Courthouse on North Second Street and the former Clinton High School building on South Fourth Street.

Construction on the high school building started in 1888 and was completed in 1889. Clinton architect Josiah Rice designed the Victorian Romanesque style building in 1888. John W. Smith was awarded the contract to build the new high school at a cost of \$35,000 dollars.

The Herald reported that there were two entrances for the building, "one entrance on South Fourth Street, the other on Sixth Avenue South. Both entrances had large double doors with handsome plate glass panels. It was a two-story building with an attic and a full basement. The large tower located on the northeast corner of the building was listed as being 90 feet above ground."

Above the Fourth Street entrance is a plate of buff-colored terra cotta bearing the words High School and Library.

## A SHORT-LIVED LIBRARY TENANCY

In 1882 the Clinton Independent School District agreed to pay the library debt of \$235. The School Board took over the library and 1,500 books. Mrs. Henry Sabin was elected as the first librarian by the School Board. While the school board may have had good intentions about placing the library's name on the buildings entrance; local history shows the library had a very short life in the new high school building.

The library moved into the new high school building on Fourth Street in September of 1889. However, due to increased



CHRIS BALDUS | CLINTON HERALD

**The former Clinton High School, which is now an apartment building, is one of two local Richardson Romanesque buildings still standing in good condition. The Clinton County Courthouse on North Second Street is the other.**

enrollment the library was in the building for only 10 years. The Herald reported that in the late fall of 1899 "the library was relocated to the Temple Building on Fifth Avenue South where a room was leased. The Temple building was purchased a short time later by the United States government in 1900 to make room for a new downtown post office."

Once again, the library had to move. This time they moved to the block owned by John E. Mooney.

## HIGH SCHOOL HAD A MUSEUM AND MORE

The Herald noted, "the first floor of the high school contained the Superintendent's office in the northeast corner of the building, a reception room to the office, and the library. The library was a large room about 30 feet by 36 feet and was located in the southeast corner of the building. There

was another room 16 feet by 32 feet that contained a museum filled with valuable antiquities that were classified for students to study. Museum materials were donated by Henry F. Bowers."

There were also two first floor classrooms located on the west side of the building; each classroom was about 30 feet by 33 feet. All of the classrooms had closets and cloakrooms. The ceilings in all of the first-floor rooms were nearly 14 feet high. In the center of the building on the south side there are steps leading down to the chemistry lab, the restrooms and the boiler room. There was also a large set of stairs leading to the second floor in the center of the building.

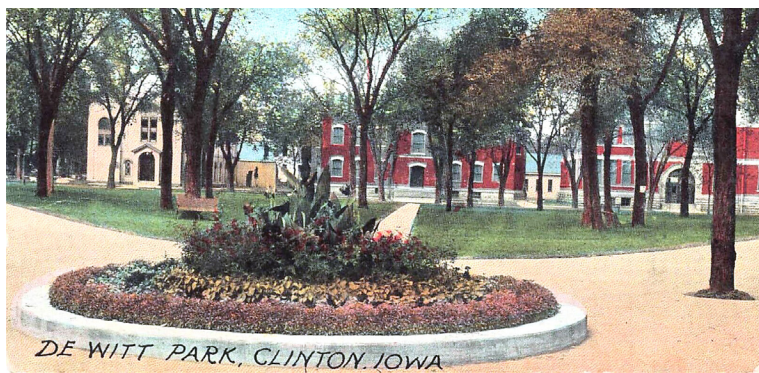
The second floor had four classrooms with 18-foot ceilings. There was a German recitation classroom, a mathematics recitation classroom, a science recitation classroom, and a large study

hall that could accommodate 140 students. The study hall has nine double-wide windows providing light and a large bookcase with reference material. Large blackboards covered the south and west walls.

## GAS LIGHTS, ELECTRICITY AND ALL MODERN CONVENIENCES

The building was heated with a coal-fired boiler in the basement. A 10-horse power Sturtevant ventilation fan moved the hot air throughout the building. The coal bin held 70 tons of coal. The water supply for the boilers came from a large cistern in the basement. The drain pipes from the building feed water into the cistern. The boiler used about three barrels of water per day for heating purposes. The building had gas lights, electricity, and all modern conveniences.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**This is a 1910 view of the First Baptist church on far left, Washington School in center and the 1889 Clinton High School at right.**

### PRINCIPAL SWEET AND HER STAFF

The staff for the Clinton High School year 1889-1890 included Julia Sweet, principal and instructor for Latin and history; Miss Delia Billings, Department of Mathematics; Miss Mary Leavitt, Department of Science; and Miss Alice Wegener, Department of German. The Superintendent of the Clinton Independent School District was O.P. Bostwick.

### CLINTON EDUCATION POST CIVIL WAR

The first students to graduate from high school in Clinton were Ada Crosby, Sarah Howes and Alice Mills. They attended Washington School and were in the class of 1874. Washington School was built in 1863 and was located in the 600 block of South Fourth Street next to the current Clinton High School/Roosevelt apartments building.

The first boy to graduate from Clinton High School was James Watkins in the class of 1875. There were seven girls in his class.

The first students to graduate from Lyons High School were Letitia Stumbaugh and Sallie A Lukens. They were in the class of 1871.

Most towns in the United States did not have a high school until after the Civil War (1861-1865).

The average salary in Clinton County for a female teacher in 1875 was about \$27 per month. Male teachers received about \$42. The school year ran just over seven months in most cities and the rural school year about five months.

Iowa did not require mandatory schooling for children until 1903, and then it was only for three months a year.

When the new high school opened in 1889, the Clinton school system had 1,800 students and 48 teachers on staff. The good news for the Clinton school system was that student enrollment was rapidly increasing. The bad news was noted in the short school year and poor attendance that made for areas of serious concern.

Iowa's school-age population in 1889 was estimated at 649,606 young people. About 489,229 (75%) were enrolled in the public schools and only 304,856 (47%) attended school. Rural school attendance was lower at 40%.

Charles F. Wennerstrum, the commissioner of the Iowa Bureau of Labor Statistics (1900-1902), "reported that a large number of children he encountered in his inspection of factories and shops had never gone to school. Some attended only a short time and had little knowledge of books." Locally, a

large number of children worked in factories and businesses.

### SHORTCOMINGS OF SCHOOL AND SOCIETY

The Clinton Independent School Board and community leaders faced some immense challenges in the later part of the 19th century. School attendance was poor. The curriculum was weak. School funding was in short supply. Many children were working in factories. Only three students graduated from Clinton H.S. in 1874 and two from Lyons H.S. in 1871. It was noted "that the shortcomings of schools were also the shortcomings of society."

In order to graduate in 1900, a student needed at least 18 credits. Two credits in math. Two credits in science. Three credits in literature. Two credits in foreign language. Two credits in composition. Plus, history, civil government, and rhetoric were all required. College-bound students were encouraged to take additional classes. The high school offered four years of Latin, German and French.

Extra-curricular activities were very limited in the early years of Clinton High School. Music related programs seemed to appear at the school first, followed by some sports programs. There were no sports programs for girls listed at that time.

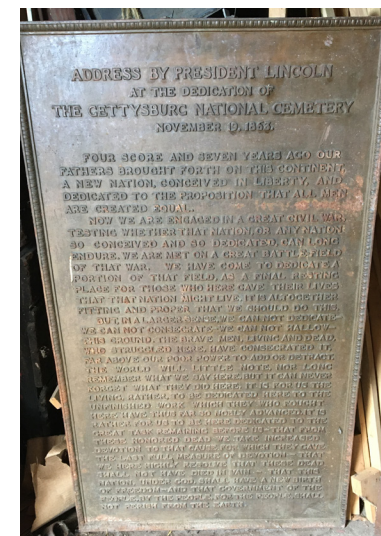
Track appeared to be the first team sport offered at the high school in the early 1890's. In 1895, the high school track team won a state championship at Muscatine.

A Rugby football team was developed at the high school around 1894-1895. The team of 1896 was noted as being exceptional. They played Cornell College to a standstill. Local teams shied away from playing them. The team of 1899 was also noted as exceptional.

In 1899, the high school had a baseball team. They played small

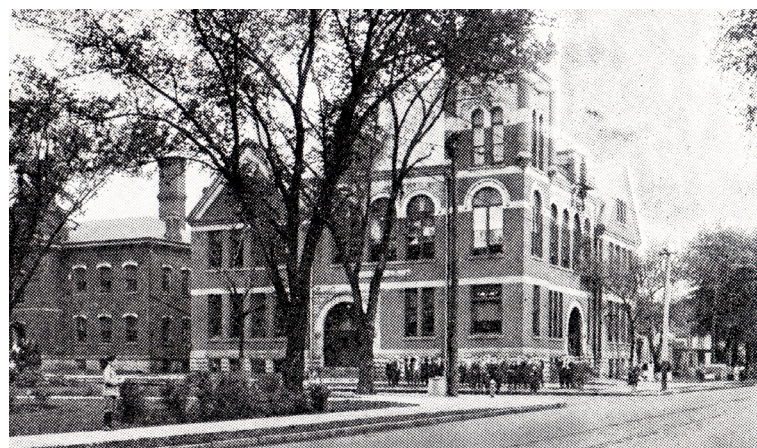
colleges and town teams as none of the area high schools had a baseball team. Lack of money was still a problem to fund sports and other programs.

As the 20th century approached local educational and community leaders in 1875-1900 were raising serious questions about the need for drastic educational changes. How would an advanced industrial, mechanized and urban society function at a high level without a strong education system? What happens to a society that no longer places great value on improving the educational opportunities of its citizens? The history books are full of nations that ceased to exist. Today, many of the questions from 1875-1900 still remain.



JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Bronze table with President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address donated by the Class of 1915.**



**In this 1900 view of Clinton High School, the building to the left is Washington School.**



**Washington School was built in 1863 and to the left is a partial view of the First Baptist Church.**



# Library bounced around town before Carnegie intervened

JOHN ROWLAND

Gateway History Club

The Clinton Public Library is located at 306 Eight Avenue South and is the fifth building in Clinton to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Clinton Library was listed on the NRHP May 23, 1983. The building was designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Patten & Miller. The Beaux-Arts style of building was constructed by Daniel Haring Company of Clinton from 1903-1904. Funding for the Clinton library was provided by 19th century American industrialist Andrew Carnegie who made his fortune in the steel industry.

## MAYOR ASKS CARNEGIE FOR LIBRARY FUNDING

Andrew Carnegie was noted for contributing to libraries all over the world. He started donating money to build libraries in 1881. Carnegie donated more than 56 million dollars toward libraries. He established 2509 libraries worldwide, and 1681 libraries in the United States. Carnegie strongly believed that a community library was instrumental in developing productive people with ability and ambition. Carnegie funded 99 libraries in Iowa.

According to the Clinton Herald on May 15, 1901 "Clinton mayor George D. McDaid wrote a letter to Carnegie requesting funding for a Clinton library. After a few brief exchanges

Carnegie agreed to provide \$45,000 dollars of funding toward construction of the Clinton library if the following conditions were met. The city of Clinton must provide a free public library with a suitable library site. The city would need to provide \$4500.00 per year to maintain the building. On December 23, 1902 the city of Clinton passed a resolution agreeing with the terms from Carnegie and accepted the Carnegie donation."

The Herald noted "that Mrs. Emma Lamb Young donated the land on 8th, Avenue South for the Carnegie library in August 1902. Construction started June 24, 1903. The building was completed and turned over to the city on June 15, 1904. There was no formal dedication ceremony for the new library building. The building opened to public on November 8, 1904. Thousands of people arrived at the new library on opening day."

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The National Register of Historic Places website has a listing for the architectural significance of the building. It states "the building is a two-story structure with a raised basement. The exterior walls are composed of cut and dressed limestone. The front elevation culminates in a projecting center pavilion, with a giant portico in the Doric order. The building is in the restrained but elegant French inspired classical



PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

Pictured is a view of the Clinton Public Library at 306 8th. Ave. S. sometime between 1910 and 1915.

style. Patton & Miller designed several large library buildings in Iowa and this was a style they favored."

"Noteworthy features of the building include the concave sidewalls of the pavilion. This gives the building a slight feeling of Baroque exuberance. The insertion of spandrel panels between the first and second story windows; results in a tightly articulated façade with a pleasing balance of the vertical and horizontal lines of the building."

There have been several minor updates to the interior of the Clinton library building since the facility first opened at its current site in 1904. The exterior of the building has changed very little. Some recent minor changes include the rear addition to the building in 1968 to accommodate the main two-level stack area. The front door was replaced in the 1960's. An elevator was installed in the front vestibule around 1980.

## MODERNIZING THE LIBRARY

According to the Herald "on April 20, 2013 Library Planning Specialist George Lawson pointed to several areas that the Clinton library can improve on. He identified technology, community partnering and collaborative spaces among the facility's needs. Lawson stated "officials should look at the library's digital capabilities and offerings as well as the amount of hardware such as computers, laptops and e-readers patrons would use."

Lawson emphasized there should be flexible spaces for community members to gather for meetings. Studying and tutoring should also be a focus of the plan. He told committee members once changes like these are made, they increase the library use by 35 to 50 percent on average. Over the years several Library Board-Members and several Library Directors have advocated for many of the changes Lawson

noted.

Board members in recent times have strived to obtain a new library addition or a new library building. A study was undertaken in 2007 to construct an addition onto the existing library. The estimated cost of the 2008 two-story building with a full basement was estimated at 10.2 million dollars. The project was turned down due to lack of funding at city hall.

In November of 2010 a referendum was presented to the voters for construction of a new 10-million-dollar library at the former Harding School site. The referendum to build was turned down by the voters. Within the last year the local library has held discussions with the mayor / city council and the Capital Improvement Program about the need for a new facility.

At this time there is nothing definite on the horizon.

## EARLY LIBRARY BOUNCED AROUND

The Lyons community has



had a library for many years. Originally, the first library in Lyons was operated by the Lyons, Young Men's Association. Declining membership in the LYMA eventually caused the library in Lyons to close for a significant period of time. Working together the Library Board of Trustees and the Northend community initiated court action to acquire the former LYMA property for the purposes of building a new library. In 1955 a new Lyons Branch Library was built on part of the previous land owned by the LYMA at 105 Main Avenue for around \$35,000.00.

According to various sources the Clinton Library system was initiated on March 23, 1864 by the Railroad Literary Association. A railroad excursion trip to "The Grove on Silver Creek" was held and \$162.50 was raised. With this money and other donations \$200.00 worth of books were purchased. A room was rented on 5th, Avenue South to house the first library in Clinton. Then as now funding for the library was always a problem. In order to cut rental cost in 1865, the library moved into the office of the Clinton Herald. The Herald was located in the 400 block of First Street near the Iowa Central House hotel.

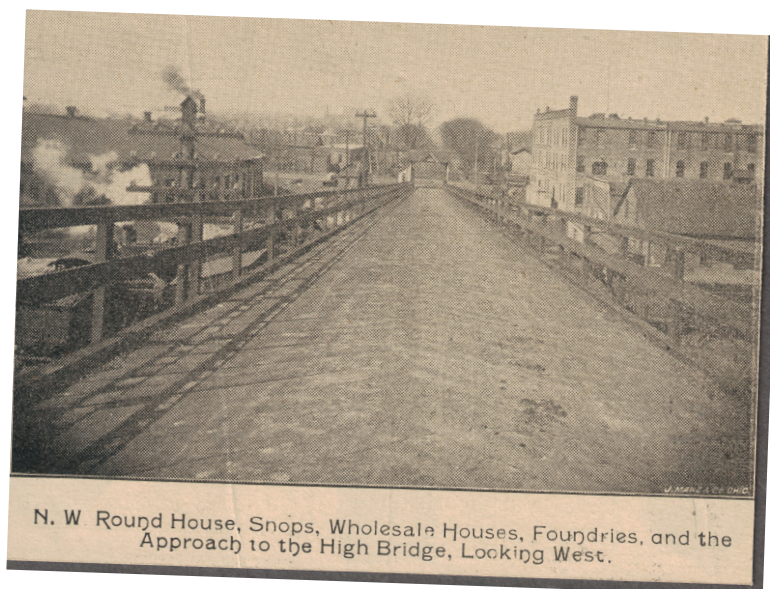
In 1866 the Library Association merged with the Young Men's Literary Association. From 1866 until 1882 the library moved to several different locations during this time and struggled to raise funds. In 1882 the Clinton Independent School District agreed to pay the library debt of \$235.00. The school board took over the library and 1500 books. Mrs. Henry Sabin was elected as the first librarian by the School Board.

In 1889 the library was moved into the new high school on Fourth St. Later in 1899 the library was moved once again to the Temple Building where a room was leased. The Temple Building was located on 5th,

Avenue South and was purchased by the United States government in 1900 to make room for a new downtown post office. Once again, the library had to move. This time they moved to the block owned by John E. Mooney.

The library remained at the Mooney Block until the Carnegie Library opened at its currently location on 8th, Avenue South in

1904. Miss Belle Sweet was the first librarian at the new Carnegie Library when it opened to the public on November 8, 1904. Carnegie's assessment from 150 years ago on the importance of a free community public library still remains true now more than ever in the electronic age of mis-information.



**This photo dates from around the 1890's before the Clinton Library was built. Note: The 1904 Library was built across the street from the C&NW roundhouse. Today the Adcraft Printwear building is at this location.**



PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION  
**Pictured here is a January 2008 architectural drawing of the proposed \$10 million addition for the Clinton Library.**



**This section with new fiction books is built around a historic fireplace.**



**The Clinton Public Library has an upper study area and lower section for books.**



# 'Elegant and artistically finished' courthouse nationally recognized

Clinton landmark construction finished in 1897, remodeled in recent years

**JOHN ROWLAND**

Gateway History Club

The Clinton County Courthouse located at 612 N. 2nd; Street is the fourth building in Clinton to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The courthouse was listed on July 2, 1981. G.S. Mansfield from Freeport, Illinois is listed as the Architect for designing the courthouse.

On Aug. 3, 1896, the main contract to construct the building was let to Charles A. Moses of Chicago, Illinois. Due to mild weather at that time, construction on the courthouse building progressed rather quickly and the building was completed in 1897. The courthouse was dedicated on Aug. 26, 1897.

## LOCAL TRADESMEN WORKED ON PROJECT

Several local sub-contracts were hired for various construction projects on the courthouse. According the Clinton Herald, "Josiah Rice designed the boiler house and John Lake was the contractor for the boiler house project."

The Souvenir Age notes that the contract for interior painting and decorations was handled by William G. Andrews of Clinton. Andrews had an extensive background working on courthouses in numerous states. He played a key role in designing the exquisite interior of the 1896 courthouse

Construction cost reports of the 1897 building vary. Some mention \$168,000 and others mention \$175,000. In today's dollars that would be equal to around \$6.5 million. Obviously, the current courthouse building could not be replaced today for anything close to that price.

The Souvenir Age notes that "the large four-sided tower in the center is sheathed with copper which accents the Richardson Romanesque style of architecture. The red sandstone and granite was used to make the exterior walls stand out. Typical stylistic features include the parapet gable ends, corner towers, and the contrast created by the red sandstone walls all make the building rather unique." The exterior tower of the courthouse is eye-catching from blocks away.

"The interior of the courthouse is often described as elegant and artistically finished. The Clerk's office is nicely decorated in blue with foliage treatment. The Auditors office in warm brown and cream with empire ornament. The Recorder's room with tan shades and buff. All of the rooms were ornamented with reference to their various use. Little wonder Andrews was the unanimous choice for interior designing."

The Age shows "the courthouse was constructed with three main floors, a basement, and an attic. On the first floor are two offices for the county superintendent. A lady's waiting room,

bathrooms, and a large room for the grand jury. All of the rooms had grates, electric lights, and gas fixtures. The main entrance is on the east. There are also entrances on the west and south."

"The Clerk, Sheriff, Recorder, Auditor, and Treasure are all on the second floor. The second floor has 14 ft. ceilings. Several offices have fireproof vaults. The third floor has two large courtrooms with 20 ft. ceilings. The County Attorney's office opens off the main courtroom. There is a judge's room and two offices."

## PITFALLS OF GETTING STARTED

On March 15, 1892 voters approved \$100,000 for construction of a third courthouse in Block Eight. On Sept. 20, 1892, the contract to build was awarded to G.I. LeVeille for \$90,500. Project difficulties soon developed when quicksand was encountered. Foundation problems, construction delays, contractor problems, and cost overruns also resulted in additional delays.

Several questions were put to the voters for additional funding. Finally, in August 1896 a new construction contract was awarded to C.A. Moses of Chicago. Construction began immediately on the building and the courthouse was completed in July 1897.

## RENOVATIONS, REMODELS AND ADDITIONS

According to the Herald the



This is an early view of main court room on the third floor of the Clinton County Courthouse.

"Clinton County Courthouse has undergone several renovation projects over the years. The exterior of the building was first cleaned in September of 1951. In 1997, most county offices were moved to the former Nielsen Building at 1900 N. Third Street. About 50 employees were transferred to the new administration building. The County Attorney's Office remained at the courthouse."

In 2000, the county started a major remodeling program at the courthouse that was completed in 2003. Nearly \$6 million was spent restoring the historic nature of the building. A new heating system was added, new exterior windows, a sprinkler system, new lighting, and a new power system. Remodeling of the County Attorney's Office, addition of a Magistrate's Courtroom, and a new Circuit Court room. Other rooms remodeled included courtrooms, the judge's chambers, and a new courthouse entrance on the west elevation.

In May of 2016 voters approved a bond referendum for \$22 million dollars to build a new county jail. The project was plagued with delays and undetermined cost overruns.

On Sept. 6, 2019 a dedication ceremony for the new jail was held. The new jail is directly attached to the Clinton County Courthouse. The west side of

the courthouse building and the south side of the courthouse are significantly obscured by the sheer size of the new jail and a new maintenance building.

## CHANGES AND HISTORIC INTEGRITY

In 1981, the Clinton County Courthouse and the entire Block 8 were both listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In June of 1969, the historic 1885 brick jail was removed. In 2019 during construction of the new addition for the jail, the historic 1897 boiler house and the smoke stack were removed. A large portion of green space and the former parking lot were also removed for additional building space. A joint city/county jail that was dedicated on April 30, 1970 in the northwest corner of Block 8, was also removed in the fall of 2019, when the new jail facility was completed.

The historical integrity of the courthouse exterior has been significantly altered with the addition of the new jail. Security was given as the main reason for attaching the jail to the courthouse. The 2003 historic remodeling of the interior of the courthouse is outstanding and a pleasant delight that attracts a large number of visitors and tourists to our community.





This is an early interior view of steps on the west side entrance of courthouse.



The 1885 Clinton County Jail is pictured at center with the new 1970 City/County Jail at left and the 1897 courthouse in the background at right.



Pictured is a scarce view of the Historic Clinton County brick jail that was built in 1885. It served as the county jail for nearly 85 years.



PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

Pictured here is the west side of Clinton County Courthouse in 1980 with the former boiler house intact. The tall smokestack has been removed.



The Clinton County Vietnam Veterans Memorial is on the courthouse lawn.



Pictured is the joint City/County Jail that opened in 1970.



The new Clinton County Jail dedication was held in September 2019.



# Curtis Mansion outlasts local mill-working powerhouse

JOHN ROWLAND

Gateway History Club

The George M. Curtis house, a 19th century home at 420 5th Ave. S., was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Oct. 1, 1979. It was the second historical building in Clinton listed on the NRHP.

The home was built in 1883 for industrialist George M. Curtis and Etta (Lewis) Curtis. The Curtis family owned and operated a mill-working business in Clinton that provided employment to thousands of Clinton families for over

100 years.

Several sources say the Curtis mansion was built to serve dual purposes: first as a home for the family, and second as a showcase to highlight the craftsmanship and home furnishings for which the Curtis Company was well known throughout the Midwest.

## ABOUT THE HOUSE

According to information listed on the Historic Register site “the home is considered a good example of late Victorian Style “Country House.” Many of the Country House characteristics include large, high hipped roofs,



PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The Curtis Mansion, owned by The Clinton Women’s Club, is pictured here in 1980.**

asymmetrical gables, various shaped dormers, large chimneys and over-hanging upper floors.

The home is 2½ stories high, with heavy wood construction and red brick walls. There are five porches. It has a variety of roof planes and more than 40

stained glass windows. The interior has outstanding wood work and trim and has excellent furnishings from the time period.

“The main floor features a large parlor, a library, a dining room, a kitchen at the rear, wide hallways and several stairways leading to the second floor. There are several ornate and large

sliding pocket doors to separate rooms. Several of the fireplaces are elaborately carved with mirrored over-mantels.”

The Clinton Women’s Club purchased the historic home in 1925, and it has continued to care for and maintain it for nearly 100 years. The second and third floors have been converted to apartments



PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The Curtis Company, a family run business that grew into a nationwide conglomerate of window frames, doors, trim and millwork, was a fixture in south Clinton for more than 100 years.**





**George M. Curtis**

at the time the home was placed on the National Register. The apartment rental helps fund operational costs.

The third floor was originally a ballroom. The original light fixtures in the home were gas. Many have now been converted to electricity. The windows, interior wood work, doors, molding and trim were all produced by the Curtis Company.

Many of the windows needed repairs and restoration. The Women's Club started a window restoration program sometime around 2015 and entered into a contract with Glass Heritage of Davenport. Restoring leaded stained-glass windows is a time-consuming project that takes about four months from start to finish. The newly restored stained-glass windows clearly add a touch of class and elegance to the home.

There is a brick carriage house behind the northwest corner of the house. The carriage house is constructed of the same material as the house, and was part of the original building program. Josiah Rice is credited with designing the carriage house. Rice started working for the Curtis Company in 1880 and probably worked on the house. Rice later started his own local designing and architectural firm business in the Clinton area.

The principal loss on the exterior on the house was that of the semicircular conservatory with the doomed glass roof that was removed in the 1940s. The glass-

roofed conservatory shows up in many of the older photos. The wooden front porch was removed and renovated several years ago, as were the stained-glass windows.

### **ABOUT THE CURTIS COMPANY**

The Curtis Company was basically a family run business that grew into a nationwide conglomerate of window frames, doors, trim and millwork companies operating in 14 states. Principal officers of the company were founder Charles F. Curtis, his brother Charles M. Curtis and their uncle Judson E. Carpenter. The company had locations in Wausau, Wisconsin, Lincoln, Nebraska, Chicago, Illinois, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The headquarters and main plant for Curtis Company remained in Clinton at the corner of 12th Avenue South and 2nd Street. During the 1920s Curtis Company platted the Clinton Castle Terrace sub-division and built all of the homes that are now in the Castle Terrace Historic District.

Demand for Curtis Company wooden products began to decline when aluminum, plastic and stainless-steel materials became more prevalent in the use of home building materials. Then, the 1965 flood caused more damage to the plant than competitors' products. It destroyed a massive amount of equipment, machinery and material at the plant. The plant closed in 1966 and that was the end of Curtis Company.

The Curtis Company business was a fixture in south Clinton for more than 100 years. The company provided employment to thousands of Clinton families. The Curtis Club in south Clinton was a popular gathering place for bowling, dances, dinners and community celebrations. Curtis-sponsored ball clubs were a large part of Clinton summer time activities. The Curtis Company and the Curtis family played a critical role for thousands of Clintonians.

George M. Curtis was born 1844 and died 1921. Etta Lewis Curtis was born 1850 and died 1921. They are both buried in Springdale Cemetery here in Clinton. George and Etta Curtis

were married Sept. 4, 1872. They had four children. Two died at an early age. Sons George L. Curtis (1878-1956) and Eugene J. Curtis (1884-1951) were both active in the family business.

The Clinton Women's Club offers various programs for public tours and parties at the Curtis Mansion. Check its website or Facebook for details and viewing hours at the home.



**Note the Curtis name on the sidewalk and the glass doomed conservatory in this 1910 photograph of the George Curtis Mansion at 420 5th Ave. S., Clinton.**



**An elaborately carved fireplace is a key feature in a lounge in the Curtis Mansion.**



# Boom time bank building spent time as a bar and restaurant

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

CLINTON -- The First National bank building at 226-228 5th Ave. S. was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Oct. 10, 1985 and was the sixth property in Clinton to be listed on the NRHP. The bank was designed in the Classical Revival style by Clinton architect A. H. Morrell in 1911. Daniel Haring Company constructed the building from 1911 to 1912.

## LONGSTANDING CONFUSION

There has always been some confusion regarding the history, ownership and the name listed on the outside of this bank building. Perhaps, some of the confusion came about because over the course of time this bank building was owned by two different companies with similar type names.

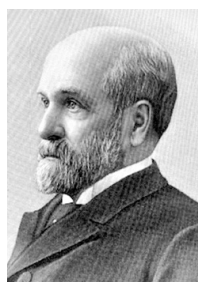
In 1911, the original owners building the new bank had an established business called City National Bank. When the bank was completed in 1912 the City National Bank name was prominently displayed at the top of the building with raised letters set in stone. The City National name remained on the building until

1961.

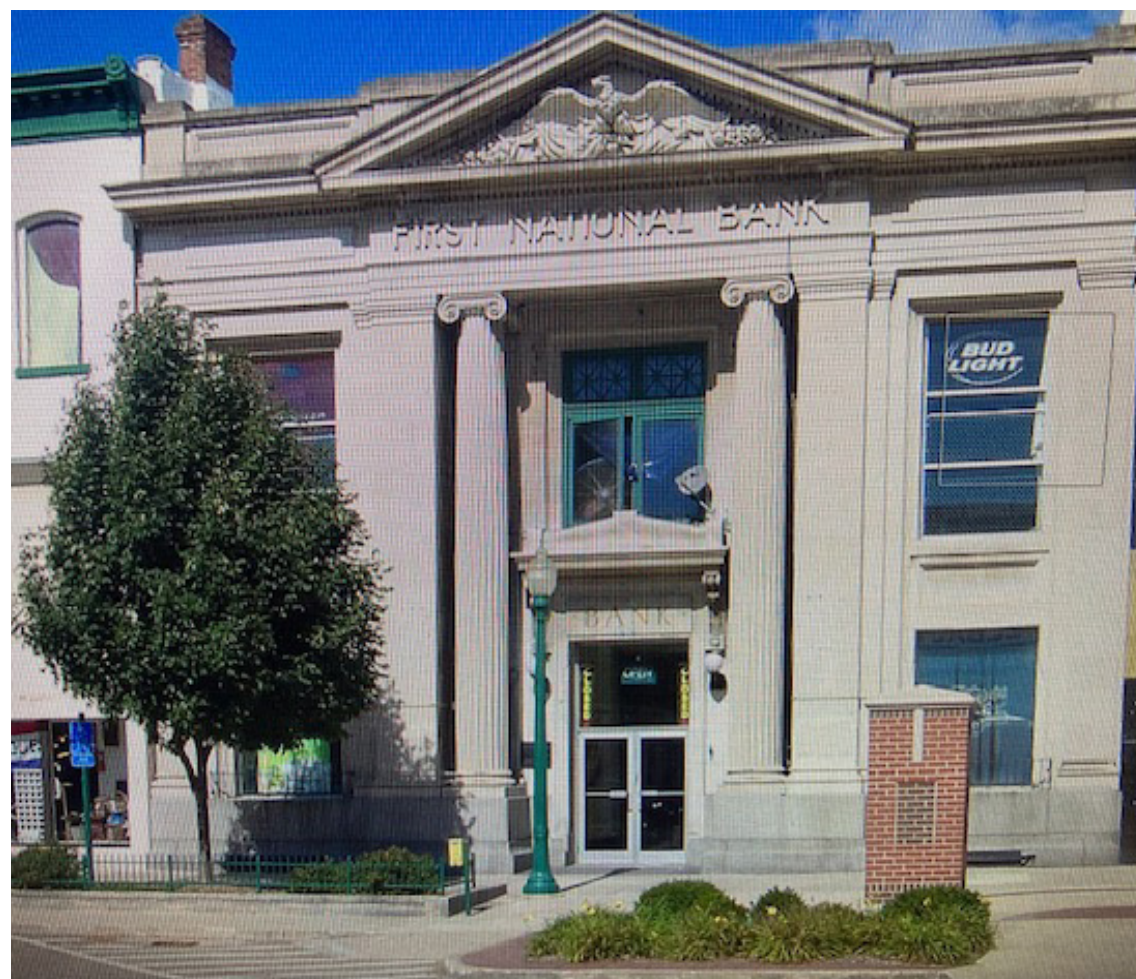
In 1961, a new company called First National Bank purchased the building and the holdings of City National bank. A short time later the longtime City National Bank name on the outside of the building was removed. The new First National Bank name was then placed in stone on the top portion of the building.

The history of City National Bank goes back to an early date in 1870 when Augustus L. Stone and his cousin A. G. Smith started a private bank in Clinton called the Smith & Stone Bank with \$150,000 of capital. The Smith & Stone bank was located in the middle of the 500 block on Second Street. A well-known competitor, Clinton National Bank was located just a few doors away on the same block at the corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue South.

In 1880, Smith & Stone rechartered their private bank as City National Bank. Around that time Smith & Stone moved their City



**Augustus  
Stone**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The First National Bank building has changed ownership several times since 1968. At one time the building was used for a restaurant and a bar.**

National bank around the corner and purchased property at 226 5th Avenue South. Business was good and City National was growing. They needed to expand their business. In 1911 they started construction on their new building at 226-228 Fifth Avenue South. During construction the bank was temporarily located on the South side of 5th, Avenue.

The Wednesday, March 27, 1912, edition of the Clinton Herald noted that "City National bank opened quietly at its new location that morning, even though the new building was not completed. City National had to vacate their south side location on Fifth, Avenue rather quickly to make room for construction of the new Wilson Building."

During that time period down-

town Clinton was booming with new building construction.

## INTERIOR AMENITIES

The following narrative provides a brief description of the bank building exterior from information provided on the NRHP website: "The First National bank building (1911-12), located in Clinton, Iowa, is a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival styling. Characteristics of this style, which is primarily based on the Greek architectural orders, are exhibited by the First National Bank building in a number of ways."

"The main facade is finished with a smooth grey stone, and its features are proportionally large. This facade, organized systematically on a vertical axis, is highlighted by a large, pedi-

mented portico, two large Ionic columns, and four stone pilasters. The facade is topped by a parapet, and a massive base span the front, visually supporting the columns and pilasters.

"The patterned transom was typical of all second story windows in the building when it was first constructed. The recessed portico is flanked by two large, fluted Ionic columns, and the entryway is sheltered by its own stone overhang. The overhang is supported by two decorative stone brackets and is topped by a simple pediment. The word BANK is carved in incised letters directly over the main entryway.

"The large pediment that tops the building features an ornately carved spread-winged eagle grasping a cornucopia and an



unfurled flag in its talons. This eagle, within the pediment, is framed by a narrow dentil border, a motif which is repeated along the width of the building directly under the pediment.

“Across the front of the building in boldly carved, raised letters are the words ‘FIRST NATIONAL BANK.’ On the interior, several skylights are located over what was the bank’s lobby, and are trimmed with dark woodwork. Plaster cornicework is located on the second-floor level, and was originally painted gold, cream and federal blue. The marble floor in the building stairways to the mezzanine area remains with its marble treads and elaborate iron railing intact, although it was enclosed in the 1950’s.”

In the early days, the building had a boiler house near the alley behind the building. The boiler house had an underground hot air pipe that provided heat to the main bank building. An addition at the back of the building was built onto the bank in 1951 that filled in the area between the main bank building and the boiler house. In 1952 the teller’s cages and some decorative wood work on the main floor was removed.

### BANK BUILDING WAS ONCE HOME TO A BAR

The First National Bank building has changed ownership several times since 1968. At one time the building was used for a restaurant and a bar. The interior has undergone extensive remodeling. A second floor was added above the main lobby area for restaurant patrons. The lower entry with marble floors was turned into a lounge. There was also a rather unique vault room with seating that appealed to restaurant customers.

The former bank building is now currently vacant.

In 1968, First National Bank constructed a new building at the corner of Fourth Avenue

South and Third Street. In order to accommodate the new bank building, several buildings were removed in the 400 block of South Third, Street. The Foster Temple and Nicola’s Kerr McGee gas station were removed. Several residential houses on Fourth Avenue South were also removed and a large warehouse that at one time belonged to Beier’s Iowa Bakery was removed.

### US BANK TAKES OVER

Today, US Bank owns the former First National bank building at 405 South 3rd, Street. The bank is part of national chain owned by U.S. Bancorp which is the Fifth, largest bank in the United States. U.S. Bancorp has more than 3,000 branch offices mainly in the Midwest. The bank’s headquarters is in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### ABOUT THE FOUNDERS

Augustus Stone served as president at one of the largest banks in Clinton for 31 years. Stone’s cousin and longtime banking partner A.G. Smith succeeded him as president of City National Bank. After retiring from the banking business in 1901 Stone became president of the Stone & Cook Lumber Company. Stone & Cook operated lumber yards in Clinton and Low Moor.

Stone was born June 8, 1836, and died May 20, 1913. He is buried in Springdale Cemetery.

Stone married Kittie Angell in 1864. They had four daughters. Two died at an early age. Stone’s biography is listed in the 1894 book “Prominent Men of the West.” Stone’s personal and business contributions played a significant role in the growth and development of Clinton.

Historical Note: Volume II of “Wolf’s History of Clinton County” mentions that Stone was elected mayor of Clinton. This fact cannot be verified at this time.



Pictured is City National Bank President Augustus L. Stone’s family home at 1102 N. Second St. around 1889.

OFFICERS	
A. G. SMITH.....	President
G. M. CURTIS.....	Vice President
A. C. SMITH....	Vice Pres. and Cashier
A. W. HANSEN....	Assistant Cashier
DIRECTORS	
A. G. SMITH	President
C. F. CURTIS	President Curtis Bros. & Co.
G. M. CURTIS	Sec’y and Treas. Curtis Bros. & Co.
H. W. SEAMAN	President American Wire Fabrics Co.
G. W. DULANY, JR.	Vice President Eclipse Lumber Co.
J. PETERSON	President Peterson, Bell & Co.
M. J. GABRIEL	Secretary United Lumber Co.
L. P. ALLEN	President Allen Printing Co.
J. H. SHAFF	Live Stock and Grain Dealer
M. H. THIELEN	Secretary Joyce Lumber Co.
L. P. TRITSCHLER	President Clinton Brewing Co.
A. C. SMITH	Vice President and Cashier

Officers & Directors of City National Bank at the time the new bank was built in 1912.



This is an early 1900 view of the Stone & Cook Lumber Company in Clinton. It had buildings in Clinton and Low Moor.



In 1870 Alfred G. Smith & A.L Stone establish Stone & Smith Bank. In 1880, it became City National Bank. The CNB building was constructed from 1911-1912.





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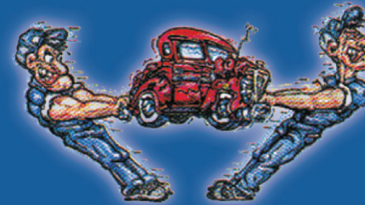
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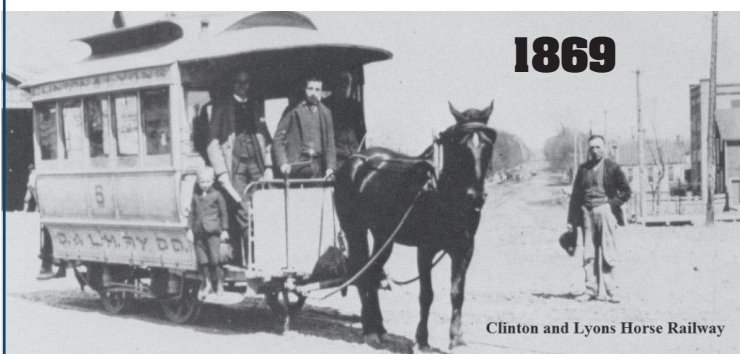
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# Howes made bold moves in Downtown Clinton

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

The Howes Building is a four-story commercial building located in the heart of downtown Clinton at 419–425 S. Second St. The building was named after the original owner, Edward Madison Howes. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 15, 2004. The building is considered important and of noted architectural significance.

Architect Ronald E. Schmitt in his 1980 book Clinton Architectural Heritage describes the building as, “Renaissance Revival Style and noted the exterior street facades are of red-faced brick with decorative accents of red terra cotta.”

The Howes Building was the 11th property in Clinton to be listed on the NRHP.

## HOWES LEAVES JEWELRY FOR ANOTHER DREAM

E.M. Howes at the age of 15 started working for C.S. Taylor at a downtown Clinton jewelry store. In 1870, Howes and his brother Benjamin purchased a part interest in Taylor’s business. In 1880, his brother William joined the firm.



**Edward Howes**

Around 1899 Howes left the jewelry store business to concentrate on a larger business project and fulfill a long-time goal. During this time, Howes still maintained part ownership in the jewelry

store.

On Sept. 16, 1899, the Clinton Herald reported that E.M. Howes planned to build a new three-story commercial building in downtown Clinton that would be open by September 1900.

“Reid and Conger signed a long-term lease to use the first and second floors in the new building and would be the anchor store,” the report said.

## BUILDING DESIGN AND SPECIAL FEATURES

Howes hired a well-known Clinton architect Josiah Rice to build the original three-story building. John Lake was hired as the contractor. Plans called for the store to be one of the best retail department stores in the state. The building would be located on the northeast corner of 5th Avenue South and 2nd Street.

The Herald noted “the building would have one-hundred-feet of frontage on 5th Avenue. On South 2nd Street there will be 80 feet of frontage. The exterior of the L shaped building includes the use of red brick with terra cotta detail. The building also has arched windows, pilaster and a grand entrance flanked by two Doric order columns.”

The Herald stated “the main entrance will be in the corner with double doors, and windows under a heavy stone archway. At the rear of the building on Second Street will be an entrance with stairway and elevator. There will also be an entrance at the east corner on Fifth Avenue with a stairway.”

“The basement and First story



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**A parade in 1901 passes the Howes Building, at right, when it had only three floors. A fourth floor was added in 1905.**

will be of cut sandstone and the best of plate glass. The next two stories will be pressed brick and stone trimmings. The windows will be arched in pairs and the elevation of the building is designed to give the structure an imposing appearance.”

“The First and Second floors with extensive balconies will be used for store purposes. The Third floor is being planned to have a large ballroom and reception room, banquet hall, parlors, and other conveniences for parties, balls, bazaars, and other assemblages. The building would be constructed to add additional stories when needed.”

The Howes building had the first electric elevator in town and the building had an air ventilation shaft for the upper stories. The building was equipped for gas, water, and electric lighting. The basement contained a large steam heating boiler system with capacity to heat a building twice the size of the current Howes building.

## ADDING A FOURTH FLOOR

In 1905, Howes’s downtown business continued to grow. He

decided to add a fourth-floor addition onto to his building. Howes hired John Morrell and son as the architects to design the fourth-floor addition. John Lake was hired to build the fourth-floor addition.

John Morrell was a former contractor and self-taught architect from Chicago. Morrell purchased Josiah Rice’s architectural firm in 1903 and moved to Clinton.

## LONG LIST OF BUSINESS TENANTS

A large variety of retail and professional businesses have been located in the Howes building during the last 125 years including the Reid & Conger Department Store, The Kline’s Department Store, Stage Department Store, Jefferson Billiards Shop, Metzger and Cavanaugh Men’s Tailors, and the Kaybee Store.

The Howes family owned the Howes building for more than 100 years. Around 2004, Community Housing Initiatives purchased the building from the Howes family. CHI added 19 rental apartment units to the upper floors of the building and retained the first floor for commercial and retail space. The new owners of the building

spent more than \$2.5 million on exterior and interior improvements. The new rental units were a welcome addition to the downtown district.

## MORE ABOUT THE HOWES FAMILY

Phillip and Ester Howes moved to Clinton in 1859. They had 13 children. Many of the children stayed in Clinton and were active in various community affairs.

Phillip was a train engineer for the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska railroad. He served on the School Board, as a City Trustee, and was elected Alderman.

Edward M. Howes was the eldest son of Phillip and Ester Howes. He was 4 years old when his parents moved to Clinton. According to various records, Edward was always interested in local business affairs. His early partnership venture into the jewelry business at age 15 supports that story.

In 1899, when Howes decided to build a large retail / commercial building downtown many cautioned him that the move was too bold. Howes was up to the challenge. Soon after the Howes



Building opened, Howes started his venture into the local real estate business.

Howes was elected mayor of Clinton in 1912-1913. He served on the Jane Lamb Hospital Board and the Clinton YMCA board. He was active in supporting the construction of the Clinton Coliseum a major downtown landmark. He was a member of the Scottish Rite Masons. He was a charter member of the Clinton Business / Booster Club and was always known as a strong supporter of the community.

Howes was born in Peoria, Illinois, March 11, 1855. He married Anna Bedford, formerly of DeWitt, in 1895. They had a son, Laurence Howes of Clinton.

Edward Howes died Feb. 9, 1936, and is buried in Springdale Cemetery Clinton. Services were held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple 106 5th Ave. South with Dr. F. Halsey Ambrose, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, officiating. It was interesting to note that services were held downtown a short distance from the Howes building for the man that always supported downtown Clinton.

### RICE DESIGNED MANY CLINTON BUILDINGS

Josiah Rice probably designed more commercial buildings and residential houses in Clinton than any other architect. A few of the buildings Rice worked on included the Howes Building, the Clinton County Courthouse, the Jacobsen Building, St. John's Episcopal Church, and the former Clinton High School / Roosevelt Apartment Building located at 600 S. 4th street.

Upon completion of the Howes building in 1900, Josiah Rice moved his architectural firm into it.

In 1903, John Morrell purchased Josiah Rice's architectural firm. In 1904, his son A.H. Morrell joined the firm. Morrell went on to design many other Clinton buildings including the

Wilson Building, the YMCA, City National Bank and Riverview Stadium.

Morrell completed the fourth-floor addition on the Howes building. John Lake a local contractor worked on numerous projects for both Josiah Rice and John Morrell.



This is a scarce photo of a gold case watch from Howes Brothers Jewelry Store.



Around 2004, Community Housing Initiatives bought the Howes Building at 419-425 S. 2nd St., pictured here in 2018, and spent more than \$2.5 million on interior and exterior improvements. CHI added 19 rental apartment units to the upper floors of the building and retained the first floor for commercial and retail space.



This view of busy downtown Clinton in 1956 features the Howes building.



Edward Howes was a 50-year member of the DeMolay Consistory Emulation lodge, 255, A.F. & A.M. Howes's funeral was held in 1936 at the Clinton Masonic Temple just a short distance from the Howes Building.



In this early 1890's view of 2nd St. and 5th Avenue South, the building on the right marked "Restaurant" is on the site where Edward M. Howes would build his three-story commercial building that was completed in 1900.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION



# YWCA house a unique link to Clinton's lumber baron era



PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The Lafayette Lamb residence at 317 Seventh Ave. S. has been home to the Clinton YWCA since 1920. Designed by architect W.W. Sanborn in 1877, it underwent major changes in 1906. In 1979 the home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

Clinton's third entry on the National Register of Historic Places bridges 2 styles

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

CLINTON — The Lafayette Lamb residence at 317 Seventh Ave. S. was the third property in Clinton to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The home was added on Oct 18, 1979. The home was designed by architect W.W. Sanborn in 1877 and J.C. Clausen was superintendent of construction. The Clinton YWCA acquired the property in 1920 and has remained at this location since then.

## FROM VICTORIAN SECOND EMPIRE TO GEORGIAN REVIVAL STYLE

According to information listed on the National Register, "the Lamb home was built in 1877 and for around 30 years was considered a showcase example of Victorian Second Empire residential architecture ... Around 1905 Lafayette Lamb directed a major remodeling plan for the exterior of the home that significantly altered the original architectural character of the home."

Original features to the 1877

home included "the high mansard roof had small gabled dormers, with iron cresting around the perimeter. The windows and main entrance were topped with keystone hoods. The wide eaves were bracketed. The tall paneled chimneys with corbelled caps sprouted from the roof. The north side polygonal bay had an immense mansard, topped with cresting, that extended well above the roof. The front veranda had a sloping roof with bracketed eaves, supported on elaborate posts, with a spindle balustrade."

After 1906 "the original red brick veneer, the veranda, the tower and main mansards, and the window hoods were all completely removed."

The remodeling of 1906 produced a remarkable change in the character of the house. Ron Schmitt architect and historian describes the change "as going from Victorian Second Empire to more closely now resembling Georgian Revival Style."

The light pale-yellow concrete brick used on the exterior of the home came from a local business owned by the Lamb family called

the Iowa Granite Brick Company. Some other local buildings with Iowa Granite Brick include the Iten Building at 615 N. 2nd, St., Franklin School, YMCA, Lafayette Hotel, the old street car barn at 1936 N. 2nd St. and several others. The Iowa Granite Brick Company ran from around 1901 until 1914.

The Lafayette Lamb house had an immense two-story carriage house at the rear of the property that was also altered in 1906. Some of the changes to the carriage house included a low parapeted third floor that was added. The exterior walls of the carriage house were faced with Iowa Granite Brick to match the main residence.

## YWCA ENTERS THE PICTURE

After 1920 when the YWCA had acquired the property the exterior of the home remained unchanged. Some changes were made to the interior. Vestiges of the original interior may be found in the westside parlor, the main hall and the entrance area. The old carriage house was converted to a gym and a shallow hipped

roof was added. A series of brick additions on the east side, the west side, and the rear of the house connected the residence to the gym. All of these changes were in place by 1925.

Marguerite Meyer is given credit for doing much of the groundwork that would eventually lead to the formation of the YWCA in Clinton around 1910. In 1913 a membership drive resulted in 722 people signing up. In June of 1915 a formal chapter was organized. Mrs. W.F. Coan was elected as the first president of the Clinton YWCA. A charter was received from the national organization later that fall.

The YWCA moved into the present home at 317 Seventh Ave. South in 1920. The home was donated to the YWCA as a memorial to Judson E. Carpenter and Olivia Detweiller Carpenter, relatives of the Lamb family. The YWCA has been active in the Clinton community for nearly 110 years and has been at the same location for almost 105 years.

Today, the YWCA offers a variety of fitness programs complete with fun fitness classes for all

levels, including cardio, aquatic and strength training options. The YWCA has an indoor pool, sauna and hot tub. It also has a 50+ Club for senior-friendly fitness classes as well as social programming.

The YWCA has a quality childcare program from 6 a.m. to midnight, at two convenient locations. The YWCA offers after school care, summer camp, holiday camps and fun youth enrichment classes. It also provides a Rapid Rehousing Program and Homelessness Prevention services for families, women, children, men and those that are experiencing or on the verge of experiencing homelessness.

## ABOUT LAFAYETTE LAMB

Lafayette Lamb was the son of pioneer Lumber Barron Chancy Lamb and was a successful Clinton businessman. He was credited with running vast operations throughout the Midwest, the Rocky Mountain District and on the Pacific Coast. He was born Feb. 26, 1845, and died May 30, 1917.

Lamb married Olivia A. Huffman on Aug. 21, 1866, and



she died Jan. 17, 1924. They had two children: a daughter, Merrette Lamb, and son, Chancy R. Lamb.

Lafayette Lamb’s obituary covered his business affairs and personal accomplishments and was listed in the May 31, 1917 edition of the Clinton Herald. A print out of his obituary covered three pages. He was recognized as a leading pioneer builder of the community whose keen foresight and strong business leadership helped lay the foundation in the early days, for the present, and for the future growth of Clinton.

In the 1880’s three of the most successful and wealthiest families in Clinton lived in beautiful historic homes on the 300 block of Seventh Ave. South. Chancy and Jane Lamb lived at the corner of Seventh Avenue South and Third Street. Lafayette and Olivia Lamb lived at 317 Seventh Ave. S. William John and Esther Young lived near the corner of Fourth Street at 339 Seventh Ave. S. All three families were prominent leaders in Clinton’s booming 19th century saw mill and lumber industry.

LAST HISTORIC  
300 BLOCK HOUSE  
STANDING

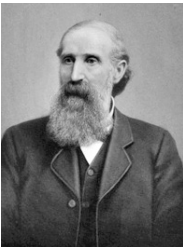
The last remaining historic house from the 300 block of Seventh Avenue South, the YWCA home is one of the few remaining

homes in Clinton that is directly associated with Clinton’s 19th century history as one of the biggest lumber milling cities on the Upper Mississippi River.

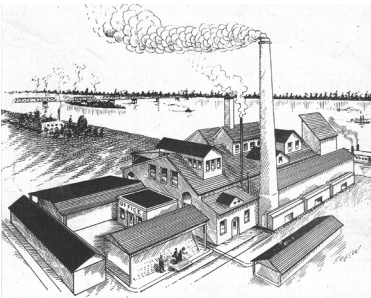
The Clinton community has a rich history woven with great stories. We are fortunate to have 16 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We need to continue to preserve and protect our local historic properties, historic sites, and our heritage for future generations.



Marguerite Meyer



Lafayette Lamb



This historic drawing shows the Iowa Granite Brick Company as it looked in 1909. The Lafayette Lamb home exterior used concrete brick from this business

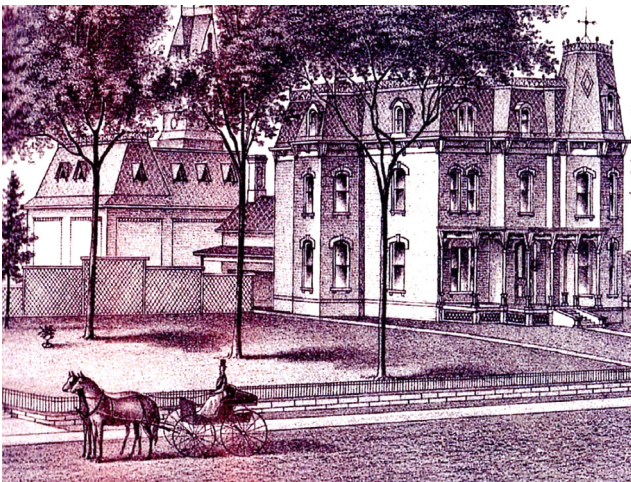
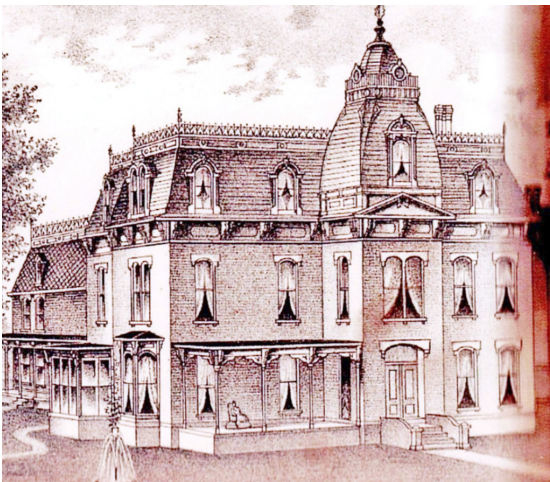


PHOTOS FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

Pictured is an aerial view of downtown Clinton in March 1954. In the upper right is Clinton City Hall. DeWitt Park is at center left, and YWCA is at center bottom.



The Lafayette Lamb house is pictured here in 1979. The YWCA took ownership of it in 1920.



These historic drawings show, from left, the Chancy Lamb, the Lafayette Lamb, and WJ Young and residences, the three original houses in the 300 block of Seventh Avenue South that belonged to the most successful lumber barons in Clinton. They were also considered some of the wealthiest families in Clinton.



# Historic hardware building now homes and offices

JOHN ROWLAND

Gateway History Club

The Moeszinger-Marquis Building is a large three-story brick structure located at 721 South 2nd, street. The building was constructed as a wholesale hardware store in 1912 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places February 9, 2006. At this time the name of the architect that designed the building and the contractor cannot be verified.

Architect Ronald Schmitt in his book Clinton Architectural Heritage describes the building “as a good example of Romanesque Style design.” The Romanesque Style is noted for round arches, corbels, and historically correct features such as chevrons and lozenges.

Directly north of the Moeszinger-Marquis hardware store warehouse at 713-715 was a five bay warehouse that was built in 1898 by Baldwin Brothers Company. Josiah Rice was the architect for the Baldwin Brothers building and John Lake was the contractor. The north 1898 building sustained heavy fire damage in February 1963 and was removed.

According to the NRHP website “the exterior front portion of the building has sustained few alterations over the years. The original large storefront windows have been replaced with smaller

windows. Brick was applied to fill in space. The two original main entrances have been replaced with modern glass doors. The original glass windows on the second and third floor were replaced with lower cost plexiglass windows.”

## HEAVY STONE AND DOMINANT WINDOWS

The Richardson Romanesque architectural influence is noted on the front of the building. The Richardson / American approach used heavy stone instead of smooth stone to give buildings more of a horizontal appearance. The street level portion of the Moeszinger-Marquis building has heavy stone construction, emphasizing deep window reveals and cavernous door openings in a heavy granite that is a color contrast from the remainder of the red brick building.

The second and third story facades of the building more closely resemble the traditional Romanesque style. The dominate decorative feature of the second and third levels are the ten window bays on the front of the building that are divided in half by a wide pilaster of brick. The ten window bays are symmetrical lined and bordered by a smaller brick pilaster.

The building has a flat roof with a decorative metal cornice on the front with an ornamental green painted band. A sign



PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The Moeszinger-Marquis Building is a large three-story brick structure at 721 South 2nd, street. It was constructed as a wholesale hardware store in 1912.**

reading C.E. Armstrong and Sons Co, since 1870, Industrial and Contractor Supply completed the décor at the top of the building. The second-floor windows are accentuated with contrasting limestone lentils. The third-floor windows are bordered by stone.

The north side of the building is a solid brick wall which has been reinforced with concrete block as a result of a fire in the former Baldwin Brothers building. The 1963 fire destroyed the Baldwin building and caused notable damage to the existing Moeszinger-Marquis building. There is a single door entrance at the northeast corner of the building.

The back of the building faces east and is constructed of red brick. At street level there are three large freight bays and two narrow windows. The second and third floors feature eight symmetrical window bays with arched narrow windows. In 2006 there was a painted sign at the back of building marked C. E. Armstrong & Sons Wholesale Hardware.

The South side of the building is constructed in red brick. The

second and third floors have ten symmetrical window bays with arched narrow windows. The metal fire escape is visible on the south side of the building. The street level has two large freight bays and four arched windows.

The Moeszinger-Marquis Hardware store had a rail spur running along the south side of the building for loading and unloading of railcar shipments. The company offered customers direct service, with the ability to fill large orders by railcar which was an important feature of the Moeszinger-Marquis hardware companies business model.

## THE BALDWINS

The history of the Moeszinger-Marquis Hardware business goes back to sometime around 1859 or perhaps earlier when Ezra Baldwin moved his hardware business from Maquoketa to Lyons. Ezra Baldwin quickly established a successful business in Lyons. Soon after arriving in Lyons his sons William, Charles, and Samuel joined the family business and the name changed to Baldwin Brothers. Around

1870 the Baldwin Hardware store moved to a new location next to Four-Square Park. In later years the Lyons post office occupied that same building.

Ezra Baldwin died in 1870. However, business for the firm continued to grow. In 1879 they opened a second location on 5th, Avenue South in downtown Clinton. William E. Baldwin (1830-1882) and Samuel W. Baldwin (1839-1882) both died in 1882. Both are buried in Oakland cemetery.

After his brothers died in 1882 Charles Baldwin continued as president of the company and ran the family business. Baldwin was a popular three term mayor of Lyons and served on the Lyons school board for many years. Charles Baldwin was especially well known for his work with building and promoting the Midland Railroad.

## NEW OWNERSHIP IN THE 1880S

A short time after William Baldwin's death W.E. Marquis joined the firm as a senior partner. Around that same time Louis C.



Moeszinger purchased William Baldwin's share in the company. Not long after Marquis joined the firm his sons Charles and Guy Marquis also joined the company.

Business continued to grow for the company and on November 9, 1895 the Clinton Herald reported that Baldwin Brothers Company would build a new facility on Eighth Avenue South just east of the Clinton Produce Company. The Baldwin Brothers Company purchased 3 lots from Dunham and Barker. The Baldwin Brothers firm stated that they would build a new brick building in the spring that will have 100 ft frontage and be 140 ft. deep.

An old wood frame warehouse that was used as a boiler warehouse by Grimes and Cullen will be removed. John Anthony has been hired to bring the property up to grade with Second Street as the lots are very low. This will require the lots to be raised with fill about six feet. Business is growing for Baldwin Brothers. There will be a railroad siding on 8th, Avenue for bulk shipments. The rail siding will be an important part of the business.

Charles M. Baldwin entered into the hardware business in Lyons in 1861 and was president of the firm for many years. Charles Baldwin died November 14, 1910 and according to the Herald is buried in Springdale Cemetery. William E. Marquis was born 1827 and died 1904. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery.

### ARMSTRONG HARDWARE TAKES OVER

The Saturday April 20, 1912 edition of the Clinton Herald reported that longtime partners and employees of the Baldwin Brothers Hardware Company Louis C. Moeszinger, Guy F. Marquis, and Charles B. Marquis had filed important business papers with the Clinton County Recorder. The new papers re-incorporated the business, and finalized the purchase of Baldwin Brothers Company. The new firm is offi-

cially called Moeszinger- Marquis Hardware Company with Louis C. Moeszinger President, Vice President G.F. Marquis, and Secretary-Treasure Charles B. Marquis.

The new owners of the Moeszinger-Marquis Hardware Company continued to expand their operations on second street and built a new three-story hardware building in 1912. The company continued to provide key hardware and construction materials for residential, commercial, and industrial businesses throughout the Gateway area.

### ANOTHER OWNERSHIP CHANGE

In 1932 Charles A. Armstrong purchased the former Moeszinger-Marquis Hardware Company located at 717-721 South Second street and closed his retail store on 5th, Avenue South. Armstrong wanted to focus on wholesale hardware, plumbing, and heating supplies.

Armstrong Hardware was an important business on 5th, Avenue South since 1870. Charles E. Armstrong (1845-1916) established the Clinton hardware store around 1870. His nephew Charles A. Armstrong (1854-1953) soon joined the business. The Armstrong hardware business on Second street remained under the ownership of Kenneth S. Armstrong (1911-1995) grandson of C. E. Armstrong until his death in 1998.

Members of the Armstrong family operated a Hardware business in Clinton for well over one-hundred years.

### GROW CLINTON BUYS AND SELLS BUILDING

In 1998 the building was purchased by Grow Clinton, LLC. The new corporation made several improvements to the building. In 2005 the building was sold to Clinton Housing Initiatives, Inc. and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Clinton Housing Initiatives

is the current owner of the Moeszinger- Marquis building. The have fourteen rental apartment units on the second and third floors of the building. The lower floor is occupied by Grow Clinton and several law offices. CHI owns several historic apartment buildings downtown including the Van Allen Building, the Howes Building, Roosevelt School, and the Moeszinger-Marquis Building.



**The Moeszinger-Marquis Hardware Store.**



**Moeszinger-Marquis Hardware Store next to the bridge. Note the original 1898 Five Bay Building to the north. At the time of this 1956 photo the Armstrong family owned the Hardware Store. Note: New 1956 Gateway Bridge.**



PHOTO COURTESY  
MATT PARB GROW CLINTON

**Louis C. Moeszinger  
President of Moeszinger-  
Marquis Hardware Company  
and former president of  
Baldwin Brothers Hardware  
Company.**



**Interior view of second floor in the Armstrong Building during the 2006 remodeling project.**



**This photo of Star Boiler Works at 104 Eighth Ave. S. is dated 1880-1885. Cullen later moved his business to Fulton. The building on extreme far left was removed by Baldwin Brothers Hardware around 1898 for the new warehouse building.**



# Booming Lyons needed a 2nd Catholic Church

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

St. Boniface church, at 2500 N. Pershing in Clinton, was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 2, 1997. The church is the eighth property in Clinton to be listed. It is best described as being an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic design.

The basic design of the church was sketched out in early 1907 by the Rev. Joseph M. Tritz, pastor of the church. The final drawings and specifications were prepared by a well-known Dubuque architect, Martin Heer. It was noted in the NRHP application that Herr had a vast amount of experience in working on numerous Catholic churches and schools in the Dubuque Diocese. One of his most noted designs was the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier at Dyersville, Iowa.

## CONSTRUCTION AND DEDICATION

On Nov. 15, 1907, the contract for construction of the church was awarded to Anton Zwack from Dubuque. On March 19, 1908, the first shovel of dirt was turned and the excavation work began. Several news sources described the corner location selected for the new church as being low swampy land that was covered with sawdust piles. It was estimated that local members hauled in more than 1,500 wagon loads of sand and gravel for fill.

The cornerstone ceremony was held on Friday, June 5, 1908, a church day that is celebrated

for St. Boniface. The church was dedicated on Nov. 27, 1908. According to the Dec. 19, 1908, Clinton Daily Herald, the following items were placed in the cornerstone: Copies of the Herald, Catholic Messenger, History of St. Boniface, medals and coins from various church members, a stone from the catacombs of Rome, and the names of President Theodore Roosevelt and Mayor Crockett.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The 1908 church was 115 feet in length and 56 feet wide. The exterior was constructed of red pressed brick, trimmed in blue Bedford stone. The two church spires were built to a height of 124 feet. The foundation is of reinforced concrete. The basement is unfinished. The steam boiler to heat the church is in a dirt basement. The roof of the church and the tall spires are covered with peach bottom slate. The arched roof is supported by twelve pillars inside the church.

The original seating capacity was for around 400. Later the seating was expanded for around 600 hundred.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

The church features beautiful Germanic made stained glass windows from the famed Munich Studio of Chicago. The original main entrance had two large wooden Gothic doors. Later these doors were replaced with modern glass doors and the overhead door panel was also replaced with glass. The south side door was also replaced with a glass door.

B. Ferring of Chicago built



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**At left, the Rev. Joseph Tritz pastor of St. Boniface, and at center, Arch-Bishop John J. Keane, of the Dubuque Diocese participate in the cornerstone ceremony at St. Boniface Church in Lyons on June 5, 1908. Clinton County was in the Dubuque Diocese until 1911 and then was transferred to the Davenport Diocese.**

the 34-foot. high and 16-foot wide wooden high altar in typical German Gothic fashion. The large altar was installed Sept. 18, 1910, by Ferring.

The altar had over 75 frosted incandescent lights that created a rich and beautiful effect on the workmanship of the altar. The entire church was wired in conduit back then as a safeguard against fire. The church is very historic, extremely well preserved, and the interior has changed very little since it was built.

## ABOUT THE BELLS

One of the more unusual features of St. Boniface are the four church bells that chimed the "Westminster Peal."

The bells were placed in the south tower of the church on Nov. 7, 1908. The largest bell weights 2,600 pounds and chimes in E flat. The second bell weighs 1,500 pounds and chimes in B flat. The third bell weighs 750 pounds and chimes in A flat. The fourth bell weighs 550 pounds and chimes in D flat. The bells are still in the south tower and seldom ring.

## GERMANS ASKED BISHOP FOR CHURCH

St. Boniface parish started in 1861 when Bishop Smythe of Dubuque approved a request from a large number of German members in the Lyons community to start a new church. The 1855 First Presbyterian church in Lyons was for sale and members of St. Boniface moved quickly to purchase the building and three adjoining lots on current day Pershing Blvd.

The Presbyterian church was a small plain brick church that was 56 feet long and 35 feet wide. The members of St. Boniface soon needed more land and purchased additional lots from Elijah Buell. In 1871, they built the current parsonage for \$3,780 dollars. A new school was built adjacent to the church between late 1878 and 1880. There were now three buildings in close proximity on the St. Boniface property: the parsonage, the church, and the school.

St. Boniface members were also busy in the early days establishing a mission church at Bryant in 1876 and later establishing a

mission church at Sacred Heart in 1891. Sacred Heart was a mission church of St. Boniface for 12 years.

The former Presbyterian church was re-dedicated as St. Boniface in 1861. The pastor was the Rev. Meis. The St. Boniface School was established at 2520 Pershing Blvd. and operated from 1869 until 1964. The former 1871 St. Boniface parsonage was eventually sold and is now a north end historic private home.

The St. Boniface cemetery was opened in 1861. It has 1,432 recorded burials listed as of June 13, 2022.

The Rev. Joseph Tritz was assigned to St. Boniface parish in 1901 and was instrumental in building the current 1908 St. Boniface church building. Today the building is operated as the St. Boniface Cultural Center.

## WHY TWO CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN LYONS?

Local legends often state that the main reason two Catholic churches were built in Lyons less than one block apart is because the Germans and the Irish could



not get along. While there is a certain amount of truth to that statement there were also other important factors to consider.

First, although the Rev. Jean built three Catholic churches in Lyons between 1852 and 1858. Those would all be considered extremely small by today's standards. The lone church that he finally built of any size that would hold three or four hundred people or more was St. Irenaeus. Construction on that church would not begin until 1861 and St. Irenaeus was not completed until 1869. The only Catholic church in Lyons being used during 1860 was obviously far too small for the number of members being served.

The second problem confronting the Catholic church in Lyons between 1850 and 1860 was the rapid population growth of Lyons. Lyons was the largest and fastest growing city in Clinton County at that time. In 1850 the population in Lyons was listed at 453 people. In 1860, according to U.S. Population Statistics, Lyons was the largest city in the county with a population of 2,703 people and the town was continuing to grow rapidly. DeWitt had 2,261 people. Clinton had 1,816 people and Camanche had 1,468 people. Fulton, Illinois, had 1,512 people.

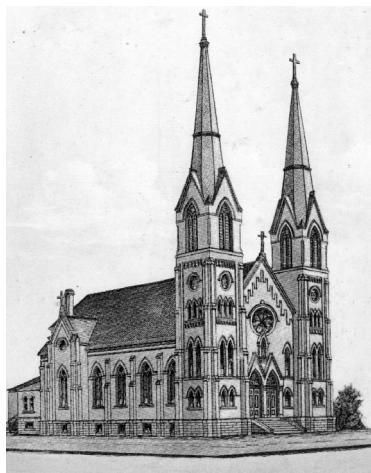
One of the reasons leading to

population growth in Lyons was the railroad. In 1854, the Iowa Central Air Line Railroad went broke and stranded around 1,500 workers and their families in Lyons. A large number of workers from the (Calico Railroad) were of Irish decent. Most of the Irish railroad workers that stayed in the area went to St. Irenaeus church.

In December of 1855, another important railroad event occurred when the Galena & Chicago Union railroad arrived in Fulton, Illinois. Railroad fever was in the air as everyone expected the railroad to cross the river from Fulton to Lyons. Many anticipated that new fortunes would be made in Iowa. The arrival of the railroad rapidly increased the number of new immigrants seeking to enter Iowa for land to homestead, jobs and new business opportunities.

In 1860, members from the German Catholic community reached out to Bishop Smythe of Dubuque with a request to establish a second Catholic church in Lyons. There was a building available to purchase, they had the money needed to finance a new parish and they had a significant number of members. Plus, Lyons was the fastest growing community in the county. After due consideration Bishop Smythe approved their request and St.

Boniface parish was established in 1861.



**Early 1908 artistic illustration of St. Boniface Church**



**This 1951 photo of St. Boniface Church showing the church surrounded by the flood water.**



**Pictured is the original St. Boniface Church, a building purchased in 1855. The school at right was built between late 1878 and 1880.**

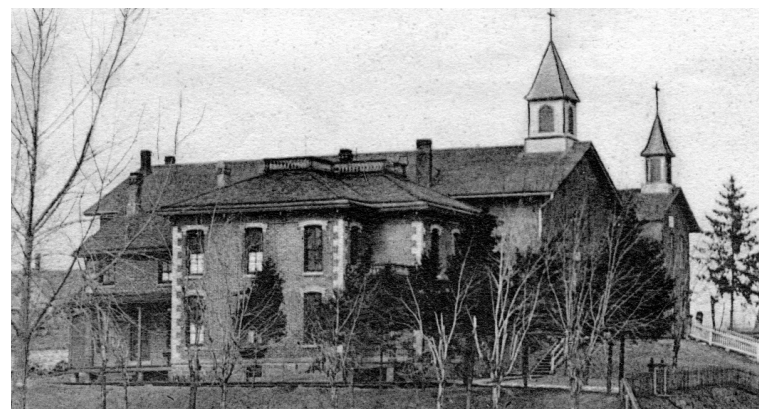


**This is a view of the entrance to St. Boniface, its choir loft and the large pipe organ that has been well restored in more recent times.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Early 1910 interior view of St. Boniface Church after the new 34 foot high altar was installed by B. Ferring of Chicago. There are statue like figures on the 12 pillars that support the ceiling and the roof.**



**In this 1890 illustration of St. Boniface, from left, are the parsonage, the church and the school. At this time, Pershing Boulevard was a dirt street.**



**The large pipe organ, pictured in this undated photo, has been restored.**



# TWIN SPIRES AND HAND-CUT STONES

The first Catholic church in Lyons is Clinton's 7th National Register listing

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

CLINTON — St. Irenaeus Church, located at 2811 North Second St., Clinton, was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 30, 1997. The church designed in the Gothic Revival style by Clinton architects W.D. Waldron and W.W. Sanborn, was the seventh property in Clinton to be listed.

Waldron was one of the earliest (1858) architects in Clinton. He was in charge of building the first railroad bridge over the Mississippi river in 1859 to Little Rock Island. Sanborn was president of the School Directors for Lyons in 1857. He was the architect that designed the first Clinton County Courthouse in 1869.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH COMES TO LYONS

The beginning of the Catholic church in Lyons can be traced back to 1848 when Bishop Matthew Loras of Dubuque held the first Mass in the home of Michael Daley at the corner of Ninth and Railroad Street in Lyons. In 1849, the Rev. Frederic C. Jean came to the Dubuque Diocese and was soon assigned to Bellevue, Iowa. In 1852, Jean was assigned as the first regular pastor in Lyons.

In 1852, Jean built a small brick church/school called St. James at the corner of what's now Garfield and 25th Ave. N. It was quickly

outgrown.

Elijah Buell sold a two-and-a-half acre block in the Buell addition to Jean for \$1,300 dollars. The pastor built two additional wooden churches at this new Second Street site before his 1869 St. Irenaeus Church was dedicated.

The foundation work on St. Irenaeus started in 1861. Most of the rock used on the church came from Cook's quarry in Elk River Township. The stone was hand-cut and hauled to the church in carts drawn by horse or oxen. The 1861 stone church was built on the original land given by Elijah Buell. Some of the rock came from quarries as far north as Galena. Several sources note that Jean traveled north and rode the river south with some of the rafts of stone.

In the spring of 1864, Bishop Smyth of Dubuque laid the corner stone for the present Gothic Revival church. The church was dedicated in the spring of 1869 by the Bishop John Hennessy of Dubuque. All of the construction work on the building was completed by members of the parish.

The cost to construct the church was around \$45,000. In today's dollars it would be about \$1.1 million. It is thought that Jean supplied about half of the funding for the building. In 1871, most of the final work on the building was completed except for the twin spires.

The twin spires are one of the more notable exterior features of

the building and are of French design. Credit for the twin spires goes to Jean and his family connection to the Lyons area of France. The north spire is 136 feet high. The south spire is 166 feet high. They were the last parts of building to be put in place. The spires were placed over the east entrance and would not be completed until around 1889.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The building was 130 by 60 feet. The basement was 12 feet high, 50 feet deep, and 60 feet wide, with a furnace room at the rear. The main entrance for the church was facing east toward the river, with a high arching doorway of 24 feet and 12 feet wide. The interior ceiling at the top curve was about 53 feet high. One of the marvels of the building is that not one pillar or brace of any kind is seen to support the huge single-vaulted ceiling.

The walls in the lower portion of the church are estimated at being more than three-foot thick. The inside walls were plastered over and painted white. There were two side entrances 7 feet wide. The interior wooden portion of the church was finished in walnut and oak.

The side windows in the church are 14 in number. The windows are 23 feet high and 4 and 1/2 feet wide. Each features some of the most celebrated saints of the church. Most of them date to the late 1860's and were donated by local families or various groups

affiliated with the church.

## A BONAPARTE CONNECTION

In 1870, Jean returned from France with a beautiful golden sanctuary lamp with crystal that was in the form of the crown of France. It hung from the ceiling over the sanctuary area. It was a gift to Jean and the parish from the Bonaparte family. The sanctuary lamp hung in the church from 1870 until 2008. It was rumored that one pastor made several attempts to get rid of it, but the sexton refused to take it down. Today, the sanctuary lamp is at Prince of Peace Church in Clinton.

## 21 WOODEN STEPS

The east entrance offered an outstanding view toward the river and the Illinois shore. In 1869, few trees or homes were in the area to block the view. Unfortunately, the east entrance was very steep and it required members to climb the great 21 wooden steps in order to reach the entrance. As members aged it was becoming very difficult to climb the steps. Funerals were extremely difficult to manage for large groups going up the steep steps.

## TWO REMODELINGS

Since 1870, St. Irenaeus has undergone two major remodeling programs. The first significant remodeling to the church started with the interior in 1906. The



The Rev. Frederick C. Jean

large entrance door and the two smaller doors on the east entrances were removed. The openings were then enclosed with stone. A new entrance was made on the west side of the church. The altar was relocated to the east end. The pews were turned to the east. The entire interior of the church was redesigned for members to now face east.

The new entrance on the west side was now closer to Second Street. Parish members and visitors had easy access to the trolley cars running on Second Street. This approach was also easier for walking and of course it eliminated the long walk up the 21 wooden steps. The change-around of the entrance to the west side of the church was completed in 1907.

The second renovation to the church came around 1946 when the Rev. Edward Jackson became the pastor. Jackson updated the interior by painting the walls and ceiling. They also painted a large number of statues, added new electrical improvements, a new sound system and built a new mother's room.

Over the years, numerous improvements were made as needed including roof replacement, interior painting and additional plumbing needs. In 1973, damage from a small tornado required repairs to the north spire. Another storm hit the church around 1982. The building sustained roof



damage and some of the window covers were broken. New exterior plexiglass covers were installed to protect the stained-glass windows.

### FROM 1869 TO 2008

Jean arrived in Lyons in 1852. He built the new St. Irenaeus cathedral-type church that was dedicated in 1869. By 1872, Jean was in a public struggle with Bishop John Hennessey of Dubuque and was removed. The personal dispute between the two lasted until 1890.

Frederick Cryrillus Jean was born 1828 in France. He died on April 12, 1890 in Lyons, Iowa. His funeral was at St. Boniface with burial in St. Boniface cemetery.

Jean established St. James as the first (1852) Catholic church in Lyons, and then built St. Irenaeus church, which was the spiritual home for many north end residents from 1869 to 2008.

St. Irenaeus provided a grade school program for students from 1852 until 1969, and operated a high school from 1912 until 1918.

The St. Irenaeus cemetery was

officially started in 1890. In 2021 the cemetery listed about 2290 approved records. The last diocesan parish service at St. Irenaeus was held on Saturday, June 28, 2008.

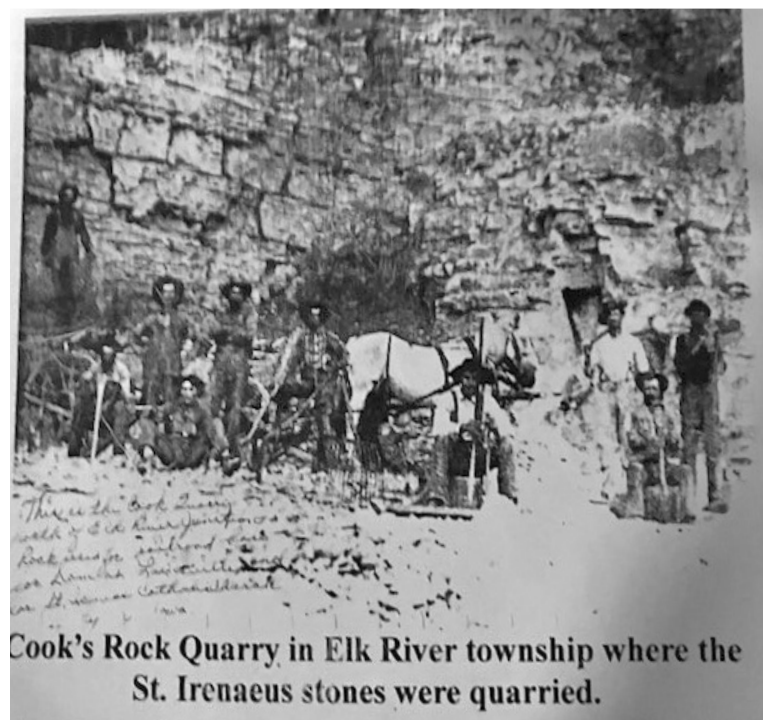


**This sanctuary lamp was given by the Bonaparte Family in 1870 to the Rev. Frederic Jean and the members of St. Irenaeus Church. Today, it is at Prince of Peace Church in Clinton.**



PHOTOS ARE FROM THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Pictured is the original 1869 entrance to St. Irenaeus Church, with the great 21 wooden steps before the 1907 entrance change-over.**



**This late 1860s photo shows Cook's Quarry where the St. Irenaeus foundation stones came from.**



**This 1907 photograph shows the south side view of the Rectory and St. Irenaeus Church.**



JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION PHOTO

**This 1917 photo shows the St. Irenaeus Patriot Club, group supporting American troops and the allies in World War I.**



# Passion project

## Faith community restoring Civil War-era church in Clinton

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

St. Irenaeus church is one of the oldest and one of the most historic Gothic Revival buildings in Clinton, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 30, 1997. Construction on the building started during the Civil War in 1861 and the church was dedicated in the spring of 1869. After nearly 140 years of continuous worship services, the last service at St. Irenaeus was held on Saturday June 28, 2008.

The building sat empty for a short time. Then on June 29, 2010, Prince of Peace Parish sold the building to the Clinton County Historical Society Museum. Prince of Peace placed several restrictions on building uses. The building could not be used for sordid purposes such as a bar, dance hall, casino or adult bookstore and probably others.

One of the main reasons the Historical Society purchased the building in 2010 was to preserve the building for future use. The Historical Society members understood the historical significance and architectural impor-

tance of the building and they were focused on preserving the building for future generations.

In 1997 St. Irenaeus church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historical Society provided some of the research for the application. When the Historical Society members acquired the building in 2010, they quickly moved to register the building with the state of Iowa as an LLC.

### NEW OWNERS WITH A PLAN

The Historical Society struggled for the next 11 years to fund all of the building needs. After 11 years of dealing with a tight budget and costly maintenance issues the Historical Society decided to sell the building. On Nov. 24, 2021 a small group of conservative Catholics identified as St. Irenaeus Chapel members purchased the building.

When the members of St. Irenaeus Chapel purchased the building in 2021, they had a vision and a plan for restoration that would take time. They soon posted the following statement on their website "their mission is to preserve the future of the Roman



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Pictured is the new altar currently in the St. Irenaeus church building in Clinton. It was built by restoration expert Vincent Beck of Walton, Kentucky. The altar is more than 30 feet tall and is an exact replica of the 1907 altar that was in the church.**

Catholic Church in Clinton, Iowa, and the history and religious heritage of St. Irenaeus Church."

Restoring a Civil War era church in the 21st century is a

daunting task for any organization. The immediate question for many centered on how will a small religious faith community restore a large Civil War era

church? The members of St. Irenaeus Chapel quickly answered the challenge. Members came out working, repairing, cleaning, sweating and restoring the former



church building.

### CHURCH ON THE MEND

Since 2021 the members of St. Irenaeus Chapel have completed an extensive amount of restoration work on the church. Members have installed a new heating and ventilation system. A new roof was installed on the church. Some repair work was completed on the towers and the tall majestic spires. Additional work will be completed on the towers and spires in the next year or so. Plus, a large amount of landscaping and exterior work on the outside of the building was completed.

Upon entering the building, you will quickly note the height of the impressive side windows. The windows are nearly 24 foot tall. All of the side windows are set in recessed archways. The archways were painted with an alternating dark brown and gray trim pattern that highlights the recessed windows and makes the large windows stand out. The same paint pattern was also used around the small recessed stations of the cross and the small figures were hand painted by volunteers.

There are fourteen large stained-glass windows on the sidewalls of the church. Twelve of the windows have lone figures that represent each of the twelve apostles. Many of the window's date to the late 1860's and were donated by local families or various affiliated church groups.

A volunteer paint crew is painting the church interior in a soft cream color paint. The soft yellow on the walls brightens up the interior and helps to highlight the historic interior of the building. The overall paint scheme chosen was an excellent choice for showcasing the interior of the church.

Other interior projects completed include a re-built choir loft, a new organ, and a new

sound system. New framing and sheet rock was placed on many of the interior walls where needed. Old ceilings were removed. New stairs were installed in various places in the church. Plus, a new sanctuary floor was installed.

One of the major highlights of the restoration process so far is the installation of a new altar. The altar is in two large sections and is well over 30 feet tall. The altar was constructed by Vincent Beck of Walton, Ky. State of the art wood working technology was used in designing and constructing the altar. The new altar was designed to be the same as the 1907 altar.

Right now, the members of St. Irenaeus chapel are working on a fund-raising campaign to install new pews and flooring. The estimated cost for these two items is around \$215,000 dollars. They have a donor that will match contributions dollar for dollar on the pews. So far, they have raised nearly 70 percent of the funds for the new pew installation project.

When the interior painting is completed, members will work on installation of a new floor. The final project will then call for the installation of the new oak pews with kneelers. There are more extensive plans and a more detailed list of other projects that need to be completed on the chapel website listed under Future Plans.

### PRAYING FOR THE FUTURE

Currently, the members of St. Irenaeus Chapel are not affiliated with any religious order. They are praying for a priest to be assigned from the Society of Saint Pius X. The Society of Saint Pius X started in 1970 and is a small religious order with 85 priests and 70 seminarians in the United States. Membership is estimated at around 25,000 in

the U.S.

The SSPX was born out of opposition to changes in the Catholic Church that followed the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). The founder and central figure of the Society of Saint Pius X was the French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, born 1905 and died 1991. The society is named after Pope Pius X, whose anti-Modernist stance stresses, retaining the Tridentine Mass and pre-Vatican II liturgical books in Latin for the other sacraments.

The SSPX like most religious reformist movements has had several ordained religious members breakaway and form other religious affiliated movements, with some more liberal and others more traditional. Keeping with traditionalist views the SSPX advises "Sunday best" attire for church. Women are recommended to wear skirts that fall at least below the knee, and no tight-fitting clothing. It is customary for women to wear a veil during prayer and worship. Men are encouraged to wear suits and ties.

### LEARN MORE

The president of St. Irenaeus Chapel is Matthew Gabbard and the vice-president is Keith Dexter. The website contains additional information about restoring the chapel and information about the SSPX. Donations are welcome at the chapel website to aid the church restoration process. The website can be found at [stirenaeuschapel.org](http://stirenaeuschapel.org)

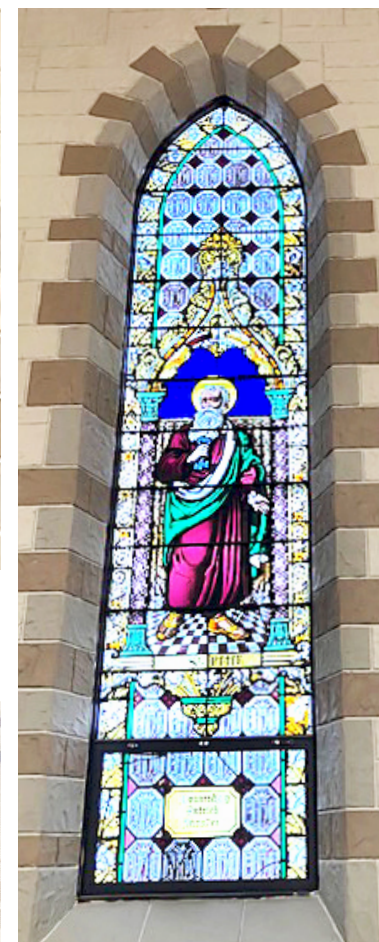
The amount of remodeling and restoration work completed on the church so far is impressive. We wish them well on finishing the restoration work on this important historic building that is almost 163 years old.



Stations of the Cross such as this also adorn the worship area.



Pictured is the remodeled choir loft area.



This is one of the center recessed stained glass windows that are nearly 24 ft tall. It's depicting St. Peter with the keys to the kingdom.



COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

Pictured here are St. Irenaeus students in 1921.



# Van Allen: From department store to landmark

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

The Van Allen building, at 200 5th Ave. S. in Clinton, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 7, 1976, and a short time later on Jan. 14, 1976, the building was recognized as a National Historic Landmark. It has been an important part of the downtown business area and in the life of the community for more than 110 years.

Construction on the Van Allen building started in 1912 and was completed in 1914. The four-story commercial building with a basement was commissioned by John D. Van Allen as a department store and designed by Louis Sullivan.

In the early days (1855-1875) the main business district of downtown Clinton was primarily located along the 400, 500, and 600 blocks of First Avenue South near the river. From (1875-1900) the downtown business area changed and moved further west along Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Avenues and converged onto a large part of second street.

During the (1855-1875) time period there were very few tall buildings in the downtown area. Most were one- or two-story wood framed buildings. After the Civil War from (1865) the population and business growth of Clinton increased dramatically. Two major

events led to the tremendous population and business growth in Clinton. The railroad bridge (1865) crossed the Mississippi River at Clinton and the Sawmill Lumber Industry (1865-1900) expanded rapidly in Clinton during this same time frame.

By 1900 the Sawmill Lumber Industry was near the end. The city was once again changing. During this time period the downtown was well-established as a regional shopping area. Strong retail sales downtown resulted into a second building investment boom that occurred from around 1905 until 1920. The building boom of the golden age added more than a dozen major buildings in the downtown area. This resulted in some significant changes in the physical appearance of the downtown area and further strengthened Clinton as a regional area shopping center.

## BUILT DURING AN INVESTMENT BOOM

One of the most important buildings constructed during this time period was the Van Allen Building. Many of the building details were listed in the April 30th,

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE  
JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**The new Van Allen Building was constructed during an investment boom between 1905 and 1920. More than a dozen major buildings in the downtown area went up. This new building helped shape Clinton's future as a local regional shopping destination.**

1913, edition of the Clinton Herald. According to the Herald "Van Allen and Sullivan planned the building around intended use of the interior space. The men carefully laid out the floor plans. They designed displays, showcases, and aisles before creating any plans for the building itself. The main floor of the new store was for general dry goods and men's furnishings.

The Herald noted "the front half of the basement, and extending the full width under the Fifth Avenue

sidewalk, is to be used as a bargain salesroom. The remainder of the basement will be used for utilities, such as locker rooms, bathrooms, a fan room, boiler room, and coal storage."

It was estimated that the new building would have at least 45,000 square feet of space. The building site takes up 86 feet on Fifth Avenue and is 90 feet long on Second Street.

"There were two entrances on Second Street. Each entrance

is sheltered by an overhanging canopy."

The Herald stated that "the first floor, the receiving and shipping will all be done at the alley in the rear, and all under cover. All receiving will be taken care of by a high-speed electric elevator, and packages for delivery will be sent from each floor to the shipping room, by a spiral conveyor, as well as by the freight elevator. The remainder of the first floor will be devoted entirely to merchandising.







The original John D. Van Allen department store was located at 206 Fifth Avenue S. In 1912-1914 Van Allen built a new department store at the corner of Fifth Avenue S. and Second St.

“On the second, third and fourth floors, a workroom will occupy the wing at the north. An electrically operated passenger elevator will take patrons to all floors, including the basement. Provision is made for a second passenger elevator, in case of need. All elevators run in fireproof enclosures, with steel doors at each floor.

“The second floor is to be a salesroom for women’s ready-to-wear clothing. In the northeast corner of this floor, adjacent to the passenger elevator, will be the main office. The third floor will be devoted to carpets, rugs, bedding, draperies, and curtains. The fourth floor will be used for purposes to be decided upon later.”

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Numerous articles and stories

have been written about the Architectural Significance of the Van Allen Building. The information listed below is a very brief summary taken from various website sources covering some exterior highlights

“The outside of the building was designed to have urban appeal. Sullivan used clean and simple lines on the exterior of the building and the earth tones were intended to complement the ornamental terra cotta mullions. The building featured ornamentation with Sullivan’s signature natural design motifs. Sullivan added dark brick and terra cotta ornamentation to the building’s exterior design.”

“Sullivan used the ornamental mullions to visually correct imbalances in the building’s proportions which were the result of designing

the interior spaces first. Additionally, the decorative mullions accentuated the height of the building and emphasize the wide spans of the interior aisles which made the building so unique.”

Sullivan had “the exterior brick spandrels and piers over the structural steel skeletal frame. Terra cotta is used for horizontal accent banding and for three slender, vertical applied mullion medallions on the front facade running through three stories, from ornate corbels at the second-floor level to huge outbursts of vivid green terra cotta foliage in the attic. There is a very slight cornice. Black marble facing is used around the glass show windows on the first floor. The walls are made of long thin bricks in a burnt gray color with a tinge of purple. Above the ground floor all the windows are framed

by a light gray terra cotta.”

“The tile panels in Dutch blue and white pay tribute to Mr. Van Allen’s Dutch heritage of which he was quite proud. (Mr. Van Allen was accepted for membership in the Holland Society of New York in 1908). The Van Allen Building was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976 for its architecture.”

#### TIMES AND USE CHANGE

John D Van Allen owned and operated the department store for many years. In later years the grandson John B. Van Allen operated the department store until 1968 when the building was leased by Petersen, Harden, & Von Maur. The Davenport firm continued operating the store until around 1978 when the property was placed back on the market

for sale.

John B. Van Allen was instrumental in placing the building on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

John D. Van Allen was born March 2, 1911 and died July 27, 1991. The grandson John B. Van Allen was born March 2, 1911 and died July 27, 1991. Both are buried at Springdale Cemetery here in Clinton.

The building was seldom used from 1980 until 2000 when the building was acquired by CHI Housing from Spencer, Iowa. CHI originally acquired the building in 2000 and converted the former department store into 19 apartments, plus commercial space. CHI received a \$200,000 allocation in 2021 and further updated the apartments.



# The Washington and Jefferson school building was placed on National Register of Historic Places in 2015

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

Today's story is the last article in the Clinton Herald series featuring the 16 historic properties in Clinton that are listed on National Register of Historic Places. The oldest property on this list was built in 1877. Six of these properties were built in the 19th century and eight in the early 20th century. All 16 of these properties are of historical importance and historical significance. Clinton is fortunate to still have these contributing properties in our community.

The 1933-1935 combination Washington Jr. High School and Jefferson Grade School building is located at 751 Second Ave. S. The 1953 Jefferson Elementary School is located at 723 Second Ave. S. The original Washington/Jefferson school was built in 1933-1935 at an estimated cost of \$300,000. The 1953 Jefferson Elementary School addition was built at an estimated cost of \$530,000. Both buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 21, 2015.

## ART DECO STYLE

The original (1933-1935) Washington Jr. High School and Jefferson Grade School building was designed by architects Karl Keffer and Earl E. Jones from Des Moines and assisted by associate architect A.H. Morrell of Clinton. The contract for the (1933-1935) building was awarded to John P.

Cullen & Son from Janesville, Wis. A large portion of the land chosen for the new school was acquired by the school board in 1930 from the Hemingway Furniture Company.

The 1953 Jefferson Grade School building was designed by the well-known Chicago Architectural firm of Childs & Smith. The contract for construction of the new school was awarded to the Ringland & Johnson Construction Company of Clinton.

The exterior appearance to both the 1933-1935 Washington / Jefferson School building and the new 1953 Jefferson addition both remain original. The interior finishes of both building also remain mostly original including glazed tile, plaster walls, marbled surfaces, terrazzo flooring, with wood trim, doors, and cabinets.

Architect Ronald Schmitt in his 1980 book Architectural Heritage described the 1933-1935 building as "a large two-story school. The building exterior is of brick with stone trim and accent panels. Additions to the south were done in 1953 and in 1972. For Iowa the building is an excellent example of the so-called Public Works Administration (PWA Modernistic) or Art Deco Style. The main entry treatment is of special interest with its play in relief of geometric designs."

Construction on the new Washington school started in 1934 and was built as a combination grade school and junior high school. Once the new school was com-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION  
Pictured is the 9th Grade Mixed Chorus directed by Miss Henry at Washington Junior High in the early 1950s.

pleted, the Clinton School District planned to close and remove three older school buildings. Schools to be removed included the 1870 Jefferson School located in the 300 block of South Fourth Street directly west of Clinton Park. Today, Prince of Peace school is located at the site.

Two other schools that would be removed were in the 600 block of South Fourth Street directly west of DeWitt Park. The 1863 Washington school and the old 1892 grammar school that was later used as a junior high school would both be removed. Today, the 1889 Roosevelt Apartment complex is the lone building on that block.

## CONSTRUCTION WITH FEDERAL HELP

Seventy percent of the funds to build the new school came from local tax dollars and 30 percent of the funding came from a new Depression-era Public Works Program. It was anticipated that the new 1933-1935 Washington school would provide employment to 300 men or more. The new combination school was built to relieve some of the overcrowding. It was announced that the ninth-grade students from the high school would now attend the new Washington Junior H.S.

The Clinton Herald reported on

July 22, 1933 "on tentative plans that called for a two-story building 330 feet long and an average depth of 150 feet. Exterior walls were to be of brick and stone, while interior walls would be plastered tile. The junior high students would occupy the main front and the west wing, and be provided with 22 rooms plus facilities for art, music, cooking, sewing, and manual arts."

"The smaller children would occupy the grade school in the east wing, with 13 classrooms and a separate entrance. The architects' plans also provided for an auditorium, gymnasium, library, offices, and a combination study hall and lunch room."

The Herald published a drawing of the school.

According to the NRHP website "work began in early December, 1933. Two months

later the concrete foundation work was underway. It was finished by late April except for a section on the building's south side where pilings were still being driven. By May 10, the brickwork was nearly a full story in height and the stone work at the front entrance was in place."

"Concrete slabs for the second floor were poured. The steel work in the auditorium's balcony was in place. A month later, the brickwork was at two stories in places. Another summer month of work saw the stone eagle panels installed at the front entrance and all the brickwork done except for on the gymnasium."

Hopes for finishing the building at the normal start of the 1934-1935 school year in early September were dashed because maple flooring and corridor lockers were still being installed.







The grade school's opening was delayed until late September. The junior high students got an "extra months' vacation" with their space in the school not ready until Oct. 1, 1934." Plans to send ninth-grade students to Washington in 1934 were canceled. Dedication of the new school was held in January 1935.

#### BABY BOOM COMES TO CLINTON

Following construction of the 1933-1935 Washington Junior High and Jefferson Grade schools into one building, there does not seem to have been much school building activity in Clinton until after WWII. Following the war, however, returning service members all across the nation resumed normal civilian life, which included beginning long-postponed families. In 1949 an addition to the 1927 Longfellow grade school signaled the arrival of the Clinton baby boom.

Concerns about Clinton's population explosion needed to be addressed. Local leaders wanted to implement an in-depth study of the Clinton School District's needs. The school board hired W.C. Reavis a well-known expert from Chicago. The Clinton Herald reported: "Figures on prospective school enrollments indicate that elementary schools will be bursting at the seams before 1955, junior high schools will be setting new enrollment records by 1960, and senior high schools will reach peak enrollments by the middle 1960s."

The 1953 Jefferson School

addition was built to address the post WWII baby boom and the growing concerns of Clinton's increased school enrollment. The new Jefferson School added eight new grade school class rooms on the first floor plus a large kindergarten room at a southeast corner wing. Special use rooms included an activity room, a work room, a kitchen that was connected to the large two-story multi-purpose room, plus restrooms and administrative offices. Another nine class rooms were added on the second floor, plus space for a teachers' room, a special education room, and restrooms.

The new 17-room Jefferson school would now allow the new 6-3-3 classroom plan to take shape. Clinton high school would be for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Washington would house 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. The K-6 students would attend local grade schools. The Lyons school district would soon be consolidated with Clinton. The Clinton School Districts plans to handle rapidly increasing enrollment were starting to take shape.

The Clinton Herald noted that "elementary school population was expected to rise by several hundred children each school year until 1958, the peak year when an estimated 1,100 additional students were anticipated. The Herald stated that additional elementary school classrooms in Clinton were needed as quickly as possible, with junior and senior high classrooms to be provided later. It was noted that school costs will be constantly

increasing, during the next several years."

Time proved the student numbers as correct. The Clinton school enrollment in 1966-1967 was listed at 7,398 students and 301 teachers.

#### CLOSED

Washington Jr. High school was closed in December 2014. Students now attend the Middle School located at 1350 14th; Street N.W. Jefferson School closed around 2005. The new Jefferson grade school opened in February 2006 and is located at 720 Fourth Avenue South. The 1933-1935 combined Washington / Jefferson School and the 1953 Jefferson School stand as a testament to Clinton residents' foresight and leadership, as well as their commitment to the city's students. The building remains a community landmark to the generations of children who passed through the combined school in central Clinton on their way to adulthood.

Today, the former 1935 Washington / Jefferson building and the 1953 Jefferson grade school building is owned by Pioneer Property Management. The building has been transformed into a senior residential apartment complex with 18 single bedroom apartments and 26 double bedroom apartments. It was estimated that more than 15 million dollars was spent remodeling the building. A grand opening for the Washington Senior Apartments was held in March 2019.



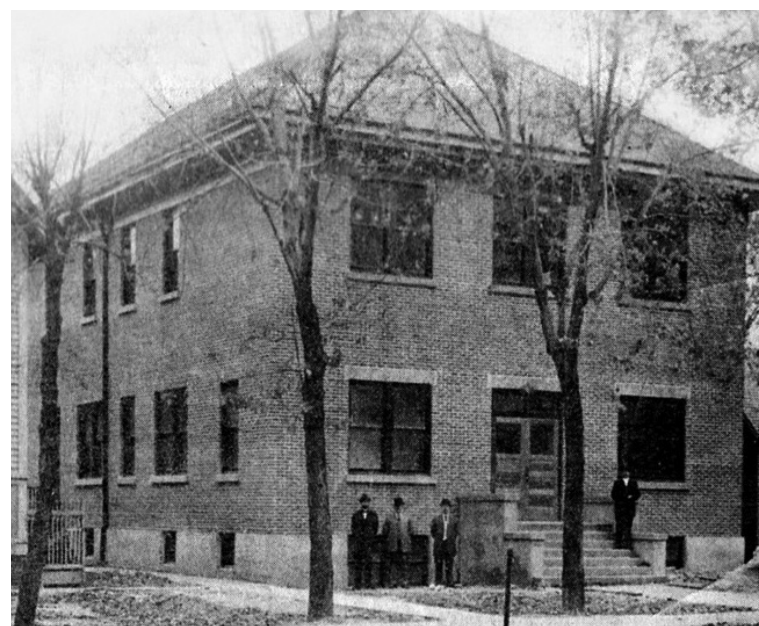
CLINTON HERALD FILE PHOTO

**A Jefferson Elementary School student walks in front of Clinton's vacant Washington Middle School on a Wednesday afternoon in 2017.**



JOHNN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Pictured in 1985 is Washington Jr. High School.**



JOHNN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**Early view of Washington School built in 1863 and to the right is First Baptist Church, located in the 600 block South 4th St.**



# FOUR IN ONE

Clinton's 15th National Register of Historic Places entry is more than meets the eye

**JOHN ROWLAND**  
Gateway History Club

The Wilson Building, at 211-219 Fifth Ave. S. in downtown Clinton, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Feb. 5, 2014. It was the 15th building in Clinton to be placed on the NRHP.

The Commercial Style building was designed by the Clinton architectural firm of John Morrell and Son in 1912. It was constructed by Daniel Haring from 1912-1914.

Architect Ronald Schmitt in his 1980 book "Clinton Architectural Heritage" states: "the Wilson Building at six stories is the tallest building downtown and is a major landmark in the downtown area. The front facade is white terra cotta. The vertical lines are accented in the typical skyscraper fashion of Louis Sullivan. The front facade is richly textured, patterned, and ornamented; with the major lines of the structure still retaining definition and appropriateness."

Louis Sullivan was a leader in the 1880's and 1890's when a new style of architecture emerged called the Chicago Style or the Commercial Style. The Van Allen Building (1913-1915) designed by Sullivan is considered an excellent example of this style. Another example of the Chicago / Com-

mercial Style is the (1912-1914) Wilson Building. Both buildings were constructed downtown during the same time period.

The Aug. 8, 1912 edition of the Clinton Herald announced "that George E. Wilson Jr. of the George E. Wilson Jr. Company awarded the construction contract for the new building on Fifth Avenue to the Daniel Haring Company of Clinton." Haring constructed numerous buildings in Clinton including the Van Allen Building, the Wilson Building, the City National Bank / First National Bank building, the Ankney Building, the Iowa National Guard Building, and the First Presbyterian Church located at 400 5th, Avenue South.

"The basement for the Wilson Building had been completed sometime ago and construction on the upper stories would commence immediately with the first two floors to be finished right away."

The building would have 75 feet of frontage on Fifth Avenue and the basement would extend for 140 feet toward the back of the building. The upper floors will have a depth of 60 feet.

The Tucker Furniture and Carpet Company would rent the basement and parts of the first and second floor. The James Leslie grocery store would share part of the first-floor space. Work will be



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE JOHN ROWLAND COLLECTION

**This 1963 photo shows the downtown Ankney building and the tall Wilson building on the left. On the right is the Van Allen building. In 1973 the MTA acquired the Clinton Bus System.**

rushed to complete the first and second floors, they will be ready for the new tenants by January. The upper floors will be dedicated to office space. The building is expected to have five or six floors when completed.

## FOUR SEPARATE BUILDINGS

The NRHP listing for the Wilson Building is quite unusual as the website shows the Wilson Building is actually composed of four separate buildings. The downtown six-story building in listed as the main building No 1. The adjoining building directly to the west is listed as building No 3 and was acquired by the George E. Wilson Jr. Corporation in 1916. Building No 2 is listed as being directly East of the main building and was acquired by the Wilson Corporation in 1911. Building No 4 is East of building No 2 and was acquired by the Wilson Corporation in 1959. A photo is attached with this article showing the location of the various Wilson buildings on Fifth Avenue and

when they were acquired.

Buildings No 1 (1912-1914) and No 2 (1916) were constructed to fill a growing need in the community for more retail space and for more professional office space in the downtown area. In 1914 the Wilson Buildings had the highest concentration of physicians in the community. More than a dozen doctors rented space in the Wilson Building as well as many lawyers and insurance agents. Major long-term tenants that rented street level locations over the years included S.S Kresge Company, J.C. Penney Company and Walgreens.

The Wilson Company started construction on Building No. 2 for the S.S. Kresge Company in 1916. The J.C. Penney Company signed a long-term lease on Building No. 1. in April 1941. Penney's expanded again in 1947 and moved into Wilson Building No. 3 where they gained an additional 3,250 square feet. One in four Americans shopped at a Penney's store in 1953. The Wilson Company signed Walgreens to a lease for Building No. 2 in 1953. Up until

that time Walgreens was located in the Jacobsen Building directly across the street from the former YMCA building.

## BUILDING BOOMING IN CLINTON

The Oct. 17, 1913, Clinton Herald noted that business was growing rapidly in the community. More than \$2 million of new construction was occurring in the downtown area. That would equate to around \$63 million in today's economy. Some of the company's expanding at the time included the C&NW Railway, the Clinton Street Railway and the Clinton Gas & Electric Company. New buildings included the Wilson Building, the Van Allen Building, Langan, Woolworth, Ebensberger, Hoffman, and the Clinton Boat Club. Bids were also expected to go out soon for the new Clinton Coliseum building. Downtown Clinton was booming.

## WILSON FAMILY MATTERS

For more than 100 years the



Wilson family and the Wilson Companies were instrumental in making significant contributions to the growth of Clinton. The Clinton Bridge and Iron Works provided longtime employment for hundreds of local employees. The financial investments of the Wilson Companies in downtown helped make Clinton a strong regional shopping center and their personal involvement in local civic affairs helped make Clinton a better community.

George Wilson Jr. was born Sept. 28, 1873 in Sterling, Illinois. He was the oldest son of George E. and Hannah F. Wilson. His family moved to Clinton in 1892 when his father George purchased the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works. George Jr. eventually became president of the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Company and president of the George E. Wilson Jr. Company.

The George E. Wilson Jr. Company specialized in real-estate development. The Wilson Company built and owned numerous downtown properties including the Wilson Building. Wilson was also a director of the City National Bank. He was president of the General Engineering Company. Wilson was clearly one of the leading business men in Clinton. His investment in the Wilson Building helped establish an important anchor store in the downtown.

George E. Wilson Jr. married Miss Alice Leonard on Jan. 30, 1893. They had two sons George E. Wilson Jr. and Richard O. Wilson. They lived at 830 Fifth Avenue South in Clinton. George died on July 11, 1947 at the age of 73. He is buried in Springdale Cemetery. Family heirs took over the operations of the George E. Wilson Jr. Company in 1947 and continued to operate the business well into the 1980's.

Local Wilson family history started with George E. Wilson (1847-1926). He was born March

18, 1847 in England. He came to the United States with his father in 1856 after his mother died and settled on a farm near Rockford, IL. George remained there until he was seventeen. Shortly after that George began working in local factories. Later he learned the foundry and machine business.

In June 1871 George married Miss Hannah Marie Fitzmaurice. In 1892 he came to Clinton and purchased the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works. Wilson was involved in numerous community organizations and was president of the Merchants National Bank. In 1906 he chartered a private car and took a relief train to San Francisco to assist people caught in the epic San Francisco fire and earthquake.

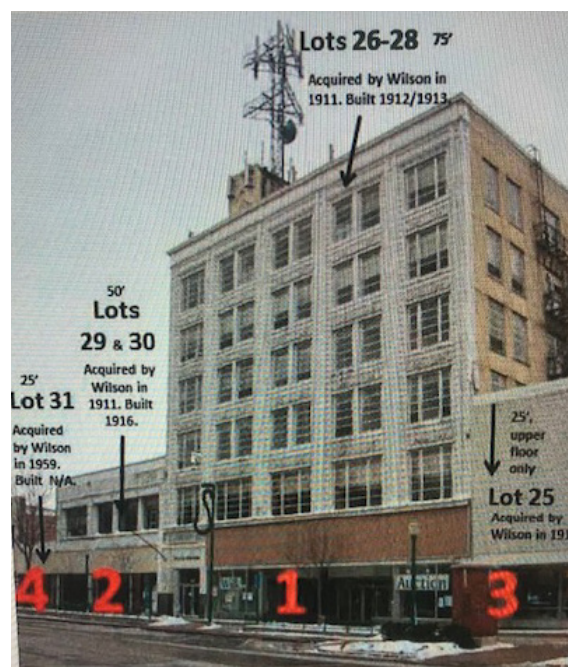
Mr. Wilson ran the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works until 1926. After 1928 the name of the company was changed to Clinton Bridge Works. In 1944 the company merged with Chicago Gage Structural Steel and Midland Structural Steel to form Allied Structural Steel Company. After the death of George E. Wilson Jr. in 1947 the business continued under family leadership. In 1959 the George E. Wilson Jr. Company merged with the Clinton Bridge Company and formed the Clinton Bridge Corporation. In 1964 the family sold the remaining shares to Allied Structural Steel.

The Wilson family retained the real-estate portion of the business and continued to operate in Clinton under the name of Gerow Corporation and Tedick Corporation. They continued to own the Wilson Buildings (Number 1 through 4) as late as 1982. The Clinton Bridge and Iron Works and the associated companies that followed played an important role for over 100 years in providing structural steel to thousands of customers and projects with in the country and internationally.

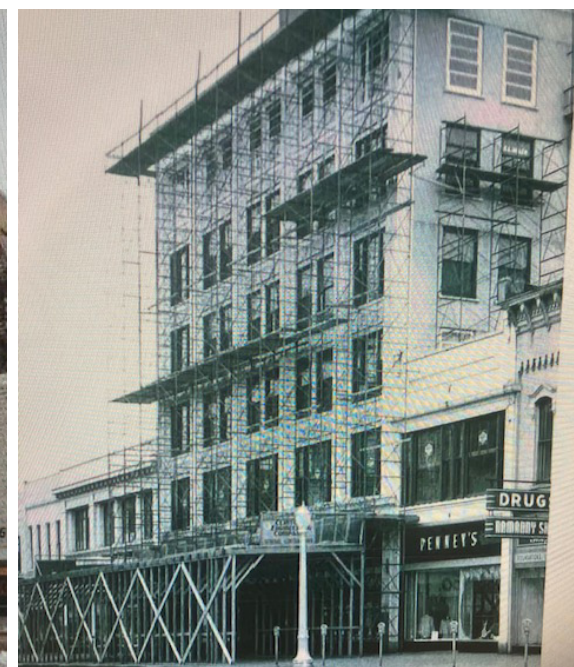
Note: The Wilson Building has over 100 pages of Information listed on the National Register of Historic Places covering the Wilson Building, the Wilson Companies, and the Wilson Family. Some of the information listed above was compiled from the NRHP the Clinton Herald, and the files of the Clinton County Historical Museum. Next week we will feature Washington School the last property in Clinton that was listed on the NRHP.



1916 view of Building No 2 shortly after construction. Photo also shows the new facade on building No 3. Building No 2 is left of the tall center Wilson Building. Building No 3 is on the right of the tall center Wilson Building.



This illustration shows a timeline of acquisitions that make up the Wilson Building as it is known today.



Remodeling on the exterior of the building when J.C. Penney's was in the Wilson Building.



In this early downtown view before construction started on the 1912 Wilson Building, bricks are lined up on the sidewalk at left for the project.



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