

# Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-00086  New  Supplemental

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-extant Year: \_\_\_\_\_

*Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website.*

• **Property Name**

A) Historic name: Central Park

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-001

• **Location**

A) Street address: 101 W. Washington

B) City or town: Mount Pleasant ( Vicinity) County: Henry

C) Legal description:

Rural: Township Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Township No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_ of Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Urban: Subdivision: Original Block(s): 34 Lot(s): \_\_\_\_\_

• **Classification**

**A) Property category:** *Check only one*

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**B) Number of resources (within property):**

<i>If eligible property, enter number of:</i>		<i>If non-eligible property, enter number of:</i>	
Contributing	Noncontributing		
—	Buildings	—	Buildings
<u>1</u>	Sites	—	Sites
—	Structures	—	Structures
<u>3</u>	Objects	<u>1</u>	Objects
<u>4</u>	<b>Total</b>	<u>1</u>	<b>Total</b>

**C) For properties listed in the National Register:**

National Register status:  Listed  De-listed  NHL  NPS DOE

**D) For properties within a historic district:**

- Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.
- Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.
- Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: Mt Pleasant Downtown Historic District Historic district site inventory number: 44-02280

**E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable:**

MPD title Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Mt Pleasant, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base # HADB-02986

• **Function or Use** *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

**A) Historic functions**

08F01: RECREATION/CULTURE / park

08H: RECREATION/CULTURE / marker/monument

**B) Current functions**

08F01: RECREATION/CULTURE / park

08H: RECREATION/CULTURE / marker/monument

• **Description** *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

**A) Architectural classification**

99: Other

**B) Materials**

Foundation (visible exterior): n/a

Walls (visible exterior): n/a

Roof: n/a

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**C) Narrative description**  *SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED*

• **Statement of Significance**

**A) Applicable National Register Criteria:** *Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria*

- Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events.  Yes  No  More research recommended  
Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.  Yes  No  More research recommended  
Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.  Yes  No  More research recommended  
Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology/history.  Yes  No  More research recommended

**B) Special criteria considerations:** *Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none*

- A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  E: A reconstructed building, object, or structure.  
 B: Removed from its original location.  F: A commemorative property.  
 C: A birthplace or grave.  G: Property less than 50 years of page or  
 D: A cemetery achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**C) Areas of significance**

*Enter categories from instructions*

05: Commerce

29: Social History

**D) Period(s) of significance**

**E) Significant dates**

*Construction date*

1837  *check if circa or estimated date*

*Other dates, including renovations*

1929, 1937, 1964, 1988

**F) Significant person**

*Complete if Criterion B is marked above*

**G) Cultural affiliation**

*Complete if Criterion D is marked above*

**H) Architect/Builder**

*Architect*

*Builder/contractor*

**I) Narrative statement of significance**  **SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED**

• **Bibliography**  *See continuation sheets for the list research sources used in preparing this form*

• **Geographic Data** *Optional UTM references*  *See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments*

Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD	Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD
1				2			
3				4			

• **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Rebecca Lawin McCarley / research by Pat White Date: February 26, 2024

Organization/firm: SPARK Consulting / Mt Pleasant HPC E-mail: sparkconsulting@octaspark.com

Street address: 1630 Park Ave SE Telephone: 319-200-9767

City or Town: Cedar Rapids State: IA Zip code: 52403

• **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** *Submit the following items with the completed form*

**A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:**

- 1. Map** of property's location within the community.
- 2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled** on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.
- 3. Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next to each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.**
- 4. Site plan** of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

**B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:**

*See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.*

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line**

*The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:*

- Yes  No  More research recommended  
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

SHPO authorized signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Narrative Description**

Central Park is located in the center of downtown Mt Pleasant, surrounded by commercial buildings on all sides. The park is primarily open, grassy space, with trees planted throughout the park. Concrete sidewalks bisect the park from each side and each corner. Additional concrete sidewalks are found around the perimeter of the park. This sidewalk layout is shown in historic photographs by 1947. Period lighting was added to the park as part of a downtown improvement project in 1981.

A fountain exists in the middle of the park, surrounded by a concrete sidewalk. The current fountain was installed in 1988, replacing an earlier fountain in this location from 1911 to 1986. The fountain has an octagonal base and two tiers of basins with a light at time.

A boulder marker sits to the south-southeast of the fountain. It has a bronze plaque on it that reads "This tablet marks the site of the first courthouse in Iowa, built in 1839. Erected by the James Harlan Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1929."

Another boulder marker sits in the northwest quadrant of the park, along S. Jefferson St (old route of Highway 218). It is a small boulder with a bronze tablet that reads "This highway is the Old Military Road from Dubuque to the northern boundary of Missouri, authorized by Congress 1839. Marked by Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, 1937."

A steam engine sits on a concrete pad on the south side of the park, east of the middle. It was permanently placed here in 1964 by Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association, advertising their annual event in September.

**8. Narrative Statement of Significance**

Central Park appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing site within the potential Mount Pleasant Downtown Historic District. The park has been developed with trees, grass, concrete sidewalks, and other resources over the years, with the current appearance primarily dating to work completed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The park retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a contributing resource in a historic district. Additionally, the two boulder markers and steam engine appear to be contributing objects within the potential historic district, dating to installation during the preliminary period of significance. The current fountain dates to after the period of significance, so it would be counted as a non-contributing object within the historic district. The lights, benches, trash cans, and other miscellaneous small items have not been tabulated within the potential historic district.

Based on research and evaluation conducted to date, Central Park does not appear to likely be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Developmental history of property*

Central Park was laid out with the initial platting of Mt Pleasant. Presley Saunders was the first settler on the site of the town of Mt Pleasant, arriving here in February 1835. He selected the site for the town,

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noting the beautiful land and good water supply in the area. Mt Pleasant was named as a description for the location of the site. During the winter 1836-37 session of the territorial legislature at Belmont, Wisconsin, early counties and county seats were established in this new territory. Henry County was thus officially organized, and Mt Pleasant was designated as the county seat. Mt Pleasant was formally platted by Presley Saunders after a survey by Dr. J.D. Payne on February 3, 1837. The town layout consisted of 40 blocks including a central public square. There were eight lots in each block, each 80 by 150 feet. The blocks were divided by a north-south alley (*History of Henry County, Iowa* 1879: 369-370, 504, 868; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County* 1888: 668, 680). The core of Mt Pleasant and the downtown remain centered on the public square, currently Central Park.

The first courthouse was constructed in the center of the square in 1839. By the 1860s, the town had outgrown the courthouse, with the early building demolished in 1871 after a building at the southeast corner of the square was acquired. The public square became open space at the core of the town. The 1886 and 1892 Sanborn fire insurance maps show four concrete wells, one at the center/edge of each side of the Public Square. There is only one structure shown within the boundaries of the Public Square – the “Old Settlers Monument”, a small, 1-story, frame structure, located in the southeast quadrant of the park. A very small, 1-story, frame office (next to a scale) is located just outside the northeast boundary of the park. Concrete cisterns (2) are located at the northwest and southeast corners of the square.

By 1893, the public square had been developed into a central park for residents, a “delightful reserve” surrounded by the four principal business streets. A bandstand was located in the center, and the park had a “well-kept greensward” shaded by elm and maple trees. A log cabin had been moved to the park in the 1880s, noted as built by James Dawson on the Hugh Swan farm to the northwest of town. It had been rebuilt in its present shape and dedicated to Old Settlers. There were opportunities for improvements noted for the park, such as flowers or monuments of historic interest. When better water supplied the city, then fountains should be built (*Mt Pleasant City Directory* 1893: 36).

The 1899 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same structures and sites as the previous maps; however, the “Old Settlers Monument” is now gone.

The 1909 Sanborn fire insurance map only shows the small, 1-story, frame office (next to a scale), outside the northeast boundary of the park.

In April 1910, the P.E.O. sorority at Iowa Wesleyan University began discussions of sponsoring a fountain for Central Park. It was designed by the Bail and Hermont architecture firm of Chicago. The design was accepted, and contract let in May 1911. The fountain was dedicated on July 5, 1911 (“P.E.O. convention held at site where sisterhood was founded,” *Mt Pleasant News*, June 6, 1975, 13; “P.E.O. members worried about fountain,” *Mt Pleasant News*, June 26, 1986, 1).

The 1920 and 1942 Sanborn fire insurance maps provide no detail of any features of Central Park.

The history of the town was recognized for travelers with a boulder marker with tablet placed in Central Park in December 1929 by the members of James Harlan Chapter of D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) to mark the site of the first courthouse in Iowa and Henry County. The boulder was donated by M.S. Hockett. Mayor Joseph Newbold accepted the boulder and tablet on behalf of the City (“Site of

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First Courthouse Marked," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 23, 1929; *Mt Pleasant News*, December 19, 1929; *Mt Pleasant News*, December 3, 1929).

The old military road through Mt Pleasant from Dubuque to Missouri was recognized in June 1937 with placement of a boulder marker with tablet on the west side of Central Park by the Daughters of the American Revolution on June 13. The unveiling was done by Miss Dorothea McMillan, and Mayor H.L. Shook gave a response. The marker reads: This Highway is the Old Military Road from Dubuque to the Northern Boundary of Missouri, Authorized by Congress 1835. Marked by Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, 1937 ("Old Military Road Marker Dedicated," *Mt Pleasant News*, June 14, 1937).

Extra stone salvaged from the former Seeley Y.M.C.A. / high school was utilized for the construction of a bandstand in the southwest portion of Central Park in fall 1937. The bandstand was built utilizing Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor, which had completed City Hall in the previous year. A public address system was also installed in the bandstand ("Council Plans Bandstand Work," *Mt Pleasant News*, July 8, 1937, 1; "Farley To Speak From Bandstand," *Mt Pleasant News*, September 30, 1937, 1; Jaynes 1977: 130; MPS 1985: 15).

In its "Iowa From the Air" series, the *Des Moines Register* highlighted Mt Pleasant with an aerial photograph and short profile of the town in April 1947. The community was described as a southeastern Iowa town noted for its parks. Mt Pleasant maintained three parks for recreation and public service, including Central Park shown in the new aerial photograph. The photograph caption also noted the Henry County Courthouse, Iowa Wesleyan College, and Boulder Lake. The town's population was estimated to be near 6,000 with another 531 students at Iowa Wesleyan. The newest industry in town was the branch plant of the W.A. Sheaffer Pen Company, which employed 275 people at the time. The aerial photograph provides an excellent image of the downtown buildings at this time, including the ones recently constructed. Central Park has sidewalks that bisect the sides and extend from the corners, with the P.E.O. fountain in the middle and the bandstand at the southwest corner. Two and three story brick buildings line the west and north sides of the square, with two-story brick buildings on the east side and south side (*Des Moines Register*, April 27, 1947, sec 9, p 3 (83)).

The 1955 city directory noted that Mt Pleasant was "more definitely religious in its thinking and practice than the average town of its size," with the religious influence of Mt Pleasant noted as a major asset. There were at least 17 churches in operation, with the new First Methodist Church dedicated in 1954. Mt Pleasant also had excellent parks, including Saunders Park with its playground and the new swimming pool, McMillian Park with a grandstand and sports facilities, and Central Park with its stone bandstand and the heart of decorations of the "Christmas City of Iowa."

By 1960, a steam engine was placed in the south part of Central Park in each August to advertise the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers reunion in early September ("Steam Engine on Display in Park," *Mt Pleasant News*, August 17, 1960, 1). In March 1964, the permanent placement of a steam engine on a concrete slab near the southeast corner of Central Park was reviewed favorably by City Council. The Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association intended the steam engine and place it on the approved location ("Council Votes 3-2 for Daylight Saving Time," *Mt Pleasant News*, March 5, 1964, 1).

Several key aspects of Mt Pleasant and recommendations for future development were outlined in *A Comprehensive Plan for Mt Pleasant, Iowa*, in September 1967. The plan noted that it was "principally

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directed to securing the coordinated physical development of the community, the arrangement of its residential, commercial, and industrial land uses, the pattern of its trafficways, areas for its schools and parks, and improvement of its public buildings.” Mt Pleasant was noted as a growing and thriving community with numerous industries and businesses, both old and new. The central business district was located around Central Park, which was also referenced as “The Square” and part of the original plat of the town. Overall, Mt Pleasant was the focal point of business in the surrounding area, as well as attractive for farmers retiring to town. The comprehensive plan recommended maintaining the central business district (CBD) as the primary business and financial center of town and undertaking a progressive development plan to retain it as the focal point of the community. Central Park, or “The Square,” was noted as an asset to the CBD, providing two acres of open space in the congested area of the city and adding passive recreation and aesthetic value to the downtown (Don C. Shafer and Associates. *A Comprehensive Plan for Mt Pleasant, Iowa*. Skokie, IL: Don C. Shafer and Associates, September 1967).

Recommendations for improvements for the central business district were revisited in the early 1970s with the development of a comprehensive plan specifically for this area by Don Shafer, city planner and vice president of Wm S. Lawrence and Associates of Chicago. The plan was based on updated downtown maps, land use projections, economic and consumer surveys, and traffic and parking study since the original data was collected in 1964. While parking remained a concern, there were plenty of parking spaces noted in the study. Individual storefronts were recommended to be remodeled and improved with canopies. Central Park was recommended to be improved with wider sidewalks, benches, a play area, demolition of the old bandstand and P.E.O. fountain, addition of a water area, and grassy berms (“Less angle parking, more lots proposed,” *Mt Pleasant News*, May 31, 1972, 1). The two-year process ended with the plan presented by Don Shafer and accepted by the city council in May 1973. They recommended proceeding immediately with three recommendations from the plan: widening the sidewalks on the north, east, and west perimeters of central park; demolishing the old bandstand at the southwest corner of the park; and constructing diagonal parking on S. Main St on the west side of the courthouse by cutting into the lawn (“Business district plan is submitted,” *Mt Pleasant News*, May 10, 1973, 1). By August, exterior painting and improvements were noted in progress on several buildings, and parking meters on the perimeter of Central Park were being moved further from the sidewalks to make them navigable by recommendation of the Central Business District committee (“Downtown Progress,” *Mt Pleasant News*, August 23, 1973, 4).

The Central Business District committee worked with the Mt Pleasant city council and Chamber of Commerce on projects to implement recommendations from the plan. In a joint meeting in February 1974, the CBD committee along with committees working on park improvement, traffic, parking, and beautification and renovation met together to present progress reports. The traffic committee agreed that two-way streets should be maintained downtown. The park committee reinforced that the boundary and grassy areas of Central Park should be maintained, recommending that the bandstand be removed while the fountain be repaired and retained. They rejected the more extensive redevelopment plan for Central Park with berms and a water feature suggested in the plan. The parking committee suggested a trial period of free parking at meters, with removal of more meters and additional options for off-street parking. The beautification and renovation committee recommended planting of trees and shrubs, widening of sidewalks, and new benches. Don Meth, executive vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, recommended forming a non-profit organization with the Central Business District committee and chairman of the four subcommittees as incorporators to seek funding for specific improvement projects in

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the downtown ("Council hears CBD reports," *Mt Pleasant News*, February 28, 1974, 1; "Parking facility recommendations given to council," *Mt Pleasant News*, March 7, 1974, 1).

The City of Mt Pleasant moved forward in April 1974 with plans to demolish the 1937 bandstand at the southwest corner of Central Park, with demolition complete in June. The stone, originally from the Seeley Memorial Y.M.C.A., was salvaged and used by Henry County Conservation Board for a boat ramp on the Skunk River. The four clocks and iron railing were donated to the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association (*Mt Pleasant News*, April 1, 1974, 2; "Street Resurfacing okayed," *Mt Pleasant News*, April 18, 1974, 1; *Mt Pleasant News*, June 14, 1974, 1).

In September 1976, Schoonover Tuckpointing Co was approved to proceed with the restoration of the P.E.O. fountain in the middle of Central Park, including sandblasting, patching cracks, two coats of paint, and restoration of the bronze plaque. The P.E.O. at Iowa Wesleyan College raised the funds for the renovation by selling commemorative plates ("Contract left for work on fountain renovation," *Mt Pleasant News*, September 2, 1976, 1; "Fountain restoration," *Mt Pleasant News*, September 17, 1976, 1).

The central business district was promoted by the Chamber of Commerce in a publication on Mt Pleasant issued in 1978. The publication stated: "Shopping in Mount Pleasant is pleasant and relaxed. Over 100 retail stores and professional offices surround Central Park square in the center of town." Metered parking was available around the square, with four free city parking lots within one block. The merchants were involved in a voluntary program to increase the attractiveness of the downtown shopping center. Operation Pride was working on a block-by-block renovation and facelifting program to make the shopping area even more attractive. Work had been completed in Central Park over the past few years, including on the fountain, seating, lighting, and planting of many trees. The park was the location of summer evening concerts, art shows, and other public events. The Chamber of Commerce also sponsored more than 30 special events each year, including sidewalk sales, dollar days, farmers' markets, holiday sales and promotions, and extra Christmas shopping hours. Band concerts were also held in Central Park on Friday nights in the summer. Overall, there were over 200 retail and/or wholesale business firms in Mt Pleasant, with the business owners active in community life (*Mt Pleasant Chamber of Commerce (MPCC)*, *Mount Pleasant, Iowa*, Mt Pleasant, IA: Lefte Printing, 1978: 7, 21, 23).

The "Operation Pride" projects were utilized as the foundation for an application for an Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1980. While Operation Pride and the new urban revitalization district were working to incentivize and encourage private owners to complete improvements to buildings, the city sought the grant to fund downtown streetscape and parking improvements. The grant focused on streetlights, curb and gutters, parking lots, new sidewalks, and trees and shrubs. In order for the city to request the UDAG grant, business owners had to commit \$2 million to private investment in the downtown. By fall 1980, the total private dollars invested and pledged for projects exceeded \$5 million, well over the required amount. This work from private investment was already visible on more than a dozen downtown buildings. (*Mt Pleasant's own private enterprise story*," *Mt Pleasant News*, October 16, 1980, 8). By the end of 1980, the City of Mt Pleasant received \$453,700 in HUD funds for improvement of public property in the downtown business area ("1980: year of progress, controversy, tragedy, lively elections," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 3, 1981, 1). The culmination of four years of work under Operation Pride and completion of the streetscaping project financed by the UDAG was celebrated by the ceremonial laying of last new sidewalk brick and a "grand opening" for the renaissance of downtown Mt Pleasant on December 5, 1981.

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The work done with the UDAG included new brick sidewalks, new turn-of-the-century street lighting, new curbs, and new trees and shrubs. Sidewalks were removed around the perimeter of Central Park and new curbs poured. Overall, the program for the renaissance of downtown Mt Pleasant was a combination of hard work, vision, and cooperation between the city government and private enterprise, with the slogan adoption: "Our Mt Pleasant, The Pride of Iowa." The projects were celebrated with a special edition of the *Mt Pleasant News* on December 2, 1981, including multiple photographs of work in progress and work completed. The project "has made downtown Mt Pleasant one of the most attractive of its size in the state, and is an investment in the future – an investment designed to maintain Mt Pleasant as the commercial hub of the area for the benefit of all its residents." ("Renovation started four years ago," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 2, 1981, 18).

While the P.E.O. fountain had been restored in 1976, the metal continued to deteriorate, leading to concerns in June 1986 that it would not survive another winter. Initial plans were made to remove and replace the fountain ("P.E.O. members worried about fountain," *Mt Pleasant News*, June 26, 1986, 1). On December 10, 1986, tragedy struck in City Hall when Mayor Edd King was shot and killed during a city council meeting by a resident who was disgruntled over sewer problems. Edd King had been a prominent local resident for many years. He served on city council from 1969 to 1975, when he became mayor of Mt Pleasant ("Citizens respond to death with shock," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 11, 1986, 1; "Services for Mayor King set for Sunday, 1:30 p.m." *Mt Pleasant News*, December 12, 1986, 14). Plans were immediately made to name the fountain planned to be installed in Central Park for King ("2,000 mourn King at funeral," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 15, 1986, 1). The Mayor Edd King Memorial Fountain was dedicated on July 2, 1988, as part of the Fourth of July celebration ("Fountain design set," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 14, 1988, 1; "MP holds first July 4 festival in decade," *Mt Pleasant News*, December 30, 1988, 17).

In 2017, new sidewalks were installed around the perimeter of Central Park. Brick planters and sidewalk bump outs were installed at each corner of the square.

Central Park is currently owned by the City of Mount Pleasant. The City's Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Central Park.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

City and telephone directories, Mt Pleasant:

- Mount Pleasant City Directory for 1893*. Mt. Pleasant, IA: Francis D. Craig, 1893.
- Mason, George T. *Directory of Henry County, Iowa, 1911-12*. Mt. Pleasant, IA: The News, 1911.
- Mount Pleasant Telephone Company. Telephone directories issued in 1913, 1915, 1918, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1937, 1939, 1944, 1948, 1950, 1952.
- Groce, W.H. *The City Directory of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa*. Mt Pleasant: Groce, 1938.
- Johnson Publishing Co. *Mt Pleasant, Iowa*. City directories issued in 1955, 1957, 1960, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1873, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1993, 2001, 2011. Manitowoc, WI: Johnson Publishing Co.

*Cornerstones*. Mt Pleasant: Mt. Pleasant Beautiful Committee, 1991.



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Henry County Bicentennial Commission (HCBC). *The History of Henry County*. Dallas, TX: National ShareGraphics, Inc., 1982.

Henry County Historical Society. Vertical files and albums in files at Mt Pleasant Public Library.

Henry County Heritage Trust. Collection of historic images, in files and posted in Facebook albums. Collection in former Saunders School, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Henry County Recorder's Office / Henry County Auditor's Office. Property records, transfer books, and deed records. Henry County Courthouse, Mt Pleasant, Iowa

*History of Henry County, Iowa*. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Jaynes, Peter H., ed. *Highlights of Henry County History 1833-1976*. Burlington, IA: Doran & Ward Lithographing Co., 1977.

*Mount Pleasant Beautiful*. Mt Pleasant: Mt Pleasant News Company, 1909. Reprint issued in 1988.

*Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Sesquicentennial, 1835-1985* (MPS). Mt Pleasant, IA: The Committee, 1985

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa*. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1888.

Sanborn Map Company. *Mount Pleasant, Iowa*. Fire insurance maps for 1886, 1892, 1899, 1909, 1920, 1942. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection.

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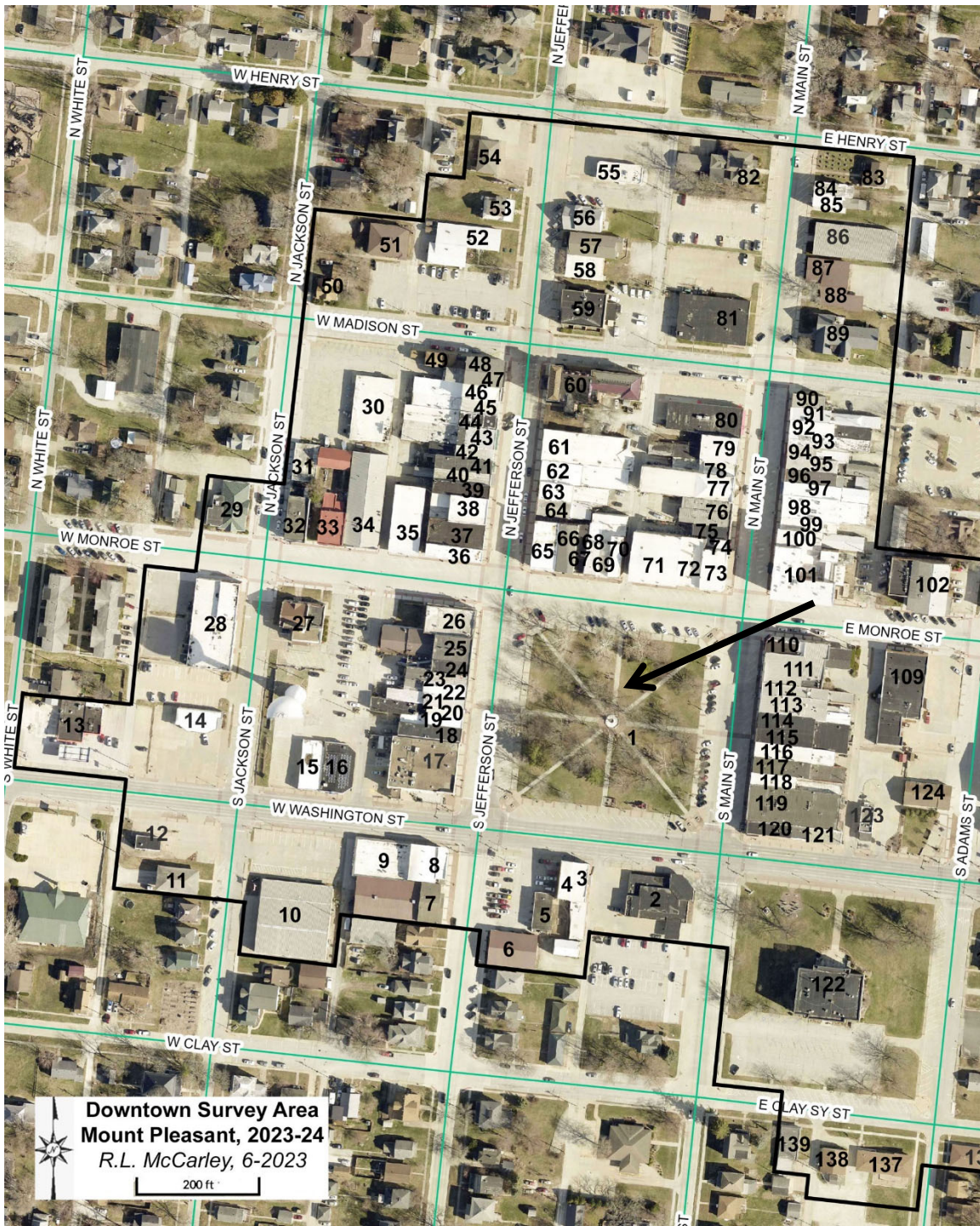
Central Park  
Name of Property

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County

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Address

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**Location map**



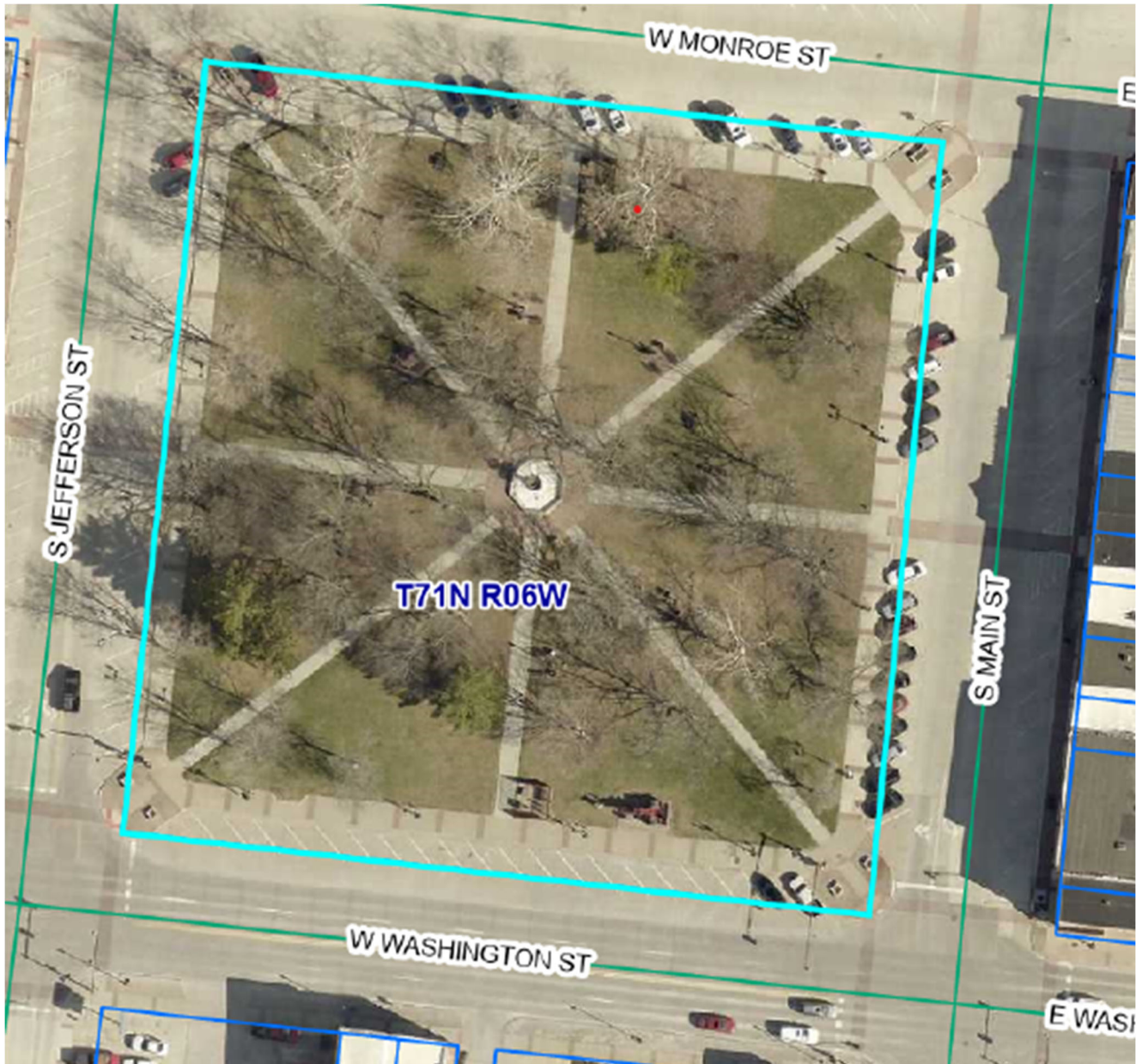
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**Site plan**



Henry County Assessor (<https://beacon.schneidercorp.com>)

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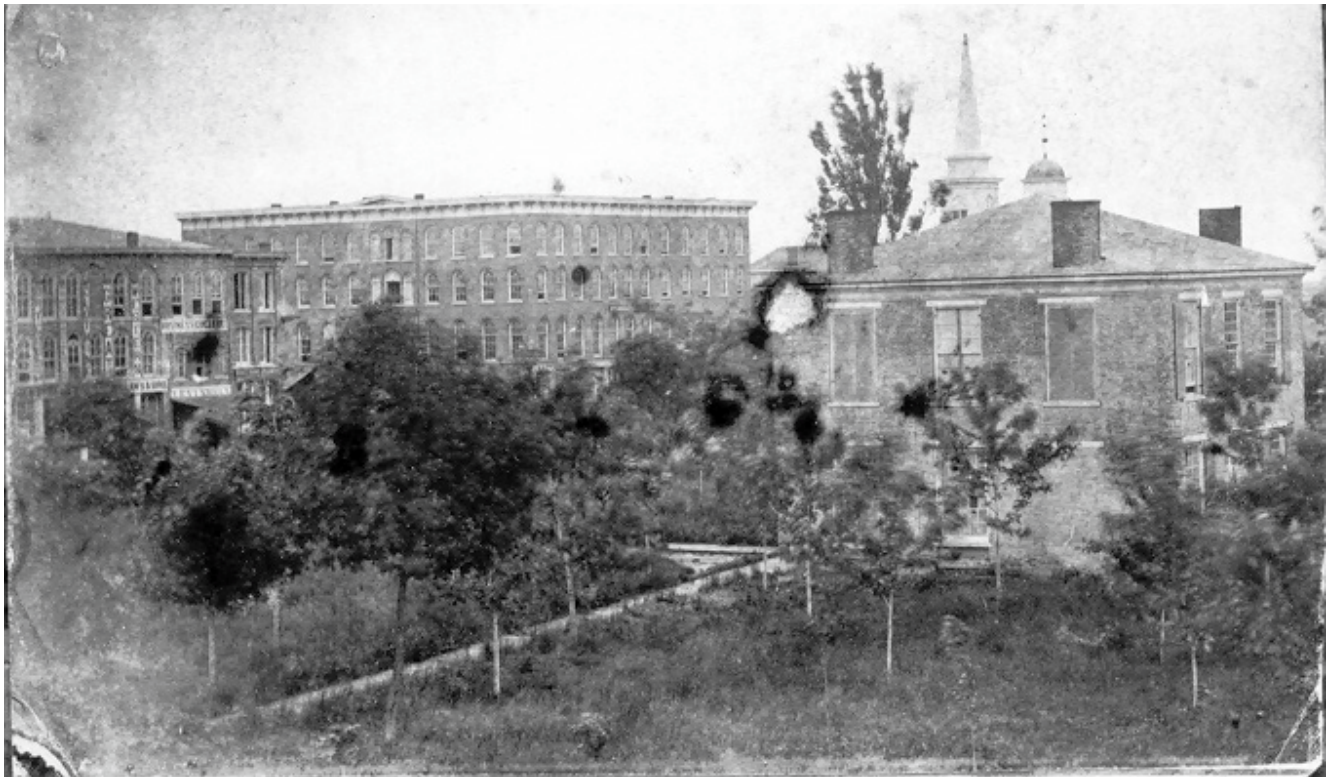
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**Historic images**



**Central Park in 1860s, looking northeast with old courthouse (HCHT Facebook album)**

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**Central Park in June 1882, looking southwest (HCHT Facebook album)**

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Central Park (*Mt Pleasant Beautiful* 1909: 5).

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Central Park on 1939 aerial photograph (Iowa Geographic Map Server)

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**Central Park on section of 1947 aerial photograph of Mt Pleasant, looking north  
(HCHT files, printed in *Des Moines Register*, April 27, 1947, sec 9, p3, p83)**



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Central Park in 1950s with old bandstand and old fountain, looking west (HCHT Facebook album)

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West side of the square (S. Jefferson St) in early 1950s, looking northwest with bandstand in Central Park at right (HCHT collection).

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**Christmas decorations in Central Park in 1953 with the east side of the square (S. Main St) in the background (HCHT collection).**

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North portion of Central Park in 1950s, looking northeast (HCHT collection).

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**Central Park in 1974 after loss of elm trees, looking south (Dyall photos, HCHS binder, library)**

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Central Park in 1974, looking east, in *Portrait of Iowa* (Zielinski 1974: 105)

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Central Park on 1984 aerial photograph (Iowa Geographic Map Server)

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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 44-00086-001. Central Park, looking northeast (October 2023)**



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**Photograph 44-00086-002. Central Park, looking south (October 2023)**

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**Photograph 44-00086-003. Fountain and marker in middle of Central Park, looking southeast (June 2024)**

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**Photograph 44-00086-004. 1929 marker for courthouse in middle of Central Park, looking southeast (June 2024)**

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**Photograph 44-00086-005. Marker for military road in west portion of Central Park, looking southeast (June 2024)**

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**Photograph 44-00086-006. 1937 marker for military road in west portion of Central Park, looking southeast (June 2024)**

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**Photograph 44-00086-007. Central Park, looking north (June 2024)**

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**Photograph 44-00086-008. Steam engine in south part of Central Park, looking northeast (June 2024)**