

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

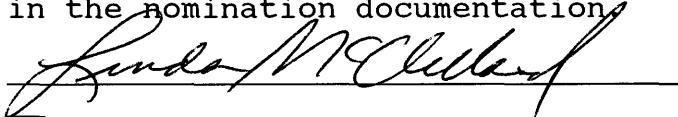
NRIS Reference Number: 02001025

Property Name: Chapple and Young Block

County: Black Hawk State: Iowa

none  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



September 20, 2002

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance. "1913" is, hereby, dropped as a significant date because it falls outside the period of significance and does not relate to the property's significance under Criterion C for Architecture.

-----  
The Iowa Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1025

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name CHAPPLE & YOUNG BLOCK  
other names/site number Farmers Savings Bank, Coast to Coast Store

2. Location

street & number 316-318-320 Main Street N/A not for publication  
city or town La Porte City, IA N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Black Hawk code 013 zip code 50651

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ( nomination  request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ( meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ( nationally  statewide  locally). ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature Rowell J. Sike Date July 18, 2002  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ( meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is :
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register.
  - Other, (Explain)

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Fonda McClelland 9/20/02

Chapple & Young Block  
Name of Property

Black Hawk County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many lines as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one line)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/speciality store

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE/TRADE

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

OTHER/storage

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation Stone

walls Brick

\_\_\_\_\_

roof Other

other Wood

Glass

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Chapple & Young Block  
Name of Property

Black Hawk County, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" on all the lines that apply)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1892  
circa 1896

**Significant Dates**

1892  
1913

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliography References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Chapple & Young Block  
Name of Property

Black Hawk County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 566820 | 4684670 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | --- | --- | --- |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | --- | --- | --- |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | --- | --- | --- |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Geraldine Wester, Chairperson

organization La Porte City Historic Preservation Commission date January 20, 2002

street & number 300 Walnut Street (Wester) telephone 319-342-2043

city or town La Porte City state Iowa zip code 50651

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** - Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** - (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name 1st owner: James L. Tippett, 316 Main St., La Porte City, IA 50651 319-342-2815 (Tippett)

street & number 2nd owner: Joest, Dan, & Marc Kramer, 318-320 Main St. telephone 319-342-3544 (Joest)

city or town La Porte City state IA zip code 50651

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Chapple & Young Block is a commercial complex of two components. A 2-story component stands at 316-318 Main Street. A 1-story component stands at 320 Main Street. The 1-story component is included in this nomination as a noncontributing resource because it is internally connected to the 2-story component. For the purposes of this nomination, the name "Chapple & Young Block" is given to the entire complex, although historically this name referred only to the 316-318 Main Street property.

The 2-story component is conceived as a commercial block and contains two units: a commercial room at 316 Main Street and a commercial room at 318 Main Street. This block was built in two phases. The first phase was completed in 1892 and consisted of the first story of the building. The second phase was completed circa 1896 and consisted of the second story of the building.

The 1-story component of this complex is conceived as a commercial room and stands at 320 Main Street. Its construction was completed sometime between 1906 and 1927. A later alteration joined it and the 316-318 property.

The reader is asked to bear in mind when viewing the historic fire insurance maps attached to this nomination that house numbers in La Porte City have changed since these publications. The fire insurance maps show 316 Main Street as "217," 318 Main Street as "219," and 320 Main Street as "221."

For the purposes of this nomination, the 2-story component at 316-318 Main Street is counted as one contributing resource. The 1-story component at 320 Main Street is counted as one noncontributing resource.

### EXTERIOR

#### 316-318 Main Street

This property possesses two commercial rooms, designed as a unified architectural composition. The commercial room at 316 Main Street measures about 20' x 120'. The commercial room at 318 Main Street measures about 20' x 138'. The block is constructed of dark red brick trimmed with cast stone.

The storefront of the 316 unit was originally designed as a glass curtain wall with the block's upper story supported by cast iron columns and beams. Although the storefront's transom area has been covered-up with wood siding since that time, the original materials remain intact behind it.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

The storefront of the 318 unit was originally designed to resemble that at 318. The remodeling of the 320 unit removed these historic materials.

An inset entryway is centrally located on the facade. Earlier it possessed three doors--one to the 316 unit, one to 318 unit, and one to a stairwell accessing the second floor. In the 1960s, the door to the 318 unit was relocated to the east and now serves both that unit and the 320 unit.

The second floor is richly embellished with architectural detailing. Brick pilasters divide the primary facade of the building into three sections. These pilasters are situated on each end of the facade, and another pair are placed equi-distant along the front.

The central section of the upper facade features a fan-shaped window, situated above the second floor entrance to the building. This window features two panes of clear glass surrounded by smaller panes of colored glass. Another window is situated below the fanlight. Rectangular in shape, this window is masked from the exterior by the cover-up siding on the transom, but it can be viewed from the interior stairwell. This window features a colored bull's eye pane of glass, framed by four clear panes and surrounded by smaller square panes of colored glass.

The west section and the east section of the upper facade are symmetrically designed. An oriel window, worked in wood, is prominently placed in each of these sections. The fenestration of these oriels features three sets of 2/2 sash. The central window is larger than those that flank it. The upper sash of the central windows originally featured small panes of colored glass surrounding a large pane, but the upper sash now contain only one pane of clear glass. A paneled frieze with brackets serves as a cornice above the windows, and the oriels are capped with a facade gable roof that resembles a pediment.

A brick cornice caps the primary facade. The pilasters that demarcate the three sections of the upper facade configure this cornice into three sections as well. The cornice of the central section rises higher than the other two. The visual weight of this additional height integrates the three sections of the upper facade into a unified design.

Cast stone trim provides additional architectural interest to the facade. This trim includes window sills and the caps on the pediment and pilasters.

The 316 property has three roof levels. The 318 property has two roof levels. (Figure 7-5 Continuation Sheet.) These roofs are covered with 3-ply composition over wood sheathing.

The design of the Chapple & Young Block was planned as compatible with the property at 314 Main Street. Both structures feature cornice treatments at the same level, and the exterior design of the party wall between them is shaped as a pilaster, an architectural detail not contained in the 314 Main

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

commercial building but a delineating feature of the 316-318 property. (See Figure 7-6 Continuation Sheet.) The property at 314 was standing in 1891 according to a notation on an historic photograph of it.

320 Main Street

The commercial building at 320 Main Street measures about 20' x 80'. This part of the complex is included in the nomination because of its structural association with its 316-318 component. In the 1960s, the local Coast to Coast Store (then located at 318 Main Street) leased the first floor of the unit at 320, removed the party wall between them, and expanded its store to include this space.

The storefront of this commercial building is mostly plate glass housed in an aluminum frame. The transom area is now clad with cover-up metal siding. Double doors placed near the middle of the 318 and 320 units provide access from the street. These doors are of aluminum and glass construction.

**INTERIOR**

For clarity, the interior of each section of this complex is described separately.

316 Main Street

One large room occupies most of the first floor. An enclosed stairwell is located at the rear and accesses the basement. A storeroom is located next to the stairwell. A walk-in bank vault is located on the west side of the main room, midway between the front and the back. This vault was installed when this unit was converted into a bank. A mosaic tile floor is situated at the front of the room where the nonextant teller cages originally stood. The first floor presently serves as a beauty shop.

The second floor occupies only the front portion of the building and measures about 20' x 40'. (See Figure 7-5 Continuation Sheet.) The second floor is accessed by a stairwell and central hall situated between the 316 and 318 units. An oriel window is situated on the primary facade. The basement is one large, unfinished room. It features a small area of concrete flooring with the balance in dirt. One cannot access the basement of the 318 unit from the basement of the 316 unit.



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

### 318 Main Street

One large room occupies most of the first floor, with this space open to 320 Main Street. This space features plasters walls and 1 x 4 pine flooring over 2 x 12 floor joists. An addition is situated at the rear of 318.

The second floor measures about 20' x 40' and is situated above only the front portion of the structure. (See Figure 7-5 Continuation Sheet.) The second floor is accessed by a stairwell and central hall situated between the 316 and 318 units. An oriel window is situated on the primary facade.

The basement is one large room. It is completely separate from the basement at 316 Main Street with no access between the two spaces.

### 320 Main Street

One large room occupies most of the first floor. This space is open to the 318 unit. The basement is one large room with a wide opening to access the basement of 318 Main Street.

### **SITE**

The Chapple & Young Commercial Block is located in the heart of the central business district of La Porte City, Iowa. This district stretches about two blocks along Main Street to the northwest and about one block along Main Street to the southeast. An additional portion of the district spills over into Commercial Street to the north and south of its intersection with Main Street. The topography in this area is generally level. Most of the buildings in the commercial district are of brick construction and generally possess one or two stories. Many of them date to the decades immediately before and after the turn of the 20th Century. Many of these buildings are well designed, but a number of demolished historic structures replaced by modern infill pose integrity problems for a potential National Register Historic District. (Page 1992, 1999)

The La Porte City Station of the Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Northern Railroad (now serving as City Hall) and the Dr. Jesse Wasson Building, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are situated on Main Street about two blocks to the northwest. Main Street throughout the commercial district is surfaced with brick pavers. Big Creek is situated two blocks to the northwest. Main Street formerly served as a portion of highway U.S. 218 through La Porte City to Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and the north. Some years ago, this highway was rerouted in La Porte City, and Main Street no longer serves that purpose.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## 1895 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY

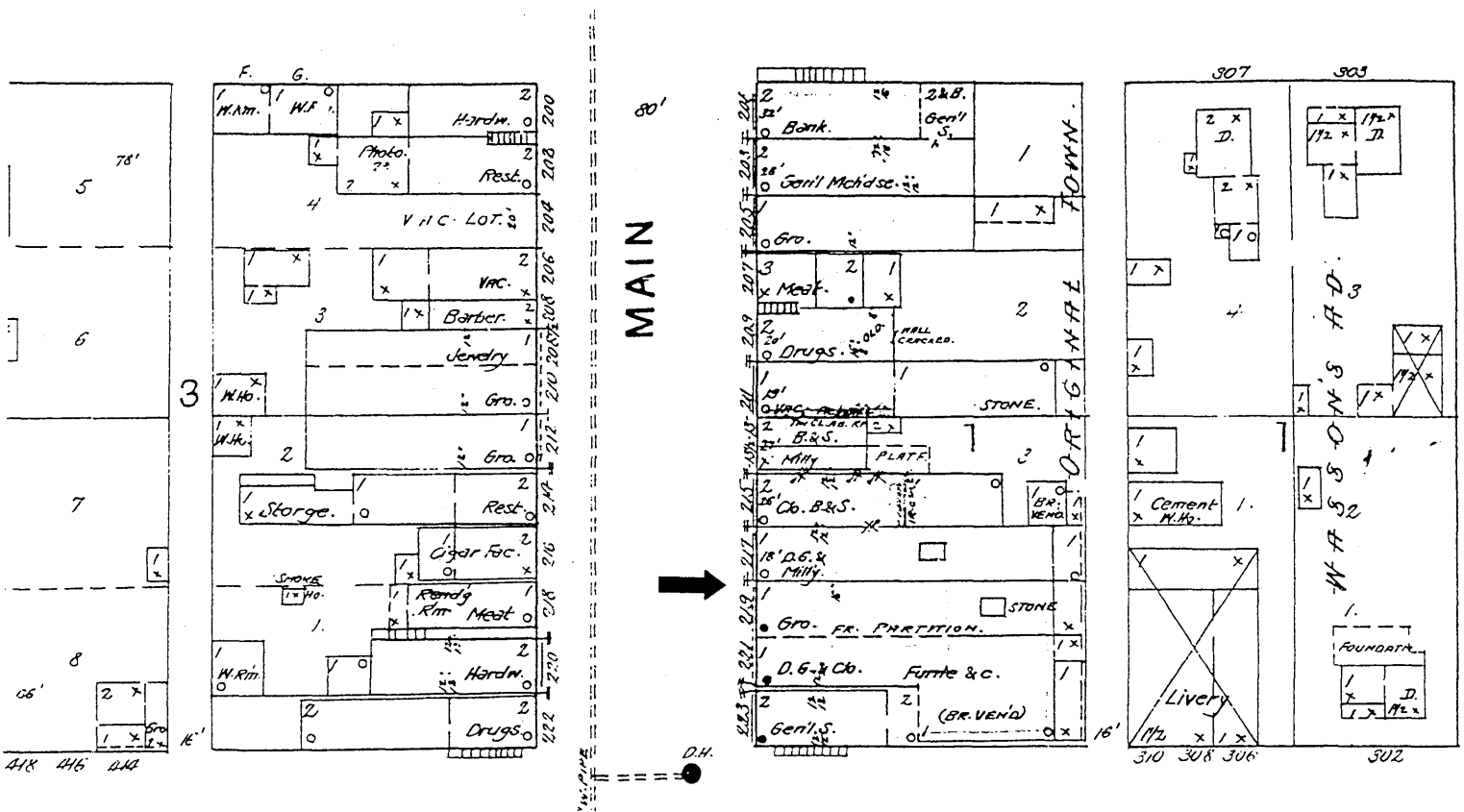


Figure 7-1

This map pictures the Chapple & Young Block as a 1-story edifice at "217-219" Main Street, an earlier house number for the building. A frame partition separates 318 (the "219" room) from the adjacent building at 320 ("221") Main Street.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, La Porte City, December 1895.



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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## 1906 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY

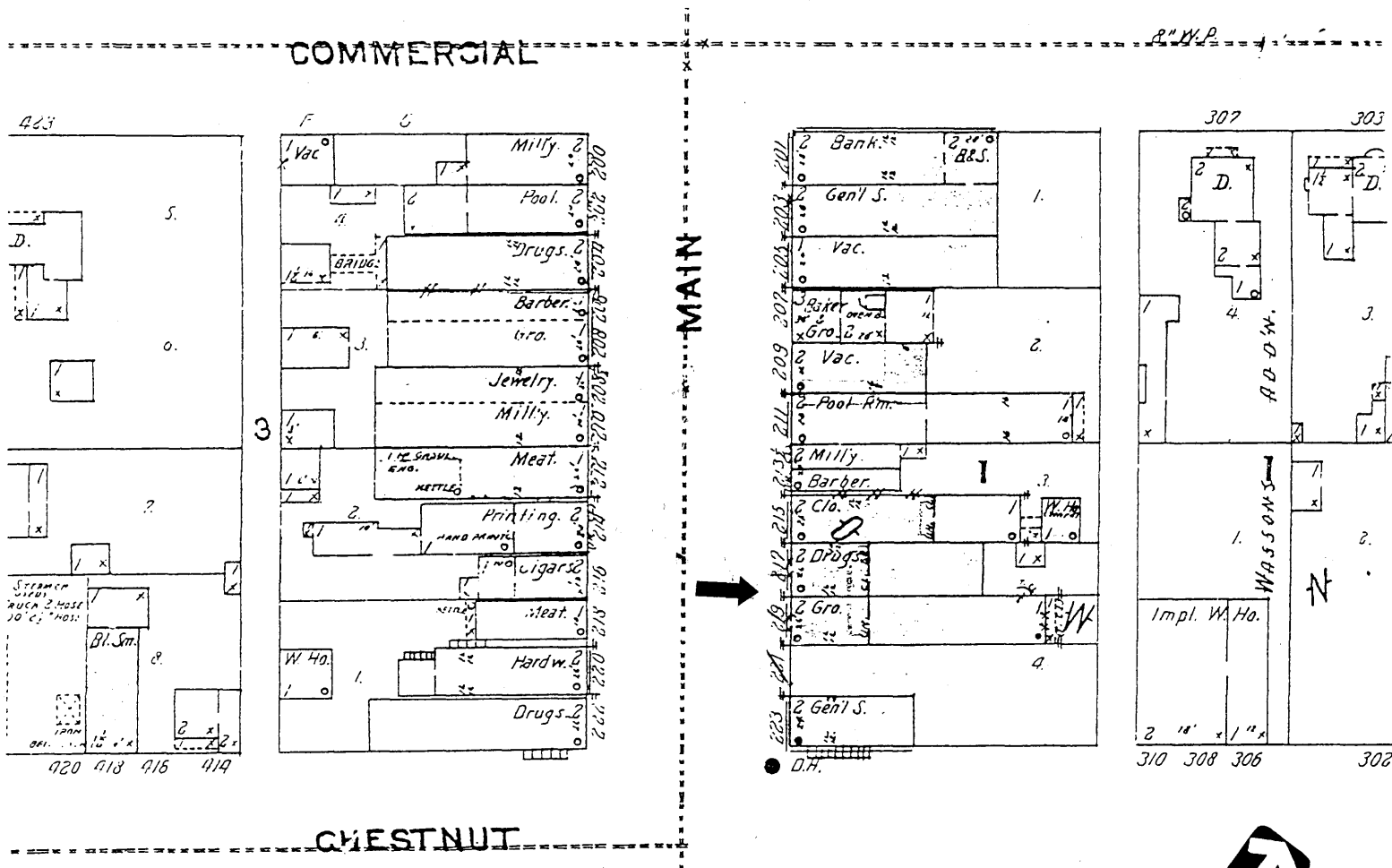


Figure 7-3

The Chapple & Young Block is now shown with its 2-story configuration. The property at 320 Main Street is unimproved.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, La Porte City, 1906.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## 1927 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY

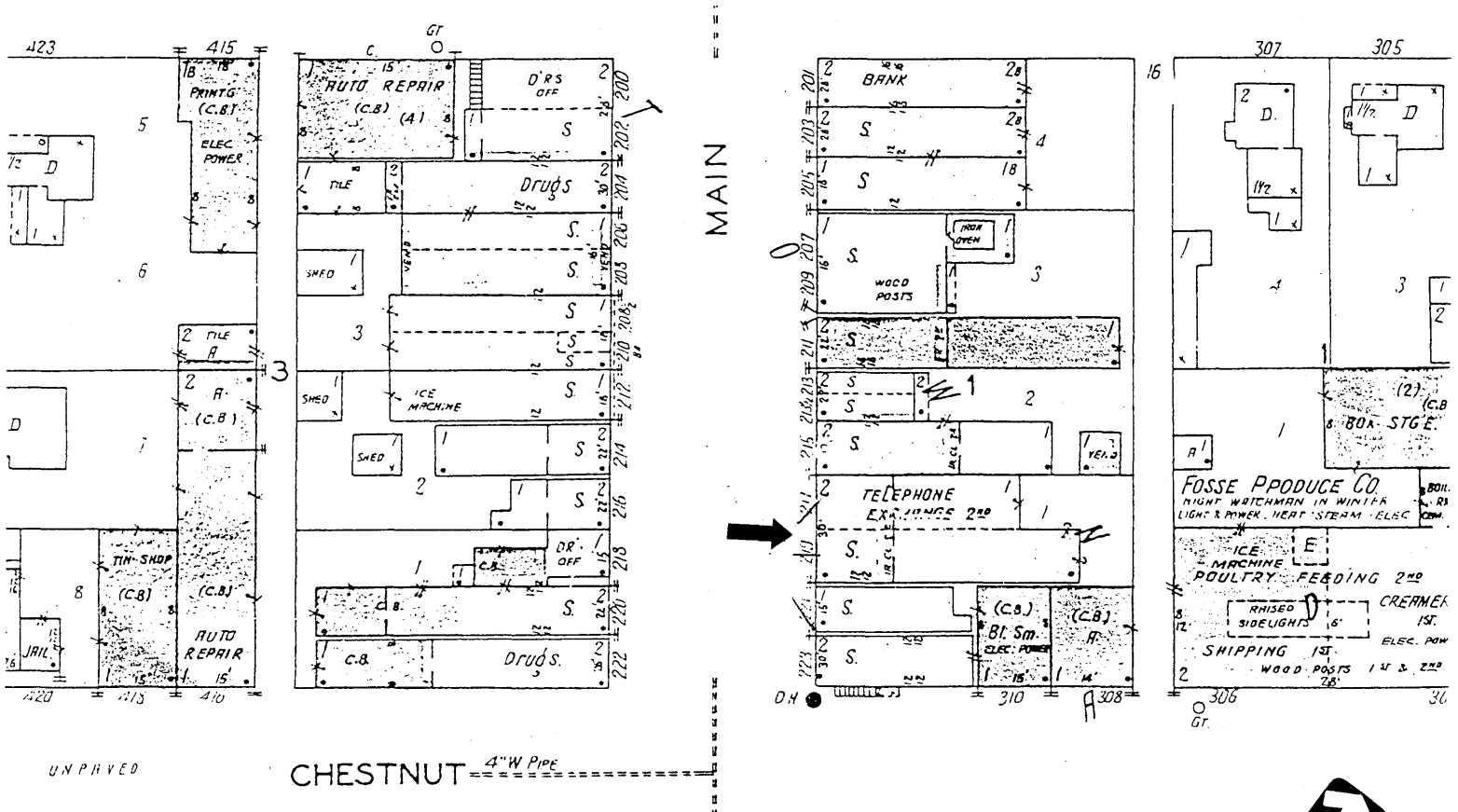


Figure 7-5

The building at 320 Main Street (shown here as "221") remains unconnected with the property at 316-318 Main Street (shown here as "217-219").

Source: Sanborn Map Company, La Porte City, 1927, p. 2.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## FLOOR PLAN SKETCHES

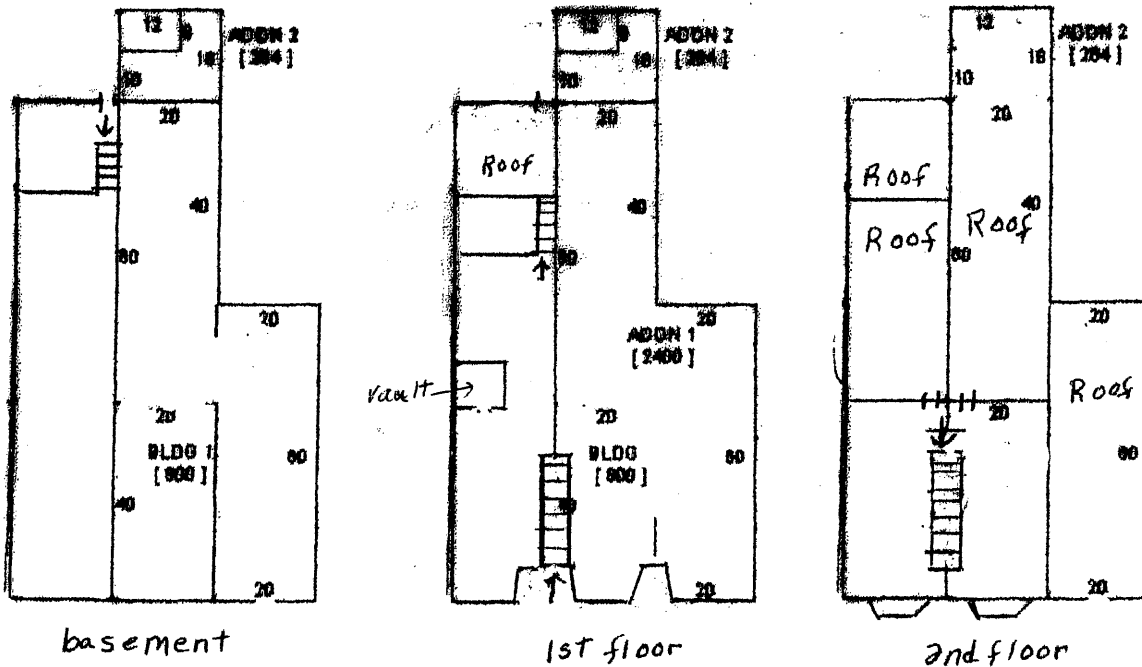


Figure 7-6

316 Main Street (left), 318 Main Street (middle), and 320 Main Street (right).

Source: Floor plans prepared by Geraldine Wester, 2001.



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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## MAIN STREET CIRCA 1900



Figure 7-7

Cantilevered wall extensions lent a picturesque note to buildings and the streetscape. The second floor tower of the Terry Hotel in La Porte City (left) was the most exuberant example in the community. Sadly, fire later destroyed the building.

Source: Photographic Postcard, David Hopkins, La Porte City, Iowa.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## MAIN STREET CIRCA 1900

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Figure 7-9

The brick turret on a bank building (left) and the oriel windows on the Chapple & Young Block (arrow) cantilevered out onto the streetscape and broke up the planar walls of the buildings.

Source: Photographic Postcard, David Hopkins, La Porte City, Iowa.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## STOREFRONT AT 318 MAIN STREET

1940

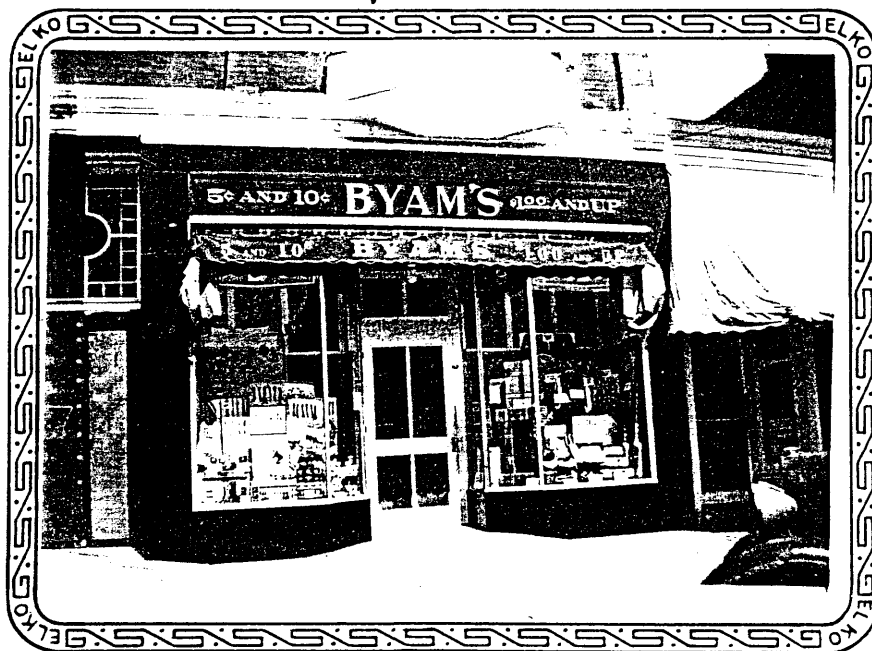


Figure 7-10

Byam's dime store at 318 Main Street featured this Art Deco storefront.

Source: La Porte City Historic Preservation Commission.



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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

## 316-318-320 STOREFRONTS

1950s



Figure 7-11

This photograph from the 1950s pictures the Chapple & Young Block when the Coast to Coast Store was located only at 318 Main Street. It later expanded operations to include the property at 320 Main Street.

Source: La Porte City Historic Preservation Commission.

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National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chapple & Young Block is architecturally significant, locally and under National Register Criterion C. Constructed in 1892 and circa 1896, the edifice shows the influence of Romanesque styling in its architecture. The 1890s were a boom period for commercial expansion in La Porte City, and many new buildings were erected. The most sophisticated of them--a handful of buildings including the Chapple & Young Block--employed wall extension elements and patterned masonry to enrich the surface textures their facades. This emphasis on varied textures reflects the growing influence of Romanesque Revival styling in La Porte City.

The period of significance for the Chapple & Young Block is the year 1892 and circa 1896, the time when the edifice was erected. The year 1913 is significant because the Farmers Savings Bank located its operations at that time in the Chapple & Young Block.

The Chapple & Young Block possesses two resources, the commercial block at 316-318 Main Street, which is counted as contributing, and the attached commercial building at 320 Main Street, which is counted as noncontributing. The property is classified as a building.

### BACKGROUND

#### William Chapple

William Chapple (1835-1910) was a local businessman, capitalist, and journalist in La Porte City. He and Clayton E. Young, his colleague, combined their assets to erect the Chapple & Young Block.

Chapple was born in Walton-on-Thames, England, and emigrated to the United States with his brothers in 1856. They located in Dubuque, Iowa, and subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Severely wounded at Vicksburg, William returned to Iowa and settled in La Porte City shortly after the close of the war. According to his obituary:

For many years he was actively identified with the affairs of the town and was one of its most active and highly respected citizens. He and his brother, Harry, were in the merchandise business, for several years. After closing out their business Mr. Chapple went on the road. He traveled for several years and then established the La Porte City Press which, he and his younger sons published for several years. (*La Porte City Progress-Review*, August 25, 1910)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

Chapple established the *La Porte City Press* in 1895. He served as its publisher and editor until August 1900, when he sold out to H. C. Adams and Clark Ravlin.

In addition to his commercial activities, Chapple was closely associated with the Grand Army of the Republic and the Masons and became a charter member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in La Porte City.

William Chapple subsequently relocated to Boston, Massachusetts, the home of his four sons, where he died in 1910 as the result of apoplexy and a blood clot on the brain. Mrs. Chapple and one daughter preceded him in death. (*Ibid.*)

Chapple's sons shared his interest in journalism. Joseph Mitchell Chapple, one of them, relocated to Boston from La Porte City, and subsequently became the publisher of the *National Magazine*, a print medium based in Boston. Joseph's success remained a source of local pride. He was invited, for example, to deliver an address to the La Porte City high school Class of 1913, presumably on the occasion of their graduation. Joseph M. Chapple also pursued a career on the stage.

### Clayton E. Young

Clayton E. Young (1847-1925), usually called "C. E.," together with his colleague William Chapple combined their assets to erect the Chapple & Young property.

Young came to Iowa with his parents in 1861. He married Alice Cotton on August 24, 1871. They lived in Waterloo and later moved to La Porte City, where they lived on Bishop Avenue. Young was a life member of the Elkahir Temple of the Shriners. Although the Youngs had no children of their own, they took in a New York orphan named William Head. William later became known as Claude Young.

In 1893, C. E. Young obtained full interest in the title for the property at 316-318 Main Street.

### Site's Land-Use History

Over the years, the property at 316 Main Street served a variety of commercial functions. A clothing store was housed there in 1895. In 1906 there was a drug store. By 1912, it housed a pool and billiard hall. (*Progress-Review*, December 19, 1912) In 1913, the Farmers Savings Bank took title to the property. They converted the 316 unit into a bank, installing a walk-in vault, mosaic tile floors, and teller cages. The vault and tile floors remain extant. The Farmers Savings Bank had been incorporated on February 13, 1913. The local newspaper referred to it as the "third bank" in La Porte. (*Ibid.*, December 19, 1912) In 1923 the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company obtained the property's title.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

This business occupied the second floor of the 316 unit until 1959 and continued to hold its title until 1961. Calkins Barber Shop occupied this first floor in 1961. In 1984 the Coast to Coast store vacated the premises at 318-320 Main Street and relocated to the 316 Main Street property.

The property at 318 experienced a similar history of mixed commercial usage. A dry goods and millinery store was housed there in 1895. In 1906 there was Walker Groceries. From about 1913 to at least 1927, a clothing store occupied the premises. In 1939, the property was leased to Glenn and Mildred Byams for a "Ben Franklin type store." (See Figure 7-10 on Continuation Sheet.) In 1946, the Coast to Coast Stores chain leased this property (Abstract of Title) and converted it into a local store.

Mixed commercial usage also characterized the history of the site at 320 Main Street. Prior to 1906, a 1-story building had stood on this site, whose party wall with the 318 unit was a frame partition. By 1906, that building had vanished and the site stood unimproved. (See Continuation Sheet 7-3.) By 1927, a 1-story, detached store stood at 320 Main Street. It shared no party walls with its neighbors. While such detached buildings were rather unusual for commercial buildings in Iowa downtowns at this time, it was something of a norm in La Porte City, fire protection accounting for this incidence. Later, the Coast to Coast Store expanded into the 320 building.

A note is in order concerning house numbers in La Porte City. The city has renumbered the addresses in the community at least once. In 1906, for example, the Chapple & Young Block was numbered "217-219 Main Street." This numbering system obtained until at least 1927. The present system identifies the block as "316-318 Main Street."

## **ARCHITECTURE**

### Local Context

La Porte City was originally platted in 1855. The city grew following the Civil War as a market center for the surrounding agricultural countryside. By 1875, the arrival of several railroads had assured the community economic expansion and prosperity. Between 1890 and 1900, the city's population increased by more than one-third. As the local economy grew, local entrepreneurs redeveloped the earlier generation of commercial houses and expanded the city's central business district. Between circa 1885 and circa 1900, these building projects transformed the business district into the configuration as it appears today.

Late Victorian styling dominated this period of commercial construction. During the early years of the boom, heavy cornices and hood molds fabricated of pressed metal enriched the upper stories of these commercial buildings. Their rich embellishments, picked out in contrasting color and set against the red

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brick surfaces of the facades, resembled confectioner's icing on a decorated cake. These designs evince the continued influence of Italianate commercial design in the conservative Midwest. Several buildings on Main Street in La Porte, now sadly nonextant, were good examples. (See Figure 7-9 on Continuation Sheet.)

As the boom in La Porte City continued, architectural designs with rich surface patterns became increasingly popular. Hood molds and cornices remained part of the repertoire, but now brick examples set almost flush with wall planes superseded those of pressed metal. Wall extensions became another way to enrich the texture of exterior walls. Sometimes these took the form of towers, and sometimes they took the form of oriel windows.

### The Chapple & Young Block

The Chapple & Young Block calls attention to these design trends. As one of the finest examples of Late Victorian-influenced commercial design in La Porte City, its Main Street facade features an elaborate array of decorative devices including brick pilasters, cornices, hood molds, a pediment, and a pair of oriel windows. These devices work together to enrich the building's exterior with a variety of textures.

The oriel windows are particularly notable. Constructed of wood frame and glass and with their lower bulkheads clad in fishscale siding, these oriel windows employ a variety of building materials, which lend contrasting textures to the main brick wall. The colored glass panes of the fan-shaped window and the rectangular window beneath it further accent the richness of these surface textures.

In retrospect, one sees in these boom years a moving away from a close reliance on imported architectural detailing--like pressed metal cornices and hood molds--towards the on-site manipulation of building materials to achieve decorative effect. This rich brick patterns of the Chapple & Young Block, for example, could only be achieved in tandem with the skill of masons to fabricate them. More and more, architectural design relied on the ability of these builders to interpret and implement architectural style

### Other Examples

The use of towers provided another method to enrich exterior wall texture. Towers extended the wall surfaces of buildings. The tower worked particularly well for buildings located on corner locations. A bank building at 300 Main Street, for example, features a brick tower above its second floor. (See Figure 7-9 on Continuation Sheet.) This building was constructed in 1888. A hotel block, located

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diagonally across the street, featured a massive tower and dominated the intersection. (See Figure 7-8 on Continuation Sheet.) Sadly, that edifice is nonextant.

Historic photographs of the La Porte City business district demonstrate the success of these second floor turrets, as well as the oriel windows, to enrich the picturesque quality of the downtown streetscape. (See Figures 7-8 and 7-9 on Continuation Sheets.)

Thumbnail Sketch of Construction

The erection of the Chapple & Young Block occurred over several years of phased construction. The first phase involved the construction of the first floor in 1892. According to the *La Porte City Progress-Review* :

New buildings and business houses of Dr. J. B. Darling, Dr. J. M. Bailey and Chapple and Young. The former are being built of stone. The building of Chapple and Young will make valuable and desirable business houses in the city. (*Ibid.*, July 20, 1892)

A fire insurance map of 1895 pictures the footprint of Chapple and Young's property. (See Figure 7-2 on Continuation Sheet.) At that time, the property consisted of two, attached, 1-story commercial rooms. They are identified as 217-219 Main Street. (The City of La Porte subsequently changed the city's house numbers and these became 316-318.) The 219 room shared a frame partition with the building at 221 Main Street.

According to a fire insurance map dated 1906, the Chapple and Young property had become a 2-story structure. (See Figure 7-3 on Continuation Sheet.) The second story was probably added circa 1896. In that year, the owners of the properties at 318 and 320 reached an agreement concerning the improvement of their two parcels. (Abstract of Title) Evidently the stone foundation and other structural appurtenances of the 318 building stood on the land at 320. This agreement resolved any disputes that subsequently might have arisen as a result, and opened the way for new construction. The property record card for this structure dates its construction as "1896," another documentary source for the date. (Black Hawk County Assessor's Office)

The commercial building at 320 Main Street was constructed circa 1910. A 1906 fire insurance map pictures an unimproved parcel where it stands. A 1913 fire insurance map pictures the same parcel with an improvement, which looks like the present structure.

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Located near the eastern edge of La Porte City's original plat, the Chapple & Young Block calls attention to the expansion of the city's central business district in the late 1880s and 1890s. The original focus of that district centered one block west. As La Porte City grew in population and economic importance, it moved easterly.

In 1913, the board of directors of the newly-incorporated Farmers Savings Bank of La Porte City leased the 316 room of the Chapple & Young Block as its institutional home. The board's selection of this buildings calls attention to its architectural distinction. Financial institutions recognize the importance of locating in buildings that bespeak the qualities they wish to impart to their customers: solidity and financial capability.

**REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS**

In 1992, William C. Page surveyed the Chapple & Young Block as part of the Preservation Partnership project in Black Hawk and Bremer Counties, Iowa. At that time, the property was evaluated as eligible for nomination to the National Register as well as a contributing resource to the potential Main Street Historic District, an area of architectural significance in La Porte City. Other contributing resources included the Dr. Jesse Wasson Building, Syndicate Block (built in 1891) and the brick-paved Main Street, which forms that district's corridor. The Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Northern Railroad: La Porte City Station--another contributing resource to that district and built in 1914--was listed on the National Register in 1979. It is located directly across the street from the Wasson Building. Since 1992, the Wasson Building has been listed on the National Register through the efforts of the La Porte City Historic Preservation Commission and the property owner.

In 1999, Page briefly resurveyed downtown La Porte City for the La Porte City Historic Preservation Commission and the Community Programs Bureau of the State Historical Society of Iowa. That surveyed corroborated the earlier findings concerning the Chapple & Young Block.

**PRESENT STATUS OF PROPERTY**

The property at 316 Main Street currently houses a beauty salon on the first floor, one apartment on the second floor, and storage in the basement. The properties at 318 and 320 Main Street currently house a locker market.

The purpose of this nomination is to call the community's attention to the historical importance of the building, instill community pride in its architecture, and stimulate interest in historic preservation.

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### POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, another building or buildings might have been located on the site prior to circa 1892.

It is unlikely that subsurface deposits remain from previous periods, having most likely been obliterated by the series of construction projects, which have brought the site to its present state.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

The role of local building contractors in La Porte City deserves further research. This nomination calls attention to the importance of the local building trades in the city, but more archival research is required to identify those individuals and their work. The work of the Ballheim family is particularly important in this regard. The role of architects in the city is another area for future research.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This nomination is a collaborative effort. Geraldine Wester, Chairperson of the La Porte City Historic Preservation Commission (LPCHPC), researched the history of the Chapple & Young Block and provided photographic documentation of it. William C. Page, Public Historian of Des Moines, Iowa, had previously prepared an Iowa Site Inventory Form for this building, which was included in a report--*Reconnaissance Historical and Architectural Survey of Black Hawk and Bremer Counties, Iowa*--prepared in 1992 for the State Historical Society of Iowa. Geraldine Wester, chairperson of the LPCHPC, prepared floor plans for the property in 2001. Wester, Shelly Ringelstetter, and Page subsequently collaborated to prepare the final nomination under the auspices of the LPCHPC.

Documenting the history of the Chapple & Young Block stems from physical evidence, archival data, and oral history. Local histories and newspapers were consulted for information about the lives of William Chapple and Clayton E. Young. These and other sources of information are cited in the bibliography, which appears in Section 9 of this nomination.



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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Southeast 20 feet of Lot 2, Block 1 in the original plat, La Porte City, Black Hawk County, Iowa (316 Main Street),

and

Northwest 20 feet of Lot 1, Block 1 in the original plat, La Porte City, Black Hawk County, Iowa (318 Main Street),

and

Middle 20 feet of Lot 1, Block 1 in the original plat, La Porte City, Black Hawk County, Iowa (320 Main Street).

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Contains all land historically associated with the resource.

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Chapple & Young Block, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

1. Chapple & Young Block  
316-318-320 Main Street  
La Porte City, IA 50651  
Looking south  
Geraldine Wester, Photographer  
Mark Jenkins, Printer  
July 31, 2001
  
2. Chapple & Young Block  
316-318-320 Main Street  
La Porte City, IA 50651  
Looking north  
Geraldine Wester, Photographer  
Mark Jenkins, Printer  
July 31, 2001
  
3. Chapple & Young Block  
316-318-320 Main Street  
La Porte City, IA 50651  
Looking southwest  
Rear of 316-318 Main Street  
Geraldine Wester, Photographer  
Mark Jenkins, Printer  
July 31, 2001
  
4. Chapple & Young Block  
316-320 Main Street  
La Porte City, IA 50651  
Detail of Main Street facade  
Looking northeast  
Geraldine Wester, Photographer  
Mark Jenkins, Printer  
July 31, 2001