

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 23 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Broadway - Phelps Park Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER ~~North and South sides of West Broadway from the Courthouse square to 706; Upper Broadway from 301 to 401; 801 Park Dr.; Phelps Park; & 611~~ *Winneshiek State Park*

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

Park Street

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Winneshiek

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership -- see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Winneshiek County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

2

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District in Decorah consists of seven blocks of residential area and Decorah's oldest city park; the district is situated on one of the most prominent hills in the heart of town. Included in this area are five churches, three governmental structures, a local museum, a local brick kiln, a carriage house, and 36 private residences in addition to the city park square and river bluff. The district, which historically has served as a desirable residential area, contains structures built from the 1850's to the early 1900's; several later structures are also present. The majority of the buildings are two story or more, many employing local materials such as limestone, sandstone, or native brick.

The seven blocks of the district lie in an "L" shape of ascending elevation. The street is lined by large broadleaf shade trees, numerous flower beds and shrubs, limestone retaining walls, and well-placed early period electric street lamps (1913). The only major alteration to the setting of the district was made in the past year when a set of traffic lights was placed at the intersection of Mechanic and West Broadway in the interest of safety.

Although more populated as the decades have gone by, the district continues to maintain its pleasant residential flavor; it integrates its well maintained buildings, public park, and highly manicured natural environment into the tradition of the neighborhood.

Brief descriptions of each of the buildings, starting on the east end (Winnebago Street) and proceeding west along West Broadway to Upper Broadway, then south along Upper Broadway to Park Drive and then West and South again through the park to Vernon Street are as follows:

1) Winneshiek County Jail (N.W. corner, intersection W. Broadway & Winnebago Street): 1878, 2 stories with a block foundation; the walls are covered with ivory colored stucco. The low pitched gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingles; wide plain eaves and a narrow painted cornice top the walls. The windows feature stone semi-segmental arches. The upper rooms which serve as cells have iron exterior bars covering their windows; this iron matches the "widow's walk" fence on the roof of the building. The jail has served as county sheriff's residence, also. The building is in fair to good condition and is well maintained.

2) Winneshiek County Sheriff's Office (Block 18 of Original Decorah): 1969, this cement block structure with a brick facade and flat roof is built on top of the foundation of an earlier structure built to supply heat for the Courthouse in c. 1910. It contains a towering red brick chimney on the southeast corner. The building continues to be used as a heating plant and is in good condition with excellent maintenance.

See continuation sheet

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- 3) Winneshiek County Courthouse (Block 18 of Original Decorah): 1903-04, A.C. Kinney-Architect, O.H. Olson-Builder; 3 stories, upper stories made of buff Bedford stone, foundation level made of brown Marquette rain-drop stone. Roof is slate and the dome is covered in copper. The well fitted interior remains relatively unaltered and the building is in excellent repair and well maintained.
- 4) Decorah Lutheran Church (309 Winnebago): 1958-60, situated at lowest point in the district. Simple rectangular shape with low gable roof with oriental curvature. Beige brick with wooden trim and wide wooden eaves. Three stained glass windows, separated by brick panels, from ground level to roof peak are in each gable end; a wall of similar adjoining windows on east facade of main building. One story flat roofed, education wing on east. Three sided iron and stain glass open belfry at the church front. The church interior gives emphasis to openness and vertical lines. Excellent condition.
- 5) Congregational Center (207 W. Broadway): 1957, one story, beige brick with flat roof; the few windows have plain glass. The open, covered vestibule is at the west corner's entrance. The building was designed as the social wing for the Congregational Church. The building is in good condition and well maintained.
- 6) Congregational Church (209 W. Broadway): 1896, Neo-Gothic, generally square shaped, light brown brick walls with low pitched, gable roofs. Decorative brick buttresses at each corner. Large circular stained glass window with leaded quatrefoils in the front gable; remainder of windows have segmental or ogee arches. The corner entrance has double wooden doors. Windows inside bear names of prominent Decorah citizens- some Broadway residents. The interior was remodeled in the 1950's. The church is in good condition and well maintained.
- 7) First United Methodist Church (302 W. Broadway): 1874 , Neo-Gothic style; rose colored brick with native limestone foundation. The one-story brick educational wing was added in 1961. The church steeple was destroyed in a hail storm in 1908 and later replaced. Lancet shaped, stained glass windows line both sides of the main building. Double wooden doors in the tower face Broadway serving as the main entrance. Inside was slightly remodeled in 1920 & 1963. Good condition and maintenance.
- 8) J. Reginald Pearson House (312 W. Broadway): 1966, Modern Colonial one-story, red clay brick with wood trim; gable roof with white asphalt shingles. The double sash windows and the "picture" windows have stone sills and wood shutters. Attached garage faces the street. Presently used

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as a single family dwelling in excellent condition and well maintained.  
(Lloyd Foltz-contractor) Not characteristic of District.

9) Alonzo Bradish House (301 W. Broadway): 1860-63, simplified Greek Revival, two stories of red clay brick probably of local origin; the hipped bell caste roof features a single dormer. The windows have flat arches of etched stone with the window sills being of the same material. The interior underwent major remodeling in recent years to become law offices. The house originally served as a single family dwelling. Condition and maintenance- excellent.

10) John Bradish House (303 W. Broadway): c. 1880's-90's, modified Greek Revival, two stories of red clay brick; hipped bellcaste roof with simple dormers. The doorhead and/or front veranda are removed leaving the structure stripped of any trim. The interior has been altered through the years. The house's condition is fair and maintenance good. This house presently serves as the St. Benedict's Convent.

11) Hartvig Engbertson House (305 W. Broadway): 1910, Queen Anne. Three stories plus tower, cream colored brick with red brick arches. The sweeping veranda is of wood and serves to highlight the front facade. Its pediment contains a decorative molding, and its columns are of the Tuscan order. The Palladian window motif fits into the roof's front gable giving the facade added variety. The house is in excellent condition and continues to serve as a private residence.

12) John S. Williams House (307 W. Broadway): 1902-03, Queen Anne style; three stories made of St. Louis pressed brick; mixed roof design of hipped and gable forms- the front gable contains decorative wooden shingles as well as a Palladian window motif. The veranda is highly typical of Queen Anne structures with its wide expanse, Tuscan columns, and decorative pediment. The west gable was altered in 1974 by replacing the decorative shingles with plate glass. The house continues to be used as a private residence and is in excellent condition.

13) R.R. Howell House (309 W. Broadway): 1878, High Victorian Italianate style, two stories of red clay brick. The low pitched hipped roof and flat roofed veranda emphasize its Italianate origin as do the large elaborate wooden brackets under the eaves. The windows are given emphasis with unusual stone lintels while the entrance is given a similarly grand treatment. These variform openings create a "busy" effect common to High Victorian structures. The house is presently used as apartments; it's in good condition and receives excellent maintenance.

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14) N.H. Adams House (402 W. Broadway): 1878, Carpenter's Queen Anne style, two stories, frame structure. The house has several gable roof sections with decorative wood shingles facing the ends; intricate lattice work appears in each peak also. The gingerbreading also provides elaborate treatment for the elongated, narrow windows and the side bay windows. A veranda spans the entire front facade with a highly decorative molding in the pediment. The house is presently used as a duplex and is in excellent condition with good maintenance.

15) Warren Field House (404 W. Broadway): 1858-60, Midwest Vernacular style with a Gothic Cottage Character; two story structure presently stuccoed and painted yellow. The roof has a gothic pitch and a facade similar to Andrew Jackson Downing's dictates. This steeply pitched gable roof has extremely wide eaves. The porch has been simplified over the years with no decoration left in its elements. The house was apparently stuccoed in the 1920's. It is in good condition and well maintained; it is used as apartment.

16) J.J. Hopperstad House (406 W. Broadway): 1880, Modernized Midwest Vernacular; a two story frame structure with gray slate siding, several gable roof sections, and numerous asymmetrically placed windows give this house a varied facade. Porch has been slightly altered by wrought iron replacements for the roof supports. The house is used as a single family dwelling; it is in good condition and has good maintenance.

17) Henry Heively House (408-10 W. Broadway): 1858, Octagon Style. Poured grout walls which may have had a coat of stucco in the 1920's; flat roof and bracketed eaves. Protruding wing with a low pitched hipped roof; balcony and veranda run the length of the wing with a simple balustrade on the second floor and square posts on both levels. Design follows dictates of Orson Fowler. Presently used as apartments- good condition and well maintained.

18) Ellsworth/Porter House (401 W. Broadway): 1867, Italian Villa Style; 2 story red clay brick with cream colored brick arches and stone window sills; elaborate paired brackets under the broad eaves; wide, plain wooden cornice: three story campanile-like tower; Queen Anne style veranda and gazebo like round porch added at the turn of the century; leaded, beveled glass added before the 1930's. The building is presently used as a local museum and is in deteriorating condition. The building is entered in the National Register of Historic Sites.

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19) E. B. Hutchinson House (403 W. Broadway): 1873, Modified Greek Revival; two story house with stucco finish dating from the 1920's-30's; hipped roof with wide, untrimmed cornice; symmetrical window treatment; flat arches and stone sills. Porch added at the turn of the century with its decorative pediment; roof supports are now wrought iron posts.

20) B. O. Marsh House (407 W. Broadway): c. 1912, Pre-W.W.I Duplex; two story, frame construction, painted gray. Its hipped roof is covered with slate shingles. Window treatment is identical between floors: beveled glass lights provide the only trim; two story bay window section is on the west facade. Cement block is used in the veranda base and posts. This structure is the second or third house on the site. Its duplex usage is continued; the property is in excellent condition.

21) Cyrus Snyder House (409 W. Broadway): 1854, Modified Greek Revival farm house; two stories, frame construction; hipped slate roof tops the narrow cornice; windows and door place symmetrically. A veranda circles two sides of the house with a plain balustrade and posts. Its centrally located pediment contains no decorative molding. Used as a private residence at present; fair condition and maintenance.

22) Ben Bear House (502 W. Broadway): 1921, Bruener Bros.- contractors. Two stories with low pitched gable roof; walls were originally built of stucco; double sash windows with three panes in upper sash provide a motif used throughout the house. A semi-circular line in the roof dormer is seen in the porch lines also. House is used as a private residence and is in excellent condition.

23) Grace Episcopal Church (506 W. Broadway): 1975-76, Neo-Gothic Style; frame construction, native sandstone foundation; lancet windows and pointed door moldings; twin towers dominate the front facade- original proportions now lacking as the east tower's spire was dismantled following storm damage in 1908. The church's architect was Henry L. Gay of Chicago in a design from his pattern book "House of God;" contractor was Burbridge of Decorah. The interior features black walnut wainscoting, pews and altar pieces. The stain glass windows were by McCully and Miles of Chicago; the west side windows were replaced with replicas following a hail storm in 1908. Chancel furniture was by Andrews of Chicago. The church is in fair to good condition with only a small congregation left.

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24) Price House (508 W. Broadway): 1969-70, Contemporary Townhouse, Norman Berge- contractor. One story frame structure with vertical, rough board siding; garage in the rear below the main floor. Vented, hipped roof. The house was designed for retirement living with no steps and numerous details to fit this need. Exterior design accommodated to interior, functional requirements. Condition and maintenance are excellent. Not characteristic of district structures.

25) James T. Relf House, (512 W. Broadway): 1904, Queen Anne Style- simplified; two story house with three story tower; frame construction. An octagonal tower with flat arched windows in each face is attached on the S.E. corner; tower roof is conical while the main roof is hipped and gable. A small porch attached on the front is now screened; beveled window glass provides only decoration as gingerbread has been avoided. Serving as a single family residence, the house is in excellent condition and well maintained.

26) R. F. Gibson House (501 W. Broadway): 1863, Greek Revival- simplified, two stories with hipped roof covered with slate shingles; originally of brick the building was stuccoed in the 20's. The wide cornice is now bare of earlier brackets. The windows have segmental arches and stone sills. The modern entrance was also added at a later time. The house is in excellent condition and well maintained.

27) Grier-Green House (503 W. Broadway): 1862, Gothic Cottage, two story brick cottage. Locally manufactured brick was painted early to avoid deterioration; steeply pitched gable roof is covered in wood shingles; it features elaborate vergeboard on the roof ridge and in the gable ends. The beveled glass windows show flat arches. The two sided porch is miniature in scope with elaborate gingerbread and a decorative pediment molding. Used as a private residence, the house is still in good condition with some deterioration in the gingerbread.

28) F. S. Landers House (509 W. Broadway): 1860, Transitional Greek Revival and Italianate. Two story, red brick; the hipped roof features bracketed eaves over its wide cornice. The windows have flat stone lintels and sills with white wooden shutters added to the first floor openings. A square entrance portico features white Ionic columns and a narrow balustrade on its flat roof. Continued use as a single family dwelling, in good condition and maintenance.

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29) First Lutheran Church (604 W. Broadway): 1876, Neo-Gothic Style; red clay brick locally manufactured. Built for a total cost of \$22,000, this structure was to serve as the "Cathedral" for the Norwegian Evangelical Church Synod. The gable roofs are topped on the Broadway facade by a central spire which has been copper plated. The church has lancet shaped windows of stained glass with stone sills. Stone and brick buttresses are present as well as a stone stringcourse. The three story brick parish wing was added in 1953; it has roof dormers and large single light windows in each room. A protruding section faces Broadway with a gable roof having a lengthened side and a two story bay window. The altar painting is by Herbjorn Gausta, Norwegian immigrant artist of significant importance in the U.S. The church was established by Norwegians connected with Luther College. The building is in excellent condition and well maintained.

30) C. J. Weiser Carriage House (608 W. Broadway): c. 1900, Second Empire Style with Italianate influences; two story red brick with wood shingled mansard roof. Building has coupled brackets along the narrow wooden cornice. The first floor windows have segmental arches with the second story windows protruding through well outlined dormers. A single carriage door is in the center of the front facade. Building is in deteriorating condition at present with little maintenance. The main house was razed in the 1960's.

31) Joseph Steyer House (601 W. Broadway): 1865, Midwest Vernacular. Two story, frame house with gable roof sections covered in green asphalt shingles; narrow cornice and abbreviated second story give this house a humble look. Several stoops and a front porch have some minor wrought iron replacements. Front facade faces Mill. House is in good condition.

32) George Becvar House (607 W. Broadway): 1950, Bungalow, one story frame building; low pitched gable roofs with asphalt shingles, front facade with its simple doorway, asymmetrically placed, has a "picture window." Single family dwelling in excellent condition and well maintained. Not characteristic of district structures.

33) Charles Weiser House (609 W. Broadway): 1922, Dutch Colonial-modern; Charles Altfillisch, architect; Roy Coffeen, builder; two stories with gambrel roof covered in asphalt shingles; second story roof dormer with three shuttered windows. All windows are multi-light. Facade is symmetrically planned. House is still a private residence in excellent condition.

34) Relf House (700 W. Broadway): c. 1860, two story frame house with low gable roof. The house has Eastlake details in the additions on the east facade and the front stoop. Used as a boarding house in the past, the house is still used as an aptment house; it is in good condition and well-maintained.



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35) Roy Relf House (702 W. Broadway): 1934, Modernistic-International influences; Lars Seim, architect. Two story, brick house with flat roof sections; garage is placed below the ground level. The house fits the cut of the land and its shades of brown brick blend into the environment. Elaborate brick bonding is the only attempt at decoration. Excellent condition.

36) William B. Ingvolstad House (704 W. Broadway): 1929, Charles Altfillisch, architect; W.B. Ingvolstad, contractor; two story with gable roof and narrow eaves over a narrow cornice; walls are made of brown brick with intricate bonding patterns. Its few windows have flat gauged brick arches. The house is in excellent condition and maintenance.

37) George Holway House (706 W. Broadway): 1869, Greek Revival. Two story, brick which has been painted white; low hipped roof with a symmetrical facade featuring a bay window. The screened porch has been added in recent times; the doorhead is a plain pediment with supporting columns. The house serves as a single family residence; fair condition and maintenance.

38) L. M. Moss House (301 Grove Street): 1898-1901, Carpenter's Queen Anne-most elaborate example in Decorah; two and three story frame house with gable and hipped roof combination. The turret with its conical roof is round and narrow; detailed vergeboard is present in several of the gables; a gazebo-like round porch stands at the end of the veranda which is now screened. The Broadway facade has a bay wall section protruding from its center. Many of the windows show leaded, beveled glass details. Several alterations have been made to the interior to accomodate family use. This very large house continues as a single family dwelling and is excellently maintained.

39) Henry Paine House (301 Upper Broadway): 1867, Neo-Gothic "Castle," three stories, locally manufactured brick which needed to be painted, makes up the walls. Its steeply pitched gable roof and roof dormers accent its Gothic effect. The paired windows have ogee arches as do the upper lights in the bay window. The square doorhead is elaborately trimmed with Eastlake motifs. House serves as a private residence and is excellently maintained.

40) Hjalmar Carlson House (303 Upper Broadway): 1960, Midwest Modern with Prairie style influences; two stories of brown brick; flat roof on main section and gable or hipped roof on wings. Combines wood and brick freely; the garage is an intimate part of the design; large windows are suited to large walls. Charles Altfillisch, local architect; Norman Berge, contractor. The house contains five fireplaces. In excellent condition, the house continues as a private residence. Not characteristic of District.

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41) E. P. Johnson House (309 Upper Broadway): 1902, Carpenter's Queen Anne, two story with three story round turret; frame construction; the house features mixed gable roof sections and a conical roof atop the tower. The third story overhangs the second giving added variety to the facade. Numerous asymmetrically placed windows have beveled glass; some have elaborate leaded glass lights, also. The veranda covers two sides of the house and has delicate gingerbread trim. The house is in excellent condition, well maintained, and continues as a private residence.

42) Edward Hagen House (302 Upper Broadway): 1938, 1930's Organic Style; two story brick house with a low pitched pyramid roof; the brick bonding is a source for trim in the otherwise simple facade; a gauged brick string-course between floors links the garage to the plan. This is a fairly early example of an attached garage being so intimately a part of the design. Still used as one family residence; excellent maintenance and condition.

43) Larsen House (306 Upper Broadway): 1903, Modified Art Nouveau, two story frame structure; the broad gable roof features oval arched ends; the asymmetrical design devoid of gingerbread made this structure atypical for its time. The front facade veranda also has an oval arch in the doorway pediment. The house is in excellent repair and well maintained- used as a private residence.

44) Ole Anderson House (308 Upper Broadway): 1903, Simplified Queen Anne, two story frame structure with a limestone foundation. Mixed gable and hipped roof pattern; decorative wood shingles are seen in the front gable. The veranda spans the front facade with little decoration- simple columns and balustrade. The windows have flat arches. The house is presently painted blue-gray. It serves as a single family residence and is in excellent condition.

45) Severt Larson House (312 Upper Broadway): 1904, late Queen Anne-Midwest Vernacular; two story, frame structure; gable roofs form a mixed pattern. The garret story overhangs the second floor; small brackets add variety to the eaves. A veranda with a decorative pediment is presently screened; its base has also been enclosed. The house is painted moss green. The house is used as a private residence; it's in good condition and well maintained.

46) Martin Soukup House (401 Upper Broadway): 1903-04, Simplified Queen Anne-Midwest Vernacular; two story, frame house on block foundation. Mixed gable and hipped roof sections; decorative wooden shingles in gable ends; sash windows have flat arches and the windows are functionally placed. Veranda spans two sides of the house with plain column supports. No gingerbread is to be found on this house. House serves as a private residence; it is excellently maintained.

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47) Park House (801 Park Drive): 1969, Ranch Style; red brick, split level with low-pitched hipped roof. Screen porch is above the attached garage; the house fits the cut of the land and is not highly prominent in its natural setting; the house was built with a local contribution to serve as the Park Commissioner's residence. Not characteristic of District.

48) Phelps Park: Originally known as "City Park," established in 1911 with 12 acre area being paid for with public funds. Park was expanded in 1922 with additional land to total 43 acres. The park bandstand, fountain, scenic walk, gazebo and stone-walled lookouts were all built by 1922. This original park area was rigorously planned while at present the trend is toward a more natural setting. In 1974, the fountain was updated. The park takes its name from contributor George Phelps; he made his wealth in Decorah as a wagon maker and grain dealer, later retiring to England.

49) George Schulze House (611 Park Street): c. 1908, Late Queen Anne, two story with three story turret, hipped roof with bell caste roof atop the tower; single roof dormer. The windows have segmental arches and stone wills. The general effect of the facade is monochromatic. The house has been modified inside and a carport added (late 1960's.) House has no gingerbread. Serves as single family residence- it is in excellent condition and well maintained.

50) Schulze Kiln, c. 1870; Built by Henry Schultz, this kiln produced brick used in several Broadway structures and many Decorah buildings. The clay came from the hillside near the kiln, was processed in a home-made mill, and fired in the center of the kiln. It is deteriorating condition at present.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District is largely composed of private residences. Public or quasi-public property bounds the district on both ends; at the east end lies the Courthouse square and two churches while Phelps's Park serves as a green buffer at the southwest end. As one travels westward from the Winnebago Street boundary on the east, the district's route is gradually and constantly ascending in elevation; as the district turns south, it follows the bluff line of the Upper Iowa River continuing to ascend through Phelps Park to the crest of this prominent Decorah hill. In addition, Broadway is elevated markedly above the paralleling streets thus adding to its prominence as an area "set apart."

This special geographic location had a major effect on the area early in its development causing a speedy populating of these blocks of Original Decorah. Due to the elevation, Broadway was immune to the annual floods of the Upper Iowa River and their tumultuous effect on the lower lying sections of town. Judging by the district's history of very prominent residents, past and present, the elevated location became linked with a distinguishing social status.

Although construction of the district's structures ranges over a period of 120 years, more than two thirds of the buildings were erected by 1910. Another flourish of construction and remodeling came during the Depression and New Deal decades; notably, this period saw the stuccoing of at least four homes and the jail. During the 1950's and 60's, several structures were razed and new buildings erected.

The district has maintained its residential usage throughout its growth and continues to subscribe to the picturesque ideals of its earliest residents. Early Decorah historians, Sparks and Alexander, in 1878 and 1882, had singled out this area as unique within the city limits because of its geographic qualities, its long list of prominent residents, and as the location of "numerous pleasant residences," churches, and the Courthouse. The proposed historic district continues to exemplify these 19th century characteristics.

The district's significance rests primarily in the fact that it encapsulizes intact, examples of virtually all of the major architectural movements found in the American Midwest from the 1850's to 1910, with scattered examples of later styles. Earliest among the styles present is the Octagon Mode after

See continuation sheet

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 40 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1.5	590820	4790490	B	1.5	590820	4790440
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1.5	590760	4790440	D	1.5	590760	4790490
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION 4400 7600 4900

North and South sides of West Broadway from the Courthouse square to 706; Upper Broadway from 301 to 401; 801 Park Drive; Phelps Park; and 611 Park Street

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lucile Price (with assistance of Marlys Svendsen-Roesler, Division of

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Staff member)

DATE

June, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

508 West Broadway

TELEPHONE

319/382-4166

CITY OR TOWN

Decorah

STATE

Iowa

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

18 August 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACTING DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/13/98

ATTEST:

*Charles [Signature]*

DATE

11.10.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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the dictates of Orson Fowler seen in the Henry Heively House (17). This structure subscribes wholly to Fowler's ideals by using poured grout for the walls; the sing addition with its veranda and balcony also fit his dictates. Henry Heively, its owner/builder, was of considerable local stature by virtue of his capacity as flour mill owner and operator. (His mill is now the agriculture history building in the Vesterheim complex of the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah.) The Heively house is one of approximately eight octagonal houses remaining in Iowa.

A superb example of the Italian Villa style of this period is the Ellsworth-Porter House (18). Built in 1867 by D. B. Ellsworth, a successful local dry goods merchant, this house was a well-scaled rendering of a style recommended by the popular writer Andrew Jackson Downing. The polychromatic effect, asymmetrical facade, and relatively miniature scale give it a genuine picturesque quality so strived for by villa builders. Two houses reflect another style advocated by Downing and his colleague Alexander Jackson Davis- the Gothic, or "Pointed" Style. The Gothic "cottage" design was employed beautifully in the Grier-Green House (27) built in 1862, with its imposing central gable and elaborate vergeboard. Dr. Green, an early resident, was a Quaker who, it has been alleged, either planned or operated a room in the house's basement as a station on the underground railroad. If the Green house was the "cottage," then certainly the Henry Paine House (39) at the end of the street was the "Castle." Built in 1967, the house's three stories combine with its elevation to create the imposing naturalism for which Gothic Villas were noted. Henry Paine was a prominent local entrepreneur involved in a paper mill, implement sales, carriage manufacture, and real estate (an addition to Decorah also bears his name.) Both these houses were rendered in locally manufactured brick which was later painted due to its soft texture.

Numerous houses in the district are modified or simplified versions of the Greek Revival movement (9, 10, 19, 21, 26, 28, 37.) The Alonzo Braddish House at 301 W. Broadway (9) built in 1860-63 is an example of this style. The low-pitched, hipped bell caste roof, the symmetry of the facade elements, and the stone lintels over the door and windows define this structure as Greek Revival. Mr. Braddish came from New York State in the 1850's to establish himself as a successful merchant.

Several residences in the district embrace Queen Anne Style features (11, 12, 14, 25, 38, 41, 44.) A delightful example of Carpenter's Queen Anne is the E. P. Johnson House built in 1902. Like other district examples, this house features a turret, multiple roof patterns, classic detail, a wide variety of windows and leaded lights, and a sweeping Veranda. A

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house with similar qualities but built of brick was the Hartvig Engbretson House (11) built in 1910. The house achieves a polychromatic effect with a variety of color and texture. Engebretson, a son of Norwegian immigrants, achieved local prosperity as an implement dealer following his service as a soldier in the Civil War.

The Second Empire Style's primary example in the district was razed in the early 1960's; the accompanying carriage house of the same style remains intact- the Weiser Carriage House, c. 1900 (30.) Although of a reduced scale, the structure's Second Empire features- a low, mansard roof, round arches, and roof dormers- leave no doubt of its designer's intent. Builder C. J. Weiser was Decorah's leading banker until the Depression years.

At least three district homes represent the most indigenous style of this region- Midwest Vernacular (15, 16, 31.) The J. J. Hopperstad House (16) built in 1880 reflects this style's qualities- functional window placement, high gable roofs, a lack of gingerbread frills, and a practical porch. Hopperstad was a Norwegian immigrant who worked as a bookkeeper for the Decorah Posten- an important Norwegian American Newspaper published in Decorah.

Of the more recent structures in the district, the Prairie Style influences of Frank Lloyd Wright are apparent in the Hjalmar Carlson Home (40) built in 1960. Its architect, Charles Altfillisch, was an important local and state designer, with some of his ideas receiving national popularity. With its emphasis on the horizontal, its low pitched and flat roof patterns, and its combination of wood and brick construction mediums, the Carlson house suggests major principles of the Prairie Style. An International Style house is that of Roy Relf (35) by architect Lars Seim in 1934. This basically organic structure done in the cubic mode is typified by the flat roofs and the manner in which the house conforms to its rocky, natural environment.

Besides providing one of the most esthetically pleasing neighborhoods in the city, the district serves to highlight certain aspects of important local history. Within its blocks have resided important local bankers, attorneys, physicians, merchants of all sorts, local manufacturers and aalesmen, judges, county officials, bookkeepers and clerks, ministers, the town's first mayor and even the local opera house operator. Moreover, the district has served as the location of two important educational institutions. The Breckinridge Institute (where the Congregational Center (5) stands) functioned as a boys preparatory school between 1874 and 1911. A second school was located in the C. J. Weiser house, which is now razed though the carriage house remains (30). Established in 1932, this school, the Decorah Women's College, provided the impetus for co-education at Luther College in Decorah.

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In addition, the district has been and continues to be the location of all the major Protestant church buildings. Each of these congregations served as community social and cultural organizers from their beginnings. Two churches, First Lutheran (29) and Grace Episcopal (23) also served as ethnic centers. The former was founded as the center for the Norwegian settlers- the Norwegian Evangelical Synod. with its central core of constituents being Luther College faculty. This church maintained use of Norwegian in its services until the 1950's. Grace Episcopal Church in a similar fashion, provided a center for the members of the local English colony. This group of settlers peaked in population between the late 1860's and 70's. This ethnic segment of Decorah was noted for its large capital contributions to local business, their gay social life, and a level of scholarship and culture unequaled by most other settlers. The church stands as a solitary reminder of the English since most colonists had left the area by the mid 1880's.

Finally, the key governmental structures (1, 2, 3) of the county- both Courthouses and Jail- were erected in the district. From the time of the county seat battle in the 1850's and 60's, these buildings have served to lend pretige to Decorah.

The Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District project has been the subject of considerable discussion in Decorah since the summer of 1974. With grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, local meetings were held in 1974 and 1975 to consider the scope and implications of the district project. Continued interest has been generated by a number of district residents and other Decorah citizens.



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Alexander, W.E., History of Winneshiek County, Iowa, First Edition, 1882;  
Reprinted by Moneek Press, Decorah, Iowa, 1972.

Bailey, Edwin C. Past and Present of Winneshiek County, Iowa, Volumes I & II,  
Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1913.

Kirby, Edmund A., publisher, Gazateer and Directory of Winneshiek County, 1875,  
Decorah, Iowa, 1875.

Sparks, Charles H., History of Winneshiek County, Iowa, Decorah, Iowa,  
J. A. Leonard, Publisher, 1877.

Property Abstracts of West Broadway and Upper Broadway Residences, prepared  
by Abstractor Carlton Baker, Decorah, Iowa.

Altfillisch, Charles, Interview with Marlys Svendsen-Roesler, June 10, 1976,  
Decorah, Iowa.

**TAX REFORM ACT**

MAY 18 1977 3

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The following list indicates ownership for each building: Building Number, Historic Name/Common Name, Building Address in parenthesis, Owner's Name and Owner's Address.

- 1) Winneshiek County Jail (N.W. corner, intersection of W. Broadway and Winnebago Street): Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors, Courthouse, Decorah, Iowa.
- 2) Winneshiek County Sheriff's Office (Block 18, Original Decorah): Winneshiek County, Board of Supervisors, Courthouse, Decorah, Iowa.
- 3) Winneshiek County Courthouse (Block 18, Original Decorah): Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors, Courthouse, Decorah, Iowa.
- 4) Decorah Lutheran Church (309 Winnebago): Decorah Lutheran Congregation, 309 Winnebago, Decorah, Iowa.
- 5) Congregational Center (207 W. Broadway): Congregational Church, 207 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 6) Congregational Church (209 W. Broadway): Congregational Church Congregation, 209 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 7) First United Methodist Church (302 W. Broadway): First United Methodist Congregation, 302 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 8) Reginald Pearson House (312 W. Broadway): J. R. Pearson, 312 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 9) Alonzo Bradish House/Miller, Pearson, Gloe and Burns Law Offices (301 W. Broadway): Frank R. Miller, 301 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 10) John Bradish House/St. Benedict's Convent (303 W. Broadway): St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 201 Court Street, Decorah, Iowa.
- 11) Harvig Engbertson House (305 W. Broadway): Wilma and Lillian Slaughter, 305 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 12) John S. Williams House (307 W. Broadway): Conrad and Margaret Simonson, 307 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 13) E. R. Howell House (309 W. Broadway): Donald Lennon, 712 Decorah Ave., Decorah, Iowa; and Frances Lennon Nugent, 503 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 14) N. H. Adams House (402 W. Broadway): Donald and Betty Lou Dowe, Sr., 402 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- 15) Warren Field House (404 W. Broadway): Alice B. Engan, 404 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.

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- ✓ 16) J. J. Hopperstad House (406 W. Broadway) Daisy Brandt Estate, Security Trust and Savings Bank, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 17) Henry Heively House/Octagon House (408-410 W. Broadway): J. Hildus and Evelyn Bureson, 408 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 18) D. B. Ellsworth House/Porter House Museum (401 W. Broadway): Winneshiek County Historical Society, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 19) E. B. Hutchinson House (403 W. Broadway): Hillman and Irene Sersland, 403 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 20) B. O. Marsh House (407 W. Broadway): Jerrald Bruer, 1100 W. Wells St., Apt. 1709, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 53232
- ✓ 21) Cyrus Snyder House (409 W. Broadway): Dr. Bruce and Kathryn Kniegge, 409 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 22) Ben Bear House (502 W. Broadway): Ann Fritchen, 502 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 23) Grace Episcopal Church (506 W. Broadway): Episcopal Corporation for the Diocese of Iowa, c/o Alice Reum, 900 Walnut Street, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 24) Price House (508 W. Broadway): Charles and Lucille Price, 508 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 25) James T. Relf, House (512 W. Broadway): Merle C. Knight and Helen Martin, 512 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 26) R. F. Gibson House (501 W. Broadway): Larry and Dee Ann Stoltenberg, 501 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 27) John Grier-J. J. Green House (503 W. Broadway): Edward and Frances Nugent, 503 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 28) F. S. Landers House (509 W. Broadway): Helen Bodensteiner, 509 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 29) First Lutheran Church (604 W. Broadway): First Lutheran Congregation, 604 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 30) C. J. Weiser Carriage House (608 W. Broadway): Merton Iverson, 302 Winnebago, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 31) Joseph Steyer House (601 W. Broadway): Agnes Mott Estate, Decorah State Bank, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 32) George Becvar House (607 W. Broadway): George and Ellen Becvar, 607 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 33) Charles Weiser House (609 W. Broadway): David W. Rambo, 609 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.

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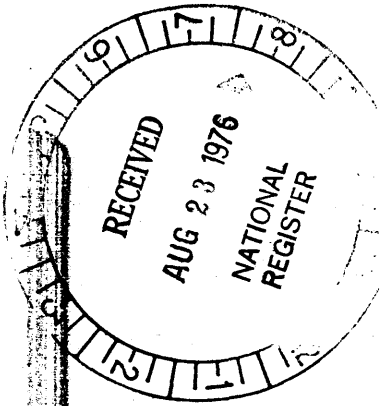
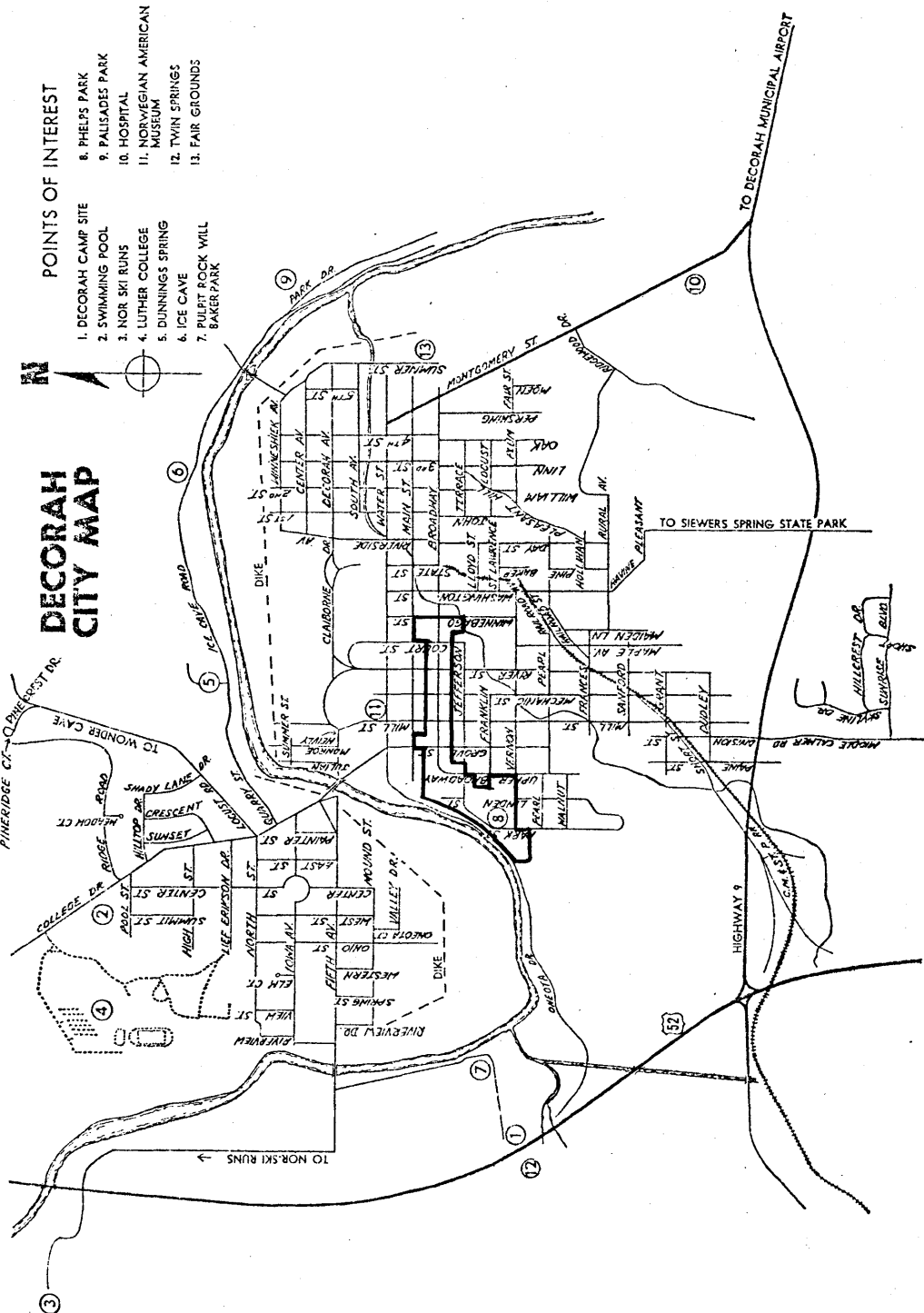
- ✓ 34) Relf House (700 W. Broadway): ~~Sadie~~ and Janice Relf, 702 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- cat* ✓ 35) Roy Relf House (702 W. Broadway): Sadie and Janice Relf, 702 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 36) William Ingvolstad House (704 W. Broadway): Darwin and Elizabeth Hacker, 704 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 37) George Holway House (706 W. Broadway): Joan and Patrick Purswell, 706 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 38) L. M. Moss House (301 Grove Street): ~~Robert~~ and Helen Gretchell, 301 Grove St., Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 39) Henry Paine House (301 Upper Broadway): Thomas Lynch, 301 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 40) Hjalmar Carlson House (303 Upper Broadway): Helen E. Carlson, 303 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 41) E. P. Johnson House (309 Upper Broadway): Estella Johnson, 309 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 42) Edward Hagen House (302 Upper Broadway): ~~Dr.~~ Edward F. Hagen, 302 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 43) Larsen House (306 Upper Broadway): Harold Larsen, 306 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 44) Ole A. Anderson House (308 Upper Broadway): Albert and Ruth Houts, 308 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 45) Severt Larson House (312 Upper Broadway): Anthony and Bernice Bowlus, 312 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 46) Martin Soukup House (401 Upper Broadway): Pearl A. Tofte, 401 Upper Broadway, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 47) Park House (801 Park Drive): City of Decorah, Decorah Park Commission, City Hall, Decorah, Iowa.
- repeat* ✓ 48) Phelps Park (bounded by Park Drive, Upper Broadway, and Vernon Streets): City of Decorah, City Hall, Decorah, Iowa.
- ✓ 49) George Schulze House (611 Park St.): Orlin and Patricia Mandsager, 611 Park Street, Decorah, Iowa.
- repeat* ✓ 50) Schulze Kiln (Phelps Park): City of Decorah, Decorah Park Commission, City Hall, Decorah, Iowa.

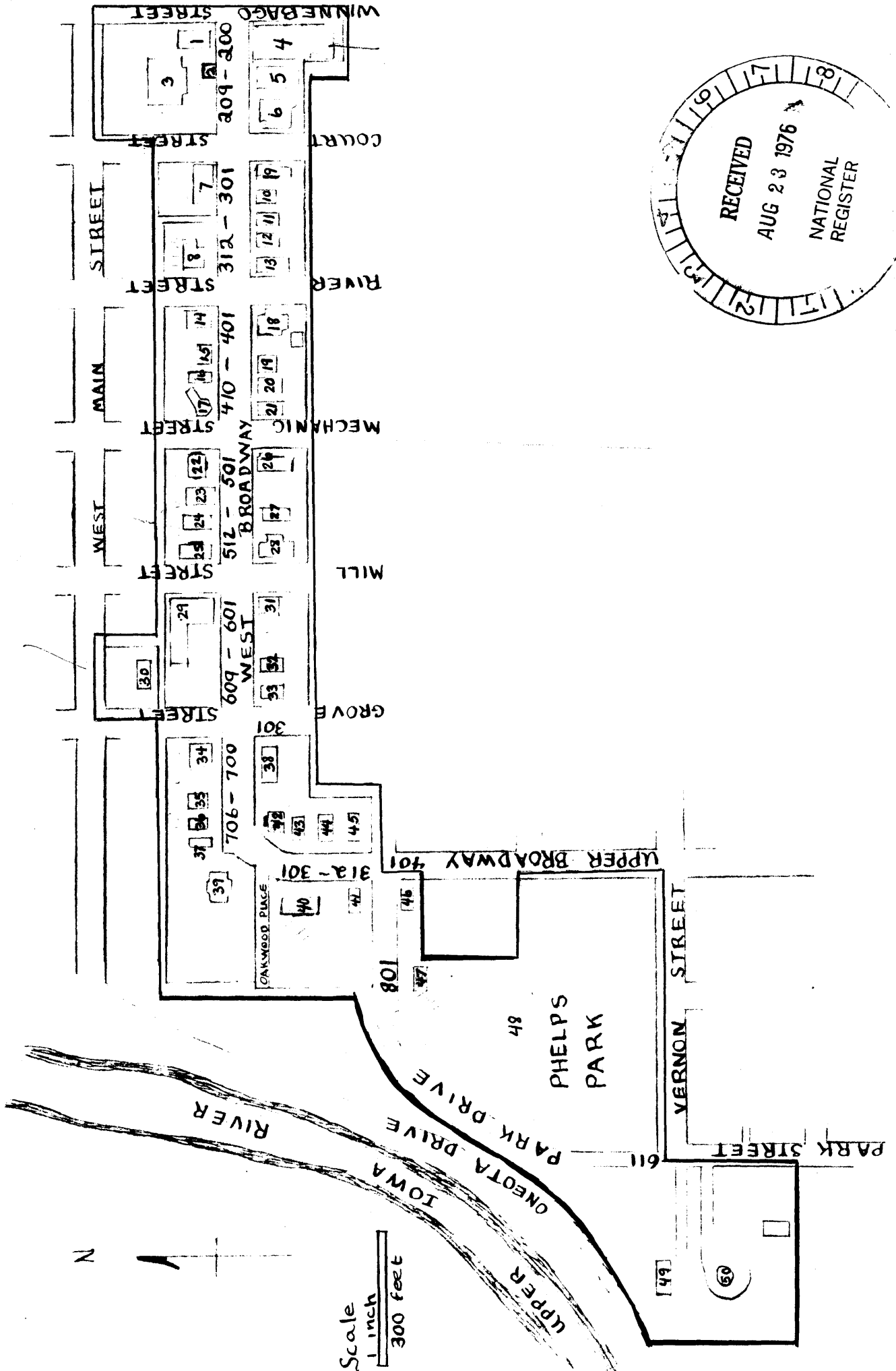
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# DECORAH CITY MAP

## POINTS OF INTEREST

1. DECORAH CAMP SITE
2. SWIMMING POOL
3. NOR SKI RUNS
4. LUTHER COLLEGE
5. DUNNINGS SPRING
6. ICE CAVE
7. PULPIT ROCK WILL BAKER PARK
8. PHELPS PARK
9. PALISADES PARK
10. HOSPITAL
11. NORWEGIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM
12. TWIN SPRINGS
13. FAIR GROUNDS





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Scale  
 1 inch  
 300 feet

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