

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 17 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1977

**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 Highwater Rock

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER in the Cedar River
135 yds. N of center line, 1st Ave.; 100 yds. W. of center line, 1st St. NE
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Cedar Rapids VICINITY OF Second CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Iowa CODE COUNTY Black Hawk CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Iowa, c/o State Conservation Commission

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Des Moines VICINITY OF STATE Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. none

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE "Windshield Survey", Iowa State Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 1974-75 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Cedar Rapids Public Library

CITY, TOWN Cedar Rapids STATE Iowa

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Highwater Rock is a large granite boulder, roughly pear-shaped, with the wider part being higher than the rest of the rock. It is approximately 8 feet long and 5 feet wide at its widest point. Height above the water level of the Cedar River varies from 3 to 4 feet in low water, to being completely covered in the spring. At least part of the rock is visible most of the time. The rock has not been altered. It is in the eastern half of the river, among the rapids, just below the construction site of a new, multipurpose bridge and dam structure. The builders of the dam have no plans for removing the rock or damaging in in any way.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1840's-1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Highwater Rock is a natural feature which served as an informal, but accurate, gauge for the depth of the Cedar River at Cedar Rapids from the 1840's to the close of steam navigation on the river in the mid-1860's, a period in which water was the most effective means of transportation to and from the interior of Iowa. The rock was first used around 1840 as a water gauge by the early settlers of Cedar Rapids. When the waters were low enough around the rock, people could cross among the rocks of the rapids in wagons and buggies, on a horse, or even on foot. Later, when a ferry service was established and toll bridges were built, people could determine whether the water was low enough to ford the river and thus avoid paying for the ferry or toll bridge. The ferry was the first step toward "progress" in Cedar Rapids, and when David W. King began its operation in 1848, he also used the rock to determine how much cargo he could carry on his ferry, or, indeed, whether he could run it at all. King, an enterprising businessman, ran the ferry until his death in 1854. During those years it served as a communications link between the east and west sides of town, extended trade west into Benton County, and perhaps encouraged the development of business in the city itself.

The opening of steam navigation on the Cedar River in the late 1840's was vital to the continuing development of Cedar Rapids and other river towns. Steamers shipped Iowa grain to the ports of St. Louis and New Orleans, and brought in merchandise from eastern manufacturers. The relatively swift and reliable services they offered encouraged a variety of industries and businesses to establish themselves in Cedar Rapids. Here, too, the Highwater Rock was important, for the depth of water around or over it was used by steamer pilots to determine whether they would be able to steam past the Rapids. If the rock was covered, they knew the river was high enough to continue their journey in relative safety.

By the mid-1860's, competition from the railroads had severely curtailed the profitable steamboat trade. In 1870 the U.S. Congress declared the Cedar River to be unnavigable above Cols. Junct. (well below Cedar Rapids), thus ending the importance of water transportation on the river, and the usefulness of the Highwater Rock.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewer, L.A. and B. Wick, History of Linn County, Iowa. Cedar Rapids: Torch Press, 1911, pp. 420-434.
History of Linn County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1878, pp. 500-01.
 Murray, Janette S. and F.G. Murray. The Story of Cedar Rapids. New York: Stratford House, 1950, pp. 32-33.
 Personal interviews, August, 1976, with John A. Kuba and Rod Kervin, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>15</u>	<u>110000</u>	<u>442000</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

135 yards north of the center line, 1st Avenue, and 100 yards west of the center line, 1st Street NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa (toward east bank of Cedar River)

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

Wayne Rust

ORGANIZATION

Boy Scouts of America

DATE

August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

320 Peace Ave. NW

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Cedar Rapids

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. Fulmer

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

2/11/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/17/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

11-16-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER