



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cundill Block  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 202 S. Main  not for publication  
city, town Maquoketa  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52060

3. Classification

|   |   |                                     |                    |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | _____                               | _____ sites        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | _____                               | _____ structures   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | _____                               | _____ objects      |
|   |   | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> Total     |

Name of related multiple property listing: Architectural & Historical Resources of Maquoketa, IA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 6/19/91  
Signature of certifying official Date  
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.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet. Beth Boland 8/9/91  
 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 the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL/Specialty Store

COMMERCIAL/Professional  
COMMERCIAL/Specialty Store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian  
Other: No Style

foundation Limestone  
walls Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other Cast Iron  
Metal Siding

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two story brick Cundill Block (1882) is located on the southwest corner of Main and Pleasant. It is the only building in the business district to feature a chamfered entrance. The primary facade is a double storefront facing Main, while the secondary facade is a long side wall, broken near the west end by a door and a single display window. At the rear (west end) is a single story addition (1895) with sky-light that was built specifically as a photography studio. This building is a straight forward, function commercial design that might best be described as vernacular Italianate. Decorative detailing is provided by brick patterning rather than applied elements such as cast hoodmolds, heavy metal cornice, and elaborate pediment. The upper level features segmental arched windows with simple brick hoodmolds, and a brick patterned cornice with panels and dentils. This type of brick work is found on a number of Maquoketa buildings from the 1880s and '90s. The first floor retains the original cast iron elements and glass transoms. A somewhat unusual feature is the use of round windows on the secondary (Pleasant Street) elevation. Windows similar to these are found on a building in the Albia Historic Commercial District (Monroe County, approximately 175 miles southwest of Maquoketa).

The alterations to this building are limited to the Main Street storefronts. The alterations include the application of vertical corrugated metal siding above the display windows at the transom level, and new windows which were installed on the outside of the iron columns (the columns are still visible from both the exterior and interior). The corner storefront has been altered on the interior with dropped ceilings and partitions creating small offices. The south storefront has an unaltered interior with original open spaces and pressed metal ceiling. This project has focused on exteriors, and little information was gathered on interiors.

It is interesting to note that there are few historic photographs of this building. Cundill had his studio and gallery here, and he often photographed from this building, providing many views of downtown Maquoketa, but he seldom pictured his own building.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

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Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1882  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1882  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cundill Block is significant under Criterion C because it is representative of the vernacular brick commercial buildings constructed in Maquoketa during the 1880s and '90s.

It is one of the best, relatively unaltered, examples of this popular type. While many buildings constructed between 1875 and 1890 featured metal cornices and Frear stone hoodmolds, a number stressed a simple design. Some, like the Cundill Block, have simple brick hoodmolds and a brick patterned cornice, while others, such as the New Era (Dobson) Building, have brick hoods with keystones. Iron storefronts were commonly used, and several, including this one, remain in place. No individual builder has been identified for all of the Maquoketa buildings with this simple decorative brick treatment, but it is quite possible that a single mason was responsible for all of these. The brick used for these buildings appears to be that locally produced in one of three brick yards. This building retains a high degree of integrity. The storefronts have had modern material applied on top, but have not been replaced by new material. All three levels of the building, storefront, upper fenestration, and cornice are intact, and Will Cundill would recognize his building immediately.

While brick blocks such as Cundill's might be of simple design, they were substantial buildings in the business district, and contributed to Maquoketa's image as a growing community. As commercial development along Main Street expanded southward, the Cundill Block was one of the first major brick buildings constructed south of Pleasant Street. "Will Cundill has let the contract for a two story brick building, 50' x 70', on the southwest corner of Main and Pleasant streets....J.P. Sylie will occupy the first floor and basement with groceries....The second floor is being finished especially for Will Cundill's photographic rooms." The fact that the young photographer was willing

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Maquoketa Excelsior, June 10, 1882, p.1, c.2.  
October 21, 1882, p.1, c.2.  
December 16, 1882, p.1, c.1.  
December 15, 1883, no page.  
October 18, 1897, p.2, c.3.  
August 16, 1901, p.6, c.1.  
August 23, 1901, p.5, c.1.

Jackson Sentinel, December 22, 1893.

Moyles, Bessie. "Takes Their Pictures Again After 50 Years," article from unidentified Maquoketa newspaper, 1939.

See continuation sheet

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A 

|      |         |   |   |          |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|----------|---|---|
| 15   | 6       | 9 | 3 | 1        | 1 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   | Northing |   |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

C 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

B 

|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|
|      |         |  |  |          |  |  |
| Zone | Easting |  |  | Northing |  |  |

D 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Shaw's Addition N 36' Lot 24 and E 28' of N 36' Lot 25, Blk 4.

City of Maquoketa

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

This is the area historically associated with this building.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
 organization Maquoketa Historic Preservation Comm. date May 1991  
 street & number City Hall, 201 S. Olive telephone (319) 652-2486  
 city or town Maquoketa state Iowa zip code 52060

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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to make the financial investment necessary to building a brick building of this size demonstrates the prosperity of the community. Cundill was not the only photographer in Maquoketa, but he appears to have been the major one, and the one who was in the business for the longest period of time. Cundill's photographs chronicle the growth of Maquoketa from 1882 on. His views of the downtown business district provide the best documentation of its development, as well as providing a visual record of the original appearance of most of the buildings which is quite helpful for preservation purposes.

In addition to capturing the town on film, Cundill was also known for his portraits. He was still working in 1939 when one of the local papers carried a long article about Cundill and his photography business. One of the things the article mentioned was "Mr. Cundill has a nice little custom that is probably unique in Iowa. When golden wedding celebrants come to the studio for a picture, he can sometimes find the wedding picture negative he made a half century ago, for he has kept thousands of his negatives. When he does, he prints a new wedding picture for them." Some of Cundill's negatives are in private collections, and some are in the State Historical Society Collection in Iowa City.

Cundill maintained his studio in this building throughout his lifetime, moving it downstairs around 1895 when he added the rear studio with sky-light. There have been a variety of occupants of the south storefront over the years, including groceries, an organ dealer, and the express office. Present occupants are a law firm in the north half, and a shoe repair in the south.