

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 28 1984
date entered SEP 27 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Women's Christian Temperance Union Public Fountain
and/or common W.C.T.U. Fountain

2. Location

street & number Clarinda and Sheridan Streets, not for publication
city, town Shenandoah vicinity of
state Iowa code 19 county Page code 145

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Public facility

4. Owner of Property

name City of Shenandoah
street & number City Hall
city, town Shenandoah vicinity of state Iowa 51601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office
street & number Page County Courthouse
city, town Clarinda state Iowa 51632

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

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

The Women's Christian Temperance Union public fountain appears to be a one of a kind commemorative object in the state. Its continued service and its prominent location in Shenandoah attest to an unusual local effort to visually symbolize the aims of that organization.

This 1912 memorial consists of a case iron square base (4' by 4') and pedestal which stands 7' tall. The cap and base are flared. A decorative raised banding with swag and wreath motif encircles the whole just below the cap. A dedicatory plaque on the east side below this band states "Dedicated In Memory of Mrs. H. S. Nichols, WCTU, 1912. For God And Home And Every Land." Matched bracketed fountains and basins for thirsty people project on the east and west sides of the column. A round fountain basin placed higher up on the north side met the needs of thirsty birds. A ground level fountain on the south side served thirsty pets. The bird fountain is specially treated, in that a lion's head spout throws the water to the basin below. The other fountains use vertical or angles water jets within the basin.

Above the pedistal a central iron column projects vertically to support a neon WCTU sign and electric street light post. Flower pot circular support rings flank the column below the sign. The present lamp is not original, being of more modern design.

The original fountain apparently lacked the sign and column, these having been added some ten years later. The original frosted glass electric light, possibly added when the sign was changed, was replaced at some unknown time by the present light. A "No U-Turn" sign for many years also graced the vertical post below the rectangular sign but is now removed. Several cracks in the base are visible on the south side. The fountain was recently painted with aluminum paint.

The fountain occupies the busiest corner in Shenandoah, and stands at the corner of what is termed the flatiron building, a diagonal intersection of Clarinda and Sheridan Streets. Clarinda runs southwest and northeast, Sheridan east and west. The flatiron building because of its triangular lot, has a cut corner end. Historically, buildings in the area were commercial, and included a major hotel, and the post office. The fountain is accompanied on its corner by a street traffic light base and a mailbox.

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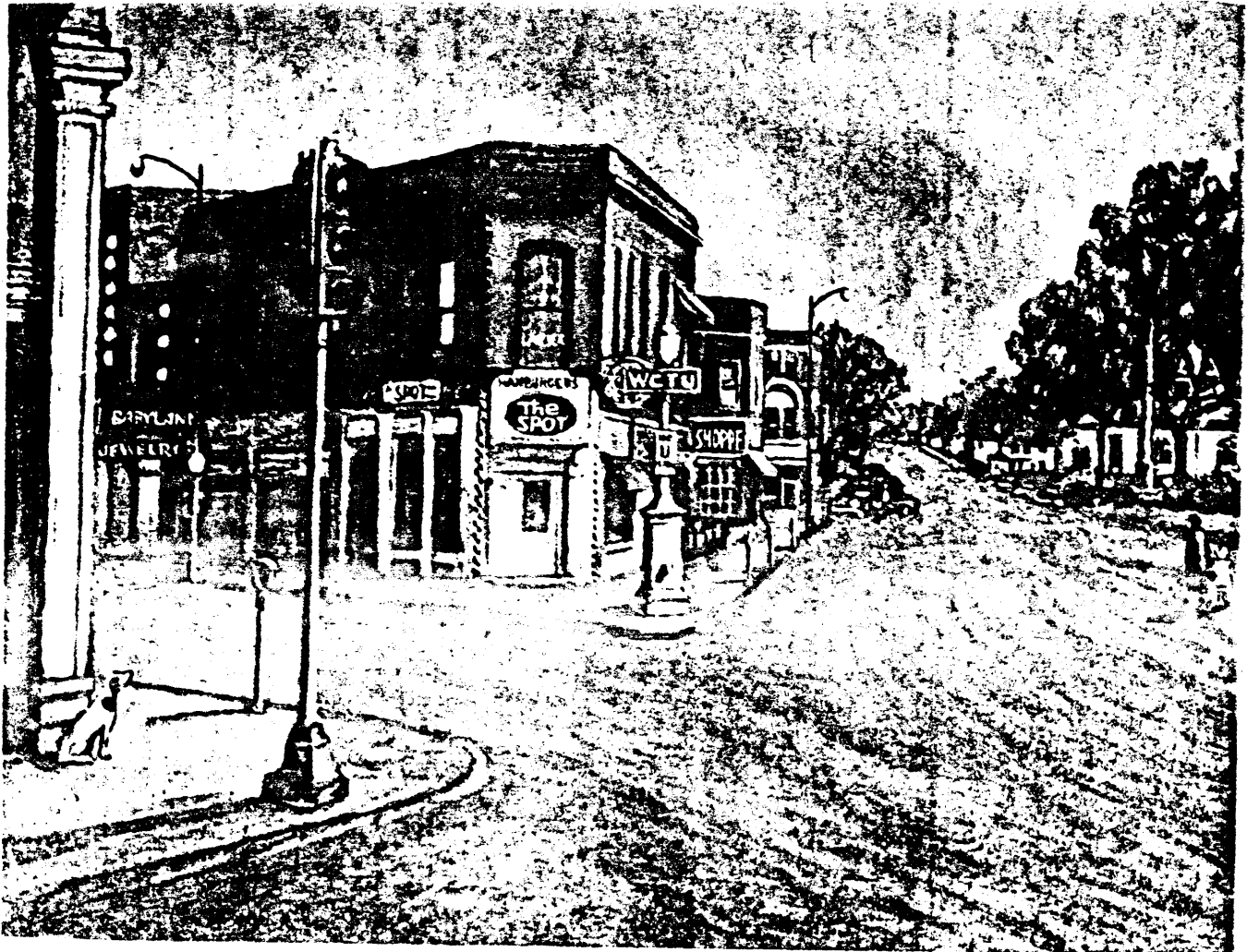
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Continuation sheet

Physical Description

Item number 7

Page 2



Painting of WCTU Public Fountain, as it appeared in the Des Moines Register on 7 June 1953.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Women's Christian Temperance Union public fountain appears to be a one of a kind commemorative object. Its continued service and its prominent location in Shenandoah attest to an unusual local effort to visually symbolize the aims of that organization.

The WCTU fountain honored one of their local leaders, Mrs. Lavina Nichols (1841-1908), the local founder of the Shenandoah WCTU chapter, and wife of former mayor H. S. Nichols (1833-1916). Dedicated in 1912, the monument cost \$500. Dedicatory ceremonies for this first town public fountain included remarks by then mayor M. M. McGlone, Mrs. Pearl Priest, Mrs. J. P. Nye, Mrs. E. S. Welch, and Mrs. Earl May.

The fountain in addition to honoring Mrs. Nichols offered a drink of water in lieu of alcoholic alternatives, the latter being more often than not readily available within close proximity to the fountain. The offer of water was generously extended to both people and other creatures of the land and air.

The local WCTU chapter peaked in strength in 1901, having some two hundred members at that time. Then decline in numbers began with their successful achievement of nation-wide prohibition in 1920. The local organization dissolved in August 1973 due to a lack of members.

The fountain has for many years shared its corner with a local tavern. The fountain was featured in a color painting by George Shane in the Des Moines Sunday Register in 1953 (June 7).

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Fishbaugh, C. W. "Shenandoah historian recalls WCTU's activities," Shenandoah Evening Sentinel, 19 October 1983.
- Osterholm, Richard. "Shenandoah Drys' Fount Quenches Thirts 50 Years," Omaha Herald, May __, 1962.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Shenandoah East Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	9	9	8	0	0	4	5	1	5	2	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beg. at a point 10' West of N.W. corner of Lot 6 of the Subdivision of Lots 496 to 504 inclusive, of Crippens Addition to Shenandoah, thence West 10' along a production of North line of said Lot 6, thence Southeast 80', thence North 55' to north line of said Lot 6, thence west to place of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 22 August 1984

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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 H. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 23 August 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

date 9-27-84

James M. Sammons
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration