

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 21 1976

DATE ENTERED 10/7 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 * * Bloomfield Square

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

bordered by Franklin, Madison, Jefferson and Washington Sts NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield

___ VICINITY OF

Fourth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Davis

CODE

051

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Center of Square: Davis County; also multiple owners (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Davis County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Square

CITY, TOWN

Bloomfield

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey by Ellis, Allen and Selman

DATE

1843

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Davis County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*Southwest District
separately in NR - lives in*

Bloomfield Square consists of a central park, courthouse, and 55 commercial structures which face the square on four sides. The park area of green space is 300 feet square, with the courthouse at the center. It is bordered by Jefferson (north), Washington (east), Franklin (south) and Madison (west) Streets. Although not unique in its overall town plan, Bloomfield's Square is an especially good example of how man-made materials and designs are arranged to interrelate in a large area of well-defined space. Visible for miles around the clock tower and roof cresting of the Bedford stone Second Empire courthouse draw the viewer to the center of this vital county seat. And once at the center, one can appreciate immediately the complementary interaction of the low profile structures surrounding the platform of this remarkable building.

The streets forming the perimeter of Bloomfield Square hold the majority of business firms in Davis County. Few of these human-scale commercial buildings actually serve in their original capacity; however, each demonstrates essential characteristics of 19th-century commercial architecture relating to scale, material and ornamentation. Although the facades and entryways of many of the buildings have been modernized and in some cases obscured, several still show the historic recessed doorways, cast iron supports and, in some cases, canvas awnings. The majority of the buildings on the square are brick. No early (pre-1870) frame buildings remain. On the south side, post-1890 metal fronts are introduced. Due to the time span (1850's to 1890's) in which all of the structures were built, no one architectural style dominates. In fact, elements of the Greek Revival or Federal Styles, the Italianate and Victorian vernacular (or Queen Anne) can be seen. Mail order facades and window hoods are many. And the hand of the master-builder-mason is felt. While the interiors of many of the buildings have been renovated to suit present-day uses, many, too, retain their original tin ceilings, wooden floors, counters, cabinets, ceiling fans, etc.

The intrusions in this district are few. A gas station at Jefferson and Washington (38 on the map) and warehouse complex at Franklin and Washington (103 and 104) are the most obviously atypical structures. The only other intrusion is a 1-story brick building (32-34) built in the 1940's, which is quite devoid of ornamentation or character.

The "showpiece" of the square (besides the courthouse) is a group of structures on Franklin Street. This entire block (90-100) burned in 1893 and was rebuilt the same year. Extensive use of pressed tin characterizes this block, as do the many engaged columns on the second floor level. Buildings 93-97, however, merit particular attention, because the storefronts retain their original character to an impressive degree. Much of the original glass remains, and the relatively small signs preserve the turn-of-the-century flavor.

Another group of buildings, not contiguous, decidedly show the hand of the same brick-mason (21, 29-31, 49, 53-55). The hallmarks of his style are the semicircular arched windows (the arch often filled in), brick hoodmolds, and a sophisticated use of brick in corbelled cornices and decorative detail. #29-31 is a triple-store block which also features recessed panels of brick below the cornice. The first floor of #29 is happily unaltered: the semicircular arch motif is repeated over the windows and entrance. #49 also features blind arcading. #53-55, another triple-store block, has a cornice lacking the elaborateness of other structures in this group, but retains the window shape and hoodmolds. Additional decorative elements are brackets in triplets and carefully centered star bolts indicating tie rods.

(see continuation sheet)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input 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 1850's to 1890's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Much of Bloomfield Square's significance derives from the continuity of its architecture and the fact that so much of its Victorian flavor remains. Although there is a certain unevenness in the quality, the district as a whole presents an harmonious and attractive grouping of late 19th-century commercial styles, which reflect the tastes of a small, mid-western city during the period of transition from log and wood structures to substantial and decorative brick buildings. They also form a most suitable backdrop for the centrally-located courthouse. Taken together, the courthouse, green space and surrounding commercial structures are supremely typical of 19th-century mid-American town planning, but atypical in the extent to which the late-Victorian character of the district has been preserved.

A number of buildings on Bloomfield Square are noteworthy from a local historical perspective. Most important is the Exchange Bank Building/I.O.O.F. Hall (#35), thought to have been built in the 1850's. One of the first occupants of this building was the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1868, the first official Rebekah lodge (women's auxiliary) was organized here by special petition. The Exchange Bank itself did not move into the building until 1871, after the west "half" was completed in 1870. The variety store at 101 E. Jefferson (#23) was originally J.R. Shaeffer's Jewelry Store. Shaeffer's son was the founder of the Shaeffer Pen Company. #44-46, built in 1881, was the Trimble House, a hotel owned by J.H. Trimble, a local magistrate who ran unsuccessfully for various state offices during the 1860's and 1870's. The upper floor of #52 was for many years Bloomfield's Opera House. #69-71 began as #70 and 71, in 1853, built for a store and private residence. It became the American Hotel in 1856-57. An addition (#69) was constructed in 1857. The hotel has gone under various names, including New Commercial, Wishard, Gandy and, today, Grant.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Davis County, Des Moines; State Historical Co., 1882.
 Beautiful Bloomfield, 1914, Bloomfield: Thos. P. Barnes.
 Davis County. Bloomfield: The Bloomfield Democrat, 1897.
 A Pioneer History of Davis County. Compiled and published by the Federated Women's Clubs of Davis County, 1924-1927.
 Various records, Davis County Courthouse.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	549500	4511150	B	15	549500	45111050
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	15	549375	4511050	D	15	549375	4511150
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A square bounded by Jefferson (north), Washington (east), Madison (west) and Franklin (south) Streets.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lillian Haufe, Davis County Liaison Officer

ORGANIZATION

Davis County Historical Society

DATE

January, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

413 No. Columbia Street

TELEPHONE

515/664-2736

CITY OR TOWN

Bloomfield,

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 A. Anderson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 16. IX. 76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

acting
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/9/96

ATTEST:
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/2/76

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Bloomfield Square, Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

Included in this list of structures on Bloomfield Square are brief items pertaining to the various uses the buildings have seen over their history. The numbers assigned to the buildings correspond with those printed on the map of the square.

15. 108½ W. Jefferson (ca. 1875)
Owner: A.D. Clouse
1905 S.S. Cruthers' law and real estate offices
16. 108 W. Jefferson (ca. 1875)
Owner: William Speer. Once called the Rominger Bros. building; has housed a creamery and post office, now an appliance store.
- 17-21. 102 W. Jefferson (ca. 1870)
Owner: Chauncey Francis and Audie Redmond.
23. 101 E. Jefferson (before 1882)
Owner: Russell Boley. Originally site of Shaeffer Jewelry Store, which later moved, with a dentist's office above.
24. 102 E. Jefferson (before 1882)
Owner: Dr. Richard Conn. Has been a grocery store, now a hardware store.
25. 103 E. Jefferson (before 1882)
Owner: Pirtle's Dry Goods
26. 104 E. Jefferson (before 1870)
Owner: Hutching's Plumbing and Heating
- 27-28. 105-106 W. Jefferson (between 1870 and 1882)
Owner: Audie Redmond
29. 107 E. Jefferson (before 1870)
Owner: Edward Burchett. Once was a hatchery.
30. 108 E. Jefferson (before 1870)
Owner: Barton Carey. Successively a tin shop, newspaper office, men's and women's clothing stores.
31. 109 E. Jefferson (before 1870)
Owner: Mrs. Otto Bowling
- 32-34. 112 E. Jefferson (1940's, replacing two frame structures)
Owner: Ruth Henderson

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35. I.O.O.F. Hall and Exchange Bank Building (west ½ b. 1870, east ½ before 1870)
114 E. Jefferson
Owner: Edward Burchette
44. 101 S. Madison (1881)
Owner: Dr. Richard Conn
This, plus #45-46, were originally one building, the Trimble House hotel. This section in 1889 was converted to the State Bank. A cigar factory occupied the second floor at one time.
45. 102 S. Madison (1881)
Owner: P.M. Place Co.
46. 103 S. Madison (1881)
Owner: Scott Wagler. Has been a furniture store for 50 years.
47. 104 S. Madison (1846)
Owner: Vic Miller's Clothing. Has always been a men's clothing store.
48. 105 S. Madison (before 1882)
Owner: Wanda Knupp. In 1905, Henry Wishard had a shoe store here, then converted it into a showroom for autos and buggies.
49. 106 S. Madison (before 1900)
Owner: Robert Morlan. Has housed a series of jewelry stores since construction.
50. 107 S. Madison (1882)
Owner: Helen Hockersmith.
Built by a man named Gibbons and Franklin Lodge #14, A.F.Y.A.M. Originally three stories high, the third floor burned in 1917.
51. 108-9 S. Madison (1874)
Owner: R.C. Hockersmith. Replaced structure built 1857. Front remodeled 1940's. From 1899 to 1960, occupied by the Davis County Savings Bank, now an insurance office with an optometrist above.
52. 110-111 S. Madison (before 1900)
Owner: Charles Scott.
The second floor once housed the Bloomfield Opera House, which became the Masonic Hall in 1917.

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- 53. 111 S. Madison (1877)
Owner: Mona McMains.

 - 54. 112 S. Madison (1877)
Owner: A. Nardini

 - 55. 114 S. Madison (before 1869)
Owner: Lyle Augspurger. Originally a grocery store with a saloon in the basement.

 - 57. Davis County Courthouse (1877). Entered in the National Register, May 1974.

 - 58. 101 S. Washington (before 1900)
Owner: Dean Herbert

 - 59. 102 S. Washington (before 1900, recently remodeled)
Owner: Vera McMains.

 - 60. 103 S. Washington (1869)
Owner: H.V. Curl.

 - 61. 104 S. Madison (1869)
Owner: Ford Leon.

 - 62. 105 S. Washington (date unknown)
Owner: Ray Phillis.

 - 63. 106 S. Washington (before 1900)
Owner: Mona McMains

 - 64. 107 S. Washington (early 1900's)
Owner: June Anderson

 - 65. 108 S. Washington (date unknown)
Owner: Willis Kratzner.

 - 66-67. 109-110 S. Washington (date unknown)
Owner: James Reyes.

 - 68. 111 S. Washington (ca. 1845)
Owner: Edward Burchette. In 1905 housed the Duckworth Bakery and Ice Cream Parlor.

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69. 112 S. Washington (1857)
Owner: Walt Harter. Originally built to accommodate the dining room of the hotel (#70-71).
- 70-71. 113-4 S. Washington (1853)
Owner: Foster Grant. First built as a store and private residence. Enlarged with the construction of #69 by James Cobb and converted to a hotel.
- 86-89. 202 S. Madison (1893)
Owner: Edward Burchette.
90. 101 E. Franklin (1899)
Owner: Howard Yanke. Built to house the National Bank of Bloomfield; later government offices. Now a gift shop.
91. 102 E. Franklin (1892)
Owner: Gwen Hawk. Once housed the Western Union Office.
92. 103 E. Franklin (before 1892)
Owner: Lorraine Lofgren.
93. 104 E. Franklin (1893)
Owner: D.W. Harris
94. 105 E. Franklin (1893)
Owner: John Latimer/Vera Latimer. Once two buildings, enlarged to present form 1925.
- 95-96. 106-7 E. Franklin (1893)
Owner: Clell Norton. Originally known as the Hill Building, because occupied by the Hill Bros. Dry Goods store at time of construction.
97. 108 E. Franklin (1893)
Owner: Bruce Bogle.
98. 109 E. Franklin (1893)
Owner: June Anderson. Until 1973, second floor used by the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star.
- 99-100. 111-112 E. Franklin (1893)
Owner: Larry Hopkins. In the early 1900's, Knights of Pythias occupied the second floor. In 1903, a nickelodeon was located on the first floor, and later called the Majestic Theater. Now Sears Store and Real Estate office.

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Bloomfield Square, Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

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Several other buildings on the square show individuality in their facades. #16-17 was originally a double store, with a narrow doorway in the center which provided access to the upper floor on both sides. The left side, however, has been altered. #27-28 is interesting for its use of cast iron engaged columns and elaborate pressed tin "component" system of the second floor, with two bay windows, pilasters, and original tiny-paned windows. #35, the Exchange Bank building, retains all of the original front (except for the lowering of the doorframe). It is marked by tall, semicircular arched windows which show a rather elegant way of handling the curved head.

#47 bears a particularly elaborate cornice of glazed brick, rounded window heads and keystones in the hoodmolds. Beside it, #48 features brick pilasters, keystones in oxbow-shaped hoodmolds and interesting patterns of light brick below the detailed cornice. The shop sign fails to cover keystones at the first floor level, suggesting that original hoodmolds on windows here are still extant behind the signs. #86, the Traverse Block, is similar to #27-28 in its extensive use of pressed tin components. This building features brackets, modillions and engaged columns which are also found in #98.

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Bloomfield Square, Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

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#10, Revision of Verbal Boundary Description

The rear property line of structures facing south in the 100 block of East Jefferson Street; the rear property line of structures facing east in the 100 block of South Madison Street; the rear property line of structures facing west in the 100 block of South Washington Street; the rear property line of structures facing north in the 100 block of East Franklin Street; also, the rear and west property lines of structures from 102 to 108½ West Jefferson Street; and the rear and south property lines of structures at 202 South Madison Street.