

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 14 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Oskaloosa City Park and Band Stand

and/or common

2. Location

street & number City Park _____ not for publication

city, town Oskaloosa _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Mahaska code 123

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Oskaloosa Park Board

street & number City Hall

city, town Oskaloosa _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52577

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Mahaska County Court House

city, town Oskaloosa _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52577

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

CITY PARK

The park measures 256½'x256½' and comprises the public square established in the original plat of Oskaloosa in 1844. Major landscaping was undertaken in the 1860s, in 1911 and 1970/71. Today the park has a collection of 1 coniferous and 46 deciduous trees. Seventeen trees have girths exceeding 50" (the largest being 91") and provide overstory tree canopy. An understory tree canopy was planted in 1970/71. There are a few deciduous shrubs. Dutch elm disease wrecked havoc in the 1960s. Appearances belie this today as a variety of species insured against wholesale loss. Trees are about evenly distributed throughout the park. The ground is entirely level throughout the park and surrounding business district.

In 1911 the city undertook a major improvement of the park. Concrete sidewalks and curbs were laid cross- and diagonal wise. Other improvements in the City Park include: Spanish-American War torpedo (c 1900); Chief Mahaska sculpture by Fry (1909); Gold Star Mothers' rose bed (c 1920); Women's Relief Corps memorial (1920); and other public commemorations.

BAND STAND

This structure replaced in 1912 a frame band stand. The present stand is situated at the center of City Park and provides an important visual focus: in winter as dominant feature in the park; in summer as terminus of vista along each of the eight cross- and diagonal sidewalks.

The band stand is octagonal, measures horizontally 24' side center to side center, stands 29' high, and is of concrete, iron & steel construction.

NEIGHBORHOOD

The City Park defines the central business district which surrounds it. 2-story, commercial buildings in a mixture of styles & materials predominate with the exception of one 3-story commercial building & the Mahaska County Courthouse and clock tower. Highway 63 abuts the west side of the City Park.

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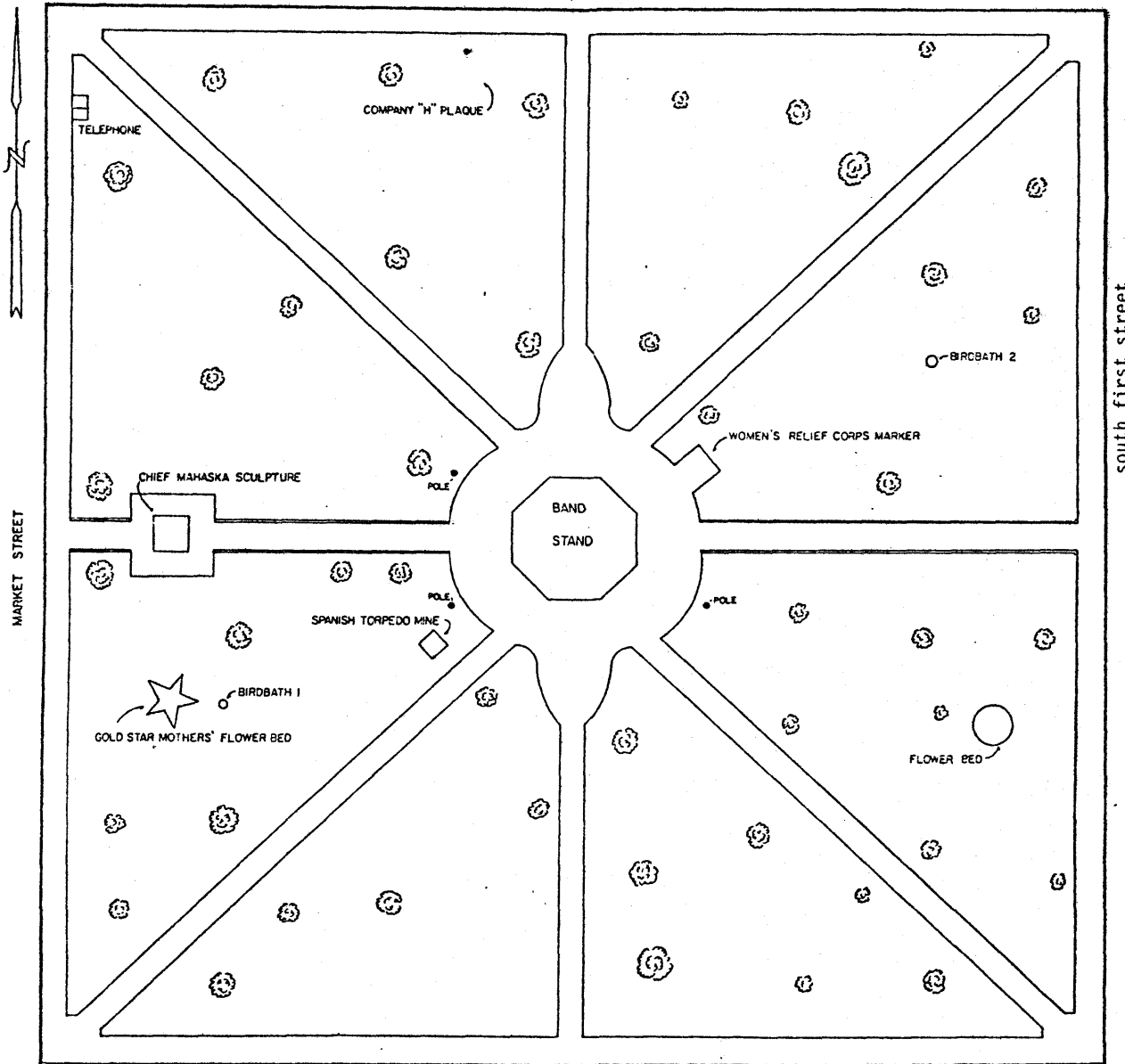
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HIGH AVENUE



South first street

MARKET STREET

FIRST AVENUE

CITY PARK & BAND STAND
OSKALOOSA, IOWA

SCALE • 0 5 10 20 FEET

A.T
MAY, 1983

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For locations refer to diagram of City Park

SPANISH TORPEDO MINE (circa 1900)

This souvenir of the Spanish-American War rests on a two level stone plinth measuring respectively 42"x42" and 60"x60". A metal plaque reads:

This Spanish Torpedo mine was taken out of the Harbor of Guantanamo in 1899 by Lieut. Commander Frank F. Fletcher, U.S. Navy,--presented to the city of his birth as a souvenir of the Spanish-American War. It is supposed to be of the same pattern as one which destroyed the Battleship Maine. Torpedo is in position as when loaded and placed in the water.

"Admiral Frank F. Fletcher was born in Oskaloosa, November 23, 1855. He graduate from Naval Academy at Annapolis with honors in June 1875. He held various commands, on land and sea, and became highly respected among his colleagues. He was made Rear Admiral commanding the United States Atlantic Fleet with supreme command of Mexican waters.

"He died at the age of 73 in New York City, November 29, 1928. The University of Virginia Library has all of his diary and manuscripts of his writings, as well as copies of his many successful inventions used by the U.S. Navy.

"On May 4, 1942 a new Navy Destroyer was officially launched at Kearny, N.J.--the Federal shipbuilding docks on the Hackensack River. The name of the destroyer was called the 'U.S.S. Fletcher' in his honor. He won his first great sea victory during the struggle with Spain over Mexico in 1914."

Clark, Mrs Stillman T; "A Century of Marked and Dedicated Memorials in Mahaska County;" Mahaska County Historical Society; 1975; pp 1-2.

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CHIEF MAHASKA SCULPTURE

(Unveiled 12 May 1909)

The statue faces west. The statue stands on a stone column which displays four plaques reading:

- (West) "Mahaska"
- (South) "Mahaska for whom Mahaska County was named was a Chief of the Ioway tribe of Indians. He lived at peace with the white man and was slain by an Indian in 1834 at the age of 50 years in what is known as Cass County, Iowa."
- (East) "Presented to the City of Oskaloosa by James DePew Edmundson in memory of his father William Edmundson who settled in Iowa in 1836 and was Sheriff under appointment by the Territorial Legislature which had charge of organizing Mahaska County, which was completed on the 13th day of May 1844."
- (North) "The Ioways, a powerful tribe of Indians for which the State of Iowa was named, at one time inhabited the southern portion of the Territory which now constitutes the State of Iowa which includes in its boundaries the County of Mahaska."

"This bronze statue is a composite of an Ioway Indian--which the local citizens quickly named 'Chief Mahaska.' It was the work of young artist Sherry Fry, from Creston, Iowa, who had won international fame in both Paris and Rome, for this bronze design of an American Indian. Young Fry was a protege of James Edmundson of Des Moines, who commissioned him to create a duplicate statue, some 7 ft. high, to be shipped to Oskaloosa as a memorial gift to honor his father.

"The Dedication Ceremonies took place May 12, 1909 with the State and local chapters of the Approved Order of Red Men in charge of the celebration. It was a gala event--schools dismissed for the day and people in wagons, on horseback and some, even, in cars came by the hundreds. The speaker of the day was Major John F. Lacey. Major S.H.M. Byers, author of the official Iowa Song, wrote a poem and delivered it, called 'Mahaska,' and Mrs. Semira Ann Phillips, the first school teacher in the county, was selected to unveil the statue."

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CHIEF MAHASKA SCULPTURE (continued)

"Many people today dislike the green discoloration or patina which has formed on this bronze statue. Dwight Kirsch, Des Moines artist and once head of the Des Moines Art Center who painted the mural in the Mahaska State Bank, warned "let nature thake its course," and to make no attempt to clean this beautiful sculpture. He reminded Oskaloosans that the bronze Statue of Liberty is now a pea green and known the world over for its beauty."

Clark, Mrs Stillman T; op cit; p 2.

"Statue Unveiled to Chief Mahaska/Twenty-thousand People Take Part in Great Event;" Weekly Saturday Herald (Oskaloosa); 15 May 1909; p 3 c 3-6.

"An Iowa Statue and Its Story/Statue of Chief Mahaska;" Register and Leader (Des Moines); 11 October 1908.

Unveiling of Chief Mahaska Statue; Register and Leader (Des Moines); 12 May 1909.

Improvements of 1909/Chief Mahaska Statue; Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 26 February 1910; Part 1, p 1.

Nota Bene: In 1909 the City of Oskaloosa also installed street lighting in the business section of the city. "Special electroliers at the front of every business house and maintained at private expense." Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 26 February 1910; Part 1, p 1 (Progress Issue).

CEMENT WALL (*NON-EXTANT*); LIGHT FIXTURES (*NON-EXTANT*); SIDEWALK EXPANSION PROJECT (1911)

"THE PARK

"Possibly nothing done by the city in years has attracted the attention nor won the complimentary expression than has attend-

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"this season. Improvement and construction, new lighting, etc., for the city park will represent an expenditure of upwards ten thousand dollars. The first great park improvement was the erection of a cement wall of reinforced cement along the sides of the park with the openings at the corners and at the center of the sides. This wall has a ten inch cap that serves as a seat. Sidewalks bordering the park were widened and increased the usefulness of the improvement. Twelve 'Corinthian Standards,' each bearing five lights, were installed along the sides of the park. Lawns have been carefully graded and reseeded and new trees have been set out. The oldtime eight-foot diagonal walks of tile have been replaced with a twelve-foot elevated curb walk of rough finish cement. The center of the park will be ornamented by the best and most practical as well as the most handsome band stands in the land. The new stand is of steel and concrete construction, plans for which were drawn by F. E. Wetherell, of Des Moines, after suggestions made by Charles L. Barnhouse, of this city. The band stand is constructed by subscription on the part of public spirited citizens and is alone an improvement that will be worth almost five thousand dollars."

The Oskaloosa Herald; 24 February 1912; p 18 c 2 (Progress Issue reviewing the year 1911).

BAND STAND; BALDAUF MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN (*NON-EXTANT*). (1912)

"Oskaloosa's City Park was completed and beautified by the erection of the Barnhouse band stand a handsome structure of steel and concrete, the installation of the Baldauf memorial fountain of marble, the laying of new walks and almost innumerable changes adding to its beauty and general attractiveness."

The Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 22 February 1913; p 11 c 3 (Progress Issue reviewing the year 1912).

The Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 22 February 1913; p 10 c 2-3. Two photographs of the band stand the Baldauf drinking fountain.

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GOLD STAR MOTHERS' FLOWER BED (circa 1920)

"The story of this W.W. I Memorial is little known. It was a gift to the City Park by mothers of W.W. I who had lost one or more sons in that war. These mothers belonged to the first women's patriotic organization in Mahaska County called 'Sammies Mother's Club' (1917). This group was later incorporated into the National Service Star Legion. For many years these mothers tended and kept yellow roses growing in this flower bed, but when they could no longer do the garden work, the City Park Board took over their work."

Clark, Mrs Stillman; op cit; p 2.

A five-pointed star forms the border for this rose bed. The star is constructed of cement. The Women's Relief Corps, a patriotic organization, was founded in Oskaloosa during the Civil War in reference to a statement above.

WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS (GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC) BRONZE TABLET AND GRANITE MARKER (1920)

The tablet reads:

Dedicated to memory of our Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I soldiers, sailors, marines and aviators.

"The Women's Relief Corps was the Women's Auxiliary of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) of the Phil Kearney Post during the Civil War.

"This beautiful memorial was dedicated August 29, 1920 to the memory of the deceased soldiers, and sailors of all wars and even to some of the first W.W. I boys of our community who had lost their lives in a 'war to end all wars.' The background of this tablet rests against a granite piece from the St. Cloud Minnesota quarries."

Clark, Mrs Stillman; op cit; p 3.

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COMPANY "H" PLAQUE AND MARKER (1972)

A bronze marker reads:

In Memory Company H 168th Infantry, Rainbow 42nd Division

"Unfortunately for both the Rainbow Division memorial and Chief Mahaska, (the marker) has been placed in a very poor location. It almost appears that the Rainbow Division donated the statue of Chief Mahaska!

"National, state, and local officers of the Rainbow Division, so called by General MacArthur, were at the dedication ceremonies on October 29, 1972.

"Much has been written about the battles and triumphs of this famous division over in Germany and France during W.W. I. After two years of service overseas they returned home to one of the largest community welcome home celebrations this county has known."

Clark, Mrs Stillman; op cit; p 3.

This bronze marker and stone have now been moved to the north side of the City Park in correction of the problem mentioned above.

CEMENT BIRD BATH (circa ?)

No information.

CEMENT BIRD BATH (circa ?)

No information. This piece of street furniture has a scalloped bowl.

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 checked="" 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 First Qtr. 20th C **Builder/Architect** Frank E. Wetherell, Arch (Band Stand)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oskaloosa City Park & Band Stand call thematic attention to music. The magazine Fortune noted in 1938 that "in Oskaloosa a good deal of time is spent on music."[#] Indeed, vocal music has a long tradition in Mahaska County, due especially to the Welsh who came to mine coal and brought along their eisteddfod festivals. The Oskaloosa Opera House, site of such concerts, is non-extant.

Band and instrumental music in Oskaloosa have gained wide attention. Frederic Knight Logan, composer ("Pale Moon," "The Missouri Waltz," "Valse Chopinesque"); Thurlow Lieurance, composer ("By the Waters of Minnetonka"); C L Barnhouse, music publisher--this list indicates some Oskaloosans prominent in popular music in the first quarter of the 20th century. In the 1930s, the C L Barnhouse Company of Oskaloosa was reputedly the "second largest publishing house of band and orchestra music in America."* The firm continues publishing music in Oskaloosa today, Japan being their biggest customer.

Frank E Wetherell (1869-1961) AIA of Des Moines designed the Band Stand in 1911 with suggestions by C L Barnhouse. Wetherell was an architect of state importance. He designed courthouses at Sigourney & Leon; YMCAs at Mt Pleasant, Oskaloosa & Marshalltown; Merchants Transfer warehouse (now Younkers) in Des Moines. Later in his career, he provided impetus for the Des Moines River improvement projects & planning Keosauqua Way in the capital city.

Wetherell was reared in Oskaloosa. He designed the city's public library, YMCA (non-extant), an Episcopal church & dozens of private residences.

The Band Stand was constructed in 1912. The design can best be termed early 20th century eclectic as it blends three seemingly opposing styles into a unified whole. The Craftsman movement is seen in the heavy concrete base with its tile mosaic panels. The central portion, with delicate iron pillars, curvilinear brackets & railing, reflects the popularity of the Art Nouveau style. The bell-cast dome is neo-classical.

Mention must be made of the Chief Mahaska sculpture by Fry in the City Park. Sherry E Fry was a native of Creston, IA. He created the statue (and a sensation) in Paris in 1907. It won recognition in the Paris salons of 1907 & 1908 and invitations for the artist to join the International Society of Men of Arts & Letters and the National Sculptors' Society of New York. The bronze statue was cast in Paris and unveiled in Oskaloosa in 1909 to 20,000 spectators.

To sum up information from this and the foregoing page: The City Park and Band Stand have evolved as an historic unit. They tie spatially Oskaloosa's central business district together. The Band Stand is the best public building/structure to call attention to the community's musical heritage. This structure is distinguished from other Iowa band stands by the early use of durable materials like concrete, iron and steel (how ubiquitous was wood!) and by the design of a prominent architect.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheets 9:2-3

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Oskaloosa

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

15	52	9	81	0	4	5	71	3	50
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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Public Square, Original Plat of City of Oskaloosa, bounded by First Ave. (south side), Market Street (west side), High Avenue (north side) and South First Street (east side).

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Page, SIEDA Area XV Regional Planning Commission

organization for Iowa SHPO

date 1 June 1983

street & number Historical Building
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 A. Anderson

title Exec. Director Iowa State Historical Department

date 6/3/83

For NPS use only

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

Beth Crovina
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/28/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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P R I M A R Y

- (Des Moines) Register and Leader; 11 October 1908; "An Iowa Statue and Its Story/Statue of Chief Mahaska."
(Des Moines) Register and Leader; 12 May 1909; Unveiling of Statue.
(Oskaloosa) Weekly Saturday Herald; 15 May 1909; p 3 c 3-6; Statue Unveiled to Chief Mahaska."
The Midwestern; June 1909; pp 38- 42; "Presentation of a Statue to Mahaska County."
Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 26 February 1910; Progress Issue reviewing the year 1909; Part 1, p 1.
The Oskaloosa Herald; 24 February 1912; Progress Issue reviewing the year 1911; p 18 c 2; "The Park." Discusses 1911 improvements.
The Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 22 February 1913; Progress Issue reviewing the year 1912; p 10 c 2-3. Discusses band stand construction.
Iowa Journal of History and Politics; Vol XIV (July 1916); p 474; Oskaloosa city council gives permission to Council Bluffs to build replica of Chief Mahaska statue.

- "City of Oskaloosa/Plan Showing Public Square Improvements;" E F Bridges, City Engineer. June 1911. Scale: 150 feet = 1 inch. Property Oskaloosa City Engineer's Office; Oskaloosa, IA. Plan for concrete walks, walls, curbs, landscaping and lighting.
- "Band Stand/City of Oskaloosa--Iowa;" Wetherell & Gage architects; Des Moines, IA. Drawn by FEW traced by OBT. Dated 8 July 1911. 4 pages. Plans, elevations, sections & details for band stand. Original blueprint property John Wetherell, AIA (Des Moines). Original tracings property Charles A Russell (Oskaloosa).
- "Proposed Storm Sewer to Be Built under W.P.A. for City Park and Business District/Oskaloosa, Iowa;" Don B Russell, City Engineer; 1 October 1938. Scale 1" = 5'. Property Oskaloosa City Engineer's Office; Oskaloosa, IA. This project was not undertaken.
- Plan for Tree Planting; Undated (1970); Untitled; Unsigned. Pencil on 11"x14" paper. Property Oskaloosa Park Board. Indicates locations in City Park for the planting of 12 new trees to replace those lost through Dutch elm disease.

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- "Frank E Wetherell;" Des Moines Together with the History of Polk County; Chicago; S J Clarke Publishing Company; 1911; Vol II; pp 1355-56. Biographical sketch.
- "F. E. Wetherell Rites Monday" (obituary); Des Moines Sunday Register; 8 October 1961; Local Section (4-L). Photograph portrait.
- "Riverfronts and Thoroughfares;" Iowa Architect; March/April 1959; pp 17- 18, 19(?) mispagination. Features Wetherell's career.

S E C O N D A R Y

- # "Oskaloosa vs. The United States;" Magazine Fortune; April 1938; pp 55-62, 124, 127.
- * Mahaska County Folder; Box 28; Work Progress Administration; Federal Writers' Project Documents; Special Collections; University of Iowa Library; Iowa City, IA.
- Clark, Mrs Stillman T; "A Century of Marked and Dedicated Memorials in Mahaska County;" Mahaska County Historical Society; 1975.
- Offenburger, Chuck; Iowa Boy Column; "Best of Iowa? Here's My List. (Best) Bandstand in a town square: Oskaloosa." Des Moines Sunday Register; 9 January 1983; Iowa News; p 1 c 1.
- Russel, Earl; Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 30 January 1940. Relates geologic content under the band stand.
- Trueblood, Carloine; "The Band Stand;" Oskaloosa Daily Herald; 31 March 1964. Historical sketch of municipal band and band stands 1864- 1964.
- Page, W C; Mahaska County, IA: An Historical Survey of Buildings; unpublished survey for Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa State Historical Department; 1981.
- Correspondence between John Wetherell, AIA and W C Page; Winter 1982/3.
- Informant Interviews conducted by W C Page with: Irma Glattly; Oskaloosa, IA (local historian); Charles A Russell, Oskaloosa, IA (business man & former Oskaloosa mayor); Charles Barnhouse; Oskaloosa, IA (music publisher & grandson of C L Barnhouse); Douglas Downing; Council Bluffs, IA (Director, Parks, Recreation and Public Property, City of Council Bluffs, IA).