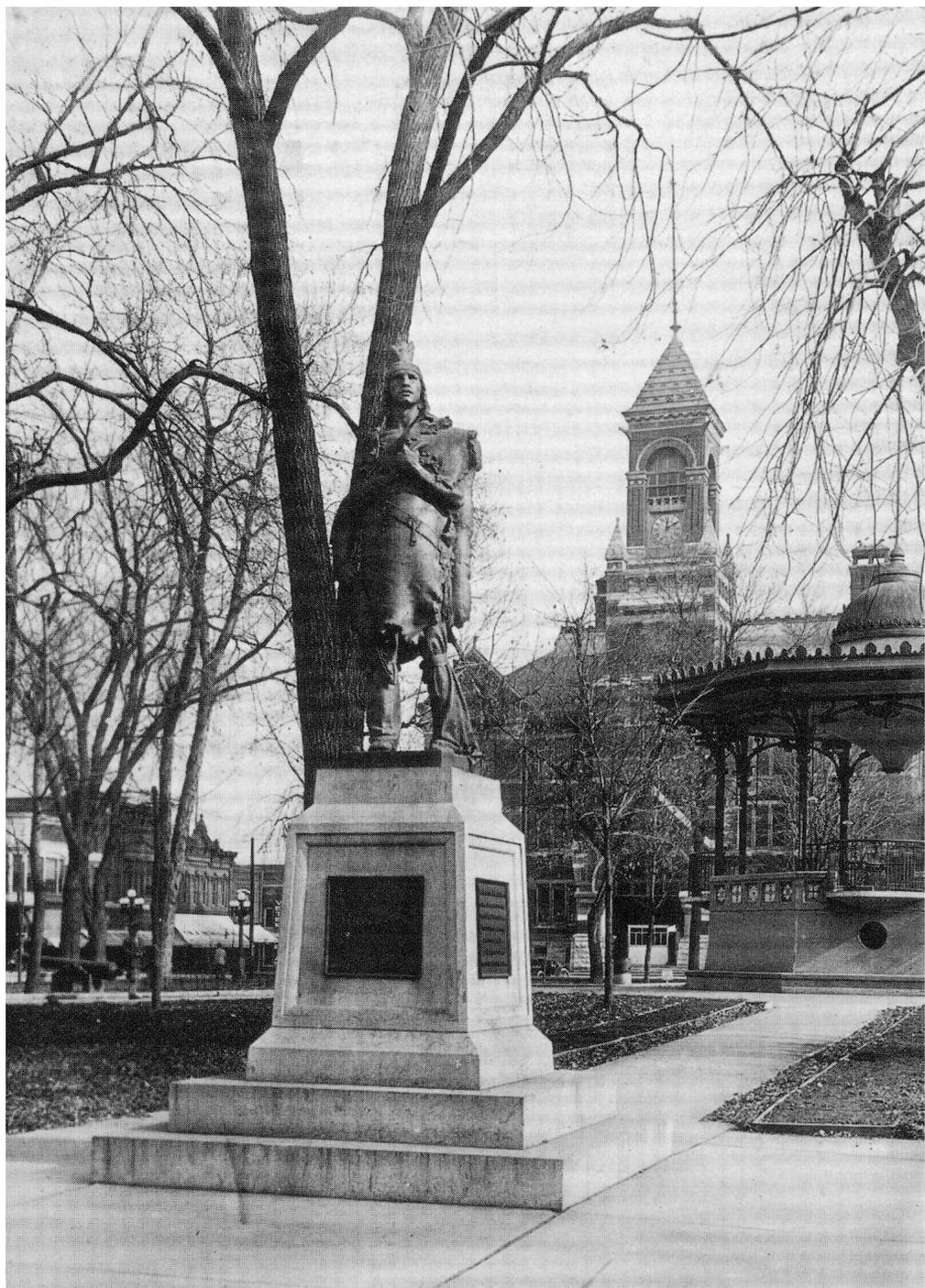


Historic Walking Tour



This walking tour is designed to take you back in time to the historic downtown Oskaloosa. Sample our rich history and feel the unique atmosphere of Oskaloosa's town square.

Thank You to Charlie Comfort of the Jr. Main Street Program who put this tour together.



The current bandstand and park have been a focal point of the downtown and community since 1844. In 1912 Teddy Roosevelt spoke to a huge crowd that had gathered at the NW corner of the park. The current bandstand, dedicated in 1912, was designed by Architect, Frank Wetherell, and Music Publisher, C.L. Barnhouse. A three day celebration recognizing the restoration of the bandstand and park took place in 1991. Just to the west of the bandstand is the award winning Chief Mahaska Statue. Mahaska was the chief of the Ioway Tribe. The Statue was dedicated in May of 1909 and rededicated in October 1999 after a major restoration.

106 South 1st Street



Construction of the Mahaska County Courthouse began in 1881 and on February 26, 1886 the courthouse was dedicated. The courthouse serves the many purposes of Mahaska County. It is a bustling place of business during the day with many citizens of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County coming to renew licenses, report for jury duty, or to just say hi. The building was listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1981.

200 High Avenue East



The Stapp building had a 100-year history of being a pharmacy. In the late 1800s it was known as Pickett's Drug with Colonel Pickett as the proprietor. In 1902 it was known as Weldon and Symons Drug Store. In 1911 it became known as Purity Drug. For years different owners operated the store under the Purity Drug name. The building's pharmacy history concluded in 1989 when the building was sold to Lloyd and Nancy Phillips, optometrists. Currently, the building houses ArrowQuick Solutions.

121 High Avenue East



T

he Mahaska Title/Hawkeye Real Estate building was built in 1882 with the first owner being the Huber & Kalbach Hardware Store. They operated from this building until 1910. Various clothing/department stores operated within the building after the hardware store closed. Since 1991 Mahaska Title-Johnson Abstract Company and Hawkeye Real Estate have called this building home.

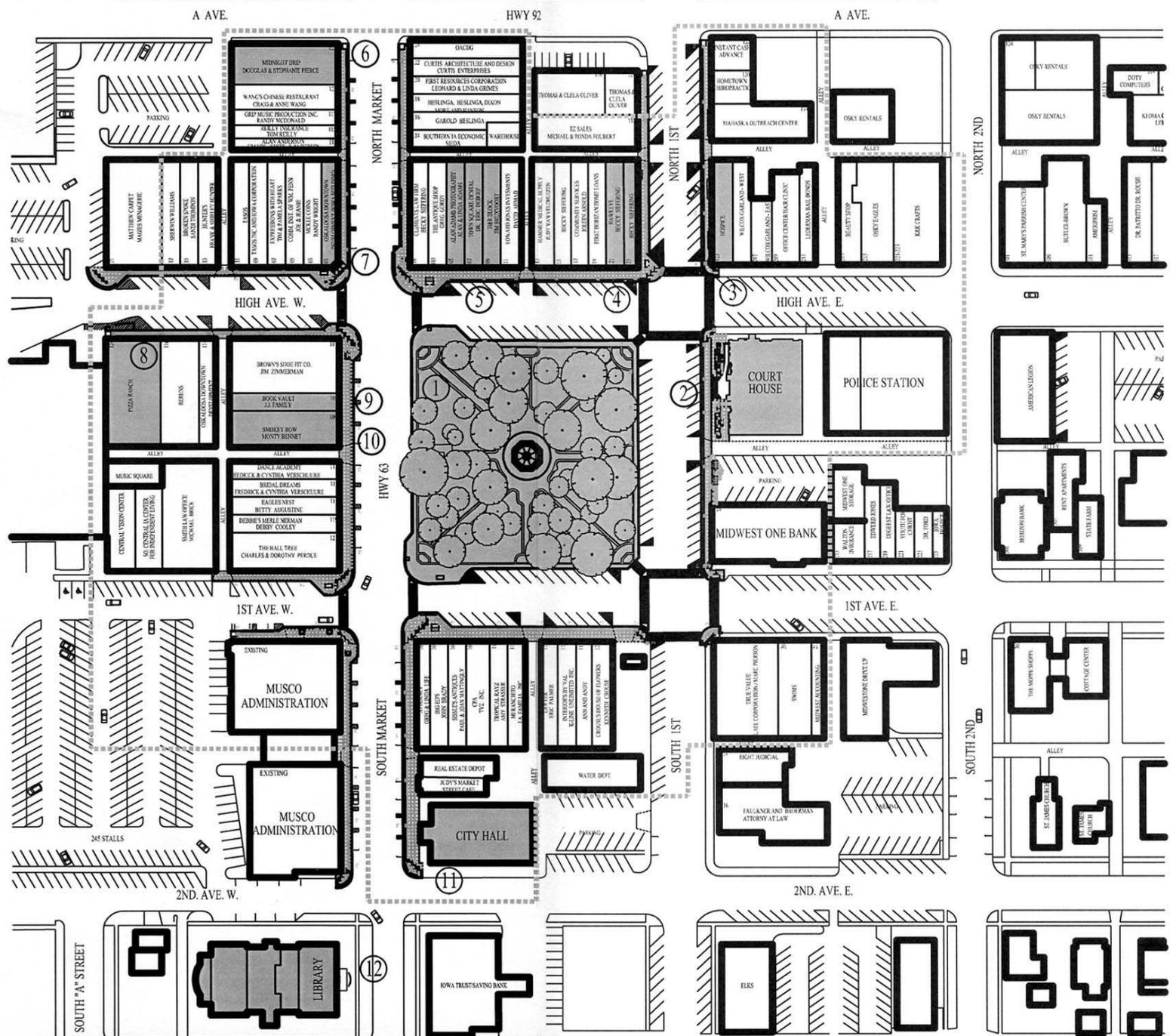
105 High Avenue East

5



T

he Centennial Block was built in 1876 by Isaiah Frankel and was named to commemorate the nation's centennial. From 1885 to 1910 the building's three bays housed a bank owned by I. M. Frankel, a drug store, and a hardware store. Today the building houses Alan Adams Photography, Town Square Dental, and H&R Block.



DOWNTOWN OSKALOOSA



HISTORIC DISTRICT

123 North Market

6



The Oskaloosa Herald operated from this building from 1929 until 1986 when they moved to their current location on A Ave East. The printing presses were located behind the big windows on the north and east sides of the building so the public could watch the news being “put to press”. The Herald was able to print 30,000 newspapers each hour from this building. Since the Herald left the building occupancy of the main floor has been a problem except during election time when candidates vie for the high visibility site for their campaign headquarters.

101 High Avenue West



T

he Iowa Building was built in 1876 to house the Mahaska County Savings Bank which was later changed to the Oskaloosa National Bank. The bank was nearly destroyed as a result of a fire in the adjacent Green & Bentley Drug fire of 1896. The re-creation of the bank building by Oskaloosa Downtown Development in 2009 depicts the building as it would have looked in 1896. Various other banks operated in the space until 1990 including the Iowa Trust & Savings Bank (currently First National Bank Midwest located on South Market St.) that gave the building its current name. The newly renovated building was unveiled during Art on the Square in 2009.

124 High Avenue West



T

he Malcom Building is one of the three buildings being referred to within Oskaloosa as the Trolley Place project. Trolley Place is actually comprised of all three buildings within the 1/4 block. It is intended to become a hub of activity in the downtown area with the construction of 8 apartments on the upper floors of the buildings, while retaining the commercial spaces on the ground floor. The Malcom Building, originally a two story building, added a floor in 1911 to accommodate the Knights of Pythias lodge on the 3rd floor. The Knights of Pythias, founded in 1864 in Washington, DC, is an international organization dedicated to the cause of universal peace. Newspaper reports of the lodge hall's open house indicate that for over 2 1/2 hours there were so many people trying to get a glimpse of the ornately decorated facilities that it was nearly impossible for people to move. In addition to its current tenant, Pizza Ranch, some of the other occupants of the building include Graham's Department Store, Ben Franklin, and McGregor's Furniture.

105 South Market



T

he Oskaloosa Savings Bank (Book Vault Building) was built in 1890 by Henry Price. The bank was organized on August 1, 1890. The bank's most notable President was Ben Buxton, a coal mining entrepreneur who also built the racially integrated coal mining town of Buxton, located southwest of Oskaloosa. The building served as a bank until 1948 when it was converted to a combination abstract company and insurance office. It later served as a local antique shop until becoming the Book Vault in 2005.

109 South Market



Fhe Frankel Building (which is now known as Smokey Row) was built in 1889 and served as Frankel Dry Goods Co. The Frankels eventually moved to Des Moines where their retail experience helped build the Younkers Department Store chain that is now part of the Bon-Ton Stores group. Other occupants of the building have been SS Kresge 5¢ & 10¢ Store, Archer TV & Appliance, and Dave's Weight Club. The building nearly became a parking lot after a series of roof collapses in 2002. During the debate over whether to turn what was left of the building into a parking lot or not, a group of businessmen came together to form what is now known as Oskaloosa Downtown Development, LLC (ODD). Since 2002 ODD has also been involved in the rebuilding of the Iowa Building and is currently working on plans for redevelopment of Trolley Place.

220 South Market



In 1905 discussion started on the need for a new City Hall and Fire Station. The fire station was completed in 1908 and City Hall was completed in 1911. The new City Hall cost \$70,000 to build. In 1992, a renovation project was completed to address handicap accessibility issues. The building is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm the Oskaloosa City Council meets to make decisions for the betterment of Oskaloosa.

301 South Market



The Oskaloosa Public Library was built in 1903. The Carnegie financed building was designed by local Architect, Frank Wetherell. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. In 1992 the Library underwent a major renovation project that saved much of the historic structure while doubling its size with an addition sympathetic to its original architecture. The library is the pride of all our residents. The current library hours are Monday-Thursday 10:00am to 8:00pm and Friday-Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm.