

2020 City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission **Most Endangered Building List**

Courier Block Buildings



The courier buildings were put on the Iowa Most Endangered List this year. Both buildings have been empty since 2011. The building on the corner of Park Avenue and Commercial Street was the original Courier building that had extensive exterior modifications sometime in the 1960's or 1970's. The second building was built for Montgomery Ward's in a Georgian style that Montgomery Ward's used from about 1931 and 1941 and is one of the few surviving examples of the building.

YMCA Building



The YMCA sits at a prominent point at the west end of the 4th Street bridge and is known by many as the building with the statues on it. The building was designed by prominent Waterloo based architect Mortimer Cleveland and his associate D.B. Toenjes with the building being completed in 1931 and is considered a fine example of Art Deco styling. The building is also the one of the oldest buildings along the river as most of the others were demolished over the years. The reason the building was added to list this year is because the Park Avenue Bridge over the Cedar River is going to be replaced and it is not known at this time how construction of the new bridge which will be higher than the existing bridge will affect the building.

1325 West 4th



This is the second time in 3 years that this building is on the Most Endangered List. The building was bought on tax sale in 2015 and the current owner has had several properties taken by the city and demolished as the owner let them deteriorate beyond the point of no return. According to the site inventory form done by Barbara Long in the 1980's the building was built in 1910 in a neoclassical style and at that time appeared to be unaltered and featured Ionic columns, dentils, and a pediment with a round window. Behind the columns is a distinctive entry canopy as well. The building is considered individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church



Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church was built as the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church with the cornerstone being laid in 1911. This church was placed on the National Registers of Historic Places in 2011, and with the support of the Waterloo Historic Commission, was listed as one of Iowa's Most Endangered Properties for 2017. Designed in a neoclassical revival style, Preservation Iowa noted the "building is an iconic structure of the Waterloo skyline not only for its unique architecture but also that it sits directly behind the Waterloo City Hall on one of the major thoroughfares through the city."

722 Water Street



The Black Hawk Fruit Company Building was built in 1916. According to Barbara Long in her 1986 Site Inventory Form the building is one of the last best vestige of Waterloo's once thriving wholesale grocery business. The building is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on architecture due to the building having been extensively altered although it could be returned to its former appearance. The site is associated with the establishment of wholesale operations in Waterloo. Its location was adjacent to the Illinois Central railroad tracks which were removed in the 1960's. The building has been put on the Most Endangered list due to the amount of time the building has been for sale and the limited amount of use the building is currently has.

Schoitz Hospital Building



Schoitz Hospital was built in 1949 but in the 1980's the hospital merged with St. Francis to form Covenant Hospital that is now MercyOne with Schoitz building being closed. After that the building became a nurse home but closed in February 2017. Since then the building has been empty although it was considered as an alternative site for the relocated Lowell Elementary School when that school's roof collapsed.

429 Clay Street



Originally addressed as 328 Dane, this home was built in 1899 in a Commodious Box type. According to Barbara Long the building has altered siding and porch windows but the building plan was adopted for the corner lot it sits on. The building was converted to a 4-plex at some point but has been boarded up for several years although it is owned by a resident of the city. A African-American contract by the name of Phillips once owned the home.

339 Almond



The house at 337 Almond Street was built in 1895. According to Barbara Long in 1989 the building was an unaltered building with an interesting use of a corner lot. At the time the building was shown as being a four-plex but is now shown by the Black Hawk County Assessors office it is now back as a single family home. The home is now owner occupied as former tenants in the building purchased it in 2017.

624-626 West Park Avenue



The Perry Belanger Double House was constructed in the 1910's as a double house. According to Barbara Long in 1989 the buildings were unaltered and were designed by architect John g. Ralston for Perry Belanger who was a local realtor according to Glen Ralston. Glen Ralston the son of John Ralston stated that his father considered the design to be the first in Waterloo to have pictures windows. Sadly the 1-story sun porches at the front have been removed leaving scars on the front of the building. The building also has a variety of textures including stone porches, brick, stucco, and pierced wood balustrades on the porches. Unusual features include distinctive front dormer, unusual side bay and window pane patters. The building was considered Individually Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In the 1990's there was a proposal to turn the building into a Bed N' Breakfast but the plans were never completed.

523 Logan



523 Logan Avenue is a small retail store that was built in 1955. From 1968 until 2011 it served as a store and a laundromat called Crawford's that was owned by Cullen Crawford, Sr. who passed away on January 16, 2013 at age 91. Before running the store and laundromat, he worked at the Rath Packing Company for 38 years. The building has been empty since the store closed in 2011.