

DISCOVER

OWATONNA'S PLACE IN HISTORY



Historic Walking Tour



OwatonnaTM
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

DISCOVER

OWATONNA'S PLACE IN HISTORY

Discover beautiful,
historic downtown
Owatonna...

Take a closer look
at the rich history
of our residential
areas...

Explore Owatonna's
heritage through
additional points
of interest...

Look for these symbols
throughout this brochure.



Close to biking trails



Close to dining



Shopping/ Gift Shop



Guided tours available



Handicapped accessible



National Register of Historic Places

Research and text provided by Nancy Vaillancourt. Photo credit to Shot In The Dark Studio and Greg Helgeson. Funding for this brochure provided by the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. A special thanks to Owatonna residents and businesses for welcoming visitors into our community and neighborhoods.

Owatonna's Historic Downtown

WALKING TOUR



1. Central Park-1854

When the city of Owatonna was laid out in 1854, 19 year old surveyor Edwin Doud set aside one block in the center of the town as a park. At the beginning it was only a wet pasture, but improvements were made over the years. The fountain was placed in



the park in 1874 and contained goldfish in later years. Originally an oval, the block was squared off in the 1950's due to traffic concerns. The community stage was built during the 2004 Sesquicentennial and is modeled after the late 1890s bandstand. Central Park remains a community gathering place for summer concerts, the Arts Festival, holiday lights, farmer's market, and more.



2. First National Bank- 1914 108 W. Park Sq.

Billed as "the oldest bank in Steele County", First National Bank was organized in 1866 by the Kinyon family. This was the bank's third location, and may have been built in response to National Farmers' Bank's new



building. The building features a balcony with large columns.





3. 113-151 W. Bridge St.

When the city was laid out, the commercial blocks on Bridge Street were platted as half-blocks. This allows many of the buildings to have both north & south public entrances. The first post office was on the north side of the street. Across the street the Morehouse Block was located at 113 W. Bridge; the upstairs rooms



held an auditorium used for operas and other performances. Later, the diversified department store, The Kelly Company, occupied several of the buildings on the south side of the street.



4. Security State Bank-1902

102 N. Cedar Ave.
Architects: F.B. Long & L.L. Long



The former site of the Eureka House, the structure was known as the Kelly Block in honor of builder W.H. Kelly. Security State Bank occupied the corner of the building

with the Luethold & St. Clair clothing store in the remainder of the main floor. Following the failure of National Farmers' Bank directly across the street, Security State Bank moved to the Sullivan building in the late 1920's.





5.

**Rasmussen Block-
1901
120-124 N. Cedar
Ave.**

*Architect: Olaf Hanson
Builders: Hammel
Brothers and Anderson*



Built for the State Bank, C.M. Rasmussen's store, and the offices of Hammel Brothers and Anderson, the building included Luxfer prisms in the transoms which allowed more light to be reflected inside the structure. Olaf Hanson of Faribault is recognized as the nation's first deaf architect.



6.

**Parrott & Smith-
circa 1896
202 N. Cedar Ave.**

*Architect: Frank A.
Gutterson*



The Parrott & Smith hardware store occupied the main floor with medical and dental offices on the second floor and a barber shop in the basement. The third floor housed the International Order of Odd Fellows with a large meeting room at the front of the building. The arches above the third floor windows were originally leaded glass. After a fire in 1905 completely gutted the building, the interior was rebuilt.



7.

**Arnold House-1866
122 W. Vine St.**

One of the last surviving hotels that formerly dotted the downtown area, the Arnold Hotel had full porches across both the second and third floors. A fire in 1901 destroyed over half of the building; the hotel was only partially rebuilt. In



later years it has housed offices and retail businesses.





8.

Kasper Building - 1896
310-312 N. Cedar Ave.
Builders: Hammel Brothers & Anderson



Built by the Bohemian Slovak Benevolent Society, and known as the C.S.P.S. Auditorium, this rock-faced building is trimmed with pink sandstone. Originally occupied by F.J. Kasper & Co., the upper floors contained meeting rooms, a gymnasium and an auditorium which was the site of many performances, including Czech language plays. A granite crown on the peak was removed in 1955 for safety reasons.



9.

Livery Stable/Garage
329 N. Cedar Ave.



Built as a livery stable for Alexander Lumber, the building has also been a Studebaker and Ford garage, a thrift shop, a taxi & bus garage until finally becoming The Kitchen restaurant.



10.

Zamboni Building - 1880
301-303 N. Cedar Ave.



The building on the corner was built in 1880; the section to the north was added in the early 1920's. Stonework and colorful glazed terra cotta was placed on both buildings at that time. Originally a bicycle repair and gun shop, the Zamboni family later sold Dodge automobiles here.





murals representing the prairies and history of the legend of Owatonna, a vaudeville stage with plush decor, a smoking lounge and restrooms in the basement and a cerra glass fountain with terraced flowing water and goldfish swimming in the lower basin. A modern day marvel for a small midwestern town, the State Theater was the place to go for entertainment and one of the first and earliest buildings to have cooled air piped through the facility.

11. State Theater-1935
213 N. Cedar Ave.

For many years a farmer's market was located on this site. The State Theater was then built and opened in 1935. The original Art Deco design displayed neon lighting, arched ceiling, decorative sconces with multiple color changes,



12. Adsit Block-1895
203 N. Cedar Ave.

The Adsit family built this brick structure to house The People's Store which sold dry goods, clothing and shoes. The Veterans of Foreign Wars occupied the second floor, which was the scene of many dances.



13. National Farmers' Bank-1908
101 N. Cedar Ave.
Architect: Louis H. Sullivan
Builders: Hammel Brothers & Anderson

Carl Bennett, president of the National Farmers' Bank, was responsible for hiring Sullivan to design the building. The terra cotta "B's" on the exterior honor the Bennett family. The bank is world-renowned as an example of Prairie School architecture and is a National Historic Landmark. Today operating as Wells Fargo Bank.





14. The Armory-1915
128 E. Broadway St.

This area served as the skating rink for many years until Company 1 built their armory here. The brick building not only housed military groups, but in later years also served as the site of regional Golden Gloves



boxing matches, which drew over 1,000 people. A new armory was built in the Industrial Park and this building is now used for storage.



15. Federated Insurance Companies-1923
E. Broadway St.

Architects: Jacobson & Jacobson

One of the latest examples of Prairie School architecture, this building was initially two stories with a red tile roof; the



third floor was added later. The Federated building which faces west onto Central Park was designed to complement the original Prairie School building and uses terra cotta pieces from the first building.



16. Jostens-1930
148 E. Broadway St.

Builder: Hammel Brothers

Founded by Otto H. Josten in 1897 as a watch and jewelry repair business, Jostens went on to produce school recognition products nationally under the direction of Daniel Gainey. During World War II this facility was used to manufacture bomb sights which necessitated the construction of a security fence around the building.





the city of Owatonna and was begun with a bequest from Elizabeth Hunewill. A large addition which aesthetically matches the original building was added in 1992. National Register of Historic Places.

17. Owatonna Public Library-1900

105 N. Elm Ave.

Architect: Frank A. Gutterson

Builder: Hammel

Brothers and Anderson

Built in Neo-Classical style, the library was the first public building erected by



18. 140 E. Main St.-1892

When it was built as a residence for local business owner John Shea, this Victorian home was one of many homes on the block. After serving as a boarding house for female Federated employees, it now serves as a law office.



19. First Baptist Church-1893

123 E. Main St.

Architect: Warren B. Dunnell

Of the four churches that once lined Main Street, First Baptist is the only one remaining. The second Baptist church to be located on this site, the brick building is noted for its stained glass windows, stone trim, and octagonal steeple. The Pillsbury family, which had given so generously to Pillsbury Academy, donated the Tracker pipe organ, one of the oldest organs in the state still in use.





20.

Steele County Courthouse-1891
111 E. Main St.

Architect: T.D. Allen

Replacing the smaller courthouse to the east, and built in Romanesque style, this building features an



impressive four-sided clock tower. The statues of Mercy, Law & Justice occupy a niche over the front steps; unfortunately, Justice lost her scale when the statues were taken down for repair. National Register of Historic Places.



21.

Cedar Court-1927
308 S. Cedar Ave.

Architect: Jay Axelwood

A unique Craftsman style apartment complex of bungalows centered on an inner courtyard. Built by the Stahmer family, each of the 8 apartments had its own basement and second floor, and was furnished with two Murphy folding beds.



22.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church-1867, 1884
S. Cedar Ave.
and Mill St.

Carpenter Gothic church with an open bell tower and beautiful stained glass windows. One of many Episcopal churches in Minnesota built under the direction of Bishop Whipple. The Guild Hall was built in 1867; after the sanctuary was built in 1884, the Guild Hall was moved and connected to the church.





23. **Fire Hall-1906**
107 W. Main St.

Built as a combination city hall and fire hall in a simplified Romanesque style. The third floor was used for community dances and meetings. The garage addition on the east was added in 1996. National Register of Historic Places.



Additional Points of Interest



West Hills Campus State Ave. & West Hills Cir.

Minnesota's only state run orphanage was located in Owatonna from 1886 to the 1940s when it became a school for disabled youth. The orphanage included many cottages that housed more than 10,000 children over the years. The orphanage was a fully functioning community with its own power plant, barns, fields, school, hospital, nursery, greenhouse, and gymnasium. When the state closed the orphanage in the 1970s, it was offered for sale to the city of Owatonna for \$200,000, a purchase that was approved by voters. Much of the land became Owatonna's industrial park. Since that time the state school area, now known as West Hills, has become a community gathering place for recreation and the arts, as well as the location of many government and service organizations. The Orphanage Museum tells the story of the children who once lived here. Audio stations are located on the grounds and guide the visitor to areas of interest, including the cemetery where over 100 children are buried.



Administration Building,

State School for Dependent and Neglected Children - 1885 540 West Hills Cir.

Architect: Warren B. Dunnell

Originally the main building for the state orphanage, the massive Romanesque building's tower was originally much taller, featuring a clock. When fire consumed the



When fire consumed the tower, it was rebuilt at its present height without the clock. The building contained offices, kitchen facilities, and provided living quarters for staff. The small auditorium now serves as the city council chambers. The dining hall area in the rear was added in later years and now houses the Owatonna Arts Center. National Register of Historic Places.



Pillsbury Academy Historic District



WALKING TOUR

Pillsbury Baptist Bible College

S. Grove Ave. between Academy St. & Main St.

The school began in the 1870s as coeducational academy with Baptist roots; in the 1920s it became a men's military training academy until returning to its Baptist heritage in 1957. Four buildings now comprise the Pillsbury Academy Historic District on the National Register (shown as the next four features, #24, #25, #26 and #27).



24. Old Main-1889

Architect: Warren B. Dunnell

This Romanesque building was a gift from George A. Pillsbury and was built at a cost of \$50,000 furnished. Note the iron filigree in the tower belfry and the stained glass rose window.



25. Jefts Hall-1911

Decorative brickwork accents this building, which was originally the dining hall, but is now used as the college library.



26. Kelly Hall-1892

Architect: Warren B. Dunnell

A brick Greek Classical Revival complete with covered portico, and marked with limestone trim. Originally known



as the Music Hall, the names of Verdi, Beethoven, and Mozart were honored across the front of the building. It was renamed for donor William H. Kelly when the former Kelly Hall burned down in the 1930s.

27. Heating Plant

Built in 3 phases from 1893-1928, featuring a towering brick smokestack.



WHY THE OAK LEAF?



The Mighty Oak has always been one of the most exalted of trees. Its outstretched branches give shelter and protection. Throughout time it has been

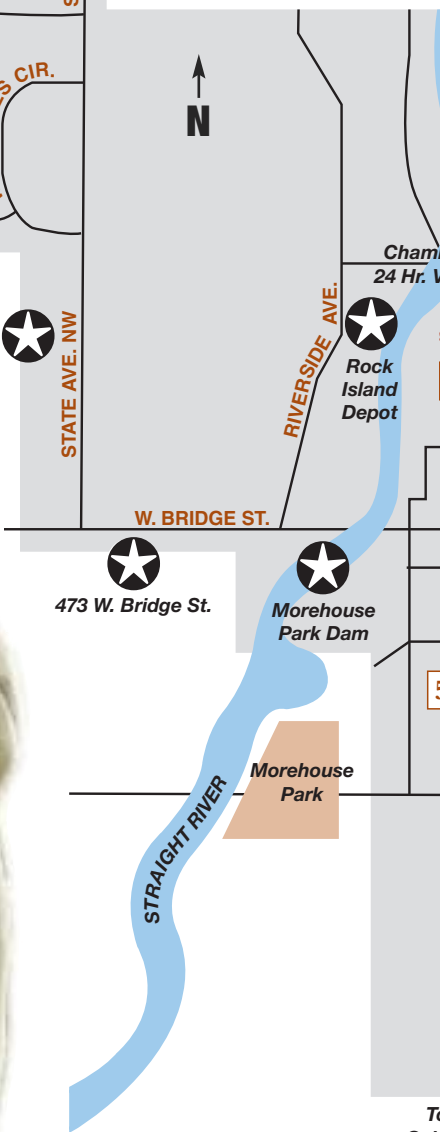
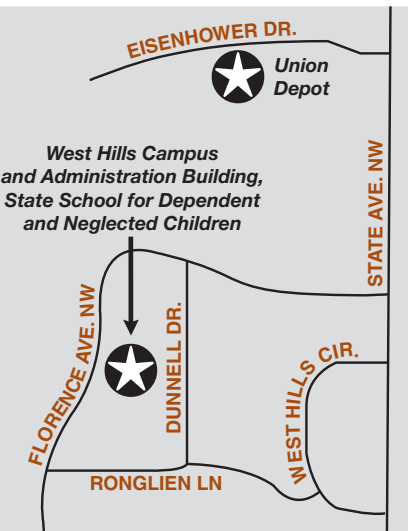
considered sacred by many cultures and is said to hold the powers of health, money, healing, potency, fertility, luck, wisdom and strength. The oak's acorns offer renewed life, its wood is considered to be the finest of building materials and its leaves the symbol of a long life.

These are all powers of the wonderful city of Owatonna - so the oak leaf has become her symbol.

Legend has it that Chief Wabena heard of the curing waters called minnewaucan. His daughter, Princess Owatonna, was very frail so he moved his tribe to the site of the natural springs on the banks of Maple Creek. Princess Owatonna drank from the springs daily and recovered her health. Her kindly spirit hovers near the bubbling waters and beckons weary travelers to pause in the beautiful valley and drink of the magic waters. You can visit the springs and the statue of Princess Owatonna at Mineral Springs Park.

Although this makes a colorful and romantic campfire story, the name most likely originated from the major river running through Steele County, now named the Straight River. For hundreds of years before the arrival of the first white settlers, Native Americans camped on the banks of the river they called "Ouitunya", which means straight.

WHY THE NAME OH-WA- TAH-NA...

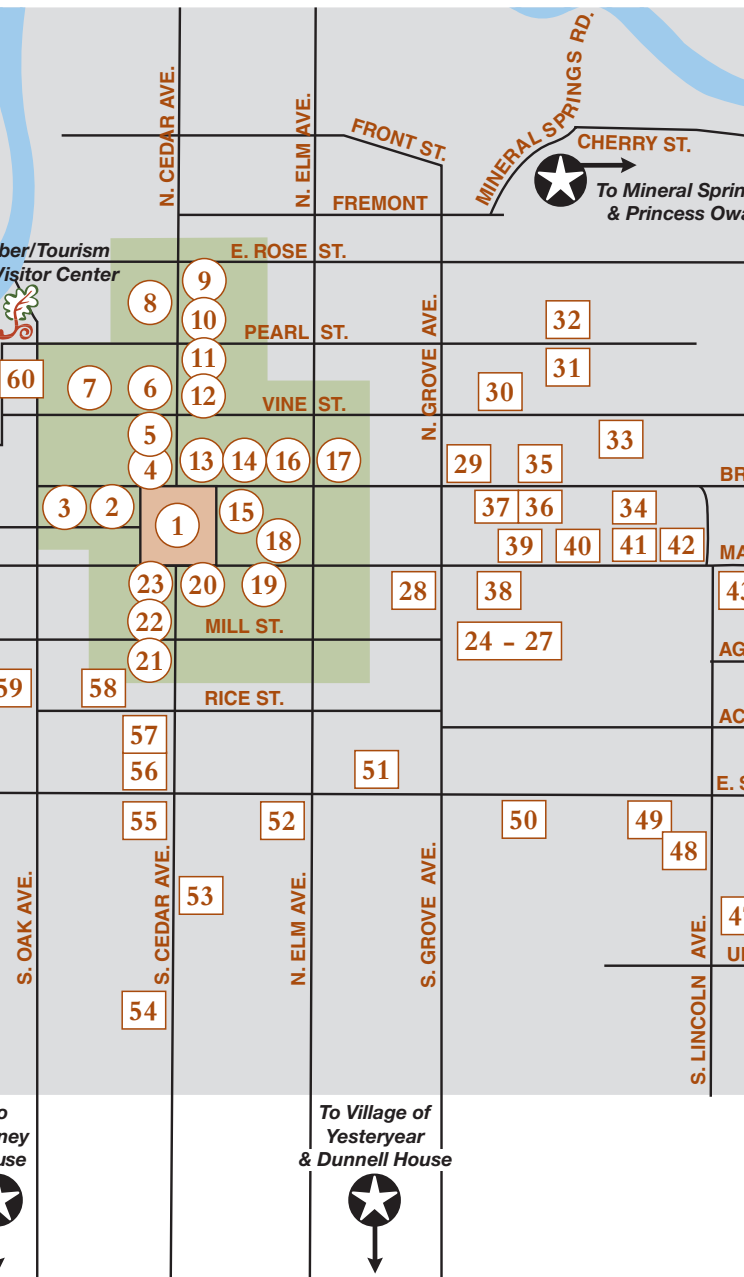




Historic Residential Sites including Pillsbury Academy



Additional Points of Interest



DISCOVER
OUR
PARKS...
THERE IS
SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE

Owatonna offers something for everyone with a variety of year-round recreation. The Owatonna Parks & Recreation Department maintains over 700 acres of parkland and walkways in the Owatonna area, within 24 parks. One of the city's most popular recreation areas is Kaplan's Woods Parkway, which offers 225 acres for hiking, biking, jogging, inline skating, and cross-country skiing. Within this scenic parkway, Lake Kohlmier offers a beach facility for swimming, canoeing and docks for fishing.

Other parks throughout the city not only preserve the small-town appeal of nature with prairie grass, trees and wildflowers within city limits, but offer volley-ball, basketball, horseshoe and tennis courts, ball diamonds, inline and ice skating rinks, and exciting playgrounds. Owatonna Bike & Skate Park is a must for biking and inline skating enthusiasts.

Winter is no time to slow down in Minnesota. The Steele County Trail System includes 175 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, connecting with five adjoining counties. Outdoor skating and hockey rinks can be enjoyed at Morehouse Park and over 11 miles of cross country skiing trails can be found at Brooktree Golf Course, Kaplan's Woods

Parkway, Morehouse Park and Prairie Park.

gs Park
atonna

ROADWAY ST.

AIN ST.

3
NES ST.

46 45 44

ACADEMY ST.

SCHOOL ST.

7
NIVERSITY ST.



**Village of Yesteryear
1448 Austin Rd.**

Located on the southeast corner of the Steele County Fairgrounds, the Village of Yesteryear is a



collection of 15 buildings, many of which were moved from their original locations in Steele County. Including a schoolhouse, depot, log cabins, church, general store, fire hall, town hall, and others, the Village is open for tours Tuesday through Sunday at 1:30 p.m. from May 1 through September 30, with many events taking place throughout the year.



**Dunnell House-1868-69
1448 Austin Rd.**

This Italianate style home was built for educator and Congressman Mark H. Dunnell and includes a pinnacled widow's watch and impressive trim around the windows. After the Dunnell



family, the house was used as an infirmary and dormitory for Pillsbury students. When Pillsbury Baptist Bible College needed the land for dormitories in 1967, the house was moved to the Village of Yesteryear where it is now open for tours.



**Gainey House-1957
Architect: Edwin
Lundie**

Now the Daniel C. Gainey Conference Center of the University, this 180 acre



estate was built by Daniel Gainey of Jostens. The home, set back from the public, is in the French Norman style. An addition to the house offers guest rooms and meeting space. The Mews stable housed Gainey's well known Arabian horses and is now used for University of St. Thomas graduate programs. Please show appropriate consideration for the privacy of Gainey retreat guests while respectfully viewing the house exterior and grounds. For interior group tours, call 507-446-4460.





**Union Depot-1887
Eisenhower Dr.**

Originally located on East Front St. between the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago Northwestern railroad tracks, the depot was moved to its present site by Reub Kaplan in 1977. Women and children had a separate waiting room away from the men. Kaplan's son, Buzz, built a replica of the Union Depot as part of his short-lived Heritage Halls museum on I-35.



**Rock Island Depot-1900
300 block Riverside Ave.**

A stone marker denotes the former location of the Rock Island Depot, first built for the Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern Railway which later became the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway. The passenger and freight depot hosted troops leaving for war, as well as political candidates and presidents.



**Princess Owatonna
Mineral Springs Park**

Developed as a tourist park in the 1920s, Mineral Springs Park is the site of the legend of Owatonna, Chief Wabena's daughter, who was cured from illness by drinking the healing waters. The original statue, made in 1931 by William J. and Larry Berghs, was replaced by this replica in 2000.





Morehouse Park Dam

Nelson Morehouse built the first dam and mill at this location on the Straight River in 1855. The mill served as both a gristmill and flour mill over the years. Among the several owners were the Campbells who developed a new cereal - Malt-O-Meal, before selling



the company which was moved to Northfield. In the late 1930s the Owatonna Cereal Mill was torn down, although the dam remains. Land for Morehouse Park was donated by Guel Morehouse in honor of his father, mayor E.M. Morehouse.



473 W. Bridge St.-1918

Built for Frank & Mamie Seykora, this Tudor style home features porches on both sides. Reportedly a tunnel connected this house and that of an aunt on the corner of State & Bridge; the tunnel was removed when Bridge St. was reconstructed.



222 State Ave.-1896

The Victorian home was built by L.P. Lord who was involved with the Clinton Falls Nursery located further west on Bridge St. The name "Lord" is etched in the glass of the front door. The property had several acres; the barn still remains.



Owatonna's Historic Residential Area

WALKING TOUR



28. 249 E. Main St.-
Circa 1880

Built for the founder of National Farmers' Bank, Dr. L.L. Bennett treated patients who had been injured while walking on rotten wooden boardwalks. He was among the first in Owatonna to install cement sidewalks, the hexagonal ones still in place. Note the carriage house off of the alley.



29. 306 E. Broadway St.-
1898

Queen Anne style Victorian with Colonial influences on the porches and trim. William Mork, local shoe storeowner, built the house, which includes leaded glass and several porches.



30. 322 E. Vine St.-1913
Architects: Purcell & Elmslie
Builder:
Hammel Brothers and Anderson

Built for mayor Dr. James Adair, this Prairie School home features horizontal lines in the wood siding and tiered roofing. Wide eaves, a cantilevered window box, and decorative woodcuts add to the Prairie School style. The tuck under garage, the first in Owatonna, is original - the detached garage was built in the 1990's and complements the house. National Register of Historic Places.





31. 343 E. Pearl St.-1893

This Queen Anne home is the second house built on this site. The first, built by W.D. Washburn, was purchased by W.R. Kinyon in the late 1860s and burned down in 1893; the present structure was built on portions of the remaining foundation. The three-story home was one of the largest homes in Owatonna when built. The upper floors feature stained glass, decorative porches and a rounded turret. A fire in 1930 destroyed the carriage house; this was replaced with a garage. The address was originally 344 E. Vine St. with the main driveway entering from Vine. The three other homes on the block were added after the Kinyon family sold the property in 1954.



32. 342 E. Pearl St.-1912
Builders: Hammel Brothers

Built by Sidney W. and Florence Kinyon, this stucco and brick Tudor is located on 1 1/3 acres, or 5 city lots. A living room and bedroom were added after a fire in the home. Sidney moved back to the large house across the street after his mother's death, but retained part of the land where he built his own tennis court.



33. 405 E. Vine St.-
Circa 1883

Initially a foursquare farmhouse, owners F. Keen & Marianne Young modernized the home in 1947 by removing the porches and adding onto the sides of the house. The Youngs also added sculptures & landscaping, as well as its distinctive pink paint. House Beautiful featured the remodeling in their magazine.





**34. 415 E. Broadway St.
-1894**

A Victorian cottage built by Nels P. Peterson, a local contractor who built many of the homes in this area. Otto H. Josten owned the home while building up his jewelry store business.



**35. 352 E. Broadway St.-
1909**

A brick Prairie School house which is a variation of Frank Lloyd Wright's \$5,000 concrete house from a 1906 Ladies Home Journal. Built for Judge Alexander, the house has retained its red tile roof and stone trim.



**36. 351 E. Broadway St.
-1927**

*Architect: Mark Nelson
Builder: Sid Hammel*

Tudor style home built for Mark & Veta Alexander, of Alexander Lumber Company. Note the stone accents on the chimney and doorway, as well as winding sidewalk.



**37. 345 E. Broadway St.-
prior to 1860**

Builder: Abijah Odell

Possibly the oldest surviving home in Owatonna, the foundation walls of this Greek Revival are over two feet thick. Built for Ezra Abbott, an early settler who



was Steele County's first superintendent of schools. National Register of Historic Places.





38. 325 E. Main St.-1874

Built by William H. Kelly, local business owner and philanthropist who gave generously to the local hospital and Pillsbury Academy. The house was later acquired by Pillsbury College and served as home for the college presidents and as an alumni center.



39. 358 E. Main St.-1898
Architect: Frank A. Gutterson

This Victorian home was built as a wedding present from H.M. Hastings, a pioneer flour miller, to his daughter Ida Slaid. The Northrop family purchased the house for back taxes in 1943 and



now operate it as a bed & breakfast. The interior woodwork and light fixtures are original. The third floor first served as a ballroom, then as a children's playroom.



40. 412 E. Main St.-1908

Guy Bennett, of National Farmer's Bank, built this brick foursquare variation home. Neighborhood lore suggests that the house is built with the same brick as the interior of the bank.





- 41. 424 E. Main St.-1912**
Architects: Purcell, Feick & Elmslie

The Buxton Bungalow was built for Charles & Grace Buxton of Federated Insurance. The stenciled theme “Rest Awhile” is attributed to Charles who traveled

extensively and came home to rest. The wide overhangs and bands of windows give the home characteristic Prairie School details.



- 42. 434 E. Main St.-1929**
Builder: Jacobson & Casey

John Buxton and his wife, Vera, built this house next door to John’s parents. The two homes shared formal gardens. A Tudor style, it is constructed of brick, stucco, and exposed beams.



- 43. 505 E. Main St.-1937**

Originally the location of the Chambers estate, this Mediterranean style home with stucco exterior, arched doorway and red tile roof was built for Dr. Lyle Berghs.



- 44. 565 Agnes St.-1939**

Rueben A. Kaplan of Owatonna Tool Company built this Streamline Moderne home, with additions made in the 1960s. Note the curved lines of the home, as well as the octagonal window on the second floor.





45. 551 Agnes St.-1938

Originally a Moderne style similar to the Kaplans' home, this building was remodeled in the 1950's when Dr. Donald H. Dewey replaced the concrete exterior with brick and built a second floor addition over an enlarged garage.



46. 527 Agnes St.-1929

English Tudor home built for Dr. Alfred B. Hart. From the street, the entryway is not visible, although an arch gives interest to the facade. The garage and rooms above it on the east were added later.



47. Trinity Lutheran Church-1956
609 Lincoln Ave.
Architect: LeRoy Gaarder

Organized in 1919 as Trinity English Lutheran Church, the congregation built this building when their previous structure, the former Universalist Church on Elm & Main Streets, became inadequate. Massive 2-foot

thick limestone walls form the Chancel, which is decorated with furnishings designed by the architect. The half-timbered parish wing to the south was added in 1961.





**48. 518 S. Lincoln Ave.-
1896**

Originally located on Riverside Avenue close to the now-demolished Rock Island depot, this brick farmhouse was moved to this location at an unknown date. Porches and the south wooden section were added after the move.



**49. 431 E. School St.-
1917**

Built for George D. Holden, the architect of this Prairie School home is not known. Note the wide overhangs and groups of windows.



**50. Owatonna High
School-1921
333 E. School St.
*Architects: Jacobson &
Jacobson***

The original section of the high school faces onto Grove Ave. Many additions have followed; the most recent was built underground in front of the original building.



**51. 222 E. School St.-
1932
*Architect: Hammel***

Built by Dr. John and Margaret McIntyre, the Tudor style home had an addition built six years later to accommodate their four sons. Dr. McIntyre saw patients at the home in later years.



52. St. Joseph's Catholic Church-1929
512 S. Elm Ave.



When a fire destroyed the St. Joseph's church on the corner of North Elm & Fremont St. in 1927, this new building was already being planned. Built in an early Romanesque style, the church contains many symbolic carvings. The stained glass windows designed by Conrad Pirkl depict a saint for each century from the 1st to the 20th.



53. 605 S. Cedar Ave.-
prior to 1900

Built for William St. Clair, the house was remodeled to an Italianate style in the 1920s. A garage was added to the house at that time.



54. 111 W. University
St.-1896

Victorian style house with turret built by jeweler Julius F. Young, then owned by banker Norman Evans.



55. 506 S. Cedar Ave.-
1915

The home of Cyrus Anderson, local contractor, is a four square design with some Prairie School elements. Built across the street from his partner, Louis F. Hammel, descendants of

the Anderson family still own the home.





**56. 430 S. Cedar Ave.-
1896**

Louis F. Hammel, of Hammel Brothers and Anderson, built this massive home. With the stone foundations, as well as the spacious porches, this house may well have served as advertising for his construction business.



**57. 404 S. Cedar Ave.-
1899**

W.S. Boice, furniture store owner and undertaker, had the Queen Anne home built with its distinctive circular tower. The house directly south is reported to be Boice's barn, remodeled into a home.



58. 128 W. Rice St.-1886

McIndoe S. Alexander, founder of Alexander Lumber Co. one of the oldest businesses in Owatonna, built this spacious home. The house features a third floor ballroom and impressive porches.



**59. 330 S. Oak Ave.-
1865, 1881**

Furniture store owner H.H. Rosebrock first built a small home on two lots and later added on the large brick structure in front of the original home. A later owner, newspaper owner

Benjamin Darby, installed the ironwork that was taken from homes in Richmond, Virginia.





60. 216 N. Oak Ave.-
1896-97

*Builders: Hammel
Brothers*

Designed by owner Dr. F.M. Smersh, the brick house with tower served as both residence and medical office. The property stretched to the Straight River and included pasture area for horses.



EVENTS & FESTIVALS

ADD TO
THE
APPEAL
OF THE
AREA!

May MainStreet Cork & Bottle (*Owatonna*)

June Straight River Days (*Medford*)

July Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration (*Blooming Prairie*)

Steele County
Historical
Extravaganza
(*Owatonna*)

Crazy Days, Hog
Roast & Street
Dance (*Owatonna*)

Festival of the Arts
(*Owatonna*)

August Steele County Free Fair (*Owatonna*)

Sept. Culturfest
(*Owatonna*)

Harvest Fest
(*Owatonna*)

Nov. Holiday Lighting
of the Lights
(*Owatonna*)

Dec. Christmas in the
Village (*Owatonna*)

MORE AREA INFORMATION.....

Literature from the Owatonna area and surrounding destinations is available at the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, located at 320 Hoffman Drive. Office hours are 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. A 24-hour Visitor Information Center in the outer lobby is always open! For more information call toll free 800-423-6466 or go to www.Owatonna.org.



320 Hoffman Drive

Owatonna, MN 55060

