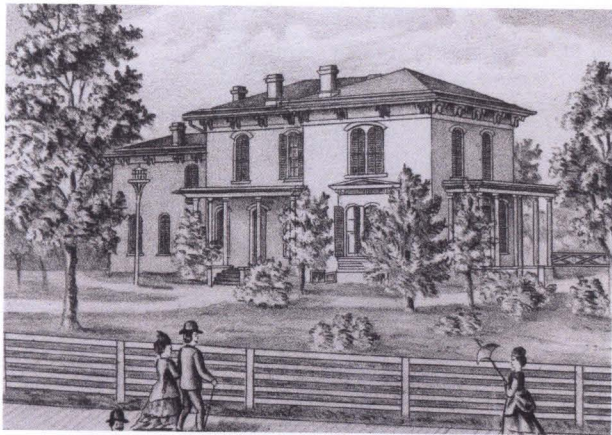


Historical Walking Tour

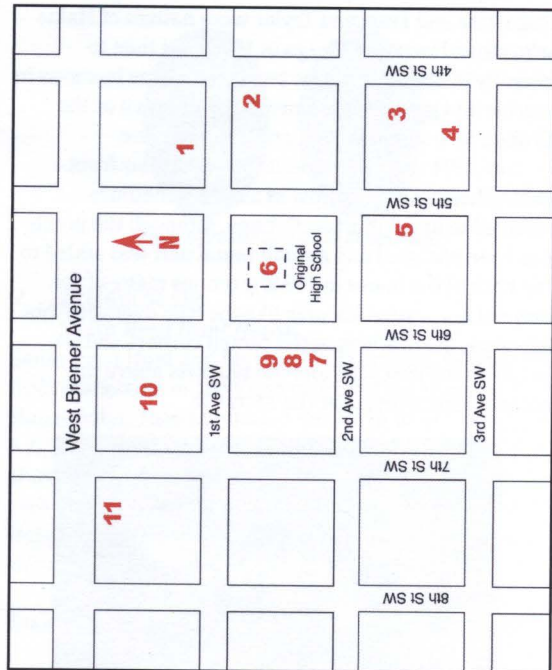
STURDEVANT SW HISTORIC DISTRICT

(south of Bremer Avenue and
west of the Cedar River)

WEST OF 4TH ST SW



10 112 6th St SW - Nathan P. Ellis House



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 416 1st Ave SW | Augustine R. Taylor House |
| 2 204 4th St SW | Curtis/Dr. Frank Osincup House |
| 3 401 2nd Ave SW | Fairfield/Garner House |
| 4 3rd Ave SW between 4th St and 5th St | Concrete Block Garage |
| 5 310 5th St SW | Louis Cass Oberdorf House |
| 6 6th St SW between 1st Ave and 2nd Ave | Waverly's First High School |
| 7 220 6th St SW | Smith Reed Hunt House |
| 8 214 6th St SW | Window/Lynn Osincup House |
| 9 210 6th St SW | Rev. Wm. Ward Smith House |
| 10 112 6th St SW | Nathan P. Ellis House |
| 11 709 W. Bremer Ave | Dr. Francis R. Sparks House |

This is a self-guided walking tour. Please view the homes only from the sidewalk and respect the privacy of the owners.

1 416 1st Ave SW
Augustine R. Taylor House

Augustine and Francena Taylor were natives of Maine who moved west to Chicago in 1871, and then to Waverly in 1881. Mr. Taylor began a thriving business in marble and granite monuments, later known as the Gruben Monument Works, on W. Bremer Ave.

In 1894 the Taylors built the vernacular front-gabled house shown below in a style sometimes referred to as a Suburban Cottage. Although the porch has been enclosed and a small rental unit was added to the back of the house in 1938, it retains many of the original decorative features like the trim over the front entrance, the brackets at the canted corners and the porch on the east side, and the brackets above the balcony-like recess over the entrance.



Augustine R. Taylor House

Mr. Taylor was a Civil War veteran and is buried in Harlington Cemetery.

2 204 4th St SW
Curtis/Dr. Frank Osincup House

It appears that this house was constructed by brothers-in-law W.C. Holt and S.R. Hunt in 1878 as a "neat tenement house" on what was then referred to as the "Janesville road." The property was conveyed to Mr. Hunt's daughter Carrie shortly after her marriage to Edward Curtis in 1881. While their parents debated whether Ed and Carrie were too young to marry, the couple eloped and were married in Shell Rock.

The style of the house is Late Victorian Italianate Villa, the most popular house form of the late 1860s. Characteristics include the square tower, irregular footprint (not a simple rectangle), and bracketed cornices as seen on the three bay windows.

In 1894 the home was purchased by Dr. Frank Osincup, an early Waverly physician and surgeon, who also served as mayor for 18 years. Dr. Osincup founded

the CaPhenin Chemical Company, which was housed in the old Waverly House hotel building, now the Bremer County Historical Society Museum.

3 401 2nd Ave SW
Fairfield/Garner House

Clark Fairfield built his Italianate residence in 1880 using local brick from the Cretzmeyer Brick Factory. The low-pitched roof and wide overhanging eaves with brackets are typical of this architectural style. The porch with its balustraded balcony was restored using remnants of the original porch as patterns. Hand-hewn limestone sidewalks are still present.

Mr. Fairfield sold the home to J.C. Garner in 1896 and moved to Des Moines to find more suitable marriage partners for his six daughters. The Garner family used the home as a winter residence; their summer home was a 160-acre farm at the west end of Cedar Lane.



Clark Fairfield House

4 3rd Ave SW between 4th St and 5th St
Concrete Block Garage

The uncommon style of the detached garage in the middle of the block makes it worth noting. Waverly had a thriving cement block industry beginning about 1905. The rock-faced concrete blocks were advertised as fireproof and indestructible, and impervious to heat, cold and moisture. Most were used for house foundations, and for a fine collection of houses in northwest Waverly. This garage with its flared roof slopes and flattened peak is unusual.

5 310 5th St SW
Louis Cass Oberdorf House

Louis Oberdorf built this Craftsman-style side-gabled bungalow in 1915 using plans created by Waverly

architect John Leitha. The house and porch have concrete block foundations. The blocks are also used for the porch balustrade and the corner pedestals which support three tapered columns each. The tympanum over the porch is clad in stucco with vertical and diagonal stickwork.

Mr. Oberdorf was a long-time educator in Bremer County and served as its Superintendent of Schools. The home was probably built at the time of his retirement and was called "one of the very modern homes in Waverly, embracing every convenience and comfort."

6 6th St SW between 1st Ave and 2nd Ave
Waverly's First High School

This now-vacant lot was the location of Waverly's first high school building. The *Waverly Republican* in May of 1870 urged the citizens to vote for its construction, in addition to a new bridge on Bremer Ave.: "True, we need a bridge at this point very badly, and must, very soon, have one—but are we not rich enough to build both?"

The newspaper also argued, perhaps more persuasively, that, "There is not a town of any size in the Cedar Valley, but what is able to boast of a handsome high school building, and Independence, not any larger than Waverly, already has one in operation, and another, larger than the first, under course of erection." The citizens voted to approve the project and bids were received for its construction. The high school building was completed in 1872.



Waverly's First High School

Belle Acken and Frank Burbank were the only members of the first graduating class in 1875.

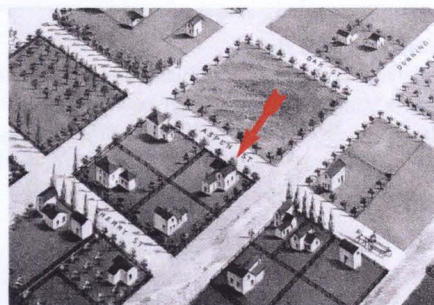


Frank Burbank and Belle Acken Rust

7 220 6th St SW
Smith Reed Hunt House

Smith Reed Hunt and his wife Louisa moved to Waverly from Clarksville in 1864 and managed the Waverly House hotel. They purchased this lot in 1867 from S.A.J. Howard, a carpenter. A bird's-eye-view drawing shows a house on this corner in 1868 with a similar style (see below), but records have not been found to indicate who built it, or if the house in the drawing is this house.

The house is an example of a vernacular gable-front-and-wing house form, with very steeply pitched



Smith Reed Hunt House. Detail
from a bird's-eye-view drawing of Waverly in 1868.

gables. The peaks are accented with square pendants ending in spheres.

In later years Mr. Hunt was a lumber merchant, a grain dealer, a promoter of the Chicago and Great Western railroad, and a builder of several rental houses.

8 214 6th St SW
Window/Lynn Osincup House

Charles and Edith Window purchased this lot from the Hunt family for \$425 in February of 1912. Charles was an evangelist who conducted revival meetings in Iowa and neighboring states. The house was constructed in

the summer of 1912. In February of 1913 the house was sold to Lynn Osincup, manager of the CaPhenin Chemical Company and son of its founder, Dr. Frank Osincup, for \$3,000.

The Craftsman Bungalow has a side-gabled roof with an extended slope on the east side that forms the roof of the porch. The roof is supported by battered or tapered piers resting on cast concrete pedestals.

9 210 6th St SW

Rev. William Ward Smith House

Rev. W. Ward Smith, a Methodist minister, was living on a farm near Waverly in 1902 when he purchased this town lot and built a retirement home.

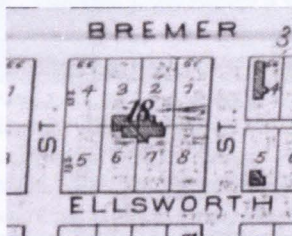
The two-story, gable-front-and-wing house was constructed in the Stick/Eastlake style, a name derived from furniture designer Charles Eastlake's use of decorative spindles. The porch's turned posts and spindles, Eastlake brackets, and the scroll-cut skirting all appear to be original.

The foundation is limestone block, an indication that the house was built before 1905; in Waverly rock-faced cement block foundations first appeared about that time.

10 112 6th St SW (pictured on the cover)

Nathan P. Ellis House

When Nathan and Cinderella Ellis chose Block 18 in the Wm. Sturdevant Addition for their new home in 1873, the *Waverly Republican* called it "one of the choicest locations on the west side." Mr. Ellis owned the entire block and placed his house in the center.



Detail from 1875 Bremer County Atlas

Although the windows of this lovely Italianate house have been replaced, the original tall openings with their arched brick pediments remain. And many of the architectural details are still visible, including the course of sawtooth brick that divides the upper and lower levels of the main block, the paired brackets along the wide cornice, and the original porch.



Course of sawtooth bricks



Decorative double brackets under the eaves

In the early 1900s, after Nathan Ellis' death, his family sold off the lots on the north and south sides of the block, leaving the house on a narrow east-west strip of land through the center.

11 709 W. Bremer Ave

Dr. Francis R. Sparks House

Dr. Francis Sparks graduated from Northwestern University Medical School in 1904 and began the practice of medicine in Westgate. In 1915 he purchased the practice of Dr. Auner and moved his family to Waverly. By 1923 he had acquired this lot from the Ellis family and had begun the construction of a new home.

The Craftsman-style house he built has a hipped roof and an attached one-story sunroom. The same mottled maroon, brown and gray brick is used for the house, the exposed chimney and the garage. A dressed limestone belt course separates the upper and lower levels, and forms the sills of the windows on the second floor. Typical Craftsman double-hung windows on the first floor contain four vertical lights in the upper sashes.

For more than 20 years (1967-1992) the house was the parsonage of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church next door.

The photos in this brochure were reproduced from the collections of the Waverly Public Library and the Bremer County Historical Society Museum.

If you have comments or corrections to this brochure, please contact Mary Meyer at 319-352-2013 or maryjmeyer@aol.com.