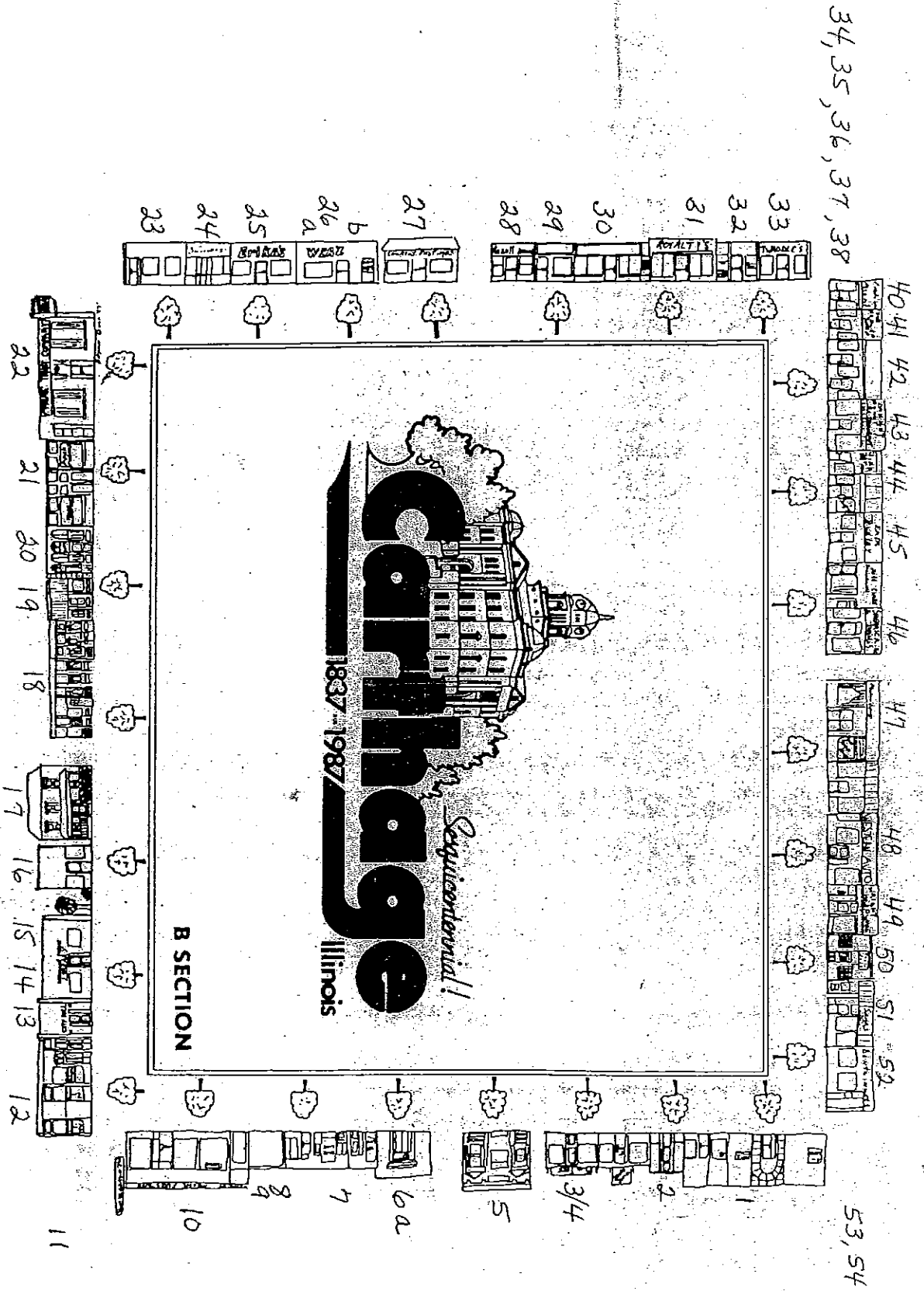


SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF CARTHAGE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE SQUARE



Prepared by Judy Allison

Based on information researched and submitted to the National Register of Historic Places by Robert Christie, Preservation Consultant, and a committee of Carthage citizens.

WALKING TOUR OF CARTHAGE SQUARE

The buildings are numbered starting at the northeast corner of the square.

1. The McMahan-Walker Building was built in 1896 as a men's wear clothing store. This is a Romanesque Revival style with a stone segmental arched entry between the two principal storerooms. The second floor rooms were used as office buildings for doctors and lawyers. Early first floor tenants included Carthage Marble and Granite, Business Exchange Real Estate, Artist Harry Evans, Parker Dry Goods, Hendricks Overland Agency, Consumer Home Oil Co, Swain and Son Music Store, Berry Jewelers, and two wallpaper and paint stores. Present owner: Capps, Ancelet, Stoverink, Attorneys, Carthage.
2. This space was originally Cunningham's Blacksmith Shop, a pioneer service on the square. It was demolished and in 1896 John Sample and John McMahan built a simple roof structure between two buildings and used it as a crude carpenter shop. About 1910 Charles Tyler added a proper facade and inner walls for a jewelry store. Later a pastry shop operated here successfully. Present owner: Marlin Long, Carthage.
- 3/4. Building 3 is a two-story three-bay building with its original decorative cast-iron store front. The second story features a pair of oriel's separated by a roofed balcony with a wrought iron balustrade. Building 4 is almost identical except that the original storefront has been replaced. It was built in 1902 as a grocery store in the south half. In 1909, Welch became Mayor of Carthage. He saw that decorative lighting was added to the square. The north side of the building was added a year later and has always been a restaurant. Apartments above the stores have always been used as apartments. Present owners: Darrell Plumley, Leota Ballard.
5. The Dime Bank Building was built as a bank by the Berry brothers in 1902. It is made of buff Milwaukee tapestry brick with pine and grey tile throughout. Mahogany counters still sit atop granite counter faces. Two small porticos remain on the facade that provided twin entrances to the bank. The Mississippi Valley Telephone Company was an original tenant in the rear of the building. M.P. Berry later became Mayor and had brick laid in the streets surrounding the square. He served as state senator from 1888 to 1908. He gave the first \$500.00 to establish the public library in Carthage. In 1932 the bank failed and the Farm Bureau bought the building and it has occupied it since. A lower level shop is approached from a front set of steps down from the sidewalk. It has been occupied by several small businesses such as barbers and beauty salons. One large lower-level room is used for public gatherings. Present owner: Farm Bureau.
6. Masonic Lodge, Geo. W. Payne & Son, Architects. Built: 1887. Owner/Builder: Royal Order of Masons. This is a four-bay two-story brick building with classical second floor window cornices and a single-door entrance flanked by Doric Tuscan columns. This was the second home of the Masons and Order of Eastern Star. It originally had a pyramidal roof and a large arched attic window in the center of the upper facade. The ground floor was in the beginning occupied by the McKee implement dealership with side entrances off the alley. In 1924 the building was damaged by fire and the Masons built another building off the square. From that time on the telephone company has occupied the building until 1985, then it was purchased and occupied by the Hancock County Health Department. Present owner: Hancock County.

7. Rayer Building, E. A. Payne, Architect. Built: 1906. Owner/Builder: Fred Rayer. This building was built to house two commercial operations on the first floor and a skating rink/dance hall with hard maple floors on the second floor. Rayer operated his plumbing and heating business on the first floor and rented out the rear for warehouse space. Rayer had the plumbing and heating contract for the present courthouse and was instrumental in building the Carthage water and sewer plants. Present owner: American Legion, Carthage.
8. Built: 1885. Entire front changed. Presently golf store.
9. Rams Building. Built: 1895. Owner/Builder: Henry Rams. Rams was a builder who constructed this building to house a popular new entertainment. It was for a number of years the Davis Brothers' Bijou Theatre and Music Store. The facade was to closely match the Johnson Building next door. Present Owner: Newsland Corp., Burlington, Iowa.
10. Johnson Block. Built: 1894. Owner/Builder: Homer Johnson. This building was built and operated for nine years by Johnson as a livery stable. The building had its own windmill and water tanks for its horses. It served many years as a furniture store and mortuary, later as an automobile dealership and garage. Present Owner: Tom Wenn.
11. Journal Building. Built: 1923. Owner/Builder: John Beckman. There is no storefront, as the first floor was always offices and work-space. In the center of the second floor, which originally was an apartment was a barroom. The building was built to house the local county weekly newspaper. The second owner Don Forsythe became one of the most influential local citizens and was made International President of Kiwanis. He was founder of a hearing clinic at Mitchell Reese Hospital and has been Carthage's most famous citizen in recent years as a result. Present Owner: Mrs. Don Forsythe.
12. Odd Fellows Block. Built: 1894. Owner/Builder: International Order of Odd Fellows. This is a three-story five-bay brick building which is entirely original, including cast storefront elements, art nouveau decorative glass and display window apron ornament. In the beginning the first floor store-rooms were occupied by a grocery store on one side and a dry goods store on the other. Later these rooms served for cars as the post office and a bowling alley. The second floor was originally law offices and a banquet room, and the third floor served as ante-reception, regalia, banquet and lodge rooms. Present Owner: Jack Hillen.
- 13/14. Carthage City Hall Fire Station. Carthage Library. Geo. W. Payne & Son, Architects. Built: 1893, 1900. Owner/Builder: City of Carthage. Built as two buildings but fused together for combined city use, the interiors of the buildings are completely integrated. A fire station/city hall was built on the site of the Jacob Sholl home. The fire station bell tower was four stories in height with an open fourth floor bell housing supported by center pairs of columns. The fireman's quarters were on the second floor; the engines were on the ground level behind a large segmented-stone arched set of doors. The city hall was on the second floor rear. The second half of the building was built to house the library on the second floor with the city chambers on the first. In 1965 the expanded library took the entire building when the fire station moved to its present quarters. Present Owner: City of Carthage.

15. City of Carthage Mini-Park for Public Library
16. Foulds Building, G.W. Payne & Son, Architects Built: 1907 Owner/
Builder: Joe Foulds
The second floor features an oriel seen several other times around the square. Originally built as a bowling alley on the ground floor, it served two early purposes. A Chinese handyman who worked at the bowling alley also ran a laundry in the basement. It later served as Carthage's silent movie house. With the advent of talkies a larger auditorium was needed. The second and third floor provided fine apartments. Present Owner: Tuffy Holtsclaw
17. Sheriff's House Built: 1866 Owner/Builder: Hancock County
This is a three-bay two-story brick hall-and-parlor double-file vernacular Georgian house with a lateral gabled roof. A colonial Revival porch was added around 1900. The building sits back 14 feet from the sidewalk marking the normal setback of the first generation of residences on the square. The building sets on the site of the first Hancock County courthouse, a log structure built in 1833. This jail replaced the stone jail where Joseph and Hyrum Smith were murdered. It was built as a sheriff's residence and jail. It is no longer occupied as a new jail has been built. It is presently endangered. Present Owner: Hancock County
18. Cutler Hotel Built: 1876 Owner/Builder: John Dee Stephens
The original building was the west seven bays. It was first named the Centennial Hotel. John Stevens was immediate past sheriff when he built the hotel. As a deputy sheriff in 1847 he served the arrest papers on the Mormons at Nauvoo. The Hotel was also known as the Stevens House. Its interior and furnishings were reputed to have been second to none. In 1880 Stevens was elected to the state general assembly, serving one term. He was postmaster during Cleveland's administration. In 1886 he rented the Hotel to Howard Cutler and he purchased it in 1889. The name was then changed. In 1893 Cutler added to the east side a building half the size of the original. This expanded the rooms from 24 "steeping apartments" to 36. The first floor of the new addition was occupied by the post office and Helfrich Taylor shop. Cutler worked tirelessly for the city. Subsequently there were several owners and leasers. Present Owner: Bob Cook
19. Helfrich Building Built: 1875 Owner/Builder: Joseph Helfrich
The original storefront is intact in all respects with a double-door entry. Born and reared in Germany, Joseph Helfrich came to Carthage in 1858 to avoid compulsory military service in the old country. He served in the Civil War. The building was built as a meat market, and later used as a Blacksmith shop/garage and batter shop. Present Owner: Frank Stetler
20. Patterson Building Built: 1875 Owner/Builder: W.W. Patterson
The original storefront is intact and may represent one of the most completely original buildings on the square. It is a two-store, four-bay brick Italianate building with vernacular corbelled cornice. Second floor and shop windows and entry are corbelled brick and round-arched. The keystones are carved limestone. The most successful grocery operation the Carthage square ever had began here. Later tenants were several restaur- ants. Present Owner: John Fecht
21. Matthews Building Built: 1892 Owner/Builder: A. B. and Edward Matthews
This building was built as an income property and first occupied by the Carey Furniture Co. on the first floor and by the Sharp and Berry law offices on the second. Taylor and Edwards Hardware occupied the building for fifty-five years. They installed Carthage's first elevator at the rear of this building for the transportation of hardware to the second floor storage area. Present Owner: Jerry Main
22. Opera House Built: 1892
This is a two-story six-bay brick building which was totally reworked in 1919 for uses for the new owners, the Marine Bank. For twenty-five years the Rand Furniture and Carpet store occupied the first floor. The second floor was doctors' and law offices. The third floor was used for entertainment by local and professional groups. This top floor was removed when the Marine Bank took over the building. Present Owner: Marine Bank and Trust.
23. Taylor Block Built: 1896 Owner/Builder: Charles Taylor
Charles Taylor came to Carthage from Kentucky in 1856 and clerked in a store until the Civil War. After his enlistment in the war he returned to start a grocery business. He built this building as an income property and to house his son's feed business. It was occupied by Emerich and Owsley Clothing Company, next was boots and shoes, and the third store on the north end was the Griffith-Hatch bookstore and E.P. Stewart Jewelry Store. The C.D. Taylor feed store occupied a store room around the corner on the wabash side of the building. The second floor was used for offices. Taylor became postmaster and Owsley Carthage's largest clothing merchant. Owsley left the bulk of his estate to the public library. Present Owner: Mike Kelly
24. Callahan Building Built: 1888 Owner/Builder: Dr. James Callahan
Dr. James Callahan built this building to house his offices on the second floor. His first tenant was the Ehrlich and Owsley Clothing which later moved to the larger quarters next door in the Taylor Block. In 1907 Callahan's son-in-law started the Nickel Novelty Store and Electric Theatre - "Everone 5¢". Later the first floor was the Lawrence Hardware. This building was built simultaneously with its twin to the north. Present Owner: Don Sullivan
25. Helfrich Building Built: 1888 Owner/Builder: N.J. Helfrich
Nick Helfrich from Alsace-Lorraine was one of Carthage's most popular citizens. As a child he immigrated to Carthage in 1858 and entered the grocery business in the Patterson building on the south side of the square in 1874. His was the most successful grocery business in town. He was active in all civic affairs and headed up the building of the new lodge building on the southeast corner of the square. Present Owner: Erika Cady
- 26a. WCAZ
In 1875 Messen Clark and Dale built this double brick building. W.J. Dale built the one on the south and on the first floor he had a stock of "domestic goods". On the second floor was an apartment for the Dale family. Present Owner: Dan Bryan
- 26b. Clark Building Built: 1875 Owner/Builder: Charles Clark
Storeroom was originally leased to A. Gutman grocer, which also dealt in produce, hides, wool, and furs. It was also a tobacco factory and men's and boy's clothing store. He came to Carthage to settle an uncle's estate and stayed on. He owned over 2,000 acres of land and built a grain elevator on the CB & Q railroad. The upper floor has always been apartment; presently a study is underway to determine the feasibility of restoring the facade and the upper floors for commercial use. Present Owner: Sam Naylor III
27. Country Pastimes originally built as Karen's Fabric in 1980

28. Selover Building Built: 1867 Owner/Builder: T. B. Quimby
Probably the best preserved building on the square is the Quimby-Selover Building. The ground floor was built for a clothing store by J. B. Quimby who remained in business only a year. He then moved a block north and opened a buggy business. The second and third floors were used as offices a hall respectively. The original storefront remains completely intact, including cast iron columns flanking the recessed entry, awning, and display window aprons in carved sunburst pattern. Present Owner: McHugh Dry Goods Co.
29. Markliffe Building Built: 1868 Owner/Builder: William Dale
Dale built this building for his dry goods business, before he built several doors to the south in 1875. The building was then sold to Duffy and Metzger who operated a livery here. Griffith and Hatch operated a book store in one half and shared space with J. P. Stewart Jewelry. The original storefront has been replaced with aluminum. Present Owner: Don Welch
30. Owsley Building, Geo. W. Payne & Son, Architects Built: 1898 Owner/Builder: Erasmus Quimby
This is a two and one-half story seven-bay brick commercial building. It has a raised center corbelled cornice with corner piers. A large lunette is a feature of the attic level under the center cornice. A small bulls-eye light is at the attic level above the inner stairway. The Quimby and Gill clothing business was here first. Quimby's success in Carthage allowed him to sell his business, move to California, and build one of the most beautiful commercial buildings still in use in Los Angeles. Present Owner: Dennis Royalty
31. Royalty Shop Built: 1940
The building was originally built for Benner Tea Co. replacing some one-story frame buildings. Present Owner: Charles & Dennis Royalty
32. Williams Building Built: 1880 Owner/Builder: G. F. Williams
This building replaced a small frame building which was one of the original businesses on the square. Built in 1880 by G. F. Williams for his jewelry operation, it was sold two years later to the J. M. Berry Jewelry Company. In 1889 a second floor was constructed to house dressing rooms for the opera house next door and to give some seating capacity to the opera house. When the opera house was no longer used, the upper floor was converted to offices. Present Owner: Nancy O'Harris
33. Spittler Opera House Built: 1881 Owner/Builder: Dr. Spittler
This building replaced one of the oldest buildings on the square which had been built around 1836. The first floor was occupied by Elder and Quimby Clothing Company. Originally the opera house on the second floor was not finished and for two years the home guard rented the space as an armory. When the stage was built, the opera house was the scene of local entertainments and traveling musicals. The entire building was the first in Carthage to have gas/electric lighting. The risers of the stairs to the opera house were glass, back lit with electric bulbs and each carrying a local advertisement. Present Owner: Nancy O'Harris
34. Wood Inn Built: 1891
A large fire in the building in the 1940s caused the facade to be replaced. Present Owner: John Jaffey
35. Soevern Building Built: 1891 Owner/Builder: Henry W. Soevern
Built as a blacksmith shop and wagon sales store, the building later held Soevern's farm machinery business. The original storefront remains with large 2' x 4' panes of glass making up the large display windows and clerestories. Henry Rams later bought out Soevern and built buggies here. When automobiles caught on, Rams and E. P. Cutler opened a dealership and garage here. In 1918 William Smith of Bentley bought the Harvester dealership, which continues today. Present Owner: Curtis Wilhite
36. Duffy Building Built: 1895 Owner/Builder: John S. Duffy
This is a two-story, four-bay commercial brick with double entry original garage-type doors. It has its original display windows and upper apartment sidewalk entrance door. An entry door on the second level opens onto a delicate, balustraded balcony. Built by the Matthews Brothers builders, this building opened as a feed store owned by John Duffy. Duffy also carried Case implements, Garland riding plows, and Moon buggies and road carts. Present Owner: Curtis Wilhite
37. Cochehan Building Built: 1871
This building has always housed a furniture business. The storefront has been altered extensively. The upper facade above the storefront cornice is reversible. Cost studies on the storefront replacement and upper facade restoration are being put together. Present Owner: Keith Twaddle.
38. Ferris Building Built: 1875 Owner/Builder: Hiram Ferris
The president of the First National Bank of Carthage built this building as an income property. The Nace furniture and undertaking business which was housed in the Cochehan Building had outgrown that building, so Ferris, then the president of the bank to the east of this building, built this building to lease to Nace. The building was later occupied by Russell Smith who had a victrola, paint, and wallpaper business. It was later purchased by Keith Twaddle and again used as a part of the furniture business. Present Owner: Keith Twaddle
39. Hancock National Bank Built: 1872
In 1955 the entire building, except the cornice, was covered with aluminum. In 1983 all windows were removed, classical corner entry pavillion was removed, new down-sized windows were installed, and the aluminum removed. Lots of original detail and fenestration rendered the building non-contributing to the nomination form for the National Register of Historic Places. Present Owner: First Midwest Bank of Hancock County
40. Hunsacker Building Built: 1864 Owner/Builder: G.J. Hunsacker
This is a two-story, three-bay Italianate brick building. It has eyebrow arched second floor windows with limestone keystones. The corners of the storefront are brick-quoined. The original storefront components have been replaced, but the recessed entry configuration remains with flanking display windows. Hunsacker built the building for his grocery store. About four years later the post office occupied the building for a short time. It was also used as a grocery, hardware, kitchenwares, and feed operation. In 1892 a twin building was built next door by the Strader family. Present Owner: Leota Ballard
41. Strader Building Built: 1892 Owner/Builder: Jacob Strader
Twin to the building just described, it was built by the Straders as an income property and was first leased to the Elder Dry Co. Later the building was occupied by the Benner Tea Company, the Lunt Grocery, and the Ben Franklin Store. The second floor for many years was occupied by Judge David Mack and his son Edward Mack, both attorneys. Present Owner: Leota Ballard
42. Culklin Block Built: 1877 Owner/Builder: John Culklin
One of the true community leaders from the time he arrived in Carthage in 1868, John Culklin had been born in Ireland. His strong personality and talent caused his business to prosper quickly and he outgrew his early business places. He built this building as a haberdashery and one of the largest storerooms in Carthage. He accumulated wealth and farmland and became owner of one of the largest acreages in Hancock County. Present Owner: Jon Gerardi, Columbia, MO.

