

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number _____

Name of Multiple Property Listing _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number W. Broadway from Courthouse Square to 706; Upper Broadway from 301-401; 801 Park Drive; not for publication

Phelps Park; 611 Park St. (increased boundaries: 202 Winnebago St; 2. 307 W Main St)

city or town Decorah vicinity

state Iowa county Winneshek zip code 52101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: ___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date _____

State Historical Society of Iowa _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action _____

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
	1	site
		structure
		object
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 42

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Government/Post office

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/Library

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival/Neo-Classical

Revival

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival/Italian

Renaissance

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: brick, concrete

walls: limestone

brick

roof: asphalt, steel, concrete tile

other: _____

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

This amendment's purpose is to expand the boundaries of the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District to add two properties as contributing buildings. The Decorah Federal Post Office (202 Winnebago Street) and St. Benedict's Catholic Church (307 West Main Street) flank the Winneshiek County Courthouse (resource #3) in the northeastern corner of the district. The Decorah Federal Post Office is a three-bay by seven-bay, one-story, Neo-Classical building that fronts Main Street to the north. It rests on a hidden brick foundation, features smooth-faced limestone masonry, and includes a low-sloped hip roof hidden behind a prominent parapet. St. Benedict's Catholic Church is a four-bay by eight-bay, Italian Renaissance, gable-front building that fronts Court Street. It rests on a concrete foundation and is constructed of red brick with limestone banding and is capped by a concrete tile roof. Both properties have integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**, and any future plans for the property under the subheading **Future Plans**.)

The Decorah Federal Post Office and St. Benedict's Catholic Church are physically contiguous with the district's boundaries as they were established in 1976 and this amendment serves to expand those boundaries to include them based on their ability to contribute to the significance of the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District. Although the upper Phelps Parks section of the district is physically more expansive, the lower West Broadway Street section in the original nomination mostly included buildings that directly lined Broadway. This framework created an unusual situation for the centrally-important Winneshiek County Courthouse (item # 3 on the original nomination), which, although its back side is on a lot that abuts Broadway to the south, actually has a 201 West Main Street address because its main façade faces north toward Main Street and the Decorah Commercial Historic District (listed in 2017; NRHP reference #100001482). The two new properties in this amendment, the Decorah Federal Post Office (now the home of the Decorah Library) and St. Benedict Catholic Church, are similar outliers, in that neither fronts Broadway Street, but both abut the Courthouse to the east and west, respectively. St. Benedict's also abuts the First United Methodist Church (302 West Broadway, item # 7 on the original nomination) to its south.

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Table of Additional Contributing Resources

MAP ID	RESOURCE INFORMATION AND STATUS	DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY
53	<p>Decorah Federal Post Office 202 Winnebago Street 1911, Neo-Classical Contributing Building (1)</p> 	<p>Description: The original building is constructed of smooth-cut limestone. It is a three-bay by seven-bay, one story building sitting on a hidden brick foundation and capped by a low-pitched hip roof hidden behind a parapet and strongly-projecting cornice supported by a continuous band of dentils. The north-facing façade features three bays and a centered, full-height portico with four Tuscan-style columns topped with a triangular pediment. The portico sits at the top of nine granite stairs that lead to the primary entrance. The portico is flanked by semicircular arched window openings that have brown sandwich panels filling the upper half of the openings. The west elevation features seven bays with the center providing a secondary entrance that consists of a simple arched doorway leading off of six granite stairs. The semicircular arched window openings (three to either side of the doorway) have the same brown sandwich panels and two-light windows as the façade. In 1996, a large two-story, four-bay by four-bay addition with an interior mezzanine was attached to the library’s east side. The 1996 addition is faced with a tan stucco that complements the original building’s color.</p> <p>History: James Knox Taylor as the Supervising Architect of the Treasury designed the building. Harmon Brothers of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, served as contractors and were assisted by local contractors George Bernatz and Fred Carlson. After the post office moved to a new building in 1964, it became home to the Decorah Public Library, which continues to operate out of this location today.</p>

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

<p>54</p>	<p>St. Benedict Catholic Church 307 West Main Street 1918, Italian Renaissance Revival Contributing Building (1)</p> 	<p>Description: The church's south property line abuts the United Methodist Church property, which is a contributing resource to the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District. St. Benedict is a gable-front, Italian Renaissance Revival building constructed with red brick with considerable brick decorative designs and smooth-cut limestone banding. The building's east facade has a step-gabled façade dominated by a central rose window and an attached steeple that rises above the main building's roof. The two smaller step-gabled facades on the north and south transepts each contain a large circular rose window. Smaller circular windows appear on the tower. The eight round-top windows in the nave are tall and narrow. This same window shape appears in several smaller windows on the eastern façade, on the tower, and on the three altar spaces at the interior's western end. The building now includes a 1992 brick, two-story semi-attached parish center addition to the rear (west), and a large 2018 attached single-story addition with a full basement on the south side.</p> <p>History: Prominent Beaux Arts architect Emmanuel Louis Masqueray designed the building. The rose and nave windows were always intended to include stained glass, but because of cost, the original windows were clear glass. The present twenty-four, imported stained-glass windows were installed by the L. C. Esser Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1941.</p>
<p>55</p>	<p>St. Benedict Catholic Church Prayer Garden 307 West Main Street 2021 Noncontributing Site (1)</p> 	<p>Description: The Prayer Garden occupies the western section of the block beyond the church and rectory. The Garden features a cross-shaped stone pathway leading into the garden from the sidewalk along Main Street. Centered within the garden is a circular bed of rocks with a large stone serving as a platform for a sculpture. Circular stepping stones lead up from the top of the cross and surround this bed, meeting just behind it at a set of steps providing access to a small wooden gazebo centered at the garden's southern concrete wall that lines Grove Street. Small, square concrete pads along the east and west sides provide locations for additional sculptures. Wooden posts lining the east, south, and west sides of the garden support wood-framed images for the Stations of the Cross. A black, metal fence lines the western edge along River Street with two panels each wrapping around the north and south corners before terminating.</p> <p>History: Constructed by St. Benedict Catholic Church in 2021.</p>

Integrity Assessment

The original Post Office and St. Benedict buildings have high integrity. Both buildings include recent additions that allude to the originals, but defer to them. Because of their historic associations and architectural distinctiveness, both buildings complement the existing properties in the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District and should be considered contributing buildings in the district.

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Taylor, James Knox

Masqueray, Emmanuel Louis

Harmon Brothers

Bernatz, George

Carlson, Fred

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The purpose of this boundary increase for the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District is to amend the nomination to include two contributing buildings. The Post Office and St. Benedict Catholic Church contribute to the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic district under Criterion C for their associations with architectural trends of the time (Neo-Classical and Italian Renaissance revival styles, respectively) that are reflected elsewhere in the district. The Post Office also contributes to the district under Criterion A for its association with Politics and Government. The two properties were historically complementary to the properties in the original nomination, which includes three other government buildings and five other churches. The district also includes thirty-six private residences. Residents from this neighborhood, in addition to residents from further outlying areas, would have used the Post Office and attended St. Benedict and the other Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District churches.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

Post Office (1911)



Figure 1: Decorah Federal Post Office (now the Decorah Public Library). Ca. 1920. Image courtesy of Vesterheim Museum and Heritage Center Library Collections and Archives.

The Post Office contributes to the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District under Criterion A for its association with politics and government. When the Post Office was built in 1911, Decorah became the only town in Northeast Iowa with a population of less than 25,000 to have a federal post office. The construction of a high-quality building that complemented the Classical Revival style of the Winneshiek County Courthouse on the adjoining block represented an important statement about Decorah's development as a residential, civic, and commercial town. More than two-thirds of the residences in the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District were constructed before 1910, and sixty percent of the buildings surviving in 2017 in the Decorah Commercial Historic District were constructed before 1899. The Post Office, both in its historical function (1912-1963) and in its current

function as a library (1964-present), is a major civic building that contributes to the integrity of the historic district. Other governmental buildings in the district include the Winneshiek County Jail (item # 1 on the original nomination), the Winneshiek County Sheriff's Office (item # 2 on the original nomination), and the Courthouse (item # 3 on the original nomination).

The Post Office also contributes to the district under Criterion C. It represents the Neo-Classical style typical of the high-quality buildings produced under the oversight of the United States Department of the Treasury Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor. As an architectural partner in Minnesota from 1884-92 with Cass Gilbert, who had earlier worked in the firm of McKim, Mead & White, Taylor was involved in the design of many homes and churches (Lee, p. 198). In 1895 Taylor began to work as a temporary draftsman under the Supervisory Architect William Martin Aiken, working alongside "accomplished architects such as Frank L.

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

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Averill... A Decorah, Iowa native" who left the office in 1904 for private practice (Lee, p. 194). Taylor moved into the position of Supervising Architect in 1897, the first person promoted to the position from within the department (Lee, p. 199). Taylor's work at Treasury was typified by what architectural historian Antoinette J. Lee calls "academic classicism" (p. 189).

St. Benedict Catholic Church (1918)

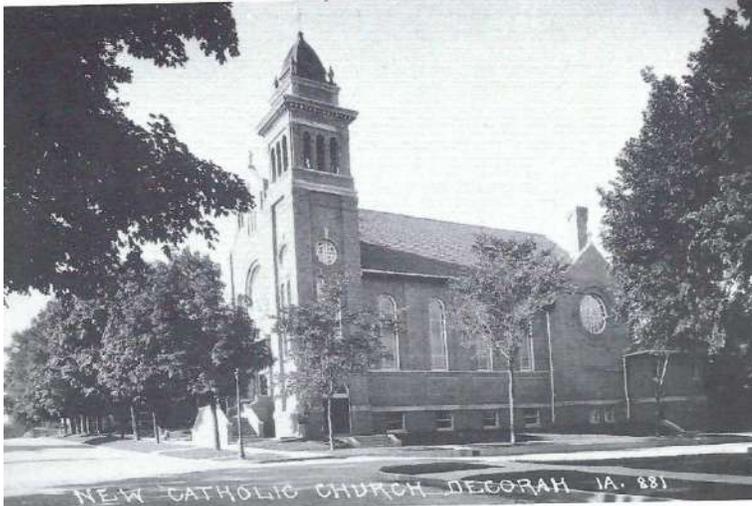


Figure 2: St. Benedict Catholic Church. Postcard ca. 1930. (Ruth R. Kath, *St. Benedict Church, Decorah, Iowa: On the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Construction of the Church Building in 1917*, 1992.)

St. Benedict's Catholic Church contributes to the Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District under Criterion C as a good example of Italian Renaissance revival architecture designed by prominent Beaux Arts architect Emmanuel Louis Masqueray. Masqueray was born in Dieppe, France in 1861, studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and moved to New York in 1887. He served as the chief of design of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis from 1901-04. There he met the powerful Archbishop of St. Paul, John Ireland, who gave Masqueray the opportunity to design the monumental 1915 Cathedral of St. Paul, Minnesota. The prominence of the St. Paul Cathedral brought Masqueray further design opportunities throughout the Midwest. Masqueray died in 1917, before the completion of many of these projects. One of Masqueray's chief draftsmen, Edwin H. Lundie (1886-1972), a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and

later a prominent Minnesota architect in his own right, oversaw the completion of a number of these uncompleted projects, possibly also including St. Benedict Catholic Church (Kath, p. 10).

The four churches in the original nomination that contribute to the district (resources # 6, 7, 23, 29) are distinctive partly because they represent all but two of the major religious traditions present in Decorah in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and all the buildings are in a central location in a residential/civic area near the city commercial district. The Decorah Lutheran Church, which was constructed c. 1960 is also present within the district but is a noncontributing resource because it was built outside the period of significance. The Roman Catholic St. Benedict Church represents the other historically important church tradition in Decorah, and its building is in the same central residential/civic/commercial area as the other churches.

Decorah's first Roman Catholic church was a native limestone building constructed in 1864 on what is now 512 East Broadway. By the turn of the century, the building was too small for the growing congregation; it was razed in approximately 1937. The current church was completed in 1918 on two lots purchased in 1915. It is probable that the decision to purchase land and build on the Courthouse Square just off the Broadway residential district, which is also just off the edge of the commercial district, and within easy reach of all of the prominent Protestant congregations, reflected the parish's desire to make a presence for itself in the center of Decorah's public life. Since its founding in 1885, the parish school had been several blocks from the city center at John Street, and the parish clearly decided in 1915 not to build a church in that neighborhood.

Archaeological Assessment

An archaeological investigation was not a part of this amendment. Additional research may identify archaeological sites that could contribute to the overall historical significance of the district.

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Harlan, Edgar R. "Proposed Improvement of the Iowa State Capitol Grounds," *The Annals of Iowa* 11:2 (1913), pp. 96-114.

Kath, Ruth R. *St. Benedict Church, Decorah, Iowa: On the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Construction of the Church Building in 1917*. 1992.

Lathrop, Alan K. "Emmanuel L. Masqueray: A French Architect in Minnesota," *Minnesota History* (Summer 1980), pp. 42-56.

Lee, Antoinette J. *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*. Oxford University Press, 2000.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey

#

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other

Name of repository: Decorah Genealogical Association, Winneshiek County Historical Society, Decorah Public Library, St. Benedict Church archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Acreage of Property

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

See Figure 4, page 12 for historic district Latitude/Longitude Coordinates.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The present boundary increase extends the boundary (1) north along River Street from Grove Street to West Main Street and then east where it meets the previously established boundary at Court Street and (2) from the far eastern boundary at Court Street along that same street to east of the Post Office/Decorah Public Library where it turns south along the building's east elevation, then turns west along the building's south elevation, and rejoins the previously established boundary at Court Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Even though neither of the two proposed buildings is on W. Broadway Street (one key demarcation for the lower [eastern] section of the original Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District), both buildings are contiguous to the district's central building, the Winneshiek County Courthouse, and were built within the district's period of significance. The St. Benedict Church is also contiguous on its south side with the United Methodist Church on W. Broadway Street. In the case of both buildings being added to the district, the individual boundaries represent the buildings' historic property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Z. Muggli, chair date March 21, 2021
organization Decorah Historic Preservation Commission telephone 612-720-5795
street & number 722 Washington St. email mugglimz@luther.edu
city or town Decorah state Iowa zip code 52101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

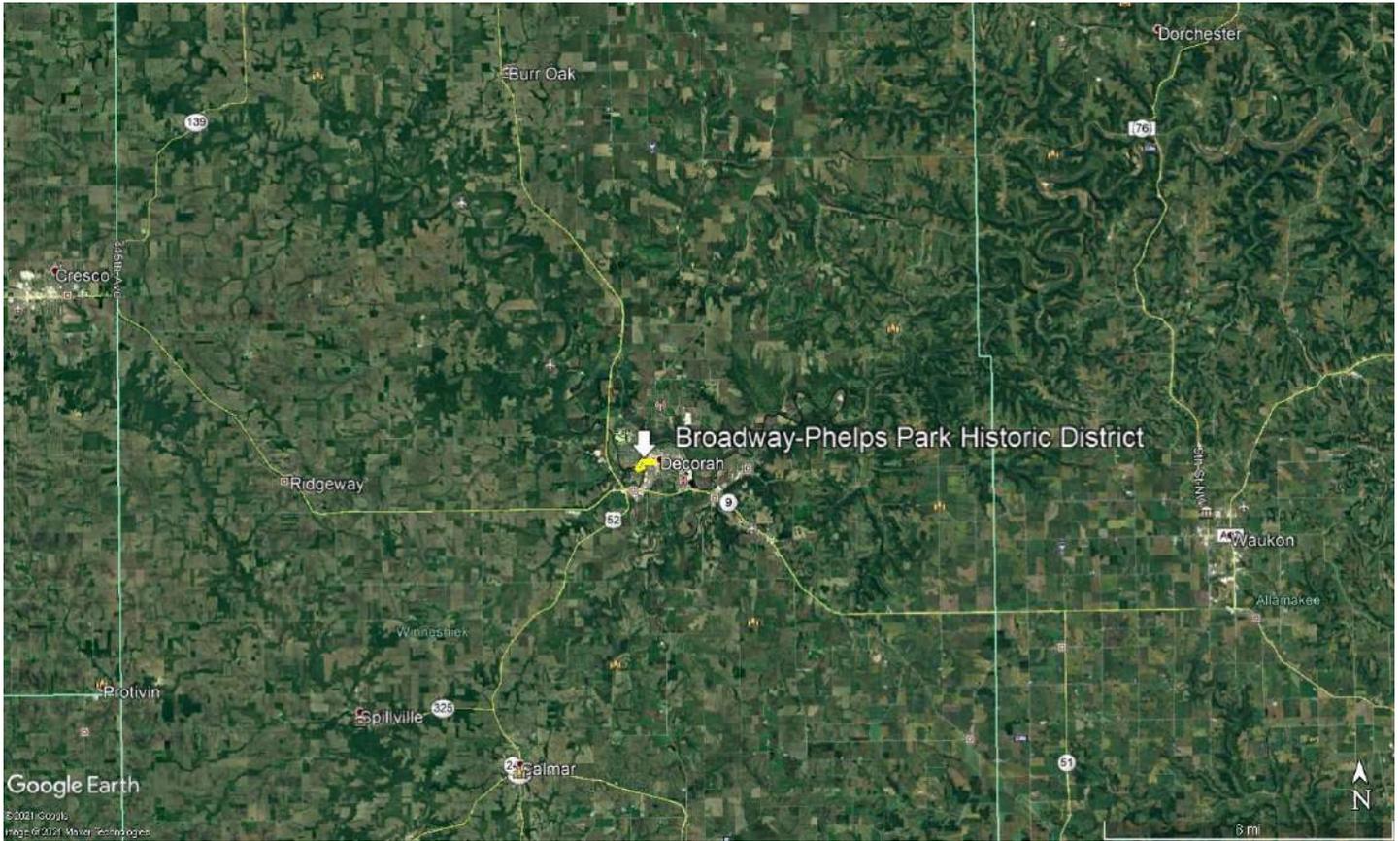


Figure 3: Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District, Decorah, Iowa, location map. (Source: Google Earth, imagery date May 5, 2016)

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Winneshiek County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

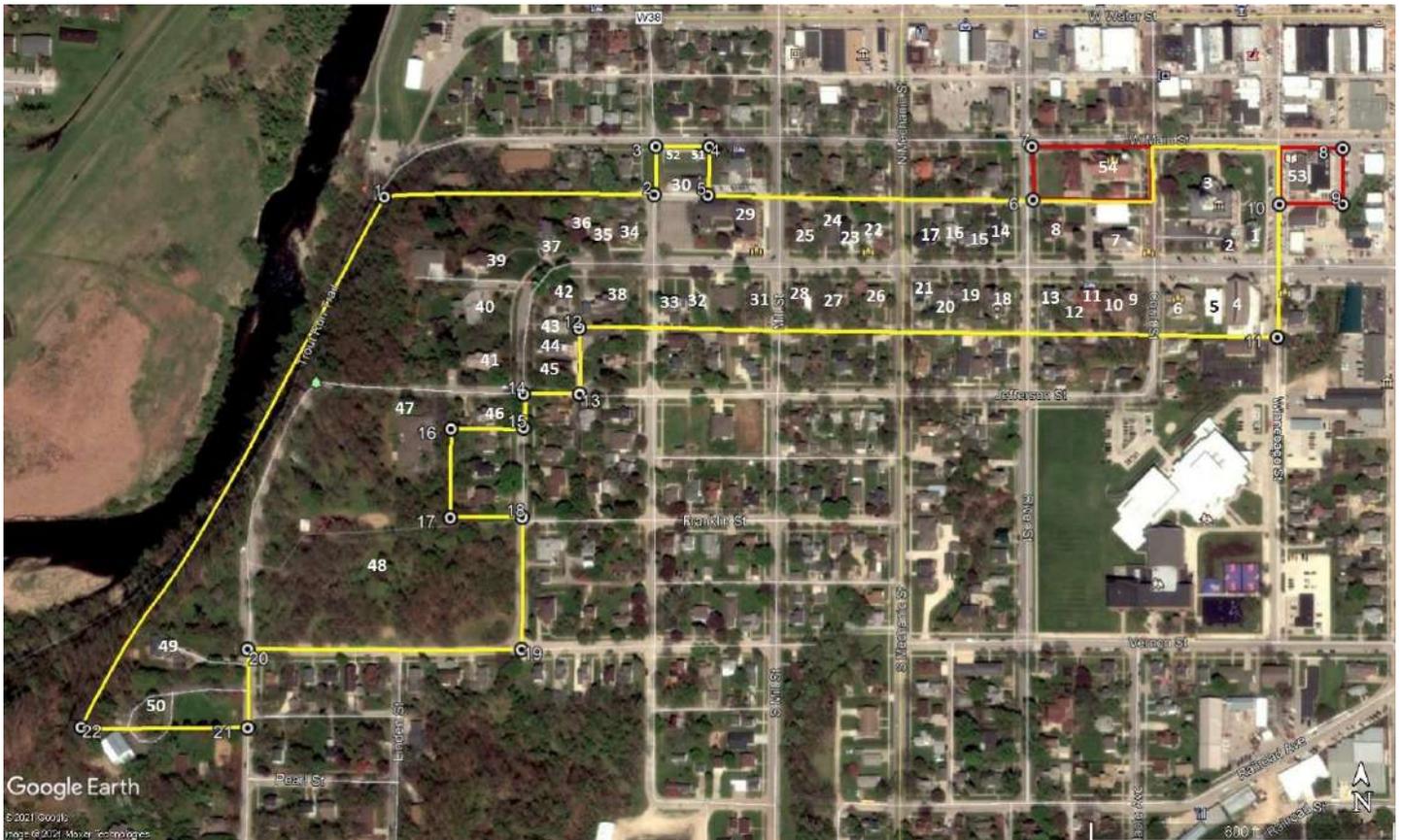


Figure 4: Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District, Decorah, Iowa, district map. Original district boundaries marked in yellow and boundary increase marked in red. Resource numbers labeled. (Source: Google Earth, imagery date May 3, 2015).

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1: 43.302871°, -91.796091° | 12: 43.301898°, -91.794097° |
| 2: 43.302873°, -91.793379° | 13: 43.301432°, -91.794091° |
| 3: 43.303238°, -91.793369° | 14: 43.301428°, -91.794635° |
| 4: 43.303237°, -91.792833° | 15: 43.301190°, -91.794631° |
| 5: 43.302870°, -91.792848° | 16: 43.301198°, -91.795321° |
| 6: 43.302854°, -91.789617° | 17: 43.300557°, -91.795325° |
| 7: 43.303248°, -91.789616° | 18: 43.300559°, -91.794644° |
| 8: 43.303243°, -91.786511° | 19: 43.299617°, -91.794649° |
| 9: 43.302840°, -91.786503° | 20: 43.299630°, -91.797269° |
| 10: 43.302832°, -91.787157° | 21: 43.299085°, -91.797252° |
| 11: 43.301870°, -91.787157° | 22: 43.299061°, -91.798917° |

Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Winneshiek County, Iowa
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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Broadway-Phelps Park Historic District (Boundary Increase)
City or Vicinity: Decorah
County: Winneshiek **State:** Iowa
Photographer: Mark Z. Muggli
Date Photographed: March 18, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 4: Decorah Federal Post Office (now the Decorah Public Library), north façade, west elevation, with 1996 addition on the left. Looking southeast.

Photo 2 of 4: Decorah Federal Post Office (now the Decorah Public Library), north façade, with a small slice of the 1996 addition on the left and the Courthouse on the right. Looking southwest.

Photo 3 of 4: St. Benedict Catholic Church, east façade and north elevation, with 1992 parish center addition in background to the right and 2018 church addition to the left. Looking southwest.

Photo 4 of 4: St. Benedict Catholic Church, tower and east façade, with Courthouse on the far left. Looking south.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.