

# Historic Tour of Red Oak and Heritage Hill



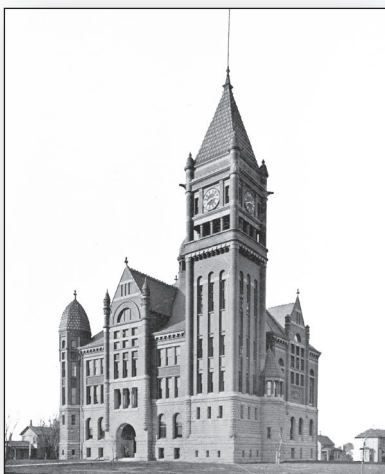


In the midst of the rolling, fertile hills of southwest Iowa, and nestled on the banks of the Nishnabotna River, Red Oak grew from the vision of Colonel Alfred Hebard while surveying for the Burlington Railroad in the 1850s. Originally called Red Oak Junction, the town grew slowly. After the Civil War and the completion of the railroad in 1869, Red Oak prospered and became a center of activity, with the development of farming and industry in the area.

Red Oak's business section expanded around The Square, while many fine residences were constructed on the beautiful hills to the east. Some of these splendid turn-of-the-century homes and buildings are highlighted in this guide.

All attempts were made to provide accurate historical information. The guide was made possible by the combined efforts of the City of Red Oak's Historic Preservation Commission, the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce, Western Iowa Tourism Region, and the Touchstone Arts Council. Appreciation is extended to the Montgomery County Historical Society, homeowners and the many volunteers for research and providing photographs and records.

## 1. 105 COOLBAUGH MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE



The Montgomery County Courthouse, completed in 1890 of red limestone and of Richardsonian Romanesque design is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Courthouse was the subject of a woodcut purchased by Edmund Osborne and Thomas D. Murphy in 1888 while under construction. Needing to offset the expense, the two sold advertising to surround a calendar and a copy of the woodcut print.

Subsequently, Red Oak became known as the birthplace of the art calendar industry.

## 2. 302 S. SECOND ~ CB & Q DEPOT



When completed in 1903, the depot was a model of modern convenience linking Red Oak to areas not easily traveled before. Rural communities were virtually inaccessible by any method of transportation until lifelines of railroads joined them to more metropolitan societies.

## 3. 110 S. SECOND ~ THOS. D. MURPHY COMPANY



Birthplace of the Art Calendar, this beautiful brick factory housed the Thos. D. Murphy Company, after many locations and expansions in the area. The international company benefited from astounding growth, and the factory was enlarged until the complex was

nearly 120,000 square feet, plus a large power and heating plant. As well as Art Calendars, the firm printed greeting cards, ink blotters, books and maps.

## 4. 500 COOLBAUGH ~ ARMORY

The home of Co. M, 51st Reg., Iowa National Guard, and used as a theatre and civic meeting house. Originally one story, the entire floor was raised and a second story added in 1908.



## 5. 400 N. SECOND ~ RED OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY



In 1907, the Carnegie Foundation announced that \$12,500 would be available to communities for the construction of libraries. The town was responsible for funding and acquiring the building site and project support. After argument

and debate, Red Oak's voters approved. The Red Oak Public Library was completed and opened its doors in 1909.

## 6. 310 WASHINGTON ~ RED OAK FIREHOUSE

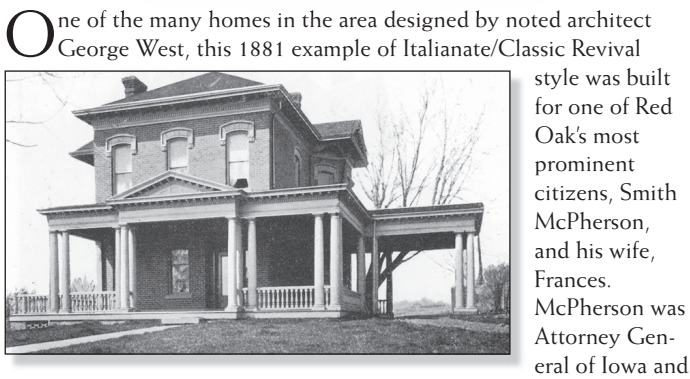
Built in 1898 with its commanding bell tower, the Red Oak Fire Department station housed the horses and equipment on the first floor, with stairs leading up to the firemen's quarters. Teams of horses were trained to "answer the bell" and walk into their harnesses. Pac and Pac served until 1912, replaced by Dude and Dandy until 1918, when motorized equipment was introduced.







## 7. 701 COOLBAUGH ~ SMITH MCPHERSON



One of the many homes in the area designed by noted architect George West, this 1881 example of Italianate/Classic Revival style was built for one of Red Oak's most prominent citizens, Smith McPherson, and his wife, Frances. McPherson was Attorney General of Iowa and

Judge of the Federal Court for the Southern District of Iowa. The site was chosen for its view overlooking the city. The exterior features include a broad veranda, porte-cochere, large eave brackets, and tall windows with arched hood moldings. Inside, the luxurious design was carried out with spacious ceilings, extensive walnut woodwork on the windows, cornices, and the front staircase.

## 8. 711 COOLBAUGH ~ GEORGE MARSHALL



Designed by C. E. Bell and J. H. Kent, this beautiful 1894 example of Queen Anne Victorian architecture was built for George Marshall. The home features a huge sitting porch, curved windows imported from France, and decorative exterior designs repeated on interior fireplaces, and a massive stained glass window in the staircase landing.

## 9. 404 EIGHTH ~ F.E. LOOMIS



This Victorian was designed and constructed in 1896 by famed architect George Miller West for Fay Edgerton Loomis. Mr. Loomis came to Red Oak in 1874 and established one of the first abstract offices west of the Mississippi.



## 10. 909 COOLBAUGH ~ O.G. HOWARD



Built in the 1870's, this beautiful example of Russian Victorian architecture is one of the oldest residences in Red Oak, built for O. G. Howard, a real estate broker. Period details include the Turkish turret and exquisite chimney brickwork outside, to unique seraglio (embossed)

panels beneath the windows and inlaid parquet floors inside. Original features included pocket doors, built-in glass cabinetry mantles, stained glass windows, and a beautiful oak staircase.

## 11. 800 REED ~ JOHN HAYES (HYSHAM HOUSE)

Originally a Queen Anne, the home was built for John Hayes, owner of the Red Oak Investment Company, located on the west side of the Square. Hayes was one of the original incorporators



of the Red Oak Street Railway in 1881, and was President of the Iowa State Agricultural Fair. It was remodeled in 1926 as an English Tudor for Attorney T. J. Hysham and his wife, Ada, a native of Great Britain. Hysham was known for his role as defense lawyer for Rev. George Kelly, the only person ever charged in the Villisca Axe Murders. In 1956, as a long time supporter, Ada Hysham's will provided the funds for the Monday Club, organized in 1895 for "the advancement of women's social, cultural and intellectual position" to purchase the home.

## 12. 507 HAMMOND ~ L.D. ROSS

This 1901 Queen Anne Victorian, with multiple bays and a corner turret, was built for Martha and Lloyd D. Ross. Unique features include a double stone foundation, and double tongue and groove wood walls separated by a 6-inch dead air space.

The interior features full length pocket doors, built-in glass cabinetry mantles and a stained glass window on the landing of the beautiful oak, open staircase.







### 13. 602 EIGHTH ~ THOS. GRIFFITH



Although the early history is not known, the Greek Revival style was home to Thomas Griffith, once Mayor of Red Oak, and his wife, Mary Negus Griffith, daughter of Judge Negus, a prominent citizen of Fairfield,

Iowa. With its sweeping, multi-columned veranda, porte-cochere, widow's walk, and extensive woodwork and brackets, this house makes a commanding statement. The gracious interior features soaring ceilings, magnificent woodwork, library, and a grand staircase.

### 14. 610 EIGHTH ~ A.C. HINCHMAN

Built in 1894 for Mary and Amos C. Hinchman, this Queen Anne Victorian is unusual in its architecture having both a turret and a tower. Hinchman, Vice President of the First National Bank, was owner of Hinchman Drugs, located just off the square on Coolbaugh, which also carried wallpaper and paint. The home features a wrap-around porch, many stained/leaded glass windows, three fireplaces with elaborate wood and tile work, cherry wood grand parlor, oak library and dining room.



### 15. 611 EIGHTH ~ ALEXANDER MCCONNELL

Originally built in 1871 as a brick Italianate for Mary and Alexander McConnell, a City Council Board member overseeing the original water-works and the first president of the Red Oak Reform Club. In 1916, Tessie and Norman Turner, part owner of Turner Brothers Grain-Lumber-Coal, completely remodeled the home to the Prairie Style.



Their son, J. Lyman Turner married Josephine Cochrane, daughter of William and Myrtle Murphy Cochrane and became prominent with the Murphy calendar company. The remodeled home, a true example of the Prairie Style, has a low flat roof, deep eaves, and windows with geometric patterns. The interior, with rip-sawn oak woodwork throughout, features leaded glass French doors, built-in buffet, and a wonderful tiled fireplace with built-in bookshelves.



### 16. 700 EIGHTH ~ ALFRED HEBARD

Listed on the National Historic Register, this 1874 brick Italianate was designed by architect George West and built for Col. Alfred Hebard and his wife Anna Huntington Hebard. Hebard was elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1840 and twice reelected.



He was prominent in framing new laws for the new Territory of Iowa, and in 1846, elected to the First General Assembly of the State. In 1856, Hebard made a survey for the Burlington Missouri Railroad from the Mississippi to the Missouri Rivers. While on the survey, Hebard purchased a large tract of land where Red Oak now stands. Arched windows and doors and ornate brackets grace the exterior. The interior features crystal chandeliers, added in the 1930's, five marble fireplaces, and beautifully tapered and fluted wood trim surrounding the windows and doors.

### 17. 811 HAMMOND ~ WILLIAM MALONY



Completed in December 1894, this Queen Anne Victorian was built for Mary and William Malony, a dentist and hardware merchant. The hardware store was located on the south side of the square in the Malony Building. The unique and

original architectural details on the exterior of the turret are presumed to have come from his tin shop. There are many stained glass windows, four fireplaces, and ceilings reaching nearly eleven feet.

### 18. 900 HAMMOND ~ E.M. CAREY

Another fine example of Victorian architecture designed by George M. West in the late 1800's, for E. M. Carey, owner of the Lane Implement Company, located on the west side of the Square. The home features steeply pitched rooflines sweeping down to covered porches with ornate woodwork and finely detailed stained glass windows.







## 19. 810 CORNING ~ THOS. D. MURPHY



This Colonial Revival home built in 1896, started life as a Victorian residence for Thomas D. Murphy and his wife, Ina Culbertson Murphy and was extensively remodeled in 1941. Before her marriage, Ina Culbertson was a teacher at the Indian Mission School, and in Red Oak,

she was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and president of the Red Oak Monday Club. Thomas D. Murphy, co-owner of the "Independent" and later of the "Red Oak Express" newspapers, was the founder of the Thos. D. Murphy Company, producing the first advertising art calendar. They traveled extensively through Europe and the United States, and he wrote many books of their travels. With his love of literature, the home was built with steel reinforced floors to support the weight of the magnificent library.

## 20. 802 EIGHTH ~ SMITH MCPHERSON

Smith McPherson's second home to be built in Red Oak was to be larger and more prestigious than the first. This elegant 1896 Richardson Romanesque home, designed by George W. Maher, who studied with Frank Lloyd Wright, and built by J. F. Tilley with stonework of limestone. Planned as a home for entertaining, it only had one bedroom, but with adjoining "his and hers" sitting rooms. Four fireplaces, each from different European countries and a grand staircase with two landings grace the interior.



## 21. 810 BROAD ~ J.L.SHANK



Built in 1888 for John L. Shank, a real estate developer and money lender. Shank has the distinction of having the first entry of land ownership within Red Oak city limits on March 11, 1854, three years before the official plat was certified. This beautiful example reveals the intricate trim, woodwork and porch detail, which made Queen Anne Victorian architecture so endearing. An unusual feature is its built-in fire extinguishing system. On June 18, 1919 Marvel and Iva Apple purchased the home.

It is said that the price was \$12,000, and a prize touring car, acquired on the forfeiture of a bank loan.



## 22. 805 PROSPECT ~ WILLIAM COCHRANE

This 1916 Georgian Revival was home for William and Myrtle Cochrane. William Cochrane was an Iowa State Senator, and part owner of the Murphy calendar company and Myrtle Cochrane was the sister of Thomas D. Murphy. Huge lawns and gardens surround the beautiful brick home, designed with a symmetrical floor plan divided by a grand center hall.



## 23. 905 PROSPECT ~ T.H. DEARBORN



Built in 1895 for Thomas H. Dearborn, a coal and ice dealer, and his wife, Mary E. Dow Dearborn. Dearborn was a Captain in the Union Army with Company 'A' of the Sixth New Hampshire Regiment. He was "mustered out" in 1865 due to a gunshot

wound in his shoulder. His great-great uncle, Henry Dearborn, an officer in the Revolutionary War served as Secretary of War in Thomas Jefferson's Administration and was Commander-In-Chief of the United States Army early in the War of 1812. This two-story Victorian boasts a large wrap around porch and elaborate gingerbread detail. Beautiful woodwork, and open staircase in the entryway (along with servant's staircase off the kitchen) grace the interior.

## 24. 1020 VALLEY ~ THOS. C. MURPHY

This Spanish Colonial style home, with arches and tiled roof, was built for Thomas C. Murphy and his wife, Marian Marquardt Murphy. A talented pianist who played by ear, Marian Murphy enjoyed playing, but was disappointed because everyone else was dancing! Thomas C. Murphy, son of the Murphy calendar company founder Thos. D. Murphy, was very involved in the family businesses, including the Red Oak Express newspaper. His main interest was in the development of the Murphy Memorial Hospital. As Chairman of the Board, he was able to persuade the first two specialists, a surgeon and a radiologist to come to Red Oak from Omaha.







## 25. 1020 BOUNDARY ~ EDMUND OSBORNE



Soaring Ionic columns frame the two-story portico entrance to this magnificent Colonial Revival home built in 1897 for Edmund B. Osborne, business partner of Thomas D. Murphy. Osborne and Murphy

teamed together in many endeavors, such as printing, newspaper publishing, and the advent of the Art Calendar. In 1899, Osborne left Red Oak for New York to start another calendar company.

## 26. 1112 BOUNDARY ~ H.E. DEEMER



The Colonial Revival home boasting seventeen rooms was built in 1896 for Horace E. Deemer. Judge Deemer was Secretary of the Agricultural Society of Montgomery County and once Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court.

## 27. 1118 BOUNDARY ~ LUCIAN POWELL



Built for Lucien Powell by George Boileau in 1901, this stone block, Neo-Classical home features classical columns with ornate Corinthian style capitals, a full height central porch coupled with a single story, full width porch. Features include sweeping lawns, a widow's walk and carriage house.



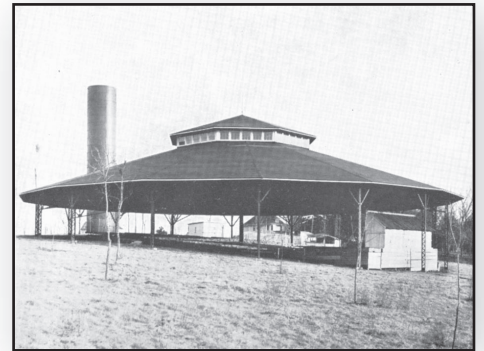
## 28. 1211 BOUNDARY ~ I.P. COOK



Built in the late 1800s, this Queen Anne Victorian was home to I. P. Cook, a railway mail clerk. The exterior features a wrap around porch, gingerbread trim, and signature turret.

## 29. CHAUTAUQUA PAVILION

The Chautauqua Pavilion located in Chautauqua Park, built in 1907, is the largest covered pavilion west of the Mississippi and is also listed on the National Historic Register.



## 30. 2700 N. FOURTH MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORY CENTER



Completed in 2006, the Prairie-Style museum is not the same turn-of-the-century as the others in this guide, but houses many of the artifacts that Red Oak's and Montgomery County's history has handed down. Permanent exhibits are the Thos. D. Murphy Calendar Company and the Wilson Concrete Company. Also included are temporary and ever-changing displays, traveling exhibits and lecture series.



30 North of Hwy 34

1. Montgomery County Courthouse
2. CB&Q Depot
3. The Thos. D. Murphy Company
4. Armory
5. Library
6. Red Oak Fire House
7. 701 Coolbaugh Smith McPherson
8. 711 Coolbaugh George Marshall
9. 404 Eighth F.E. Loomis
10. 909 Coolbaugh O.G. Howard
11. 800 Reed John Hayes Hysham House
12. 507 Hammond L.D. Ross
13. 602 Eighth Thos. Griffith
14. 610 Eighth A.C. Hinchman
15. 611 Eighth Alexander McConnell
16. 700 Eighth Alfred Hebard

17. 811 Hammond William Malony
18. 900 Hammond E.M. Carey
19. 810 Corning Thos. D. Murphy
20. 802 Eighth Smith McPherson
21. 810 Broad J.L. Shank
22. 805 Prospect William Cochrane
23. 905 Prospect T.H. Dearborn
24. 1020 Valley Thos. C. Murphy
25. 1020 Boundary Edmund Osborne
26. 1112 Boundary H.E. Deemer
27. 1118 Boundary Lucian Powell
28. 1211 Boundary I.P. Cook
29. Chautauqua Pavilion
30. Montgomery County History Center

