

**3. 504 Blunt Street** - c 1912 - Built for Masons and affiliated bodies by Chas. A. Dieman & Co., Cedar Rapids - Greek Revival style - Doric portico on Greek temple form; some decorations removed from gable.



**3. 405 Blunt Street** - c 1907 - for Anson Brackett (contractor for the 2nd County Court House - his father built the first one, which burned down) - copied from another home at an unknown location. Another owner, Deska Dodge, had a mirror above her fireplace so that when the blinds and curtains were open and were arranged in just the right way, she could keep track of everyone passing on the street (and going to the funeral home) without them being aware she was watching them.



**4. 306 Kelly Street** - c 1870 - for Ralph Waller (Banker & landowner) - Queen Anne gables and larger porches added in 1905.

**5. 301 Joslin Street** - c 1890 A.E. Ellis home - built as a Queen Anne structure and enlarged once in that style in the 1890's, later completely redone in Colonial Revival style - dormers were added in 1950. It has a bidet in the upstairs bathroom.



**6. 301 Blunt Street** - c 1865 - Gulwits House - Gothic Revival Cottage style - pedimented window trim; bargeboards; shingles added and porch altered.



**7. 205 Blunt Street** - c 1941 for Joseph Salsbury (founder of Salsbury Labs) by Mortimer Cleveland - Georgian Style - note classical symmetry - Local lore has this house being built for \$39,000 in 1939, making it the 39-39 house.

**8. 300 Ferguson Street** - c 1896 - for parents of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. Built by CLCC for her mother after her father had died. The 1896 City Directory lists Lucian Lane (CLCC's dad) as living at 302 Ferguson.

**9. 301 Ferguson Street** - moved from 100 block of Kelly in 1920s, divided in two, and remodeled from original Victorian style - other half is still Victorian and is on 4th Ave.



**10. 207 Ferguson Street** - may have been the Congregational Parsonage at about the turn of the century. Suggested that this was a Sears/Montgomery Ward mail-order house.

**11. 203 Ferguson Street** - c 1911- possible an early design of Mortimer Cleveland prior to his Prairie School phase. This house became one story shorter after extensive damage in the tornado of 1968. The porch you see was the second story porch. The house was moved from 608 Wisconsin after the storm.

**12. 102 Ferguson Street** - c 1865 - Early style stone home; fan shaped gable; deep paneled doorway; covered with stucco and porches altered by C. R. Jones. Kannegeiser House - Kannegeiser's had a furniture sales and undertaking establishment. The family owned this house and the next two houses going east. Several family members died of "consumption", which was attributed to living among all the trees on the property and the close proximity to the river. The houses were very difficult to sell because of their reputation as "death houses" and all but this one was eventually torn down.



**13. 100 Hulin Street** - c 1902 - for Charles Henry Parr (co-founder of Hart-Parr Company, manufacturers of the first gasoline farm tractor). The Parrs lived in the house until they died in 1944 and raised their six children there. The only change in appearance of the home has been the addition of bedroom/bathroom on the back. This home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with Charlie Parr.

**14. 106 Blunt Street** - c 1912 for George Blake by Mortimer Cleveland. Other Mortimer Cleveland houses in the area can be found at 103 Blunt, 104 Blunt, 107 Blunt, 401 Kelly, 203 Ferguson, and 201 Riverside Drive which is a one story French Provincial style.



**15. Suspension Bridge** - c 1906 - 2008: A 270-foot clear span bridge was built on this site to carry foot traffic between town and the Chautauqua Grounds. Envisioned by C. W. (Charlie) Hart of Hart-Parr, he contributed money and company resource to build the bridge including bringing in students from Iowa State to design and construct it under supervision of Hart-Parr's Chief Engineer O.B. Zimmerman. The historic Suspension Bridge was lost in the 2008 flood. The new cable-stayed bridge was designed to continue to provide safe passage across the Cedar River and access to Lions Field Park. On the east riverbank, Victory Park commemorates the historic bridge and the epic floods of 2008.

*For the next portion of the tour enjoy the recreational trail along the river.*



**16. 201 Riverside Drive** - c 1937 - for Merrill G. Smith, Sr. (lumberyard owner) by Wetherell & Harrison, Des Moines - Modified English Half-timbered. The Smiths called the house "Rivermere." Many found it interesting that a man who owned a lumberyard would build a house of brick and stone.

**17. 301 Riverside Drive** - c 1936 for Ray Fox, M.D. - English Half-timbered - Because Mrs. Fox had polio the house was built with an elevator and as few steps as possible. The house cost \$25,000 to build and \$25,000 for an addition. It was built on the location of an icehouse, which had an overpass across the road for moving ice from the river to the storage facility. The icehouse displaced a log cabin which was recycled by sliding it across the frozen river and replacing it at 1104 Court St. (where it stands today covered with wood siding with an east wing and entryway added).



**18. 1107 Court** - c 1950 for Dr. Alvin Miller, DDS by Frank Lloyd Wright - Wright never visited the site, but designed the house using sight surveys and photographs. The blueprints included plans for an additional house and dental office to be also built on the property. The east wing was added from designs originally supplied by the architect. The stone used for the addition was from the quarry of the original stone.

**19. 106 Iowa Street** - c 1855 - NW corner of the house is a log cabin - one of the first ten houses built in Charles City - Richard Miles Waller's Cabin and first home - one of the developers of Charles City. Former location of the Charles City Bottling Works, 1950.



**20. 306 Clark Street** - c 1893 for John and Sarah Korinke. Their daughters, Mary, Emma, and Edith inherited the house. Edith died there in 1978 - third floor may be haunted - typical Queen Anne style (steep roof, gables with scroll-work decoration, spindles, towers, bay windows, double hung windows with two panes for opening, high foundations often of limestone, horizontal siding with wainscoting to accent).

**21. 401 Kelly Street** - c 1915 - Built for C. F. Dinkel who was a farm implement dealer; this house was designed by Mortimer Cleveland. Charlie Dinkel served as his own General Contractor for the construction. All the receipts for materials and services are in the possession of the family. The tree in the front yard is supposedly bent from growing over the stable yard fence that was there.

**22. 402 Kelly Street** - c 1870 - Arthur Campbell (contractor and architect) - Renaissance Revival style - first house in the town made of brick.



**23. 301 Johnson Street** - c 1869- (Richard) Miles Waller home (one of the six original men who platted Charles City in 1858) - Renaissance Revival style - remodeled to Colonial Revival style in 1921 when Mrs. Ellis secured the home for use as a Community House - Mrs. Ellis wanted there to be a comfortable and stylish residence for single working women's groups to meet and socialize - there was a tennis court on the west lawn - lighted. From the 1930's through the late 1980's there were doctors, dentists and lawyers offices where the family room and garage are now located.



**24. 301 Jackson Street** - c 1904 - built with \$ 12,500 of Carnegie Funds after public subscription raised \$ 4,000 to purchase the land - by Patton & Miller, Chicago, IL - Eclectic style with rustic granite foundation. A rock, reputed to be a locally found meteorite is on the south lawn. Currently it is the Charles City Arts Center.



**25. 305 Jackson Street** - c 1903 - for H. J. Fitzgerald - Classic Revival - highly stylized Ionic columns; gambrel roof, ornate woodwork. Heavily carved pool table was winched up on pulleys to game room on the third floor to the delight of a large crowd around 1915 - Mrs. Fitzgerald continued to live alone in the house after her husband's death. That caused talk around town because she was living in a house that could have accommodated many more people and there was an acute housing shortage because of the war.



**26. 307 Jackson Street** - c 1863 - for Milo Gilbert (first mayor of Charles City - 1869) white limestone reputed to have been mined in Waverly Hill - note window in east gable - original porch was small and attached to south wing - porch modified about 1910. Gilbert was a banker and had a sawmill at the end of Kelly Street.

**27. Central Park & Historic Timeline** - c 1854 - Land for a "public square" was given to the people of Charles City in perpetuity by city founder Joseph Kelly and his wife, Malinda. The space was redesigned in 2009. The compass design in the center plaza indicates the park's orientation. Beginning at the center plaza, the timelines along the crosswalks tell the story of four aspects of Charles City's history and heritage: Industry and Agriculture, Education, Arts and Architecture, and Main Street. The art pieces at the corner entrances correspond with the timeline themes.



# Welcome to Charles City

