



Elkader is named after the Emir Abdel Kader who was the father of modern Algeria. Abdel Kader was an Emir (prince) of Algeria, who made a very brave defense of his country when invaded by the French. In 1832, at the age of twenty-three, he was so popular among the Arabs that he was elected their chief. For sixteen years he fought desperately to drive out the French just as the colonists in America fought to drive out the British. In admiration of this brave man, Elkader was suggested and adopted as the name of this new town in Iowa.

beauty ever since.

In 1836 Elisha Boardman claimed the land on which Elkader is marked on the River Walk. The town was laid out ten years later by John Thompson, Timothy Davis, and Chester Sage. The town was incorporated in 1891 and has been known for its history and natural beauty ever since.



1. Opera House #
207 North Main Street

2. True Value Hardware*
201 North Main Street

3. The Clayton County Register*
106 Cedar Street NW

4. Old Methodist Church*
111 Cedar Street NW

5. Price House #
206 Cedar Street NW

6. Wilke House*
205 First Street NW

7. Becker House*
301 First Street NW

8. Donlon House*
307 First Street NW

9. Henry Schoch House
401 First Street NW

10. Davis-Kramer House* #
405 First Street NW

11. Woodward Kramer House*
401 Oak Avenue NW

12. Stemmer House* #
113 Oak Avenue NW

13. Schmidt House* #
101 Oak Avenue NW

14. St. Joseph's #
330 First Street SW

15. Bayless Hotel
102 South Main Street



16. Keystone Bridge #
Bridge Street

17. Clayton County Court House #
111 High Street NW

18. Carter House Museum #
100 High Street SE

19. First Congregational Church
200 High Street SE

20. Paul-Wilke House*
204 Chestnut Street SE

21. Pahlas House*
501 East Bridge Street

22. Historic Clayton County Jail
601 East Bridge Street

*Private residence or business
Listed on the National Register of
Historic Places
Photos by Bob Griffith

Cultural & Entertainment District

East Bridge Street

27. Historic River Walk

City Park

Rural Heritage Center

George Maier

Elkader City Park

25. Veteran's Memorial

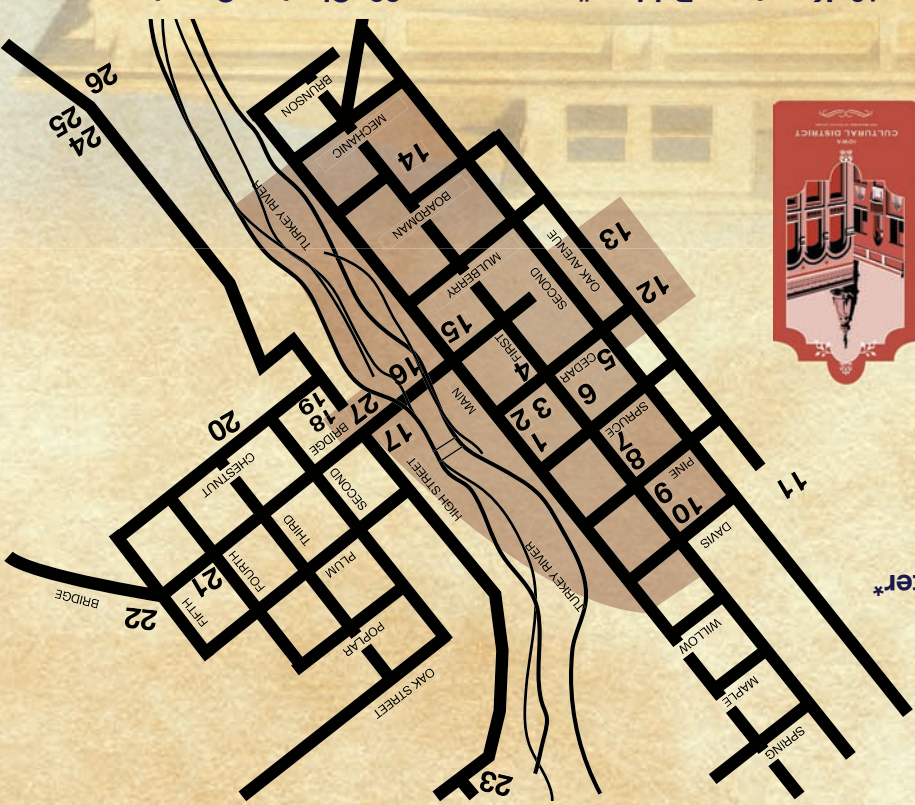
Elkader City Park

24. Table Rock

429 High Street NE (Sandpitt Rd)

Office Building

Clayton County



18 Carter House Museum

Described as the "finest pure" example of a Greek Revival home in Iowa, this house was built by Henry and Ernest Carter in 1855. The house is a mirror duplex divided by double triple doors. In 1983, the building was purchased by the Elkader Historical Society to showcase the history of Elkader. The Museum is open Saturday and Sunday afternoons, Memorial Day through Labor Day. It can also be visited by appointment. Listed on the National Register.

19 First Congregational Church

The first church service of this congregation was held in the Carter House. All of the first members were Carter family members. The building was erected in 1897 and is the same church that serves the congregation today.

20 Paul-Wilke House

This home built in 1898 was designed by Frank D. Allen, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and constructed by John Schneider and Bros. The original owners were G.H. Wilke and Mrs. Elizabeth Paul.

21 Pahlas House

Henry Pahlas built this home for his wife Sophia Voght in 1898.

22 Historic Clayton County Jail

Built as the Clayton County jail in 1870, this beautiful limestone building sitting atop the Bridge Street hill served as the Sheriff's office, central dispatch and prison until June 2006. It is now a bed and breakfast and private residence.

23 Clayton County Asylum

Due to the rising costs of housing patients at the state hospital in Independence, construction began on a county asylum in 1897. In 1975 patients housed in this structure were moved to the County Care Facility. The refurbished building now serves as a Clayton County office building.

24 Table Rock

Table Rock was the site of one of the first Independence Day celebrations in Clayton County. The unusual rock formation has since been moved from its original site near Pony Creek north of town to the present one at Elkader City Park.

25 Veteran's Memorial


This memorial has been erected to honor men and women from the Elkader area that served in all of the wars in which America has been involved.

26 George Maier Rural Heritage Center

The Heritage Center is a collection of artifacts from rural Iowa history (1890-1950). Open weekends April to October or by appointment.





27 Historic River Walk

This river walk follows the same path that the original boardwalk took to the railroad depot. Today the walk takes you from the Courthouse to the city park and Pony Hollow trail. Along the way you will pass the site of the Elisha Boardman cabin.



Historic TOUR

of SCENIC ELKADER



Elkader was incorporated in 1891 and has been known ever since for its history and natural beauty.

www.elkader-iowa.com



1 Opera House

Since its construction in 1903, the Opera House has served as the center of social activity in Northeast Iowa. In addition to housing a theater, the building also contained a dance floor on the lower level where city offices are now located. The building underwent complete renovation in 2003 to return it to its original design. The seats, a horseshoe balcony, and some stage properties are originals. For a tour of the building contact City Hall Monday-Friday during office hours. Listed on the National Register.



2 True Value Store

The Glesne hardware store was built in 1891. It is now run by the third generation of Glesnes, making it one of the longest operating businesses in Elkader.

3 The Clayton County Register

The Clayton County Register began publication as The Elkader Register in January 1878. Its offices were moved to this location in 1891 when a new facade was constructed. The paper is now a consolidation of The Elkader Register, The Elkader Argus and the Clayton County Messenger.

4 Old Methodist Church

The frame of this building was completed in 1869 and was used as a schoolhouse for a short time. In 1898 the structure was moved to its present location. Three weeks were required to complete the move; the building was stuck in the mud for ten days! The church was closed in 1906 and since has been used as Frieden's Evangelical Church, the Modern Woodmen of America meeting hall, and government offices.

5 Price House

Realto Price, son of Clayton County's first judge, bought this property in 1870. This example of Victorian Vernacular was built in about 1876. The balanced exterior is accentuated by the structural use of white brick at the corners and for the window arches. The builder of this 16 room home was a local attorney, banker, city council member and prominent citizen. Many books from his private collection can be found in the Price Room at the Elkader Public Library. Listed on the National Register. It can be visited by appointment.



6 Wilke House

This early Elkader home was built in 1852 by John Thompson and was bought by H.W. Wilke in 1870. Except for the dormer over the front door and a wing at the rear, the home remains much the same today as when it was built.

7 Becker House

This Victorian home was built in 1898 for John and Louise Becker. John & his brother William established a drug store in Elkader in 1892 that is now known as Moser Pharmacy.



8 Donlon House

This house was built by Timothy Davis for his son Louis. Rumor has it that this house, built in the 1860's, was used to hide runaway slaves. When renovations were made, a room was discovered that was only four feet deep and was separated from the rest of the house by iron bars. When the property was reassessed, it was determined that the house was built in 1869, making the rumor false. The exact construction date is not known.

9 Henry Schoch House

One of the largest homes in Elkader contains 22 rooms and was built by Henry Schoch in 1892-93. Henry owned a restaurant and saloon in the northwest block in downtown Elkader. He died in 1901, at the age of 46. His widow sold the home to Jas.E. Corlett in 1904. Visitors now enjoy this house as the Elkader Bed and Breakfast.



10 Davis-Kramer House

Local brick for foot-and-a-half thick walls and sweet pine from the lower Mississippi River valley were materials used in the construction of this Federal-style house. It was built for owner Timothy Davis, one of the founders of Elkader in 1867. A walnut stairway traverses three floors to what was once a ballroom on top. Timothy Davis died in 1872. His widow, Jane Davis, lived here until 1880. Davis' son lived in the house until 1885 when it was purchased by Aton Kramer. Listed on the National Register.



11 Woodward-Kramer House on the Hill

Construction on this house on the hill over-looking Elkader began in 1865 and was completed the following year. The owner was a prominent lawyer and Director of the First National Bank. Henry Meyer purchased the home in 1884. All walls in the 16 room home are 2 feet thick and are made of hand-chiseled stone found on the farm. This house is only accessible on a driving tour.



home, built in 1889, has many stained glass windows and elegantly carved woodwork of pine and oak. Listed on the National Register.

12 Stemmer House

This home, in the Queen-Anne-Revival style, reflects the interest of its original owner, lumberman J.C. Stemmer, who dressed his residence with an elaborate wood front porch. The

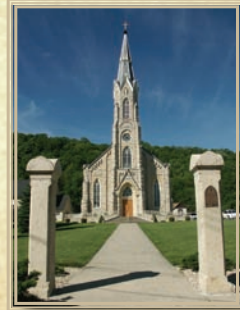
13 Schmidt House

Two Bavarian brewers, John Blasius and his brother Wolfgang Schmidt, built this home as a duplex in 1867. The facade, with its rows of parallel, six-over-six windows, shows the influence of Federal-style architecture. The exterior walls as well as the center wall are twelve inches of solid brick. The wooden shutters are original. Listed on the National Register.



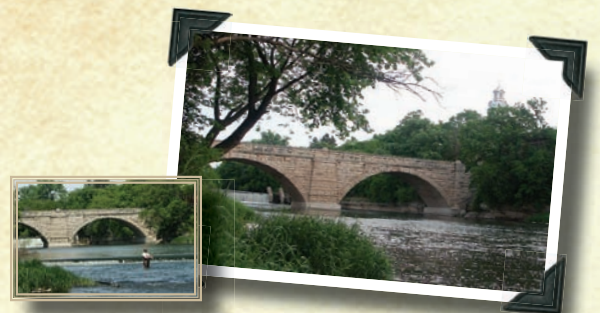
14 St. Joseph's Catholic Church

This church is a beautiful example of Victorian Gothic architecture. Limestone quarried from a nearby site was used in the construction and the roof is Pennsylvania black slate. The church structure was built between 1898 & 1900. The National Register listing for this location includes both the church and the parish hall. The parish hall, completed in 1858, served as church's first permanent home.



15 Bayless Hotel

Construction of this building in 1897 was supervised by Thomas Byrnes, the same man who built the Keystone Bridge eight years earlier. Frank Bayless, the owner, was a Civil War Veteran from Minnesota, a prominent business man and a state Senator.



16 Keystone Bridge

The Keystone Bridge is said to be the longest bridge of its type west of the Mississippi River. It took just nine months to build and was completed on August 15, 1889. The total cost of the 346 foot structure was just over \$16,000. Many artists and photographers have used this beautiful bridge and background as a subject for their works. Listed on the National Register.

17 Clayton County Court House

The first half of the Court House was built in 1867 and 1868; however, the second half was not completed until 1878. The foundation of native limestone came from a quarry just five blocks away. In 1919 the memorial to "our nation's defenders" was added. A memorial to those who died in Vietnam was added later. Listed on the National Register.

