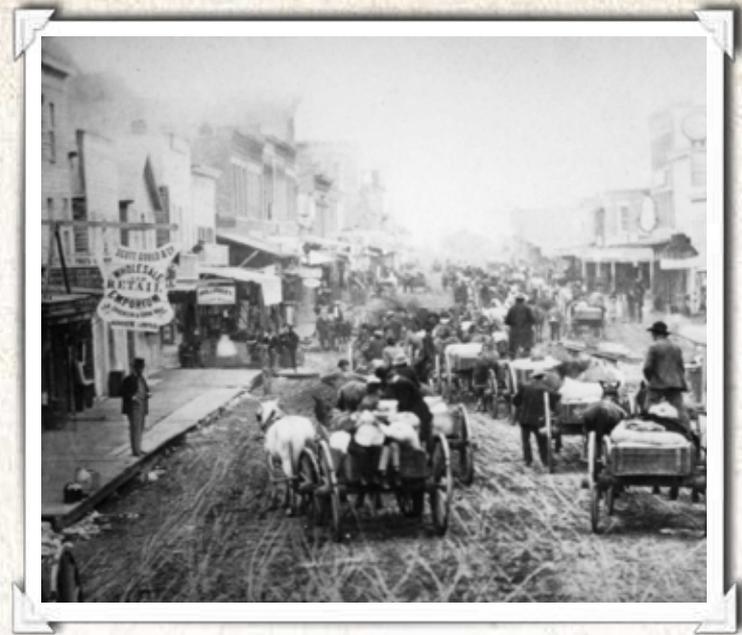


TAKE A WALK THROUGH
HISTORIC



DOWNTOWN
MCGREGOR

UPDATED 2014
PRICE: \$5.00



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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McGregor's Historic Preservation Commission:

President Dave Kneer, Vice President Bob Clark and Secretary Maureen Wild. Commissioners Michelle Pettit, Marsha Bickel, Ken White and Duane Boelman. City Administrator Lynette Sander, City Council Liaison Rogeta Halvorson and past commission members Reva Smock, Pat Eckhardt, and Lucy Rodenberg.

McGregor Historians:

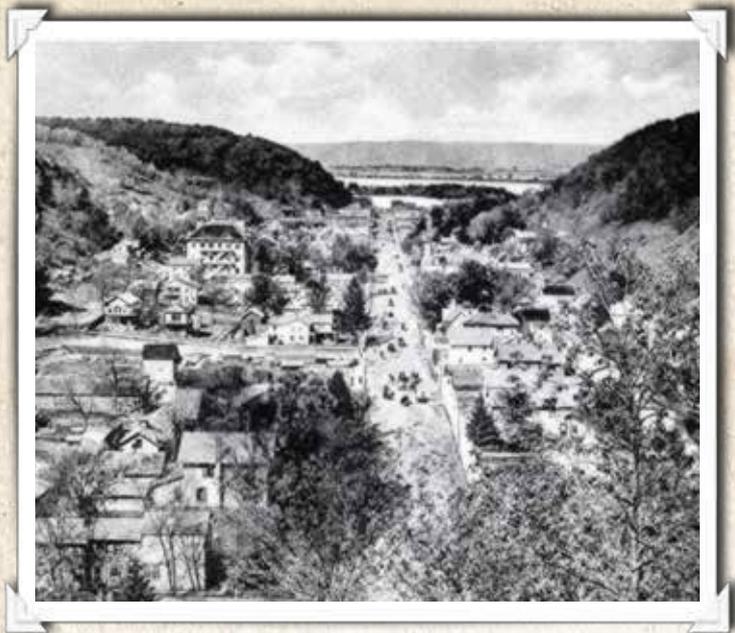
Historians Lucy Rodenberg, Barb Corson, Charlene Palucci, Marilyn Burke and those who worked on the original 2004 walking tour, as well as the people who produced the book, "McGregor United Methodist Church's 150 Years, 1853-2003." We also thank past historians Mae Huebsch and Lena D. Myers.

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

Thank you, Jared Nielsen, River Bluffs Scenic Byway Coordinator for the design & layout of this booklet.

Dedication:

This book is dedicated to our friend and colleague Lucy Rodenberg, whose tireless devotion to preserving McGregor's rich history is in the true spirit of the Clan MacGregor and the early pioneers of our area.



INTRODUCTION



Welcome to McGregor's Self-Guided Historic Tour

McGregor's self-guided historic tour is a great way for walkers, cyclists and drivers to learn about the town's rich historic past. Before you get started on your journey, this section will help you gain an understanding of the many components to this self-guided historic tour. For each property listing in this book, we attempted to include the following details:

- Chronological number that corresponds to the numbered map at the front of this book.
- Chronological number that corresponds to the Historical Tour Property sign each building or site owner displays prominently at a front window or on site.
- Current name or use of property.
- Historical name or use of property.
- Property descriptions, building dates, past & current occupants, past & current uses, historical figures associated with the property, other historical facts, etc.
- NRHP means it is on "National Register of Historic Places"; assume property is "contributing" to the historic value unless "non-contributing" is written at listing's end.
- MCHD means it is on "McGregor Commercial Historic District"; meaning it is located inside McGregor's original six-block commercial district, which automatically lists it on NRHP.

Navigate the Historic Tour

Details under each property listing were attempted to be shown in oldest-to-newest date order of operation; however, they are provided as being known to operate at that given address. When a property is "non-contributing", it may mean too many modern updates have eroded the property's historical integrity and it no longer qualifies as "contributing", or a non-original structure (e.g. a cabin, it is less than 50 years old, or a new replacement building) was moved onto a historical site for tourism benefit or a business purpose. We reported the information as it was provided, and apologize for any errors. The tools below will help you easily explore all of the town's historic places:

 The pointing finger in this book means you should read and follow the directions to guide you to the next location on the tour.

1-101 Most of the buildings in town have a numbered Historic Tour Property Sign posted in its window or affixed to its building. Each numbered sign corresponds to the numbered property and address in the tour book. Some owners may not always have their numbered sign prominently posted, so please rely on cross-referencing the property and address.

The detailed fold-out map on the inside front cover pinpoints each numbered location which corresponds to the same numbered property and address in the tour book.

Questions?

The city of McGregor, our library and museum are here to help answer any questions you may have about "Alexander MacGregor and His Town." If you would like additional information about tourism attractions in McGregor and its surrounding areas, please contact our chamber of commerce or visit our town's website at www.cityofmcgregoriowa.com. For information about water trails & scenic byways, contact Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D).

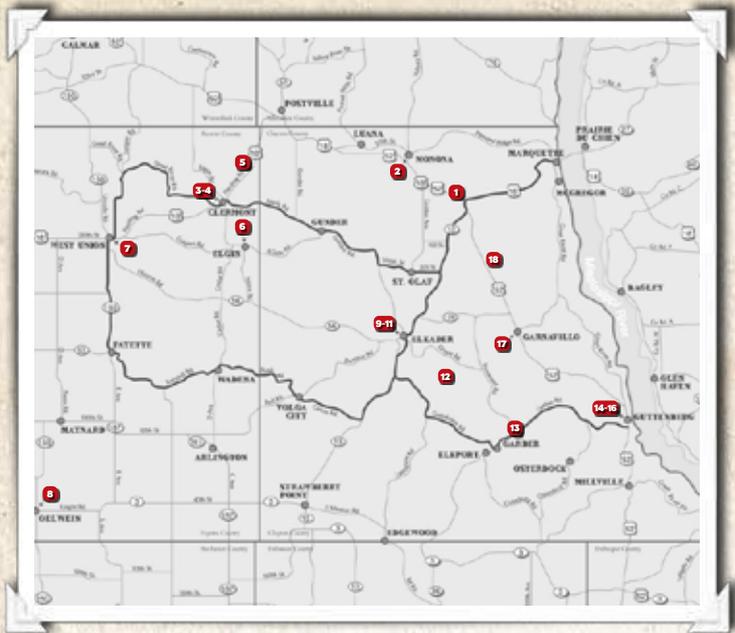
McGregor - Marquette Chamber of Commerce
 146 Main Street, McGregor, Iowa 52157
 Ph: 563-873-2186 or 800-896-0910
 Email: McGregorMarquetteChamber@gmail.com
 Website: www.mcgreg-marq.org

McGregor Historical Museum
 256 Main Street, McGregor, Iowa 52157
 Ph: 563-873-2221
 Email: mcg.hist.museum@gmail.com
 Website: www.mcgregormuseum.org

McGregor Public Library
 334 Main Street, McGregor, Iowa 52157
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 Email: mplib@mchsi.com
 Website: www.mcgregor.lib.ia.us

River Bluffs & Driftless Area Scenic Byway
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 Northeast Iowa RC&D
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 Website: www.iowabyways.org

McGregor City Hall
 416 Main Street, McGregor, Iowa 52157
 Ph: 563-873-3795
 Email: citymcgr@mchsi.com
 Website: www.cityofmcgregoriowa.com



RIVER BLUFFS BYWAY



If you enjoy McGregor's self-guided historic tour and want to learn more about the area's past, take a drive along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway to experience some of the most interesting and historic places and tours around. Below is a list of the most significant historical attractions along the byway. In addition to the scenic route navigating you to these historic sites, the 109-mile scenic driving route will give you an opportunity to learn about the culture of the region, explore the area's unique landscape and identify fun and interesting things to see and do. The byway features hiking & water trails, trout streams, wildlife management areas & recreational parks. The route will also guide you through 13 small, historic towns that provide wonderful opportunities to experience local foods, entertainment & shopping. The River Bluffs Scenic Byway has been designated as a state byway and travels through Fayette and Clayton Counties in Northeast Iowa. To learn more about the River Bluffs Scenic Byway or any one of Iowa's 11 byways, please visit www.iowabyways.org.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Froelich Tractor Museum | 7 Fayette Co. Historic Museum | 13 Plagman's Barn Museum |
| 2 Monona Historical Museum | 8 Wilder Memorial Museum | 14 Lockmaster's House Museum |
| 3 Clermont Historic Walk Tour | 9 Carter House Museum | 15 Guttenberg Historic Walk Tour |
| 4 Reigel Blacksmith Shop | 10 George Maier Museum | 16 Lock & Dam No 10 |
| 5 Montauk Mansion | 11 Elkader Historic Walk Tour | 17 Garnavillo Historic Museum |
| 6 Elgin Historical Museum | 12 Motor Mill Historic Site | 18 Sherman Swift Tower |

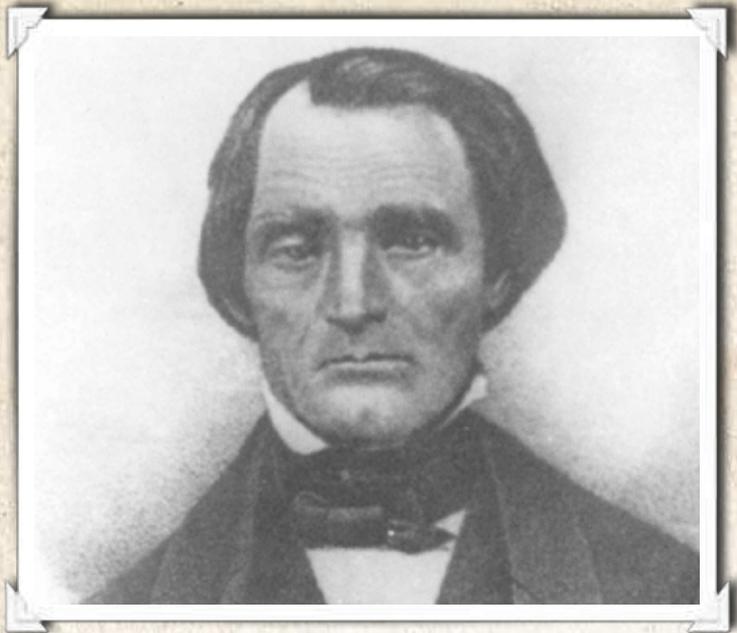


THE CLAN MacGREGOR



The Clan MacGregor was born of royal Scottish decent. The original home of the Clan MacGregor was in an historic and picturesque part of Scotland near Glasgow, Stirling and Loch Lomond. This clan claims descent from Griogar, third son of King Alpin, who ascended the Celtic Scottish Throne about 787 A. D. They were an untamable and war-like tribe. Trouble was always with them.

About 1200 A. D., Alexander II found his throne threatened by another clan, so he gathered his army, fought the battle and won. Of course, this led to more trouble, which followed them through the centuries of getting their land taken away, they fought back to get it, and finally they fell under the bans of King and Parliament. For hundreds of years other severe enactments followed, yet the MacGregors remained loyal to the Stuart dynasty. When Charles II came to the throne, one of the first Acts of his first Parliament was to repeal the Acts of 1633 against the Clan MacGregor. The MacGregors were not allowed for long the benefits of this Act of Repeal, for in 1693, under William of Orange, the original Act was put back in force, and was in effect until as late as 1775, when Parliament passed a bill to restore the name, rights, and immunities of the Clan MacGregor with a single dissenting vote. There upon, the clan was called and 856 clansmen acknowledged John Murray, afterwards Sir John MacGregor, as the true and proper chieftain of Clan Alpin or Clan MacGregor. It's no wonder many crossed the Atlantic to the new colonies, happy to get away from England's rule and persecution. Many settled in New Jersey, New York, and the Carolinas.



ALEXANDER MacGREGOR



John MacGregor, born in 1731, was in persecution for 44 years in Scotland until 1775; he married Anne Wood in 1750. John and Anne had seven children, and three of their sons – William, James, John – left Scotland to come to the newly-formed republic, the United States of America, to try their fortunes and they landed in 1785 in New York City. Some time later, their youngest brother Alexander followed them and joined John in the mercantile business in the city. These four young men were all in their 20s and eager for adventure. William and James did not like city life, and purchased 2,000 acres around Saratoga (Mt. McGregor), New York to settle down. William and James married sisters Charlotte and Elizabeth, respectively. From Elizabeth and James MacGregor, Sr, our town's founder, Alexander MacGregor, was born May 23, 1804 in Wilton Junction, New York, on his father's farm.

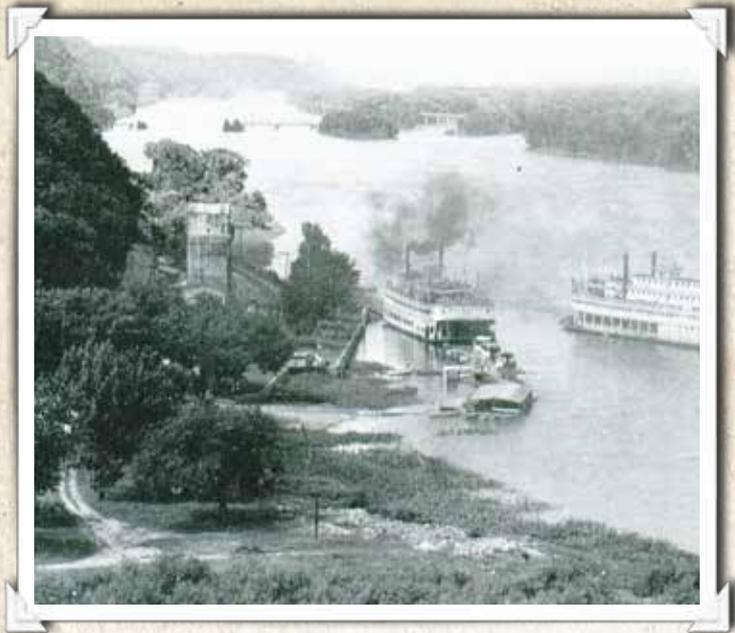
At about age 28 years old in 1832, Alexander moved out westward on his own around Fort Dearborn to the village called Chicago, which contained fewer than 100 persons in 1830. Alexander bought a large tract of government land on speculation that he divided up and sold as lots, sold stone from his quarry on this land to build the foundations of the first buildings being put up in Chicago, and invested in a tract of timber near the Calumet River to float lumber up the lake shore to Chicago for needed buildings. Alexander's lumber was used for the first wharves in Chicago, so his investment proved to be a good one. He again got the westward movement bug in 1834 and only made it 30 miles west when another opportunity came up to invest in the newly-opened government lands near what is today the city of Aurora. Alexander's new claim of 2,400 acres all in dense timber land was improved with infrastructure and offered for sale in 160-acre tracts at \$150 to \$200 each.

But Alexander still didn't have the western fever out of his system, so he sold his Chicago investments and headed toward the Mississippi River to the "port of entry" for the northern part of the Iowa country called the "Minnesota Territory." As soon as he arrived in 1835 in the old French town of Prairie du Chien, Alexander became active in the affairs of the village and gained much experience, was well thought of, connected with the influential men of the time, and felt he had much to share toward the development of Prairie du Chien. In 1836, a group of immigrants wanted to cross the river at Prairie du Chien, so they procured a flat boat from Ft. Crawford, and Alexander helped to prepare the boat for the crossing. Right then he realized the need for a ferry between Prairie du Chien and Iowa.

It was in 1837 through his association with Prairie du Chien businessmen Lockwood and Burnett that Alexander was able to buy part of Basil Giard's Spanish Claim No. 1, initially naming it "The Ferry Property", and later platting the village of MacGregor and calling it "MacGregor's Landing". Alexander and Burnett continued to buy up land to protect their ferry from competition, naming it Burnett's Hollow, today known as Horn's Hollow, and even "South McGregor" by the local folks. In 1843, Alexander married Ann Gardner and they settled in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. In 1847, they moved to MacGregor's Landing and occupied a log cabin at the foot of Main Street built by Alexander in 1840. Alexander platted out his town of MacGregor in a six-block area on the Mississippi River's waterfront. Later Alexander built a brick home at the end of Main Street that he lived in up until his death in 1858 at 54 years; Ann until her death in 1890.

Alexander and Ann (nee Gardner) MacGregor had four sons; two died in infancy (Chester d. 1844 and George d. 1849), Gregor b. 1845 at Prairie du Chien, and Gardner b. 1848 at McGregor's Landing. Gregor, a life-long bachelor, and Gardner, married with one daughter, lived full lives into adulthood and were very influential men in their own right, and interesting facts about them are shared later on in this tour book. Trouble loomed when Alexander and his brother James MacGregor, Jr. were buying up large pieces of land in McGregor. James had made purchases on behalf of Alexander and vice versa, but James was not honest and forthright and this later resulted in bitter land feuds between the brothers. Alexander died in 1858 at the age of 54 before the court case was resolved; no cause was recorded but one could say it was of a broken heart. Back in 1850, Alexander had laid out a cemetery up on the bluff (today's McGregor Heights) behind his McGregor Main Street home where his fourth baby son George was buried. In 1859, the court decision awarded this cemetery tract to James, and Ann MacGregor had to exhume and relocate the bodies of her husband and son to the Evergreen Cemetery in Prairie du Chien, where they joined the first buried son Chester. Here you will also find the graves of Ann and Alexander's sons, Gregor and Gardner marked by a large white front-and-center obelisk (see Property Listing #102). Unfortunately, there are no living descendants of the family tree stemming from Alexander MacGregor, the beloved founder of our town.





HISTORY OF McGREGOR



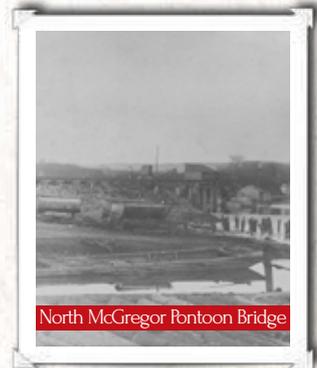
Alexander MacGregor's grandparents, John and Anne MacGregor, and their three sons immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1785. One son, James, and his wife, Elizabeth Cameron, were the parents of Alexander MacGregor, the founder of McGregor, Iowa. When Alexander MacGregor came to northeast Iowa, four Indian tribes roamed the area: Sioux, Sauk, Fox, and Winnebago. These tribes occupied a land rich in fur-bearing game they hunted and then sold their furs to the white traders across the Mississippi River in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Conflict over hunting grounds caused frequent warfare among the tribes. These conflicts were finally resolved in 1830 by the establishment of a neutral zone roughly 40 miles wide that extended west along the Upper Iowa River on the north.

This meeting, called by the United States government to rendezvous the tribes, took place between the tribes and United States government on the island at Prairie du Chien. At the time McGregor got its beginning there were Sioux, Sac and Fox and Winnebago tribes rendezvoused and traded their furs with other fur trappers and buyers on the eastern shore of the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. After the Blackhawk War ended in 1832, the United States government opened up the great, unsettled expansion of land west of the Mississippi River in 1833. Government forts and military roads, fur trappers and traders, and the great pioneer spirit heading west helped to make McGregor an ideal spot for a ferry boat landing. Alexander MacGregor, a direct descendent of royal Scotsman Rob Roy MacGregor, established his ferry business and MacGregor's Landing in 1837. It quickly grew from a six-block-area settlement laid out by MacGregor in 1847 to a busy river

community with a population of 200 in 1857. The town was incorporated in 1857, and the town name was changed to "McGregor".

In that same year, the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad finished building a railroad track from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, thus connecting Lake Michigan with the Mississippi River by rail. McGregor quickly became a major commercial center, and served as a hub where grain from Iowa and Minnesota could be transported via ferry across the Mississippi and sent on to Milwaukee via railroad. More railroads were built to connect McGregor with cities further west, and the city of North McGregor was established just north of McGregor to serve as its railroad terminus. After reaching McGregor from the west, trains were disassembled and railroad cars were ferried across the Mississippi to continue on towards Lake Michigan. During the 1870s, the population of McGregor exploded to over 5,500 as the city became the busiest shipping port west of Chicago. McGregor contained 120 businesses, 20 of which were connected to the shipping and receiving of grain and goods. McGregor was self-sufficient and its businesses provided everything that was needed by the resident pioneer settlers or those passing through on their way to western frontier.

Steamboat traffic played a vital part in the town's early life. In 1871 - 1872, over 400,000 bushels of wheat, barley, oats, and corn were shipped out of McGregor to points north and south on the Mississippi River. The same year, city scales weighed 20,000 hogs, producing about 5,000,000 pounds of pork. Along with the railroad expansion and improved highway transportation, steamboat traffic declined and rail traffic increased. In 1874, the system of ferrying railroad cars across the river between North McGregor and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, was brought to an end when Prairie du Chien businessman John Lawler commissioned the construction of a permanent pontoon bridge to connect the two cities' rail lines. As the need disappeared for men to disassemble and ship trains across the river McGregor's population began to decline. River ferries that played such an important part in the town's history were replaced with a suspension bridge built in 1932 just a mile north of McGregor.



Today the city's architectural history is preserved in its stately residential homes and nationally-registered downtown business district, which contain many buildings constructed during the city's boom years. Because of its colorful history and location on the Mississippi River, the city has become a popular summer tourism and recreational destination. Its natural setting in the Driftless Area, Effigy Mounds, and Pike's Peak State Park provides manicured hiking and biking trails, camping and eagle watching. McGregor is known for its many antique and specialty shops, and boasts fine dining, live local music entertainment and artists' community.

Interested in Learning more about the History of McGregor?

If you're interested to learn more about McGregor and its royal-blooded Scottish founder Alexander MacGregor, we highly recommend you read "Alexander MacGregor and His Town", by Lena D. Myers. Myers' book tells the stories of pioneer citizens who directly impacted local, state, and national history when McGregor was one of the leading towns in the early days of pioneer settlement.



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

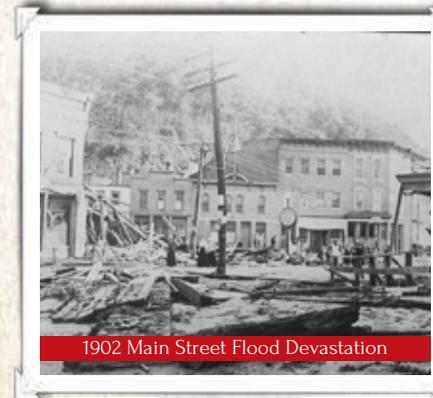


Surrounded by steep bluffs and forest covered hills, McGregor's Main Street bisects a charming historic river town with its mixture of houses and commercial buildings. The late 19th century architecture and the natural setting combine to give the town its unique appearance. In spite of its many advantages, McGregor never grew into a large city as it was limited by lack of space in the narrow Coulee de Sioux ravine with its small opening into the river. Dubuque, for example, another Mississippi town, has much more land available along the river and grew into a sizable city. Additional neighborhoods might have been constructed on the flat land above McGregor, but again, the steep hills limited access to Main Street.

Town founder Alexander MacGregor was interested in river transportation and trade. The Mississippi River caused a great impediment in east-west travel and trade across America's middle section. McGregor's original purpose was to provide the western terminus for his ferry line crossing the river from Prairie du Chien. Alexander MacGregor was interested in commerce on the river's western side in the form of shipping and land investments, deciding that commerce, rather than recreation or residences, would be the main use for the river front. McGregor was a place to do business, to access passenger transportation, grain handling, shipping of frontier goods, etc. Many of the original local businesses focused on servicing the long stream of immigrants and travelers crossing the Mississippi and going west, providing equipment and supplies for their travels. It also provided food, lodging, recreation for travelers, residents. River boat hands and raftsmen enjoyed numerous bars and a few houses of ill repute.

The oldest remaining buildings are clustered at the port as one would expect with a few others scattered up Main Street. There were warehouses, livery stables, hotels, and at least one home, that of Alexander MacGregor, at the river's edge, but being built of wood they have not survived. Other buildings built of brick or stone have survived. The early buildings are usually vernacular in style, a practical and utilitarian style of building. The American House and the remnants of the Ryan House are notable early buildings dating from the mid-19th century near the river's edge. The old grain elevator remains remind us of McGregor's early importance as a shipping port for grain, facilitated by the arrival of the railroad in the 1850s which brought in grain and cattle from central Iowa to ship east and south on the river.

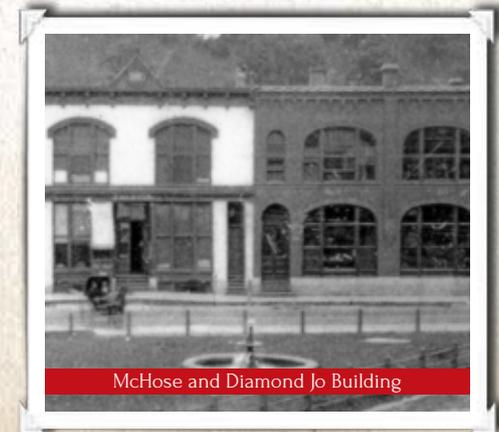
The town has suffered many tragedies like great fires and floods that changed its appearance. Most of the original buildings were constructed of wood and vulnerable to fire. In 1863 twenty-



1902 Main Street Flood Devastation

two businesses were destroyed on lower Main Street; there were fires in 1875, 1880 and 1881 as well. The city decreed that new commercial buildings be constructed in brick to limit or prevent more disastrous fires. The later fires tended to be smaller and less destructive. The advantage of wooden residential neighborhoods separated by grass lawns is apparent when considering the threat of fire. Major floods in modern times were recorded in 1906, 1961, 2001, and didn't destroy as much as fire, but caused major commerce disruptions.

McGregor came on to its own in the 1880s, and grew to its greatest population between 1865 and 1910. It was no longer only a service stop, but a town in its own right. It had commercial activity and permanent residents. Community leaders were usually businessmen who used the Mississippi for trade or purchased and developed land, namely, Alexander MacGregor, of course, and "Diamond" Joe Reynolds, steamboat owner and operator. Reynolds lived and had his office in the Old Man River restaurant building. The town had a bank, a doctor and other professionals. The historic commercial district and many houses were constructed during this prosperous period. A number of fine Victorian houses were designed by the architect, Elias W. H. Jacobs along Main Street as well. Jacobs designed the beautiful First Methodist Church, prominently visible from the corner of Main Street and 4th Street. There are a number of turn-of-the-20th century homes and buildings as well.



McHose and Diamond Jo Building

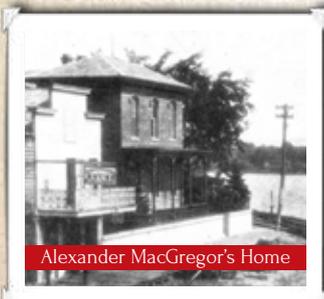


HISTORIC TOUR



 Start at bottom of Main St. across street from the Port of McGregor's Waterfront Park

1 110 Main Street - Private Property: This Log Cabin at the end of Main Street is at the approximate site of the town founder Alexander MacGregor's home which was removed in the winter of 1930 when Highway 76 was re-constructed. The Iowa Highway Commission required the road into

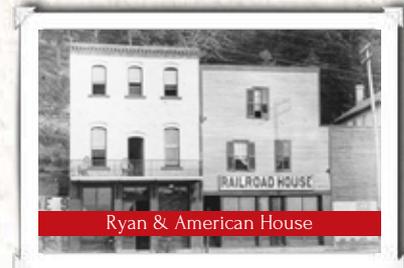


town to be made wider and safer. This site also held the Mississippi House, an early steamboat hotel run by Christian Fox, a German immigrant who came to McGregor in 1854. The Mississippi House was also removed in 1930. The current log cabin built in the mid-nineteenth century was moved here in the 1990s from a rural site. This site is significant because it is where Alexander MacGregor built his first, and then second homes. Sadly, it was razed c. 1930 – 1931 to accommodate widening Bus. Hwy. 76 heading north out of town. NRHP, MCHD. (Non-contributing)

2 112 Main Street - Private Residence: Constructed in 1902, this two-story, front-gabled frame building has been re-sided with vinyl siding, a wood stove chimney and a modern two-story deck on front have been added, but it is still recognizable and an interesting example of an early 20th century building. Building features a spindle-frieze over the porch entry door, limestone

foundation, and a shed-roofed two-story addition to the rear. NRHP, MCHD.

3 114 Main Street - Private Residence (The Railroad House or Ryan House): This is McGregor's oldest existing historic landmark hotel. John Whitney constructed this hotel in 1851 and was the original proprietor. The Ryan House was connected with the American House at various times, but the two hotels were separated c. 1900. This building functioned as a hotel until 1903, when it became apartments, then a bed and breakfast inn, and now a private residence. NRHP, MCHD. (Non-contributing)



4 116 Main Street - The American House (Steamboat Hotel): Located near the river, William H. Harding built the American House as McGregor's first permanent hotel in 1854 to house steamboat travelers. You could purchase steamboat tickets and stagecoach tickets here as well. Dr. Lucy Hobbs Taylor was an important early resident. She was the first woman in the world to graduate from dental school and had her office here during the Civil War from 1862 and 1865. The American Association of Women Dentists honored Hobbs in 1983 by naming the most-prestigious award they can bestow -- The Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award -- to recognize outstanding women in the field of dentistry. John and Ruth Bickel restored the hotel in 1967 as a private residence. Wilfred and Patricia Eckhardt made the top floor into their residence and the lower two floors into the American House Inn. NRHP, MCHD.

5 126 Main Street - Little Switzerland Inn Bed & Breakfast (The North Iowa Times): Built c. 1860, the third oldest continuously-published newspaper in Iowa, the North Iowa Times, operated here. A.P. Richardson and F.W. Merrill first published the North Iowa Times in October of 1856. Randy and Becky Johnson began operating the Little Switzerland Inn Bed and Breakfast here in 1997; they added Aunt Sadie's Sweet Shop later. NRHP, MCHD.

6 130 Main Street - Aunt Sadie's Cabin (Downs' Family's Wexford Home): John Downs escaped the potato famine in Ireland, came to Wexford, Iowa and built this cabin in 1842. The Downs family raised nine children in this cabin. Downs' stepdaughter Sadie inherited the cabin and lived there until she was 92. Bud Jameson purchased and transported the cabin to McGregor in 1987 to this site and gave it modern conveniences like running water, electricity, and a Jacuzzi. Today this cabin is an extension of the Little Switzerland Inn. NRHP, MCHD (Non-contributing).

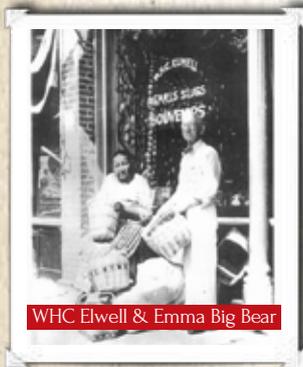
7 132 and 134 to 138 Main Street - Navy Rose & Diamond Jo Trading: McGregor architect Elias Jacobs designed the Masonic Block building, which was constructed by Messrs. Clarke and Rich, wholesale dealers in liquor, cigars, oysters, and billiard tables. The Masonic Temple and Lodge Hall were on the upper floors. The first floor unit of the 132 Main Street section housed Newell's Drug Store c. 1874 which, along with extracts, tinctures, suspensions and liniments, sold grain alcohol and whiskey. In c. 1902, the Block housed a bowling alley, and flour and feed store. It was the Goodie Garden, later Polar Pantry, state liquor store, and Kueters' Cleaners in the 1950s; later were McGregor Library, Community Room, Community Welfare Association, and Eastern Star and

Masons. It was temporarily the First Congregational Church in 1949 when the church burned. In the 1980s and early 1990s it housed the Stone Balloon Book Store with a tea garden in back. Don and Mary Lou Hattery began the restoration and in 1999 Bruce Dillman finished it downstairs to house Dillman's antique shop called Diamond Jo Trading, until it closed in 2007 – 2008. The first floor unit at 132 Main Street currently houses Navy Rose Gifts. NRHP, MCHD.

8 140 Main Street - The Olde Time Shoppe (storage): This building was constructed in 1865 as a cigar store. Clarke and Rich were wholesale dealers in liquor, cigars, oysters, and billiard tables. This two-story brick building was built with metal columns on the storefront and a corbelled brick cornice. The storefront today retains its recessed entry, but the windows have been reduced. After 1886 the building housed a restaurant and offices until 1930. Margery Goergen later had her photography studio here on the lower floor, and this area suffered a chemical fire in 1942. The building is currently used for storage for The Old Time Shoppe. NRHP, MCHD.

9 142 Main Street - The Olde Time Shoppe (O. C. Buck Mortuary): O. C. Buck built this building as a mortuary in 1850 with living quarters above. Interstate Power established an office here in 1926. The annex was once a shell and pearl shop run by W. H. C. Elwell, the world's largest pearl dealer of the time. Bridget Broderick remodeled the building in 1950 to serve as a coffee shop. Bud and Chris Jamesen established an antique shop on the first floor and remodeled the second floor as living quarters. The Old Time Shoppe opened on Memorial Day, 1974.

Photo shows W. H. C. Elwell sharing his business' shaded sidewalk with Emma Big Bear, who would sit there making and selling her Winnebago Indian baskets for very little to tourists or locals strolling



down the busy sidewalk. As a widow Emma had to make a living any way she could and she counted on the tourism industry to consume her baskets and beaded jewelry. Her tarpaper-covered Quonset hut was located just across the street from Elwell's store about 20 feet up from the water's edge in the area of today's city parking lot between the restaurant and hotel, which back in the day was lowlands covered with trees. Surviving off the land, she also lived by helpful townsfolk who gave her fish, meat and wood in the winter. Today, the hard-to-find baskets are coveted treasures made by Emma Big Bear, who was the last Native American in all of northeast Iowa to live by traditional tribal means. NRHP, MCHD.

10 144 Main Street - Pocket City Pub (Buck Furniture Building): O. C. Buck built this building in 1860 next to his mortuary to house a furniture shop, as was often the custom in those days. Mr. Eichendorf, a merchant-tailor, occupied the building next, followed by Haught's Confectionery, and the Student Prince Tavern. Dr. Tuttle, a dentist, began restoration in 1960. Jim and Diane Schilling ran Schilling's Antiques here, beginning in 1988. The building now houses the Pocket City Pub. NRHP, MCHD.

11 146 Main Street - McGregor-Marquette Chamber of Commerce: This building was built in 1860 and first served as a dry cleaning establishment. It has been a newspaper and print shop, shoe and boot store, tailor shop, tobacco shop, and construction office. It was called The

Decoy Inn in the mid-to-late 19th century. The building's restoration began in 1973 by Richard "Dick" Jensen, who re-named it The Decoy Inn. The McGregor-Marquette Chamber of Commerce's tourist information center currently occupies this building. The chamber was originally organized as the "Port of McGregor" chamber and financially supported by the City of McGregor's resolution and ordinance covering the distribution of its hotel / motel tax. The Chamber expanded its mission to collectively market the McGregor-Marquette and Prairie du Chien area as a total destination package. NRHP, MCHD.

12 148 Main Street - Rivertown Fine Books (G. H. Frese Jewelry and Clocks, and Widman Printers): Built in 1872 (the addition was added in 1920), this building housed the second location of the G. H. Frese Jewelry Store, featuring a large sidewalk clock. The Widman Print Shop was here in the 1920s - 1930s, and Bill Weir's gun, shells, rock collections and his investment business (in the small addition) were here along with the state liquor store in the mid-1930s to 1975. Also at this location were the Schuster and Mick attorneys' office, and Color Me Country Antiques and Gift Shop from 1985 – 2000. In 2001, John and Diane Malcom opened Rivertown Fine Books. NRHP, MCHD.

13 150 to 152 Main Street - Triangle Park Apartments (Evan's General Store): Henry D. Evans built a general store here in 1849, which today is the oldest existing commercial building in McGregor. After being awarded the contract for the territorial post office, another building was added on the left. Evans became McGregor's first postmaster, and this building on the left served as the Post Office (which later relocated to the Diamond Jo Building across from Triangle Park) and sewing machine store from 1886 to 1914. The original general store and post office became the Antler's Café in 1927 with its large full-story ovens in the rear, and later became Bradley Variety Store. Later on it served as Nugent's Bakery in the 1950s which used the full-story ovens to bake bread in the rear of the building. After that it became a tavern; and antique, gift, pottery, and ceramic shops. Firebricks from the bakery ovens were used to pave the present-day outside courtyard. Other than using some rafters from the store below, the third floor of the building was removed. The buildings became the Courtyard Apartments, and still serve as apartments today. NRHP, MCHD.

14 154 Main Street - Interstate Federal Savings & Loan (Fette Building): Built in 1860, this building first housed George L. Scott's insurance company. John Frese later used it for a jewelry store; John McGuire had a tavern here. This building was later a smokehouse, clothing store, office, and jewelry store. Margery Goergen produced picture postcards of northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin in a photo processing studio. At one time, the Brooks family, descendants of the second mayor of McGregor, shared the building selling insurance. Brooks owned one of the oldest insurance agencies in Iowa. In 1956 Interstate Federal Savings and Loan purchased and restored the building, which they still occupy today. NRHP, MCHD.

15 158 Main Street - McGregor-Marquette Center for the Arts (First National Bank): Relocating from New England to McGregor in 1856, Samuel Merrill organized the First National Bank, which was McGregor's first bank. McGregor architect Elias Jacobs designed this building, and it was built in 1863 for the First National Bank. In the summer of 1862, Merrill was commissioned Colonel of the 21st Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment, serving in that regiment until seriously wounded in the hip at the Battle of Big Black River Bridge on the Big Black River in Chattanooga, Tennessee May, 1863. Merrill was bank president here from 1863 – 1867, during which time he rejoined his regiment

in January, 1864, but the lingering effects of his hip wound forced him to terminate his military service the following June. Merrill became Iowa's seventh governor for two terms from 1868 – 1872. The Robert Coon family reorganized the bank and operated it as the First State Savings Bank for many years. The bank was later reorganized and operated as Central State Bank. Part of the former Diamond Jo Trading antique business was on the lower Main Street level, as was Stoehr Studio Photography. The exterior of the building was restored in 1975. In 2010 the building was purchased by a trust and opened in 2011 as the McGregor-Marquette Center for the Arts, a successful Iowa Great Places project developed by industrious volunteers from around the McGregor-Marquette area. Attorney Anne Loomis also has her office here. NRHP, MCHD.

📍 Turn right at corner of Main St. & A. St, proceed ahead on A. St.

16 206 A. Street - Paper Moon Books (Eichendorf's Tailor Shop, or Woods Building): Built in 1860, this building originally held Harry Eichendorf's Tailor Shop on the main floor, and a dress shop in the basement; also at a very early date, Eichendorf's Shoe Cobbler Shop. Other past businesses located here were North Iowa Times, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, an antique gunsmith c. 1980s, and a veterinarian clinic. There was an access bridge from the third floor to the cliff top at the rear of the building leading to the McGregor Heights, but the bridge was destroyed when a section of the cliff collapsed. Tom and Carolyn Woods owned the building for some time. Ken and Louise White purchased the building in 1994 and did extensive restoration work to accommodate their present business, The Paper Moon Books, an eclectic book and gift store. Their daughter Jennifer White joined the business in 1997. In 2008 the Whites made the building energy efficient with solar water-radiant heating. NRHP, MCHD.

17 212 A. Street - Old Jail and Fire House Guest Suite (McGregor's Early Jail House and Fire House): Architect Elias Jacobs designed this building, which was constructed in 1874. It first served as a jail with the Hook and Ladder fire truck room adjacent. Note: The McGregor-Mendon Township Hook & Ladder #1 was formed in 1872, so it was at another building for two years before relocating here. Cells were 8 x 10 x 15 feet with a solid rock floor and planked ceilings lined with iron. City council rooms were upstairs. This is currently the Old Jail and Firehouse Guest Suite owned and operated by Charlene and Richard Palucci. NRHP, MCHD.

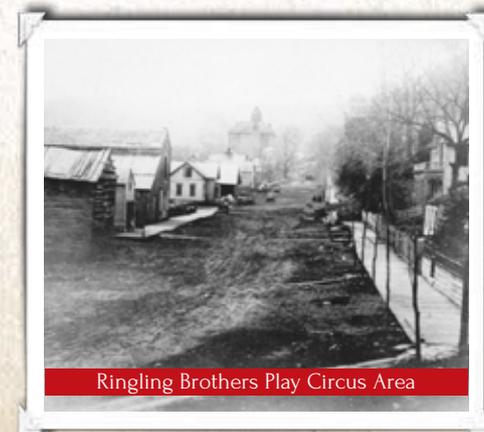
18 214 A. Street - McGregor Lodging (Bucknell Building): Built in 1848, the building was originally McGregor's City Hall. There was also a building where the courtyard is now, with man-made caves now visible. Past businesses from 1886 – 1930 were tailor shop, salon, lunch room, and telephone supplies business. A fire escape from the old Jackson School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, attended by Orville and Wilbur Wright, Mamie Eisenhower, and Grant Wood, is located behind this building and leads to the caves in the bluffs behind the building. For many years this was a tinker and tailor shop. During the Great Depression and up until World War II, it was used as a flophouse for riverboat men. Just before it was to be torn down, world-renowned puppeteers Bruce and Nola Bucknell salvaged this building and restored it to a summer house. They used the first story as an art studio and lived in the upper story, and added the door fronts to the existing caves in the 1970s. After the Bucknells left, this location served as the branch office of Rodger's Organs out of Dubuque, Iowa. More recently the building was Cave of the Elves Gift Shop, and Stoehr Photography Studio. The building is now furnished as the Courtyard Studio and the Loft & Found Suites, owned and designed by Beth and Zip Regan. NRHP, MCHD.

📍 Pause @ far corner of A. & Ann St., look directly across St. to corner area (w/ circus wagon)

19 Corner Site at A. Street & Ann Street – Look a bit farther down on A. Street off of this corner, where long ago the site was partly-occupied by Herman Coob's blacksmith shop, and this is the site of the first amateur boyhood circuses performed by the Ringling children, who played and developed their circus acts in McGregor during the time the boys were either born and/or raised here for 12 of their very formative years. In McGregor from 1859 - 1872 there lived a family of seven brothers named Ringling, and four of these brothers were born in McGregor in the small house at the base of the road to Pike's Peak (you will find the Ringling home later on this tour).

August Ringling Sr., father of the Ringling Brothers, ran a harness shop in McGregor for 13 years from 1859 to 1872. The Ringling boys attended the overland circuses and the riverboat shows which came to McGregor and, in some way, Al, as the ringleader of the boys, got it into his head that he would like to have a show of his own. In 1930, many townsfolk were still living in McGregor who remembered the first amateur performances of the Ringling Brothers circus.

One of these contributed the following account: "... The Ringlings gave their first show in McGregor. On a vacant lot in the rear of S. J. Peterson's drug store (behind the pharmacy at 230 Main Street, on the lot opposite the stone-lined storm water trench), they pitched their first tent. It was fully 35 feet in diameter, and well filled. There were three star performers. Two were on the parallel bars, but Al Ringling was the star. He balanced a big plow on his chin, which he borrowed from Lon Boyle for that special occasion. The exhibition was limited to one performance, and this in the evening. The show went from here to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Three flat boats carried the complete aggregation, boats about the size of those now used for clamming, and they rowed across the river. Who would ever imagine that this was the beginning of the world's greatest shows? The tent was held in place by ropes contributed from clotheslines from the neighbors' backyards. The writer knows whereof he speaks for he got in the show on a pass for contributing these same clothes lines to the good of the cause." A letter from Charles Ringling dated July 11, 1916, questions some of the statements above, although it is not disputed that the first performance, from which the Ringling circus grew, was given at McGregor, Iowa. Mr. Ringling's letter is as follows: "There were seven brothers in the family (in order as to age): Albert, August (A. G.), Otto, Alfred, Charles, John, and Henry. The first three have passed to the great beyond. The remaining four brothers, now the first of Ringling Bros., were born in McGregor. While it is true that the brothers gave a number of amateur circus performances at McGregor, under tents made by themselves, and that they actually planned, while mere boys at McGregor, to own and operate a circus, they did not actually start their first professional show from this point. Though the first circus run by the brothers was small, it represented some investment and the necessary funds had to be earned in



Ringling Brothers Play Circus Area

some way. For several years the brothers gave exhibitions in halls and small-town theaters and from the savings of this business they were able in the Spring of 1884 to start their first 'real' circus." -- by Charles E. Ringling (from History of Clayton County, 1916).

McGregor is working on enhancing its honorary tribute to the Ringlings for their contributions they made while living for 13 years in McGregor. We are proud of this heritage. Please notice the current tribute of the clown atop the lion's cage, and across A Street is the "Ringling Brothers Circus" Bluff Gardens tribute beside the Courtyard Studio. In 2013 the McGregor Clan Lions Club adopted



this park to assist Lions Bonnie and Lyle Troester in the Spring and fall clean-ups. The Troesters maintain the park throughout the season and the present building on the corner of A Street was built later by the Fraters and has housed an attorney's office, the former Scotlin Ceramic business with downstairs offices and upstairs living quarters, and another attorney's office. Presently, the upstairs is used for lodging as a bed and bath, and part of the downstairs is used for group workshops. NRHP, MCHD (Non-contributing)

 Head back to corner of A. St. & Main St., turn right & proceed up Main (away from river)

20 **210 Main Street - Bickel Insurance and Real Estate** (McLaughlin Building): The original building at this site was destroyed by lightning and a devastating flash flood that washed down Main Street in 1902. In the building's earliest days, the G. H. Frese Jewelry Store occupied part of the building, but after that flood the G. H. Frese clock was the only thing left standing, albeit a bit crooked, as shown on the first photo on page 13. The Freses relocated to 148 Main Street, but the new clock they installed at that time does not exist today. A building was re-built on the site in 1911 and housed a barber shop and Oehring's Jewelry, with McLaughlin's law offices upstairs. The name of James McLaughlin is still displayed at the top of the building. Later the building housed Northwest Bell Telephone, Underkofer's Drug Store, M. X. Geske Attorney, a beauty shop, and Red Shriver's Barber Shop. Present owners Dan and Marsha Bickel operate Bickel Insurance and Security Loan here. The Bickels had the current clock designed by the Verdin Company to match McGregor's current street lights, and to replicate the earlier sidewalk clocks located on the same spot. NRHP, MCHD.

21 **212 Main Street - Green Room Spa** (Thompson's Ready to Wear Shop): A bar originally occupied this building. There were large mirrors in back of the bar. The building later served as a ready-to-wear store, and then Kean's Drug Store. At one time, the mayor's office was upstairs. Later E & M Sundries was in this building and a telephone office was upstairs. The dentist, Dr. Walters, had his practice upstairs. Beginning in 1987 Bill and LaVonne Luther operated Noah's Ark gift shop, followed by Milo Moody Electric. Kim Hayes and Neil Rettig operated The Twisted Chicken restaurant here, opening their doors August, 2002. Hayes continued operating the restaurant until

October, 2007. Patti Campbell opened The Green Room Spa in this location in 2010 after doing extensive renovation to create the spa atmosphere. NRHP, MCHD.

22 **214 Main Street - Central State Bank** (State Bank): Built by 1886 and formerly the home of State Bank of McGregor, this building served for many years as various law offices. Robert Coon, Sr. had his general law practice here since 1938. Robert and Pat Coon operated the First State Savings Bank here from 1960 - 1988, assisted by their children Carolyn and Robert. Central State Bank now occupies the ground floor; the building is owned by Beth and Zip Regan. The Regans designed the second floor two-bedroom apartment as a bed and bath suite for lodging visitors. NRHP, MCHD.

23 **216 Main Street - Josie's River Queen Tavern** (Goerdert's Grocery): Built in 1890, this building housed Goerdert's Grocery store from 1902 - 1914. Later on it housed employment office, Elk Café, a tavern with snooker tables, pool tables, and card games going on, and Daubenberger's Men's Clothing store. This has been the location of the River Queen since 1965, owned for many years by David and Mary Diehl. Josie Burns bought the tavern in the fall of 2002, and it then became known as Josie's River Queen. NRHP, MCHD.

24 **218 Main Street - Cathy's Office** (Vick's Grocery): Built in 1890, at one time it housed Hagen and Vick's Grocery, later serving as Vick's Grocery, and Suzie's Sweet Shop. Cathy Corpian currently operates Cathy's Office here, an accounting and bookkeeping service that handles the office needs of many of McGregor's business owners. NRHP, MCHD.

25 **220 to 224 Main Street - Mar-Mac Apartment Building** (Bergman's Opera House on 1st Floor): The building was built in 1890 as Bergman's Opera House. In the late 1800s, the Kramer Brothers, William and Louis, purchased the clothing store at this site; the third floor was removed between 1902 and 1914. Their brother, Jack Kramer, bought the business in 1909 and continued its operation here until 1943, including Kramer's Shoe Store. Other stores included Frank O'Brien Clothing in the 1950s, Saugling Jewelry Store, Federal Savings and Loan for a short time. Don and Lillian Fritz ran a clothing store here called Mar-Mac Clothing; it closed in 1975. This building now houses American Family Insurance, North Iowa Times, and Mind Your Body Massage. NRHP, MCHD.

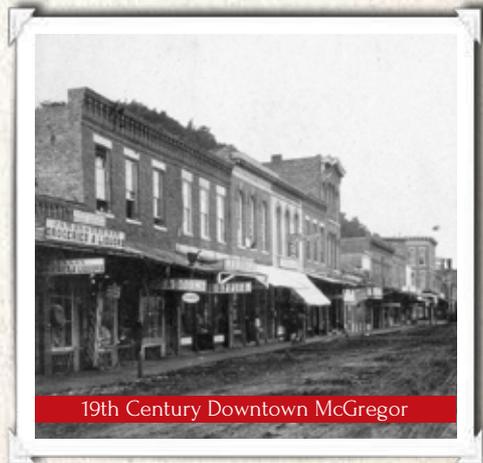
26 **226 Main Street - The Red Door Thrift Store** (Olson's Smoke Shop, Billiard Room): Built between 1883 and 1886, the property originally belonged to Maria Zearn. In early years it was a meeting hall, music store, and a shoe store. The third floor was removed in the 20th century and the second floor was dramatically altered. Housed here was O'Neil's Pool Hall, which later became Bert Bruckner's Tavern and Pool Hall. In 1989 Gerry and Judy Gritzmacher opened the Things I Like store. In 2006 Shelly Timmons ran a gift shop called River Gypsy Gifts and Antiques and in 2013 The Red Door Antiques opened. NRHP, MCHD.

27 **228 Main Street - Dr. Jim Arvidson Dentist Office** (Hornings's Ready to Wear): Built in 1886, this building was operated by A. A. Horning & Company as a dry goods & clothing store, dating back to 1892. Mr. Horning started in business earlier with a novelty store and photography studio. Suffering from a fire in 1958, the Horning store was destroyed. Later it was used by Denning's Gamble Store, with the second floor as a photography vendor. Beginning in 1960 Carlton "Dauby"

Drallmeier ran Dauby's Shoes here. Since 1979 Dr. James Arvidson has had his dental practice here; he renovated the exterior of the building in 2012. NRHP, MCHD.

28 230 Main Street - McGregor Pharmacy (S. J. Peterson and J. A. Ramage Drug Store): S. J. Peterson and J. A. Ramage established the drug store in 1872. They operated both a wholesale and retail business. Purchased in 1966, the drug store was owned and operated by Kramer-Cords and Floyd Wagner. Owners Larry and Maria Brummel took over May 24, 1976, and the business has been known since as the McGregor Pharmacy, a drug and gift store. It still contains the original pharmaceutical drawers used to store medications. It is one of McGregor's and State of Iowa's oldest continuing businesses; in 2012, it celebrated its 140th year business as a pharmacy. NRHP, MCHD.

29 234 Main Street - Park 5 and McGregorville Mall (E. R. Barron General Merchandise): The property of Edwin Barron was built in July, 1884, per the building's date plate, and it was known then as the Barron Dry Goods Emporium. It was built upon the site of what was previously the headquarters for the dry goods trade in McGregor, since 1856. The 1884 construction renewed the front 50 feet of the building's façade. The excellent quality brick was from the Anderson Press-brick Company of Chicago; the bases are composed of large blocks of McGregor limestone. At the time of construction the combination of stone and iron in the lower front was new in design. In the early days, E. R. Barron also had his prominent home on Prospect Street, which is included later on in this tour. It was the site of B. G. Benjamin's boot and shoe store, a science hall in the second floor per the Sanborn map 1886 - 1914, Saugling Jewelry, Strand Theater, Earl Kittle's Shoes next to the Strand Theater's 'fountain', Gambles Store, Mallard Café, Scotlin Ceramics Dealership. The old silent movie theater, later called the Strand Theater, is included in this complex and it had a player piano for accompanying silent movies and an orchestra pit. NRHP, MCHD. The buildings of the Barron Block now make up the complex called "McGregorville Mall" with antique and collectible shops.



30 238 Main Street - Danky's Apparel and Skate (George Wood Drug Store): Built c. 1865, this building was owned by George and Thomas Wood and operated as a drug and bookstore. In days gone by and up until recently hand-painted advertisements on the side of this building read: "Geo. Wood. Drugs, Books, Stationery, Paints, Oils, Window Glass". During the early 1900s, and after a severe flood, the ground floor of the building was raised to its present height. Some of the early history includes Dr. Thomas' office, Kittle's Shoe Repair, and a telephone office. The Cords family owned the building for many years and Pearl Cords lived in the apartment in the back. John Luster operated his barber shop here from 1965 - 2005, and briefly after that another owner renovated it into the Mouse House. In 2010, Scott Mossman purchased the building and has leased it to a skateboard clothing company. NRHP, MCHD.

31 242 Main Street - White Wash Laundramat (Kossack's Barber Shop): Herman Kossack ran Kossack's Barber Shop here for 50 years from 1882 - 1932. He had been a barber in Germany for ten years before coming to America and settling in McGregor. The building was constructed in 1897. Notice the original retro-signage hanging over the sidewalk; this building was tied to the Davies Grocery and Locker business next door. It has been used as a laundromat for many years. In 2012, the façade of this building was renovated and the building owners were presented with an award from the McGregor Historic Preservation Commission for their preservation work. NRHP, MCHD.

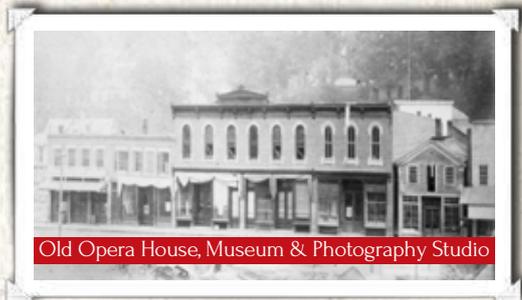
32 244 Main Street - Golden Opportunities & Schuster and Mick Law Office (Odd Fellows Lodge): Built by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows between 1897 - 1890; the emblem is still visible upstairs. The IOOF began in 18th century England, where it was deemed odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need without recognition and pursuing projects for the benefits of all mankind; it spread to the United States and Canada in 1819. The second floor housed the Odd Fellows Hall that once held dances there. The first floor was a furniture store, funeral home, billiards hall, and a bowling alley from 1897 - 1914; later housing Albeck's Grocery. Then it was Davies Grocery and Locker, who first partnered with Albeck (c. 1940); then bought the grocery in 1946, and ran it until 1988. The Schuster & Mick Law Office has been located here by many years, and in 2012 Golden Opportunities moved in and, with the owner, totally renovated the interior of the building. The private residence's addition on the southwest side of the building was added in 2007. NRHP, MCHD. (Non-contributing)

33 252 Main Street - Former McGregor Hardware Store (vacant building available for purchase) (Sullivan Opera House): Built as the Sullivan Opera House 1882 - 1884, it had a wide stairway leading to the second story Sullivan Opera House where graduations, balls and plays were held. The T. J. Sullivan Clothing store was on the first floor of the right-most building. Timothy J. Sullivan continued in the clothing business until his retirement in 1895. Sullivan also served as a state representative, councilman and mayor of McGregor, was on the board of education and a justice of the peace. From 1886 - 1930 the first floor housed Flanders Furniture store, a hardware store, and a confectionary. In 1932 the building opened as a Consolidated Stores Five and Dime, the Polar Pantry opened in March, 1938, upstairs was a roller rink. It was also a Ben Franklin Store run by Isabel McQuillin. In the 1940s the Hinsch Brothers operated a hardware store at this site. Charles and Leona Lange bought the business from Hinsch, and the Langes kept the business in the family with Charles' son Roger and his wife Rita operating it. After 60+ years in business, McGregor Hardware closed its doors in November, 2002. The men's clothing store and opera house are on the right and two commercial stores are on the left (see next photo, 2nd from left is today's museum) down to the corner in July of 2013. Through efforts of McGregor's Historic Preservation Commission and the McGregor City Council, the City of McGregor purchased the three buildings of the former hardware store. Plans are underway to develop the buildings and transform them back to their historic splendor. NRHP, MCHD.

34 256 Main Street - McGregor Historical Museum (Jedlick's Nut Store): This building housed a saddlery, hardware, grocery, confectionary, and photography studio between 1886 and 1902. Later businesses included Jedlick's Nut Store and a restaurant. The building housed McGregor Service Company for over 50 years, owned by Richard Myers. Myers Appliance and Flooring, a Ben Franklin store operated by Isabel Myers, Harold Field's Paints, Darnell's Ice Cream

Parlor were all housed here. In 1981 Richard and Isabel Myers donated the building to McGregor as a memorial to his mother, Lena D. Myers. Lena was the author of the book "Alexander MacGregor and His Town" and was a prime mover to organize the museum in its early days. In 1982, the McGregor Historical Museum moved here. Among the most precious of the museum's displays are the sand bottles of McGregor native and world-famous, world-premier sand artist Andrew Clemens. Clemens, a deaf mute, and his brothers collected multi-colored grains of sand from Pikes Peak from which to make his sand paintings. The museum also houses an abundance of historical exhibits, documents, and artifacts from Alexander MacGregor and his family, Emma Big Bear (Winnebago basket weaver, descended from famous royal bloodline of Decorah chiefs, and the last Native American in northeast Iowa to live by traditional tribal means), McGregor's Civil War soldiers, Victorian clothing, Ruth Hoseley hand-crafted dolls, Ringling Brothers circus memorabilia, and historic items about McGregor's pioneer past from 1830s onward. The building's façade was reconstructed between 2002 and 2005. NRHP, MCHD.

35 258 Main Street - Stoehr Studio Photography (Grocery): Built in 1879, this corner shop has served as the Sweeney Sisters' Second Hand Store, an ice cream shop, Ideal Café, Country Clippers Salon. In July, 2003 Todd and Dianna Berry occupied the entire first floor and opened McGregor Coffee Roasters and Mind Your Body Spa. After several years, the Berry's sold the building to Stoehr Studio Photography. A new shop called the Open Wagon was open from 2012 - 2013 in the front unit along Main Street. Stoehr Studio Photography relocated its studio to the back unit of the building with its entrance is on 3rd Street side. NRHP, MCHD.



36 310 Main Street - Past 100 Years and The Covered Chair (Dawson Building / Spaulding Building): D. W. Dawson built this as a grocery in 1860. In 1895 it housed Ed Stow's Grocery and Spaulding Furniture Store. In 1912, McTaggart and Flanders operated a furniture store and mortuary here. A fire in 1939, in which eight persons died from the formaldehyde fumes from the mortuary, took the life of McGregor native and well-known McGregor poet, E. Leslie Spaulding. A poem of E. Leslie's is presented at the back of this book. In 1945, Lloyd F. Eddings opened a cabinet shop and archery factory here, employing 26 persons. For years the building was vacant. Tim Frater began the building's restoration in 1974. As of 1997, the building was home to Secrets of the Past, and the Expect Anything Store filled with collectibles and historic memorabilia. Marty and Noreen Kahler currently own the building to house their The Past 100 Years antiques and collectibles. NRHP, MCHD.

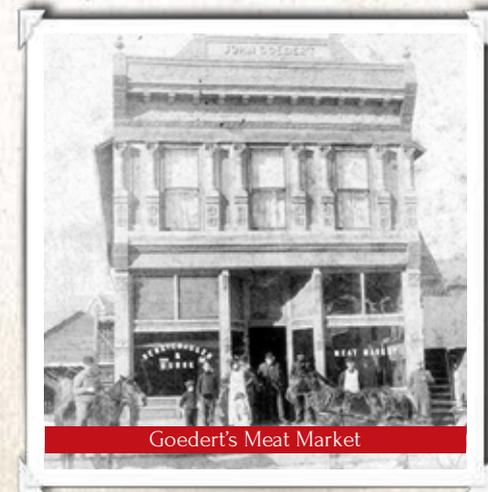
37 312 Main Street - River Junction Trade Co. (Luthe's Bakery and Confectionary): Built in 1886, this building housed Adney's Plumbing and Tin Shop 1886 - 1930 per the Sanborn maps. Later businesses included Luthe's Bakery and Confectionary, Mike and Bertha's Antique Shop, a furnace shop, and River Junction Trade Co.'s General Store, which is a unique business specializing in the manufacturing and sales of 19th century Old West and Victorian-era reproduction clothing

and re-enactment items. The general store part of the business has since relocated to 314 Main Street, and today River Junction Trade Co.'s 19th Century Ladies Millinery and Dress Shop occupies this building. NRHP, MCHD.

38 314 Main Street - River Junction Trade Co. ('Stitch' O'Brien Insurance): The building was built in 1890, and housed a grocery store for most of its time. Later on it housed Ruth Hoseley's Dress and Doll Shop, and Stitch O'Brien Insurance. River Junction Trade Co. bought it in 1981 and relocated its 19th century General Store, which sells Old West and Victorian-era clothing. NRHP, MCHD.

39 320 Main Street - Private Residence (Razed Old Home Sites of Dunning and Lange): Dr. Donald Pfeiffer practiced from the clinic he built at 320 Main Street in 1969. Before that his office was in the McGregor Hospital, at the present site of the Carriage House Apartments. Dr. Pfeiffer served this community for 42 years. The local Rescue Squad came into being with his assistance, and he trained many of the members and served as medical advisor for several years. He was also active in the American Legion, Community Booster, McGregor Achievement Club, and Eagles Club. Dr. Pfeiffer served in the Army and in the Navy and was the doctor for the Milwaukee Railroad, served as Clayton County Coroner and was the FFA flight surgeon. The clinic closed its door in 1990, when it was converted into a private resident for Dr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer. NRHP, MCHD. (Non-contributing)

40 322 Main Street - Main Street Mall (Goedert Meat Market): Built as a reproduction of a New York meat market, George H. Jenkins supplied the brick. About 1890 John Goedert put an elegant pressed metal storefront on his brick edition to a much-earlier building. The curved metal staircase enhances the old wrought iron gates and fence enclosing the brick patio, laid in the same herringbone pattern as found at the Villa Louis mansion in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin (across the Mississippi River bridge from McGregor-Marquette). In 1927 Edward Bergman and his brother purchased the building and ran it as a delicatessen and butcher shop here for many years. John Corlett purchased the building in 1944 and operated it as a second-hand and "antique" store. Senator John C. Culver, whose son Chet grew up here during family visits to their summer home in McGregor Heights later served as Governor of Iowa. Senator Culver began restoration of the building, but he did not complete it. Restoration was completed by present owners Skip and Barbara Corson, who have owned the building since 1981 and operate the present-day Main Street Mall, an antique consignment mall. The Goedert Meat Market was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. NRHP, MCHD.

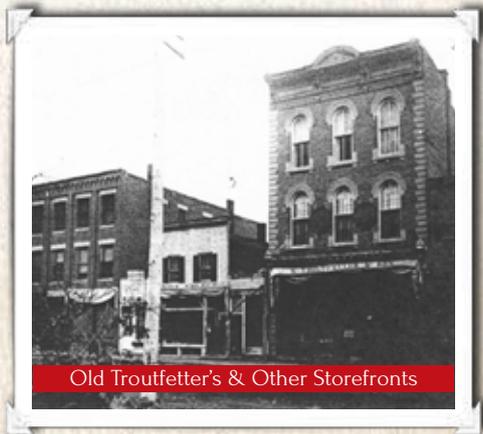


41 324 Main Street - Private Residence (The French Home): Augusta French and Adaline Hammer built this house in 1866 after purchasing three and a half lots from James MacGregor, Jr. At

one time a barn and a Methodist parsonage were located on the property, which extended through to the street behind. When John Goedert owned his shop next door, he lived with his family in its upstairs living quarters. After Goedert sold his business to his son in law, he purchased and lived in the French Home. At points in time it was Mrs. Oates' Beauty Shop, Ames & Aitch Antiques, and the Tallman Gift Shop; today it is a private residence. NRHP, MCHD.

42 326 Main Street - Private Residence / Office Space (Hofer's Radio and Electronic Shop): In 1860 this building was built for \$750; John Dearborn was the owner in 1869. The addition was built in 1920, and at one time on the property was a barber shop and Church's Confectionary first floor, later Hofer's Radio and Electronic Shop. Eugene and Liz Waters owned and operated an antique and jewelry store called Running Waters Antiques from 1974 through the early 1990s. A fire gutted portions of the building in 1996, and the building was renovated in 1997. Subsequent uses were Lone Wolf Martial Arts Studio, and offices for Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation. At one time a building was on the lot where the garages are currently located, but it washed away down Main Street during a devastating flash flood. The building's current use is a second floor private residence and first floor business office. NRHP, MCHD.

43 330 Main Street - McGregor Dollar Plus (Troutfetter's Grocery): First records of the property show it was deeded to James MacGregor in 1860. Troutfetter & Son was an early grocery store here. During the next 50 years it changed hands many times, including ownership by McDermott, Shoemaker, Bidwell, Church, McKinley, Buell, and Vanderwerker. The name Ickels was on the side of the building in early brickwork. In 1907 it was sold to J. D. Bickel and in 1912 it opened as Bickel Meat and Grocery, which was housed here until 1955. It was sold to Roy George, Sr., and Stuart Asche and was known as R & S Grocery. Years later, the building still had evidence of its former meat and grocery businesses in the pulleys in a back room which were used in butchering livestock. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Flanders next operated a grocery store here, followed by Gary Quinlan as Gary's IGA until 1971. Terrance Ghan, and Guy and Joyce restored the Ghan building in 1972 and opened it as The Village Traveler restaurant. Mark Russo purchased the building and housed McGregor Woodworks downstairs for over 20 years; Jung's Tae Kwon Do classes were held upstairs. Fred Petrie and Melanie San Fillipo purchased the building in 2008. They remodeled the interior, painted the exterior, and gave the McGregor-Marquette Art Center, an Iowa Great Places grant project, a strong starting location from 2010 – 2011. Thank you, Fred and Melanie! Opened in August, 2012, it is currently the McGregor Dollar Plus store. NRHP, MCHD.



44 334 Main Street - McGregor Public Library: McGregor's first library was organized in 1867 and was located in the A. J. Jordan Law Offices. In 1877, books were transferred to the school district and in 1920 W. H. C. Elwell began a subscription library. The library was located in

several buildings until Elizabeth Updegraff donated funds to build the present-day building in 1963 to "give back to the community some of what had been given to me." Thomas Updegraff, Elizabeth's father, was an attorney and McGregor's solicitor, a member of McGregor's board of education, clerk of district court of Clayton County, Iowa from 1856 to 1860, and a five-term member of the U. S. House of Representatives. After studying law, Elizabeth's father was admitted to the bar in 1860 and commenced to practice law in McGregor. Philanthropy, community service, and a willingness to help others are qualities Thomas passed down to Elizabeth. This library was built and dedicated to Elizabeth Updegraff in 1963 after her death. In 2013, the McGregor Public Library celebrated its 50th anniversary in this location. NRHP, MCHD. (Non-contributing)

 Turn right at corner of Main St. & 4th St. (@ library), proceed up 4th St. toward far bluffs

45 City Park at Corner of Ann Street & 4th Street – Library Park (Artesian Well Park): At one time this park housed a natural-Spring artesian well, which provided drinking water to the town and was the focal point of this park. The well was drilled in 1876-77 to a depth of 1005 feet with a water spout of an estimated 60 feet. The flow was 800,000 gallons of crystal-clear water per day. The well was capped in 1951 due to a deep leak. The park resides behind the McGregor Public Library at the corner of 4th Street and Ann Street. The City of McGregor updated the park with new playground equipment. NRHP, MCHD.

46 330 Ann Street - Living Faith United Methodist Church (United Methodist Church): This church celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2003. The initial construction was a small frame building built in 1857. Construction on the present church was begun in 1869 and completed in 1873. It was remodeled in 1902, 1918, and in 1941 following a fire. It had a second 25 foot spire which was the largest and tallest spire in northeast Iowa at that time. The clock in the spire was destroyed by lightning and never replaced. It became the Living Faith United Methodist in 2004 when it joined the Monona and Giard Methodist churches.

 Turn right at corner of 4th St. & Prospect St., proceed up Prospect St.

47 322 Prospect Street - Private Residence (Sears Kit Home): This home is interesting in that it was built as a Sears Roebuck & Company Kit Home in around c. 1920s. More than 75,000 Sears kit homes were built in the United States between 1908 and 1940. Between 1908 and 1940, customers ordered and built in the United States about 75,000 houses from Sears Roebuck and Company mail-order catalogs. Sears kit homes contained 30,000 pieces, including 750 pounds of nails, 27 gallons of paint and a 75-page instruction book. Sears estimated that the average carpenter would charge \$450 to assemble those 30,000 pieces of house. The painter's fee: \$34.50. Sears estimated that other skilled labor would cost \$1 an hour. Prices for these built-it-yourself kit houses ranged from \$600 to \$6,000. Today these houses have become a treasured piece of Americana.

48 318 Prospect Street - Private Residence (The Barron House): Father Nagel purchased the land, and the home was built in 1861 to serve as McGregor's first Catholic parsonage. Father Nagel sold it in 1871 to Charles H. Barron, who had inherited the E. R. Barron and Company General Merchandise Store on Main Street. The 17-room house has wonderful architectural features including oak and cherry woodwork, pine doors, patterned wainscoting, stained-glass windows, metal ceilings and parquet floors.

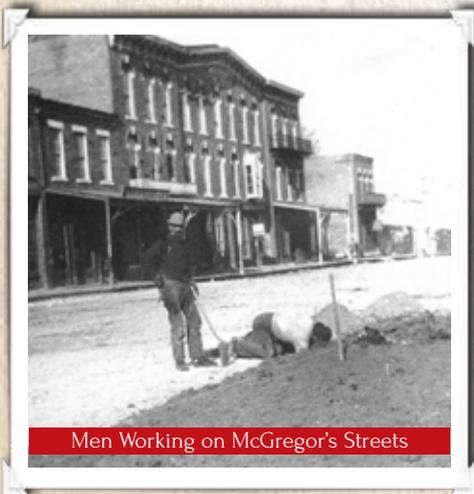
49 316 Prospect Street - Private Residence (Charles Huntting Home): This elegant house was built by Charles Huntting, brother of William Huntting, builder of the Huntting Mansion at 322 Kinney Street. The brothers were engaged in the grain business right outside their front doors on the Mississippi River. Believed to have been built at the turn of the century, this house features three fireplaces, inlaid hardwood floors, and an open stairway.

50 312 Prospect Street - Private Residence: Thomas Arnold came from Providence, Rhode Island to McGregor in 1856, and in 1862 he built this home as well as the home at 310 Prospect Street.

51 310 Prospect Street - Private Residence (Thomas Arnold Home): Born 1815 in Coventry, Rhode Island, Thomas Arnold started the Providence, Rhode Island business called The Providence Steam and Gas Pipe Co. Arnold came to McGregor in 1856, and in 1862 he built this house, where he lived up until his death in 1888. While residing in McGregor, Arnold served as Justice of the Peace, a mercantile businessman, in real estate, a builder, and a major McGregor philanthropist. Later Ben Kinsley owned the house, and he sold it to the Bickel family in 1950 and it's been in their family ever since.

Arnold was the owner of several pieces of real estate in town, and one commercial building he built was the "Chicago Store House". This store was operated by a Mrs. Barnett who, per an April 1888 North Iowa Time article stated, "Mrs. Barnett has returned from the Eastern markets with carefully selected new stock of Millinery Goods, the latest styles in Hats, Bonnets, Ribbons, Flowers, Shapes, and Children's Wear. The services of an experienced Chicago Trimmer have been secured. . . ." Arnold purchased and completed the unfinished Athenaeum block with a \$5,000 mortgage from State Bank, and immediately added \$2,500 in improvements, structural reinforcements, etc. The Athenaeum was built in 1873 by Henry Boyle. On the first floor was Arnold's Dry Goods Store; the second story housed Boyle's Opera House, later renamed the Athenaeum Opera House. When Arnold died it was written in an April, 1888 North Iowa Times article, ". . . the City of McGregor was kindly and considerably remembered. It is understood that the Athenaeum block and the fixtures there are willed to the city of McGregor, to be maintained, as it has been in the past,

the proceeds of the rents to be applied for the building up and improvement of the fire department, including the establishment of water mains for the protection of property." The article goes on to state, "When the city comes in possession we suggest that the council . . . change the name to 'Arnold's Athenaeum'. That would be appropriate, thus giving credit to the donor, keeping his name prominently before the people, and who from an abundance gave the city of his adoption a nucleus for the foundation of a mighty power in the protection of property." Unfortunately, the Athenaeum burned down in 1896.



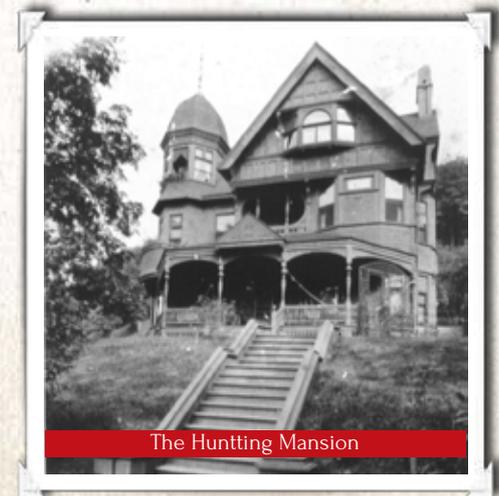
Men Working on McGregor's Streets

Turn around and head back down Prospect St. to 4th St., turn right at corner on to 4th St.

52 320 4th Street - McGregor Manor Bed and Breakfast (The Farnam Home): This home was built in July, 1897 by Harry and Ada Wolf. They deeded it to Lewis C. Farnam who purchased it with a railroad settlement he'd received for his injuries. J. P. Bickel, prominent businessman in town, purchased the home in 1928 and Frank Davies purchased it in 1943. In 1995 David and Carolyn Scott purchased and restored the home and opened it as the McGregor Manor Bed and Breakfast. The four-bedroom home features its original brass light fixtures, some with gas jets present, hardwood maple floors, pressed tin ceilings, and a maple living room fireplace, and sliding doors. The bay, wrap-around porch and truncated oriel are features of seaside and lakeside resort homes of the 1890s. A stairway leading to the maid's quarters and the basement feature curved ceilings, reminiscent of early days. The Scotts sold it in 2007 to Mark and Judy Schlorholtz and now it is a private residence.

At intersection of 4th St. and Kinney St., focus your attention at mansion high up on bluff

53 322 Kinney Street - Private Residence (The Huntting Mansion): Construction of this home began in 1882 and was completed in 1886 at a cost of \$49,000. William F Huntting, a prominent grain dealer in McGregor, built this impressive 20-room late Victorian-era Queen Anne style home. The Huntting Mansion is widely referred to as the finest example of Queen Anne architecture in northeast Iowa. Huntting was the owner of many granaries throughout the state, and he used the Port of McGregor to export grain to southern terminals during the early 19th century steamboat era. A legend relates that Huntting made so much money at his business that one day he decided to build a new house on that day's income of \$49,000. Stone for the two-foot thick foundation was quarried at the site, and it sits on solid rock. The mansion features nine fireplaces with marble and ceramic tiles and wood mantles, as well as parquet floors, oak and red brick woodwork, stained-glass windows and a charming inglenook under the stairs. Owners following Huntting were Lawrence Jennings in 1914; Dr. Hector in 1932; John Case in 1945; and Herbert Hupfer in 1954, when he converted it into five apartments for rent. In 1977 it was changed back into a private residence when present owners Larry and Maria Brummel purchased and restored it, keeping the majority of the historic 19th century interior intact. Most interesting on the exterior are the two octagonal towers, one with a hipped roof and the other with a bell-shaped roof, known as the ogee style. Today it is a private residence.



The Huntting Mansion

54 327 Kinney Street - Wood's Apartments (Flemming House): In the 1860s George Colgate, a hardware store businessman, built the original part of this house on the end nearer to

the bluff. In the summer of 1894 John Flemming bought Colgate's lots and built on the 30 by 44 foot addition. The home features a 90-foot long wrap-around porch and four bay windows that are still present today. Lumber barons John Flemming and his brother William owned and operated the Flemming Sawmill in North McGregor. After John Flemming died, Mrs. Flemming sold it to Charles Cowles. The next owners were Lawrence Jennings and Mrs. Josephine Connell (Jenning's sister-in-law). James Wood purchased it in 1920, followed by Marion Wood, who converted it into seven apartments for rent, and it still operates today as apartments.

 Turn right at corner of Kinney St. & Center St., continue to head up Center St.

55 121 Center Street - Private Residence (The T. J. Sullivan Home): This home was built in 1865. In the 1890s T. J. Sullivan, McGregor men's clothier and owner of the Sullivan Opera House, which was located over the former McGregor Hardware Store on Main Street, greatly expanded and remodeled the original structure. Sullivan, who also served as Clayton County representative in the 26th General Assembly 1896 - 1898, was later mayor of McGregor, and served as justice of the peace, added the wrap-around porch, balcony, Victorian gingerbread and a summer kitchen. The interior was updated during that time with maple, walnut, and oak flooring in several rooms and grain-painted woodwork, which was a popular method of imitating more-expensive wood of that era. The home retains its original layout and most of its original wood work and windows. Duane Boelman and Ellis Seavey restored it, beginning work on it in the early 1990s.

 Turn around and head back down Center St., turn left at Kinney St., turn right at 4th St.

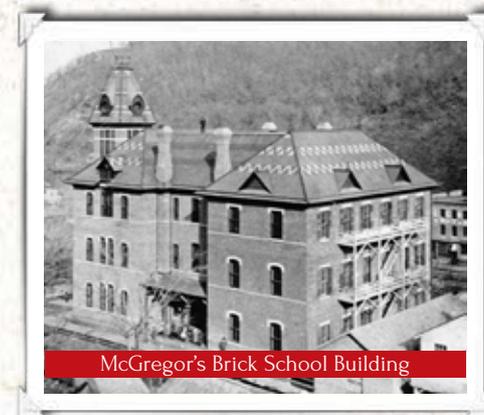
56 317 4th Street - Private Residence (The W. H. C. Elwell Home): William Harry C. Elwell, prominent pearl buyer, built this house in 1922. Elwell was the largest fresh water pearl dealer in the world, selling to Paris, Bombay, China, and New York. Elwell chose McGregor as his home after traveling most of the country because, he said, "Everything grows well here. McGregor is pleasantly situated." This light-colored house has an oak-lined clothes chute. The basement has a garage, coal, and vegetable drying room that were used in days' past. Architectural features include a brown-patterned ceramic tile surround of woodwork. At one time there was evidence of a cistern opening in the library. This house is actually built over a red brick home that was built earlier but had been partially destroyed by fire. A Mr. Laird built the exterior of this home in what is known as "McGregor's Red Brick". It was by W. H. C. Elwell's generosity that Emma Big Bear – the last Native American to live by traditional tribal means in all of Northeast Iowa – had a special place to sit on Main Street storefront sidewalk where she made a living selling her Winnebago baskets and jewelry trinkets to tourists and passers-by. Private residence.

 Keep moving in the same direction on 4th St. to corner of Ann St., turn right on Ann St.

57 427 Ann Street - American Legion Hall (German Presbyterian Church): This building was constructed in 1862 as the German Presbyterian Church. It was one of the oldest German churches west of the Mississippi. The church formally disbanded in August of 1914, when four of its original 30 members were still living. The school used the building as an auxiliary classroom and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp used it as a library. McGregor's American Legion Pocket City Post No. 267 bought the old church in December, 1937 and has used it as their Legion Hall ever

since. The belfry was removed and the bell was put in the Fireman's Hall belfry. When facing the Legion Hall, look over to your right past the Legion's parking lot to the land on which the next two houses sit.

At this site located at 511 Ann Street in 1878 a three-story brick school was built in McGregor to accommodate 700 pupils. This brick school, replacing the wooden first one Alexander built in 1850, was built in the era of Lucy Maynard Salmon, who was the Assistant Principal in McGregor in 1876, later serving as the Principal until 1881. Salmon's success in McGregor grew each year. She brought McGregor High School to the rank of second in the state. Lucy Salmon went on to become Vassar College's first history teacher in 1887. Salmon was an innovative professor, known for incorporating materials reflecting the realities of daily life. One of Salmon's books, "History and the Texture of Modern Life" was republished in 2001. The McGregor High School was destroyed by fire March 12, 1930. All the school records, going back to the Civil War era, were also destroyed.



McGregor's Brick School Building

 Return to the corner of Ann St. & 4th St., turn right at 4th St. & turn right again at Main St.

58 416 Main Street - McGregor City Hall (Christian Science Church): Architect Solon Spencer Beman (1853-1914) designed this building as a Christian Science Church in 1917. Beman, a noteworthy architect who designed more than 90 Christian Science church buildings, was an understudy of his talented architect father Solon Spencer Beman. Though unknown to each other, there was a connection between the Bemans and Eloise MacGregor, the granddaughter of town founder Alexander MacGregor. In 1890 Eloise moved to Chicago with her mother and father, Gardner MacGregor, who died in 1898 on his 50th birthday. After his death and her teaching retirement, both she and her mother became Christian Science practitioners, and Eloise also wrote for Christian Science publications. Eloise's mother moved into a Christian Science Home in Concord, New Hampshire where she died in 1933; Eloise remained in their Chicago home for four more years. She lived her last 13 years in the same Christian Science Home as her mother did in "a very beautiful place among a congenial group of associates". Built in 1897, Solon Beman designed the new Christian Science Church on Chicago's Drexel Street in an historic Neo-classical style. This church was located very near the MacGregor's Hyde Park home, and may have been the inspiration that led the MacGregor ladies to change religions and join the new church.

Beman and Beman were noted for incorporating Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Chateausque styles into their designs, and for influencing the designs of countless other architects' works. The Beman and Beman firm designed the Pullman Community near Chicago, a self-contained town of over 1,300 homes. Some buildings they were known for designing are the Studebaker Fine Arts Building in Chicago, Grand Central Railway Depot South Wells and Harrison in

Chicago, Pioneer Building in St. Paul, and Pabst Building in Milwaukee. This building later served as apartments owned by Bud Jameson, Dr. James Heiring's podiatrist's office from 1975 - 1978, and the Masonic Bezer Lodge #135 until they disbanded and donated the building to the City of McGregor in 1995. Since then it has proudly served the town as McGregor City Hall. McGregor's Historic Preservation Commission is working on getting McGregor City Hall listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

59 424 Main Street - Lamp Post Inn and Gallery (The Gilchrist Home): The Gilchrist family was nobility in Scotland. The first peer in Scotland was Gilchrist, made the Earl of Angus in the year 1037 by Malcolm the Third of Scotland. In 1857 William Gilchrist organized a McGregor firm, Gilchrist and Company, dealing in grain, seeds, and livestock. William's son, James N. Gilchrist, continued in the business and became a prominent produce and grain dealer. James built this gracious home in 1910; it was originally the site of a two-story harness shop. The house features dozens of stained-glass windows, spacious rooms with distinctive fireplaces and wood-burning stove, built-in-bookcases and oak floors. A. J. Cords, owner of Kramer-Cords Drug Store, purchased the house in 1938 and remained here with his family until he sold it to E. C. "Ernie" Schroeder in 1949. Schroeder had a national-scale rock contracting firm that was known as one of the best crushed rock companies in the country for use in flood control projects and the construction of dams. Floyd Wagner bought the house in the mid-1950s, and it was used as a residence by a number of subsequent owners throughout the years. It's been the Lamp Post Inn and Gallery since 2007, which serves as a bed and breakfast and art gallery, as well as the family's residence.

60 522 Main Street - Private Residence: Built in the mid-1870s and originally part of wagon maker Christian Bloedel's properties at 524 and 526 Main Street, this house likely served as a dwelling for a Bloedel family, possibly an adult son. It is thought the stucco was applied in the early c. 1990s. This house has been separated for decades from 524 - 526 Main Street; today, it is a private residence. Once part of the James MacGregor, Jr. Addition, Judge James Buell married James MacGregor's oldest daughter Elizabeth, and it was their son James Buell who purchased this property in 1874. After Buell's death in 1881, he left the property to his daughter Martha Buell Munn, who donated many scenic spots to the state and town that she and her family owned, such as Pike's Peak State Park, Point Ann, The Heights, and other scenic lands near McGregor. The family was very scenic-minded and was a strong force in the preservation of the beautiful scenery around McGregor. Such forested bluffs have never seen a plow, or road, or man's intrusion on it and look the same as they did a thousand years ago.

61 524-526 Main Street - Private Residence (Christian Bloedel Wagon Works and Paint Shop Buildings): Christian Bloedel arrived in McGregor in 1860. Bloedel constructed the Main Wagon Shop in 1862, with a family residence upstairs. Christian Bloedel supplied early settlers with wagons and farm implements. The Paint Shop was built c. 1887 with upstairs living quarters for another of Bloedel's adult sons. The downstairs was used for painting wagons, and the upstairs was used for a family residence. Bloedel Wagon Works made wagons, carriages, sleighs, buggies, and did blacksmithing and repairing. The wagon shop and residence also represent a particular phase in American manufacturing history. Specifically, Bloedel's wagon shop reflects the mid-to-late 19th century importance of small wagon shops to the trade. Many small wagon shops flourished even into the 20th century through a combination of batch production and the use of mass-produced

wagon parts. Local legend is that Bloedel Wagon Works produced wagons for the early Ringling circus performances after the Ringlings moved to Wisconsin. John P. and Med (Mary Ellen) Bickel acquired both properties in 1969, and reconnected the wagon shop and residence at 524 Main Street with the paint shop and residence at 526 Main Street. The Bickels did their restoration work on the buildings between 1970 and 1972; they were entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. NRHP.

62 622 Main Street - Private Residence (The Frese Home): This site was owned by the George and John Fox families who were very early-on pioneers who settled in McGregor in 1863. The Fox family watched McGregor quickly grow from a tiny trading post into a thriving city of over 5,500 people by 1865. The Fox and Frese families were friends, and later the two families were joined together when their children were married. G. Henry and John C. Frese began the G. H. Frese Jewelry Store in the late-1890s. The original cabin was built in the 1860s and the two-story addition was built in 1889. The Frese family lived here for 32 years. Maurice Carroll, a prominent Milwaukee Railroad man, and his wife Georgia, a Madison socialite, purchased the home in 1931. Dr. Donald and Marlys Pfeiffer made it their first home upon arriving in McGregor in 1953 to set up their long time medical practice. This home contains 9 rooms featuring a Lincoln Drape cast iron fireplace, solid oak classic columned mantel, and Greek key parquet flooring in the parlor; wall-to-wall built-in oak sideboard, and arched tin ceiling in the dining room. Present owner Rogeta Halvorson extensively renovated the home in 2006.

63 624 Main Street - Private Residence (The Hendrickson House): This stately brick home is reminiscent in style to the Stauer House / Ramage House directly across the street. It is less notable but it was also designed by McGregor architect Elias Jacobs and built c. 1880s. It has a low-hipped roof rather than a gabled roof.

64 626 Main Street - Dr. Smith's Day Care Center (Dr. Clifford Smith's and Gunderson-Lutheran Clinic): This day care center was dedicated as the Dr. Smith Center in honor of his many years as not just a doctor to his patients, but friend to his many patients and other professional personnel. Dr. Smith came to McGregor in 1962 with his family from Jersey City, NJ in response to an ad in a medical publication. His family was the only African American family in this rural, and then all-white community. He first worked out of the McGregor Hospital (the old Clark Hospital, previously the Carriage Works building) and in 1963 moved his practice to 626 Main. Dr. Smith was known to accept items in trade for his services and he made house calls when needed. Dr. Smith built a new clinic at this site in 1979 and in 1987 he became affiliated with Gunderson-Lutheran out of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Dr. Smith was named the National Rural Health Practitioner in 1998; he retired from practice in 2003 at age 77. A year later, Gunderson-Lutheran gave the clinic to the City of McGregor and the consolidated MFL Mar-Mac school district for its present-day use as a day care center. Our beloved Dr. Smith died in 2010.

65 630 Main Street - St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS: The original St. Paul Lutheran Church was founded in 1864 but it disbanded in 1920. It was re-formed in 1931 and held services in the Oddfellows Hall over the former Davies Grocery and Locker plant downtown until the purchase of this land. That same year services were held in a private residence until funds were raised to build the present church in 1935; an addition was built in 1965.

Turn right onto 7th Street (a/k/a Business Hwy. 18 or W. Main Street), proceed to the parks

66 West Main Street Park Area – Peace Park and Gardens: This park is also known as “Canon Park” because of its World War II Japanese Howitzer cannon on display on southwest side and also as “Gazebo Park” on the northeast side. These two parks were originally designed as one unit where folks went around the park on the circular road, but in the 1950s the park was divided in half to accommodate the new Business Highway 18. During the Depression this park was the site of a Civilian Conservation Camp (“CCC”) from 1933 - 1939, which was part of President Roosevelt’s ‘New Deal Program’ instigated to solve unemployment and resource degradation, caused by the farming industry destroying much of the country’s natural resources. The CCC program gave employment to some four million American men from 1933 – 1942. McGregor’s barracks housed about 300 workers. An estimated two billion trees were planted, along with road and fire lane work, besides other projects. McGregor workers were directly connected to the erection of Pikes Peak State Park’s

shelter house, the 520 foot well, Pike Peak trails, and construction of detention dams in the hollows just south of McGregor to help divert and control major flash flooding and soil erosion that plagued the community. The park section with the gazebo is now used for summer Music in the Park concerts and picnics, and has a perennial garden that was planned by resident Richard Staples.



Above is a photo of Buell Park as it was in c. 1870s – 1880s. The obelisk installed by James Buell in honor on his uncle James MacGregor, Jr. is documented to be in the center of Buell Park. James Buell and his wife lived on the bluff behind the current public school, which overlooked Buell Park. This park was full of statuary, a similar gazebo, lawn tennis court, fountains, pathways, and acres of well-manicured flowers, shrubs, and trees. Being curious about what happened to the sculptures, when asked, our librarian indicated they were likely donated to the cause of World War II and melted down, just as were most of the Victorian wrought iron fences. The city’s Visioning Team drew up plans to “some day” move the obelisk to Peace Park, and also make it a tribute to our town founder Alexander MacGregor because there should be a statue or recognition for starting the ferry landing and growing the town. Maybe upon the next tour book update we’ll have made progress on this vision.

Go to end of park area to intersection of Bus. Hwy. 18 (7th St.) & Garnavillo Ave.

67 821 Main Street - Private Residence (The J. D. Bickel House): This 12-room home was built about 1892 by J. D. Bickel. Bickel was one of the area’s most-enterprising businessmen. His ventures included the J. D. Bickel Produce Company, the Bickel Baking Company, and the Bickel Meat and Grocery Company. The produce company had its own railroad cars to transport goods to destinations as far away as New York. Bickel’s baking, meat, and grocery companies employed 200 people. A unique feature of this home is the upstairs side window accented by an oval reflecting the Turkish influence of the Old Ottoman Empire. Another unique feature is the parlor’s cast iron

Lincoln Drape fireplace (a matching one exists in the Frese Home at 622 Main Street). The original structure was added on to twice to accommodate Bickel’s growing family of ten children. At one time, the home’s entry was graced with what was believed to be the oldest clock in the state. The clock was made in the Black Forest of Germany entirely of wood -- works and all -- except for the stone weights, brass hands, and pendulum.

Return to Main St. from Bus. Hwy. 18 (7th St.) & pause at Catholic Church

68 311 7th Street - St. Mary’s Catholic Church: This church located at the head of Main Street dominates the street with its stately limestone appearance. As early as 1833, missionaries and priests from Prairie du Chien provided services in McGregor homes. The first church was a frame building on Kinney Street near the Artesian Well, and this was destroyed by fire in 1876. The cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1880 and the church was completed in 1882 to house a congregation that was formed in 1855. In 1888, fire destroyed the entire interior of the church, and it was redecorated and a high altar installed. The meeting hall of today had been added several years after the church was built. In 1942, the church bought a new Wicks pipe organ it used for about 40 years. The McGregor Historical Museum recently acquired it and you may see it on display there. The old rectory, a stately two-story house between the church and the park, was razed in 2011, and the historic building featured and detailed scroll work were salvaged and sold for reuse.

Stay on 7th St., veer to the right on Walton St., home is 2nd to last on right (10-min. R/T walk)

69 14463 Walton Ave / Pikes Peak Road - Private Residence (Birthplace & Boyhood Home of the Ringling Brothers of the “Greatest Show on Earth” Fame): The town of McGregor was the home of harness maker Augustus Ringling and his family from 1859 to 1872. Four of his famous sons -- brothers of the Ringling Brothers Circus fame -- were born at the family home on Walton Hollow (aka the road to Pike’s Peak). See additional information about the Ringling Brothers’ first “pin and penny” circus at the McGregor Public Library or McGregor Historical Museum.



Head back down to 7th St. at Main St., go right on Main St. (toward river)

70 631 Main Street - Private Residence (The Dr. Henry H. Clark Home): This home was built in 1890 for Dr. Henry H. Clark, who set up practice in McGregor in 1870 following his internship in Chicago. He was McGregor’s long-time pioneer doctor who became a renowned physician and surgeon. In 1902 Dr. Clark, along with his daughter Dr. May Clark, established the hospital called the Community Hospital at 507 – 509 Main Street in the former McGregor Carriage Factory building. Dr. May, as she was known, graduated from the University of Iowa in 1902, the only woman to graduate in her class. During her practice at McGregor from 1902 – 1925 she delivered 1,000 babies.

71 629 Main Street - Private Residence, Stauer House Bed and Breakfast, and Country Clippers Hair Salon (The Stauer Home and later Ramage Home): This home was built in 1882 by

Peter Stauer and designed by McGregor architect Elias Jacobs. J. P. Stauer owned a lumber mill across the street from his house with his partner, Vincent Daubenberger. Joseph Ramage, Sr, one of McGregor's most-prominent businessmen who, with S. J. Peterson founded the Ramage and Peterson Drug Store in 1872, bought the house in 1902. The house remained in the Ramage family for 100 years, although vacant for over 50 of their ownership years. As only the third owners of this grand home, it was purchased in 2002 by Robert and Donna Staples who did extensive restoration work to preserve and rehabilitate the building inside and out. The home's 19th century floor plan, open wood staircase, decorative wood-carved features, and original brass light fixtures (converted from gas) have been well preserved and brought up to its present condition. Today it is the Staples' private residence, out of which they also operate the Stauer House Bed and Breakfast and Country Clippers Hair Salon. NRHP.

72 625 Main Street - Thornburg-Grau Funeral Home (Daubenberger Home): Built in 1902 by the Daubenbergers, who were partners with Peter Stauer in the lumber business operated across the street. It was also the home of Judge William Eichendorf. In 1957 G. Pilkington converted the Daubenberger home into a funeral parlor. It has remained a funeral parlor ever since through several different business partnerships.

73 623 Main Street - Private Residence (The Samuel B. Olmsted Home): Samuel B. Olmsted became the first owner of this property, March 15, 1845. The house was built in 1849, making it the oldest standing house in McGregor. It was listed under "Patent" by the USA. Samuel Olmsted first met Alexander MacGregor in the summer of 1837. Olmsted came across the river in a canoe, paddled by James King, to the landing where MacGregor and Burnett were building a flatboat to ferry teams across the Mississippi. Olmsted subsequently worked for MacGregor in the ferry business for 14 years, and he owned a lot of the land in south MacGregor that he later sold to James MacGregor, Jr. Samuel and his wife Lucy left McGregor and moved north to Minnesota in 1851. The Olmsted name is connected throughout northern Iowa and southern Minnesota. Phineas "P. P." Page and David, two younger half-brothers, were the first settlers in 1840 of what was later called Monona Township, and "P. P." founded the town of Monona, 12 miles west of McGregor. Because of his communicating ability with the Winnebago, David assisted the federal government in 1848 in relocating them from Ft. Atkinson (Neutral Zone) to Long Prairie, Minnesota; David later served as St. Paul's first mayor.

Grant and Fadra Price bought the house in 1984 from executors of Beatrice Barnhart's estate. Grant Price was in broadcast journalism for a half century. He was News Director at WMT-TV (KGAN) in Cedar Rapids, before joining KWVL as News Director in 1972. In 1990 he became a member of the Wartburg College faculty. He was inducted into the Iowa Broadcasters' Association Hall of Fame in 1999. Grant Price was a long-time supporter of McGregor's history and natural beauty. The house remains in the Grant and Fadra Price family as a private residence.

74 615 to 617 Main Street - Private Residence (Bergman Brothers Duplex): George H. Jenkins, proprietor of McGregor Brick Yards (1881 - 1902) supplied bricks for this home, built for the Bergman brothers in 1885. The house is constructed of red brick transported from Monona by railroad to North McGregor, then by wagon to the site; it is laid in the common bond pattern. The building is actually two homes with a common wall, but separate abstracts, deeds, and property assessments. The brick wall joining the two homes sits directly on the property line. The two halves

were originally identical, each having four bedrooms on the second floor and a living room, dining room and kitchen on the main floor. Both sides have a common one-story addition on the back.

75 507 to 509 Main Street - Carriage House Apartments (McGregor Carriage Works): Gideon Hawley and Son began the McGregor Carriage Works in a red brick four-story factory built at this site in 1871. The company's foreman, Charles Fessman, was a skilled workman who had been employed in the King's Carriage Works in Germany before coming to America. Dozens of employees worked at five forges to make the famous Hawley sleighs and carriages. A Hawley sleigh won first prize at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Amos Pearsall was a member of the Hawley firm for nine years, and in 1880 Pearsall purchased the factory. He took his younger son, Charles A. into partnership with him and retained Fessman in his employ. Charles Fessman and John Allen bought the business in the 1890s. No known records indicate when the Carriage Works closed, but it was converted into a hospital by 1902. Dr. Henry Clark and his daughter, Dr. May Clark, rebuilt the Carriage Works building into the Clark Hospital in 1902. They operated the hospital many years until their retirement. Dr. E. C. Meggers purchased and operated the Clark Hospital for a time, until it became a community hospital. Even though the hospital board asked for an extension for a year or two in hopes they could bring the hospital up to Medicare specifications, the McGregor Community Hospital closed June 1, 1967. The "Golden Age Custodial Home" operated there until the building was razed in January, 1975. The current "Carriage House" apartments were built in 1975.

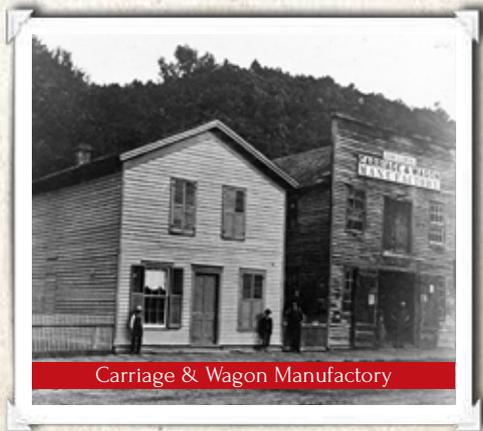


76 429 Main Street - First Congregational Church: The First Congregational Church was organized in 1857. The new minister, Rev. Joseph Bloomer, and his young wife crossed the Mississippi River in December, 1857, secured by two good rivermen on skates, a boat, two sleds, and many ropes. A church was erected at this site in 1860. This was the first church in McGregor to have a bell announcing its services. The first church also had a 15' tall pipe organ designed and crafted by George Stevens, a member of the prominent Boston School. The first church burned in 1949, destroying the church building and the organ; only the bell was saved and is located at the front entrance of the present church.

77 421 Main Street - Private Residence (The McKinlay Home): Built by Warren McKinlay in 1882, this home was purchased October, 1908 by James and Ellen Gilchrist, who donated it that year to the First Congregational Church to use for their parsonage. It was purchased by Ray Morel in 1965, and he operated The House of a Thousand Lamps Museum here until his death in 1973. Present owners Bob and Marcia Clark restored the home in 1994. It contains 14 rooms, with yellow pine woodwork that is wood-grained and has a marble fireplace in the living room, parquet floor in the dining room, an open front stairway with an oak banister, a back stairway, and stained glass windows.

78 419 Main Street - Apartment Building (Dornbach's Grocery): J. W. Werder built this grocery store in 1864. Frank Dornbach, Werder's son-in-law, took up the grocery business. The grocery was in the same family for 72 years, until Dornbach's retirement in 1936, after which he operated a second-hand store at the site. This was one of the oldest operating stores in McGregor's history. Dornbach reminisced in 1956 in the North Iowa Times, "During my first years here there were so many people, teams of horses, oxen and wagons, one could hardly cross the street. There would be two rows of wagons going down Main Street, and two rows of wagons going back up Ann Street."

79 417 to 415 Main Street - Clemens Home & Wagon Works (Homestead of the world-renowned Sand Artist Andrew Clemens): John and Margaretha Clemens came to McGregor in June, 1857. John opened Clemens Carriage and Wagon Manufacturing at 415 Main Street. John and Margaretha and their six boys lived in the two-story house next door. Their third son, Andrew, had "brain fever" (encephalitis) at age five. The high fever, which nearly took Andrew's life, left him deaf. His mother taught him to read and write. Lonely, and unable to attend school with his brothers, Andrew began making sand bottles. He displayed these bottles at local grocery stores, including the Will Werder Grocery at 419 Main. In the meantime, arrangements were made for Andrew to attend the Council Bluffs School for the Deaf at age 13. Andrew continued making sand bottles on summer vacations, gathering 42 shades of sand at Pictured Rocks (Pike's Peak State Park), putting the sand in bags made by his mother and carrying the sand out on a wagon made by his father. Andrew's life work was creating sand bottles. Word of his abilities spread, and visitors from all over the country traveled to see him create sand bottles at the window of his family home. People liked his product and he sold all he could make. Andrew exhibited his work, including a show at the Kohl and Middleton Museum in Chicago. Officials at the Columbian Exposition at the World's Fair held in Chicago asked him to exhibit. He was pleased by the request, but was too ill to attend. Andrew Clemens died in 1893 at the age of 37. He was survived by his mother, and brothers August, a painter; Frank, a photographer; and Albert, longtime businessman and owner of Clemens Dry Goods. Andrew Clemens developed a unique style of art. His remaining sand bottles are museum pieces, treasured antiques, and family heirlooms. Andrew Clemens' sand bottles and articles about his life and work are available to view at the McGregor Historical Museum, 256 Main Street, and the McGregor Public Library, 334 Main Street.

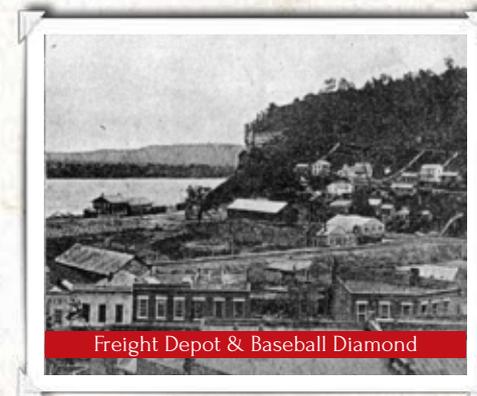


80 411 Main Street - Private Residence (The Kramer Home): Built in 1900, this was the home of McGregor businessman Jack Kramer, who operated a clothing store and was a civic booster. Kramer helped found and continually worked for the success of McGregor's American School of Wildlife in McGregor Heights. For many years this was the home of Dr. Don and Joanne Strutt (now retired) who founded Strutt Chiropractic Clinic. It was later purchased by members of their family, and today remains a private residence.

81 315 Main Street - Western Hotel: Built as a hotel called The Western House prior to 1886. It was called the Anderson House from 1902 – 1914, and then The Reynolds Hotel c. 1930. A two-story stucco building, distinguished by a massive front porch with second-floor balcony. The year "1917" is inscribed on one of the front panels on the porch, reflecting the year this old building was remodeled. This is one of McGregor's oldest continually-operating businesses, as it currently offers living quarters as a hotel and apartments. Possible credit to its hotel survival is thought to be due its location, with most other hotels at the river's edge by the old railroad depot. NRHP, MCHD.

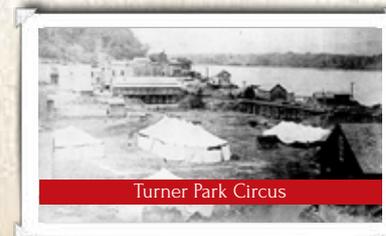
 Turn right at corner of B. St. & Main St., then continue straight ahead one block

82 311 B. Street - Bunge North America Elevator, aka AGRI (Turner Park): One of the largest grain terminals on the upper Mississippi River, this terminal began operation here in 1956 at the former site of the Milwaukee Railroad Freight Depot. The first set of silos was erected in 1963 with a capacity of 503,000 bushels and expanded in 1976 and 1978 to a capacity of 1,200,000 bushels. Approximately 11,000,000 bushels move through the terminal annually. One-hundred percent of the grain, which is brought in by either truck or tractor or train to McGregor, is loaded onto barges for shipment to the Gulf of Mexico. This elevator continues to reflect the importance of the river and railroad and grain industries, in which McGregor has played a major role since its early pioneer beginnings.



Along with the Milwaukee Railroad Freight Depot (top-left photo), this was the site of the original Turner Park, named for the George Turner family who donated the land behind their home. Baseball games were played on the baseball diamond (below right photo) at Turner Park as early as the late 1800s, and it was home to many young men who had dreams. There were teams from around the area called "Town Teams" playing from the spring into fall. No players wore fancy uniforms or protective gear and, by today's standards, their uniforms were crude. Gloves were little more than leather between the player and the fast ball he caught.

Circuses arriving by steamboats disembarked on the McGregor waterfront and set up their big-tops at Turner Park. This is likely where the Ringling brothers watched their first circus acts and got inspired to develop and perform their amateur circus for McGregor's townspeople. After living in McGregor about 12 years, August Ringling moved his family to Wisconsin. While there, the Ringling brothers perfected their circus acts and went on to become professional showmen, clowns and world-class business promoters of the shows that grew into the "Greatest Show on Earth." Turner



Park was moved to its present site along West Main Street (Business Highway 18, west of town). There is an "Agri-aerie" overlook across the street from the elevator on the tall bluff called Point Ann where one can view the operation of grain being loaded into the silos or onto barges. The Agri-aerie may be accessed by foot at Main Street and 2nd Street, or by car off of Main Street and 4th Street (please see below the Turner Home listing at 109 2nd Street for more-detailed directions). While observing the water and former park area, there are spectacular views down river in Horn's Hollow, or "South McGregor" as the locals call it.

 Return back to the corner of B. St. & Main St., then take a right turn on to Main St.

83 229 Main Street - Crazy Carl's Silver Dollar Saloon (J. F. Widman & Sons Printing): This freestanding building, built in 1878, was once attached to another building which has since been demolished. It once housed John Frederick "J. F." Widman's printing and book binding office in the 1890s. The business later became J. F. Widman & Sons, which published the McGregor News c. 1911, and the printing company was still in business in the 1930s, per the Federal Writers' Project. In the 1950s and 1960s, the building that was demolished had been operated as a drive-in known as Woerm's Wiggle Inn. In 1977 the freestanding building was extensively remodeled and has been operated as a tavern ever since then, known as the Red Barron Saloon, then the Silver Dollar Saloon. NRHP, MCHD.

84 221 Main Street - By the Spoonful (Original Site of First Savings & Loan, and formerly Top Shelf): This was previously the site of the First Savings & Loan in McGregor and later a dry goods store. In the 1980s, the previous building housed the Past 100 Years Antique Store and Kahler's Covered Chair. Roger and Lora Knott bought the current building in 2007 and opened McGregor's Top Shelf in January of 2008. The basement was a liquor store and the first floor sold specialty meats and gourmet food items. The Knotts designed the second floor as a two-bedroom bed and bath suite, which they rent out to visitors; they closed Top Shelf in 2012. The new owner, Katie Ruff, purchased the building and opened By the Spoonful in 2013. NRHP, MCHD (Non-contributing).

85 219 Main Street - Creative Enz Salon (Pilkington Funeral Home): Built in 1858, this building served in its early years as Pilkington's Funeral Parlor. It was Oscar Fryklund's photography studio, beginning c. 1914, and well-renowned McGregor photographer Margery Goergen first worked at this studio. The building was later an auto sales store, Fleck's Gun Store, and Virgil Staples' Plumbing & Heating. In recent years it has housed the Mind Your Body Spa, Green Room Spa, The Purple Iris (217 and 219 Main Street owners swapped buildings), and is now Creative Enz Salon & Spa. It was empty for several years before being historically restored. NRHP, MCHD.

86 217 Main Street - The Purple Iris Boutique (Pilkington Mortuary): This flatiron building (wedge-shaped like a steam iron) was once part of the Pilkington Mortuary. Other history shows it was the Security Loan, Babe Plaug Tire Shop, Harold and Doris Lindemann's restaurant in the 1940s, and several other restaurants. Dean Dull operated his barber shop here from 1955 - 1995. Brothers Jeff and Gary Johnson purchased and extensively remodeled the building in 1996. Later businesses here were Dave Collins' Magic Forest Farm, Kim Becwar's Native American Gift Shop, and Creative Enz Salon & Spa (217 and 219 Main Street owners swapped buildings). Up until recently, the building was home to The Purple Iris. NRHP, MCHD.

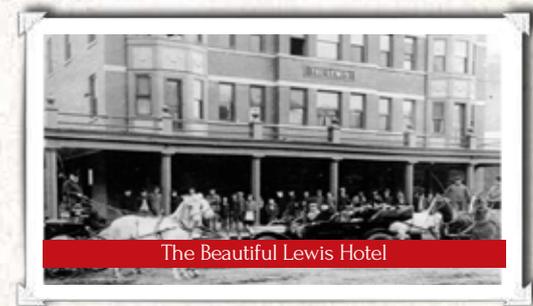
 At the intersection, turn a hard right in front of the Post Office to the residence on the left

87 109 2nd Street - Private Residence (The George Turner Home): Architect N. K. Aldrich designed this Colonial Revival / Queen Anne home. McGregor carpenter C. Kramer built it c. 1900 for George R. and C. Turner and their seven children. A charming old inglenook is tucked away under the spiral stairway that has an oak banister that goes to the upstairs, and the home possesses three double pocket doors and many other fine features. A Canadian by birth, Turner came to McGregor in 1870 and for 41 years was a merchant accountant with local grain firms when the town was known as one of the largest export sites of agricultural products in the country.

Turner was also known as an active athlete with many U. S. trophies for sculling. He donated land across from the present-day McGregor Municipal Utilities plant building for a city park with its baseball field, which hosted many a Town Team baseball game. That part of Turner Park was later turned into the city's public parking lot. Along Bus. Hwy. 18 heading out of town westward (toward West McGregor) is McGregor's city park renamed Turner Park after George Turner; the second Turner Park in our town's history. For those traveling by foot or pedal bike, located at Main and 2nd Streets is the "Agri-aerie" overlook to view the grain operations, and also to envision the original Turner Park area. This overlook may also be accessed by vehicle off of Main and 4th Streets (turn back south toward the library corner at Main and 4th Streets, take the next two lefts and head up the river bluff, winding around to the right then straight ahead to Point Ann. Free parking is available.

 Walk back toward Post Office & past its parking lot, turn right on Main St.

88 213 Main Street - Alexander Hotel (Lewis Hotel): Architect Hugo Schick designed the Lewis Hotel for landlord Charles I. Lewis. Schick had an architectural partnership with Gustav Stolze from 1887 to 1889, and was one of the best known architects of the Midwest. Schick designed many of the extant late-19th century commercial buildings in downtown La Crosse, Wisconsin. The hotel was built by John Moss in 1899 for \$21,000; the furnishings cost \$4,000 - \$5,000. There originally were 30 rooms, the large Lotus Dining Room, and an ornate ballroom.



It was called The Lewis Hotel until 1902, the Pocket City Hotel c. 1903 - 1913, the Zimmerman Hotel c. 1914, and Scenic Hotel c. 1930. Named after our town founder Alexander MacGregor, it has been called the Alexander Hotel for many years and is one of many buildings in town to house a continuously-operating business. In 2008 Luis "Luigi" Maguina began operating the hotel and a Mexican / Peruvian restaurant here called Latinos. It has two dining rooms and had two pubs, but the rear downstairs pub called The Cellar Bar was so devastated during past floods that it was closed. NRHP, MCHD.

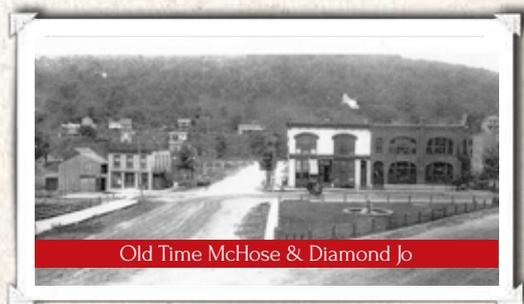
89 211 Main Street - Café McGregor (c. 1920s Filling Station): Previously there was a small filling station at this location built before 1930. It was removed when the existing two-story building

was built in 2007. Located in the first-floor retail space were McGregor Coffee Roasters and then the Bluegill Café. The building currently houses Café McGregor, which opened in April, 2013. The two second-story condos, owned by one group of family members, come with three-season balconies overlooking the bustling street of historic downtown McGregor. NRHP (Non-contributing)

 Take a right turn at corner of A St. & Main St.

90 123 A. Street - Triangle Park, McHose & Diamond Jo Buildings: Diamond Jo Reynolds, one of McGregor's most prosperous businessmen and its first millionaire, built this building in 1880 as first floor headquarters for his steamboat business, with a second floor for his residence. The facade of the building features magnificent brick work such as two sunflower tiles, one about 6 feet above the sidewalk between the windows. Below this is an interesting "Z" believed to be the bricklayer's mark. The brick used in the building is unusual because it was imported to the area, probably from St. Louis or Chicago. The building features Romanesque and Queen Anne styles, and the large windows on each floor have commanding views of the business district.

The building was home to the post office from 1927 to 1967, and has also housed a gentleman's billiard parlor, a number of gift and antique shops, Casa Del Rio import gifts, and Christina's Winery. The Diamond Jo office building and residence, located at A. and Main Streets, was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on February 19, 1982. At the time it was listed on the register the owners were J. Douglas Dawson, owner of Casa Del Rio and Smoky Hollow Pottery; William Conkling; and Patrick Tranmer. The current owners of this building are David and Marci Strutt, who restored the building and reopened it as Old Man River Restaurant and Brewery. Restoration began in July, 2007 and the restaurant opened in January, 2008. Included in the renovation work on the building was the removal of a second story porch that was not original. The restaurant can comfortably seat more than 60 people; the Strutts added a 3,200 square foot addition that houses the brewery. Copper brew kettles built in Vienna, Austria, were installed. NRHP, MCHD.



91 125 A. Street - Brewery Side of Old Man River Restaurant (Site of McHose & Co. Office Building): Joseph McHose and his wife Cordelia came to McGregor in the early 1850s. McHose was employed early-on by Alexander MacGregor's ferry business at his government No. 1 Warehouse; later McHose established his own grain business. A year after Alexander MacGregor's death in 1859, George D. Gardner, Alexander's brother-in-law, took Joseph McHose as a partner, the firm name being Warehouse No. 1, McHose and Gardner Produce and Commission Agents. This partnership lasted until 1866, when George Gardner went to South Carolina, with a prominent McGregor lawyer, Willis Drummond, in the U.S. revenue service. Gregor MacGregor, Alexander's son, returned to McGregor in 1865 and, in 1867, bought out his Uncle George's share of the partnership and entered a partnership with Joseph McHose, as a member of the McHose & MacGregor firm. This partnership lasted until in the late 1870s.

With the old warehouse torn down in 1873, they moved the business to the southeast corner of the Public Park, which today we call Triangle Park. Later McHose built a large brick building facing Triangle Park – exactly where the brewery side of Old Man River sits today as these two buildings are closely matching in perimeter floor size, but the current building falls short in comparable height. A few years after moving to the new building, the firm of McHose & MacGregor was dissolved due to the tapering off of the steamboat shipping days. They had added a few other articles, such as sand, coal, and cement, and later agricultural implements. McHose continued in this business alone. MacGregor went into a completely different line of hardware, wholesale and retail. Gregor MacGregor moved to a fine two-story brick building 50' x 100' with a \$60,000 stock of hardware. Gregor was a very popular man, who was elected as mayor of McGregor for three terms, served as a member of the town council for 25 years, helped organize the fire department and was chief for many years, and was a promoter of every civic project. The old McHose building burned down c. mid-20th century. NRHP, MCHD. (Non-contributing)

92 119 A. Street - Private Residence: Built in 1889, this is believed to be a rooming house and other business places with Taylor's Candy Shop at the site. The name Eubora Taylor is visible on a cement wall along the driveway. NRHP, MCHD.

 Triangle Park directly across from Diamond Jo's Office (Old Man River Restaurant)

93 Triangle Park - Inside Main Street / A. Street / First Street: This property was owned by Diamond Jo Reynolds and was the site where sellers unloaded and weighed all of their produce, grain, and livestock. Diamond Jo and his wife donated the property for a park in memory of their only child, a son named Blake who died at age 30. Diamond Jo drilled 520 feet where an artesian well was found. A fountain was added in 1890, at which time the water rose 20 feet above the curb level. By 1895 the height of the water had dropped significantly and in 1930 the foundation was plugged. Throughout the years, the fountain has undergone several face lifts to reach its current appearance which was completed in 1990. It's used for special events and festivities. Each year, the park becomes a focal point of the community, being used regularly for special events, live music, art festivals, a farmers market, concerts, 19th century Dickens-style Christmas caroling, and McGregor's "Hole in the Sock Gang" 1880s street theater re-enactments. Some towns have a "town square" but McGregor has its own unique "town triangle". NRHP, MCHD.

 Uncle Sam's / McGregor's Landing Event Center directly across from Triangle Park

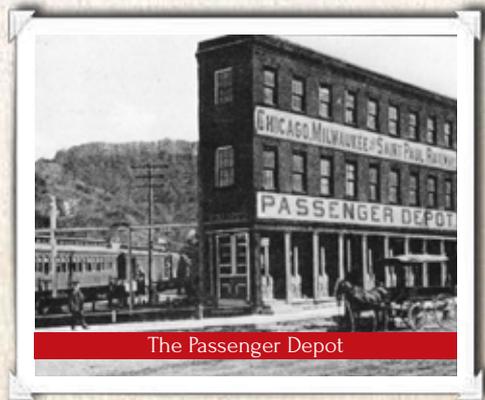
94 111 Main Street - McGregor's Landing Event Center, Uncle Sam's Saloon & Restaurant, McGregor's Landing Bed & Bath (The Farmer's Cooperative Creamery): The Farmer's Cooperative Creamery was located here for many years, located in the back on the right-side part of the complex. Other buildings in the complex were the G & M Motor Company c. 1920s – 1952. Roger Halverson of Lansing purchased the Motor Company in 1952; Kieth Wild went into business with Halverson. Andy Anderson owned Andy's Marine here, followed by Atkinson Marine. Bud Jameson had an Antique and Consignment Mall here for many years. Jim and Linda Boeke purchased the block of buildings in 2006, developing it into McGregor's Landing Event Center and Uncle Sam's Saloon with three large rooms inside, and five bed & bath suites upstairs. In 2012, a full gourmet kitchen was added to expand into the restaurant business along with the existing event center, saloon, and lodging operations.

These facade storefronts represent seven actual businesses that were operating in old-town McGregor in 1857, though not on this spot. The intent was to add to the historic look of McGregor. The complex accommodates events like gun shows, fiber and fabric arts fests, Old West gatherings, wedding receptions, local chamber of commerce, other business meetings and the annual community-sponsored Festival of Trees. During high-tourism season, one regular monthly event is the Hole in the Sock Gang's late-1800s street theater re-enactments of bank robberies and posse shoot-outs (May – October, last Saturday of the month, 1 p.m. Triangle Park), which takes place on McGregor's old cobblestone streets in front of McGregor's Landing and Uncle Sam's Saloon. This "new 1857" complex, Hole in the Sock Gang, enhanced ambiance and new business ventures are a valuable asset in the town of McGregor as a result of this major historic re-creation project. NRHP, MCHD (Non-contributing).

 Continue on past McGregor's Landing to Main St., turn right on Main St. (toward river)

95 127 Main Street - Twin Cities FS Service Station: Formerly the site of one of three flatiron buildings in the early days of McGregor; it also housed Hill's Fresh Fish Market. Replacing the flatiron building, the current building was constructed in 1938 as a Mobil Super Station, an old-style service station with gabled roof and stone veneered walls. It is one of many old buildings in town to house a continuously-operating business. Gas service discontinued in about 2009, auto repair is the main focus today. NRHP, MCHD.

96 125 Main Street - Site of Kwik Star and the Public Rest Rooms (McGregor's Flatiron Passenger Train Depot): The Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railway Passenger Depot was originally located at this site. This corner of the block was the site of bustling activity when the three-cornered railroad passenger depot building was present; the building's front point was located approximately where the public rest rooms are now located. The building's shape is commonly called a "flatiron" (wedge-shaped like an iron) and there were three flatiron buildings in town in the mid-to-late 19th century. This area also contained the Freeman Building and Cambrian Hall warehouse, garage, and produce station. Upstairs and across the street, the Hall also housed several restaurants, a saloon, pool hall, and express office. The Hall was the first ballroom in town and the Dawson and Latrobe Grocery was there. The present Kwik Star was built near the tracks in 1993. Earlier, Captain Jack's Elk Boat Rides was present in this area on the river front. After the railroad passenger depot was closed, the building served as a bus depot; it was torn down to accommodate the Kwik Star. NRHP, MCHD (non-contributing).



The Passenger Depot

97 102 Business Highway 18 North - River View Inn and Cribbed Elevator: This site was the location of an elevator constructed by Glad, Gilchrist, and Myers in the 1860s. That elevator burned in 1903, and was rebuilt in 1919. It is one of the few elevators of its kind still standing

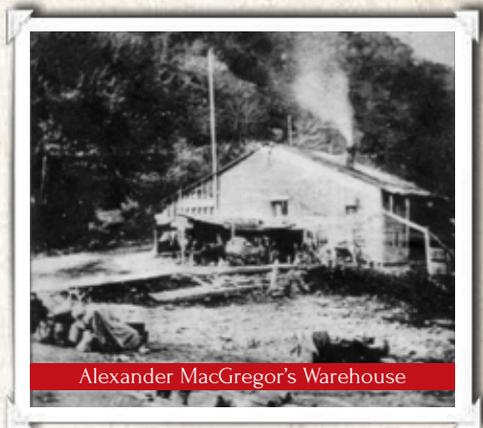
today, and it reflects the grain, riverboat and railroad shipping industries that all played such a critical part in history and continue today in McGregor at Bunge North America. Other buildings have occupied the site: a coal shed, an office for the grain elevator, McGregor Co-Op Feed Mill, the front of the building was a NeverNox service station c. 1935 and, since 1967, a small bar and restaurant owned by Gene Trudo. Years later an addition provided apartments on the upper floor with a boat and motor shop, and a small hamburger-style restaurant also at the site. The Riverview Inn's bar and restaurant business has been operated by Rick and Brenda Trudo since 1988, but they no longer live in the attached apartment.

98 Historic Location at Foot of Main Street & Waterfront - Land/Water Area on the Opposite Side of Railroad Tracks (Army's No. 1 Warehouse): As Iowa's Ft. Atkinson (named for the U. S. Army general) was being built in 1840, Warehouse No. 1 was also built by the United States Government on land leased from Alexander MacGregor to store materials and supplies before proceeding to Ft. Atkinson. This fort was built in the government's Neutral Zone to protect the Winnebago Indians from the Sioux on the north and the Sac and Fox on the south. In old hand-written notes from the McGregor museum, it states that this warehouse was "commissioned for storage and forwarding of salt, lime, cement, coal", and likely other supplies to construct the new fort and provide for the welfare of the soldiers and Winnebago Indians. According to Lena D. Myers' book "Alexander MacGregor and His Town", a Mrs. Ned Dickens from upper Sny Magill river about five miles up from the Mississippi said that she herself delivered to MacGregor's Landing 1,000 pounds of venison she had sold to the government officers to be hauled to the soldiers at Ft. Atkinson. Certainly there was much activity on this river bank.

Per reminiscences of early McGregor pioneer and businessman V. R. Miller, as published by Lena D. Myers, "In 1848 a log house where the McGregor family lived, another log cabin a little farther up the Coulee (named by the Indians as Coulee de Sioux and today known as McGregor's Main Street), and a government warehouse were all there was of MacGregor's Landing. But from 1850 – 1856 over 600 stores and houses were built." The following article appeared in the April 24, 1873 North Iowa Times entitled 'An Old Landmark Going' and it reads: "The work of tearing down the old No. 1 Warehouse, at the foot of Main Street, lately occupied by McHose & Co., commenced to-day. Around this structure are clustered many reminiscences, and scarcely an old settler remains between the rivers that will not point to it as where, at one time or another, the commercial business of the town was centered. This warehouse was erected in 1851 by Alexander MacGregor, David Drummond doing the work, and was first occupied by George D. Gardner, for storage and commission business; then it was successively occupied by Geo. L. Bass, Rogers & Safford, Hills & McHose, and McHose & MacGregor, who vacated it but a week or two ago. For several years it was the lone warehouse on the levee, and not until the demands of trade made it necessary were companions to it erected, which are still standing with the exception of one or two, they having given place to the fine building owned by Bassett & Huntting, built last season. The old warehouse has stood the storms of many winters and now gives way to the further demands of trade, to become a 'thing of the past', taking its place in the history of the rise and progress of McGregor. The old building has served its purpose most admirably and for so many years as the headquarters of the commission trade, under the management of the different firms, will be often referred to and never forgotten."

The Holiday Shores motel was built in 1965; its addition was added in 1974. McGregor Beer and Brats

Garden and McGregor Marina have been operated by the Sporeleder family since 1995. The family also purchased Boatels in 2012, a long-term McGregor marina and boat rental business built and operated by the Robert Myers family for over 50 years prior. Today, the Sporeleders operate both marinas, boat rentals, and the waterfront bar and restaurant. The city of McGregor offers boaters several free, short-term boat slips for boaters to dock their boats and enjoy McGregor's many restaurants, bars, antique and specialty shops, brewery, art center, museum, hiking trails, overlook, and parks. From the mid-19th century and beyond, about 15 McGregor warehouses were operating along the Iowa shoreline of the Mississippi River in Clayton County, Iowa. The first to be built was Alexander MacGregor's ferry docks and office in 1837, then U. S. Army's No. 1 Warehouse, MacGregor's warehouse in 1847, and the number of warehouses grew as the town's population and business needs grew. Warehouse businesses stemmed north and south and were positioned tightly between the river and bluff and, after 1857, between the river or bluff and railroad. One can only imagine McGregor's bustling and industrious early pioneer days on the waterfront when one compares it to today's similarly-lively waterfront marinas; houseboat rentals boat landings and docks; boat houses; grain terminals; barge and railroad traffic; recreational water, vehicular, and foot traffic; and lodging, retail, eateries, and commercial buildings. Rick and Brenda Trudo, life-long McGregor-area residents who have always lived and worked along the Mississippi River, and Jim Hendrickson recollect some of these later mid-20th century warehouse businesses, such as a broom factory, electric company, railroad family warehouses, just to name a few.



Alexander MacGregor's Warehouse

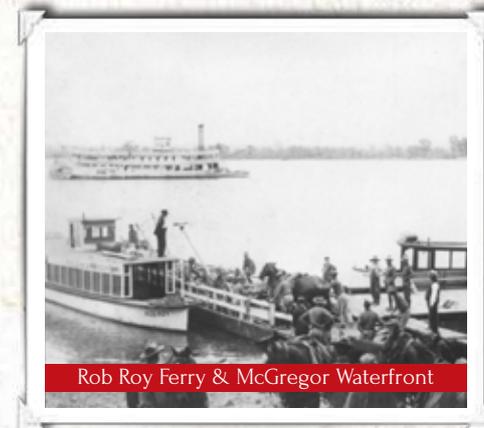
99 Waterfront City Park at Foot of Main Street - McGregor's Historic Riverfront and City Park: On the Iowa side of the Mississippi is the valley where the town of McGregor stands. The Sac and Fox and the loway pitched their lodges here during the Great Council at Prairie du Chien in 1825. This place, now called McGregor, was then called the Coulee des Sioux (Coulee of the Sioux).

Alexander MacGregor established a ferry across the Mississippi River here in 1837, to provide a route for thousands of pioneers journeying west; his warehouse was built in 1847. An early ferry was named the Rob Roy, in honor of his famous ancestor royal relative Rob Roy MacGregor. A settlement resulted and was called MacGregor's Landing. Prior to 1840, a Government Warehouse was built near the landing to store provisions for soldiers. In 1840 the U.S. government laid out a road from here to Ft. Atkinson. In 1846 McGregor was platted and in 1857 it was incorporated.

A steamboat anchor and a Civil War cannon are on display on the McGregor riverfront. The cannon was made in 1841. There is a tradition that it was one of the cannons captured from the Confederate army in the battle of Missionary Ridge fought on November 25, 1863 at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Samuel Merrill, Civil War colonel, McGregor banker, and sixth governor of Iowa, donated the cannon

to McGregor in 1874. The cannon is named "Nellie Grant" for President Ulysses S. Grant's daughter Nellie. After five years in storage, donations from the local Upper Mississippi Boat and Yacht Club and McGregor Historical Society returned the cannon to the Riverfront Park in 2001 with a new mount. A government dredge pulled the anchor out of the river in front of the McGregor levee in 1926 and donated it to McGregor. The six-foot anchor weighs 620 pounds. It is the primitive wooden arm type of anchor used by old rivermen, of the steamboat age.

The American Legion gave the flagpole and American flag to the city of McGregor as part of the Veterans Day celebration in 2007. If you have the chance to stand at the South end of Main Street at the Catholic Church, look north down Main Street toward the Riverfront Park, you'll see this majestic gift is perfectly aligned with the center of Main Street. In recent years the city of McGregor, city council members and an over-whelming number of local volunteers have been busy with the enhancement of McGregor's historic downtown, parks and waterfront. Thanks go to these hard-working folks who participate on the Visioning Committee, Comprehensive Planning Committee, Economic Development Committee, Park Board, Dock Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and the many non-profit and civic groups.



Rob Roy Ferry & McGregor Waterfront

 Standing at the water's edge, look @ island with summer homes in mid-Main Channel

100 Mid-channel Island between Iowa & Wisconsin Shores - Indian Isle (Bergman's Island): This historic island is located in the middle of the Main Channel of the Mississippi River between Iowa at McGregor and Wisconsin at Prairie du Chien. Old-time residents recall when Indian Isle was known as "Bergman's Island". Families loaded boats with food for Sunday picnics on the island and for ball games played there during the summer. The Bergman brothers, including Ed, Al, and Will, owned cottages on the island. Joe E. Burgess bought the island in May, 1963. Burgess envisioned it as "the only island site with an exclusive summer home colony." As one of only seven privately-owned islands on the Upper Mississippi, plans were underway to make this dream a reality when the floods of 1965, 1967, and 1969, and flood plain regulations, literally "drowned" the project. Forty-four home sites had been platted and nine homes had been built. Six other homes were completed later.

While the dream was alive, Indian Isle was known as one of the area's biggest tourist attractions. Visitors rode to the island in a 40-passenger boat. At the island, visitors walked up a birch-railed ramp to the Lodge. The Lodge had a birch dining room, river view dining porch, Commodore Coffee Shop and a private dining room. As many as 1,200 visitors came out to the island each weekend. The Lodge could seat 284 at a time. Researchers from the State Historical Society explored Indian Isle in 1965, and found many pieces of pottery, arrowheads, and flint. These were identified as artifacts

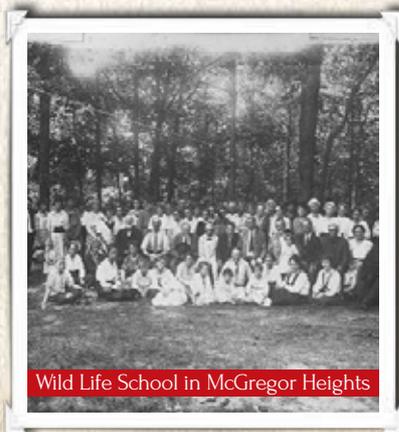
of Woodland Indians, ancestors of the Ho-chunk and Fox. According to the Historical Society, this had been a Woodland settlement. Another unique factor of the island is that despite its proximity to Iowa's mainland, the island itself is in Wisconsin territory because the main river channel lies between it and its nearest shoreline. Private homes remain on the island today.

 Head back to intersection of Main St. & A. St., then turn right for a distance of one block

101 McGregor Heights or "The Heights" (The American School of Wildlife Protection): Continue to follow this road up the hill to McGregor Heights. This trip is approximately two miles with a steep incline, and there is a paved road up to a gravel roadway on the Heights itself. At the crest of the bluff there is a spectacular lookout point with a bench to rest and admire the view. You may walk or drive your car up, but either way gives you the feeling of being in the midst of a pre-historic forest and rocky crags, surrounded by wildlife. It is breathtaking any time of the year, but it is at its prime in autumn when the leaves are crimson red, orange, yellow, burgundy, and green. At the very beginning of the hill leading to the Heights, several tall trees stand together on the left side of the road. Evidently brought to McGregor by early immigrants, the trees are from Germany's Black Forest, found in a mountain district in southwest Germany, and densely filled with dark fir and spruce trees.

McGregor Heights was known as the social area of McGregor and was established in 1888 by the Decorah District of the Methodist Church for use as a camp meeting ground. Twenty-five acres of a 60-acre tract were leased by the church, which had assistance of several of McGregor's leading businessmen. After ground was cleared, lots staked and streets graded, a pavilion with a seating capacity of 1,200 - 1,500 was dedicated in 1898. The Heights Hotel was built in 1922 and most of the cottages were modernized. The hotel contained eight rooms with 19 beds and its 50-foot dining room could accommodate 100 diners. Iowa Senator John C. Culver once owned the hotel and used it as his family's summer retreat.

With its natural aesthetic beauty, the site was the ideal location for the American School of Wildlife Protection established during World War I. Nature lovers and environmentalists flocked to McGregor and on some days as many as 200 out-of-towners visited the town's shops and restaurants. The Wildlife School disbanded during World War II. The 115 feet high lookout tower with its nine flights of stairs (165 in all) enabled visitors to overlook Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin from its vantage point of almost 600 feet directly above the Mississippi River on the bluffs of McGregor Heights. This tower was later removed due to high wind damage. Four years after the Heights' beginning, the church withdrew its support and it was taken over by McGregor residents. Many of the cabins were destroyed by fire, but today some of the cabins, such as Marie Antoinette, Knot-a-Kare, Primrose, Owl's Nest, Kozy Cabin, Riverview, and Happi-Shack reflect the story of the Heights' yesteryears.



Wild Life School in McGregor Heights



CEMETERY TOUR



Cemeteries in the McGregor Area: Nos. A, B, C, D are located in rural McGregor. Nos. E & F are located in McGregor proper - No. G is on the top of a bluff above the school. No. H is located in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin (across the Mississippi River Bridge). Note: Records of burials, catalogs of some gravestone, and much more detailed cemetery information may be found at the McGregor Public Library and online:

A Eastman Cemetery - Located on property owned by Gene Milewsky, rural McGregor. Established in 1854 when Peter and Mary Eastman's sister Anna died in a fire. There are 35 burial sites, of which many are the graves of Virgin Em's husbands. But only four of original stones are present; restored in about the mid-1900s by local McGregor Boy Scouts.

B Norwegian (First Lutheran) or Stavanger Cemetery - Located in rural south McGregor along the Great River Road a short distance past Pikes Peak, established date unknown, but the oldest grave stone is dated 1862. The churches associated with the Swedish (Norsk) Lutheran & Norwegian Lutheran (Stavanger) cemeteries were united as the First Evangelical Lutheran church in 1936. The cemeteries remain separate. The Stavanger cemetery is referred to as the Norwegian cemetery by church members.

C Swede Ridge or Swedish (Norsk) Lutheran Cemetery - Located in rural south McGregor along the Great River Road a short distance past the Pikes Peak entrance; established in 1865. The churches associated with the Swede Ridge, sometimes called Swedish (or

Norsk) Lutheran, and the Norwegian (or Stavanger) cemeteries were united in 1936 as one named First Evangelical Lutheran; however, the cemeteries remain separate.

D **Moody Cemetery** - Located in rural south McGregor and named for the local Moody family, whose 19th century matriarch once fed breakfast to Jesse James and his gang as they passed through McGregor in August of 1876 on their way up to Northfield, Minnesota for what was their last bank robbery. Old Mrs. Moody related the story about how polite Jesse James was, but she didn't know it was James until after she read about the Northfield bank robbery in the newspaper.

E **St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery** - The Catholic church is located at the south(west) end of Main Street on 7th Street. But the church's cemetery is located on the high bluff behind the public school, which has a great view of the town of McGregor; access is via a marked steep gravel road.

F **Walton & Chapin Cemetery** - Behind Turner Park and Turner Park Assisted Living Center is a private residence at 1202 Buell Avenue where about 12 burial sites and three tombstones are visible from the road. Please respect this private residence.

G **Pleasant Grove Cemetery** - Located up Methodist Hollow (heading out Center Street, past T. J. Sullivan's former home) atop a high hill by Ridgewood West Subdivision, this has burial sites of famous sand artist Andrew Clemens and his family, plus many, many more of McGregor's early pioneers and prominent citizens.

H **Evergreen Cemetery** - Alexander and Ann (nee Gardner) MacGregor had four sons: 1) Chester, who died as an infant in 1844; 2) Gregor, born in 1845; 3) Gardner, born 1848 after their move to MacGregor's Landing; and, 4) an infant son who died at childbirth in 1849. Alexander MacGregor died at the age of 54 on December 12, 1858, before his feud with his brother James MacGregor, Jr. was settled in court. He and his last-born infant son were buried in the family cemetery atop the bluff behind Alexander's Main Street home (see Property No. 1 on this tour), which today is part of The McGregor Heights. In 1859, Alexander's legal feud with James MacGregor Jr. was settled in court. Ann MacGregor was unhappy when the Supreme Court's decision gave Alexander's brother James ownership of the plot of land on which their hilltop family cemetery rested. So Ann had to exhume and move her husband's and infant son's bodies to the family plot in the Evergreen Cemetery in Prairie du Chien, to join their first buried son Chester. Here you will also find the graves of their adult sons, Gregor and Gardner as well as Ann's brother Walter R. Gardner. A large white obelisk marks the burial site, and is easily found at the 17th fence post to the left of the double-gated front entrance on 15th Street off of South Marquette Road in south Prairie du Chien. Note: The 4th side of the obelisk is blank and the cemetery has no record where Ann MacGregor is buried; however, we assume Ann is buried beside Alexander, but our research continues.

Note: Some say James MacGregor, Jr. is buried under the massive white obelisk located today in the playground area of McGregor's middle school along Bus. Hwy. 76 heading west out of town. This piece of land was formerly "Buell Park" where Judge James Buell, married to James MacGregor's sister Elizabeth. Their son James built this monument to honor his uncle, which after his death was maintained by his daughter Martha Buell Munn. James MacGregor Jr. died in New York, and is not likely buried here, but we are still researching old records for confirmation.



RIVER SIGNS

By E. Leslie Spaulding
Published in the New York Times



When gray days turn to green days,
And the mistiness of Spring
Envelopes all the river
With a hidden whispering
Of buds beneath the water,
And of dragon flies that dwell
Upon the muddy bottom
In a grotesque mummy shell,
When boats are caulked and painted,
And the pungent smell of smoke
Of burning leaves is mingled
With the scent of fresh-cut oak.
When geese start wedging northward
Against a rose pink sky,
And down the swelling river
The driftwood hurries by
When the first river steamboat
Has sowed her crop of buoys,
Like bright vermilion lilies,
Or children's gandy toys.
When silver schools of minnows
Along the shallows play,
Then you can be quite certain
That Spring's not far away.

