

The Illinois Central Railroad Yard, also known as Cherokee Illinois Central Station, is a nationally recognized historic district located in Cherokee, Iowa, United States. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. Cherokee was a hub for the Illinois Central Railroad's (IC) branch lines, and the railroad's westernmost division headquarters in the state. The district was a collection of structures that were associated with the IC's second and third building phases, 1860 to 1870 and 1886 to 1888, and the expansion of the roundhouse in 1915. It represented the last of the pre-Diesel era railroad yards left in Iowa. The former depot is a 2 1/2-story brick structure on a limestone foundation and capped with a hipped roof. It was designed by the architects of the Illinois Central Railroad. The interior featured two waiting rooms on the first floor, one for the men and one for women. Offices for the IC's division headquarters occupied the second floor. The exterior of the building was altered in the 1940s. The canopy over the old platform is a reconstruction of the original. The American Express building is a single-story brick structure built on a concrete and lime-hipped roof. This building was altered in 1922.

Illinois Central Railroad Yard/Depot
8

CHEROKEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

- Twelve sites on the NHRP in Cherokee County
1. Bastian Site*
 2. Boughton House
 3. Brewster Site*
 4. Cherokee Commercial Historic District
 5. Cherokee Public Library
 6. Cherokee Sewer Site
 7. Gillette House
 8. Illinois Central Railroad Yard "The Depot"
 9. Lewis Hotel
 10. Mill Creek Bridge
 11. Phipps Site*
 12. Seaman House

*location unavailable

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September 17-26

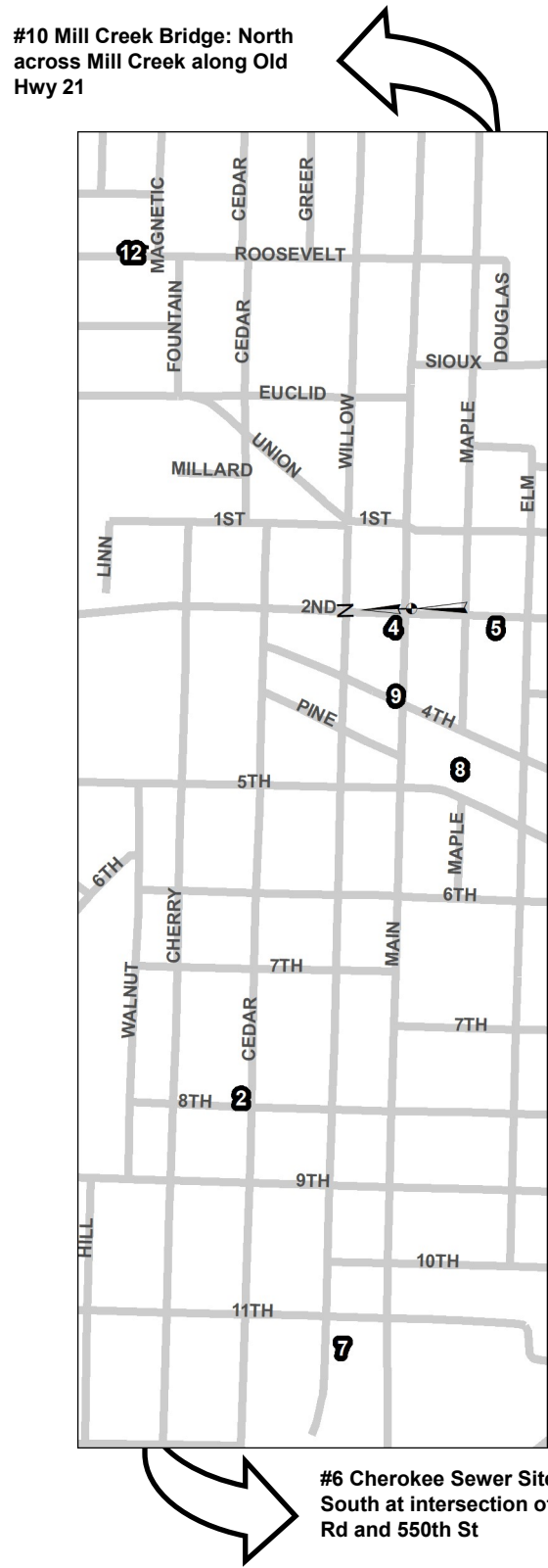
Sanford Museum
State Archeologist

Walking Tour
Building Pages

The Cherokee Sewer Site (no relation to the Cherokee tribe) is a multi-component bison processing site excavated in 1973 and 1976 near the sewage treatment plant of Cherokee, Iowa. Data from the excavations suggest Archaic period (BP 10,000 - 2,800) bison hunters on the eastern Plains used different adaptive strategies to cope with climate change than those seen on the western Plains. The results produced some of the earliest models for climate change in the Midwest.

Cherokee Sewer Site
6

River Road



Mill Creek Bridge
10

Old 21 over Mill Creek



The Mill Creek Bridge is located north of Cherokee, Iowa. It spans Mill Creek for 207 feet. On June 24, 1891 a disastrous flood along the Little Sioux River and its tributaries wiped out nearly every bridge in Cherokee County. The following month the county board of supervisors signed a contract with the George E. King Bridge Co. of Des Moines for \$17,650 to replace the bridges. This Pratt truss bridge was fabricated by the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. It and a similar span over Mill Creek near Larrabee are the only two that remain. This bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. A modern concrete span, built just upstream in 2006, now carries the road. The old bridge is closed to vehicular traffic.

1 Bastian Site

The Bastian site is an Oneota culture (AD 1200 – 1700) archaeological village site in Cherokee County which has been investigated since the 1920s. The site is known for the incised catlinite (red pipestone) tablet recovered depicting an underwater panther, a mythical spirit of the Underworld. The tablet has been studied and exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is housed at the Sanford Museum.

3 Brewster Site

The Brewster site is a Mill Creek culture (AD 1100 - 1200) archaeological village site in Cherokee County. The people hunted large mammals and practiced some of the earliest agriculture in the region. Many bison bones were analyzed and recovered during the excavation in 1970. Evidence suggests birds were hunted and trapped, and the bones were used for decorative and ceremonial objects. Their pottery was highly decorated and contained grit temper. Tempering involves adding certain materials to clay that resist the normal shrinking process that occurs during the drying process.

11 Phipps Site

The Phipps site is a Mill Creek culture (AD 1100 – 1200) archaeological site in Cherokee County. The main feature at the site is a large midden (dump for domestic waste) containing artifacts to a depth of more than 8 feet. Middens are a valuable window into the day to day life and may contain discarded tools, food remains, and pottery. Evidence of habitation was confirmed during site excavations from the 1930s and 1950s. Artifacts attributed to the Mississippian people were recovered at the site. Finding specific artifacts represents long trade networks with the civilization that flourished in what now is the Midwestern, Eastern, and Southeastern US.

The remains found at these sites give us a small glimpse into the everyday lives of those who once occupied this area. We are connected by to those ancient cultures by also selecting this beautiful landscape as our home.

To protect the integrity of these archeological sites, we have elected to not publish their location.

2

Boughton House

736 W. Cedar

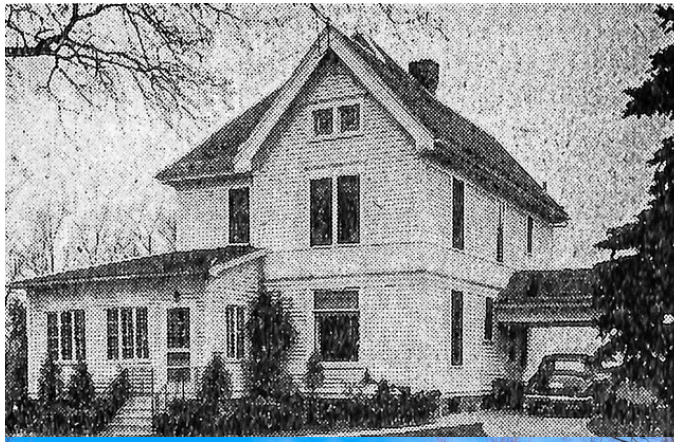


This home was built for Lemuel C. and Mary (Vaughn) Boughton in 1891. The house is a two-story frame Queen Anne-style residence. Characteristic features of this style include a central pyramidal-roofed section with projecting gabled bay windows; decorative turned and jigsaw-cut details under the eaves in the cutaway bay windows; and cottage windows on the bays. Lemuel C. Boughton lived in Cherokee from 1877 to 1893, and the Boughtons lived in this house for only two years before selling it to J.H. Brummer.

7

Gillette House

111 N. 11th

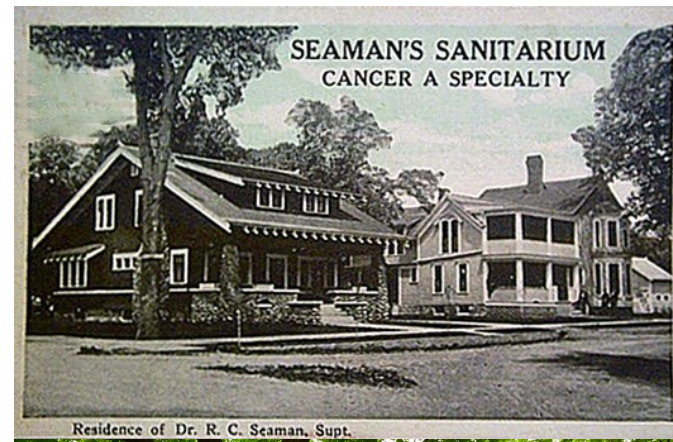


The Gillette House built in 1898 by Joseph L. Ferrin, a retired farmer. It is an example of a Queen Anne Style, 2-story Hipped Roof with Lower Cross-Gable. Aside from a one-story enclosed porch on the southeast corner of the house and a one-story carport on the north side, all sections of the house are two stories in height, although the gable-roofed section and projections include some attic space above the second story.

12

Seaman House

400 Magnetic Ave.



Dr. Roy and Lena Seaman built a house at 400 Magnetic Ave in 1913. The Seaman House is an example of a Craftsman Style, 1½-story Side-Gabled Roof Bungalow form. Features of this style exhibited on the exterior of the Seaman House include a broad, moderately pitched, side-gabled roof that extends over a full-width front porch; decorative rafter tails; broad shed-roofed dormer windows; a prominent exterior chimney; and multi-light over single-light window sash. The porch's balustrade, piers, and foundation are faced in local fieldstone.

4

Cherokee Commercial Historic District

Downtown Cherokee



The Cherokee Commercial Historic District covers most of the city's central business district. Most of the buildings are two and three stories tall, and built of brick. There is one frame building from the city's earliest years. Cherokee is somewhat unusual in that it did not have a devastating fire in its history, therefore the downtown area was able to grow incrementally. Unlike many county seats, it does not have a focal point such as a centrally located courthouse square. The Cherokee County Courthouse was built on a hill to the west of the downtown area.

5

Cherokee Public Library

215 S. 2nd



The Cherokee Public Library is in Cherokee, Iowa, United States. A library was begun in town in 1886 by the Cherokee Ladies Library Association. The collection of books was housed in the YMCA and other shared facilities. It was poorly funded, and the city of Cherokee took over the library in 1898 after voters passed a referendum. The Carnegie Corporation of New York had accepted the city's application for a grant for \$10,000 on January 6, 1903. They hired Oskaloosa, Iowa architect Frank E. Wetherell to design the new building, which was built by Hansen and Lambkin of New Hampton, Iowa. Carnegie donated a further \$2,000 to complete construction. It was dedicated on May 2, 1905.

The skylight began to leak and was removed in 1910. The basement interior was completed in 1913. Vines grew across the exterior and were removed in the 1950s. Around the same time a new front entry was installed, and interior renovations were made. Further renovations were completed in the 1980s, including an elevator and handicap access.

9

Lewis Hotel

231 W. Main



The Lewis Hotel was designed by Josselyn & Taylor in the Second Renaissance Revival Style and built in 1899 by Robert A. Lewis. The first floor exterior is made of limestone, while the upper two floors consist of brick. Due to the trapezoidal lot it sits on, the Fourth Street facade exhibits a stepped form. Located a block from the Illinois Central Railroad, the Lewis Hotel was ideally situated as a hotel. The building now serves as an apartment building with retail space on the ground floor.