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Climate of Iowa Report 2002-1

A Detailed Station History for Selected  
Historical Climate Network Stations in  
Iowa, 1893-2002

prepared for the

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project is to document the station history of selected Historical Climate Network stations within the state of Iowa. Existing station history information, or metadata, frequently is incomplete or inaccurate. Information regarding station locations, observers, equipment used and types of data recorded are summarized. No data analysis is to be performed as part of this work; however, the general quality and completeness of the historical climate data will be described and quantified. Nevertheless, several gaps remain in our knowledge of the history of many of the HCN stations. However, it is believed that this report will provide the tools necessary to identify the best HCN stations for future study and allow for more accurate assessment of the biases existing in the historical climate data. Finally, while this report is limited to only a very small portion of the national HCN network the findings given should prove useful to anyone interested in the analysis and interpretation of HCN data.

## STATION SELECTION

The station selection process was a very simple one. First, this office possesses data only for climate stations within Iowa. There are 23 HCN stations within the state. However, sufficient resources were not available to examine all of these sites. As a result, the 15 stations nearest to Des Moines (the home of the author) were selected for study so as to minimize travel costs and the time necessary to complete field visits of each location. An earlier report (Hillaker, 1985), although by no means a comprehensive summary, provides some additional station history data for other Iowa climate stations during the 1949-1985 period.

## ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL CLIMATE DATA MONTHLY FORMS

The Monthly Report Forms. The first step in this research effort involved an analysis of the original climate data report forms submitted over the years by the National Weather Service (NWS) co-operative observers. Each month the NWS co-op weather observers mail (or these days fax) a single page form detailing their daily weather observations for the prior calendar month. This form has changed names many times over the years and also seen many changes in format that have affected what type of data are routinely reported. In the NWS era the original form was known as "Form 1009". The name was later changed to "Form 1005", "Form E-15" and is currently known as "Form B-91". There are also a few other name variations depending upon what type of equipment is available at each site (for example, those with evaporation pans use a different monthly form).

Time period examined. The original monthly paper report forms are available in most cases only back to January 1893. Earlier data exist but apparently only on microfilm. These older microfilm records are frequently extremely difficult to read and thus were excluded from this study. Additionally, very little of the climate data prior to 1893 has been made available in digital format for use in climate studies. Finally, monthly forms through May 2002 were



examined for this study. Thus, this report details the HCN station history from January 1893 through May 2002.

## TYPES OF CLIMATE OBSERVATIONS

Over the years the types of weather observations included on the monthly report forms has changed frequently. In this study only the basic observations still routinely made today have been examined. These weather elements are daily maximum and minimum temperature; the 'at observation' temperature; 24-hour precipitation; 24-hour snowfall and the 'at observation' snow depth (the total depth of snow or ice on the ground at the time of the daily precipitation observation).

Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures. For those unfamiliar with co-operative weather observations the daily maximum and minimum air temperatures are recorded once daily from self-recording instruments. The daily temperature readings are recorded manually and the instruments are also re-set manually to the current temperature to be made ready to register the maximum and minimum temperatures for the next 24-hour period. Hourly temperature readings are not a routine element measured at co-operative weather stations (there are rare occasions when the co-op station was also an "Airways" station where more frequent measurements were made). Among the stations examined in this study Iowa Falls and Mount Ayr briefly were also part of the 'off Airways' network in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Further, the time of day when the once daily max/min temperatures are recorded varies from one station to another, from one year to the next at the same station, and in some cases may even change from month to month (a nightmare for data analysis).

The time of day when the daily weather observations are made is of great importance because it has a profound impact upon the resulting data. Monthly average temperatures; frequency of various temperature thresholds, etc. are all impacted by the time of observation. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to determine the observation time actually in use in any given month. The monthly report form did not include a space to list the observation time until the advent of Form 1005 that first appeared in January 1903 but was not used by all stations until a number of years later. To further complicate matters, to this day not all observers record their observation time on the monthly forms. There are even a few that record the incorrect time (they apparently just keep copying the basic station information from the previous month's form and do not indicate a change in observation time for years after the change was made).

In this report the observation time is assumed to be what has been written on the form. In the absence of any recorded observation time on the form it is assumed to be the same as the last previous month when a time was listed. A synopsis of temperature and precipitation observation times is given in Table 1. Minor month-to-month fluctuations in observation times are not documented here. Thus if just a month or two showed a 6 p.m. observation time in the midst of years of 7 p.m. observations times this change is not noted in Table 1. Similarly, if the observation time listed on the monthly forms fluctuated frequently from month-to-month by an hour or less only the most prevalent time used is noted.

Daylight Savings Time. There have been several time periods when Daylight Savings Time has been used in Iowa. Knowledge of the dates of Daylight Time implementation is required to accurately determine the magnitude of the time of observation bias. A summary of the history of Daylight Time use in Iowa is provided in Appendix 1.

#### Thrice Daily Temperature Observations.

In addition to daily maximum and minimum air temperatures there are two additional types of temperature measurements that may be found on the co-op monthly forms. The first are thrice daily temperature observations. In the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century, primarily in the period prior to widespread use of self-registering maximum and minimum thermometers, it was common to record the air temperature at 7 a.m., 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily. There are frequent variations on these specific times, particularly in regards to the mid-day reading that was sometimes made as early as noon. Monthly average temperatures, in the time period prior to the use of daily maximum and minimum air temperatures, were computed by taking the sum of these three daily readings, plus adding the 9 p.m. temperature a second time. The average of the four values was considered the daily average temperature  $((7 \text{ a.m.} + 2 \text{ p.m.} + 9 \text{ p.m.} + 9 \text{ p.m.})/4)$ . Virtually all co-operative stations were using maximum and minimum thermometers by 1903. In most cases the thrice daily readings ended at the same time that the daily maximum and minimum records began. However, there are several stations where both types of readings can be found simultaneously for a few years.

#### At Observation Temperatures.

The temperature at the time of the daily re-setting of the maximum and minimum thermometers began to be recorded in January 1901 at most locations. This reading was known as the "Set Max" temperature for many years (i.e., the reading of the maximum thermometer after it was re-set). In more recent years this reading is simply called the "At Ob" or "At Observation" temperature. Generally, there are few "Set Max" readings available prior to January 1901 except in those cases where observers were still recording thrice daily readings (the 9 p.m. reading being the equivalent of the "Set Max" although it may have actually been read from a thermometer other than the maximum). Many, but not all, observers also did not record a Set Max reading during the 1903 to 1913 period. However, the Set Max was in universal use after January 1, 1914. The general completeness of daily temperature readings among the Iowa HCN stations can be found in Table 2.

#### Daily or 24-hour Precipitation.

Once daily readings of rainfall were made at virtually all stations during the period of this study. In the early years this measurement was typically made at the same time as the last daily temperature observation (9 p.m.). By the turn of the century when Max/min thermometers were in widespread use 7 p.m. was the more common time for the precipitation measurement. There were occasional times between 1904 and 1924 when 7 a.m. readings were made; although in many of these cases morning readings were only made during the growing season (April 1 to September 30). Finally, beginning in the late 1940's, rainfall reporting to support river flood forecasting activities resulted in a gradual trend towards morning rainfall observations. This



trend has continued through the years such that by the 1990's very few co-op sites measure precipitation at any time other than in the morning. Documentation of the precipitation observation time is difficult prior to 1949 as there was no place on the monthly report form to enter the precipitation observation time. However, determination of the use of morning observations can often be deduced by careful comparison of the daily precipitation entries with the times of the beginning and ending of precipitation (a very common observation in the early years). The precipitation observation times are also in Table 1 for the HCN stations studied in this report.

#### Precipitation Measurements With Snow and Sleet.

Measurements of the liquid equivalent of frozen precipitation were not common during the early years of the co-operative weather program. Generally, the precipitation column on the monthly reporting form would simply be left blank on days with snowfall. Or, if any entry was made in the precipitation column, it would be one-tenth of the snowfall amount. This ten-to-one ratio would be published in the official records and these values would also be in today's digital data base. An earlier study, *Climatology of Iowa Series #5* (Waite & Hillaker; 1982, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture, 1982) determined that the actual average snowfall to water ratio in Iowa is 13.3 to 1. Thus, widespread use of the 10 to 1 ratio probably results in a significant 'wet' bias in the earlier portion of Iowa's precipitation time series for the winter season. However, there are a few of the HCN stations that did make actual measurements of winter precipitation from the beginning of the record. Use of the 10 to 1 ratio became less common in the 1920's and is rare in Iowa after 1940 (although there is at least one station still using the ratio today). The general completeness of the daily precipitation measurements among the Iowa HCN stations can be found in Table 2.

#### Daily or 24-hour Snowfall.

Once daily measurements of the depth of new snowfall accumulation are nearly universal throughout the time period of this study. These measurements nearly always were made at the same time as the daily precipitation measurement (yes, there really are some exceptions to that practice). The general completeness of Iowa HCN daily snowfall measurements can be found in Table 2.

#### Snow depth or Daily Snow/Ice on Ground.

The measurement of the total depth of snow and/or ice on the ground has been, along with the liquid equivalent of snowfall, the most inconsistently performed of the primary co-op data elements over the years. Knowledge of this element; however, is very important in climate studies because of the major impact that snow cover has upon air temperatures. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century total snow depth was recorded on only the 15<sup>th</sup> day and the last day of each month. There was no column available in the early monthly forms to enter daily snow depth amounts. Furthermore, only about one-half of the observers consistently provided even the mid and end of the month snow depth values. The first monthly forms to include a daily snow depth column appeared in December 1896. However, less than one-half of the HCN stations studied were measuring snow depth on a daily basis by 1912 with three-fourths of the stations including daily

measurements by 1934. The most widespread adoption of daily snow depth measurements among the 15 HCN stations studied here came in 1937-1939 with a gradual decline in such measurements since then. The completeness of daily snow depth measurements among Iowa HCN stations can be found in Table 2.

#### Other Observed Weather Elements.

There are several other weather elements that are sometimes recorded on the co-op station monthly forms that have not been summarized in this report. In the early years of the co-op program (generally up to about 1949) it was expected for all co-op observers to make daily observations of prevailing sky condition (clear, partly cloudy, etc.) and prevailing wind direction (usually using 8 compass points). These sky cover and wind observations were very common until 1949 but only a handful of sites have continued this practice since then. The pre-1949 monthly forms also had spaces for recording dates of 'frost' and 'killing freezes'. A space to note the dates of hail, sleet, thunderstorms and auroras also was present until 1949. Monthly forms in use since 1949 include boxes which can be checked to note the dates of fog, sleet, glaze, thunderstorms, hail and damaging winds. The completeness of these data entries varies considerably from one observer to the next. There are many observers today that never make any of these supplemental observations. One may also find phenological observations, barometric pressure data, lake ice-out dates and just about any imaginable meteorological or astronomical observation at times.

### STANDARD HCN STATION EQUIPMENT

#### Air Temperatures.

Probably the most basic of all climate measurements is that of air temperature. Among the HCN stations most would have begun their existence with a single 'liquid in glass' mercury thermometer. As noted in an earlier section of this report, this thermometer would typically be read at three set times each day. A few observers would also attempt to make observations of maximum and minimum air temperatures by making readings between the three regular observation times. These readings of daily maximum and minimum air temperature are referred to as "eye readings" since they required someone to make frequent visual observations of the non-recording thermometers. However, it is not uncommon to find HCN stations where the daily maximum and minimum temperatures listed on the monthly form are nothing more than the highest and lowest readings among the three regularly scheduled temperature measurements per day.

#### Maximum Thermometers.

However, self-registering thermometers were available and in widespread (but not universal) use by the beginning of the time period examined in this report. The maximum thermometer essentially is a larger version of the everyday 'fever thermometer' most people are familiar with. This thermometer, usually filled with mercury, automatically registers the highest temperature recorded and retains this reading until it is 'shaken down' to re-set it to the current temperature.



The typical HCN station has this maximum thermometer mounted in a special bracket known as a 'Townsend Support'. This bracket allows the thermometer to be spun quickly to reset it and then has another position that will keep the thermometer in the proper orientation to again measure the temperature. The maximum thermometer will retain the highest temperature reached until someone manually resets it. The usual practice will be to re-set the thermometer once every 24 hours at the same time each day. On some occasions the observer will record the maximum temperature, but forget to re-set the instrument. This presents no problem if the next day becomes warmer than the previous one but will lead to falsely high readings when the opposite is the case. Generally, maximum thermometers have proven to be very reliable over the years and are prone to relatively few failures or loss of calibration.

#### Minimum Thermometers.

A totally separate thermometer is used to automatically record the minimum temperature. The minimum thermometer is typically an alcohol-filled calibrated glass tube containing a small metal index (a half inch to inch long straight metal pin). This index will retreat with the alcohol column as the temperature decreases but will maintain its position within the alcohol column when the temperature begins to rise. The thermometer automatically registers the lowest temperature attained until it is manually reset. This thermometer is mounted horizontally (or nearly so) within the Townsend Support and is reset by turning it vertically upside-down so that gravity pulls the index back to the top of the alcohol column. Just as with the maximum thermometer it is possible for the observer to record the minimum temperature and then forget to re-set it such that the previous day's minimum temperature will be retained for the next day as well (unless the next day is colder). Traditionally the minimum thermometer has been much more prone to problems than is the maximum thermometer. Vibration (such as by strong winds) can cause the index within the alcohol tube to move. Also, and probably the more common problem, the alcohol column with time is prone to 'separate' such that a portion of the alcohol gradually migrates up the bore of the thermometer. If left unchecked this can result in the minimum temperature reading being too low. Separations of one or two degrees are rather common although there was one case among the HCN stations examined where a 6° separation was documented. However, the better observers would keep a close watch for separations and would rectify them before they could cause noticeable problems with the temperature readings.

**Blackening of the Thermometers.** When reading through station inspection forms (a section on those later) one will frequently find references to the thermometers being 'blackened'. Both the maximum and minimum thermometers have their temperature scales etched into the glass tube of the thermometer (unlike the typical hardware store variety thermometer where the scale is painted upon a flat plate located behind the glass tube). The etching is done for two reasons. First, it eliminates the possibility that the scale can move (i.e., if the thermometer backing comes loose) and cause the proper calibration to be lost. Second it minimizes problems with the visual perspective of the observer when they read the thermometers since the etched scale is physically much closer to the alcohol column than is the thermometer backing. Why mention all of this? With time the 'paint' within the etch marks wears away which can make it very difficult to accurately determine the temperature. 'Blackening' refers to rubbing a carbon compound across the surface of the thermometer tube so as to fill those etchings with black resin and allow much easier reading of the temperature. Thus, if you find in the station inspection forms that the



thermometers have been 'blackened' it does mean that there was anything wrong with them. This was just an aspect of routine maintenance.

### The Thermometer Instrument Shelter.

In order to obtain a representative measure of air temperature it is necessary to place the thermometers in some type of ventilated shelter. The size, color, design and height (distance above the ground) of the shelter can all have a significant impact upon the resulting temperature readings. The NWS has long used the Cotton Region Shelter (CRS) as their standard thermometer shield. These louvered wooden boxes are designed to hold thermometers at a height of about five feet above ground level (such that they are at a level that is easy for most adults to read the thermometers). Although the Cotton Region Shelter is identified as the shelter of choice at least back to 1890 it is not clear when it came into widespread use among the HCN stations in Iowa. The earliest survey of the co-op station instrumentation used in Iowa was conducted around February 1, 1906. At the time of that first survey there were 2 HCN sites using a CRS; 7 using a shelter of a different design and one using no shelter at all (no documentation for the others). All 15 HCN sites examined appeared to be using a CRS by 1932. An excellent description of early temperature observation practices can be found in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture 1895 report *Instructions for use of Maximum and Minimum Thermometers*.

### Electronic Temperature Systems.

In the 1980's it became increasingly difficult to obtain good quality liquid-in-glass thermometers. As a result an electronic temperature system was developed for use in the cooperative network. This system is known as the "Maximum Minimum Temperature System" or "MMTS" for short. The MMTS is composed of a temperature sensor mounted within a prefabricated plastic shelter. The sensor is attached by cable to a readout 'box' which displays the current temperature and stores the maximum and minimum temperature values. Like the old maximum and minimum thermometers the MMTS must be manually re-set daily. Also, the maximum and minimum temperatures are reset individually. Thus it is possible to reset one but forget to reset the other (in real life if the observer forgot to reset the max they probably also would have forgotten to reset the min). A general description of the MMTS can be found in the National Weather Service *Observing Handbook No. 2* (1989).

There are many pros and cons to the MMTS in relation to the old liquid-in-glass (LIG) thermometers. An advantage is that the MMTS can be read and reset remotely; thus the observer does not have to brave the elements to go outside and read them. Another advantage is that the same sensor is recording both the maximum and minimum temperature unlike the LIG's which are two totally separate instruments. The MMTS has also proven to maintain its calibration extremely well over the years. Finally, since it is read remotely there is no need to place the thermometers in a physical location that is easily accessible by the observer. Thus, there is the potential that the exposure of the thermometers can be better in some situations.

However, there are also disadvantages. The biggest one is simply that it is different. It is a different sensor with a different shelter, thus introducing a potential bias in the long-term



temperature records. The size of this bias appears to be small; however, its exact magnitude is very difficult to quantify because it varies with the time of year, ground cover and sky condition (among other things). To make the assessment more difficult the MMTS replaced the previous LIG thermometers at nearly all co-op stations thus there are few side-by-side comparisons of the two systems. If that is not bad enough the MMTS typically was not installed until there was a need to move the co-op station. Among the 15 HCN sites examined here, there were only five where the MMTS was placed in the same location as the previous LIG/Cotton Region Shelter. In seven cases the MMTS was installed at an entirely new location with a new observer. In the other three cases the MMTS was installed at a different location on the same property. These changes in microclimate can easily obscure potential biases caused by a change in instrumentation.

Another problem with the MMTS has been its electronic nature. This results in potential new problems not experienced by the LIG's. Early MMTS installations experienced substantial problems with lightning. Modifications to the MMTS have greatly reduced this problem over the years but have not eliminated it.

Additionally, power failures result in a loss of data with the MMTS. Problems with splices in the MMTS cable (leading between the sensor and the display box) sometimes results in spuriously low temperature readings (usually this is a sporadic problem and effects the minimum temperature much more frequently than the maximum temperature). There also have been cases where power surges temporarily interfere with the temperature readings. Fortunately, however, problems with an MMTS being totally out of calibration seem to be very rare. Finally, the need for the cable to connect the MMTS sensor with the readout box can prove very troublesome at some co-op stations where streets, parking lots or other substantial obstacles may make it very difficult to lay cable. In some cases this results in less than ideal exposures being utilized because it is not feasible to lay cable to a more favorable sensor location.

In general; however, I believe that most people would agree that the MMTS provides a more accurate and consistent reading of the true air temperature than do the LIG thermometers (but it is different).

#### Standard Non-Recording Precipitation Gages.

The NWS standard precipitation gage has long been the "Eight Inch Standard Rain Gage" (SRG). The SRG is a metal cylinder with an eight inch diameter orifice at the top and a capacity of about 20 inches of moisture. Within the eight inch diameter tube is a smaller tube of approximately two inches in diameter. A funnel at the top of the gage minimizes evaporation losses and also directs the precipitation into the inner tube. Owing to its smaller diameter the inner tube effectively magnifies the scale of the gage by a factor of ten so as to make it easy to read the precipitation amount to the nearest one-hundredth of an inch. The larger outer cylinder serves as an overflow for the smaller tube and also prevents loss of precipitation in case the inner tube develops a leak. In winter, the funnel and inner tube are removed and precipitation is caught directly with the 8 inch diameter cylinder. The funnel is removed so as not to interfere with the reception of frozen precipitation. In winter the precipitation in the 8 inch diameter cylinder is poured into the inner tube for measurement (after the precipitation accumulation has

been melted if it came in the form of snow or ice). At the time of the initial February 1906 survey of co-op instrumentation (referred to earlier in the temperature section) there were 7 HCN sites already using the SRG. Another 3 sites were using a 3 inch diameter gage. One site was using a 2.5 inch diameter gage while it is not known what the other four were using. It appears that all of the HCN stations were using the SRG by the end of 1927.

#### Recording Type Precipitation Gages.

There are 5 of the HCN study cities that have also been part of a hydrologic network comprising recording rain gages. These gages record not only the amount of precipitation but also provide a continuous (or nearly so) record of the timing of the precipitation. Documentation of these recording rain gages is generally better than those for the other weather elements. Since these are not routine components of HCN stations the reader is referred to *The Climatology of Iowa Series No 6* (Hillaker, 1984) for more information on these types of gages. The HCN sites with recording rain gages are Iowa Falls, Mount Ayr, Mount Pleasant and Washington. Rockwell City also has a recording rain gage; however, it is not currently co-located with the HCN station.

### STATION HISTORY DOCUMENTATION

There are a variety of sources to obtain metadata for the NWS co-op network.

#### Monthly Data Report Forms.

The first are the monthly data forms. These often provide the best documentation as to the observation times in use and the identity of the observer making the observations. The data forms also obviously provide a record of what types of information were being recorded at any given time. However, they rarely provide information as to the type of instrumentation used in making the weather observations. On rare occasions they do refer to changes in the instrument location. In one instance it was possible to find an address of the station location when such information was not documented anywhere else. Additional information regarding these forms is provided elsewhere in this report.

#### Station History Forms.

Form 1029-Mis. The earliest station documentation appears in February 1906 in "Form Number 1029-Mis", also known as the "Description of Cooperative Observer's Station and Instruments". This one page, single-sided form was completed by the cooperative observer. It included entries for the type of thermometers, instrument shelter and rain gage in use. There also was a description of the location and exposure of the shelter and rain gage. Other items were the latitude, longitude and elevation of the station (rarely very accurate); the time of observation; and the observer's name and address.

The instrumentation description is usually very detailed and would include the manufacturer, serial number and style of the equipment. The exposure documentation varied considerably



from one location to the next but usually provide a fairly good means of determining the likely quality of the station exposure. Unfortunately it is often impossible to determine the actual location of the weather station. The address usually consisted of only the observer's name and the name of their Post Office. Some small towns did not have any form of house numbering until the 1950's and in fact there is one Iowa county that just this year is adopting a 9-1-1 system where rural homes and businesses are uniformly being assigned numbers and street names. It probably is possible to search county property records to pin down some of these locations from knowledge of the observer names and tenures; however, such a task is beyond the scope of this study. Use of the Form 1029-Mis ended in the 1940's.

Unfortunately there are many station moves that were not documented at all, especially during the 1930's and early 1940's.

Report of Substation. The Form 1029 was effectively replaced by the "Report of Substation". Unlike the earlier Form 1029 the newer Substation Reports were completed by NWS personnel, rather than by the observers. These reports have been identified in a variety of forms. First, there was the Form 4303A, then the Form 531-2 and finally the Form B-44. The Substation reports began in the late 1940's and frequently provided sketches of the co-op station layout that would map out houses, trees, streets and other items of interest in the immediate vicinity of the station. These forms also provided driving directions to reach the station. These directions often have been valuable in locating those sites that did not have specific addresses. In the mid 1980's the form was integrated into a computer data base. Unfortunately, this transition resulted in the elimination of the detailed site map. In its place is a very brief numerical description of the azimuth and distance of obstructions near the rain gage. In most cases these exposure descriptions are of almost no value in assessing the overall exposure of the equipment. This is especially true of the temperature equipment as the exposure description is only applicable to the rain gage.

Form 530-1. These are 5 by 7 inch index cards prepared in the mid 1950's that gave a very brief summary of the observer names, tenure, equipment and location of co-op stations. Although the level of detail provided in these cards is minimal they often did provide information on the location (an address) and/or the type of equipment used at co-op stations that can not be found from any other source for the pre-1955 period. The cards were updated through the 1970's but the later data generally duplicated information available elsewhere. The original 530-1 cards are reproduced in the 1956 U.S. Weather Bureau report "Key to Meteorological Records Documentation No 1.1 (Substation History)".

#### Substation Inspection Forms.

The earliest of this report series appeared in 1917 and provided what were sometimes very detailed descriptions of the co-op stations. In some cases they were practically a miniature station history report in their own right. Unfortunately these reports are very infrequent, averaging maybe one inspection for every 10 or 12 years per station. This initial report was known as Form 4005-Mis, "Inspection of Substation". These reports appear to have been discontinued in the early 1940's.

The next inspection reports, Forms 530-2 and 6055, first appeared in the late 1940's and were discontinued around 1977. These reports are much more frequent (averaging about one per year) and provide a brief description of the type of maintenance performed at each co-op station upon a visit by the NWS personnel. These forms sometimes provide information on station moves that have not been documented elsewhere. They also frequently give the inspector's view as to the skill and level of interest of the co-op observers. At times they give a rather entertaining picture of the challenges involved in maintaining the co-op network.

#### Other Forms.

Finally, there are 'maintenance cards' that were updated through the 1940's for those co-op sites that had recording rain gages (Universal or Ferguson gages). These cards have no form number but frequently provide rather detailed site descriptions. The old 'Weather Bureau' offices also maintained 'Correspondence' files. These files contain letters and other correspondence between the Weather Bureau office and the co-op observers (although they are not limited to co-op observers). These letters may occasionally contain useful station history information but they were not examined as part of this project (they are organized by date, not by co-op station). One final bit of documentation are invoices filed by the NWS field personnel. These invoices detailed expenditures of money or supplies in the maintenance of the co-op stations (and other duties). Occasionally these would include descriptions of what type of maintenance was performed. These invoices were not examined as part of this project. Generally the invoices and correspondence files cover the period prior to 1950 and probably no longer exist in most states (however, they do exist in Iowa).

### FIELDWORK

Once all of the station history information was examined and summarized, the final phase of this project was to go into the field and attempt to pinpoint the locations of all of the current and past weather observing sites of the 15 HCN stations.

Mapping the Daily Routes. Street maps obtained from a commercial CD-ROM were used to approximately locate the current and previous observation sites in each HCN city. These approximate locations were then numbered and keyed to the station history data to facilitate finding the appropriate information while in the field. This effort also allowed for planning the order in which stations were to be visited. I made a mistake in the first two cities not to do this. Even in small towns it is surprising how much time is consumed criss-crossing the town going from one location to the next. Those frequent trips across town also raise the suspicions of the local citizens who wonder what in the world this stranger with 'out-of-county' plates is up to (Iowa has the name of your home county on your car license plate). There is a story to go along with this experience but it will not be detailed here.

Visiting with the Current Co-op Weather Observers. The first stop in most towns was to visit with the current co-op weather observer. These meetings typically would be arranged the day prior to the trip. The purpose of these visits was to see the weather station up close and obtain precise coordinates of all co-op weather equipment. The meeting was also used to discuss the



HCN network and the importance of their observations for the HCN, and for climate data users in general. Any shortcomings they had in their observations would be discussed (very tactfully) and encouragement and techniques for procuring better observations would be provided. There are four cities where the HCN observer is the radio station. At each of those cities I also recorded radio interviews including one 30 minute public affairs program.

There were a few surprises during these visits. At one location, a radio station, the observer was busy with on-air duties so I began the visit by looking over the weather equipment. I found the SRG easily enough and it was in an excellent location. This site also had a Fisher-Porter recording rain gage and it was found to be about 10 feet away from a 25 foot tall tree. At least the tree branches were not quite over the gage. However, I then stood there and tried to find the MMTS. I did not see it when I drove up to the station so I was fairly sure it was not on the other side of the building. After a few frustrating minutes I found the MMTS sticking up in the middle of a large bush, which in turn was adjacent to a four foot high retaining wall and was surrounded by medium sized trees. It would have been difficult to select a worse exposure for the temperature equipment on that property. Arrangements have been made for that equipment to be relocated to a more suitable location.

At another city the primary observer mentioned that some of the substitute observers sometimes have trouble getting accurate temperature readings. While he (the primary observer) is on duty he would periodically check to make sure that the current temperatures looked reasonable. If they did not look good he would jiggle the MMTS cable a little until a more reasonable temperature appeared. He demonstrated this to me and the current temperature fluctuated between 41° and 66°! The culprit was apparently a splice at the point where the MMTS cable goes through the wall to the outside sensor. This explained why I was seeing occasional minimum temperatures from this location that were much too low. This splice is now scheduled to be repaired. Generally it appears that the MMTS temperatures never read too high. If there are power surges, electrical shorts or calibration problems they will invariably read too low.

Fortunately, at many locations the exposure of the instruments was very good and the observers very dedicated to recording good observations. It was not possible to visit with the current observers at Logan and Rockwell City.

#### Visual Inspection of Past Observation Sites.

All of the prior co-op station locations were visited whenever an accurate address could be determined. These site visits were done from the car in most cases as it was not feasible to make arrangements to go onto each of the properties involved. A Global Positioning System (GPS) unit was used to obtain the latitude and longitude of each location. At most locations a Garmin GPS III Plus was employed that provided coordinates to the nearest one-tenth of a second. At two cities (Belle Plaine and Toledo) a Magellan Model 12001 GPS unit was used that provided only one second precision. Both units also provided elevation data. However, although both units would provide the elevations in one foot units the accuracy of the readings was found to be only about plus or minus 100 feet. These elevation readings were discarded in favor of more precise readings that could be obtained from 1:24,000 scale topographic maps of the U. S. Geological Survey.



At each site the slope and aspect of the ground would be estimated. The distance and direction to the site of the weather equipment would be estimated (if the station history data was sufficient to determine the exact location) so that the 'in car' GPS coordinates could be adjusted to reflect the actual weather station location. A very general synopsis of the station environs would be made so as to provide a rough measure of the probable quality of the station exposure. Finally, the location would be marked as accurately as possible on the street map for later estimation of the station elevation from the topographic maps. A total of 118 co-op station sites were visited. A synopsis of the station location data can be found in Table 3 with maps for each city following in Appendix 3.

## CONCLUSION

In this project all readily available NWS documentation regarding co-operative station metadata was examined. The completeness of this documentation is exceptionally poor to non-existent for the period prior to 1906. The quality and quantity of metadata improves substantially by the late 1910's and remains rather good until the late 1930's. However, there is a period of somewhat poorer records in the 1940's and for the first half of the 1950's. The Golden Age of metadata takes place from the mid 1950's through the late 1970's. A gradual decline in quantity of metadata begins in the late 1970's with the demise of the substation inspection reports. Finally, the quality of metadata plummets in the mid 1980's when traditional substation documentation is replaced by a digital station history system. The instrument exposure data provided on the digital Form B-44's was almost totally useless in determining the exposure or location of the MMTS or CRS. Exposure data for the SRG was not much more useful. Generally the exposure data on these recent B-44's was not sufficient to determine where the instruments were located. In order to provide useful metadata the instrument exposure data needs to be much more detailed than has been the common practice. Specific exposure information for the MMTS or CRS also needs to be added. Finally, the addition of latitude and longitude information to the nearest one-tenth of a second for each type of instrument would be very useful.

Documentation of the transition from the CRH to the MMTS is one area in need of specific attention. The conversion to the MMTS took place at the same time that the quality of metadata declined. Thus, interviews with current or recent co-op observers is sometimes the only way to determine how the CRH to MMTS conversion took place. In order to more accurately assess the amount of bias introduced into the long-term temperature trends by conversion to the MMTS we need to be able to identify those co-op sites where the MMTS was installed in the same location as the previous CRH. It is apparent that there are not very many locations where exposure of the temperature equipment was the same with both systems.

Another avenue worth pursuing would be to pin down more precise coordinates for some of the earlier HCN locations. This would allow for a much improved evaluation of the relative degree of urbanization present in those HCN sites for which specific addresses are not available. It would also allow identification of valley bottom or hilltop station locations. Variations in the topographic setting of the co-op stations can have a profound impact on the daily temperature extremes. This might be a project for local historical societies to tackle. We usually know who



was the observer and when they were the observer but sometimes do not know where they made their observations.

Finally, the methods utilized in this project could be employed to identify the best co-op station records for use in long-term climate trend research projects. It was readily apparent in this study that some locations currently designated as HCN stations have had a long history of mediocre observations. Some of these sites probably should not be in the HCN while there may be other locations deserving of HCN recognition that currently are not in the network. Unfortunately, many of the data analysis techniques used here require a large amount of tedious manual labor. Thus it is not the sort of project that one would wish to undertake to fill in those rare moments when the usual day-to-day routine can be set aside.

A summarization of the data quality grades listed in Table 2 is given below. The average 'grade' for each of the five data elements examined has been ranked for each of the 15 HCN sites studied. A ranking of '1' indicates the best grade in that category among the 15 stations. A ranking of '15' is the worst average grade in that category.

Station	Temperature	Precipitation	Snowfall	Snow Depth	Monthly Forms	Average
Clarinda	10	1	1	1	7	4.0
Belle Plaine	11	6	2	3	3	5.0
Washington	1	3	14	12	1	6.2
Fairfield	2	8	4	4	14	6.4
Rockwell City	8	5	3	5	12	6.6
Logan	6	4	13	9	2	6.8
Albia	14	2	6	2	11	7.0
Indianola	5	10	7	6	8	7.2
Storm Lake	7	7	5	7	13	7.8
Toledo	4	9	9	13	6	8.2
Algona	15	13	10	10	4	10.4
Mt. Pleasant	9	12	12	11	9	10.6
Iowa Falls	13	15	8	14	5	11.0
Mount Ayr	3	14	15	15	10	11.4
Fort Dodge	12	11	11	8	15	11.4

This ranking reveals 5 HCN stations with composite scores substantially higher than the others (implying less complete data). Thus, those designing a study requiring complete long-term data probably would want to steer clear of these locations. While an evaluation such as this one requires a substantial investment of time it may pay dividends in the form of more efficient use of finite climate research resources. Use of superior data sets, while avoiding those identified as poor ones, should lead to a higher probability of successfully meeting research goals.

Brief comments regarding each of the 15 HCN stations studied can be found in Appendix 2.

# TABLE 1

## History of Observation Time Changes

This table provides a general history of the Time of Observation for maximum & minimum air temperatures; the Set Maximum or At Observation temperature and for precipitation. All times are given on a 24 hour clock. Multiple times given in the Set Max column are indicative of the time period when thrice daily temperature readings were recorded.

Unless there was documentation found to the contrary it is assumed that the max/min temperature and precipitation observation times were at 9 p.m. at the beginning of the observational record.

There are periods when no observation time can be found in the historical records for many years. In these cases the observation time is assumed to be the same as in the last month for which documentation was found.

Frequent fluctuations in observation time of one hour or less are not indicated.

Refer to the Daylight Savings Time section earlier in this report for information regarding the time periods when Daylight Time was in use. Unless it is indicated otherwise in Table 1 most Iowa stations maintained the use of the same clock hour of observation when the transitions to and from Standard Time were made. In other words, if a station was using a 6 p.m. CST observation time they nearly always used a 6 p.m. CDT observation time.

List of abbreviations used in the table:

Max/min	Time when the max/min thermometers were reset.
Set max	Time when the Set Max or At Observation time was recorded.
Prec.	Time when the precipitation, snowfall and snow depth observations were made.
'na'	Not applicable. No observations of this element were made for the time period in question.
Seas	Seasonal schedule. Generally 7 a.m. from April 1 to Sep 30 and 7 p.m. for the remainder of the year.
SS	Sunset.
Decimal numbers	Indicate readings not made on the hour. For example 17.5 indicates a 5:30 p.m. observation.



TABLE 1. History of Observation Time changes.

HQN station	mo	da	year	max/min	set	max	prec.	HQN station	mo	da	year	max/min	set	max	prec.	HQN station	mo	da	year	max/min	set	max	prec.
Albia	3	15	1894	18	na	na	18	Clarinda	3	1	1939	19	19	19	7	Iowa Falls	1	1	1914	7	7	7	7
Albia	6	1	1898	19	na	na	19	Clarinda	6	1	1963	18	18	6	6.5	Iowa Falls	10	1	1918	18.5	18.5	18.5	6.5
Albia	1	1	1901	19	na	na	19	Clarinda	8	1	1977	18	18	7	7	Iowa Falls	4	16	1926	18.5	18.5	18.5	seas
Albia	4	1	1903	7	na	na	7	Clarinda	4	1	1988	7	7	7	7	Iowa Falls	12	5	1926	ss	- ss	ss	ss
Albia	2	1	1914	7	7	7	7	Clarinda	10	13	1991	8	8	8	8	Iowa Falls	5	1	1938	24	24	24	24
Albia	10	1	1918	19	19	19	19	Fairfield	1	1	1893	21	7.14.21	21	21	Iowa Falls	6	25	1941	19	19	19	7
Albia	4	16	1925	19	19	19	seas	Fairfield	6	4	1894	19	7.13.19	19	19	Iowa Falls	2	9	1942	18	18	18	6
Albia	1	1	1938	19	19	19	7	Fairfield	12	5	1901	19	na	na	19	Iowa Falls	9	30	1945	ss	ss	ss	ss
Albia	9	30	1945	20	20	20	7	Fairfield	11	3	1902	19	19	19	19	Iowa Falls	12	2	1954	17	17	17	7
Albia	6	28	1951	19	19	19	7	Fairfield	5	28	1949	7	7	7	7	Iowa Falls	8	1	1956	19	19	19	7
Albia	6	24	1971	17	17	17	7	Fairfield	6	1	1950	19	19	19	19	Iowa Falls	9	1	1956	17	17	17	7
Albia	4	22	1982	18	18	18	7	Fairfield	2	1	1954	17	17	17	17	Iowa Falls	6	1	1957	18	18	18	7
Albia	4	12	1985	18	18	18	6	Fairfield	11	1	1954	19	19	19	19	Iowa Falls	11	21	1961	19	19	19	7
Albia	8	8	1997	7	7	7	7	Fairfield	9	1	1955	18	18	18	18	Iowa Falls	11	1	1969	18	18	18	7
Albia	1	1	1893	na	7.14.21	21	21	Fairfield	10	7	1963	24	24	24	24	Iowa Falls	12	1	1969	18	18	18	8
Albia	1	1	1901	19	19	19	19	Fairfield	4	1	1970	23	23	23	23	Iowa Falls	11	1	1977	18	18	18	7
Albia	2	5	1901	19	19	19	19	Fairfield	6	1	1977	20	20	20	20	Iowa Falls	8	10	1992	7	7	7	7
Albia	6	1	1952	19	19	19	7	Fairfield	3	1	1981	18	18	18	18	Logan	1	1	1893	19	na	19	19
Albia	9	22	1954	18	18	18	7	Fairfield	10	1	2000	17	17	17	17	Logan	1	1	1901	19	19	19	19
Albia	10	1	1960	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	12	7	1899	18	na	na	18	Logan	11	1	1914	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Albia	6	1	1961	7	7	7	7	Fort Dodge	1	1	1901	18	18	18	18	Logan	5	3	1988	8	8	8	8
Albia	8	1	1961	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	4	1	1904	6.5	na	na	6.5	Logan	5	3	1988	8	8	8	8
Albia	4	1	1964	17	17	17	6	Fort Dodge	1	1	1914	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	Mount Ayr	1	1	1893	21	21	21	21
Albia	7	1	1964	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	6	1	1919	19	19	19	19	Mount Ayr	5	1	1893	21	na	na	21
Albia	9	1	1965	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	1	1	1920	17	17	17	17	Mount Ayr	9	1	1899	19	na	na	19
Albia	5	1	1966	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	6	1	1920	19	19	19	19	Mount Ayr	1	1	1901	19	19	19	19
Albia	2	1	1967	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	5	16	1942	19	19	19	19	Mount Ayr	11	1	1913	ss	ss	ss	ss
Albia	11	1	1967	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	9	30	1945	20	20	20	20	Mount Ayr	3	1	1914	19	19	19	19
Albia	5	1	1969	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	3	1	1949	19	19	19	19	Mount Ayr	10	1	1920	ss	ss	ss	ss
Albia	12	1	1969	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	5	1	1964	20	20	20	20	Mount Ayr	3	1	1921	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Albia	2	1	1970	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	11	1	1967	19	19	19	19	Mount Ayr	7	1	1928	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
Albia	8	1	1971	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	4	1	1968	20	20	20	20	Mount Ayr	9	14	1928	18	18	18	18
Albia	4	1	1972	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	3	1	1973	20	20	20	20	Mount Ayr	5	1	1929	17	17	17	17
Albia	8	1	1979	19	19	19	7	Fort Dodge	6	1	1973	7	7	7	7	Mount Ayr	5	1	1932	18	18	18	18
Albia	1	1	1980	17	17	17	7	Fort Dodge	10	1	1974	6	6	6	6	Mount Ayr	9	1	1932	18	18	18	18
Albia	6	1	1987	22	22	22	7	Fort Dodge	3	1	1975	7	7	7	7	Mount Ayr	12	1	1933	17	17	17	17
Albia	10	1	1993	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	11	1	1975	6	6	6	6	Mount Ayr	12	7	1934	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
Albia	12	1	1993	19	19	19	7	Fort Dodge	2	1	1979	17	17	17	17	Mount Ayr	12	1	1936	19	19	19	19
Albia	3	1	1994	18	18	18	7	Fort Dodge	7	1	1987	24	24	24	24	Mount Ayr	5	1	1940	24	24	24	24
Albia	7	21	1997	7	7	7	7	Fort Dodge	7	10	1990	7	7	7	7	Mount Ayr	1	1	1942	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Albia	9	10	1998	6	6	6	7	Indianola	1	1	1893	ss	na	na	ss	Mount Ayr	9	16	1946	18	18	18	18
Belle Plaine	1	1	1893	21	7.14.21	21	21	Indianola	1	1	1901	ss	ss	ss	ss	Mount Ayr	5	1	1949	18	18	18	7
Belle Plaine	2	1	1901	21	na	na	21	Indianola	7	1	1904	19	19	19	19	Mount Ayr	7	16	1949	18	18	18	18
Belle Plaine	2	1	1901	21	21	21	21	Indianola	1	26	1921	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	Mount Ayr	6	2	1970	7	7	7	7
Belle Plaine	4	1	1901	21	na	na	21	Indianola	10	1	1943	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	Mount Ayr	9	1	1977	18	18	18	7
Belle Plaine	5	1	1901	7	7	7	7	Indianola	9	30	1945	18	18	18	18	Mount Ayr	3	10	1969	7	7	7	7
Belle Plaine	3	1	1903	7	na	na	7	Indianola	4	29	1965	17	17	17	17	Mount Pleasant	3	1	1894	na	7.14.21	21	21
Belle Plaine	9	1	1906	19	na	na	19	Indianola	5	1	1982	16	16	16	16	Mount Pleasant	5	1	1894	na	8.12.20	20	20
Belle Plaine	11	1	1908	18	na	na	18	Indianola	11	1	1982	17	17	17	17	Mount Pleasant	6	1	1894	na	7.14.21	21	21
Belle Plaine	4	1	1909	19	na	na	19	Indianola	5	1	1983	16	16	16	16	Mount Pleasant	11	1	1894	na	8.12.20	20	20
Belle Plaine	10	1	1912	19	19	19	19	Indianola	11	10	1983	18	18	18	18	Mount Pleasant	2	1	1895	na	8.20	20	20
Belle Plaine	8	21	1939	18	18	18	18	Indianola	12	3	1987	23	23	23	23	Mount Pleasant	3	1	1895	na	7.14.21	21	21
Belle Plaine	7	1	1940	19	19	19	19	Indianola	5	13	1988	7	7	7	7	Mount Pleasant	10	1	1898	21	na	na	21
Belle Plaine	1	1	1945	18	18	18	18	Indianola	8	1	1988	24	24	24	24	Mount Pleasant	1	1	1901	21	21	21	21
Belle Plaine	9	30	1945	19	19	19	19	Indianola	12	2	1990	7	7	7	7	Mount Pleasant	1	1	1905	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Belle Plaine	1	1	1976	18	18	18	18	Indianola	2	5	1991	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	Mount Pleasant	11	1	1918	17	17	17	17
Belle Plaine	4	7	1986	22	22	22	22	Indianola	3	21	1991	24	24	24	24	Mount Pleasant	5	1	1937	17	17	17	17
Belle Plaine	2	1	1992	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	Indianola	3	7	1991	18	18	18	18	Mount Pleasant	2	9	1942	18	18	18	18
Belle Plaine	7	1	1992	7	7	7	7	Indianola	9	1	1993	24	24	24	24	Mount Pleasant	4	1	1942	16	16	16	16
Clarinda	1	1	1893	21	7.14.21	21	21	Indianola	9	1	1994	7	7	7	7	Mount Pleasant	10	15	1944	19	19	19	19
Clarinda	2	1	1899	21	na	na	21	Iowa Falls	1	1	1893	21	7.14.21	21	21	Mount Pleasant	4	1	1944	19	19	19	19
Clarinda	4	9	1904	7	na	na	7	Iowa Falls	8	1	1893	21	21	21	21	Mount Pleasant	9	30	1945	18	18	18	18
Clarinda	1	1	1914	7	7	7	7	Iowa Falls	4	6	1895	21	na	na	21	Mount Pleasant	11	1	1945	18	18	18	18
Clarinda	8	4	1918	20	20	20	20	Iowa Falls	2	11	1898	21	21	21	21	Mount Pleasant	4	1	1945	18	18	18	18
Clarinda	9	1	1918	ss	ss	ss	7	Iowa Falls	1	1	1903	21	na	na	21	Mount Pleasant	6	1	1945	22	22	22	22
Clarinda	3	1	1924	19	19	19	seas	Iowa Falls	5	1	1903	7	na	na	7	Mount Pleasant	5	1	1947	19	19	19	19



# TABLE 2

## HCN Station Data Quality Grades

This table provides a general indication of the completeness of temperature, precipitation, snow fall and snow depth measurements. This assessment is based upon a subjective evaluation of the original monthly data forms. The quality or precision of the data values has not been evaluated. The grade scale is the familiar four point scale where '0' is flunking (F) and '4' is excellent (A). Again it is emphasized that it is beyond the scope of this report to evaluate the quality of the data. Thus a perfect 4.0 rating implies that complete data exists for the data element in question. However, a perfect 4.0 rating does not imply that the data quality is necessarily excellent as well.

How the ratings were derived:

For temperature "TM", a 4 rating indicates that complete, or nearly complete, daily maximum and minimum temperature data are available *and* that Set Max temperature data also exist. A maximum of only 2 points is assigned if no maximum and minimum temperatures exist (this implies that only the thrice daily readings were observed). One point is deducted if Set Max temperatures do not exist or are incomplete. One point also is deducted if there are notations on the original monthly data forms indicating that the temperature data were unreliable or if there are substantial gaps in the temperature record.

For precipitation "PR", a 4 rating indicates that complete year-round daily precipitation measurements are available. One point is deducted if precipitation measurements are not usually available for snow or ice events. One point also is deducted if it is apparent that the precipitation measurements are somewhat incomplete. An additional point or two can be deducted if the data completeness is particularly acute.

For snowfall "SF", points are deducted for obvious periods of missing data or if snowfall amounts routinely are measured to only the nearest whole inch.

For snow depth "SD", at least one point is awarded if any snow depth measurements are made. Two points are awarded for infrequent readings (perhaps 10% of the time) and three points when readings are available about one-half of the time.

Finally, the "# MO" column gives the number of months for which reasonably complete daily data exist for that year.







# TABLE 2. HCN Station Data Quality Grades

CLARINDA										FAIRFIELD										FORT DODGE									
YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MD	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MD	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MD	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MD	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MD
1893	4	4	4	1 12.0		1893	4	4	4	1 3.0		1893						1893						1893	4	4	4	4	0.0
1894	4	4	4	1 12.0		1894	4	4	4	1 9.0		1894	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1894	4	4	4	4	4	1894	4	4	4	4	0.0
1895	4	4	4	1 12.0		1895	4	4	4	0 12.0		1895	4	3	4	4	4 11.0	1895	4	4	4	4	4	1895	4	4	4	4	4 12.0
1896	4	4	4	2 12.0		1896	4	4	4	1 12.0		1896	4	3	4	4	4 12.0	1896	4	4	4	4	4	1896	4	4	4	4	4 12.0
1897	4	4	4	4 12.0		1897	4	3	4	1 12.0		1897	4	3	4	4	4 12.0	1897	4	4	4	4	4	1897	4	4	4	4	0.0
1898	4	4	4	4 12.0		1898	4	3	3	1 12.0		1898	4	3	3	1 12.0	1898	4	4	4	4	4	1898					0.0	
1899	3	4	4	4 12.0		1899	4	3	3	1 12.0		1899	4	3	3	4	4 12.0	1899						1899					1.0
1900	3	4	4	4 12.0		1900	4	3	3	1 9.0		1900	4	3	3	4	4 12.0	1900	3	3	3	3	4	1900	3	3	3	4	3 12.0
1901	4	4	4	4 12.0		1901				1 11.0		1901					4 12.0	1901	4	3	4	2	4	1901	4	3	4	4	2 12.0
1902	4	4	4	4 12.0		1902	4	4	4	1 11.0		1902	4				4 12.0	1902	4	2	4	2	4	1902	4	2	4	4	2 9.0
1903	3	4	4	4 12.0		1903				0.0		1903					4 12.0	1903	4	4	4	4	4	1903	4	4	4	4	0 9.5
1904	3	4	4	4 12.0		1904				0.0		1904					4 12.0	1904	3	3	3	3	3	1904	3	3	3	3	2 12.0
1905	3	4	4	4 12.0		1905				0.0		1905					4 12.0	1905	4	4	4	4	4	1905	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1906	3	4	4	4 12.0		1906				0.0		1906					4 12.0	1906	3	3	3	3	3	1906	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1907	3	4	4	4 12.0		1907				0.0		1907	3	4	4	4	4 12.0	1907	3	3	3	3	3	1907	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1908	3	4	4	4 12.0		1908	3	4	4	4 12.0		1908	3	4	4	4	2 12.0	1908	3	3	3	3	3	1908	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1909	3	4	4	4 12.0		1909	4	4	4	4 12.0		1909	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1909	4	3	3	3	3	1909	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1910	3	4	4	4 12.0		1910	4	4	4	4 12.0		1910	4	4	4	4	2 12.0	1910	3	3	3	3	3	1910	3	3	3	4	2 11.5
1911	3	4	4	4 12.0		1911	4	3	4	4 12.0		1911	4	3	4	4	4 12.0	1911	3	3	3	3	3	1911	3	3	3	3	4 12.0
1912	3	4	4	4 12.0		1912	4	4	4	4 12.0		1912	4	4	4	4	2 12.0	1912	3	3	3	3	3	1912	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1913	3	4	4	4 12.0		1913	3	4	4	4 12.0		1913	3	4	4	4	2 12.0	1913	3	3	3	3	3	1913	3	3	3	4	4 12.0
1914	4	4	4	4 12.0		1914	4	4	4	4 12.0		1914	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1914	4	3	3	3	3	1914	4	3	3	4	4 12.0
1915	4	4	4	4 12.0		1915	3	4	4	4 12.0		1915	3	4	4	4	4 11.0	1915	4	3	3	3	3	1915	4	3	3	4	4 12.0
1916	4	4	4	4 12.0		1916	3	4	4	4 12.0		1916	3	4	4	4	4 12.0	1916	4	3	3	3	3	1916	4	3	3	4	4 12.0
1917	4	4	4	4 12.0		1917	4	4	4	4 12.0		1917	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1917	4	3	3	3	3	1917	4	3	3	4	4 12.0
1918	4	4	4	4 12.0		1918	4	4	4	4 12.0		1918	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1918	4	3	3	3	3	1918	4	3	3	4	3 12.0
1919	4	4	4	4 12.0		1919	4	4	4	4 12.0		1919	4	4	4	4	4 11.0	1919	3	3	3	3	3	1919	3	3	3	4	2 12.0
1920	4	4	4	4 12.0		1920	4	4	4	4 12.0		1920	4	4	4	4	0 11.0	1920	4	3	3	3	3	1920	4	3	3	4	4 12.0
1921	4	4	4	4 12.0		1921	4	4	4	4 12.0		1921	4	4	4	4	0 12.0	1921	4	4	4	4	4	1921	4	4	4	4	4 12.0
1922	4	4	4	4 12.0		1922	4	4	4	4 12.0		1922	4	4	4	4	1 12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	4	1922	4	4	4	4	3 12.0
1923	4	4	4	4 12.0		1923	4	4	4	3 12.0		1923	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	4	1923	4	4	4	4	1 12.0
1924	4	4	4	4 12.0		1924	4	4	4	4 12.0		1924	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	4	1924	4	4	4	4	1 12.0
1925	4	4	4	4 12.0		1925	4	4	4	3 12.0		1925	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	4	1925	4	4	4	4	0 12.0
1926	4	4	4	4 12.0		1926	4	4	4	3 12.0		1926	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	4	1926	4	4	4	4	0 12.0
1927	3	4	4	4 12.0		1927	4	4	4	4 12.0		1927	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	4	1927	4	4	4	4	0 11.0
1928	4	4	4	4 12.0		1928	4	4	4	3 12.0		1928	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1928	4	4	4	4	4	1928	4	4	4	4	0 12.0
1929	4	3	3	4 12.0		1929	4	4	4	3 12.0		1929	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	4	1929	4	4	4	4	1 12.0
1930	4	4	4	4 12.0		1930	4	4	4	3 12.0		1930	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	4	1930	4	4	4	4	1 12.0
1931	4	4	4	4 12.0		1931	4	4	4	3 12.0		1931	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	4	1931	4	4	4	4	1 12.0
1932	4	4	4	4 12.0		1932	4	4	4	3 12.0		1932	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1932	4	4	4	4	4	1932	4	4	4	4	4 12.0
1933	4	4	4	4 12.0		1933	4	4	4	3 12.0		1933	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1933	4	4	4	4	4	1933	4	4	4	4	2 12.0
1934	4	4	4	4 12.0		1934	4	4	4	3 12.0		1934	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1934	4	4	4	4	4	1934	4	4	4	4	2 12.0
1935	4	4	4	4 12.0		1935	4	4	4	3 12.0		1935	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1935	4	4	4	4	4	1935	4	4	4	4	3 12.0
1936	4	4	4	4 12.0		1936	4	4	4	3 12.0		1936	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1936	4	4	4	4	4	1936	4	4	4	4	3 12.0
1937	4	4	4	4 12.0		1937	4	4	4	4 12.0		1937	4	4	4	4	3 12.0	1937	4	4	4	4	4	1937	4	4	4	4	3 12.0
1938	4	4	4	4 12.0		1938	4	4	4	3 12.0		1938	4	4	4	4	4 12.0	1938	4	4	4	4	4	1938	4	4	4	4	3 12.0
1939	4	4	4	4 12.0		1939	4																						







# TABLE 2. HCN Station Data Quality Grades

MOUNT AYR													MOUNT PLEASANT													ROCKWELL CITY												
YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO									
1893	3	3	4	0	5.0	1893	4	3	4	1	12.0	1893	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1893	0	3	1	1	2.5	1893	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1894					0.0	1894	4	3	4	0	12.0	1894	2	3	4	0	8.0	1894	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1894	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1895	3	2	2	1	10.0	1895	4	4	4	0	12.0	1895	2	4	4	0	12.0	1895	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1895	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1896	3	4	4	1	12.0	1896	4	4	4	1	12.0	1896	2	3	3	0	12.0	1896	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1896	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1897	3	4	4	1	12.0	1897	4	3	4	1	12.0	1897	2	3	2	0	12.0	1897	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1897	3	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1898	3	4	4	1	12.0	1898	4	3	4	0	12.0	1898	2	3	2	0	12.0	1898	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1898	3	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1899	3	4	4	1	12.0	1899	4	3	3	1	12.0	1899	3	4	2	0	12.0	1899	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1899	3	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1900	3	4	4	1	12.0	1900	4	3	3	1	12.0	1900	3	4	2	0	12.0	1900	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1900	3	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1901	4	4	4	1	12.0	1901	4	3	4	1	10.0	1901	4	3	1	0	12.0	1901	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1901	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1902	4	4	4	1	12.0	1902	4	3	3	3	8.0	1902	4	3	4	0	12.0	1902	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1902	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1903	4	4	4	0	12.0	1903	4	3	3	4	12.0	1903	4	3	4	1	10.0	1903	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1903	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1904	4	4	4	0	12.0	1904	4	3	1	4	12.0	1904	4	3	4	2	12.0	1904	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1904	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1905	4	4	4	0	12.0	1905	4	4	2	3	12.0	1905	4	4	4	2	12.0	1905	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1905	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1906	4	4	4	0	12.0	1906	4	4	3	3	11.0	1906	4	4	4	2	12.0	1906	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1906	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1907	4	4	4	0	12.0	1907	4	4	4	3	12.0	1907	4	4	4	2	12.0	1907	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1907	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1908	4	4	4	0	12.0	1908	4	4	4	3	12.0	1908	4	4	4	2	12.0	1908	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1908	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1909	4	4	4	0	12.0	1909	4	4	4	2	11.5	1909	4	4	4	2	12.0	1909	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1909	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1910	4	4	4	0	12.0	1910	4	4	2	2	11.0	1910	4	4	4	2	12.0	1910	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1910	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1911	4	4	4	1	12.0	1911	4	4	1	2	12.0	1911	4	3	4	2	12.0	1911	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1911	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1912	4	4	4	1	12.0	1912	4	4	0	2	10.5	1912	4	3	4	2	12.0	1912	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1912	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1913	4	3	4	1	12.0	1913	4	4	0	2	9.0	1913	4	3	4	2	12.0	1913	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1913	4	3	4	4	4	12.0							
1914	4	3	4	1	12.0	1914	4	4	3	1	7.5	1914	4	3	4	2	12.0	1914	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1914	3	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1915	4	3	4	1	12.0	1915	4	3	1	1	12.0	1915	4	3	4	2	12.0	1915	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1915	3	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1916	3	3	4	1	12.0	1916	4	3	1	1	12.0	1916	4	3	4	2	12.0	1916	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1916	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1917	4	3	4	1	12.0	1917	4	3	2	1	12.0	1917	3	3	4	2	12.0	1917	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1917	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1918	4	3	4	1	12.0	1918	4	3	1	1	12.0	1918	4	3	3	1	12.0	1918	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1918	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1919	4	3	4	1	12.0	1919	4	4	0	0	12.0	1919	4	4	2	3	12.0	1919	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1919	4	4	4	4	4	12.0							
1920	4	4	4	1	12.0	1920	4	4	0	0	11.0	1920	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1920	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1920	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1921	4	4	4	1	12.0	1921	4	4	1	0	5.0	1921	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1921	3	4	4	4	4	9.0	1921	3	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1922	4	4	4	1	12.0	1922	4	4	4	0	12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	4	8.5	1922	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1923	4	4	4	1	12.0	1923	4	4	4	0	11.0	1923	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	4	12.0					
1924	4	4	4	1	12.0	1924	4	4	4	0	12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	4	9.0	1924	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1925	4	4	4	1	12.0	1925	4	4	4	0	12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	4	9.0	1925	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1926	4	4	4	1	12.0	1926	4	4	4	0	12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	4	11.0	1926	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1927	4	4	4	1	12.0	1927	4	4	4	0	12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	4	10.0	1927	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1928	4	4	4	2	12.0	1928	4	3	1	1	8.0	1928	4	3	1	8.0	4	12.0	1928	4	4	4	4	4	11.0	1928	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1929	4	4	4	2	12.0	1929	4	3	1	2	12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	4	8.0	1929	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1930	4	4	3	2	12.0	1930	4	3	1	1	12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	4	4	10.0	1930	4	3	4	4	4	12.0					
1931	4	4	3	1	12.0	1931	4	3	2	1	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	4	12.0					
1932	4	4	3	1	12.0	1932	4	3	2	1	12.0	1932	4	3	4	4	4	12.0	1932	4	4	4	4	4	11.0	1932	4	4	4	4	4	12.0						
1933	4	4	4	1	12.0	1933	4	4	4	2	12.0	1933	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1933	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1933	4	4	4	4	4	12.0					
1934	4	3	3	1	12.0	1934	4	3	2	4	12.0	1934	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1934	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1934	4	4	4	4	4	12.0					
1935	4	4	4	1	12.0	1935	4	3	2	4	12.0	1935	4	4	4	4																						



# TABLE 2. HCN Station Data Quality Grades

STORM LAKE																	TOLEDO																	WASHINGTON																
YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO	YR	TM	PR	SF	SD	#MO																					
1893	3	4	4	1	12.0	1893					0.0	1893	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1893	4	4	4	3	0	12.0	1893	4	4	4	3	0	12.0																		
1894				0.0		1894	2	3	3	1	12.0	1894	2	3	3	1	12.0	1894	2	3	3	1	12.0	1894	2	3	3	1	12.0	1894	2	3	1	12.0																
1895				0.0		1895	4	4	4	4	12.0	1895	2	3	4	0	12.0	1895	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1895	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1896				0.0		1896	4	4	4	4	12.0	1896	3	3	4	0	12.0	1896	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1896	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1897				0.0		1897	4	4	4	4	12.0	1897	3	3	3	1	12.0	1897	3	3	3	1	12.0	1897	3	3	3	1	12.0	1897	3	3	1	12.0																
1898	3	4	4	2	3.0	1898	4	4	4	4	12.0	1898	3	3	3	0	12.0	1898	3	3	3	0	12.0	1898	3	3	3	0	12.0	1898	3	3	0	12.0																
1899	3	4	4	2	12.0	1899	4	4	4	4	12.0	1899	3	3	3	0	12.0	1899	3	3	3	0	12.0	1899	3	3	3	0	12.0	1899	3	3	0	12.0																
1900	3	4	4	4	12.0	1900	4	4	4	4	12.0	1900	3	3	2	1	12.0	1900	3	3	2	1	12.0	1900	3	3	2	1	12.0	1900	3	3	1	12.0																
1901	4	4	4	4	12.0	1901	4	4	4	4	12.0	1901	4	2	0	0	12.0	1901	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1901	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1902	4	4	4	4	12.0	1902	4	4	4	4	12.0	1902	4	3	4	1	6.0	1902	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1902	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1903	3	3	3	3	12.0	1903	4	4	4	4	12.0	1903	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1903	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1903	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1904	3	3	4	3	12.0	1904	4	4	4	4	12.0	1904	4	4	4	4	0	12.0	1904	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1904	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1905	3	3	4	4	12.0	1905	4	4	4	4	12.0	1905	4	4	3	0	12.0	1905	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1905	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1906	3	3	3	2	8.0	1906	4	4	4	4	12.0	1906	4	3	4	0	12.0	1906	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1906	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1907	4	3	3	1	11.0	1907	4	4	4	4	12.0	1907	4	3	4	0	12.0	1907	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1907	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1908	4	4	4	1	11.0	1908	4	4	4	4	12.0	1908	4	3	4	0	12.0	1908	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1908	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1909	4	4	4	1	12.0	1909	4	4	4	4	12.0	1909	4	3	4	0	12.0	1909	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1909	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1910	4	3	3	1	12.0	1910	4	4	4	4	12.0	1910	4	3	4	0	12.0	1910	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1910	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1911	4	3	3	0	12.0	1911	4	4	4	4	12.0	1911	4	3	4	0	12.0	1911	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1911	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1912	4	4	4	4	12.0	1912	4	4	4	4	12.0	1912	4	3	4	0	12.0	1912	4	4	4	4	2	12.0	1912	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1913	4	4	4	3	12.0	1913	4	4	4	4	12.0	1913	4	3	4	0	12.0	1913	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1913	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1914	4	4	4	0	12.0	1914	4	4	4	4	12.0	1914	4	3	4	0	12.0	1914	4	4	4	4	1	11.0	1914	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1915	4	4	4	0	12.0	1915	4	4	4	4	12.0	1915	4	4	4	4	0	12.0	1915	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1915	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1916	4	4	4	0	12.0	1916	4	4	4	4	12.0	1916	4	3	4	0	12.0	1916	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1916	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0																
1917	4	4	4	0	12.0	1917	4	4	4	4	12.0	1917	4	4	4	4	0	12.0	1917	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1917	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1918	4	4	4	1	12.0	1918	4	4	4	4	12.0	1918	4	4	4	4	2	12.0	1918	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1918	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1919	4	4	4	1	12.0	1919	4	4	4	4	12.0	1919	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1919	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1919	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1920	4	4	4	0	12.0	1920	4	4	4	4	12.0	1920	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1920	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1920	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1921	4	4	4	0	12.0	1921	4	4	4	4	12.0	1921	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1921	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1921	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1922	4	4	4	0	12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	2	12.0	1922	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1923	4	4	4	0	12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	1	12.0	1923	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1924	4	4	4	0	12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1924	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1925	4	4	4	0	12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1925	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1926	4	4	4	0	12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1926	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1927	4	4	4	0	12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1927	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1928	4	4	4	1	12.0	1928	4	4	4	4	12.0	1928	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1928	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1928	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1929	4	4	4	1	12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1929	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1930	4	4	4	4	12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1930	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1931	4	4	4	4	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	3	12.0	1931	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	12.0															
1932	4	4	4	4	12.0	1932	4	4	4	4	12.0	1932	4	4	4	4	4	12.0	1932	4	4	4	4																											



# TABLE 3

## HCN Station History Summary

This table provides information on the observer names, addresses and the equipment location, type and exposure.

'map'	This number refers to the station location on the city maps in the Appendix.
Begin & End Dates	A ? in these column indicates that the actual date of the change is unknown. If the year is accompanied by a question mark this indicates the mid point of the time period when the change should have occurred.
Address:	bl = number of city blocks; P. O. = Post Office; 'old' indicates the previous or 'old location'
Elev.	The elevation of the precipitation gage in feet above mean sea level. These numbers were derived from USGS 1:24, 000 scale topographic maps. In no cases were the elevations provided in the station history files used unless they happened to coincide with the topo map data (not a common occurrence).
Elev. Qual.	Estimated precision of the station elevation value on a scale of 1 (least precise) to 5 (most precise) where 1 = accurate to plus or minus 150 ft; 2 = plus or minus 75 ft.; 3 = plus or minus 50 ft.; 4 = plus or minus 25 ft; and 5 = accurate to within plus or minus 10 feet.
'srg'	Standard Rain Gage.
'lat/lon	Latitude and longitude are provided in degrees, minutes and seconds on the basis on GPS data.
'lat/lon qual'	Estimated precision of the latitude and longitude data. Uncertainty is the result of lack of specific knowledge as to the location of the station rather than any doubt as to the absolute precision of specific GPS readings. Once again a 1 to 5 scale is used. 1 = an estimated accuracy of plus or minus 3000 feet; 2 = plus or minus 1000 ft.; 3 = plus or minus 300 ft.; 4 = plus or minus 100 ft. and 5 = an estimated precision of plus or minus 30 ft.
"srg expo"	NOTE: In some cases the relative position of the temperature and rainfall equipment is known (i.e. the rain gage was located ten feet east of the temperature shelter), yet the specific location of the station is unknown, the lat/lon may be expressed in tenths of a second as an indication of the relative positions of the equipment to each other and is not intended to imply that the absolute coordinates are known with certainty.
"type prec gage"	Quality of the exposure of the rain gage on a scale of 1 (terrible) to 5 (excellent).
"temp"	The type of precipitation gage in use. SRG = NWS 8" Standard Rain Gage. 3" is a 3" diameter rain gage and 2.5" reflects use of a 2.5 inch diameter rain gage.
"temp expo"	Temperature Equipment.
"type mx/mn"	Quality of the exposure of the thermometers using the same scale as for precipitation (see 'srg expo' above).
"shelter"	The type of temperature equipment used. 'lig' indicates a 'liquid in glass' max & min thermometer. 'mmts' is an electronic maximum/minimum temperature system. A '?' usually implies use of some type of non-recording thermometer.
	Type of thermometer shelter in use. 'crh' = standard Cotton Region Shelter. 'near S' indicates a shelter that is very similar to a CRH. 'non S' indicates a shelter that greatly differs from a CRH.











TABLE 3. HCN Station History Summary

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map HCN Station	Begin Date		End Date		Observer	Address	Elev		srq		srq		srq		srq		srq		srq		srq		srq		srq		type																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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# TABLE 3. HCN Station History Summary

map HCN Station	Begin Date Mo. Da. Yr.	End Date Mo. Da. Yr.	Observer	Address	Elev ft	Qual	lat deg	lon deg	srq deg	srq min	srq sec	lat deg	lon deg	srq deg	srq min	srq sec	temp deg	temp min	temp sec	lat deg	lon deg	srq deg	srq min	srq sec	temp deg	temp min	temp sec	lat deg	lon deg	srq deg	srq min	srq sec	type	type	mx/mn	she/ter
1 Storm Lake	1 1 1893	12 31 1893	A. J. Bond	From Form 530-1	1431	5	42	38	35	95	11	33	5	?	?	?	42	38	35	95	11	33	5	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
10 14 1898	8 5 1902	8 5 1902	M. L. Fuller	?	1430	3	42	38	35	95	12	14	1	?	?	?	42	38	35	95	12	14	1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Storm Lake	8 6 1902	11 30 1903	L. E. Burdick	?	1430	3	42	38	35	95	12	14	1	?	?	?	42	38	35	95	12	14	1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
3 Storm Lake	12 1 1903	5 31 1906	C. E. Burdick	602 Otsego St.	1428	5	42	38	40	5	95	12	24	2	?	?	42	38	40	5	95	12	24	2	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Storm Lake	11 1 1906	7 12 1908	Ralph H. Carr	at College?	1430	3	42	38	40	5	95	12	31	1	?	?	42	38	40	5	95	12	31	1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Storm Lake	7 13 1908	8 31 1910	S. B. Fracker	at College?	1430	3	42	38	40	5	95	12	31	1	?	?	42	38	40	5	95	12	31	1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Storm Lake	9 1 1910	5 31 1913	numerous	at College?	1430	3	42	38	40	5	95	12	31	1	?	?	42	38	40	5	95	12	31	1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
5 Storm Lake	6 1 1913	11 30 1928	George H. Fracker	420 Genesee St.	1427	5	42	38	29	8	95	12	14	0	5	3	42	38	29	8	95	12	14	0	5	3	42	38	29	8	95	12	14	0	5	3
6 Storm Lake	12 1 1928	2 28 1930	L. B. Florey	410 Genesee St.	1427	5	42	38	28	4	95	12	14	0	5	3	42	38	28	4	95	12	14	0	5	3	42	38	28	4	95	12	14	0	5	3
7 Storm Lake	3 1 1930	11 30 1935	Russel M. Edwards	0.5 mi W of P. O. 450' from lake	1422	4	42	38	28	95	12	39	2	3	3	42	38	28	95	12	39	2	3	3	42	38	28	95	12	39	2	3	3	42	38	28
8 Storm Lake	12 1 1935	8 20 1941	Russel M. Edwards	1600' E of old site: 750' from lake	1422	4	42	38	22	4	95	12	14	2	3	3	42	38	22	4	95	12	14	2	3	3	42	38	22	4	95	12	14	2	3	3
9 Storm Lake	8 21 1941	11 30 1948	Paul Vance	Dekalb Seed Plant	1415	3	42	38	2	95	10	50	2	4	4	42	38	2	95	10	50	2	4	4	42	38	2	95	10	50	2	4	4	42	38	2
10 Storm Lake 2 E	12 1 1948	?	Radio KAYL	Highway 71 East	1428	5	42	38	4	6	95	10	10	1	5	4	42	38	4	6	95	10	10	1	5	4	42	38	4	6	95	10	10	1	5	4
10 Storm Lake 2 E	?	?	Radio KAYL	Highway 71 East	1428	5	42	38	4	6	95	10	10	1	5	4	42	38	4	6	95	10	10	1	5	4	42	38	4	6	95	10	10	1	5	4
10 Storm Lake 2 E	10 14 1986	6 30 1989	Radio KAYL	Highway 71 East	880	3	41	59	53	92	34	36	2	?	?	?	41	59	53	92	34	36	2	?	?	?	41	59	53	92	34	36	2	?	?	?
Toledo	1 1 1899	8 31 1902	Charles Hason	?	910	2	41	59	42	92	34	27	1	?	?	?	41	59	42	92	34	27	1	?	?	?	41	59	42	92	34	27	1	?	?	?
Toledo	9 1 1902	9 1 1906	Herbert Paul Giger	?	910	2	41	59	42	92	34	27	1	?	?	?	41	59	42	92	34	27	1	?	?	?	41	59	42	92	34	27	1	?	?	?
3 Toledo	9 2 1906	5 31 1927	I. F. Giger	4 bl N; 1 bl W of 408 E. So St.	894	4	41	59	53	92	34	28	3	3	3	41	59	53	92	34	28	3	3	3	41	59	53	92	34	28	3	3	3	41	59	53
3 Toledo	6 1 1927	5 7 1928	Herbert Paul Giger	4 bl N; 1 bl W of 408 E. So St.	894	4	41	59	53	92	34	28	3	3	3	41	59	53	92	34	28	3	3	3	41	59	53	92	34	28	3	3	3	41	59	53
4 Toledo	5 7 1928	10 13 1959	Herbert Paul Giger	408 E. South St.	920	5	41	59	37	92	34	23	5	3	3	41	59	37	92	34	23	5	3	3	41	59	37	92	34	23	5	3	3	41	59	37
5 Toledo	10 14 1959	4 21 1964	Donald L. Anderson	610 E. High St.	902	5	41	59	43	92	34	15	5	4	4	41	59	43	92	34	15	5	4	4	41	59	43	92	34	15	5	4	4	41	59	43
6 Toledo	4 22 1964	4 11 1984	Charles L. Patterson	Pioneer Hybrid Seed Co.	862	5	41	59	41	92	34	13	5	5	5	41	59	41	92	34	13	5	5	5	41	59	41	92	34	13	5	5	5	41	59	41
6 Toledo	4 12 1984	9 30 1986	Charles L. Patterson	Pioneer Hybrid Seed Co.	862	5	41	59	30	92	34	58	5	5	5	41	59	30	92	34	58	5	5	5	41	59	30	92	34	58	5	5	5	41	59	30
6 Toledo	10 1 1986	5 23 1994	Jeannene Rank	Pioneer Hybrid Seed Co.	862	5	41	59	30	92	34	58	5	5	5	41	59	30	92	34	58	5	5	5	41	59	30	92	34	58	5	5	5	41	59	30
7 Toledo	5 24 1994	4 26 1999	Robert Buresh	207 N. Wilson	885	5	41	59	52	92	34	15	5	4	4	41	59	52	92	34	15	5	4	4	41	59	52	92	34	15	5	4	4	41	59	52
8 Toledo 3 N	4 27 1999	7 31 2000	Thomas M. Cooper	2805 N. Highway 63	940	5	42	2	8	92	34	49	5	4	4	42	2	8	92	34	49	5	4	4	42	2	8	92	34	49	5	4	4	42	2	8
8 Toledo 3 N	8 1 2000		Randy M. Cooper	2805 N. Highway 63	940	5	42	2	8	92	34	49	5	4	4	42	2	8	92	34	49	5	4	4	42	2	8	92	34	49	5	4	4	42	2	8
1 Washington	1 1 1893	?	William A. Cook	315 W. Main St.	756	5	41	17	57	1	91	41	42	7	5	2	5	41	17	57	1	91	41	42	7	5	2	5	41	17	57	1	91	41	42	7
1 Washington	?	?	William A. Cook	315 W. Main St.	756	5	41	17	57	1	91	41	42	7	5	2	5	41	17	57	1	91	41	42	7	5	2	5	41	17	57	1	91	41	42	7
2 Washington	9 9 1924	?	D. Sherman	220 W. Jefferson	748	5	41	17	51	6	91	41	38	2	5	3	41	17	51	6	91	41	38	2	5	3	41	17	51	6	91	41	38	2	5	3
2 Washington	?	?	D. Sherman	220 W. Jefferson	748	5	41	17	51	6	91	41	38	2	5	3	41	17	51	6	91	41	38	2	5	3	41	17	51	6	91	41	38	2	5	3
3 Washington	4 1 1937	2 14 1938	Harvey Preston Wolf	331 E. Polk St.	752	5	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	2	5	3	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	2	5	3	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	3	5	3
3 Washington	2 15 1938	?	Harvey Preston Wolf	331 E. Polk St.	752	5	41	17	17	8	91	41	16	7	5	3	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	3	5	3	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	3	5	3
3 Washington	?	?	Harvey Preston Wolf	331 E. Polk St.	752	5	41	17	17	8	91	41	16	7	5	3	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	3	5	3	41	17	17	8	91	41	17	3	5	3
4 Washington	7 16 1942	10 31 1967	Clarence M. Logan	703 S. 3rd Ave.	753	5	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3
4 Washington	11 1 1967	4 10 1978	Robert H. Logan	703 S. 3rd Ave.	753	5	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3
4 Washington	4 11 1978	10 28 1986	Robert H. Logan	703 S. 3rd Ave.	753	5	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3
4 Washington	10 29 1986	9 14 1993	Robert H. Logan	703 S. 3rd Ave.	753	5	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3	41	17	37	2	91	41	23	9	5	3
5 Washington	9 15 1993	1 26 1999	Janice A. Newhouse	302 E. Jefferson St.	752	5	41	17	51	9	91	41	21	1	5	2	41	17	51	9	91	41	21	1	5	2	41	17	51	9	91	41	21	1	5	2
6 Washington	1 28 1999		Waste Water Treatment	Waste Water Treatment Plant	690	5	41	16	57	9	91	42	24	5	5	5	41	16	57	9	91	42	24	5	5	5	41	16	57	9	91	42	24	5	5	5



# APPENDIX 1

## Daylight Savings Time Adoption in Iowa

The implementation of so-called 'Daylight Savings Time' is of importance to the analysis of historical temperature trends in that it can potentially impact the magnitude of the time of observation bias in temperature records. A brief synopsis of the time periods of Daylight Savings Time use follows.

### Summer Time.

The first uniform implementation of Daylight Savings Time came with the advent of the involvement of the United States in World War I. "Summer Time", as it was called then, was adopted beginning at 12 a.m. March 31, 1918 when clocks were advanced one hour. The return to Standard Time in the fall of 1918 apparently came on October 27, although this date could not be confirmed by any remarks in the Iowa climate record books. Summer Time was again observed from March 31, 1919 until October 26, 1919 when the state returned to Standard Time. It appears from the climate records that the Iowa weather observers kept the same 'clock' hour of observation during the transition between Standard and Summer Time. Thus, a 7 p.m. CST observer would continue their weather observations at 7 p.m. Summer Time (equivalent to 6 p.m. CST).

### War Time.

The United States entry into World War II resulted in a return to Daylight Savings Time on February 9, 1942 when clocks were advanced one hour. During this time period the change was referred to as "War Time". War Time was used year-round until it ended at 2 a.m. September 30, 1945. Unlike the Summer Time experience virtually all Iowa weather observers continued to make their observation at the same 'solar time'. Thus, for example, observers previously using 7 p.m. CST observations began to use 8 p.m. War Time observations. However, at the end of the war the observation time practice was not uniform at all. Some observers went back to the previous CST observation time (such as 8 p.m. WT to 7 p.m. CST). Others kept the same hour of observation (8 p.m. WT to 8 p.m. CST). Still others went on to use entirely different observation times (always earlier in the evening).

### Local Option Daylight Time.

Documentation of this practice is difficult to find. However, in the late 1950's into the early 1960's some Iowa communities adopted Daylight Savings Time on a local option basis. Among the Iowa HCN stations examined only Washington noted use of Daylight Time during this period (May ?, 1960 to Aug 28, 1960 and May 28, 1961 to Aug 27, 1961). At Washington the observer continued to use the same 'clock time' during the summer (6 p.m. CST to 6 p.m. CDT).

### Statewide Daylight Time.

Iowa adopted Daylight Savings Time statewide in 1964 and 1965. In 1964 it began on April 26 and ended on September 6. In 1965 it began on May 30 and ended on September 7. In both years all of the Iowa HCN stations examined appeared to maintain the same 'clock time' during this period.

### National Uniform Time Act

In 1966 the Uniform Time Act implemented Daylight Savings Time nationwide with the provision that some states or parts of states (for those in multiple time zones) could opt out of the use of Daylight Time. Iowa has always observed Daylight Savings Time since the Act was adopted. Beginning in 1966 and continuing through 1986 Daylight Time began at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of April and ended at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. The practice was changed in 1987 to begin Daylight Time on the first Sunday of April. An exception to this observational practice came during the Energy Crisis of the 1970's. In 1974 Daylight Time began on January 6 and ended at the usual time on the last Sunday of October. Then in 1975 Daylight Time began on February 23 and again ended on the last Sunday of October. Throughout the life of the Uniform Time Act it appears that all of the Iowa HCN stations examined as part of this project kept their observations on the same 'clock time'. However, it is known that a few Iowa stations (Columbus Junction and Clinton #1, for example) have maintained observance of the same 'sun time' for at least a portion of the 'modern' Daylight Time era.

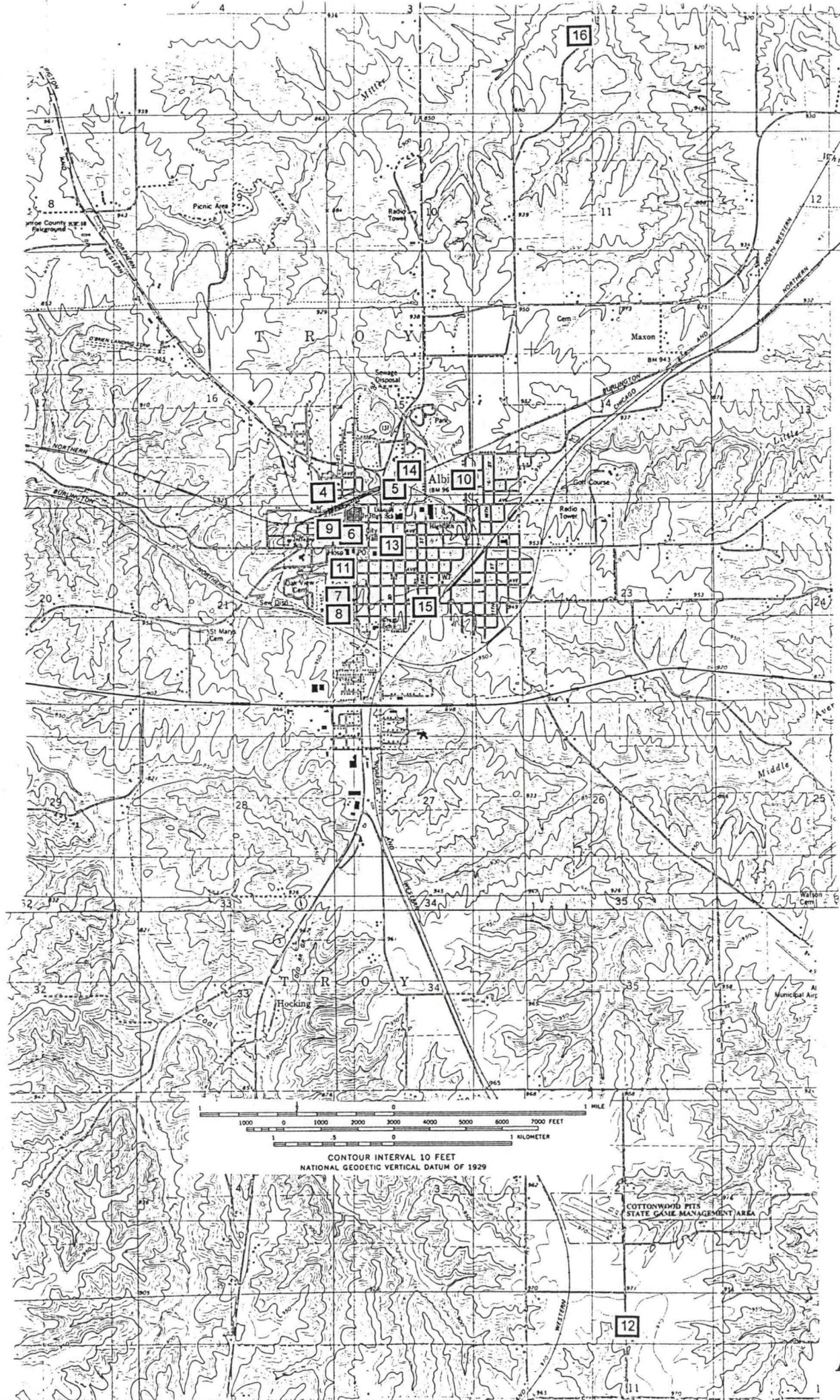


# APPENDIX 2

## City maps of HCN Locations

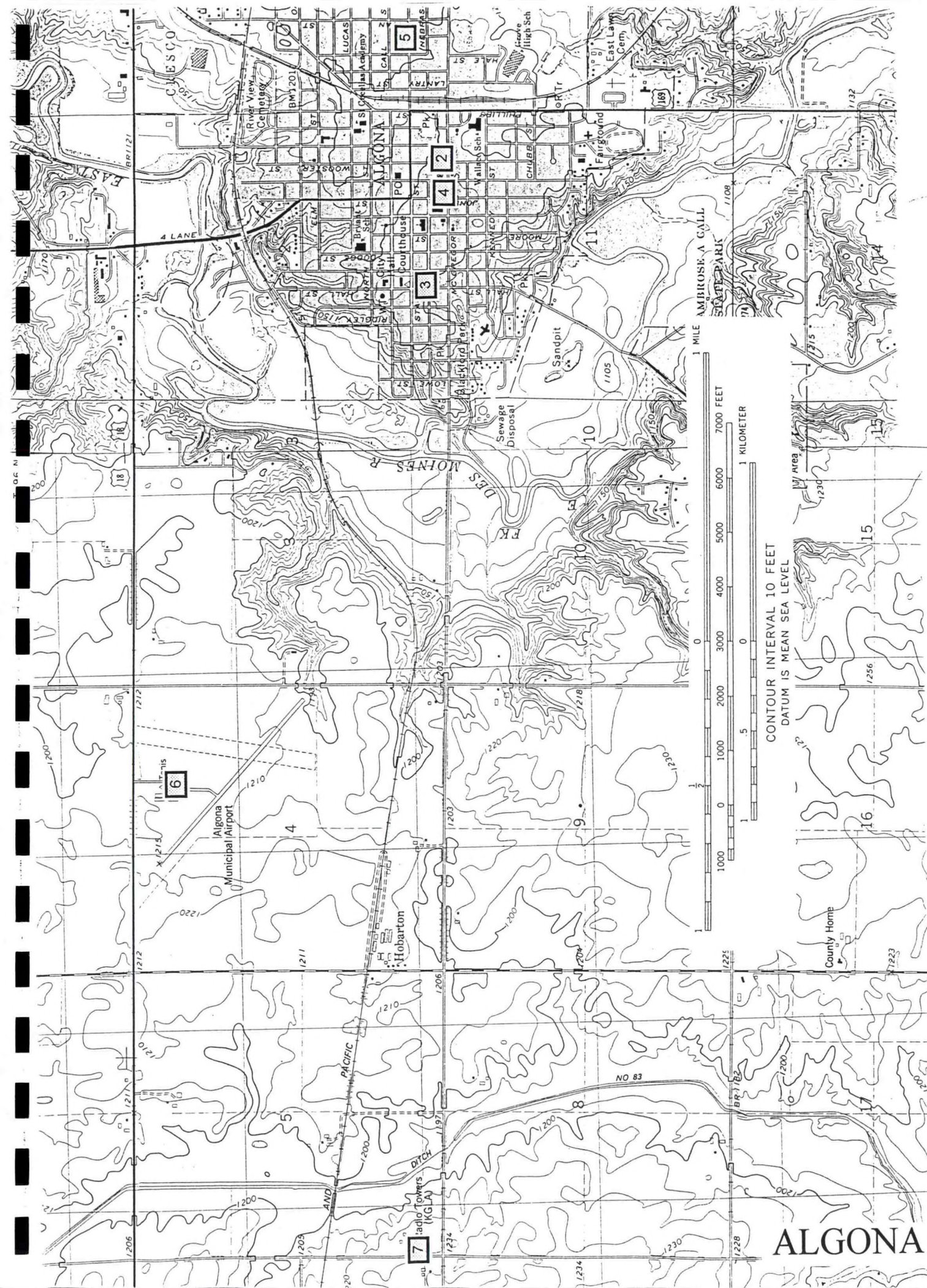
The numbers on these maps correspond to those given in the left  
most column of Table 3





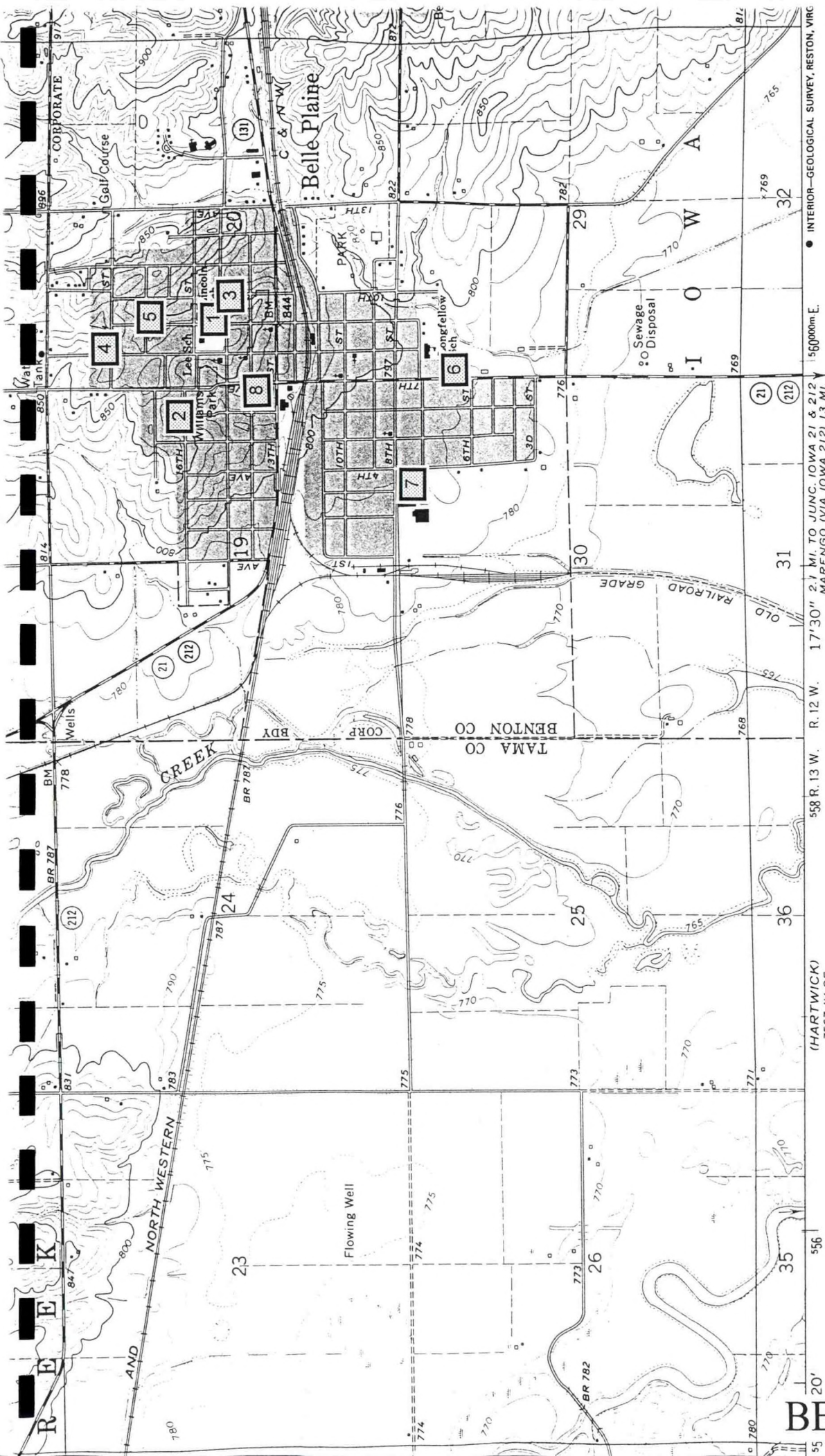
ALBIA





ALGONA

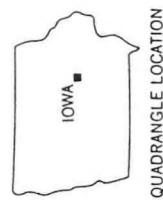




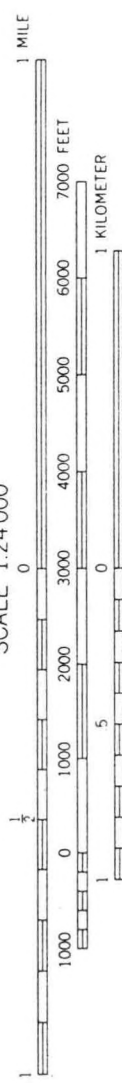
**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, all weather, Light-duty road  
 hard surface improved surface  
 Secondary highway, all weather, Unimproved  
 hard surface weather

U. S. Route State



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



(HARTWICK)  
 7567 IV SE  
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FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240

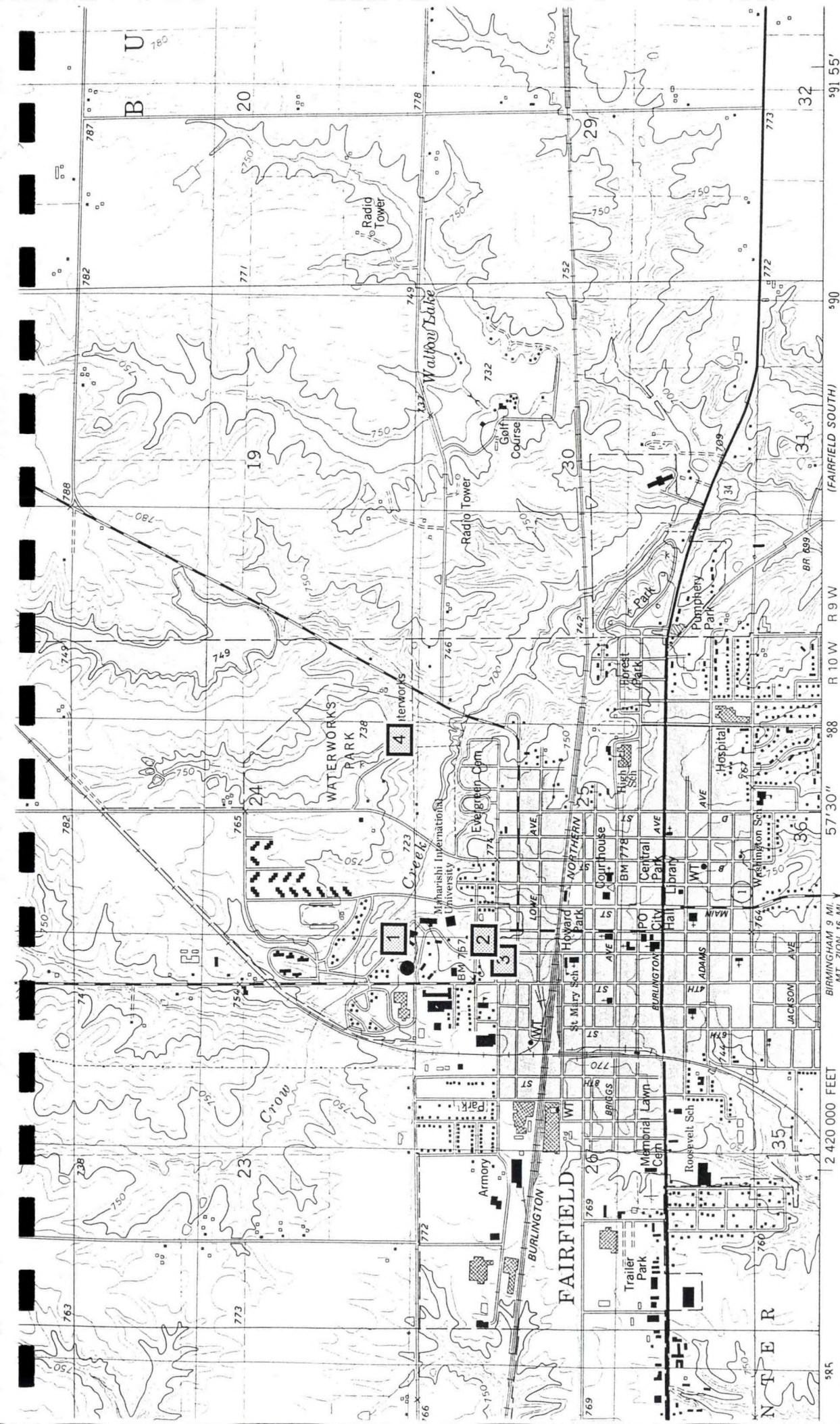
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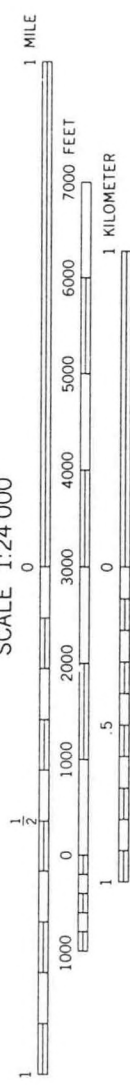


# FAIRFIELD

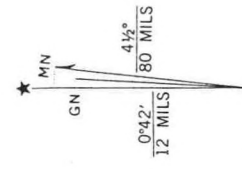
Prepared by the Geological Survey

Methods from aerial photographs  
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 Scales: lowa coordinate  
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 Mercator grid, zone 15  
 American Datum 1983  
 S north and  
 by dashed corner ticks

SCALE 1:24 000

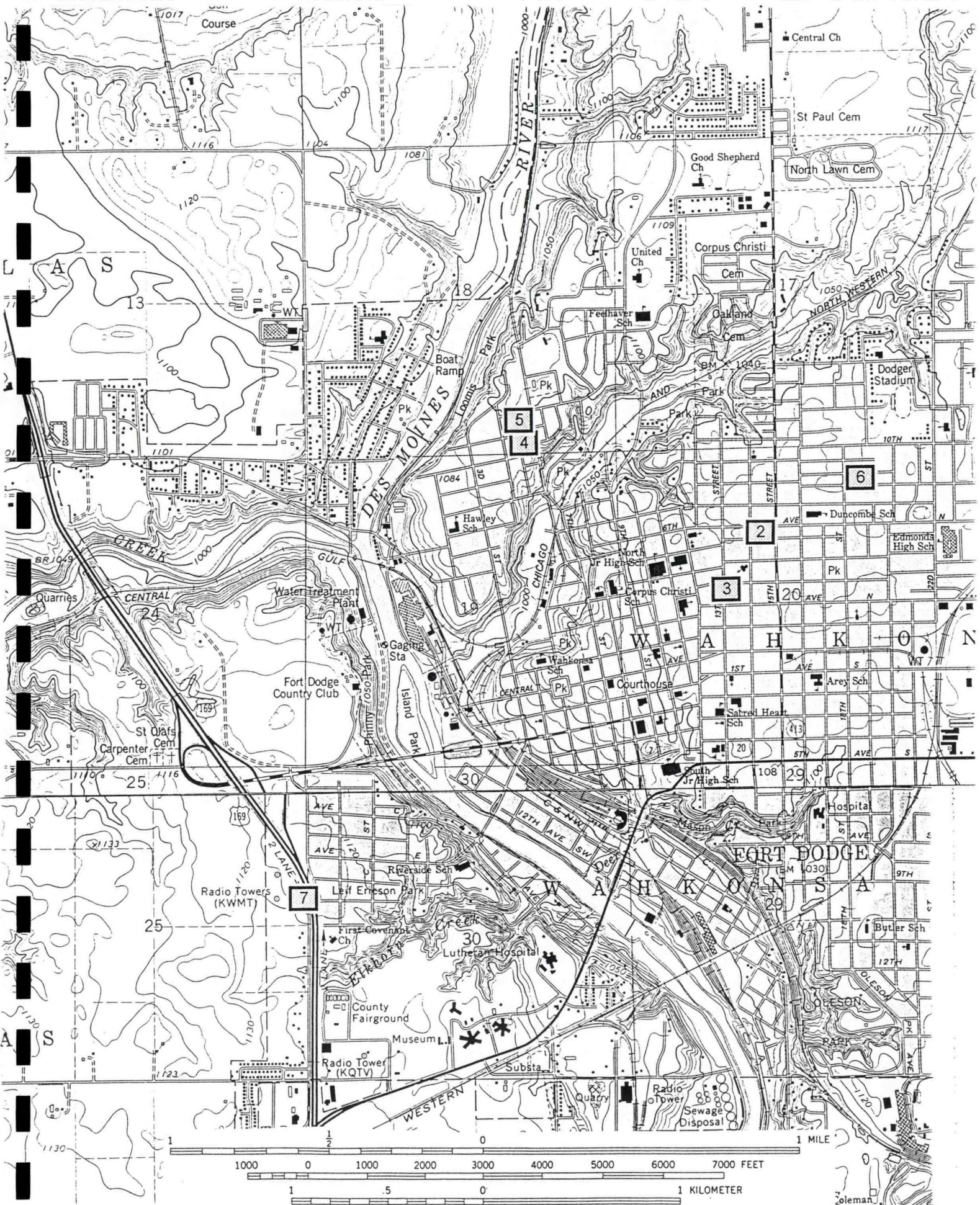


CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

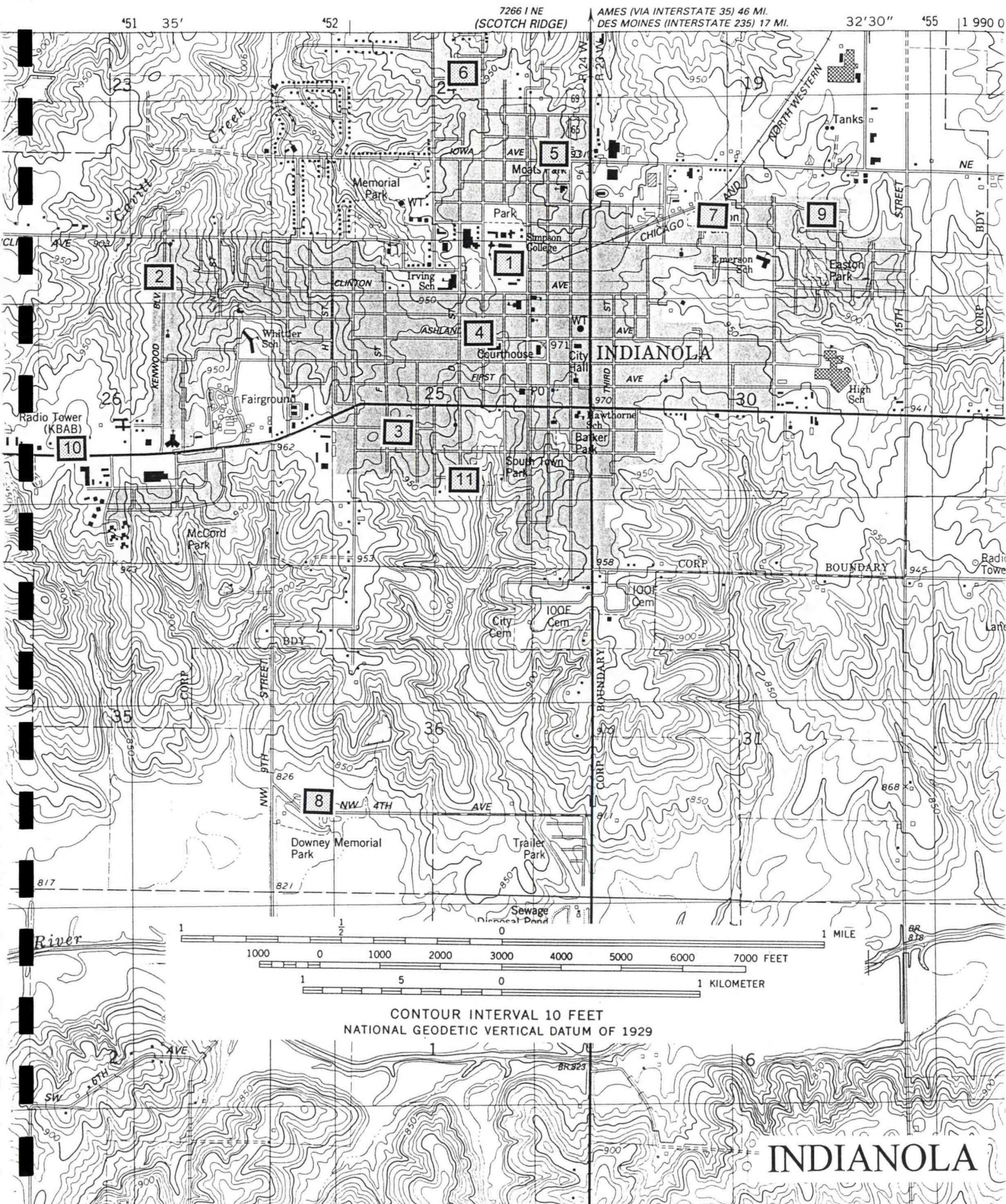




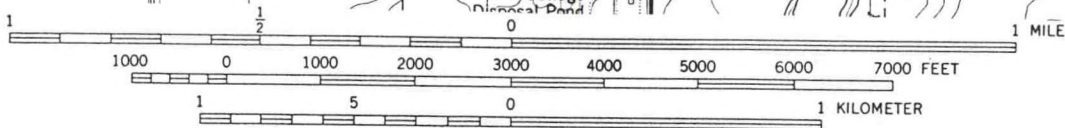
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

FORT DODGE





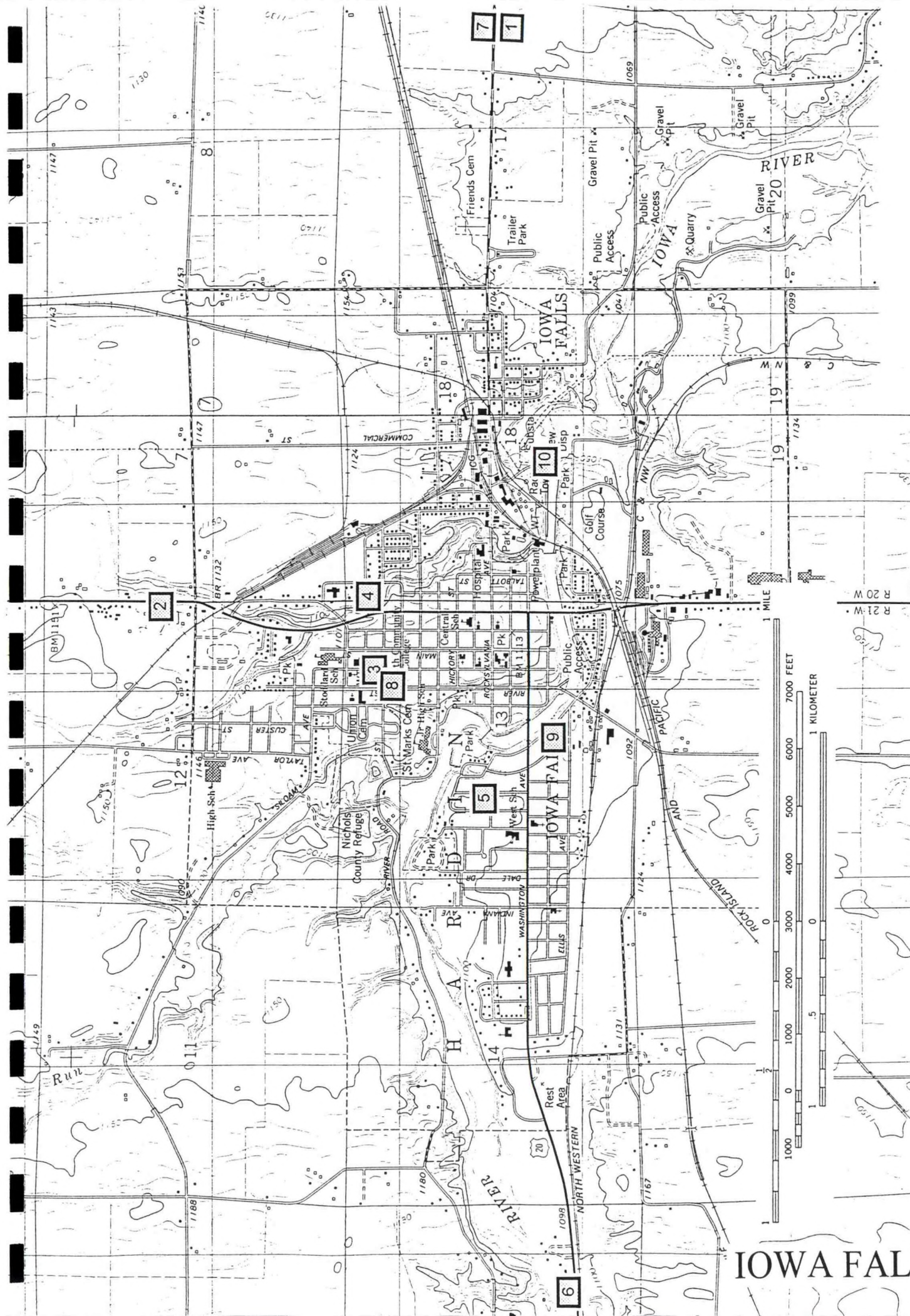
451 35' 452 7266 I NE AMES (VIA INTERSTATE 35) 46 MI. 32'30" 455 1 990 0  
(SCOTCH RIDGE) DES MOINES (INTERSTATE 235) 17 MI.



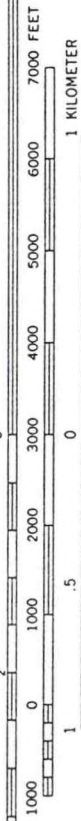
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

INDIANOLA

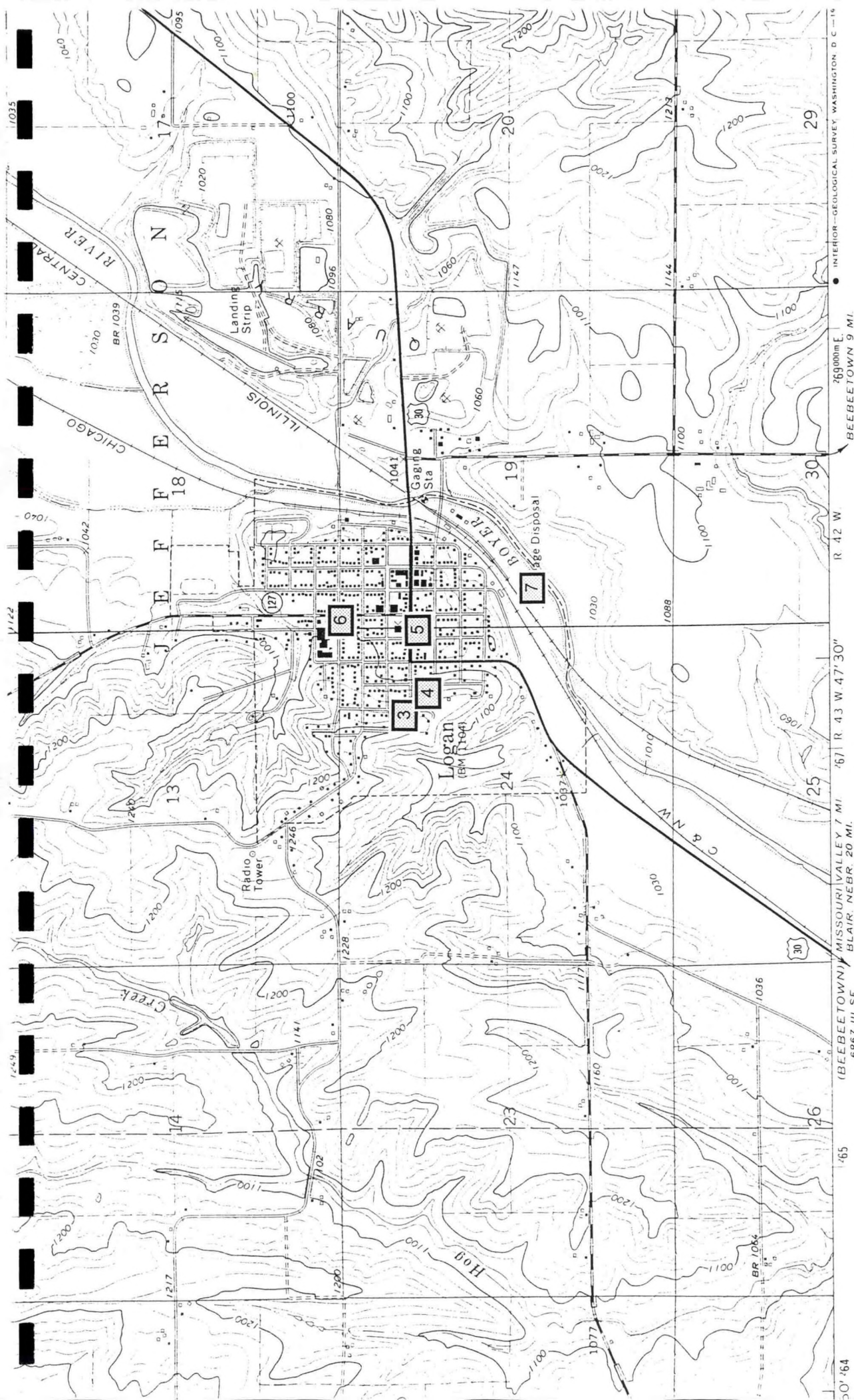




# IOWA FALLS

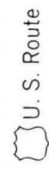




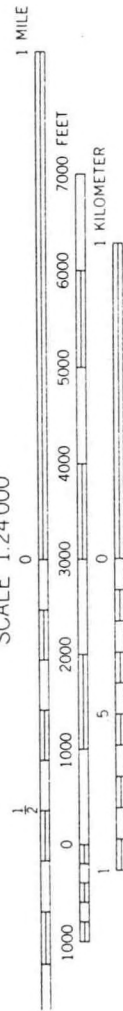


# ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
- Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Unimproved road, fair weather

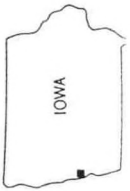


CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



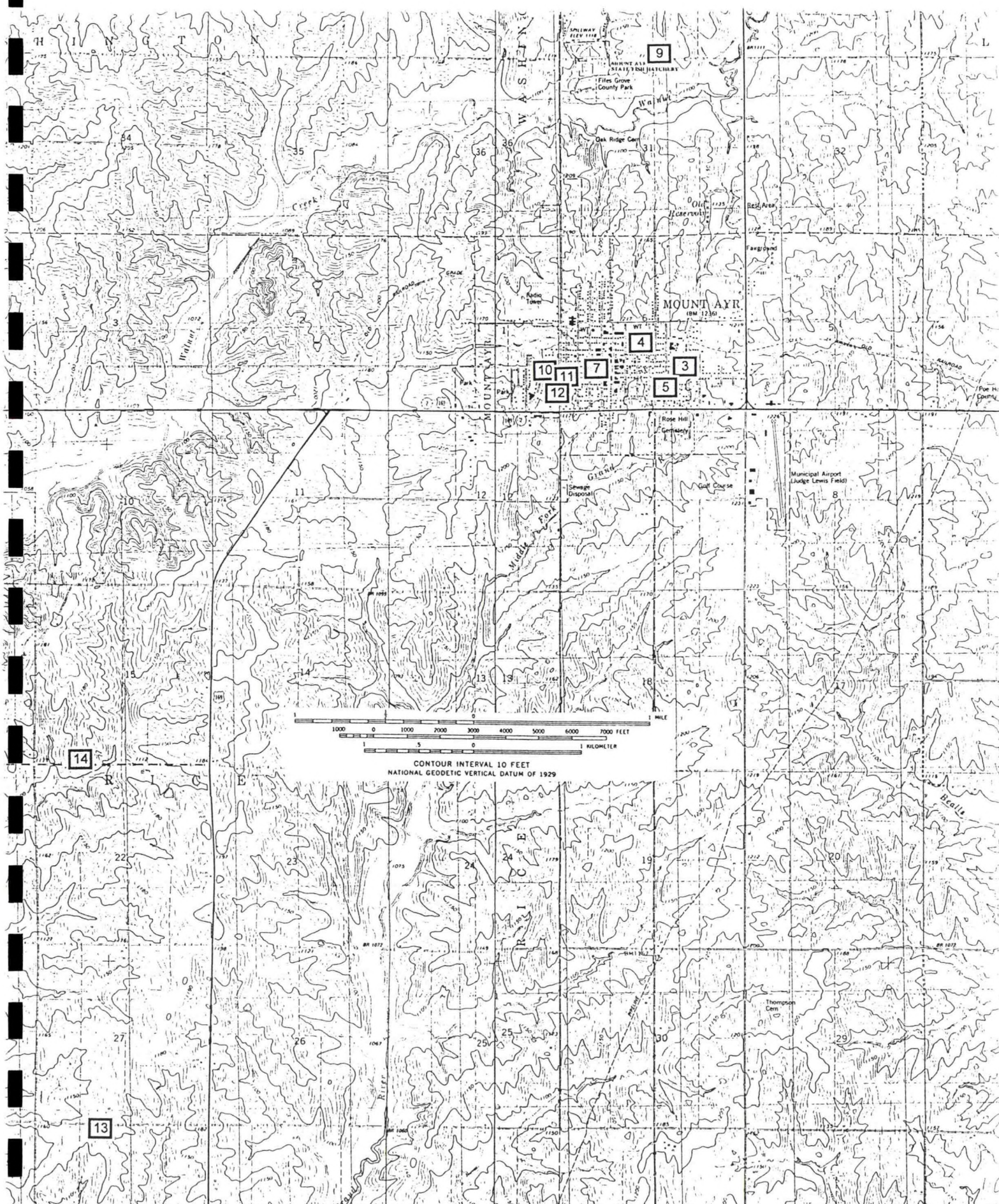
SCALE 1:24,000

# LOGAN



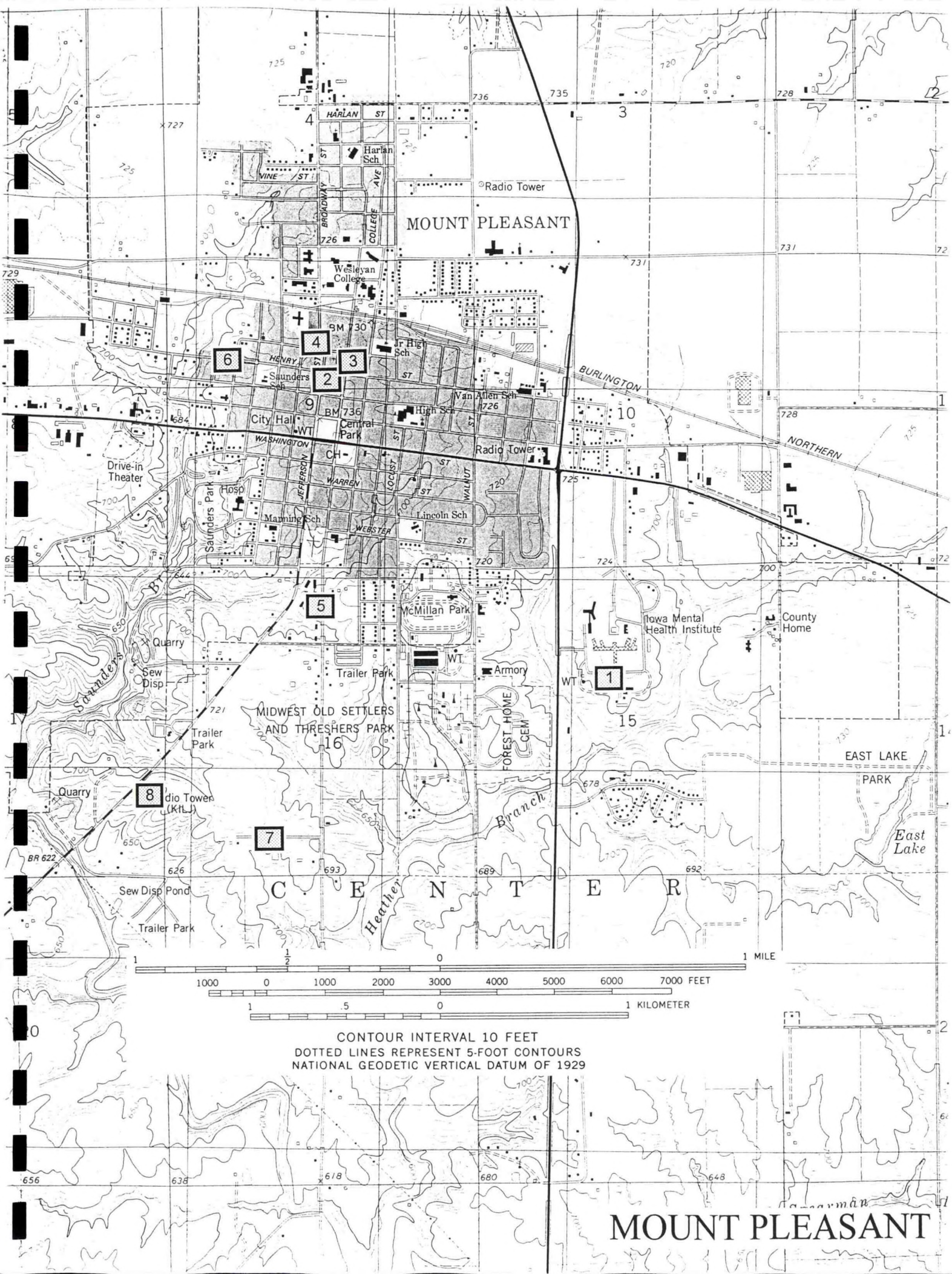
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 R 43 W 47' 30"  
 MISSOURI VALLEY 7 MI  
 BLAIR, NEBR. 20 MI.  
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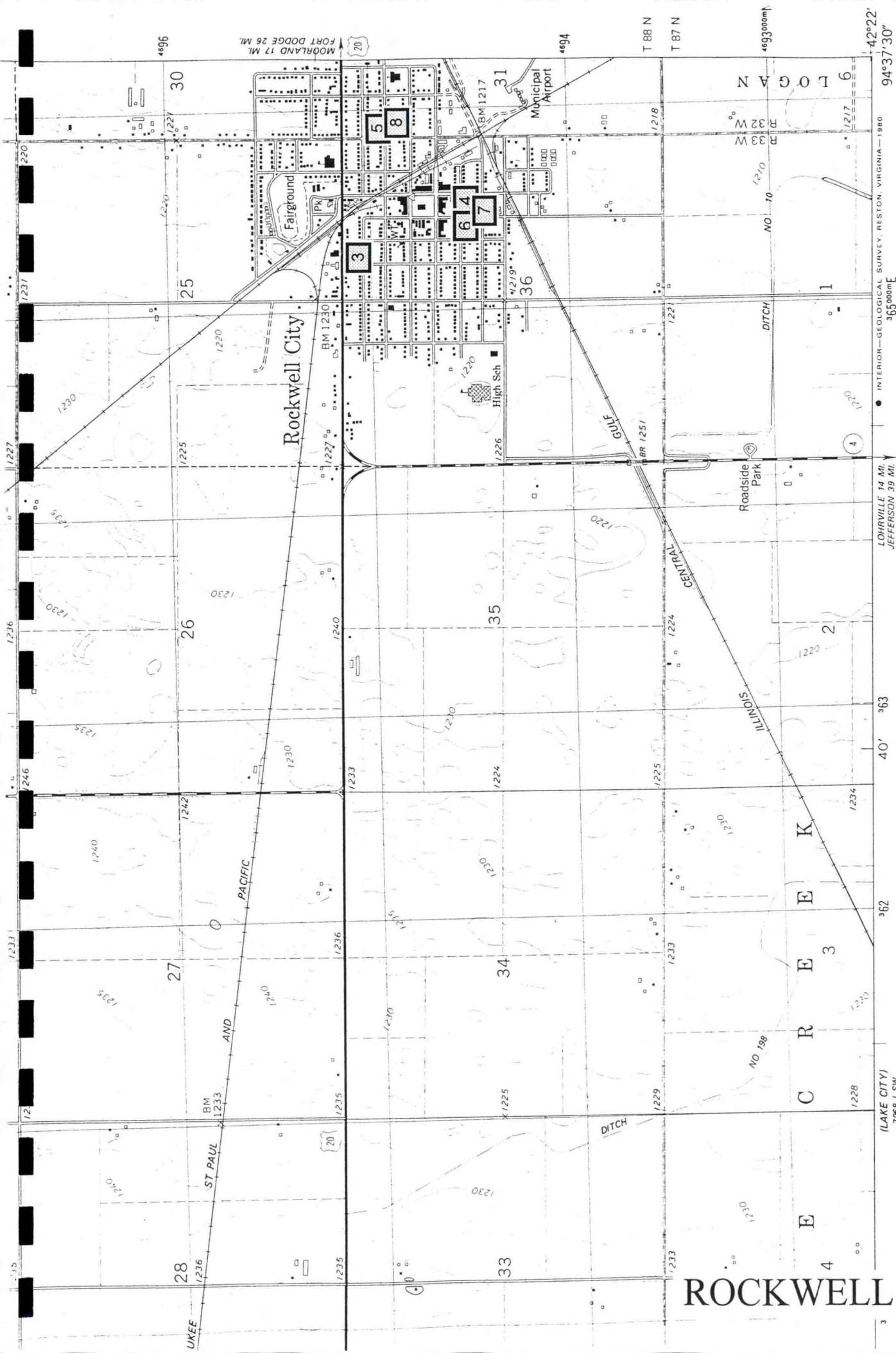




CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MOUNT PLEASANT

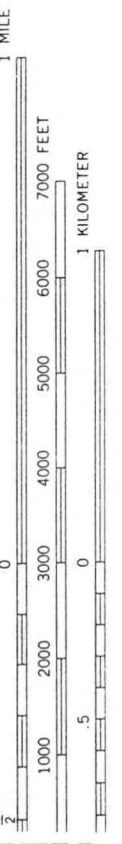




ROAD CLASSIFICATION

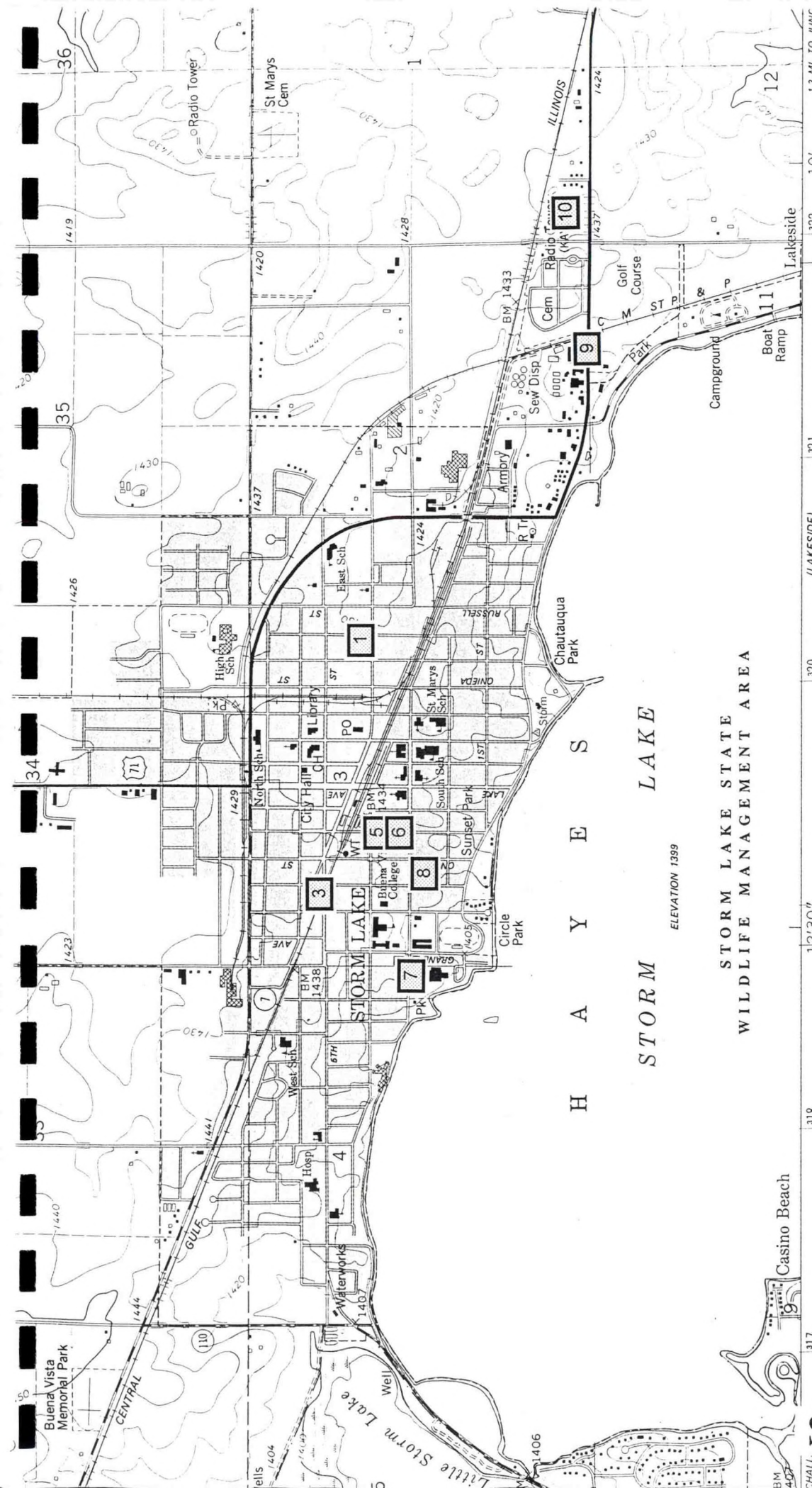
- Primary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
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- Unimproved road

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ROCKWELL CITY





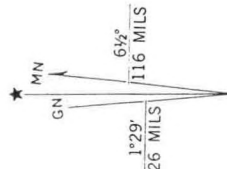
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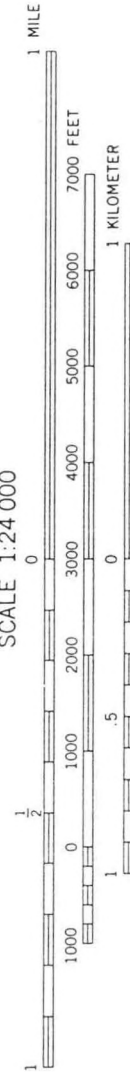
# STORM LAKE

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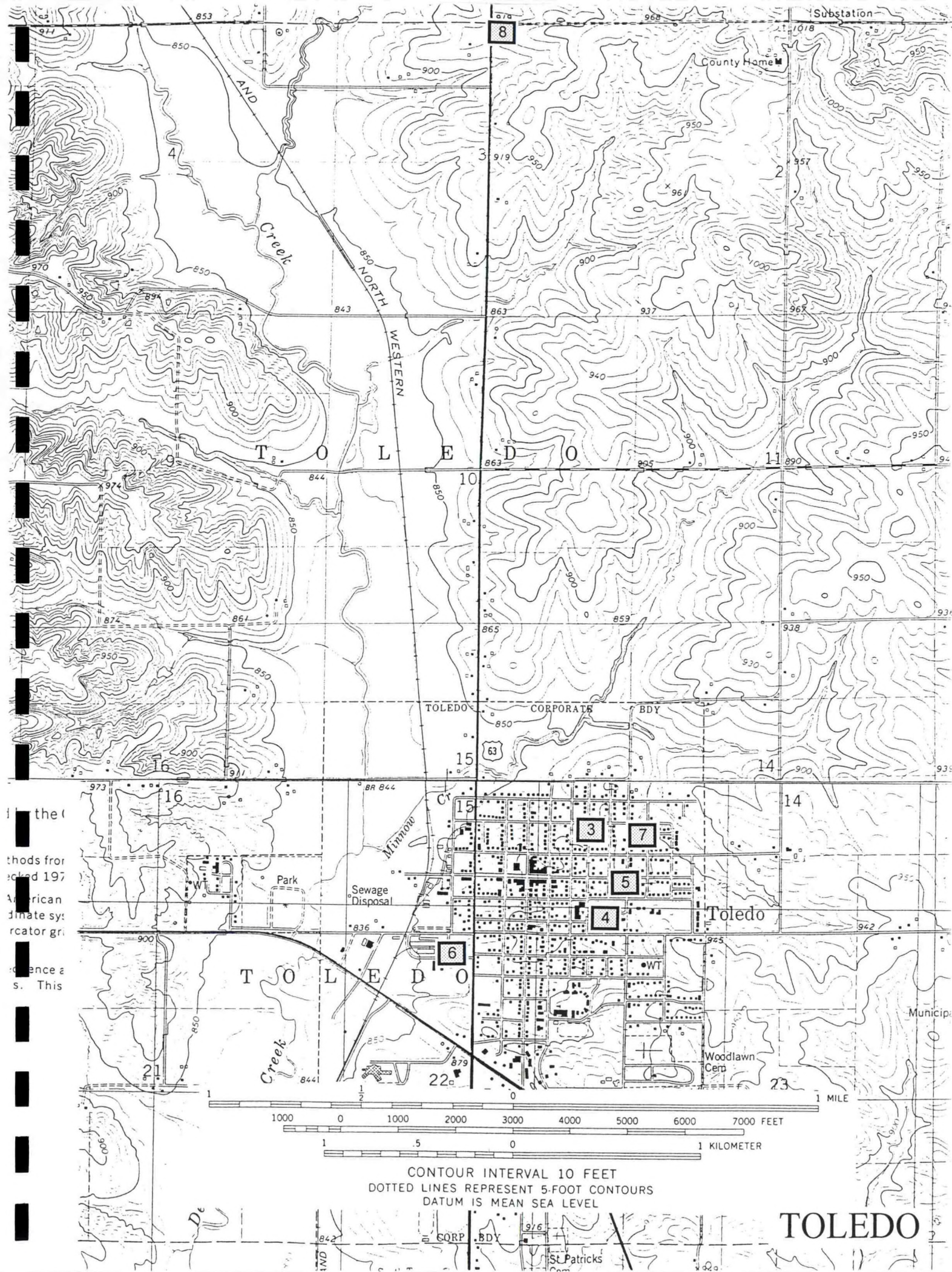


CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
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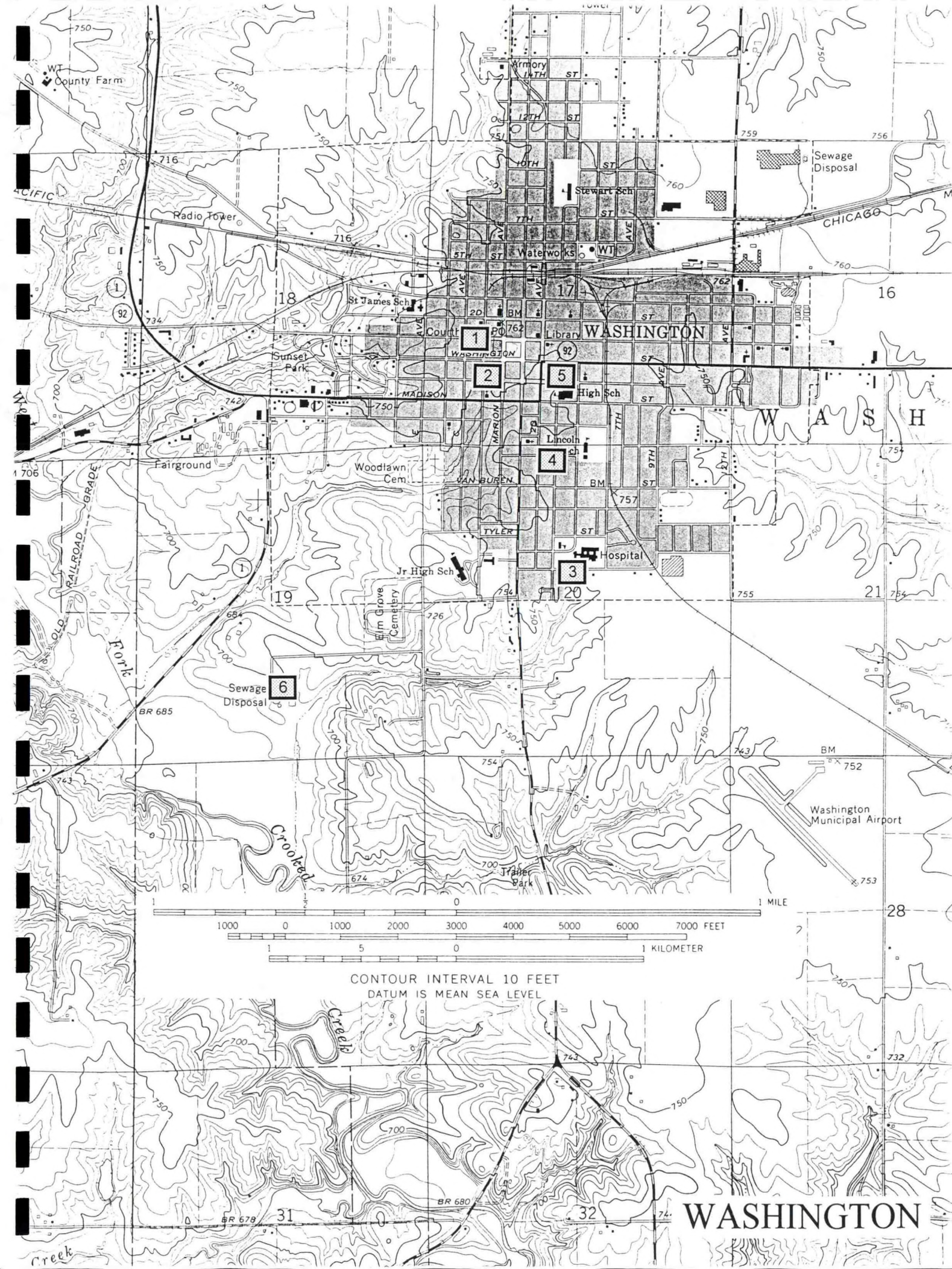
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE L











# APPENDIX 3

## Additional HCN Station Notes

Albia. This station has the distinction of having been moved most often. The instrumentation has been moved at least 16 times. In Albia most home lots are rather small thus the instrument exposure was frequently less than ideal owing to the close proximity of houses. Albia is located on high ground. Metadata is nonexistent until 1905 with the exact location of the weather station unavailable until 1913. The station was located in rural locations (both times on hill crests) from 1963-65 and from 1985 to the present.

The first documentation of the station location in February 1906 notes that the instrument shelter was built of 'house shutters' with dimensions of 3.0 x 2.5 x 1.5 feet. The floor of the shelter was only two feet above ground.

An interesting weather event was noted on November 11, 1911. On this date the temperature was 72° at 9 a.m.; a blizzard hit at 10:30 a.m. and the temperature fell to 5° by 9 p.m. that evening.

Algona. Station location unknown until 1904. The area is fairly level except where the river has cut a narrow valley. As far as is known the weather station has always been located in the relatively level 'upland' areas. It was located within the city until 1954 and in a rural location since then. Among the relatively few observers over the years only the records of Nolte (1941-1954) were consistently outstanding.

The first description of the instrument shelter in February 1906 was that of a 30 x 30 x 10 inch "box" mounted on the north side of a wood shed. Although the station was moved it appears that this same shelter remained in use when inspected in November 1928. At that time it was painted green and was mounted on the north side of a garage. It was noted that the circulation of the air was practically shut off within the shelter. A standard CRS was ordered and apparently installed shortly after this inspection.

Belle Plaine. The first detailed description of the instrumentation and exposure was made in 1914 with all standard Weather Bureau equipment in place at that time. It is not clear if the records of H.W. and S.P. Vandike were made at the same location. This station has had several excellent observers (Burrows, Rabe, Pech) with only one brief period of poor quality records (1992-95).

It appears that this station was located within the town until 1976. The town is generally built on a broad south facing hill slope. The 1976-1986 and 1995-present sites (same observer on same property) are on nearly level ground on the very edge of town and is



essentially a rural location. The 1986-1992 site also is on the edge of town but it was not possible to determine the exact location of the station (within a large seed processing complex). These latter two sites are also of much lower elevation than all of the other Belle Plaine station locations.

Some very interesting remarks are made on the monthly report forms during the 1890's. A description of an 'exploding meteor' is provided on March 27, 1894. On July 28, 1894 (a very severe drought year) a fire destroyed the entire business district of the town. Finally, on May 28, 1899 the observer measured a hailstone of 8.5 inches circumference 25 minutes after it fell.

Clarinda. The data quality appears to be very good for most of the period of record at this station. Several gaps in the record appear in the early 1950's. There have been relatively few observers at this station over the years. However, one observer (Harold Davis) moved three times in only three years. The city of Clarinda is built upon the east slope of a hill. A. S. Van Sandt was the weather observer until 1924. However, there are two addresses given for his location (203 and 1707 W. Washington). It is suspected that both addresses were actually on the same city block (a house numbering change?). The exact location of the second observer (Hawley) could not be determined. However, it is clear that the Hawley residence was on the extreme south edge of town with open farm fields adjacent to the station. The Water Works (1937-1963) was located on the extreme east edge of the city and is near the edge of the river flood plain. The instrumentation at the Water Works; however, was located atop a large eight foot high mound, thus perhaps reducing the expected effect of cold air drainage. Finally, the current location (since 1997) is totally rural and is strongly affected by cold air drainage in its valley bottom location. Also, the station was briefly located (1986-1988) on a north facing slope near a creek bottom within the north portion of town.

Fairfield. The documentation for this station is very poor until 1955. It appears that the station was associated with Parson's College until 1963. However, just where the instruments were located for the period prior to 1955 is not clear. At least a portion of this time it was located on the college campus but it possibly could have been moved several times. The quality of the records is fairly poor until 1947 with numerous changes in observer and small gaps in the record. The first instrumentation documentation was made in January 1914 and noted that the floor of the CRH was only 30 inches above the ground. This condition was noted again in December 1926 with the comment that it was to be raised to standard height in the spring of 1927. It appears that this non-standard exposure was frequently very shaded as well as on a northeast-facing slope. The college campus is on the north edge of the city with the overall topography sloping generally to the north-northeast. The station was located just south of campus in the 1955-1963 period on small residential lots with fairly poor exposures. Finally, the station was moved to the current rural Water Works location in 1963. However, the weather equipment at the Water Works has been in close proximity to fairly expansive buildings.



The weather observation form notes the occurrence of an earthquake at this location at 4 a.m. October 31, 1895.

Fort Dodge. Fort Dodge is by far the most populous of the 15 HCN cities examined in this study. The city is located on fairly level ground that is deeply dissected by the Des Moines River and several creeks. It appears that the weather station was associated with Tobin College until 1919. There are numerous observers during this early period and the records are not particularly stellar. The only address given (on Form 531-1) is for a residence although other documents clearly indicate that the station was on the college campus. The monthly form notes that the instruments and shelter were destroyed by fire on March 4, 1910. The quality of the records improves after 1919 with excellent data during the tenure of Kratosky (1942-1973). There have been numerous changes in observation times and completeness of data during the tenure of the current observer (Radio KWMT).

The May 1977 form notes that two tornadoes struck Fort Dodge on May 4, 1977 causing 9 to 12 million dollars damage with 1 fatality and 30 injuries. Hail up to baseball size was observed.

Indianola. Indianola is built upon the crest of a hill. The station was associated with Simpson College until 1920. The weather equipment was at an unknown location on the college campus until at least 1903. On the date of the first station description (1906) it was located at the observer's residence on the far west edge of town (specific address unknown). As was the case with most college weather stations there were many different observers over the years with frequent small gaps in the record. The station was again moved in 1921 to the home of the town's newspaper editor. There is a reference on a 1924 station inspection form that the station had been moved 7 blocks northeast of its previous location some time since 1921 (but no address given). However, another inspection form in 1942 gives the original 1921 address. Perhaps the station had been moved to the newspaper office at some point and then back to the residence? The Indianola weather station has been in or very near the city except for the period from 1965 to 1983 when it was at the Water Works. The Water Works location is rural and is in the valley bottom about 140 feet lower than the city. The current weather station location is on the extreme south edge of town with open fields immediately adjacent to the south of the station. The MMTS is located on a steep south-facing slope but is shaded by a tree during the afternoon hours.

Iowa Falls. This city is located on fairly level terrain that is bisected by the Iowa River. The exact location of the first observer (Parmelee) could not be determined but appears to be very close to that of Hensing (1969-1977). The station was in a rural location until 1954 and was again rural from 1963 to 1977. The 1963-1969 location was nearly in the Iowa River flood plain. The Iowa Falls station has suffered from very poor records of snowfall water equivalent and snow depth for much of its history.

Logan. This is the smallest town among the HCN stations examined. Logan is situated on an east-facing hill slope with the 1927-1966 locations on a rather steep east facing



slope on the higher west edge of town. The Stern family has the distinction of having been the weather observer for 100 years (1860-1960). However, the quality of the Stern's observations are rather poor by modern standards until the 1940's. It is not clear where the weather station was located in the early years of the record but appears to have been in town since at least 1904 (if not always). Holben (1967-1988) kept excellent records but the exposure was poor (trees and houses nearby). The station has been at the Sewage Treatment Plant since 1988 that is in a rural location in the valley bottom.

Mount Ayr. Mount Ayr probably is one of the poorest documented of the HCN stations examined. It was not possible to precisely locate any of the weather station locations until 1946 with the exception of one move in 1936 to a site that apparently was soon moved to another undocumented location at an unknown date. It is clear that the weather station was in a rural location for the 1946-1969 period and for the 1983 to present period. The quality of the weather observations at Mount Ayr has been poor for most of its history. This, combined with its poor station history data, probably would make it the poorest of the HCN sites examined in this study.

Mount Pleasant. This station was at the Iowa State Mental Hospital until 1904 and again was at that location from 1937 to 1944. The hospital is in a rural location but is comprised of numerous large buildings. It was not possible to determine the exact location of the weather station (probably more than one location) within the hospital campus. The station was definitely in an urban setting from 1904 to 1948 and again from 1963 to 1970. The station was in a 'nearly' rural location from 1948 to 1963 at a large house on a large lot. The station has been totally rural since 1970. However, the exposure of the MMTS has been extremely poor at its current location. The best quality records exist during the 1970 to 1985 period. The first station description in 1906 indicates that the thermometers were mounted on the north side of a house and that there was no shelter. A station inspection in March 1917 shows that there was a CRS by this time but it is not known when it was installed.

Rockwell City. The early station history for this city is almost non existent. The very first detailed station description does not appear until January 1927. The overall quality of the weather data is fairly poor until 1932 and, with but a few exceptions, is good since that time. Rockwell City is located on nearly level ground and the weather station has been located within the city since at least 1916. This city easily has the most uniform topography of any of the HCN cities examined.

Storm Lake. The station history data associated with this city is very poor. The WB Form 530-1 included detailed coordinates for the first Storm Lake location. These coordinates, unlike many of the early ones, do actually match up with a location within the city. The station appears to have been associated with Buena Vista College from 1906 to 1930 with the exact location of the instruments unknown for the 1906 to 1913 period. No street address is given for the next observer (Russel Edwards, 1930 to 1941) who is known to have moved about December 1935. However, the distance and direction of the Edward's locations from previous and subsequent observers is very inconsistent. This means that there may be an unknown third Edwards home or that at



least one of his residences is incorrectly described. To further complicate things there is no address given for the next observer (De Kalb Seed) and the seed plant apparently no longer exists. The quality of the Storm Lake observations have been only fair for much of its tenure and has been extremely poor since 1993. It is believed that the lake influences temperatures in the city during periods of south winds.

A severe thunderstorm toppled the KAYL radio tower on August 8, 1969 and destroyed the instrument shelter. The weather equipment since 1948 has been at the KAYL transmitter which is in a rural location east of town.

Toledo. A precise street address for the weather station is not available until 1928. The Toledo station was located within the city until 1964 except that there is a brief period from 1899 to 1903 when its location is unknown. Toledo has relatively large house lots and wide streets, thus the exposures of most of the weather stations is probably better than what would be found in most small Iowa towns. The weather station was at the Pioneer Seed Plant from 1964 to 1994 that is on the extreme west edge of town and is at a lower elevation than the city. The Pioneer site was far enough from buildings that it would have been nearly rural in character. The station was moved back into town from 1994 to 1999 and has been at a rural hilltop location since 1999.

Washington. This is perhaps the best documented HCN among those studied (mainly thanks to there being the same observer for a very long time during the beginning of this record). An inspection made in November 1926 notes that the instrument shelter is similar to a CRS but is larger in all dimensions. It was also painted dark green. The observer was asked to paint it white and to lower it about one foot to make it easier to read the thermometers. Considerable shading by trees apparently kept the dark green shelter color from affecting temperatures very much. Earlier descriptions did not indicate anything different about the shelter, thus it is not clear how long it was of non-standard design and color. With one exception (1937-1942) this station was always well within the borders of the city. During the 1937-1942 period it was at a nursery on the south edge of town. However, it appears that this site was well shaded by trees and probably was still 'urban' in character. Excellent observations were made from 1942 to 1999; however, the 1993 to 1999 site was very sheltered. Since 1999 the station has been at a rural location and about 60 feet lower in elevation than the city (but still about 20 to 30 feet above the valley bottom).



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