City of Carroll

112 E. 5th Street Carroll, Iowa 51401-2799 (712) 792-1000 FAX: (712) 792-0139

MEMO TO: Mike Pogge-Weaver, *City Manager* MJPW

FROM: Jack Wardell, *Director of Parks and Recreation* JW

DATE: September 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Memo to City Council – Carroll City Cemetery Building remodel

Barbara Hackfort and Vicki Gach of the Carroll Historical Society will be present to discuss the possibilities of remodeling the former Cemetery Shelter House/Chapel that was constructed in 1935. Attached to this memorandum are pictures of the building.

Currently the building is being used for storage of the mowers, the burners used to thaw the frozen ground during the winter and other miscellaneous equipment. If the shelter is converted back to the chapel the equipment will be stored somewhere else. The cemetery does have other options the staff will consider.

There are several attachments to this memorandum. The attachments are:

A. A letter from Barb Hackfort and Vicki Gach – Carroll Cemetery Museum project (working plan).

B. A sketch of the sign they would like built in front of the building

C. Carroll Cemetery History

D. Newspaper article dated June 11, 1935.

E. Pictures of stone Civil War and other monuments; American Legion Memorial wall and gates.

F. Pictures of the current north building, former City Cemetery office (middle building) and the south building

RECOMMENDATION: For the Mayor and City Council to give city staff direction on how to proceed with the proposed project.

Carroll Cemetery Museum project (working plan)

Goal: to preserve and repurpose an historic building in the Carroll Cemetery

Rationale:

The Cemetery Shelter House/Chapel was constructed in 1935 by the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration funds and local workers. Foreman Frank Walz led the workers. Sexton Will Light conceived the building. Engineer Harry Badley designed the structure, and Mason Lawrence Schwenk contributed to the durability and beauty of the project with his artistry in stone and concrete. The community of Carroll (partly through the IOOF cemetery committee) furnished the foreman and some of the materials.

The stone structure is part of the architectural "identity" of Carroll as in the cemetery wall, the entry to Swan Lake, the bridges and entries to Graham Park, the pillars at Merchants Park, the cemetery war memorials, etc.

Fall/Winter 2017:

- Present plan to City Manager, Parks and Rec Director, City Council
- Request funding (Carroll County Historical Society, Kiwanis, Rotary Club, previous donors to cemetery wall renovation, et al.)

Inside:
- Replace and putty six multi-paned windows
- Clean floor, walls, rafters
- Cap pipes
- Remove burners, equipment

Outside:
- Remove propane tanks and fence
- Move broken stones
- Groundwork; soil enhancement
- Repair stone step

Spring 2018:

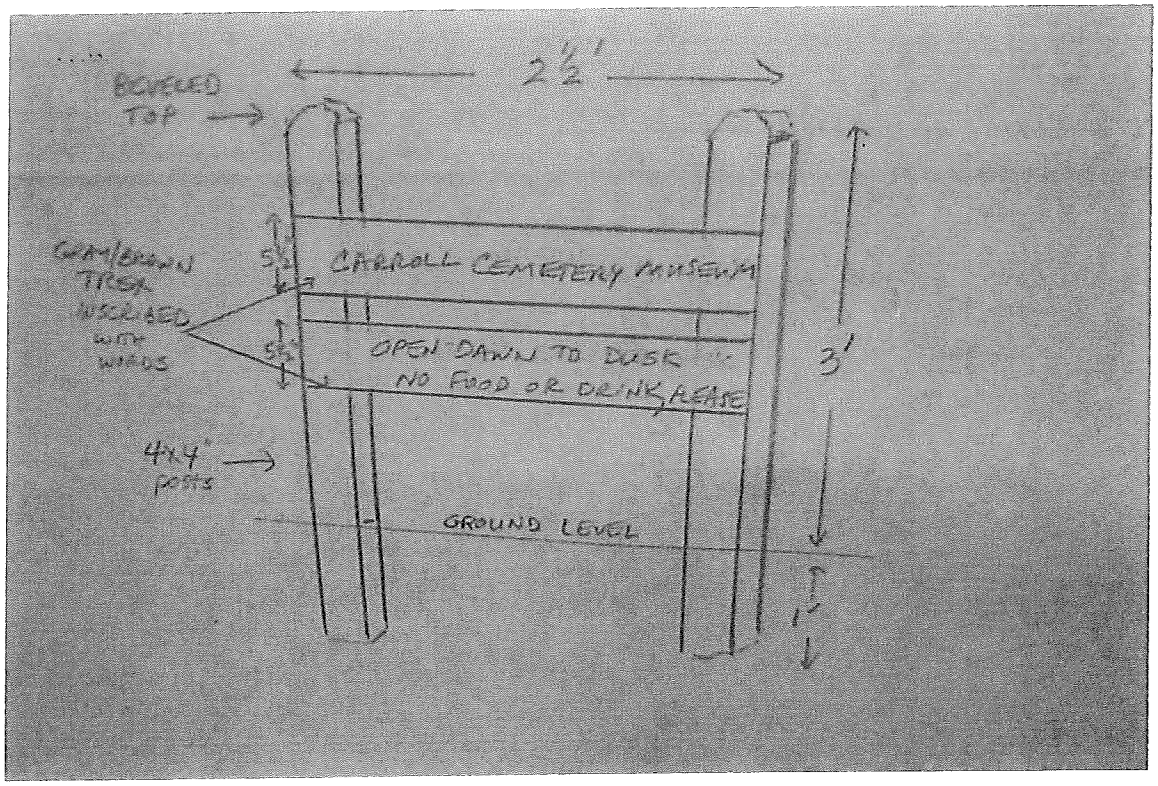
Inside:
- Create historical displays of articles, photos, maps about the cemetery
- Install pews from Carroll County Museum and Farmstead Barn

Outside:
- Landscape north, east, and south sides of the building with perennials /low maintenance bushes
- Install a cement bench outside the east door
- Install a freestanding sign to identify the building/hours:

CARROLL CEMETERY MUSEUM
Open Dawn to Dusk
No food or drink

Opening: Memorial Day – May 28, 2018

Attachment A



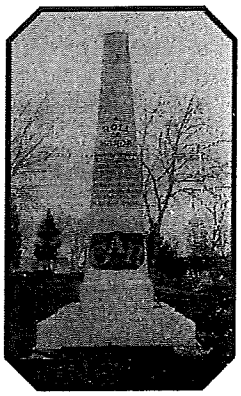
Attachment B

Attachment C

Carroll Cemetery History

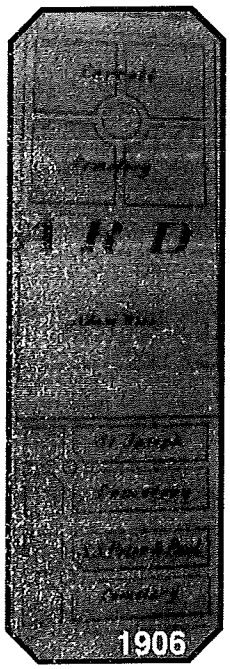
late 1860s - five bodies were buried just west of the present city cemetery. A ten acre lot was then purchased from the Blair Lot and Land Company for $99 to begin the Carroll City Cemetery

1870s - 1880s - 1890s - Carroll City Cemetery developed on the north end; Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Monument installed to honor Civil War soldiers



1876 - St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery began south of City Cemetery west of the Old Fairgrounds Road (Grant Road)

1886 - Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery established south of St. Joseph's Cemetery

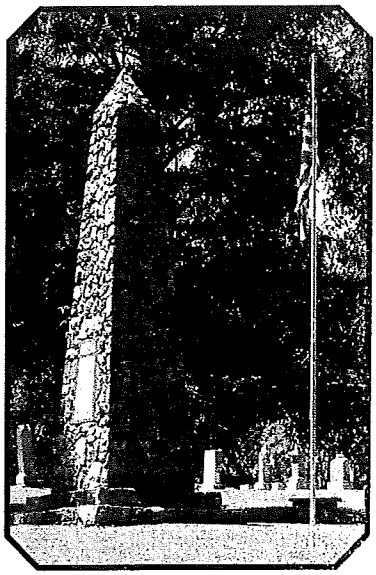


1880s - present - American Legion Post and Auxiliary, IOOF, and other civic and fraternal organizations sponsored Memorial Day parades to and services at the City Cemetery

1914 - 1962 - IOOF Chapter #279 Odd Fellows Cemetery Association cared for the city cemetery; parish cemetery associations maintained the Catholic cemeteries

1922 - driveway into the cemetery and around the memorial circle paved for $1100

1925 - 1933 - City Council planned to buy the 10-acre Adam Ries property between the City and Catholic Cemeteries to provide 800 more grave plots to be sold for $35 each



1934 - 1937 - Works Progress Administration projects: grading, tree planting, seeding, staking out lots, straightening grave markers; plan created to modernize rules and regulations to make the cemetery self-supporting within five years

1935 - The Civil War Memorial obelisk was built to

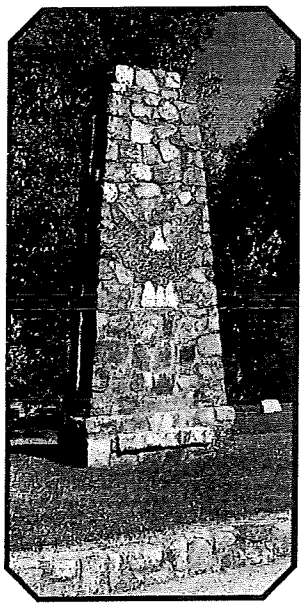
replace the G.A.R. monument, which had been blown down by strong wind earlier in the year

1935 - boulder shelter building/ toolhouse/ chapel constructed

May 30, 1936 - 85-ton Civil War Memorial obelisk dedicated

1936 - 1937 - east and north cemetery gates made of pig lead, boulder wall of native field stone and masonry, and stone rostrum / amphitheater constructed; cement curb and gutter laid

1937 - 1938 - American Legion erected a stone cenotaph as a World War and Korean War memorial; a Works Progress Administration project



1939 - 1940 - more trees planted in City Cemetery

1939 - four plaques on the Civil War Memorial were dedicated with the names of 68 Carroll persons who fought in the Civil War

1949 - 1956, 1958 - 1959 - Knights of Columbus sponsored Memorial Day field Masses at the Crucifixion Altar in the Catholic Cemetery

1954 - Catholic Cemetery Association organized (St. Joseph, Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Lawrence Parishes); Catholic Cemeteries named Mount Olivet Cemetery; landscaping program initiated; 100 trees planted

1962 - To meet state law, the City of Carroll took over perpetual care trusteeship of the City Cemetery from the IOOF Cemetery Association

1970 - City of Carroll took over the operation of Mount Olivet Cemetery; renamed the Mount Olivet Cemetery of the City of Carroll

1972 - 8.8 acres of land south of Mount Olivet Cemetery purchased for $16,500 for future expansion

May 28, 1990 - five monuments in a half circle around the Civil War Monument dedicated to give recognition to veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Prisoners of War

- Missing in Action personnel

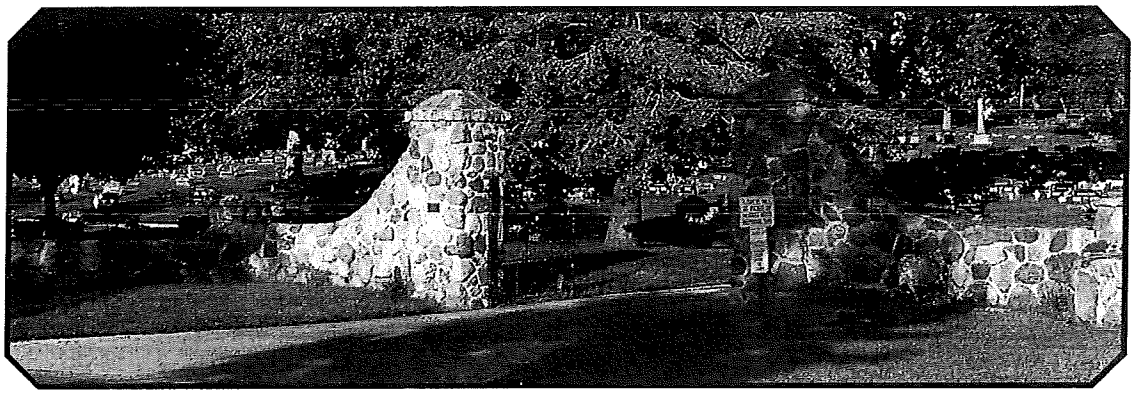
May 27, 1991 - monuments for the Spanish-American War and the Persian Gulf War were dedicated

2001 - Mount Olivet Cemetery roads asphalted

2004 - 2005 - to tuckpoint and reseal the boulder wall and pillars, Sexton John Snyder raised $15,000 in private donations, matched by Carroll City Council funding

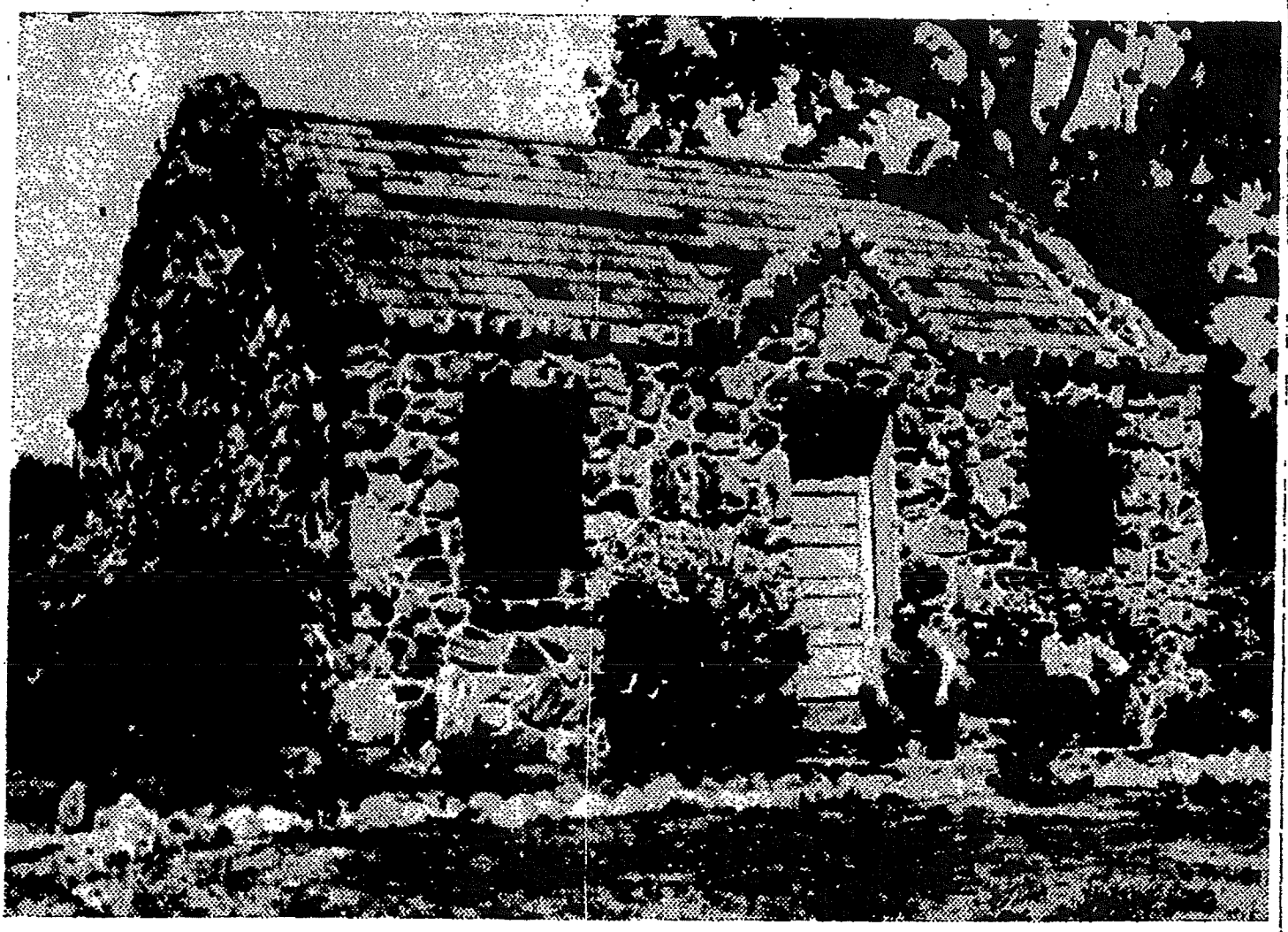
2005 - restoration of stonework on 1400 feet of wall, 89 pillars, and two entryways completed by Bernholtz Masonry; wrought iron fence on top of the wall repainted

2016 - maintenance building south of the cemetery constructed



CARROLL, IOWA, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1935

Cemetery Shelter House Nears Completion



IERA workmen under the leadership of Foreman Frank Walz are now putting the finishing touches on this beautiful new stone structure on the west side of the city cemetery. The house was originally conceived by Sexton Will Light and it is largely his efforts which brought the plan to a reality. The city is also indebted to Engineer Harry Badley, who designed the structure, and to Mason Lawrence Schwenk, whose artistry with stone and concrete has contributed a great deal to the durability and beauty of the project.

When completed, the shelter house will contain two rooms. One of them will serve as a garage and tool room. The other will be equipped with a fireplace and will be suitably furnished so as to be available for funeral services at the cemetery in inclement weather.

The existence of IERA (Iowa Emergency Relief Administration) made possible the erection of such a structure at low cost to the community. The IERA furnished the labor and $286 worth of materials. The community (partly through the I. O. O. F. cemetery committee) furnished the foreman and the balance of the materials at a cost conservatively estimated by Foreman Frank Walz at about $450.

Inasmuch as the need for such a shelter house will not be very great until later this year when cold weather sets in, the erection of the partition between the two rooms and the building of the fireplace will probably not take place until this fall when Mr. Schwenk will have more time available to devote to the task.

Daily Herald Newspicture

Attachment D

stone
Civil War/
other War
monuments
American
Legion
Memorial
wall/gates

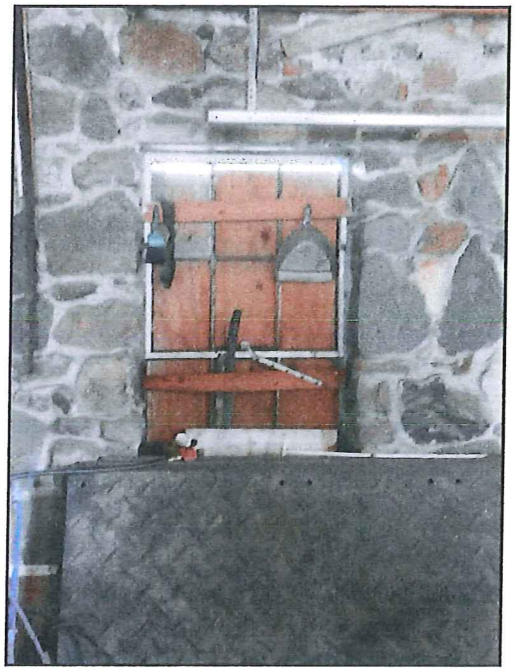
Attachment E

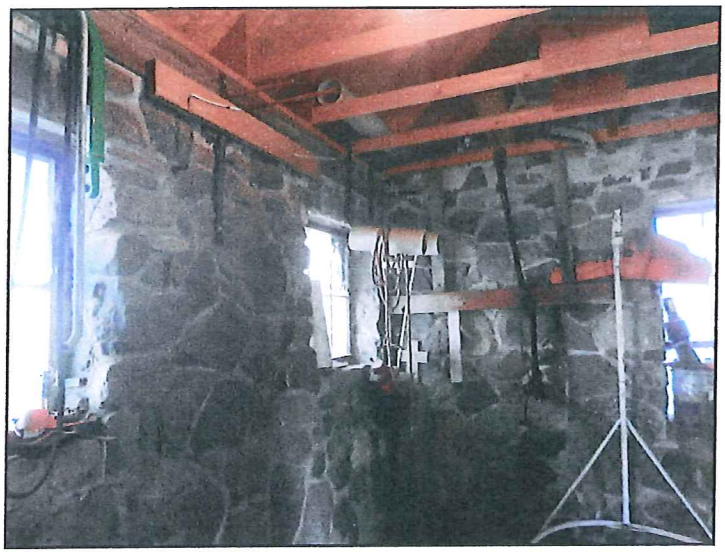
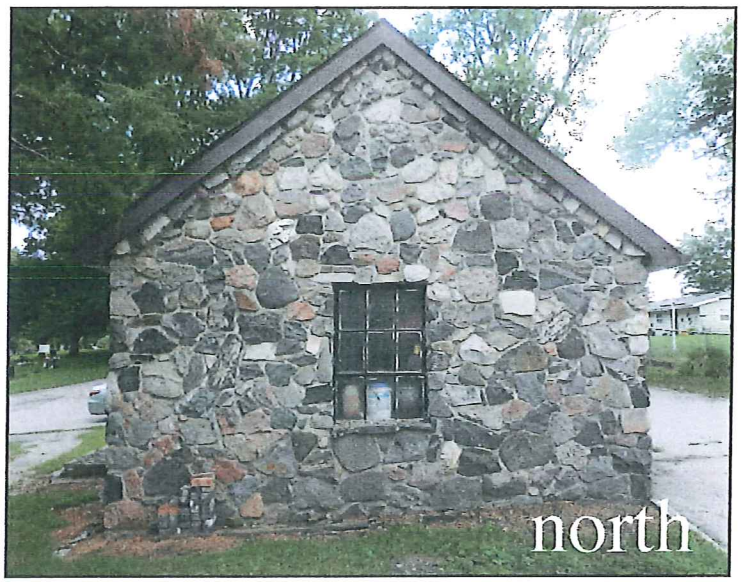
north building:
restroom in south half;
storage in north half

middle building:
mower/heater
winter storage

Attachment F

interior:
Cemetery Shelter House/ Chapel/ Museum





exterior:
stone
Cemetery
Shelter
House/
Chapel/
Museum