

In the Q: City Highlights Historic Landmarks Within the MedQuarter



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The City of Cedar Rapids will be installing the first 50 of what will be up to 200 'History Happened Here' marker plaques throughout the city when the project is completed. The idea is to highlight the places, people and neighborhoods that have contributed to the history of Cedar Rapids.

This effort started over a year ago and is a collaboration between City officials, Coe College, members of the Historic Preservation Commission, the African American Museum of Iowa and The History Center. The goal is to provide information about historic elements in a manner that encourages people to get out and explore the city. There are six sites within the MedQuarter that will be part of the program:

- Ausadie Apartment Building
- Bethel AME Church
- Fifth Avenue Roller Skating Rink
- Immaculate Conception Church and Rectory
- Mount Zion Baptist Church
- Raspberry Family Residence



HISTORY HAPPENED HERE!

Mount Zion Baptist Church

Mount Zion Baptist Church is the second oldest black congregation in Cedar Rapids. It has long served as a religious and social center for many African Americans. The congregation was formally established in 1914. One year later it purchased its first building—the former Hus Presbyterian Church—which stood here at 824 South 8th Street. After a fire destroyed that structure in the 1950s, the congregation built a new church. Following the 2008 flood, the congregation relocated to a new church (6621 C Avenue NE) and the 8th Street building was demolished. Mount Zion members were instrumental in founding the African American Museum of Iowa.



Group portrait of the congregation in front of Mount Zion Baptist Church in the 1960s. Collection of the African American Museum of Iowa, Gift of Tom Moore.



For a list of all the historic marker site locations, visit the [City's website](http://www.themedquarter.com).

If you are looking for an excuse to get out and get some exercise – both physically and mentally – here it is. What a great way to enjoy a crisp fall day!