14.7, number 1: Find all local maxima, local minima, and saddle points of $f(x, y) = x^2 + xy + y^2 + 3x - 3y + 4$.

Answer: We compute

$$f_x = 2x + y + 3$$

$$f_y = x + 2y - 3$$

$$f_{xx} = 2$$

$$f_{xy} = 1$$

$$f_{yy} = 2$$

We see that f_x and f_y are zero when both equations:

$$\begin{cases} x + 2y - 3 = 0\\ 2x + y + 3 = 0 \end{cases}$$
(1)

are satisfied. The solution set is not changed if we replace Equation 2 by Equation 2 minus 2 times Equation 1:

$$\begin{cases} x + 2y - 3 = 0\\ -3y + 9 = 0 \end{cases}$$

We see that y = 3 and x = -3. (By the way, we check that (-3, 3) really is the solution of (1).)

We apply the second derivative test at the critical point (-3,3). We see that $(f_{xx}f_{yy}-f_{xy}{}^2)|_{(-3,3)} = 2 \cdot 2 - 1$, which is positive; so we know that (-3,3) is a local minimum or a local maximum (and not a saddle point). We see that $f_{xx}|_{(-3,3)} = 2$, which is positive.

We conclude that (-3, 3, f(-3, 3)) is a local minimum point on the surface.