

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-02251 New Supplemental

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: _____

Non-extant Year: _____

Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website.

• Property Name

A) Historic name: Taylor Motors

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-007

• Location

A) Street address: 203 S. Jefferson St

B) City or town: Mount Pleasant (Vicinity) County: Henry

C) Legal description:

Rural: Township Name: _____ Township No.: _____ Range No.: _____ Section: _____ Quarter: _____ of Quarter: _____

Urban: Subdivision: Original Block(s): 6 Lot(s): Lot 6 - N 34' - also Lot 5 - S 30'

• Classification

A) Property category: *Check only one*

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

B) Number of resources (within property):

<i>If eligible property, enter number of:</i>		<i>If non-eligible property, enter number of:</i>	
<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>		
<u>1</u>	Buildings	<u>—</u>	Buildings
<u>—</u>	Sites	<u>—</u>	Sites
<u>—</u>	Structures	<u>—</u>	Structures
<u>—</u>	Objects	<u>—</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	Total	<u>—</u>	Total

C) For properties listed in the National Register:

National Register status: Listed De-listed NHL NPS DOE

D) For properties within a historic district:

- Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.
- Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.
- Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: Mt Pleasant Downtown Historic District Historic district site inventory number: 44-02280

E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable:

MPD title

Historical Architectural Data Base #

Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Mt Pleasant, Iowa

HADB-02986

• Function or Use *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Historic functions

02E01: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store

auto showroom

B) Current functions

02E09: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store / furniture

• Description *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Architectural classification

09F05: Commercial / brick front

08A: Moderne

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 10B: Concrete

Walls (visible exterior): 03: Brick, 16: Clay Tile

Roof: 05: Metal

Other: _____

C) Narrative description *SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED*

• **Statement of Significance**

A) Applicable National Register Criteria: *Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria*

- Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. Yes No More research recommended
Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons. Yes No More research recommended
Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics. Yes No More research recommended
Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology/history. Yes No More research recommended

B) Special criteria considerations: *Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none*

- A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. E: A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 B: Removed from its original location. F: A commemorative property.
 C: A birthplace or grave. G: Property less than 50 years of age or
 D: A cemetery. achieved significance within the past 50 years.

C) Areas of significance

Enter categories from instructions

05: Commerce

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1947 *check if circa or estimated date*

Other dates, including renovations

1974, 2010s

F) Significant person

Complete if Criterion B is marked above

G) Cultural affiliation

Complete if Criterion D is marked above

H) Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder/contractor

Martin Construction Company

I) Narrative statement of significance **SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED**

• **Bibliography** *See continuation sheets for the list research sources used in preparing this form*

• **Geographic Data** *Optional UTM references* *See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments*

Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD	Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD
1				2			
3				4			

• **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Rebecca Lawin McCarley / research by Pat White Date: February 27, 2024

Organization/firm: SPARK Consulting / Mt Pleasant HPC E-mail: sparkconsulting@octaspark.com

Street address: 1630 Park Ave SE Telephone: 319-200-9767

City or Town: Cedar Rapids State: IA Zip code: 52403

• **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** *Submit the following items with the completed form*

A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:

- 1. Map** of property's location within the community.
- 2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled** on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.
- 3. Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next to each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.**
- 4. Site plan** of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:

See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:

- Yes No More research recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

SHPO authorized signature: _____ Date: _____

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7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story brick building constructed in 1947 for Taylor Motors. The building has a façade of buff brick, which was popular in this period. The façade has a curved northeast and southeast corner, which originally included windows and a door on the first story level. The building was remodeled in 1974 for Home Furniture, which then eliminated the entry at the northeast corner for a recessed entry slightly off of the corner. The façade was clad in vertical wood panels at the time, which has been removed. The curved corners remain clad in horizontal siding. Large windows remain across the first story of the façade. The second story is framed by a slightly projected brick section, including stepped brick under the section. The second story retains three sets of windows. Originally, the window openings had a large center window with flanking eight-light windows. The current windows are paired one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows. A secondary section of the façade is located to the right/north, setback from the main section. This section originally had an overhead garage door on the first story, which has been infilled with brick and a large window. The second story window reflected the original design of the remainder of the windows on the façade, and it has likewise been replaced with paired one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows. The gable roof was added to the building prior to 1990, but it is unknown if this modification was part of the 1974 remodel or later. The tile block construction of the building is visible on the south elevation and rear/west elevation. Several large windows openings are found on the first story of the south elevation, which have concrete lintels and are covered with wood. Several large window opening are likewise found on the second story of the south elevation, which have paired one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows. Overall, the historic integrity of the building is fair.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Taylor Motors appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building within the potential Mount Pleasant Downtown Historic District. The building contributes to the historic commercial character of the downtown, and it reflects the period of downtown development after World War II. The original design of the building with its distinctive curved corners remains discernible, despite later modifications. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a historic commercial building in a historic district.

Based on research and evaluation conducted to date, this building does not appear to likely be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Developmental history of property

This two-story, brick building located at 203 South Jefferson Street was built in 1947, as a garage for Taylor Motors. Martin Construction Company was the general contractor.

The 1886, 1892 and 1899 Sanborn fire insurance maps show a very large, 1-story, frame building with a large, 1-story, frame addition, attached at the back/west. The building is an agricultural implements store and the address is 411 S Jefferson. The 1909 and 1920 Sanborn fire insurance maps now show two, frame buildings with iron-clad walls. The south building is 1-story, used for a granite shop and the address is 411-A S Jefferson. The north building is 2-story, used for farm implements and the address is 411-B S

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Jefferson. The 1942 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the two buildings as the previous maps. The south building is used for a granite shop; the address is 411-A S Jefferson. The north building is now a bottling works establishment; the address is 411-B S Jefferson.

On 1 December 1944, via warranty deed, Eva W. Kinney (widow) sells the S 30' of lot 5 and the N 34' of lot 6 block 6 to J.E. Taylor (Transfer Book "1", page 6).

Taylor Buys Local Building – Ed Taylor who operated a garage on the south side until a few weeks ago, has bought the Mrs. Max Kinney building and will open a garage in the portion now occupied by the Case monument firm. The Wilson Pepsi Cola bottling company will continue in the location for some time (*Mount Pleasant News*, November 8, 1944, page 1).

In March 1946, the City granted a building permit to Ed Taylor to build a new garage at his location on South Jefferson. He previously intended to do remodeling, but is now making plans for a new building (*Mount Pleasant News*, March 2, 1946, page 1)

New Garage Under Construction – Ed Taylor Making Local Improvement – The present location of the garage and the additional space formerly occupied by the Pepsi Cola plant are being included in one building (*Mount Pleasant News*, April 8, 1947, page 1).

Taylor Garage Is Completed – The newest garage building in Mt Pleasant – Taylor Motors – just south of southwest corner of the square – adds another fine building to Mt. Pleasant's unusually fine array of garages – pictured elsewhere in this issue. It is an attractive structure with commodious show room and adequate space for the mechanical department. Some features: curved walls, setting of the plate glass windows at an angle for better view into show room, section of glass brick that commands attention at night. A second story towards the front of the building provides space for office rooms. Large windows make these rooms desirable. Open house by Ed Taylor at garage on Saturday. Martin Construction Company – general contractor. (*Mount Pleasant News*, September 26, 1947, pages 1 & 4).

Taylor Motors is shown at 203 S Jefferson in Mount Pleasant city directories through 1960. They are listed as Chrysler & Plymouth; Automobile Agencies & Dealers.

Auto Dealer Is Tractor Victim – Edward Taylor, 52, well known Mt. Pleasant auto dealer, was accidentally killed when the tractor he was driving overturned and dropped into the Skunk River. Taylor had operated Taylor Motors for many years, having a Chrysler and Plymouth dealership. He had been in the retail car business most of his adult life. (*Mount Pleasant News*, May 3, 1961, page 1).

On 4 May 1962, Darline Taylor (administratrix of the J.E. Taylor Estate) sold the S 30' of lot 5 and the N 34' of lot 6 to Builders, Incorporated (Transfer Book "2", page 7). The city council amended a city ordinance lowering the yearly fee for the operation of a roller-skating rink to be constructed in the former Taylor Motors building on S Jefferson by Carl Burky and Orval Morrison (*Mount Pleasant News*, July 19, 1962, page 1).

Mount Pleasant city directories show a roller-skating rink (The Round-About and the Skatium) operated at 203 S Jefferson from 1963-early 1966).

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Will Open New Gibson Store – Gibson Discount Center will be located in the O.M. Morrison building, the former Skatium location. (*Mount Pleasant News*, April 28, 1966, page 1). Gibson Discount Store was located at this site (1966-1974) “until they relocated into a newly constructed building east on Highway 34. Their grand opening was held in December 1974.” (“Events of the Year,” *Mount Pleasant News*, December 27, 1974, page 9).

Home Furniture Announces Move – Mr. and Mrs. Don Kiesey, owners of Home Furniture, announce their firm will be moving to the present Gibson building. Demolition will start in the near future of the area now occupied by Watson Body Shop. A new addition will be built adjoining the Gibson building. With this addition, Home Furniture will be twice the size of their present building (*Mount Pleasant News*, August 16, 1974, page 1). “Demolition work is well underway in the area which was occupied by Watson Body Shop on West Washington. The building is being razed to make room for an addition to Home Furniture, which will be moving to the present Gibson building. The move and addition will give Home Furniture approximately 14,000 square feet.” (*Mount Pleasant News*, November 2, 1974). (New building at 204 W. Washington St, see Iowa #44-00445).

Open House – Home Furniture, formerly located on the south side of the square, will hold an open house at its new location. The new building features two entrances, at 203 S Jefferson and 204-208 West Washington. Don, Mary, Ed Kiesey and Jerry Houlton are stockholders of the corporation which owns the firm. (*Mount Pleasant News*, April 3, 1975, page 1).

The building has been owned since January 2016, by Sheila Madison Kiesey, who acquired it from Builders, Incorporated. This large, commercial building is currently occupied in 2024, by Your Dream Home Furniture & Floors, owned and managed by Heather and Dwayne Leichty. The adjacent, related building to the north of the rear section of this building also is occupied by Your Dream Home Furniture & Floors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Review of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago, IL: Hobart Publishing Company, 1906.

Birds-Eye View of the City of Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa. No publisher noted, 1869. In collection of Mount Pleasant Public Library, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Building and sign permits, City of Mount Pleasant, Iowa

City and telephone directories, Mt Pleasant:

Bowron, Watson. *Henry County Directory for 1859-60*. Burlington, IA: Watson Bowron, 1859.

Annawalt & Lawrence’s Bi-ennial Mt Pleasant Directory. Burlington, IA: Hawk-Eye Steam Printing House, 1867.

Annawalt, E.H., compiler. *Mount Pleasant City Directory*. Burlington: Daily Gazette, 1870.

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Mason, George T. *Directory of Henry County, Iowa, 1911-12*. Mt. Pleasant, IA: The News, 1911.

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Johnson Publishing Co. *Mt Pleasant, Iowa*. City directories issued in 1955, 1957, 1960, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1873, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1993, 2001, 2011. Manitowoc, WI: Johnson Publishing Co.

Cornerstones. Mt Pleasant: Mt. Pleasant Beautiful Committee, 1991.

Henry County Bicentennial Commission (HCBC). *The History of Henry County*. Dallas, TX: National ShareGraphics, Inc., 1982.

Henry County Historical Society. Vertical files and albums in files at Mt Pleasant Public Library.

Henry County Heritage Trust. Collection of historic images, in files and posted in Facebook albums. Collection in former Saunders School, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Henry County Recorder's Office / Henry County Auditor's Office. Property records, transfer books, and deed records. Henry County Courthouse, Mt Pleasant, Iowa

History of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Jaynes, Peter H., ed. *Highlights of Henry County History 1833-1976*. Burlington, IA: Doran & Ward Lithographing Co., 1977.

Mount Pleasant Beautiful. Mt Pleasant: Mt Pleasant News Company, 1909. Reprint issued in 1988.

Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Sesquicentennial, 1835-1985 (MPS). Mt Pleasant, IA: The Committee, 1985

Naumann, Molly Myers. *Architectural and Historical Resources of Mount Pleasant, IA*. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Documentation Form, May 1991. On file with the State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, IA.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1888.

Sanborn Map Company. *Mount Pleasant, Iowa*. Fire insurance maps for 1886, 1892, 1899, 1909, 1920, 1942. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection.

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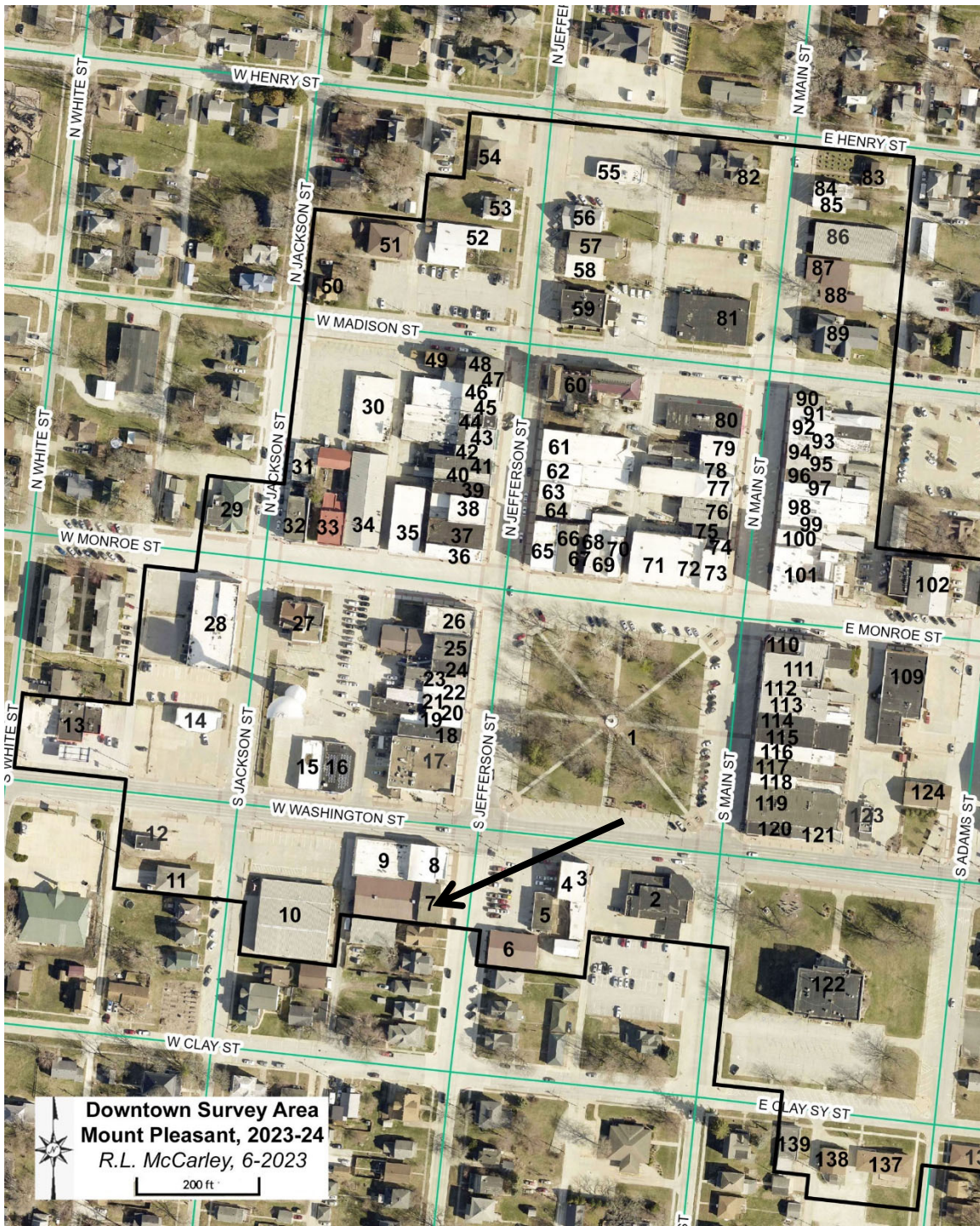
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Location map



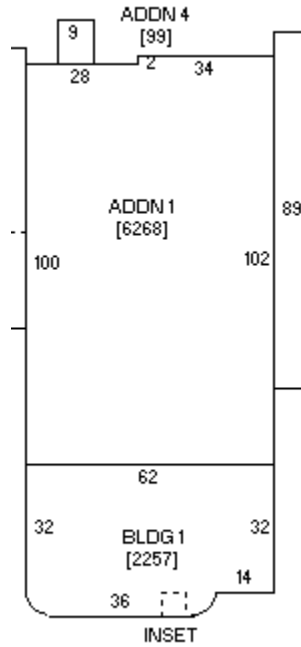
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Building footprint



Henry County Assessor (<https://beacon.schneidercorp.com>)

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Historic images



Taylor Motors ad in 1952 city directory

(Johnson Publishing Co. *Mt Pleasant, Iowa, 1952 City Directory*)

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West elevation of building in 1975 (HCHS binder, Mt Pleasant Public Library)

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1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 44-02251-001. Façade of building, looking west (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-02251-002. South elevation, looking northwest (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-02251-003. South elevation, looking northwest (June 2024)

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Photograph 44-02251-004. West elevation, looking southeast (June 2024)

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Photograph 44-02251-005. West elevation, looking northeast (June 2024)