

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-00209 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: Lash Building

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-020

• Location

A) Street address: 115 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): 5 Lot(s): Lot 7 - N 20'

• 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>	
Contributing	Noncontributing		
<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

02E03: COMMERCE / specialty store / dry goods

02E11: COMMERCE / specialty store / grocery

B) Current functions

02G92: COMMERCE/TRADE / restaurant

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

A) Architectural classification

09F05: Commercial / brick front

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04C: Limestone

Walls (visible exterior): 03: Brick

Roof: 15C: Rubber

Other: _____

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

Site Number: 44-00209 Address: 115 S. Jefferson St City: Mt Pleasant County: IA District Number: 44-02280

• **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

02: Architecture

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1855 *check if circa or estimated date*

Other dates, including renovations

1911, 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

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: March 4, 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: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 1

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story brick building that appears to have been built as a dry goods store for James G. Lash around 1855, immediately prior to the arrival of the railroad. The 1990 survey form notes that “the simple Greek Revival pilasters, stone entablature, and brick patterned cornice are consistent with a pre-1856 date.” The building continues to retain these features on the second story. A stone band separates the storefront from the second story level, as well as providing a “base” for the brick pilasters to rest. These brick pilasters have stone capitals and “support” the simple stone entablature that spans the building. Historic photographs show narrow French doors that span the full height of the “window” openings between the pilasters. These doors were replaced by one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows during the remodel in 1911 for the grocery store of Walter Shepp. The concrete sills and brick under the sills were added at this time. The windows were replaced in the 1990s by smaller one-over-one-light double-hung windows with infill in the remainder of the openings. The brick parapet retains its simple design of three inset rectangular panels and a stone cap. The storefront was remodeled to the configuration of a large window on the left/south half and a recessed area with the store and upper story entry on the right/north portion in the 1911 remodel. The storefront has been remodeled at least three times since 1911, with the current storefront remodel dating to the 2010s. The store and upper story entry remain at the right, with a large window with stone cladding the wall under the window. The building retains a long one-story addition at the rear, which also appears to have been built in 1911 (not on 1909 map, on 1920 map). The addition is tile block construction. Vertical metal siding clads the south side, west side, and most of the north side. A rear entry is found on the west/rear elevation.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Lash Building 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. The Greek Revival pilasters, stone entablature, and brick patterned cornice reflect its original construction around 1855 in the earlier period of development of the downtown historic district. The 1911 remodeling is also significant for this building, with the double-hung window openings created at this time and the storefront configuration changed. 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. Assessment of the interior features and modifications would be required for a full evaluation of the individual eligibility of the building.

Developmental history of property

This brick commercial building appears to have been built around 1855, during a period of intense local building anticipating the arrival of the railroad in Mt Pleasant. Unlike several other buildings on the west side of the square, it retains elements of its general design from this period.

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 2

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

“J.G. Lash” is the proprietor of a dry goods and grocery store per the 1859-1860 Henry County Directory alphabetical listing of residents (page 53). The business was located at No. 8 Jefferson, west side of the public square. James G. Lash (1816-1860) is enumerated in both the 1856 and 1860 census of Mt. Pleasant, and his occupation is merchant. He was born in January 1816 to Virginia to Thomas and Elizabeth Lash, per Ancestry.com family tree and grave marker information. The 1860 census lists him as a 44-year-old merchant with several children, including an eight-year-old son born in Virginia and a six-year-old daughter born in Iowa. Thus, the family appears to have moved to Mt Pleasant around 1855. As two of his brothers moved here in 1837 and 1847, he likely knew of the impending arrival of the railroad and resulting boom in town. Assuming that constructed this building upon his arrival, it would have likely been built around 1855, a time of extensive building in town. James G. Lash died on November 5, 1860, and he is buried in Old City Cemetery. John B. Lash was the administrator of his estate, with notice given in September 1861 for the sale of his property on the north ¼ of Lot 7 in Block 5 (this property) and Lot 8 in Block 12 (a house) to his wife Elizabeth M. and a number of children: John R., Charles W., Emma I., Sarah C., Thomas R., James A., Rowena, George E., Harry I. Lash.

This property was acquired by John B. Lash (1808-1891) and his brother Thomas Lash (1829-1902), who are noted as opening a store together again in 1860. John B. and Thomas Lash own the N ¼ of block 5 lot 7 in the first transfer book (Transfer Book “A”).

John B. Lash was among the first settlers in Mt Pleasant, arriving in 1837. He was born in 1808 to Thomas and Elizabeth Lash in Virginia, moving to Indiana in 1836 and working as a merchant’s clerk. He brought a stock of goods from Indiana to sell for A.B. Hughes, arriving in April 1837. He opened the second store in town, and he is credited with building the first brick house. He sold stock for Hughes for several years, and then opened his own business. In 1849, he formed a partnership with Samuel Smith and William Thompson, which continued until 1856. John B. Lash served as alderman in 1856-1859. He then reopened the dry goods business with his brother Thomas in 1860, retiring in 1873 (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County* 1888: 547-48).

Thomas Lash was born in Virginia (later West Virginia) in 1829 to Thomas and Elizabeth Lash. He moved to Mt Pleasant in 1847, operating a harness shop for two years. He then entered the employ of Lash, Smith, & Co as a clerk for seven years. The senior member of the firm was his brother John B. Lash. He briefly had a partnership with his brother in 1856, and then clerked for A.R.H. Allen. In 1860, Thomas formed a partnership with his brother, and they continued together as Lash Brothers in the dry goods business until 1873. Thomas then conducted the business by himself until retiring in 1899 (“An Old Pioneer Gone,” *Mt Pleasant Journal*, December 30, 1902, 1; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County* 1888: 533).

An article in *The Free Press* in April 1899 when Thomas Lash retired notes that he had been a merchant in Mt Pleasant for over half a century and operated since 1860 in the same store on the west side. Thomas, and his brother John B. Lash, were early residents of Mt Pleasant, leading merchants, and influential citizens. When John retired, Thomas took possession at the same stand, where he continued until retirement in April 1899 (“Business Changes,” *The Free Press*, April 20, 1899, 5).

A circa 1865 photo of the west side of the square clearly shows a 2-story brick building in this location. J.B. & T. LASH is shown in large, bold lettering above the store’s entryway. The 1867 and 1870 Mount Pleasant City Directories advertise J.B. & T. Lash operating a retail dry goods & notions store at No. 8

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 3

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

Jefferson. Also at No. 8 Jefferson, Mrs. R.C. White offered Millinery and Fancy Goods. Her shop was probably located on the second floor of the building.

On 1 February 1877, J.B. Lash (per sheriff) sells an undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in the N $\frac{1}{4}$ of lot 7 block 5 to the City of Mount Pleasant, which in turn transfers the same property to Thomas Lash on 17 April 1877 (Transfer Book "A").

Thomas Lash, Dry Goods, is advertised in the 1884-1885 Iowa Gazetteer and Business Directory. The 1886 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a 2-story brick building with stairs on the north side of the front, interior wall. There is an opening to a 1-story brick addition at the rear. The address is #8, and the building is used for a general store. At the alley is a 2-story frame (yellow) stable, with #8 $\frac{1}{2}$ as an address. The 1892 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same 2-story brick building with the same footprint as the 1886 map. The address is now 127 S Jefferson, as well as #8. The building is used for notions. The large stable at the alleyway has been replaced by several small, frame sheds. The 1893 Mount Pleasant City Directory advertises Thomas Lash, "Dry Goods" and "Clothing, Gents' Furnishings", at 127 S Jefferson.

Thomas Lash retired from business in April 1899, after operating a store at this location since 1860. He sold his stock to W.M. Bartlett ("Business Changes," *The Free Press*, April 20, 1899, 5). In April 1899, a sale of goods in the store formerly owned by Thomas Lash was advertised as Bartlett's West Side Store. This sale was goods acquired from the business, with a note that they would not be moved to "The Big Store." This main store continued to offer a stock of spring goods (*Free Press*, April 20, 1899, 8). Mr. Bartlett was to open the store as a west side branch to his main location of his dry goods and clothing business ("Thomas Lash Sold Out," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, April 18, 1899, 1)

The 1899 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same 2-story brick building, with the height given as 25'; the footprint remains the same, but the interior stairway is gone. The address is 127 S Jefferson and the sheds are still shown at the alleyway. The building is used for a queensware store (dishes). The 1909 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the 2-story brick building with a height of 24'. The footprint, with the 1-story brick addition is the same as previous years. An open frame stairway is now shown at the rear of the building. The address is 127 S Jefferson; only one frame shed is at the alley. The store now sells dishes. It is unknown at this time if Bartlett continued a west side branch at this location through this period, or if it was another store. Bartlett offered queensware for sale in advertisements, along with a variety of other dry goods and clothing.

On 4 April 1910, Martha A. Lash and Wm. T. Lash sell the N $\frac{1}{4}$ of lot 7 block 5 to A.P. Black (Transfer Book "C") Note: Martha A. Lash is the widow of Thomas Lash; Wm. T. Lash is their son.

The building was then sold to Walter Shepp in 1911. In December 1908, Walter Shepp purchased the grocery stock of C.S. Lauger on N. Jefferson St, continuing to operate the grocery store in that location (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, December 4, 1908, 1). He moved his grocery business to this location in late 1911. On November 29, 1911, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* noted that the store building on the west side recently purchased by Walter Shepp was being remodeled, with a new storefront put in. He would then move his grocery there (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, November 29, 1911, 2). In the 1911-12 Directory of Henry County, Walter E. Shepp advertises as a grocer, located on the west side of the square. Shepp is also listed in the "Feed" category. Shepp was ordered to remove two old wooden sheds at the rear of

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 4

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

his grocery building in 1914 (*Mount Pleasant News-Journal*, 15 September 1914, page 1). A 1918 photo confirms the location of the Walter E. Shepp Grocery, as the name is displayed on an awning above the store's entryway. The storefront has a large window with a transom on the left/south half with a recessed entry area on the north/right portion. The windows above the storefront have been modified to one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The building has also been painted. The 1920 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a significant change to the footprint of the building. A 1-story brick / tile block addition, with a cement floor has been added, extending the entire building to the alley. The front 2-story is 24' and used for a grocery store. The rear portion is a ware room, with an auto garage included. The address continues to be 127 S Jefferson.

Telephone directories from 1913 to 1927 list Walter E. Shepp, groceries, on S. Jefferson on the west side of the square. The address is listed as 127 S. Jefferson starting in 1923. In May 1928, the newspaper noted that Walter Shepp was improving his store front on west side and putting in new joists ("Improving the Town," *Mt Pleasant News*, May 19, 1928, 1). Walter Shepp, grocery & meat, is listed on the west side of the square in the 1938 city directory. The 1942 Sanborn fire insurance map appears identical to the 1920 map, with the same usage as a grocery store; warehouse and garage for an automobile. The address continues to be 127 S Jefferson. The 1939 and 1944 telephone directories continue to list the grocery store of Walter E. Shepp at 127 S. Jefferson.

Walter E. Shepp (1883-1955) owns and operates the grocery store until 3 August 1945, when the store becomes the P & G, Grocery & Market (*Mount Pleasant News*, 2 August 1945, page 1). The "P" stood for Pete Miller and the "G" for Gus Clifton who had purchased Shepp's business in July (*Mount Pleasant News*, July 17, 1945, page 1). At the sale, Walter E. Shepp "concluded 40 years in business in Mt. Pleasant". He continued to own the building. On 12 April 1956, the title to the N ¼ of lot 7 block 5 changes from the Walter E. Shepp Estate to Edith M. Shepp, Walter's widow (Transfer Book "2").

The 1948 telephone directory lists P&G Store on the west side of the square. Telephone and city directories continue to list P & G Market at this location (127 South Jefferson), with Clifton and Miller as partners. In 1955, the store is listed at 127 S. Jefferson. In 1957, the address changes to 115 South Jefferson and only F.R. (Pete) Miller is shown as the owner.

The White T Super Valu store was planned to open in the place of the store operated by Francis Miller known as the P & G on west side of square in October 1958. It was to be operated by Don and Jackie Unkrich, experienced young people in grocery store operations from Fairfield. The new store would be the 200th Super Valu store in Iowa, about 700th overall. The interior had been redecorated. There were plans being made for the installation of a new front, but it was not done yet for the opening. The back part would also be remodeled ("New Store Will Open," *Mt Pleasant News*, October 15, 1958, 1).

From 1960 through 1979, city directories show the Launderama at 115 S. Jefferson. Ralph Carnahan and Jack Thomas operate this coin operated laundry as partners.

On 28 November 1980, the Edith M. Shepp Estate sells the N ¼ of lot 7 block 5 to Robert Smith & Cloyce Seager. 31 August 1982, Virginia Lee Smith transfers the property to Robert L. Smith via QCD (Transfer Book "3").

In 1986, Fitness World (with Ron Bengé as owner) is located here.

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 5

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

By 2000, Hawkeye Pizza & Steak House is at this location. Costas Steryianas, the owner, manages 8 employees and advertises the restaurant was established in 1993. In 2011, Hawkeye Pizza & Steak House was owned by Sam Tajeddin, had 15 employees and advertised the same year of establishment – 1993.

This commercial building is currently occupied in 2023 by Costas Pizza & Steakhouse. The building has been owned since 12 April 2023, by Atisha Phillah and Bobby Phillah, per Henry County Assessor's records.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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.

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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.

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 6

<u>Lash Building</u>	<u>Henry</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>115 S. Jefferson St</u>	<u>Mount Pleasant</u>
Address	City

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

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

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Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 7

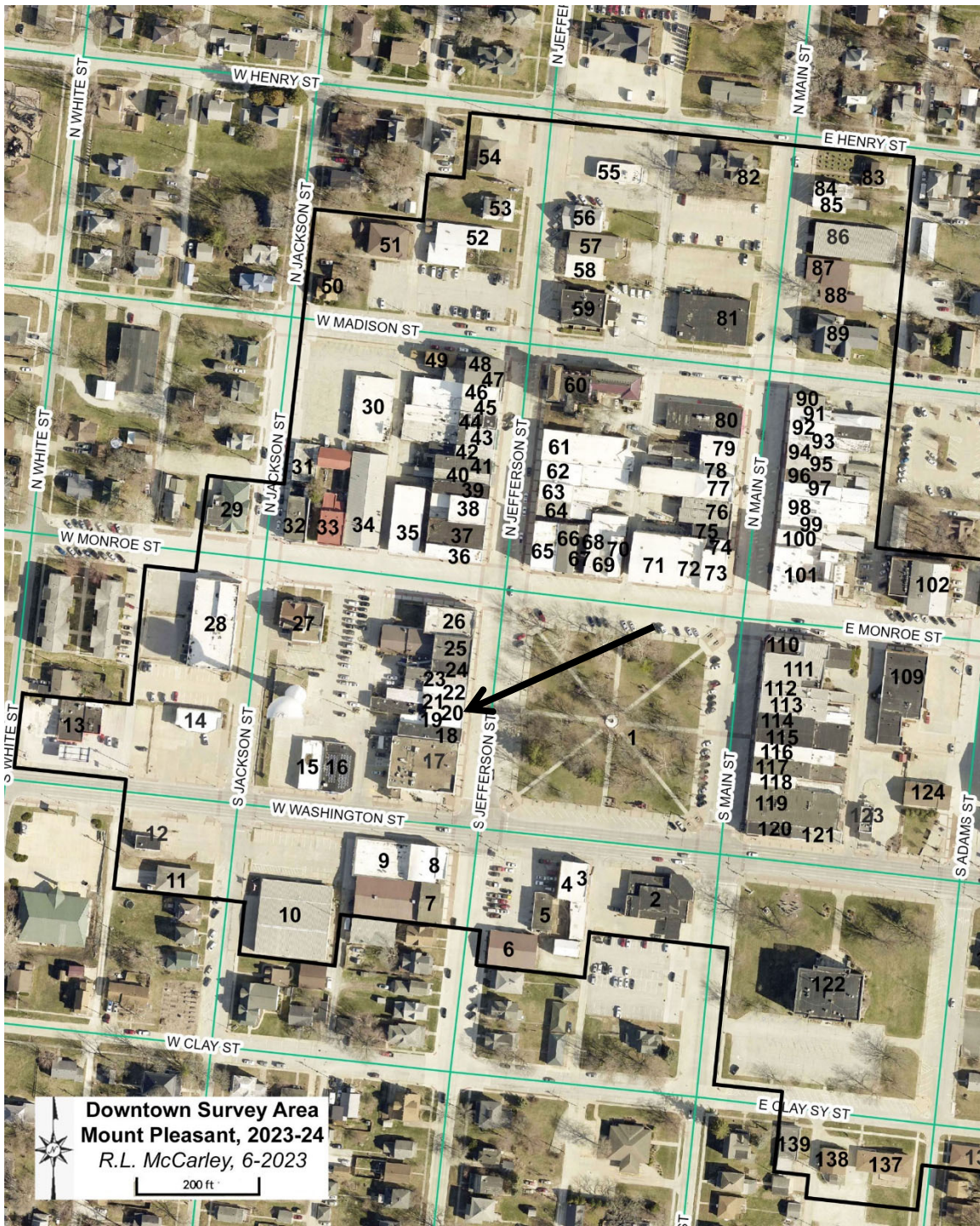
Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City

Location map



Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 8

<u>Lash Building</u>	<u>Henry</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>115 S. Jefferson St</u>	<u>Mount Pleasant</u>
Address	City

Building footprint



Sketch by www.camavision.com

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

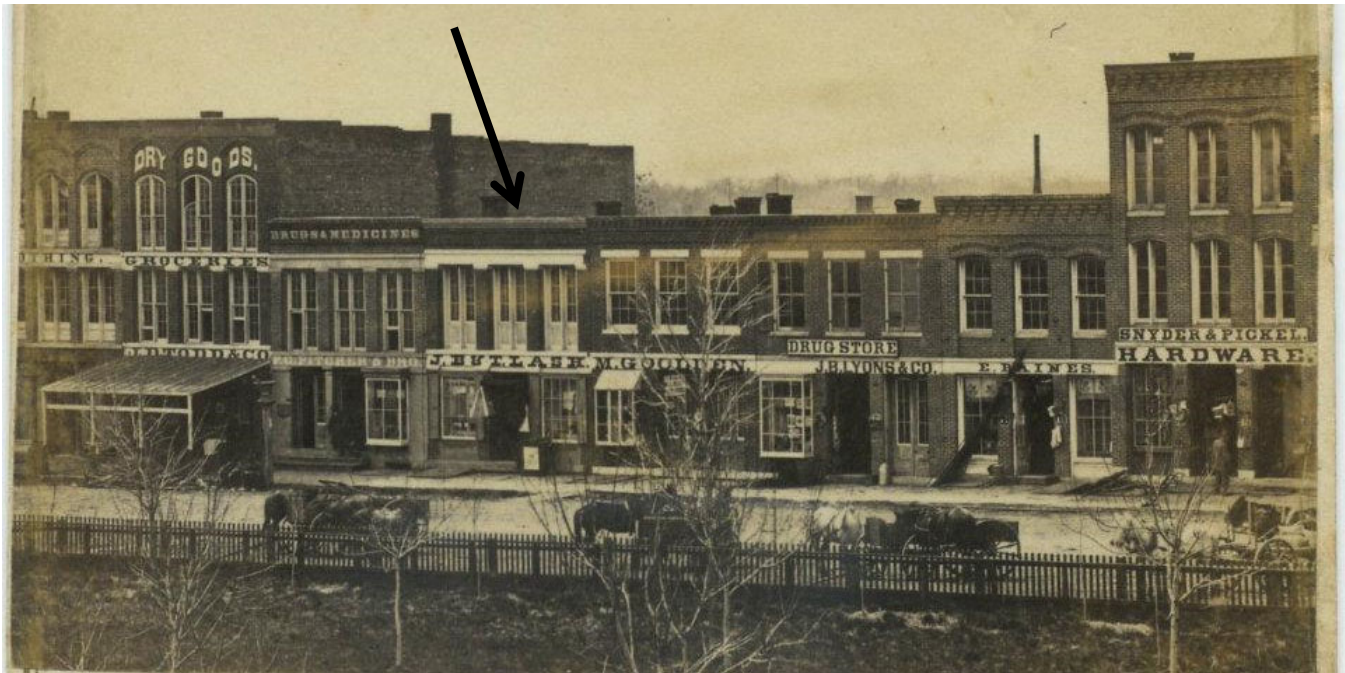
Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 9

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

Historic images



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) in 1860s (HCHT Facebook album)



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) around 1910 (HCHT Facebook album)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 10

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) around 1918 (HCHT Facebook album)



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) in 1950s (HCHT Facebook album)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 11

Lash Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
115 S. Jefferson St	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) in 1965 (HCHT collection)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 12

Lash Building
Name of Property

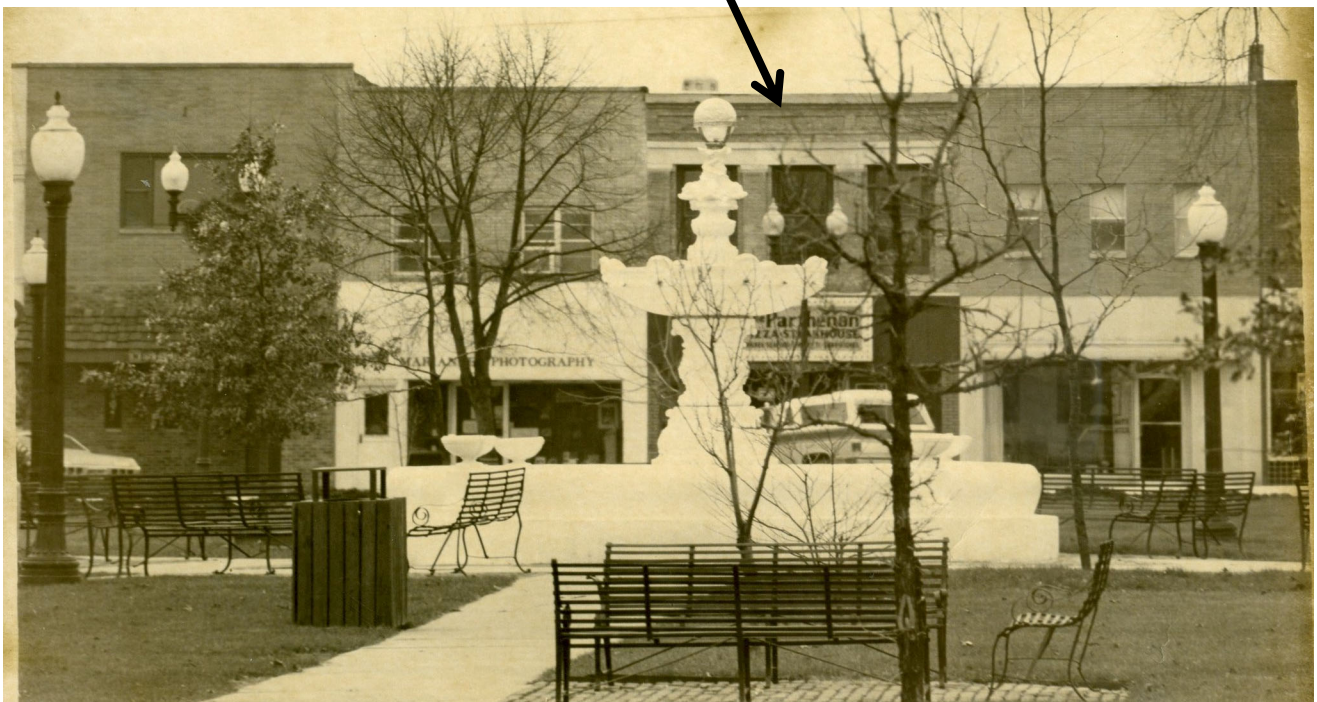
Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) around 1978 (HCHT Facebook album)



West side of square (100 block S. Jefferson St) in 1980s (HCHT Facebook album)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 13

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



Building at time of sign permit application in November 1980 (City of Mt Pleasant building permit)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 14

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 15

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



Building in May 2004 (City of Mt Pleasant building permits)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 16

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City

Digital photographs



Photograph 44-00209-001. East elevation, looking west (October 2023)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 17

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



Photograph 44-00209-002. South elevation of rear addition, looking north (October 2023)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 18

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



Photograph 44-00209-003. North elevation of rear addition, looking south (October 2023)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 44-00209
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 19

Lash Building
Name of Property

Henry
County

115 S. Jefferson St
Address

Mount Pleasant
City



Photograph 44-00209-004. West (rear) elevation of rear addition, looking south (October 2023)