Iowa Site Inventory Form State Inventory Number: 44-00376 ☐ New ☐ Supplemental 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: _____ **State Historic Preservation Office** (January 2016) □ Non-extant Year: Read the lowa 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: McLeran Building B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-033 Location A) Street address: 217 W. Monroe 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): 4 Lot(s): Lot 4 - E 55' of W 92.5' - also E 55' of W 92.5' of Lot 3 Classification A) Property category: Check only one B) Number of resources (within property): If eligible property, enter number of: □ Building(s) If non-eligible property, ☐ District Contributing Noncontributing enter number of: ☐ Site 1 Buildings 1 Buildinas ☐ Structure Sites Sites ☐ Object Structures Structures Objects Objects 1 Total **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 lowa Site Inventory Form Instructions A) Historic functions **B)** Current functions 02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store 02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store 02E10: COMMERCE/TRADE / appliances **Description** Enter categories (codes and terms) from the lowa Site Inventory Form Instructions A) Architectural classification **B) Materials** 09F05: Commercial / brick front Foundation (visible exterior): <u>04C: Limestone</u> Walls (visible exterior): 03: Brick Roof: 15C: Rubber

Other:

Site Number: 44-00376 Address: 217 W. Monroe St	City: Mt Pleasant County: IA District Number: 44-02280
Statement of Significance	
A) Applicable National Register Criteria: Mark your of Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characterist Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeo	ics.
B) Special criteria considerations: Mark any special column ☐ A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious ☐ B: Removed from its original location. ☐ C: A birthplace or grave. ☐ D: A cemetery	
C) Areas of significance Enter categories from instructions	D) Period(s) of significance
05: Commerce	
02: Architecture	E) O'military to a second
E) Significant dates Construction date 1857	F) Significant person Complete if Criterion B is marked above
Other dates, including renovations 1947	
G) Cultural affiliation Complete if Criterion D is marked above	H) Architect/Builder Architect
	Builder/contractor
Bibliography ⊠ See continuation sheets for the list re Geographic Data Optional UTM references □ See continuation S	
3 4	
Form Preparation	
Name and Title: Rebecca Lawin McCarley / resear Organization/firm: SPARK Consulting / Mt Pleasant Street address: 1630 Park Ave SE	Telephone: <u>319-200-9767</u>
City or Town: Cedar Rapids	State: <u>IA</u> Zip code: <u>52403</u>
 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION Submit the folion A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified 1. Map of property's location within the community 2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled on back with 	ied in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:
unique photo number.	map and/or floor plan, using arrows next top each photo
	ing boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only	/ Below This Line
The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs with Yes No More research recom This is a locally designated property or part of a	n above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: mended
Comments:	
SHPO authorized signature:	Date:
orn o authorized signature.	Date.

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 1	
McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, two-part, brick building constructed around 1857 as a commercial building on the west and a residence/rowhouse on the east. The building became under joint ownership of the McLeran family in 1908, and Thornton McLeran remodeled the façade in 1947 to the current appearance. The McLerans operated a store in the west half of the building and lived in the east half of the building. The building reflects the 1947 remodel, and it retains a high level of historic integrity from this period. The simple buff brick facade was installed at this time, with the fronts of the buildings aligned with the commercial building to the west (previously slightly setback). The storefront on the west half of the first story dates to this period, with large aluminum display windows, angled windows, and a set back entrance on the east portion of this half. The first story of the east half retains its earlier residential configuration, with an entry at the left and two double-hung windows to the right. The first story is framed in pilasters, likely the result of working with the existing first story façade and attempting to realign the façade slightly forward to be in line with the commercial building to the east. The second story has six one-over-onelight double-hung aluminum windows, which were installed as part of the 1947 remodel. The windows have simple rowlock sills and no lintel details, reflective of the simple styling of the 1940s. Other than a few courses of rowlock bricks, there are no other decorative details on the upper façade, again reflective of this period. The west elevation reveals the junction between the buff brick façade and the red brick side wall at the southwest corner. The west elevation has multi-color red brick that is more characteristic of the 1910s and 1920s, suggesting that this wall was rebuilt after the 1914 fire on this block as well. Three of the four second story windows also retain three-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes that would be typical of the 1910s as well. The parapet wall steps back towards the rear on this side of the building. The rear/north side of the building is clad in stucco. The four second story windows have smaller replacement sashes. One-story, concrete block, rear additions extend from each half of the building, with the west one extending further. Each addition has a rear entry.

There is a large gable-roof garage that occupies the rear portion of the lot. It was built in 2010 per the assessor. The building is clad in metal siding and sits on a concrete foundation. It has a metal roof. This garage would be a non-contributing building on the property.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The McLeran 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. McLeran Music Store operated in the west half of this building for decades, with the McLeran family living in the east half of the building. The façade remodel in 1947 reflects one of the earliest of this period of remodeling that started after World War II and continued into the early 1960s. The building retains excellent integrity from this period, including the simple buff brick façade, storefront, and aluminum windows. 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 appears to be potentially individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As noted, the McLeran Music Store and McLeran Appliances were significant businesses that operated in Mt Pleasant for many years. The building is an interesting combination of a commercial building on the west half and residence/rowhouse

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 2	
McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

on the east half. The remodel in 1947 is significant related to downtown improvements in this period. Further research and 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

A portion or all of this two-story, brick commercial building located at 217 West Monroe Street was built in 1857. The entire façade was remodeled in 1947 for Charles E. McLeran, owner of McLeran's Music Store.

Transfer Book "A" (page 5) shows Peter Jericho owning the E 36' of the W 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' of lots 3 & 4 block 4 (west portion of building/property) and J.M.C. Swinford owning the W 19' of the E 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' of lots 3 & 4 block 4 (east portion of building). These two parcels make up the property located at 217 W Monroe Street. Historic photographs show the west portion of the building with a storefront on the first story, while the east portion of the building reflects a more residential appearance like a rowhouse. This suggests a commercial use originally on the west half (with residential on the upper story) and a residential use on the east half. There is a small grassy area that is part of the property to the west of the building, which was originally part of the parcel with the west portion of the building (thus the discrepancy in widths of each parcel).

In 1856, Peter Jericho (age 30) was enumerated in the census of Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa, with his mother (Sophia, age 65) and two brothers (Charles, age 25 and John/AKA Gustav, age 18). The family had resided in Iowa for 4 years; Peter's occupation was saddler and he owned land. The 1856 Map of the City of Mount Pleasant (McBride Waite & Co, Civil Engineers, St. Louis, MO, 1856) shows and confirms "P.J." owned property in block 4, lots 3 & 4, west of the Christian Chapel. An advertisement in *The Home Journal* (March 17, 1859, page 4, with a start date of July 19, 1857) announces P. Jericho, dealer in saddles, bridles, harness, etc. "has removed to his new building on Monroe street, West of the Christian Chapel."

The 1859-60 Henry County Directory (page 51) shows Peter Jericho, harness maker, Monroe north side, between Jefferson and Jackson.

On August 20, 1864, an advertisement appears in *The Home Journal* (page 3) notifying the public that G. Jericho, painter, glazer and paper hanger, is now at his "shop on West Monroe Street, first door west of P. Jericho's harness shop." This may be the old building along side of the west portion of the building, where the grassy area is now located.

The 1867 and 1870 Mount Pleasant city directories advertise P. Jericho, Saddle & Harness Manufacturer. The address in 1867 is Monroe, 5 west of Jefferson and in 1870 is 25 W Monroe, north side, 5 west of Jefferson. "Peter Jericho has greatly improved the appearance of his dwelling by tearing down an old rattle-trap of a building, which hugged up to the west side of it". (Mount Pleasant Journal, May 7, 1869, page 8). This demolition created the vacant space / grassy area to the west side the earlier brick building, also help confirm that this earlier building remains on the property. If a new building had been constructed, it would have likely been built up to the west property line.

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Pε	ag	е	3

McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

On 20 December 1870, William Dunlap & wife sell the east half of the building (W 19' of the E 76 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to Charles B. Rukgaber (Transfer Book "A", page 52). It is unclear how Dunlap acquired the lots. No initial uses have been identified for the east half of the building. It does appear that both halves of the building were constructed prior to the 1869 birds-eye view of Mt Pleasant. As noted, this half reflects a more residential appearance, which may be why no commercial use has been identified.

An advertisement in the *Mount Pleasant Journal* (February 1, 1871, page 4) shows P. Jericho, dealer in saddles, bridles, harnesses, etc. operating his shop at No. 33 Monroe Street. In 1875, Peter Jericho is *"refitting his harness shop, painting, papering and making other improvements."* (*The Free Press*, December 23, 1875, page 3).

From the 1879 *History of Henry County*: JERICHO, PETER, Mayor of Mt. Pleasant, manufacturer and dealer in harness and saddlery hardware, emigrated to America in 1852, located in Mt. Pleasant and engaged in the harness-making business, which he has continued over 25 years.

On 12 April 1882, Charles Rukgaber & wife sell the east portion (W part of the E 76 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to Henry Nau (Transfer Book "A", page 52). On 7 April 1885, Henry Nau & wife sell the east portion (W 19' of the E 76 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to Francis Rock (Transfer Book "B", page 1). The 1880 census lists Francis as a 52-year-old shoemaker, living with his second wife Minerva (age 35).

The 1886 Sanborn fire insurance map shows two, 2-story, brick buildings, sharing a common wall. Each building has a 1-story, brick addition at the rear, accessed by an open doorway. The building to the west has a stairway on the interior east wall (at the back of the building), with 3 windows on the west wall. The address is 102 Monroe, and the building is used for a harness shop. The building to the east has a stairway on the interior west wall (at the front of the building), with 2 windows on the east wall. This building also has two, 1-story, frame additions to the north. The address is 103 Monroe and the building is used for a shoemaker's shop. This was likely a combined residence/shop for Francis Rock.

Peter Jericho died on February 14, 1889, at age 63. On 30 March 1889, Kate Jericho (widow of P. Jericho) transfers via quit claim her interest in the west portion of the property (E 36' of the W 73 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to Peter Melcher, and on 19 April 1889, Charles Jericho (single) transfers via quit claim his interest in the same property to Peter Melcher (Transfer Book "B", page 4).

The 1892 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the two buildings as the previous map. The west building is used for a "Chine" laundry and the address is 102/221 W Monroe. The east building is a dress making shop and the address is 103/219 W Monroe. Francis Rock died in 1893. Mrs. Merniva Rock is listed in the 1893 city directory as a widow and a dressmaker at 209 W. Monroe, which appears to actually be the east portion of this building at 219 W. Monroe St rather than 209 (which would be the location of the Christian Church).

On 10 September 1892, via warranty deed, Peter Melcher & wife sell the west portion of the property to Sarah A. McLeran (Transfer Book "B", page 9). The newspaper notes: "Peter Melcher has sold his property on W Monroe (just east of Jas. McDowell) to Mr. Chas McLeran. Mr. McLeran will repair and remodel it for residence purposes." (The Weekly News, September 15, 1892, page 4).

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 4	
McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

Charles McLeran started his store in town in August 1879, beginning with the sale of sewing machines and dry goods. The latter was discontinued in 1890. Organs started being sold in 1887, with pianos, victrolas, and other lines of music added later ("Several Merchants in Business Here Over Fifty Years," *Mt Pleasant News*, September 25, 1934, 5). In November 1892, he advertised: "Don't send away for a Sewing machine, I will furnish one – delivered to your house", Chas. McLeran, West of Ross brothers lumberyard (*The Free Press*, November 3, 1892, page 2). The 1893 Mount Pleasant City Directory shows C.E. McLeran operating a store selling sewing machines and musical instruments at 221 W Monroe, with his residence at the same address (second story).

The 1899 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the two, 2-story brick buildings. The west building now has a 1-story, frame addition to the north. The building is an organ and sewing machine store; the address is 221 W Monroe. The frame additions are gone from the east building, which is used for a dress making shop; the address is 219 W Monroe.

On 24 August 1904, Clara McLeran sells the west portion (E 36' of the W 73 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to Charles E. McLeran for \$2,500. On 6 October 1908, Minerva E. Rock sells the east portion (W 19' of the E 76 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to Charles E. McLaren (Transfer Book "C", page 9). The *Mt Pleasant Journal* reported that C.E. McLeran had purchased the residence property owned and occupied by Mrs. Rock, which joins McLeran's business house on the east and Mrs. Rock has occupied as a dwelling for some time. He purchased it for \$1,800. McLeran planned to remodel the building where he had been living (second story of west portion) and will use the full building for business purposes. He would then occupy Mrs. Rock's property as his dwelling. The growth of his business has compelled him to have more room ("Property Sold," *Mt Pleasant Journal*, October 9, 1908, 1). After this purchase, Charles E. McLeran owned both parcels of the 217 W Monroe property. Newspaper ads for Charles E. McLeran in the late 1900s and early 1911 advertise phonographs and organs for sale at his store (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, May 26, 1909, 2)

The 1909 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the buildings as the previous maps. There is now a doorway between the two, 2-story, brick buildings, that are 20' in height. And the wall separating the 1-story, brick additions is gone. The west building has two windows instead of three; it is used for a piano store and the address is 221 W Monroe. The east building is used for a dwelling; the address is 219 W Monroe.

The 1911-12 county directory lists Charles E. McLeran selling pianos, organs, phonographs, and sewing machines. He promotes his pianos and player pianos in newspaper ads through the 1910s.

On June 17, 1914, a disastrous fire occurred. It was the "worst blaze in the history of the city". M.C. Hall's Lumber Yard and the nearby Christian Church (to the east) were completely destroyed. "Just west of the lumber office, Chas. E. McLeran owned a double, two-story brick building, which was occupied by his piano and music store, with a portion of the building used as a residence. The stock and household goods were removed, and for a time it looked as though there was no chance to save the building, but while the building caught fire in the woodwork several times, it was saved except the kitchen was badly damaged." (Mount Pleasant Journal, June 18, 1914, page 1). By late July, Charles McLeran had a new handsome two-story combined barn and garage under construction at the rear of his property in place of an earlier frame building. The contractors were also working on repairing the rear of his residence and sales room that were badly damaged ("Rebuilding Rapidly Going On," Mt Pleasant Daily News, July 22,

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 5	
McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City

1914, 3). The new barn/garage constructed to the rear of the building was completed by August (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, August 7, 1914, 4).

The 1920 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the 2-story, brick buildings (22' in height), with a doorway between them. The west building has a 1-story, brick/tile addition, with 8' ceilings. The building is used for a piano store, and the address is 221 W Monroe. The east building has a smaller, 1-story, brick addition. The building is used for a dwelling and the address is 219 W Monroe.

The 1921, 1923, and 1925 telephone directories continue to list the store of Charels E. McLeran here, selling pianos, players, victorolas, records, and band and orchestra instruments. A newspaper advertisement from May 22, 1929, lists Singer sewing machines, pianos, radios, and records. In early 1930s, he added washing machines and electric refrigerators ("Several Merchants in Business Here Over Fifty Years," *Mt Pleasant News*, September 25, 1934, 5). Advertisements by 1935 list the business as McLeran's Music Store, though telephone directories in 1937, 1939, and 1944 continue to list it under Charles E. McLeran. The 1938 city directory lists it as Charles McLeran Music Store.

Charles E. McLeran died on May 12, 1940. His obituary notes that he had been in business in Mt Pleasant for more than 50 years. His music store, with side lines of radios, frigidaires, sewing machines, and electrical wares had been a part of business life in town. In recent years, his son Thornton had been associated with him in the business ("Charles E. McLeran," *Mt Pleasant News*, May 25, 1940, 5).

The 1942 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the same footprint for the two, 2-story, brick buildings as the previous map. The west building is a store, with an address of 221 W Monroe. The east building is a dwelling, with an address of 219 W Monroe. Newspaper ads in the early 1940s list the business as McLeran's Music Store. City directories in the 1940s list it as McLeran Music Store.

On 17 June 1947, the Estate of Charles E. McLeran changes title of the property (E 55' of the W 92 ½' of lots 3 & 4 block 4) to his heirs: Catherine McLeran 1/3, Helen McLeran Colby 1/6, Harold F. McLeran 1/6, Ruth Louise McLeran 1/6 and Charles Thornton McLeran 1/6. (Transfer Book "1", page 5). On 27 June 1944 (recorded 20 April 1948), Helen McLeran Colby, et al, transfer their interest in the property to Charles Thornton McLeran (Transfer Book "2", page 5).

The *Mt Pleasant News* reported in May 1947 that a major remodeling project was underway at McLeran Music Store on W. Monroe. The entire front of the building would be rebuilt, moved forward in line with other buildings on the block. The building would be completely modernized. On the first story of the west portion, the store door would be moved to the east side, with large display windows to its west. Glass brick would be installed above the display window. Aluminum windows would be installed for the apartments in the building ("Start Installation of New Front," *Mt Pleasant News*, May 13, 1947, 1). The remodel installed buff brick on the façade of both halves of the building, unifying the building. The 217/east half retained the configuration of the early residential design, continuing to reflect the east half of the building as a residence.

McLeran Music Store is listed as selling Philco Radios, Pianos & Musical Supplies, Orchestra Instruments, Sewing machines, Washing Machines, Frigidaire Refrigerators / Radio Service in the 1952 city directory. In the 1955 city directory, they are listed as selling Frigidaire & Maytag Appliances, Philco TV, New Home & Phoenix Sewing Machines, and Hoover Vacuum Cleaners. While McLeran Music Store

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 6	
McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

continues to be listed through 1966, McLeran Appliance is also listed at the same address starting in 1957. The 1962 city directory continues to list them selling Frigidaire & Maytag Appliances, Philco TV, New Home & Phoenix Sewing Machines, and Hoover Vacuum Cleaners. McLeran Music Store and McLeran Appliance are last listed here in the 1966 city directory.

The 1968 and 1970 city directories list C. Thornton McLeran living in the east half at 217 W. Monroe and Benda Appliances in the west half at 219 W. Monroe. A second story apartment is located above each half. In 1966, Thornton McLeran sold the business to Jim Benda and Phil Kneen, with Benda Appliances listed at 219 W. Monroe in 1968. In 1969, Jim bought out Phil, becoming sole owner. They sold the Maytag line of washers, dryers, dishwashers, and food waste disposers, as well as the Frigidaire line of refrigerators, freezers, ranges, air conditioners, home laundry, and built-in appliances. They also sold Philco televisions, phonographs, tape recorders, radios, air conditioners, ranges, and refrigerators ("Benda Appliance," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 25, 1969, 7).

Locke's Carpet Castle moved into the commercial space on the west half of the building in July 1972, listed here in the 1973 city directory. Charles Thornton McLeran died on October 27, 1971, at age 64. His wife, Kathryn McLeran, continued to live in the east half at 217 W. Monroe St per the 1976 city directory. On 19 October 1982, the Charles Thornton McLeran Estate changes title of the property to Kathryn McLeran (Transfer Book "3", page 5). Kathryn McLeran lived at 217 W. Monroe into the 1990s, and she died on May 10, 2005. Richard's Interiors is listed in the storefront at 219 W. Monroe in the 1980 city directory. Several other businesses were located in the storefront, as shown in Mount Pleasant city directories: Allred Insurance Services (Frank Allred & Gary Kyle, 1986), Peterson Insurance Services (1993), and H&R Block (2000).

The estate of Kathryn McLeran sold the property to James Holaday in October 2005. Holaday Satellite Sales & Service was then listed at 219 W. Monroe St. This commercial portion is currently occupied in 2024 by Holaday Satellite, specializing in satellite television and internet service. An apartment is located above the storefront on the west half and the east half is an apartment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

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McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City

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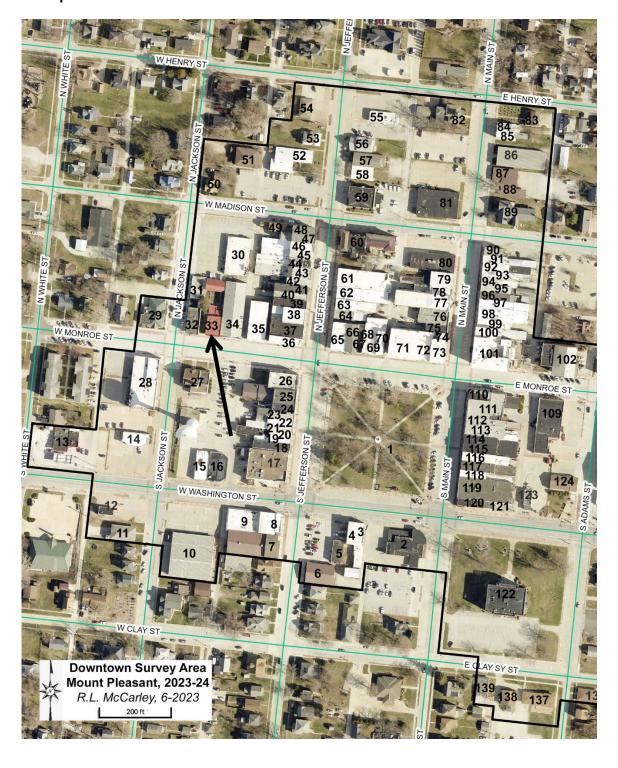
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Site Number: <u>44-00376</u> Related District Number: <u>44-02280</u>

Page 8

_McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
_217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City

Location map



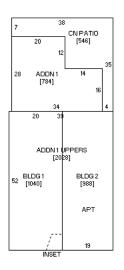
Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 9

_McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City

Building footprint





Sketch by www.camavision.com

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

Site Number: <u>44-00376</u>
Related District Number: <u>44-02280</u>

Page 10

McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City

Historic images



June 17, 1914 fire on 200 block of W. Monroe, McLeran Building at left, then M.C. Hall Lumber and Christian Church (HCHS binder, Mt Pleasant Public Library)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



Damage on W. Monroe after June 17, 1914 fire, McLeran Building at left (HCHS binder, Mt Pleasant Public Library)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

Page 12

McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



McLeran Building on W. Monroe St in 1947

section of 1947 aerial photograph of Mt Pleasant, looking north (HCHT files, printed in *Des Moines Register,* April 27, 1947, sec 9, p3, p83)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

_McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



North side of 200 block of W. Monroe St in July 1965, looking northeast (HCHT collection)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property 217 W. Monroe	County Mount Pleasant
Address	City



1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

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McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City

Digital photographs



Photograph 44-00376-001. South elevation, looking north (October 2023)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



Photograph 44-00376-002. Storefront on south elevation, looking northeast (October 2023)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property 217 W. Monroe	County Mount Pleasant
Address	City



Photograph 44-00376-003. West elevation, looking northeast (October 2023)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building Name of Property	Henry County
217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City



Photograph 44-00376-004. West elevation, looking northeast (June 2024)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

_McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe Address	Mount Pleasant City



Photograph 44-00376-005. North elevation, looking south (June 2024)

Site Number: 44-00376
Related District Number: 44-02280

_McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property	County
217 W. Monroe	Mount Pleasant
Address	City



Photograph 44-00376-006. North and west elevations of garage, looking southeast (June 2024)

Site Number: 44-00376 Related District Number: 44-02280

McLeran Building	Henry
Name of Property 217 W. Monroe	County Mount Pleasant
Address	City

