

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-00374 ☐ 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: Galer & Galer Building

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-035

• Location

A) Street address: 211 W. Monroe 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): 4 Lot(s): Lot 8 - W 50' - also W 50' of S 40' of Lot 7

• Classification

A) Property category: *Check only one*

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

B) Number of resources (within property):

If eligible property, enter number of:

Contributing Noncontributing

—	Buildings	<u>1</u>
—	Sites	—
—	Structures	—
—	Objects	—
—	Total	<u>1</u>

If non-eligible property, enter number of:

—	Buildings
—	Sites
—	Structures
—	Objects
—	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

02B03: COMMERCE/TRADE / law office

02A05: COMMERCE/TRADE / newspaper

B) Current functions

02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store

• 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): 10B: Concrete

Walls (visible exterior): 03: Brick / 10A: Concrete block

Roof: 15C: Rubber

Other: _____

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

Site Number: 44-00374 Address: 211 W. Monroe 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 page or

☐ D: A cemetery

achieved significance within the past 50 years.

C) Areas of significance

Enter categories from instructions

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1916 ☐ *check if circa or estimated date*

Other dates, including renovations

1986

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 Joy Lapp Date: April 24, 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 commercial building that was constructed in 1916, with the second story façade rebuilt in 1986. The building thus retains features from a few different periods. The overall construction of the building is rusticated concrete block, as visible on the sides and rear of the building. The multi-color red brick was utilized for the façade originally, with a similar brick utilized for the 1986 work. The metal awning and modification of the display windows on the first story appear to have been added to the building around 1965. Smaller windows and paneling were installed in the bays. The entry remained near the center of the building in this remodel, with a glass/aluminum door, sidelight, and transom that appear to date to this same period. The original brick is visible on the wide column to the right of the entry and on the sides of the façade. The second story was rebuilt in 1986, eliminating six windows that were originally on the building. The "I" buff brick detail and rectangular outline on the frieze were rebuilt similar to designs of the period of original construction (1916), though different than the original detail on this building. The building has a simple and slightly projected brick cornice. The sides and rear of the building retain their original rusticated concrete block construction. Several window openings were originally located on the first story of the west and north/rear elevations, and these openings have smooth concrete lintels. New windows have been installed in the front openings on the west side, with the remainder of the first story windows covered with paneling. A side entrance is found in the rear portion of the west elevation. A wide entrance with a garage door remains on the east end of the north/rear elevation. The second story on the west side has two windows near the front with two other windows spaced along the remainder of the elevation. There are also two second story windows spaced on the north/rear elevation. These windows have replacement one-over-one-light double-hung windows, and they also have smooth concrete lintels.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Galer & Galer Building is located within the preliminary boundary of the potential Mount Pleasant Downtown Historic District. While the building was built in 1916, the second story of the façade was rebuilt and redesigned in 1986, including the elimination of the second story windows and new brick details. This remodeling falls after the period of significance for the potential historic district, so the building does not retain integrity from within the period of significance to be a contributing building. Thus, the building would be classified as a non-contributing building in the potential historic district.

Based on research and evaluation conducted to date, this building is not individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at this time. The building should be re-evaluated for potential significance related to the prominent local law firm of Galer & Galer once the façade remodeling has achieved 50 years of age (standard age for significance for historic buildings).

Developmental history of property

This 2-story brick commercial building at 211 W Monroe was built in 1916 after a fire destroyed an earlier building on this site. The facade was remodeled in 1986, removing the second story window openings.

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The 1886 Sanborn map shows a brick building labeled "Christian Chapel" at this location. The 1892 Sanborn map shows the same brick building labeled "Christian Chapel." The 1899 Sanborn map shows a brick addition in the front of the building. There is no number given, and it is labeled "Christian Chapel." The 1909 Sanborn map shows the same brick footprint, with a frame addition at the back. Again, there is no street number, and the label this time reads "Christian Church."

On June 17, 1914, a disastrous fire occurred in the middle of this block. The *MP Journal* called the fire the "worst blaze in the history of the city". M.C. Hall's Lumber Yard and the nearby Christian Church were completely destroyed (*Mount Pleasant Journal*, June 18, 1914, page 1). M.C. Hall rebuilt his lumber company on the northwest quarter of this block, later selling this property along W. Monroe Street.

On March 10, 1915, the Trustees of the Christian Church sold the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 in Block 4 to S.W. Garvin & John R. Ford. On October 9, 1915, John R. Ford and wife sold their interest in the property to S.W. Garvin. On May 2, 1916, the *MP Daily News* reported that Mr. Felgar had purchased the site of the Christian Church and would erect a garage (page 4). The transfer was recorded on May 4, 1916, from S.W. Garvin & wife to Geo N Felgar, the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7, for \$2000. The *MP Daily News* reported on August 11, 1916 (page 4), that the new garage on the site of the old Christian Church would be completed in 60 days, and it would be occupied by J.L. Scott, the local Ford agent.

The 1917 and 1919 telephone directories list J.L. Scott & Co located near the northwest corner of the square. They sold a full line of supplies, gas, and oils.

On April 6, 1918, Geo N Felgar & wife sold the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 to Elizabeth Davis for \$7000.

The 1920 Sanborn map shows a two-story building constructed of concrete block with a height of 26'. It is labeled with a show room on the front portion of the first story and the remainder as a garage, with a capacity of 40 cars. There is an elevator towards the rear/north along the east wall.

On August 7, 1920, the *MP Daily News* (page 4) reported that the Ford and Fordson Agency formerly run by J.L. Scott would be transferred to new ownership, and it would be known as the Henry County Motor Company. In August, the *MP Daily News* reported that the Henry County Motor Co, successors to J.L. Scott & Co, had received two large shipments of Ford cars (p. 3). The 1921 and 1923 telephone directories list the Henry County Motor Co on W. Monroe, with a tag line: old friends are best friends.

An announcement in the *MP Daily News* on Jun 1, 1925 (page 4), said that the Henry County Motor Company had been taken over by the McClure Motor Company, selling Lincolns, Fords, and Fordsons. On Sep 11, 1925, the McClure Motor Company on West Monroe announced that they would have one of the new 1926 model Ford touring cars on display in their sales room (p. 6). The 1927 telephone directory lists the McClure Motor Co on W. Monroe.

In 1927, the *MP Daily News* reported that Charles S Rogers had purchased the business block on West Monroe, recently occupied by the McClure Motor Co, from Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, and the building would be remodeled as soon as possible to suit the needs of a newspaper (*MP Daily News*, February 21, 1927, p. 1). On Mar 29, 1927, the *MP Daily News* (page 1) reported that work on the building was moving

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along, and they would soon install the new plate glass front. On June 9, 1927, the paper announced, "The public is notified that the printing plant of the Mt. Pleasant News is now located on West Monroe St." (*MP Daily News*, p. 3).

The transfer of the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 from Addie Foggy et al (Davis) to Charles S Rogers was recorded on Feb 15, 1933. The *Daily News* business location on May 5, 1933, was listed in the paper as 205-207 W Monroe (*MP Daily News*, p. 2). The 1938 City Directory lists the *MP Daily News* on West Monroe. The listing notes: Established 1875 - Charles S Rogers, publisher, A.M. Patterson, editor, W.K. Rogers - business manager. They are listed under the categories of Newspaper, Job Printer, and Advertising. They are listed on W. Monroe in the 1939 telephone directory as well. It notes: "Newspapers & Job Printing. Free Press. Official Paper of City & Henry County."

The 1942 Sanborn map has the same footprint as the 1920 map, but it is now labeled "Mt. Pleasant News." The address on the map is 205 W. Monroe St.

On Dec 11, 1943, Charles S Rogers transferred the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 to Lillian K Rogers [his wife]. The *Mount Pleasant News* remains listed on W. Monroe in the 1944, 1948, 1950, and 1952 telephone directories. The 1955 city directory lists them at 207-209 W. Monroe. The *Mount Pleasant News* is then listed at the current number of 211 W Monroe in the 1957, 1960, 1962, and 1964 city directories.

On June 23, 1965, the estate of Charles S Rogers transferred the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 to Margaret and Warren K Patterson with a change of title. On September 28, 1965, Margaret Patterson et al sold the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 to Ben A and Roger Galer. The 1966 city directory lists Galer & Galer, Ben Galer, and Roger Galer at 211 W. Monroe St. Galer & Galer Law is listed at 211 W Monroe in the 1968 City Directory. On June 30, June T Galer sold her interest in the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 to Roger S Galer. Galer & Galer Law is listed at 211 W Monroe in the City Directories from 1970 to 1984.

In 1985, the Galer Law Office at 211 W Monroe pulled a permit for construction. The building permit, dated November 21, 1985, is for replacing the front from above the first story windows, with a brick front with block backup and no windows in the second story. Work was completed by Kinney Masonry (City of Mt Pleasant building permits). A photograph of the building in the newspaper in January 1986 shows the work underway.

On Apr 4, 1988, Ben A and Dorothy Galer sold their interest in the W 50' of Lot 8 and the W 50' S 40' Lot 7 to Roger S and Erma A Galer. Galer & Galer Law is listed in the City Directories from 1989 to 1995. The listing in the 1995 City Directory is for Galer-McCormick Law Office at 211 W Monroe.

The Galers then sold the building in August 1995. The current owners, Harold and Barbara Bezoni, acquired title to the building in January 1997. The 1996 and 1997 City Directories list a Toy Lending Library at 211 W Monroe. The 1998 City Directory lists AFLAC, Anderson Insurance at 211 W Monroe.

The City Directories from 2001-2005 list AFSCME Union Local 2995 at 211 W Monroe. The City Directories from 2006 to 2014 list the Henry County Recovery Center at 211 W Monroe.

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The current organization in the building is called the Choices Drop-In Center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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.

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

Mount Pleasant City Directory for 1893. Mt. Pleasant, IA: Francis D. Craig, 1893.

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

Mount Pleasant Telephone Company. Telephone directories issued in 1913, 1915, 1918, 1921, 1925, 1927, 1937, 1939, 1944, 1948, 1950, 1952.

Groce, W.H. *The City Directory of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa*. Mt Pleasant: Groce, 1938.

Johnson Publishing Co. *Mt Pleasant, Iowa*. City directories issued in 1955, 1957, 1960, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1973, 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

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

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.

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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Location map



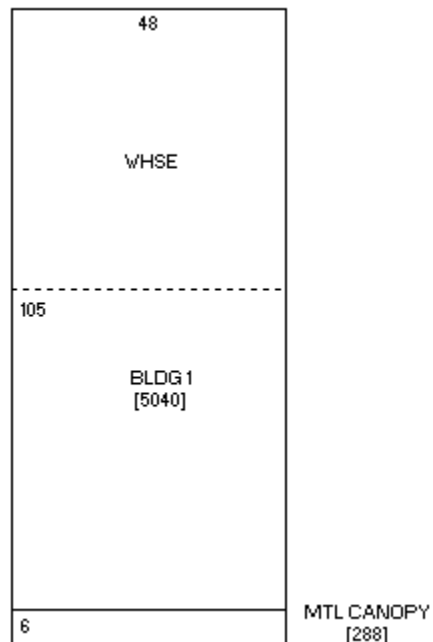
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Building footprint



Sketch by www.camavision.com

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

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Historic images



Parade along the 200 block of W. Monroe on May 30, 1937 (Jones, HCHT Facebook album)

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Building occupied by *Mt Pleasant News* (HCHS binders, Mt Pleasant Public Library)

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Building around 1964 (HCHT Facebook album)

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

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News building at 211 W. Monroe St in July 1965, looking northeast (HCHT collection)

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Building in January 1976 (HCHS vertical files, Mt Pleasant Library)

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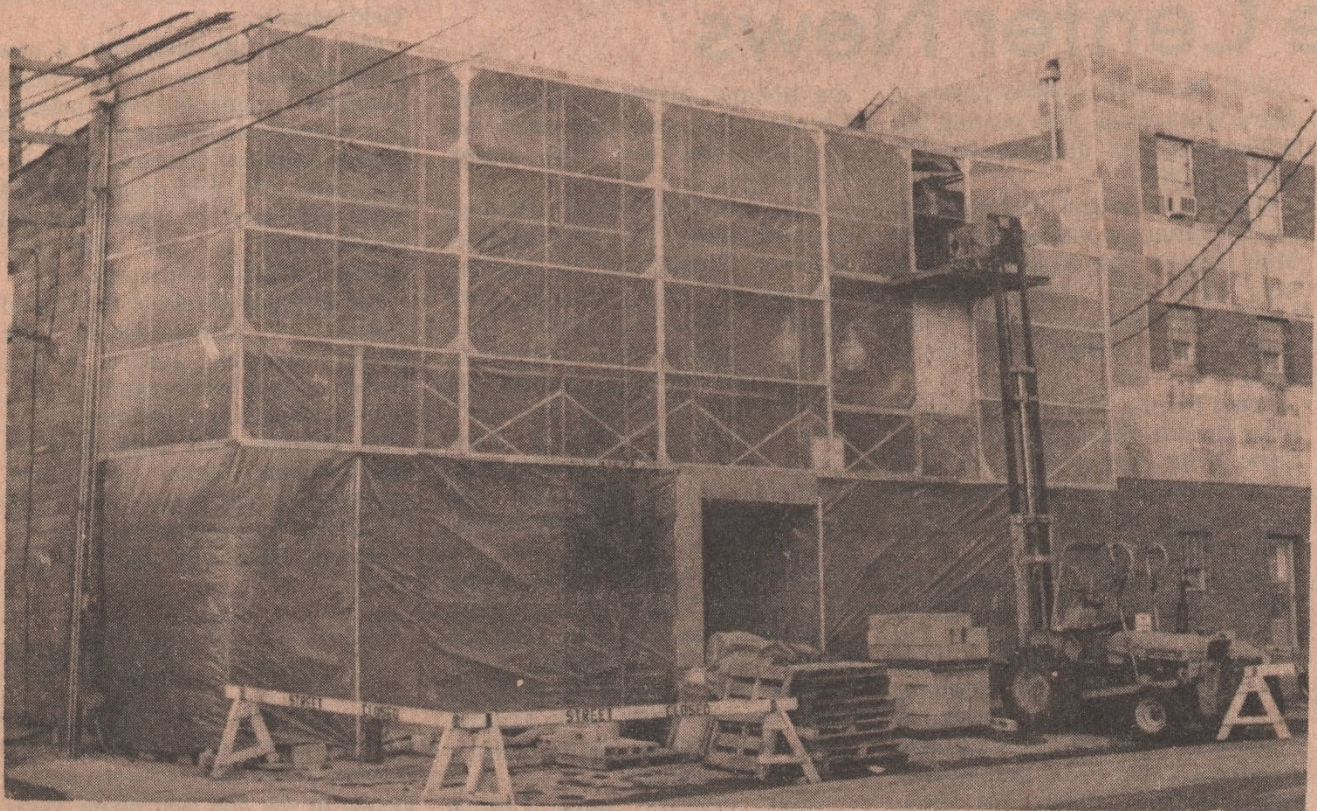
211 W. Monroe St

Address

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108, No. 15-Saturday, January 18, 1986- Mt. Pleasant, Iowa-Price 25 cents



The recent warmer weather has made almost unnecessary the 'plastic and wood shell constructed around the front of the Galer Law building, 211 W. Monroe, Mt. Pleasant. Construction is continuing on

the new brickwork front for the building, following the building of the weather screening. The front shell also keeps the remainder of the building's heated portions from losing heat. (News staff photo)

Façade work on building in 1986 (*Mt Pleasant News*, January 18, 1986)

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1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

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1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 44-00374-001. South elevation, looking north (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-00374-002. North and west elevations, looking southeast (October 2023)