

# Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-00194  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: Weir Building

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-043

• **Location**

A) Street address: 119 N. 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): 4 Lot(s): Lot 6 - N 32' of S 50'

• **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>	<b>Total</b>	<u>—</u>	<b>Total</b>

**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 Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of Downtown Mt Pleasant, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base # HADB-02986

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

**A) Historic functions**

02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store

02F: COMMERCE/TRADE / department store

**B) Current functions**

02G02: 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: 44-00194 Address: 119 N. 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 page 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*

1866  *check if circa or estimated date*

*Other dates, including renovations*

1961

**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 26, 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 two-story brick commercial building was constructed around 1866. The original design had central stairs with a storefront to either side. The building was owned for many years by the Weir family, including by Adam Weir at the time of the remodel after the 1914 fire and by Davis Weir at the time of the remodel for Sears in 1961. The 1961 remodel combined the two store spaces on the first story and moved the stairs to the second story to the north/right side. The design of this 1961 storefront remodel remains with large windows, low brick bulkhead, and single door entry. The second story entry remains at the right/left, with a single-door entry with transom. A rounded awning has been added to the building. The center window on the second story was infilled at the time of the 1961 remodel, with a sign for Sears placed on this center location. As the building was painted white at the time, there was not concern for matching the color of the brick, and it is more orange than the remainder of the façade. The other four second story windows were replaced with one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows for the remodeling of the apartments at this time as well, which have been replaced with the current windows. The five original window openings retain their stone lintels and sills. A simple projected course of brick extends across the building a few courses above the windows, with additional projected courses and a brick dentil on the frieze/cornice. These details are similar to the building to the south at 115 N. Jefferson St.

**8. Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Weir 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, and it reflects the period of downtown development in the 1850s. The building was remodeled and owned by the Weir family for many years, referenced as the Weir Building. It was remodeled for Sears, Roebuck & Co in 1961, combining the interior spaces and installing the current storefront. This work was cited among the major improvements in downtown for the year, and it reflects this later period of downtown improvements. 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, the Weir Building appears to be potentially individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The integrity of the building relates primarily to the remodeling for Sears, Roebuck & Co, so it would be this portion of the history that would be significant for an individual listing. 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*

This double-storefront two-story brick building at 119 N Jefferson appears to have been built in 1866 or 1867. There is no entry for this address in the 1859-60 City Directory, and the lot is vacant on the 1859 map. The first transfer book notes that P & A Saunders were the owners of the south 50' of Lot 6. Presley Saunders and his brother Alvin Saunders were early businessmen, associated with the first bank in Mt Pleasant in the 1850s. There is a note next to the description, which notes that the property was then divided and sold in three parcels. It seems possible that the Saunders jointly constructed the three storefronts in 1866 prior to selling, but no sale date is noted in the transfer book. The south 18' was sold

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to H.P. McAdam, the next 16' to Ira Jones, and the north 16' to Thomas Evans. Later entries in the transfer book note that Joshua Martin and/or George W. McAdams sold these parcels to those owners in 1867 and 1868, with a note in the newspaper about the construction completed by Martin & McAdam on North Jefferson street (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, September 20, 1867, p. 8). Later maps show this south store with its own stairs along the south wall, while the two stores to the north share a center stair, indicating unified construction of those two storefronts.

An article about the construction of the five storefronts/buildings to the north, known collectively as the Harlan Block, states, "A new block of buildings is to be erected on the lots lying north of the new buildings recently erected by Martin & McAdam on North Jefferson street" (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Sep 20, 1867, p. 8). The building to the south at 115 N. Jefferson was built in 1866, as Martin and McAdam moved their merchant tailor business into this new brick store in October (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Oct 19, 1866, p. 3). Thus, this double-storefront building appears to have been built by Martin & McAdam at the same time in 1866 or subsequently to the smaller building in 1867. Simple brick details on the building extend across all three storefronts, and the windows have similar stone lintels. On July 2, 1867, J. Martin & wife and G.W. & Wm McAdam sold the north half (N 16' S 50' of Lot 6) to Thomas Evans. Thus, construction was completed by this time. A year and a half later, J Martin et al the sold the south half (16' in Lot 6, which is the S 16' N 32') to Ira Jones. The two halves of the building were owned separately from 1867 until 1912 when Adam Weir, who had purchased the south side in 1910, also purchased the north side, thus owning the full building. The building was later remodeled in 1961, combining the two store spaces and installing a unified storefront.

Early numbering assigned addresses of 35 N. Jefferson to the south half of the building and 37 N. Jefferson to the north half of this building. By 1892, the south half of the building is 129 N. Jefferson and the north half is 133 N. Jefferson, with the 131 address associated with the entry for the central stairs to the second story to clarify the location of these businesses (as further south on the street).

Several businesses have been identified in the south half of the building starting in 1867. A December 1867 ad in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* announced "Dr. D. A. LaForce has just opened for sale at No. 35, North Jefferson Street, A New and Complete stock of Drugs! Patent Medicines, Oils, Paints, Putty, Brushes, Varnishes, Glass, Lamps, Chimneys and Fancy and Toylet [sic] Articles" (Dec 20, 1867, p. 5). In 1869, the new drug firm of Perry & Pritchard opened, as the successors to Dr. DA LaForce, at 35 N Jefferson (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Mar 12, 1869, p. 2). On Oct 6, 1869, Ira Jones & wife sold the south half (16' in Lot 6) to Thomas Pritchard. The 1870 City Directory lists two businesses at 35 N Jefferson: Perry & Pritchard, Apothecary & Druggists; and Bernard McMahan, Photography. An ad in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* states that "M. McMahan has removed his Gallery to No. 35, North Jefferson street, Over Perry & Pritchard's Drug Store on the second floor" (Sep 28, 1870, p. 4). An ad in 1874 gives the name of the drug store at 35 N Jefferson as the Drug Emporium and the owners as Perry & Roberts (*Free Press*, Mar 26, 1874, p. 4). A notice in the *Free Press* in 1875 announced that the partnership of Perry and Roberts was dissolved and the business would be continued at the old stand by A.H. Roberts (Mar 25, 1875, p. 2). In 1879, the drug firm of Arnold & Lyon, which had been located at 33 N Jefferson, moved "1 door north of their old stand, in the room formerly occupied by A. H. Roberts" (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Jan 30, 1879, p. 1). Arnold & Lyon, Druggists, remained here in the 1893 city directory.

Several businesses have been also identified in the north half of the building. The new grocery of J.M.C. Swinford advertised at No. 37 N. Jefferson St in January 1868 (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, January 10, 1868,



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7). In August 1868, O.J. Gimble advertised that he had purchased the establishment of J.M.C. Swinford, and he had opened as a dealer in groceries and provisions at No. 37 Jefferson St (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, August 28, 1868, 4). In 1869, a new business appeared, "Arch Campbell's Auction & Commission House, No. 37, North Jefferson Street." The ad stated, "Sells all kinds of Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes, Notions &c. Special attention given to the sale of Household Goods, Furniture, Stoves, Carpets &c" (*Henry Co Press*, Oct 6, 1869, p. 3). In March 1870, O.K. Carr advertised as a "Dealer in Lamp Burners, Chimneys, Oil, &c, No. 37, North Jefferson Street, next door to Trade Palace." He specialized in Rose Burning Fluid, "A light that out-shines them all" with "No Danger of Explosion" (*Henry Co Press*, Mar 30, 1870, p. 3). In April, Thomas. Forker bought out O.K. Carr's stock of Rose Burning Fluid at No. 37 North Jefferson (*Henry Co Press*, April 27, 1870). In November 1870: "Mr. Wm. Hays has fitted up Oyster Parlors at No. 37, North Jefferson Street.... His rooms are handsomely furnished, the walls decorated with paintings and pictures and everything presents a nice appearance" (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Nov 23, 1870, p. 2). In 1876, Virden & Spry advertised "New Boot and Shoe Store, One door South of Templin Bros and Woods" at 37 N Jefferson (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Jan 6, 1876, p. 5). In June 1879, Mrs. A. Herrick advertised their new grocery and market house at No. 37 Jefferson, supplementing her restaurant and bakery at No. 29 Jefferson St (*Free Press*, June 12, 1879, 2, 3). However, by November 1879, she was advertising the grocery and market house at No. 29 Jefferson and the restaurant and bakery at No. 33 Jefferson St, with a note calling attention to the change in her ad (*Free Press*, November 13, 1879, 3). In January 1880, W.D. Snyder moved from the west side of the square (No. 12) to No. 37 Jefferson Street, with his store replenished with new and fresh goods ("Change of Base," *Mt Pleasant Journal*, January 15, 1880, 3). In 1881, W.W. Pennington, who had a dry goods store on N Main, moved to 37 N Jefferson, "Between Lyon's Drug Store and Rudisill's Grocery." He sold woolen goods, staple goods, dress goods, cloths, casimeres, notions, and thread (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Feb 10, 1881, p. 4). In 1870, A.N. Stead and Bro advertise on the second story in March: "Upholsterers and Paper Hangers. Furniture repaired, and old Cane Chairs repaired to order, No. 37, North Jefferson Street, Up Stairs" (*Henry Co Press*, Mar 9, 1870, p. 2). No other uses have been identified for the second story.

The 1886 Sanborn fire insurance map shows a two-story brick building with two storefronts and a shared center stair from the front. The dividing wall is indicated to be first story only, suggesting a large space spanning both halves on the second story. The south half is a drug store, and it has a small frame rear addition. The north half is an upholstering business, and it has an exterior stairs on the rear. It is coded green for an increased fire risk. A one-story frame shed sits about halfway to the alley behind the building.

The 1892 Sanborn map shows the same two-story brick building with two storefronts, shared stairs, and first story wall. The frame addition is larger on the south half, which is used as a drug store and has an address of 129 N. Jefferson St. The exterior rear stairs remain on the north half, which is used for a store for sewing machines and had an address of 133 N. Jefferson. The center stairs door is not labeled with an address, but it would be 131 N. Jefferson in sequence. Doors to stairs to upper stories are labeled with separate addresses further south on the block.

The sewing machine store in the north half of the building appears to be the store of Charles McLeran. According to the transfer books, on September 10, 1891, Thomas Evans sold the north half (N 16' S 50' Lot 6) to George E. Smith. However, this appears to have been a filing date, not a sale date, as Rev. Thomas Evans died in 1870 and his wife Mary T. Evans died in December 1888 (or when the estate finally settled the sale). Thus, it appears that the building was likely acquired by Dr. George E. Smith in 1889, which aligns with notes on improvement with a new glass storefront. Charles McLeran started his

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store in town in August 1879, beginning with the sale of sewing machines and dry goods. Organs started being sold in 1887, with pianos, victrolas, and other lines of music added later. Dry goods were discontinued in 1890 (“Several Merchants in Business Here Over Fifty Years,” *Mt Pleasant News*, September 25, 1934, 5). A notice in the *Free Press* in October 1889 stated that “C. L. McLeran removed his store this week to North Jefferson street, Dr. Smith’s new glass front” (Oct 3, 1889, p. 3). An ad in the *Free Press* on Oct 31, 1889, identified McLeran’s business as selling sewing machines, and stated that he was now located “In Smith’s new building N. Jefferson, Street Number 121” (p. 3). An ad in the *Free Press* on February 19, 1891, locates him in the “White Front Store” on N. Jefferson (p.1). As this is the only building on N. Jefferson on the 1892 map indicated to sell sewing machines, McLeran appears to be located in this building. He then moved to his long-time location at 217 W. Monroe St later in 1892.

The 1899 Sanborn map shows the same two-story brick building with two storefronts, shared stairs, and first story wall. The south half remains a drug store, with the rear one-story addition noted as iron clad. The north half is labeled “photo” and it has a one-story frame rear addition that is larger and also iron clad. The south half is 129 N. Jefferson, and the north half is 133 N. Jefferson. Small sheds are located on the rear of the property.

A drug store operated in the south half of the building for several years. The 1893 City Directory lists Arnold & Lyon, Druggists, at 139 N Jefferson (an error that should read 129 N Jefferson). An ad for the drug store in 1895 has a new name included – Arnold, Lyon & Williams (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, Apr 9, 1895, p. 4). Miss Sue Davis placed an ad on Aug 29, 1895 for her Artistic Studio over the Lyon & Williams drug store (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, p. 5). She placed an ad in November said, “Miss Sue T. Davis, Teacher of China Painting and Needle Work . . . Studio and Kiln over Arnold and Lyons drug store” (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, Nov 19, 1895, p. 4). An article in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* on Sep 22, 1898, said, “A. H. Williams, who is now the sole proprietor of the drug store formerly owned by Arnold, Lyon, & Williams, is fitting up the room in first class style” (p. 5). On Apr 5, 1901, Matthew Perry et al (a note above Perry says “name of Pritchard”) sold the south half (N 16’ S 34’ Lot 6) to Alfred H Williams, who was conducting the drug store. On July 23, 1904, Alfred H Williams and wife sold the south half (N 16’ S 34’) to Frank E McClary for \$3400. In 1905, A.H. Williams published a notice saying that “Mr. Allen Ott has bought my drug stock, fixtures and good will” (*Free Press*, Mar 30, 1905, p. 1). On Mar 31, 1905, FE McClary sold the N 16’ S 34’ of Lot 6 to WL Monger. On December 30, 1905, WL Monger and wife sold the N 16’ S 34’ of Lot 6 to A.V. Beeman. On July 21, 1909, the south half (N16’ S 34’) was sold by GB Goe, Sheriff (Beeman) to A.H. Williams, who had formerly owned the property, for \$2200. In 1910, Allen Ott moved his drug store from 129 to a location “a few doors south,” which was 123 N Jefferson (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, Feb 12, 1910, p. 4). On December 11, 1910, Arnold Williams and wife sold the south half (S 16’ N 34’ Lot 6) to Adam Weir.

The north half of the building was used for several years for photographers and galleries. The 1893 City Directory lists the Schmitz Gallery at 133 N Jefferson. On May 31, 1894, George E Smith sold the north half (N 16’ S 50’) to Anna Lusk. In 1898, a notice in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* stated, “R. E. Inhe [sic] has sold his photograph gallery to Nixon Bro. of this city who will carry on the business” (Jun 16, 1898, p. 5). An ad in 1898 said, “The Nixon Brothers are making quite a sensation in Fine Photographs! If you will call at their Ground Floor Gallery, opposite Harlan House, they will show you some very fine work in their line” (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Sep 22, 1898, p. 4). On April 5, 1901, Anna Lusk sold the north half (N 16’ S 50’) Lot 6 to John L Hughs. A notice in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* on Oct 3, 1902, says, “GL Tomlinson has moved his job printing office over Nixon’s on North Jefferson (p. 8). In 1903, Miss Jessie McDonald

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moved her millinery store from the east side of the square to North Jefferson, "in the rooms occupied by the Nixon Brother, Photographers." The article mentioned that there was plenty of room in the building for both firms to conduct business (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, Jul 28, 1903, p. 1).

The 1909 Sanborn map continues to show the same two-story brick building with two storefronts, center stairs, and first story wall only. The one-story frame rear additions remain, with another small addition on the north half. They are all clad in iron. The south half, 129 N. Jefferson, remained a drug store, and the north half, 133 N. Jefferson, is a barber shop.

Addresses appear to have slightly shifted in the 1911-12 city directory, as the store of W.F. Burket is listed at 131 N. Jefferson (building to the north) and bakery of Charles Wilkins at 125 N. Jefferson (building to south), leaving 127 and 129 as the addresses for this building. The 1911-12 City Directory lists Needham Rogers, Barber, at 127 N Jefferson, which would then be this building. The 1909 Sanborn map shows the barber in the north half, and a notice when Rogers died in 1926 confirmed his location. It says, "Mr. Rogers will be remembered by many here as several years ago he owned a barber shop in the building where the Livix Brothers now have their Electrical store (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, Apr 12, 1926, p. 1). No listing was identified for 129 N. Jefferson, which appears to have remained the south half.

In 1912, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that Adam Weir was making repairs to the building he had recently purchased on North Jefferson (the south half of this building), and that the W.F. Coles Meat Market would be moving in. The article said, "The entire front is being torn out, and a new one will be put in and the room made more convenient and attractive" (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, Jan 24, 1912, p. 4). Two days later, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that the city council had called a special meeting to "consider a resolution condemning the building of John Hughs Sr., on the west side of North Jefferson, in the block north of the square, and occupied by the Needham Rogers barber shop. The mechanics who are working on the Weir building next door south, report that the front wall is liable to fall out at any time, causing a serious menace to the traveling public" (January 26, 1912, p. 3). The same day, January 26, 1912, the transfer books record John Hughs sold the north half (N 16' S 50' Lot 6) to Adam Weir for \$1,800. Thus, for the first time since 1867, the same person owned both sides of the building. On January 29, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that Adam Weir had purchased the property and that "The building is to be repaired, a new front put in, and made similar in appearance to the one next door, which is also owned by Mr. Weir, and being fitted up for occupancy by the Cole's meat market" (Jan 29, 1912, p. 4). In April 1912, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that Archer Electric & Supply Co. was moving to their new location at 129 N Jefferson. In addition to electrical supplies, they also had a spacious motorcycle garage and sold bicycles of all makes (Apr 9, 1912, p. 3).

Interestingly, the A.V. Coles meat market was listed at 117 N. Jefferson in the 1911-12 city directory, which was further south on the block (currently 109 N. Jefferson). With Coles moving to this building further north on the block, this store at 117 N. Jefferson was then vacant. In July 1912, William Hoaglin was extensively remodeling the store recently occupied by the Coles meat market, with the space adjoining Mr. Hoaglin's four room business house to the south (*MP Journal*, July 26, 1912, 3). He then expanded his department store with a shoe department in this space. Without the need for the 117 number on this building, A.V. Coles apparently took the number with him to his new location further north on the block in the south half of this building, which should have been 127. Coles, and subsequently meat markets, are listed in this building with the 117 N. Jefferson address.

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A large fire struck the area to the rear of the west side of the 100 block of N. Jefferson St on June 17, 1914, starting in a barn at the rear of the grocery store of H.A. Duncan, spreading to the Warhurst store to the south, to the rear of the Wilkins' bakery to the north, and then further on the block. The iron-clad frame buildings were noted to be a fire trap, with no way to get water into the building to fight the fire. The fire had to be fought from the front of the buildings. Brick or concrete walls and iron roofs would be rule insisted on by city council in the rebuilding. At the time of the fire, Coles Meat Market was in the south of the building owned by Adam Weir, and they had little damage. Archer Electric Co was in the north half of the building owned by Adam Weir, with a loss of \$1,200 on stock stored on the second story and tools in the rear addition. They were insured, and Weir had insurance on the building ("Many Business Houses Are Destroyed by Fire," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, June 29, 1914, 3). This building, and the building to the south occupied by Wilkins and the building to the north also owned by Brewster, then had one-story fireproof rear additions constructed that extended the length of all four stores to the alley with an unified appearance ("Rebuilding Rapidly Going On," *Mt Pleasant Daily News*, July 22, 1914, 3).

The 1920 Sanborn map shows that the building as improved by Adam Weir. The original two-story brick building with the central stairs remained, with the dividing wall still indicated as first story only. The rear section immediately behind the building is indicated as brick, with the new concrete block one-story rear additions then stretching to the alley. The south half is labeled as "meats" with rendering and a smoke house in the rear addition, and the north half is labeled as "electrical supplies" with a bicycle shop in the rear addition. The old addresses of 129 for the south and 133 for the north are still indicated on the map, though the directories show 117/127 was used for the south and 129 was used for the north storefront.

With these improvements, the south half was occupied by a meat market for several years. The meat market of A.V. Coles was listed in the 1913 telephone directory as 117 N. Jefferson, which should have been 127 N. Jefferson. The same numbering was repeated in the 1915, 1917, and 1919 directories, with Coles operating at this location. The building at 117 N. Jefferson St, now 109 N. Jefferson St, was utilized as the fifth storefront space for Hoaglin's through the 1910s, 1920s, 1930s, etc. In February 1920, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that the Coles Meat Market has been sold to the Anderson Brothers (Feb 3, 1920, p. 4). The 1921, 1923, 1925, 1927 directories list Anderson Bros meat market at 117 N. Jefferson, using the same incorrect numbering as for Coles. In 1935, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that the Anderson Meat market on N Jefferson had installed a new refrigeration unit to "better care for the large quantities of meats carried in stock" (Nov 18, 1935, p. 1). The 1937, 1938, 1939, and 1941 directories continue to list Anderson Market at 117 N. Jefferson. In 1937, the *Mt Pleasant News* carried an ad for "Anderson's Jack Sprat Food Store" at 127 N Jefferson.

The north half of the building was occupied by an electrical store and/or electrician for many years. Archer Electric and Supply was listed at 129 N Jefferson in the telephone directories in 1913. In 1915, the *Mt Pleasant Weekly News-Journal* reported that Mr. Archer had sold the business and was moving to Des Moines (Feb 24, 1915, p. 6). C.M. Taylor & Co, Electrician, was listed at 129 N Jefferson in the 1915, 1917, and 1919 telephone directories. The Electrical Store is then listed at 129 N Jefferson in the telephone directories in 1921, 1923, 1925, and 1927. The 1937 and 1939 telephone directories lists both the Electrical Store and the Livix Brothers Electrical Store at 129 N Jefferson. The 1938 city directory lists the Electrical Store under the categories of Electrical Appliances and Radio Sales & Service. It lists the Livix Bros under the categories of Electrician, Electrical Contractor, and Radio Sales & Service. Thus, both related businesses appear to have function in this space. The 1944, 1948, 1950, and 1952

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telephone directories continue to list both the Electrical Store and Livix Electric at 129 N. Jefferson. In 1947, the Livix Brothers ran an ad for their 25th birthday: "Same Firm – Same Business – Same Location for 25 years" (*Mt Pleasant News*, Feb 28, 1947, p. 4). In 1953, Peterson Electric announced their Grand Opening at the former Livix Electrical Store (*Mt Pleasant News*, Feb 3, 1953, p. 3). The 1955 city directory lists Peterson Electric Appliances at 129 N. Jefferson St.

The 1942 Sanborn map has the same footprint as the 1920 map, with the same earlier numbering of the building with 129 on the south half and 133 on the north half. The south half is used for a meat market and the north half for electrical supplies.

Anderson's Jack Sprat store closed in the north half of the building by 1942, as in November there was a rummage sale at "the former Jack Sprat store and Republican Headquarters" (Nov 4, 1942, p. 3). In 1943, J.C. Ruby opened a plumbing shop at "the former Anderson meat market located on North Jefferson street" (*Mt Pleasant News*, Apr 23, 1943, p. 1). J. Ruby ran an ad in the same issue for his new business on North Jefferson called "Mt. Pleasant Plumbing & Heating Supply" (p. 3). The 1944 City Directory lists Mt. Pleasant Plumbing & Heating at 117 N. Jefferson, continuing the numbering of the meat market in this location. In October 1948, the *Mt Pleasant News* reported that Joe Ruby had sold Mt Pleasant Plumbing and Heating Co to Edward and James Kitch of the E.E. Taft & Sons company and that he had purchased the Shannon Cleaners from Glen Shannon. They would take over on November 1. They would continue to operate their heating and roofing business under the Taft name and continue the plumbing business under the Mt Pleasant Plumbing and Heating name, retaining all present employees. The Rubys had operated their business for six years since they moved from Fairfield ("Two Important Business Changes Are Announced," *Mt Pleasant News*, October 11, 1948, 1). In November 1948, the company E.E. Taft & Son moved into the former Mt Pleasant Plumbing & Heating location, 127 N Jefferson, the owners being Ed & Jim Kitch (*Mt Pleasant News*, Nov 1, 1948, p. 6). The 1950 City Directory lists E.E. Taft & Sons as located at 127 N. Jefferson, the correct numbering for this building. They then moved back to their former location on E. Monroe. In 1951, Maid Rite Café announced their opening at 127 N Jefferson (*Mt Pleasant News*, Jun 22, 1951, p. 4). The 1952 telephone directory and the 1955 City Directory list Maid Rite Café at 127 N Jefferson. In 1957, the location of the former Maid Rite store in the Weir building was advertised "For Rent" (*Mt Pleasant News*, Oct 10, 1957, p. 5).

By 1957, the street numbers shifted to the current numbering of 117 and 119 N. Jefferson for this building. The 1957 City Directory listed Sanders Electric at 119 N Jefferson, and an apartment at 119½ N Jefferson. The 1960 City Directory lists Sanders Electric at 119 N Jefferson.

On Feb 23, 1921, Adam & Lucy Weir had sold the full building (N 32' S 50') to H.C. Weir (Adam's father) for \$9,000. On July 11, 1958, the Eleanor Weir estate transferred an undivided ½ interest in the building (N 16' S 50' Lot 6 and N 16' S 34' Lot 6) to Marions Gibbons and Preston Weir with a change of title. On Sep 23, 1958, the Lucy Weir Estate transferred to Davis Weir and Helen Weir Martin an undivided ½ interest in the building (N 16' S 50' Lot 6 and the N 16' S 34' Lot 6) with a change of title.

The remodeling of the Davis Weir building on N. Jefferson for Sears was noted as one of three major remodeling projects in downtown in 1961, with the other two including the J.C. Penney Co store across the street and the remodeling of the building on the east side of the square for the Harrison Co (formerly occupied by J.C. Penney). The two store spaces were combined, new storefront installed, and interior remodeled and redecorated. The space was then more floor space than their former location on N. Main

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St ("Mt Pleasant Makes Many Gains and Changes in Year of Great Progress," *Mt Pleasant News*, November 13, 1961, 1, 23). In June 1961, Sears announced that they would be opening at their new location at 117-119 N Jefferson on June 30 (*Mt Pleasant News*, June 23, 1961, p. 3). The work was among the projects listed for the H. Eugene Smith Construction Co for the year (*Mt Pleasant News*, November 13, 1961, 14). The work was further described in January 1962 when William S. Walters purchased the building on N. Jefferson St occupied by Sears from Davis Weir and others. It had a new storefront installed and the rear portion rebuilt and extended when the building was remodeled a few months ago for occupancy by Sears on first story. The store was 32 feet wide and extended 150 feet to the alley. Three apartments upstairs were also remodeled ("Business Building Sale is Announced," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 13, 1962, 1). On May 4, 1966, Marion Gibbons et al formally sold the building (N 16' S 50' Lot 6 and the N 16' S 34' Lot 6) to Bernie O. Walters. On June 4, 1966, William S and Bernie O Walters sold the same property to Iowa Investment Corp.

The 1962 and 1964 city directories list Sears & Roebuck Co at 117-119 N Jefferson. The 1966 directory lists Sears & Roebuck Co at simply 117 N. Jefferson St. They are listed with a catalog sales office. Sears & Roebuck are listed at 117 N Jefferson in the City Directories in 1968, 1970, and 1972. Three apartments are listed at 119 ½ N. Jefferson.

By July 1973, Ashley's Mt Pleasant Outlet had opened at 119 N. Jefferson, offering merchandise with slight imperfections at discount prices (*Mt Pleasant News*, July 25, 1973, 3). The 1976 and 1977 city directories list Ashley's Mt Pleasant Outlet at 119 N Jefferson and apartments at 119½ N Jefferson. "No information" is listed for this building in the 1981 directory, with apartment on the second story.

The city directories in 1983, 1984, and 1986 list George's Pizza and Steak at 119 N Jefferson and apartments at 119½ N Jefferson.

On Apr 29, 1986, the Iowa Investment Corp sold the building (N 32' S 50' Lot 6) to Woodside Properties, and on Jun 23, Woodside Properties sold the same property to Iris City Investment Corp.

From 1987 to 1998, the city directories list Heritage Hallmark at 119 N Jefferson and apartments at 119½ N Jefferson. From 2001 to 2015, the City Directories list Marilyn's Hallmark at 119 N Jefferson and apartments at 119½ N Jefferson.

In the city directories in 2016, 2017 and 2018, Panda Kitchen is listed at 119 N Jefferson.

In 2021, Mei's China Palace purchased the N 32' S 50' of Lot 6 for \$111,000. The city directories in 2022 and 2023 list Mei's China Palace at 119 N Jefferson. Mei's China Palace is currently operating at this location, and the owners live upstairs.

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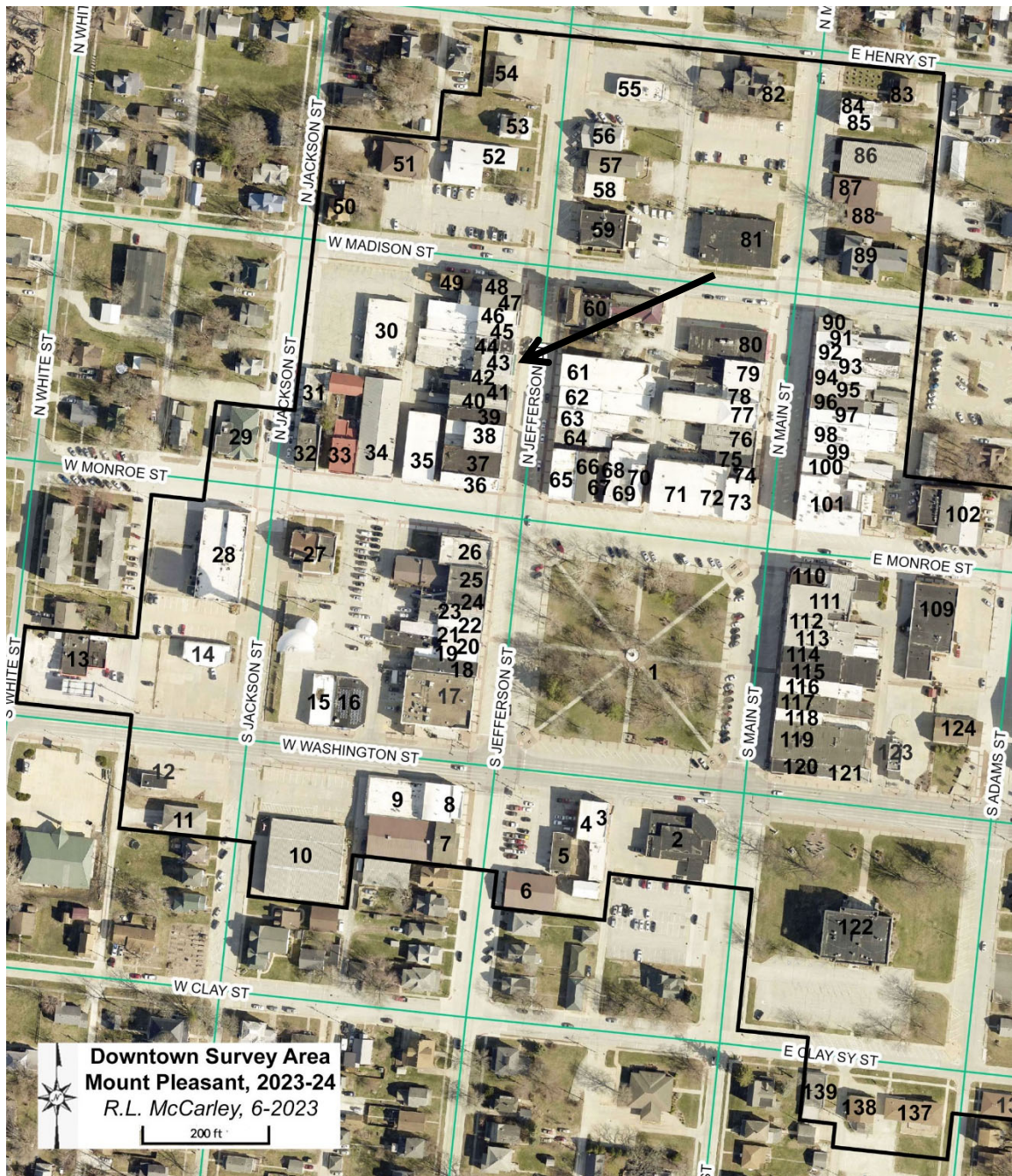
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**Location map**





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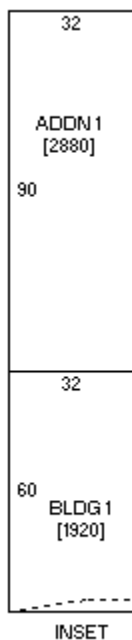
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**Building footprint**



Sketch by [www.camavision.com](http://www.camavision.com)

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

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**Historic images**



**West side of 100 block of N. Jefferson St in 1900s (HCHT Facebook album)**

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Partial south storefront, center stairs, and north storefront (Nixon Bros) around 1903 during sidewalk improvements (HCHT Facebook album)



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West side of 100 block of N. Jefferson, looking southwest (*Mt Pleasant Beautiful* 1909: 5)

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Middle of west side of 100 block of N. Jefferson St in July 1961 prior to remodel for Sears (HCHT files)



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*Crane Furniture is now the Jaynes + Walker's*

West side of 100 block of N. Jefferson St in April 1964 (HCHT files)

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JUL 25 1965

Middle of west side of 100 block of N. Jefferson St in July 1965 (HCHT files)

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Building in 1960s (HCHT Facebook album)



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**Building in May 1990 (City of Mt Pleasant building permits)**

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**Building at right in 1999 (City of Mt Pleasant building permits)**

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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 44-00194-001. East elevation, looking west (October 2023)**



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Photograph 44-00194-002. West elevation, looking east (October 2023)