

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 44-02245 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: Christian Science Church

B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-056

• Location

A) Street address: 206 N. Jefferson

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): 19 Lot(s): Lot 2 - S 40'

• Classification

A) Property category: *Check only one*

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

B) Number of resources (within property):

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

C) For properties listed in the National Register:

National Register status: Listed De-listed NHL NPS DOE

D) For properties within a historic district:

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

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

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

MPD title: 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

06A01: RELIGION / church

B) Current functions

06A01: RELIGION / church

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

A) Architectural classification

09G02: Church – gable end

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04C: Limestone

Walls (visible exterior): 15B: Vinyl siding

Roof: 08A: Asphalt shingle

Other: _____

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

• **Statement of Significance**

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

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

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

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

C) Areas of significance

Enter categories from instructions

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1902 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovations
1980

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 Lottie Schnicker & Joy Lapp Date: May 2, 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 top 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 frame church built in 1902, with a gable-front addition constructed in 1980. The entire building was clad in vinyl siding at this time. Both sections have gable roofs with asphalt shingles. The gable front addition spans the width of the front of the church, and it sits on a concrete foundation with a brick veneer at the base of the walls. This brick veneer continues on the walls with the recessed entry area, which has a single-door entry with a sidelight. The front of the addition have two single-light windows. The form of the original church is visible from the north side of the building, with the square corner entry vestibule discernible. The shed-roof side section extends to the rear/east of this entry vestibule. These sections and the main section of the church sit on a rough cut stone foundation. The east/left half of the main section of the church has two double-hung windows. The south elevation has a side entry on the front addition. Four double-hung windows span the side of the main section of the church. The east/rear elevation has a centered rear entry.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Christian Science Church 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 history of the downtown, operating here from 1902 to the early 2010s. The church was built in 1902 on this site on the north end of the downtown, similar to churches to the east on N. Main St. The front addition was constructed during a period of improvements and significant investment in downtown Mt Pleasant from 1977 to 1981, and it is significant within this later period of downtown development that is included in the preliminary period of significance for the downtown. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a historic commercial building in a historic district.

Based on research and evaluation conducted to date, this building does not appear to likely be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at this time. Further research on the history of the church and assessment of the interior features and modifications would be required for a full evaluation of the individual eligibility of the building. It would also not likely be individually eligible until the 1980 front addition was 50 years old.

Developmental history of property

The frame church at 206 N Jefferson was built in 1901-02 as the Christian Science Church.

The 1886 Sanborn map shows the S½ of the west end of Lot 2 as vacant, with frame outbuilding at the east end of the lot. On October 8, 1888, Presley Saunders acquired Lot 3 & S½ Lot 2, Block 19 from Smith Saunders, his son. The 1892 Sanborn map shows the outbuilding has been expanded, with no building on the front/west portion of the lot. The 1899 Sanborn map is the same as the previous one. The lot then transferred to Eliza Bowman and husband on November 20, 1899.

On January 1, 1899, 10 people interested in Christian Science met and organized the First Church of Christ Scientist, meeting on the second story of a store building ("Christian Science," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 26, 1899, 18). In April 1899, a notice in the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* announced a "Christian

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Science meeting in the front room upstairs over the Misses Harrison's millinery store, across west of the Harlan House. Services at 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Subject: "Everlasting Punishment." Devotional meeting Wednesday at 7:30. A cordial invitation is extended to the public" (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, April 20, 1899, 1). This is the corner building at 129 N. Jefferson. Notices for Christian Science services at this location continued for a number of months. The last notice for services "over the Misses Harrison's millinery store" was on Jan 20, 1900 (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, January 12, 1900, 4). A later history notes that the Christian Science Society initially held services in 1899 at 129 N. Jefferson. They then met at the German Presbyterian Church. With a bequest from William G. Saunders, they built and moved into their own church in 1902. The first organ was given by Robert and Mary (Lincoln) Todd (MPS 1985: 30). William G. Saunders was president of First National Bank from 1891 until his death in 1899.

On May 23, 1901, the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that the members of the Christian Science church had filed articles of incorporation on May 21 in order to take advantage of a \$2,000 bequest left to them by the late W.G. Saunders (cousin of Presley Saunders) (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, May 23, 1901, 1; "Christian Science," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 26, 1973, 18). On November 30, 1901, Eliza Bowman (daughter of Presley Saunders) & husband sold the S½ of Lot 2 to the trustees of the Christian Science Church for \$800. The *Mt Pleasant Journal* reported on December 10, 1901, that work had begun on the foundation of the new Christian Science church "to be built on the Bowman property north of the Harlan House" (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, December 10, 1901, 4). On April 4, 1902, the *Mt Pleasant Journal* reported, "Appropriate services were held yesterday at the laying of the corner stone of the Christian Science Church on North Jefferson street" (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, April 4, 1902, 7). On July 29, 1902, the *Mt Pleasant Journal* reported, "The new Christian Science church is now nearly completed, and services are already being held there" (*Mt Pleasant Journal*, July 29, 1902, 4).

The 1909 Sanborn map shows a one-story frame building labeled "Christian Science Church" at the west end of the lot, while the outbuilding that had previously been at the east end of the lot is gone. An article about the history of the church in the *Mt Pleasant News* in 1973 mentions that "The deed reserved the right to remove a barn then standing on the lot" (*Mt Pleasant News*, January 26, 1973, 18). The map does not have a number associated with the building on the south half of the lot, with the vacant lot to south numbered as 204 and the house to the north on the north half of the lot as 206. The 1911-12 City Directory lists the First Church of Christ, Scientist – chapel north of the YMCA on N. Jefferson. Newspaper notes list the First Church of Christ, Scientist, as meeting at the Christian Science Chapel on N. Jefferson (*Mt Pleasant Daily News*, February 21, 1914, 4). The 1920 and 1942 Sanborn maps are the same as the 1909 map.

The 1938 City Directory lists the Christian Science church on North Jefferson. A photograph of the church appears in the directory. The name of First Church of Christ, Scientist, was changed to Christian Science Society on March 19, 1940 (MPS 1985: 30). Remodeling of the church began in 1940, and the Society of free and clear of debt by 1943 ("Christian Science," *Mt Pleasant News*, January 26, 1973, 18).

The 1941 City Directory lists the Christian Science Society at 204 N Jefferson. The 1955 and 1957 City Directories list the Christian Science church at 208 N Jefferson. The 1960 City Directory and subsequent directories shifted the number for the church to 206 N Jefferson, the current numbering for the building.

Remodeling and an addition was completed through a bequest from Mrs. Sophia Hoaglin (died in 1976) that added a new Sunday School and Christian Science Reading Room (MPS 1985: 30). On Nov 20,

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1980, the *Mt Pleasant News* reported that a permit had been issued to Donald E Gartin of the Madison Hills Construction firm for remodeling the Christian Science church at 204 N Jefferson. The article stated, "Gartin told the council that brick veneer will be placed around the perimeter of the lower level, an addition would be placed on the front of the church, and new vinyl siding will be installed" (*Mt Pleasant News*, November 20, 1980, 1). A photo of the construction project was published in the *Mt Pleasant News* on December 27, 1980, with the caption, "Don Gartin, roof at the right, is the contractor for the 720 square foot addition to the Christian Science Church on North Jefferson. The addition will provide space for a Sunday School room and a reading room and will cost approximately \$30,000. The white frame building was constructed as a Christian Science Church in 1902. The interior was remodeled in the 1940s" (*Mt Pleasant News*, December 27, 1980, 1).

The Christian Science Society church was listed in city directories at 206 N. Jefferson St from the 1980s to the early 2010s.

On July 25, 2015, the Scientist Church sold the lot to the current owners, the Iglesia Cristiana Pentecostal, Jehova es mi Guerrero LTD, as a tax exempt sale for \$45,000. The church still occupies this space today.

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, 1873, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1993, 2001, 2011. Manitowoc, WI: Johnson Publishing Co.

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

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

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

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

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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.

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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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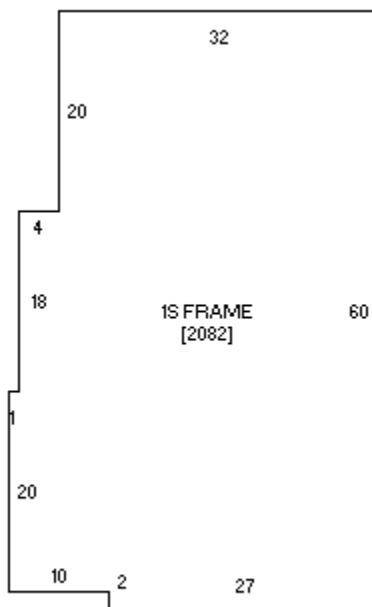
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Building footprint



Sketch by www.camavision.com

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

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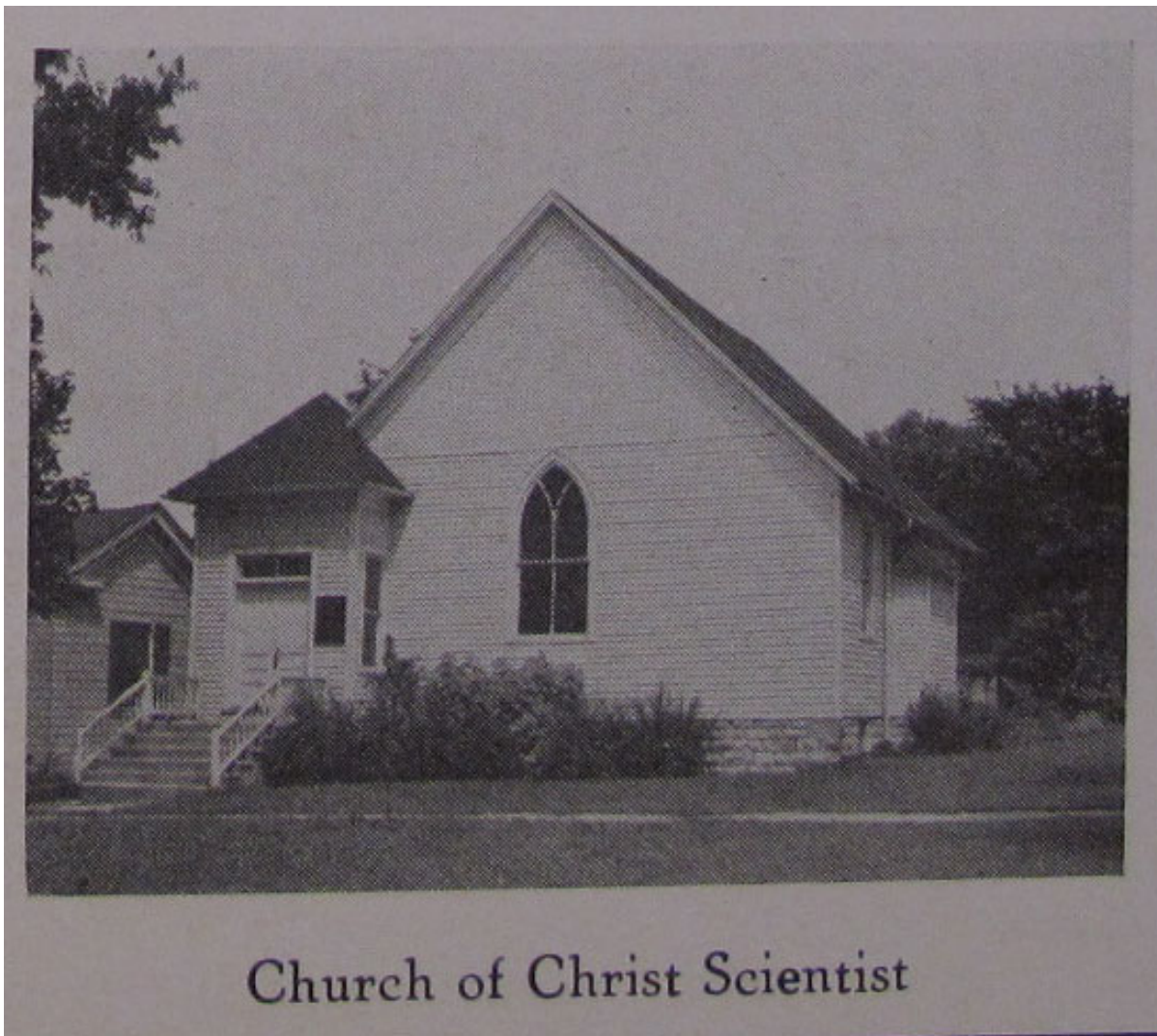
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Historic images



Church in 1938 city directory

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Church to north of post office in 1940s (HCHT Facebook album)

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**East side of 200 block of N. Jefferson in 1971 prior to move of house at corner to south of town
(HCHT Facebook album)**

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Church at left on east side of 200 block in 1974 (Dyall set, HCHS binder, Mt Pleasant library)

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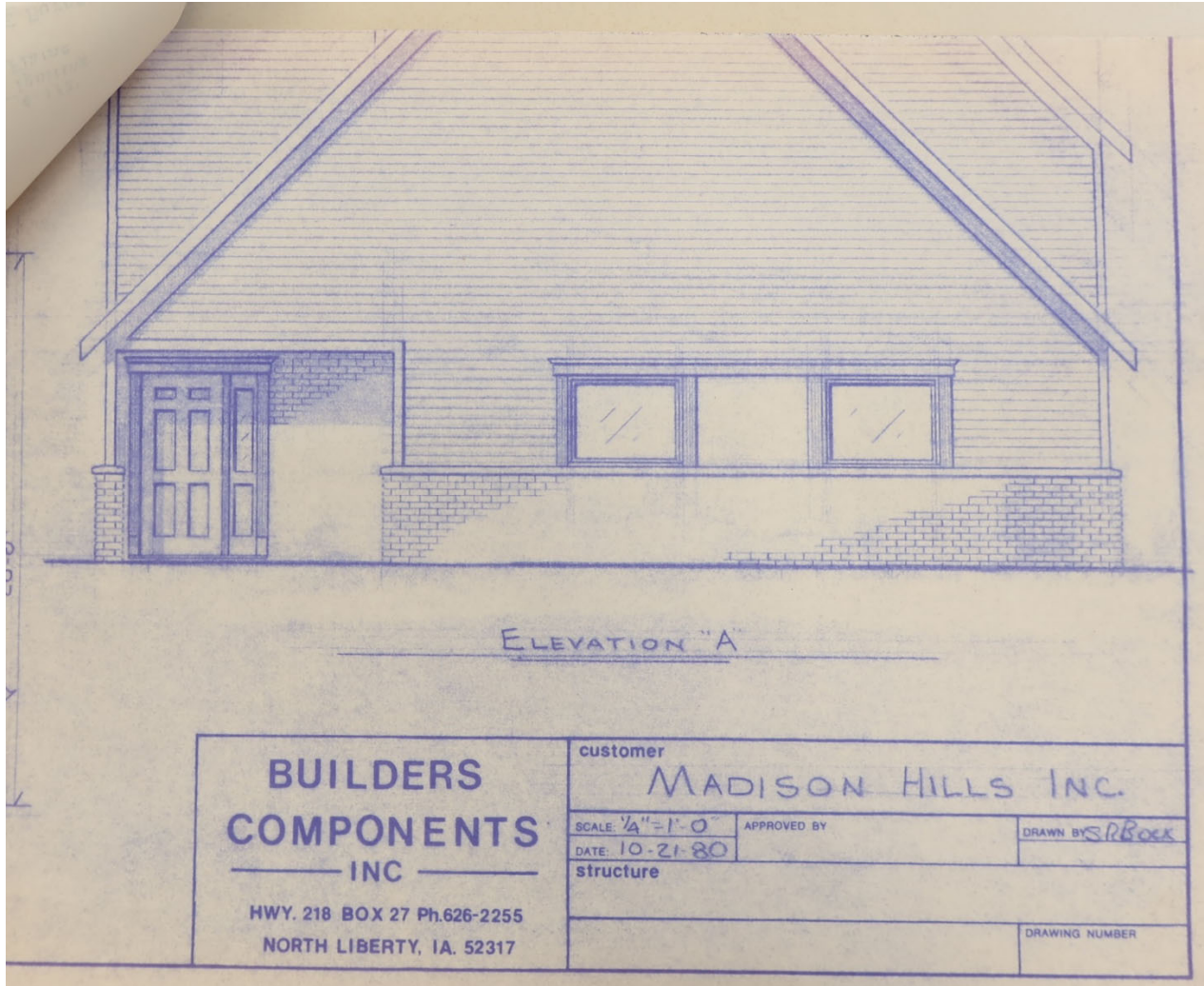
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Design for front addition in October 1980 (City of Mt Pleasant building permits)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 44-02245-001. West elevation, looking east (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-02245-002. North elevation, looking south (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-02245-003. South elevation, looking northeast (October 2023)

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Photograph 44-02245-004. East elevation, looking west (October 2023)