Iowa Site Inventory Form State Inventory Number: 44-00240 ☐ New ☐ Supplemental **State Historic Preservation Office** 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: _____ (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: Saunders Building B) Other names: 2023 downtown survey # DT-074 Location A) Street address: 105 N. Main 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): 7 Lot(s): Lot 8 - N 20' of E 37' 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 Buildinas ☐ Structure Sites Sites ☐ Object Structures Structures Objects Objects 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 02B: COMMERCE/TRADE / real estate office 02E: COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store 14D: TRANSPORTATION / road related Description Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions A) Architectural classification **B) Materials** 05: LATE VICTORIAN Foundation (visible exterior): <u>04C: Limestone</u> Walls (visible exterior): 04C: Limestone 09F07: Commercial / artistic front Roof: 15C: Rubber

Other:

Site Number: 44-00240 Address: 105 N. Main 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 archaecters.	tics.
B) Special criteria considerations: Mark any special c ☐ A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religiou ☐ B: Removed from its original location. ☐ C: A birthplace or grave. ☐ D: A cemetery	
C) Areas of significance Enter categories from instructions 05: Commerce	D) Period(s) of significance
E) Significant dates Construction date 1883	F) Significant person Complete if Criterion B is marked above
1960s 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 sheets for the list re See continuation sheets for the list re Northing NAD	
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>
unique photo number. 3. Photo key showing each photo number on a number to indicate the location and directional	fied in the lowa Site Inventory Form Instructions: In property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and map and/or floor plan, using arrows next top each photo I view of each photograph. ving boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints. s, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only	
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	nmended
Comments:	
SHPO authorized signature:	Date:

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7. Narrative Description

This two-story commercial building is immediately to the rear of the corner National State Bank building, facing Main Street to the east. The brick building is clad in limestone on the façade, with an elaborate decorative cornice and window hoods visible in historic photographs. This decorative detail appears to have been removed in the 1960s during a period that façades were rebuilt and simplified throughout downtown Mt Pleasant. The storefront was remodeled in 1984, with additional interior remodeling at this time as well. The original cast iron columns and pilasters were retained, with the stairs removed and storefront entry moved down to sidewalk level. The low brick wall was constructed at this time, with the base of the original columns/pilaster then resting on this brick wall. The smaller storefront windows and wood paneling was also installed at this time. The second story retains three one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Saunders 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. While the original design of the building has been modified during the two major remodels, the building retains its unique stone façade and cast iron columns/pilasters. The remodel in the 1960s falls within the period of significance for the potential historic district and reflects the trend to simplify historic buildings in this period. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a historic commercial building in a historic district.

Based on research and evaluation conducted to date, this building does not appear to likely be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Assessment of the interior features and modifications would be required for a full evaluation of the individual eligibility of the building.

Developmental history of property

The commercial building at 105 N. Main Street appears to have been built in1883 by Henry C. Saunders. Historical photos show that originally the building had an elaborate cornice and heavy hood molds, as well as a balcony on the second floor that ran the width of the building, all of which are now gone. On a 1911 postcard, the name "Saunders" is visible on the center of the cornice.

In 1865, Henry C. Saunders purchased the N 20' of the E 56' of Lot 8 in Block 7 from the Mount Pleasant Branch, State Bank of Iowa for \$625 (Source: Abstract). They occupied a bank building to the south of this parcel. The 1869 bird's eye map of Mount Pleasant shows a vacant lot at the location of this building. The 1867 *City Directory* lists "Saunders, H.C., Main west side 1 north Monroe" under Real Estate Agents, which means he was located in an office over the National State Bank, as the first door north of Monroe opened to a stairway that provided access to the second and third floors of the bank. In January of 1883, there was a serious fire on the north side of the square that damaged several buildings, but the newspaper reports that H.C. Saunders, whose office was in "Whiting's Bank," was able to secure his belongings. The National State Bank was known as Whiting's Bank in reference to the founder and president, Timothy Whiting. Later that year, the newspaper reported that attorneys Woolson and Babb,

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who were "dislodged by the fire of last January," were resettled in an office "over Whiting's bank" that was formerly occupied by H.C. Saunders (Mt Pleasant Journal, August 9, 1883). Meanwhile, according to local brick manufacturer and contractor O.V. Stough, 850,000 bricks were laid in Mount Pleasant during 1883, including a building erected for H.C. Saunders (Mt Pleasant Journal, December 13, 1883, p. 2). Another article reported that Stella Bartruff was planning to open a new store called "The Fashion" that would be located in "the handsome new room erected by Henry Saunders this summer on North Jefferson [sic]" (Mt Pleasant Journal, October 25, 1883, p. 2). "Jefferson" is apparently a mistake, as an ad in the Free Press on April 17, 1884, mentions "The Fashion" being located "North of Whiting's bank," which would be on Main Street (p. 3). An article in the Free Press on Oct 15, 1885, reports that Stella Bartruff ran a store located "in Saunders' handsome block, north of the National State Bank" (p. 3). Thus, H.C. Saunders apparently had moved to his new office in the new building he erected north of Whiting's bank by August of 1883. He was located on the second floor, accessed by a stairway in the bank, and Stella Bartruff ran a shop for women's fancy goods on the first floor. The 1893 City Directory lists "H. C. Saunders, 105 N Main Street" under Real Estate. Although Henry Saunders has the same last name as Presley Saunders, the founder of Mount Pleasant, there does not appear to be any family connection between them. The Free Press announced Saunders' death on May 25, 1899 (p. 1).

During the era that Henry C. Saunders owned the building, from its construction in 1883 until his death in 1899, his office was on the second floor with businesses on the first floor. Historical photos show that the entrance to the first floor was above the street level and accessed by going up four steps. Directly south of the main entrance, another stairway went down from the sidewalk to the basement. In 1885, Stella Bartruff advertised her business, "The Fashion," in the *Free Press* (October 15, p. 3). She sold children's clothing and toys as well as ladies' gloves, hose, handkerchiefs, and other notions, and was located at the first door north of Whiting's bank. The 1886 Sanborn map shows a 2-story square, brick building that sold dry goods. By 1892, the Sanborn map indicates that the shop sold boots and shoes. The building was used as a shoe store from 1889 until about 1909. In 1889, G.W. Morehart and Co opened a "first class boot and shoe manufacturing and repairing shop" at the first door north of Whiting's bank (*Free Press*, October 31, 1889, p. 3). An ad in the *Free Press* on October 20, 1892 (p. 2) indicated that the business was now called Morehart & Shepp, and the address was given as 105 N. Main. The 1893 city directory likewise lists Morehart & Shepp under boots and shoes at 105 N. Main St. The partnership between Morehart and Shepp was dissolved in 1894 (*Free Press*, June 23, 1894, p. 4), and the shoe store continued as Shepp's Shoe Store until about 1909.

After H.C. Saunder's death in 1899, James B. Hart purchased the N 20' of the E 20' of Lot 8 from H.C. Putnam, Sheriff, in March 1901. Shepp's Shoe Store was still on the first floor at the time, as indicated by an ad in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* on February 21, 1902 (p. 8). The 1909 Sanborn map indicates that that building was vacant, but the *Mt Pleasant Journal* reported on September 14, 1909 (p. 1) that the Henry County Mutual Insurance Company was moving from their office in the Willard Harness Shop on the east side of the square to the room "formerly occupied by the Shepp Shoe Co," the first door north of the National Bank. Henry County Mutual Insurance is listed at this address in the 1911-12 *City Directory*, and James R. Gillis is also listed with his insurance office at 105 N. Main St. Henry County Mutual Insurance is listed at this address in the 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, and 1921 telephone directories. There is a historic photograph in which the words "Mutual Insurance" can be seen on the edge of the awning over the shop windows. The 1920 Sanborn Map indicates the building as used as an office.

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During this era, a barbershop operated in the basement of the building. The 1911-12 *City Directory* lists Wyatt J. Fidler, Barber at 105 N Main. The 1913 Phone Directory lists Joe W. Fidler, Barber, at 105 N Main and an ad in the *Mt Pleasant Journal* (November 27, 1913, p. 4) announces a new barber shop in the "basement of the Henry Co. Mutual Insurance Co." Joe W. Fidler was an African American man who ran barber shops in several locations in Mt Pleasant starting in the late 1890s. The second floor was apparently rented as an apartment at this time. The 1911-12 *City Directory* lists "Davis, Evan, wife Elizabeth, 105 N. Main."

In 1923, Fred and Ralph Crane purchased the E 37' of Lot 8 from the National State Bank for \$15,000. This purchase included two buildings -- 105 N Main and the corner building to the south at 101 W Monroe. The two buildings continued to be owned together until they were again separated in 2004. On June 2, 1923 (p. 1), the *Mt Pleasant Daily News* reported that the Western Union Telegraph concern was moving from the Brazelton to a room rented from Fred and R.K. Crane, at the rear of the National State bank building. The Western Union is listed on North Main in the 1925, 1927, and 1937 Phone Directories. The 1941 *City Directory* lists the Western Union at 105 N Main. There are several historic photographs that show the Western Union sign hanging in front of the building.

During the era that Fred and Ralph Crane owned the building, there were several businesses both on the second floor and in the basement, in addition to the main floor. Star Cleaners, a laundry service, was listed in the 1923 Phone Directory at 105 N Main, presumably in the basement. In the 1925 and 1927 Phone Directories, the address of Star Cleaners was given as 103 N Main, probably because the entrance to the basement was one door south of the main entrance to the building. Another historic photograph shows a shoe shine parlor in the basement. In 1929, Bill's shine parlor, "under the Western Union," advertised a shine ticket good for 12 shines, \$1.00 (*Mt Pleasant News*, November 21, 1929, p. 3). In 1931, Mt. Pleasant Laundry Service, "under the Western Union" advertised laundry and drycleaning services (*Mt Pleasant News*, November 20, 1931). In 1933, Whitt's Shoe Repair Shop was located "Under Western Union" (*Mt Pleasant News*, July 12, 1933, p. 4). In 1935, Charles Grenneman and Bud Cookes purchased the "shoe shining parlor formerly operated by Ralph Whittaker under the Western Union office" (*Mt Pleasant News*, June 1, 1935, p. 4). A year later, A.M. Gifford's ad read, "Wanted – Shoes to shine." Located "Below Western Union Office," Gifford also sold candy, gum, and pop (*Mt Pleasant News*, June 19, 1936, p. 6).

In 1929, the Henry Co Agricultural Association, a.k.a. the Fair Board, rented the room on the second floor, "over the office of the Western Union telegraph" (*Mt Pleasant News*, December 14, 1929, p. 1), and they were still located "over the Western Union telegraph office" when they met the following year to plan for that year's county fair (*Mt Pleasant News*, December 15, 1930, p. 1). In March of the following year, F.B. and R.K. Crane advertised a room for rent over the Western Union. It was "suitable for office or living room. Modern." (*Mt Pleasant News*, March 17, 1931, p. 8). Peggy Heater opened "Peggy's Beauty Salon" that operated on the second floor from 1932-1944. She advertised in the *Mt Pleasant News* in 1932, listing her services as "Hair Dyeing, Naturelle Permanent Waving, Toupee and Transformation Service," and giving her location as "over Western Union" (September 15, 1932, p. 3). Peggy's Beauty Salon was listed in the 1937 Phone Directory at North Main, and in the 1941 City Directory at 105 ½ North Main. The last listing for her shop in the Phone Directory was 1944.

On March 24, 1937, Fred Crane bought the E 37' and 3' passageway of Lot 8 from his brother, Ralph Crane. At the time of the transfer, the Western Union was located on the first floor and Peggy's Beauty

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Salon on the second floor. The 1941 *City Directory* lists Sunderlin Printing Co. at "105 N Main, downstairs." A headline in the *Mt Pleasant News* on February 6, 1941 (p. 1) announced, "Local Printing Shop Ruined By A Fire." According to the story, the fire at Sunderlin's shop started when coal was being unloaded and the coal dust ignited, blowing out the shop windows. Smoke spread into the Western Union office on the first floor and Peggy's Beauty shop on the second floor. However, all three businesses apparently recovered and continued to operate in the building. Sunderlin Printing moved out of the basement of 105 N Main to the Temple Building in 1943 (*Mt Pleasant News*, November 20, 1943, p. 1).

The 1942 Sanborn map shows that a one-story addition was added to the back of the building. "Office" is written on the original, front section of the building. Probably around 1949, Vera Shafer, the fabled cab driver and owner of City Cab, moved her business from the Brazelton Hotel to the basement of 105 N Main. An exhibit at the Henry County History Museum honors Shafer's three decades of delivering the residents of Mount Pleasant to their destinations by cab. A historic photograph shows City Cab in the basement, Western Union on the first floor, and Wolf's Men's Shop on the third floor, accessed by the stairway in the adjacent building to the south. On June 28, 1949, the City Council approved Shafer's request to move her parking spaces from the east side to the west side of Main Street (Mt Pleasant News, June 28, 1949, p. 5), so presumably that is when she moved her business across the street. However, when the Western Union moved out of 105 N. Main to the lobby of the Brazelton (Mt Pleasant News, April 3, 1952, p. 1), City Cab apparently moved to the first floor, because businesses from 1952 through at least 1959 operated "under City Cab." In 1952, the November Circle Rummage Sale was held "under City Cab stand" (Mt Pleasant News, November 3, 1952, p. 6). In 1955-1956, Royer Bros. TV was located "under City Cab Stand" (Mt Pleasant News, December 16, 1955, p. 5). On March 17, 1956, the sale of Royer's TV Shop to Cecil Enyard was announced (Mt Pleasant News, p. 3), and in 1958, the May Circle of the Methodist Church held a rummage sale "Under City Cab" (Mt Pleasant News, March 20, 1958, p. 6). The last ad found for a rummage sale "under City Cab" was February 20, 1959 (Mt Pleasant News, p. 4). In recent memory, City Cab was again located in the basement, but it is not clear when it moved back down. In the 1955 City Directory, City Cab is listed at 107 N Main, but that is likely a mistake. City Cab is listed at 105 N Main in the 1957, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1968, 1973, and 1977 City Directories.

On the second floor, Art Wolf moved his tailoring business to the "rooms above Western Union" in 1946 (*Mt Pleasant News*, July 15, 1946, p. 1). An ad for Wolf's Men's Shop "over Western Union" was run in 1949 (*Mt Pleasant News*, December 31, p. 3) An ad for Wolf's Men's Shop in 1952 gave the location as "Over City Cab Office" (*Mt Pleasant News*, Oct. 27, p. 4). After Wolf's Men's Shop moved out, the second floor was rented as a residential apartment. Norma Grundahl is listed at 105½ N Main in the 1957 *City Directory*. The 1960 City Directory lists 105½ N Main as vacant. Residents are listed as living in the apartment in the 1964, 1968, and 1977 City Directories.

On January 4, 1963, Charles R. McCuen purchased the E 37' of Lot 8 from Baron Crane et.al, the descendants of Fred Crane. At the time, City Cab was located in the building, either on the first floor or basement, and the second floor was rented as a residential apartment. On September 18, 1972, the lowa Investment Corporation purchased the E 37' and 3' passageway in Lot 8 from Charles and Alice McCuen.

On September 6, 1983, Iris City Investment Company (ICIC) purchased the E 37' and 3' passageway in Lot 8 from the Iowa Investment Company. Robert Waters, one of the partners in ICIC, reported that at the time, the building was "infested with cockroaches." ICIC made major renovations to the building,

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including filling the basement in with sand, moving the first-floor entrance down to the street level, adding a loft between the first and second floors, and installing a spiral, metal staircase to connect the first and second floors from the interior of the building rather than having to use the staircase in the adjacent building. The façade of the first floor was also renovated, adding wood cladding and installing new, smaller windows. After the renovations were completed, Travel on Main moved into the building in 1984, using both the first and second floors (*Mt Pleasant News*, December 14, 1984, p. 5). Travel on Main is listed in the 1985, 1986, and 2001 *City Directories*.

On Dec 31, 1985, ownership of the E 37' and 3' passageway of Lot 8 was transferred from ICIC to Ross Waters, Bob Waters, and Nile Buffington and on April 3, 1987, it was transferred to DE-WY Partners, a partnership which included Bob Waters. In 2004, 105 N Main and 101 W Monroe were split when Phomma and Khamphoune Keomanivong purchased the S 60' of the E 57" of Lot 8.

The current owners of the N 20' of the E 57' of Lot 8 are Robert Waters, Blair Buffington, and Heather Roberson. The Willow Shed, a gift shop, is listed at 105 N Main in the 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2015 *City Directories*. Businesses since that time are a wedding gown alternation shop run by Sara Gray and "etc.," a craft shop, run by Joni Manske (Source: Bob Waters). The current business is the Sorta Sweet Boutique, a clothing shop, run by Cindy Wardle. She opened in Sept of 2023 (Source: Cindy Wardle).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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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

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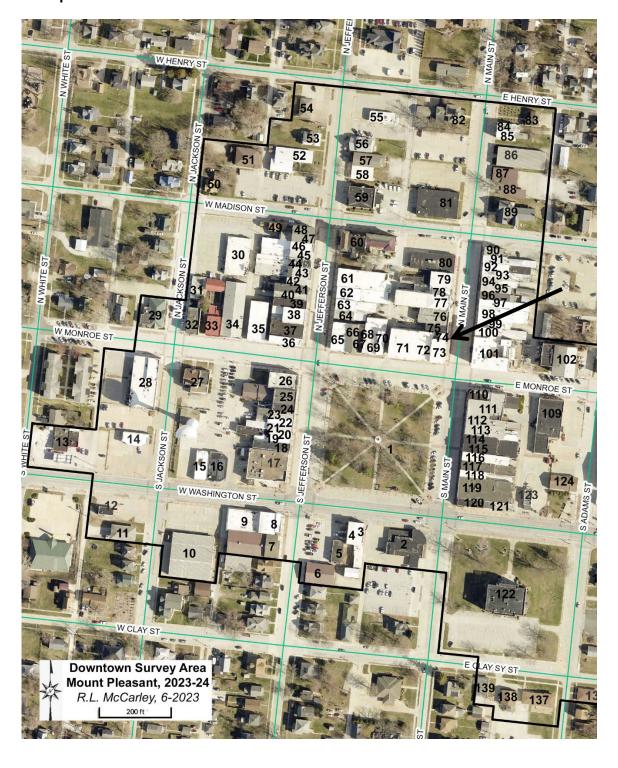
Sanborn Map Company. *Mount Pleasant, Iowa.* Fire insurance maps for 1886, 1892, 1899, 1909, 1920, 1942. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection.

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Location map

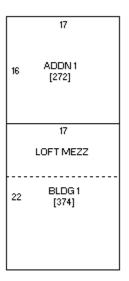


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Building footprint



Sketch by www.camavision.com

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

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Historic images



View of building at 105 N. Main St (HCHT Facebook album)

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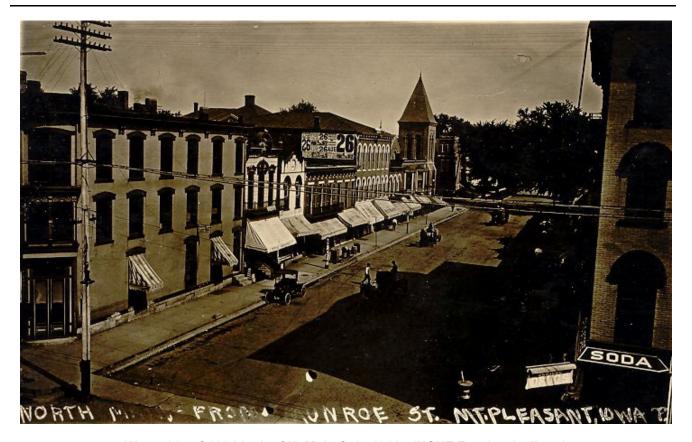
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Cornice of building visible at lower left (HCHT Facebook album)

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West side of 100 block of N. Main St in 1910s (HCHT Facebook album)



Building in 1916 (HCHT Facebook album)

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Building in 1938 (HCHT Facebook album)

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West side of 100 block of N. Main St in late 1940s (HCHT files)

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The normal flow of traffic in the 100 block of North Main was somewhat impeded Tuesday by three separate repair work projects. (In the left, in the photo by Stan Kerr, workmen for Eaton Decorating, Inc., of Washington were using a boom truck to paint the exterior of the Brazelton Hotel building. On

the right Lewis Blow Masonary workers were sandblasting the front of a building owned by Dick Leuellen. And in the center of the photo are ISU employees, cutting off an old line which was replaced last spring.

Building at right in August 1973 (Mt Pleasant News, August 15, 1973, 1)

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1990 survey photograph (Naumann 1991)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 44-00240-001. East elevation, looking west (October 2023)