

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Union Block  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 109-113 W. Monroe  not for publication  
city, town Mount Pleasant  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 52641

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Architectural & Historical Resources of Mount Pleasant, listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

---

COMMERCE/Specialty

---

---

COMMERCE/Specialty

---

---

Business

---

---

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

---

Mid-19th century

---

foundation limestone

---

Other: Vernacular Italianate

---

walls brickroof asphaltother metal cornice

---

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This three story brick building (1861), measuring 70'x75', is located on the north side of the Square, immediately east of the alley, at 109-113 W. Monroe. Unlike other buildings around the Square, it features a gable roof, with ridge parallel to the street. The walls are of the locally produced rosy red brick found on other buildings of the period in the business district. The building has a double storefront with a symmetrical eleven bay facade. A central doorway leads to a four foot wide stairway to the second and third floors. Windows on the second and third floors have round arched tops with brick patterned hoodmolds, the corbeling meeting in such a way as to suggest an arcade at the third floor level. Second floor windows appear to be set between brick pilasters. Simple metal brackets are found at the cornice. Although panels cover the third floor windows (original windows are intact on the inside), those in the east half of the second floor show the original trefoil design that was used in the tops of all the windows. Both storefronts have been altered at street level, but this appears to be the only major alteration to this building. These alterations are not intrusive because the overall integrity of the building has been maintained.

On the interior, the first floors have been altered, primarily by dropped ceilings. At the second floor level (originally used as offices), the west half appears to be in unaltered condition. A wide arched doorway opens into the office space from the broad central hallway. The east half has been altered by conversion into apartments. It appears that this involved the lowering of ceilings and addition of plaster board walls. These alterations should be reversible. The central hall leads to large double doors, behind which the stairway continues to the third floor. This level has always been used as meeting space: a courtroom, opera hall, and fraternal lodge hall. The only alterations made to the third floor appear to be the installation of electricity and the addition of plumbing for the kitchen and rest rooms. The integrity of the third floor is remarkable.

The Union Block is one of two buildings in Mount Pleasant which have been documented as being constructed by William McCandless, although it is strongly believed that McCandless was probably responsible for many of the brick buildings around the Square from this period.

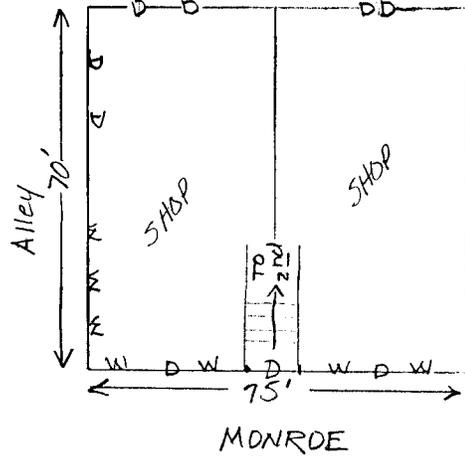
 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

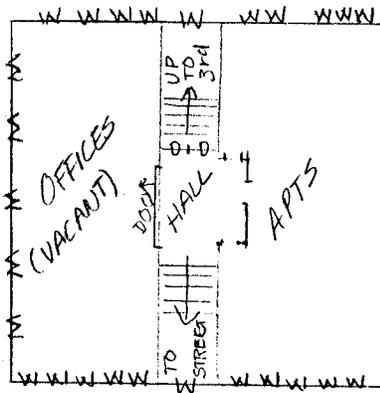
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

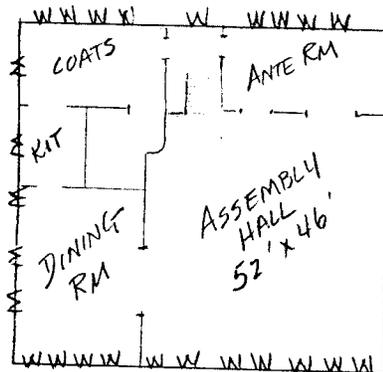
CFN-259-1116



1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR



2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR



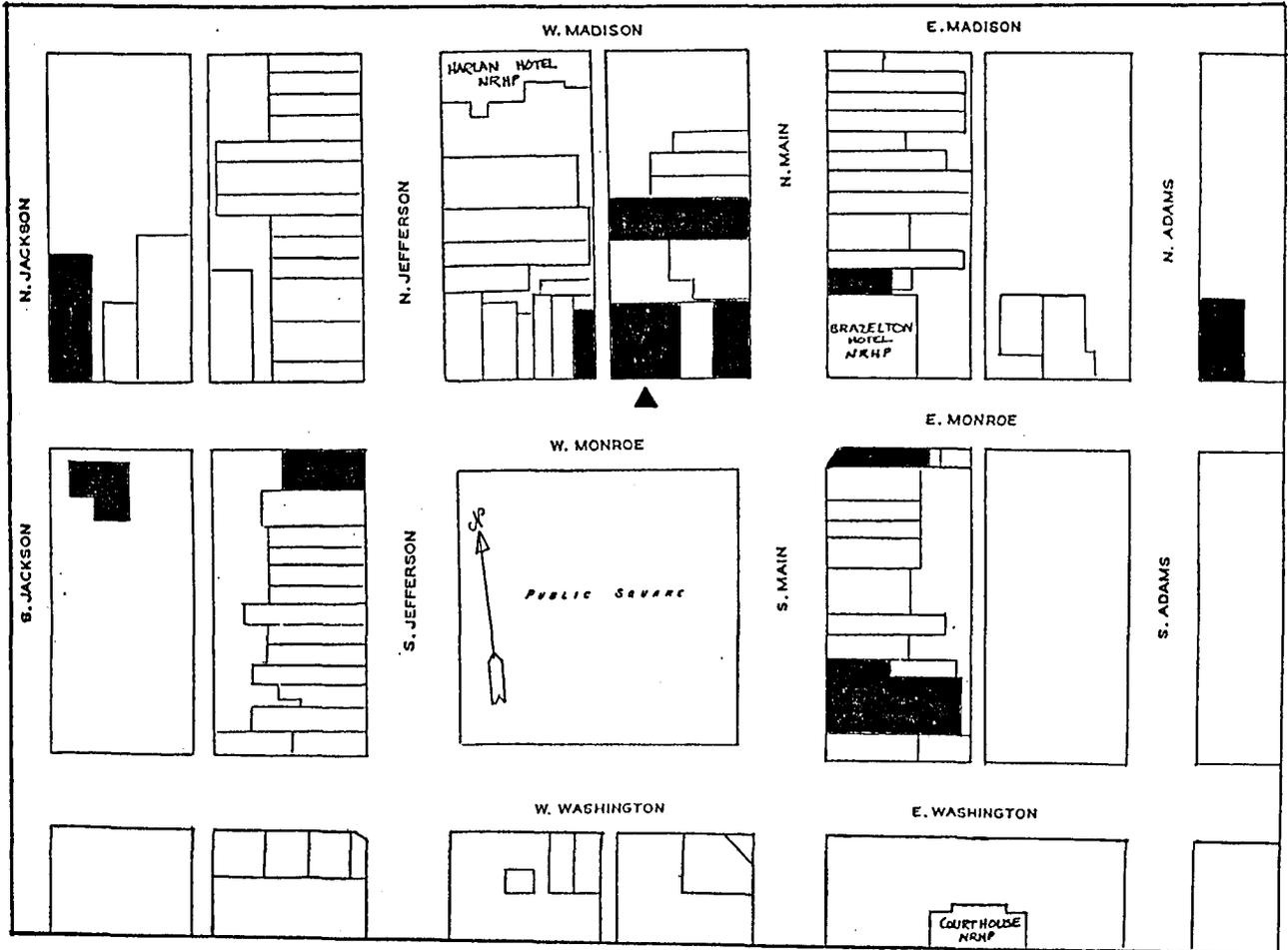
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116



### MOUNT PLEASANT PUBLIC SQUARE

Shaded buildings are those being nominated.

▶ indicates specific building being nominated.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

his large brick building on the west side of the Square in 1858, and by 1886, the Bon Ton Opera House (a wood frame structure) was located on N. Main, next door to the Baptist Church. The Union Block however, appears to have been the center of the social and cultural gatherings in the community. It must be remembered that this was an intelligent, well educated community, and many of the affairs of Iowa Wesleyan University took place at the Union Block. Further research may establish significance under Criterion A as well.

It is interesting that there were two owners at the time this building was constructed: one owned the east half, one owned the west half, and they shared ownership and use of the central stairway. This ownership pattern continues today.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Historic photographs of the north side of the square.  
Mount Pleasant Home Journal, 13 April 1861, 11 May 1861, 8 June 1861,  
31 August 1861, 5 October 1861, 28 December 1861.  
Opera Houses in Iowa, Thematic NR nomination in progress, BHP files.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References:

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

W 1/2 Lot 8 and W 1/2 S 16' Lot 7, Blk 7, Original Town, City of Mount Pleasant.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

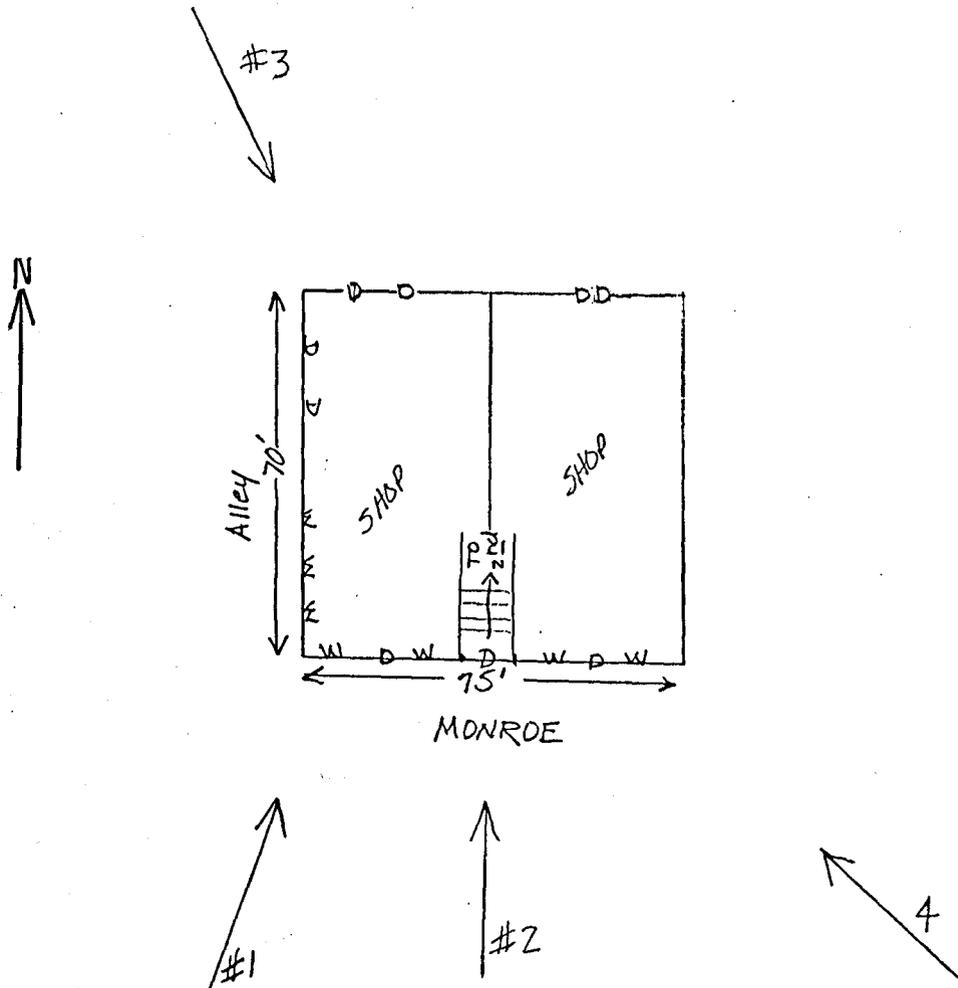
name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
 organization City of Mount Pleasant date May 1991  
 street & number City Hall, 202 W. Monroe telephone (319) 385-1470  
 city or town Mount Pleasant state IA zip code 52641

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

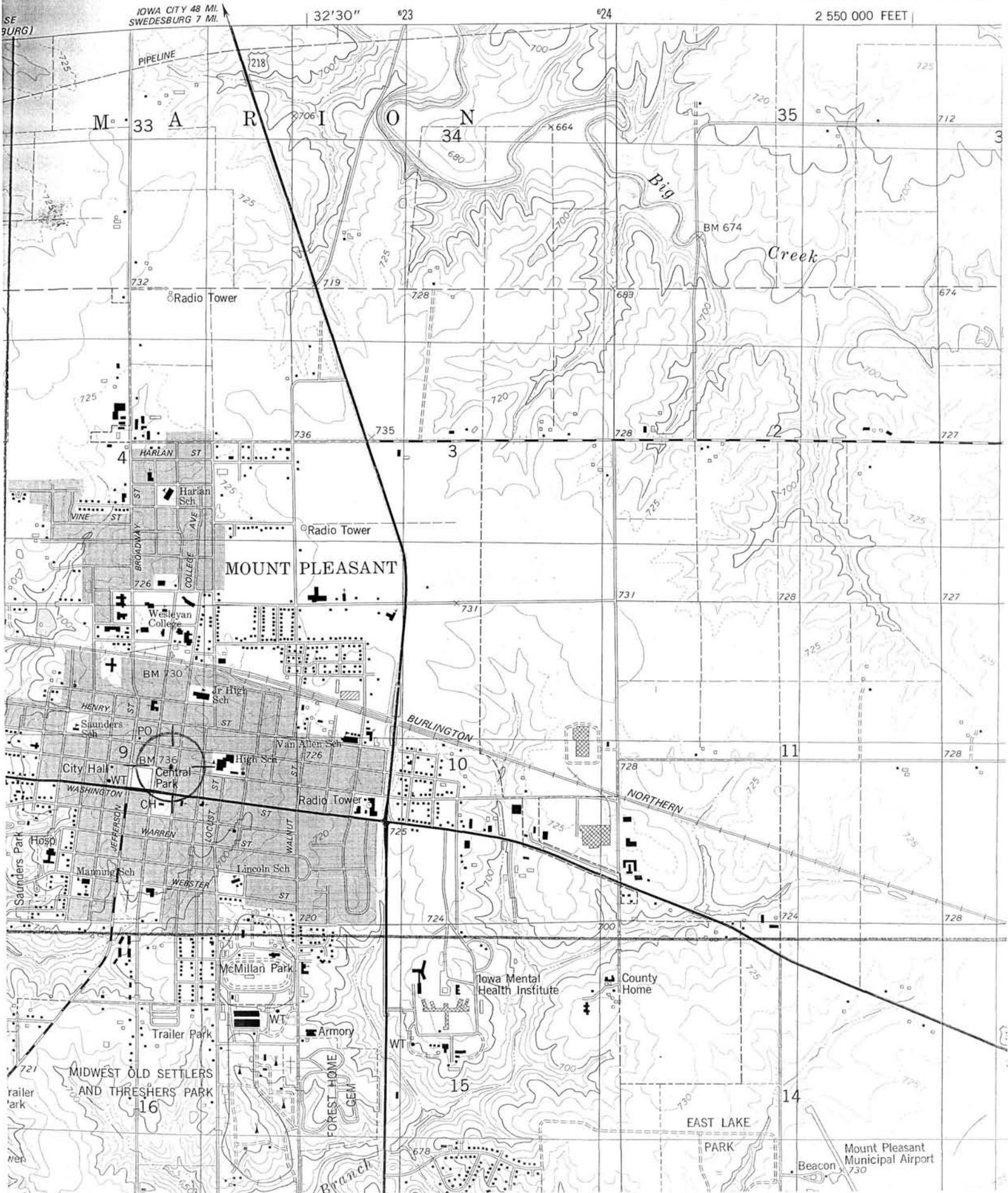
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Page \_\_\_\_\_

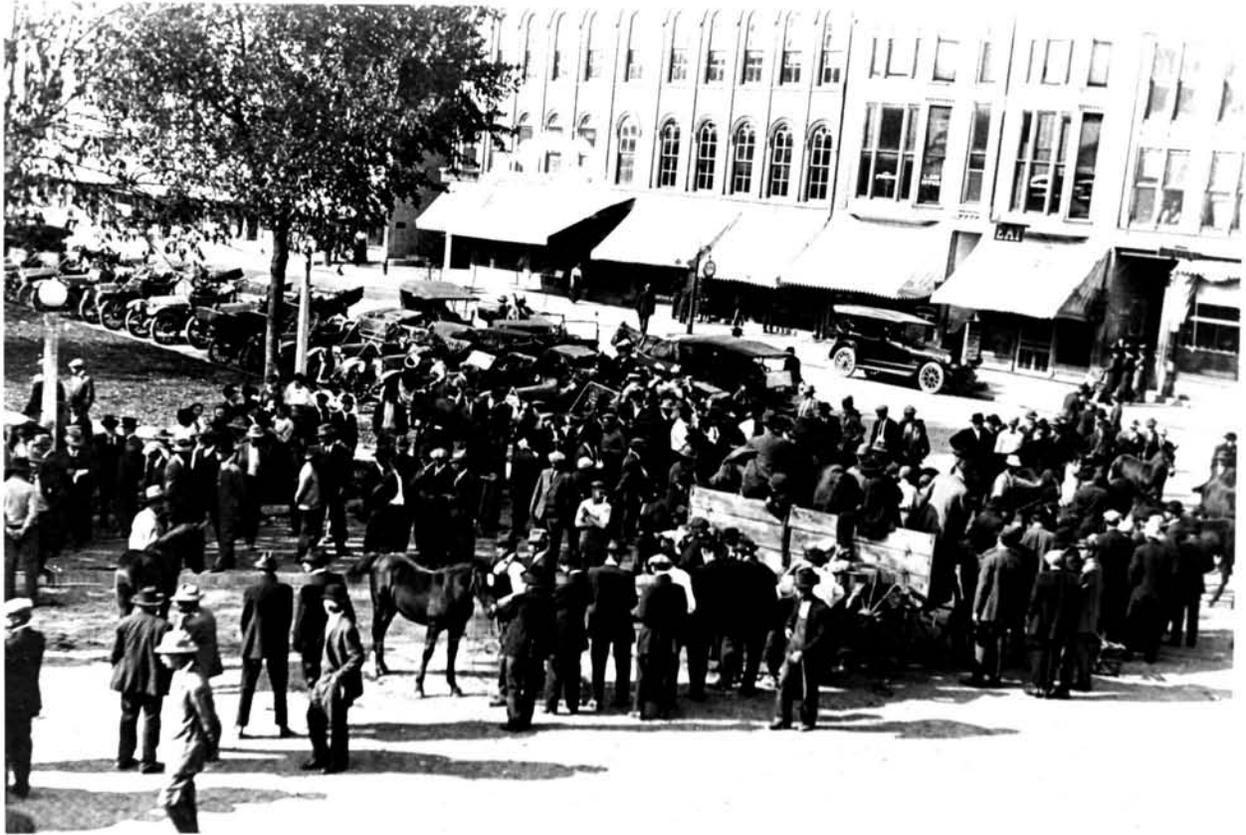
CFN-259-1116



MOUNT PLEASANT QUADRANG  
IOWA-HENRY CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)







Union Block

109-113 W. Monroe

Mt. Pleasant, Ia

Historic Photo c. 1920

Looking NW at N Side of square -  
Union Block in center

#4