

Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 92-00512

New Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 92-00349

Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing

Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries

National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____

Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name Williams Boots & Shoes

other names/site number Wilson Shoe Store, Brown's Shoe Fit Co., Downtown Survey Map # DT- 055

2. Location

street & number 108 S. Iowa Avenue

city or town Washington

vicinity, county Washington

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Plat Block(s) 12 Lot(s) Lot 3 S 21.5' of N 41.5'

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

Enter number of:

Contributing

Noncontributing

— buildings

1

— buildings

— sites

—

— sites

— structures

—

— structures

— objects

—

— objects

— Total

1

— Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title

Historical Architectural Data Base Number

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E Commerce / specialty store / boots & shoes

02E Commerce / specialty store / shoes

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

02F03 Commercial: Brick Front

foundation _____

walls (visible material) 03 Brick

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

Yes No More Research Recommended

A Property is associated with significant events.

Yes No More Research Recommended

B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.

Yes No More Research Recommended

C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.

Yes No More Research Recommended

D Property yields significant information in archeology or history.

County Washington Address 108 S. Iowa Avenue
City Washington

Site Number 92-00512
District Number 92-00349

Criteria Considerations

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

05: Commerce

Significant Dates

Construction date 1866 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation c.1910, c.1950

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____
Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Patterson, Chair Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission date April 15, 2012
street & number City Hall – 215 E. Washington St telephone 319-653-6584
city or town Washington state Iowa zip code 52353

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____
Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____
Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur 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: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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<u>Williams Boots & Shoes</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>108 S. Iowa Avenue</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Address	City

This form was prepared as part of a research/survey/nomination project in 2011-2012 funded by a HRDP grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa for the nomination of the Washington Downtown Historic District. The project was primarily structured to develop the nomination for the downtown, with additional research on each building documented on an Iowa Site Inventory form. The information below is taken from the table in the August 2012 draft of the nomination, with additional information documented on the property and photographs in the following sections.

Williams Boots & Shoes - 108 S. Iowa Avenue - State #92-00512 - Map #75 ~ 1 contributing building (A) - 1866, c.1910, c.1950s - early 20th century commercial

Historic information:

- 1866 - Williams & Upham built store on east side - moved here - large boot on building by 1871; 1868-1890 - J. Albert Williams - boots and shoes
- 1887 - son-in-law Frank Wilson became partner; 1890 - shoe store continued by Frank L. Wilson after Williams' death
- 1904 - business became Frank L. Wilson & Co - here until 1926
- 1926 - Wilson retired - store continued as Corbin & Barrett Bootery; 1930 - bought and renamed Welch-Moore Shoe Store; 1933 - became Moore's Bootery (Fred L. Moore)
- 1946 - Brown's Shoe Fit Company opened store here (Iowa chain based in Shenandoah) - here through end of 20th century
- 2012 - Brown's Shoe Fit Company

Architectural information:

- Height: 2 story
- Walls: brick
- Storefront: c.1950s remodel for Brown's - projected display windows, teal bulkheads, tile entry with "Brown's"
- Windows: 1/1 windows (vinyl)
- Architectural details: light brick façade, c. 1950s storefront remodel
- Architect/Builder: -
- Modifications: Historic: c.1910 - added two oriel windows, c.1950s - removed oriel windows, storefront remodel; Non-historic: windows replaced with 1/1

7. Narrative Description

This is a two story brick building with facade remodels around 1910, in the 1950s, and in the 1980s. The current storefront dates to the late 1940s or 1950s, after Brown's first moved here in 1946. It has a central entry door deeply recessed between display windows. The door is glass with aluminum. The display windows have one large light facing the street and two facing the walkway from the sidewalk to the door. The display windows overhang the bulkhead, making the shoe display space prominent for potential customers. Teal green panels were utilized for the bulkheads, typical of the 1950s. The center tilework for the exterior entry to the door includes "Brown's" in the tile. On the far left side of the storefront there is a secondary entry to the second story. There is a horizontal/flat aluminum awning over the sidewalk, and aluminum siding from the second story window sills to the awning. The area immediately above the canopy is clad in aluminum siding with "Brown's" in black lettering. The second story has two large window openings. The c.1910 remodeling added two oriel windows in these

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locations, and the 1940s/50s remodeling replaced the windows with paired three-light horizontal windows. There are currently paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows in each opening. They have brick sills. An area of brick infill extends across the tops of the four windows. This infill is made of a slightly brightly yellow-tan brick. Near the top of the facade is a recess area of brick, and the plain cornice is capped with stone or concrete.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Williams Boots and Shoes appears to contribute historically to the Washington Downtown Historic District. This shoe store evolved over the decades, with Brown's Shoe Fit Company continuing to operate a shoe store here. The facade and storefront evolved with the shoe stores, with a remodel for Wilson adding oriel windows and a remodel for Brown's removing the windows and remodeling the storefront. These changes are significant within the history of the building.

The *Washington Press*, September 27, 1871, published a lengthy history of Washington, and included a section called Review of Business. Several inches were devoted to J. Albert Williams, "... senior member of the firm of Williams & Upham, he commenced business here in February, 1864, on the west side of the square, in only one side of a store room, and in August of that year moved into the store room one door west of the First National Bank. In 1866 it became necessary for them to build a store, as no adequate accommodations could otherwise be obtained, and with commendable energy, they bought a lot on the east side, on the 22nd of August, built a brick store thereon, and moved into it on the 25th of October." A newspaper ad in May 1868 lists Williams & Upham on the east side of the square. By May 1871, the ads shift to Williams Boots & Shoes, run by J. Albert Williams, on the east side of the square. He is listed here in ads through the 1880s. A photograph from the 1870s shows the brick building with a large boot sign. Per the September 1871 article, his store was known throughout the area by this large boot sign.

J. Albert Williams & Company continued to operate here through the 1890s, though the personnel had changed. In 1885, son-in-law Frank L. Wilson became a partner of Williams, and he continued the store after Williams died in 1890. In 1904, the name changed to Frank L. Wilson & Co. The building on the east side had grown from 22 by 60 to 22 by 124 by 1913, and new display windows had been installed (*Washington Gazette*, January 6, 1893; *Evening Journal*, April 26, 1913, 21). Postcards and photographs from the early 1900s show this facade remodeled with two bay windows on the second story (and likely the current buff brick) prior to the 1912-13 remodel of the bank on the corner. The bay windows are not noted on the 1909 Sanborn map, but they do appear on the 1917 map. Frank L. Wilson was also active in other community endeavors, including the opera house, telephone company, and Washington Academy.

In spring 1926, Frank L. Wilson sold the shoe store to Corbin & Barrett (*Evening Journal*, April 3, 1926, 44, 45). At this stage, the shoe store boasted a 62 year history in Washington. Earl Corbin and Charlie

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A. Barrett are then listed with Corbin & Barrett Bootery here for a few years. In April 1930, the store then became the Welch-Moore Shoe Co, which then became Moore's Bootery by 1934, run by Fred L. Moore (*Evening Journal* – Washington County Centennial Celebration – July 1936 - page 19). He bought the building from the Hannah Wilson estate in November 1937. Haney's Shoe Repair Shop also operated in Moore's Bootery in the 1930s. James' Shoe Repair was then here in the 1941 directory, with Moore's Bootery. The Moore family continued to own the building until 1968.

In 1946, Brown's Shoe Fit Company (an Iowa chain based in Shenandoah) bought the former local store, and they operated here through the 1950s and 1960s. In the early 1950s, they added a thrift department, where one could fit one's own shoes to save money (*Washington Evening Journal*, 60th Anniversary Edition, February 27, 1953, 108). In the late 1940s or 1950s, it appears that the building was remodeled with a new (the current) storefront, with Brown's as the name in the tile on the entry. The oriel windows on the second story were also removed and replaced with horizontal windows, seen in the 1971 photograph. These windows are currently double-hung windows. They continued to operate here in the centennial in 1976, with a photo of the Williams store and current store published (Bicentennial Edition, *Evening Journal*, July 1, 1976, 33). Brown's continues to operate a shoe store here in 2012, approaching 150 years of a shoe store operating at this location.

The second floor was occupied by the following: Dr. H.F. Masson, Dentist and Dr. W.J. Masson, MD – 1926 (telephone directory); Dr. Lyda M. Hellam, Chiropractor – 1932 (telephone directory); Drs. Livesay & Dockum, Chiropractors – 1935 (city directory); Dr. F.G. Livesay, Chiropractor - 1937 to at least 1964 (various directories).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

City/Telephone Directories, Washington. Various publishers, various dates. Available at the Washington Public Library.

Deed Records, Transfer Books, Auditor's Office, Washington County Courthouse, Washington, Iowa.

Newspaper advertisements, various years/dates, on microfilm at Washington Public Library:

Washington Evening Journal

Washington Gazette

Washington Press

Patterson, Mary. Collection of historic images of Washington. Washington, IA.

Sanborn Map Company. "Washington, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1909, 1917, 1931, 1943.

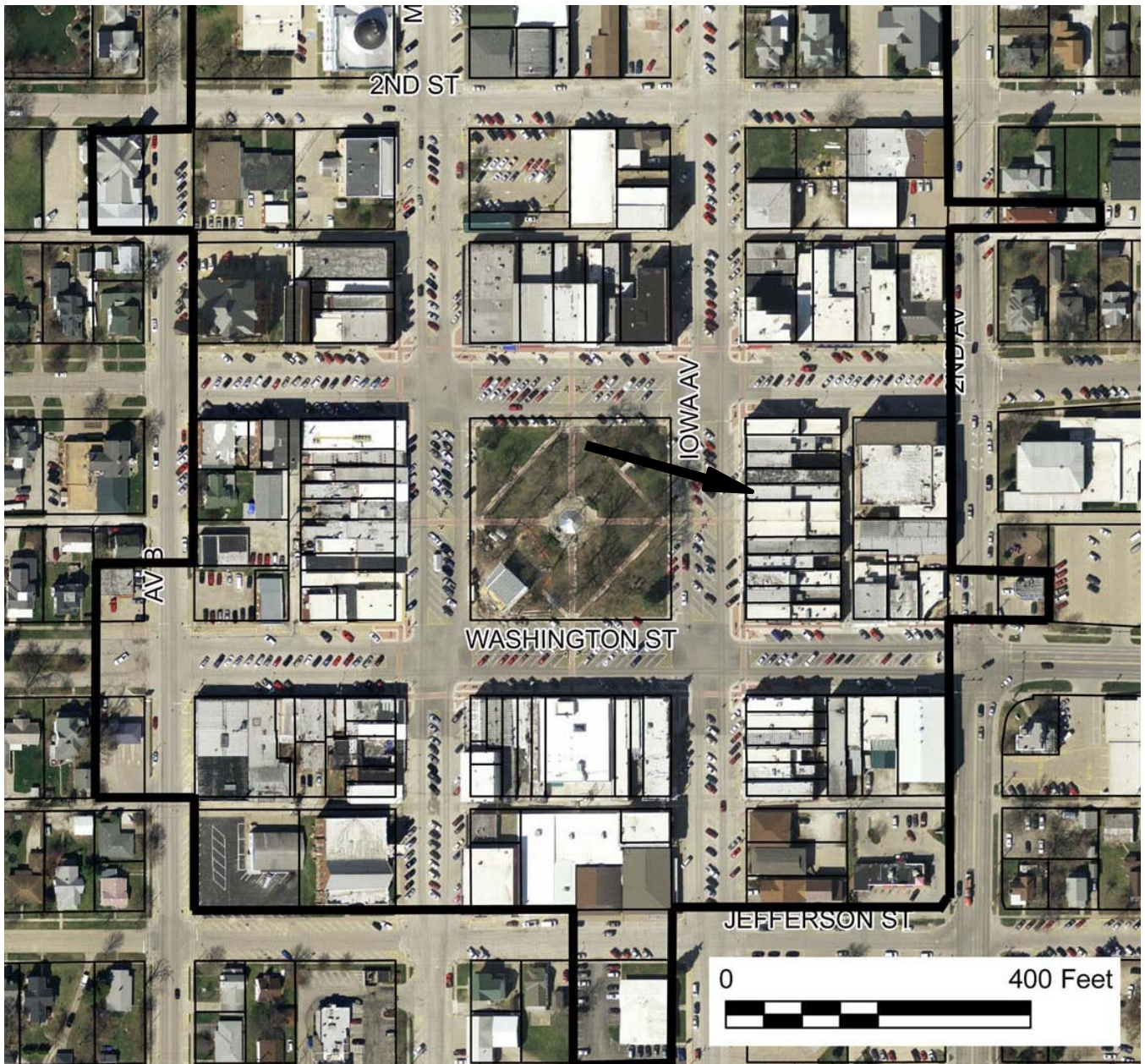
Wagner, William (Des Moines architect). Photographs taken of downtown Washington in 1971. In collection of Washington Historical Society, Washington, Iowa.

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Location map



2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary

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Building plan (from assessor's website)

ADDN 1 [1280] 64
BLDG 1 [1200] 60 20
6

MTL CANOPY
[120]

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Historic images



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108

Building in 1870s (Conger House Collection, Washington)

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100 102 104 106 **108** 110 112 114 116 118-120 122

East side of square prior to 1912 (Patterson collection)

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EAST SIDE OF SQUARE, WASHINGTON, IOWA

100 102 104 106 108 110 112 114 116 118-120 122 200

East side of square in the 1910s (Patterson collection)

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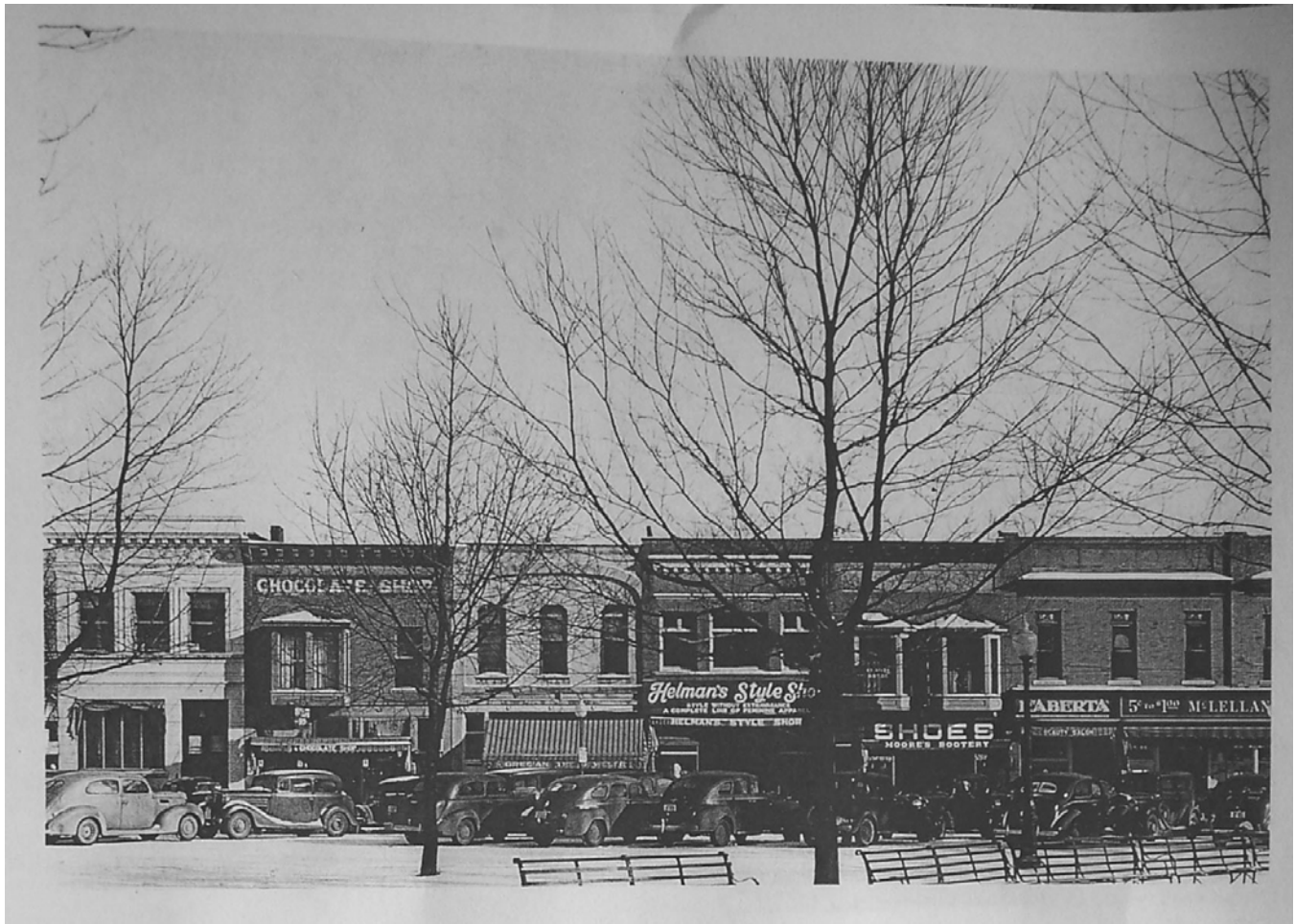
County

108 S. Iowa Avenue

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100

102

104

106

108

110

East side of square in late 1930s (Patterson collection)

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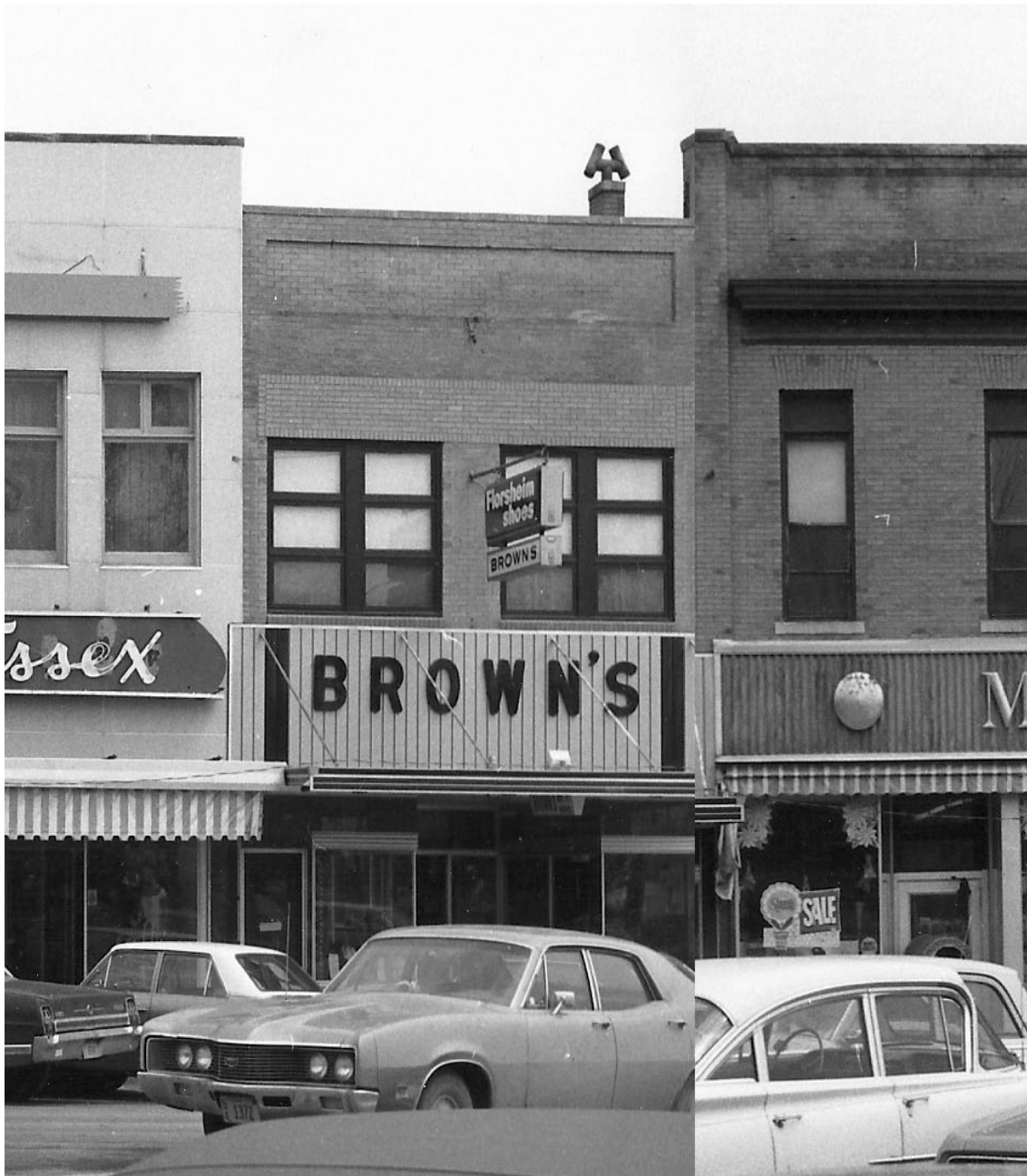
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Building in 1971 (Wagner 1971)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00512-001 - West elevation, looking east (McCarley, September 20, 2011)

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
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Photograph 92-00512-002 - Detail of storefront, looking east (McCarley, September 20, 2011)

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Photograph 92-00512-003 - Detail of storefront floor, looking east (McCarley, September 20, 2011)