

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 50-01643 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 50-01703
 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 Newton City Hall and Fire Station

other names/site number Quality Cleaners, Shirt Shoppe

2. Location

street & number 225 1st Ave. W.

city or town Newton

vicinity, county Jasper

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____

Township No. _____

Range No. _____

Section _____

Quarter of Quarter _____

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town

Block(s) 19

Lot(s) 4 W 22'

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

Enter number of:

— buildings
 — sites
 — structures
 — objects
 — Total

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

Contributing Noncontributing

1 — buildings
 — — sites
 — — structures
 — — objects
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

Downtown Newton, Iowa

Historical Architectural Data Base Number

50-010

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

04B GOVERNMENT/city hall

04D GOVERNMENT/fire station

02E03 COMMERCE/TRADE/dry goods

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E08 COMMERCE/TRADE/barber or beauty shop

01B02 DOMESTIC/apartment building

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

08 MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 03 BRICK

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
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended

- A Property is associated with significant events.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Jasper
City Newton

Address 225 1st Ave. W.

Site Number 50-01643
District Number 50-01703

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
1885 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation
1935, 1954

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 Larry Ray Hurto, Commissioner
organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission
street & number 101 W. 4th St. S.
city or town Newton state Iowa date 06/01/2012
telephone 641-792-2787 zip code 50208

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: _____

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6. Historic Functions, cont'd.

02A07 COMMERCE/TRADE/implement dealer
02G04 COMMERCE/TRADE/tavern
02A08 COMMERCE/TRADE/laundry or dry cleaner

7. Description

Site Description

The Newton City Hall and Fire Station building is sited on the southeast corner of the intersection of 1st Ave. W. and W. 3rd St., southwest of the city square, in the historic downtown of Newton, Iowa in Jasper County with its façade facing north. The building is adjoined on the east by a one-story commercial building dating to the mid-20th century. The alley abuts the property on the south. On-street parking is located on the north and west sides of the building and a public sidewalk provides access to the building's primary entrance on the north and secondary entrances on the west.

Property Description

The Newton City Hall and Fire Station building is a commercial property stretching approximately 80 feet south from its 32-foot frontage on 1st Avenue W. The building is comprised of a c.1885, two-story brick structure on the north with a ca.1915, one-story brick (Permastone faced) addition adjoining on the south.

The façade of the Newton City Hall and Fire Station building reflects a mid-20th century modernization. At that time the building's commercial Italianate details were removed and replaced by a monolithic, brick face reflective of the modern influences prevalent during that period. The storefront, with its dual, off-set entrance (one accessing the main floor commercial space and one the upper story) and a display area on the west likely dates to that modernization, although the present window configuration may date a couple of decades later. The upper story windows are simple, punched openings with concrete sills. No applied decorative elements appear on the façade, its visual character relying instead on simplicity and mass.

The west elevation, in stark contrast to the façade, retains its Italianate character, albeit visually confused by the elaborate mural that now covers that wall. Despite the mural (the artistic quality of which is very high), retention of the historic cornice, some window and door openings, and vestiges of the original moldings, adds to our understanding of the buildings history and architectural roots.

As noted, the rear addition is a one-story brick construction covered in Permastone (or similar synthetic stone). With its flat roof and lack of applied ornamentation, the addition reads as a simple, utilitarian structure.

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7. Description, cont'd.

Integrity Considerations

The Newton City Hall and Fire Station building retains a generally high level of historic integrity related specifically to a significant modernization movement of the mid-twentieth century, which drastically altered the building's facade. Because the façade alteration dates to 50-plus years ago and because it reflects a significant period in the history of the community, the present façade is considered historic and its level of integrity as it relates to design, workmanship, and materials is high. As it relates to integrity of location, setting, and association, the building also retains a high level of integrity.

The retention of original site within the Newton commercial area and in close proximity to the County Courthouse square results in a high level of integrity as it relates to location, association and setting.

8. Statement of Significance

The Newton City Hall and Fire Station building is considered a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District. The building is eligible under Criterion A in association with the history of Newton commerce, significant in its ability to contribute to our understanding of the evolution of the business district and the impact of the business district on the overall economic success of the community of Newton. The building's association with the city's public works is important relative to the commercial district it was constructed to protect.

Historical Background

Newton was platted as the Jasper County seat in 1847. The commercial district grew up around the courthouse square with the earliest buildings, which commonly housed both commerce and dwellings, constructed of wood. The development of the downtown from its platting in 1846 to c.1890 is tied to its status as the county seat and the 1867 arrival of the Mississippi-Missouri Railroad. The character of the commercial downtown is recorded in images of the contiguous brick commercial Italianate buildings surrounding the courthouse square.

Beginning in the 1890s, it was industry, specifically the washing machine industry, that drove Newton's economy and the commercial success of its downtown. Due to the success and longevity of the Maytag Company, its history presents the greatest impact on Newton's downtown commercial district. From 1890-1920, a period in Maytag history marked by the company's incorporation and the development of the first electrically powered washing machine, a number of significant buildings were constructed in the Newton Downtown District. The addition of these buildings (and others) introduced a 20th century architectural sensibility to the district; moving the visual character away from the Late Victorian era Italianate style that had previously dominated the streetscapes.

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

During the decade of 1920 to 1930, Newton's population nearly doubled. The period is marked by the Maytag Company's ascension to the nation's leading manufacturer of washing machines. The economic prosperity brought by the company's success is reflected in the Newton Downtown Historic District with the construction of some of its most important buildings including the First Newton National Bank (1920) and the Maytag Hotel (1926). Both buildings lend a sense of importance to the downtown district.

The visual character and composition of the downtown district remained generally constant through the Depression era and war years – a period when industry and commerce (including the Maytag Company) were focused on surviving and on supporting the war effort. The boom that came in the wake of Maytag's 1946 introduction of the automatic washing machine was apparent in the Newton Downtown Historic District by the mid-1950s. Between about 1954 and 1963 the downtown buildings underwent dramatic alteration, a nearly wholesale removal of the Italianate façades and replacement with those reflecting a mid-20th century Modern aesthetic. Buildings altered during that period line the streetscapes of the district. In addition to the Victorian era buildings that were re-faced during this time, a number of new buildings were constructed, their stylistic character reflective of the era.

Although the washing machine industry in Newton is now a thing of the past, its mark on the Newton Downtown Historic District is undeniable.

Property History

One of the "IMPROVEMENTS IN NEWTON, DURING 1885" listed in *The Newton Journal* on January 6, 1886 was "City Hall, 2-story brick, 24x80; lower part for fire department; upper story for Mayor's office and Council Chamber; cost \$3,000." In 1899-1900, it was listed at 223 W. Main.

Newton's fire department was located on this site on Sanborn maps in the 1888-1918 period, Commissioner Kathy Jones' research shows. City Hall's address was given as 223 1st Ave. W. in 1920. F. L. Maytag (1857-1937) was then mayor. In 1922, City Hall was located on S. 2nd Ave. W.

In 1928, this building, at 225 1st Ave. W., was The Home Dining Hall, a cafe.

In 1929, 225 was the Newton Gospel Tabernacle. Apparently Rev. Talmage B. Ashley, pastor of the Four Square Gospel Church (another name for this church), his wife, Eva, and their son, Austin, a high school student, lived there. This notice appeared in the 1929 City Directory (p. 15):

"Four Square Gospel

"Newton Gospel Tabernacle – 225 First Av W. Organized 1928. Sunday services 3:30 and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school 2:30 p. m. Week days, except Monday, 7:30 p. m. Pastor, Rev. Arthur Pedersen."

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

I can't account for there being two pastors listed. Also, it's interesting to me that this church did not hold Sunday morning services.

Also in 1929, a J. G. Lawtenslager is listed as selling pianos at this address.

In 1930-32, the building housed the Jasper County Implement Co., which then moved to a building at 214 W. 3rd St. N., formerly occupied by the Dodge garage. By the move to the new location, it was said the company would have a modern and up-to-date building.

In 1935, the property at 225 was remodeled into a beer parlor called the Aragon Club. From *The Newton Daily News*, April 16, 1935, "A beer parlor, to be known as the "Aragon," is to be opened in the J. P. Clarkson building in the 200 block of First avenue West, it has been learned from William Georgis, who will be proprietor of the establishment. The building, formerly occupied by a furniture store, has been completely remodeled, and will be opened for business Saturday, according to present plans." A 1936 account by a WPA writer says that the establishment had a four-piece "swing band" comprised of local musicians that performed "on Saturday nights during the winter, oftener during the summer." "No beer is sold in any tavern after midnight in Newton, nor on Sundays," the writer observed. Georgis was charged with violating this ordinance on at least one occasion.

In the 1939 period C. H. Richard had a tavern there.

On October 11, 1944, Madge S. Bergman, a widow, sold the property to Bert Snook.

In 1944-45, B. & B. Implement Co.-Milton Breckenridge sold farm implements from this location. The company had formerly been at 109 E. 3rd St. S. and 1201 1st Ave. E. In 1946, it was at 211 W. 11th St. N.

Then starting in 1946 Quality Cleaners offered the Newton community "Expert Cleaning" at 225 1st Ave. W. Jack Gross was owner and operator of Quality Cleaners and Dorothy Downing Howell was manager. There were three other employees, including Landon Kenneth Cozad, who later (1948-61) owned and operated Cozads The Model Cleaners in Newton. In 1949, Gross and his wife, Imogene, were divorced. Mrs. Gross remarried and took over as owner-operator of the cleaning establishment, first as Mrs. Imogene M. Dupes (1949-52), then as Mrs. Imogene M. McConkey (1952-56), and finally as Mrs. Imogene M. Coe. Mrs. Coe retired in 1962.

In 1963-64, Parti-Time Foods-Jerry and Glenda M. Ersland was located here. In 1964, Jack L. Umbarger joined the Erslands in manufacturing frozen pizzas. (I remember their tasty products! Someone told me the Tombstone people bought them out.)

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

Dixie Cream Doughnuts-James E. and Lavona Blucher, a bakery, was housed here in 1965. Gary A. Blucher was listed as manager. In 1967, it was Dixie Cream Doughnuts-Charles T. Gough. Philip Gough is listed as an employee that year.

Then, starting in 1968, Long's Custom Carpet-Paul Long was at this location.

Jones Sales & Service/Singer Sales & Service-Ernest J. and Edith M. Jones was here in 1975-76. Just Mr. Jones was listed for the Singer sewing machine dealership. In 1977, Jones Sales & Service, sewing machines and carpeting, was listed with no mention of Singer Sales & Service.

Newton Vacuum & Sewing-John R. Beall and Don Roby is listed for 1978. Mrs. Donnie Roby was a saleswoman here. She and Mr. Roby apparently resided in Des Moines. They were only here for a short time as, in spite of what the directories say (this vacuum cleaner business is still listed in 1979 and 1980), the Shirt Shoppe opened on October 19, 1978.

George J. and Kathryn M. Clark operated the Shirt Shoppe at this location for over 20 years. Gloria Jean Trotter-Springer worked there in the 1991-98 period. The Clarks' daughter, Cassandra McGinley, was another employee. Clark died of complications from a stroke, September 20, 1999. Mrs. Clark, who sold her business to Doug and Missy Cupples, died February 22, 2012.

On May 31, 2000, the property was transferred from the Estate of Bert Snook to Burton E. Snook.

D. C. Sports-Doug Cupples, owner, textile machinery, is listed for 2000. I found no listing for 2001.

On February 3, 2003, Burton E. Snook and his wife, Darlyne, sold the property to David Scott and Julie Elizabeth Creech. Scott Creech extensively remodeled the building in 2003-04.

Since that time, 225 has been a succession of beauty salons: Hair PHD, the Mane Event, and, presently, E-Clips.

As for the building's upper story: In 1929, the upstairs was vacant. In 1935, J. P. Clarkson, a tailor and the building's namesake, was living above the Aragon Club. So was W. M. Wallace, an upholsterer, his wife, Marie, and their four children. In 1945, a sign painter, Harlan Monroe, was upstairs.

In the 1951-61 period, Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 23 and its auxiliary was at 225½. "The place was run by Harold Berg and he had some connections someplace because it was operated seven days a week," property owner Burt Snook told *Newton Daily News* reporter John Jennings years later. "There were dances there, and some mighty big fights sometimes. People came from all over central Iowa because it was the only place you could get a drink on Sunday."

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

In 1963, the upstairs was vacant. There was no listing in 1967. In 1968 and 1969, the upstairs was vacant. Lynn's Dance Studio was there in 1970.

Thereafter the upstairs was vacant until the early 1980s when the Clarks commenced their silk screening shop (listed as sign and card writers and shirt screening shop and specialties in 1984).

There has been no listing since the 1998-2001 period. Creech remodeled the upstairs for apartments.

The offices of Domestic Violence Alternatives/Sexual Assault Center, Inc. are located on the west side of the property, at 108 W. 3rd St. S. This social service agency is housed in the 1954 building addition.

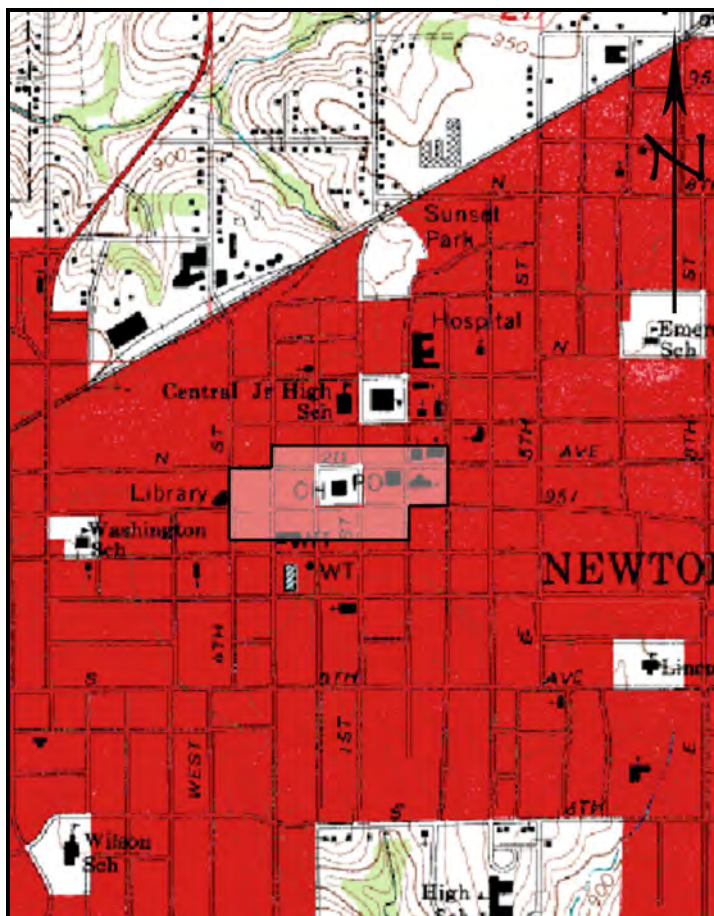
City street names were changed in 1911.

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11. Additional Documentation – Maps

USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP – NEWTON QUAD (1965)



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.trails.com>. September 2011.)

The location of the Newton Downtown Historic District, within which the resource is sited, is indicated.

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11. Additional Documentation – Maps

ASSESSORS PARCEL MAP - 2011



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.beacon.schneidercorp.com>. Accessed September 2011.)

The location of the resource is indicated.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the resource, looking south across 1st Ave. W.

(Images by Susan Smith for the Newton Historic Preservation Commission, September 2011.)

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PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the west elevation, looking northeast across S. 3rd Street showing the one-story addition.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



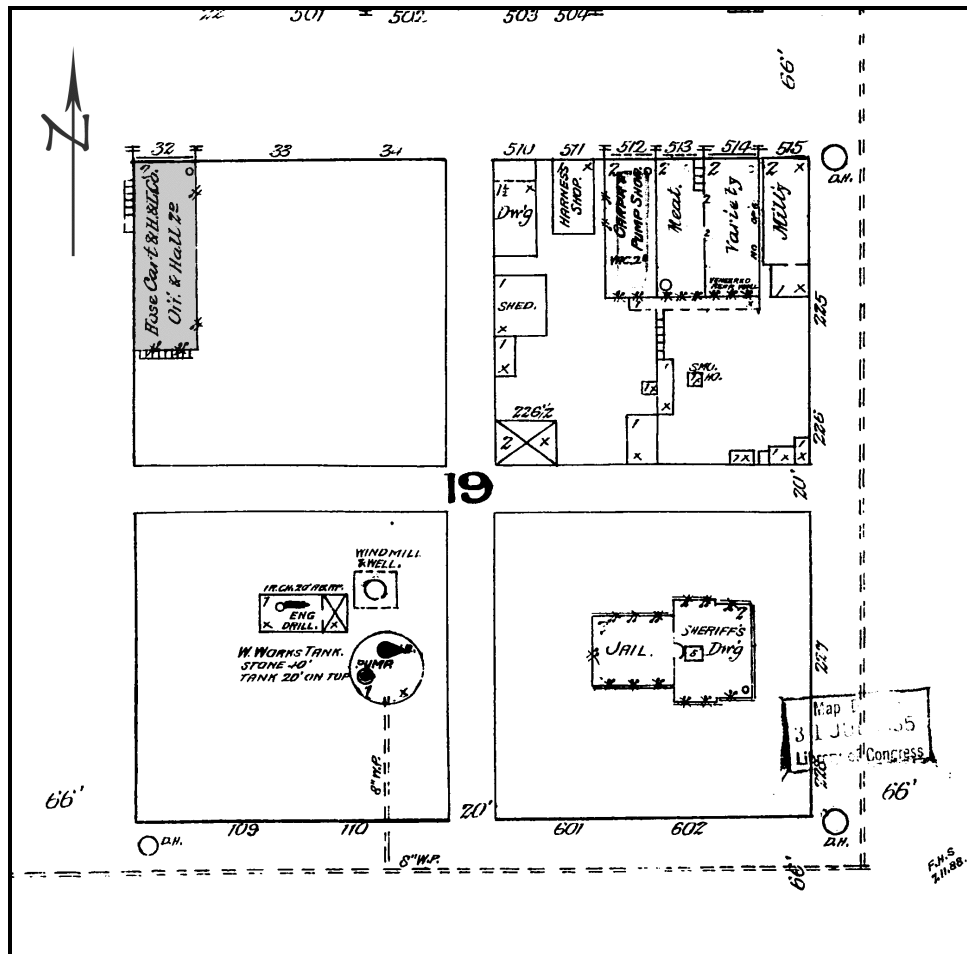
View of the west elevation of the original, ca.1885 building with the contemporary mural.

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SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1888



(SOURCE: <http://www.cbpl.lib.ia.us>. Accessed 12/26/2011)

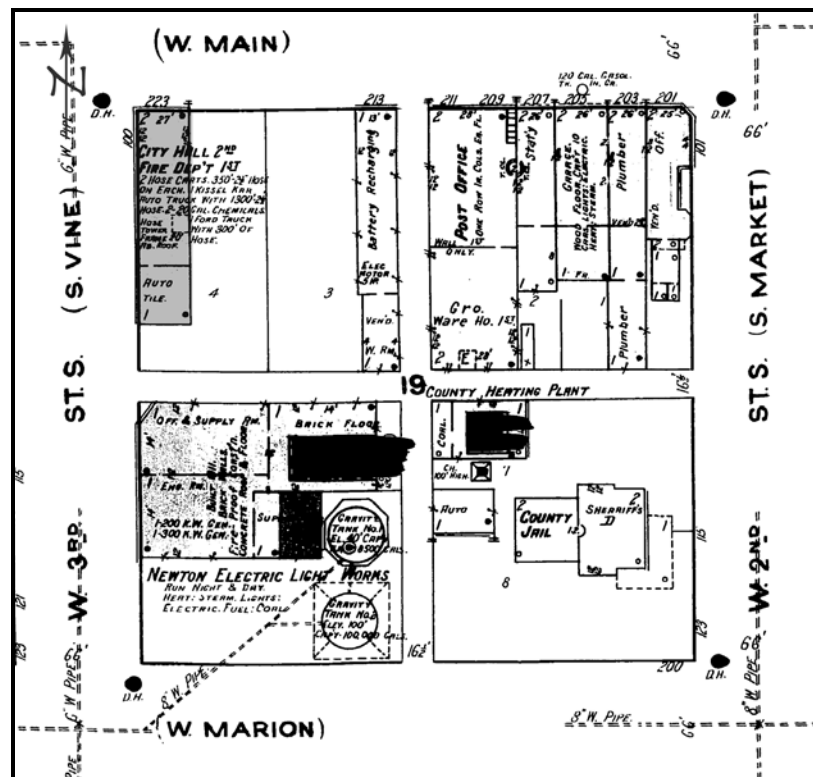
The resource first appears on fire insurance maps in 1888. As the map indicates, the building was occupied by the city hall and fire department.

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SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1918



(SOURCE: <http://www.cbpl.lib.ia.us>. Accessed 12/26/2011)

The one-story addition to the ca.1885 building was in place by the time of the 1918 fire insurance map. Note that the original building remained occupied by the city hall (2nd floor) and the fire department (1st floor) at that time.

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HISTORIC IMAGES – 1915



(IMAGE SOURCE: Images of the Past, 1994)

The location of the resource, whose windows are partially hidden by the vehicle, is indicated.
City Hall and the Fire Station were located in the building at the time this photo was taken.

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HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1935-36



(IMAGE SOURCE: Larry Ray Hurto Collection)

This photograph shows a parade marching east on 1st Ave. The resource appears in this photograph as the Aragon Club which opened in 1935 as the tall building in the middle background (indicated). Note that the Italianate façade remained intact at this time.

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9. Reference Resources

Lulu Cozad Adams and Landon Cozad, comps. *A History of the Cozad-Cossart Family, 1595-1994*. Lulu Cozad Adams and Landon Cozad, Publishers. [1996?]

Directory Jasper County Telephone Company, Newton, Iowa 1921. Newton, IA: News Printing Company.

Directory Jasper County Telephone Co., Newton, Iowa [May] 1922. Newton, IA: News Printing Company.

Directory Service Co's. Newton City and Jasper County, Iowa Directory 1935. Newton, IA: Directory Service Company, Publishers.

Larry Ray Hurto, comp. and ed. *A History of Newton, Iowa*. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1992.

Images of the Past. Published by Newton Daily News, 1994.

Iowa State Telephone Company. *Telephone Directory, Newton, Iowa, May 1928*.

Iowa State Telephone Company. *Telephone Directory for Newton, Iowa, October, 1935*. Newton, IA: News Printing Company.

Iowa State Telephone Company. *Telephone Directory, Newton, February 1944*. Newton, IA: News Ptg. Co.

Iowa State Telephone Company. *Telephone Directory, Newton, November 1944*. Newton, IA: News Ptg. Co.

Keiter Directory Co's. Newton City and Jasper County, Iowa Directory 1929. Vol. I. Rochester, MN and Norfolk, NE: Keiter Directory Company, Publishers, 1929.

Polk's Newton (Jasper County, Iowa) City Directory 1939. Omaha: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1939.

Smith's Directory of Newton and Jasper County, Iowa for 1920. Dorchester, MA: Edgar Smith, 1920.

Gen. James B. Weaver, ed. *Past and Present of Jasper County, Iowa*. 2 volumes. Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen & Company, 1912.

J. M. Young, comp. *Newton City Directory. 1899-1900*. Newton, IA: Journal Print, 1899.

Newton Daily News, August 4, 1999; September 21, 1999; December 11, 2002; February 24, 2012.

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9. Reference Resources, cont'd.

The Newton Daily News, August 8, 1932; April 12, 1935; April 16, 1935; April 17, 1935; April 22, 1935; April 16, 1946; August 10, 1957.

The Newton Journal, January 6, 1886.

Jasper County Recorder: Deed Record Town Lots, No. 434, p. 438; Document 00-04154; Document 03-01535.

Newton Public Library: History of Newton and Jasper County, Iowa. Vol. I. Infobook.

Internet resources

Jasper County Assessor www.iowaassessors.com

National Register of Historic Places www.nps.gov

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office

Database of Iowa resources www.iowahistory.org
Berry Bennett, Inventory & Information Management

Topographic Maps