

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

State Inventory No. 50-00712

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 U.S. Post Office

other names/site number County Annex Building

2. Location

street & number 115 N. 2nd Ave. E

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) 15 Lot(s) 1,2

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	<u>1</u>	—
—	sites	—	—
—	structures	—	—
—	objects	—	—
—	Total	<u>1</u>	—

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)

04F GOVERNMENT/post office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

04 GOVERNMENT

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

06C 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Classical Revival

09D01 Roof form/flat

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 10B CONCRETE/poured

walls (visible material) 10A CONCRETE/block

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 115 N. 2nd Ave. E

Site Number 50-00712
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
26 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Significant Dates

Construction date 1928 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____
Builder James A. Wetmore

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 Ferdinand J. Chabot, Commissioner
organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission
street & number 101 W. 4th St. S.
city or town Newton state Iowa date 06/01/12
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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**Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number **50-00712**
Related District Number 50-01703

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U.S. Post Office	Jasper
Name of Property	County
115 N. 2 nd Ave. E	Newton
Address	City

5. Classification, cont.

The U.S. Post Office is considered a building and is counted as a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District.

7. Description

Site Description

The U.S. Post Office is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of N. 2nd Ave. E. and E 2nd St. N. The building faces north. It occupies a quarter city block and, consequently, is adjoined on the west and south by alleys. Parking is available on the north and east sides of the property and a public sidewalk is flush with the building providing access to the primary entrance.

Property Description

The U.S. Post Office is a false stone and masonry building constructed on a concrete foundation. The building is visually defined by its utilization of the Greek Revival Style complete with Ionic columns, fully expressed entablature and pediment, monumental scale, and sense of both order and mass.

The U.S. Office's façade (north) utilizes a Greek temple front complete with a shallow portico, Ionic columns, pediment, and a typical Ionic entablature featuring a simple cornice with dentils, frieze and architrave. The primary entrance is marked by a recessed opening utilizing a Greek surround. Windows on the ground level are diminutive, while those in the upper wall plane are oversized, designed to provide ample natural light into the open interior of the post office lobby, mail handling area, and second floor offices.

The columns, entablature, and window rhythm established on the façade continue to the secondary elevations (east and west). On these sides, columns are expressed as vertical lines of masonry in the wall plane. A masonry and steel fire escape was added at the east elevation when the building was vacated by the post office and purchased by the Jasper County Board of Supervisors. At the same time, the original windows were removed and the spaces filled in with non-historic diminutive windows and insulated panels. The original window openings were retained. The parapet wall on all four sides of the building roof includes the original poured concrete baluster panels on the north, east, and west sides.

Integrity Considerations

The U.S. Post Office retains a generally high level of historic integrity and reflects a significant historic period in the life 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 contributes to the integrity of feeling created by the generally intact commercial district found in Newton.

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U.S. Post Office	Jasper
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115 N. 2 nd Ave. E	Newton
Address	City

8. Statement of Significance

The U.S. Post Office 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 automobile transportation in small towns in Iowa as well as the evolution of the Newton business district and its impact on the economic success of the community of Newton.

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.

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 (including the Arcade building) were constructed, their stylistic character reflective of the era.

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

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

Construction began on the U.S. Post Office in Newton on December 26, 1928. It opened for business in 1929. This building served as Newton's post office until a new one-story post office was opened just three blocks to the southeast in 1972. The Jasper County Board of Supervisors purchased the building from the Department of the Interior that year and altered the interior to house offices for the department of human services, public health, emergency management, veterans' affairs, conservation board, Red Rock Area Community Action Program and mental health. These building uses continue to the present.

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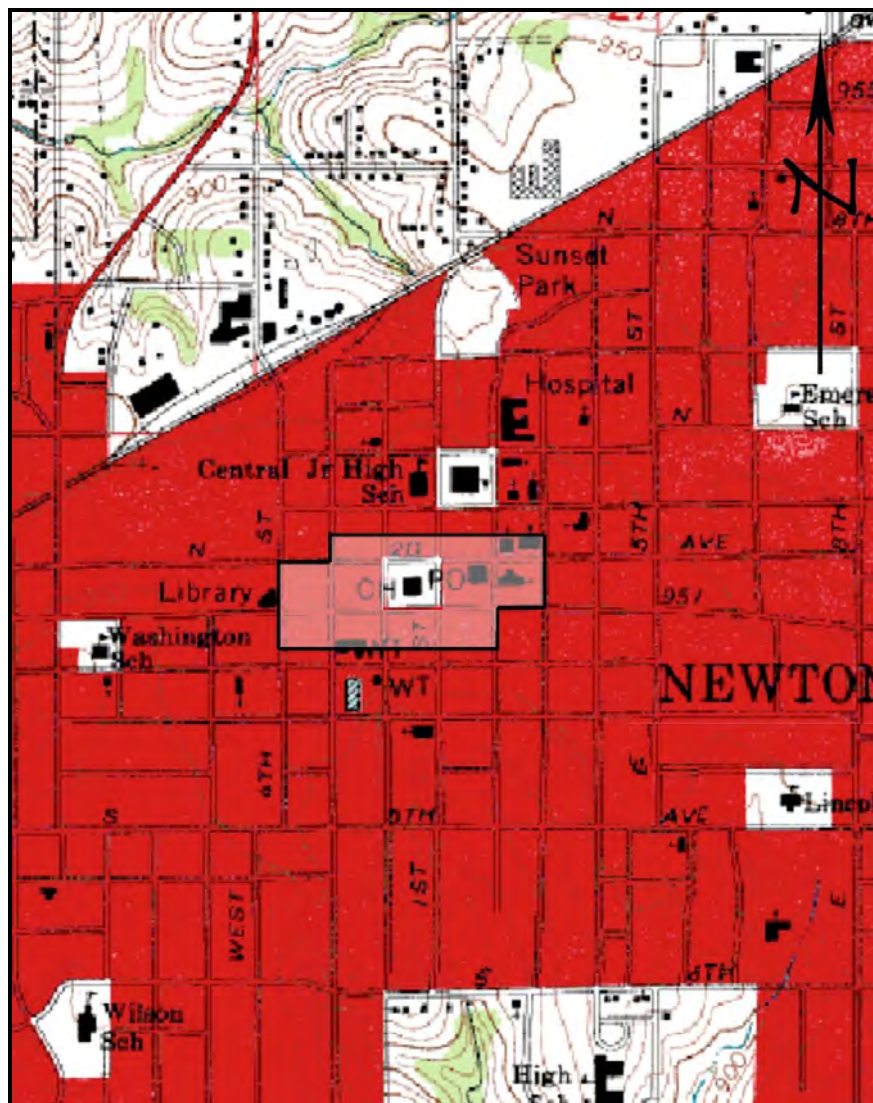
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11. Additional Documentation - Maps

USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP – NEWTON – 1965



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.trails.com>. Accessed Sept. 2012.)

The Newton Downtown Historic District, to which the resource is considered a contributing resource, is indicated.

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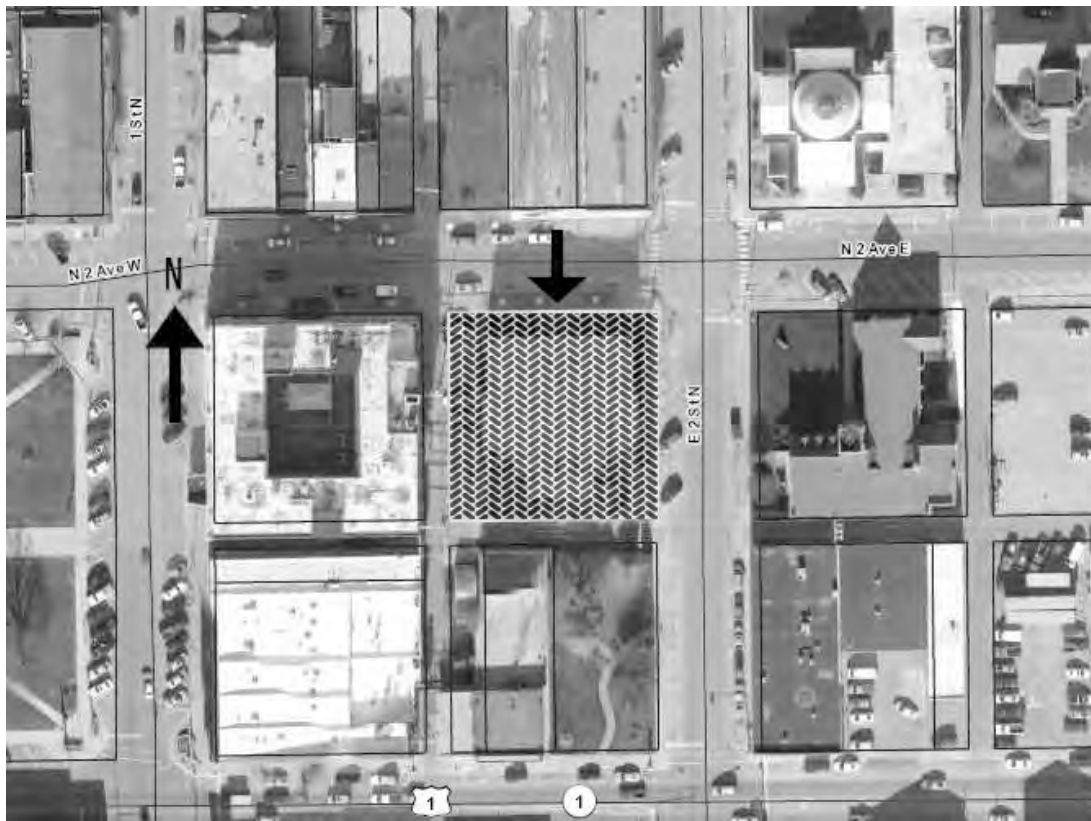
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11. Additional Documentation – cont'd.

PARCEL MAP - AERIAL VIEW - 2011



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.beacon.schneidercorp.com>. Accessed 09/21/2011.)

The location of the resource is indicated.

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County
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City

11. Additional documentation, cont'd.

PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the resource looking southwest across N. 2nd Ave. E.

(All images by Sue Smith – July1, 2011)

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd.

PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the resource looking southwest across N. 2nd Ave. E.

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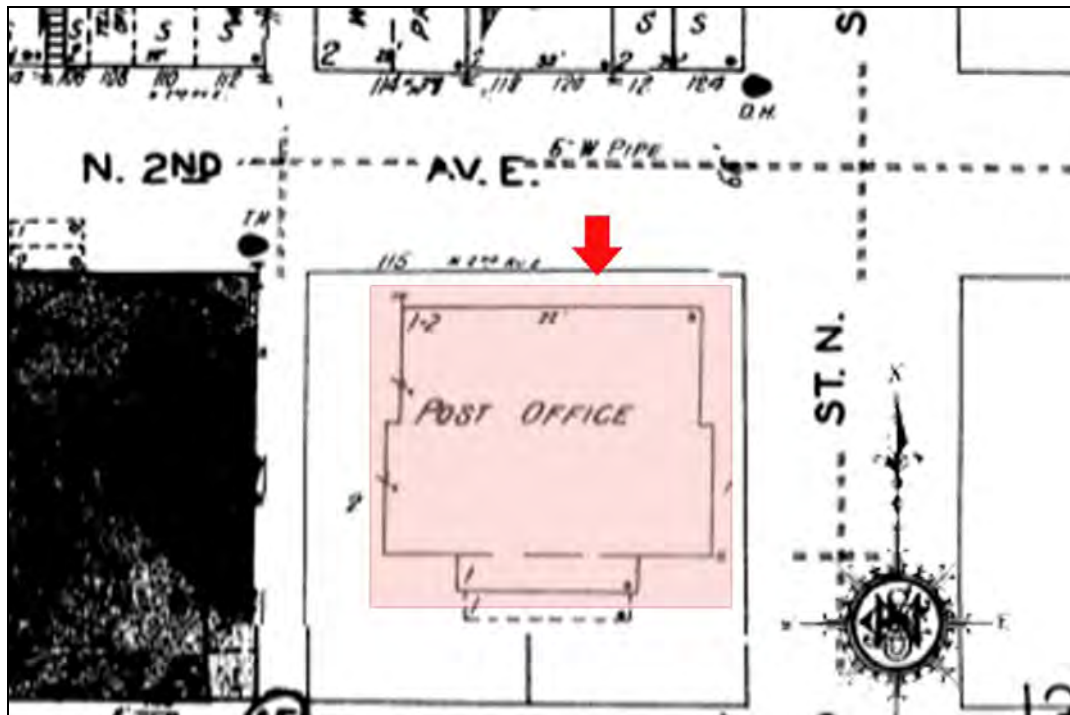
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11. Additional documentation, cont'd.

FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1949 Revised



(MAP SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1949R.)

The location of the resource is indicated by the downward facing arrow.

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd.

HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1949



(IMAGE SOURCE: Jasper County Museum)

This is a ca. 1949 photo of the U.S. Post Office looking southwest across the intersection of N. 2nd Ave. E. and E. 2nd St. N.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Internet resources

Jasper County Assessor <http://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

Source for USGS Topographic maps www.beaonschneidercorp.com