

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

State Inventory No. 50-01675

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 Griebeling Building

other names/site number Beckman Gallery

2. Location

street & number 118 N. 2nd 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) 9 Lot(s) 6 W 23'

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)

02E05 COMMERCE/TRADE//hardware store

02E03 COMMERCE/TRADE/dry goods

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09F05 Commercial/brick front

09D01 Roof form/flat

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 118 N. 2nd Ave. W.

Site Number 50-01675
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
1875 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation
c.1960

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 Jo Griebeling Niskin
organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission
street & number 101 W 4 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: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Griebeling Building	Jasper
Name of Property	County
118 N. 2 nd Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

5. Classification, cont'd.

The Griebeling Building is considered a building and is counted as a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District.

7. Description

Site Description

The Griebeling Building is located on the north side of Second Avenue West near the middle of the block, its façade faces south. It is adjoined on the west and on the east by two-story brick buildings with which it forms a visual unit. These adjoining buildings form a block of six adjoining commercial brick buildings from the corner of West 2nd Street North to the alley on the east.

Property Description

Although it has historically functioned autonomously, the Griebeling Building is in the middle section of six visually connected units. Each of the six buildings features an identical upper story façade of yellow brick, installed in, or before, 1963 in an attempt to provide a progressive, unified appearance in the business district. A turned inset of red brick, rectangular in shape, enhances the upper story façade of each unit, suggesting an area for signage. The six units are differentiated from each other by their upper story window treatments, canopies, and ground floor cladding. Historically, a raised parapet with corner finials and ground floor Corinthian columns accenting the display windows provided additional definition of this building's composition and autonomy.

The Griebeling Building is a rectangular block that stretches 23 feet in width and 132 feet in depth from its frontage on Second Avenue West. Typical of late nineteenth century, commercial buildings, the roof is flat. On the second story, three centered, steel casement windows were retrofitted at the time of renovation in 1963. They are now fitted with black shutters of non-historic materials.

Beneath a recently-installed black canvas awning of non-historic material, edged in silver and announcing the current renters' names, the Griebeling Building presents to the city a symmetrical façade of black glass. Large, vertical chamfered display windows dominate the recessed entrance that is comprised of a central glass door flanked by vertical display windows of equal size. The windows and door were reconfigured as part of a new, modernized facade sometime before 1937. A black steel door, adjacent to a display window, marks the entrance to the second story. Banded silver steel surrounds the display windows and primary entrance. Black Carrara glass, often used as a building material in the 1940's, wraps the entryway beneath the display windows. A small quantity of black steel skin covers the brick structure where the block glass needed replacement.

Integrity Considerations

Because the façade alteration dates to approximately 50 years ago for this building and its neighbors, and because it reflects a significant period in the transformation of the business district buildings, the

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7. Description, cont'd.

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 and contributes significantly to the integrity of feeling created by the generally intact commercial corridor found in Newton.

8. Statement of Significance

From a wagon maker of westward-heading Conestogas to an owner/proprietor of a family hardware store, Christian Griebeling persevered to become one of Newton's leading benefactors to commerce, real estate, education, and civic well being, a stalwart role model for the citizenry. For over one hundred thirty years the Griebeling Building has been home to businesses which provided high quality goods, with an emphasis on customer service, to the people of Newton and Jasper County.

The building is considered a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District. It is significant in its ability to contribute to our understanding of the evolution of the business district and its impact on the economic success 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

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8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

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 (including the Griebeling Building) 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

A salient feature contributing to the history of this building is its single-family ownership since Christian Griebeling purchased it in 1877.

For over 40 years, the founder of the family business, Christian, and then his son, Charles, operated the Griebeling Hardware business on the site. Following the death of Charles the building passed into, and remains to this day in, the hands of his descendants.

Always a premier property facing the Jasper County Courthouse, the building has been occupied by a series of renters since the end of World War 1. They include:

- The Boston Store (clothing/shoes) from approximately 1917 until the early 1920s
- Gottner's for 30 years
- Bang's for 25 years
- Marsha's for 10 years

The last three proprietors offered women's clothing in trend setting styles to sophisticated shoppers. For many years the Griebeling Building and its neighbors to the west in the block were upscale providers of clothing for the entire family.

Today this building is occupied by the Beckman Gallery, a gift, frame and limited edition prints emporium that continues the tradition of offering fashion-forward goods and services to a selective clientele. This loyal renter has occupied the property for over 15 years.

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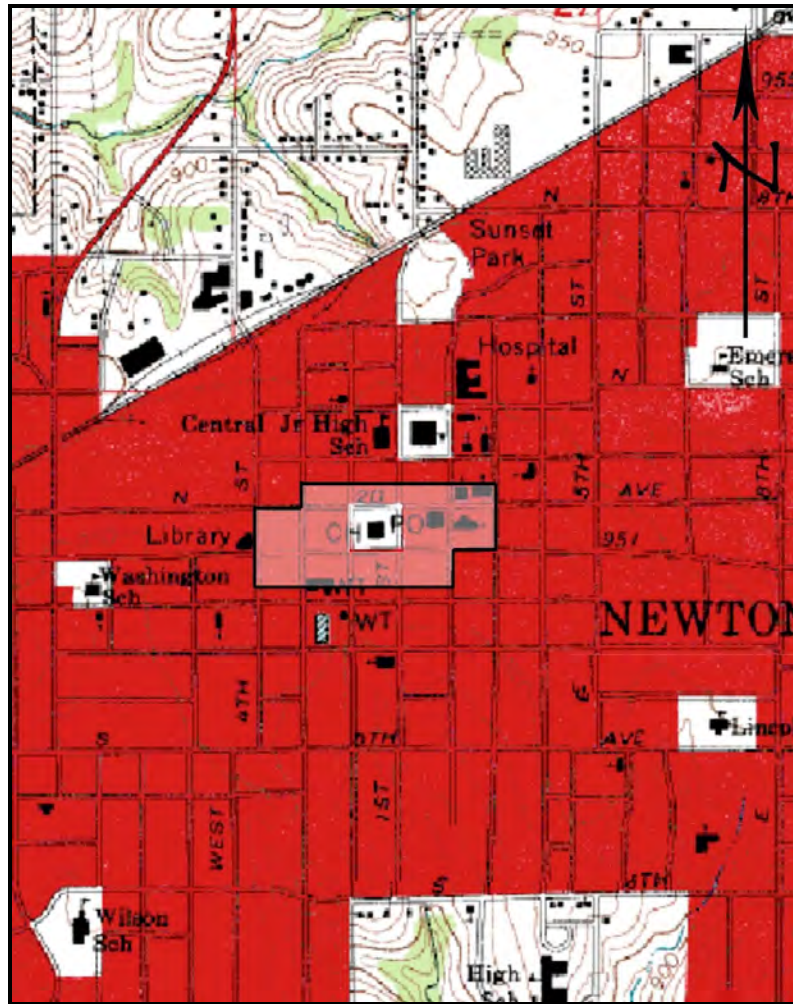
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Related District Number 50-01703

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11. Additional Documentation - Maps

USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - NEWTON - 1965



(MAP SOURCE: www.trails.com)

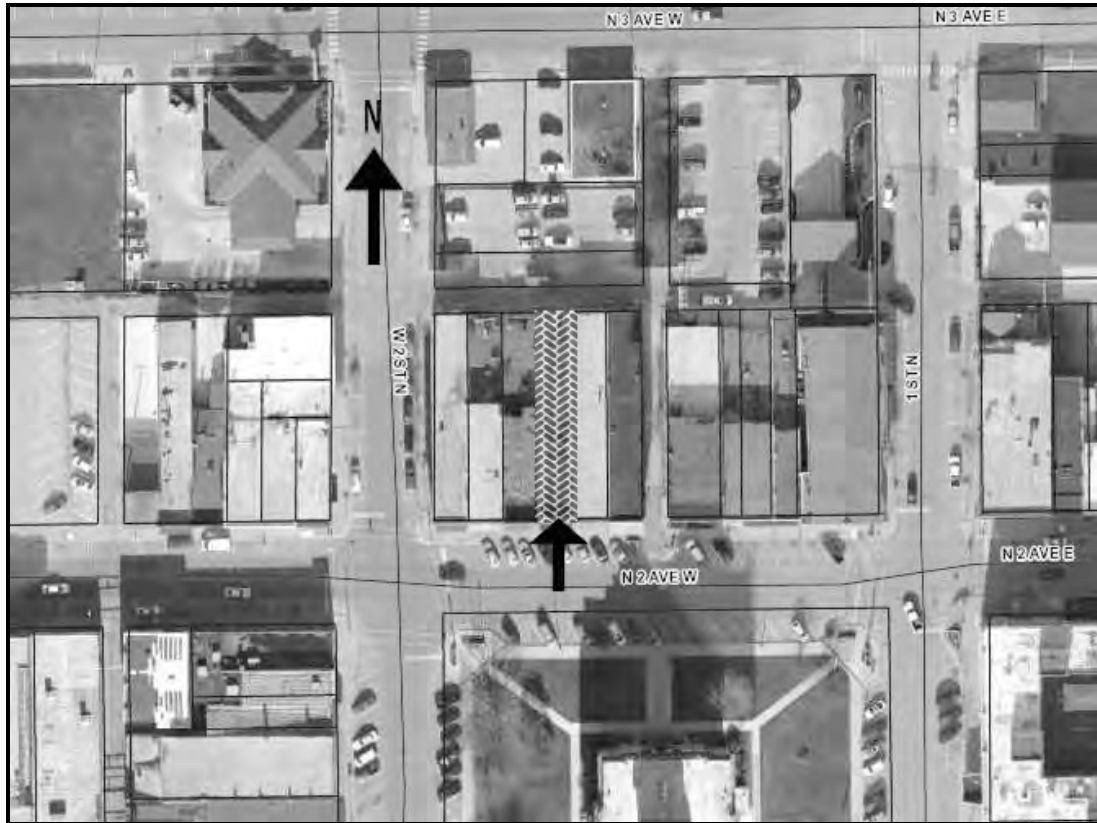
The Newton Downtown Historic District, to which the building is considered a contributing resource, is indicated.

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11. Additional Documentation - Maps

PARCEL MAP - AERIAL VIEW - 2011



(SOURCE: <http://beaconschneidercorp.com>. Accessed June 2011.)

The location of the building is marked with an arrow.

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the north side of the 100 block of N. 2nd Ave. W., looking northeast. The location of the resource is indicated by an arrow. In approximately 2008 most of the buildings in this half-block returned to the use of awnings reminiscent of the styles used in the early part of the century.

(Images by Sue Smith, June 30, 2011)

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

PHOTOGRAPHS



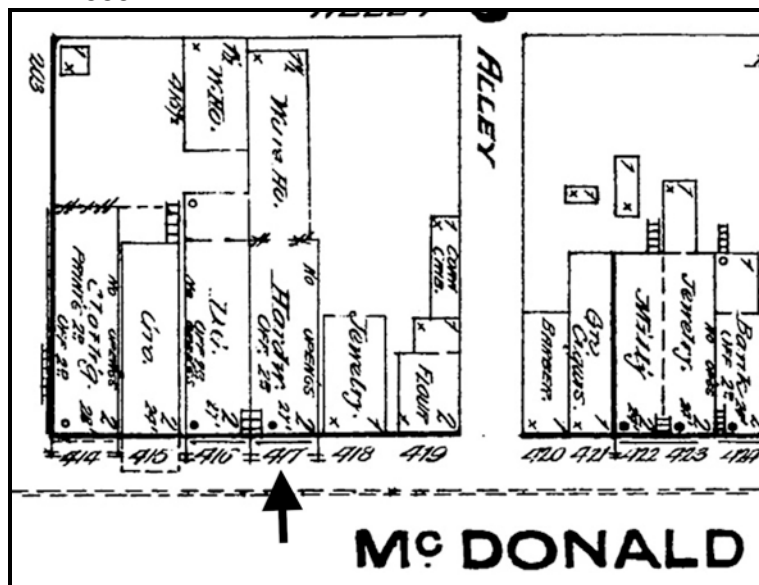
View of the Griebeling building looking north across N. 2nd Ave. W.

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FIRE INSURANCE MAP - 1883



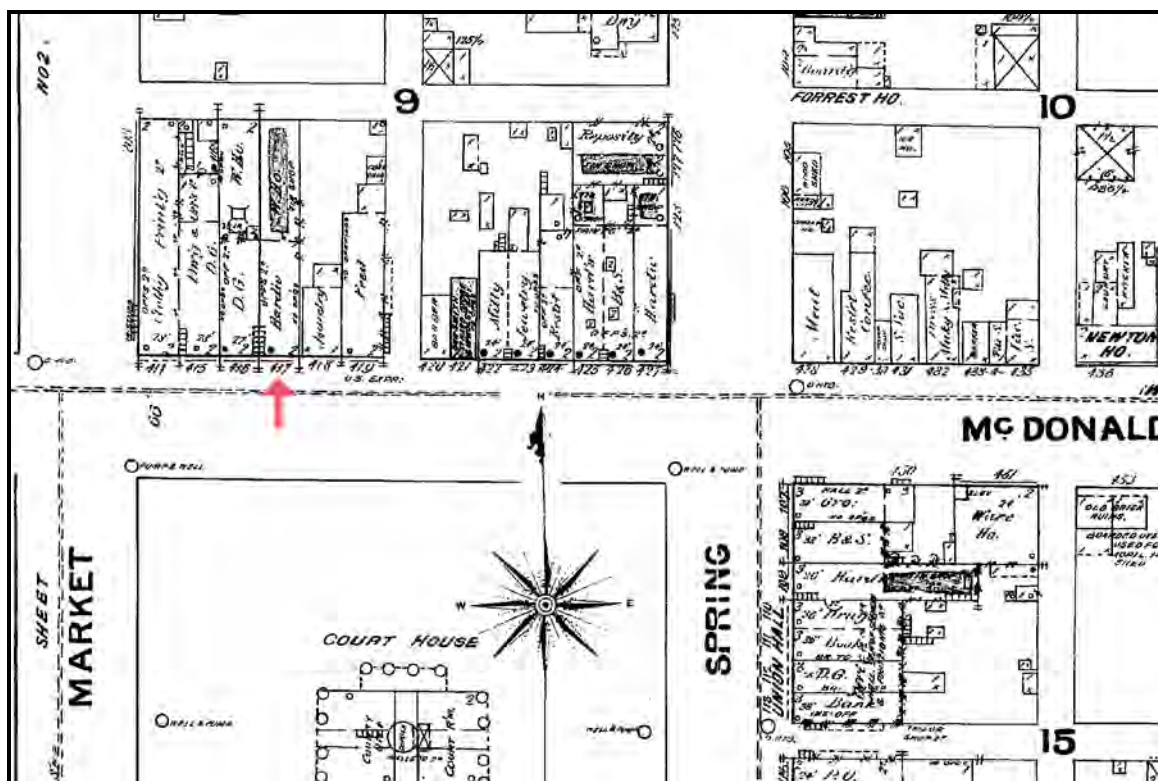
SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1883)

This was the first Sanborn map available for the city of Newton. The location of the resource is indicated. An article from the Newton Journal newspaper dated March 11, 1885, reported that Christian Griebeling was going to add a 66 foot brick addition to his store room which, when complete, would make his building 23' x 132'. If that were the case, the portion of the building marked as a "warehouse" would first have to be torn down, or the new addition built around it.

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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

FIRE INSURANCE MAP - 1888



(SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1888)

The location of the resource is indicated by an arrow. An addition in 1885 extended the structure to the alley. The precise functional details of the rear portion of the building are not yet clarified, and they may never be fully known. The “warehouse” designation remained on the Sanborn maps through the year 1900. The tin shop appeared on each map through the year 1918.

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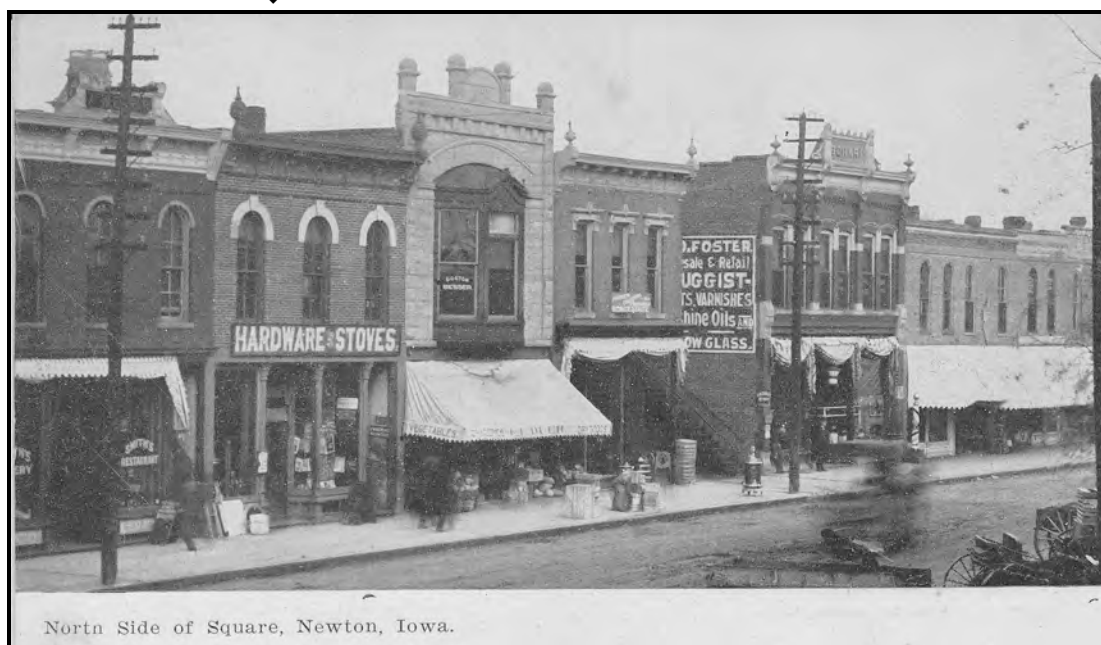
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11. Additional documentation, cont'd

HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1910



(SOURCE: Mary Jo Niskin, great-granddaughter of Christian Griebeling)

This postcard photo shows the north side of the Newton “square”, looking northeast across what is now N. 2nd Ave. E. The location of the Griebeling building is indicated by an arrow. The building façades in the half-block containing the four stores at left underwent extensive remodeling to unify their upper stories prior to 1964.

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HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1890



(SOURCE: Mary Jo Niskin, great-granddaughter of Christian Griebeling)

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9. Bibliographic References

1916 City Directory - Newton, IA. Newton, IA: Eyerly Printing Co., 1916.

“Building Prospects”. In Newton Journal, March 11, 1885.

Griebeling family histories and documents in the possession of Mary Jo Griebeling Niskin.

Keiter Directory Co.'s Newton City and Jasper County, IA Directory, 1929. Norfolk, NE: Keiter Directory Co., 1929.

Newton City and Jasper County Iowa Directory, 1935. Newton, IA: Directory Service Company, 1935.

Newton (Jasper Co., IA) City Directory. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk & Co., 1939, 1945, 1951, 1956, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1988, 1993, 1997 editions.

R.L. Polk & Company's 1910 Jasper County Directory. Des Moines & Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1910.

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

Telephone Directory for Newton, Iowa, 1933. Newton, IA: Iowa State Telephone Co., August 1933.