

# Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 92-00506

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 Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT- 042

## 2. Location

street & number 213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue (also 109 W. 3rd Street)

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) 3 Lot(s) 1 and Lot 2 S 66'

## 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
<u>1</u>	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
<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

Historical Architectural Data Base Number

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E01 Auto parts

02E99 Commerce / specialty store - electric supply

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E99 Commerce / specialty store - electric supply

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls (visible material) 10A Concrete block

roof 08A Asphalt / shingle

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 archeology or history.

County Washington Address 213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue  
City Washington

Site Number 92-00506  
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

1926  check if circa or estimated date

Other dates, including renovation

c.1962, c.1965, c.1982, c.1992

**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 March 28, 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>Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Address	City

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*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.*

**Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply - 213-215 N. Iowa Avenue** - State #92-00506 - Map #39 ~ 1 contributing building (A) - c.1926, c.1962, c.1965, c. 1982 - early 20th century commercial

Historic information:

1900s-1920s - Clark Sitler - blacksmith (213), 1919-26 - W.F. Jacobs & Son (tire & radio service) in small building on N. Iowa (215)

c.1926 - concrete block bldg built for Sitler Auto Parts Service, 1926-1935 - Sitler Auto Parts Service, 1935-1940s - Sitler Auto Parts

1950s - Sitler Auto Parts, also Sitler Electric Supply

c.1962 - showroom built at 109 W. 3rd for Sitler Electric Supply - lights showroom; c.1965 - new 2-story rear warehouse built replacing older one

2012 - Sitler Electric Supply, Sitler's House of Lights

Architectural information:

Height: 1 story

Walls: concrete block

Storefront: -

Windows: -

Architectural details: rusticated concrete block construction, 1962 showroom with brick veneer - inset entry with metal columns

Architect/Builder: -

Modifications: Historic: 1962 - light showroom at 109 W. 3rd added, 1965 - large rear concrete block addition replaced earlier addition;

Non-historic: 1982 - small north addition - added gable roof, 1992 - small north addition

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a one story rusticated concrete block commercial building with several additions. The original building had a flat roof, which was changed to a gable roof that spans this section of the building and the initial north side addition. From left to right on the east facade, there is a large single-light window, the glass and aluminum entry door with sidelights, and four large single-light windows. There is a metal canopy across this section. The c.1982 north side addition has decorative concrete blocks and no openings, and the east side of the c.1992 north side addition has two sets of windows. On the alley elevation (south side) of the original rusticated concrete block building, from west to east, there is a pair of double-hung windows, a single double-hung window, a side entry, a double-hung window, and two large windows with metal siding infill. The top third of the alley wall has metal siding. A portion of the original building can also be seen from the north. This north side has been partially obscured by a newer c.1982/c.1992 concrete block additions facing north, but the far west end of the original building

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has a steel entry door with a small window, a small window to the right of the door, and a single garage door to the right of the window. The concrete block for the east side of the north side additions is molded block with inset triangle corner detail, while the north and west walls of the c.1992 addition is plain concrete block. This addition has a side entry on the north wall and two large windows on the west wall.

A c.1965 two-story concrete block rear addition is attached to the west end of the original building. The south (alley) side of the addition has an entry at the west end of the facade, followed by a large, twelve light steel framed window at the east end of the facade. Between the door and the window is a similar sized area which appears to be a window which has been infilled with concrete block. On the second story level, there are three large twelve-light steel windows. The east side adjoins the original building, and the west side is now adjacent to the warehouse to the west. The north side has a multi-light window immediately east of the c.1962 showroom on that side.

The c.1962 one-story electric light showroom sits north of the rear addition at 109 W. 3rd St, creating an overall L-shape. The street facade (north) has brick veneer except the entry area on the far left, which is painted concrete block. There is a small stoop with a concrete floor and two decorative iron columns at the entry, which appear to be original. The pattern on the columns is leaves and grapes. The door has Colonial revival style trim. There are three large single-light windows that fill much of the front facade. To the right of the windows, metal lettering says Sitlers House of Light. Dentils extend across the cornice. The visible side walls are concrete block. A side entry is located at the far south end of the east side.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply building appears to contribute historically to the Washington Downtown Historic District. The building began as the rusticated concrete block building at 213-215 N. Iowa, and the business evolved to also include electrical supplies by the 1950s. Around 1962, a showroom was built on the north side of the Iowa Ave building at 109 W. 3rd St. A new warehouse replaced an older one at the corner between these two buildings in 1965. Two small additions were later built on the north side of the original rusticated concrete block building.

The property was purchased by Clark Sitler, a blacksmith, in 1889. The 1894 City Directory lists L. C. Sitlar at 213 N. Iowa, and the 1902 Sanborn map shows a blacksmith shop at that location and a dwelling on the north half of Lot 1. In 1903, the City Directory has H. R. Sitlar and L.C. Sitlar, Blacksmith at 221 N. Iowa, the address assigned to the dwelling on the north half of this lot. A listing in the 1910 directory has Sitler Blacksmith at 215 N. Iowa. The 1917 Sanborn map continues to show the house (221), blacksmith shop (213), and a small tire shop (215 - Jacob's Tires by 1919) on Lot 1.

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By 1926, the business had changed to Sitler Auto Parts and Service at 213 N. Iowa. The 1931 directory shows a one-story concrete block building at 213-215 N. Iowa. Interestingly, Schnoeblen Motor Company is listed at 213 N. Iowa in the 1932 directory, and Sitler's is at 215 N. Iowa. By 1935, the listing is again for Sitler Auto Parts and Service at 213-215 N. Iowa. The 1943 Sanborn map shows the one-story building at 213-215 N. Iowa as one store, and a one-story machine shop has been built on the rear (west), with another concrete block addition to the north of this rear addition. The house continued to stand on the north half of the lot.

*Evening Journal* – Centennial Celebration – August 1939 - page 102 – Sitler Auto Parts – 22 years in auto parts – Howard Sitler – one of best equipped auto machine shops in area

Howard Sitler died in 1952, and the business was continued by his son Bill Sitler (born in 1910). In 1952 and 1956, both Sitler's Auto Parts and Sitler's Electric Supply are listed at 215 N. Iowa. Around 1962 per the assessor, a new showroom was built at 109 W. 3rd Street on the north side of the rear warehouse. Both the auto parts business and the electrical supply business used the 215 N. Iowa address again in the 1964 city directory. Around 1965, the older warehouse in the rear addition was replaced by a new two-story concrete block warehouse, located in the corner of the overall L-shaped building form.

Bicentennial Edition, *Evening Journal*, July 1, 1976, page 78 – Sitler Electric Supply Inc. – 215 N. Iowa – electrical equipment and supplies – distributors and showroom - three generations – Clark Sitler, then Howard, then Bill – about 80 years in business – grandfather not keep very complete records

A small concrete block addition was built to the north of the original building around 1982, followed by a slightly larger addition around 1992. In 1998, they also acquired Lot 2 to the west and the concrete block warehouse on this site built around 1992 (see 115 W. 3rd St, #92-00591). Sitler Electric Supply is still in business at 215 N. Iowa Avenue in Washington. Sitler's House of Lights operates at 109 W. 3rd Street.

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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*

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



Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 92-00506  
Related District Number 92-00349

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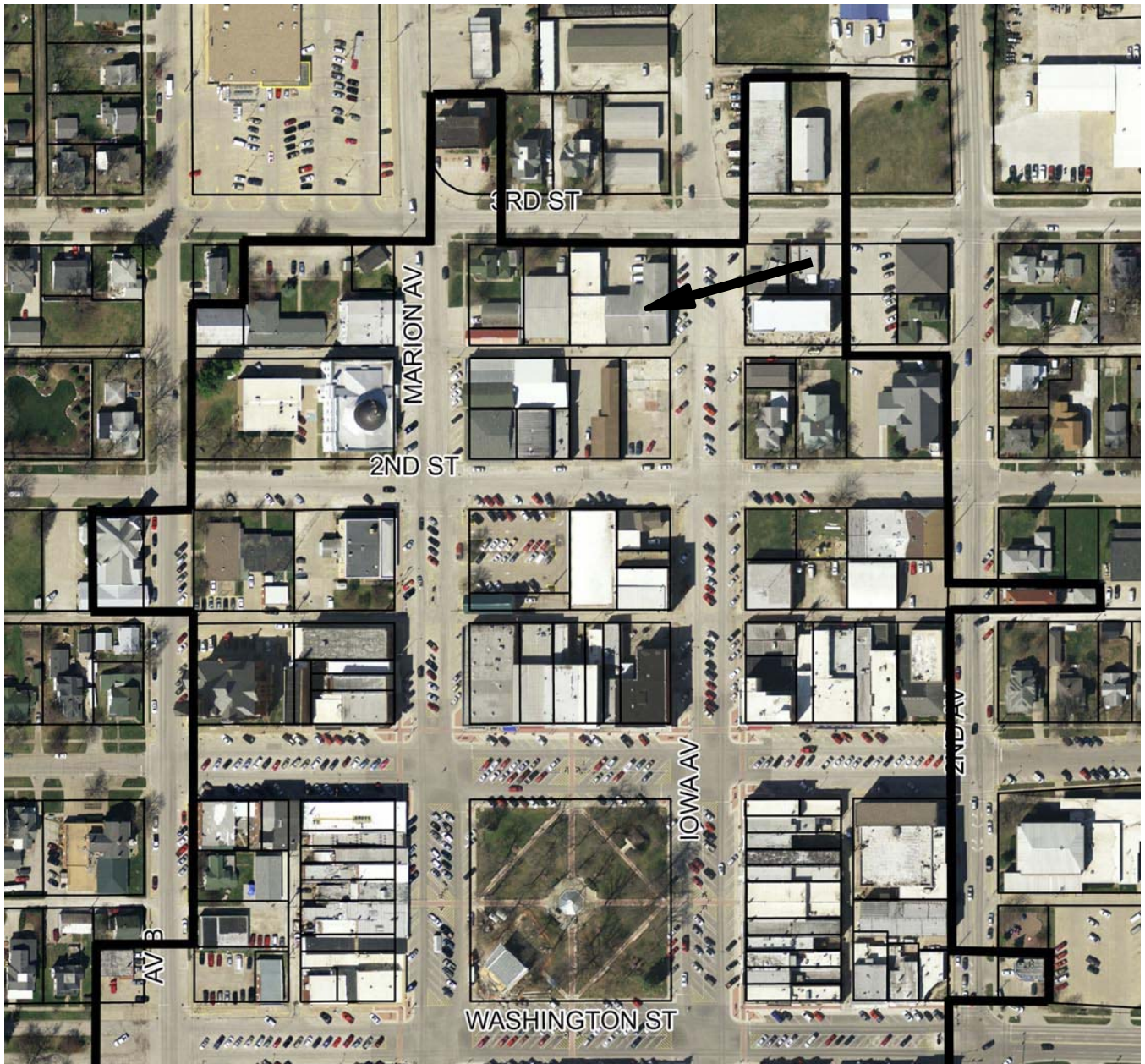
Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply  
Name of Property

Washington  
County

213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue  
Address

Washington  
City

**Location map**



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

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

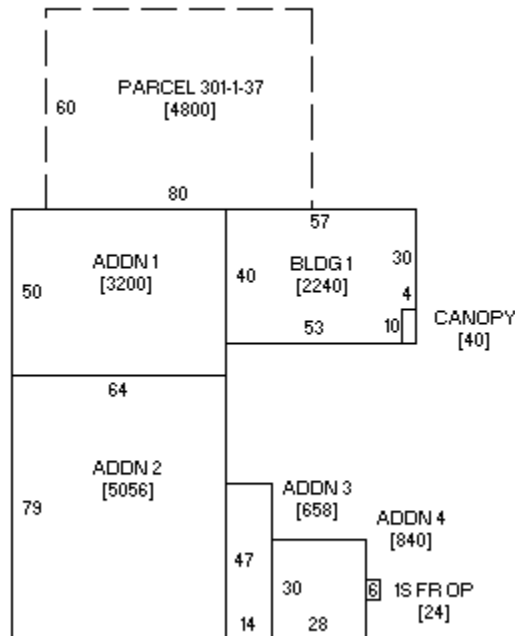
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### Building plan (from assessor's website)



#### Assessor dates:

- Addition 2 (actually original rusticated concrete block building at 213-215 N. Iowa) - 1926
- Addition 1 - warehouse - 1965 (replaced earlier rear addition)
- Building 1 - electric showroom at 109 W. 3rd Street - 1962
- Addition 3 - 1982
- Addition 4 - 1992

Also bought warehouse at 113 W. 3rd Street - separate parcel/building - on separate form - #92-00591

### Historic images

none identified



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Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply

Washington

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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 92-00506-001 - South and east elevations of original building, looking northwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)**

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Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply

Washington

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Photograph 92-00506-002 - East elevations of original building and north side addition with combined gable roof, looking southwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply

Washington

Name of Property

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213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue

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Photograph 92-00506-003 - East and north elevations of 1962 showroom addition, looking southwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)



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Photograph 92-00506-004 - North elevation of 1962 showroom addition, looking southwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)