Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

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)  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)  Number of Resources within Property

☒ building(s)

☐ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

If Non-Eligible Property  Enter number of:

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

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)

02E01 Auto parts

02E99 Commerce / specialty store - electric supply

02E99 Commerce / specialty store - electric supply

7. Description

Architectural Classification  (Enter categories from instructions)  Materials  (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

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.
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

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)

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[ ] See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Patterson, Chair

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

1. Map: showing the property’s location in a town/city or township.
2. Site plan: showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. 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:
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   - 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

1. Farmstead & District: (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
2. Barn:
   a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
   b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
   c. 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: __________________________
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: -
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
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.
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.


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.
Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply

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9. Major Bibliographical References


Newspaper advertisements, various years/dates, on microfilm at Washington Public Library:
- Washington Evening Journal
- Washington Gazette
- Washington Press

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Address: 213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue

Location map

2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary
Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply Washington

Name of Property County

213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue Washington
Address City

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
Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply                             Washington
Name of Property                                                  County

213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue                                          Washington
Address                                                          City

Digital photographs

Photograph 92-00506-001 - South and east elevations of original building, looking northwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
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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)
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Photograph 92-00506-003 - East and north elevations of 1962 showroom addition, looking southwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
Sitler Auto Parts / Sitler Electric Supply                      Washington
Name of Property                                              County
213 – 215 N. Iowa Avenue                                     Washington
Address                                                      City

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