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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 19 2016

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building

other names/site number Bell Tire and Rubber Company (Service Company); Sioux City Tent and Awning

2. Location

street & number 700 Nebraska Street N/A not for publication

city or town Sioux City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.

Steve King

10 AUG 2016

Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
Date of 10-4-16

Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building
Name of Property

Woodbury County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - state
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Rubber

Other: _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building
Name of Property

Woodbury County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
LAW

Period of Significance

1942-1957

Significant Dates

1942
1957

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- 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

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Lewis, Harry

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Federation Construction Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building
Name of Property

OMB No. 10024-0018
Woodbury County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.497574 Longitude: -96.403209

2. Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sheriffa M. Jones, Architectural Historian & Julie Schmidt, Technical Writer
preservationworksllc@gmail.com

organization Preservation Works date July 25, 2016

street & number 1623 2nd Avenue E telephone (712) 490-3399

city or town Spencer state Iowa zip code 51301

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Weinberg Investments, Inc

street & number 505 5th Street, Suite 200 telephone (712) 252-2201

city or town Sioux City state Iowa zip code 51101

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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NARRATIVE

The Lewis System Armored Car Building is located within the city limits of Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa, on the north side of downtown. Woodbury County is located on the western side of the State of Iowa. Sioux City, Iowa, is located in the northwest corner of Woodbury County and on the Missouri River.

The Lewis System Armored Car Building is a two-story rectangular shaped building with a flat roof. It is banked building into the slope of 7th Street. It is located on a rectangular shaped lot and on a hill, where both Nebraska and 7th Streets gradually rise. The streets that bound the property are Nebraska Street to the west and 7th Street to the south. Nebraska Street is a busy one way street (north bound traffic), that has three lanes of travel and one lane of parallel parking on both the east and west sides of the street; about two blocks to the north of the Lewis System Armored Car Building, Nebraska Street goes to two traffic lanes and maintains the parking lanes. There is a parking lot to the north of the building; and one parking spot, which is bounded with brick walls, immediately adjacent on the east side of the building. The neighborhood is a combination of commercial and a few multi-family dwelling units.

Exterior

The Lewis System Armored Car Building was constructed in 1929 of yellow and tan “fireproof” brick. The southwest corner of the building is angled and measures 5’8””; this provides the pedestrian entrance for the main level, thus making the dimensions for the west and south facades slightly less than the north and east sides. The building’s dimensions are: 100’ on the north side, 46’ on the west, 96’ on the south, and 50’ on the east. The main level of the building is currently used for storage, although the office and garage spaces remain from the past retail/commercial uses. The second level of the building consists of ten apartments. The apartment units are accessed from one of two entrances on the south side of the building.

The building has a flat rubber roof. There is a low-pitched gabled asphalt dormer over the southwestern entrance to the apartment units.

Masonry

The masonry on the Lewis System Armored Car Building is a combination of yellow/mustard and tan bricks, as well as concrete elements. There is a pitched concrete parapet wall on the angled façade and it is one of the character defining features of the building. The parapet continues along the roof line, but is decreased in height

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Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building
Woodbury County, Iowa

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and consists of a concrete belt course that runs along the top of the roof line on the west and south façades. There are brick pilasters that run the height of the building on the west, southwest angled façade, and the south façade. There are three brick pilasters on the west façade; two brick pilasters on the southwest angled façade; and four brick pilasters on the south façade. These are each capped with a simplified concrete capital. There are also concrete details that adorn each of the window sills on the west side, southwest angled façade, and south side.

The north side of the building appears to have always been open to the parking lot on the north. The north exterior wall is red brick and concrete; and the east exterior wall is also red brick and concrete (See digital images 1 and 3). There is a red brick chimney on the northeast corner of the building. The chimney was likely used for the boiler system. It has not been used for many years.

Windows and Doors

There are 30 second-level windows on the Lewis System Armored Car Building. All of the second level windows are 1/1 windows. After close investigation, all of the second-level windows on the north side, and west façade have the same window opening size and look, but are not original. On the south side the first four windows from the west have the same window opening as well, but are not original. The windows in the eastern two bays on the south side are not original as they are two pairs of 1/1 windows where warehouse type windows were once in place (See photo 5, page 12). Each of the windows on the west, southwest angle, and south have metal awnings. The windows on the second level on all sides have aluminum storm windows. The storm windows are not original to the building. The first floor windows have been changed dramatically with the addition of brick infill above the window openings; and glass block fills the majority of the remaining window space. There are two windows on the west and one window on the southwestern corner that each have a single pane non-operable window surrounded by glass block.

There are two entrances on the south façade; one on the east and the other on the west end. The east end entrance is at the second level and the west end entrance is at the first floor level, which leads to a set of stairs on the interior up to the residential units. There is an additional entrance, which is the main door on the angled façade (southwest). It is not original; however the opening appears to be the same size. The west end entrance, on the south side has a hood over the entrance. This entrance is for residents and while the opening size is original, a non-historic screen door has been placed in-front of the historic glass and wood door. The southeast entrance for residents was originally a single garage door. It is unknown when the garage door was removed and became an additional window and pedestrian entrance.

Interior

The interior of the first floor of the Lewis System Armored Car & Detective building is configured much as it was when it was originally built. The main level is accessed from the southwest door that is placed at an angle. There is a small office which then leads into other smaller offices and a few larger rooms. There is a room near the back where safes and (gun) cabinets remain. The main floor can also be accessed from the large garage

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style door on the northwest corner of the building. This door opens up to an “L” shaped garage. The second level has seen changes to the floorplan; however, since architectural plans have not been located, it is unknown exactly how the second floor was originally constructed. There is no additional attic or basement space.

The interior materials consist of plaster walls and ceilings and a mismatch of flooring material throughout. The flooring varies from apartment to apartment as well as the common spaces and consists of non-historic tile, non-historic linoleum, and low profile carpet. There is some crown molding that remains; however, it is unclear how much would have existed originally. Original doors, frames, and transoms still exist in both the common spaces as well in the apartments. There is potential that other historic flooring material exists beneath the current flooring.

Office Units & Apartments

The second floor of the building appears to have been divided into smaller spaces (apartments/offices) since it was built. The apartments are on the north, west and south sides of the building with a common hallway down the center of the building. The hallway connects all the apartments to the staircase as well as the shared laundry facility, which is toward the southeast corner of the building.

Integrity

The Lewis System Armored Car Building possesses a high degree of integrity. The majority of the architectural features and materials remain intact despite some changes that have been made since its construction in 1929.

Integrity of Location: The Lewis System Armored Car Building and its site retain the integrity of location. The spatial relationship of the building to the main streets of Nebraska and 7th remains. Additionally, it retains its setting within downtown Sioux City as well as in a neighborhood that has some commercial entities as well as residential units. The original setting of the neighborhood surrounding 700 Nebraska was of mixed use. The building is still in its original location and is near other prominent buildings including the YMCA, which is just to the north of 700 Nebraska Street. The area originally included similar sized buildings as well as others that were several stories taller. There are a few more parking lots in the area and a few historic buildings have been replaced with modern buildings. The area continues to be mixed use.

Integrity of Design: The Lewis System Armored Car Building retains a great degree of its integrity of design relative to the designated period of significance. Most of the historic design elements exist; regardless of a few changes in the windows and their openings as well as the removal of the garage door on the southeast corner, which resulted in the addition of a window and a door. Most of the window openings remain intact as well as other historic design elements such as the brick, the west garage door, and the entrance doors on the southwest angled façade and the southwestern tenant door. It is unclear if there were fewer rooms at one time and gradually the 2nd floor spaces were divided up into apartments while retaining the common hallway, this is likely due to the use by various businesses and then as residential units. Building permits suggest that alterations were made in 1950 and 1952.

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Integrity of Setting: The Lewis System Armored Car Building retains a high degree of integrity of setting. The area around the building currently consists of office space to the north, west, and south. To the east is primarily multi-unit housing. The area is still considered within in the downtown area, but has maintained its' distance from the heart of downtown Sioux City. It is likely that initially, the area was a booming part of downtown, which has now shifted as an area that is less concentrated with businesses and would be considered a less-desirable area for business and residential life.



PHOTO 1: Lewis System building below the arrow and to the right of “Skogie’s Used Cars”, c. 1940. Image courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, December 2014.

Integrity of Materials: The majority of the original exterior materials remain and are in good condition. Some of the windows on the main level have been infilled with glass block and brick; and the metal awnings have been added to the second level windows on the west side, southwest angled façade and the south side. It is unknown what the original interior materials consisted of; however, some of the interior materials appear to be original and are character defining features. This includes: wood doors, frames, transoms, and some crown molding as well as plaster walls and ceilings. It is unclear if any historic flooring remains below the current flooring.

Integrity of Workmanship: The Lewis System Armored Car Building retains a high degree of workmanship. Most of the character-defining features of the building are intact, including: the roof line, exterior brick walls and pilasters, concrete details, window openings, and the opening of west garage door. The original door itself has been replaced.

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Integrity of Feeling: The Lewis System Armored Car Building retains a high degree of feeling. Viewed from the street or from any point, the building appears much as it did when it was built. Despite some changes to the window openings, the Lewis System Armored Car Building conveys the historic and aesthetic feeling of the period of significance.

Integrity of Association: The Lewis System Armored Car Building retains its integrity of association due to its impact on the development of the private investigation and detective work of Harry and Paul Lewis.

Alterations and Future Plans

There have been alterations to 700 Nebraska Street. They do include: first floor windows which have been infilled with brick and glass block, therefore the windows are diminished in size; several windows on the south side of the second floor have been altered from multi-pane windows to double hung 1/1 windows; awnings were added; the garage door that was originally on the southeast corner is now a walk-in door and window; and the north side of the building had the addition of two 1/1 windows. These windows were likely added when the building was further divided, c.1950. A building permit from 1950 suggests that the 2nd floor was remodeled for apartments on or around July; and another from late 1950s suggests that the front of the building was remodeled. There are more spaces that exist now, than what would have originally been intact. There are currently 10 apartments, one laundry room, and a main hallway for residences. The main level (garage/offices) is used currently used for extra appliance storage for the apartment units.

While future plans have not been determined, it is likely that the second floor will be maintained for residential use; and the first floor could be developed into commercial space.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lewis System Armored Car and Detective Building is locally significant under Criteria A as it is associated with the history of private investigation and the development of armored car service use by banks and other businesses in Sioux City and in Iowa. The property is also significant under Criteria B as it is associated with the life of Harry Lewis, who was the founder and owner of the security business, Lewis System and Armored Car Service. This building is the most significant building associated specifically with Harry Lewis.

The period of significance is 1942 to 1957; 1942 was the year that the Lewis System moved into the building and 1957 is the year when Paul Lewis died. Paul was the last of the original owners. In that same year, Lewis System was sold to Samartick and Company, of Omaha. Lewis System was operated at 700 Nebraska Street until 1969.

The Lewis System Armored Car building was built of "fireproof brick" for \$10,000 and was built as a commercial building by the owners of the property at the time, F.A. Martin and Richard Nash. (According to notes that accompanied building permits, the building was originally designed to be three stories.) The third floor was noted as "future 3rd floor."

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The initial occupant of 700 Nebraska, was the Bell Tire and Service Company/Brake Service from 1930-1933, which is when Sioux City was experiencing a building boom. The Bell Tire and Rubber Company occupied the building for less than three years.¹ There were various occupants of the first floor space, until 1937 when Sioux City Tent and Awning Co., occupied until 1941. In 1942, Lewis System Armored Car Division and Lewis System Division of Investigation Inc., occupied the building until 1969.

The City Directories suggest that there was likely one unit in 1929, which was occupied by Mrs. Margaret Adams in 1929. By 1931, Frank A. Martin and Richard Nash (owners of the property who had the current building constructed) as well as KB Construction (Federation Construction Company) occupied the second floor apartment/office space. From 1929-1953, the office space/apartments were used by various businesses. Although the Sioux City Directories don't spell out if these businesses were using the main floor in addition to the second floor, they are listed as an occupant at 700 Nebraska Street. These businesses included: Bell Tire & Service Co., Frank A. Martin & Gerald E Real Estate, Richard Nash Real Estate, KB White Construction Co., Bell Brake Service, Martin-Nash Motor Co., Reliance Battery Co, Elmer E. Bevard Real Estate, and Century Press...the list of various and short lived businesses occupied the first floor commercial space until 1937, when Sioux City Tent and Awning Co., occupied the space until 1941. There continued to be several real estate companies that occupied the space during this time as well. In 1942, the Lewis System Armored Car Division and the Lewis System Division of Investigation Inc., are listed as the main occupants along with Frank Martin Real Estate. City building permits suggest that the 2nd floor remodeling, for the purpose of apartments, began as early as July 1950.² In 1953, according to the Sioux City - City Directories, the apartments on the second floor were then used as residences and this would suggest that the first floor remained in commercial/office use, while the second floor was apartments. By 1963, the City Directories began listing the apartment units under the address, 603 7th Street and 700 Nebraska was used purely for the first floor business. The second floor apartments are still in use, while the first floor is used as storage.³

¹ *Sioux City Journal*. "Vast Building Program for Entire City." June 30, 1929.

² City of Sioux City-Department of Buildings, Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy. Building Permit No 5702, July 19, 1950. Courtesy of Sioux City Public Library, Building Permits Microfilm. Accessed, February 17, 2015.

³ RL Polk & Co, Sioux City (Woodbury County, Iowa) Directory. 1928-2005. Courtesy of the Sioux City Public Museum Research Center.

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PHOTO 2: Lewis System building, c. 1942. Image courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, December 2014.

Sioux City History: Transportation and Shopping Hub and Financial Center

The history of Sioux City, Iowa is a mixture of economic prosperity and rough-and-tumble reputation. The city had its beginnings as a transportation hub. Its location along the Missouri River made it well suited as a trading post and stopover place on the journey west. This role began as early as the famous Lewis and Clark expedition visit in 1804. Riverboats were the earliest transporters of people and goods to Sioux City, in use throughout the 1800's. By the 1860's the railroad had also been extended to serve the city. With its role as a transportation hub in the 1800's, and with Sioux City's role as a supply hub for the western territories, Sioux City's population tended to more transient in nature. Between the years of 1870-1890 Sioux City's population also increased substantially from 3,400 to over 37,000 citizens.⁴ As a result of the growth, by 1886, "the floating population of traders, miners, adventurers, steamboat crews, and river travelers had given the town of 20,000 a nationally unsavory reputation,"⁵ however, wealthy investors were also drawn to the area and invested in businesses, housing and other industry needs. By 1910, the population of Sioux City was over 47,000 people.⁶

⁴ www.siouxcityhistory.org. Accessed June 2, 2015.

⁵ Federal Writer's Project, *The WPA Guide to 1930s Iowa*. Reprinted Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 1986. Originally published under the title "Iowa: A Guide to the Hawkeye State in 1938", Viking Press, New York, pg 303.

⁶ www.siouxcityhistory.org. Accessed June 2, 2015.

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Along with this role as transportation and trade hub, came Sioux City's role as a financial center. "The foundation of Sioux City's banking system was laid in 1855 when George Weare brought \$1,000 overland from Council Bluffs and started a bank."⁷ From this first bank evolved a system of banks that financed many enterprises that took Sioux City from a small trading post to a thriving industrial center. T.J. Stone organized the First National Bank in 1867, making it one of the first national banks in the US.⁸ In 1884, the Security National Bank was formed, making it one of the first security banks in the country.⁹ By the early 1900's, Sioux City had become a regional banking center with 15 banks serving the commercial, meat packing and agricultural needs of Sioux City and the surrounding area. According to the *Sioux City Spirit of Progress* publication, in 1925 "Sioux City bank clearings reached \$367,858,000 while debits against individual accounts reached over one billion dollars for the first time in the history of the city."¹⁰

The 1930s for Sioux City and many cities across the United States, brought a time of economic uncertainty and turmoil. Sioux City seemed to be experiencing even greater upheaval associated with agricultural protests and then to add insult to injury, prohibition, which was not received well by the citizens of Sioux City. As the Great Depression deepened, Sioux City was not spared. According to Sorenson & Chicoine, "the impact of FDR's relief and recovery agencies thousands of job-hungry men and women were put to work."¹¹ Despite the increase in jobs and relief, there was still unrest in the city relating to labor and management issues. These issues as well as the growing transportation of prohibited items, made Sioux City a hot-stop for crimes.¹² It was during this time, that Sioux City earned the nickname "Little Chicago" as it remained "wet" while the rest of the state was dry. This reputation followed from the need for additional law enforcement. It was during the 1930s and 1940s that the Lewis System became more prevalent and grew. According to City Directories, the Lewis System was the only detective agency in Sioux City from 1925-1948.

Gambling, Prohibition and Gangsters

As the city continued to grow into a financial and commercial center into the 1900's, it could not shake its less savory beginnings as a rough and tumble river town. While Sioux City had a reputation for brothels, gambling houses and saloons as early as 1885, this element of Sioux City life would grow larger and more dangerous into the 1920's and 1930's.¹³ A number of criminals would either base their operations out of Sioux City or use Sioux City as a secondary location when things got too "hot" in their own cities. For example, a local

⁷ Sinclair, George. *Sioux City Spirit of Progress*. "Seventy Years of Banking in Sioux City", Vol. VI, No. 6. July 17, 1926, pg 126.

⁸ National banks are commercial banks and serve as a member bank of the Federal Reserve. These banks must be members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)—established in 1933. First National Banks were usually established once an area was settled, then a town established and proof that business and farming would prosper. www.investopedia.com

⁹ Security Banks were generally a bank that was/is part of a multi-bank corporation.

¹⁰ Sinclair, George. *Sioux City Spirit of Progress*. "Seventy Years of Banking in Sioux City", Vol. VI, No. 6. July 17, 1926, pg 126.

¹¹ Sorenson, Scott and B. Paul Chicoine. *Sioux City: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk/Virginia Beach: Donning Company, 1982, pg 167-169.

¹² Sorenson, Scott and B. Paul Chicoine. *Sioux City: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk/Virginia Beach: Donning Company, 1982, pg 167-169.

¹³ Federal Writer's Project, *The WPA Guide to 1930s Iowa*. Reprinted Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. 1986. Originally published under the title "Iowa: A Guide to the Hawkeye State in 1938", Viking Press, New York, pg 303.

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PHOTO 3: Interior of the Lewis System building showing gun cases and cannonball safe (to right of image), date of image unknown. Image courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, December 2014.

personality, Tony Pasha, operated billiard halls and cigar stores at many locations in Sioux City from the 1910's to the 1940's and became a well-known gambler there, operating numerous illegal gambling houses.¹⁴

Another famous mobster, Donald "Davie" Berman (born 1903-died 1957), also known as "Davie the Jew" got his start in Sioux City in the late 1910's. David was a Jewish-American organized crime figure in Iowa, New York City, and Minneapolis. Berman began hawking newspapers for the Sioux City Journal, but got involved with visiting Chicago gangsters and local gambling halls. He began with petty card and dice cons and progressed to beating up people who couldn't cover their gambling debts.¹⁵ By age 16 (1919), he had a large bootlegging operation in Sioux City, smuggling whiskey from Canada during Prohibition. While still a teen, Berman had also turned to bank robberies. He eventually moved his operation to Minneapolis, MN and remained a major mob figure there into the 1940's before becoming involved with the Las Vegas crime syndicate.¹⁶

With the passage of the 18th Amendment in 1920, the sale of alcohol became illegal in the United States. Sioux City was similar to many other US cities in that this federal law was almost entirely ignored. Illegal production,

¹⁴ Marlow Casino Chips, www.marlowcasinochips.com. Accessed December 16, 2014.

¹⁵ The Chicago Syndicate. Eriksmoen, Curt. "Las Vegas Mob Boss, Davie Berman, Started in North Dakota." January 3, 2011.

¹⁶ *Bismarck Tribune*. Eriksmoen, Curt. "Las Vegas Mob Boss had ties to N.D." January 2, 2011.

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distribution and sale of alcohol happened throughout the United States during this time, including Sioux City. Gangsters like Al Capone, in Chicago, created a financial empire through controlling illegal liquor sales to many speakeasies throughout the Midwest and East Coast. Sioux City was already known for its gambling houses, brothels and saloons. Now the streets became even rougher as speakeasies flourished and organized crime moved in to serve them. Sioux City's reputation as "Little Chicago" gained fame as mobsters from both Chicago and Minneapolis came to Sioux City when the heat was on in their home cities. Nationally known gangsters that allegedly spent time in Sioux City during this time included Al Capone, John Dillinger and George "Baby Face" Nelson. A local bank robber and kidnapper, Joe Hanley, who ranked high on the FBI's most wanted list, would also base his activities out of Sioux City during this time.¹⁷

By the Great Depression of the 1930's, numerous solid businesses in Sioux City had failed and several local banks had closed their doors for good, similar scenes took place across the country. The Depression had also struck a blow to the region's farming economy and land foreclosures were on the rise in western Iowa as well as all over the rural United States. Even with the repeal of prohibition with the 21st Amendment on December 5, 1933, graft and corruption continued to thrive in Sioux City, despite new state restrictions on liquor sales.

In 1935, the editor of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Verne Marshall, began an investigation into political corruption in the state of Iowa. This investigation would lead to the charges of gambling conspiracy, graft and corruption in public office against the Iowa State Attorney General (Harry Freeland Garrett, Attorney General from 1933-1937) and his assistant, along with 21 others involved in the gambling houses of Sioux City. The scandalous story made the *New York Times*.¹⁸

This culture of crime, graft and corruption sets the stage for a man named Harry Lewis, who arrived in Sioux City around 1919, and would proceed to found a detective agency and armored car service and operate the business until his death in 1951.

Harry Lewis

Harry Lewis was born September 5, 1886 in Chicago, Illinois. His father died when Harry was young and his mother remarried and moved the family to St Louis, Missouri. Harry Lewis reportedly left home in his teen years to join the army and fight in the Philippine American War, from 1899-1901. Lewis is said to have also served the United States as an undercover agent in Japan prior to World War I. After returning home to St Louis, Harry Lewis then took a job as a railroad detective. His work on the railroad brought him to Sioux City, Iowa. Around 1919, Harry Lewis left his railroad detective job to begin work for the Davidson Brothers Company department store as a special agent.¹⁹ The Lewis System Armored Car and Detective Service Building, is the most significant remaining building associated with Harry Lewis, his career, and the

¹⁷ Interview Script, Erikson, John. "Local Law Enforcement Problem During the 1930's." Siouxland Oral History Program, conducted by Scott Sorenson. October 10, 1975.

¹⁸ www.marlowcasinochips.com. Accessed December 16, 2014; and *New York Times*. "Iowa Prosecutor Named as Graftier." July 4, 1935.

¹⁹ *Sioux City Journal*. Hansen, Bob. "My Turn." December 16, 1986, A-3.

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development of the Lewis System Armored Car and Detective Service.



PHOTO 4: Photo of Harry Lewis near the time of his death in 1951. Image courtesy of the Sioux City Journal, December 9, 1951.

According to City Directories, starting in 1924, the Lewis System was a business, and one of only three “Detective Agencies” listed in Sioux City. In 1925, Lewis System was the only detective agency listed. From 1925 to 1948 Lewis System was the only detective agency in Sioux City. In 1948, Lewis System was joined by Burke Detective Agency and Fidelity Detective Agency. From 1950 several other detective agencies were in Sioux City, but none of them had the longstanding history of Lewis System.²⁰

By 1930, “Secret Service” was also a heading in the City Directory (businesses had to contract for this listing) and from 1930 to 1947 Lewis System was the only outfit listed under this category. In 1941, Lewis System was also listed under the “Armored Car Service” category and was the only business listed until 1953.²¹

Harry Lewis married Hazel Florence Quirk on July 17, 1924 in Sioux City. Hazel was the daughter of George and Catherine (Goss) Quirk. Harry and his wife, Hazel, lived in several places throughout Sioux City including: Jackson Street, W 6th Street, Summit, and Douglas. In 1938, Harry and Hazel resided at 2110 Summit, the Bellevue Apartments, while they changed apartments a few times, Harry resided there until his death in December 1951. Hazel resided at The Bellevue Apartments for several years following Harry’s death. The Bellevue Apartments still exist.²²

²⁰ Sioux City Public Library, 1924-1953 City Directories. RL Polk & Co, Sioux City Directories.

²¹ Sioux City Public Library, 1924-1953 City Directories. RL Polk & Co, Sioux City Directories.

²² Ibid.

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Lewis System Investigations in Sioux City and the Midwest

Recognizing the need for his services, Lewis opened his own investigation service. The Lewis System, Inc. was incorporated on June 13, 1922.²³ The first mention of the Lewis System in the Sioux City Directory is in 1923, with offices at 207 Commerce Building, 520 Nebraska. (This office is coincidentally just down the block from Pasha's gambling house at 422 Nebraska.) Other articles and obituaries suggest Harry Lewis founded his business earlier, perhaps moonlighting while still employed by the Davidson Brothers Company. Throughout the 1920's, Harry Lewis and Lewis Systems are mentioned in various articles in the Sioux City Journal: reporting on the number of Christmas-time shoplifters in downtown stores,²⁴ catching check forgers, real estate fraud,²⁵ addressing Annual Police Chief Conventions²⁶ and attending the annual meeting of the World Association of Detectives.²⁷ In 1928, Lewis, "a well-known crime expert" reportedly hosts a daily criminal news broadcast remotely from his Lewis Systems office, via the Sioux City Journal



PHOTO 5: Lewis System building, c. 1945. Image courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, December 2014.

²³ Abstract of Title, 700 Nebraska Street. Accessed February 19, 2015, pg 4.

²⁴ *Sioux City Journal*. "Detective Arrests Holiday Shop Lifters." December 22, 1923.

²⁵ *Sioux City Journal*. "Florida Realty Men Indicted on Fraud Charges." August 20, 1926.

²⁶ *Sioux City Journal*. "Lewis to Address Police Chiefs at 19th Annual Police Chief Convention." August 10, 1927.

²⁷ *Sioux City Journal*. "Harry Lewis off to Chicago." May 28, 1928

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Station KSCJ, the first program of its kind in the country.²⁸ Clearly, Sioux City was providing plenty of investigative work for Harry Lewis and the Lewis Systems Detective and Secret Services.

By 1930, Harry Lewis was also speaking to the local Rotary club about crime prevention and urging members to contribute funds to set up a local crime lab for the Sioux City Police Department.²⁹ He had also been chosen Vice President of the Midwest Division of the World Association of Detectives at their St Paul Convention.³⁰

The *Sioux City Spirit of Progress* publication of April 1930 headlines “The Lewis System, Inc., Sioux City Protective Organization Enjoying Phenomenal Growth.” The article states, “From a meager beginning with two employees in 1919, the Lewis System, Incorporated, mercantile detective operators and manufacturers of burglar and daylight holdup alarms, has grown to one of the finest business institutions of its kind in the country.”³¹ It goes on to state that, “It maintains a special department of confidential representatives for serving executives of organizations listed as clients.”³² At the time, the Lewis System was the “‘parent company’ with six subsidiary companies with a wide scope of protective activity.”³³ The six subsidiary units included: “the Lewis System of Missouri, the Lewis System of Nebraska, the Lewis System of South Dakota, the Audit and Inspection Corporation of America, the Lewis Signal and Alarm Corporation, and the Alarm Corporation.”³⁴

At the time of this article, the headquarters and general offices were located in Sioux City, with six subsidiary companies covering activities throughout the Midwest. In 1930, there were 111 employees covering the six subsidiary companies, including the Lewis System of Missouri, the Lewis System of Nebraska, the Lewis System of South Dakota, the Audit and Inspection Corporation of America, the Lewis Signal and Alarm Corporation and The Alarm Corporation. Division offices were maintained in Sioux Falls, SD, Omaha, NE, Chicago, IL, and Kansas City, MO.

The services that the Lewis System, Inc., provided included a department of records through which all prospective employees were reviewed. A department of frauds and check investigation existed in conjunction with the record department with over 500,000 records of fraudulent checks, charge accounts and other records. The Lewis System also had a department of undercover operations to assist businesses in discovering leaks or other operating problems. Approximately 95% of the “mercantile offenses” that happened in Sioux City and the area were handled by the Lewis System.

²⁸ *Sioux City Journal*. “Journal Radio Station to Begin Criminal News Bureau Monday: Will Aid in Enforcement of Law.” October 5, 1928.

²⁹ *Sioux City Journal*. “Urges Science in Crime Probes.” August 19, 1930.

³⁰ *Sioux City Journal*. “High Honor to Sioux Cityan.” September 7, 1930.

³¹ Sinclair, George. *Sioux City Spirit of Progress*. “Seventy Years of Banking in Sioux City”, Vol. VI, No. 6. July 17, 1926, pg 82-83.

³² Sinclair, George. *Sioux City Spirit of Progress*. “Seventy Years of Banking in Sioux City”, Vol. VI, No. 6. July 17, 1926, pg 82.

³³ Sinclair, George. *Sioux City Spirit of Progress*. “Seventy Years of Banking in Sioux City”, Vol. VI, No. 6. July 17, 1926, pg 82.

³⁴ Sinclair, George. *Sioux City Spirit of Progress*. “Seventy Years of Banking in Sioux City”, Vol. VI, No. 6. July 17, 1926, pg 82-83.

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It is unclear what percentage of time the Lewis System Investigations was spent on providing services to local factories, businesses, and the police department. Due to the nature of the business, very little information is available describing exactly what sorts of investigations Lewis System was involved with. However, in the *Sioux City Journal* article “Real Life of the Private Eye,”

the work covered is described as, “a wide field which includes investigations of individuals for employers, ‘shopping’ or checking store clerks, locating missing persons, aid in settling estates, insurance claim investigations, protection for retail stores against shoplifting, apprehending passers of fraudulent checks, furnishing personal and property protection, guarding money transfers from business place to banks and investigating ‘leaks, losses, and larceny’ from stores or plants.”³⁵

Another *Sioux City Journal* article states,

the Lewis System also provides other police services, such as hired guards for business firms, security checks on prospective employees, bad check prosecution and other investigative work. The company also has the most complete criminal files in the Siouxland area. Their one and-a-half million file entries³⁶ dating back to 1916 and containing criminal records on hundreds of wrong-doers, are frequently consulted by all local law enforcement agencies, the FBI, Secret Service, Civil Service, and the military services.³⁷

During WWII, the Lewis System is said to have operated nearly 24 hours a day conducting security checks on military personnel and other related work.³⁸ Lewis System also earned numerous lucrative defense contracts with the federal government to provide uniformed security guards at federal government facilities in Sioux City, Omaha and other locations in Iowa during the war years.³⁹ In 1950, the erection of a radio tower was added to the building.⁴⁰

In 1960, in an interview with *Sioux City Journal* reporter, Gene Anderson, the manager of the Sioux City Lewis Systems office, Ray C. Thompson, explained, “Our files have been patterned after the FBI system since about 1918.... More than a million and a half entries have made the company’s files the most complete in the United States for a private firm.” Lewis Systems staff created this meticulous and large cross-referenced record system

³⁵ *Sioux City Journal*. Rispalje, Park. “Real Life of the ‘Private Eye.’” February 29, 1948.

³⁶ It is not known where these entries now reside. It could be assumed that they are now the property of the Rochester Armored Car Service, which eventually absorbed the Lewis System Company.

³⁷ *Sioux City Journal*. “Armored Carrier Service Counts on Total Preparedness to Deter Robbery Attempts.” October 9, 1966.

³⁸ *Sioux City Journal*. Hansen, Bob. “My Turn.” December 16, 1986, A-3.

³⁹ Interview, Mr. Joseph M. Shea, Current President, Rochester Armored Car. Conducted via telephone by Julie Schmidt. January 9, 2015.

⁴⁰ City of Sioux City-Department of Buildings, Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy. Building Permit No 6018, September 27, 1950. Courtesy of Sioux City Public Library, Building Permits Microfilm. Accessed, February 17, 2015.

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by researching local newspapers, clipping useful information and creating special 3x5 note cards about each individual.⁴¹

That same *Sioux City Journal* article gives a testimony to the important role that Lewis Systems has played in Sioux City and the region: "One of the highest tributes that can be paid to the firm's files is the fact that the police department, sheriff's office, postal authorities, the secret service, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, branches of military intelligence, the federal civil service commission and the social security offices all use the files frequently."⁴² Additionally, the Lewis Systems was an integral component to the businesses and stores since Sioux City was and still is a shopping hub in northwest Iowa.

⁴¹ Interview, Mr. Joseph M. Shea, Current President, Rochester Armored Car. Conducted via telephone by Julie Schmidt. January 9, 2015.

⁴² *Sioux City Journal*. Anderson, Gene. "Little-Known work of Lewis System Here Revealed: Firm Has Amazing Files (Like F.B.I.'s Intriguing Data 'Tells All')." March 15, 1960.

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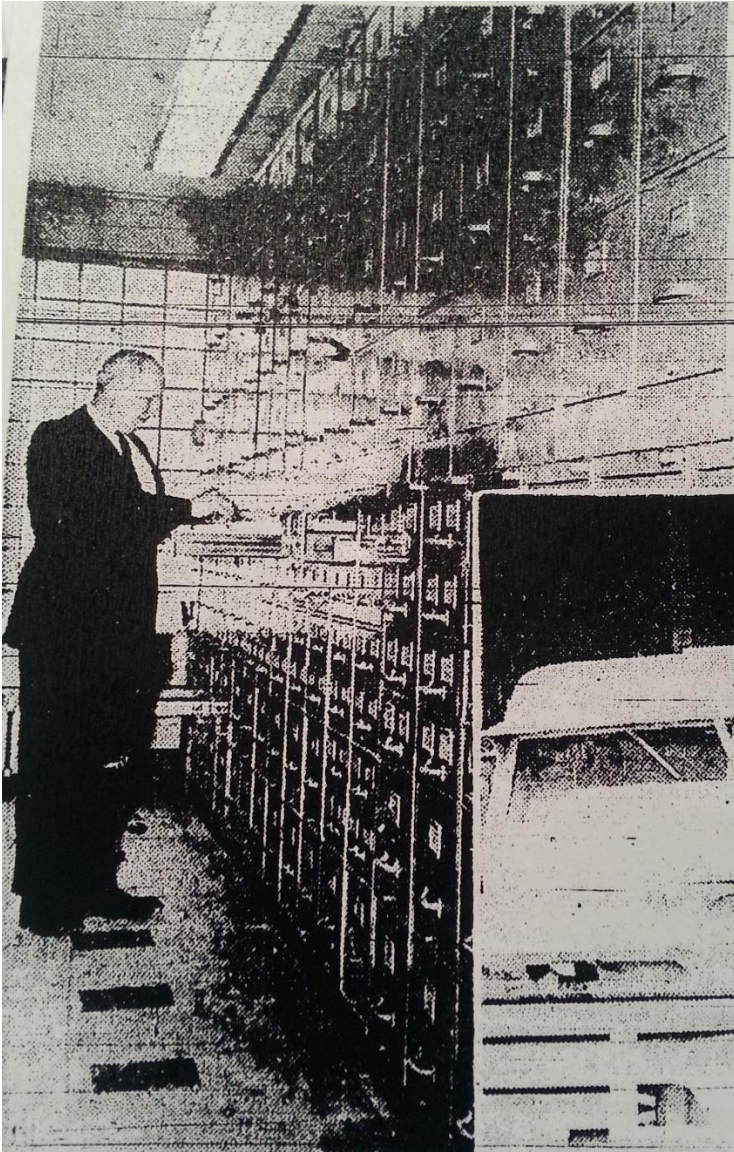


PHOTO 6: Inside the Lewis System building/filing room, c. 1965. Sioux City Journal Article “Armored Carrier Service Counts on Total Preparedness to Deter Robbery Attempts.” October 9, 1966. Accessed through the Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, December 2014. The caption below the photo reads, “Ray Thompson, manager of the Lewis System Corp. in Sioux City, is shown looking through the vast bank of criminal files the firm keeps on hand, primarily for making security checks on job seekers in the Siouxland area. The files contain 1 ½ million entries and date back to 1916. They are consulted by law agencies from here to Washington, D.C.”

Lewis System Armored Car Service in Sioux City and the Midwest

By the late 1930's, Harry Lewis brought his brother, Paul, into the operation and added a collection operation to the company utilizing armored cars. As that aspect of the business grew, they opened offices in Des Moines,

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Waterloo, Fort Dodge, and Cedar Rapids, in Iowa and in Sioux Falls, SD. For a time, they also operated an Armored Express in Chicago, IL. During WWII, services were added at the Quad Cities (Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa and Rock Island and Moline, Illinois).⁴³

Shortly after adding the armored car division, the Lewis System and Armored Car Service moved their offices from the Commerce Building at 520 Nebraska Street to the building at 700 Nebraska Street. This new location provided a ground floor office and garage space to store or do maintenance on the armored cars as needed.

Harry Lewis would serve as president of the company until his death in 1951. His brother, Paul, took over ownership and operations until 1956, when he sold the eastern portion of the company. Paul died in 1957 and the company was sold to Samartick and Company, of Omaha. It continued to operate the Lewis System and Armored Car Service under the same name from Sioux City and other Midwest locations.⁴⁴

The Lewis System and Armored Car Service would operate from this same 700 Nebraska Street location in Sioux City until 1969. From 1970 until 1996, Wells Fargo Armored Car Service would operate from 700 Nebraska Street, as Wells Fargo had purchased Lewis System Armored Car Service. In 1996, Wells Fargo Armored Service and Loomis Armored Inc. merged to form Loomis Fargo & Company, and continued to operate from the same facility until 2004.

Newspaper accounts after his death would tell of Harry Lewis' involvement with many civic organizations in Sioux City over the years. He was said to have been "a dynamic person who easily made friends with the great as well as the small."⁴⁵ Among his credentials, were membership in the British Detective Association and a Charter Member of the World Secret Service Association. He was also said to have become a good friend of J. Edgar Hoover, former head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.⁴⁶

⁴³ *Sioux City Journal*. Hansen, Bob. "My Turn." December 16, 1986, A-3.

⁴⁴ Interview, Mr. Joseph M. Shea, Current President, Rochester Armored Car. Conducted via telephone by Julie Schmidt. January 9, 2015.

⁴⁵ *Sioux City Journal*. Hansen, Bob. "My Turn." December 16, 1986, A-3.

⁴⁶ *Sioux City Journal*. Hansen, Bob. "My Turn." December 16, 1986, A-3.

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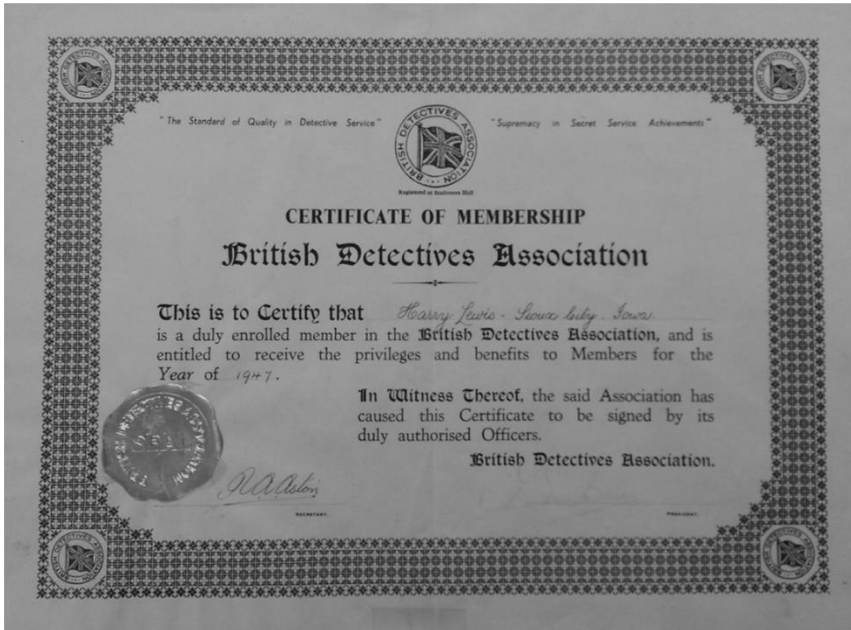


PHOTO 7: Certificate of Membership to the British Detectives Association to Harry Lewis, 1947. Image courtesy of Sioux City Public Museum Research Center, December 2014.

History of Private Investigation in the United States

A history of private investigation and the federal agencies of the Secret Service, FBI, and CIA can provide a frame of reference for the success of the Lewis Systems in Sioux City. In many ways, Harry Lewis' career reflects the many changes and successes of law enforcement in the United States during the years from 1900 to the 1950's.

Before 1900, private investigators were usually hired for undercover investigations and detection of crimes or for protection of valuables and armed security. Such agencies as the well-known Pinkerton National Detective Agency, founded in Chicago in 1850, initially provided security on the railroads. Pinkerton agents also tracked western outlaws for railroad companies as armed train robberies became a growing concern. Special railroad detectives or agents were common on many trains carrying valuables. Pinkerton agents also provided protection for President Abraham Lincoln. By the late 1800's, armed Pinkerton guards were also hired by companies during union unrest. Around 1890, "at its height of power, the Pinkerton National Detective Agency was largest private law enforcement organization in the world."⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Becker, Theodore M. "The place of private police in society: An area of research for the Social Sciences." *Social Problems*, 1974, Vol. 21, No.3: 438-453. University of California Press.

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The early 1900's saw the rise of a variety of governmental agencies and activities related to military intelligence, national security, and federal crime investigation. Amidst these governmental activities, private investigation in the United States expanded and in some circumstances, supported the governmental agencies.

Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation

In 1908, under President Theodore Roosevelt, a corps of special agents was created under the Department of Justice. These former detectives and Secret Service agents became what is now the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), but were initially named the Bureau of Investigation in 1909. Roosevelt's objective was to have a federal investigative force of well-disciplined experts designed to fight corruption and crime.⁴⁸

The "lawless years" from 1921 to 1933 saw the rise of gangsters and the public disregard for Prohibition. However, the Department of the Treasury had jurisdiction over these crimes, not the Department of Justice. When J. Edgar Hoover was selected to head the Bureau in 1924, it had 650 employees, including 441 special agents who worked in field offices in 9 cities. In the next decade, he grew the agency to include 30 field offices with divisional headquarters in 9 major cities. Hoover proceeded to create a formal training program for agents, directed the regular inspection of field offices and launched a program of building public support and respect for the agency.⁴⁹

The expansion of investigation activities in the United States from the early 1900's into the 1950's and beyond coincides with the reported services and expansion of the Lewis System Detective and Secret Service Company. As the need for investigation expanded and changed through two World Wars and the crime-ridden Prohibition and Depression years, so did the Lewis System. Although most of the activities of the Lewis System would remain behind the scenes, various newspaper articles, such as "Real Life of the Private Eye"⁵⁰ or the *Sioux City Journal* article of March 15, 1960, "Little-Known Work of Lewis System Here Revealed; Firm Has Amazing Files" show that there was an active market for detective services in Sioux City and the region.⁵¹

History of Armored Car Use in the United States (Loomis, Wells Fargo, Brinks)

The first armored car constructed and used for banking and money transport purposes was built by the Bellamore Armored Car and Equipment Company in New York in 1910. It was not only capable of transporting valuables safely, but it was also designed to act as a traveling bank. These Bellamore armored cars were manufactured and sent to banks around the east coast and Cuba in the early 1910's.⁵²

The history of armored car services in the United States can be traced through the histories of four key companies: Wells Fargo, Loomis, Brinks, and Lewis Systems. Wells Fargo, one of the oldest banking and transport companies got its start with the California gold rush and had offices in California and New York.

⁴⁸ www.fbi.gov/about-us/history/brief-history. Accessed January 9, 2015.

⁴⁹ www.fbi.gov/about-us/history/brief-history. Accessed January 9, 2015.

⁵⁰ *Sioux City Public Museum Research Center*, History Scrapbooks, "Real Life of the 'Private Eye.'" Park Rispalje.

⁵¹ *Sioux City Journal*. Anderson, Gene. "Little-Known Work of Lewis System Here Revealed; Firm Has Amazing Files" (Like F.B.I.'s Intriguing Data 'Tells All'). March 15, 1960.

⁵² <http://www.coachbuilt.com/bui/b/bellamore/bellamore.htm>. Accessed February 2, 2015.

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Loomis, an offshoot of Wells Fargo, got its start in Portland, Oregon and later moved to Seattle to cover the Pacific Northwest. Brink's was founded in Chicago and covered the Great Lakes area from Chicago to New York and Pennsylvania. Lewis Systems started in Sioux City, Iowa and eventually covered cities in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Illinois.

Wells Fargo, Loomis and Brinks each started as some type of railway or coach service that eventually transitioned to armored car service sometime after WWI. The concept of armored vehicles was gaining acceptance with the use of armored vehicles for military purposes during WWI in Europe.⁵³

In 1924, Elmer Ray Jones, president of Loomis, purchased and redeveloped Wells Fargo as a concern for armored transportation and other specialized express movements. In 1925, Loomis introduced the first armored car west of the Mississippi. The armored vehicle was called "Old Number One".⁵⁴

Brinks, in response to a robbery in 1917, implemented new practices to combat escalating criminal activity. Initially convoy cars followed each money car. Armored side panels were added to refurbished school buses and small safes were bolted to the floorboards. By 1923, their armored cars were being constructed of lightweight steel, but frames and floors were still made of wood. In 1927, bandits used dynamite to blow open the floor of a Brink's truck in a robbery in Pennsylvania. Soon after, Brink's vehicles were equipped with steel frames and floors.⁵⁵

No doubt, the escalation of such crimes around the country prompted Harry Lewis to expand the scope of services of the Lewis System Detective and Secret Service, thus developing its own armored car business. The first evidence is in the *1940 Sioux City Directory*, in which the Lewis System is listed as having an armored car service. Harry was listed as head of the new Armored Car Division, with Harry's brother, Paul Lewis, joining the company as head of the Detective and Secret Service Division. The Armored Car Division of the Lewis System, as it expanded throughout the Midwest, became the standard for transporting money and valuables. Newspaper articles, such as the *Waterloo Courier*, July 4, 1954 article, "Job of Handling a 'Cool' Million Isn't So Cool!" or the *Sioux City Journal*, October 9, 1966 article, "Armored Carrier Service Counts on Total Preparedness to Deter Robbery Attempts" show on-going public interest in the business and showcase the respect the Lewis System had earned through its many years of reliable service. As with the other national armored car transport companies, Lewis System Armored Car Service would remain a stable, regional company for safely transporting money and valuables for many years, until its sale to Rochester Armored Car Company years later.

Architect & Contractor

The design of the Lewis System Armored Car and Detective Service Building has several architectural elements that suggest that an architect was involved in the construction of the building. During the late 1920s, there were several

⁵³ <http://auto.howstuffworks.com>. "How Armored Cars Work," Kristen Hall-Geisler. Accessed February 2, 2015.

⁵⁴ www.loomis.us/About/HistoryAndHeritage.aspx. Accessed January 9, 2015.

⁵⁵ www.brinks.com/corporate/history. Accessed January 9, 2015.

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architects who worked under local Sioux City architect, William L. Steele. It may be possible that one of these architects, who was working under Steele was responsible for the design; however, there has been no concrete research that pin-points one particular architect.

The Lewis System building has characteristics of both Knute Enoch Westerlind and the Federation Construction Company, both designed and constructed commercial buildings in Sioux City. The method of construction as well as the minor artistic elements represents the work of trained individuals.

Knute Enoch Westerlind worked for various architects and engineers in Chicago and Sioux City, including Steele. He practiced in Sioux City beginning in 1919 with Paul W. Colby and designed many local apartment buildings, churches, and houses. The construction of several of his buildings included “concrete skeletons.”⁵⁶ Westerlind’s partnership with Colby lasted until 1926; however, he continued to practice in Sioux City until after World War II. Westerlind died in Sioux City in 1960.⁵⁷ Westerlind, a former employee of William L. Steele, integrated many of Steele’s design elements into his own work. These elements are evident on buildings such as the Badgerow Building, the Sioux City Municipal Auditorium and the KD Station (razed 2009).⁵⁸ Westerlind also used a signature yellow brick in many of his buildings, which is one of the character defining features of 700 Nebraska Street.

K.B. White of the Federation Construction Company was the general contractor for this building.⁵⁹ The Federation Construction Company worked on commercial, industrial and residential construction projects. Colby and Westerlind designed the Sioux City house for K.B. White and Mr. White was involved in several projects where Colby and Westerlind were the architects.⁶⁰ The Federation Construction Company also had an office on the second floor of the Lewis System Armored Car and Detective building.

⁵⁶ Shank, Wesley I. *Iowa’s Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, Iowa. 1999, pg 173
174.

⁵⁷ Jung, Jim. *An Architect to Be Remembered: Knute Enoch Westerlind*. Siouxland Magazine, Winter 2009. pg 37.

⁵⁸ www.prairieschooltraveler.com. Accessed December 17, 2014.

⁵⁹ Sioux City Public Library, Microfilm. City of Sioux City Department of Buildings, Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy, June 26, 1929. Accessed February 16, 2015.

⁶⁰ *Concrete Products*. “Plans for Concrete Dwellings: Beautiful Home Built of Hydro Stone Wall Units—Results of Careful Planning.” Chicago, Tradepress Publishing Corporation, 1919-1936, Volume 20, March 1921, pg 53.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Lewis System Armored Car Building is a rectangular shaped parcel on the north side of downtown Sioux City. The property is located on .11 acres, on the Sioux City East Addition W 100 feet, LOT 6, BLK 40, according to the Woodbury County Assessor's website.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses, encompasses all land historically associated with the Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building.

The Latitude and Longitude for the approximate center of the building is: 42.497574 and -96.403209



Figure 1: According to the Woodbury County Assessor's website, the retaining wall which touches the northeast corner of 700 Nebraska Street and adjacent parking spot are not part of the nominated parcel/building. They are a separate parcel with an address of 611 7th Street. Additionally, the parking lot to the north of the building is also a separate parcel and address of 712 Nebraska Street and it is not a part of the nominated parcel/building. Photo accessed December 3, 2015.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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Figure 2: The map above shows the location of Lewis System Armored Car Building within the City of Sioux City downtown area. Map courtesy of Map data © 2015 Google Imagery © 2015, Digital Globe, USDA Farm Service Agency, Latitude and Longitude: 42.497574, -96.403209. Accessed March 30, 2015.

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Figure 3: The map above shows the location of the building within downtown Sioux City, Iowa. The intersecting streets are Nebraska Street, which is a three lane one way (north bound traffic) street and 7th Street which is a two lane street that accommodates both east and west bound traffic. Nebraska Street near this location goes from three lanes of traffic merges to two lanes of traffic. Map courtesy of Map data © 2015 Google Imagery © 2015, DigitalGlobe, USDA Farm Service Agency, Latitude and Longitude: 42.497574, -96.403209. Accessed March 30, 2015.

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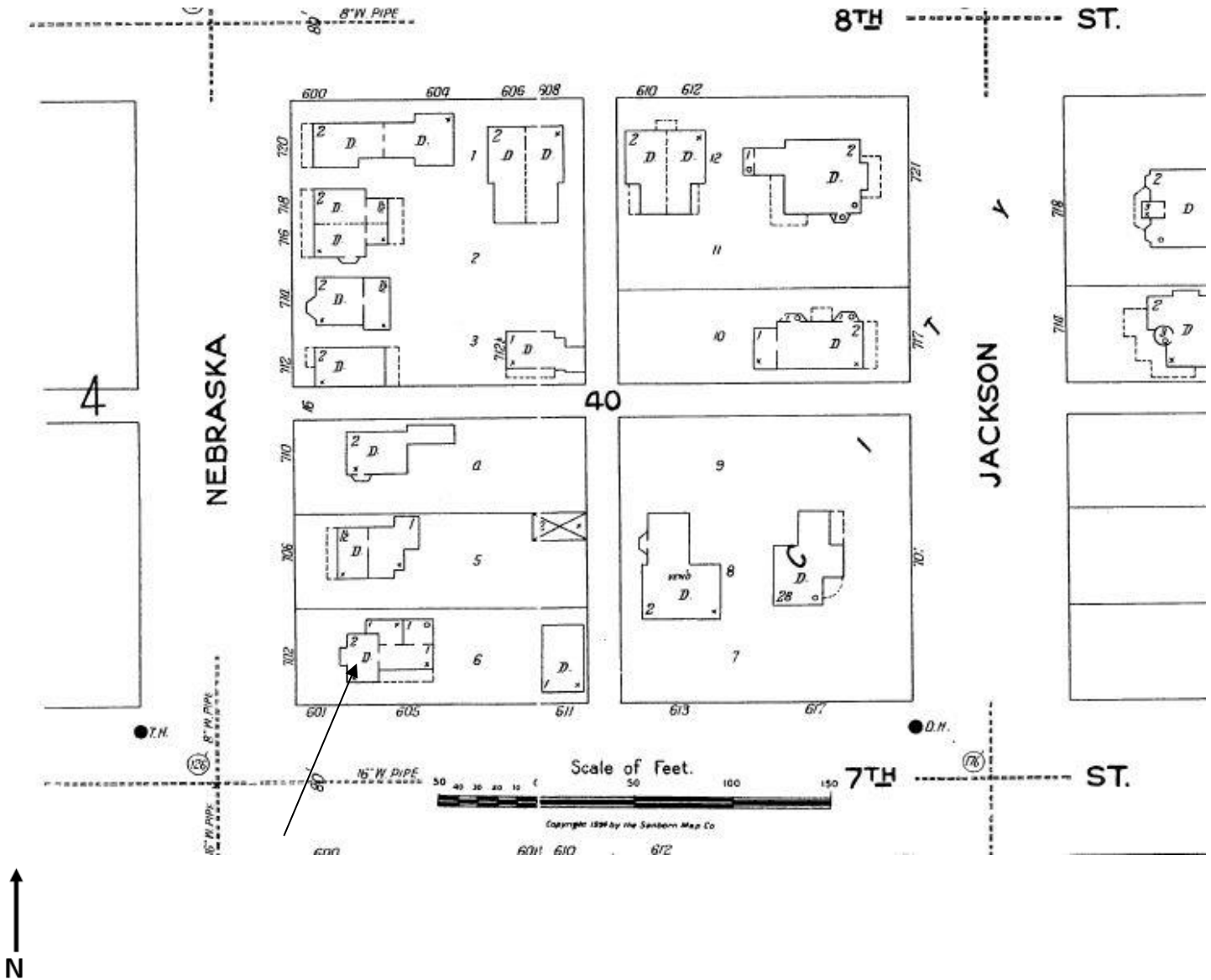


Figure 4: Sioux City Sanborn Map, 1924. The location of Lewis System Armored Car, c. 1929 is noted with the arrow. The Lewis System Building had not yet been constructed.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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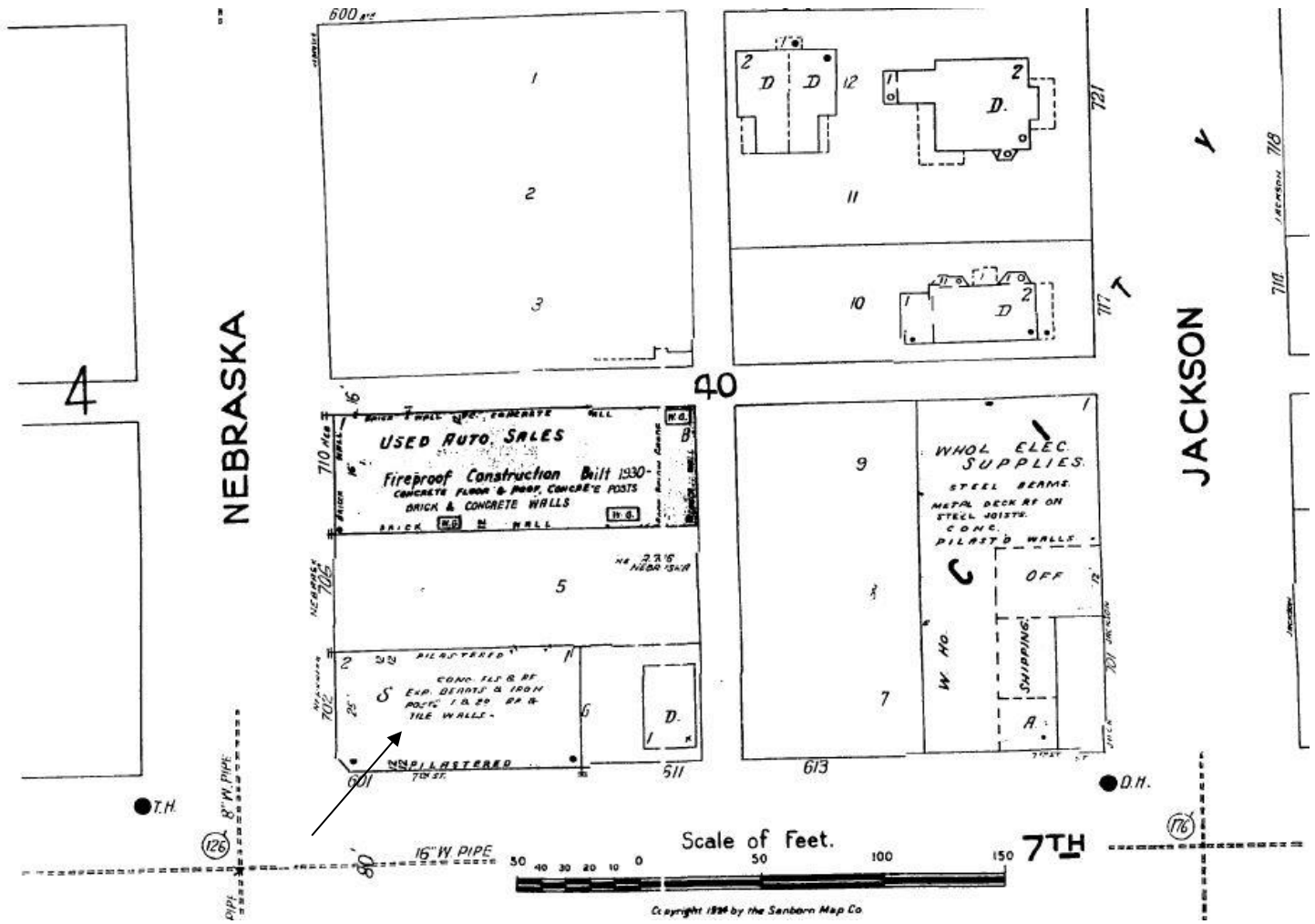


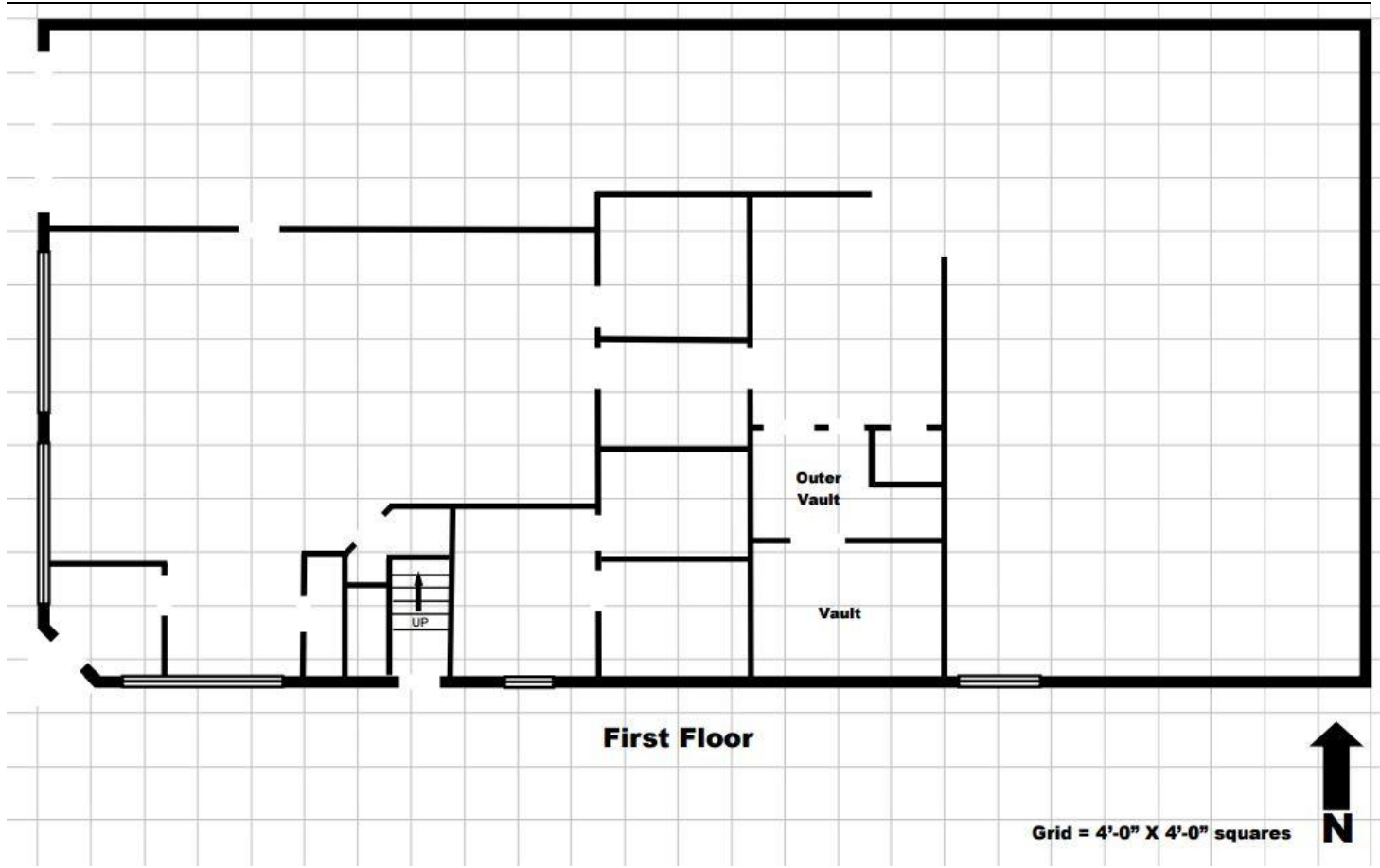
Figure 5: Sioux City Sanborn Map, 1924-1949. The location of Lewis System Armored Car, c. 1929 had been constructed when this Sanborn Map was completed.

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Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building
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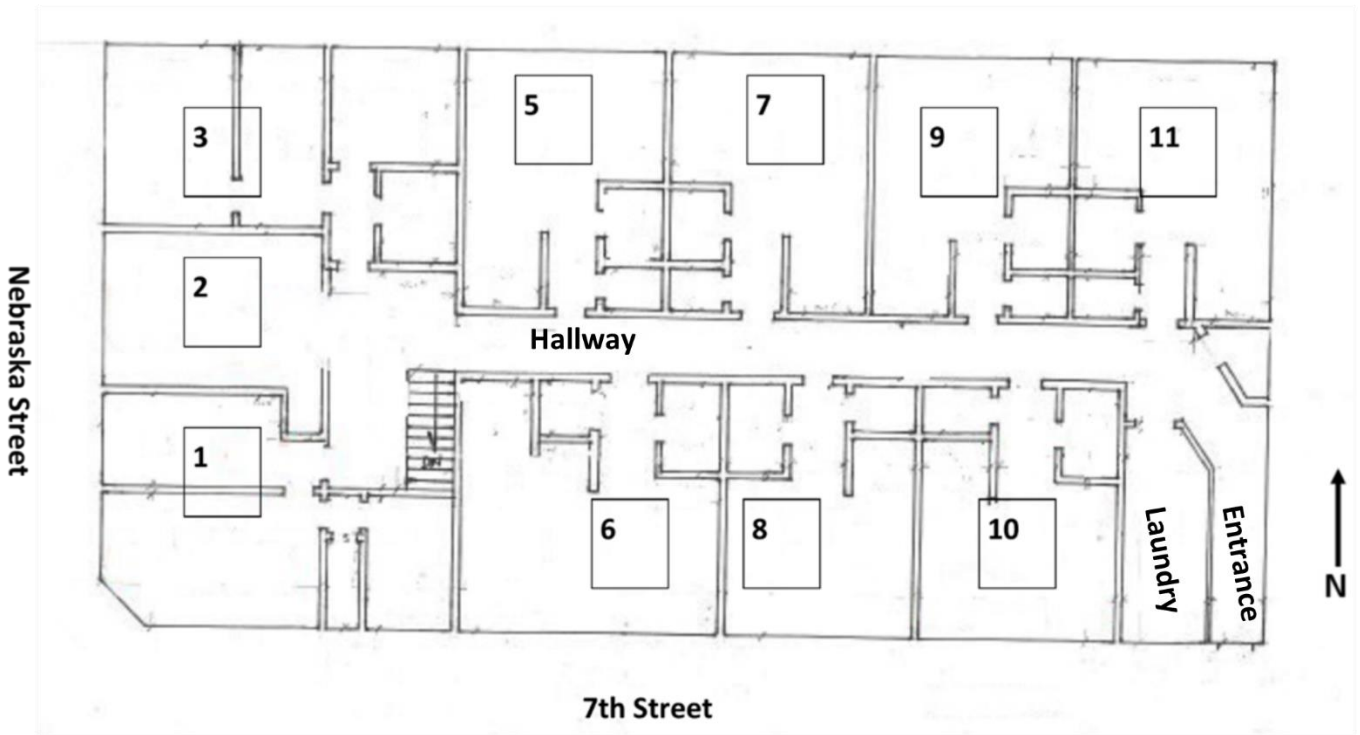
Floor Plan 1: Nebraska Street to the west and 7th Street to the south. The building measures: north side 100', east side 50', south side 96', angled southwest corner 5'8". The first floor includes the main entrance, several offices, main vault, outer vault and a large pan-handle shaped garage. Scale 1 square = 4' x4'. March 2016.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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Floor Plan 2: Second Floor includes apartments and laundry facility. Apartments 1 & 3 are one bedroom units, the remaining eight apartments are efficiency. Windows on the west and north are not historic; windows on the south façade for apartments 1 and 6 were likely changed in the 1960s (windows towards the western end of the façade). The windows on the south façade (eastern end) for apartments 8 and 10 were originally warehouse multi-pane windows. They are not historic. Not to Scale. September 2015.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: Lewis System Armored Car Building

County and State: Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Photographer: Sheriffa Jones, Preservation Works, LLC and Roger Caudron, Caudron Consulting

Date of the Photographs: July 23, 2014 and September 4, 2015

Location/Holder of Original Negatives: Sheriffa Jones, Preservation Works, LLC

Photo #1: View of the north side and west façade of the Lewis System Armored Car Building, camera pointed southeast.

Photo #2: View of the west and south facades of the Lewis System Armored Car Building, camera pointed north/northeast.

Photo #3: View of the south facade and east side of the Lewis System Armored Car Building, camera northeast.

Photo #4: View of the southwestern tenant entrance door, camera pointed to the north/northwest.

Photo #5: View of the southeastern tenant entrance door, camera pointed to the north.

Photo #6: View of interior of the eastern most tenant entrance door and interior hallway, camera pointed to the south.

Photo #7: View of the main hallway on the second level of the Lewis System Armored Car Building, camera pointed to the West.

Photo #8: View of one of the efficiency apartments (#10), camera pointed to the northwest.

Photo #9: View of an efficiency apartment (#10), camera pointed to the northeast.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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PHOTO KEY PLANS

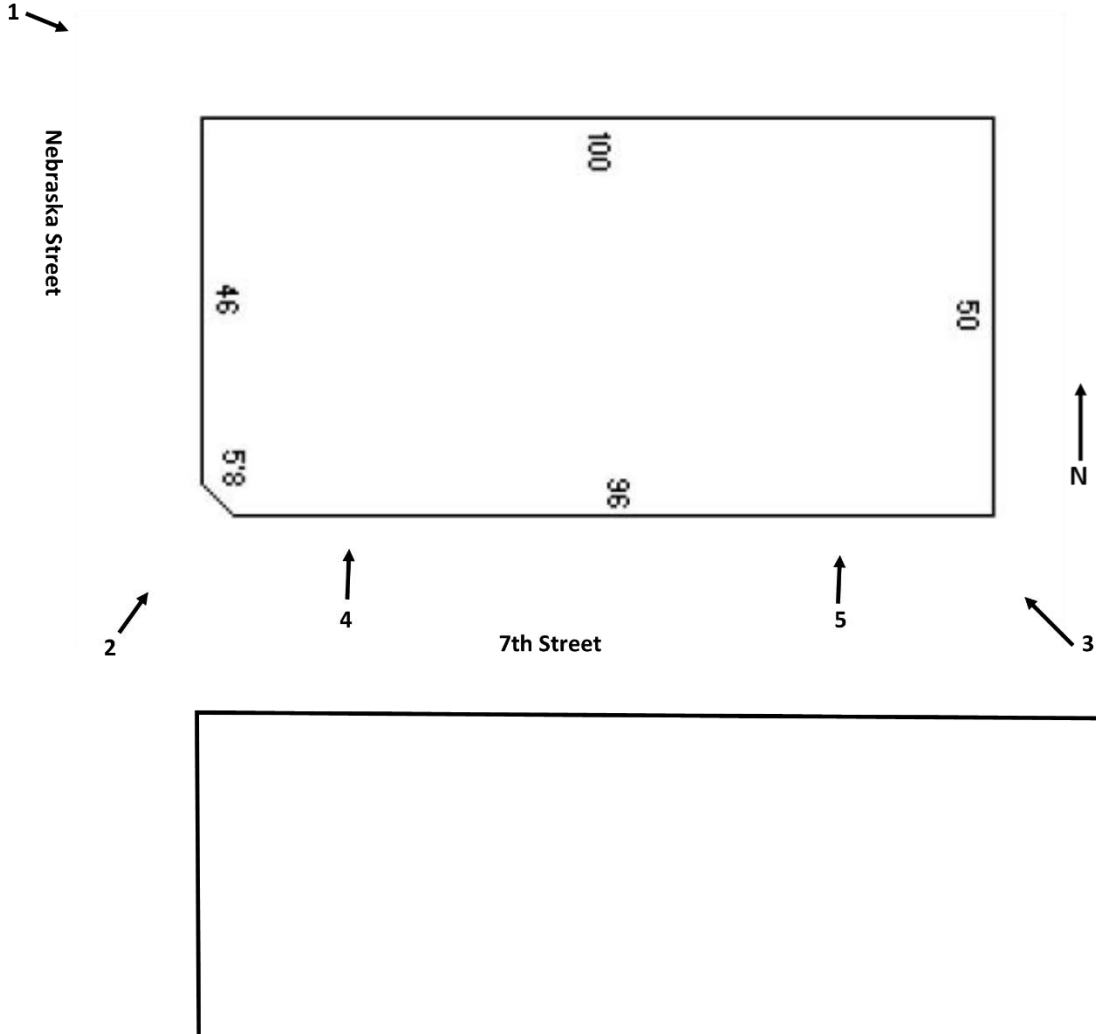


Photo Key Plan 1: Showing the direction of the exterior photos, 1-5. Not to scale.

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Woodbury County, Iowa

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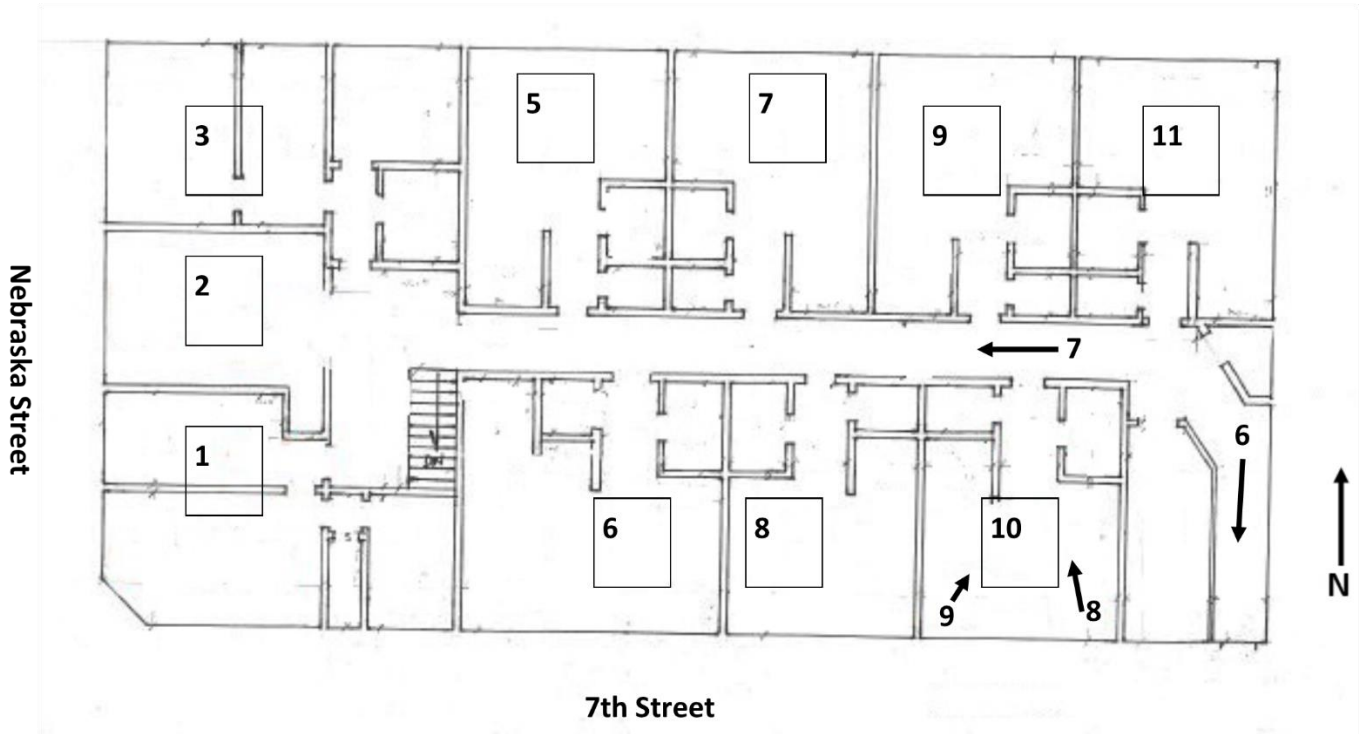


Photo Key Plan 2: Showing the direction of the interior photos, 6-9. Not to scale.



A two-story brick building with a concrete ground floor. The upper level is made of red brick and has five windows with white frames. The ground floor is a plain, light-colored concrete wall with a white door on the right side. A satellite dish is mounted on the roof. The building is situated in a parking lot with other vehicles and utility poles nearby.

A silver pickup truck parked in the parking lot on the left side of the image.

A red pickup truck parked in the parking lot, partially obscured by the white SUV.

A white SUV parked in the parking lot, facing away from the camera.

A tall, orange cylindrical bollard standing in the parking lot.

A second tall, orange cylindrical bollard standing near the corner of the building.



WARMON
WINDGLASS

PRIVATE PARKING

ROGERS ELECTRIC

←



NO
PARKING
→

603



603





603

TENANTS
Please Do Not
Park in Neighbors
Driveway
Thank You

A rack of utility meters is mounted on the left wall. It consists of two rows of meters. The top row has three circular gauges with white faces and black markings, each mounted on a dark metal housing. Below each gauge is a small digital display. The bottom row has three similar units, but they appear to be different types of meters, possibly for water or gas, with different housing designs. The rack is supported by a black metal post on the left side.







A bottle of wine on top of the refrigerator.

A ceiling light fixture.

A white refrigerator with a small picture on the top door.

A wooden dining table with two chairs, cluttered with various items like a water cooler and bags.

A kitchen unit with white cabinets, a sink, and a stove.

A small white shelf or cabinet mounted on the wall.

A calendar or poster hanging on the wall.

A chair with a plaid shirt and other clothes draped over it.

Two people standing in a doorway on the right side of the room.



A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and camouflage pants, stands near a white door on the left side of the room.

Two baseball caps, one blue and one black, are hanging on the wall near the door. A poster is also visible on the wall.

A bed with a dark wood headboard and footboard. The bed is covered with a blue blanket featuring a large circular logo with the word 'CRUZADO' and a star. A red and white checkered blanket is folded on top. A small black object, possibly a phone, is on the bed.

A black leather sofa with a dark jacket and a brown jacket draped over it. A black air conditioning unit is visible on the floor to the right.

A wooden coffee table with various items on it, including a clear plastic water bottle, a bottle of sauce, a blue plastic bag, a green cloth, and a small pink container.

A wooden chair with a white cloth draped over its back. A plaid shirt is also draped over the chair.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lewis System Armored Car and Detective Service Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Woodbury

DATE RECEIVED: 8/19/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/19/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/04/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/04/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000689

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10-4-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
EVALUATION REPORT FORM**

RECEIVED

MAY 09 2016

by SHPO

As a participant in the Certified Local Government Program (CLG), the Historic Preservation Commission is required to review and comment on proposed National Register nominations of properties within its jurisdiction. The State is required to provide the CLG with a 60-day period for the review prior to a State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) meeting. This form must be received by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) five days in advance of the State Nomination Review Committee (SNRC) meeting.

(Please print clearly)

Historic Property Name: Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building

Address: 700 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Certified Local Government Name: City of Sioux City

Date of public meeting for nomination review: May 3, 2016

Applicable Criteria: (Please Check the Appropriate Box)

Criterion A (Historical Events)

Criterion B (Important Person)

Criterion C (Architecture)

Criterion D (Archaeological)

Please check the following box that is appropriate to the nomination (Please print clearly).

The Commission recommends that the property should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission recommends that the property should not be listed in the National Register for the following reasons: _____

The Commission chooses not to make a recommendation on this nomination for the following reasons: _____

The Commission would like to make the following recommendations regarding the nomination: (use additional sheets if necessary): _____

Official Signatures Required Below

Historic Review Board Chair or Representative

Print Name: Robert R. Coacher

Approved Not Approved

Signature: Robert R Coacher

Chief Elected Official

Print Name: Robert E. Scott

Approved Not Approved

Signature: RE Scott

Professional Evaluation

Print Name: Paula Mohr

Approved Not Approved

Signature: Paula Mohr

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY COWNIE, DIRECTOR
CHRIS KRAWER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 19 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

August 12, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmarks
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

- Lewis System Armored Car & Detective Service Building, 700 Nebraska Street, Sioux City, Woodbury County
- Woodlawn Cemetery Gates and Shelter, 501 W. Adams, Washington, Washington County
- Polk County Homestead & Trust Co. Addition Historic District, Both sides 7th & 8th streets south of Franklin Ave. & north of College Ave., Des Moines, Polk County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Foster
National Register Coordinator
State Historical Society of Iowa

IOWA
ARTS
COMMISSION

PRODUCE
MARKET

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
LIBRARY OF IOWA

STATE
HISTORIC
SITES

STATE HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA
HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION