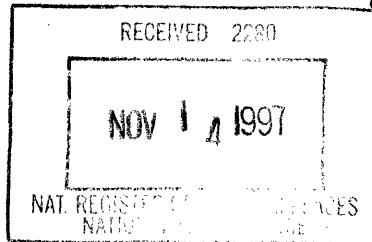


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



15th

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 classification, 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 Lesinger Block

other names/site number Little Bohemia

## 2. Location

street & number 1317 3rd Street, SE N/A  not for publication

city or town Cedar Rapids N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 52403

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Patricia Chelmsky DSHPO 11-5-97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McCalland

12/24/97

Lesinger Block  
Name of Property

Linn County, IA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes 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  
3 1 buildings  
\_\_\_\_\_ sites  
\_\_\_\_\_ structures  
\_\_\_\_\_ objects  
3 1 Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Commercial & Industrial Development of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, c.1865-c.1945

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
COMMERCE: specialty store  
COMMERCE: restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
COMMERCE: restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation STONE: Limestone  
walls BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Lesinger Block  
Name of Property

Linn County, IA  
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.

**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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1883-1936

**Significant Dates**

1883, 1911

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesinger Block  
Name of Property

Linn County, IA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 611100 4646300  
Zone Easting Northing

2 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
Zone Easting Northing

3 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

4 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

[ ] See continuation sheet

**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 Marlys A. Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc.

organization Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission date 5/97

street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road telephone (715) 469-3300

city or town Sarona state WI zip code 54870

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the complete 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**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Leon & Diane Melsha

street & number 509 4th Avenue, SE telephone (319) 362-3297

city or town Cedar Rapids state IA zip code 52401

**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. 470 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

### Narrative Description

*Site:* The Lesinger Block is located on Lot 5 of Block 32 of J.C. May's Addition. This parcel is at the intersection of 3rd Street SE and 14th Avenue SE approximately two blocks east of the street bridge that crosses the Cedar River connecting 14th Avenue SE on the east side and 16th Avenue SW on the west side. The level lot is at the west corner of the intersection and is part of the river's alluvial plain which extends four to five blocks away from the river along the east bank. Two one-story service stations, one brick and the other stucco, dating from the late 1930s are at the northeast and southwest corners of the intersection. A small free-standing, two-story brick commercial block dating from the turn-of-the-century is at the southeast corner. Nearby landmarks include the multi-block meat packing plant formerly operated by T.M. Sinclair & Co. and later by Wilson & Co. located two blocks south of the Lesinger Block and prominently spired St. Wenceslaus Bohemian Catholic Church located two blocks away along the 4th Street railroad corridor.

The property originally contained a two-story brick residence and a one & a half-story barn with attached sheds (non-extant), both at the rear of the lot adjacent to the alley, a privy (non-extant) and two one-story free-standing sheds (non-extant). The two-story residence was razed in 1952, the free-standing shed was removed sometime between 1889 and 1913, the privy was removed sometime after 1897 when sewer service was installed, and the other buildings were removed prior to 1938 [See Pages 7-4 & 7-5, plat map views for 1889, 1895, 1913, and 1997, Sanborn Map Company].

*Building:* The Lesinger Block consists of three adjoining commercial buildings maintained under single ownership: a two-story brick veneered corner building, an adjoining two-story frame building, and a one-story frame building located along 14th Avenue SE at the rear of the corner building.

The **two-story brick veneered corner building** is the principal structure within the Lesinger Block. It has three separate shop spaces with one entrance near the rear of the building facing 14th Avenue SE, a second entrance at the corner and a third entrance facing 3rd Street SE. The building has a limestone foundation with brick veneered walls above. The building was sandblasted and tuck pointed in c. 1980. Concrete entrance steps provide access to the shop spaces with their floor levels approximately 20" above the sidewalk level. The five-sided floor plan for the corner brick building includes a canted wall containing the entrance with an extended south facade wall angling back to a wider point at the rear of the building.

The corner building has three storefronts - one is accessed through an entrance in the canted wall (1317 3rd Street SE), a second adjacent space is entered through a door at 1315 3rd Street SE and a third faces onto 14th Avenue SE at the rear of the corner building. The storefronts at 1315 and 1317 3rd Street SE were modified in 1946 when transoms and plate glass display windows replaced the original four-light display windows and pilasters, and the original double door entrances in the canted wall and at 1315 3rd Street SE were replaced by single doors and transoms. In c. 1980 the 14th Avenue storefront was restored with the installation of four-light display windows, paneled kick plates containing diagonal tongue and groove boards, and pilasters, all matching the deteriorated original pieces they replaced. The entrance door was replaced with a smaller scale door and infill sections

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

were installed to either side and in the transom space above the door. The balance of the trim including the cornice, pilasters, brackets and sawtooth frieze on both sections of storefront are original.

The upper level of the corner building contains four 2/2 double-hung windows along the 14th Avenue SE facade, three on the 3rd Street SE facade and one in the canted wall. The windows are set in openings containing stone sills and segmental arched brick lintels. The unusual lintel design contains a double course of rowlocks topped by a corbeling course and a header course. As part of a general remodeling of the building completed in c. 1980, the window sash were replaced with new windows matching those they replaced. Original windows had 4/4 configurations and had been replaced by the 2/2 sash at an unknown date.

One of the building's most distinguishing features is its wood cornice that extends along the full length of building's two principal sides. Decorative wood brackets are set at approximately 6' intervals with pairs of brackets above the corner entrance. Decorative panels with raised moldings forming a geometric design topped by a row of dentils fill the frieze sections between the brackets. A portion of the original name plate with the word "Block" remains in the cornice section of the canted wall. A decorative corner parapet located above the cornice on the canted wall originally contained the word "Lesinger" flanked by finials and was removed at an unknown date. The date for the construction of the building, "1883," is affixed to the building beneath the cornice name plate.

According to information passed down through various owners, the **two-story frame building** located at 1313 3rd Street SE pre-dates the corner brick building. Oral tradition indicates that the building was originally located at the corner of the intersection and was moved northwest along 3rd Street to make way for construction of the new brick building in 1883. The earliest commercial development along 3rd Street dates from the 1870s, a period consistent with the design of this false-front commercial building. It's depth is shorter than that of the adjoining building allowing greater ease in its moving. It has clapboard cladding with corner board trim. Three flat arched, 1/1 double-hung windows are evenly spaced above the center entrance of the storefront. The display windows, slightly shorter than those of the neighboring building, contain single plate glass lights that may have been installed as a part of the 1946 window work completed in the corner building. Originally, the upper sash had 4/4 configurations and the display windows were divided into six lights with the recessed windows into three lights. Clapboard applied to the kick plates beneath the display windows was installed at an unknown date replacing raised panels. The simple cornice of the frame building contains single brackets spaced at 6' intervals with raised moldings in a rectangular pattern applied to the frieze sections between the brackets.

The **one-story frame building** facing 14th Avenue SE was built in c. 1911 to house the bottling works that operated in conjunction with the saloon located in the storefront at 1317 3rd Street SE. The building has clapboard siding with high, horizontal single sash windows (boarded over) to either side of the entrance door. The building has no cornice or parapet.

The interior floor plan for the Lesinger Block buildings includes a series of sleeping rooms and apartments above 1313, 1315 and 1317 3rd Street with four shop spaces below. The spaces at 1313

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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

and 1315 3rd Street SE as well as the shop spaces facing 14th Avenue are vacant and used for storage. No significant interior features are contained in any of these spaces. The shop space at 1317 3rd Street SE is currently occupied as a bar and contains several early features and finishes. The ceiling (original) contains painted tongue and groove boards. The wainscoting (original) is fashioned from similar material with varnished plywood panels installed in c. 1946 above the chair rail. The cast iron pot bellied stove is situated in its original location and has been in continuous use since at least the 1930s. Modifications made during the c. 1980 remodeling included shortening of the bar height, installation of a sprinkler system, leveling the floor with the installation of new floor joists and a steel I-beam, new fir flooring, and relocation of the women's restroom from the front of the building to a spot adjacent to the men's restroom at the rear of the bar.

Some of the bar's furnishings come from neighborhood taverns and date from the 1930s or earlier. The tables, chairs and bar itself were relocated to the Lesinger Block in 1936 from the earlier site occupied by the "Little Bohemia" bar at the Cesko-Slovanska Podporujici Spolku or Czecho-Slovak Protective Society Hall (rear of 1105 3rd Street SE, National Register listed). The wood refrigerator and booths were relocated in c. 1980 from the former Country Club Tavern located in the Zapadni Cesko-Bratska Jednota or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association Hall (1200 3rd Street SE).

The Lesinger Block property also contains a non-contributing structure located at the rear of 1313 3rd Street SE. This clapboard clad one-story gable roofed shed is currently used as a storehouse. Its date of construction is unknown.

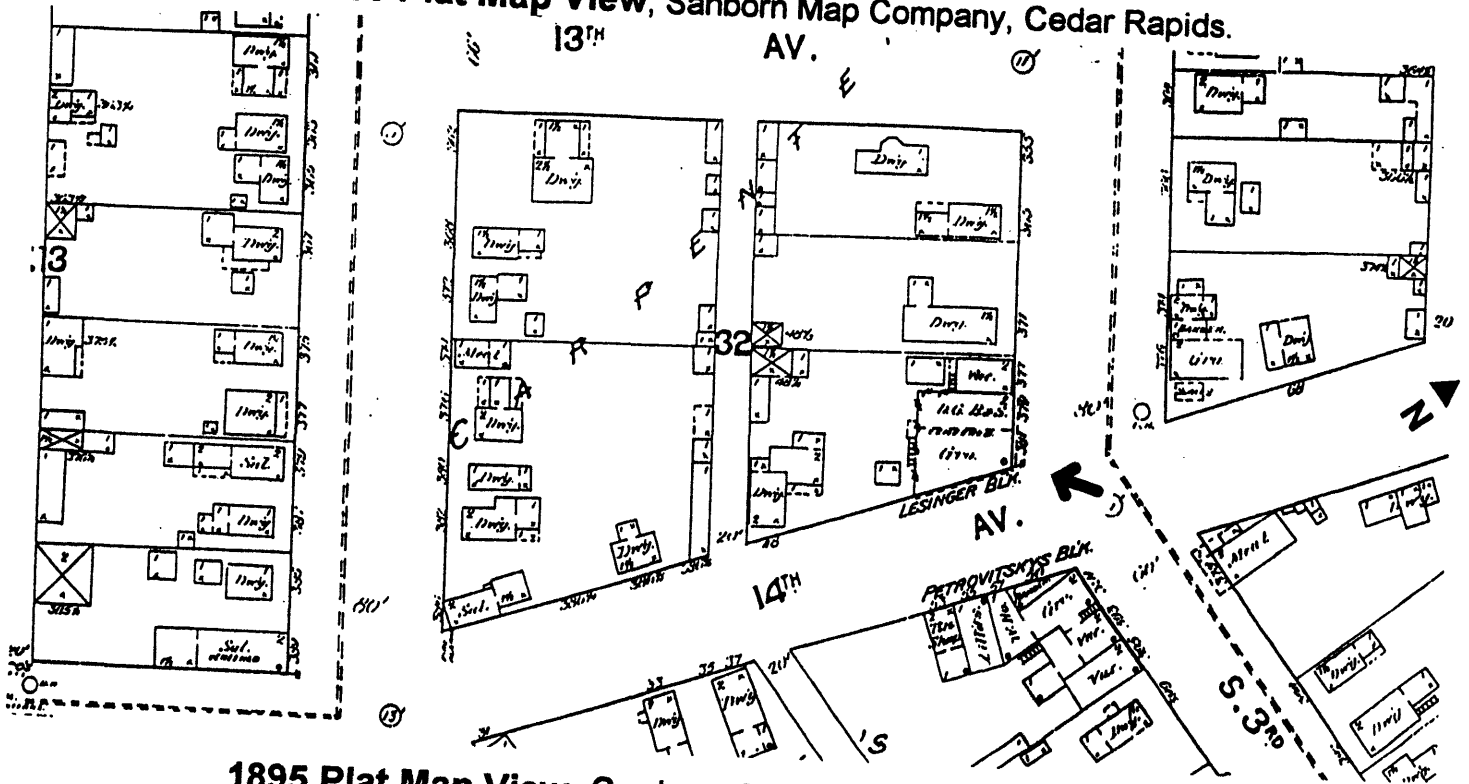
The overall condition of the Lesinger Block is fair to good. Improvements made in c. 1980 to stabilize the foundation, level the floors and repair the roofs have benefited the building. The exterior of the two-story frame building is deteriorated and the vacant interiors of the upper levels of 1313, 1315 and 1317 are unimproved.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

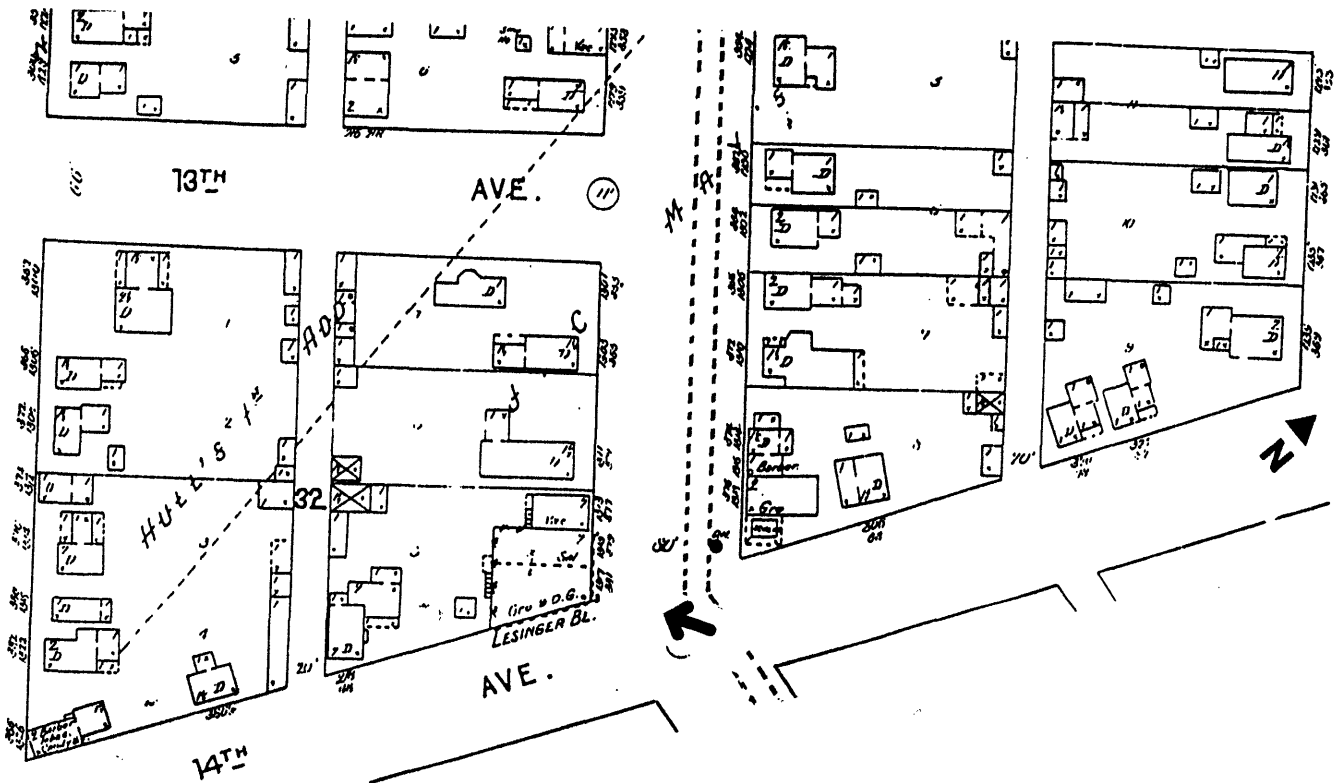
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

1899 Plat Map View, Sanborn Map Company, Cedar Rapids.



1895 Plat Map View, Sanborn Map Company, Cedar Rapids.

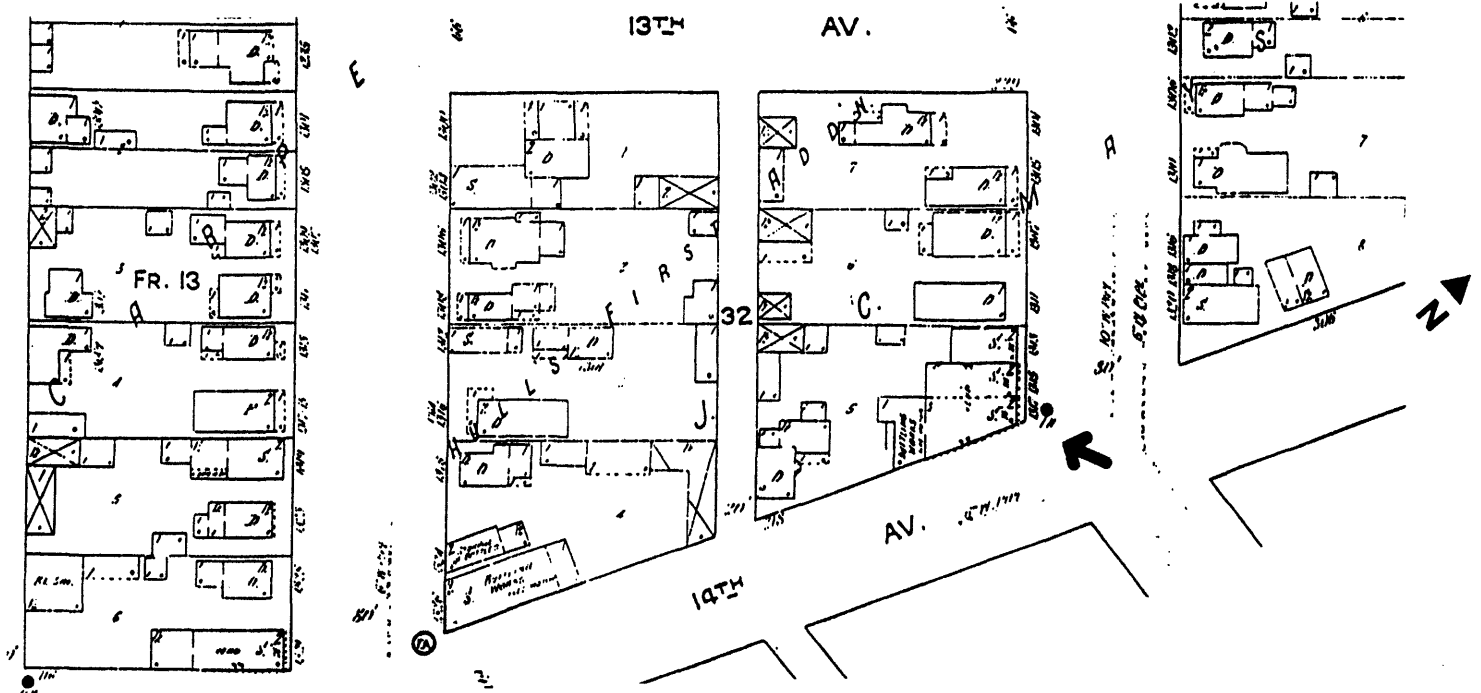




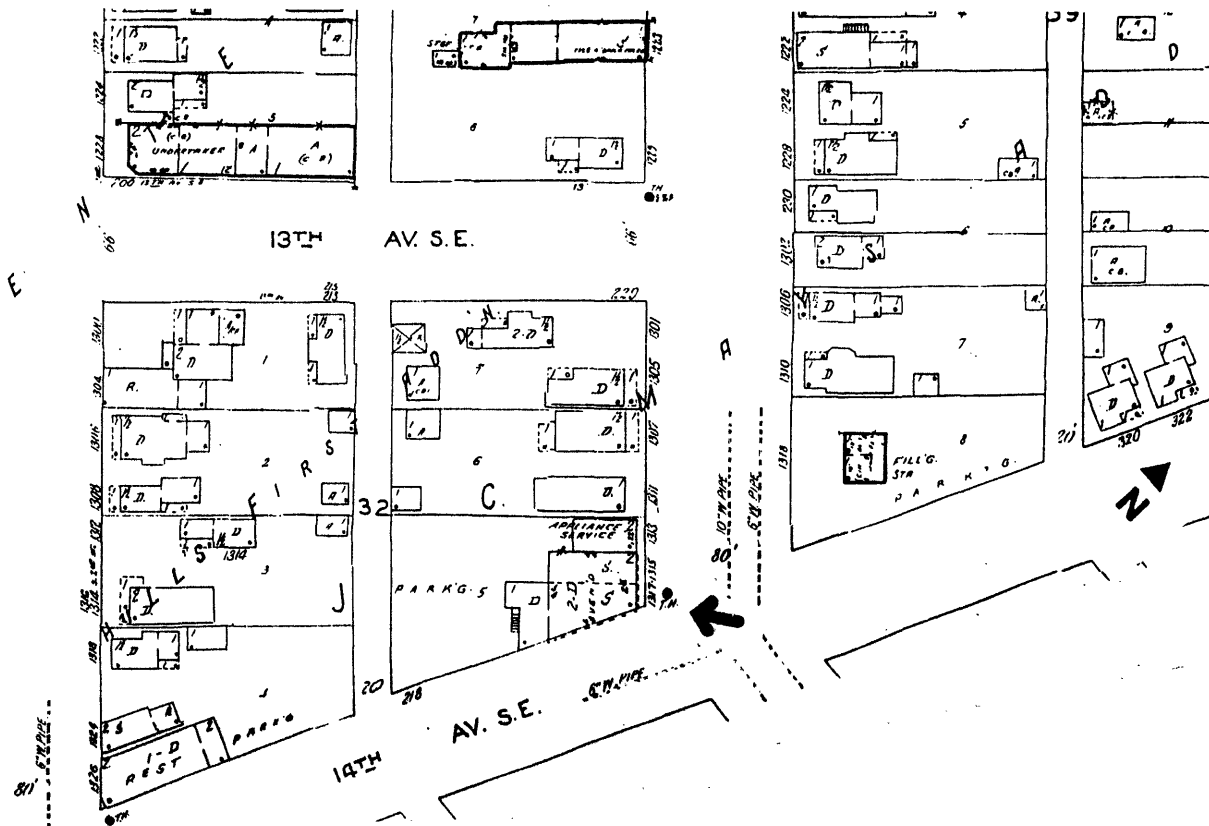
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

1913 Plat Map View, Sanborn Map Company, Cedar Rapids.



1997 Plat Map View, Sanborn Map Company, Cedar Rapids.



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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

**Statement of Significance**

*Summary:* The Lesinger Block is significant locally under National Register Criterion C as one of the best extant examples in Cedar Rapids of an Italianate Style commercial block. In addition the building is locally significant under National Register Criteria A within the historic context of ethnic heritage discussed in Chapter E-iii ("Bohemian Commercial and Social Life in Cedar Rapids, 1875-1925") in Section E of the Multiple Property Documentation Form ("Commercial and Industrial Development of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, c 1865-c.1945").

The Lesinger Block retains a high degree of integrity including much of its original wood ornamentation. The elaborate sawtooth frieze above the storefronts and geometric design of the bracketed cornice remain unaltered and in excellent condition. The storefront changes to 1313, 1315 and 1317 3rd Street are in excess of 50 years old and are sympathetic in nature to the building's original design. The building's significance is heightened by the fact that it was constructed during a period of citywide economic boom when the Italianate Style was employed in dozens of downtown business blocks of which none survive. Its location at a prominent intersection reinforces the building's architectural significance.

Under Criterion A, the Lesinger Block is significant as a property built for and operated by Vaclav Lesinger, a successful, first generation immigrant in Cedar Rapids' large and important Bohemian ethnic community. After 1907 the Lesinger Block housed a saloon that served as a social center for Bohemians who lived and worked in nearby neighborhoods on the southeast and southwest sides of Cedar Rapids as well as rural sections of Linn County.

*Historical Background:* Vaclav Lesinger immigrated to Cedar Rapids from Kozlov, Bohemia in 1868. Upon arrival he began a tailoring business and by 1883 built the Lesinger Block to house a dry goods business along with his tailoring trade. He was a founding member of St. Wenceslaus Bohemian Catholic Church in 1874 when it organized and served as an important leader in church for forty years. He was a member of Lodge Prokop Velky of the Cesko-Slovanska Podporujici Spolku (Czecho-Slovak Protective Society) and Lodge Mir Zapadu of the Zapadni Cesko-Bratska Jednota (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association). Lesinger was also a charter member of the local tailor's trade union.

Lesinger's arrival in Cedar Rapids came at a point when the Bohemian community was experiencing significant growth. City directories record 113 gainfully employed Bohemians in 1870 and 385 in 1881.<sup>1</sup> One result of the increased Bohemian population was a growth in ethnic owned businesses. The decade of the 1880s saw commercial buildings displace residences along 3rd Street SE and 14th Avenue SE. The Lesinger Block appeared in 1883 and Petrovitskys Block (nonextant) at the southwest corner of the same intersection. These buildings and others at this intersection were the most significant cluster of commercial buildings in the neighborhood housing three grocers (one in the

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<sup>1</sup>Griffith, Martha, *The History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids*, Cedar Rapids: Czech Heritage Foundation, 1970 (reprinted from *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, April and July, 1944), p 14.

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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

Lesinger Block), a tin shop, a drygoods store (in the Lesinger Block), a bakery and a meat market by 1889.

The Lesinger Block site was an excellent business location because of its proximity to T.M. Sinclair and Company, a meat packing plant established in 1871 two blocks to the southeast and a major employer of Bohemian immigrants. The Lesinger Block's location along the approach to the 14th Avenue SE/16th Avenue SW Bridge erected in 1874 also gave it ready access to Bohemian customers on the west side of the river and in rural Linn County.

City directories and Sanborn Company maps indicate that the Lesinger Block housed a variety of businesses during the Lesinger family's ownership of the building. Initially the building housed Vaclav Lesinger's tailoring business and dry goods operation at 1315 3rd Street SE and a grocery at 1317 3rd Street SE. Twenty years later, a barber shop operated from 1313 3rd Street SE and a hardware store from 1315 3rd Street SE with Lesinger's tailor shop and dry goods business moving to the corner shop. In 1907, Louis Pazdernik took over the corner shop space and converted it to a saloon. Oral tradition has it that Lesinger continued his tailoring in a small area at the back of the saloon.

After 1900 Vaclav's sons, Edward and Lumir Lesinger, along with Lumir's wife Anna operated an undertaking business from 1315 3rd Street SE under the style "Lesinger Brothers." From the 1880s until his death in 1914, Vaclav Lesinger and his wife Anna resided in a two-story house (nonextant) located at the rear of the property along the alley. Vaclav's widow and Edward's family continued to reside in the house until the property was sold in c. 1945. One or more of Lesinger's children also occupied the upper level rooms of the Lesinger Block in the years prior to Vaclav's death.

Shortly after Louis Pazdernik established his saloon in the Lesinger Block he began bottling beer in the basement. The beer, in this case "Dubuque Beer," was shipped from the brewery in barrels and bottled on the premises for customers who wished to take the product home or to work. By 1911 Pazdernik had erected the one-story addition at the rear of the corner brick building to serve as a bottling works. Pazdernik rented second floor rooms by the night to the saloon's customers and boarders. Pazdernik's bottling works investment was short lived due to the passage of statewide prohibition in 1916. He continued his lease from the Lesingers for a time selling soft drinks. In subsequent years, several other Bohemian merchants tried making a go at this prominent location by adding a restaurant trade. The end of National Prohibition in 1933 saw beer sales reintroduced.

In 1936 Paul Jerabek, a local beer distributor, and his brother-in-law, Adolph Kalous, leased the corner space from the Lesingers and opened "Little Bohemia" tavern. They relocated the tavern equipment and furnishings from the former Little Bohemia site in the rear of the C.S.P.S. Hall. The tavern had previously been closed at this site following liquor license infractions. Kalous served as the tavern manager and in 1946 purchased the Lesinger Block from the family estate.

The new location proved to be an excellent site for Little Bohemia. Regular customers came from the nearby Bohemian residential neighborhoods and factories. Workers from Iowa Steel and Iron Works, the J.G. Cherry Company, Wilson & Co. meat packers, and dozens of smaller nearby manufacturing

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

concerns and wholesale houses frequented the tavern. Busy U.S. Highway 218 followed 3rd Street SE and turned to cross the Cedar River at 14th Avenue SE which became the location for three new service stations in the late 1930s. Friday nights were especially busy when rural Bohemian families came to town to sell eggs and chickens to local meat markets. They spent their cash at 3rd Street businesses with Little Bohemia a popular stop specializing in the sale of pig ear and pig snout sandwiches and Bohemian goulash among other things.

Little Bohemia changed ownership in 1978 when Leon "Tunnie" Melsha and his wife Diane acquired the Lesinger Block. After a several years of remodeling and restoration work were completed, it reopened in 1982 under the same name. In 1997 it continues to operate as a neighborhood tavern under the management of the Melsha's son, Jeff. Patronage includes fourth and fifth generation Bohemian families from southeast and southwest Cedar Rapids.

*Period of Significance:* The period of significance under Criterion A is 1883 to 1936. The first date marks the initial construction of the building by Vaclav Lesinger and the second denotes its conversion to Little Bohemia tavern. The period in between includes the years during which 3rd Street SE and 14th Avenue SE were identified as Cedar Rapids' principal Bohemian business district. The year 1883 is the period of significance under Criteria C since this is the year in which the brick building was completed and the frame building was moved to its present site as a part of the development of this corner property. An additional significant date is 1911 since this marks the construction of the bottling works as an addition at the rear of the brick building.

*Resources Nominated:* The property contains three resources for this nomination including the two-story frame building (1313 3rd Street SE), the two-story brick corner building (1315 and 1317 3rd Street SE), and the one-story frame building facing 14th Avenue SE at the rear of 1317 3rd Street SE. The three contiguous buildings have historically been under single ownership and for purposes of this nomination are designated as contributing. Taken together they comprise the "Lesinger Block."

The archeological potential of buildings previously on this property has yet to be determined and has not been addressed in this nomination.

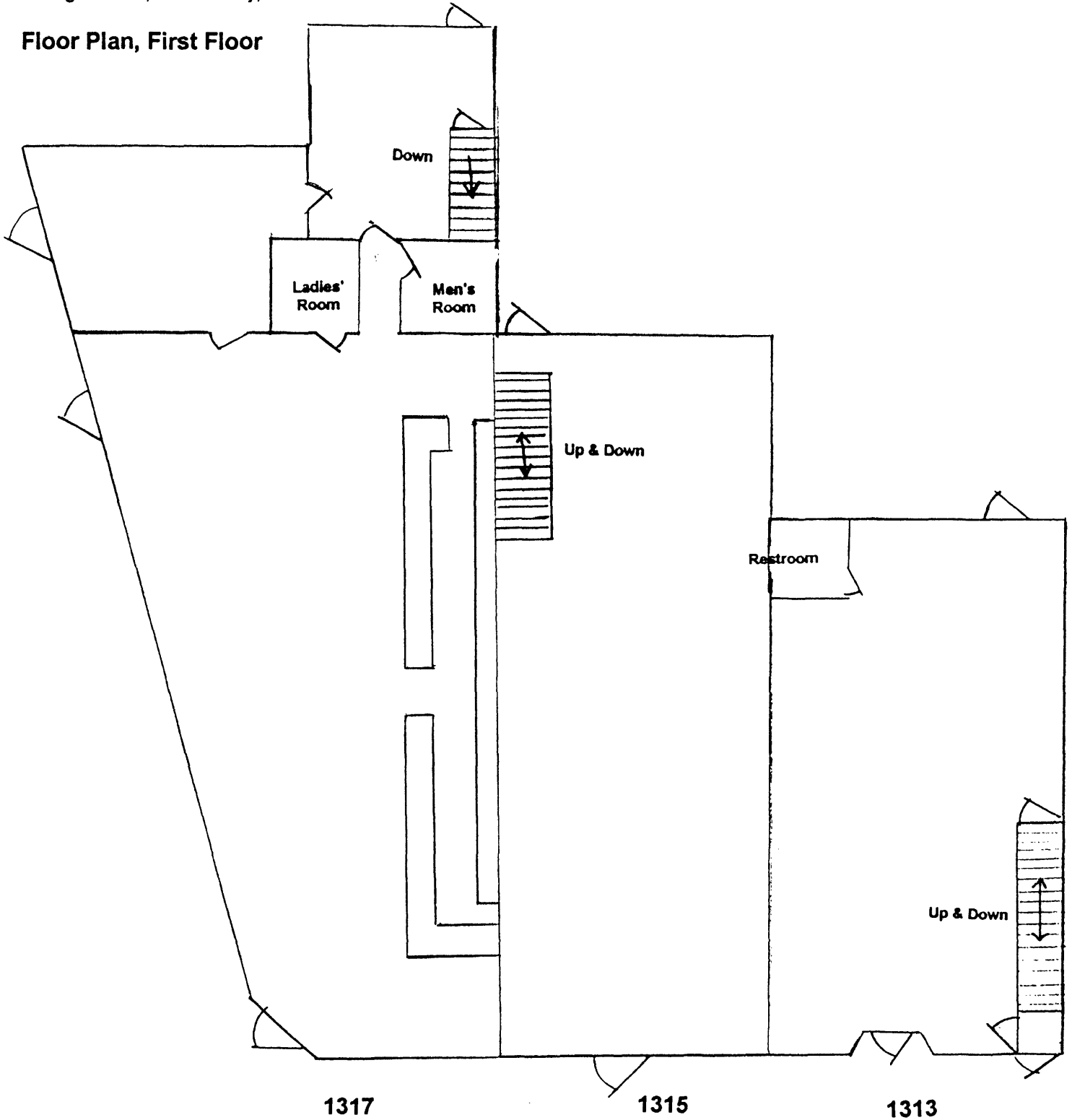
National Register of Historic Places  
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

Floor Plan, First Floor



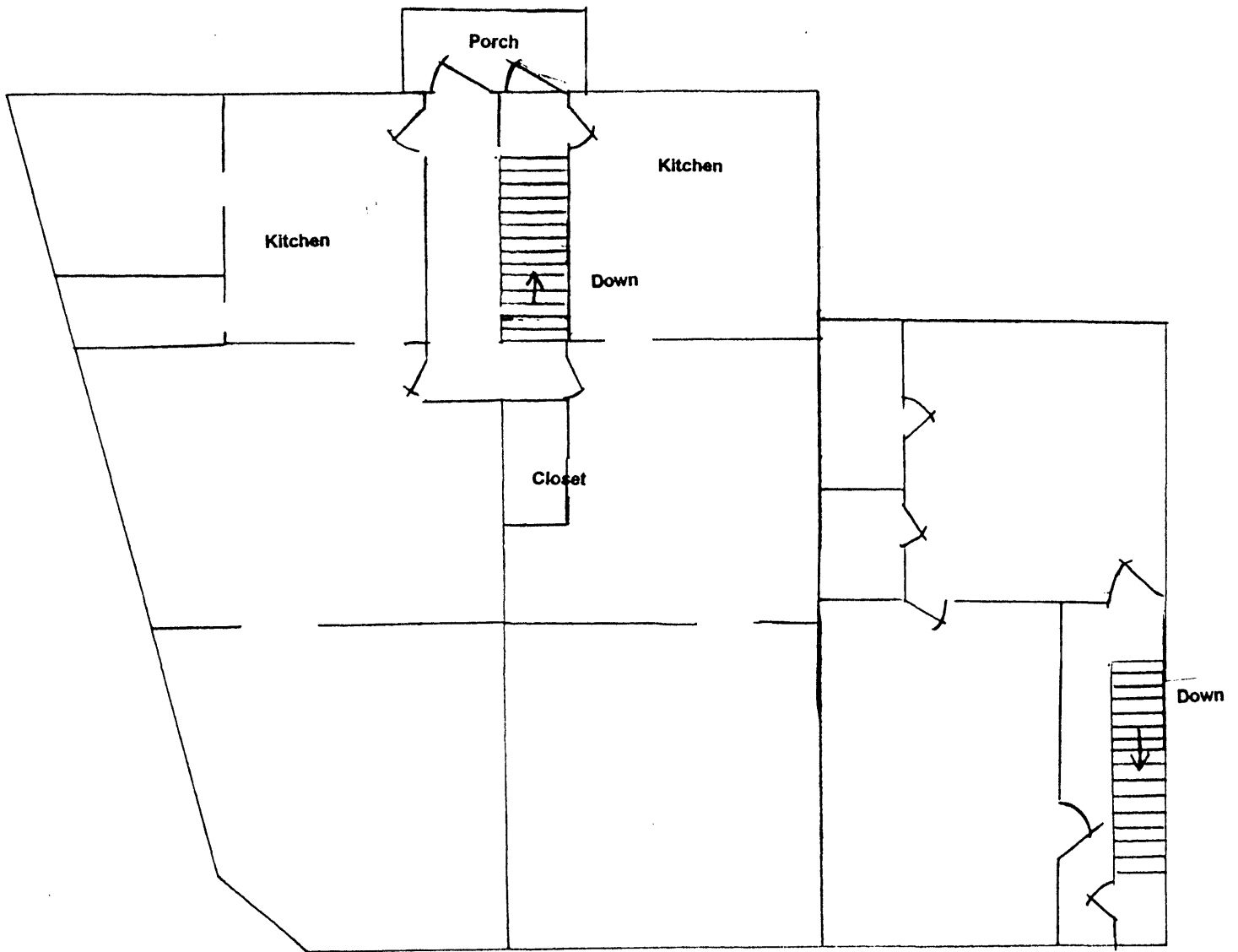
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

Floor Plan, Second Floor



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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

**Bibliography**

Refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form ("Commercial and Industrial Development of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, c 1865-c.1945") for a complete bibliography.

*Additional Sources:*

Brewer, L.A. and Barthinius Wick, *History of Linn County, Iowa, Volume II*. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing, 1911, pp. 645-646.

Building permits, Building Department, City of Cedar Rapids, years: 1936, 1978, 1982, 1984, and 1993.

City Directories, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, years: 1890, 1892, 1893-94, 1898, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1908, 1911, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1920, 1925, 1929, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1956, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1986, 1990, 1995, and 1996.

Griffith, Martha, *The History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids*, Cedar Rapids: Czech Heritage Foundation, 1970 (reprinted from *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, April and July, 1944).

Interview with property owners, Leon and Diane Melsha, May 3, 1997.

Plat maps for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sanborn Map Company, 1889, 1895, 1913, and 1938.

"Vaclav Lesinger has Passed Away," *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, Saturday, October 17, 1914.

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Northwest 32 feet of the Southwest 51 feet and the Northeast 89 feet of Lot 5 in Block 32 of J. C. Mays Addition to the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Boundary Justification**

This parcel includes all of the land owned and developed by Vaclav Lesinger and his descendants.



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Lesinger Block, Linn County, Iowa

**Photographs:** Photographs taken May, 1997

Negatives stored with the City of Cedar Rapids, Department of Development

1. 1315 & 1317 3rd Street SE, looking southwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer
2. 1313, 1315 & 1317 3rd Street SE, looking southwest, Susan Snow, photographer
3. 1317 3rd Street SE, close-up of canted entrance wall, looking southwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer
4. 1317 3rd Street SE, close-up of canted entrance wall upper level, looking southwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer
5. Rear storefront of 1317 3rd Street SE, looking west, Marlys Svendsen, photographer
6. 1317 3rd Street, rear frame building facing 14th Avenue SE, looking west, Susan Snow, photographer
7. 1313 3rd Street SE, looking southwest, Susan Snow, Photographer
8. 1313 3rd Street SE, looking southwest, Susan Snow, Photographer
9. 1313 3rd Street SE, rear of building, looking northeast, Susan Snow, Photographer
10. 1315 & 1317 3rd Street SE, rear of building, looking northeast, Susan Snow, Photographer
11. 1317 3rd Street SE, interior looking towards south wall of bar area, Marlys Svendsen, photographer
12. 1317 3rd Street SE, back-bar area and front display window, looking northwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer