

United States Department of the Interior  
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 instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

other names/site number Automatic Valve Seating Machinery Company

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

## 2. Location

street & number 110 S. Jennings Street  not for publication

city or town Sioux City  vicinity

state Iowa county Woodbury zip code 51101-1836

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D

1 APR 2019

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

5/9/2019

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

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	
1	0	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Processing/Extraction/mfg. facility

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Processing/Extraction/mfg. facility

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

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**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: brick

walls: brick

roof: asphalt

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

**Summary Paragraph** (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

This two-story brick factory building is representative of the range of styles that comprise the category of Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals. It is further visually distinctive as a factory type building given its free-standing narrow rectangular footprint, its alleyway location and orientation and its unusual "three-story faux north façade that hides its actual two-story height and gable roof cap. The design is utilitarian with maximized fenestration and shipping doors that opened into thin air from its second story mid- points. The north gable end is its primary façade while its west sidewall is its visible public frontage. Also highly visible is its south wall now adorned with a full-height non-historic mural (2005) honoring its last significant and current owner/occupant, the Rocklin Manufacturing Company. Twin mid-plan roof dormers and a flag pole are rooftop features and the south gable end combines stepped corner shoulders with the gable roof contour.

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, and the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the resource in a **Statement of Integrity** with each aspect discussed in its own paragraph.)

Sioux City is Iowa's major northwestern city and the county seat of Woodbury County. The city downtown proper is located on a broad river terrace, surrounded by the looming Loess hills. Massive amounts of grading and lowering of elevations have enlarged the downtown and peripheral areas. The Floyd River empties into the Missouri River which forms the city's south boundary. The subject property is located near the juncture point of these two drainages. It is located on the southwest corner of what was a light industrial district that was divided by substantial railroad yards. Proximity to the nearby rivers brought with it the risk of flooding and made-land augmented the original town plat southward so that the property straddles two different plats, reflecting the cadence of that transformation.

The railroad presence, now greatly reduced in scale, still borders the north end of block where this building is located. South Jennings Street borders the west side of the block and is ideal for the historian's purposes since this is the only block that is so designated, with North Jennings Street being north of the railroad. Consequently any directory listing on this street applies to this block-long length of street. Gordon Drive, previously Grand Avenue, is the south boundary, Virginia Street is the east boundary. First Street, filled historically with tracks, is to the north (900s block). The block as noted straddles two plats, East Sioux City (Lot 1, Block 6 to the south) and Middle Sioux City (Lots 7-8, Block 38), and the result is a curious block having 14 lots, 7 on a side, along with a north-south running alley.

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Figure 1: Current aerial view looking southeast (Google Earth)

#### Exterior Description:

The building location is along the east end of three city lots, adjacent to the alley with its gable end and principal facade fronting north. This center of the block location makes for some problems with addresses, and over time the building was first referenced as 912 First Street. The hypothesis at this point is that the original owner/builder planned to expand the single building with additions or other buildings so placed this one at the back of what was intended to become a future factory complex. This same hypothesis appears to explain why the building facade orients north and not west and is so minimized.

This is a two-story tile brick factory building, rectangular in plan, and oriented north/south. There is a small mechanicals basement located in its northeast corner. The sub walls are laid up using a two-chambered tile brick, lighter in weight and reddish in color. The face brick exterior veneer, used on all fronts, is of a darker brownish color range. The building footprint measures 31 feet nine inches in width and 122 feet in length. The building height is 29 feet, the form being that of a gable roof massing, each story measuring 12 feet in height. The roof retains two dormers, centered on the plan, along with the aforementioned north dormer. A flag pole also survives from at least the World War II era. The roof is covered with an asphalt shingle roof.

The facade of this building is singular in its design given the use of a full three-story high square cut brick front that extends well above the angled sides of the gable roof profile that lies behind it. This "boom town" or false front was either meant to impress or it reflected an expectation that a full-fledged third story would be eventually added to the building mass. Given the slightly raised sidewalls, the attic level as built provided adequate headroom and substantial storage and work space. The overall facade is divided into three bays by means of the use of intervening pilasters. The otherwise practical and simple industrial facade is surprisingly ornate. It presents three rows of six windows, evenly spaced, but there is a high degree of differentiation between these levels. The lower two levels are combined vertically as a series of recessed panels. Each window is capped by a triple rowlock brick semi-segmental arch, but on the lower two floors

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these arches are linked by a continuous projecting arch capping. Each bay is then topped by a range of corbelled brick brackets. The uppermost level separates the window openings and eliminates the pilaster effects forming a single recessed full-width brick panel. This panel is in turn topped by a stepped out plain parapet front. The singular feature, previously alluded to, is that the outermost pair of windows on either end of this frontage are simply brick filled window panels, only the two middle ones being real windows. Attic headroom is limited by the gable roof form, save within the twin dormers. Corner pilasters continue the full height of the facade and tie in with the parapet, framing each of the brick recessed panels. The facade on the ground level places the pedestrian single-door entry on the left-hand side of the central bay, and a shipping door occupies the base of the right-hand/west bay, its segmental arch necessarily being set higher than the adjoining windows. Restored painted signage on three frontages reads "Rocklin Mfg. Co." in white lettering set on a black background.

The side walls consist of nine bays, these being denoted by pilasters or in-wall chimneys. Each sidewall is fully fenestrated with as many doors and windows as there are bays. The east wall has ground level shipping doors on both levels set into the central bay. Original doors survive at both levels save for the west ground level. The second-floor doors are of interest because they open into thin air below. The original windows fenestration survives on both east side openings and the upstairs of the west one. These are 4/4 paired window sets that are topped with a broad triple-rowlock semi-segmental arch. A point of interest is that these openings are infilled on the building exterior on both floors. These wooden arch inserts are visible internally on the lower west side wall but are bricked in within the sub wall on the upper level of the west side and both levels on the east side.

The rear/south wall is differentially fenestrated, with the same two attic level central windows, but also single second floor end lights. These windows survive behind panels. This wall is covered full-height by a mural depicting an historical scene that evokes the building's World War II industrial production history. This frontage has a gable roof profile but a notable feature is the use of an angled brick cap that parallels the roof planes.

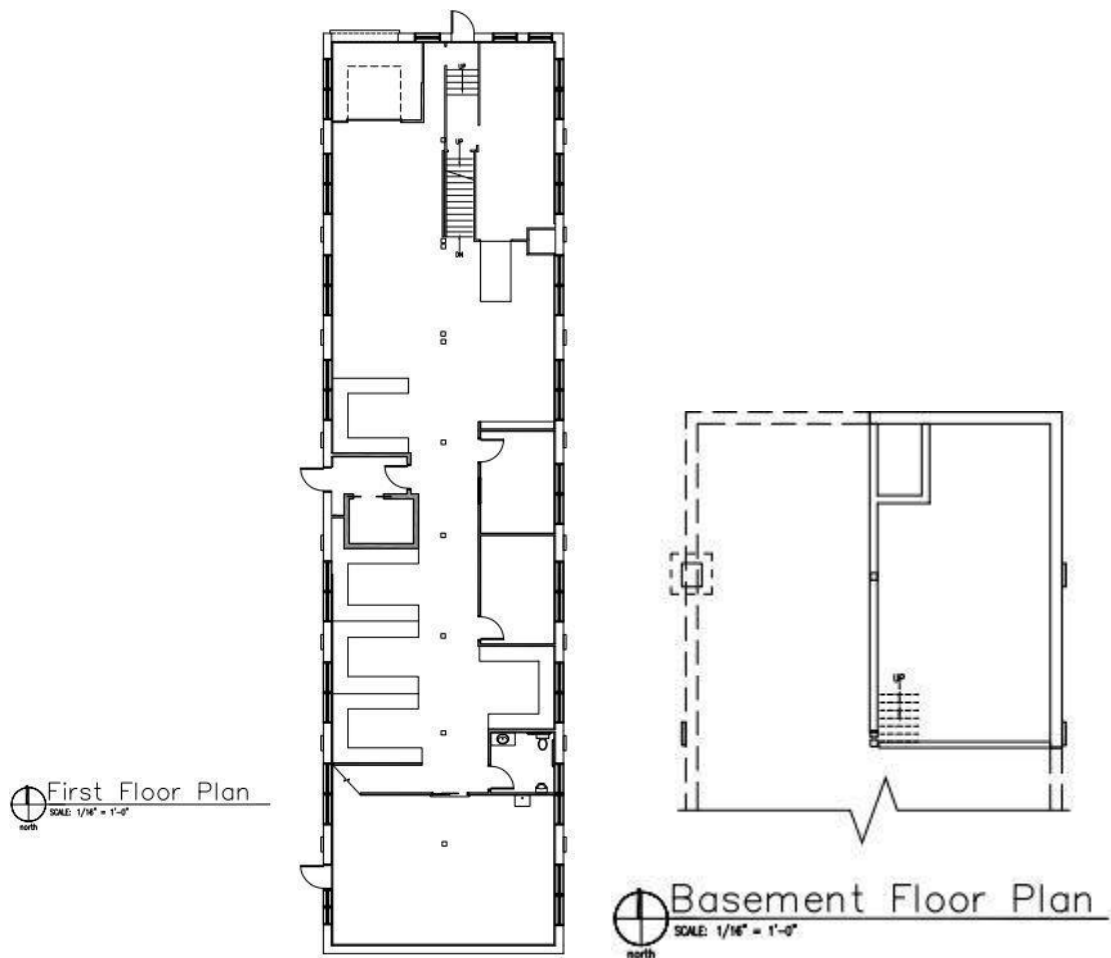
The footings are concrete with a stepped brick foundation. This sub-grade system, commonly buried, is exposed in the basement. The structural system is that of a load-bearing brick shell that incorporates both pilasters and two in-wall chimneys that are in the east side wall only. The chimneys are located in the office area and one is centered in the back of the plan. The internal support system consists of heavy timber interior posts and beams. The thickness of the walls does not diminish, being 1.5 bricks in thickness at all points, an apparent indication that a full-height third floor was envisioned. The scale of the solid wood columns similarly does not diminish between floors as is the usual treatment. An indication of economy is the use of composite beams, six two-inch wide boards being bolted together. The real curiosity is that the caps on the columns, with their traditional angled ends, are similarly comprised of the same number of boards. The main floor is of concrete. The upper floors are of wood construction, a 2¼ inch wide tongue and groove board, laid north/south, across joists that orient east/west.

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Figures 2-3: First and basement floor plans (M+ Architects, Sioux City, 2018)

The corner basement has a shallow depth (presumably due to the threat of flooding) which in turn translates to a raised northeast corner office floor level. Eight columns, set 12 feet 7 inches apart, are distributed along the plan's centerline, north to south on each floor level.

#### Interior Description:

The building has been rehabilitated as the principal factory space for the company. The pre-rehabilitation plan was largely open on its three levels with offices being located within the north part of the plan on the first and second floors.

The small corner basement infills the bay east to west and the north two bays. It is entered by a stairway in its southwest corner. Only partially underground, the short first floor front stairs and basement ceiling intrude into the first-floor headroom, resulting in a raised office level. Figures 2-3 depict these two levels. The basement and associated stairs remain and are empty, having been relieved of derelict mechanicals. The ground floor plan retains a northwest corner garage area, a short hallway, and a ground level office area that contains the company safe. The first floor has been infilled with two rooms for testing and assembling components, work areas, an elevator lobby and a bathroom. The company's World War II "E" banner is framed opposite the elevator. These flank a broad center hall that leaves the center line of wooden columns exposed. The historic open quality of this level is retained in spirit by a substantial north end open area, the hall and a large south-end area. The building electrical service is located in this last-named

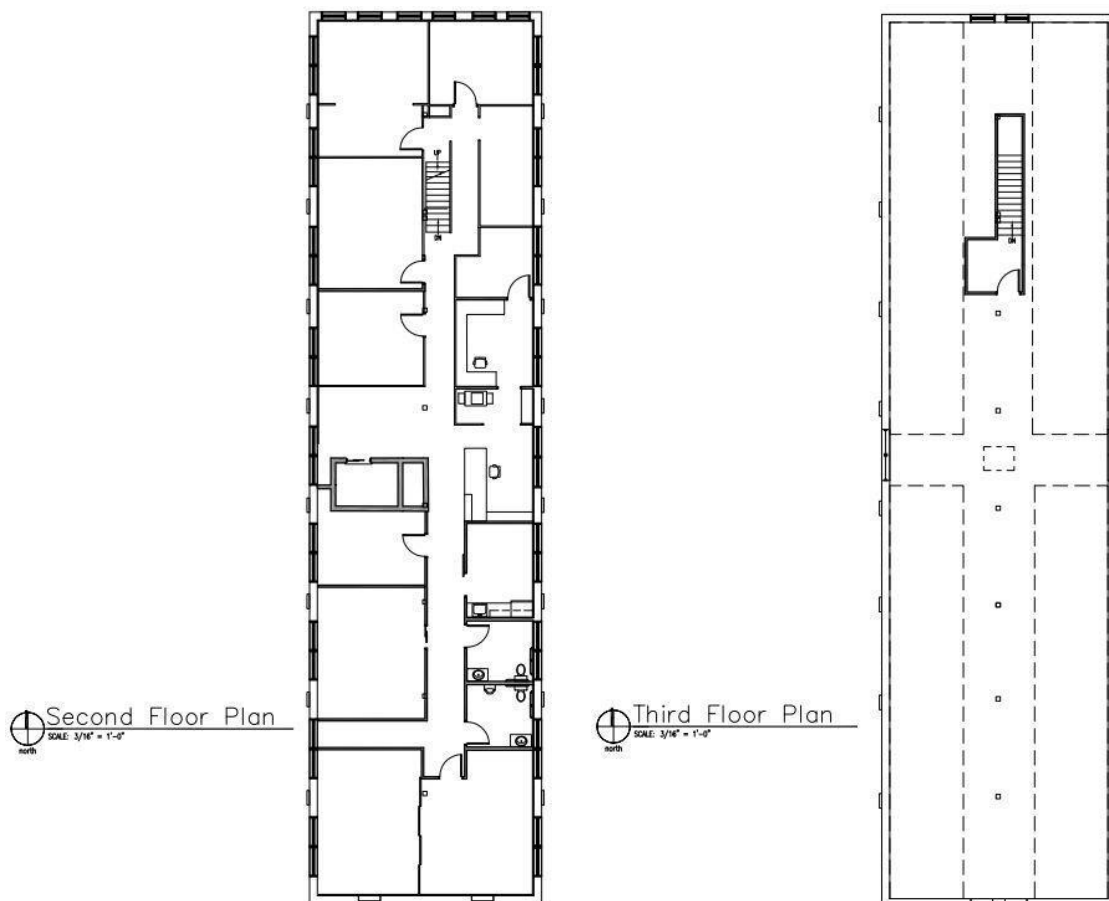
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space on the south wall. A wooden ramp for carts adjoins the northeast corner office area to the south. The floors on this level are new polished concrete. Interior exposed brick walls remain so above the window sill level, the lower walls having been bumped out to house baseboard heating mechanicals. All structural columns and beams have been left exposed in whole (first floor) or in part (second floor) and retain their original colorations and textures.



Figures 4-5: Second and third/attic level floor plans (M+ Architects, Sioux City, 2018)

Figures 4-5 depict the other two building levels. The second story rehabilitation retained the room and hall pattern in the north third of the plan, including the stairway. Three original offices were left in place but three lesser office rooms were enlarged by the removal of interior walls or closets. Original trim work was saved and reinstalled in these rooms. Otherwise this level has been infilled with two ranks of rooms with an off-center narrower hall that leaves structural columns exposed. The rooms include an elevator and lobby area. On this level a historic interior photo has been posted as a mural on the wall opposite the elevator lobby. The mural perspective matches the photo's viewpoint. In this space a column is left free standing. Interior perimeter brick walls remain exposed and floors are a narrow brown hardwood. This level is more office than production focused.

The attic or third floor level remains open in plan and is largely filled with heating and air conditioning mechanicals as well as the upper portion of the elevator. The north end stairs and one extensive range of wooden shelving remains in place. The original rough board flooring remains. The ceiling and end walls have been insulated with a yellow spray insulation.

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Alterations:

Prior to the current rehabilitation this building was adjoined to the west by a range of single-story industrial and office additions. The rehabilitation work plan allowed for the demolition of these additions based upon their condition and the fact that they post-dated the core building's period of significance. The broader immediate block context of the factory as shown by the various Sanborn Map details have changed considerably since the 1912 construction of the factory building. What was originally a residential lot of small-scale houses was over time over written by industrial expansion and at its zenith, following World War II warehouses and commercial buildings clustered around this one in all directions, with its own aforementioned addition to the west of it. Today the building stands much as it did when first built, with open ground in three directions, an alleyway to the east and only a commercial building and an oversized commercial sign that are offset to the southwest. As a result, the building and south wall mural are highly visible to the public. A more substantial former industrial plant stands to the northeast (Figure 1).

DATE	COST	CONTRACTOR	WORK
April 1912	\$5,000	Not known	Factory building construction
Ca. 1942			First west frame addition (non-extant)
Nov. 12, 1942		Norfolk Furnace Co.	Replace warm air apparatus (non-extant)
Jan. 18, 1944			Installation of new heating plant
July 1944			Rooftop flagpole
Oct. 26, 1950		Harrington Plumbing	Install two water closets, lavatory and urinal
Pre-1968			Cutting down of east wall chimneys
Pre-1968			Exterior painted with yellow paint
2005		Artists Paul Chelstad, Mark Kochen	South wall mural
2017-18			Rehabilitation and removal of west additions

The rehabilitation replaced all mechanical systems, all exterior doors and windows, reroofed the building and removed the westward single-story loading dock, factory and office areas. Demolition work removed the rear frame interior stairs, the noted addition, non-functioning basement mechanicals, some second-floor original office partitions and a wood first to second story stairway that paralleled the retained one. Construction work refinished the first-floor concrete floor, covered the second floor with a hardwood veneer floor, added interior stairs, enlarged some original offices on the second floor and added factory and office rooms on each floor. An elevator and lobby space were added along the west wall near the building center point. Ceilings were painted white. Mechanicals were placed in the attic level. Retained historic materials include the two east wall shipping doors, left in place, several other interior doors mounted on walls, the World War II "E" ordnance flag that is framed and exhibited in the first-floor elevator lobby, the flagpole, unpainted columns, and the unused corner basement area. Doors and trim work from the factory offices were reused and the main stairs were retained. A few doors were added in some of the original offices.

Integrity Evaluation:

The principal measure of historical integrity rests upon the building design, materials, form and massing. The building interior by virtue of its partial infilling with new office and workspaces must play a secondary role albeit an important one. Historical integrity therein is substantiated by the exposed ceiling and its framing, the retention of original office, hall and stair areas, the visible structural columns and brick walls and the retained original factory doors that are either repurposed as wall-mounted features or left in their original locations. The removal of later-date additions results in a building presentation that more clearly



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reflects its original 1912 appearance and one that would have pertained to its history and operations until 1942 when the first addition was built.

In terms of integrity of location, the factory continues to occupy its unusual placement with its deep setback on its property, and fronted northwards along an alleyway. The main building retains its largely unobstructed facade orientation and perspective.

Integrity of design is retained by the factory building to a higher degree given its free-standing presentation and the replacement of lost ground level doors and windows. The factory is intact save for the loss of some roof profile elements (elevator penthouse and two chimneys, rear interior stairs and the painted south end wall) but it retains its dormers and the north third wall parapet treatment. A key element of the upper south wall, is the use of an angled parapet brickwork that was laid across the cut brickwork of the main wall.

Integrity of setting is retained, the building continuing to be part of its historic light industrial district, and a reduced railroad presence is retained to the immediate north in the form of the survival of now unused railroad spur lines.

Integrity of materials is strongly retained in the factory. This includes brickwork, the attic wooden floors, exposed columns, wall surfaces, front stairs and retained sliding doors.

Integrity of workmanship is represented by the factory building with its formalized masonry and structural components.

Integrity of feeling is extremely palpable in the factory. The retained functionality of the factory building with its intact side shipping doors or openings, the intact state of the downstairs office with its safe and other features, combine to foster a sense of a historic industrial space. A single surviving piece of heavy equipment will remain in place to the west and will serve as a powerful visual focal point to evoke the mechanical scale of the work once done in a bustling factory space.

Feeling of association is rooted in the confidence that the historic personages associated with this building could readily locate and identify it today. The descendants of I. J. Rocklin further attest to this feeling of association by virtue of their interest in preserving and continuing to share this building's and their family's histories.

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### 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

#### Period of Significance

1912 – 1945

#### Significant Dates

1912, 1915, 1942

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

#### Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

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### Statement of Significance

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Albertson and Company/ Rocklin Manufacturing Company Building is individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level based upon its direct and sustained association with local industry and the role played by that industry in two World Wars-related contracting (Criterion A). This significance is particularly based upon two claims.

First that this building was the birthplace of the Albertson and Company, which became the world's largest producer of portable electronic and air tools. Known as Sioux Tools Inc., a division of Snap-On Tools as of 1993, its Iowa presence ended only in 2001 when it was acquired and relocated to North Carolina. It held World War I military contracts for the Canadian government early in its history.

Second, the Rocklin Manufacturing Company, needful of additional room to fill its World War II government contracts, relocated to this building by early 1942, acquired the building ownership in 1944, and expanded as a consequence of its war production to become a major producer of a range of small-scale machinery. The building has the particular distinction of having been used in wartime contracting in both World War I and II. Rocklin Manufacturing was particularly cited for its outstanding work for the Ordnance Department and there could have been but few other government contractors or sub-contractors who, despite their remarkably small scale, made so major and critical a contribution to the national war effort. The Rocklin Company continues to own and use the building. The Automatic Valve Seating Machinery Company built the factory but did not survive long enough to be deemed significant. A key and central subtext of the industrial significance is that this factory building through most of its active use has housed a series of innovative companies that found success by identifying a need for and creating and producing technically difficult and complicated machinery. These successive opportunity niches enabled long term growth and success.

Additional contextual research is recommended to determine if this building warrants a state level of significance. This higher significance level is encompassed by the fact that this building is associated with wartime military contracts the two periods of world war industrial production, 1917-18 and 1940-45. A local level of significance is appropriate for the property's historical role in Sioux City industrial history. The significance period is 1912-1920, and 1942-1945, ending with conclusion of wartime production. Further research is required to evaluate any significance achieved between 1921 and 1936. Significant dates are 1912, 1915 and 1942. These are the original factory construction, the incorporation of the Albertson and Company firm and the move by Rocklin Manufacturing Company into the subject building.

There has been no archaeological investigation of this property. The removal of the west addition evidenced substantial fill beneath the concrete floors. The factory is on top of any residential outbuildings or privies. The majority of the property remained in residential use until World War II.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

#### The Building History:

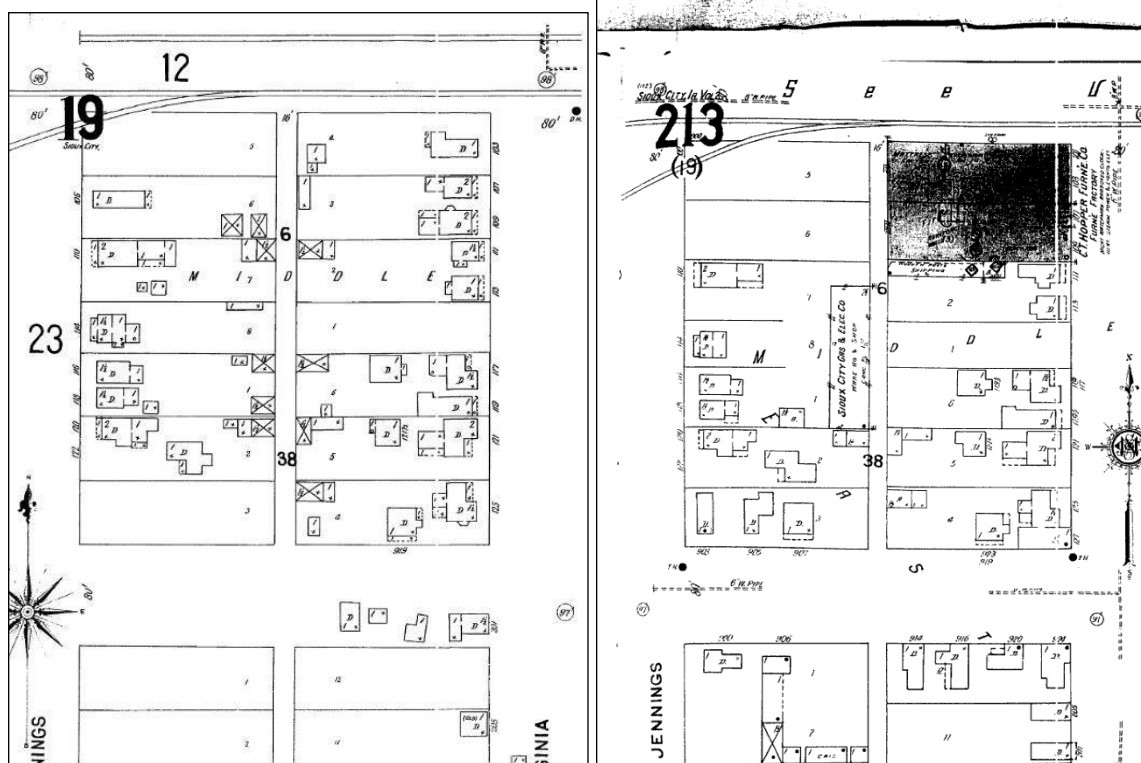
The former residential block evolved into industrial commercial use by 1948 as Figures 6 and 7 depict. The subject building is shown in the center of Figure 2, on the west side of the alleyway.

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Figures 6-7: Site comparisons, 1902 and 1924 Sanborn maps

The Automatic Valve Seating Machinery Company:

The pre-World War I years witnessed the automotive revolution and entrepreneurs scrambled to make a profit, starting all sorts of retail and industrial companies. This firm took a far more daring and innovative industrial tack, proposing to manufacture engine valve seating machinery. The firm first appears in the 1913 Sioux City city directory. Its principal proponent appears to have been a noted local dentist and community leader, one Norwegian-born Arthur Solvsburg (1878-1930) who appeared as its vice president in the beginning. Solvsburg started buying up the five owners of the south lot that would become the site of the factory and between March 16, 1911 and March 26, 1912 he acquired title to Lot 1. Two days later he secured Lots 7-8, the northern two lots, with a single purchase. These early dates hint that the idea of a new company very likely was under consideration at least a year before it was finally a fact.

Arthur Solvsburg was a 1899 graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He served as president of the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners as of 1913 and was otherwise very involved in his profession. Dentists are rarely capitalists in business ventures but Solvsburg must have had some resources, at least sufficient to acquire the necessary land for the factory. No mortgage is associated on the property abstract for the construction of the new building. Company president O. L. Hesla is not from Sioux City (Quarterly Bulletin of the Dental School [Northwestern University], Vol. VI, January 1910, #3; Report of the Board of Dental Examiners of the State of Iowa, p. 5, Des Moines: J. J. Jameison, State Printer, 1914).

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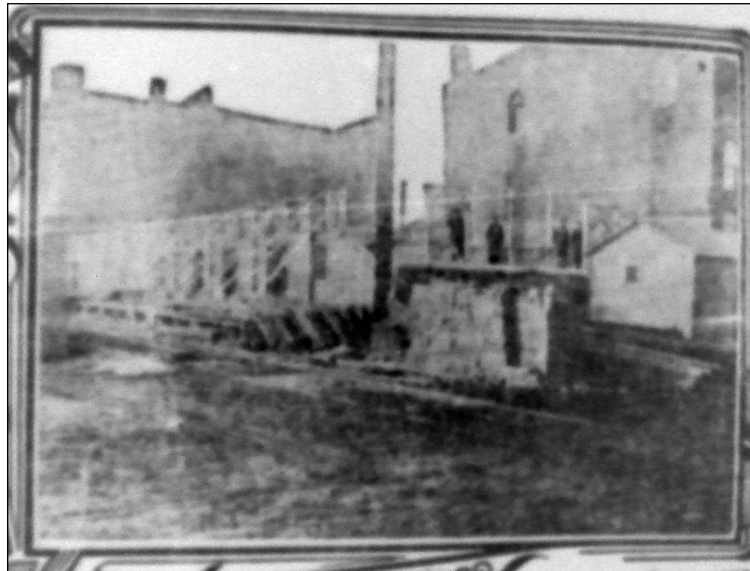


Figure 8: Addition to the Hanford Factory, looking northwest, 1912  
(the subject building is silhouetted at upper left) (*Sioux City Tribune*, December 14, 1912)

The lots were acquired but the four houses on the three lots were left standing as rental properties by the company. The factory was built across the back of the lots fronting north and appears in the left-hand background of Figure 8. The probable hypothesis is that the new building was the first of a hoped for building complex so it was placed across the back of the parcel so as to leave room for future construction. The *Sioux City Tribune* listed the building permit in early April 1912, the entry reading "Arthur Solvsburg, brick factory, Middle Sioux City, east addition \$5,000." The completion of the factory that same year comes from the same source, which lists seven new factories built in the city in 1912, the Automatic Valve Seating Machinery Company being on that list. Thus the building was finished and the company was in operation in the latter part of 1912, too late to be listed in the city directory of that year (*Sioux City Tribune*, April 10, December 28, 1912).

Sioux City's newest Industry is now ready for business. Best equipped machine shop in the Northwest. Expert Machinists.

## The Automatic Valve Seating Machinery Co.

Manufacturers of Valve Seating Machines; are especially equipped to do the following line of work for which we solicit your Patronage.

Special Machinery and Dies manufactured.	Reboring Cylinders.	Returning Commutators on Electric Motors.
Makers of Punches, Dies and Special Tools.	Overhauling Marine Engines.	Key Seating.
Drill and Thread Cutting Specialty.	Special Parts Machined for Automobiles.	Model Work.
Turning and Planing.	Valve Seating.	Finishers of Crank Shafts, Etc. Etc.

New Building, New Machinery. First St., near Virginia.  
PAY US A VISIT AUTO PHONE 1781

Figure 9: Initial company advertisement, also documenting the new factory building (1913 Sioux City directory)

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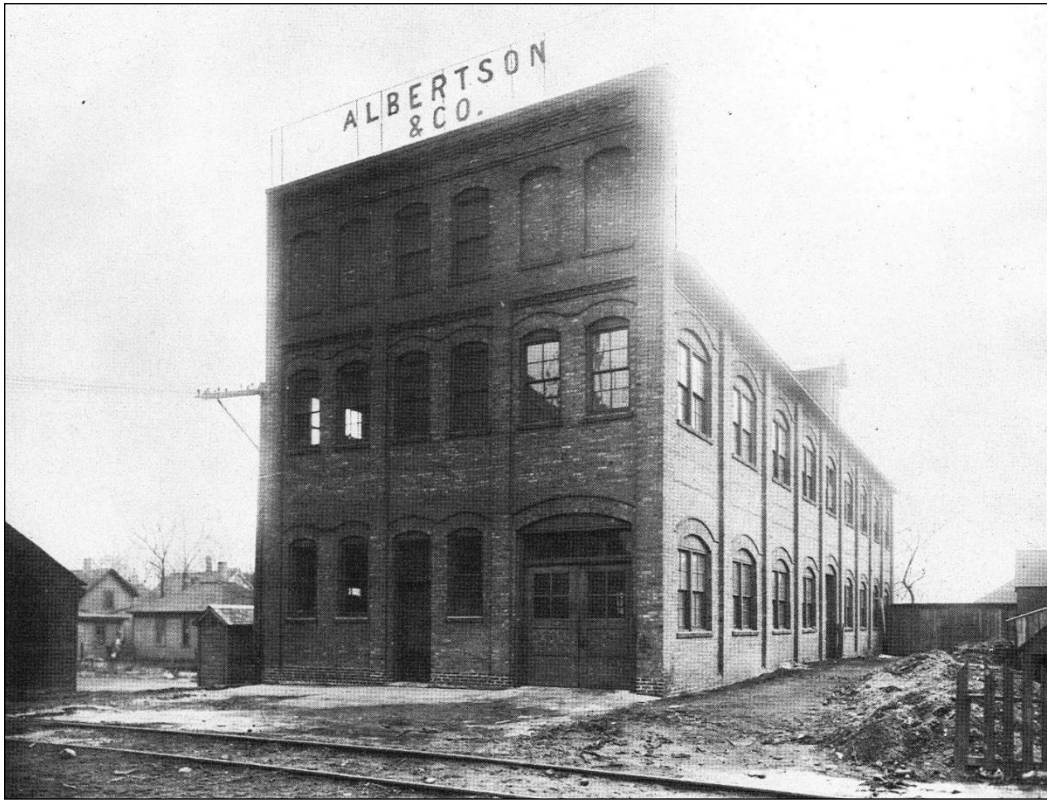


Figure 10: 1916-20 image looking southeast  
(*Sioux 75 Years of Progress*, 1987)

By 1914 the new firm was reorganized and renamed. Now called the Sioux City Machine and Tool Company, it was simply producing less ambitious products, spark plugs and tire valves. Arthur Solvsburg was the only original corporate officer, now appearing as president. The vice president was S. L. Soelberg and the secretary-treasurer was Alfred P. Soelberg (*Aurelia Sentinel*, February 6, 1914).

The real significance of this change was the presence of a new shop foreman, Swedish born Frans Oscar Albertson (1882-1958). He was trained as a machinist in Sweden, emigrated to the United States in 1901 and eventually worked with a number of automotive companies located in Chicago and in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He is credited with over 100 individual patents but the following are of relevant interest because they were developed and applied for while Albertson was working in the subject factory building. Albertson and Company acquired the existing patents when it purchased Sioux City Machine and Tool Company (*Sioux City Journal*, July 10, 1958; Nelson).

Also employed in the same new company was Danish descendant Harold A. Jacobsen (1895-1968+) who was the company bookkeeper. Jacobsen was born in Bronson, near Sioux City and his family moved to Nebraska where he would study a year at the Wayne Normal School in Wayne, before returning to Sioux City and obtaining additional schooling at the National Business Training School. He then also secured work with the Sioux City Machine and Tool Company at the pay rate of \$10 a week. One account then notes that "Four months later this concern failed and he then became one of the organizers of a new company, which was called Albertson & Company, and which took over the plant and business of the old concern." Jacobsen was elected vice president of the new firm in 1920 and remained a vital partner in that company (Allen, Vol. II, Frans Oscar Albertson biography, unpaginated online version, <http://iagenweb.org/history/ni/nibv2a.htm#albertson>).

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The official date for the company's formation is given as November 1 or 30, 1914, but it doesn't appear in local directories until 1916. Incorporation and the issuance of stock, needed to amass needed capital, followed in March 1915. The 1916 listing of "Albertson and Company" presents Albertson as president, Knute N. Johnson as vice president and Harold Jacobson as secretary treasurer. The company products were more ambitious, consisting of "piston rings, spark plugs, valve reamers and grinders and specific tools" (Sioux City directories, 1914-1920).

## "LITTLE SIOUX" VALVE LATHE



### Fills a Need in Every Garage

Refaces valves of any size up to 2½ inches. Is simple, self adjusting and absolutely accurate. Even a novice can operate it. Fits in a vise or can be permanently attached to a bench.

Does a perfect job and requires only a few turns of the handle.

**Cuts Hardest Steel Valves** No valve is too hard to be cut with a Little Sioux Valve Lathe. It is particularly adapted for cutting Tungsten Steel Valves.

**Circular Cutter** provides unlimited cutting edges and has ten times the life of an ordinary cutter. Insures a smooth, even face on valve. Leaves no ridges. Made of special alloy of extraordinary hardness and will stay sharp a long time.

**Graduation Plate.** Has angles 30, 45, and 60 degrees plainly etched on it. Accurately adjusted by simple loosening clamp, moving adjustment lever to proper degree and setting clamp again. Closing lever keeps cutter in accurate line.

**Tool Holder** is adjustable in or out. No up and down adjustments. Cutter cannot get out of cutting line with valve.

**Center Adjustment** has positive stop and keeps valves centered while refacing them. When set for certain sized valve it will always be centered for same sized valve.

**Two Clamp Devices** hold valve stem in perfect alignment. The adjustment lever holds cutter firmly and steadily against valve face.

**SIOUX SERVICE** keeps cutters sharp for you at no cost except carrying charges both ways. When cutter is dull send it to us and we will re-sharpen it and return it the same day it is received. Be sure you get Sioux Tools if you want this free service.

**Sold by All Live Jobbers**

ALBERTSON & CO.SIOUX CITY, IOWA



Figure 11: Valve lathe, patented in 1914, 1922 company advertisement (*American Garage and Auto Dealer*, Volume 13, April 1922, page 8)

While no mention is made of a unionized workforce the Albertson firm won the plaudits of the local *Union Advocate* which cited its volume of business, large workforce and the good reputation of its management. The same source noted "The factory is a three-story brick structure and cannot be excelled in

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the entire city for its neatness and arrangement of machinery and stock" (Sioux City *Union Advocate*, August 31, 1916).

#### Albertson Advertises City

It may surprise you to know that a Sioux City factory, which began business only two years ago, now has agencies in all the leading cities of the United States.

The firm which has enjoyed this phenomenal growth is Albertson & Company at First and Virginia streets. The factory is dedicated exclusively to the manufacture of piston rings for automobiles, motors and compressors.

Only one difficulty confronts the Albertson company and that is the difficulty in obtaining machinery for the making of piston rings. So many machine factories are devoting all their efforts to making war supplies for European countries that it is not easy to get machinery for other purposes. However, the Albertson company is not suffering and is gradually succeeding in getting enough machinery to take more of the rapidly increasing business.

The Albertson company takes no part in the retail field. Instead it supplies jobbers in various cities. Its product is in great demand and the plant is being operated at full capacity to fill the orders. The firm employs 35 people.

Sioux City *Tribune*, May 6, 1916

The Albertson company secured a four-month Canadian wartime contract to supply 6,000 piston rings and associated repair tools to that country's Montreal munitions plants. The first shipment of 500 piston rings left the plant on September 16, 1917, representing one week of production effort. The value of the contract was \$82,500. Efforts were underway to secure domestic contracts as well and if successful the company officials predicted a need to enlarge the plant. Company employment however, stood at just 20 skilled workers (Sioux City *Journal*, September 21, 1917).

It is a point of interest that Albertson and Company never owned the factory and site. In early 1916 the company quit claimed its possible interest in the property along with Arthur Solvsberg, and it was the Sioux City Machine and Tool Company that sold the three lots to local banker James G. Toy in early May of that year. Toy held the ownership until the end of August 1922 when it passed to the Sioux City Crockery Company. Toy's relationship to either the Albertson or crockery companies is undetermined (Woodbury County Transfer Books).

Albertson and Company continued to occupy the factory until 1920. A new and larger two-story plant was erected at Floyd and 31st streets and the company was in its new plant by the end of that same year. By this time the firm was using a trademark phrase of "Sioux Tools-Standard the World Over" as Figure 10 shows. An early 1921 account recalled that the new company in 1915 had but a single employee, and by 1921 employed "over one hundred men" with 25 salesmen. It also noted "While doing repair work back in 1915 Mr. Albertson designed and made several tools which he found so valuable he took out patents on them and started manufacturing on a small scale. The history of the plant since then has been a series of expansions, with new and wider markets every year. In less than two years they out-grew their facilities and started the building of their present plant on Floyd road." The company was then producing 11 different tools and sales in 1920 exceeded half a million dollars. Their products applied to any combustion engine in any vehicle, land or

<sup>1</sup> James Francis Toy (1850-March 3, 1937) was a regionally significant pioneer banker who relocated finally to Sioux City in 1883 with his Farmers Loan & Trust Bank. He established the Toy National Bank there in 1912 and notably survived the Great Depression (Allen, Vol 2, p. 2; Waterloo *Daily Courier*, March 4, 1937).



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airborne. The company was advertising in three languages English, Spanish and French and has just opened a market in South America (*Sioux City Spirit of Progress*, January 13, 1921).

A 1940 newspaper clipping lays out the evolving mythos of the by then well-established manufacturing firm:

Twenty-five years ago four Sioux City men formed a partnership from which has grown one of the world's leading industrial plants of its kind, today shipping the products from its Sioux City factory to every nation of the globe.

Two of the original partners still direct the activities of the firm. Today several hundred employees are engaged in the production of the plant here and its trademark is on display all over the world.

When O. Albertson and Harold A. Jacobsen first started Albertson and company, November 1, 1914, they had in mind a small specialized manufacturing enterprise and specialized machinery repair shop. The company's quarters were located in a building at First and Virginia streets.

By March 1915 they had acquired the interests of the other two partners and incorporated the firm. Manufacture of inventor's models was the chief business then. Acquiring the old Sioux City Tool company's equipment and assets, Albertson's then branched into special order tool making and the manufacture of spark plugs.

By 1920, when the organization moved into its specially built plant at its present location they had grown to the extent that a two-story building is necessary to accommodate their activities. Two additional stories were added in 1925, for by then the firm was engaged in [the] production of piston rings and other items...Again in 1928-29 more room was needed to produce the demands of a constantly growing business and a four-story wing was added....

Now in any part of the world, wherever there are autos, trucks, tractors, aircraft and marine motors in operation, products of the Albertson company are in service. A wide variety of products are produced here at present, the firm being one of the few plants in the country manufacturing a complete range of portable electric drills, bench grinders, portable electric heaters, flexible shafts, sanders and polishers....The firm is ranked as a world leader in its field and as a Sioux City industrial operation it has demonstrated that Sioux City today offers great advantage as a producing center even for highly specialize products that involve world-wide distributing problems....

Note that this account associates the old factory location away from S. Jennings Street to the more prestigious Virginia Street to the east. Not mentioned is the fact that the Sioux City Tool Company had owned and occupied the very same building or that both Jacobsen and Albertson had worked for that company. The recounting of humble ("small shop") aspirations is belied by the fact that the predecessor firm had produced similarly complex products including spark plugs. The company would continue to operate in the city until 2001 when Snap-On Tools relocated it to North Carolina to a non-union shop (*Sioux City Tribune*, March 28, 1940; [http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/snap-on-refuses-to-keep-sioux-tools-plant-open/article\\_66853ba9-528a-5958-9e9b-f921bfb264ed.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/snap-on-refuses-to-keep-sioux-tools-plant-open/article_66853ba9-528a-5958-9e9b-f921bfb264ed.html)).

#### The Interim Years, 1921-42:

The building use for the next 15 years is a challenge to document. The 1924 Sanborn Map identifies the use at that time as a warehouse and shop for the Sioux City Gas and Electric Company. That company's power plants were just two blocks due east and thus convenient. Given that a use of this nature entailed no public use this address fails to appear under the company's listing in city directories. It is possible that the power company succeeded Albertson and Company and continued for some time. The absence of any additions during these years argues for a passive use. Another candidate is the Sioux City Crockery Company, property owner as of August 1922. The Western Milling Company occupied the building from 1937

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until 1940 but left no obvious imprint in terms of machinery mounts or chutes. Most probably it was simply used for warehousing.



Figure 12: Aerial photo looking northwest, ca. 1940  
(Sioux City Public Museum, SC04.CV.Aerial View.Downtown.41)

Rocklin Manufacturing Company, 1942 to present:

The Rocklin family is entering into its third generation in the management of this noted Sioux City firm. The notable early family business was the Rocklin-Lehman Flower Company which claimed to have the second largest greenhouse complex west of the Mississippi as of the World War I years. Isadore J. "Rocky" Rocklin (1908-1993), son of floral partner Michael E. Rocklin (1881-1976), wasn't destined for the floral trade however. An abandoned and converted basement coal cellar got Rocky into the ham radio craze and that got him to graduate from the University of Iowa with a mechanical engineering degree in 1930. With the world as their potential oyster, the ten program graduates set off and each and every one proceeded to experience the vicissitudes of the worsening Great Depression. Theirs was such a uniformly unpleasant and unstable existence that they formed a letter writing support group that included their former dean and titled it "The Mechanical Bull Session." Rocky's letters trace his developing career such as it was. He started out as an "Engineer of Manufacturing" for the Western Electric Company in Chicago where he was overseeing communications related systems. A work force reduction transferred him to the Grigsby-Grunow Company, producers of Majestic Radios. He quit on his own this time after a short stint. He stayed with radios, switching to the Jensen Radio Manufacturing Company, still in Chicago. There he worked with wage incentive, plant layouts and cost accounting matters. Turned out with plunging sales he briefly set up his own shop titled Rocklin Industrial Engineering Company, Consulting. His entrepreneurial baptism showed promise but income was lacking. A final stint selling air conditioning units and furnaces for the Holland Furnace Company in Joliet, Illinois was the final effort. He did file his first patent while there. Back home in Sioux City by the end of 1932 he took a multi-faceted position with the Sioux City Foundry and Boiler Company. It produced the Norfolk brand of automatic gas furnaces that would later turn up in the newly occupied subject factory building. It seems the very broad range of experience he now gained in jobbing, casting, sales and dealer recruiting combined to produce the skill set that he would apply with his new company. He remained with the same employer until December 1936, having somehow found a way to work four months at the Rock Island Federal Arsenal where he learned about Federal contracting ("The Mechanical Bull Sessions," letters from I. J. Rocklin, January 2, 1931-May 17, 1938; *Sioux City Journal*, September 16, 2001).

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Rocklin's first independent manufacturing effort involved manufacturing a self-designed coal stoker, an ice-block based portable room cooling unit primarily for hotel room use, a tractor log saw that was powered by a tractor power take-off. During 1936 he used the Kari-Keen plant in Sioux City and in 1937 he used the Wind-Power Manufacturing Company in Newton, Iowa and then Fremont, Nebraska. The last-named product was marketed under the trade name of the Tractor-Saw Company. The cooler and particularly the saw continued in production as of early 1939 and he was employing people at both sites and shipped saws as far away as New Zealand (ibid., letters dated May 17, 1938-March 1, 1939).

As of 1941 Rocklin's company was situated at 2700 Hawkeye Drive and a year later, the firm was finally ensconced in the subject factory, then addressed as 912 First Street. The initial product range reflected a design and product interest in improved efficiency and safety on the farm. New products included a water level regulator for stock tanks, pump jacks, corn pickers, hydraulic pumps, farm wagon box hardware kits, tractor blades, power drive accessories, self-propelled and tractor-powered saws and mowers and a broad range of other disc and tillage tools and tractor attachments (Typed manuscript, Rocklin Mural, 2005).

Rocklin Manufacturing Company responded to a considerably more substantial range of products with the onset of the national preparation for war and the onset of World War II. It is presumed that the war's onset resulted in war production contracts and that the need for additional production space necessitated the company's relocation to the subject factory building in 1942. Expertise in this line, in the form of truck and tracked vehicle shock absorbers, was acquired in producing these for Chrysler Corporation, International Harvester Company, and the Allis Chalmers Company as a sub-contractor, and generally supplying both the Chicago Ordnance District, the Detroit Arsenal (tank supports and idlers), and the Tank Automotive Center, also in Detroit. The M-4, M-7, M-47, M-48 tanks, M-10 Gun Carriage, M-7 Prime Mover, the M-4 18-ton Medium Speed Prime Mover all used these products. The aircraft equivalent went to John Deere and Company for Grumman Hellcat aircraft landing gears. Postwar Rocklin would play a key role in providing spring and shock mounts for the national missile defense system (Typed MS, "ONE OF OUR SPECIAL CAPABILITIES," undated but ca. early 1960s).

The most concise summation of the company's war work is the address made by Major Gordon C. Fowler, Chief of the Quad Cities Office, Chicago Ordnance District, Seventh Service Command, presented the Ordnance banner to the company on April 16, 1944. Major Fowler stated as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, you are being honored today for an outstanding contribution to the nation's war effort by the award of the Army Ordnance flag. You men and women of the Rocklin Manufacturing Co. have clearly demonstrated that you merit this production award, and it is a privilege for me to be here as a representative of the Chicago Post of the Army Ordnance Association to make this presentation.

Your company has been engaged in war work since 1941. During that year you stopped the production of your saws, pump jacks and other commercial products, and devoted the entire capacity of your plant to the manufacture of parts for the medium tank transmission being built by the Iowa Transmission Company.

We need only to remember that the Germans were driven out of Africa because we and our British Allies had an overwhelming number of those tanks. To realize the importance of the work which you have done since that time, you have accepted subcontracts for many other important Ordnance Items -- not the least of which the high speed tractor being built by Allis Chalmers. These tractors are used by the Field Artillery to tow heavy guns and place them in position for firing. These guns are assuming more and more importance as the war progresses and the demand for the tractors is very great.

All these tractors are being manufactured by only a very few companies, the parts on which you are working on are very essential. You are now tooling up for the production of axle parts

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for the huge 1944 Heavy Truck Program, and I have no doubt that your performance on this work will at least equal that on your previous contracts.

Practically all of the Ordnance work that you have done has been on critical items. This may be because your customers know that you will come through on the tough ones. Whatever the reason, it has meant long hours and hard work for all of you. You are a small company, your factory is not modern, your machine tools and equipment are very old, and you are in a city far removed from the sources of supply of perishable tools, repair parts and necessary supplies. Yet you are able to work to very close limits. You do this by maintaining your tools in good condition and by designing and building special fixtures for holding the work. You are using machine tools for purposes the machine builder never even thought of. The results that you obtain would not be possible were it not for the careful intelligent work of your machine tool operators and maintenance people.

You are unusually well known for a company of your size and you have established an enviable reputation in the Ordnance Department and among Ordnance contractors. You have already done a great deal to help win this war but must continue to do this job day after day if final victory is to be established.

Today I wish to express to you the heartfelt thanks of the Army for the job which you have already done. The flag which I will present to you is a symbol of that gratitude, and as it flies over your plant you may well be proud of the part that you are playing as a part of our great production army. Mr. Rocklin, in behalf of Brigadier General Thomas S. Hammond, Chief of Chicago Ordnance District, I now present to you, in the name of the Chicago Post of the Army Ordnance Association, the Ordnance banner.

This citation nicely addresses how the company switched to Ordnance work prior to America's entry into World War II after the Pearl Harbor attack. There was critical pre-war defense preparation on the part of the nation and the Rocklin Company was a full-time participant. Again, it was certainly the rapid ramping up in workforce and production that necessitated relocating to S. Jennings Street (Typed MS, On The Occasion of Our Army Ordnance Award On April 16, 1944, Quotations From Following Talks Refer To The Activities Of Our Company").



Figure 13: March 1944, view southwest  
(Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

Figure 14 shows the newly received Ordnance award banner hoisted on an ersatz flagpole. The several bicycles reflect how some workers got to work. They may also be messenger bikes for young lads who would perform deliveries and so on. The two east wall chimneys retain their full height and the north one

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sports a lightning rod. What appears to be a security bar across the north end shipping door hints that it is not in use. The enclosed loading dock, visible in Figure 18, is likely just out of view to the west.



Figure 14: July 1944, view southwest, note the added rooftop flagpole at left  
(Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

Figure 14 shows the plant from an elevated perspective just after a rainstorm. Note the enclosed shipping dock behind the boxcar. Note further that no shipping dock appears to service the railroad spur. The existing flagpole is by this time atop the main factory. South Jennings Street runs just beyond the tree. The factory yard to the west is loosely fenced off for war production security. A substantial electronic set of transformers is just visible behind and to the right of the main factory building. This image also shows that the roof had an asphalt roll roofing as a covering.

One notable event that transpired in mid-1944 was the somewhat belated purchase of the factory property from Sioux City Crockery Company, on June 21, 1944. The irony of full paychecks during the home front wartime production was that workers and their employers were earning money hand over fist but with rationing there wasn't much that could be purchased. The company at least was able to use some of its proceeds to stop paying rent (Woodbury County Transfer Books).

One wartime provision that explains perhaps the construction of the initial addition and then its replacement and expansion was the issuance of "certificates of necessity" by the government for war production facility expansion. At first these certificates allowed contractors to amortize 100 percent of construction cost against war profits. By 1943 this percentage had dropped to just 35 percent. This is not to suggest that the expansions were not necessary on the part of Rocklin but there was a financial incentive to do so, and the certificates gave access to restricted building materials (Brandes, p. 263).

Today America's industrial contribution to the war effort is largely remembered as entailing cost plus contracts and huge profits. In fact the experience of World War I and Senator later President Harry Truman's proven penchant for preventing waste and profiteering, meant that every contract made with a company that was earning more than \$100,000 in government contracts annually was subject to a future renegotiation of the

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issued contract. As early as 1942 the Senate had rejected a profit cap on all war contracts at six percent. A Price Adjustment Board was created to conduct these renegotiations under the legitimate assumption that the cost of producing an item decreased over time by virtue of cost-cutting measures and other factors. I. J. Rocklin was familiar with federal contracting and provided a cushion for his own company's renegotiation trauma. He saved his bounty, invested in short-term bonds and when he was required to pay the government back, his company survived while many others were ruined (Stuart D. Brandes, Warhogs: A History of War Profits in America, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2000, p. 263; Brigadier General Albert J. Browning, "Price Control in War Production. Cornell Law Quarterly, Vol. 29, November 1943, pp. 149-175; interview with James Rocklin, October 4, 2016).

Company employment appears to have peaked around 250, a number that reflected a triple-shift around the clock production schedule (although it was reported that 400 employees attended the Ordnance Department flag presentation, see below). James Rocklin estimates a peak employment of 150-200. Given the close crowding of machinery and a rather more innocent standard for industrial safety at the time, it is no wonder that two workers lost their lives at the factory during the war and doubtless there were any number of injuries ranging from the serious to the minor. The first fatality was 52-year old George Hossack, a machinist who died of a heart attack at his work post during an evening work shift in late 1943. Young Victor Harvey, variously reported as aged 15 or 16 suffered fatal burns when his apron caught fire in December 1944. A lengthy court battle ensued involving a loss of support claim by the parents of Victor. The State Industrial Commission awarded damages but an appeal was filed with the Iowa Supreme Court by the company and its insurer, with undetermined results (LeMars Semi Weekly, November 5, 1943; Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, December 21, 1944; Council Bluffs Nonpariel, July 5, 1945; Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, April 25, 1946; Interview with James Rocklin, October 4, 2016).

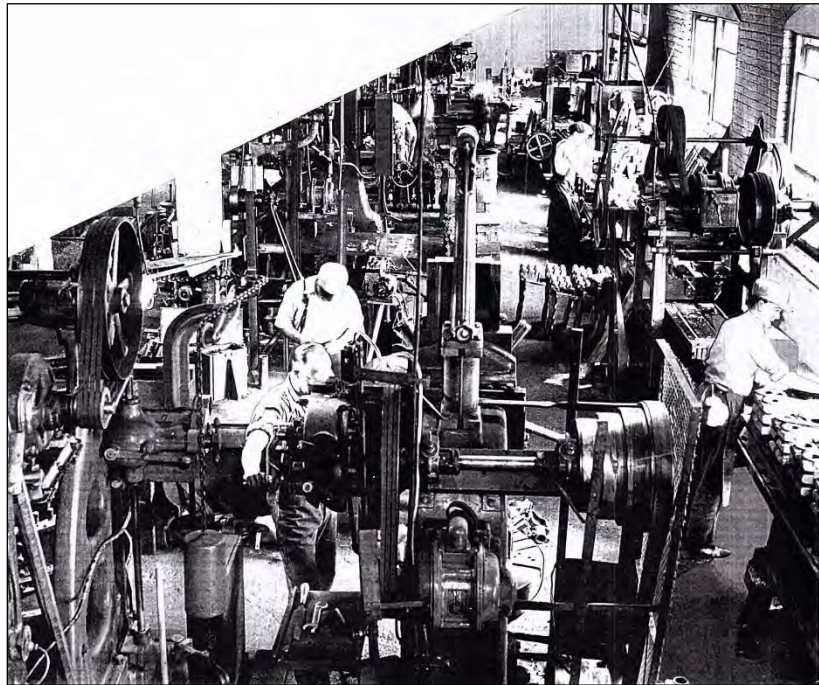


Figure 15: Overview in factory building, first floor, east sidewall, looking north, ca. 1944 (Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

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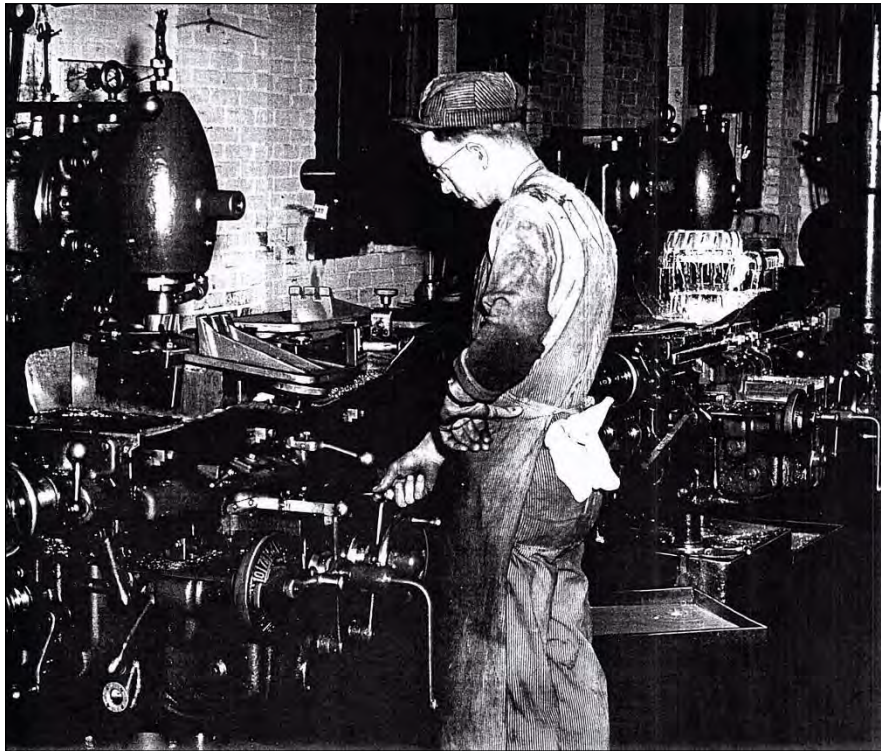


Figure 16: Overview in factory building, first floor, west sidewall, looking north, ca. 1944 (Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)



Figure 17: Likely looking across the north end of the east workroom, looking northwest, ca. 1944 (Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

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Figure 18: Older worker, looking east across alley, ca. 1944  
(Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)



Figure 19: Looking along the east wall in main factory-note the blackout curtains,  
ca. 1944 (Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)



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Ordnance Department Banner Award, June 1944:

I. J. Rocklin was formally notified in March 1944 that his company and workers would receive the honorary banner "for outstanding contributions in the field of ordnance production." Rocklin was authorized to fly the banner over the plant, an indication that the flag arrived at that time and would be formally presented later that year (Letter, George B. Vidal, Army Ordnance Association, Chicago to I. J. Rocklin, March 20, 1944).



Figures 20-22: Left: Presentation of the Ordnance Flag, June 16, 1944; Right: Framed flag on display left to right, Major Fowler, Glenn Hacker (representing the employees), Joseph Kanaley and I. J. Rocklin (Courtesy of James M. Rocklin; flag photo J. Jacobsen, 2018)

Forty-six special guests included Governor Bourke B. Hickenlooper and city mayor Forrest M. Olson. J. E. Kanaley served as master of ceremonies but was Chief of the Tank and Automotive Center of the Chicago Ordnance District. The local American Legion provided the band and the local army air base the color guard. The audience included 400 employees who received certificates and ordnance pins from I. J. Rocklin with 300 other attendees being present at the Hotel Martin ballroom (*Sioux City Journal*, June 17, 1944).

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Figure 23: Presentation of the Ordnance pin and flag, June 16, 1944  
I. J. Rocklin (left), Major Gordon C. Fowler (right)  
(Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

Figure 24 notes that the company was one out of 17 firms that were selected to take on a "special ordnance assignment" out of 2,200 applicants. The nature of the work is not determined but the company is also known to have produced tank escape hatches and tank running gear and "bogeys" the suspension wheel sets that supported tank or vehicle treads between the end drive wheels. At the time of its being awarded, Rocklin was one of 13 war production firms that had received the Ordnance banner in recognition of its distinguished and meritorious production record.

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*to the Men and Women of the*

# **ROCKLIN**

**MANUFACTURING CO.**

## *What the Army Ordnance Award Represents*

Approximately eighteen months ago the Chicago Ordnance District comprising the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Iowa, initiated a program of presenting the "Flaming Bomb" Ordnance banner to those companies that were doing an outstanding job in the production of Ordnance materiel. It is a reward of merit for distinguished service beyond the normal conception of duty on the Production Front.

Approximately 100 of these awards have been made to date. The Rocklin Manufacturing Company is the sixth institution in the State of Iowa to be so honored.

### **TEN YEARS OF PROGRESS**


The Rocklin Manufacturing Company was founded in Sioux City just ten years ago with local capital, management, and labor exclusively. Progress has been consistent, until at the present time the company employs nearly one hundred people in its large modern-ly equipped factory who are working twenty-four hours a day solely on the war effort.

### **WARTIME PRODUCERS**

As a producer of vital airplane parts and transmission parts for such essential military vehicles as the M4 medium tank, the M10 gun motor carriage, and the M4 and the M7 prime movers, the Rocklin Manufacturing Company has established a reputation for consistently meeting delivery schedules. The high quality of Rocklin workmanship has recently been recognized by the Ordnance Department in selecting this company as one of seventeen out of twenty-two hundred applicants for a special ordnance assignment.

### **PEACETIME MANUFACTURERS**

Right now we are "working for Victory" but "planning for Peace" . . . planning an expanded line of improved farm machinery specialties that will successfully amplify the already well-known **ROCKLIN TRACTORSAW** and the **REA PUMP JACK**.

<p>TUNE IN KTRI 8:30 P. M. TONIGHT</p>		<p>TUNE IN KTRI 9:30 P. M. TONIGHT</p>
--	--	--

**Factory — Grand Ave. at Jennings Street — Sioux City, Iowa**

Figure 24: Wartime Rocklin advertisement  
(Sioux City Journal, June 1944)

#### Postwar Rocklin Manufacturing Company History, 1946-1968:

This section summarizes the building and Rocklin history that post-dates the period of significance. The company returned immediately to producing many of the varied products that had been offered before the war. Unlike the heavy machinery plants, this transition at a smaller scale could be done with minimal equipment retooling. There were two types of products, those that went without much fanfare to the major farm machinery producers in the form of small parts, and then those labor-saving tools that went with the

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Rocklin brand to farms and homes. Here again, I. J. Rocklin was in his element as an inventor.

We made more tractor blades, mounted scrapers and blades in one year than the rest of the field combined. We made 24,000 of them in 1952 and we've led the field ever since.

I. J. Rocklin, *Des Moines Register*, January 6, 1953

By 1953 the company had established a growing market and was continuing to expand and had a substantial sustained reputation and market. The factory machinery was insured at \$300,000 and the plant for an additional \$250,000. Employment was at 150, a number that could fluctuate extensively depending on which products (there were 22 distinct offerings) were in active production. Top-sellers were a tractor-powered log saw, wagon unloaders, an elevator, universal joints for tractors, a rotary blade lawnmower (that could double as a moveable power source for sprayers and trimmers) and metal kits for do-it-yourself types. Rocklin was quoted as saying "We want to make things which will encourage people to do more things themselves. Not only will we sell more this way but people are happier when they are making things themselves." One other similar product was the metal fittings for building a farm wagon. Brother H. B. Rocklin came on as general manager but I. J. never lost a direct involvement in all that was happening on the production floor (*Des Moines Register*, ca.1953).



Figures 25-26: Detail, 1948 Sanborn Map (left) and colored original updated to April 1949 at right

Figures 25-26 shows the factory complex at left of center. The addition comprises as many as seven sub-areas including a paint and coating shed along the south side. The factory building is termed a machine shop. Figure 26 shows several removed additions.

Floods were a constant threat to this part of the city given the proximity and juxtaposition of the Floyd and Missouri rivers. The former had a large drainage basis and heavy rains well north of the city could send a flood tide through the lower parts of the city. This happened on May 18, 1890, certainly covering this block. Floods returned in mid-September 1926 with undermined impact on the subject property. The 1952 floods were the worst, with Floyd River waters topping out at the end of March with the highest crest in 15 years, but

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the Missouri delivered a record crest of 24.3 feet over levees that offered safety only to 19.4 feet. Finally on June 8, 1953 another Floyd River "tsunami" struck an unprepared city in the early morning. James Rocklin recalls two or three feet of water throughout the office and addition. Figure 27 depicts the lesser 1953 flood (<http://www.siouxcityhistory.org/disasters/96-floyd-river-flood-1953>).



Figure 27: The flooded factory in 1953, looking north from the Missouri River in aerial view (Sioux City Public Museum, SC04.FL.Floyd.1953.072)

**Rocklin Metal Master BAND SAW**

**SAWS**  
HORIZONTALLY  
For cut-off sawing and mitering

**SAWS**  
VERTICALLY  
Cuts bevels, notches, angles, slots and contour work.

**Features of Expensive Saws AT LOW COST**

- A "must" for the Small Shop—On-the-job-Site—or Hobbyist!
- Lightweight, yet sturdy construction makes METAL MASTER easily portable
- BALANCED—Spring loaded for proper sawing
- AUTOMATIC—Adjustable position switch cuts off motor when cut is finished
- WIDE—Angles for mitering—adjustable for multiple positions
- EASY GRIP handles for secure tightening

Exclusive CARBIDE BICOID BEARING BLADE GUIDES

**The fast economical way to saw STEEL — IRON — ALUMINUM — BRASS**

**STRUCTURAL SHAPES — PIPE — TUBING**

METAL MASTER is designed for the small shop that needs a metal cutting saw of a price everyone can afford—ideal for on-the-job operation because of its portability—long workability and durability—an extra production saw for larger plants. Sturdily built with unusual precision, METAL MASTER saves time, produces more accurate cuts, and requires less attention because of its automatic shut-off feature.

World's Largest Multiple Purpose Sewing Machine Manufacturers. ROCKLIN SAWS are Operating Satisfactorily Throughout the World Since 1921.

**ROCKLIN MANUFACTURING CO.** 110 ST. JENNINGS, SIOUX CITY 2, IOWA

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
 CAPACITY—can 3/4" x 1" Flat, 1/2" Dia. Shaft, 1/2" Dia. x 1/4" Angles, Channels, Pipe, Tubes, Square, Round.  
 MOTOR—1/2 HP, 110 Volts, 60 Cycle, 1 Phase A. C.  
 BLADE—10" Standard Blade (the available one depth here) 1/8" Thick, 17" x 1/8" Wide  
 DIMENSIONS—48" x 30" x 41" high  
 SHIPPING WEIGHT—45 lbs.

**Rocklin Universal TRACTORSAW**

No Heavy Lifting  
 No Tree Splitting  
 No Dynamiting  
 Cuts Logs on the Ground  
**FEET**  
 cuts thru 5 foot log in 5 minutes

Method of mounting, and the use of ROCKLIN UNIVERSAL TRACTORSAW with I. H. FARMALL TRACTORS HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO.

**For I. H. FARMALL Tractors!**

**Easily Carried TO THE JOB!**  
 TRACTORSAW is set wherever the tractor goes. Koolster motor by Inlander supports the blade safely and at the way while in transit.

**WITHOUT SPECIAL FITTINGS OR EXTRA EXPENSE**  
 Quickly attached to I. H. FARMALL TRACTORS (Saper A, Saper C, II, and M) by merely adjusting one or two bolts of the tractor draw bar. You can rent out the TRACTORSAW or sell it to your neighbors after you have cut your logs—there's no other saw like it!

**Features**

- PATENTED ROCKNERC provides perfect rocking motion that cleans out wood and chaps teeth and assures fast clean-cutting action on both the "right" and "left" sides.
- HEAVY CRANK ARM is tough steel iron and counter balanced to give you smooth, 18" cut on every stroke.
- HEAVY BEARINGS AND CHAIN hold saw firmly in Tractor and provide plenty of rigidity for fast cutting at top speed.
- GREASE FITTINGS are easily lubricated through Zerk Fittings on Universal Joint. Bearings and other parts affected by wear.
- SPECIAL DRAGGAW BLADE made from High Alloy Steel with sharp teeth and the fast cutting and special raker teeth to clear sawdust. Normally furnished in 12" Blade but 6" and 9" blades are available.
- SAFETY SLIP CLUTCH saves both the saw blade and the Tractor PTO by disengaging saw if blade should pinch or bind in the log.
- EXCLUSIVE LOG HOLDER holds logs firmly in place and serves as Blade Support when saw is in transport position as illustrated.
- ADJUSTABLE SAW HEAD can be regulated in any log size.

Made by the world's largest manufacturer of tractor-driven Log Saws—over 15 years' successful experience. Patented and Patent Pending. Trademark Registered, U. S. Pat. Off.

**ROCKLIN MANUFACTURING CO.** GRAND AVENUE AT JENNINGS ST. SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Figures 28-29: Rocklin Metal Master Band Saw, Rocklin Universal Tractorsaw (Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

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Figure 30: ca. 1965 aerial view looking northwest  
(Sioux City Public Museum, SC04.CV.Aerial View.Downtown.09, cropped)

**Rocklin** HELPS LAUNCH THE **TITAN ICBM MISSILES!**

**SHOCK MOUNTS and STANDARD SUSPENSION UNITS** *Precision Manufactured by Rocklin*

For: KAISER ENGINEERS  
Raymond International, Inc.  
Macco Corp.  
Puget Sound Bridge & Drydock Co.  
a Joint Venture Project

At: The Mountain Home  
Air Force Base  
Mountain Home, Idaho  
Installation for the  
Corps of Engineers

This large underground Missile Launching Unit is completely dependent upon the Shock Mounts and Standard Suspension Units manufactured by Rocklin. We were privileged to supply the large vertical floor suspension shock mounts and the heavy duty horizontal shock mount units which control the vibration of this vital heavy structural installation. The Rocklin Manufacturing Company is exceedingly proud to have been "Approved" as an acceptable source for this important manufacture by the United States Corps of Engineers.

**Rocklin** **ENGINEERS - MANUFACTURERS**

The same careful precision techniques utilized in producing components for the ICBM Missile Launching Units can be applied to your product requirements at Rocklin. Call—write—wire, giving us your specifications and delivery dates. We promise you speedy attractive quotations, qualified engineering and design assistance, and fast quality production.

- ESTIMATING
- DESIGNING & ENGINEERING
- MANUFACTURING

*A Most Dependable Service!* **Rocklin MANUFACTURING CO.** 110 SO. JENNINGS, SIOUX CITY 2, IOWA

Figure 31: Titan ICBM Missile shock mounts, early 1960's  
(Courtesy of James M. Rocklin)

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

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Other period products included a tractor carrier for Farmall and International Harvester tractor makes that converted as a tractor tow; the Rocklin Super Metal Master band saw; a speed jack for belt powered transfers that could run off a tractor or use an attached gas or electric motor; a one-man portable saw; the Rocklin Shred-Mowbile that hooked to a tractor and power transfer for cutting stalks or shredding; the Rocklin Cordwood Tractor saw that could be raised up using a power lift for mobility; the Rocklin Weed Cutter-Saw that could be converted into a buzz saw; the Rocklin Vee-Type Snow Plow, a larger version of the blade plow and with hydraulic lift; the Rocklin Tractor Crane for a three-point hitch; the Rocklin electric pump jack for maintaining stock tank water levels automatically; "Roxy" the single-wheel combination grill, hose reel, wheelbarrow and party tray carrier; the lightweight "Roxy" plastic hose reel; the Rocklin Safety Throttle Control for Farmall tractor; and the Sue Bee Honey Comb Uncapper. The stock tank float control was self-powered and played a critical role prior to farms getting electrical power. The honey comb uncapper automated honey production. By this time some of these products were advertised using a "Grand Avenue at S. Jennings" address reference for the plat. Otherwise 110 S. Jennings was used (Advertisement copies provided by James Rocklin; *Sioux City Journal*, June 5, 1988).



Figure 32: 1968 photo looking southwest, with the east end of the loading dock visible to the right/west (Sioux City Public Museum, SC04.CV.OldTown.Gordon.Dr.004)

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

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Figures 33-34: Left: looking southwest along the alley: Right; looking northwest along the alley, 1968 (Sioux City Public Museum, SC04.CV.OldTown.Gordon.Dr.006)

James Rocklin recalls that the company ceased machine production on a broad scale during the mid-1960s and this transition coincides conveniently with the 50-year National Register test for historical significance. It does seem that the company did continue to produce a range of products and that the workforce varied from 50 to 200 based on what was under production. One new product, not developed in-house was a four-person trailer camper that could be largely folded down and reduced in size. In late 1964 the Wincharger Corporation was apparently in discussion relative to occupying some of the plant. At any rate the plant's heavy equipment remained in place until 1994, a year after the death of the company's founder. I. J. Rocklin noted in 1965 that the company's mission had changed, noting:

Now the plant's main business is producing a compact line of tools and techniques for industries interested in cutting production cost. It also builds parts for about 12 per cent of [the] nation's largest defense contractors...Our success comes from experience based on old techniques and modern approaches. We can do things faster, better and less expensively

One key measure of the new lines of products was the shock absorbers for Titan missiles (Interview, James Rocklin).

The barely visible store building in Figures 26, 33-34 was built by the Rocklin Company as a leased property in 1954. It lost its south 8-10 feet with the widening of Grand Avenue and it is non-extant. At any rate it played no production or other role for the company, apart from its open site having been used for storage. Note the paint shop running along the southwest side of the factory addition, now non-extant. The welding shop visible on the northwest corner of the block is also non-extant. This is a pre-1968 image given that the east chimneys of the factory remain in place in this image.



Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

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Figure 35: Overview looking southeast, 1968  
(Sioux City Public Museum, SC04.CV.OldTown.Jennings St.001)

#### Rocklin Manufacturing Company, 1966-Present:

Today the company occupies an international marketing niche that it shares through a masterful sharing of sales and promotional assets with a range of European companies that make comparable products. A subsidiary Equipment Sales Company "distribute[s] high-quality, internationally manufactured products throughout North America." The company's products are similarly made available in the European market and the cooperating companies share training and trade show promotions. This latest phase of company history, now represented by a considerably reduced production and support workforce. Still the company retains an "industrial family" sense of stewardship that entails full benefits, good pay and a record of employee retention that exists only in a few other industrial operations (<http://rocklinmanufacturingco.com/blog/2016/9/1>).

The Rocklinizer started this evolution. Developed by 1965 it involved a hand-held electrical gun that coated metal cutting edges with either a tungsten or titanium carbide coating. This surface extended tool life by 200 to 500 percent. Recall Rocklin's statement that the new company mission was helping factories reduce production costs. There was next the Rocklin Electronic Router which could be mounted on a drill press or a Rocklinizer. It could cut holes in virtually any shape in virtually any material using a "vibrating sparking electrode." There was also the Electronic Discharge Machine that superseded the router. Today's product line includes the Rocklinizer, the Flymarker and the MoldMender. The second marks any product ranging from plastic to hardened steel with any type of an identification or other necessary inscription. The last named is a micro-welder that repairs plastic molds or die cast steel dies (*Sioux City Journal*, August 28, 2014).

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

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Figure 36: I. J. Rocklin demonstrating the original Rocklinizing unit  
(*Sioux City Journal*, June 17, 1965)

I. J. Rocklin was a proponent for recruiting and mentoring future engineers into the profession. He was a founding member of the Sioux Valley Chapter of the American Society of Engineers and served as its first president. The chapter covered parts of four states. The Rocklin family was also a leading supporter of Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC). Almost every recent Rocklin Manufacturing Company employee has been encouraged and assisted in obtaining career-advancing training there. I. J. Rocklin remained actively involved with his company right up until his death in 1993. Beginning in 1976 his son James Mark Rocklin took on the active management of the company, serving as company president over the next four decades until his death in 2017. Now grandson Ross Rocklin has stepped in as the third-generation company head (interview, James and Ross Rocklin, October 24, 2016; *Sioux City Journal*, August 28, 2014).

#### The 2005 Mural:

The Rocklin Manufacturing Company commissioned two local artists, Mark Kochen and Paul Chelstand, to design and paint a full-height mural on the south end of the 1912 factory building. The "three-story" artwork overlays a collage of World War II era interior factory scenes on as many factory levels. I. J. Rocklin is presented as the mural's host on the second level, welcoming the passing public to celebrate the wartime role played by his company and acknowledging the role played by female workers alongside their male co-workers. The uppermost level of the mural cleverly incorporates two attic level windows into the overall design. The company's numerous wartime production photos made the work possible and the mural as a whole was dedicated to the company founder. The mural is to be updated incorporating the late James Rocklin into the image ([http://siouxcityjournal.com/lifestyles/mural-pays-tribute-to-manufacturing-heritage/article\\_9fc098ff-9b9c-5d3d-a5ce-5c63b0d6c722.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/lifestyles/mural-pays-tribute-to-manufacturing-heritage/article_9fc098ff-9b9c-5d3d-a5ce-5c63b0d6c722.html); *Injection Molding*, March 2006, p. 94).

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

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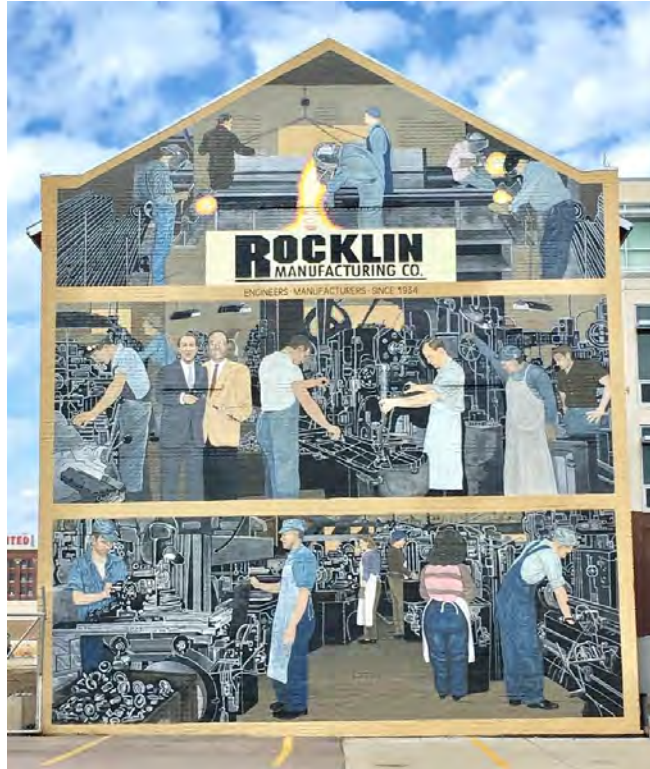


Figure 37: The restored and updated south wall mural, looking north  
(Courtesy of Ross Rocklin, September 19, 2018)



Figure 38: Current building and site appearance, looking northeast  
(photo by Ross Rocklin, January 2019)

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Schmidt, John F. A Historic Profile of Sioux City. Sioux City: Sioux City Stationery Company, 1969

Shank, Wesley I. Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999

Sioux City Building Permits (Sioux City Public Library)

Sioux City Public Museum photo and other collections with special thanks to Tom Munson and Haley Aguirre

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Quarterly Bulletin of the Dental School [Northwestern University], Vol. VI, January 1910, #3

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Picture Tour Through Sioux City: Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 1940

Online Resources:

Sioux City History, Floyd River Flood of 1953: <http://www.siouxcityhistory.org/disasters/96-floyd-river-flood-1953> (accessed October 14, 2016)

Sioux City Journal, Mural Pays Tribute To Manufacturing Heritage, December 3, 2005:  
[http://siouxcityjournal.com/lifestyles/mural-pays-tribute-to-manufacturing-heritage/article\\_9fc098ff-9b9c-5d3d-a5ce-5c63b0d6c722.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/lifestyles/mural-pays-tribute-to-manufacturing-heritage/article_9fc098ff-9b9c-5d3d-a5ce-5c63b0d6c722.html) (accessed October 24, 2016)

Rocklin Manufacturing Company: <http://rocklinmanufacturingco.com/blog/2016/9/1>

Sioux City Journal, Snap-on Refuses to Keep Sioux Tools Plant Open, September 8, 2001

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

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[http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/snap-on-refuses-to-keep-sioux-tools-plant-open/article\\_66853ba9-528a-5958-9e9b-f921bfb264ed.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/snap-on-refuses-to-keep-sioux-tools-plant-open/article_66853ba9-528a-5958-9e9b-f921bfb264ed.html) (accessed October 14, 2016)

Interviews:

James M. Rocklin, October 4, 14, 24, 2016

Ross Rocklin, October 4, 14, 24, 2016

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other

Name of repository: Rocklin Mfg. Company

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 42.490342 96.398634  
Latitude Longitude

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude Longitude

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude Longitude

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude Longitude

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The east 50 feet of lots 7-8 of Block 6 of the Middle Sioux City Addition and Lot 1 of Block 38 in the East Sioux City Addition.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes the factory building and a ten-foot wide concrete patio that runs along its west side. It excludes the majority of the open ground to the west that resulted from the complete removal of the factory addition. The west alley line forms the east boundary while the property line does the same to the north and south.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James E. Jacobsen

date March 29, 2019

organization History Pays

telephone 515-274-3625

street & number 4411 Ingersoll Avenue

email historypays@gmail.com

city or town Des Moines

state IA

zip code 50312

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).
- **Site Plan**

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property:** Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

**City or Vicinity:** Sioux City

**County:** Woodbury **State:** Iowa

**Photographer:** James E. Jacobsen (Ross Rocklin, July 22 photos)

**Date Photographed:** June 29, July 22 (Photos 3, 5, 7, 10, 15-17), 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1: Exterior view, north main façade, looking south
- Photo 2: Exterior view, north main and west secondary façades, looking southeast
- Photo 3: Exterior view, west secondary façade looking southeast
- Photo 4: Exterior view west secondary façade, looking northeast
- Photo 5: Exterior view west secondary façade, south-end door/window, looking northeast
- Photo 6: Exterior view, south wall, mural and east secondary façades, looking northwest
- Photo 7: Exterior view, south wall, mural and east secondary façades, looking northwest
- Photo 8: Exterior view, east secondary façade, looking northwest
- Photo 9: Interior, basement showing foundation details, looking northwest
- Photo 10: Interior, first floor, northwest corner of plan, mounted interior sliding door, looking southeast
- Photo 11: Interior, first floor, open north end of plan, elevated office area to the right, looking northeast
- Photo 12: Interior, first floor, elevated office area to the right, basement stairs, looking northeast
- Photo 13: Interior, second floor, historic door retained, looking southeast
- Photo 14: Interior, first floor, overview of hall, looking south
- Photos 15 and 16: Interior, elevated intermediate office stair landing, left; stairs to second floor, view south; right, reversal of view looking north
- Photos 17 and 18: Interior, elevated first floor office, left safe looking southeast, right; retained hall doors and trim, looking southwest
- Photo 19: Interior, second floor, original office area with historic interior door affixed to the wall, looking northeast
- Photo 20: Interior, second floor, open north end of plan, historic door retained, looking northeast
- Photo 21: Interior, second floor, ceiling framing detail along west wall, looking northwest
- Photo 22: Interior, second floor, column and beam, historic photo on wall opposite elevator, looking northwest
- Photo 23: Interior, second floor, hall overview, looking south
- Photo 24: Interior, second floor, rear conference room, looking east
- Photo 25: Attic overview looking northwest

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

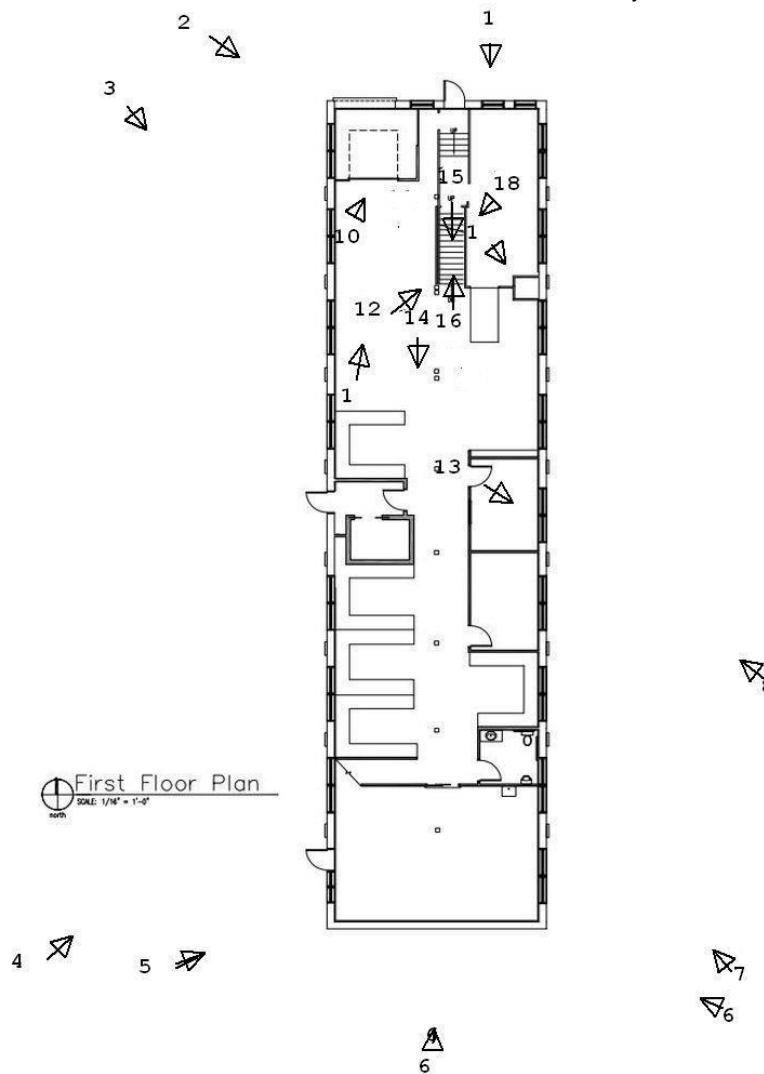


Figure 38: Photo map, exterior and first floor photos

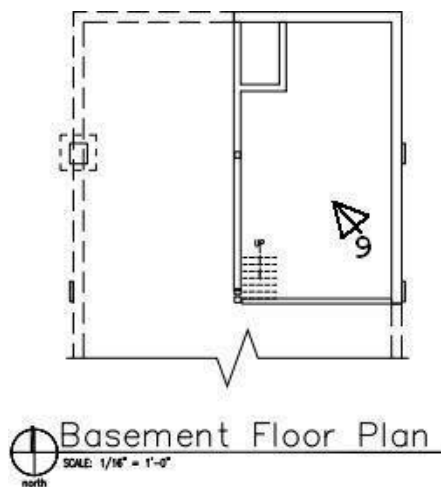


Figure 39: Photo map, basement photo

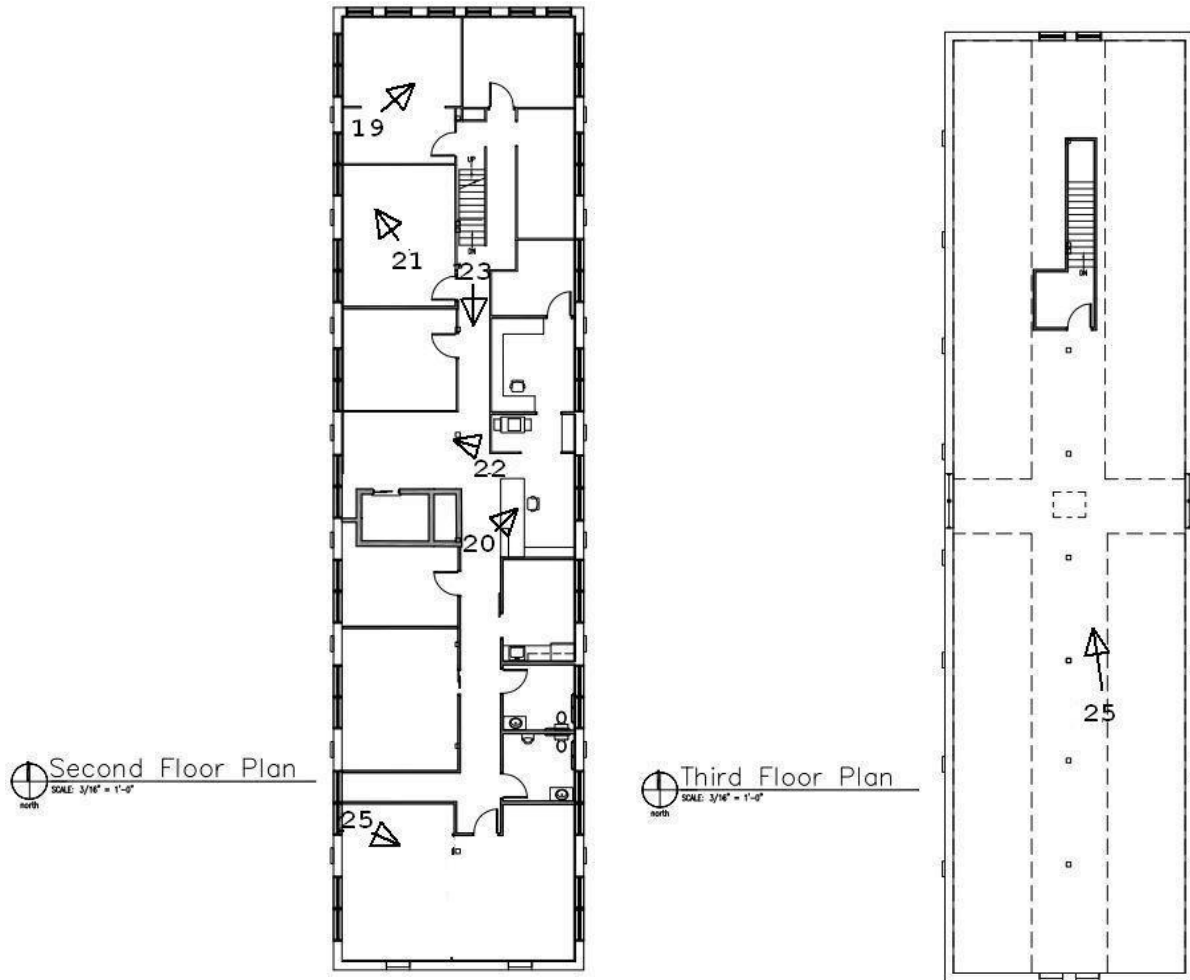


Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figures 40-41: Photo maps, second floor and attic photos

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

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County and State

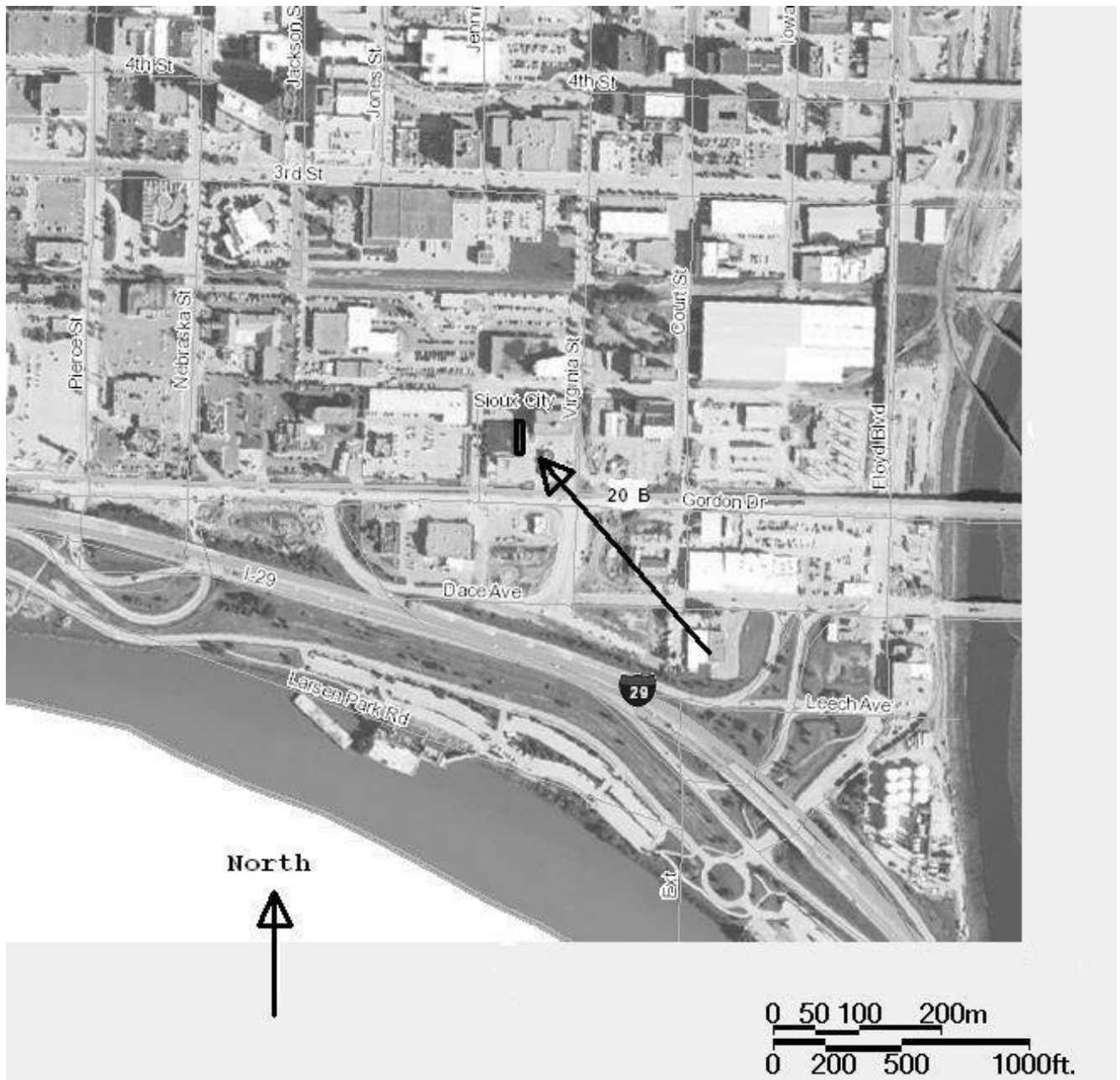


Figure 42: Locational map: Latitude-42.490342 Longitude-96.398634 (Iowa Geographic Map Server, 2018)

Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company

Woodbury County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 43: Site Plan Alternative #2 (Google Earth, 2018)

Figure 38 depicts the block setting of the building. The yellow superimposed rectangle describes the listing boundary. The single-story addition still visible in this image is already removed and all of the addition to the west of the listing boundary are also now non-extant. The south boundary line of the listing corresponds with the building perimeter.

**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 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**ROCKLIN  
MFG. CO.**

LINDBLOM  
SERVICES INC.  
PH. 713-274-2900  
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Construction materials including lumber and plywood stacked on the ground.



ROCKLIN  
MFG. CO.

ROCKLIN  
MFG. CO.



ROCKLIN  
MFG. CO.

BOSCH



ROCKLIN  
MFG. CO.







**ROCKLIN**  
MANUFACTURING CO.  
ENGINEERS · MANUFACTURERS · SINCE 1934



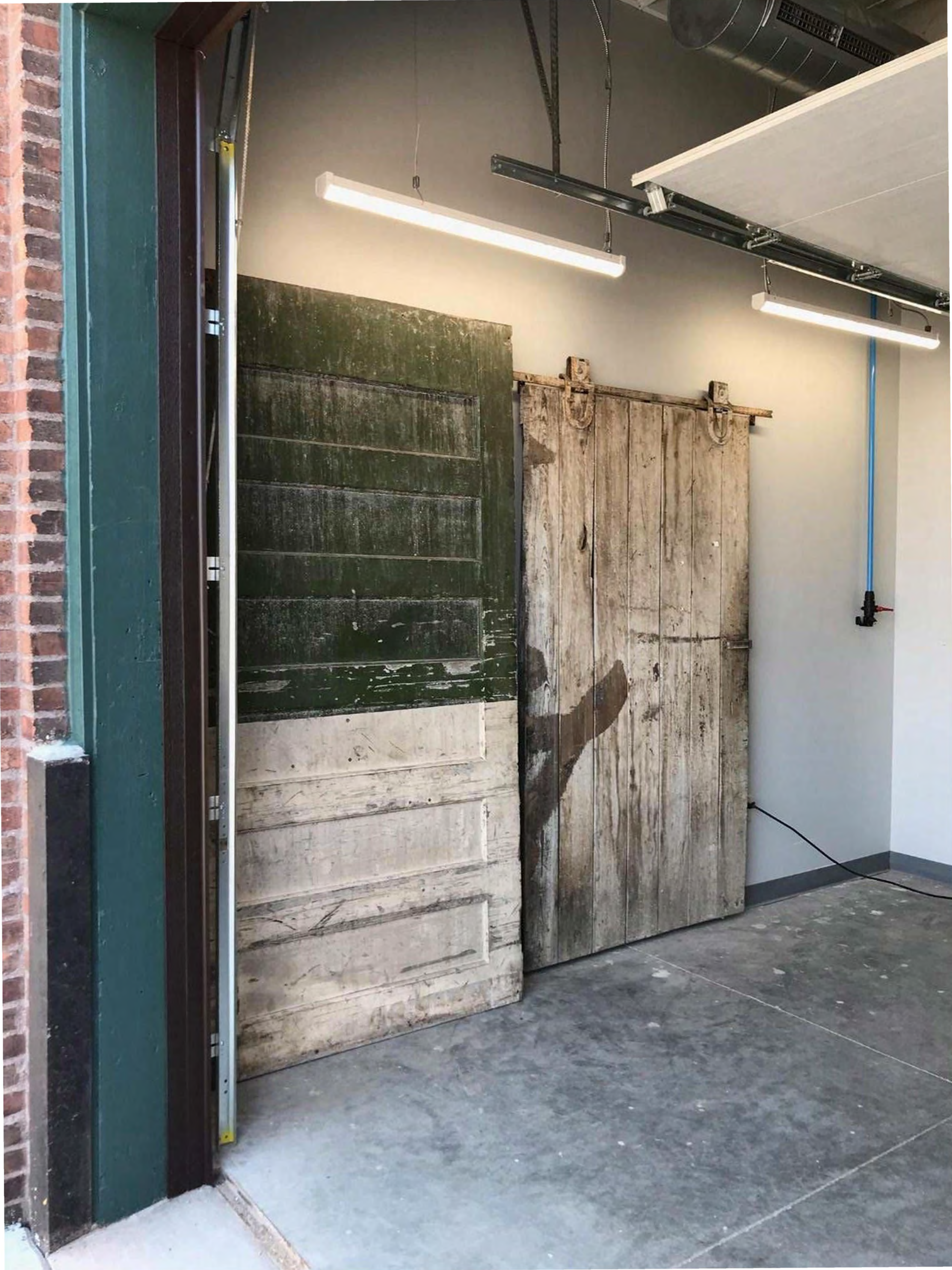
**ROCKLIN  
MFG. CO.**





Arbys Now Hiring

























OFFICE  
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ROCKLIN  
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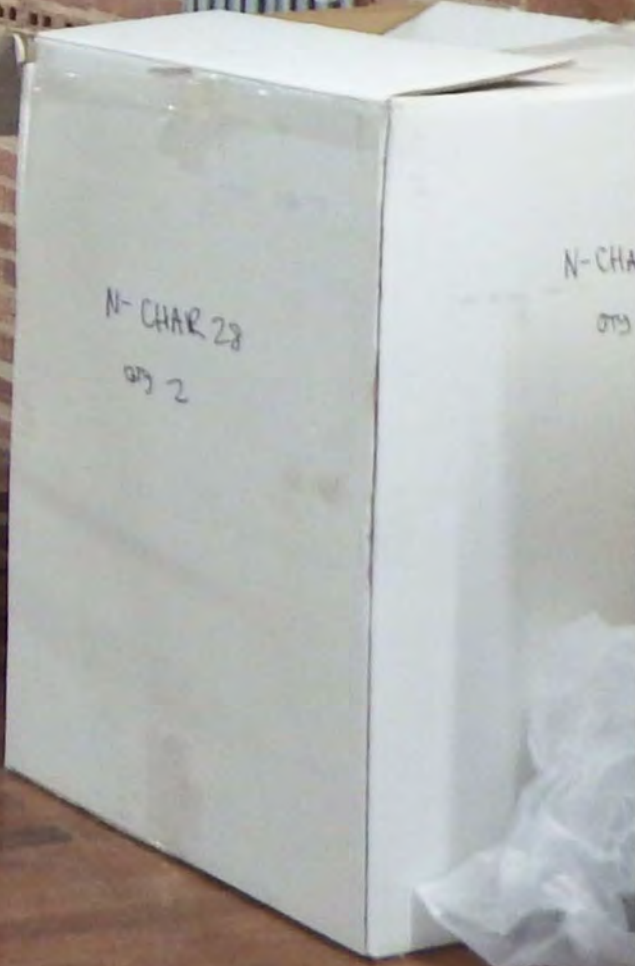














UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination  
Property Name: Albertson and Company--Rocklin Manufacturing Company  
Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
State & County: IOWA, Woodbury

Date Received: 4/3/2019      Date of Pending List: 4/22/2019      Date of 16th Day: 5/7/2019      Date of 45th Day: 5/20/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100003944  
Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept       Return       Reject      5/9/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Albertson and Company--Rocklin Manufacturing Company Building is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Industry. The two-story, brick factory building was built in 1912 and served as home to a host of significant small-scale local manufacturing operations, including two innovative firms (machine shops) directly involved in war-time defense contracting--Albertson & Company and Rocklin Manufacturing.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan      Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229      Date: 5/9/2019

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR  
EDAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL PRODUCE IOWA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

CHRIS KRAMER, DIRECTOR

IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE HISTORIC SITES

STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION

April 1, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms Beasley:

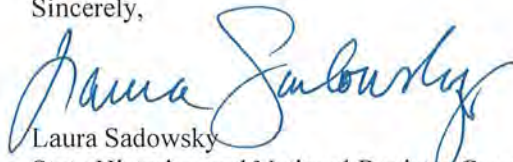
The following National Register nomination(s) from Iowa are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

**Albertson and Company/Rocklin Manufacturing Company**

The Albertson and Company/ Rocklin Manufacturing Company Building is individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level based upon its direct and sustained association with local industry and the role played by that industry in two World Wars-related contracting (Criterion A). It was the birthplace of the Albertson and Company, which became the world's largest producer of portable electronic and air tools. Known as Sioux Tools Inc., a division of Snap-On Tools as of 1993. It held World War I military contracts for the Canadian government early in its history. Additionally, the Rocklin Manufacturing Company, needful of additional room to fill its World War II government contracts, relocated to this building by early 1942 and expanded as a consequence of its war production to become a major producer of a range of small-scale machinery. The building has the particular distinction of having been used in wartime contracting in both World War I and II. The significance period is 1912-1920, and 1942-1945, ending with conclusion of wartime production. Significant dates are 1912, 1915 and 1942. These are the original factory construction, the incorporation of the Albertson and Company firm and the move by Rocklin Manufacturing Company into the subject building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Sadowsky  
State Historian and National Register Coordinator  
State Historical Society of Iowa

Enclosures.