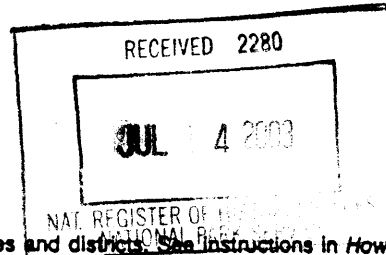


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith & Weller Building
other names/site number Knights of Pythias Hall

2. Location

street & number 100 East Main not for publication
city or town New London vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 52645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally, statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Rowell J. Sorka July 10, 2003
Signature of certifying official/Title STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA Date
State of Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action AUG 28 2003

Smith & Weller Building
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY/Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

Narrative Description

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

Smith & Weller Building
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1875

Significant Dates

c. 1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Bulder

Unknown

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Smith & Weller Building
Name of Property

Henry County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	6	3	4	5	9	7	4	5	3	1	7	1	2
Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant

organization Henry County HPC date March 2003

street & number 167 West Alta Vista telephone 641-682-2743

city or town Ottumwa state IA zip code 52501-1437

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Marcus Jennings

street & number 100 East Main telephone 319-367-2477

city or town New London state IA zip code 52645

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

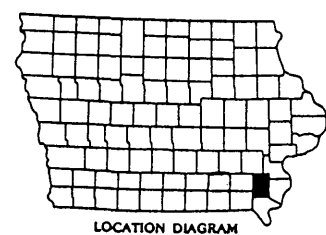
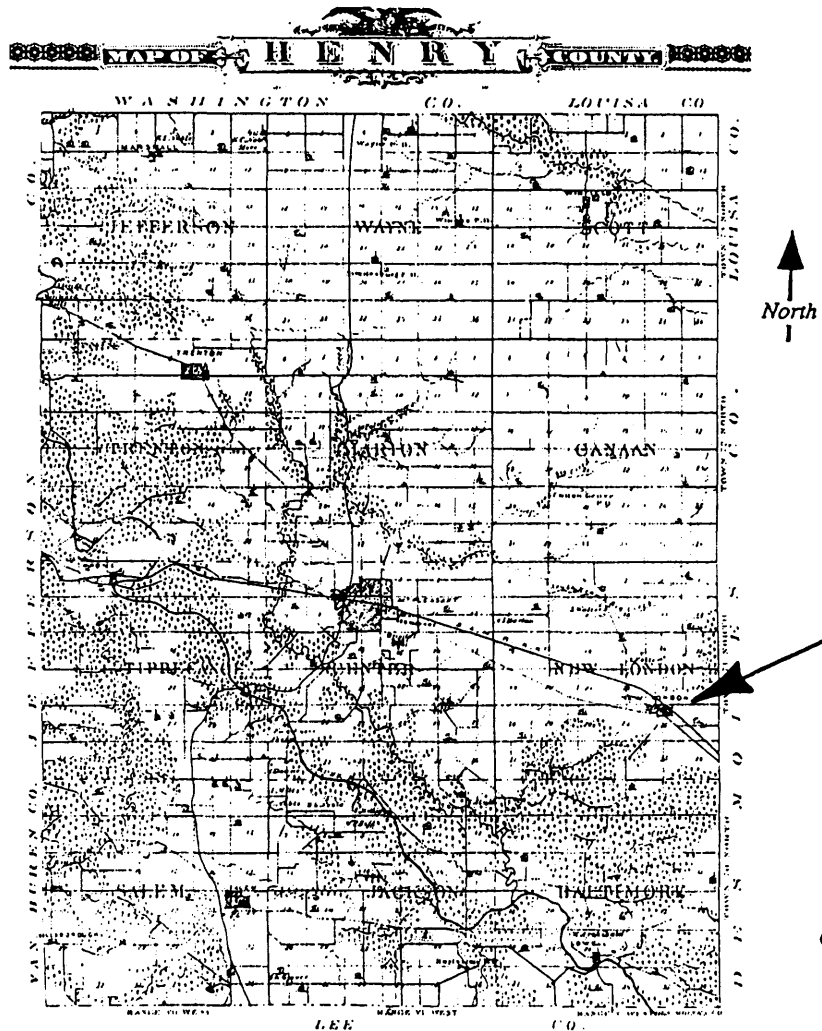
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Smith & Weller Building (c.1875) is located near the east end of the New London business district. The City of New London is located in the eastern part of Henry County, just one county west of the Mississippi River.



1875 Map of Henry County
Location of New London indicated by arrow
(Andreas, *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*, 1875)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

This two story gable roof brick commercial building is located on the south side of Main Street, at the southeast corner of Main and Division. The building rests on a limestone foundation and is basically rectangular in shape measuring 21'2" across the façade and 65'3" front to back. At the rear, the building is 3' wider due to a shallow wing on the east.

The façade is located on the north gable end with a brick parapet "boomtown" roof. The center portion of this parapet was originally taller, masking the top of the gable. It has not been determined when this part of the parapet was removed. There is very simple brick patterning across the top of the parapet, and the walls are laid in common bond. The gable roof is hipped at the south end. The symmetrical façade features an iron storefront at street level. The central entry is raised above the sidewalk. Although a new door, surrounded by panels, has been installed, the original recessed entry, complete with original threshold remains in place on the inside. The large plate glass display windows retain their original transoms and wooden panels below. The original iron columns and pilasters remain in place, with a simple bracketed cornice above.

This building is a simple vernacular interpretation of the Italianate style, with the major design element being the round arched windows found at the second floor level. These windows are found on the two street elevations (north and west) with segmental arched windows used on the first floor windows and openings. The hoodmolds above the round arches are formed by decorative brickwork rather than heavy cast stone or metal hoods, while the sills are limestone. The four over four double hung sash feature round arches in the top sash and appear to be original. There are three extant chimneys, two on the west side and one near the rear.

Original first floor windows on side and rear elevation are segmental arched. Two windows along the west elevation and one small window on the east elevation are not original. There is a large area of new brickwork near the south end (rear) of the west elevation. This appears to have been two wider windows (note limestone sills) that may have belonged to another, smaller business in the south part of the building. The openings on the south (rear) end, both first and second floors, are probably original, but the exterior stairs are replacements. A shadow image on the west wall is advertising for an as yet unidentified business or product.

Exterior alterations to this building include the covering of seven first floor windows on side elevations, the installation of at least two new ones on the west elevation, and the bricking in of two windows at the south end of the west elevation. The major change has been the installation of the new door and surround on the façade, but this is easily reversed.

On the interior, the first floor has been basically unaltered, with a large storeroom in the front, and a smaller storage room to the rear. The second floor has undergone major remodeling, when the original lodge hall was divided into rooms for apartment living. The function of the first floor has remained commercial over the decades, while the second floor has been changed to residential.

The brick-patterned round arched windows on this building are very similar to those found on three National Register buildings in Mount Pleasant (nine miles NW). Three of the Mount Pleasant buildings were constructed between 1856 and 1862 (the Brazelton House Hotel from 1856, the Union Block from 1861, and the McCandless Building from 1862).

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

This simple Italianate design was common in many Iowa communities just before and after the Civil War, but in many towns these storefronts have either been refaced or the entire building has been replaced. There were three buildings in this style constructed in New London following the Civil War, and all three are extant: this building at 100 East Main, the McClellan General Store across the street at 107 East Main, and the Perry Frank Building at the far end of the block at 113 East Main. These three buildings in the 100 block of East Main serve as a gateway to New London's business district.

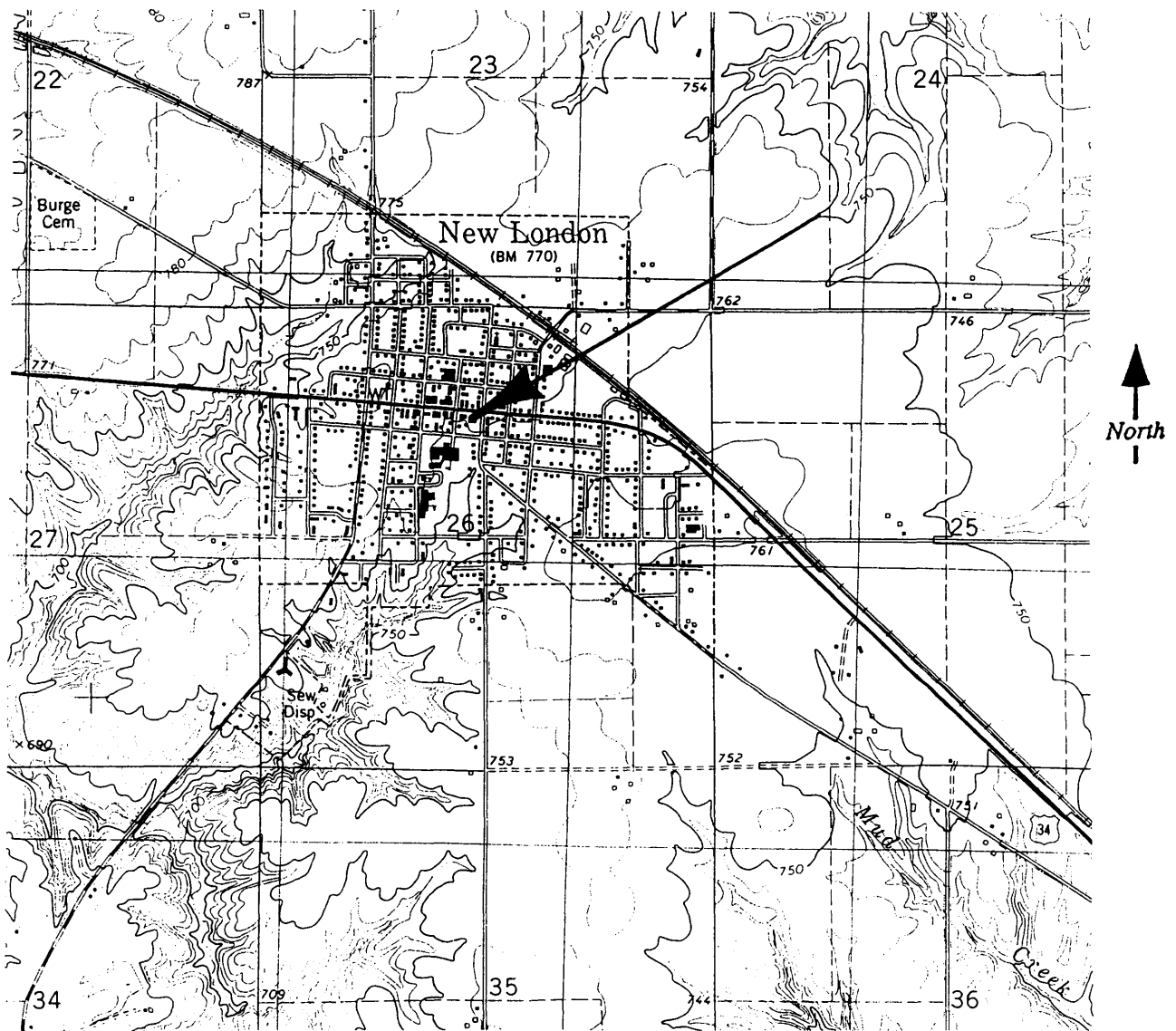
This building retains a high degree of integrity. The current rehabilitation project will not impair this integrity. Future use of the first floor will be for commercial purposes, while it is anticipated that the second floor will remain residential.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa



U.S.G.S. map of New London (1981)
Location of 100 East Main indicated by arrow

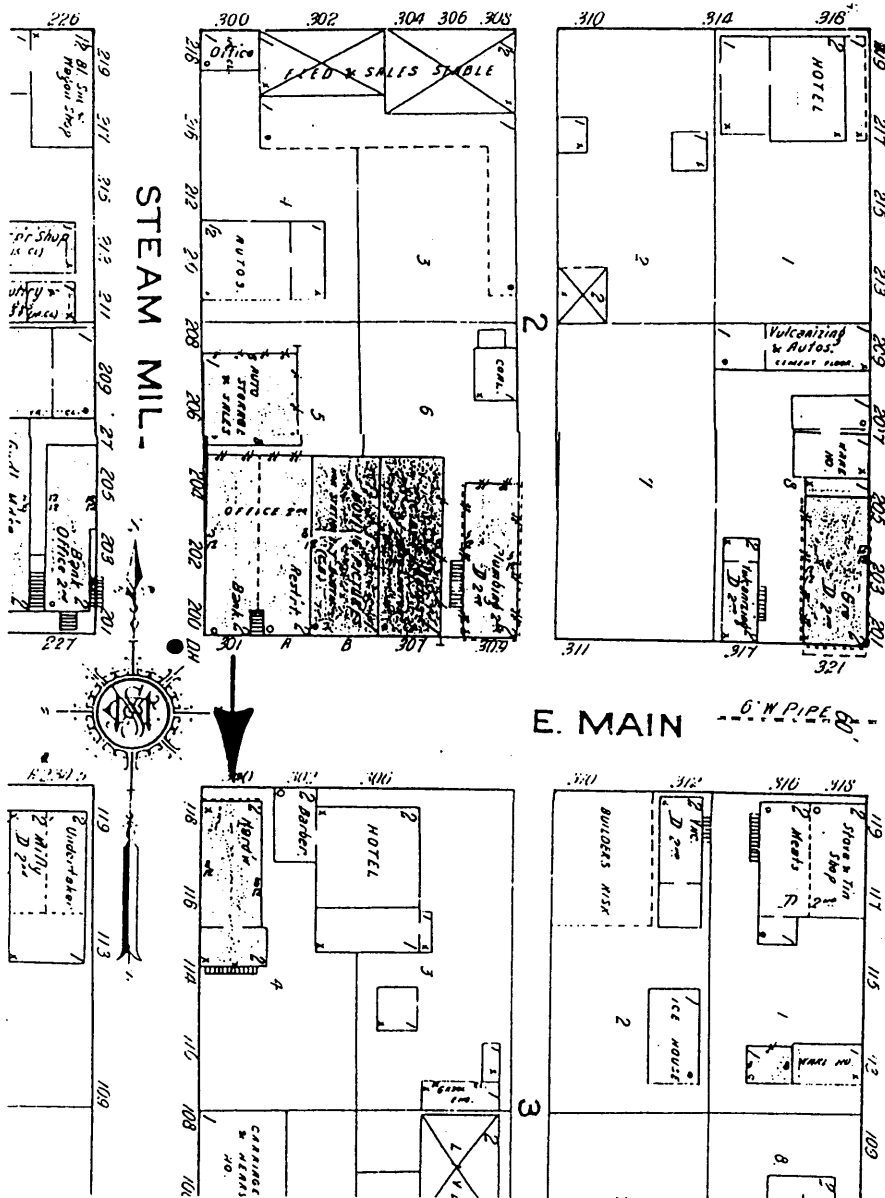
United States Department of the Interior
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Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa



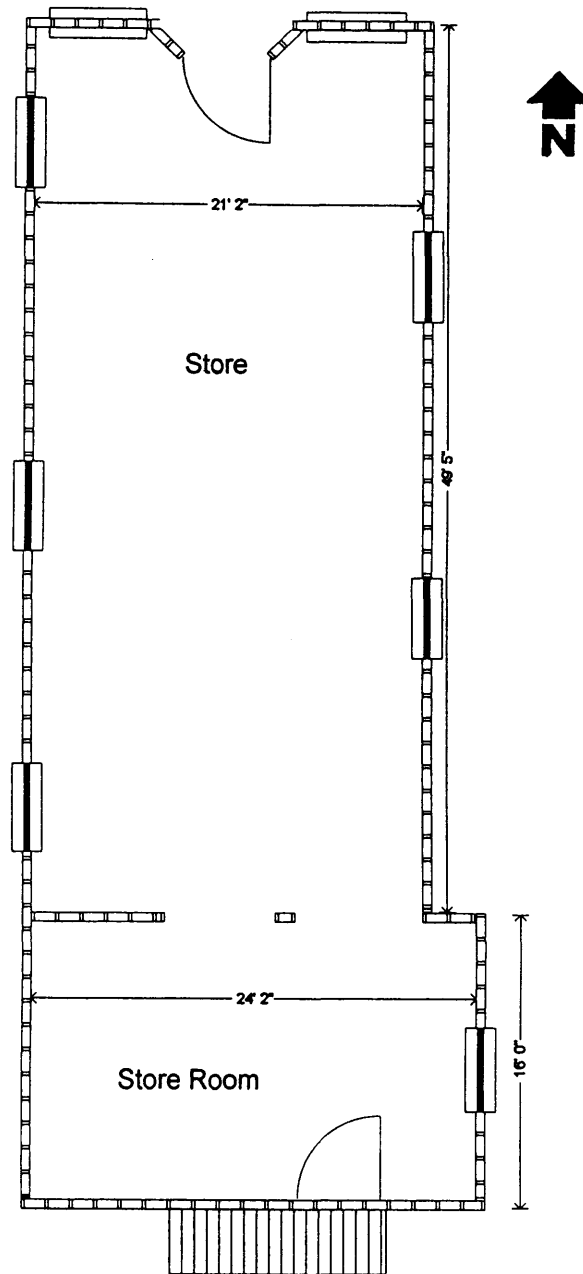
1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
Location of 100 East Main indicated by arrow

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa



Plan of first floor (commercial)
(Computerized plan based on drawings and measurements
provided by the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission, 2003)

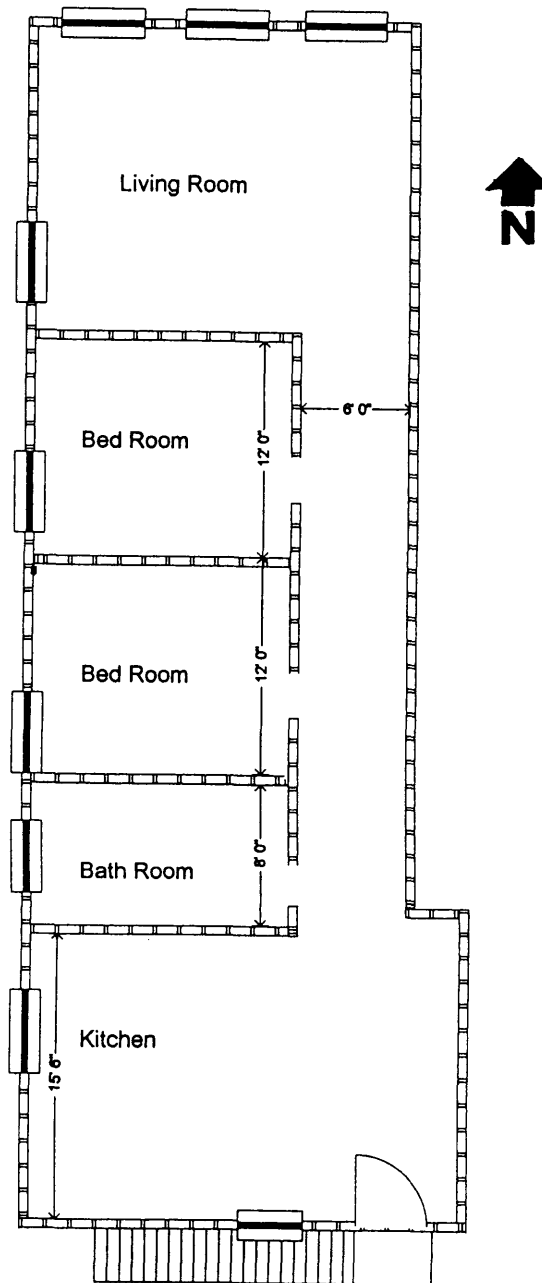
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 7

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa



Plan of second floor (originally social, now residential)
(Computerized plan based on drawings and measurements
provided by the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission, 2003)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Smith & Weller Building (c.1875) is locally significant under Criterion C as a very good example of Italianate design used for a commercial building, and is of local interest because of its location on a major 19th century transportation route (the Territorial/Plank/Burlington-Mount Pleasant Road).

The Territorial/Plank/Burlington-Mount Pleasant Road:

In the 1830s the two "gateways" into the Iowa Territory were Dubuque in the north, and Burlington in the south. Between 1839 and 1841 the Territorial Legislature reviewed and refined a territorial road extending westward to the Indian boundary line. Basically the Territorial Road ran from Burlington west through New London and Mount Pleasant. From Mount Pleasant roads radiated out like spokes on a wheel, leading north to Iowa City, south to Keosauqua, and west to Fairfield. The Burlington to Mount Pleasant Road provided the means for growth and development across southeast and south central Iowa prior to the Civil War. From territorial days on, the major roadway, and later the railroad, would follow this route, eventually all the way to the Missouri River.

The decade of the 1840s was one of rapid settlement and growth. Dissatisfaction with the roads, often impassable during rainy seasons, reached the point that discussions were held on how to build an all-weather, "plank" road. The General Assembly actually approved plans for fourteen plank roads, but only the Burlington-Mount Pleasant road was completed. When the road was new, it was a joy. However, wet weather in the fall and spring, added to the freezing conditions of the winter months caused major deterioration on the Plank Road. The end of the Plank Road Era was hastened not only by effects of weather and lack of maintenance of the road, but by the introduction of a totally new form of transportationthe railroad.



Map using double line to show Plank Road from Burlington to Mount Pleasant
(Henn, Williams & Co., A Township Map of the State of Iowa, 1851)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

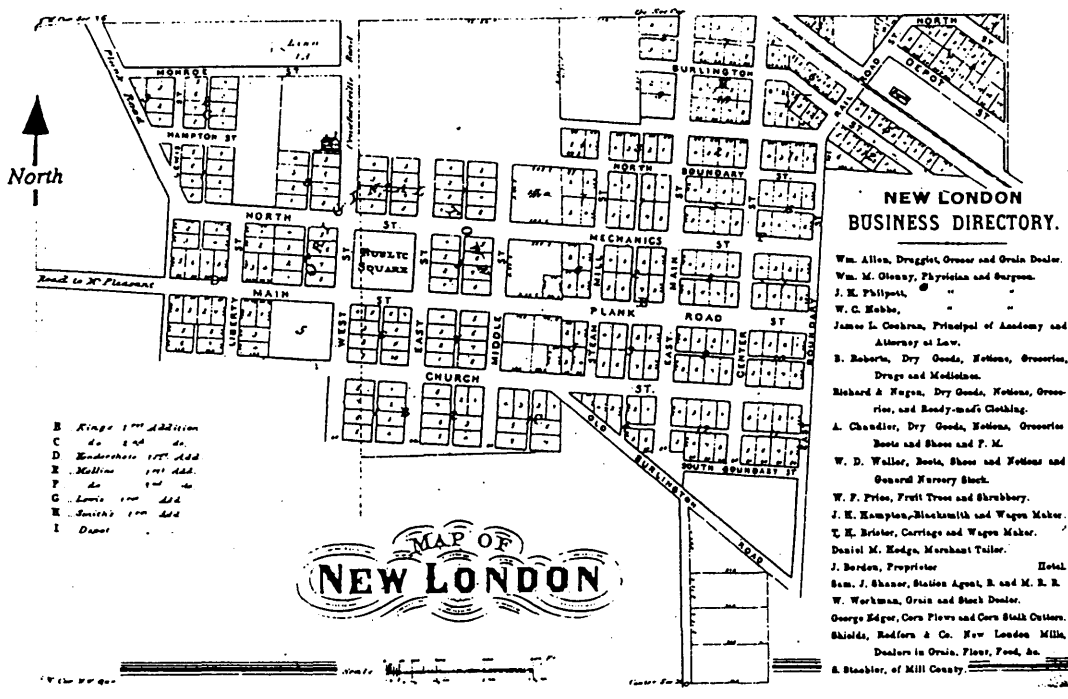
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Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

On January 15, 1852 articles of incorporation were drawn up for the Burlington and Missouri River Rail Road Company. By May 1856 the tracks extended west to Burlington Danville, and in June the tracks arrived in New London, running parallel to the Territorial/Plank (Burlington) Road. Following the Civil War both the railroad and the Burlington to Mount Pleasant Road continued to carry heavy traffic to the west. At some point after the Civil War the Burlington Road assumed the name Blue Grass Road, a designation that would be used well into the 20th century. Shortly after 1900 a new mode of transportation began to be seen on the streets and roads of Henry County, the automobile. The importance of the Blue Grass Road/Harding Highway was shown in 1927 when the State Legislature called for its' early paving from Burlington west to Council Bluffs, basically following the original route from Burlington through New London to Mount Pleasant. Today U.S. Highway 34 follows much the same route across the state.

New London Business District:

The Burlington-Mount Pleasant Road ran on a northwest diagonal entering New London from the southeast. On maps this diagonal road is labeled "Old Burlington Road." No map has been located that shows the actual route through New London originally, but by 1870 the diagonal connected north/south to Main Street via East Main (now Elm Street). Originally the commercial buildings were clustered around the public square in the west part of town. With the new road, and the railroad, the whole town started growing in more of an easterly direction. A small frame railroad depot was built the summer of 1856 in the northeast part of New London.



1870 Map of New London
Note expansion toward the depot and the Burlington Road
(Combination Atlas Map of Henry County, Iowa, 1870)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

The 100 block of East Main Street appears to have built up rapidly during the period following the Civil War. Traffic had increased along this part of Main due to the location of the depot to the northeast, and the connection with the Burlington Road at the east end of this block. Three of the oldest remaining brick buildings in New London are located in this block.

On the north side of the street, at 107 East Main in the middle of the block, is the two story building constructed for James McClellan c.1865 to house his business. The McClellan building appears to have set the standard for new commercial construction at this time. A few years later (1871-72) Perry Frank had a new two story brick building constructed for his business (drugs, boots and shoes) two lots east of McClellan's at 113 East Main. It was very similar to McClellan's. Then, a third building was constructed for Smith and Weller on the south side of the street, again, very similar in design. All are simplified Italianate style buildings.

Smith & Weller Building:

The Smith & Weller Building was constructed sometime between 1872 when Charles W. Smith and C.B. Weller bought the lot for \$300, and 1879 when they sold the lot to Sam Keiser and W.S. Workman for \$2500. Smith was listed in the 1865 Iowa State Gazetteer as a carpenter and builder, so he may well have been directly involved in the construction of this building. The same 1865 Gazetteer listed only one brick mason in New London, Benjamin Spaulding. It is known that there were at least two brickyards in New London at the time (Cox and Stevens operated one just northeast of the city park, and John Barr operated one south of town on the Lowell Road).

The Smith & Weller Building is a very good example of Italianate design that has retained much of its integrity. The major stylistic element of Italianate design is the use of round arched windows. Windows such as these are found on many Italianate residences from the 1850s through the 1870s. (McAlester, pp 210-237) This type of window was adopted for commercial design in the 1850s and was commonly used in Iowa following the Civil War. Early examples often feature simple, brick patterned arches such as found on the Smith & Weller Building, while later, high style, examples often feature elaborate cast stone or cast iron horseshoe-shaped hoodmolds. The elaborate examples with cast hoodmolds were very popular during the 1870s and examples can be found on the Centennial Block in Oskaloosa, the Lilburn Building in Ottumwa, and the Perry Opera House in Albia.

Simple brick patterned arches such as those found on the New London buildings were often used for commercial buildings in small communities, and for small, single storefront buildings. The round arches were one way of giving the building a touch of "high style" without a great deal of expense. The application of a single detail like this to a simple rectangular building is sometimes referred to as a vernacular example of the style. This was common in small towns across the country, not just in the Midwest.

Another important design element on the Smith & Weller Building is the cast iron storefront. The arrival of the railroad made it possible to order, and receive building materials not previously available. Cast iron storefronts became very popular in Iowa following the Civil War because of the ready availability through catalog orders and/or local lumberyards. Like many other architectural details, these storefronts varied from very simple designs to very elaborate with high decorative columns and pilasters. Most of the storefronts were like the one found here, having a symmetrical façade with recessed entry doors flanked by iron columns. The ones on this building rest on a square base and have a hybrid capital. Matching engaged columns are located on the sides of the storefront. The large display windows retain the two light transom area above and two panel base below. A pressed metal cornice caps the storefront and separates it from the upper level. This building never had a pressed metal cornice at the roofline, having a simple brick patterned cornice instead. The front entrance is now two steps above sidewalk level, but originally would have been three or four.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

The Smith & Weller Building and the other two Italianate buildings in the 100 block of East Main Street are very similar to three National Register buildings in Mount Pleasant constructed between 1856 and 1882: the Brazelton House Hotel from 1856; the Union Block from 1861; and, the McCandless Building from 1862. Listed on the National Register in 1986 and 1991, the Mount Pleasant buildings, like those in New London, were built following the arrival of both the Plank Road and the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad. They illustrate a major expansion of the business district. No identification has been made as to builder and/or mason for the Mount Pleasant buildings, but they illustrate that this was a popular style that had been quickly adopted in this area.

The Smith & Weller Building had several owners over the years, with a variety of businesses in it. Sam Keiser and his wife Sarah owned it until 1907 when they sold it to the Knights of Pythias Lodge #185. Locally it is remembered as being a hardware store. Both Sam Keiser and Charles Miltenberger operated hardware stores on the first floor for decades. The Knights of Pythias used the second floor as their lodge hall. In 1946 the members of the Knights of Pythias Lodge sold it to Otis and Mae Maginnis. From approximately 1946 until recently the first floor housed a tavern.

Documentation is scarce, but it appears that the Knights of Pythias Lodge was housed on the second floor for many years, possibly both before and after it bought the building. Little information has been located about this particular fraternal organization in New London, but it was definitely chartered later than both the Masonic (1851) and I.O.O.F. (1854) lodges. The Knights of Pythias (KOP) was founded in Washington, D.C. by Justus H. Rathbone in 1864. It was felt that following the Civil War, the United States needed "to rekindle the brotherly sentiment" which had been all but stamped out. Major principles of the organization are friendship, charity and benevolence as well as a love of the flag of the United States and the Bible. Like many other fraternal organization, the Knights of Pythias has seen a substantial drop in membership in the past 50 years. Through their web site they are encouraging their members to actively recruit new members.

The town of New London has prospered from its earliest days by being located on major transportation routes, both a highway and a railroad. The three Italianate buildings in the 100 block of East Main Street speak to the early days of these routes and the importance of transportation to the community.

The Smith & Weller Building is a very good example of Italianate commercial design that has retained a high level of integrity. Good examples such as this are becoming rare, and they need to be recognized and preserved.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 12

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

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Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 14

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

Mullen's Addition to New London (Henry County), Iowa, N 76' of the W 24' Lot 4, Block 3.

Boundary Justification:

This is the area historically associated with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 15

Smith & Weller Building
Henry County, Iowa

The photographs submitted with this nomination were taken by Donald Young of the Henry County Historic Preservation Commission in November 2002. The negatives are in the files of the State Historical Society, Community Programs Bureau, Des Moines, IA.

1. Façade (north elevation) and east elevation looking southwest
2. Façade and west elevation looking southeast
3. Rear (south) and west elevation looking northeast