

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99000129

Property Name: Loudon Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop

County: Jefferson State: Iowa

Loudon Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Linda McCullar*      February 22, 1999  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5: Classification: The category is, hereby, amended to "structure" to reflect the primary significance of the property as a monorail system.

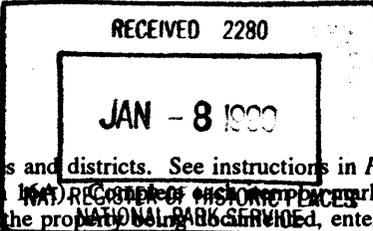
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Beth Foster of the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

129



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) **RECORD OF HISTORIC PLACES** marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property, 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 LOUDEN MONORAIL SYSTEM IN THE AUTO REPAIR SHOP  
other names/site number McGuire Motor Company; Crandall's Electric Service

**2. Location**

street & number 117 East Broadway Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town Fairfield N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Jefferson code 101 zip code 52556

**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.)  
Signature [Signature] Date 12-29-98  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is :  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register.  
 Other, (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 2/22/99

Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many lines as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one line)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	0	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

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

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

Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation Stone  
walls Brick  
Metal  
roof Asphalt  
other Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines 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)

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

Circa 1922

**Significant Dates**

Circa 1922

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliography References**

**Bibliography**

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

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository

Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Iowa  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 587300 | 4539900 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | --- | ----- | ----- |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | --- | ----- | ----- |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | --- | ----- | ----- |

**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 William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate  
organization Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission date January 15, 1997  
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740 (Page)  
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313-5017

**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 Courtney A. and Gladys R. Crandall  
street & number 504 South Highland Avenue telephone 515-472-2958  
city or town Fairfield state Iowa zip code 52556

**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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Loudon Monorail System is situated in the rear portion of the Auto Repair Shop. Installed circa 1922, this equipment features an overhead material handling system designed and manufactured by the Loudon Machinery Company. The equipment is housed in a building located one block east of Fairfield's Central Park (or city square).

**EQUIPMENT**

Louden Monorail System consists of metal tracks installed about 10' feet from the floor on the east wall and on the west wall in the rear portion of the Auto Repair Shop. These tracks are about 20' in length. A 2" x 12" wood beam is situated horizontal to these two tracks across the full 22' width of the room and is supported by the side tracks by on rollers. These rollers allow the beam to move along the entire course of the tracks. A carrier hook is suspended on the horizontal beam. This hook is suspended on a 4-wheeled carriage, which runs back and forth along a track above the beam. A hoist can be attached to this hook to lift, move, and lower heavy objects. Several of the wheels and sprockets of this overhead carrier bear the U.S. Patent date of "09-10-07," embossed in their metal. The equipment is in good condition. Although unused for many years, the equipment appears to be intact and in working order.

**BUILDING**

Roughly speaking, the footprint of the building which houses the monorail equipment consists of a long rectangle, measuring approximately 22' x 132' (width by depth). The building consists of two units. The front unit is built of brick, 2-story in height, faces Broadway, and was constructed circa 1899. Its footprint measures 22' x 60'. The rear unit is built of brick, 1-story in height, faces an alley, and was constructed circa 1907. Its footprint measures 22' x 72'. The Loudon Monorail System is situated in the rear unit. Presently, the building is in fair to good condition. It is owned by Courtney A. Crandall, the son of Thomas R. Crandall, who had bought the building in 1924.

The front unit rests on a stone foundation. Its walls are of solid brick construction. The storefront of the building has been remodeled with an entrance and store windows. When the building served as an automobile repair shop, the storefront entrance featured big double doors, sufficiently wide to allow an automobile to enter. A metal canopy stands above the storefront and overhangs the public right-of-way about 6'. The facade's upper story features four, symmetrically placed windows. These windows feature 4/4 double-hung windows with a louvered space situated above them. The upper story of the facade is now clad with aluminum siding. Although this siding is visually distracting, it is reversible. The front unit is covered with a flat roof of composition materials.

The first floor of the front unit--on the interior--features plaster wall finishes and hardwood floors and is minimally finished. Although there is now a suspended ceiling, the original ceiling, which is said to be 12' high, probably remains in place. During its service as an automobile repair shop (and earlier),

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

the first floor consisted of wooden planks. The present owner has since put down narrow, oak floorboards over this. Many years ago, an elevator was situated in the northwest corner of the room. The second floor of the front unit possesses a one-bedroom apartment. The interior of this apartment features simple woodwork, softwood floors, and plaster wall finishes. There is a suspended ceiling on the second floor. The height of the second floor (excluding the suspended ceiling) is 10'. The front unit possesses a full basement with unfinished walls and ceilings. The height of the basement is 7'.

The rear unit rests on concrete footings. Its walls are of solid brick construction. An overhead door is situated at the rear of this unit and occupies most of the rear wall. This door was installed in the 1930s and replaced an earlier double door, which swung inward from hinges on either wall. In the 1960s, a building was constructed abutting the north wall of the rear unit. At that time, two windows in the unit were bricked in. The floor of the rear unit is constructed of reinforced concrete. The height of the interior is 12'. Its sheet rock ceiling was installed sometime before World War II. Prior to that time, the rafters of the roof remained exposed. About 1992, the northwest corner of the building was repaired. Deteriorated brick was removed and replaced with the present concrete block. (Courtney A. Crandall informant interview) The rear unit does not have a basement.

**SITE**

The Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop is situated on the east 22 feet of Lot 7 in Block 9 in the Old Plat of Fairfield, Iowa. The frontage of this property measures about 22' and its depth measures about 132'. The Danielson Motor Company owns the properties flanking this building on both sides. Some years ago, that company remodeled with a yellow-colored facing brick both of these 1-story buildings.

Prior to the 1890s, this site served residential land use. About 1899, the front, 2-story portion of the present building was constructed for commercial use. By 1913 and probably circa 1907, the 1-story, rear portion of the present building was constructed. At this time, both the front and the rear were used as an ice cream factory. This business remained for only a short time, for, by 1917, an automobile sales firm was housed in both sections of the building. Businesses associated with automobiles and small engine repairs continued to be housed in the building for about the next 50 years.

An alley is situated directly north of the Auto Repair Shop and runs east to west. The facade of the building directly abuts the East Broadway Avenue public right-of-way in front of it. The immediate surroundings are generally level in topography and are heavily built up with improvements. Fairfield's Central Park is situated one-half block to the west, and the community's central business district surrounds the park. This commercial land use extends beyond the four sides of the square and includes that stretch of East Broadway Avenue along which this commercial building is located. U.S. Highway 34 (East Burlington Avenue) is located one block to the south. Residential land use begins one block east of this commercial building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

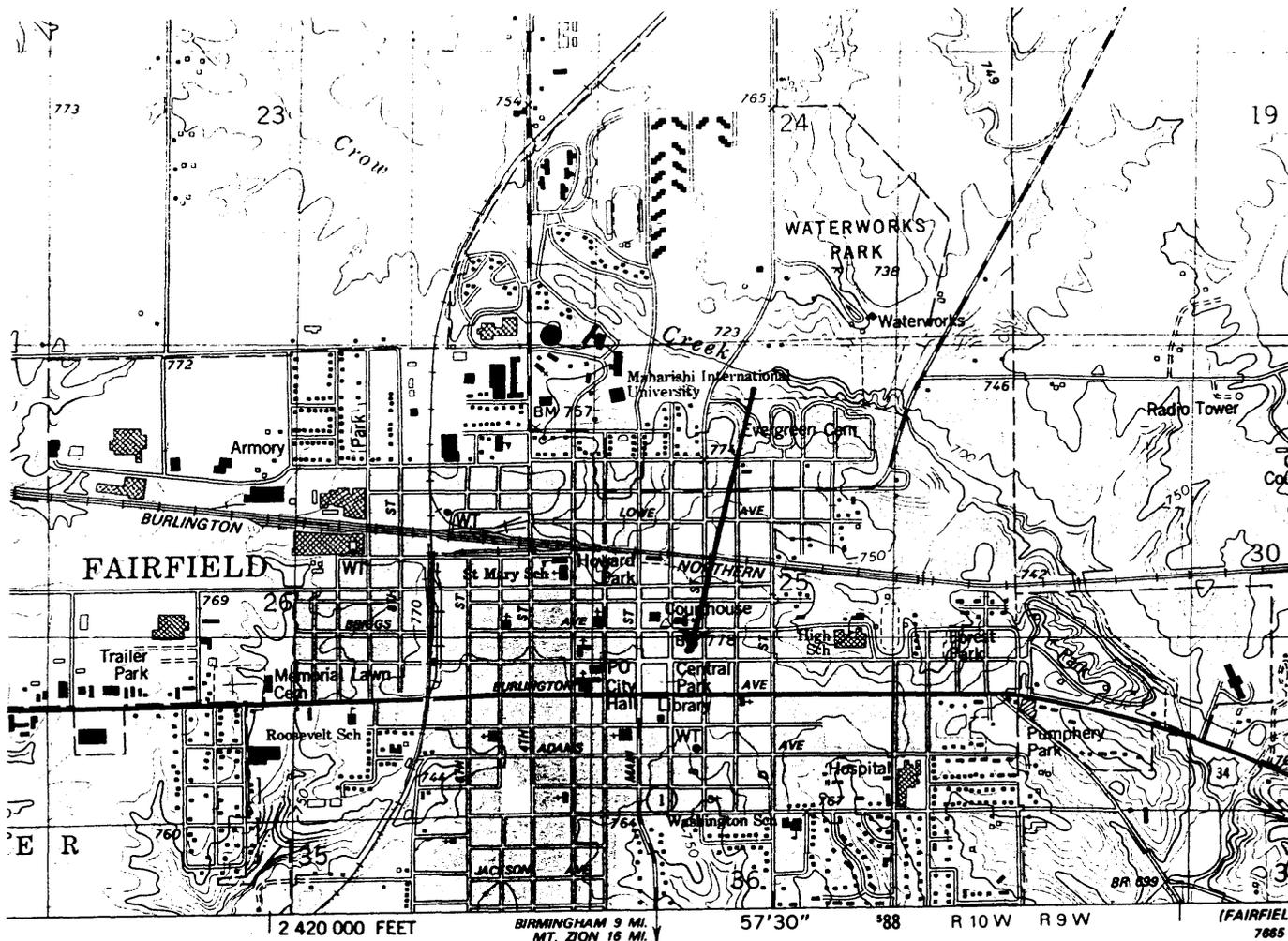
Section number 7 Page 3

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

# SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Fairfield North Quadrangle, 1980.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

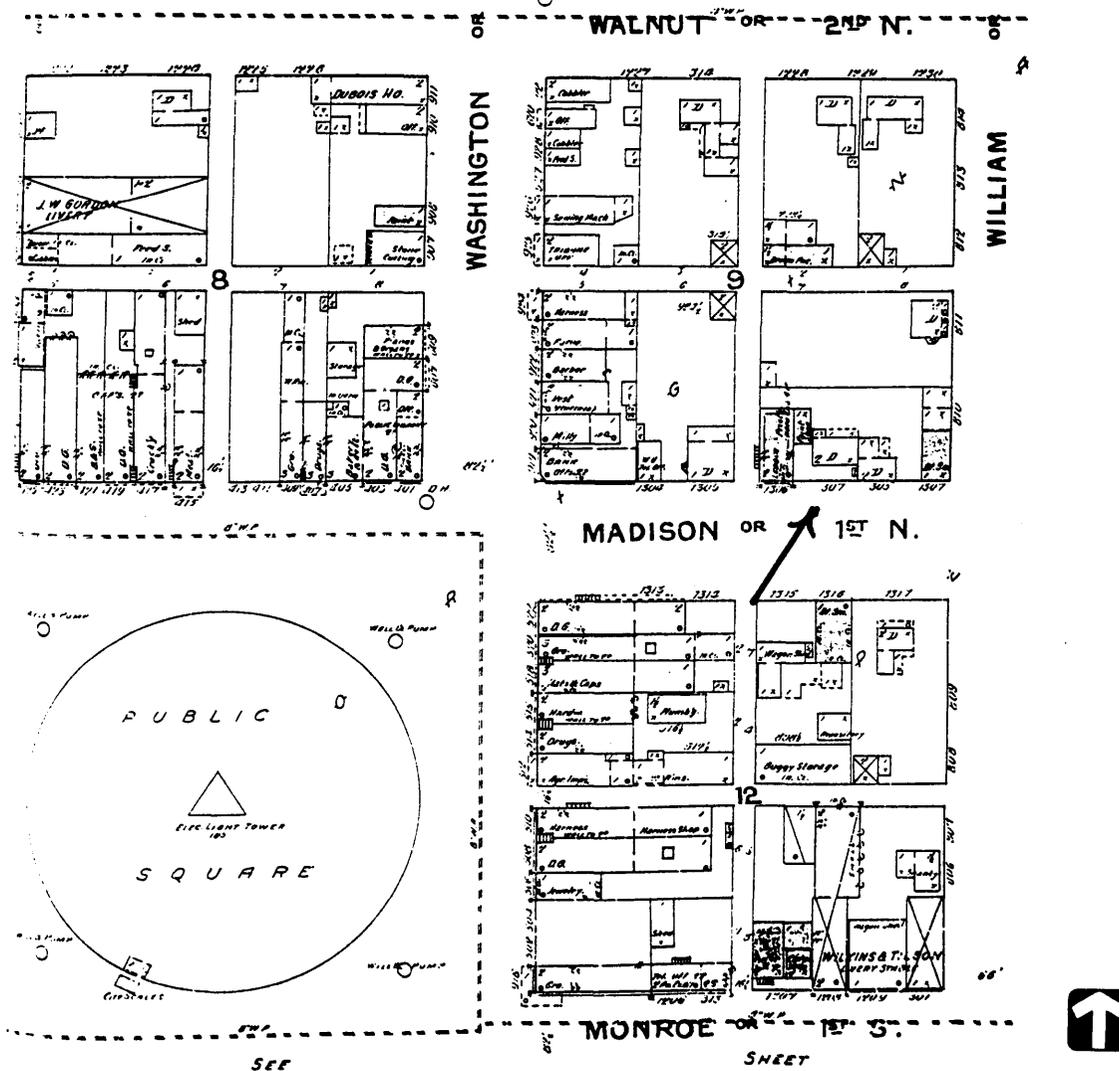
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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

## 1892 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY AND ITS PREVIOUS LAND USE



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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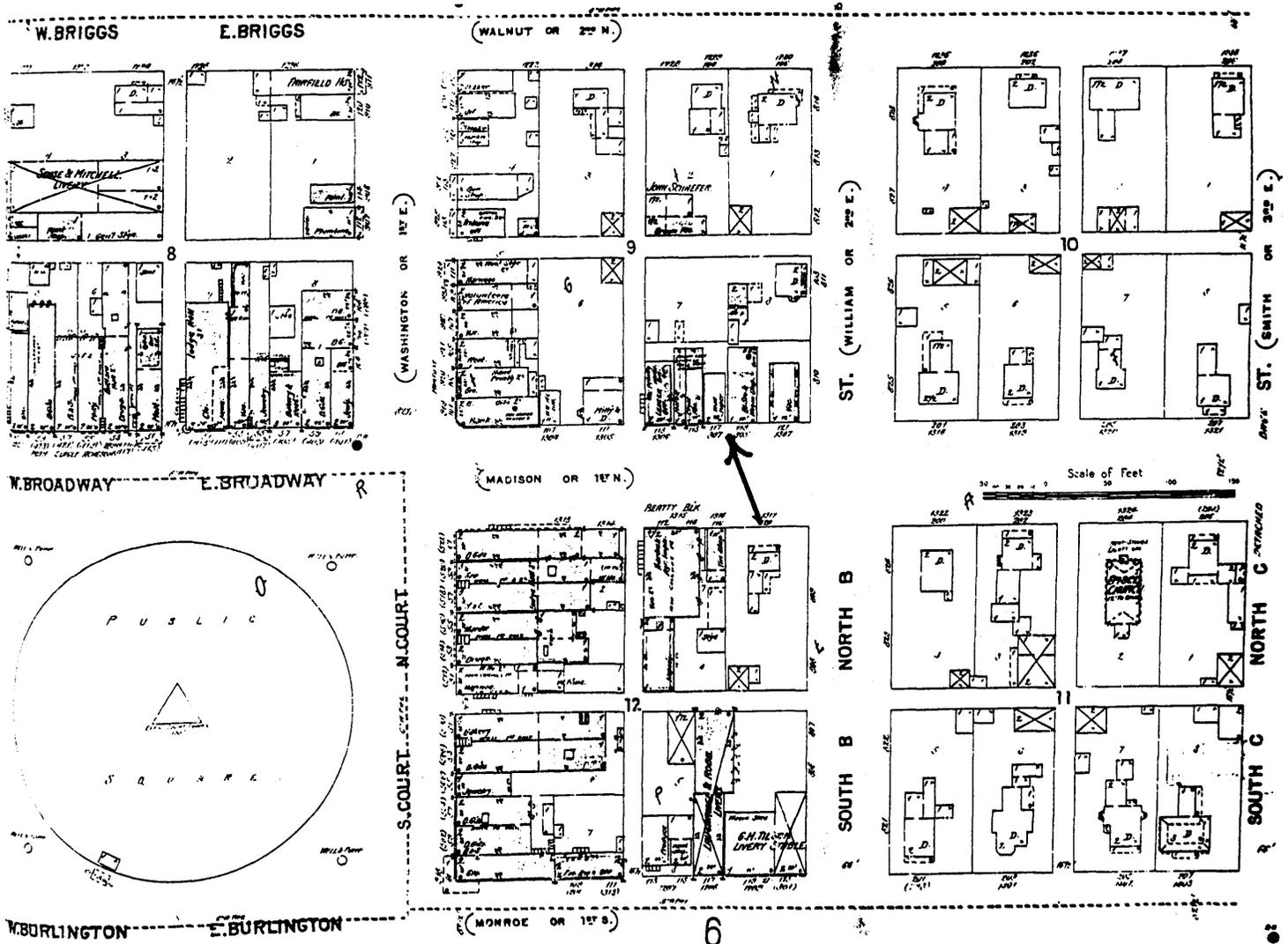
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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

# 1899 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

## ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



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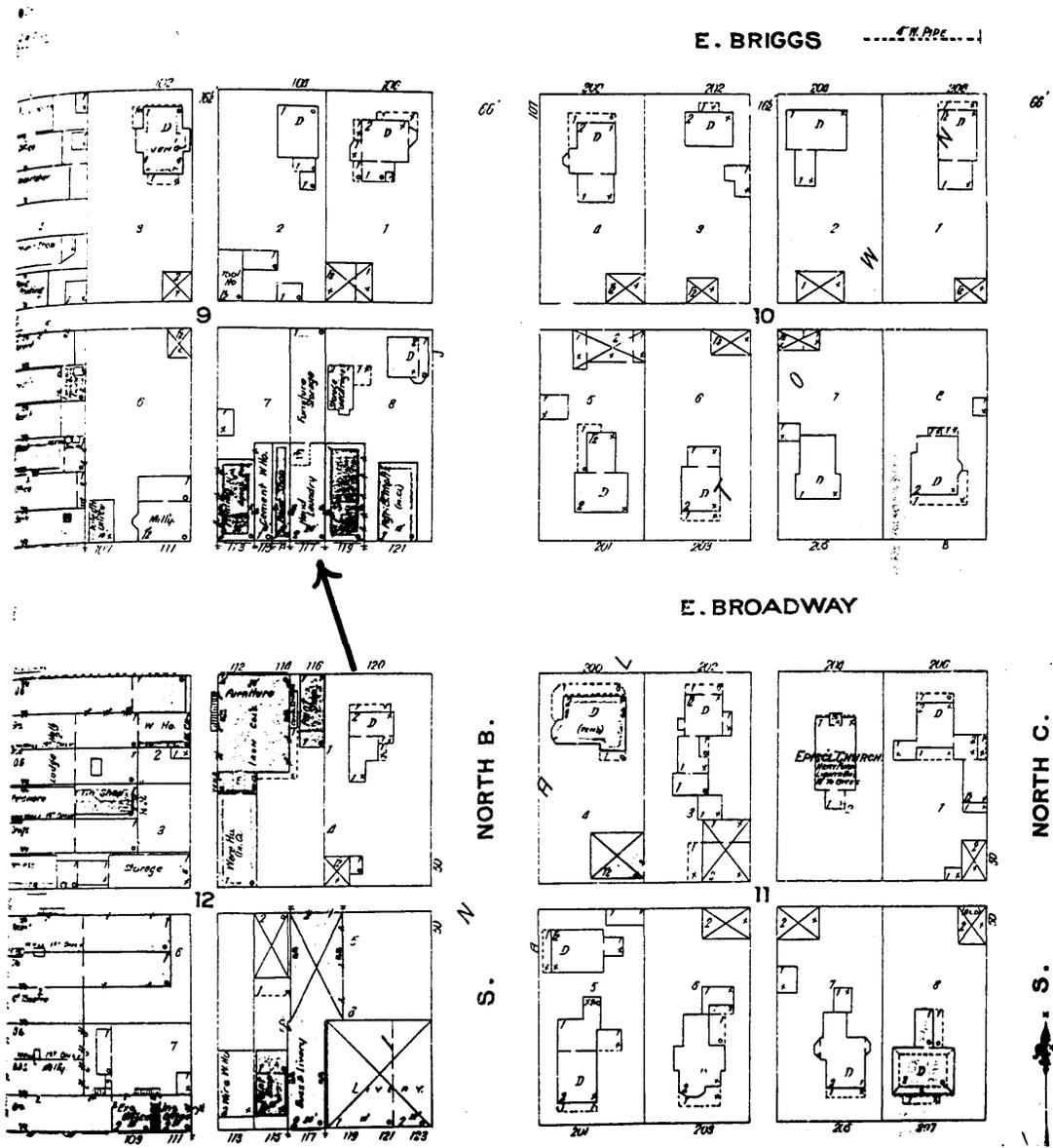
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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

# 1907 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

## ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

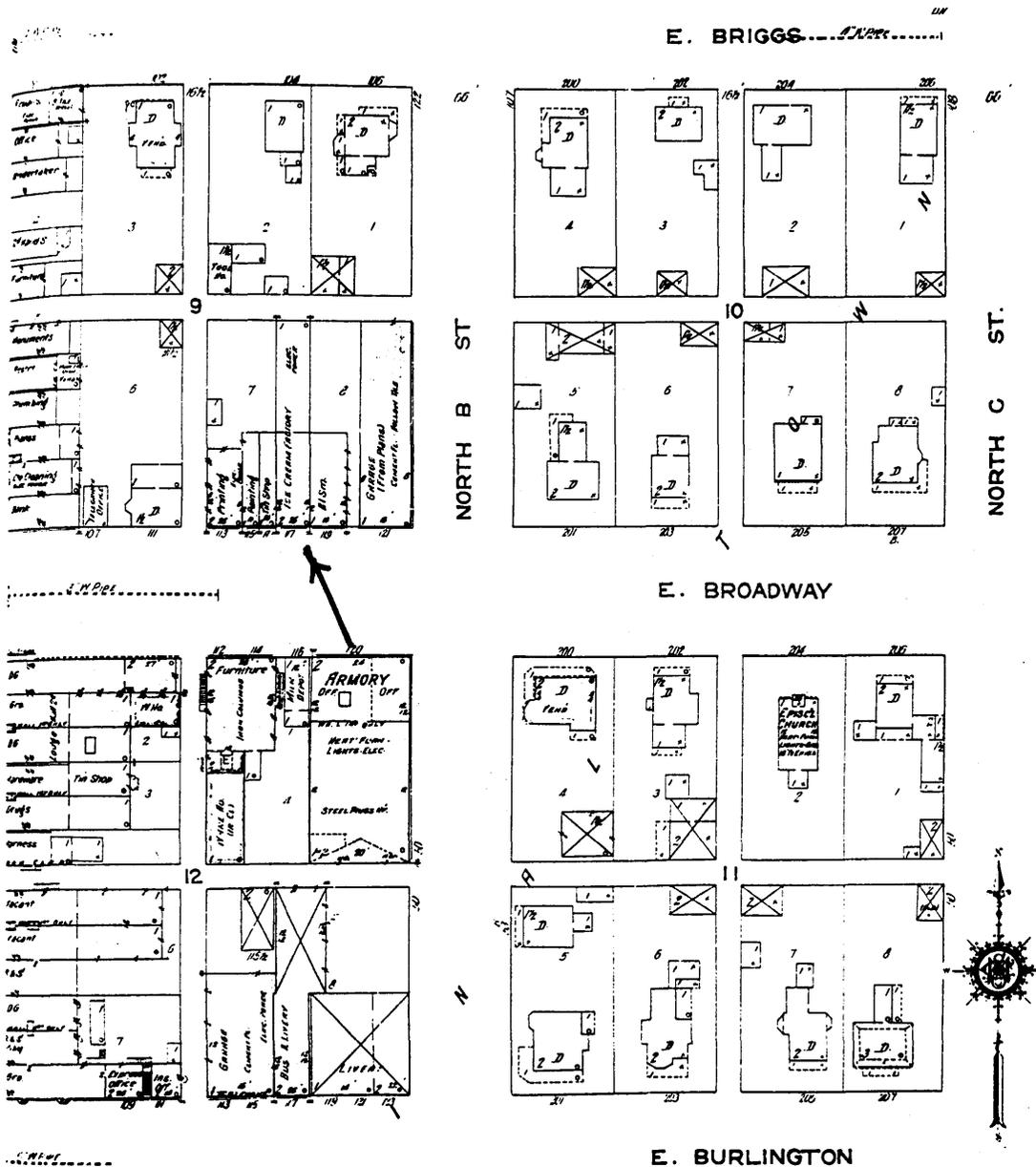
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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

# 1913 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

## ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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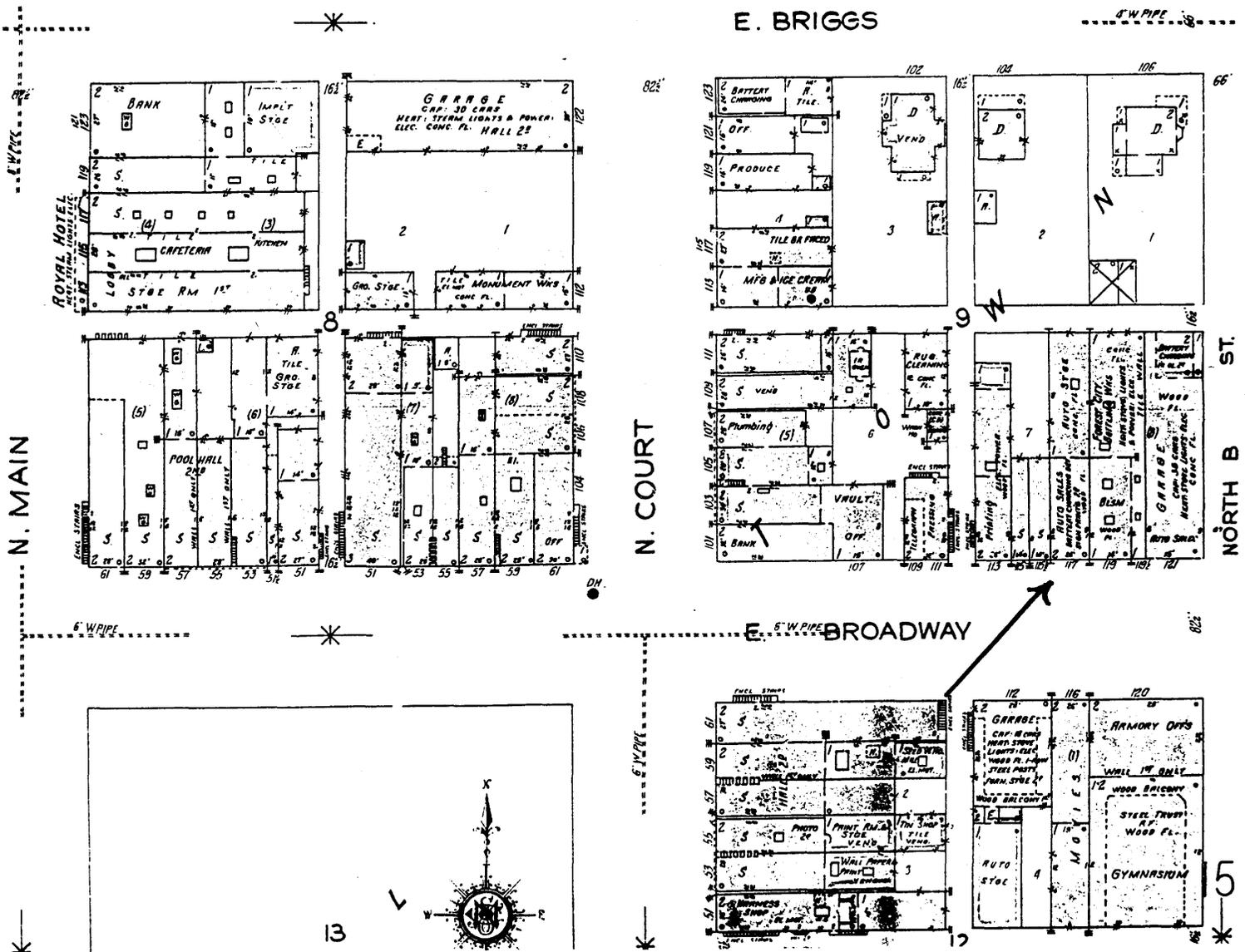
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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

# 1927 FIRE INSURANCE MAP

## ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

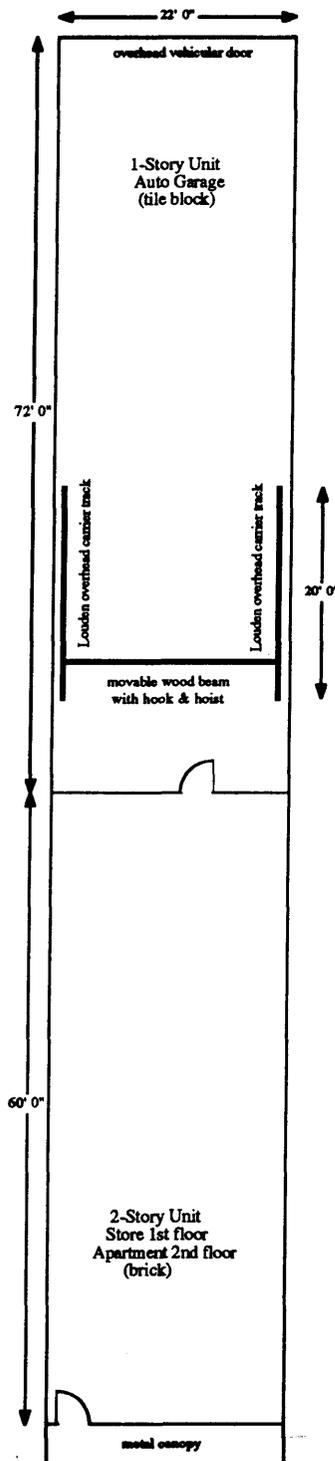
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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

SKETCH PLAN



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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Installed circa 1922, the Loudon Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop is historically significant, under National Register Criterion A, because of its associations with the Loudon Machinery Company. The Loudon Monorail System enabled automobile repairmen to move heavy engines and parts to and from vehicles with ease. This system remains intact today and stands as a rare, surviving example of a 1920s-era overhead material handling system as designed and produced by the Loudon Machinery Company and locally installed. (See cover document.) The Loudon Monorail System is permanently fixed to the walls of the Auto Repair Shop.

The period of significance, under Criterion A, for the Loudon Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop is circa 1922, the time when the Loudon equipment was installed.

The property contains one contributing resource for this nomination--the overhead material handling equipment as attached to the building. This equipment is classified as a structure.

### BACKGROUND

By the 1920s, the eastern portion of Fairfield's central business district had become the city's center for automobile business. For example, Danielson Motor Company, at 121 East Broadway, the Forest City Battery Works, at 119-1/2 East Broadway, Glimpse Motor Company, at 112-114 East Broadway, and E. Bur Chambers, an automobile painter, at the rear of 112 East Broadway, were located there. (Fairfield city directory 1922:180)

The building at 117 East Broadway Avenue is located within this area. It has been associated with the automobile business for many years. Already in 1917, Cohagen & Israel, a local automobile dealership, was housed in this building. At that time, there were four other automobile dealerships in Fairfield, all located within a two block area. (Fairfield city directory 1917:86) Previously, the building had served a variety of purposes, including a hand laundry and an ice cream factory. (See Continuation Sheets 7-6 and 7-7.)

In 1920, Harley Carter had purchased the 117 East Broadway property. Carter sold automobiles and real estate. During his ownership, the building became the home of the "Auto Repair Shop." (Fairfield city directory 1922:180) Although only three other auto repair services were listed in the city directory at that time, there were about one dozen local businesses specializing in various aspects of automobiles, accessories, radiators, and electrical repairs in Fairfield. It appears that Carter installed the Loudon overhead handling system.

In 1924, Thomas R. Crandall acquired this property. Crandall used a portion of this building for the Electric Manufacturing Company, his electrical repair business. He also rented a portion of the building to the McGuire Motor Company. A third firm, Mohler-Copeland System, sign-makers, was listed at 117-1/2 East Broadway at that time, upstairs. (*Ibid.* 1927:138)

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

Charles C. McGuire was owner and operator of the McGuire Motor Company, the primary occupant of this building. McGuire continued to operate his automobile dealership from this site through 1930. McGuire sold Whippet and Overland brand automobiles at this site. (Courtney A. Crandall informant interview) By 1939, he had become a partner of the Carson McGuire Auto Company, located at 504 North Court in Ottumwa, Iowa. (Fairfield city directory 1939:73) By this time, McGuire had ceased operations at his Fairfield dealership. While in Fairfield, McGuire resided with Clara McGuire, his wife, at 300 East Jefferson Avenue. (Fairfield city directory 1927:91)

By 1939, Crandall's Electric Service occupied the rear portion of the 117 Broadway property in Fairfield. (Fairfield city directory 1939:111) Thomas R. Crandall repaired small engines, automobiles, and motor-related machines. Courtney A. Crandall, one of the present owners of the building and son of Thomas, continues to operate an electrical and small motor repair business in the front portion of the building to the present day. The rear portion of the building is now used for storage, while the front portion also houses a health foods store.

#### INDUSTRY

The Loudon Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop is historically significant, under Criterion A, within the context of the Loudon Machinery Company. The years immediately following World War I witnessed the expansion of the Loudon Machinery Company into overhead handling systems. The overhead handling system in the Auto Repair Shop, installed in the 1920s, illustrates a surviving example of that equipment in Fairfield.

The rear portion of the building--which is long and narrow, measuring 22' x 72' feet--was used during the 1910s and 1920s as an automobile repair shop. In the early 1920s, an overhead handling system, manufactured by the Loudon Machinery Company, was installed in this large room. Monorail tracks were mounted on each side of the room and an overhead trolley bar, consisting of a steel I-beam was mounted with Loudon couplings between them. This machine allowed mechanics to hoist motors from cars and trucks, move them to different areas in the shop, lower them to workbenches, and then reinstall them. In addition to saving the labor and time of back-breaking work, this machine facilitated a greater flexibility of the repair room's space because heavy objects could be readily moved from one area to another by one man.

The working parts of this overhead handling system bear the Loudon Machinery Company name and "Pat. 09-10-07." This date identifies U.S. Patent 865,113, which was William Loudon's invention for an "elevated carrier." Although this modest example of Loudon overhead handling equipment lacks many of the sophisticated elements of the firm's complex systems--such as switches, cross-tracks, turntables, scales, and/or dipping machinery--this machine remains in working order today and stands as a rare, surviving local example of such a device dating from the early production years of Loudon's industrial material handling equipment.

This is the only historic overhead handling system identified in Fairfield during the course of the intensive survey, which predated this nomination. This identification resulted from interest spurred by

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

this survey. Gene M. Luedtke, a member of the Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission, remembered seeing this equipment at one time when the shop's overhead door was opened. Upon inspection, the equipment bore the Loudon name. Since that time, numerous newspaper, radio, television, and personal appearance programs have informed the public about this National Register project. No additional examples of extant Loudon overhead material equipment have been reported as a result.

### **REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS**

This building was surveyed in the early 1980s as part of a reconnaissance architectural survey of Fairfield, Iowa. The building was evaluated as not eligible for National Register nomination. The presence of Loudon equipment in the building was not known at that time.

This building and its attached equipment was also surveyed in 1996 as part of the "Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa" hybrid reconnaissance and intensive surveys of that historic context within Jefferson County, Iowa. As one resource within that survey, this resource was evaluated as individually eligible, under Criterion A, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historical Society of Iowa was informed of this determination in the survey report.

### **POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

Although the site's potential for historic archaeology is, as yet, unevaluated, the site identification of other ancillary structures associated with this property is slight. None is documented on an extensive series of fire insurance maps. The present building occupies virtually the entire site and the construction of its several components has disturbed whatever previous features might have existed.

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for complete bibliography.

#### PRIMARY

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fairfield, Iowa.  
1885, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1913, and 1927.

#### SECONDARY

Area XV Regional Planning Commission; Architectural Survey of Fairfield, Iowa; 1981.  
Report on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

Jefferson County Assessor's Office, Assessor's Property Record Card.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *The Loudon Machinery Company, Fairfield, Iowa*; Intensive cultural resources report prepared for and on file at the Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1996.

#### ORAL HISTORY

Crandall, Courtney A.; Oral informant interview with William C. Page, July 18, 1996, January 26, 1998.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

East 22 feet of Lot 7 in the Old Plat of Fairfield, Iowa.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Contains all land associated historically with the resource.

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National Park Service**

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Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop, Jefferson County, Iowa.

**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

1. Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop  
117 East Broadway Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Looking northeast  
William C. Page, Photographer  
January 29, 1998
  
2. Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop  
117 East Broadway Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Looking southeast  
William C. Page, Photographer  
January 29, 1998
  
3. Louden Monorail System in the Auto Repair Shop  
117 East Broadway Street  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
Detail of Louden overhead material handling equipment  
Looking southwest in rear room of building  
William C. Page, Photographer  
January 29, 1998