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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" on the appropriate line 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 YOUNGERMAN BLOCK
other names/site number Art Block, Conrad Youngerman Block

2. Location

street & number 206-208 Fourth Street N/A not for publication
city or town Des Moines N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50309

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.)
Barbara A. Mitchell DSHPO April 16 2009
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is :
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register.
 Other, (Explain)
Signature of Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 6.10.09

Youngerman Block
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property **Category of Property**
(Check as many lines as apply) (Check only one line)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
DOMESTIC/hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate
MODERN MOVEMENT/ Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Ceramic Tile

Narrative Description

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

Youngerman Block
Name of Property

Polk 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1876

1935

Significant Dates

1876

1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Foster, William

Youngerman, Conrad

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

Youngerman Block
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 4 48 2 10 | 4603 74 0 |

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, Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting

organization Randolph Corner, L.L.C. date September 20, 2008

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 Randolph Corner, L.L.C.

street & number 400 Locust Street, Suite 790 telephone 515-244-2622

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50309

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

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

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Built in 1876, the Conrad Youngerman Block is located in the southern portion of Des Moines, Iowa's central business district. During the late 19th century and much of the 20th century, this area formed the core of the city's downtown. Later, the downtown moved several blocks to the north and east, leaving this area to serve as the city's warehouse district and subsequently to languish. Today, the area is under intense redevelopment with new construction and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

The Youngerman Block is situated on the west side of Fourth Street, in the block between Court Avenue on the south and Walnut Street on the north. The block is sited on a fractional parcel of Lot 7 in Block 21 of the Fort Des Moines plat, with a footprint of approximately 44 x 80 feet. The building's primary elevation faces east. The Youngerman Block abuts commercial buildings on the south and north. The Hotel Randolph, an 8-story brick building constructed in 1911-1912 abuts it on the south and a late 19th century, 2-story building abuts it on the north. A public sidewalk runs flush to the building on the east, providing pedestrian access to the Youngerman Block's two commercial entrances.

As indicated, the Youngerman Block is located in an historic area in the southern portion of downtown Des Moines. Other of the area's historic resources include the Seth Richards Commercial Block (NRHP, 2005) at 300-310 Court Avenue, the Des Moines Saddlery Company Building (NRHP, 1985) at 307-311 Court Avenue, and the Polk County Courthouse (NRHP, 1979) at the west end of Court Avenue where the street terminates at West 5th Street. The Hotel Row Historic District, with properties facing both sides of 4th Street between Walnut Streets and Court Avenue, was recently determined National Register eligible by the State Historical Society of Iowa. The Hawkeye Insurance Company Building (NRHP) at 409 4th Street is located across the street from the Youngerman Block. Des Moines architect William Foster designed both buildings, and a continuity of setting results.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Youngerman Block is a multi-story, masonry edifice constructed on a limestone foundation. The first floor of the block is configured as two commercial rooms. The unit on the south bears the address of 206 Fourth Street. The unit on the north bears the address of 208 Fourth Street. The footprint of the block across its front façade measures 44 feet. The depth of the block varies. (See Continuation Sheet 7-9.) The unit at 206 Fourth Street is 67 feet deep. The unit at 208 Fourth Street is 78 feet deep. The height of these two units also varies. The north unit and the eastern 47 feet of the south unit are three stories. The western 20 feet of the south unit is one story. A flat roof of built-up material covers the third story of both units. A similar roof type covers the one-story section. The property has two ground

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

level entrances. The storefront reflects a 1935 renovation.¹ The upper stories of the front facade feature the stylistic and compositional elements that reveal the block's Late Victorian era architectural influence. A full basement is situated beneath the block.

Exterior

Sandwiched between two contiguous structures, the front façade of the Youngerman Block exhibits the building's significant stylistic detail, its best construction materials, and the highest attention to detail. The building's remaining elevations utilize second-grade brick and lack adornment.

The upper floors of the Youngerman façade are faced with "asbestine," a building material possessing certain properties of stone. A contemporary newspaper article noted: "The Abestine [*sic*] makes a splendid looking front."² Section 8 of this nomination describes this material and its architectural significance. Each of the upper floors of the block features eight bays, all featuring windows. Two pillars, one on each floor and worked in asbestine, stand proud from the plane of the façade on the second and third floors. Situated in the space between the second and third windows from the south end of the façade, these two anomalies serve unknown purposes. Some deterioration of the material has occurred. Cracks, spalling, and staining are evident, but its basic fabric remains intact. All the asbestine is now painted gray. Without this historic documentation, it would be difficult to distinguish asbestine from stucco.

The upper floor fenestration is of uniform design. Tall, double-hung windows with 1/1 configuration occupy all 8 bays on the second and third stories. The windows and window surrounds are inset slightly into the plane of the façade. Wooden brick mold convex in profile edges the windows. The top corners of this brick mold are rounded. Keystones project from the plane of the façade. The keystones and window surrounds are of asbestine construction and feature impressed floral and geometric patterns. The keystones on the third floor are more elaborate than those on the second. The wood sash and brick mold are original to the building and in fair condition.

A pressed metal cornice surmounts the top floor of the Youngerman Block. Heavy brackets are situated at each end of the façade and in the center. These brackets help define the block's original two-unit configuration. Smaller brackets are situated between the heavy brackets. Some damage has occurred to the heavy brackets, but the smaller brackets appear to be in good condition.

¹ Building Permit #8787, March 5, 1935, City of Des Moines, Iowa.

² *Iowa State Register*, July 9, 1876.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

The Youngerman storefront features a 1935 remodeling of its original 1876 design. According to an 1889 drawing, the original storefront of the Youngerman Block featured two bays. (See Continuation Sheet 7-14.) Each of its two commercial rooms featured one of them with central entrance flanked by storefront windows. It appears that masonry piers defined these bays and cast iron columns defined the doors and windows. Together, these structural elements supported the upper floors of the block. The 1935 remodeling radically reconfigured the storefronts with the installation of ceramic tile block. The entrance to 206 was offset to the south and inset from the façade. An iron gate with latticework design was placed at the entrance to the inset. A long and narrow window was installed in the center of this storefront with a smaller window placed to its north. At 208, the central placement of the entrance, flanked by storefront windows, remained the same, but was worked in a completely new design and in different materials. Finally, large panels of Chinese red-colored ceramic tile clad the storefront walls. Section 8 of this nomination discusses the significance of this storefront design.

“The Ran-Da-Voo,” a tavern linked to the Hotel Randolph and a word play on its name and “rendezvous,” occupied the first floor at 208 Fourth.³ In a post-Prohibition Des Moines, the sophisticated design of this storefront sought, perhaps, to overcome the image of saloon and encourage patronage.

Interior

The Youngerman Block has always served multiple functions, and this remains true to the present day. The first floor serves today, as in the past, for retail functions. The uses of the upper floors have changed over the years to include their use as sleeping rooms, an art gallery, a photo gallery, and a library.

The ground level of the Youngerman Block was and is divided into two storefronts. Both spaces are rectangular in shape and both have been remodeled numerous times over the course of the years since the block’s construction. No materials from the 1876 period are apparent upon inspection. Currently, ceilings have been dropped and the floors are covered in modern materials. Current tenants suggest it is possible that a decorative tin ceiling remains beneath the dropped ceiling of the north unit. As a property located within a line of contiguous buildings, there are no windows on the secondary elevations. Openings that historically provided access between the two units on the first floor have been closed.

³ *Des Moines City Directory*, 1938, 939.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

It is difficult to determine the original upper floor plans. Today, a system of halls articulates these floors. A main hall runs north and south near the front of the building. This hall is about seven feet wide and double-loaded. It provides access to the rooms facing the street and the rear of the block. At its north end, this hall joins a narrower, secondary hall, which runs east and west to the rear of the block. The secondary hall is also double-loaded. It bends slightly, where it branches off from the main hall, but then runs in a due-westerly fashion to the rear of the building. The angled route of the secondary hall results in unusually shaped rooms. The present configuration of these rooms may have substantially changed over the years, given the changing uses of these spaces.

The interiors of the upper floors retain some historic finishes. Of particular interest are the door frames, transoms, and trim that remain in place on several of the room entrances located along the outer perimeter of the building. These materials, which are heavy in mass and simple in profile, clearly date to the building's construction. Today they are painted, but given the proclivity of the Victorians to embellish, a decorative finish may remain beneath the modern paint. Baseboard and crown moldings also remain in some sections of the hallway.

The upper story room interiors have been renovated, likely multiple times. Some rooms on the inside perimeter of the hallway have exterior windows that retain their historic frames and molding. As with those mentioned above, the window trim is heavy in mass and simple in profile. Some of the historic windows on the west elevation have been replaced with modern vinyl. Some limited sections of historic baseboard molding were also noted.

By 1920 the upper stories of the Youngerman Block had been annexed to the adjoining Hotel Randolph.⁴ Earlier newspaper accounts indicated that the hotel's owner, Judge James P. Hewitt, was planning to build an addition to the hotel that would result in the demolition of the Youngerman Block.⁵ Ultimately those plans were aborted, though it remains unclear why. The apparent alternative to this plan was to link the hotel with the Youngerman Block with internal accesses. Doors were cut between the two buildings at the second and third floors. Due to a disparity in building heights, steps were built to provide the necessary access. Those steps, as well as the fire doors placed in the new openings, remain intact. Impressed stamps in the sheet metal of the fire doors indicate that they were manufactured by the St. John & Barquist Co., which (according to a 1907 ad posted in conjunction with the opening of the Majestic Theatre) was based in Des Moines and fabricated architectural sheet metal products.⁶

⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920.

⁵ *Des Moines Capital*, "Hotel," November 22, 1913.

⁶ *Des Moines Daily News*, November 20, 1907.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

ALTERATIONS

As discussed in Section 8 of this nomination, the 1935 alterations to the east elevation of the Youngerman Block are significant in their own right. Other alterations to the exterior of the building include parging the north elevation with stucco (only the third floor is exposed) and replacing wood windows with vinyl windows on the north and west elevations of the building. Considerable alteration has occurred to the interior of the building with many changes to the floor plan on each of the building's three floors.

INTEGRITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Youngerman Block retains a high level of all seven aspects of historic integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Because the Youngerman Block remains on its original site, the level integrity as it relates to *location* is excellent.

The integrity of the block as it relates to *design* is high, due in great part to the excellent integrity of the façade, which is central to the resource's architectural character. The loss of the original storefront is typical of commercial retail buildings and, given the acquired significance of the present 1935 storefront, does not diminish the significance of the block in total.

The integrity of the Youngerman Block's *setting* is excellent. Fourth Street remains an integral part of the historic Court Avenue, urban thoroughfare. Many of the buildings that line both sides of 4th Street from Court Avenue on the south to Walnut Street on the north date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Hotel Randolph, an 8-story hotel completed in 1912 and to which the Youngerman Block became physically linked in c.1920, provides a firm anchor to the historic character of this city block.

The integrity of the Youngerman Block as it relates to *materials* also remains high. The retention of the character-defining elements of the Italianate, including the windows with their ornate surrounds and hoods and the pressed metal cornice, is critical to the integrity of materials. In addition, the very good condition of the asbestine, a manufactured artificial stone associated with both the construction era and the builder specifically, is of particular importance. While the present storefront is of a later construction period and contrasting style to the 1876 design, its cladding and detailing in ceramic tile and its front door remain intact and redolent of the 1930s.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

The outstanding integrity of the block's *workmanship* is best seen in the use of the artificial stone, asbestine. The retention of such a material in this early period is rare. In addition, the integrity of the impressed detailing of the upper story window surrounds is excellent. In contrast to the curvilinear motifs employed in the upper story Italianate is the geometric forms in the ceramic tile of the storefronts; both suggest the work of qualified and talented contractors and both maintain a high level of integrity as it relates to their workmanship.

The Youngerman Block retains an excellent *feeling* of commercial purpose. The lively pace of urban activity that surrounds the block today lends a sense of vitality to the property as it did during the period of significance.

The Youngerman Block also retains a high level of integrity as it relates to *association*. Visitors from its period of significance would readily recognize the block and its surroundings today.

As a resource whose historical significance is tied to its architecture, the retention of such a high level of integrity as it relates to design, materials, and workmanship is of paramount importance.

FUTURE PLANS

The Randolph Corner, L.L.C., is currently planning a rehabilitation of the Youngerman Block in conjunction with that of its neighbors, the Earle & LeBosquet Block at 407-409 Court Avenue and the Hotel Randolph at 200-204 Fourth Street. The intent of these rehabilitation efforts is to convert these buildings into low- and moderate-income rental housing. The plan calls for the use of federal and state historic preservation tax credits to help fund the projects.

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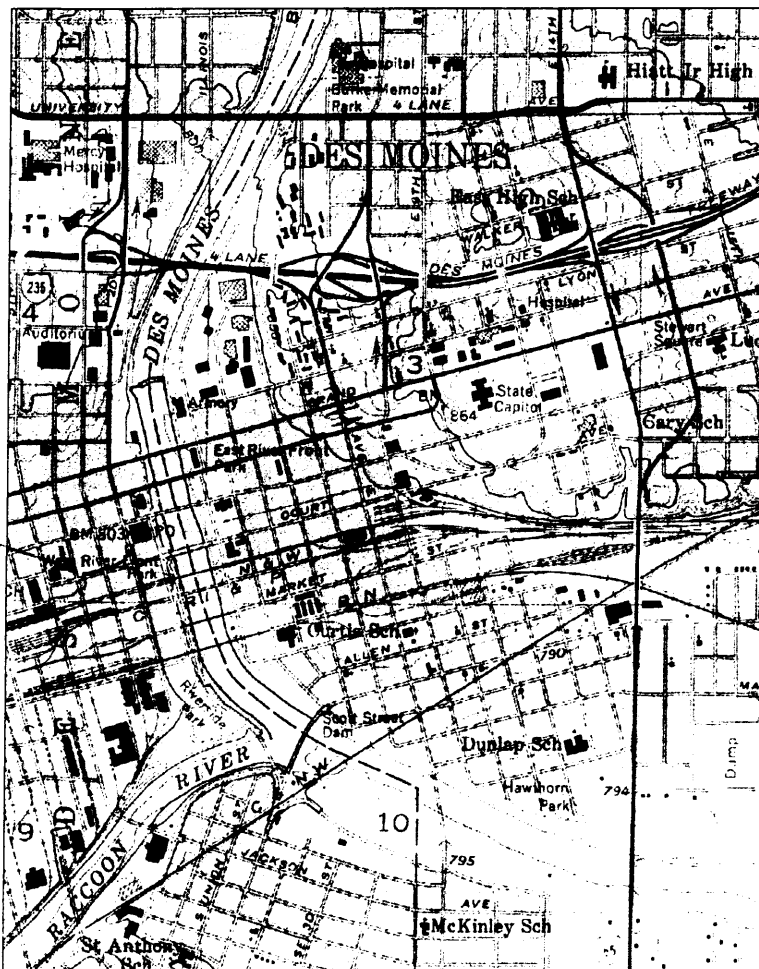
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Des Moines SE Quadrangle, 1956, Photorevised 1976.



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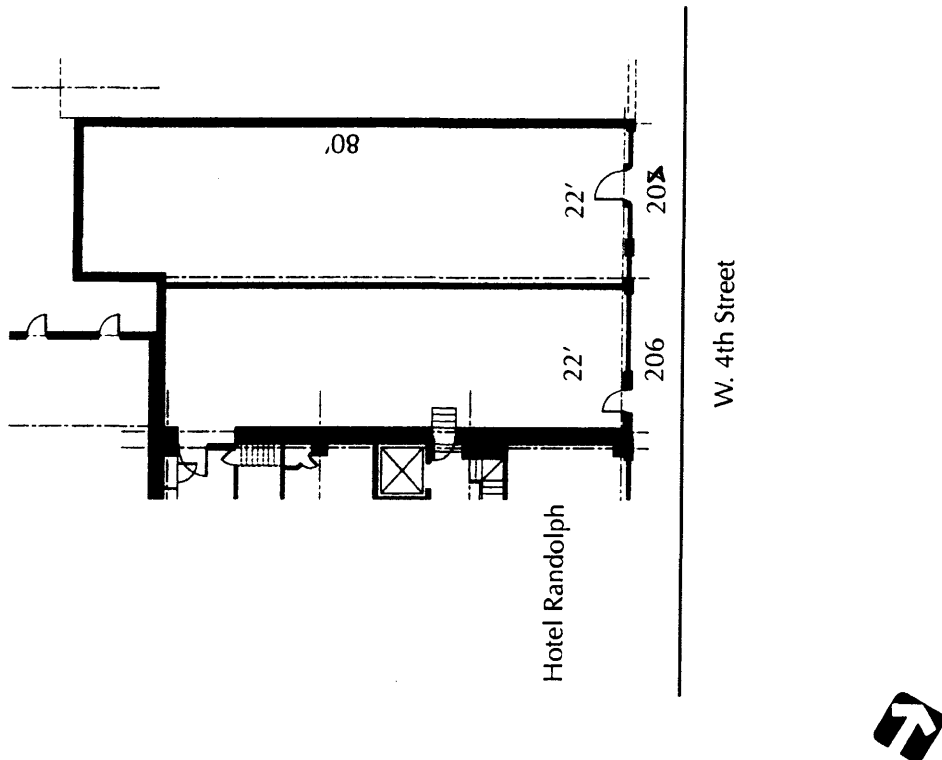
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

SITE MAP



Source: Substance Architecture, 2008.

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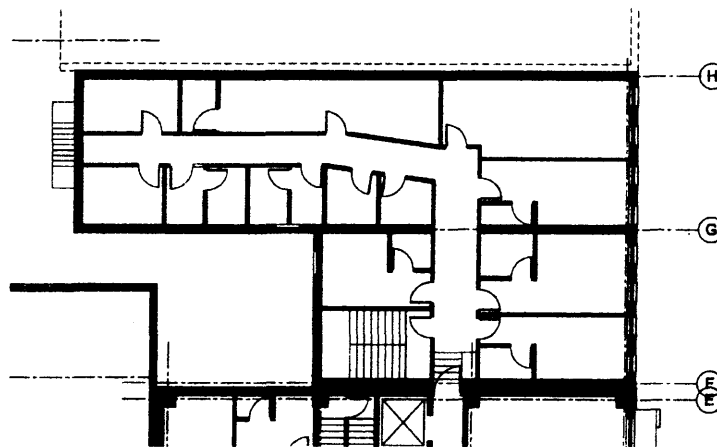
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

TYPICAL UPPER FLOOR PLAN



UPPER STORIES - PLAN VIEW



This plan view pictures the angled secondary corridor (top) and the irregular-shaped rooms it creates. The drawing also shows the connection to the Hotel Randolph (bottom center at E and F) and the steps and fire door, which were added to connect the two buildings.

Source: Substance Architects, 2008.

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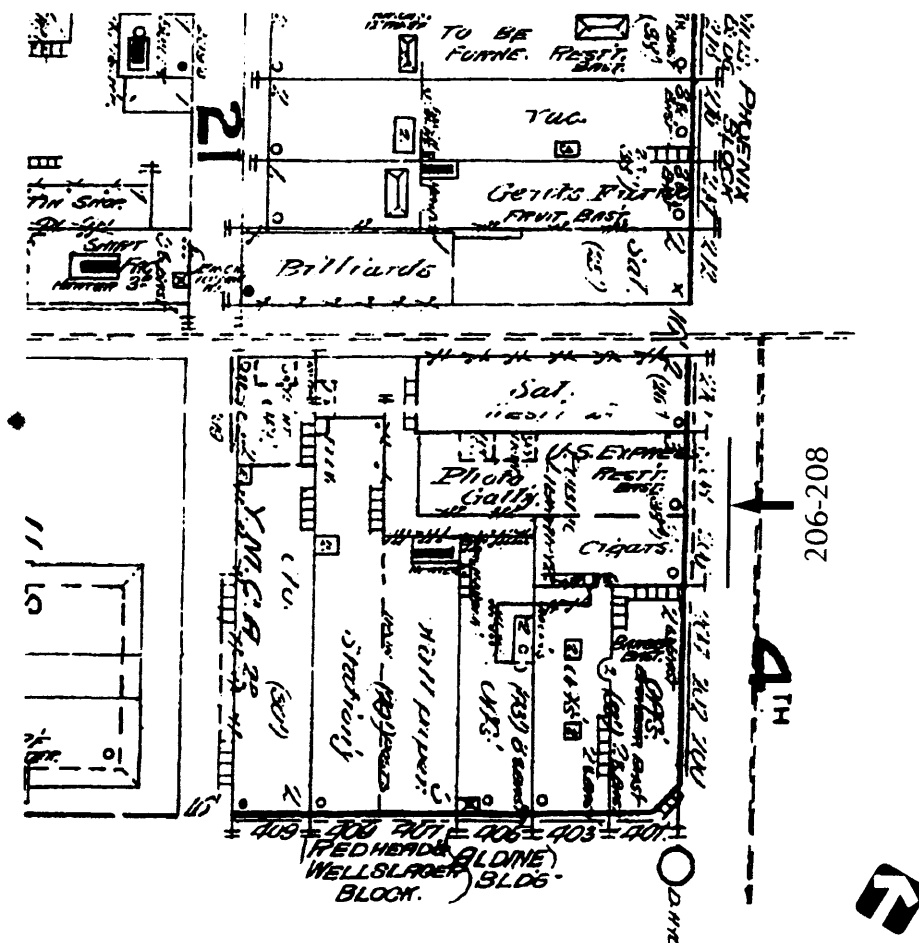
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

1884 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP



This map documents the building occupation by a combination of interests, including a photo gallery, a public library, U.S. Express, and a cigar shop.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1884.

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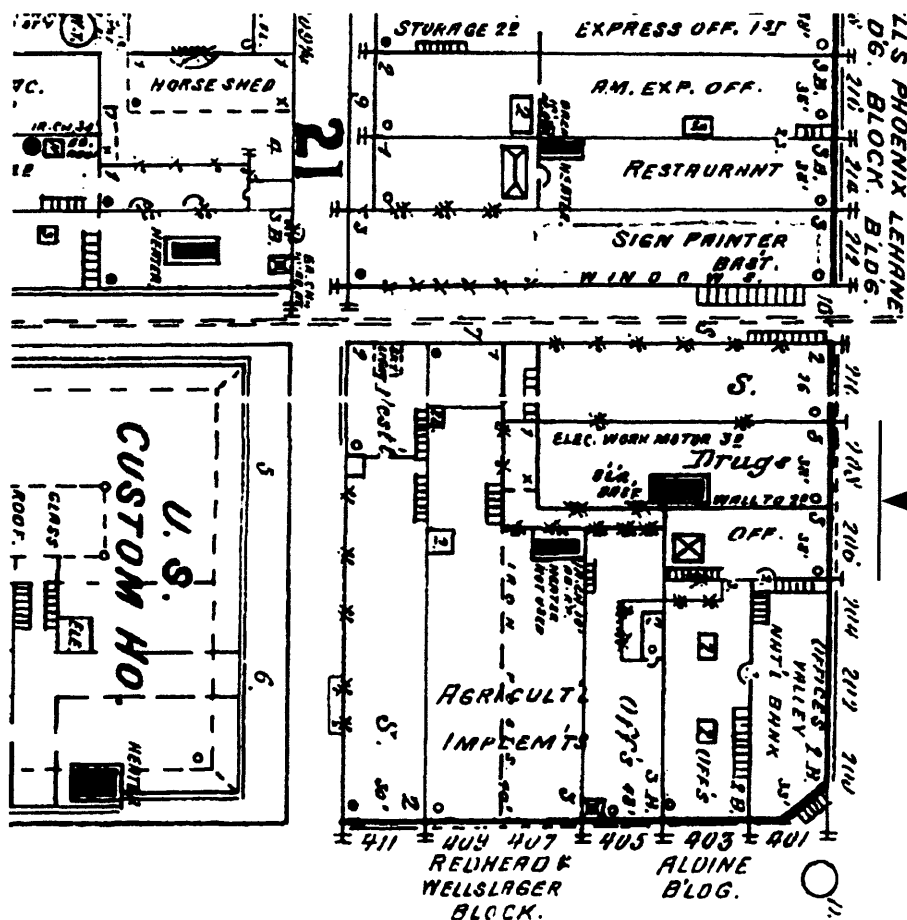
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

1891 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP



This Sanborn map indicates that in 1891 the Youngerman Block was occupied by an office and a drug store.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1891.

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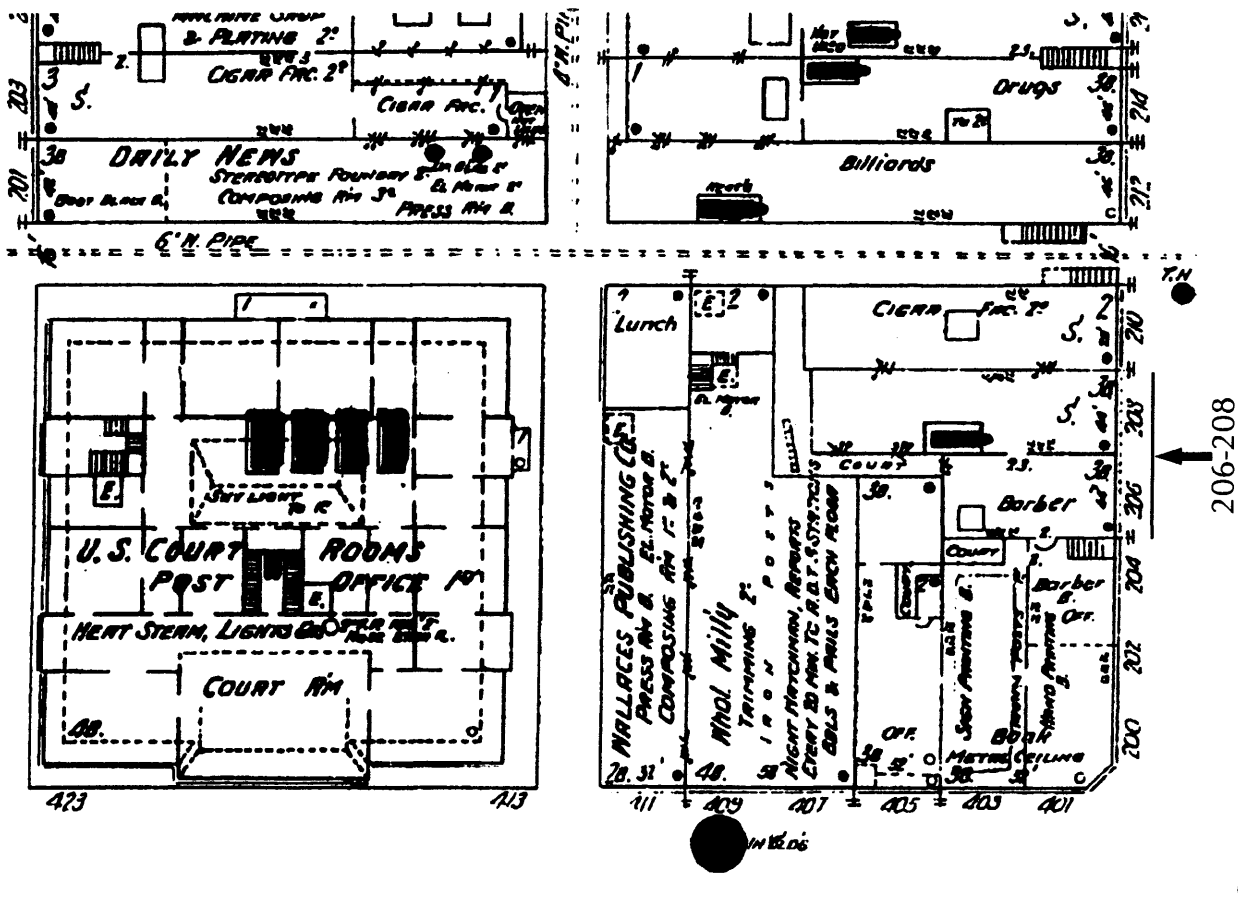
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

1901 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP



By 1901 the Youngerman Block housed a barber and an un-named retail enterprise.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1901.

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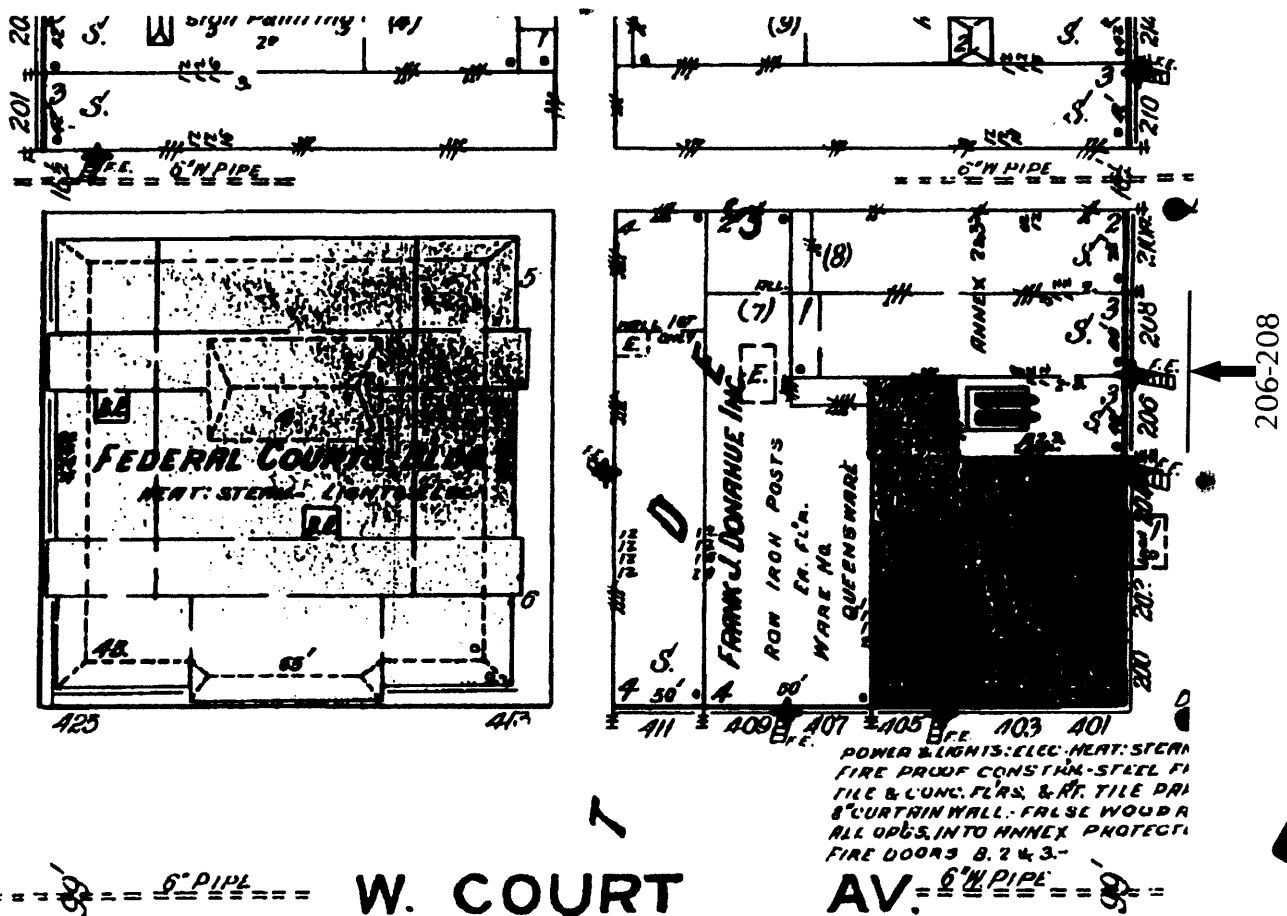
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

1920 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP



As indicated by the marking "Annex", the upper floors of the Youngerman Block had become part of the Hotel Randolph by 1920.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1920.

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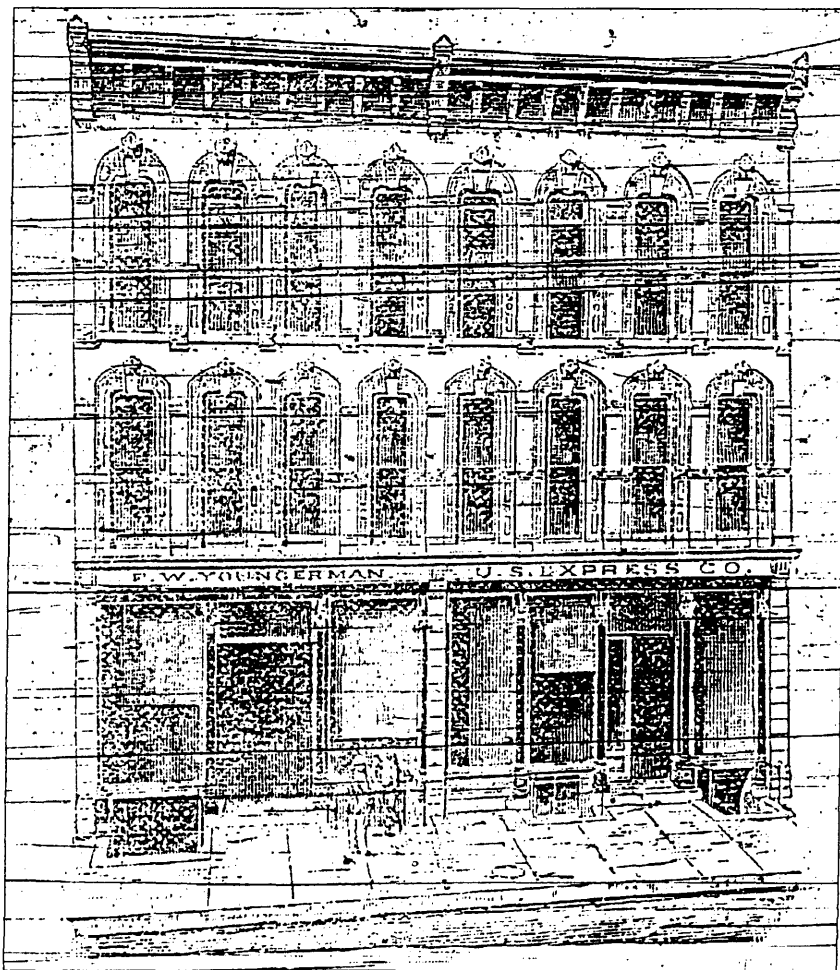
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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING



Although poorly microfilmed, this image of the Youngerman Block pictures its original design. The retention of the upper façade's character-defining features—tall, narrow windows, heavy hood molds, pressed metal cornice, and asbestine finish—results in a high level of historic integrity.

(Source: *Des Moines City Directory*, 1889)

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

268 *Bushnell's Des Moines Directory.*

C. YOUNGERMAN,
CONTRACTOR and BUILDER,
AND MANUFACTURER OF
Asbestine Building Stone into Plain and Ornamental
Trimmings of all kinds. Asbestine Stone is more durable, and
can be made more elaborate, at less price than Native Stone.

Office, 206 Fourth St., Works, 123 Fifth St., - - DES MOINES, IOWA.

This advertisement for Conrad Youngerman's construction firm features asbestine stone. Youngerman operated his office from the Youngerman Block at 206 Fourth Street and his yard for building materials at 123 Fifth Street. Another entry in this directory lists the works at 123-125 Fifth Street. This property is nonextant.

Source: *Bushnell's Des Moines Directory*, 1877-1878, pp. 268, 39.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1876, the Youngerman Block is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, locally, under Criterion C. The building calls attention to Conrad Youngerman, who built it. An immigrant and pioneer stonemason in Des Moines during the mid-19th century, Youngerman quickly became one of the city's premier contractor-builders. The Youngerman Block is a rare surviving example of his work.

Further, the Youngerman Block calls attention to the career of William Foster, who designed it. Foster was one of Des Moines' earliest architects and one of Iowa's most important architects during the latter half of the 19th century. Foster's design for the Youngerman Block is a rare surviving example of his work during a prolific period in his career.

The Youngerman Block calls attention to two divergent but compatible architectural styles and building materials. The block stands as a very well preserved example of the Late Victorian era Italianate style as applied to a commercial edifice. The retention of all upper façade elements that define its Italianate styling include the tall, narrow windows, prominent window surrounds and hoods, and an elaborate pressed metal cornice. The fact that the façade is finished in asbestine, an ersatz stone material used locally by Conrad Youngerman, among others, elevates the significance of the building. This resource is currently the only known structure in Des Moines with an asbestine finish. Additionally, the 1935 modernization of the storefront, while stylistically divergent from the Italianate, possesses architectural significance in its own right. The glazed burnt-red ceramic tiles with black decorative insets and Nile green trim combine with canted openings to create an Art Deco storefront with an oriental flavor.

The period of significance, under Criterion C, for the Youngerman Block is 1876, the year the building was constructed, and 1935, the year the new storefront was installed.

The subject property of this application contains one resource, the Youngerman Block itself, which is counted as a building.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In its long history on Fourth Street in Des Moines, the Youngerman Block has adapted to the many ebbs and flows in the city's economy. Through those shifts, the building has managed to remain viable,

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offering a variety of retail and service functions from the stores at ground level and the sleeping rooms above.

Local newspapers followed the construction of the Youngerman Block. Although brief, these accounts document William Foster as its architect, the use of asbestine in its construction, the status of the Youngerman Block within the context of commercial architecture in Des Moines, and the importance of Conrad Youngerman as building contractor.

1876 DES MOINES IMPROVEMENTS

Architect Foster. Conrad Youngerman three story brick block on 4th St. Asbestine store front—estimated cost \$8,000.¹

Conrad Youngerman employs one hundred and fourteen men in his building operations. His payroll calls for over twelve hundred dollars a week.²

BUILDING BUSINESS

Conrad Youngerman, 4th St.--\$9,000-6th most expensive in D. M. in 1876.³

The store front of Conrad Youngerman's new block on 4th St. was completed today. It is one of the handsomest in the city.⁴

Conrad Youngerman's new building on 4th St. is now nearly completed. The Abestine makes a splendid looking front.⁵

When the Youngerman Block was first opened in 1876, it included an art gallery and a photography studio and frame shop. The art gallery, though apparently short-lived, opened to much fanfare.⁶ Its location in the Youngerman Block may account for the numerous artists that were connected to living

¹ *Des Moines Leader*, March 21, 1876.

² *Ibid.*, June 12, 1876.

³ *Ibid.*, June 14, 1876.

⁴ *Ibid.*, July 7, 1876.

⁵ *Iowa State Register*, July 9, 1876.

⁶ *Iowa State Register*, September 19, 1876.

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spaces in the building in both the 1876 and 1878 city directories. The gallery and the association with the art community in general explain why the building was frequently referred to as the "Art Block". Further confirmation that the upper floors of the building hosted arts, arts-related, and literary tenants is found on the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, which documents a "photo gallery" upstairs in the building's north unit (208) and a public library on the second floor of both units.

Other noteworthy occupants in 1884 included a cigar shop at street level in 206 and a restaurant in the basement of 208. In 1891 the Sanborn Map Company noted no upstairs tenants, but the storefronts housed an office in 206 and a drugstore in 208. Typical of all downtown commercial buildings, these shifts in occupation continued over the ensuing years until, in 1920, the building's second and third floors were annexed by the adjacent Hotel Randolph for use as hotel rooms. Openings cut between the two buildings facilitated this new function.

CONRAD YOUNGERMAN

Over the course of some four decades during the late 19th century, Conrad Youngerman (1833-1901) advanced from an immigrant stonecutter to become one of the most prolific contractor-builders in Des Moines' history. Youngerman and his various associates, including two of his brothers, were responsible for the construction of hundreds of schools, factories, and commercial structures in the city.⁷ The Youngerman Block is one of the earliest surviving examples of this work.

Conrad Youngerman was born in Wichdorf, Germany, on December 15, 1833, to Henry and Elizabeth (Sonnenschein) Youngerman. Like his father and his father before him, Conrad Youngerman was a contractor. Before coming to the United States, Conrad learned the stonecutter's trade through a three-year apprenticeship, after which he traveled as a journeyman for two-and-a-half years. After being drafted into military service and subsequently serving with the German army, Youngerman immigrated to the United States in 1854. He landed first in New York State where he worked in a brickyard. He later moved on to Lorain County, Ohio, where he married Miene Stark. Shortly thereafter, the young couple set off for Des Moines, arriving on September 28, 1856.⁸

Conrad and Miene Youngerman had six sons (William A., George H., Louis, Carl, August, and Frank C.) and one daughter (Minnie). William and George Youngerman were both contractors, while Louis had a

⁷ Long, Barbara Beving. Iowa Site Inventory Form 77-020-4175.

⁸ *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1896. 115.

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brickyard and Carl was an electrician. Frank worked in his father's office.⁹ Although sources indicate that Conrad had one brother and two sisters, their names remain unidentified. It appears likely however, that F.W. Youngerman (the name that appears on the Youngerman Block's signage in 1889) was Conrad's brother. (See Continuation Sheet 7-14.) By 1896 all of this family save Frank had passed away.¹⁰

As soon as Conrad arrived in Des Moines, he entered into business. Along with Captain F. S. Whiting, S. A. Robertson, and Charles Weitz, Youngerman began a fifty year contracting legacy that resulted in the construction of "... virtually all the large buildings in the city."¹¹ On September 3, 1861, C. Youngerman received the contract for stonework on the Polk County Courthouse.¹² As historian Barbara Beving Long indicates, these men entered into the construction field in Des Moines on "...the eve of the city's ascendancy to State Capital."¹³

Within years after arriving in Des Moines, Conrad Youngerman was making brick and had large construction crews in the employ of the Weitz Company. His small brick business quickly expanded and, at one time, turned out from two to four million bricks a year while employing from 150-250.¹⁴ As Beving Long indicates, "...between 1875 and 1879 he owned a factory to make 'asbestine' or artificial stone."¹⁵ This new product was a reasonable replacement for natural stone that, in Iowa, was expensive. Youngerman advertised asbestine in the 1877-1878 city directory and touted its utility for architectural detail and ornament. As indicated on Continuation Sheet 8-17 of this nomination, Youngerman employed a crew of 114 workers in 1876 with a weekly payroll of over \$1,200.00.¹⁶ Youngerman's office was located in the Youngerman Block at 206 Fourth Street and the asbestine factory was located at 123-125 Fifth Street.¹⁷

In addition to his role in the contracting business, Youngerman was active in the community. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of numerous other fraternal organizations. He was a stockholder in the Des Moines Savings Bank and the Polk County Savings Bank.¹⁸ Youngerman served

⁹ *Ibid.* 116.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Des Moines Sunday Capital*. "Weitz Company is Oldest Building Firm in the City." June 29, 1919.

¹² Porter, 460.

¹³ Long, Barbara Beving. Iowa Site Inventory Form 77-020-4175.

¹⁴ Lewis Publishing Co., *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, 115.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Des Moines Leader*, June 12, 1876.

¹⁷ *Bushnell's City Directory, 1877-1878*; 39, 268.

¹⁸ Lewis Publishing Co., *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, 115.

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three terms as city alderman; it has been suggested that this position may well have benefited his construction business.¹⁹ More significantly, the city clearly grew to honor his opinion, even using his investment choices as a gauge for Des Moines' economic viability. In 1891 as the new, 8-story Youngerman Block on 5th and Mulberry was under construction, the *Des Moines Daily News* touted the project, and Youngerman's financial commitment to it as a sure sign that the city's future was bright.²⁰

The historical publication *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa* most elaborately describes the contributions and impact of Conrad Youngerman:

The upbuilding of the city, literally and figuratively, is largely due to his efforts, and he has long been numbered among the valued residents of the community. His life has been an active and useful one, and that he has prospered and acquired a large amount of property since his arrival in Iowa is not the result of accident or propitious circumstances, but has been brought about by his well directed energy, a thorough knowledge of his business, the observance of correct business principles, and by strict integrity. He began the battle of life unaided by fortune or the influence of friends relying upon his own resources, which at first consisted only of skill in his business, combined with energy and enterprise. His success has been the result of years of patient industry and sagacious business investments.²¹

Conrad Youngerman died in Des Moines in September of 1901 with an estate valued at \$2,000,000. The Conrad Youngerman Estate Corporation was created to administer it, and Frank C. Youngerman, his son, served as its treasurer and manager.

As indicated, Conrad Youngerman is attributed with the success of the early development of Des Moines and is directly tied to some of the city's most important buildings. Two of the most significant include the 1891 Youngerman Block, an 8-story office building located at 5th & Mulberry – just two blocks from the earlier building that also bears his name. The Crocker Building, which was finished in 1902 (after Youngerman's death), at 5th & Locust Streets was a 7-story "practically fireproof" building designed by the Des Moines firm of Proudfoot and Bird.²² A list of Youngerman's known works follows on the next page.

¹⁹ Long.

²⁰ *Des Moines Daily News*. September 5, 1898.

²¹ Lewis Publishing Co., *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, 115.

²² *Des Moines Daily News*. August 19, 1902.

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CONRAD YOUNGERMAN OPUS (SELECTED)²³

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Construction Date</u>
Polk County Courthouse (nonextant)	Des Moines, IA	1861
Walnut Street Bridge (nonextant)	Des Moines, IA	1865
Centennial Exhibition Building a.k.a. Shops Building (nonextant)	8 th & Walnut, Des Moines, IA	1876
Youngerman Block	206-208 Fourth St., Des Moines, IA	1876
Redhead & Wellslager Block (nonextant)	407-409 Court Ave. Des Moines, IA	1876
Third & Fourth Ward Schools	Des Moines, IA	c. 1880
Masonic Temple (nonextant)	Des Moines, IA	1883
Valley National Bank (nonextant)	n.w. cor. 4th & Court, Des Moines, IA	c. 1884
Youngerman Block (nonextant)	n.w. cor. 5 th & Mulberry, Des Moines, IA	1891
Union Depot (nonextant)	Des Moines, IA	1898
Capital City State Bank (nonextant)	Des Moines, IA	c. 1900
Crocker Building (nonextant)	5 th & Locust, Des Moines, IA	1902

This list demonstrates that many of Youngerman's known buildings are nonextant, a fact that elevates the significance of those that survive. L. F. Andrews in his *Pioneers of Polk County, Iowa* lists 35 buildings by Conrad Youngerman.²⁴ One architectural historian notes:

Andrews' reminiscences may not be entirely accurate, however, since he says the second Youngerman Block was built in 1893 rather than in 1891. (He also oddly omits the fact that Youngerman died in 1910.)²⁵

²³ Shank, 55; SHSI Architects' File; Porter, 460; Brigham, Vol. I, 235.

²⁴ Andrews, L. V., pp. 200-201.

²⁵ Carlson, Richard..

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WILLIAM FOSTER

The Youngerman Block calls attention to the career of William Foster (1842-1909), who designed the building during a prolific period in his career. The block is among a handful of his designs extant in Des Moines and one of only two of his extant commercial buildings known in the city. As noted by architectural historian Wesley I. Shank:

William Foster was one of the most important Iowa architects of the nineteenth century. His firm was one of the first that was able to obtain the commissions for large and complex buildings that previously went to out-of-state architects. He was very much an entrepreneur, engaging also in building construction and in land speculation. In his middle fifties he left architectural practice to become a successful theatrical manager.²⁶

Shank's 4-page biographical sketch of William Foster is the best account of his life and work written to date. Shank identified 22 of Foster designs, including government, commercial, educational, and residential property types. Among these, seven were located in Des Moines:

WILLIAM FOSTER OPUS (KNOWN WORKS IN DES MOINES)²⁷

Name	Location	Construction Date
Hawkeye Insurance Company Building (NRHP)	209 4th St.	1868-1869
Thomas Naylor House (attributed) (NRHP)	944 9th St.	1869
Foster's Opera House (nonextant)	s.e. cor. 8th & Walnut Sts.	1876
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	815 High St.	1885
First Methodist Church (nonextant)	10th & Pleasant St.	c. 1888
Finkbine House (attributed)	1915 Grand Ave.	1896
Foster House (probably/nonextant)	3915 Grand Ave.	1890s

(After 1883, Henry Franz Liebbe might have designed some of these buildings, as he entered in partnership with Foster in that year.) Research for this nomination has added the Youngerman Block to this list.

²⁶ Shank, 65.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 66-68.

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The construction of the Youngerman Block dates to the year of 1876 and calls attention to a prolific period of Foster's career. Shank cites a newspaper account from that year stating that Foster "had a lot of work" and that:

A reporter visiting his office in 1876 saw a list of twenty-seven buildings for which Foster had prepared plans "that season," an estimated \$410,000 or more of construction. One building was in Nebraska, about a third of them were in Des Moines, and the rest were in other Iowa cities.²⁸

As indicated, only two of Foster's commercial buildings in Des Moines are known to survive. Both of them—the Hawkeye Insurance Company Building and the Youngerman Block—show the influence of Italianate styling on their designs, each conveys a feeling of strength, but each achieves this by different means. The Hawkeye is a 3-story brick building with a 5-bay front façade. Brick pilasters are situated at each end of this façade and flank its three center bays. The first floor is elevated above the street level, and the cornice at the top of the building features an arched, pressed metal name plaque. Taken together, these features convey a feeling of soaring height to the building. By contrast, the first floor of the 3-story Youngerman Block stands at street-level on grade. Along with its 8-bay front façade and strictly horizontal cornice, these characteristics lend a linear feeling to the Youngerman Block. In comparison, these two neighbors across the street from one another show how Italianate commercial styling could achieve similar results through different means.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The Youngerman Block is an outstanding example of architectural styling as applied to a commercial edifice in Des Moines, Iowa. The upper floors exemplify the influence of Italianate styling, as practiced locally. The 1935 storefront is an outstanding example of local Art Deco design. All told, the Youngman Block stands as a successful meeting of the 19th century Italianate and a mid-twentieth century modernization—divergent styles that co-exist harmoniously, but without the loss of their individual character.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 66.

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Italianate

Sandwiched between two contiguous structures, the front façade of the Youngerman Block exhibits all of its significant stylistic detail, the best construction materials, and the highest attention to detail. The building's remaining elevations utilize second-grade brick and lack adornment.

The upper floors of the Youngerman Block show the clear influence of the Late Victorian era Italianate. This architectural style was most prevalent in both residential and commercial construction of Iowa in the last quarter of the 19th century. The Italianate is easily identified by the utilization of tall, narrow windows (commonly with a one-over-one light configuration), the presence of prominent and highly ornamented window hoods, and a prominent eave (in residential examples) or cornice (in commercial examples). In the case of commercial buildings, the cornice is commonly constructed of pressed metal and created a heavy "cap" to the ornate façade. Because of the Italianate style's extensive use of brackets along cornices, it is sometimes called the "Bracketed style."

In most ways the Youngerman Block is a model example of the Italianate in a commercial construction. The building's upper-story windows are indeed tall and narrow, and feature double-hung sash with a one-over-one configuration. Their close placement to one another is an indication of the desire to allow as much light into the interior as possible at a time when the limits of technology prevented larger openings in the wall. The highly decorative window surrounds with heavy, ornamental keystones and the heavy, bracketed pressed metal cornice exemplify the Italianate. In this manner, the Youngerman is an excellent example of an exceptionally well-preserved Italianate, commercial building.

Although a common architectural style in Des Moines during the 19th century, precious few Italianate-influenced commercial buildings remain extant in the city. The Youngerman Block, Hawkeye Insurance Company Building, Des Moines Saddlery Company Building (NRHP) at 307-311 Court Avenue, and Baker-DeVotie-Hollingsworth Block (NRHP) at 516-526 East Grand Avenue remain the best preserved and architecturally most sophisticated of them. A few other Italianate-influenced commercial buildings remain extant on the east side of downtown Des Moines but, unfortunately, lack sufficient integrity for nomination to the National Register individually or as an historic district. A few Italianate-influenced commercial buildings survive in the Victorian suburbs beyond downtown Des Moines. The Wherry Block (NRHP) at 1600-1602 6th Avenue and the Perry and Brainard Block (NRHP) at 1601 6th Avenue evidence typical characteristics of local Italianate commercial designs: masonry construction, tall and rather narrow windows, heavy hood molds, and pressed metal cornices and brackets. (The Perry and Brainard Block has lost some of its integrity of materials and design. The Wherry Block was recently rehabilitated preserving its architectural significance.) A few other Italianate commercial buildings

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survive in Des Moines' Victorian neighborhoods such as Drake Park and Sevastopol, but these examples are isolated and have undergone substantial alteration.

Asbestine

The Youngerman Block showcases a finish material that Conrad Youngerman pioneered locally. Known as asbestine, this mineral compound of magnesium silicate with aggregate could be form-poured, troweled, and decorated. It was often used in the late 19th century for lintels and sills, where the availability of natural stone was limited. Asbestine achieved its most useful employment in the construction of pavement and roads. An 1890 source notes:

The best material [for street curbs, etc.] is known as Asbestine Building Stone, and is prepared of German Portland cement, sand and broken stone. . .

The material forming this curb is rammed into wooden molds, the molds being made in sections, permitting them to be easily removed when the material has set; the usual time allowed for this purpose is nine days, the curb being fit for use in a few days after.²⁹

Building contractors in Des Moines used asbestine for pavement, as well as for other purposes. In 1893, J. W. Johnson advertised as a

Manufacturer of
Cement Sidewalk and Asbestine Building Stone,
Steps, Carriage Blocks, Curbing, Cemetery Work, Vases, Lot Fencing, Etc.³⁰

and claimed that

Asbestine Stone Is More Durable and Can Be Made
More Elaborate at Less Price than Native Stone/All work Warranted— 1645 Maple St.³¹

²⁹ Love, 188.

³⁰ City Directory, 1893. 722.

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By 1899, Johnson's name had disappeared from the city directory.

Conrad Youngerman's use of asbestine predates those touted by Johnson, and the façade of the Youngerman Block calls attention to its workable properties. According to one architectural historian:

The material used by Conrad Youngerman was evidently a cement or cast stone product, most likely made with Portland cement, small (and perhaps also large) aggregate, and presumably, water (see brief description in Andrews, pp. 202-203). It may or may not have included magnesium silicate as part of the aggregate; the earliest references I've found to the mineral magnesium silicate being used in a cement or plaster products was in 1886, at which time the plaster or fireproof stone described was said to be a new product (it also included powdered flint, caustic potash, and silicate of soda) (see, for example *Sioux County Herald* [Orange City, IA), March 11, 1886, p. 1. . . ³²

If used, Youngerman's source for magnesium silicate is unknown.

The keystones of the block's hood molds show how asbestine could be manipulated. The surface finish of the façade shows how asbestine could be applied with a trowel. The block's window surrounds and keystones show how decorative patterns could be impressed in asbestine. In spite of these advantages, the use of asbestine declined at the end of the 19th century in the wake of the growing use of Portland cement and concrete.

Art Deco

The 1935 storefront of the Youngerman Block is a striking example of Art Deco styling as applied to a commercial property in Des Moines. Many Deco characteristics are in evidence. The highly saturated colors of its ceramic tile—Chinese red, black, and Nile green—echo the vitality of the Jazz Age and reflect a popular Art Deco palette. The hard and sleek surfaces of the ceramic tile suggest a cool and reserved sophistication. The use of chevron patterns in the tile beneath the storefront windows hallmark the storefront's Art Deco influence.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Carlson, Richard.

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As part of that 1935 makeover, burnt-red ceramic tiles with black decorative insets replaced the original storefront. Combined with the reconfiguration of entrance and display window openings with their canted upper corners, the storefront assumed a more "modern," indeed oriental, character. Although the 1930s renovation is stylistically divergent from the Italianate retained in the upper façade, it is visually appealing and is architecturally significant in its own right. It should be noted that a somewhat similar remodeling took place with that at Hotel Randolph circa 1950. Although compatible in terms of building materials and color, that remodeling lacks the high level of detail found on the Youngerman Block.

The burnt-red tile of the present storefronts creates a dramatic backdrop for the various elements of this level of the Youngerman Block. The glazed, ceramic tiles measure approximately 8 x 16 inches each and are laid in a running bond with a neutral joint. As indicated, the tile is carried over into the Hotel Randolph's façade, but in the Youngerman specific effort was given to provide each of the storefronts with its own identity. This was done through the introduction of decorative insets into the burnt-red ground of the larger tile. This tile detailing is found beneath the display windows of both bays where narrow, vertical tiles alternate with larger, burnt-red tiles with a modified chevron pattern. Additional visual interest is added beneath the large display window of the south bay (206) with a tile grillwork. A black, ceramic tile water table visually anchors the storefront at sidewalk level and a green ceramic beltcourse marks the transition to the upper stories. To further enhance the 1935 renovation, door and window openings are simple in form and detail, relying on the simple canting of some of their lines to add expression.

Oftentimes rehabilitation projects update only one of a commercial block's two storefronts, leaving the other storefront visually unconnected. The Youngerman storefront avoided this misfortune. At the same time, the block's 1935 design included certain architectural details in it to distinguish the two storefronts from one another. The entrance to 206 is offset on its storefront. The entrance to 208 is centered on its storefront. The entrance to 206 features an iron gate to its recessed doorway. The doorway to 208 is set flush to the façade and features a Tudor Revival-influenced door. Still, this variety is held in check by the uniformity of the storefront's horizontal lines held in common by both storefronts and their definitive expanses of red tile. The Coppola family of Des Moines owned the Youngerman Block during the late 20th century and deserves thanks for the preservation of this storefront at a time when Art Deco styling had reached a nadir of appreciation.

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Compatibility

Although wildly divergent in design, the Youngerman Block successfully combines Italianate and Art Deco styling to great effect. The horizontal feeling of the storefront provides a solid base to the composition, while the vertical feeling of the upper stories lends an upward visual thrust to the block. The heavy cornice abruptly checks this vertical thrust and leads the eye back to the base. The combination of these horizontal and vertical lines creates visual tension and excitement. The block's fenestration and doorways further accentuate this tension. The storefront openings are small and narrow and suggest the "mystery of the Orient." By contrast, the upper story windows—with their 16 openings and great height—lend a light and open feeling to the balance of the facade. This contrast of light and shade creates yet another source of visual excitement to the design.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

In 1983, Barbara Beving Long completed an Iowa Site Inventory form for the Youngerman Block and found it National Register eligible, under Criterion C, for reasons cited on the following page.

This building provides the best link with Des Moines' pioneer construction business and calls attention to the successful business Conrad Youngerman operated. It apparently shows a popular building material, "abestine stone," [sic] which Youngerman used in his business.

German-born Youngerman was one of four successful contractors arriving in Des Moines in the late 1850s, the eve of the city's ascendancy to State Capital. He first worked as a stonecutter, but in 1860 began to make brick and employ large crews for construction works. Between 1875 and 1879 he owned a factory to make "abestine" or artificial stone. Since natural stone was relatively scarce in the area, builders used concrete to make lintels and sills, sometimes even entire facades. It appears that Youngerman used this building as a kind of permanent advertisement for abestine.

Youngerman built other structures for his investments, including the Youngerman Block at 5th and Mulberry and other structures along 5th Street. He built hundreds of structures in the rapidly developing city. Among them were three schools, factories, Capital City State Bank, and the old Valley Bank. His political activities and service on the City Council probably aided in securing contracts to build the schools.³³

³³ Long, 1983.

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In 1994, the State Historical Society of Iowa determined the Youngerman Block (a.k.a. "Youngerman Building") individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society revisited this evaluation in 2007 when it reviewed further historical information about the property and issued a Determination of Eligibility for it. It should be pointed out that Conrad Youngerman constructed another albeit nonextant edifice also known as the Youngerman Block in downtown Des Moines. It stood on the northwest corner of 5th & Mulberry Streets in Des Moines.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, there appears to be little in this regard. Excavation for the construction of this block in the 19th century substantially disturbed the entire site.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

The career of Conrad Youngerman deserves thorough research and evaluation. The list of his work, as presented above, attests to his influence over design and construction in Des Moines.

The discovery of William Foster as the architect of the Youngerman Block came late in the preparation of this nomination as researchers continued to read contemporary newspapers. Clearly, Foster deserves further study. While the information provided here underlines Foster's significance in the architectural history of Des Moines and provides contextual framework for the significance of the Youngerman Block within his opus, Foster's career will be reconstructed little by little as more examples of his work come to light.

An investigation into early cast stone production and use in Des Moines and elsewhere in Iowa is another potential avenue for research.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

MAPS

Sanborn Map Company

Des Moines, Iowa: 1884, 1891, 1901, 1920, 1920-1943 (updated), 1957.

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 22F S 22F N 44F LOT 7 & S 110F LOT 8 BLK 21 FORT DES MOINES,
LESS THAT OCCUPIED BY THE HOTEL RANDOLPH.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land historically associated with this resource.

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National Park Service

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Youngerman Block, Polk County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Youngerman Block
206-208 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking west
William C. Page, Photographer
August 28, 2008
2. Youngerman Block
206-208 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking southeast (adjacent right of light-colored roof)
William C. Page, Photographer
August 28, 2008
3. Youngerman Block
206-208 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking west, detail of asbestine & window
William C. Page, Photographer
August 28, 2008
4. Youngerman Block
206-208 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking west, 206 Fourth St. storefront
William C. Page, Photographer
August 28, 2008
5. Youngerman Block
206-208 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking west, 208 Fourth St. storefront
William C. Page, Photographer
August 28, 2008
6. Youngerman Block
206-208 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
Looking north
Interior Hall, second floor
William C. Page, Photographer
August 28, 2008