

# Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation  
Iowa State Historical Department  
East 12th & Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Site Number W - CO - W1.2  
District Name Legacy In Stone TR  
Map Reference # 76

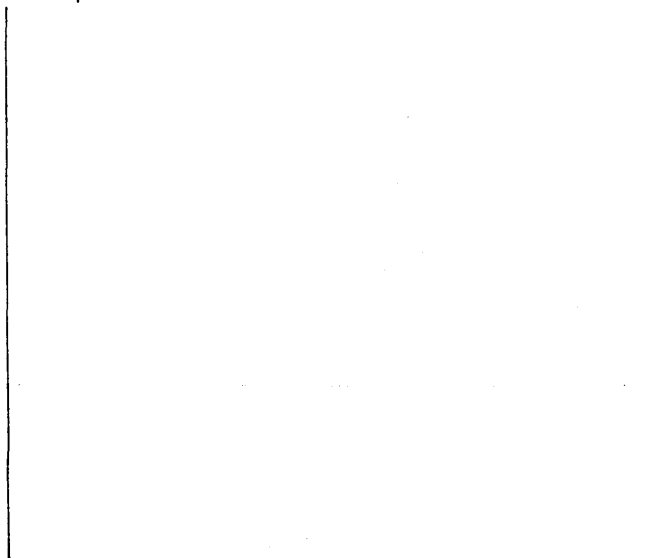
## Identification

1. Site Name Sprague, Brown, & Knowlton Store
  2. Village/Town/City Winterset Township \_\_\_\_\_ County Madison
  3. Street Address First & Court
  4. Legal Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Urban: \_\_\_\_\_ subdivision \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ Lot 4 \_\_\_\_\_ W1/3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Rural: \_\_\_\_\_ township \_\_\_\_\_ block \_\_\_\_\_ parcel \_\_\_\_\_ subparcel \_\_\_\_\_  
range \_\_\_\_\_ section \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 section of 1/4 section \_\_\_\_\_
- (Map 3A)
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 414,150 northing 4,576,150; Acreage less than one acre
  6. Owner(s) Name United Federal Savings And Loan
  7. Owner(s) Address First & Court Winterset IA 50273  
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
  8. Use: Present Commercial Original Commercial

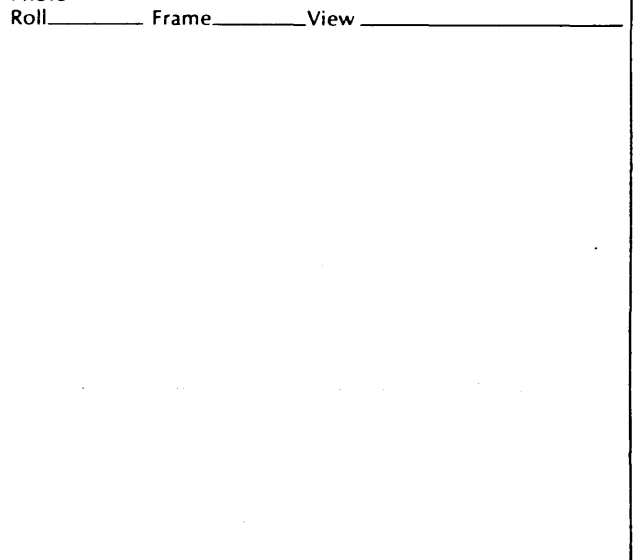
## Description

9. Date of Construction 1866 Architect/Builder David Harris
10. Building Type:  
 single-family dwelling  industrial  other institutional  religious  
 multiple-family dwelling  educational  public  agricultural  
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls:  clapboard  stone  brick  board and batten  shingles  stucco  
 other Native limestone
12. Structural System:  wood frame with interlocking joints  wood frame with light members (balloon frame)  
 masonry load-bearing walls  iron frame  steel frame with curtain walls  reinforced concrete  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
13. Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated
14. Integrity:  original site  moved—if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:  
New store front. Door cut in side of secondary facade.
15. Related Outbuildings and Property:  barn  other farm structures  carriage house  garage  privy  
 other \_\_\_\_\_
16. Is the building endangered?  no  yes—if so, why? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Surroundings of the building:  open land  woodland  scattered outbuildings  densely built-up  commercial  
 industrial  residential  other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Map



19. Photo



## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### **20. Architectural Significance**

—a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register

—b. Contributing structure

Theme(s): Vernacular Architecture

Subtheme(s): Identified master deasigner/builder: Harris; Function: Commercial.

The Sprague, Brown, and Knowlton Store is an early example of a vernacular commercial building constructed of limestone. It is one of three extant two story linear rectangle store buildings. Notable features include chamfered quoins; lintels with cornices; and a parapet at the top of the main facade which has a stone cornice, cornice returns, and stone brackets.

The 23'9" x 80' two story flat roofed store is constructed of locally quarried ashlar and rubble limestone. The north facade next to the sidewalk and across the street from the courthouse has a renovated storefront at ground level. There are three second story windows. The west facade adjacent to the sidewalk and across the street from the side of the White, Munger, and Co. Store has five windows at the second story level. There are first floor windows below windows one, two, four, and five. There is another store building immediately adjacent to the east facade and an addition to the south facade.

The main facade is constructed of ashlar finished with a tool with a small round end. Quoins and all the first floor stone of the main facade have the same finish and are chamfered, too. Stonework is coursed and joints are close. The west facade is constructed of roughly squared quarry faced rubble. Some of the stonework is coursed, some is uncoursed, and some has two against one broken bond. Joints have been repointed. Window treatment on the main facade consists of lintels with cornices like those in the Vawter (W-SO-E1), Shriver (W-CO-E6), and Ford (77N29W-24.1) Houses. Protruding sills are of dimension sandstone with a smooth surface. Windows are splayed and have undecorated wood paneling in the reveal. Quoins and jambs are chamfered and finished with a small round ended tool. There is a parapet with a stone cornice and cornice return which has the same design as that used for the cornice on the lintels. Four sets of two stone brackets support the cornice - one set at each corner and sets between the windows. There is one bracket under the cornice return on the west facade. There is also a cornice across the facade at the top of the first story. The lintels and protruding sills of the west facade are of dimension sandstone. There is a protruding water table on the west facade. On the west facade, the stone has a punched finish in the center of the face and smooth margins.

The use of chamfered quoins, lintels with cornices and some two against one broken bond, suggest that the building may have been built by David Harris.

### **21. Historical Significance**

—a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register

—b. Contributing Structure

Theme(s): Early Settlement

In 1866, Sprague, Brown, and Knowlton bought parcels from John Flack, White and Munger, and William Knowlton and built this stone store building. It served a dry goods business.

Atlas of Madison Co., Iowa Philadelphia: Harrison & Warner, 1875.

Courthouse Records. Winterset, Iowa: Madison County Records' Office.

Davies, J. J. History and Business Directory of Madison Co., Ia. Des Moines; Mills and Co. Printers and Publishers, 1869.

Koch, Augustus, artist. Bird's Eye View of the City of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, 1869. Chicago: Chicago Lithographing & Co., n.d.

22.

**Sources**

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