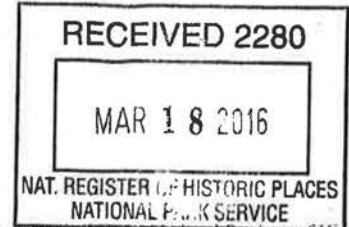


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional 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 Flynn Building  
other names/site number Flynn Block; Peoples' Savings Bank Building; Griffin, Edna M., Building

2. Location

street & number 319 7<sup>th</sup> Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Des Moines vicinity N/A  
state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50309-3812

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination        request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide X locally. (       See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Steve King*  
Signature of certifying official

10 MARCH 2016  
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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edouard H. Beall*  
Signature of Keeper

5-3-16  
Date of Action

Flynn Building  
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(do not include previously listed resources in count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            |                 | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
|              |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| 1            |                 | 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**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

MODERN MOVEMENT/Commercial Style

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

\_\_\_\_\_

roof OTHER

other STONE

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical 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)**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1885-1966

**Significant Dates**

1885

1906

1948

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Flynn, Martin

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Foster, William

Proudfoot & Bird

Flynn Building  
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 15   | 447829  | 4604056  | 3 |      |         |          |
| 2 |      |         |          | 4 |      |         |          |

See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Alexa McDowell email akaymcd@hotmail.com

organization AKAY Consulting date 03/06/2016

street & number 103 W. Island Avenue telephone 515-491-5432

city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401-1509

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## Additional Documentation

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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)

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## Property Owner

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

name Flynn Building, LTD. (c/o JB Conlin)

street & number 319 7<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 515-246-8016

city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50309-3812

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**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

Section 7 Page 1 Property name Flynn Building  
County and State Polk County, Iowa

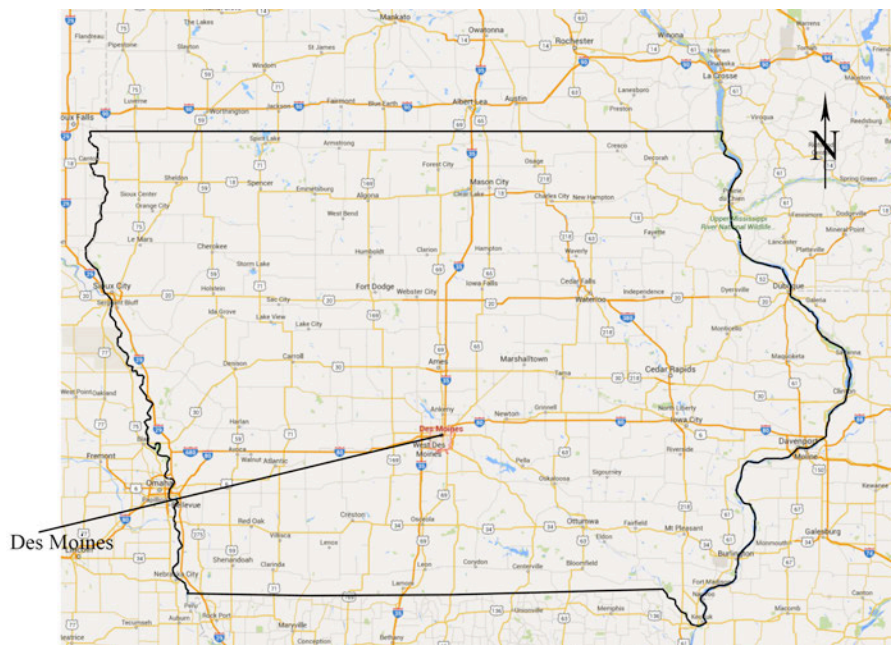
**7. Narrative Description**

Site Description

The Flynn Building is located in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa (Figure 1). Situated in south-central Iowa, Des Moines is the state's capital, with the population of the metropolitan area estimated at 611,549 in 2014.<sup>1</sup> Des Moines is bisected by the north-to-south running I-35 and the east-to-west running I-80.

The city's historic commercial center straddles the Des Moines River, which wends its way through the city from northwest to southeast. The state capitol building is located on the east side of the river, in an area that has in recent years become known as the East Village. The Flynn Building, at 319 7<sup>th</sup> Street, is sited on the opposite bank, just seven blocks from the river (Figure 2). The area in which the building is located is, and was historically, commercial in composition.

**Figure 1.** Map of Iowa – 2015



(SOURCE: Base map, <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Des+Moines,+IA>. Accessed 07/14/2015.)

The location of Des Moines, Iowa is indicated.

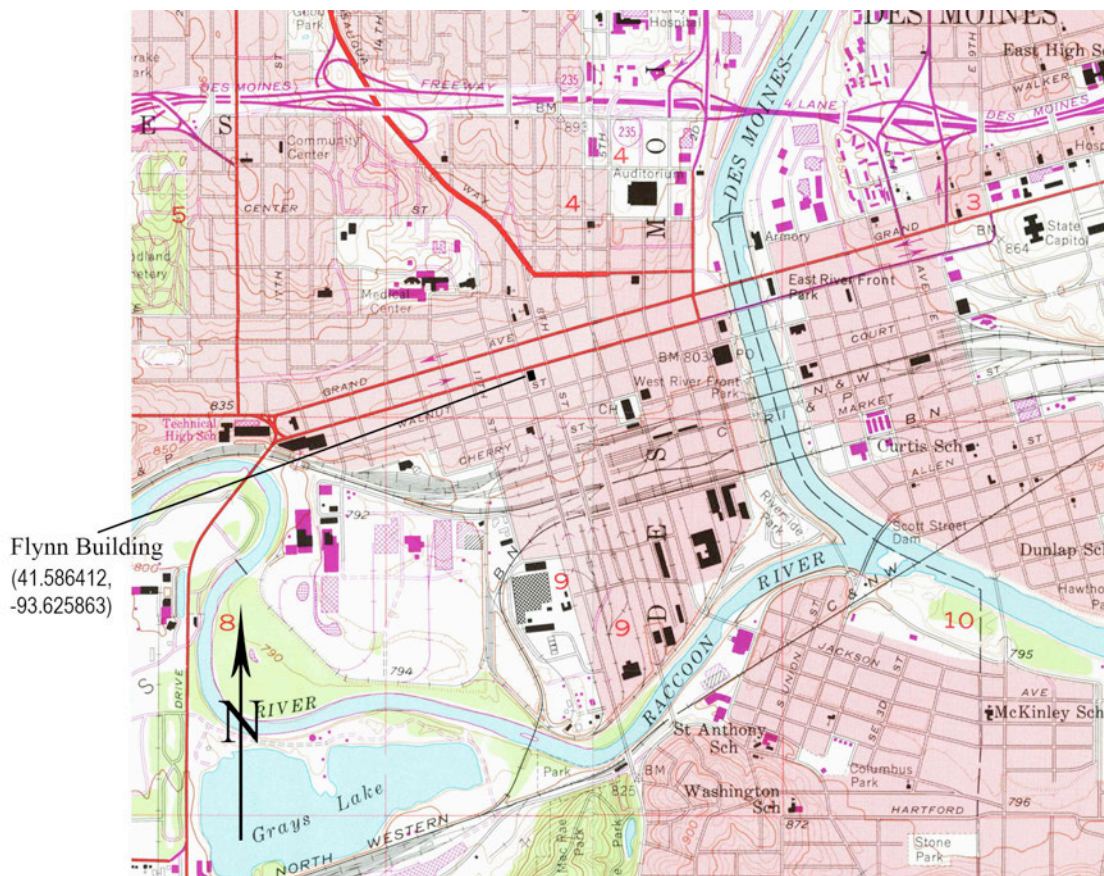
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kcci.com/news/census-shows-rapid-growth-in-des-moines-metro-area/32027726>. Accessed 07/14/2015.

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Figure 2. USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map – Des Moines SE & SW Quads – 1956



(SOURCE: Base map, USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, Des Moines SE & SW Quads, 1956.)

The location of the Flynn Building is indicated.

The Flynn Building stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of Locust and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets (Figure 3). The building is bounded by a one-story commercial property on the east (612 Locust Street), which, although dated by the Polk County Assessor as 1900, has a modernized façade. The Equitable Life Insurance Building occupies the remainder of the block fronting Locust Street. The Equitable Building was designed in 1924 by the renowned Iowa architectural firm of Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson - the firm responsible for the 1906 alteration of the Flynn Building.

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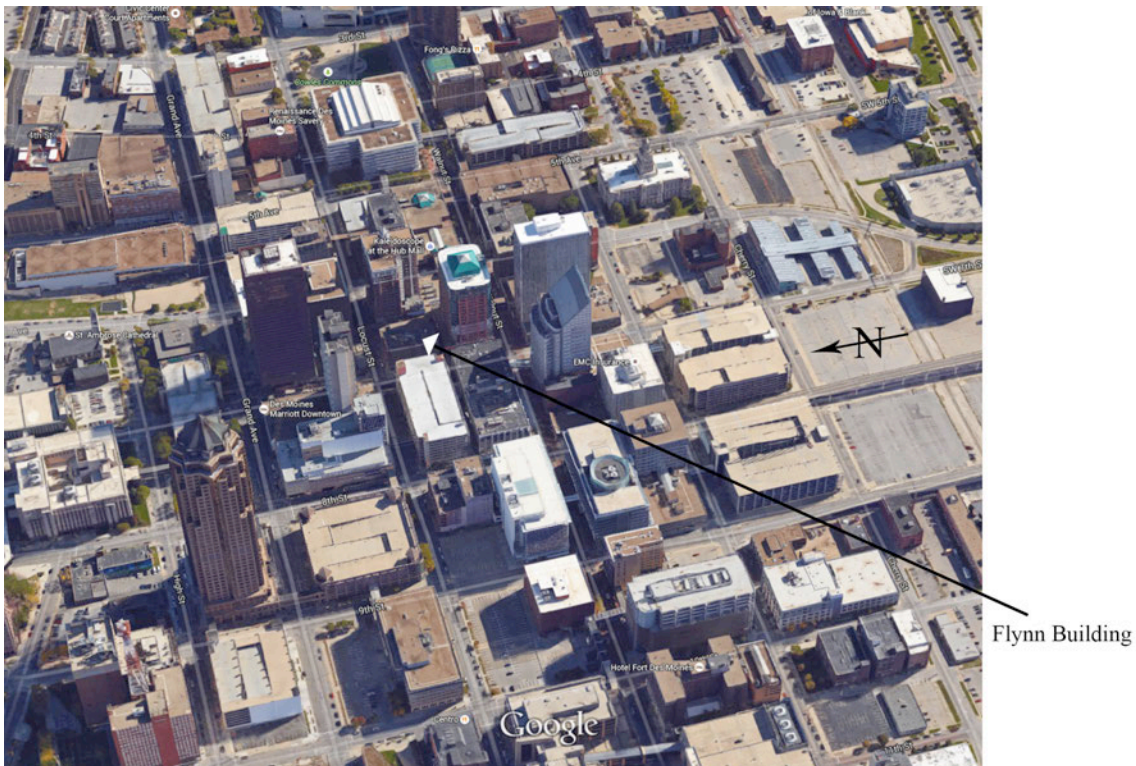
**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Section 7 Page 3 Property name Flynn Building  
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The Flynn Building is bounded on the south by an alley. Hub Tower, constructed in 1984 at 699 Walnut Street, is located south of the Flynn Building with the alley separating the properties. A ca.1995 skywalk connects the Flynn Building to the Hub Tower at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor level. To the north across Locust Street from the Flynn Building stands the Ruan Center - at 36 stories, the city's second tallest building. The Ruan Center was designed by the firm of Kendall Griffith Russell Artiaga in the International Style and completed in 1975.

A public sidewalk runs flush to the Flynn Building on the west and the north, with primary entrance to the building made on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, where a lobby with elevator access is located. Entrance to the north retail spaces is made from Locust Street.

**Figure 3.** Aerial Map - 2015



(SOURCE: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/319+7th+St,+Des+Moines,+IA>. Accessed 07/14/2015.)

This aerial view of Des Moines' west bank commercial area illustrates the visual character of the area in which the Flynn Building (location noted) is situated.

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The six-story Flynn Building reflects the 1906 expansion and renovation of a three-story 1885 building. Following that major alteration, the building's scale and corner location undoubtedly lent it prominence in the Des Moines commercial district streetscape. Today, however, late twentieth century buildings that grew up around it dwarf the Flynn Building (Image 1). The building's stylistic tendencies, particularly related to window form and arrangement, minimized decorative embellishment, and façade organization, reflect its early twentieth century renovation date.

**Image 1.** Context View



(IMAGE: AKAY Consulting, April 01, 2015.)

View looking south along 7<sup>th</sup> Street with the Flynn Building in view on the corner. The Ruan Center is in the foreground, left and the Equitable Building is just in view in background left. The Hub Tower is in view behind the Flynn Building.



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Section 7 Page 5 Property name Flynn Building  
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Building Description

*Exterior*

The Flynn Building is a six-story brick construction erected on a brick and stone foundation with a riveted, steel I-beam support structure introduced in 1906 to support the addition of three floors. The property is rectangular in plan (70'-0" x 142'-0") with an inner ventilation core introduced at the third floor (east side) resulting in a U-shaped plan from the third to the sixth floors. Typical of commercial structures of the period, the building's roof is flat.

**Image 2. Exterior**



(IMAGE: AKAY Consulting, April 01, 2015.)

View of the Flynn Building, north and west facades, looking southeast  
across the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets.

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Section 7 Page 6 Property name Flynn Building  
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The Flynn Building's north façade is organized into three bays, featuring paired windows at each of the floors above street level (Image 2). Those of the second story are emphasized through the use of segmented arch headers with label moldings, an increased height, and a belt course creating visual continuity across both the north and west elevations; this arrangement and appearance of the fenestration dates to the original 1885 building. The windows of the third floor were modified in 1906 - changing from the form retained on the windows of the second floor to the simple rectangles of the more modern Commercial Style (Images 3). At the third floor, the windows are visually impacted by the heavy stringcourse that acts as the sill at this level, but through the sixth floor the windows lack decorative detail save cast stone sills. The historic windows were replaced by 1984, but the retention of the historic openings and light configuration minimize the adverse visual impact to the building's overall historic character.

The storefronts of the Flynn Building have been significantly altered from the 1906 remodel by Proudfoot & Bird. The first major alteration of the 1906 storefronts was completed in 1930, with the current incarnation dating to ca.1995. While the current organization of the storefront level remains fairly true to the era in which the building was occupied by Katz Drug Store (1930-1970), the appearance of the transom area, the downsizing of glazing, the introduction of brick infill, the squaring of the northwest corner, and the replacement of the storefront glazing impact the building's historic integrity.

As a corner property, the west elevation of the Flynn Building functions as a façade and, as a result, the retention of form, materials and design are as important as those on the north elevation. Significantly, after the 1906 expansion and renovation, the primary entrance to the building was located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, as it is today. Like the north façade the west is organized into sections or bays (Image 2). In this case, the north one-third of the west elevation is not sub-divided (reading as a single bay). This articulation corresponds to the interior division of the ground level retail space. The south half of the west façade is sub-divided to mark the building's primary entrance on that elevation, and three bays, each featuring paired windows on the upper stories.

The windows of the west elevation reiterate those of the north, utilizing segmented arched windows on the second floor and simple, rectangular openings on the remaining floors (Image 3). As is true on the north façade, the storefront level on the west retains a strong sense of the historic organization, but has been negatively impacted by the covering of the transom area, the infill of two bays, and the alteration of the entrance surround.

An historic image documents the appearance of the 1906 cornice on the north and west elevations, the form and scale of which was in keeping with the building's design in the Commercial Style (Image 8). The historic cornice was removed by 1984. Today, a metal running sill topped by a painted motif simulates a cornice. Although a far cry from the original, the painted version is a visual cue to the lost feature, supplying a capital in the façade's tripartite composition.

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**Image 3.** Exterior - Fenestration



(IMAGE: AKAY Consulting, April 01, 2015.)

View of the upper story fenestration of the west elevation.

Typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings, the Flynn Building's secondary (south and east) elevations utilize second-grade brick and lack applied decoration. On both elevations, windows are found on the second through the sixth floors, their arrangement dictated by interior functional spaces. Most notably, windows retain their historic "fireproof" elements, including steel frames and sash with embedded wire mesh and iron sills utilized in some but not all. A fire escape is mounted to the rear elevation and a skywalk connects the Flynn Building to its neighbor on the south (Photograph 7). It should be noted again that the circulation core is located on the east elevation, beginning on the fourth floor. Today, the brick of both the south and east elevations are painted.

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Section 7 Page 8 Property name Flynn Building  
County and State Polk County, Iowa

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*Interior*

The interior of the Flynn Building is characterized by retail space on the ground floor and office space on the upper five floors. Although the configuration of the storefront retail spaces have been altered, they retain a sense of historic function as retail (versus office) space in their relation to the primary entrances, to each other, in their sense of scale, and in the predominant use of large display windows. The upper stories continue to house office spaces. A central corridor providing access to the offices historically defined the floor plan of each of the upper floors. With the exception of the fifth and sixth floors, that basic floor plan remains intact.

As noted, primary entrance to the Flynn Building is made from 7<sup>th</sup> Street, where a small lobby provides access to the building's two elevators – the north elevator is original to the building. The historic iron staircase remains in place adjacent to the elevators (Photograph 20-21). The commercial spaces occupying the northwest and southwest corners of the ground floor can be entered from the lobby. As noted, although these spaces have been altered, they retain their historic relationship to each other and to the lobby as well as a sense of their retail function due to the retention of large display windows that remain largely in place around the perimeter of the ground floor.

**Image 4.** Interior – 7<sup>th</sup> Street Lobby/Vestibule



(IMAGE: AKAY Consulting, April 01, 2015.)

View of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street entrance lobby, looking east from the entrance.

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**Image 5.** Interior – Storefront



(IMAGE: AKAY Consulting, April 01, 2015.)

View of the northwest space, looking northwest. A section of the Katz Drug Store was located in this portion of the storefront, including the corner entrance, which was removed by ca.1984. Although altered, the retention of an open floor plan and large display windows account for the retention of a retail character.

The upper floors of the Flynn Building were designed for office space and, with the exception of the fifth and sixth floor, the layouts remain generally intact from the 1906 addition and renovation (Figure 7-8). The floor plans of the second through fourth stories retain a central corridor lined by offices, while the fifth and sixth have been altered to a more open plan. While the majority of historic finishes are camouflaged or lost entirely, in many cases the wood window trim remains intact. Remnants of the historic finishes (plaster and molding) were noted beneath dropped ceilings in isolated areas. Further, several vaults remain in the building, one of which is marked with the name of the of Martin Flynn’s Peoples’ Savings Bank. Otherwise, the vaults retain the mark of the manufacturer, Mosler Safe Co.

Despite the passage of 130 years, the Flynn Building remains a viable commercial resource in the Des Moines central business district – first as a three-story Victorian era construction and then as a six-story commercial office building reflective of its 20<sup>th</sup> century renovation and expansion. The property continues to reflect the design of Proudfoot & Bird that transformed a relatively small building into a twentieth century property of substance and importance.

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**Image 6.** Interior – Representative View of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Corridor



(IMAGE: AKAY Consulting, April 01, 2015.)

View of the second floor corridor, looking south from the elevator. The view is typical of floors 2-4, including corridor width and height, series of offices located off the corridor, and finish materials.

Integrity Considerations

On the whole, the Flynn Building retains a good level of historic integrity for the period of significance.

Regarding integrity of location, the property remains on its original location with no discernible alteration of the site having been made. As a result, *historic integrity of location is high*.

From the time of its construction in 1885, the Flynn Building has been part of the evolution of the Des Moines downtown commercial area. Changes in the buildings in the immediate vicinity have altered the setting during the life of the Flynn Building, but the resource remains situated within the context of the larger commercial district, resulting in a *high level of integrity as it relates to setting*.

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Regarding integrity of association, while the composition and density of the commercial district has evolved in the many years since the building's construction, the property's functional composition, which during the entirety of its Period of Significance was a cross-section of retail and office space, remains intact, holding the property in a solid business position within the commercial downtown and accounting for the retention of a *high degree of integrity as it relates to historic association*.

Regarding *integrity of design on the exterior*, the Flynn Building retains the dominant elements that define it as an example of 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial building design in the Commercial Style. Of particular importance related to style-defining features is the organization of the façade, which has not been altered. As built, the building facades (north and west) utilized a three-part organization: base, shaft, and capital. Although the historic capital (i.e. cornice) has been removed, the three-part organizational structure remains today. Further, the arrangement of fenestration into clearly defined bays also remains intact, as does the actual placement of windows and their configuration. The retention of the 1906 form including footprint, height, and roof shape are also critical to retention of a *very good level of historic integrity as it relates to design*.

The ca.1995 alteration of the storefront level negatively impacts integrity of design specific to the building's exterior visual character. Infill of two storefront bays, covering of the historic transom area, squaring of the northwest corner, and loss of the Katz signage detract from the historic integrity of design, specific to the case for significance related to Edna Griffin and the 1948 sit-in at the drugstore. However, the transformation of the storefront level from the form dating to Peoples' Savings Bank to the era of Katz Drug Store was significant in the evolution of the building. Although the ca.1995 renovation altered the 1930 storefront, with the retention of large expanses of display areas, the retail character is maintained. Further, the use of visually sympathetic brick and the retention of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street entrance all provide a measure of balance against the adverse impact of the ca.1995 alterations. As a result, people during the period in which Katz Drug Store was located in the Flynn Building would recognize the building were they to encounter it today.

Regarding *integrity of design on the interior*, the Flynn Building retains a generally fair level of historic integrity. Although the floor plans on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors have been altered, those on the remaining upper stories retain their historic configuration with a central corridor providing access to the perimeter offices; the central core with elevators and staircase are also retained through the building.

Alteration of the first floor retail space that housed Katz Drug Store presents the most significant adverse impact to integrity of design on the building's interior. Many retail enterprises have come and gone in the years since Katz vacated the storefront and with each turnover remodeling erased more and more of the 1930 ground floor spaces. It is important to note it is widely accepted that, due to the nature of the retail sector, interior spaces and storefronts are commonly altered to accommodate the needs specific to the business. As a result, the diminished integrity of the Flynn Building's ground level retail spaces is to be expected. Today,

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the integrity of design on the ground level is tied to the retention of large display windows, sense of volume, location within the building, and functional relationship to the street and other spaces in the building. Further, the infill of the historic storefront, while detrimental to the historic integrity as it relates to design, materials, and workmanship, retains a sense of the historic organization and storefront function.

As it relates *to integrity of materials, the exterior of the Flynn Building retains a generally good level of historic integrity.* The historic masonry, which is a dominant character defining element, remains intact except for a section of the storefront cornice that has been covered by a insulation board cladding system. Despite the introduction of replacement windows, the individual stone headers and sills remain intact, as do the various decorative stone elements employed across the primary facades. The loss of the historic cornice is significant and poses a negative impact on the integrity of materials. As noted, that negative visual impact is mitigated by the current treatment, which although a far cry from the original cornice, does provide a visual “cap” for the building.

Regarding *integrity of materials on the interior,* the building retains a fair level of historic integrity. The wholesale loss of historic finishes such as millwork, flooring, and plaster on the building’s upper floors is unfortunate and impacts integrity relative to the 1906 remodeling. However, the retention of the central staircase, finish materials in the public restrooms, and the vaults support integrity of materials.

With these various aspects of historic integrity intact, a sense of time and place is retained resulting in a *good level of integrity of feeling.*

**FUTURE PLANS**

The historic rehabilitation of the Flynn Building is currently in the planning stages. The property will likely retain its historic functional composition with office spaces on the upper stories and retail located in the storefronts. The historic rehabilitation would utilize State and Federal historic tax credits, with all work undertaken following the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Historic Rehabilitation.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Significant Person, cont'd.**

Griffin, Edna M.

**Summary of Significance**

The Flynn Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The resource is locally significant in its long association with the history of commerce in Des Moines, Iowa as well as in its association with the July 7, 1948 event that led to the Iowa Supreme Court decision that broadly tested the strength of the 1884 Iowa Civil Rights Act and, more specifically, forced the desegregation of the Des Moines Katz Drug Store, which was located in the building.

The Flynn Building is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B. The resource is locally significant as the only remaining representative of early pioneer and businessman Martin Flynn's contributions to Des Moines' commercial sector and the Flynn Building is the most important and directly relevant built resource representing the civil rights work of Edna M. Griffin.

The Flynn Building represents the evolution of Des Moines commerce over the 81 years encompassed by the period of significance of 1885-1966. Throughout that time the Flynn Building was an active participant in Des Moines' commercial sector, shifting and adapting in form and occupancy in response to the changing demands of the population.

The "Flynn Block" was constructed in 1885 at the edge of what was fast becoming the city's commercial district centered around West 7<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets, just one block to the south.<sup>2</sup> First occupied by H.C. Harris & Co., a dry goods business, the "Flynn Block" became part of a concentration of clothing and department stores to be established along West 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The various occupants of the Flynn Building – specifically at the storefront level - remained anchored in the retail sector for the ensuing years; only recently have the first floor retail spaces become vacant.

The Flynn Building is also representative of commerce specific to banking in Des Moines, with Martin Flynn's Peoples' Savings Bank located in the building when organized in 1890. The bank occupied the northwest corner of the building through 1905 when its success and the general prosperity of the city resulted in the expansion and remodeling of the "Flynn Block" the following year. The Peoples' Savings Bank

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<sup>2</sup> Barbara Beving Long, "Des Moines Center of Iowa Survey of Historic Sites," Completed for the City of Des Moines, 1982:24.

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**Continuation Sheet**

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**County and State** Polk County, Iowa

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assumed a much larger space in the newly renovated building – the exterior and interior spaces modified to reflect the rising status of its chief occupant. The newly dubbed “Flynn Building” continued to house the bank through 1929.

The years after the 1906 expansion mark a shift in the Flynn Building’s impact on the city’s commercial sector. The building’s overhaul marks a transition from a small-scale commercial property to one, while retaining retail business (including Peoples’ Savings Bank) on the first floor, that was dominated by professional office spaces. The transformation was impactful on the streetscape as well as on the new services made convenient to this area of the city. During a period when the insurance industry was on the rise in Des Moines, the expanded Flynn Building provided office space commonly occupied by professionals of that industry.

The year 1930 marks another shift in commercial focus when, following the 1929 bank closure, the first floor was dramatically altered to accommodate a new long-term tenant – Katz Drug Store. Once again the building adapted in order to remain a viable contributor to the city’s commercial prosperity. The Flynn Building remained simultaneously associated with multiple factions of the city’s commercial sector through the period of significance.

Although Martin Flynn was a businessman of great importance in the city, his accomplishments are locally most associated with and celebrated at his farm (National Register listed in 1973) – now part of Living History Farms in the Des Moines suburb of Urbandale. That fact is a reflection of Living History Farms as an important cultural and educational resource in Iowa since 1969. The site provides an important venue for illustrating the history of agriculture and, with the buildings and land so strongly associated with the Flynn family standing as central artifacts, is an important representative of Martin Flynn’s legacy.

The Flynn Building in downtown Des Moines stands as the only remaining representative of Martin Flynn’s contributions to Des Moines’ commercial sector. As stated, the building represents commercial growth in Des Moines from the time of its 1885 construction, through the 1906 renovation, and forward through the 1966 period of significance ending date. The building was constructed in the rising commercial district under the auspices of Martin Flynn – the building having housed from 1890 through 1929 the bank he established and directed. Although completed after his death, the 1906 expansion was a project of his undertaking.

The state of Iowa has a relatively long history of judicial action in the area of recognizing and protecting the civil rights of its citizens, including passage of the 1884 Iowa Civil Rights Act. Despite this, de facto segregation and racial discrimination continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. African Americans in Des Moines knew the rules ... which doors to enter, where to stand, and which downtown lunch counters would serve them. On July 7, 1948 Edna Griffin, an outspoken African American woman with a finely honed sense of justice and the will to act, sat down at the counter in Katz Drug Store with her companions to buy ice cream

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and sodas. The group was refused service because the store was “not equipped to serve colored people.” The subsequent picketing, sit-ins, and distribution of handbills calling for a boycott of the store were events orchestrated by Griffin to force Katz to obey the Iowa Civil Rights Act, which guaranteed that “equal accommodation” would be provided to all, regardless of race. Those actions resulted in a 1949 Iowa Supreme Court ruling for the plaintiffs and the subsequent desegregation of the Katz Drug Store. As Griffin herself pointed out, because the case went all the way to the Iowa Supreme Court the impact of the ruling was felt statewide.

Griffin’s commitment to the advancement of many social issues went beyond the 1949 Supreme Court ruling – her work began on a picket line while a student at Fisk University and carried on to her arrest near the SAC army base near Omaha, Nebraska where, as a 75-year old grandmother, Griffin sat in the middle of the highway to stop nuclear warheads from being shipped to the base. Among her many awards and honors, Griffin was inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in 1985 and into the Iowa African Americans’ Hall of Fame in 1998, honors representative of her significance in the history of Iowa.

The Period of Significance for the Flynn Building is 1885 through 1966, the year the building was placed in service through the recommended 50-year window. Significant Dates are 1885, the year the building was placed in service; 1906, the year the building was remodeled and expanded; and 1948, the year in which Edna M. Griffin led the protests at the Katz Drug Store that resulted in the 1949 Iowa Supreme Court ruling.

Historical Background

The Flynn Block<sup>3</sup> was constructed in 1885, a period in Des Moines history in which the city’s commercial interests were expanding beyond the early concentration around Court Avenue to the east. The era was one in which the city, with its advantages in railroad access, central location and status as the center for State government, was rising to become Iowa’s wholesale and retail trading center. Constructed under the auspices of the early Des Moines resident, livestock breeder, entrepreneur, and banker, Martin Flynn, the 1885 building was designed for use as a commercial building.

Although first occupied by miscellaneous retail businesses, in 1890 Flynn’s own Peoples’ Savings Bank became the building’s primary occupant. In response to the success of the bank and positive economic conditions, Martin Flynn initiated a major renovation of his building in early 1906. Although Martin Flynn did not live to see the completion of that work, the expansion marked an important shift from a small-scale commercial property to one, while retaining retail business (including Peoples’ Savings Bank) on the first floor, which was dominated by professional office spaces. The transformation certainly impacted the

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<sup>3</sup> When constructed in 1885 the building was known as the Flynn Block, a reflection of its scale, construction era, and variety in function (retail and meeting halls). Following the 1906 expansion, the Flynn Building was born. Again the descriptor is a reflection of scale, construction era, and variety in function (retail and professional office space). For clarity, the name used is appropriate to the period under discussion.

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streetscape and provided new office space for the growing professional faction of the city's commercial sector.

The Flynn Building and Peoples' Savings Bank continued to thrive under the leadership of Martin Flynn's sons and business partners. The enlarged property housed the People's Savings Bank through the bank's collapse in 1929 with retail space located on the first floor adjacent to the bank and offices in the upper stories. The building was officially renamed the Edna M. Griffin Building in 1998 in honor of Edna Mae Williams Griffin who led a sit-in at Katz Drugstore in 1948. The building retains retail spaces at the street level and a mix of business types in the offices of the upper stories.

***Martin Flynn and the Flynn Building***

In January of 1885 the *Des Moines Register* reported the completion of the "Flynn Block." The story of Martin Flynn reflects the American ideal. As an immigrant to this country, Flynn worked long and hard to rise to a position of prominence in his community. His impact on his city was significant and his legacy sound.

Martin Flynn was born in County Waterford, Ireland in 1840. At the age of eight, he immigrated to the United States with his older brothers John and Thomas. By nine years of age Martin Flynn was working on the railroad, first carrying water for the construction crews and then laboring as a stonebreaker. Some five years later, the parents of these young men arrived in America, at which time the family moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa. The elder Flynn's settled on a farm near Ottumwa and the boys undertook contracting work with the railroad out of Dubuque.<sup>4</sup>

Martin Flynn's first contract work was with the Dubuque & Southwestern railroad from Farley to Anamosa, which was later part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul route; he was but 18 years old. While still working as a railroad contractor, Flynn began to pursue other opportunities, settling on the idea of raising cattle as a pathway to wealth. Flynn met and married in 1864 to Ellen Keane while working on a railroad contract project. In 1867 the couple moved to the Des Moines area, where Flynn purchased 200-acres of land in Walnut Township.

Martin Flynn continued railroad work after relocating, traveling to Wisconsin to build 40-miles of road for the Wisconsin Central; the money he made was invested in land. His relationship with the railroad industry continued for many years during which time he worked on projects in Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Tennessee, and the Dakotas, making a specialty of heavy work such as tunneling, rock work, and bridge construction. He was part of numerous significant projects, including the 1878 Raton Tunnel on

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4 "Pioneer Stockman, Banker and Builder Is Dead, *Iowa State Register and Farmer*, July 27, 1906:9.

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the Atchison, Topeka & the Santa Fe Railroad in New Mexico.<sup>5</sup> His last project as a railroad contractor was on the Des Moines, Northern & Western (later the Milwaukee Road), which for two miles ran through his own property. By the time Martin Flynn was ready to retire from railroad work in 1882 his habit of investing his significant salary in land had netted him some 1600-acres in prime Iowa farmland, which he dubbed Walnut Hill Farm.<sup>6</sup>

During this time, Flynn brought the first Shorthorn cattle to the state of Iowa. Flynn became widely recognized as one of the leading breeders of Shorthorn cattle having crossbred various lines of native cattle with Bates bulls, making Flynn's Walnut Hill Farm the home of the best of the Bates cattle – the farm becoming known as the mecca for breeders of the West. From his work in cattle breeding, Flynn exerted significant influence on the development of the purebred livestock industry in the West.<sup>7</sup>

The Des Moines commercial market into which Martin Flynn entered in 1885 was thriving. The city had many advantages that contributed to its evolution from a pioneer trading center to a modern metropolis – its central location, status as State Capital, well-developed transportation system (first railroad and later vehicular), and its distance from competing cities all supported prosperity. The city had established its supremacy as a manufacturing and wholesaling center, with more wholesale houses than any other Iowa city. With varied products available in quantity, Des Moines offered a level of stock not available in the small communities that surrounded it. As a result, the city's mercantile interests continued to grow disproportionate to its rising population. In 1885 the retail business was estimated to exceed \$20 million with manufacturing transactions totaling \$15,596,891 and wholesale trade amounting to \$33,975,604.<sup>8</sup>

In 1885 a news article announced the completion of the Flynn Block. The architectural firm of Foster and Liebbe was credited with the design. Although an image of the building was not included with that news report, a drawing (Image 7) appeared in an advertisement in the 1903 publication, *The Developer Magazine*.<sup>9</sup>

The project architect, William Foster, was a principal in the Des Moines firm of Foster & Liebbe. The firm is considered one of the most important Iowa architecture firms of the nineteenth century, whose credits include a number of buildings on the campus of the Iowa State College (now Iowa State University at Ames), ten county courthouses including those in Lucas, Iowa, and Wapello counties, and numerous residences, churches, and commercial buildings in Des Moines.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Portrait and Biographical Album of Polk County, Iowa* (Chicago: Lake City Publishing Co., 1890), p581.

<sup>6</sup> "Pioneer Stockman, Banker and Builder Is Dead," *Iowa State Register and Farmer*, July 27, 1906:9 and "Martin Flynn, President Of Peoples' Savings Bank Makes Good Repeated Oath To Die," *Des Moines Daily News*, July 18, 1906:1.

<sup>7</sup> Bailey, 572 and "Martin Flynn, President Of Peoples' Savings Bank Makes Good Repeated Oath To Die," *Des Moines Daily News*, July 18, 1906:6.

<sup>8</sup> *Des Moines City Directory*, 1890.

<sup>9</sup> Patricia Eckhardt, "Flynn Building," Iowa Site Inventory Form, 1995.

<sup>10</sup> Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects. A Biographical Dictionary* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999), 65.

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The Flynn Block was soon occupied by the H.C. Harris & Co., a dry goods store.<sup>11</sup> Local news accounts commented on Martin Flynn's choice to build not in the heart of the existing business district, which was centered around Court Avenue, but at its edge - an indication of Flynn's faith in the future growth and commercial success of the city. The 1890 city directory notes H.C. Harris & Co. occupying the entire first floor of the Flynn Block, with storefront addresses on both Locust and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. Sometime after the directory was published for 1890, H.C. Harris relocated to Walnut Street. What precipitated the move is unknown, but in 1890 Martin Flynn and Charles Martin organized the Peoples' Savings Bank and by 1891 the new financial institution had taken up residency in the Flynn Block.<sup>12</sup>

**Image 7. Historic Image – 1903**



(SOURCE: Patricia Eckhardt, "Flynn Block," Iowa Site Inventory Form, 1995.)

This artist's rendering of the Flynn Block appeared in a 1903 advertisement for Hopkins-Sears Co. The image documents the building prior to the 1906 expansion and remodeling, providing a reference for the adaptations made by Proudfoot & Bird.

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<sup>11</sup> *Des Moines City Directory*, 1886:391.

<sup>12</sup> *The Midwestern*: 8 and *Des Moines City Directory*, 1891:391.

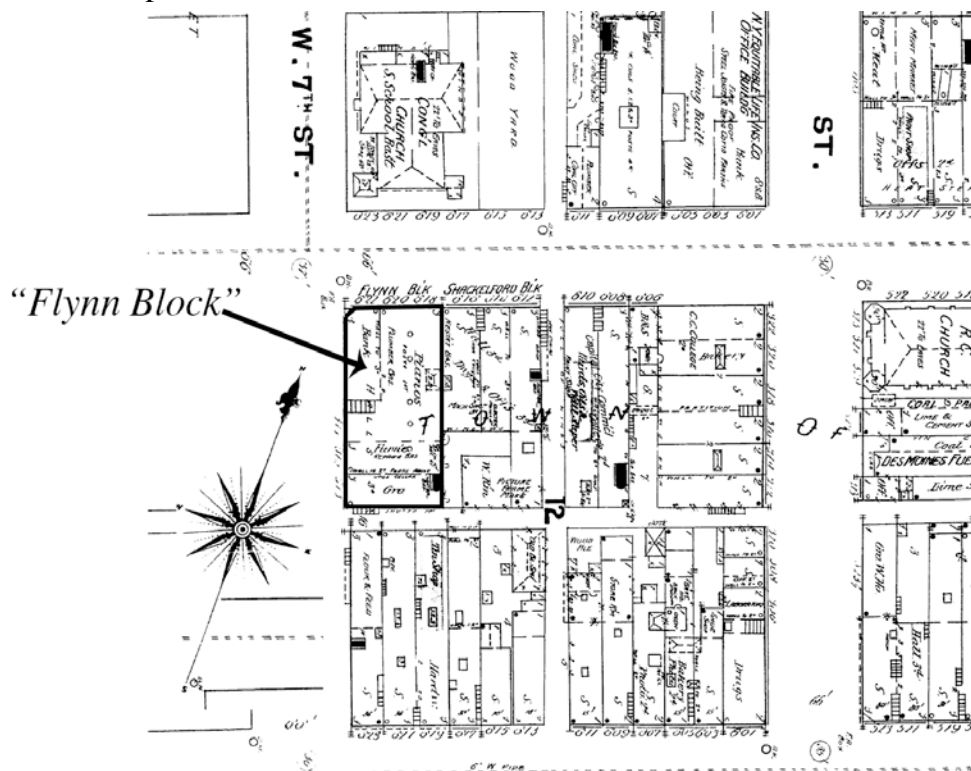
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People’s Savings Bank was chartered with an original stock of \$50,000 capital, which was soon increased to \$75,000 out of its earnings, and then to \$100,000. The first officers of the bank were Martin Flynn, president; Adam Dicky, vice-president; Charles Martin, cashier; and Frank P. Flynn, assistant cashier. The bank is described as being “distinctly a commercial bank, but [with] a savings department where interest is paid on deposits.” Peoples’ Savings Bank was one of several banks organized in 1890, all contributing to the city’s role as Iowa’s financial center.<sup>13</sup>

Figure 4. Fire Insurance Map – 1891



(SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1891.)

The 1891 fire insurance map provides a record of the Flynn Block’s early floor plan and occupants – documenting the bank in the northwest corner of the first floor and a piano retailer occupying an L-shaped space fronting both Locust Street and W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Two additional storefronts were located on W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, one of which was occupied by a grocer. The third floor of the Flynn Block was noted as a “hall” indicating its use as meeting space for local fraternal organizations. The map also shows the composition of the area, which while dominated by retail businesses, retained two early churches.

13 Barbara Beving Long, “Des Moines Center of Iowa Survey of Historic Sites,” Completed for the City of Des Moines, 1982:39.

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The strength of Des Moines' financial sector solidified in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the state's agriculture industry was met with worldwide demands for increased productivity. The resulting prosperity prompted the establishment of new banks in the state, with Iowa leading the nation with one bank for every 1,250 people during this period.<sup>14</sup> In 1907 bank deposits at Peoples' Savings Bank amounted to \$1,500,000.<sup>15</sup> A 1908 article in the *Financial and Commercial News* describes the institution as "one of the most trusted depositories of the thrifty wage winners of Des Moines." The prosperity in the financial industry would not last – the post-World War I period between 1923 and 1928 saw 298 State banks closed in Iowa. Peoples' Savings Bank was soon to follow.

Beginning in 1901 the Flynn Block housed the Hopkins-Sears Co., which manufactured and sold wholesale and retail sporting goods. The firm was established in Des Moines by E.N. Hopkins who later brought two brothers into the business, becoming known as Hopkins Bros. In 1900 the company bought out W.P. Chase Co. with which Will W. Sears was associated. Sears remained with the Hopkins brothers, marking the name change to Hopkins-Sears Co. The firm was considered the leading bicycle house in Iowa, growing to include a large range of sporting goods in their product line.<sup>16</sup> In the Flynn Block the business occupied the east two-thirds of the north one-half of the first floor with space for bicycle repair in the basement. Although the Hopkins, Sears Co. utilized the majority of the building's first floor, People's Savings Bank continued to occupy rooms in the northwest corner of the first floor. In addition, three retail spaces were located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, which in the late 1800s and early in the 1900s are known to have been occupied by a grocer and a piano store. The upper floors were configured as "halls" where a variety of fraternal organizations including the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Eaton Lodge No. 264 and the Grand Army of the Republic, Crocker Post No. 12, held their regular meetings.<sup>17</sup>

Martin Flynn remained active in the affairs of the People's Savings Bank along with the institution's co-founder Charles H. Martin and Flynn's sons, T.F. and Frank P. Flynn. The bank's success and subsequent growth triggered the 1906 expansion of the 1885 building. Martin Flynn contracted with Proudfoot & Bird for the plans for which called for the addition of three stories and the remodeling of the banking rooms at a projected cost of \$100,000. By the time the expansion was completed, Martin Flynn was deceased.<sup>18</sup>

Martin Flynn's death was tragic – a self-inflicted gunshot wound ended his notable career. Local reports indicate that Flynn had suffered for weeks to overcome failing health, specifically related to his "nervous system." After a life of steadfast labor directed at his many interests, Flynn had begun to show signs of

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14 Barbara Beving Long, "Des Moines Center of Iowa Survey of Historic Sites," Completed for the City of Des Moines, 1982:39.

15 "The Peoples Savings Bank and Its Home Building," *The Midwestern*, Vol.1, 1907: 8.

16 "A Sporting Goods Center," *The Des Moines Leader*, December 15, 1901:6.

17 *Des Moines City Directory*, 1891.

18 *Ibid.* and "Pioneer Stockman, Banker and Builder is Dead," *Iowa State Register and Farmer*, July 27, 1906:9.



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exhaustion; the pleadings of family and friends to delegate responsibility went unheeded. At the age of sixty-six, both mind and body were in decline.<sup>19</sup>

For eight months prior to his death, Flynn had been at the Battle Creek sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan where he was being treated for intestinal trouble and neurasthenia – a nervous disease. His fixation on suicide was apparent to those close to him, and he was kept under careful watch. Despite that concern, Flynn was allowed to return to Des Moines, though with a caregiver in attendance. He was quickly dispatched to Mercy Hospital. However, his determination to end his life was no match for those who cared for him. Flynn escaped from the hospital and went to Mile's Drugstore at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Locust Street (just one block from the Flynn building) where he asked to be shown to the restroom located in the basement of the building.<sup>20</sup> He was found 30 minutes later, having shot himself in the head.<sup>21</sup>

The disposition of his estate revealed a net worth of nearly a million dollars, which included the 1600-acre Walnut Hill Farm, the Flynn Building, a sheep ranch in Wyoming, and stock in the Peoples' Savings Bank.<sup>22</sup> Flynn's death, which was widely reported, was received with great sadness, his life held up as one of "an honest, upright man [that] will long outlive the memory of men now living. He was the true American aristocrat, the ideal citizen whose life counted for much in the church, in the state, and in the nation. His death means the passing of no common man, and in him the profession of agriculture in all its branches loses a great leader."<sup>23</sup>

While much of Flynn's reputation was connected to Walnut Hill and his long-time commitment to the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, his business interests went beyond the agricultural arena. In addition to his role in constructing the Flynn Block and establishing the Peoples' Savings Bank then located there, Flynn had his hands in the Des Moines Brick Manufacturing Company. Organized in 1893, the plant was located west of the city, between the tracks of the Des Moines Union and the Rock Island roads. In 1896 the company employed about 100 with a monthly payroll in excess of \$3,000. Its ten large kilns were capable of producing up to 120,000 bricks daily, which was first primarily sold locally in paving projects. The market later expanded north to St. Paul, Minnesota and Fargo, North Dakota and south to Davenport and Keokuk, Iowa.<sup>24</sup>

In May of 1909 a sale was held for the purpose of disposing of Flynn's herd of Shorthorn cattle at Walnut

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19 "Death of Martin Flynn," *The Homestead*, July 26, 1906:4.

20 *Des Moines City Directory* (Des Moines: R.L. Polk & Co., 1906), 681.

21 "Pioneer Stockman, Banker and Builder is Dead," *Iowa State Register and Farmer*, July 27, 1906:9 and "Martin Flynn, President Of Peoples' Savings Bank Makes Good Repeated Oath To Die," *Des Moines Daily News*, July 18, 1906:1.

22 "Flynn Leaves Over A Quarter Million," *Des Moines Daily News*, July 19, 1906.

23 "Death of Martin Flynn," *The Homestead*, July 26, 1906:4.

24 *Des Moines Illustrated Souvenir* (Des Moines, IA: Iowa Historical Illustrative Co., 1896 (available at [http://www.iowagenweb.org/polk/FacesPlacesYesterday/DMIS/DMIS\\_72.html](http://www.iowagenweb.org/polk/FacesPlacesYesterday/DMIS/DMIS_72.html)).

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Hill. As the sale bill stated, the “sale include[d] many Short-horn females whose individuality and bloodlines represent[ed] the result of nearly half a century of careful breeding operations at this well known farm.” Three of Flynn’s sons intended to maintain the herd at Walnut Hill, but determined it necessary to reduce the size and scale of the operation. To that end, the sale was held on June 16, 1909 at Walnut Hill under the direction of the Flynn Farm Company with offices in Room 328 of the Flynn Building.<sup>25</sup>

Discussion for the expansion of the Flynn Block was well underway prior to the July 1906 death of Martin Flynn. Local accounts appeared in January of that year reporting on the pending renovation. At that time, the building was to have an additional two stories added with the existing three stories to be remodeled – the end result was to be a “thoroughly modern, five-story office building.” With the renovation, Peoples’ Savings Bank, which was located in the first floor of the 1885 building, would occupy a much larger space on the first floor as well as utilize the basement. New facades were to be constructed on Seventh and on Locust, with the primary entrance moved to Seventh Street, at the rear of the bank for ready access to the building’s elevators. The renovation would also involve new floors, tiling of the corridors, and a light shaft down the center of the building. Structural brick columns were expected to provide the support necessary for the addition of two stories.<sup>26</sup> Shortly after the article about the proposed project appeared in the newspaper, Martin Flynn departed for Battle Creek, Michigan for a respite with the plans and specifications for the renovation to made upon his return.<sup>27</sup>

Work on developing substantive plans continued in Flynn’s absence. By April the project was being touted as “one of the largest contracts [in the downtown district] which will make a great change.”<sup>28</sup> The plans put in place by Martin Flynn were set in motion by the provisions of his will that included a special provision for the completion of improvements on the Flynn Building.<sup>29</sup>

Like Foster & Liebke, the firm responsible for the 1906 expansion and renovation of the building stands as one of the state’s premier historical architecture firms. Proudfoot & Bird dominated the architecture design field in Iowa during the early years of the twentieth century. The firm was known for its high quality of design with many important buildings to their credit. In addition to substantial buildings at Iowa State University (e.g. Beardshear Hall), several county courthouses, and numerous important residences, Proudfoot & Bird (and later with partner Harry D. Rawson) is responsible for significant buildings in downtown Des Moines including the Masonic Temple, Des Moines National Bank, the Polk County Courthouse, and the Flynn Building’s neighbor to the east, the Equitable Building (1924).<sup>30</sup> In the Flynn

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25 “The Dispersion Sale of the Walnut Hill Herd of Short-Horn Cattle,” *The Homestead*, May 27, 1909:38.

26 When implemented the design called for steel structural beams, rather than brick columns. Those beams remain visible in the building.

27 “Martin Flynn Block will Be Remodeled,” *Des Moines Daily News*, January 3, 1906.

28 “Contractors and Architects Busy,” *Des Moines Daily News*, April 29, 1906.

29 “Flynn Wealth Goes To Family,” *O’Brien County Bell*, July 26, 1906.

30 Shank, 127.

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Building the firm introduced the twentieth structural devices (steel beams) that supported the upward expansion requested by their client. The enlarged building was then cloaked in a façade that reflected the influence of the prevailing Commercial Style.

The evidence for the original building and its remodeling is apparent on the elevations by Proudfoot and Bird, which clearly note where the old building stopped and the new began (Figure 5). The design plans also call for the removal of the original cornice. The segmental tops of the third floor windows were likewise removed as a means of integrating the existing façade with the new upper floors in a more modern style. In contrast to the modern language of the building as a whole, the bank was set apart from the rest of the street front by its Gothic style façade and its raised floor level, which provided the bank additional space in the basement.<sup>31</sup>

**Image 8. Historic Image – 1907**



*(The Midwestern, 1907.)*

The 1906 expansion and renovation of the 1885 building was a dramatic change. The image documents the English Gothic Revival style (seen in the pointed arches over the bank entrance and adjacent windows and over the 7<sup>th</sup> Street entrance) that was adopted in the portion of the storefront that housed Peoples' Savings Bank. A vestige of that motif is retained in the balustrade of the interior staircase (Photograph 20).

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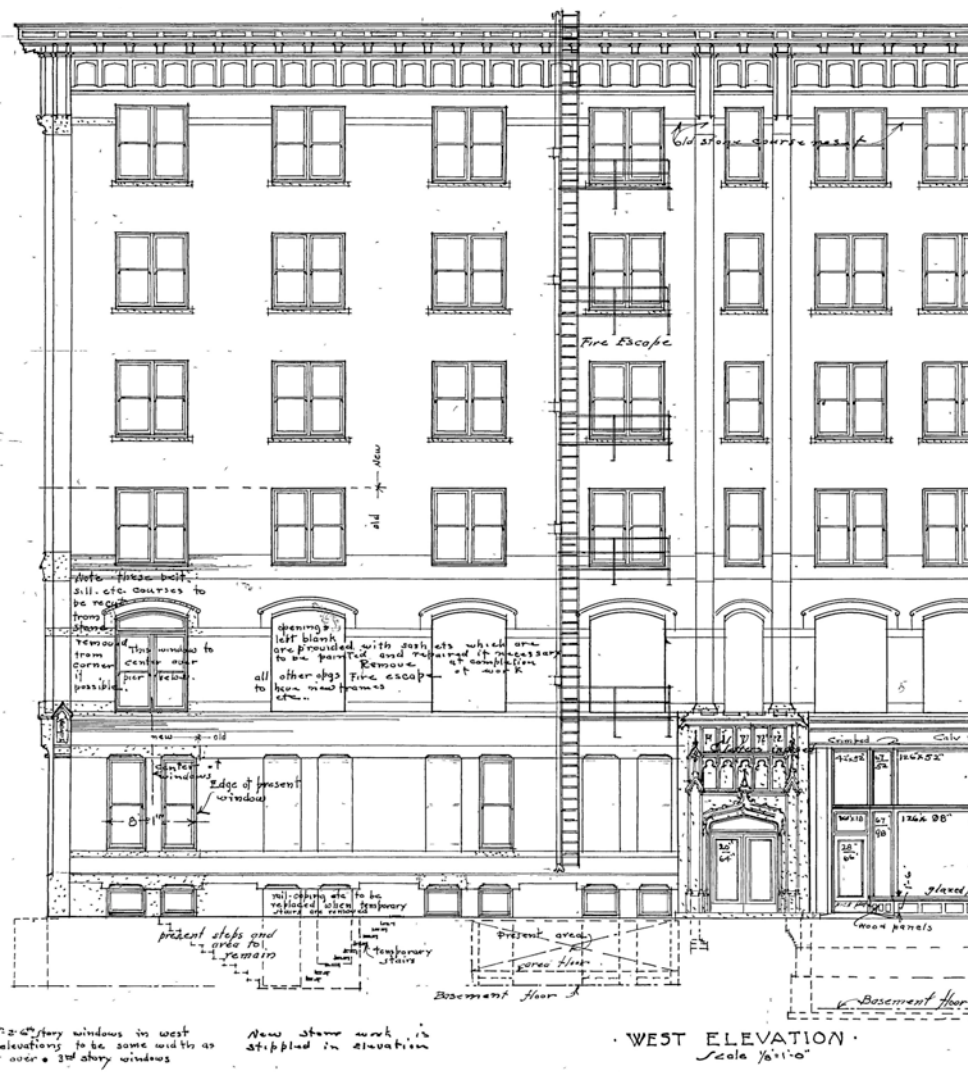
31 Patricia Eckhardt, "Flynn Building," Iowa Site Inventory Form (77-03134), 1995.

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Figure 5. Design Details (West Elevation) – 1906



(Plans courtesy of Brooks Borg Skiles – Proudfoot & Bird Archives.)

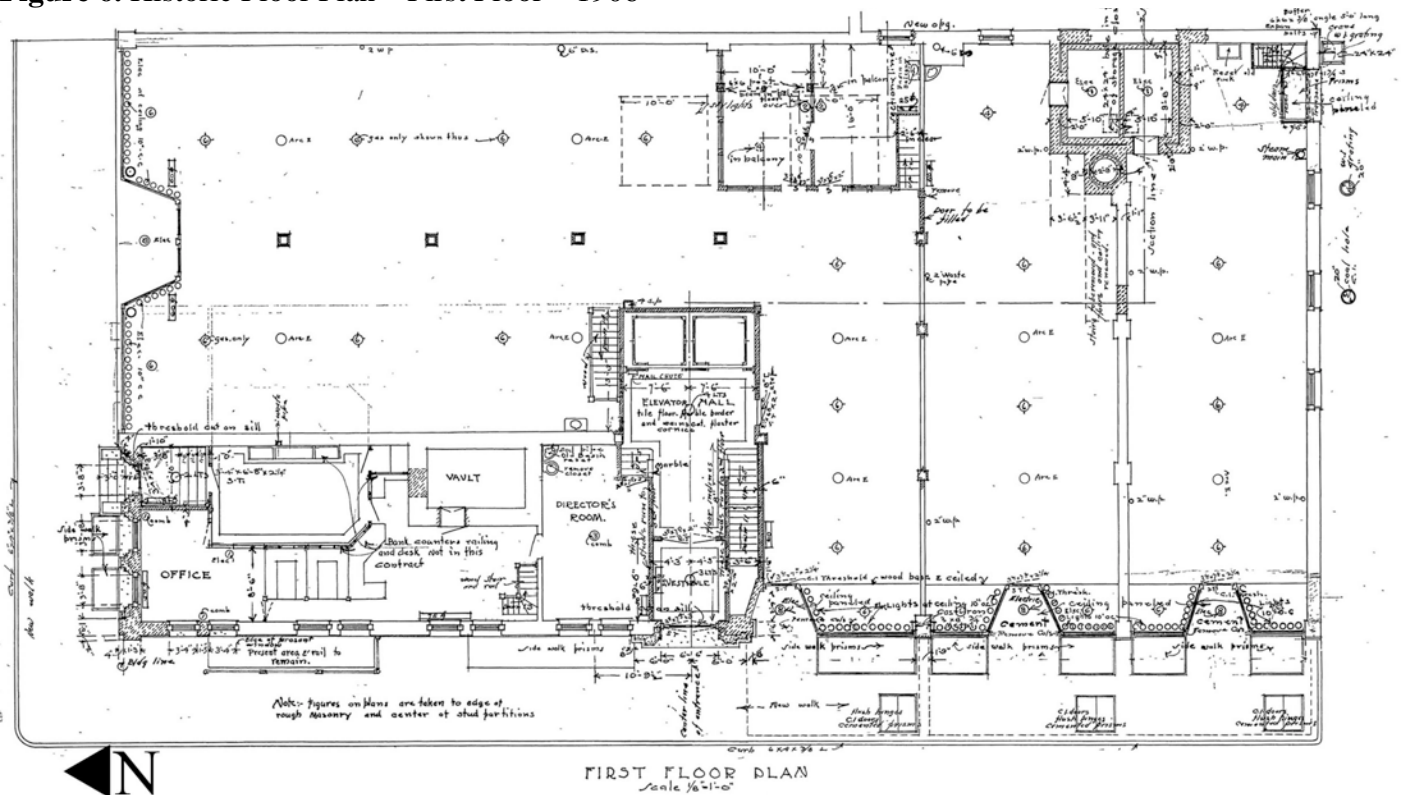
The elevations for the 1906 expansion note where the old building stopped and the new began – the dotted line above the third floor windows is noted “old” below the line and “new” above the line. The elevation also shows that the Gothic Revival elements (ogee arch and finial) utilized for the banking space were also incorporated into the west entrance.

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Figure 6. Historic Floor Plan – First Floor – 1906



(Plans courtesy of Brooks Borg Skiles – Proudfoot & Bird Archives.)

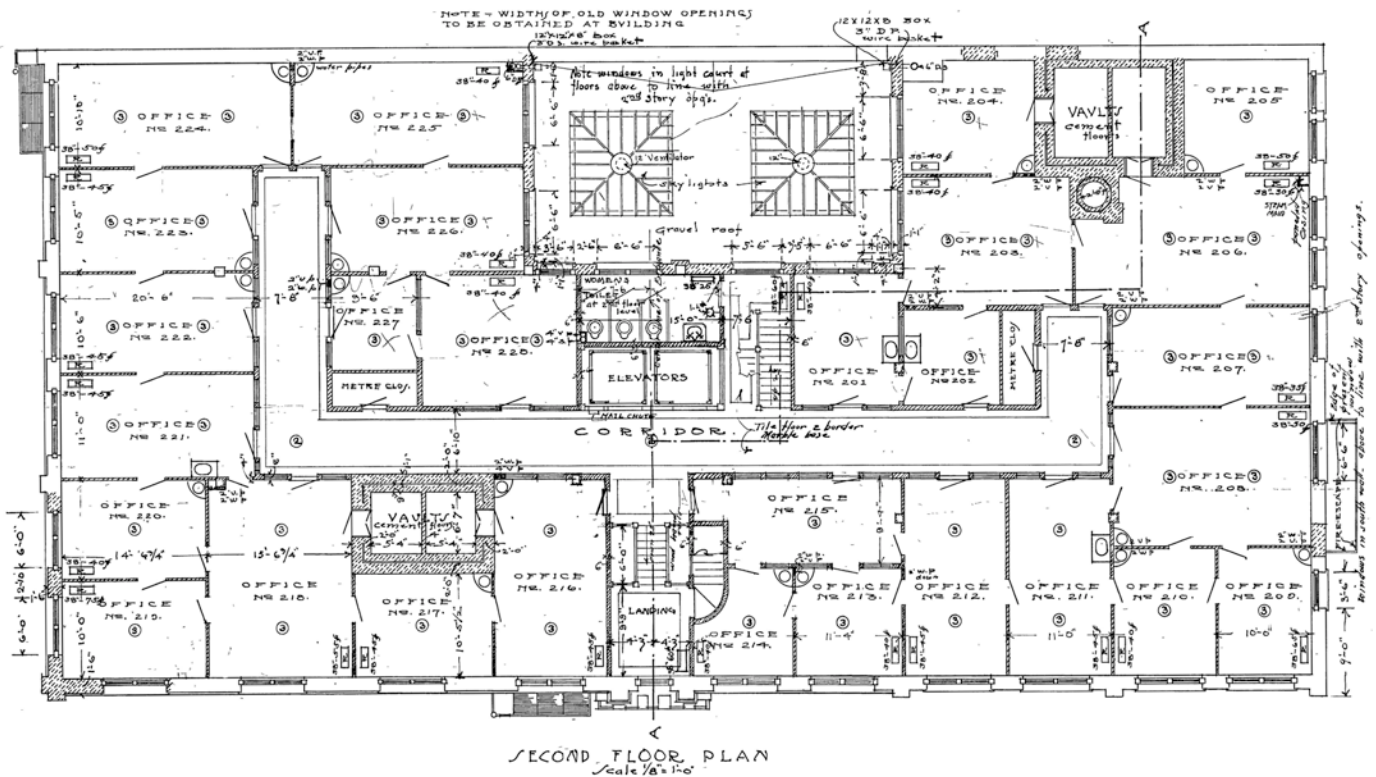
This plan of the building's first floor documents its 1906 layout. The first floor was remodeled in 1930 – the year in which Flynn's Peoples' Savings bank vacated the building and the Katz Drug Store located there. The drug store occupied the entire north (left) half of the building, from the 7<sup>th</sup> Street vestibule to the front of the building. Given the layout as depicted in these 1906 plans, a considerable amount of alteration was undertaken in 1930 to accommodate the new tenants.

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**Figure 7. Historic Floor Plan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 1906**



(Plans courtesy of Brooks Borg Skiles – Proudfoot & Bird Archives.)

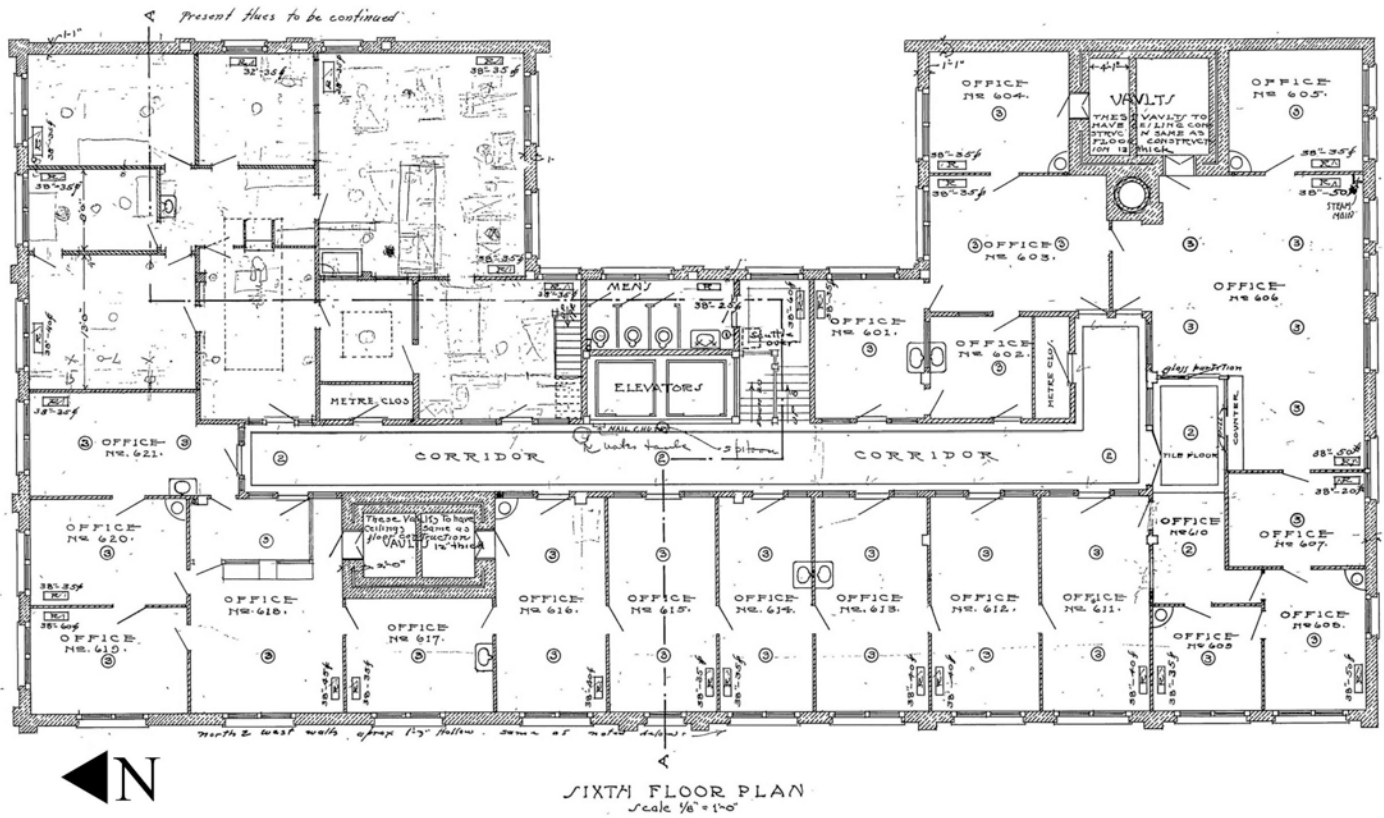
This plan of the building's second floor is representative of the layout of the building's upper stories. Each of the upper floors was arranged with a central corridor providing access to offices. The elevators were and are located at the center of the floor plan. The interior staircase remains situated adjacent to the elevator shaft, with a small restroom situated at each landing level. Note that the second floor plan shows a second staircase from the first floor vestibule to the second floor – that feature was removed at an undetermined time, but likely in 1930 when People's Savings Bank left the building and a renovation occurred to accommodate the new tenant, Katz Drug Store.

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Figure 8. Historic Floor Plan – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor – 1906



(Plans courtesy of Brooks Borg Skiles – Proudfoot & Bird Archives.)

This plan of the building’s sixth floor shows the use of office suites on the north end of this and the fifth floors. To that end, the corridor was truncated on both floors. At the time the expansion was completed, Proudfoot & Bird made there offices in the sixth floor suites (625). In subsequent years, the suites would be reconfigured to individual offices – the sixth floor going from accommodating six professional offices in 1908 to thirteen by 1935.

As noted, the newly expanded building continued to house Peoples’ Savings Bank, which had its main banking rooms on the corner as well as some space in the basement and the upper offices. As described in the July 1907 issue of *The Midwestern*, the building was “the finest and most perfectly equipped bank and office building in the city.” The journal goes on to describe the interior spaces with their polished mahogany woodwork, the bank vault by the Mosler Safe Co., the two, high-speed Otis elevators that provided access to

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some thirty offices on each of the upper five floors – each with and outside window, gas and electric lights, and a private lavatory with hot and cold water. Further, the article notes that Proudfoot & Bird added steel to the building (to allow for the upper story addition) and that the main building entrance, with a large lobby, was located from 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The 1906 design plans confirm these details. Further, the steel I-beams remain visible in multiple locations in the building (Photograph 22).

Once the expansion and renovation of the building was completed, Proudfoot & Bird moved their offices to Suite 625, located in the northeast corner of the sixth floor. The firm shared the sixth floor with the offices of Banker's Accident Co. and the Central Life Assurance Society of the United States.<sup>32</sup>

The 1906 expansion made possible a shift in the Flynn Building's impact on the city's commercial sector, marking a transition from a small-scale commercial property to one, while retaining retail business on the first floor, was dominated by professional office spaces. The transformation was impactful on the streetscape as well as on the new services made convenient to this area of the city. During a period when the insurance industry was on the rise in Des Moines, the expanded Flynn Building provided office space commonly occupied by professionals of that industry.

Des Moines was dubbed the "Hartford of the West" by 1883 – an indication of its early place in the history of this country's insurance industry. The establishment of the insurance industry was seated in the pre-Civil War years, growing in strength and scope in the years after the war on the foundation of the 1863 establishment of a national banking system. Large and powerful insurance companies developed in the East during that period, with subsequent growth occurring in smaller markets, including Des Moines. In 1884 the city was the base of operations for 18 insurance companies. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the city had taken its place as a regional center for insurance companies with 44 companies of various sizes offering a selection of types of insurance being located there in 1910.<sup>33</sup>

With five floors of office space, the Flynn Building was well suited to meet the demands of the insurance industry. As noted, Banker's Accident Co. and the Central Life Assurance Society occupied offices on the building's sixth floor at the time the expansion was complete. In 1908 the Aetna Life Insurance Co., National Life Insurance Co., Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Equitable Life Insurance Co., and Prudential Insurance Co. also had their offices in the Flynn Building.

The building was home to a variety of commercial and professional interests over the ensuing years. Although Proudfoot & Bird's tenure in the building was short-lived, the Central Life Insurance Company leased the building's entire fifth floor, committing to a ten-year occupancy beginning in October of 1906.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> *The Midwestern*: 8.

<sup>33</sup> Barbara Beving Long, "Des Moines Center of Iowa Survey of Historic Sites," Completed for the City of Des Moines, 1982:24.

<sup>34</sup> "Central Life Gets New Home Offices," *Des Moines Daily News*, October 14, 1906.

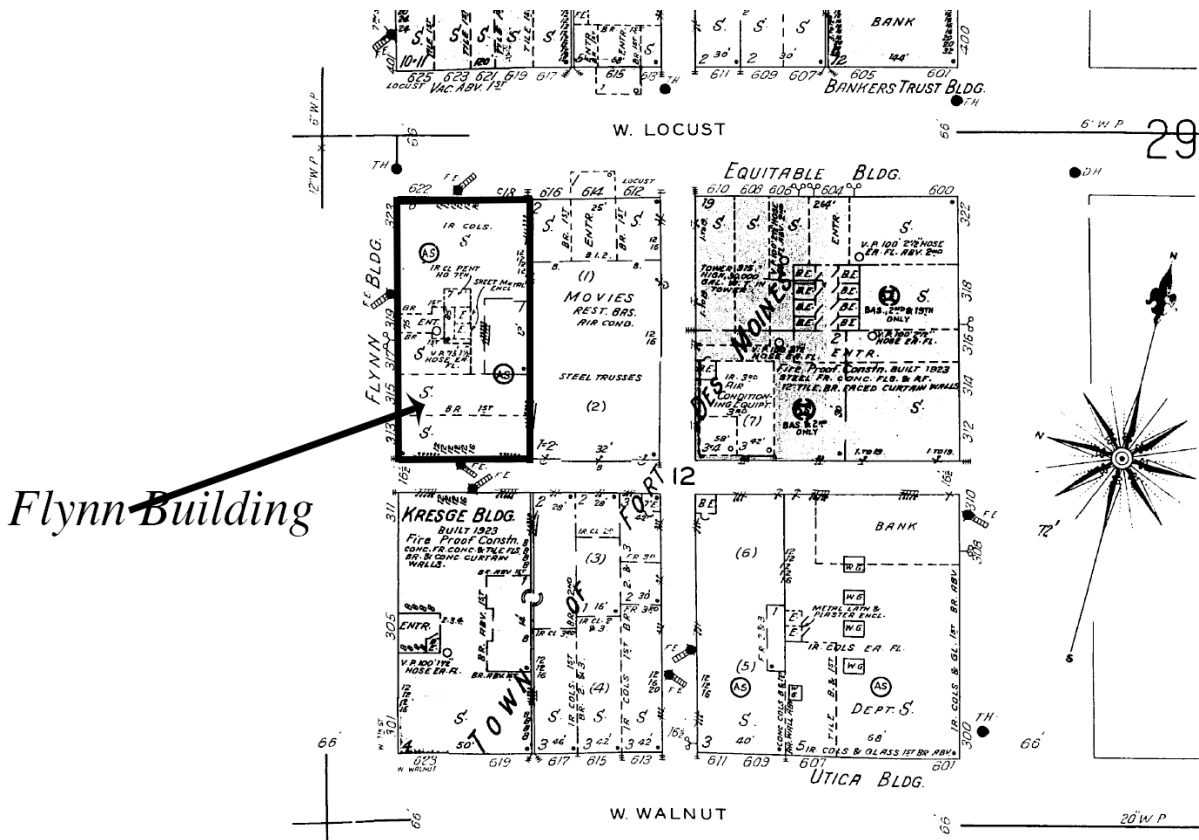


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Figure 9. Fire Insurance Map – 1920, Revised 1950



(SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1901.)

The 1950 revision of the 1920 fire insurance map documents the change made in the storefront level floor plan that came with the 1930 occupation by the Katz Drug Store. At that time, the interior was reconfigured to create a single, open space covering the north section of the ground floor from the 7<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. The space formerly occupied by Peoples’ Savings Bank was removed to accomplish that alteration. The map also notes the retention of three retail spaces fronting W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

In addition to insurance agencies, from 1906 through the 1910s the offices were predominantly occupied by doctors representing a variety of specialties. A shift away from insurance and medical professionals was underway by the early 1920s, with vacancies beginning to appear. The diminished use by insurance companies can be explained by the construction of large-scale buildings by several of the state’s leading

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companies; the Equitable Life Insurance Company building on the east end of the block being one example. With 19 floors, the 1924 building was well able to accommodate its own requirements for offices. By the mid-1930s offices in the Flynn Building were most commonly occupied by professionals other than those associated with either the insurance or medical industries; many served as offices for associations and organizations such as the Red Cross.

The year 1930 marks another shift in commercial focus when, following the 1929 bank closure, the first floor was dramatically altered to accommodate a new long-term tenant – Katz Drug Store. Once again the building adapted to a business shift in order to remain a viable contributor to the city’s commercial prosperity. The Flynn Building remained simultaneously associated with multiple factions of the city’s commercial sector through the period of significance.

Although no historic images or floor plans have been located to document interior alterations, historic images from ca.1935 reveal the changes made to the façade. With the Katz occupation, the corner entrance was established, the storefront display windows were altered, the north entrance appears to have been altered, and the Gothic Revival elements of the bank were removed entirely (Image 9). The 1950 revision of the 1920 fire insurance map suggests that the change in occupancy did not result in alterations to the remainder of the ground floor or to the upper floors.

Additional alterations, both interior and exterior, to the Flynn Building were made in 1984 and again in ca.1995 – those changes account for the building’s appearance today.

**Image 9.** Historic Image – ca.1935



(Image courtesy of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.)

Despite the 1930 alterations at the storefront level, the building retained a strong sense of its 1906 character.

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Social History Context

By many accounts the Civil Rights Movement in America began on May 17, 1954, with the determination of the U.S. Supreme Court that the longstanding “separate but equal” doctrine was unconstitutional.<sup>35</sup> With that ruling, made in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the movement was born. What many point to as the first significant, organized action of the movement occurred in December of 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus – the opening salvo of the year-long bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. On September 23, 1957 “The Little Rock Nine” were escorted by federal troops through an angry mob to attend school at the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. In February of 1960, a series of sit-ins were staged with the intended goal of desegregating lunch counters in Greensboro, North Carolina and Nashville, Tennessee. Many other acts of defiance were undertaken during the battle known as the Civil Rights Movement.

A full six years before the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling; more than seven years prior to the Montgomery bus boycott; eight years before integration at Central High School; and nearly twelve years before the Greensboro and Nashville sit-ins, Edna Griffin entered Katz Drug Store at 7<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets in Des Moines, Iowa with collaborators John Bibbs and Leonard Hudson, where they were refused service at the store’s lunch counter because the business “was not equipped to serve negroes.”<sup>36</sup> Led by Edna Griffin, the effort combined the typical approach of engaging Iowa’s judicial system with one that became the civil rights strategy of staging sit-ins and holding protests most commonly associated with events of the 1950s and 1960s. It was a successful tactic that resulted in the desegregation of the Des Moines Katz Drug Store and, because the case was appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court, put pressure on the statewide enforcement of the Iowa 1884 Civil Rights Act, which called for equal “accommodation” under the law.

Edna Griffin was involved in numerous actions relating to civil rights and anti-war issues both before and after she led the 1948 protests at Katz Drug Store. Her life and work has been acknowledged with numerous awards and honors, including the 1998 renaming of the Flynn Building at 319 7<sup>th</sup> Street out of respect and thanks for her contributions to civil rights in Iowa. Now known as the Edna Griffin Building, the property marks the location of what is one of the state’s greatest victories in the movement to assure equal rights to African-Americans.

***Setting the Stage***

The battle to end racial discrimination began long before the mid-twentieth century era known as the Civil

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<sup>35</sup> Juan Williams, *Eyes On the Prize: American’s Civil Rights Years 1954-1965* (New York: Penguin Books, 1987), XI.

<sup>36</sup> Jessica Lowe, “Edna Griffin: Civil Rights movement pioneer: Des Moines woman became known as the ‘Rosa Parks of Iowa,’” *Iowa History Journal*, Nov/Dec 2014: 18-20.

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Rights Movement. Decades and decades of slavery and countless acts of brutality that remains difficult to comprehend occurred before any progress was made toward a change that would humanize the experiences and lives of this country's African Americans. The following actions are universally identified as critical precursors to the later movement.

The 1857 *Dred Scott v. Sandford* case, was a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court held that African-Americans, whether enslaved or free, could not be American citizens and therefore had no standing to sue in federal court, and that the federal government had no power to regulate slavery in the federal territories acquired after the creation of the United States.<sup>37</sup> Not surprisingly, Southern slaveholders supported the ruling in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. However, many northerners were outraged. Historians note that the Court's decision significantly influenced the nomination of Abraham Lincoln to the Republican Party and his subsequent election, which in turn led to the South's secession from the Union.<sup>38</sup> The Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln in 1863 and was then followed by the 1866 passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery and guaranteeing African Americans the right to equal protection under the law.<sup>39</sup>

In 1896 the landmark case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* upheld the constitutionality of state laws requiring racial segregation in public facilities under the canon of "separate but equal." The appeal, made by Louisiana resident Homer Adolph Plessy following his conviction for entering a whites only railroad car, rested on the argument that the defendant's civil rights under the Thirteenth Amendment, prohibiting slavery, and the Fourteenth Amendment, guaranteeing the same rights to all citizens of the United States, and the equal protection of those rights, against the deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, were violated.

The larger implication of *Plessy v. Ferguson* was the legitimization of racial segregation in the South. A number of legislative achievements that came during Reconstruction were erased by application of the "separate but equal" doctrine. That doctrine was further strengthened by an 1875 Supreme Court decision that limited the federal government's ability to intervene in state affairs. The rise of Jim Crow in the southern states is tied to that decision, which virtually guaranteed immunity to states in matters addressing issues of race. "Separate but equal" remained the standard doctrine in U.S. law until its repudiation in the 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ruled that segregation in public education was unconstitutional.

While clearly impacted by the judicial rulings at the national level, the group's historically limited numbers in the state impacted the story of African American history in Iowa. Statistical analysis of the state's

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37 <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/DredScott.html>. Accessed 7/24/2015.

38 <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2932.html>. Accessed 07/24/2015.

39 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, Civil Rights timeline.

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demographics shows that, although the black population in Iowa has steadily increased since 1840, the group historically has represented less than 3% of the state’s total population. In Iowa’s early history in particular, that low percentage was largely due to pre-Civil War “black codes” that discriminated against free blacks, preventing them from voting, holding office, attending school, or marrying whites. The high cost of land in Iowa was a second deterrent for African American settlement in the state.<sup>41</sup>

It wasn’t until after the Civil War that Iowa saw a significant increase in the black population, tied directly to the state’s rise in coal and railroad industry. In the 1860s the population rose 439% and in the 1870s by 65%, with most blacks settling in the cities. Although population growth declined in the 1920s and 1930s, since 1940 the state has seen steady growth.<sup>42</sup>

**Table 1.** African American Population By Decade – Iowa<sup>43</sup>

| YEAR | POP.   |
|------|--------|
| 1840 | 188    |
| 1850 | 333    |
| 1860 | 1,069  |
| 1870 | 5,762  |
| 1880 | 9,516  |
| 1890 | 10,685 |
| 1900 | 12,693 |
| 1910 | 14,973 |
| 1920 | 19,005 |
| 1930 | 17,380 |
| 1940 | 16,694 |
| 1950 | 19,692 |
| 1960 | 25,354 |

The rise of Jim Crow in the country’s southern states has been credited with contributing to the population increase of African Americans in Iowa.<sup>44</sup> Further, the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision that upheld Jim Crow led many African Americans to leave south for states promising greater freedoms.

One state to which southern blacks relocated was Iowa, which had a long history of judicial action in the area of civil rights. In 1868 Iowa amended its state constitution to guarantee universal manhood suffrage. Also in that year, the Iowa Supreme Court overturned segregated public education in the case of *Clark v. City of Muscatine*. In 1870 Iowa’s legislature voted to strike the words “white male” from the qualifications

41 Paul Finkelman, ed., *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present* (New York: Oxford University Press, 109), 517.

42 Ibid.

43 U.S. Census Records for the State of Iowa.

44 Finkelman, 517.

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necessary to practice law in the state. In 1873 the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that African-Americans are entitled to equal treatment in public accommodations (*Coger v. The North West Union Packet Co.*) In 1875 the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that schools could not deny admittance to African-Americans (*Smith v. The Directors of the Ind. Sch. Dist. Of Keokuk* and *Dove v. The Ind. Sch. Dist. Of Keokuk.*)<sup>45</sup> In 1880 Iowa voters ratified an amendment striking the words “free white” from the qualifications for being a legislator.<sup>46</sup>

The Iowa Civil Rights Act was enacted in 1884 by the Twentieth General Assembly of Iowa. In 1892 the Act was amended by adding the words “inns” and “bathhouses” to the list of places included in the Act.<sup>47</sup>

*All persons within this state shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, chop houses, eating houses, lunch counters and all other places where refreshments are served, public conveyances, barber shops, bath houses, theaters and all other places of amusement. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section obey denying to any person, except for reason by law applicable to all persons, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges enumerated herein, or by aiding or inciting such denial, shall be guilty of misdemeanor.*

Despite these many judicial actions, de facto segregation and racial discrimination in Iowa continued into the twentieth century.

The *Iowa Bystander* was established in Des Moines on June 8, 1894 with the motto “Fear God, tell the truth and make money” prominently displayed on the paper’s banner. The paper was started by a group of “forward thinking” blacks that recognized the absence of daily news and information about the city’s African American population – save that which by its negative content made the headlines in white newspapers. Beginning in 1898, the *Bystander* was published by John L. Thompson, who launched a statewide subscription drives and news coverage. He is also credited with creating the idea of a “black economic boycott” in the state, a tool employed against white businesses that refused to advertise in the paper.

In the 1950s the *Bystander* brought the story of the American civil rights movement to the state and in the 1960s covered the Vietnam War, the Black Power movement, and the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party. Considered by many as the greatest era of its long history, was the 50-year period beginning in 1922 through 1972 in which James B. Morris was the publisher. The paper continues in operation today.<sup>48</sup>

The two world wars brought more progress for black Iowans. In 1917, 639 black men earned commissions at

45 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, Civil Rights timeline.

46 Finkelman, 517.

47 [http://www.leagle.com/decision/1954732117FSupp615\\_1571.xml/AMOS%20v%20PROM,%20INC](http://www.leagle.com/decision/1954732117FSupp615_1571.xml/AMOS%20v%20PROM,%20INC). Accessed 07/24/2015).

48 [http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob\\_000289](http://www.iptv.org/iowapathways/mypath.cfm?ounid=ob_000289). Accessed 04/14/2015.

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the segregated Officers Training Camp at Fort Des Moines. Fort Des Moines became the first Officer Candidate School for African American men in the U.S. Army.<sup>49</sup> The *Iowa Bystander* had a strong voice during that period, actively supporting the 1917 establishment of the training camp at Fort Des Moines. Two of the papers strongest leaders were returning soldiers: Charles P. Howard and James B. Morris, both of whom played important roles in the ongoing success of the paper and in the city's civil rights movement to come.

During World War II 7,000 African American women trained at Fort Des Moines for our country's first Women's Army Auxiliary Corps/Women's Army Corps; 65,000 enlisted troops and 7,000 female officers were trained for non-combat duty. In 1945-1946 a WAC separation center and a veterans housing project opened on the post.<sup>50</sup> After the war, black Iowans added to the national movement against Jim Crow by integrating the dormitories at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and Drake University.<sup>51</sup>

So, with a growing African American population in Des Moines, racial segregation increasingly became a practice that was not to be tolerated and, with the state's constitutional amendment to back it up, change was forthcoming.

***Katz – The Kings of Cut Rate***

The Katz Drug Store chain was established in Kansas City, Kansas in 1914. From the opening of its first two stores through a merger with Skaggs Drug Centers in 1970, Katz Drug Stores were innovators in marketing and sales. The success of the company's promotional methods is evidenced in the phenomenal growth over a long period of time – growth that often defied prevailing logic and economic trends. Like many drug stores of its time, Katz stores included a lunch counter, which, during the years before and during this country's Civil Rights Movement, were center stage in the fight to secure equal and fair treatment for African-Americans. The 1948 Des Moines sit-in led by Edna Griffin resulted in the December 1949 desegregation of the company's Des Moines stores. However, complete desegregation of the Katz chain was not accomplished until 1958.

The Katz brothers opened their first two stores in 1914 – both in Kansas City. Although business at both stores was steady, the brothers were not content with steady. Having just entered World War I, the U.S. government had issued a one-cent wartime tax on cigarettes. In a stroke of brilliance the brothers absorbed that tax rather than pass it on to the consumer. Their advertisement, "Cigarettes same old price – Katz Pays

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<sup>49</sup> <http://fortdesmoinesmuseum.gor/history/>. Accessed 07/24/2015.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Finkelman, 518.

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the Tax” was so effective that even their competitors were known to buy from them in quantity.<sup>54</sup>

Despite having gone public in the months just prior to the stock market crash of 1929, Katz Drug Stores remained profitable through the Depression years. In 1930 Katz opened two new stores – its third in Kansas City and its first in Des Moines.<sup>57</sup>

**Image 10.** Katz Drug Store – ca.1935



(Image courtesy of the State Historical Library of Iowa at Iowa City.)

Katz opened their first Des Moines store in 1930, which was located on the ground floor of the Flynn Building. In this view looking southeast across the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> & Locust Streets, we see the grinning Katz cat that was prominently displayed over the corner entrance. Katz occupied almost half of the ground floor.

Des Moines’ first Katz Drug Store was that located in the Flynn Building at 7<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets. The drug store occupied the north one-third of the building’s storefront level, with its primary entrance on the northwest corner. A large version of the company’s iconic grinning, neon cat logo was prominently display over that entrance, with additional signage running the along the transom on both the north and west elevations (Image 10).

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<sup>54</sup> Ibid., 36.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., 63.



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Des Moines city directories note that in 1931 the store was managed by T. Blond, with M.C. Katz working as a clerk. By 1933 Morris [sic] C. Katz was assistant manager. Maurice Katz is first noted as the store manager in 1938.<sup>58</sup> Maurice C. Katz was born in January 1898 in St. Paul, Minnesota; his father, Victor Katz a Russian immigrant.<sup>59</sup> He was a nephew of one of the company founders, Isaac and Michael Katz.<sup>60</sup>

Katz Drug Co. opened two more stores in 1931 – both in Kansas City. Then, in December of 1934, the brothers their first “super” store. The two-story, 20,000 square foot building had a hardware department, a tire and auto service center, a toy department, and a delicatessen. The super store was four times the size of the brothers other stores.<sup>61</sup> By this time, the company had become known as the “World’s Leading Cut Rate Drug Stores.”<sup>62</sup>

By 1954, while claiming the title of the country’s second largest retailer of exotic birds, the chain’s 3,000 employees were serving an average of 255,000 customers a day. In 1961, then known as Katz Drug Company Discount Super Stores, there were 40 stores in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Tennessee, and Oklahoma.<sup>64</sup> Although sales continued to rise, by the late 1950s profits were declining. Competition with other “big box” stores combined with the rising costs of doing business became increasingly challenging. The company opened two additional stores in Des Moines during the 1950s. Katz Drug Store at 1910 Carpenter opened in ca.1954 and the store in Park Fair Mall (100 E. Euclid Avenue) opened was opened in ca.1957 – both benefitting from the stance taken by Edna Griffin a decade prior.

Across the board, the company continued to employ its aggressive promotional and marketing campaigns over the coming years, but in December of 1970 Katz Drug, then with 64 retail locations, merged with Skaggs Drug Centers of Salt Lake City signaling the end of a 57-year run.<sup>65</sup>

***Edna Mae Williams Griffin***

Edna Griffin was, by all accounts, a woman born to take a stand. Her sense of justice and responsibility to speak up appears to have been instilled in her by her father and honed during her years at Fisk University. Her life story is filled with moments of bravery and action during a time when being an African-American woman was fraught with obstacles and dangers, made more so in the state of Iowa with its average black

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58 *Polk’s Des Moines City Directory 1938* (Omaha, NE: R.L. Polk & Co., 1938).

59 Ancestry.com U.S. Census records. <http://www.ancestry.com/search>. Accessed 07/27/2015.

60 Trial transcripts, “State of Iowa vs. M.C. Katz,” June, 1949.

61 Burnes, 70.

62 Ibid., 76.

64 Ibid., 99, 132.

65 Burnes, 174.

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population standing at 3% through much of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>66</sup> Precisely where Edna Griffin garnered her commitment to activism is not thoroughly understood, but the impact she made on her adopted city of Des Moines and on the state of Iowa is without question.

Edna Mae Williams Griffin (1909-2000) was born in Lexington, Kentucky on October 23, 1909. By 1920 the family was living on a farm in rural Walpole, New Hampshire where her father, Edward H. Williams, was employed as the farm manager. Also in the household were Edna's mother, Henrietta, and brothers Clarence B., Elmer H., and Harold C.<sup>67</sup> The youngest brother, Roger, came along in 1922. The family relocated to Pittsfield, Massachusetts in the late 1920s where Edna graduated high school.<sup>68</sup> In 1930 her father was employed as a horse trainer and Edna, who was 19 years old at that time, was working as a housekeeper.<sup>69</sup>

When questioned about her exposure to issues of race and discrimination during those early years, Edna stated that she learned to read by reading *The Crisis*, a NAACP publication. She never experienced discrimination while living in New Hampshire, even though the Williams' were the only black family in a four-county area. She did find the contradiction between the life she herself lived and the stories she read of violence and lynching in the South very difficult to reconcile.<sup>70</sup> She also recalled witnessing discrimination against blacks during the time she and her family lived in Massachusetts.<sup>71</sup>

At the age of 17, Edna Williams defied her father by boarding a bus from the family's home in New Hampshire to attend Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. Founded in 1866 to educate formerly enslaved African Americans, Fisk quickly grew to become a highly respected institution with a sound reputation for producing well-educated graduates. The influx of former servicemen after World War I and the "Harlem Renaissance" of the 1920s and 1930s elevated the sense of black pride and activism at the university.<sup>72</sup> In 1942 a Race Relations Department was established at Fisk, setting the university at the center of research and field investigation in that area.<sup>73</sup>

Given that history, it is no surprise that as a Fisk student Edna was influenced by the university's engagement in civil issues, organizing protests after a man was lynched nearby.<sup>74</sup> Also while at Fisk, Edna participated in a protest of Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia; she was arrested as she marched in a picket line

66 *Encyclopedia of African American History: 1896 to the present* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 517.

67 Ancestry.com, 1920 U.S. Census records. <http://www.ancestry.com/search>. Accessed 07/27/2015.

68 Noah Lawrence, "'Since it is my right, I would like to have it': Edna Griffin and the Katz Drug Store Desegregation Movement," *The Annals of Iowa*, Vol. 67, Nbr. 4 (Fall 2008): 298-330.

69 Ancestry.com, 1930 U.S. Census records. <http://www.ancestry.com/search>. Accessed 07/27/2015.

70 Ken Fuson, "An Unknown soldier of civil rights," *Des Moines Sunday Register*, undated.

71 Iowa Department of Transportation website, <http://www.iowadot.gov/autotrails/EdnaGriffinmemorialbridge.html>. Accessed 07/25/2015).

72 <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=468>. Accessed 04/14/2015).

73 Fisk University website, <http://fch.fiu.edu/FCH-2006/Berry-A%20Candle%20in%20the%20Darkness.htm>. Accessed 04/15/2015).

74 Jordon Lite, "Before Rosa Parks, An Iowan Foreshadowed the Movement," *Bystander*, Vol. 105, Nbr. 24, July 10-16, 1998: 1.

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of striking teachers; and she joined the Communist Party, a group to which she remained affiliated for more than 24 years.<sup>75</sup>

Edna met her future husband, Stanley Griffin (1907-1990), while attending Fisk University. After graduating from Fisk in 1933 with a degree in English and a minor in French, the couple spent time in New York City, Georgia, Tennessee, and Springfield, Massachusetts. The couple was living in New York City in February of 1945, when Edna enlisted in the Women's Army Corps.<sup>76</sup> Before moving to Des Moines, Iowa in 1946, the Griffins took a vacation to the South, where they experienced firsthand the racist attitudes Edna had read about in her childhood.<sup>77</sup>

**Image 11.** Edna Griffin – ca. 1945



(Image courtesy of the State Historical Library of Iowa at Iowa City.)

A young Edna Griffin during her time in the Women's Army Corps, which she joined in New York in 1945.

In Des Moines, Stanley Griffin attended Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery (now Des Moines University).<sup>78</sup> Stanley Griffin was one of the first black physicians in Iowa, with a successful and

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<sup>75</sup> Lawrence, 305.

<sup>76</sup> Ancestry.com, U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946. <http://www.ancestry.com/search>. Accessed 07/28/2015.

<sup>77</sup> Fuson, 1 and Lite, 1 and Iowa Civil Rights Commission archive, notes from Don Grove interview with Edna Griffin, ca.1997.

<sup>78</sup> Jessica Lowe, "Edna Griffin: Civil Rights movement pioneer: Des Moines woman became known as the 'Rosa Parks of Iowa,'" *Iowa History Journal*, Nov/Dec 2014: 18-20 and Noah Lawrence, "'Since it is my right, I would like to have it': Edna Griffin and the Katz Drug Store Desegregation Movement," *The Annals of Iowa*, Vol. 67, Nbr. 4 (Fall 2008): 305.

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longstanding practice, which he established in 1949.<sup>79</sup> City directories indicate that in 1954 Griffin's practice was located at 408-1/2 E. Walnut Avenue where he shared a space with attorneys, Archie M. Greenlee and Robert A. Wright.<sup>80</sup> He later moved his practice to the Shops Building in downtown.<sup>81</sup> Undeterred by the predominantly white composition of Des Moines' neighborhoods, the couple bought a home where they raised their three children – Phyllis, Linda, and Stanley. While some previous reports have suggested that the family settled in the northwest neighborhood known as Beavertdale, just one year after arriving in the city the Griffin's address was 1068 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Although Griffin's house was not, the neighborhood in which it was located was adversely impacted by construction of I-235. For some, that process, which involved the use of eminent domain to secure private property that was demolished to make way for the freeway, is a dark spot in the city's history.<sup>82</sup>

Griffin became involved in the Progressive Party almost immediately after arriving in Des Moines, working with the party to end discrimination against blacks. Within months she was the chair of the organizing committee of the party for Iowa's Fifth Congressional District, supporting Henry A. Wallace in his presidential bid.<sup>83</sup> She also maintained her membership in the Communist Party, serving as the secretary-treasurer.<sup>84</sup>

By the summer of 1948, Edna Griffin's work to end discrimination in her community was well underway. Many years later Griffin recalled, "I was shocked that people weren't upset by it. The attitude was that nothing could be done. That's what set me on fire."<sup>85</sup> The stage was set for the sit-in at Katz Drug Store on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets in Iowa's capital city.

***Katz Drug Store - July 7, 1948***

Summer is hot in the state of Iowa and that was certainly the case on July 7, 1948 when John Bibbs (age 22), Leonard Hudson (age 32), and Edna Griffin (age 39), pushing her 18-month-old daughter Phyllis in a stroller, sat down at the counter in Katz Drug Store in downtown Des Moines to buy ice cream and sodas. The group was refused service because the store was "not equipped to serve colored people."<sup>86</sup> Griffin herself stated that the action was a pre-meditated event, led by her and calculated to end the company's

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79 David Hudson, Marvin Bergman and Loren Horton, *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa* (Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 2008), 195.

80 *Polk's Des Moines City Directory 1954* (Omaha, NE: R.L. Polk & Co., 1954), 321.

81 Jeffrey Bruner, "Stanley Griffin, 83, dies; noted osteopathic doctor," *Des Moines Register*, April 22, 1990, 7B.

82 University of Iowa Women's Archives, Verda Williams papers. Edna Griffin interview transcript, 1998.

83 Hudson, 195 and Lawrence, 305.

84 Lawrence, 305.

85 Fuson, 1.

86 Lowe, 18-20.

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discriminatory practices.<sup>87</sup> The subsequent picketing, sit-ins, and distribution of handbills calling for a boycott of the store were orchestrated events targeted at forcing Katz to obey the State's civil rights law that required the provision of equal service to all patrons regardless of race. The criminal charges and civil suit against store manager Maurice Katz reached the Iowa Supreme Court in 1949 and resulted in desegregation of the company's Des Moines drug store as well as other such businesses across the state.

The action of Griffin, Bibbs, and Hudson was not the first taken in Des Moines in the battle to secure equal service to all. In fact, the challenge to Katz came at a time when nearly 20 other similar court cases in as many years had failed in Iowa.<sup>88</sup> In 1943 Mrs. Marri Johnson unsuccessfully filed charges against Earl Vroman, the restaurant manager at Katz Drug Store at Seventh and Locust Streets for refusing her service. Johnson worked as a secretary in the office of the Community Chest Agency, which was located in the Flynn Building. Johnson stated, "Working downtown is a problem – when it comes to eating and one or two of the eating places should not have to feed all of the Negroes who eat downtown."<sup>89</sup>

A similar case, also in 1943, was filed against J.W. Bessie, manager of the fountain at the F. and W. Grand Co., 507 Walnut Street, for failing to give booth service to Mrs. Charles P. Howard, 1136 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The case was dismissed after Bessie agreed the store would not refuse service.<sup>90</sup>

In 1944 Maurice Katz, store manager of the Des Moines Katz Drug Store, was acquitted on charges of refusing service to African-Americans, Dr. W.H. Prince Haggerty and his wife Mrs. Glennie Faye Haggerty.<sup>91</sup> Another case was likewise acquitted in 1947 – this one against two employees at the Des Moines Katz store.<sup>92</sup> In each of the Katz cases, the drug store refused to serve blacks at their lunch counter, but happily accepted their money on the retail side.<sup>93</sup>

Griffin, however, was not deterred by the failed attempts others had made before her to force public places to integrate. "It made me furious," she said. "I don't know who I was angrier with: Katz or the people sitting there or angry with my own people for being there and not getting served and accepting not getting served." That sense of acceptance at the status quo was not limited to blacks in Des Moines. Like cities across the country, the city's African Americans were fully aware the limitations placed upon them. Years later John Bibbs explained, "Growing up, we were conditioned to go in certain doors, stand in certain places. If we wanted to get a sandwich at a downtown lunch counter, we knew to stand at the end of the counter and take

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87 University of Iowa, Women's Archives. Verda Williams papers, Edna Griffin interview.

88 Lite, 1.

89 "Files Civil Rights Suit Against Katz," *The Iowa Bystander*, July 15, 1943: 1.

90 "Files Civil Rights Suit Against Katz," *The Iowa Bystander*, July 15, 1943: 1.

91 Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Civil rights timeline and "\_\_\_\_ Katz to Court for Race Discrimination," *The Iowa Bystander*, September 28, 1944: 1.

92 Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Civil rights timeline.

93 William Dean Hinton, "For the love of family: Civil rights pioneer Edna Griffin was a mother first, a fighter second," *Cityview*, May 19, 1999: 8.

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our food out and sit on the curb and eat it.”<sup>94</sup>

Griffin, Bibbs, and Hudson, who were all active in the efforts to end discrimination against African-Americans and members of the Progressive Party of Iowa, did not take the July incident lightly. As Griffin recounted many years later, she had tried to be served at Katz Drug Store on a number of occasions, only to be told, “The store is too full, you can’t get in.”<sup>95</sup> On that hot July day in 1948, she assumed that since she got into the store she and her companions would be served – on the contrary. Once a waitress took their order, the store manager, Maurice Katz, appeared and informed the group that “the store catered to whites, that he didn’t have the proper facilities to serve blacks” – the group would have to leave.<sup>96</sup> Interestingly, after leaving Katz Drug Store, the group went to Walgreens Drug Store, where they were served.<sup>97</sup>

In the days after Griffin, Bibbs, and Hudson were refused service, Griffin organized a multi-pronged offensive designed to keep customers from shopping at the store – making a direct hit on the business’s profits. A picket line formed each Saturday in August and September of 1948 (Image 13), with as many as 15 picketers joining her. Most people respected the picket line, instead taking their business elsewhere. However, Griffin was sorely disappointed by blacks that crossed the picket line to shop at the drug store. Years later Griffin downplayed the dangers of the picketing (particularly compared to the risks taken by Blacks in the South). However, she also expressed her concern for the safety of the picketers.<sup>98</sup> A measure of danger certainly existed - the Ku Klux Klan responded to the picketing by issuing a threat that the blood of “the black citizens of Des Moines” would spill “drop by drop.”<sup>99</sup>

A second strategy in the action against Katz was the distributing of handbills calling for a boycott of the drug store. As an articulate leader, it was Edna who engaged passersby, encouraging them to boycott the drug store.<sup>100</sup> A further effort directed at disrupting business were sit-ins in which blacks occupied all of the available seating, making no room for other customers and, undoubtedly, deterring white customers who supported segregation.

The final element of the offensive was the filing of formal charges against the store manager, Maurice Katz, citing violation of the 1884 Iowa Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination in a public place. The code section under which charges were filed, 13251, reads: “All persons within this state shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, restaurants,

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94 Lite, 9.

95 Ibid.

96 “Civil-rights trailblazer: State marking 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of black woman’s stand against D.M. drugstore that refused service. *Des Moines Register*, undated [1998].

97 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, notes on interview with John Bibbs, ca.1997.

98 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, notes on Don Grove interview with Edna Griffin, ca.1997.

99 Hinton, 8.

100 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, notes on Don Grove interview with Edna Griffin, ca.1997.

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chophouses, eating houses, lunch counters, and all other places where refreshments are served, public conveyances, barber shops, bathhouses, theaters, and all other places of amusements.” Violation of the civil rights section is a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to \$100 fine or 30 days in the county jail.<sup>101</sup> The criminal trial in municipal court drew statewide attention when, in October of 1948, Katz was found guilty by a jury and fined \$50.<sup>102</sup>

Despite that victory, the counter at Katz Drug Store continued to refuse service to African-Americans. The “Committee-to-End-Jim Crow at Katz” was then organized with its mission clearly stated in its name; the pressure to desegregate Katz continued.

**Image 12.** Katz Drug Store Protests – 1948



(Image courtesy of the University of Iowa Women’s Archives.)

Picketing outside Katz Drug Store was one of the multiple methods used to apply pressure to the business owner and to gain support for the effort to desegregation. Edna Griffin is pictured here, second from the left.

101 [http://www.leagle.com/decision/1954732117FSupp615\\_1571.xml/AMOS%20v%20PROM,%20INC](http://www.leagle.com/decision/1954732117FSupp615_1571.xml/AMOS%20v%20PROM,%20INC). Accessed 07/24/2015).

102 Lowe, 9.

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Within days of the verdict, an appeal was filed with the Iowa Supreme Court requesting that the conviction and \$50 fine be set aside due to errors the attorney for the defendant claimed were made by Municipal Judge Harry B. Grund. The attorney stated that service was refused because the plaintiffs were creating a disturbance, not because they were Negroes and that the judge's jury instructions omitted that theory entirely. Further, the attorney asserted that Judge Grund improperly admitted testimony, which falsely stated Negroes had never been served in the store.<sup>103</sup>

In October 1949, while the appeal for the criminal trial was in progress, a \$10,000 civil suit was brought against Katz Drug on behalf of Edna Griffin in the Polk County District Court for damages incurred due to the violation of her rights under the Iowa Civil Rights Act of 1884. Griffin's representation by Charles P. Howard was provided by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.<sup>104</sup> Attorneys for the Katz company contended that "the entire incident" was a political ploy designed by the Progressive Party "to stir up a racial issue." Attorney for the defendants, Paul Stinson of Kansas City stated, "We have been the unfortunate and unhappy victims of a political party started in 1948. We have been besieged by arrests. We have been picketed, boycotted, and in front of our store we have been compelled to submit to the passing out of handbills - we, who are trying to obey the laws and serve our customers." Stinson went on to paint Griffin as a "professional agitator." Against all current logic, he continued, "Has it come to the time that a young woman who sits down in a booth in Katz store - does she have some rights? Or does a colored man with a bill of rights in his hands have the right to come sit down beside her?" In response, attorney for the plaintiff replied, "We Negroes in Iowa have had to make that battle and we did not have the Progressive party or Henry Wallace."<sup>105</sup>

After four hours of deliberation, the all-white jury composed of four men and eight women had their verdict - yes, African-Americans did indeed have those rights. The jury found for Edna Griffin, who was awarded \$1 damages - an important moral victory and a landmark case in Iowa civil rights history.<sup>106</sup>

In December of 1949, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled on the appeal filed in the criminal case - the court's first ruling on a civil rights case since the 1905 case of *Humburd v. Crawford*. The court unanimously upheld the conviction of Maurice C. Katz on charges of "violating the civil rights of a Negro by refusing to serve him at the store's soda fountain."<sup>107</sup>

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103 "Katz Asks for Appeal; Students Sit Four Hours," *The Iowa Bystander*, October 27, 1949: 1.

104 Lowe, 18.

105 "'We Pay Taxes for Katz Store' Lawyer Tells Jury Which Awarded \$1 Damages," *The Iowa Bystander*, October 20, 1949: 1.

106 Ibid.

107 "Conviction in Katz Case: First Civil Rights Ruling By High Court Since 1905, NO Reversible Error Found," *The Iowa Bystander*, December 15, 1949: 1.



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In addition to Edna Griffin, additional civil rights damage suits and charges of criminal violation of civil rights were levied against Katz Drug Store. John Bibbs, Arthur Bryant, Mrs. Barbara Williams, Gordon W. Jasper, and Leonard Hudson (all African-Americans) also filed charges. Kenneth Walker, a white man, filed suit claiming he was refused service because he was with “some Negroes.” Each of those cases was dismissed in the district and municipal court on December 2, 1949 after a settlement was reached.<sup>108</sup>

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, Charles P. Howard and Henry T. McKnight, worked with the Katz corporation attorneys to the end that the corporation agreed to abandon its Jim Crow policies. A monetary settlement in the amount of \$1000 was shared equally by the plaintiffs.<sup>109</sup>

The veracity in the Katz corporation promise was soon tested with local reports stating, “Jim Crow at eating places in Des Moines suffered another fatal stroke on December 3 when Negro patrons began receiving courteous service at the Katz Drug Store luncheonette.” Groups also went in intervals to Nixon Luncheonette, 202 Sixth avenue, “which was involved in a civil rights suit three month ago. Regarding why Katz had refused service, the Katz Company said, “there was no personal animosity involved. It acted that way because it thought it was good business.”<sup>110</sup>

Although the Griffin-led action resulted in desegregation of the Des Moines Katz Drug Store, discrimination remained the company’s practice outside of Iowa. That did not change until August of 1958 when Clara Luper began a sit-in at a Katz Drug Store counter in Oklahoma City. After two days the African-American customers were served and soon after Katz announced a new integration policy at all of the chain’s 38 stores in Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Iowa. That change did not include their drug store in Memphis, Tennessee.<sup>111</sup>

While not the only example of a successful protest against discriminatory practices pre-dating the 1954 beginning of the American Civil Rights Movement, the action at Katz Drug Store in Des Moines is particularly notable. With the outspoken Edna Griffin leading the charge, the undertaking combined judicial action with organized protests aimed at making an economic impact on the drug store. Those actions, including sit-ins, picketing, and distribution of handbills calling for a boycott of the business, became staples of the Civil Rights Movement to come.

Designed as a multi-pronged protest against Katz Drug Store with the purpose of requiring the enforcement of the state’s 1884 Civil Rights Act, the action was successful – the Des Moines Katz Drug Store was

108 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, Civil Rights timeline and “\_\_\_ Civil Rights Battle Won: Katz Drug Store Lifts Bars At Luncheonette; 8 Civil Rights Cases Dismissed,” *The Iowa Bystander*, December 8, 1949: 1.

109 “Local NCAACP Tells Support Given in Katz Case; lists Other Civil Rights Suits,” *The Iowa Bystander*, December 19, 1949: 1.

110 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, Civil Rights timeline and “\_\_\_ Civil Rights Battle Won: Katz Drug Store Lifts Bars At Luncheonette; 8 Civil Rights Cases Dismissed,” *The Iowa Bystander*, December 8, 1949: 1.

111 Burns, 160.

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desegregated. Further, because the case was heard before the Iowa Supreme Court, where the earlier verdict was upheld, the impact of Griffin's efforts was felt across the state.

*The Work of Edna Griffin Continued*

Griffin's first major activist effort in Iowa contributed to the virtual elimination of discrimination against African Americans in public accommodations in Des Moines. It may have been her most significant contribution as an Iowa activist, but it was far from the only one. What began as a student at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee continued in the many years after the 1948 desegregation of Katz Drug Store in Des Moines; the long list of awards and honors are one indication of the significance of her mark on this state.

Edna Griffin's commitment to social justice permeated her life's work. In 1963 she founded the Iowa Chapter of the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE). CORE, along with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), played a pivotal role in the American Civil Rights Movement. One of Griffin's first efforts as CORE president was to arrange a day of mourning for the four Birmingham children killed in the bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church. The September 15<sup>th</sup> bombing was the city's third in the 11 days following the issuance of a federal order to integrate the Alabama school system.<sup>112</sup> The Iowa event found a group of 2,000 protestors on a march from Ames to the Des Moines statehouse in a walk of "penitence and mourning."<sup>113</sup>

Also in 1963, Edna and Stanley Griffin raised money to allow some 40 people to participate in the August 1963 "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom."<sup>114</sup> The march has been called one of the largest political rallies for human rights in this country's history. Most Americans recall that the movement leader, Martin Luther King, standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial, delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, in which he called for an end to racism. Edna Griffin herself was present to hear that remarkable speech delivered. Years later she recalls thinking, "Those are melodious words, but we have a lot of work to do."<sup>115</sup>

In 1972 Griffin co-chaired Shirley Chisholm's bid for the Democratic Party's nomination for president.<sup>116</sup> She worked tirelessly to influence lawmakers to support civil rights legislation and she advocated for action by Des Moines authorities related to issues of police brutality. As a regular contributor to *The Iowa Bystander*, Griffin spoke out against housing discrimination and a strong advocate for early childhood education.<sup>117</sup>

112 <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/four-black-schoolgirls-killed-in-birmingham>. Accessed 07/28/2015.

113 Hudson, 196.

114 Lowe, 18-19.

115 Victoria Benning, "King 'would be alarmed' at slow progress of dream," *Des Moines Register*, April 04, 1988: IA-4.

116 Lowe, 18-19.

117 Hudson, 196.

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At age 75, Griffin went to Nebraska with a group of Quakers to demonstrate against nuclear arms. As she told it herself, she “sat in the middle of the highway to stop nuclear warheads from being shipped into the SAC Army base.”<sup>118</sup>

For her work and significant role in Iowa history, Griffin was inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in 1985 and into the Iowa African Americans’ Hall of Fame in 1998.<sup>119</sup>

Griffin’s long list of awards include Stop the Arms Race/Political Action Committee Peace Award (1991), which is given by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission to leaders in peace through political action; the Community Service Award, bestowed by the nonprofit, Blacks In Government (1993); the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice (1998); the YWCA’s Mary Louise Smith Award, which is presented “to a woman whose long-term, remarkable work reflects a profound commitment to the YWCA’s One Imperative, *The Elimination of Racism* (1995); and, the Urban Dreams’ Trailblazer Award (1998).<sup>120</sup> Griffin was dubbed “the Rosa Parks of Iowa” by the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for her “leadership in the movement to end segregation in Des Moines in the late 1940s.”<sup>121</sup>

In anticipation of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Katz protests, Des Moines’ mayor, Preston Daniels (notably, the city’s first African American mayor) declared May 15, 1998 as Edna Griffin Day.<sup>122</sup> Then, on the anniversary of that landmark event, the Flynn Building, which had stood on the corner 7<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets since 1885 and had housed the Katz Drug Store from 1930-1958, was renamed the Edna Griffin Building. A program was held in honor of the participants of the sit-ins and picketing, with Edna Griffin, then aged 89, seated among them.<sup>123</sup> A plaque noting commemorating the protest is mounted on the northwest corner of the building, near the former entrance to the drug store.

The Edna M. Griffin Memorial Bridge, located near E. Sixth Street in Des Moines, was officially dedicated May 10, 2004. Guest speakers at the dedication ceremony included Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, Iowa Congressman Leonard Boswell, Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, and Iowa Transportation Commissioner Patricia Crawford. Also speaking were Edna’s daughters, Phyllis and Linda, and her son, Stanley.<sup>124</sup>

A park located at 1613 13<sup>th</sup> Street and owned by the City of Des Moines parks and Recreation Department is

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118 “Edna Griffin: Civil-rights leader – 1909-2000,” *Des Moines Register*, October 6, 2007.

119 Lowe, 20 and the Iowa DOT website, <http://www.iowadot.gov/autotrails/EdnaGriffinmemorialbridge.html>. Accessed 07/26/2015.

120 Lowe, 20, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission files, and the Iowa DOT website, <http://www.iowadot.gov/autotrails/EdnaGriffinmemorialbridge.html>. Accessed 07/26/2015.

121 Hudson, 195.

122 Lowe, 20.

123 Iowa DOT website, <http://www.iowadot.gov/autotrails/EdnaGriffinmemorialbridge.html>. Accessed 07/26/2015.

124 Iowa DOT website, <http://www.iowadot.gov/autotrails/EdnaGriffinmemorialbridge.html>. Accessed 07/26/2015.

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named the Edna Griffin Park in her honor.<sup>125</sup>

Edna Griffin's list of accomplishments is long and the recognition of her impact on her community widely acknowledged. It is clear in the memories of many involved in the Katz Drug Store protests, that Edna Griffin was the driving force behind the effort. Still, if not for those who joined her on that hot July day and on the many that followed, the result would likely not have been the same.

E. Bibbs (1926-2014) was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but raised in Des Moines. Bibbs served in the United States Navy during the Second World War. During his service, Bibbs experienced racism that prepared him for his efforts to desegregate Katz drug store. He felt that the African-Americans who fought for this country should receive the same respect and freedom provided to whites. After he returned from war, Bibbs attended school at William Penn College in Oskaloosa, which is where he became aware of the tenets of the Progressive Party. Although never a registered member of the Progressive Party, it was through the Party that Bibbs met Edna Griffin, whom he described as articulate and the organizer of the Katz Drug Store protest. It was she that inspired and encouraged him.<sup>126</sup>

John Bibbs was honored along side Griffin at the 1998 celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Katz case. At that time, Bibbs revealed to reporters that his life had been difficult after becoming identified as a civil rights activist. Finding work was particularly challenging, a situation that nearly forced him to leave the city.<sup>127</sup>

At the time the Katz case was appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court, Leonard Hudson (1916-1988) was 32 years old and living at 779 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Des Moines. Although Hudson was then unemployed, he had worked at the Iowa Packing Company for several months prior to a strike at that facility. Hudson was not a member of the Progressive Party, but was aware through his acquaintance with John Bibbs of the party's work in the community.

Leonard Hudson was born in Traer, Iowa to Tracey and Lulu Hudson. He married Mildred Moore, a Des Moines native, on July 10, 1937. The couple had at least one child, Leonard Hudson, Jr.

Like John Bibbs, William Cropp was, at the time of the Katz protests, a veteran on the G.I. Bill. The two were childhood friends from the church where Bibbs' grandfather was a pastor. John Bibbs recruited Cropp to the picket line. As Cropp described it, the picketers marched in shifts for about six Saturdays in a row. Edna was "outspoken, dignified ... she was a woman you couldn't ignore."<sup>128</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> Iowa Civil Rights Commission files. Notes on interview with John Bibbs, ca.1997.

<sup>127</sup> "Marking a civil-rights victory: D.M. honors those who fought, won," *Des Moines Register*, July 08, 1998.

<sup>128</sup> Iowa Civil Rights Commission files. Notes on interview with William Cropp, ca.1997.

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John Tapscott, the only known white person to walk the picket line, was just 18 years old at the time of the Katz Drug Store protest. He met Edna Griffin on the picket line and found her to be “not afraid to confront ... she was articulate, [with a] soft and firm personality ... not threatening or violent.” He also noted that some of the city’s African-Americans wanted Edna to leave town, viewing her as an “upstart” and an “outsider.”<sup>129</sup>

Many unknowns played important parts in the struggle to enforce Iowa civil rights code. On the picket line with Edna Griffin during those summer days of 1948 were Maud Howard, Bill Newton, and Eddie Whitehorse. Participating in the sit-ins were Barbara Williams, Anita Katz, and Inez Morrow – many other remain unidentified, though their commitment was equally important.<sup>130</sup>

*Commemorating the Katz Drug Store Protests*

In 1998, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her successful desegregation efforts, the Flynn Building located at 7<sup>th</sup> and Locust, which once housed Katz Drug Store, was renamed the Edna Griffin Building. It is very fitting that the building that now bears the name of such a significant figure in Iowa civil rights history is also associated with Roxanne Conlin whose life work as an attorney has focused on protecting those who have suffered at the hand of others. Like Edna Griffin, Conlin was the “first” to achieve many important milestones, including the first woman president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the first woman to chair the Roscoe Pound Foundation, and the founder and first chair of the Iowa Women’s Political caucus.<sup>131</sup>

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the protests, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission held a reunion at the site and placed a plaque on the building in honor of the participants in the sit-ins and picketing. The plaque reads:

*Historic Site  
Civil Rights Victory  
Katz Drug Store  
July 7, 1948*

*At this site where Katz Drug Store once stood, on July 7, 1948, at 3:45 p.m., Edna Griffin, her infant daughter Phyllis, John Bibbs, and Leonard Hudson entered the store and ordered ice cream at the lunch counter. The manager refused to serve them, saying, “It is the policy of our store that we don’t serve colored.”*

*Outraged member of the community responded with sit-ins and picketing directed at Katz and other local*

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129 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files. Notes on interview with John Tapscott, ca.1997.

130 Iowa Civil Rights Commission files.

131 <http://www.roxanneconlinlaw.com/About-Roxanne/>. Accessed 07/29/2015.

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*lunch counters refusing to serve patrons based on their race.*

*The Polk County Attorney's Office prosecuted the Katz manager under Iowa's only civil rights law, a criminal statute prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations. The manager was found guilty by a jury and fined \$50. The Iowa Supreme court upheld the conviction in 1949.*

*One week before the Supreme Court ruling, civil rights attorneys Charles P. Howard and Henry T. McKnight, who was head of the local NAACP Legal Redress Committee, negotiated an agreement which successfully ended Katz's discriminatory practices.*

*These events foreshadowed the modern civil rights movement. Through non-violent protest and legal action in the courts, the movement ended tolerance of open discrimination in our country and resulted in policies and laws prohibiting racial discrimination. It may truly be said that those who opposed the discriminatory denial of service at Katz led the way. This plaque is dedicated to those citizens.<sup>132</sup>*

*Dedicated, July 7, 1998*

Eleven years later, on June 18, 2009, the U.S. Senate read Resolution 26, apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans. In comment and debate that followed the reading, Senator from Iowa, Tom Harkin stated:

*From the beginning of the Republic to the present, individuals of all races, nationalities, genders, creeds, and religions have risked much, including their lives, striving for a better and more just America. It is these often-nameless individuals who registered voters in the Mississippi Delta, marched over the bridge at Selma, fought for better jobs and housing in northern cities, and desegregated lunch counters.*

*I point to people such as Edna Griffen [sic], John Bibbs, and Leonard Hudson. In 1948, they entered Katz Drugstore in Des Moines, IA, on a hot summer day and ordered Cokes and ice cream at a segregated lunch counter. When the manager refused to serve them because the store did not "serve coloreds," Ms. Griffen [sic] refused to leave, and outraged Iowans responded with sit-ins and picketed Katz and other restaurants that refused to serve people because of their race. And they won. The lunch counters were desegregated. Who but a handful knows of Edna Griffen [sic], John Bibbs, or Leonard Hudson? It is only because of the extraordinary acts of bravery by ordinary American like these in all corners of this country that the mighty walls of oppression have been torn down. As this Nation formally apologizes and acknowledges slavery and Jim Crow, we must also recognize that this Nation owes these individuals, most known only to their friends and families, an enormous debt of gratitude.<sup>133</sup>*

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<sup>132</sup> <http://www.iowa.gov/government/crc/docs/communicatorspecial98.html>. Accessed 04/15/2015.

<sup>133</sup> "Congressional Record-Senate," Vol. 155, Pt. 12, June 18, 2009: 15549.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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**County and State**   Polk County, Iowa  

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And so the battle against racial discrimination continues, with many more challenges to face. Still, on July 7, 1948 Edna Griffin, small in stature but bold in spirit, took a stand against injustice and made a significant difference in the life of Iowa's African American citizens. The Flynn Building – now bearing her name - stands as the physical marker of her effort to end racial discrimination.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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County and State   Polk County, Iowa  

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**9. Relevant Cultural Resource Documents**

*Potential for Historic Archaeology*

The potential for historical archaeology was not assessed as part of the present National Register nomination. The presence of the paved roadways and paved parking areas suggests the likelihood that the ground disturbance resulting from the construction of those elements may have destroyed localized archaeological resources. However, the paving may have been laid over ground with a minimum of earth movement. In that case, archaeological resources may merely have been encapsulated. Further, it has not been verified which, if any, historic paving remains in the district boundaries. In the future, any significant excavation and/or grading should take into consideration the possibility that archaeological and/or sub-grade historical resources may remain (e.g. street pavers).

*Research Methodology*

Preparation of this National Register nomination relied on local historical resources including period newspaper articles, city directories, and city and county histories. Of particular value in understanding the 1906 expansion and renovation were the design plans of Proudfoot & Bird. The commercial context referred to the 1982 work by Barbara Beving Long and the 1995 Iowa Site Form completed by Patricia Eckhardt. The social context relied heavily on the resources of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and the University of Iowa Women's Archives. Both collections hold important historical items that document both the life work of Edna Griffin and the 1948-1949 events involving Katz Drug Store. Of particular relevance were transcripts and notes from interviews conducted with Griffin and others involved in the picketing and sit-ins, transcription of the Supreme Court testimony, and newspaper articles documenting the legal process. Other important reference sources include the work of Noah Lawrence, whose analysis of why the Katz protest orchestrated by Edna Griffin was effective when others had not been was very insightful and, as a means of understanding the personal impact of Griffin's work on her life, her de-classified FBI file was very enlightening.



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National Park Service

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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County and State Polk County, Iowa

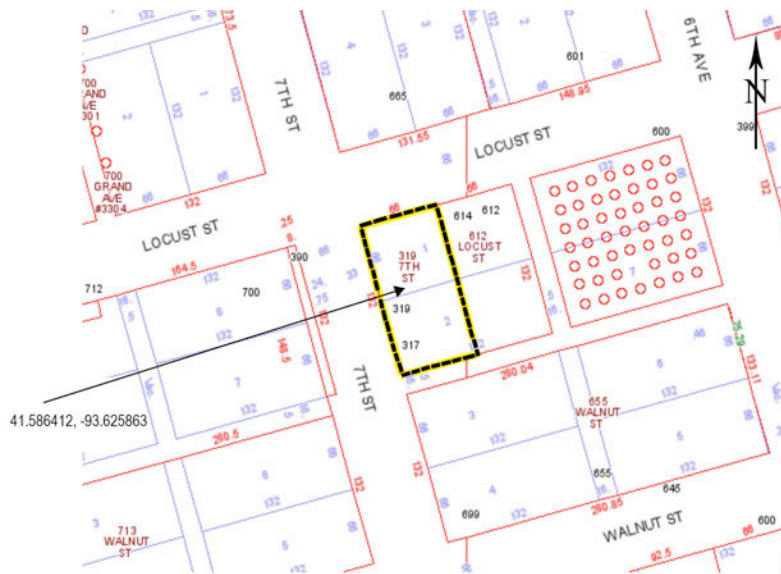
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**10. Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description

W ½ LTS 1 & 2 BLK 12 FORT DES MOINES<sup>134</sup>

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 41.586412, -93.625863



The location of the resource (parcel 020/01163-000-000) is indicated by the arrow.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the lot upon which the building is sited and includes the public sidewalk that abuts the building on Locust and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. The sidewalk is included because of its direct, historical tie the events of the 1948-1949 protests (i.e. picketing and distribution of handbills).

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<sup>134</sup> <http://web.assess.co.polk.ia.us/cgi-bin/web/tt/infoqry.cgi?tt=card/card&dp=02001163000000>. Accessed 08/04/2015.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
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**County and State** Polk County, Iowa

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- Figure 2. 7.5 Minute USGS Topographic Map – SE & SW Des Moines Quads - 1956
- Figure 3. Aerial Map - 2015
- Figure 4. Fire Insurance Map – 1891
- Figure 5. Design Details (West Elevation) - 1906
- Figure 6. Historic Floor Plan – First Floor - 1906
- Figure 7. Historic Floor Plan – Second Floor - 1906
- Figure 8. Historic Floor Plan – Sixth Floor – 1906
- Figure 9. Fire Insurance Map – 1920, Revised 1950

**LIST OF EMBEDDED IMAGES**

- Image 1. Context: View looking south along 7<sup>th</sup> Street
- Image 2. Exterior: View of the north and west elevations, looking SE across W. 7<sup>th</sup> & Locust Streets
- Image 3. Exterior: View of fenestration – west elevation
- Image 4. Interior: View of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street lobby, looking east from the entrance
- Image 5. Interior: View of the northwest retail space, looking NW from near the 7<sup>th</sup> Street lobby
- Image 6. Interior: Representative upper story corridor with office access
- Image 7. Historic Image – Flynn Block - 1903
- Image 8. Historic Image – Flynn Building - 1907
- Image 9. Historic Image – Flynn Building and Katz Drug Store – ca.1935
- Image 10. Historic Image - Flynn Building and Katz Drug Store – ca.1935
- Image 11. Historic Image – Edna Griffin – ca.1945
- Image 12. Historic Image – Picketing Outside Katz Drug Store - 1948

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**County and State** Polk County, Iowa

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**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

Edna Griffin Building  
319 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Polk County, Iowa  
Photographer: Alexa McDowell, AKAY Consulting, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
April 01, 2015

4 x 6" images printed on Canon Premium Photo Paper using Canon Chromalife 100+ ink  
CD-ROM on file with property owner and the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 0001. Context: View looking southwest along 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0001.tif
- 0002. Context: View looking west along Locust Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0002.tif
- 0003. Context: View looking north along 7<sup>th</sup> Street from south of the Hub Tower  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0003.tif
- 0004. Exterior: View of the north and west elevations, looking SE across 7<sup>th</sup> & Locust Streets  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0004.tif
- 0005. Exterior: View of the east and north elevations, looking SW across Locust Street  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0005.tif
- 0006. Exterior: View of the south and west elevations, looking NE across 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0006.tif
- 0007. Exterior: View of the south elevation, including skywalk connection to the Hub Tower  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0007.tif
- 0008. Exterior: View of north and west storefronts  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0008.tif
- 0009. Exterior: View of fenestration – north elevation  
IA\_PolkCounty\_FlynnBuilding\_0009.tif

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- 0010. Exterior: View of fenestration – west elevation  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0010.tif
- 0011. Exterior: Detail view of second floor fenestration  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0011.tif
- 0012. Exterior: Detail view of stone decorative detail (north elevation)  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0012.tif
- 0013. Interior: View of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street lobby, looking east from the entrance  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0013.tif
- 0014. Interior: View of the southwest retail space, looking SW from the 7<sup>th</sup> Street lobby  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0014.tif
- 0015. Interior: View of the northwest retail space, looking NW from near the 7<sup>th</sup> Street lobby  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0015.tif
- 0016. Interior: Representative 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> floor corridor with office access  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0016.tif
- 0017. Interior: Representative upper story office space, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Floors  
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IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0018.tif
- 0019. Interior: View of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, looking north from near the elevator  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0019.tif
- 0020. Interior: Interior staircase  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0020.tif
- 0021. Interior: Detail view of interior staircase ironwork  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0021.tif
- 0022. Interior: View of 1906 steel structural member introduced to support additional floors  
IA\_PolkCounty\_Flynn Building\_0022.tif





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OF TOLEDO

THE BOOK STORE

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SOUTHERN



NO PARKING  
7 AM  
6 PM

FOR SALE LEAD  
PAGES AT THE  
STREET  
618-242-8878  
10/1/11

Locust

NO PARKING  
7-9 AM  
4-6 PM  
← →



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NELSON





7th St

Locust

ONE WAY

FOR RENT  
OFFICE SPACE  
210-748-8000

Red Cross logo and text

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World is  
Real Press  
with  
Home  
today!

NO PARKING  
EXCEPT  
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LOADING  
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OR  
DELIVERY







FOR SALE LEASE  
OFFICE RETAIL  
SPACE  
7th St

Locust

FOR SALE LEASE  
OFFICE RETAIL  
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75-740-8016  
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7th St.

FOR SALE LEASE  
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Locust









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STY





SUITE 206

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FIRE  
EXTINGUISHER







EXIT

NO SMOKING

3-11-11









# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2016

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet



Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 Flynn-Griffin Building, Polk County, IA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

19 SEPT 2016  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): Additional Documentation Approved

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

11.7.16



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 1

Flynn-Griffin Building, Polk County, IA

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## EXPLANATION OF THE AMENDMENT

This amendment to a previously listed National Register Registration Form is being filed under “Section VI. Amending National Register Forms” of the National Register Bulletin 16-A using alternative #1 on page 71. Alternative #1 requires submission of “continuation sheets with the new information and an explanation of the amendment.”

This nomination is being amended to correct the historical property name which, in order to reflect the contributions of both persons significantly associated with the history of the building, should be the Flynn-Griffin Building.

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As registered, the property’s historic name identifies with the person responsible for its construction and expansion – Des Moines pioneer businessman, Martin Flynn. While it is appropriate that the building’s historic name include Martin Flynn, the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century contribution of Edna Griffin to the building’s history supports inclusion of her name in the official historic name. This is particularly true given that a case for significance under Criterion B was made in association with the contributions of both Flynn and Griffin. The choice of name as presented in the nomination was simply an oversight on the part of the author.

National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

&a20CUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
&a30CNATIONAL PARK SERVICE

&a22CNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
&a29CEVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Flynn Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 3/18/16 &pW DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/15/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/30/16 &pW DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/03/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000215

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5.3.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

&a4L

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

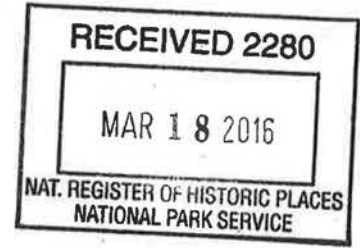
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

MARY COWNE, DIRECTOR  
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



March 10, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmarks  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

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

- Sinclair Building-Smulekoffs Furniture Store, 97 3rd Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, Linn County
- Flynn Building, 319 7th Street, Des Moines, Polk County
- Campbell Baking Company, 325 Commercial St, Waterloo, Black Hawk County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster".

Elizabeth Foster  
National Register Coordinator  
State Historical Society of Iowa

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Flynn--Griffin Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 9.23.16  
3/18/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/03/16  
11.8.16

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000215

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11.7.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY COWNIE, DIRECTOR  
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR



September 19, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmarks  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is an amendment for the following nomination in order to change the name from the Flynn Building to the Flynn-Griffin Building:

Flynn Building, 319 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Polk County

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Foster  
National Register Coordinator  
State Historical Society of Iowa

STATE ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM OF IOWA

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LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE  
HISTORIC  
SITES

STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION

IOWA  
HISTORICAL  
FOUNDATION