

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000962

Date Listed: 10/1/93

Sentinel Block
Property Name

Hardin
County

IA
State

Architectural & Historical Resources of Iowa Falls, Iowa MPS
Multiple Name

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

for Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

10/1/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of Significance:
The level of significance for this resource is local.

UTM:
The UTM coordinates were omitted from the nomination form. The correct coordinates were obtained from the attached USGS map.

This information was confirmed with Beth Foster of the Iowa SHPO.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

AUG 20 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Sentinel Block

other names/site number N.A.

2. Location

street & number 702 Washington Avenue not for publication

city or town Iowa Falls vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Hardin code 083 zip code 50126

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

8/13/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patricia Adams

10/1/93

Sentinel Block
Name of _____

Hardin 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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

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

Architectural & Historical Resources of Iowa Falls, IA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/Specialty & Business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/Specialty

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th/Early 20th Century Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Stone trim

Vertical metal siding

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1905

Significant Dates

1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N.A.

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Sentinel Block
Name of Property

Hardin County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 11S 478200 47107320
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant, & Brian Schultes (515) 682-2743
organization Iowa Falls Historic Preservation Commission date May 1993
street & number City Hall, 321 Stevens telephone (515) 648-2527
city or town Iowa Falls state IA zip code 50126

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Mary Hecht
street & number 322 Jason telephone (515) 648-4017
city or town Iowa Falls state IA zip code 50126

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Sentinel Block
Hardin County, Iowa

Description:

The two story brick Sentinel Block (1905) is located on the northwest corner of Washington and Main. It is rectangular in shape, measuring 22'x120', with the long side along Main. The primary facade on Washington consists of two large display windows divided by a recessed entrance. These display windows are topped by transoms which are presently covered by the "Office Supply" sign. Another large display window was originally located in the north third of the secondary (east) elevation. This has been filled in with brick. The southeast corner of the building features an oriel window with a crenelated parapet adding a romantic touch. The east elevation is crowned by a curvilinear pediment with date (the building was started in 1904, completed in 1905). A corbelled frieze and denticulated brick cornice are found on both elevations. These are typical of turn of the century commercial design. The brick pediment with stone cap illustrates the transition from the elaborate metal cornices of the Italianate era, to the simplified designs found on Neo-classical buildings, and the even simpler commercial buildings from the 'teens and twenties.

The interior of the first floor has been altered over the years, but the south half which originally contained a drug store, has remained commercial/retail space. The north half of the first floor, and all of the basement, housed the Sentinel offices. Much of the second floor which also contained offices retains the original woodwork and ceilings, but is now used for storage purposes. Since the focus of this project has been on exteriors, the integrity of the interior is not addressed here.

Alterations to the exterior include the bricking in of the east display window, replacement of four small side windows with new smaller windows, and the covering of all second floor windows and four small street level windows with panels (the windows remain intact behind the panels). The rear (alley) wall has been covered with modern vertical metal siding. The alteration which creates the biggest change visually is the covering of the windows with panels. Since these are removable this is not considered to have a negative impact on the integrity of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

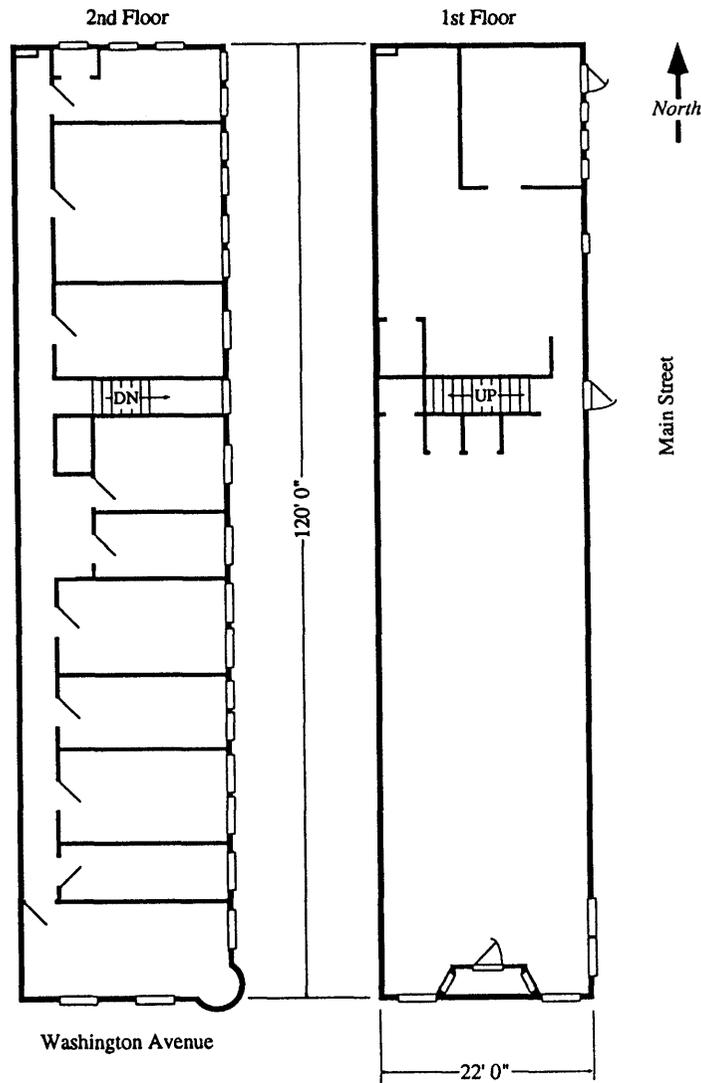
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Sentinel Block
Hardin County, Iowa

Description (continued):



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

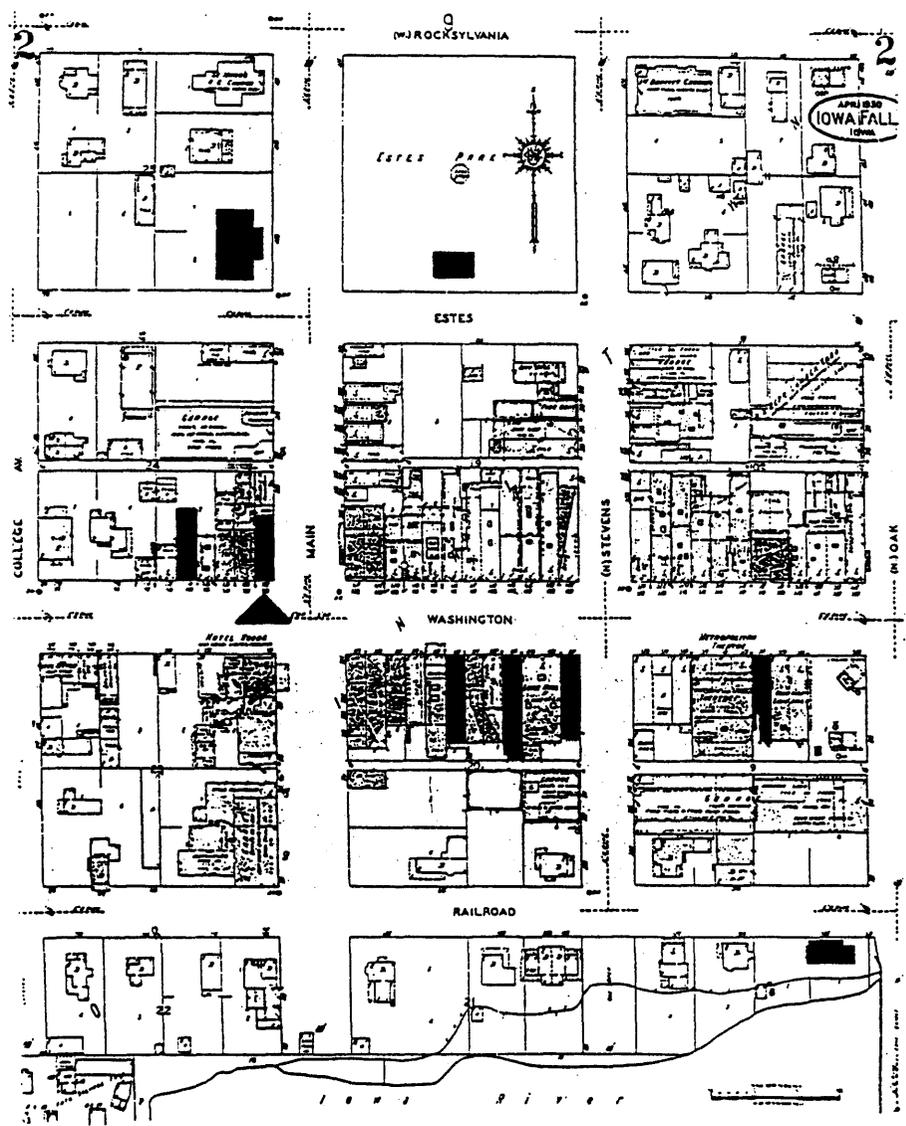
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Sentinel Block
Hardin County, Iowa

Description (continued):



IOWA FALLS BUSINESS DISTRICT

Shaded buildings are those being nominated.

▶ indicates specific building being nominated.

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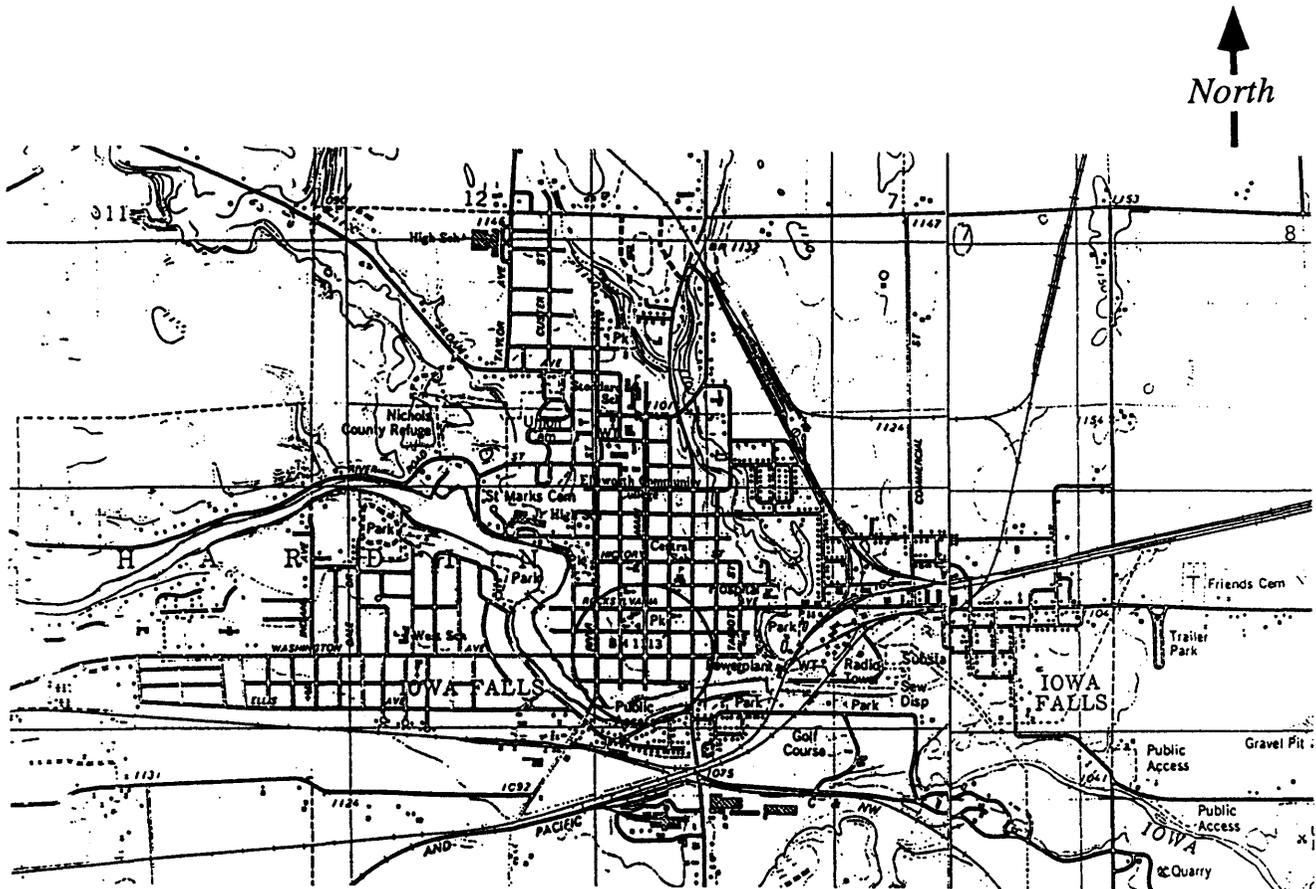
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Sentinel Block
Hardin County, Iowa

Description (continued):



Central Business District is circled.
U.S.G.S. Map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Sentinel Block
Hardin County, Iowa

Significance:

The Sentinel Block (1905) is locally significant under Criterion C as a good example of a romantic revival style commercial building from c.1900, and is of local historical interest as it illustrates the important position held by community newspapers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The period of significance is the date that the building was completed, 1905 (the "1904" on the pediment refers to the year construction was started).

The Sentinel Block represents a departure from earlier commercial buildings in Iowa Falls. These had almost all been Italianate in design with decorative hoodmolds and heavy metal cornices. With the new century came a new interest in a simpler form. The Sentinel Block represents an early expression of this. The hoodmolds have been replaced by rectilinear brick panels, and the cornice consists entirely of brick patterning with a very plain stone cap. The major decorative elements are restricted to the brick pediment with name and date, and the oriel window. The crenelated parapet on the oriel may have been a reaction to the Queen Anne influenced conical roof often found on buildings in the 1890s. This crenelation evoked visions of medieval castles, a rather romantic concept for a commercial block. Although the building is not as elaborate as its counterparts from earlier decades, it is not yet as simplified as those that will be built a decade later. The Sentinel Block is a transitional work.

The Sentinel regularly mentioned the progress of its new office building from the time the lot was purchased in August 1904, through the completion of the building the following year. At no time did it name the architect responsible for the design, although one account did identify Isaac Blackman as the general contractor. Locally it is said that the firm of Murphy and Ralston of Waterloo drew plans for the building, but documentation has not been located. Evidently the identity of the architect was not considered to be important, just as it had not been on the Ellsworth-Jones Building three years earlier.

The Iowa Falls Sentinel was born as the Eldora Sentinel in 1857. When Marcus Woodruff relocated the newspaper to Iowa Falls in 1865, he had an eye on the future. Business in Iowa Falls was brisk, the population was growing, and the promise of continued growth was strong. The year after Woodruff moved his paper, the town received rail transportation, a strong assurance to businessmen that growth would follow in Iowa Falls. The Hardin County Citizen was established in 1883 as competition for the Sentinel. Thus began the battle for supremacy among the editors of the two local newspapers. In 1895 Ira A. Nichols arrived in town and changed the name to the Iowa Falls Citizen.

The years 1904-05 mark the high point in the newspapers' battle for superiority. For the Sentinel, S.B. Stonebrook took charge and decided to erect a new office for his paper. Nichols judged that it was also in his best interest to construct a new building to house his paper, and began construction of an "artificial stone" (concrete block) building on Stevens. Apparently the town was strong enough to support two newspapers until 1927. In that year Nichols won the twenty year battle when he purchased the Sentinel and silenced its presses. The Sentinel Block was the last home of Iowa Falls' first newspaper.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Sentinel Block
Hardin County, Iowa

Bibliography:

Abstract of Title, City of Iowa Falls, Original Plat, Block 24, E 22' Lot 8, except N 12'.
Iowa Falls Sentinel, August 30, 1904, Local, bottom half of page
September 27, 1904, Local, c 4
April 11, 1905, Local c 2
May 2, 1905, Local, c 1
May 30, 1905, Local, c 4
July 25, 1905, Local, c 4
August 22, 1905, front page
Iowa Falls Citizen-Hardin County Times, "Scenic City Centennial", June 14, 1955,
Section 14, p 1, c 2 & 3.
Nichols, Ira A. History of Iowa Falls: 1900-1950. Iowa Falls: Hecht Printing Co.,
1956, pp 233-5.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Verbal Boundary Description:

City of Iowa Falls, Original Plat, Block 24, E. 22' Lot 8, except for N 12'.

Boundary Justification:

This is the area historically associated with this resource.