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FINAL

INTENSIVE ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ONAWA, MONONA COUNTY, IOWA

HADB No. 67-004

Submitted to

Monona County Historic Preservation Commission
and the State Historical Society of Iowa

Submitted by

Leah D. Rogers, Principal Investigator,
Tallgrass Historians L.C.
2460 South Riverside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52246

June 2009

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FINAL REPORT

Prepared for

Monona County Historic Preservation Commission
Judy Ehlers, Chair

Prepared by

Leah D. Rogers, Principal Investigator
Tallgrass Historians L.C.
Iowa City, Iowa 52246

2009

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to thank the Monona County Historic Preservation Commission for providing administrative and research support for this planning project. The Commission includes: chair, Judy Ehlers, and members Kenny Casperson, Ruth Jordan, Anita Moorhead, and Keith Robinson. Additional appreciation goes to the Onawa Chamber of Commerce, including Chamber secretary, Ann Crawford; the Mayor of Onawa, Rebecca Tanner; the Onawa City Administrator, Larry Burks; members of the Onawa City Council, and the staff of the Onawa City Hall for their support and participation in this project. Research assistance and other project support were provided by Tallgrass Historians L.C. staff including Cindy L. Nagel, Jennifer Price, and Carolyn Gross. Don Waples, a life-long Onawa resident, sat down and compiled a listing of what he remembered about businesses block by block for the project. Unfortunately, Mr. Waples passed away shortly thereafter. His contribution to the project is greatly appreciated.

NPS Form 10-900-b
(Revised March 1992)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

__X__ New Submission ____ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Commercial District of the City of Onawa, Monona County, Iowa

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Establishment and Early Growth of the City of Onawa
Civic and Commercial Growth of the City of Onawa
Population of the City of Onawa
Religious, Educational, and Social Development in the City of Onawa
Significant Businesses and Businesspersons in the City of Onawa
Architecture of the Commercial District of the City of Onawa

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Leah D. Rogers/Principal Investigator

organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date June 30, 2009

street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319-354-6722

city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52246

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

		Page Numbers
E.	**Statement of Historic Contexts** (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)	**1**
	Establishment and Early Growth of the City of Onawa	1
	Civic and Commercial Growth of the City of Onawa	3
	Population of the City of Onawa	8
	Religious, Educational, and Social Development in the City of Onawa	8
	Significant Businesses and Businesspersons in the City of Onawa	9
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F.	**Associated Property Types** (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)	**14**
	Buildings, Structures, and Sites Associated with the Historic Commercial Development of Onawa, Iowa	14
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Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository:

_____

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 120 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.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey and Evaluation of the Commercial District of the City of Onawa, Monona County, Iowa

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

The contexts summarized below include several general historic contexts related to the overall settlement and development of the City of Onawa in Monona County, Iowa, but with particular focus on the commercial development of the city (Figure 1). The contexts were initially compiled for the Monona/Woodbury Preservation Partnership project reported in Rogers (1990), a project which also included an initial survey of some of the properties within the current study area.

The survey area is bounded by Pearl Street on the north, 13th Street on the west, Diamond Street on the south, and 6th Street on the east and encompasses 14 city blocks and 136 total primary buildings (secondary buildings such as garages were not counted in this total) (Figure 2). Of these 136 buildings, 29 had been previously inventoried but most had not been evaluated for National Register eligibility. The remaining 107 properties had never been inventoried. Of the 29 previously inventoried properties, four had been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places and include the Monona County Courthouse, the Onawa Public Library, the Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House, and the Whiting/Murphy House. One of the previously recorded properties at 1013 9th Street (Iowa Inventory No. 67-00302) was found to have been replaced with a modern building, with that building retaining the same address and inventory number. However, the historic building is now non-extant. Additionally, two previously recorded properties within the current survey area were found to be no longer standing, with their locations now vacant lots. These properties were at 716 Iowa Avenue (67-00334) and 718 Iowa Avenue (67-00335).

Establishment and Early Growth of the City of Onawa

Onawa is situated in Franklin Township in west-central Monona County; about three miles from the Missouri River (see Figure 1). The county boasted a topography and natural resources advantageous to Onawa's founders, the Monona Land Company, including the level terrain of the Missouri bottoms that made good farmland and an abundance of timber ideal for building homes, businesses, and (most importantly) railroads:

> The eastern part of the county is hilly, except the valleys of the streams running through it; the western part is level. About one acre in fifty of the eastern part is timber. In the western about one acre in eight is timber, composed principally of cottonwood, burr oak, black walnut, linn, mulberry, elm and maple, are found in considerable quantities. The soil is good (Hair 1865:292).

In 1857, C.H. and B.D. Holbrook, surveyors with the Monona Land Company, laid out the town of Onawa on the bottomlands of the Missouri River in Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9 of Franklin Township. Onawa embraced 600 acres with approximately 600 acres more in platted out-lots (Figure 3). The Holbrook brothers made all streets 80 feet wide, with the exception of the town's four principal streets: East, Central, and West Broadway (today Sixth, Eighth, and Tenth Streets) running north-south and Iowa Avenue running east-west. Instead, the Holbrooks made each of these cross streets 150 feet wide. Together, these wider streets formed the framework on which Onawa's commercial district developed (see Figure 3). The company numbered the other north-south streets from east to west and named the remaining east-west streets after gems or stones: Emerald, Jasper, Cameo, Ruby, Pearl, Diamond, Marble, and Granite. Absent from the original plat was a central square. As a result, the courthouse was located at the east end of the business district rather than its center. The Monona Land Company filed the town plat of Onawa in October 1858 (Andreas 1875: 491; National Publishing 1890; Rogers 1990: 246).

The reason for the lack of a central square for a planned courthouse in Onawa was that at the time of platting, Onawa was not the county seat of government. The first county seat of Monona County was Ashton (originally called Bloomfield), a settlement established in 1853 by Isaac Ashton approximately one mile north of where Onawa would later be platted (Figure 4). Ashton's dream of "establishing a metropolis on the overland route between north and south was well founded since both the railroad and the nation's oldest highway between Mexico and Canada (the King of Trails) was later to pass through his original town site" (Monona County Book Committee 1982). The King of Trails later became U.S. Highway 75 and is now followed in places by Interstate 29 in Iowa.

In 1853, Ashton built a hotel and tavern at his townsite, and after the county was organized in 1854, Ashton was selected as the first official county seat. However, this designation was short lived because in 1858, the county seat was removed to nearby Onawa. Ashton quickly declined as a result and is now occupied by a farmstead. The town's former cemetery is also no longer recognizable as such; the headstones having been removed by a past owner and the cemetery ground put into cultivation (Rogers 1990:40-45).

An undated, but probably c.1857, map of Monona County shows the location of Ashton and Onawa, the early trail system in the area, and the projected line of the "Missouri River Railroad," which was to extend in from the east into Onawa (see Figure 4). The map does show several trails extending through Ashton and Onawa including a road connecting to Spirit Lake to the northeast, Sioux City to the northwest, Council Bluffs to the south, and Denison and Fort Dodge to the east (see Figure 4). While Ashton would be situated along that important overland north-south route that Isaac Ashton had envisioned, the loss of the county seat designation at a time when the Panic of 1857 was affecting the national and local economy would prove to be the fatal blow to his fledgling settlement.

The town plat of Onawa also looks different from those of other towns in the region, because Onawa was not laid out along an existing or definitively projected railroad line. Instead, Onawa was planned to receive a future railroad line. The location of Onawa was chosen by an agreement between the directors of the Iowa Central Air Line Railroad and the Monona Land Company. The ideal town site, 60 miles north of Council Bluffs and 40 miles south of Sioux City, put Onawa on the 42nd parallel and directly in the line of the railroad to be built west from Maquoketa. During the first business meeting of the Monona Land Company, the eleven charter members who:

> purchased and paid in part for a tract of land lying on both sides of the Iowa Central Air Line Railroad on the highest ridge of land at the western terminus of said road as now surveyed and located, do agree to lay the said land out into a town, to be owned in shares of one hundred dollars each (Monona County Book Committee 1982:45).

The wide dimensions of Iowa Avenue, Onawa's main street, may be explained as an accommodation for a railroad expected to run through the center of town. The first railroad, however, arrived not from the east, but from the north. When the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad was built to Onawa in 1867, the tracks bisected Onawa's town center, diagonally cutting across Central Broadway (Eighth Street) and platted blocks, leaving Iowa Avenue free of tracks (see Figure 3). Today, this spacious street serves as a tourist attraction for Onawa, which touts Iowa Avenue to be "the Widest Main Street in the U.S.A."[1]

The Monona Land Company was organized in 1857 by some of the first settlers in the area, including Charles E. Whiting, Leonard Sears, Samuel S. Pearse, J.S. Merrill, Jonathon E. Morrison, Timothy Elliott, William Burton, T.H. Benton, Governor Morris, and E.D.V. Mason. These men incorporated for the purpose "of promoting the growth of Onawa, Monona County, Iowa, and establishing a ferry on the

[1] "Home of the 'Eskimo Pie,' 'Widest Main Street in U.S.,'" *Des Moines Register*, September 12, 1971.

Missouri River."[2] The articles of incorporation for the Monona Land Company required each shareholder to "build a house or store with not less than three windows and a shingle roof." Houses or buildings built of logs or poles were not allowed. The company determined the size of the building or house to be built by the number of shares owned by the shareholder; the greater number of shares owned, the larger the building or house to be built. All such improvements had to be completed by July 1858, or shares in the company would be forfeited. Thus, in the summer of 1857, Samuel Pearse erected the town's first house and Jonathan E. Morrison built the first hotel, Onawa House (Figure 5) (Andreas 1875:491; National Publishing 1890:309-10).

During the winter of 1858-59, Council Bluffs, Sioux City, and Onawa held joint meetings to develop a plan that would connect the three communities by railroad within three years, each offering the railroad grants of swamp land as encouragement. Despite such coordination, Onawans had to wait more than a decade for the first railroad – the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad – to reach their town (Reed 1966, 1967).

In 1863, Onawa resident C.E. Whiting (charter member of the Monona Land Company) had joined John I. Blair's first railroad survey party in Iowa. Blair was a founding member of the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company. When the party entered Onawa, Blair was impressed with the town, but made Whiting and Onawa citizens no promises. Instead, Blair built the railroad from Marshalltown to Council Bluffs, completing the Chicago and North Western line in January 1867. With its entire future dependent upon railroad access, Onawa offered lavish gifts to Blair's railroad: free right-of-way, 20 acres for a depot, and an $8,000 money grant. With these incentives, the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad (a subsidiary line of the C&NW) finally reached Onawa from Council Bluffs in November 1867. It was extended to Sioux City the following year. The arrival of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad in Onawa spurred population growth and economic development in the town and throughout the mid-Missouri Valley. After the railroad built a stockyard, Onawa began thriving as a livestock shipping point for farmers in the county (Reed 1966, 1967).

In 1859, Onawa became the Monona County seat, incorporated as a town, and elected its first mayor, Dr. Richard Stebbins. A year earlier, a rivalry had developed over the relocation of the county seat between the advocates of Onawa and those of Ashton, the county seat since 1854. To settle the dispute, County Judge C.E. Whiting (one of the founders of Onawa) ordered a special election. Votes for Onawa carried the day, and Judge Whiting ordered the county seat removed to the new village. As a result, the Monona Land Company built a county courthouse on Iowa Avenue on Block 62 of the original town site. From 1861 to 1889, further attempts were made by various towns in the county to unseat Onawa, though none prevailed. During the last attempt, the citizens of Onawa raised $12,000 for a new courthouse in order to tip the contest in their favor. Built in 1890-91 by S. E. Maxon and Co. of Omaha, the brick Romanesque courthouse replaced the original 1858 frame building. The new courthouse is still standing and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981 (National Publishing 1890:314-15; Rogers 1990:246).[3]

Civic and Commercial Development of the City of Onawa

The founding of Onawa the same year that the economic "Panic of 1857" was gripping the nation did little good for the early development of the town.

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[2] The town was also named by the Monona Land Company. Charter member Timothy Elliott derived the name "Onawa" from the word "Onaiweh" (meaning "wide awake") in the poem, *Song of Hiawatha*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Donald L. Reed, "Three Rails to Onawa," *Annals of Iowa* 38:3 (Spring 1967), p. 626).

[3] A second vote to remove or not remove the county seat from Onawa took place in 1889. Once again Onawa prevailed. Afterwards, Onawa built a new county courthouse (National Publishing 1890: 315).

> With the financial crises of 1857 the tide of Western emigration came to a stand-still, and upon the heels of it came the Civil War and the Indian scare at the time of the Minnesota massacre, and instead of the village growing it rather diminished in population throughout these years. On the close of the war, however, home-seekers again sought out the West, and from that time on Onawa has been progressing and increasing in population and wealth (National Publishing 1890:312).

Stores, businesses, and other buildings began to sprout along Iowa Avenue, which became Onawa's main commercial street. Within the first few years of its existence, businesses in Onawa included: two hotels, several general stores, a blacksmith shop, wagon shop, saloon, drug store, tailor, shoe repair, grocery store, and a real estate and loan office. Several attorneys and two doctors set up practices in the nascent town. After Civil War, however, Onawa began what has been called its period of "true growth." Served by the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, Onawa's commercial district entered a boom time. Old settlers expanded old businesses, new settlers started new ones. This development was greatly spurred on in 1886 and 1887, when Onawa received two more railroads. First, the Northwestern Railroad extended its line from Mapleton to Onawa; then, the Illinois Central connected Correctionville with Onawa. With three major rail lines, Onawa's position as the largest shipping and market center in Monona County was assured (Rogers 1990:247-48; National Publishing 1890:316; Reed 1967).

Among the early businesses were the following (see also Figure 6):

> R.G. Fairchild opened the first business in Onawa. He sold dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, etc. Walter Stark opened a small tailoring shop called the Onawa Clothing Company. Thomas Chapman opened a grocery store. Charles H. and Bernard D. Holbrook established a real estate, loan, conveyancing and abstract office. John Southers opened the first blacksmith shop. He also provided the music for the pioneer dances. N.A. Whiting established the first wagon shop of its kind in the county. Charles and Newell Whiting opened a general merchandise store. John Elwell opened a variety store known as the Beehive. B.B. Holbrook, Addison Oliver and Addison Dimmick were the town's attorneys. Robert G. Fairchild became Onawa's first postmaster. S.S. Pearce, second postmaster of Onawa, opened a small store. J.A. Scott opened a brickyard and burned the brick used in the old school house. Elijah Walker started the first shoe repair. In March of 1872, he sold the flourishing shoe business to Edward Bakke. This business has been carried by the Bakke family ever since (Onawa Chamber of Commerce 2005-08).

By 1865, Onawa's population had risen to 200.

> The surrounding county is well adapted to grain of all kinds, and probably the best stock-raising country in Iowa. The bottom lands are about fifteen miles wide, having from two to three miles of timber land next to the river, and the remainder furnishing inexhaustible pasturage. Most of the Christian churches are represented among the inhabitants, but only the Methodists have a church organization. There is a good school maintained throughout the year. The *West Iowa Gazette* is a weekly newspaper published on Saturdays by Daniel W. Butts (Hair 1865:292-3).

By 1870, the businesses and services of Onawa specifically included: two hotels; five general stores; a general store/lumber/grain operation; a tailor, later developing into the Onawa Clothing Store; a grocery store; a real estate/loan/abstract office (Holbrook and Company) from which a bank was organized in 1865; two drugstores; a blacksmith shop; a wagon shop (established in 1860 by Newell Whiting); a hardware store (established by Whiting in 1867); a millinery shop; a variety store (known as the "Beehive"); two brickyards (one opened in 1860 by J.A. Scott and the other in 1867 by Albert S. Fessenden); a butcher shop; a shoe shop (operated first by Elijah Walker from 1862-72 when it was bought by Edward Bakke); a Masonic Lodge; an Odd Fellows Lodge; a livery stable; a furniture store; ten law offices (including among others, B.D. Holbrook, Addison Oliver, Addison Dimmick, and C.E.

Underhill); a number of carpenters; a number of doctors (including Dr. Stebbins, C.G. Stutzman, and C. John Hazlett (National Publishing 1890).

In 1882, the town's business interests were listed as follows: four general stores; three grocery stores; two drugstores; three millinery stores; two harness shops; two hardware stores; two meat markets; one clothing store; one jewelry store; two agricultural implement stores; one flour and feed store; one bank; one barber shop; three hotels; three blacksmith shops; one furniture store; two boot and shoe stores; two livery stables; one lumberyard; one flour mill; one fancy goods store; and two saloons (Western Publishing 1882:250).

Seeing unlimited economic potential for Onawa, influential town residents formed the Onawa Improvement Company, with Judge Addison Oliver as president and one of its directors. One of the group's first projects was to move the Onawa House to make way for the new Hotel Monona, built 1889-90 (extant). During its heyday, the Hotel Monona was the travel and social center of the town. Opera patrons often stayed at the hotel, and it was served by both the Hilton stage line and the railroad. It survived a fire in 1893 and remains a prominent landmark in the business district along Iowa Avenue (Rogers 1990:248; National Publishing 1890; Anonymous, n.d.a.).

The Onawa House building was moved in July 1889 to the north end of the block at the intersection of Pearl and 8th Street (then Central Broadway) and continued to operate as a hotel at the new location through the 1890s; however, by the time of the 1907 fire insurance map, the old hotel was labeled as vacant and by 1913 it was labeled as "in bad repair." It had been torn down by the 1924 fire insurance map when the city had built a new water tower just southwest of the old hotel site.

By the 1890s, Onawa was noted as "a famous shipping point for hay, grain, and livestock" (Iowa Directory 1892). The town included the following businesses and services, in addition to those listed above: two hardware stores; a general store; an agricultural implement/lumber store; a boot and shoe store (established by George Underhill in 1870); a books/stationery/fancy goods/confectionery; two grocery stores; a restaurant; a grocery/bakery shop; a harness shop; a lumber and coal yard; a carpenter/undertaker; three meat markets; a tailor shop; Norton's Hall (an entertainment hall); an opera house; the Onawa Manufacturing Company (established in 1873 and manufactured carriages, door and window frames, mouldings, stairs, and balconies); a creamery and cheese factory; the Onawa Iron Works (established in 1875 and manufactured engines, boilers, and cane mills); the Marr Novelty Works (established in 1883 and engaged in carpentry, repairing, and the manufacture of the "Economy Flour Chest," and making inventors' models); a watchfob factory (only recently torn down); a blacksmith shop; a wagon making shop; a cigar factory; a broom factory; five doctors; a dentist; seven lawyers; several barber shops; a saw and gristmill (later the Onawa Roller Mill); a tannery; a tin shop; a livestock dealer; an agricultural depot; several grain elevators; the Knights of Pythias Lodge; three newspapers; and the Onawa State Bank (established in 1888). The bank was housed in a new Sioux Falls Granite and brick structure, which is still standing along the north side of Iowa Avenue in the main commercial district (Iowa Directory 1892; National Publishing 1890; Williams n.d.; Wright 1980).

In short, by the turn of the last century, the town of Onawa was a thriving town of some size, with a large number of businesses, services, and industries. It was the diversification of the local services and industries that would contribute to the continued viability of the town after the railroad ceased to be of primary importance as the twentieth century progressed. In 1905, Onawa was described as:

> a beautiful thriving town of over 2500 inhabitants, . . . a first class market for the farmer's products, has the best of railroad facilities with about 25 trains daily; contains a $50,000 school house, a fine new court house, seven elegant church edifices, a large new brick opera house, a new electric light plant, telephone system, many excellent and permanent business houses, graveled

> streets and about seven miles of cement sidewalks and street crossings, and the principal streets, over 100 feet wide, are embowed [*sic*] with large and beautiful shade trees (H.L. Craven & Co. 1905:1).

There were some fires of note in Onawa's early history. In 1871, the Walton House, an early hotel, was destroyed by fire. In 1874, the dry goods store of Warner and Chapman, the agricultural implements and lumber yard of Freeland and Cleghorn, and a millinery store went up in flames. Four years later, the Wood and Kenyon gristmill was consumed by fire. The Hotel Monona was "scorched" by fire in 1893 but was refurbished. There was also a fire along the south side of Iowa Avenue in 1890 that "destroyed an entire row of stores," with the town's gristmill burning down shortly thereafter (Reed 1966:81).[4]

The town moved to protect itself from more disastrous fires by forming a volunteer fire department in 1872. New buildings added in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries in the commercial district were also typically built or faced with brick or other masonry material and had fire walls to help prevent block-wide fires, although brick buildings were among some of the early commercial structures built after 1860. The brick store of MacCaskey and Murphy was among these, as were the 1860 and 1874 brick school houses. The presence of two brickyards at an early date, coupled with the town's prosperity after the Civil War, resulted in the increasing replacement of the first frame buildings with masonry structures (Anonymous n.d.a; Anonymous 1897; National Publishing 1890; Wonder 1951).

By the early twentieth century, the town had grown considerably, with new businesses including: a photographic studio; a new opera house (still standing and listed in the NRHP); an ice cream parlor; a jeweler; clothing stores; gas stations and car repair garages; movie theaters; a marble monument business; the Hyatt Ice Business; a hospital; and a wholesale and retail liquor business (in the Wise brick block building) (Anonymous 1897; Anonymous n.d.b). The opera house was built in 1900 by the Odd Fellows and also housed their lodge hall. The ice cream parlor noted above also has an interesting history and was the Royal Ice Cream Parlor. It was purchased in 1919 by Christian K. Nelson, and it was here that the Eskimo Pie confection was reportedly invented but was actually made here for only a short time. Nelson soon patented his invention and moved to Omaha where he met up with Russell Stover and the "Eskimo Pie" soon became an instant hit (Monona County Book Committee 1982; Onawa Chamber of Commerce 2005-08; Williams n.d.; Wright 1980).

Despite the inevitable decline typical of most small Midwestern towns after World War I, Onawa continued to grow in population and maintained some level of prosperity even as the railroads began to decline as a national industry. One of the town's banks did close during the Great Depression and was the only one in Monona County to permanently close during this period. That bank building is still standing and later became a shoe store.

The town was described in the 1920s as follows:

> The city is well served by the Illinois Central and the Chicago and Northwestern railways. It is in the apex of two branches of the Northwestern, with the Illinois Central coming between, so that its shipping facilities are good. Its leading industry is represented by the Onawa Mills, which have been established for nearly twenty years by the Roushes, father and son, and their patent flours have a wide reputation. Onawa has all the other features of an intelligent and progressive Iowa community of its size and population--substantial business houses, two banks, two newspapers, excellent schools, well supported churches, waterworks, fire department, and neat, electrically-lighted streets (Allen 1927:826).

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[4] Based on the extant buildings on the south side of Iowa Avenue, it is suspected that this destroyed row of stores was at the southeast corner of 10th Street and Iowa Avenue but this is not presently certain. The reference that Reed cited as the source for the 1890 fire was the March 13, 1890, edition of the *Monona County Gazette* (Reed 1966:81).

However, the decline of the railroad industry in face of competition from the rising trucking industry finally impacted Onawa when passenger rail service was discontinued and the depots were eventually removed. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Depot was moved by the Kiwanis to the town park where it is now a railroad museum. This depot was built in 1902 after a fire had destroyed the original depot.

Onawa turned to truck shipping as a means for survival. The Farmer's Cooperative Elevator Company and King Transfer both flourished by depending on truck shipping. King Transfer had a regular freight hauling route from Onawa to Sioux City and Omaha in the early 1930s. Onawa industries that suffered from the twentieth century changes in transportation and agriculture included the creamery and cheese factory and the flour mills, which could not compete with the larger, centralized dairy and flour plants in urban areas (Monona County Book Committee 1982).

The construction of the Decatur-Onawa Bridge across the Missouri River in the 1950s had a positive effect on the town of Onawa beyond improving transportation in the region. The influx of bridge construction workers for a time swelled the town's population and spurred new housing construction. This bridge achieved nationwide notoriety when the river had to be diverted to flow underneath the bridge. It had been built over an old, but dry channel of the river with the expectation that the river would eventually take up this course. When it did not, the river had to be diverted at great cost (Keitges 1971).

In the ensuing years, Onawa has added a new hospital on the west edge of town, a nursing home, a multi-purpose building, and a new City office. While not every building houses a viable business concern, many of them still do including the long-time Stangel Pharmacy and the Iowa Movie Theater. The Stangel Pharmacy is housed in the building erected by Richard Stebbins in 1878 and has been a drugstore continuously since that time. The Hotel Monona became an apartment building in its later incarnation but still operates under that name, and the building remains historical landmark along Iowa Avenue.

Much of the town's survival and continued growth is attributable to its position as the county seat as well as its location along major transportation routes. Early in its history these consisted of stage and post roads, most prominently the aforementioned "King of Trails" (later Highway 75); then the railroads; and now again the roadways, particularly Interstate 29 along the west edge of town (Wright 1980). The presence of the interstate has both enhanced and detracted from Onawa's business community. It has enhanced it by increasing traffic into the community for services such as motels, gas stations, and restaurants, but it has also drawn commercial activity to the outskirts of town where the interstate interchange is located. The interstate has also made it easier to commute to Sioux City and Council Bluffs drawing many shopping dollars and jobs and businesses away from Onawa even though many residents have remained living in the community.

Early civic improvements included the establishment of a city park and a steam electric light plant as early as 1893. By the 1950s, the town could boast of a new sewage treatment plant; a municipal light plant; a Country Club (first organized in the 1920s); numerous social, civic, and fraternal clubs and societies; and an airport. A Parks and Playground Commission had been formed in the late 1940s, and Dr. Leo Gaukel was prominent in its activities, one being the planting of trees in the city parks and along its streets. However, the invasion of Dutch Elm disease exacted a great toll on these trees in the mid to late twentieth century (Monona County Book Committee 1982; Williams n.d.; Wonder 1951).

The progression of Onawa's main commercial street through the years can be seen in a series of panoramic photographs taken in 1896, 1933, 1949, 1963 and 2001 as well as a large true panoramic photograph taken of the entirety of Iowa Avenue in the late 1890s-early 1900s (Figures 7-9). Other historic photographs of the district and buildings in the current survey area are presented in Figures 9-21.

Population of the City of Onawa

Mormons were among the early settlers of Onawa and had broken off from the main westward Mormon migration at Council Bluffs moving northward along the Missouri River making settlements along the way. There was even a concentrated colony-type Mormon settlement in Monona County southeast of Onawa called "Preparation." This colony failed to thrive and is now part of a county park known as Preparation Canyon.

The earliest residents of Onawa were predominantly from New York and Pennsylvania and, by 1860, made up nearly a quarter of town's population. Only ten residents had been born outside the United States. With the exception of the Civil War years, Onawa continued to attract new settlers. By 1870, New York natives numbered 75 out of a total population of 459, more than one sixth of the town's population. Immigrants from Sweden made up the second largest group with 35 individuals. European immigrants had by that time made their way to the little town, with Swedes and Norwegians the largest groups of foreign-born residents in Onawa (U.S. Population Census 1870).

Onawa saw continued growth through the rest of the nineteenth century. By 1880, the town had a population of 882 rising to 1,358 by 1890. The 1900 population total had risen to 1,933 and continued to increase to a 1930 total of 2,538. In 1950, the population stood at 3,498, and by 1960 it had dropped to 3,176 before rising to 3,273 by 1980. The population in 2000 was 3,091 (Allen 1927:826; Onawa Chamber of Commerce 2009; Iowa Directory 1892; Williams n.d.; Wonder 1951; Wright 1980; U.S. Population Censuses 1880-1930).

Religious, Educational, and Social Development in the City of Onawa

The early Yankee settlers profoundly influenced the character of Onawa in the first decades of its growth, for they brought with them an abiding interest in education and culture. Thus, as early as 1857, the fledgling settlement of Onawa boasted a literary society that met twice a week at the Onawa House, the town's first hotel, for discussion and debate. In March 1858, the Onawa Educational Sewing Society was organized to promote education and to raise funds through the sale of quilts and clothing to build the town's first schoolhouse (Monona County Book Committee 1982:46; Andreas 1875:579). Such activities continued, and Onawa acquired a learned reputation that was noted by the popular *Weekly Inter Ocean*, a Chicago newspaper:

> The little city of Onawa, with its 1,000 inhabitants, more or less, ... is as intelligent a town of its size, probably as well-read Iowa affords. There are lots of people here who can read Greek, and can tell how many times aionios occurs in the Bible. . . . The itch for knowledge spreads all over this county, like the measles down in Hardin County (*Weekly Inter Ocean*, January 23, 1878).

The first church organization was that of the Congregational Church. This was soon followed by the Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Evangelical Free, Adventist, and Pentecostal churches. Except for the Adventist church, the rest are still active congregations in Onawa. The surviving churches include: the United Methodist Church (first established in the 1850s); Jehovah's Witnesses (established in 1961); the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (located in Onawa in 1969); the First Baptist Church (established in 1979); the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (organized in 1872); the First Christian Church; the Evangelical Free Church; the Faith Lutheran Church; the United Pentecostal Church; and the Congregational Church. The Faith Lutheran Church was first organized as the Onawa Norwegian Lutheran Church in 1876 (Monona County Book Committee 1982).

The first school house was built in Onawa in 1860 followed by a second in 1874. Both were brick buildings. The Onawa Public School consolidated in the 1920s and a new brick building was constructed

in 1928. In 1962, the school was reorganized with the Blencoe and Turin districts, and in 1975, a new high school was built in Onawa. The 1928 school building then was used for the lower grades (Monona County Book Committee 1982).

In 1902, the city acquired a public library through the financial assistance of Judge Oliver. The library was first housed in the remodeled Congregational Church before the present Carnegie Library was built in 1908-09 across the street from the county courthouse. This library is also listed in the NRHP.

Significant Businesses and Businesspersons in the City of Onawa

Following the platting of Onawa, J.E. Morrison built the Onawa House hotel. Morrison had been the proprietor of the hotel in Ashton. J.R. Thurston later became the proprietor of this hotel, but also engaged in the mercantile business here from 1877 until 1881 and then in the hardware business. S.S. Pearse was another early resident and was also the first County Recorder and an early merchant and postmaster. Walter Stark came to Onawa in 1857 and established a small shop where he did merchant tailoring and, from this small beginning, his business grew into a larger, well-established business known as the Onawa Clothing Store. In 1858, the real estate, loan, conveyancing, and abstract office of Holbrook & Co., composed of Charles H. and Bernard D. Holbrook began in Onawa and led to the establishment of a bank in 1865. Joseph Robinson, a carpenter, was another early arrival and helped built the Onawa House. Two other carpenters, George W. and Franklin Oliver, moved to Onawa from Ashton. Dr. John C. Hazlett, was also a County Judge. Addison Oliver was a prominent early justice and his home still stands in Onawa, although remodeled through the years. Oliver was one of the most prominent of Onawa's citizens having been elected to both the State Legislature and Senate as well as to the U.S. Congress (Keitges 1971; National Publishing 1890; Wonder 1951; Wright 1980).

Dr. Richard Stebbins established one of the town's early drugstores in association with this medical practice until 1885 and was also the town's first mayor. His first drugstore burned to the ground in 1865 and he purchased another building and moved it to the burned lot where he carried on his pharmacy until 1878 when he "erected a handsome brick structure into which he removed" (National Publishing 1890:316). He sold the business to Joseph Jennings in 1885 but continued to own the building for a time. Jennings operated the drugstore for only two years before selling it to Wheeler & Egli, who operated the E.E. Egli Drug Store at this location from 1887-1902. They were followed by: Ed E. Corr's Drug Store from 1902-43; George Brown, Sr.'s Brown Drug Store from 1943-57, when Karl Karlson became co-owner; Karlson and George Brown Jr. then operated at this location from 1959-70 when George and Aileen Brown purchased Karlson's interest in the drug store; and Brown's until 1976 when Jim Stangel purchased the business. Today, the pharmacy business continues to operate as Stangel Pharmacy in the same 1878 brick building located at 821 Iowa Avenue (Monona County Book Committee 1982:58).

Brothers Charles E. and Newell Whiting made their mark in Onawa's history from an early date. C.E. Whiting was the president of the Monona Land Company and one of its directors in addition to being an early County Judge. The O.K. Hotel was part of his first building in town. Newell Whiting was "one of the city's leading merchants," had extensive landholdings, and built one of the town's finest homes in 1880-82, now known as the Whiting/Murphy House and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Publishing 1890:311). During his career in Onawa, Newell Whiting also established a hardware store, a wagon shop, and a mill. He was also one of the signers of the Organization of Incorporation of Onawa in 1859. In addition, he was the director of the Onawa State Bank when it was organized in 1888 and the Treasurer of the first local Board of Education. It has been noted that:

> Newell Whiting built the home on Iowa Avenue in his later years. His fortunes had prospered, and Onawa had developed into a trade center for Monona County. The house remains a symbol of an era of prosperity and refinement on the Iowa plains (Murphy 1985).

The Onawa State Bank began in November 1888 in a new bank building at 914 Iowa Avenue built of "Sioux Falls granite and brick" and architecturally "a credit to the taste of the builder, and the liberality of the bank, and adds materially to the improvement of the place...the interior fittings are in consonance with the ornate exterior, and are suited to the convenience of the officers and employees" (National Publishing 1890:319).

In 1862 Elijah Walker arrived in Onawa and began a shoe repair shop, with the business growing into "quite a shoe store" in town. He carried on this business until 1872, when he sold out to Edward Bakke, who had been his employee. Bakke's shoe store became a long-time fixture in Onawa's commercial district (National Publishing 1890:316).

The firm of Warner and Freeland, composed of George E. Warner (who also served as County Treasurer for a time) and M.A. Freeland, began their general merchandise, lumber and grain business in Onawa in 1867. E.A. Chapman joined the firm in 1869, and by the early 1870s, the business was divided with Freeland taking over the agricultural implement and lumber dealership and Warner and Chapman taking over the general merchandise section. Warner bought out Chapman in 1875 and continued the business on his own until 1889 when he closed the business. Freeland formed the firm of Freeland Cleghorn in 1871 along with John Cleghorn and carried on in the lumber and implement trade until 1888 when Cleghorn retired and Freeland continued the business on his own (National Publishing 1890:317-8). Freeland's lumber yard was located one block from Iowa Avenue on the west side of what was then Central Broadway and is now 8th Street. The Great Plains lumberyard was last at this location, but all of the buildings have since been razed, and the site now a parking lot. The business block that Freeland built by 1893 on the south side of Iowa Avenue still stands (905-11 Iowa Avenue).

F.E. Colby and Co. originated in 1887 when Frank E. Colby established a lumber and coal business in Onawa (National Publishing 1890:318). Their business was located near the Illinois Central Depot outside of the commercial district, but the opera house building that F.E. and E.W. Colby built in 1893 at 912 Iowa Avenue still stands in the district.

Prominent among the later settlers of Onawa were Charles H. Aldridge, editor of the *Gazette*; Dr. James Butts; Henry W. Cunningham, town marshal; George A. Douglas of the mercantile firm of Fairchild and Douglas; W.A. Greene, editor of the *Sentinel* (the paper continues to be published to the present day by current editor, Verlee Sawyer); and William H. Wonder and his many descendants who continue to publish the *Onawa Democrat* to the present day (Monona County Book Committee 1980; National Publishing 1890).

The *Onawa Democrat* was first published in the basement of the Hotel Monona on February 6, 1890, with William H. Wonder as editor. His son, Fredrick W. Wonder I took over the newspaper after his father's death in 1917. In addition to being the newspaper's editor, Fred Wonder was active in the town band and theatrical work and operated the old Opera House for a time and had an interest in the Royal Theater where early movies were shown. He died in 1961 and was succeeded by William H. Wonder, who had begun in the newspaper business in 1924 when he was a high school freshman. William died in 1974 and was succeeded by the fourth generation of Wonder newspaper publishers, Fredrick W. Wonder II, who began working on the newspaper in 1955. The fifth generation, William Anton Wonder, began working for the paper in 1970 as a high school freshman and became part owner in 1978 (Monona County Book Committee 1980:57). Today, the paper is published by William and Freddie Wonder, with Kitty Wonder the circulation manager.

The Oliver Agency was reportedly one of the oldest established insurance agencies in the state having been in continuous operation since January 10, 1905. It was founded by F.G. Oliver, Sr., who purchased

one-half interest from Charles Morris, who was the senior member of the Buckley Insurance Agency. After a few years, Fred Oliver purchased Morris' interest, and the agency became known as the Oliver Brothers and dealt in only in insurance. Subsequent partners included: A.B. Elliott, who dealt in real estate interests; N.E. Uptegrove; Esther Hansen; Willard Oliver; Gordon Oliver; and Willard S. Oliver. In 1950, Willard Oliver and his wife, Ida Buss Oliver, purchased the agency from his father and sister (Esther Hansen). F.G. Oliver, Sr. died in 1958 after having been associated with the insurance agency for 53 years. In 1963, a branch office was established in Whiting. Through the years, the agency has been housed in the Rivera Hotel building, which had previously housed Thurston Hardware, the second floor of the Bakke Building (where it remained for over 30 years), and the N.W. Telephone building at 906 Ninth Street (Monona County Book Committee 1982:58).

Architecture of the Commercial District of the City of Onawa

Commercial Architecture in the Current Survey Area

There are 82 commercial buildings within the current survey area. Eighteen of these are modern commercial buildings generally devoid of much stylistic influence and would generally considered ineligible and non-contributing because of their modern age (i.e., younger than 50 years of age at the time of this survey). The rest of the commercial buildings are a range of one, one-and-one-half, and two-story buildings that are largely built of masonry materials including brick, stone, or concrete. Most of the buildings are built with bricks, with the late nineteenth century examples likely using locally-manufactured brick for the side walls but faced with pressed or other higher-quality produced brick and terra-cotta obtained from non-local sources and shipped in by rail.

Most of the buildings are best categorized by vernacular design types, with only a few that would qualify as "high-style" examples of any one architectural style. The high-style examples include the Romanesque Revival Onawa State Bank at 914 Iowa Avenue (distinctively faced with Sioux Falls Granite blocks) and the Onawa IOOF/Opera House at 1023 10th Street and already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The rest of the buildings exhibit varying degrees of stylistic influence from popular national styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries including: the Italianate, Queen Anne, Neoclassical, and Art Deco/Moderne styles. There is one example of the Art Deco/Moderne that could be considered somewhat high-style in its execution and may have been architect designed. This example is the Iowa Movie Theater located at 920 10th Street and built c.1938. This example may be individually eligible for the National Register. The other Art Deco/Moderne example was a 1939 remodel of an older building at 933 10th Street (also fronts Iowa Avenue).

The following is a discussion by architectural type of the commercial properties in the survey area:

<u>Front-Gabled/False-Front Commercial</u>

There are four examples in the study area that are generally front-gabled and either have, or likely had, false-front type parapets on the façade that hide the front-gabled roofline behind. In most towns, such types are generally early settlement-era or first-generation commercial buildings in town; however, in Onawa, only one appears to potentially date from that era, with the rest representing additions to the commercial district in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The front-gabled/false-front examples in Onawa include both frame and masonry buildings, with construction date estimates extending from the late 19th century to 1957.

Brickfront/Masonry Commercial

The majority of commercial buildings in the survey area are best categorized as brickfront or masonry commercial buildings. There are a total of 42 in the survey area that fit this category, which includes one, one-and-one-half, and two-story examples. Most are generally devoid of stylistic details, although some original elaboration may have been lost covered over by later remodeling projects. Like most of the commercial buildings in the study area and in towns across Iowa, the street level storefronts have been updated through the years, although there are a few notable examples in Onawa where older, if not original, storefronts are largely intact (e.g., 904 Iowa Avenue). These buildings were primarily built during the boom period of Onawa's commercial construction in the 1890s-1920s, with a few earlier and later examples. These buildings are generally built or faced with brick, but in some cases it was difficult to identify whether the original construction material might be tile or concrete block. There is at least one definite example faced with rusticated concrete blocks (1019 10th Street built in 1909).

Late Victorian Commercial

This building type encompasses masonry and frame buildings of one to two stories in height in the survey area that differ from the basic brickfront/masonry category by exhibiting more elaborate stylistic influence, particularly in upper story details such as corbelled and pressed metal cornices, masonry and metal window hoods, and window types. The influence is typically from the Italianate and Queen Anne styles of architecture and include brackets, dentils, brickwork patterns, peaked and shaped parapets and lintels, recessed panels, and window shapes that include tall, narrow rectangular and round-arched window types. Some examples in the survey area have name plates in stone or cast concrete that identify the building owner/builder and include the names of Mann, Whiting, and Freeland. This type includes both single-unit and block buildings that consist of two up to four store units in one building. The Freeland Block is the largest consisting of four store units. The second floors of these buildings often housed professional offices such as doctors, dentists, and lawyers, with the first floors occupied by retail businesses. Some had space on the second floor used for fraternal and social halls. A total of 12 buildings in the survey area are categorized as Late Victorian Commercial and were largely built in the 1870s-early 1900s. The earliest dated building is the pharmacy building constructed in 1878 by Richard Stebbins, now Stangel Pharmacy, at 821 Iowa Avenue, although the Freeland Block at 905-11 Iowa Avenue may have been built c.1874 in the wake of a fire that burned the earlier buildings on this block.

Romanesque Revival

There are two examples of the Romanesque Revival in the current survey area. These include the National Register-listed Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House at 1023 10th Street and the Onawa State Bank at 914 Iowa Avenue. The IOOF Hall/Opera House was built of brick but exhibits the round-arched and arcaded window and door openings typical of the Romanesque style. The Onawa State Bank is the more high-style example of the two and is faced with rusticated Sioux Falls granite blocks and has round-arched door and window openings across the first floor and castle-like turrets and peaked parapets on the second floor. The bank was built in 1888, while the opera house was built in 1900.

Neoclassical Commercial

In the early twentieth century, the highly decorative details of the Late Victorian style began to give way to the cleaner, more classical lines of a style that came to be known as the Neoclassical or Classical Revival. There are two examples of the Neoclassical in Onawa's commercial architecture, with the examples including the Citizens' State Bank at 801 Iowa Avenue (built between 1913 and 1924) and the Onawa State Bank at 901 Iowa Avenue (built c.1930). The Neoclassical style was popular for early twentieth century updates of bank and public buildings because it imparts a solid, monumental quality

that suggests both progressiveness and stability. Ironically, one of the banks did not survive long, succumbing to the financial fallout of the Great Depression.

Art Deco/Moderne Commercial

Another style often used to update older commercial buildings in the early twentieth century was the Art Deco/Moderne style, which uses geometric and horizontal patterns and streamlined curves and corners to present a sleek, modernistic look to a building. There are two examples in the Onawa commercial area, with one representing a remodeling of an older commercial building in 1939 in the Art Deco/Moderne style (i.e., 933 10th Street) and one representing a new building added to the commercial area in the Art Deco/Modern style (i.e., the Iowa Movie Theater at 920 10th Street and built c.1938).

Modern Commercial

There are 18 buildings in the current survey area that represent commercial buildings built after 1959 and considered modern in construction. Since the common cut-off date for consideration of National Register eligibility is 50 years, anything less than 50 years would require special significance, either historical or architectural, to qualify for eligibility. These buildings include three banks, a gas station/convenience store, retail stores, warehouses, an insurance building, a real estate office, a body shop, an office, and a grocery store. Because of their modern construction and general ineligibility for the National Register, any modern buildings in the proposed district would be considered non-contributing as a result.

Public Architecture in the Current Survey area

There are nine public buildings and structures within the current survey area, with seven being historic in age and four being modern additions built within the past 50 years. These buildings include the Monona County Courthouse, which is a historic building already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Onawa Carnegie Public Library, which is also National Register-listed. The other public buildings include the community theater (a historic age building that has been modernized on the exterior), the Onawa City Hall (a modern building dating from 1967), the city light plant (built in 1933-37), the city water plant (a modern building dating from 1964), the city water tower (built in 1920), the county jail and law enforcement center (a modern building dating from 1974), and the current Onawa U.S. Post Office. Of these, the city water tower and light plant may be individually eligible; while the water plant building may warrant some consideration once it becomes 50 years of age. Currently, the community theater building does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered National Register eligible but should be re-evaluated if the modern cover-up siding is ever removed and historic material found to be intact underneath.

Stylistic influence exhibited in some of the historic-age public buildings include: Romanesque Revival (Courthouse), Prairie School (Library), Neoclassical (U.S. Post Office), and Modernistic (city water and light plants). The courthouse and public library, in particular, are considered high-style examples of the Romanesque and Prairie School styles and were both architect designed.

Residential Architecture in the Current Survey Area in the City of Onawa

In the process of defining a survey area that would encompass the entirety of the historic commercial area of Onawa, a number of residential and other non-commercial properties were included in the current survey and inventory study (see Figure 2). These non-commercial properties are generally single-family dwellings but also include several modern apartment complexes, and a church. Of the total 136 buildings in the current study area, 45 are non-commercial including: 41 dwellings, 2 apartment complexes, 1 fraternal lodge hall, and 1 church. The apartments and lodge hall are all modern properties generally

devoid of stylistic influence or detail. The church was built in 1954 and exhibits influence from what can be termed the Church Gothic style of the early to mid twentieth century.

The dwellings in the study area are primarily vernacular in type and do not conform to any particular architectural style but do show influence from a number of popular late nineteenth and early twentieth century styles in decorative details and window types including influence from the Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Prairie School, Tudor Revival, and Ranch styles. There are a few "high-style" examples in the survey area that represent nearly pure examples of a particular architectural style and were, in some cases, architect designed. These include examples of the Italian Villa, Mission/Spanish Colonial, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Italianate styles. The Italian Villa example is the Whiting-Murphy House, which is the largest and most elaborate dwelling in the survey area and is already individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Overall, the 41 dwellings in the study area can be categorized by the following vernacular types and architectural styles: 11 front-gabled, five Ranch, four Colonial Revival (including one Dutch Colonial Revival), four Craftsman/Bungalow, three side-gabled, two hipped cottage, two Queen Anne, two Cape Cod, one Italian Villa, one Italianate, one Mission/Spanish Colonial, one Craftsman/Colonial Revival, one foursquare, one Tudor Revival, one gable-front-and-wing, and one Prairie School/Revival style dwelling.

F. Associated Property Types

Property Type: Buildings, Structures, and Sites Associated with the Historic Commercial Development of Onawa, Iowa

a. Description

The property types identified with the historic commercial development of the City of Onawa include predominantly commercial buildings, with some professional office buildings of historic age, that front Iowa Avenue, the main commercial street in Onawa. Unlike most county seats where the courthouse served as the core of the commercial district, in Onawa, the courthouse essentially formed the far east edge of the commercial area. It was the north-south railroad that sliced down through the commercial area essentially along what was originally Central Broadway (now 8th Street) that served as the main dividing line, west of which the commercial district primarily grew. The main commercial area was therefore bounded by 8th Street on the east and 10th Street on the west, with 10th being historically the main north-south road through Onawa and Iowa Avenue serving as the main east-west "main street" through town. There was some minor development along the side streets north and south of Iowa Avenue and some notable development east of 8th Street over to the Courthouse and up to one block west of 10th Street; however, the heart of the commercial district consists of those buildings that front Iowa Avenue between 8th and 10th streets. Iowa Avenue itself is a significant component of the district because of its notable width and the marketing tool that this has become for touting Onawa has having "the Widest Main Street in the U.S.A."

The buildings that front Iowa Avenue in the district are all commercial in their original function and primarily masonry (largely brick) in construction but include one notable example faced with rough-faced stone blocks. The buildings are generally one to two stories in height and single-unit buildings, although there are examples of larger two to four unit block buildings. Fire had some impact on the current look of the district but not to the extent as seen in some other historic commercial areas in Iowa. That said, the majority of buildings date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries during the boom years of Onawa's commercial area, with very few surviving, either because of fire or more likely demolition, from the early settlement era. Today, the biggest threat to the district is from retail vacancies, with some of the

city's most important buildings, such as the Onawa State Bank built in 1888 and the Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House built in 1900 in danger because these buildings are vacant and for sale.

b. Significance

The significance of these properties lies in their association with, and representation of, the historic commercial growth and development of the City of Onawa. They reflect the historical associations of important businesses, businesspersons, and residents in the community. Properties may be significant under Criterion A for their historical associations, Criterion B for their direct association with important persons in the community's commercial development, and/or under Criterion C for their architectural significance of important early buildings, architectural styles or designs, and/or important builders or architects in the community. For the current project, significance under Criterion D, primarily archaeological significance, is not considered but could be achieved by historic commercial properties that are represented solely by archaeological remains or architectural ruins. The period of significance for this context would be from the 1870s to 1959, the current cut-off date for consideration of National Register eligibility. While the boom period for the district is generally the 1890s-1920s, there were some notable additions to the district and notable remodelings of older building in the 1930s-50s justifying extension of the period of significance to that date. The post-1959 period was characterized primarily by building loss, with some minor additions and a few additional building remodels in the modern era.

c. Registration Requirements

For properties associated with the historic commercial development of Onawa, integrity of location, setting, association, design, materials, and feeling would be of most importance, with integrity of workmanship of lesser importance. Individually-eligible properties will need to have a higher degree of integrity in order to be considered eligible under this context and should present much the same appearance as they did during this era, although as with any commercial building, remodeling of storefronts through the years is expected as store owners attempted to present a progressive and up-to-date look to entice prospective consumers.

Properties eligible as contributing buildings or structures to a potential historic district can have a lesser degree of integrity and would have to be evaluated within the context of the district's proposed period of significance. In those cases, some degree of later alteration or additions to an individual building might have significance rather than be detracting factors from the property's overall integrity, such as stylish updates to commercial storefronts. For a building to be considered contributing to a district, it would be desirable to retain as much of its original material and design elements as possible but could include some degree of additions/modifications if they were completed within the district's period of significance and if they reflect other aspects of a district's historical/architectural development, such as changing tastes in architectural styles through the years or the remodeling of an older-styled building to be more up-to-date and fashionable in the community. Consideration should also be given in integrity assessments as to the level of historical significance a building has in the community and the development of the commercial district. A key historical building might still be contributing under Criterion A even if its integrity is marginal.

d. Examples in Project Area

Table 1 presents a full listing of all the properties encompassed within the current survey area boundary. Each property is described and evaluated for potential National Register eligibility as either individual buildings or as contributing or non-contributing to a potential historic district. As a result of this evaluation, a district boundary is proposed for the Onawa Historic Commercial District, which

encompasses an area much smaller than the survey area (Figures 22 and 23). The proposed boundary encompasses that portion of the historic commercial district found to retain sufficient integrity and significance to qualify under the above registration requirements for National Register listing as a commercial district. This area is roughly bounded by 7th Street on the east and 10th Street on the west and includes all the buildings along Iowa Avenue between these streets back to their lot lines and alleyways north and south of Iowa Avenue and those properties that front 10th Street north of Iowa Avenue within the boundary (see Figures 22-23).

Table 2 presents a listing of the properties within the proposed district, their history, and their evaluation as either contributing or non-contributing to the district. There are a total of 49 buildings within this proposed district, with 39 considered contributing and 10 considered non-contributing (or 80% contributing versus 20% non-contributing) (see Figures 22-23).

Consideration was given to the extension of the district boundary to include the commercial properties south of Iowa Avenue between 7th and 10th streets; however, the majority of the buildings that would be included in such a boundary extension would be non-contributing (i.e., 9 non-contributing versus 7 contributing), thus perhaps weakening the overall district in the process (see Figure 22). Furthermore, the main contributing buildings in these side street areas include one building already listed in the National Register (the Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House) and another building that may be individually eligible (the City Light Plant). The city's water tower and water plant located north of Iowa Avenue on the west side of 8th Street may also have some potential for individual eligibility and do not necessarily warrant inclusion in the district boundary because to do so would either result in a gerrymandered boundary or would necessitate drawing in a number of non-contributing buildings in the process. Figure 22 shows the recommended district boundary and the potential boundary extension noted above.

The rest of the current survey area was largely residential in nature and did not directly relate to the commercial district. These areas may, in some cases, constitute portions of larger residential districts yet to be defined such as the residential development along Iowa Avenue west of 10th Street and well beyond 13th street (and including the NRHP-listed Whiting/Murphy House) and potential neighborhoods south of Iowa Avenue and west of 10th Street and south of Iowa Avenue and east of 7th Street. Therefore, while Table 1 presents an evaluation of the integrity of all the buildings in the survey area as if they were being evaluated for a district designation, only the commercial buildings within the survey area were fully evaluated for district status and boundary definition (see Table 2). It remains for future surveys to undertake a comprehensive residential survey in order to determine if National Register-eligible residential districts exist in Onawa and what their boundaries are.

G. Geographical Data

The survey area is bounded by Pearl Street on the north, 13th Street on the west, Diamond Street on the south, and 6th Street on the east and encompasses 14 city blocks and 136 total primary buildings (secondary buildings such as garages were not counted in this total) (see Figure 2). Of these 136 buildings, 29 had been previously inventoried but most had not been evaluated for National Register eligibility. The remaining 107 properties had never been inventoried. Of the 29 previously inventoried properties, four had been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places and include the Monona County Courthouse, the Onawa Public Library, the Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House, and the Whiting/Murphy House.

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

This survey and evaluation project was undertaken by the Monona County Historic Preservation Commission in FY 2008-09 under a Certified Local Government grant administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines. The purpose of this project was to determine the National Register of Historic Places eligibility and boundary of a potential Historic District associated with the historic period commercial development of the City of Onawa in Monona County.

The primary goal of the project was the intensive survey and evaluation of the properties within the identified survey area (see Figure 2). A further goal of the project was to identify any potential commercial district and its boundaries and associated properties and/or to identify individually eligible properties if no district exists. Objectives of the project included involving local volunteers and property owners in the survey and research of the individual properties within the study area.

Four of the properties within the current survey area had been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings include the Monona County Courthouse, the Onawa Public Library, The Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House, and the Whiting-Murphy House. Twenty-nine of the buildings within the survey area had been previously inventoried but most had not been evaluated for National Register eligibility. The remaining 107 properties had never been inventoried.

The Monona County Historic Preservation Commission decided to undertake the current study because of local interest in the delineation and nomination of a district encompassing the commercial district and to continue assist the City of Onawa with recognition and preservation of the commercial area and comes at a time when Onawa will soon be celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the town's incorporation in 1859. The Onawa Chamber of Commerce assisted with, and supported, the current study.

The Consultant for the project is Tallgrass Historians L.C. of Iowa City, Iowa, with Leah D. Rogers, serving as the Principal Investigator. Research Assistants, Jennifer Price and Cindy Nagel, assisted in the study conducting research and compiling maps for the project. Leah Rogers was responsible for the completion of the project including the evaluation of National Register eligibility and the compilation of the end products and draft and final reports for the project. Members of the Monona Historic Preservation Commission, local resident Don Waples, and members of the Onawa city staff, the Onawa Chamber of Commerce, the Onawa Public Library, and the Monona County Recorder and Assessor offices also provided historic photographs and access to historical records and other information for the project.

Project activities included several meetings in Onawa to launch the project, recruit volunteers, gather historical information, and take the project photographs. These meetings were held in the fall of 2008 and the winter of 2009. Attendees included members of the Monona County Historic Preservation Commission, the Onawa City Council and City Manager, the Mayor of Onawa, the Onawa Chamber of Commerce, and other interested local residents. A presentation of the project results was held on June 11, 2009, at the regular meeting of the Onawa Chamber of Commerce.

Other project activities included compilation of the inventory forms for each of the surveyed properties and the other end products. Local volunteers and the staff of the Onawa City Hall assisted with these activities. The Monona County Historic Preservation Commission and members of the Chamber of Commerce also reviewed the draft report and make comments and additions, with a copy of the draft report placed at the Public Library for public review.

Research for the survey project was conducted at local repositories in Onawa including the Monona County Courthouse, the Onawa City Hall, and the Onawa Public Library. Additional research was conducted at the State Historical Society of Iowa library in Iowa City by Tallgrass Historians L.C. staff supplemented with research materials available online. Materials examined included local and county histories, historic photograph albums and displays in Onawa, historic plat maps and aerial photographs, business directories and gazetteers, and limited census and newspaper research. Most helpful to the commercial district survey were the large number of historic photographs curated at the Onawa library and displayed at the Onawa City Hall, the Sanborn fire insurance maps dating from 1893-1934, the c.1950 Assessor's cards curated at the Monona County Assessor's office, the current Assessor's records available online, and the information provided by local residents concerning their recollections of the businesses and buildings in the study area. Don Waples, a life-long Onawa resident, sat down and compiled a listing of what he remembered about businesses block by block for the project. Unfortunately, Mr. Waples passed away shortly thereafter. His contribution is greatly appreciated.

Once the properties were photographed and the majority of the historic research was completed, the Principal Investigator began the process of individual property evaluation and district definition. Each property was assessed as to architectural integrity and historical significance relative to the important contexts in the historical development of the City of Onawa. Each property was then evaluated as to potential eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places as an individual property and as a contributing or non-contributing building to a potential Historic District. This evaluation was based on the integrity considerations and significance criteria as outlined in the National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form (U.S. Department of the Interior 1997) and on previous registration requirements for commercial properties formulated by the statewide Main Street Commercial Architecture MDPF reported in Nash (2002).

The results of the historic research and property evaluations were then compiled in a draft report, which was reviewed by the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Monona County Historic Preservation Commission, and the Onawa Chamber of Commerce. Review comments by local property owners and residents were invited during the draft review period. The final report addressed all review comments.

The end products for the project include the final report, which presents the results of the survey and evaluation project; site inventory forms completed for each property within the project survey area along with the respective black-and-white photographs for each property; photo log sheets and contact prints for each roll of film; and representative color slides of properties within the survey area. The original site inventory forms, photographs and negatives will be curated at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines, with copies of all end products also housed in the archives of the Monona County Historic Preservation Commission. Finally, a HADB form (67-004) is submitted with the final report.

Conclusions and Recommendations

A total of 136 buildings were surveyed and evaluated for the current study within an area encompassing 14 city blocks and bounded by 6th Street on the east, Pearl Street on the north, 13th Street on the west, and Diamond Street on the South. Of the 136 buildings, 29 had been previously inventoried but most of these had not been evaluated for National Register eligibility. The remaining 107 properties had never been inventoried. Of the 29 previously inventoried properties, four had been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places and include the Monona County Courthouse, the Onawa Public Library, the Onawa IOOF Hall/Opera House, and the Whiting/Murphy House.

The survey and evaluation project resulted in the conclusion that a commercial district does exist related to the historic commercial growth and development of the City of Onawa. The proposed district is designated as the Onawa Historic Commercial District has the recommended boundaries of 7th Street on the east and 10th Street on the west and includes the buildings along Iowa Avenue between these streets back to their lot lines and alleyways north and south of Iowa Avenue and those properties that front 10th Street north of Iowa Avenue within the boundary. Within this boundary, there are a total of 49 buildings, with 39 considered contributing and 10 considered non-contributing (or 80% contributing versus 20% non-contributing).

Some consideration is given to a potential expansion area for this boundary to include properties on the side streets south of Iowa Avenue between 7th and 10th streets; however, at present the strongest district appears to be the recommended boundary excluding this expansion area. That said, the expansion area should be further evaluated for integrity and significance at such time that a National Register listing for the proposed commercial district moves forward.

Outside of the defined district boundary, there may be some potential for residential districts that include properties within the current study area but likely extending well beyond the current survey area boundaries. It is recommended that future studies consider a comprehensive residential survey of Onawa to determine whether other districts are present and their boundaries.

Currently, it is recommended that the Onawa Commercial District be considered for National Register nomination. Such a nomination can be undertaken as a Certified Local Government or Historic Resources Development Program grant and will require the assistance of a Consultant experienced in National Register nominations. The basis for this nomination is included in the current report but will require additional research into individual property histories to better determine dates of construction and historical associations. Examination of the local newspapers dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is one particular research need.

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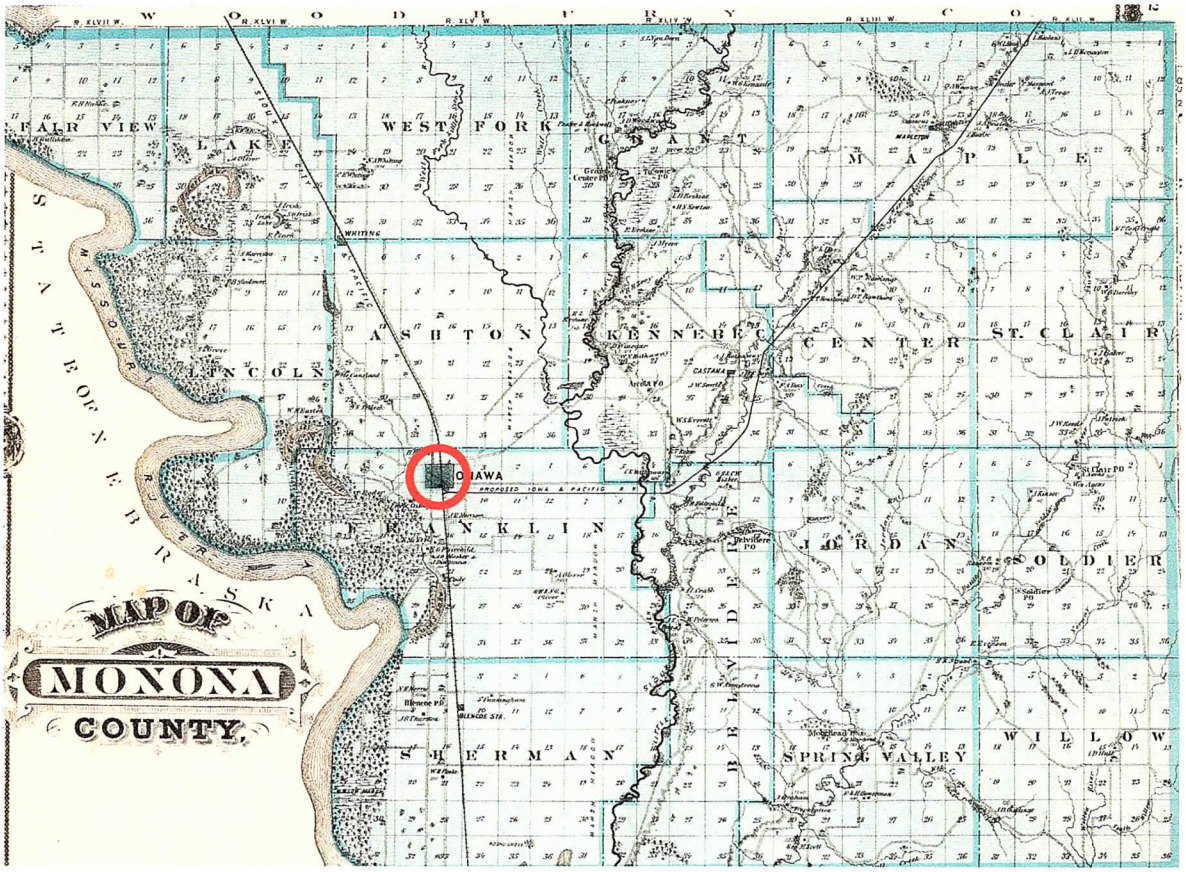
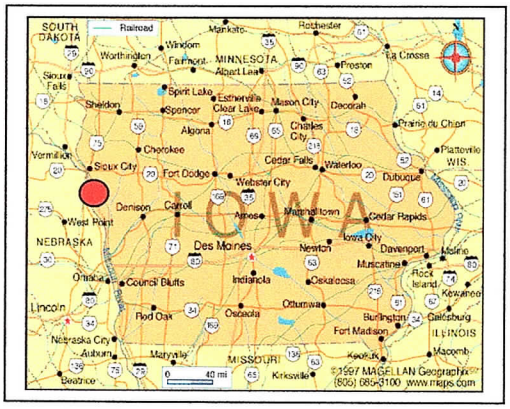


Figure 1. 1875 Map of Monona County showing the location of Onawa. Source: *Andreas 1875*



General location of Onawa in Iowa



Figure 2. Current aerial map showing boundary of survey area (red dashed line)
Source for aerial base map: Monona County Assessor's website at http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/?site=MononaCountyIA, 2009

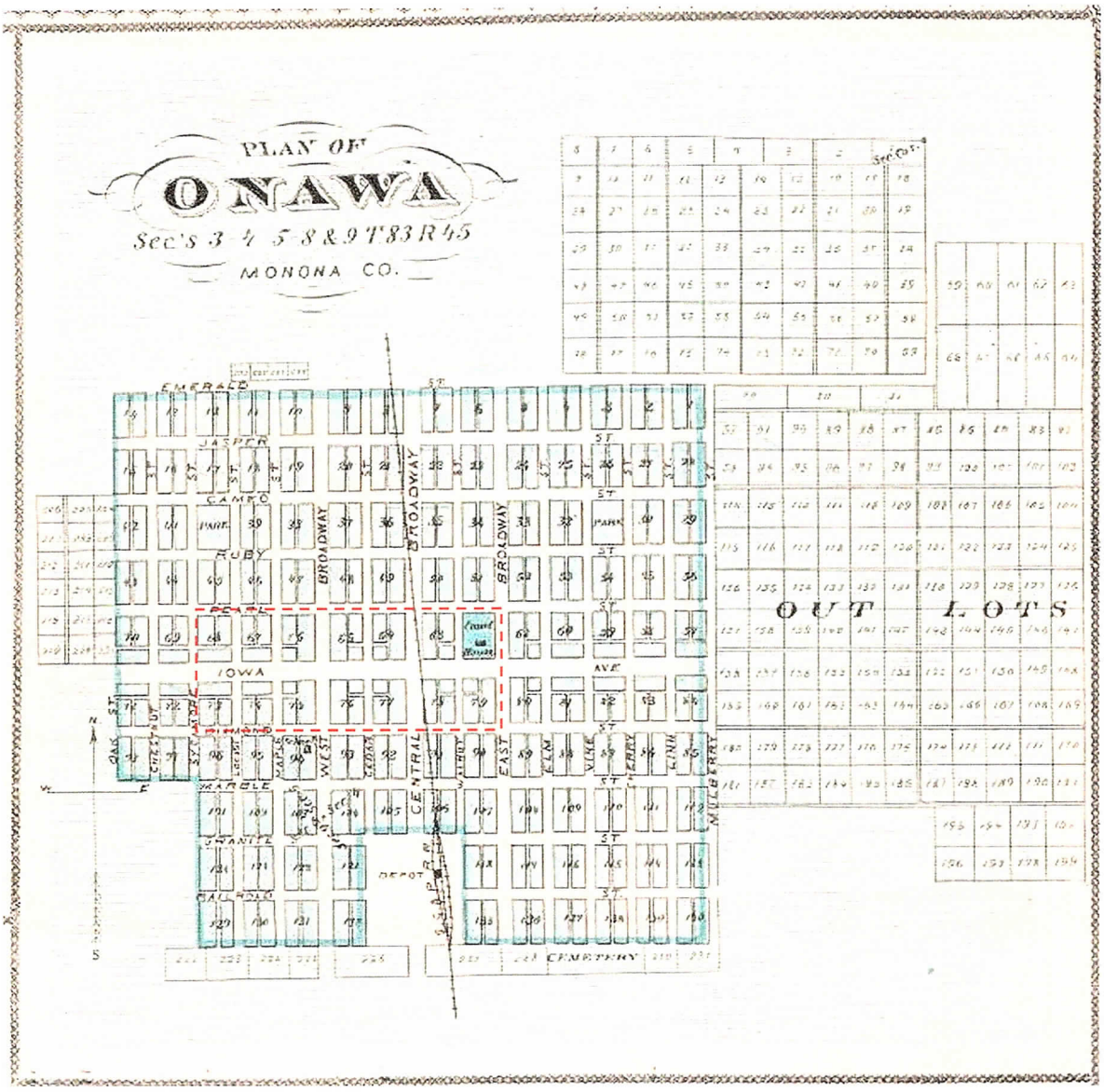


Figure 3. Plan of Onawa, Monona County, Iowa, in 1875. Source: *Andreas (1875)*

The darker blue square in the center of the plat is the site of the Monona County courthouse, with the red-dashed line the boundary of the current survey area. Note that Central Broadway later became 8th Street and West Broadway became 10th Street. It is further interesting to note that as planned, it would appear that the original intent would have been for East Broadway (now 7th Street) to have been part of the central business district, with perhaps more balance in its development around the courthouse rather than its actual development primarily west of the railroad tracks. This may be one reason why the city later decided to rename the "broadways" with numbers, thus eliminating some confusion as to why Central Broadway was not really the center of the business district.

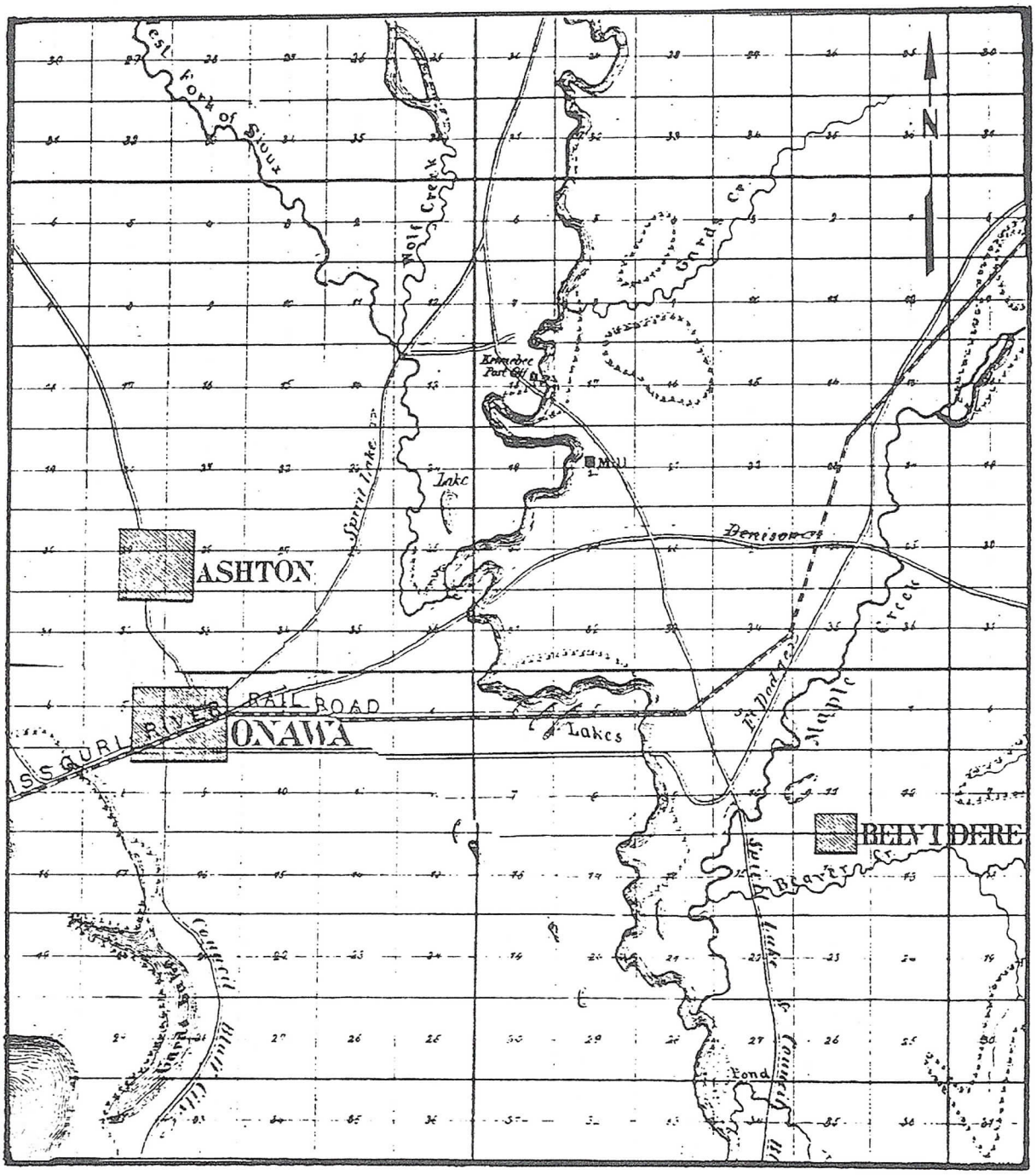
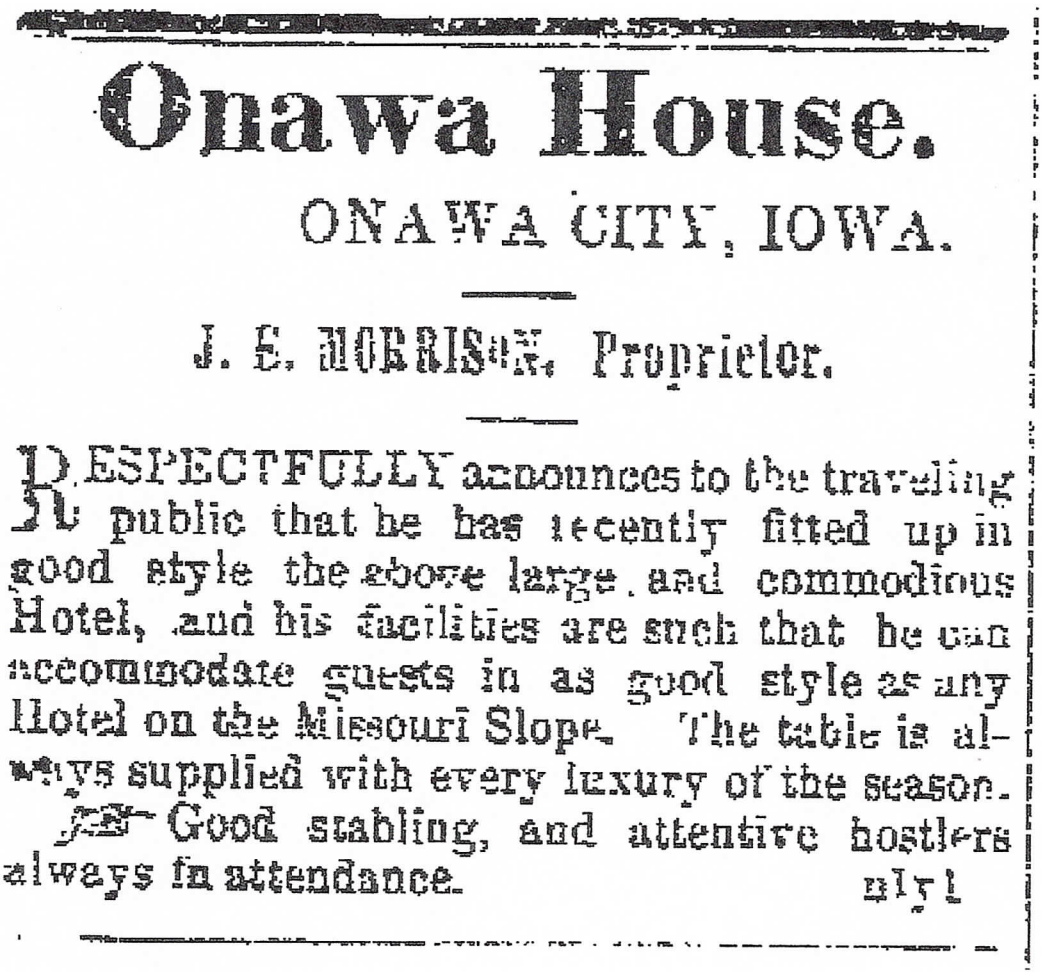


Figure 4. Early map (undated but likely c.1857) of Onawa vicinity showing projected railroad and location of the town of Ashton. *Copy from Rogers 1990.*



Onawa House.

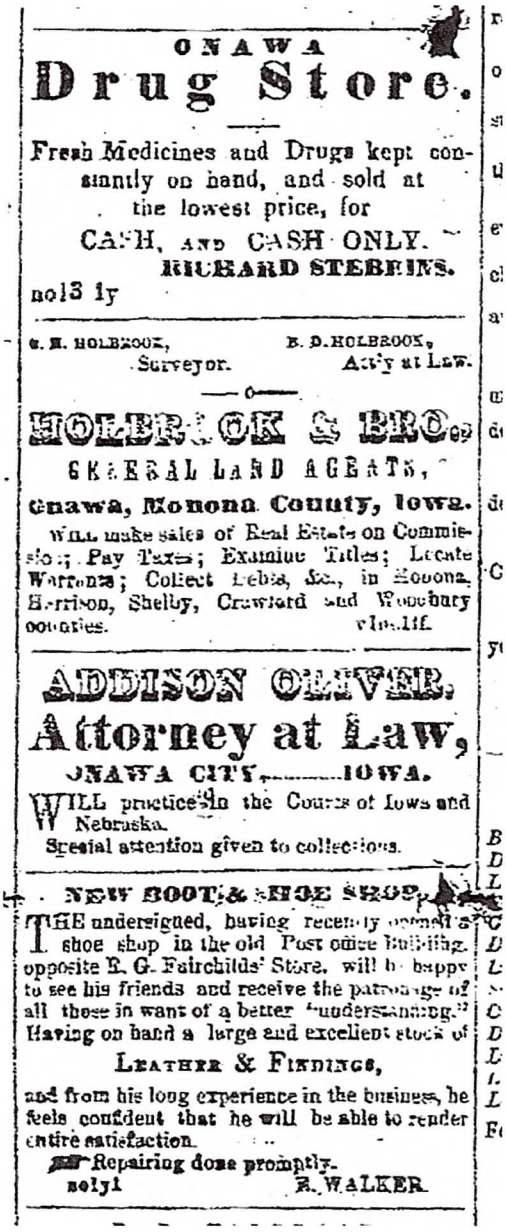
ONAWA CITY, IOWA.

J. E. MORRISON, Proprietor.

RESPECTFULLY announces to the traveling public that he has recently fitted up in good style the above large and commodious Hotel, and his facilities are such that he can accommodate guests in as good style as any Hotel on the Missouri Slope. The table is always supplied with every luxury of the season.

☞ Good stabling, and attentive hostlers always in attendance. ap'y1

Figure 5. Advertisement for Onawa's first hotel, Onawa House, built and operated by Jonathan E. Morrison, founding member of the Monona Land Company. *From the* West Iowa Gazette, *September 23, 1863.*



ONAWA

Drug Store.

Fresh Medicines and Drugs kept constantly on hand, and sold at the lowest price, for

CASH, AND CASH ONLY.

RICHARD STEBBINS.

no13 1y

C. E. HOLBROOK, Surveyor. E. D. HOLBROOK, Att'y at Law.

HOLBROOK & BRO.,

GENERAL LAND AGENTS,

Onawa, Monona County, Iowa.

Will make sales of Real Estate on Commission; Pay Taxes; Examine Titles; Locate Warrants; Collect Debts, &c., in Monona, Harrison, Shelby, Crawford and Woodbury counties. v1n.1tf.

ADDISON OLIVER,

Attorney at Law,

ONAWA CITY, ... IOWA.

WILL practice in the Courts of Iowa and Nebraska.

Special attention given to collections.

NEW BOOT & SHOE SHOP.

THE undersigned, having recently opened a shoe shop in the old Post office building, opposite E. G. Fairchilds' Store, will be happy to see his friends and receive the patronage of all those in want of a better "understanding." Having on hand a large and excellent stock of

LEATHER & FINDINGS,

and from his long experience in the business, he feels confident that he will be able to render entire satisfaction.

☞ Repairing done promptly.

no1y1 R. WALKER.

Figure 6. Advertisements for merchants and professionals in early Onawa, including Richard Stebbins' Drug Store, the Holbrook brothers real estate firm, Addison Oliver's law practice, and R. Walker's new Boot and Shoe Shop in the "old Post office Building." *From the* West Iowa Gazette, *January 30, 1864.*

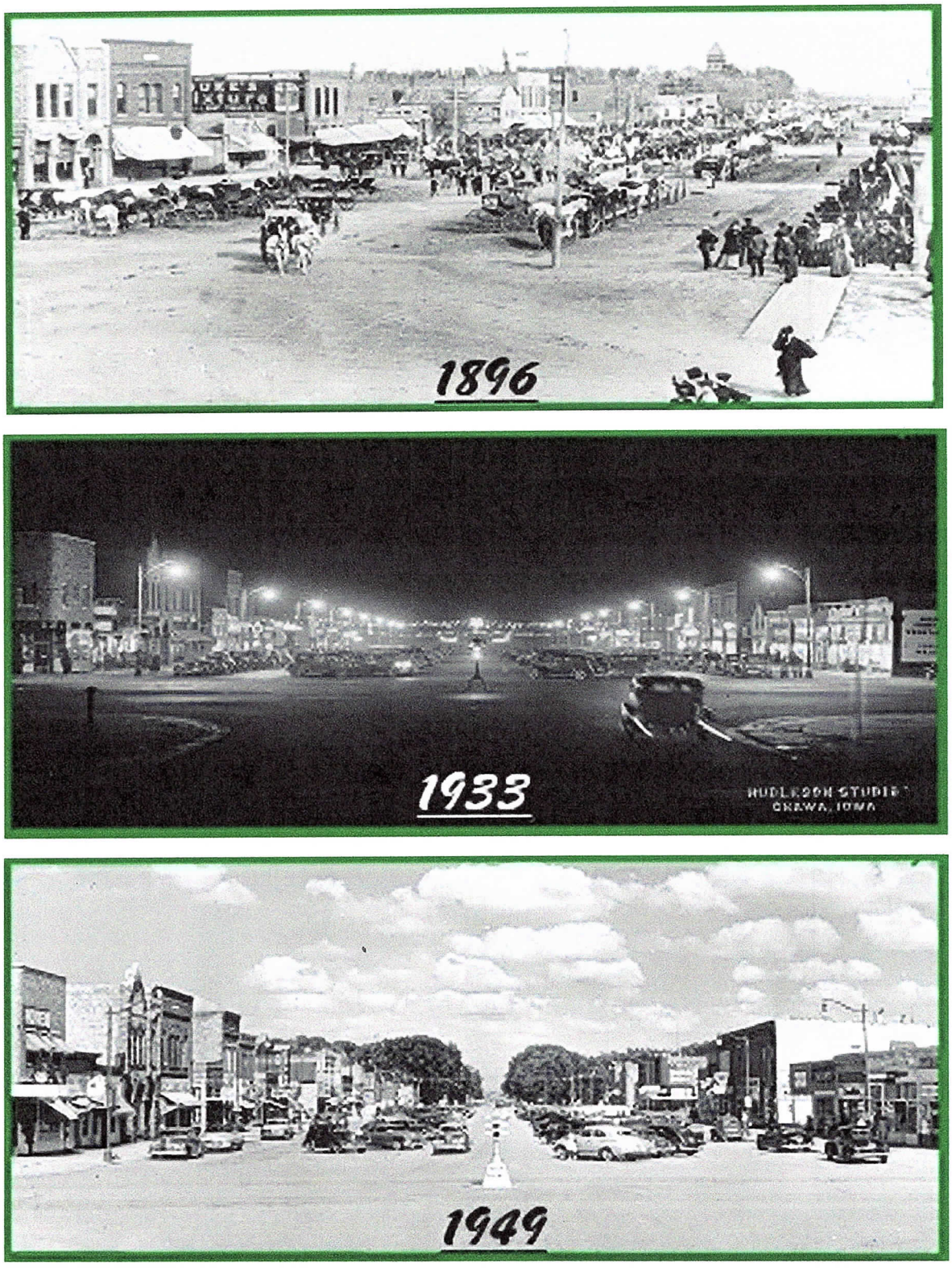


Figure 7. Photographs of Iowa Avenue in Onawa in 1896, 1933 and 1949.

From the Onawa Chamber of Commerce 2005-08.



Figure 8. Photographs of Iowa Avenue in Onawa in 1963 and 2001. *From the* Onawa Chamber of Commerce 2005-08.



Figure 9. Panoramic view of Iowa Avenue in Onawa, Iowa, in the late 1890s or early 1900s
Views are panning from a vantage point at the intersection of Iowa Avenue and 9th Street--top starts at the left looking to ESE, then pans due south and then SE; bottom starts looking SE then pans to due west
Entire panoramic photograph is hanging on wall of Onawa City Hall



Figure 10. 1866 view of Onawa's main street looking west
Photograph hanging in Onawa City Hall



Figure 11. North side of Iowa Avenue looking northeast from 10th Street c.1888 [dates from around 1888 since the Onawa State Bank is present at the left side of the photo but before 1893 by which time the Colby Opera House would be built to the right of the bank.]
Photograph hanging in Onawa City Hall



Figure 12. North side of Iowa Avenue looking northeast from 10th Street in 1890s-early 1900s
Photograph hanging in City Hall



Figure 13. North side of Iowa Avenue looking northeast from 10th Street in 1910s-20s
Photograph hanging in Onawa City Hall

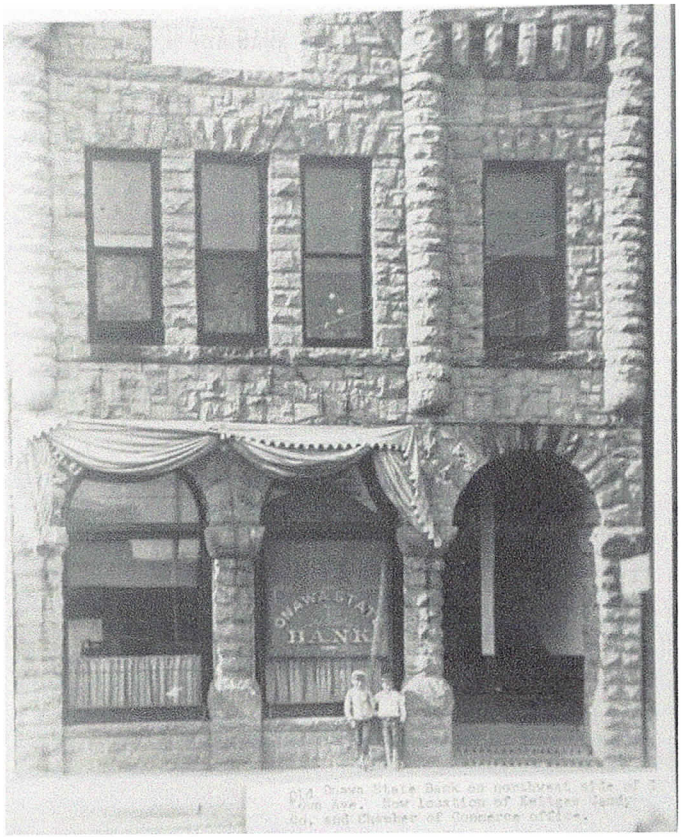


Figure 14. Onawa State Bank at 914 Iowa Avenue built in 1888
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Album Collections



Figure 15. South side of Iowa Avenue from 10th Street looking southeast. [Freeland Block is in left-center]
Photograph hanging in Onawa City Hall



Figure 16. South side of Iowa Avenue looking west-southwest from 8th Street
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Albums Collections



Figure 17. South side of Iowa Avenue looking to southwest from 9th Street
[Holbrook & Bro. Bank is non-extant; current location of 901 Iowa Avenue]
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Albums Collections



Figure 18. Monona County Courthouse shortly after construction (c.1891)
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Album Collections

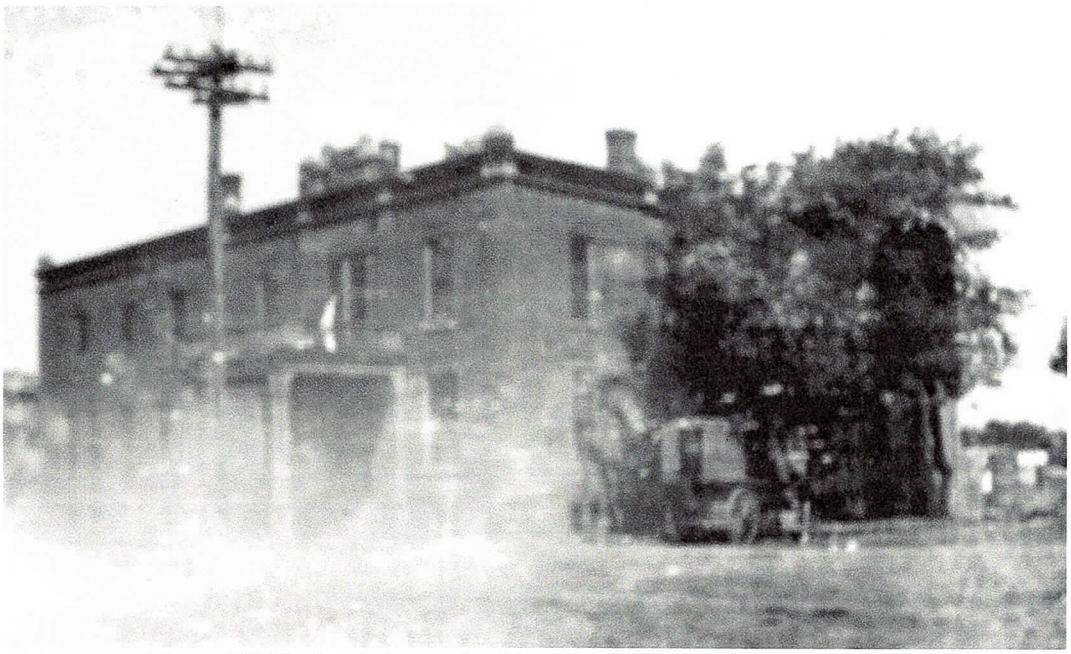


Figure 19. Early photograph of the Hotel Monona (built in 1889-90)
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Album Collections



Figure 20. North side of Iowa Avenue looking northwest, with the Hotel Monona in center and "Lawyers Row" to right
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Album Collections



Figure 21. Onawa Democrat Office in center with water tower (built in 1920) in background
Source: Onawa Public Library Local History Photo Album Collections

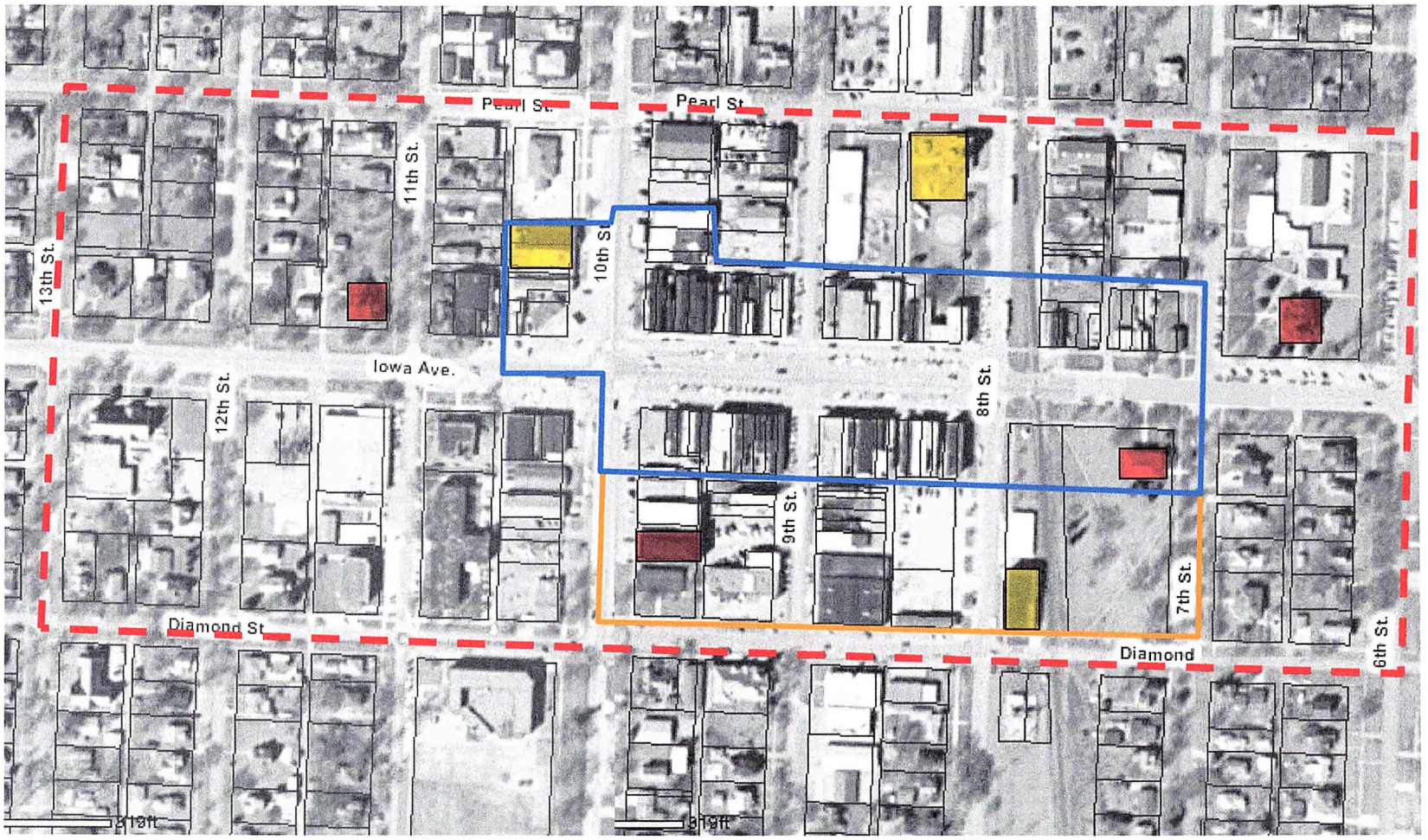


Figure 22. Current aerial map showing proposed commercial district and boundary evaluation

Source for aerial base map: Monona County Assessor's website at http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/?site=MononaCountyIA, 2009

Red dashed line = survey area boundary

Blue line = recommended historic commercial district boundary (49 buildings, 39 contributing, 10 non-contributing)

Orange line = possible area to include in district (adds 7 contributing but also adds 9 non-contributing buildings)

= NRHP-listed buildings; = potentially individually eligible buildings or structures



Figure 23. Recommended Onawa Commercial District

= non-contributing buildings

= recommended boundary of district

Current Photographs of the Onawa Commercial District Survey Area
Photographs taken November 10, 2008, by Leah D. Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.

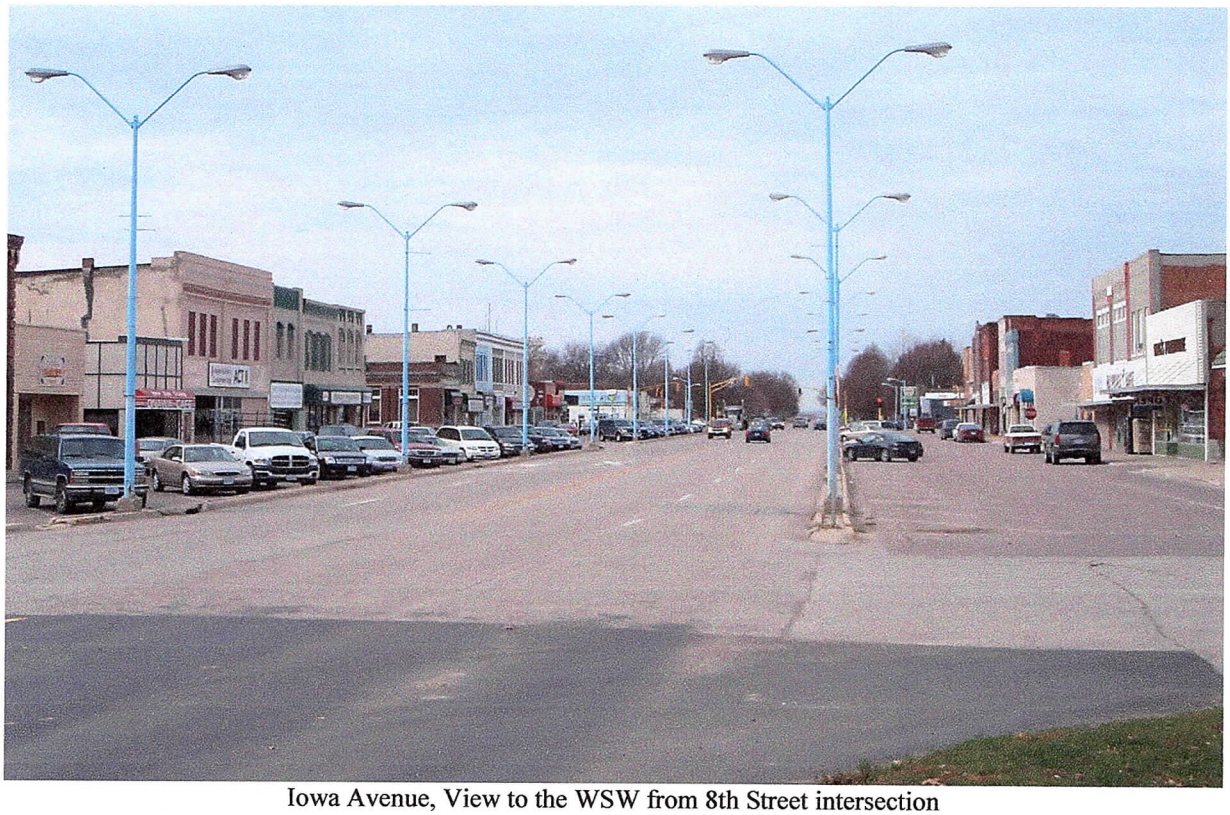


Monona County Courthouse



Onawa Public Library

Both the courthouse and library are listed in the NRHP



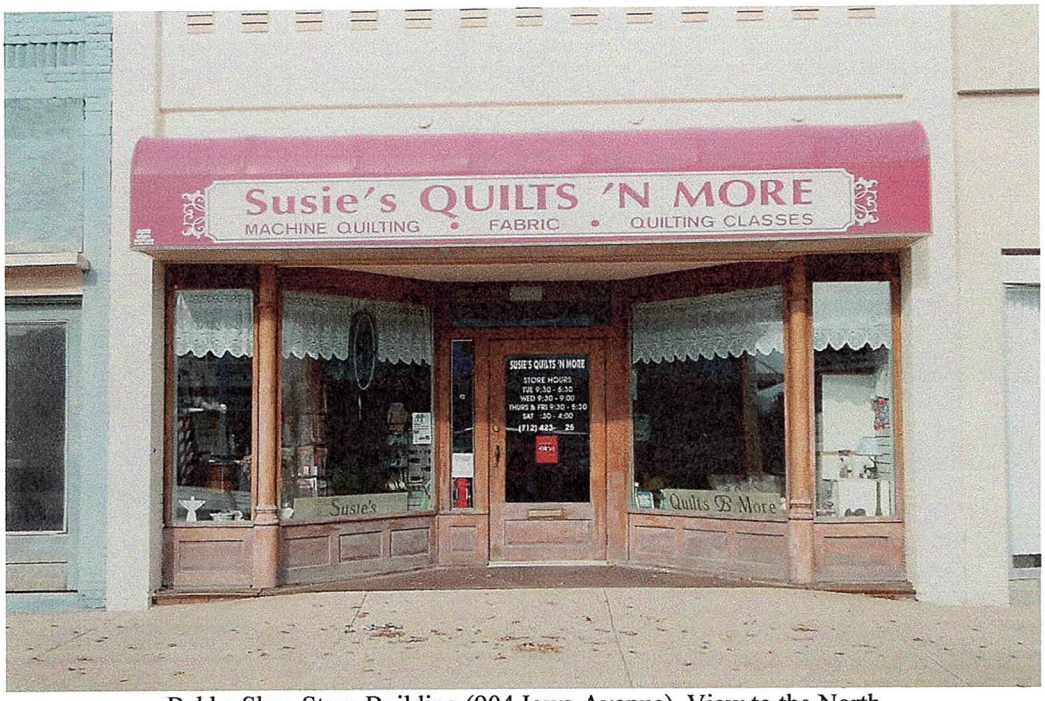
Iowa Avenue, View to the WSW from 8th Street intersection



North side of Iowa Avenue, view to the WNW from 8th Street intersection



North side of Iowa Avenue, view to the NW from near 8th Street intersection



Bakke Shoe Store Building (904 Iowa Avenue), View to the North



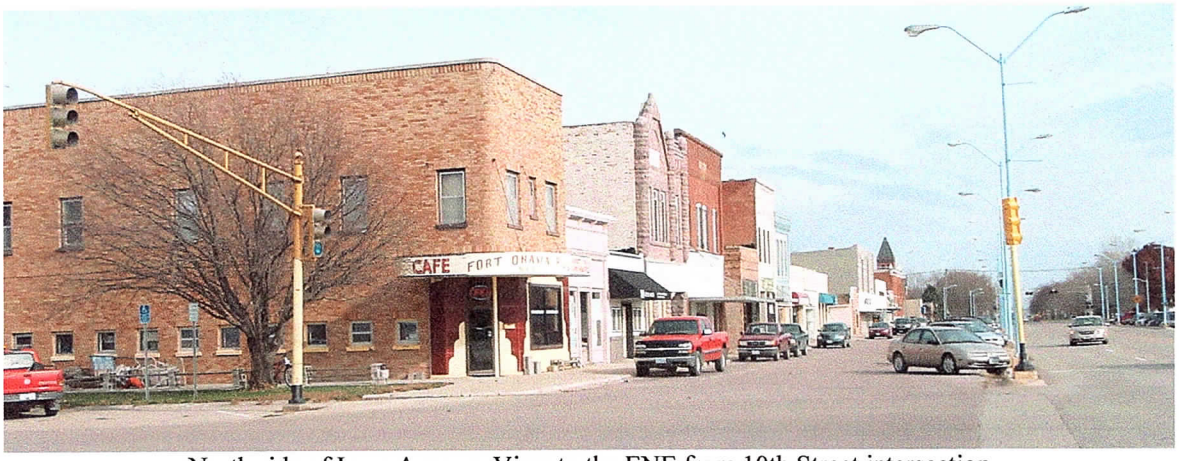
North side of Iowa Avenue, view to the NW looking towards 10th Street intersection



Detail of Colby/Whiting Opera House façade (912 Iowa Avenue), View to the North



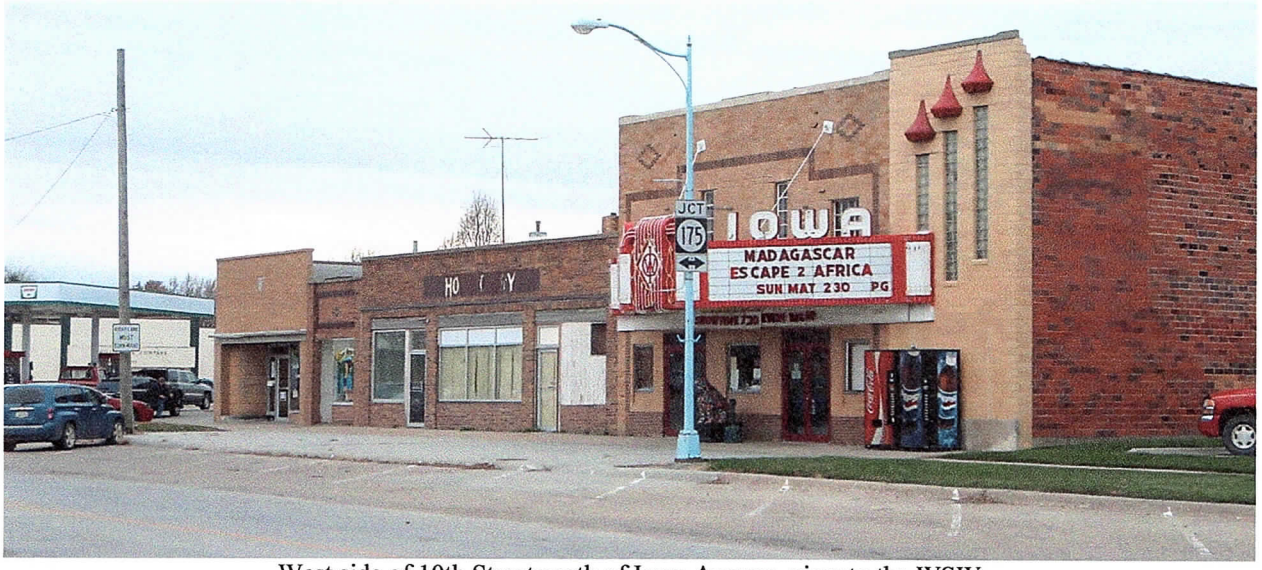
Thurston Hardware/Rivera Hotel (933 10th Street but also fronts Iowa Avenue) to left and 918 Iowa Avenue to right, View to the NNW



North side of Iowa Avenue, View to the ENE from 10th Street intersection



North side of Iowa Avenue, view to the NNW with 10th Street intersection to left



West side of 10th Street north of Iowa Avenue, view to the WSW



Iowa Movie Theater, 920 10th Street, view to the West



South side of Iowa Avenue, view to the SE from 10th Street intersection


South side of Iowa Avenue, view to the SE at 9th Street intersection



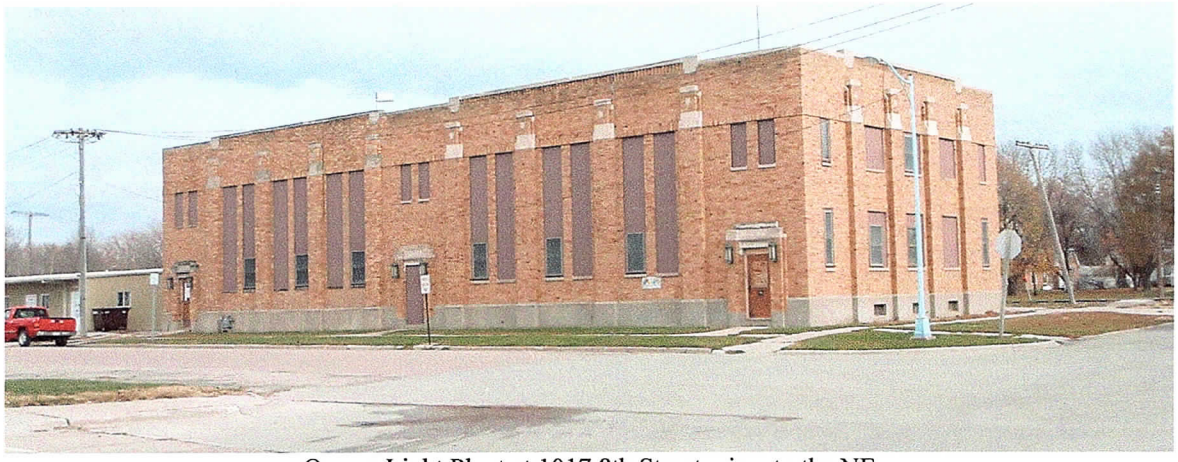
South side of Iowa Avenue, looking at Freeland Block (905-11 Iowa Avenue), view to the SSE



South side of Iowa Avenue, view to the SE from 8th Street intersection



Citizens' State Bank (801 Iowa Avenue), view to the SE from 8th Street intersection



Onawa Light Plant at 1017 8th Street, view to the NE



East side of 10th Street south of Iowa Avenue, view to the SE from 10th Street intersection



Onawa IOOF/Opera House, 1023 10th Street, listed in the NRHP, view to the ESE



East side of 9th Street south of Iowa Avenue, view to the NE



Iowa Avenue, view to the ENE from near 11th Street intersection



East side of 10th Street, view to the SE



Whiting-Murphy House, 1016 Iowa Avenue, Listed in NRHP, view to the North

TABLE 1. PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS AND EVALUATIONS

Address	Inventory #	Style/Type	Description	Evaluation
610 Iowa Avenue	67-00326	Romanesque Revival Public Building	2.5-story Monona County Courthouse, hipped roof, three-story tower brick with stone trim, round-arched and rectangular windows, round-arched entryway; built 1891-92, S.E. Moxon, Onawa architect, P.H. Wind, builder from Council Bluffs; WPA built basement in 1936; west addition built 1967; east addition 1972; rear addition 1981	Listed in NRHP (1981)
700 Iowa Avenue	67-00331	Brickfront Commercial	1-story false front building, gabled roof behind stepped brick parapet; Craftsman-type bracketed porch hood over door; three-light transom over wood door with rectangular glass pane, small 4/1 window to right of door, and paired 6/1 windows to right; built between 1924 and 1934 as one of a series of one-story offices, many for lawyers along this block; Assessor lists a specific construction date of 1926; Underhill & Underhill Law Office	good integrity
706 Iowa Avenue	67-00576	Brickfront Commercial	1-story false front building, gabled roof behind peaked brick parapet; buff-colored brick, inset panels demarcate storefront, modern door to left, modern window to right; built 1926 (Assessor) as one of a series of one-story offices along this block; currently an engineering office	sufficient integrity
707 Iowa Avenue	67-00332	Prairie School Public Building	2-story brick and Sioux Quartzite building, hipped roof with wide eave overhang, tile roofing, circular rings hang along eaves, bands of windows, round-arched windows; Onawa Carnegie Public Library built in 1908-09, designed by Chicago firm of Patton and Miller; modern addition to rear compatible with original style of building	Listed in NRHP (1979)
708 Iowa Avenue	67-00577	Brickfront Commercial	1-story false-front brick veneer building has been refaced with Permastone, older door to left, modern window to right; built c.1926 according to Assessor but may be an older building that was refaced and is one of a series of small offices along this block; currently Monona County Abstract	sufficient integrity
710 Iowa Avenue	67-00333	Brickfront Commercial	1-story building, side-gabled parapet roof hides flat roof behind, brick veneer, central door flanked by tall narrow 1/1 window to left and more squat 1/1 window to right, door has Tudor Revival-type porch hood, front steps flanked by low brick rails; built 1926 (Assessor) but between 1913-24 according to fire insurance maps; one of a series of small offices along this block; Pritchard Law Office, Mike Jensen's Law Office	good integrity

716 Iowa Avenue	67-00334	Front-Gabled Commercial	1-story frame building, altered storefront, built c.1895 photo gallery in 1899, law office, and Dr. Nye's office in early 20th c.	NON-EXTANT (removed by 2002)
718 Iowa Avenue	67-00335	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick veneer, parapet, replacement door, partial window infill built as a law office c.1895 along "Lawyer's Row," Allen & Allen Law Office, later Cleaver Real Estate	NON-EXTANT (removed by 2002)
720 Iowa Avenue	67-00578	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building, flat parapet, modern storefront; built c.1900 (Assessor) but according to the fire insurance maps the building was probably built around 1893 when it is represented on the maps, this building has housed the Onawa Democrat since c.1893 and has historical significance despite the many renovations and remodeling through the years	marginal integrity
800 Iowa Avenue	67-00336	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick block building, corner and entry brick pilasters are capped with metal (?) caps, decorative name plate "Hotel Monona" on metal cornice on parapet above main entryway, tall narrow windows have multi-pane windows, two cottage windows with headers flank double-wide entry door, scalloped, buttoned and diamond-patterned bricks on main and east sides, east side has "Hotel Monona" pained on parapet, original porch and balcony removed, windows are replacements, doorway on second floor over entryway is infilled; built in 1889-90 as the Hotel Monona and served for many years as a prominent hotel alongside the railroad tracks and near the depot as well as being situated along the main street; later converted to apartments and other businesses, historically and architecturally significant; likely individually eligible	good integrity
801 Iowa Avenue	67-00337	Neoclassical Commercial	2-story brick corner building has bands of rectangular windows along side, shaped parapet, classical brick pilasters with stone or cast concrete capitals at corners, recessed entry flanked by round classical columns, concrete or stone panel on parapet inscribed with "Citizen's State Bank," reduced windows on first floor, some original remain on 2nd floor; built c.1910 (Assessor) as the Citizen's State Bank, has also housed professional offices on 2nd floor. The fire insurance maps indicate that it was actually built between 1913 and 1924. After bank closed during the Great Depression, the building housed George Bakke's shoe store and repair; architecturally and historically significant building, may be individually eligible	good integrity
805 Iowa Avenue	67-00579	Masonry Commercial	2-story masonry building has slipcover that masks 2nd floor and modern storefront on 1st that may retain little original material; small reduced	poor integrity

			windows on 2nd floor; built c.1900 (Assessor), currently bar/restaurant; should be re-evaluated if slipcover is ever removed from 2nd floor and original material is uncovered	
806 Iowa Avenue	67-00580	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building probably originally a brickfront that has been stuccoed or parged with cement; recessed entry to right with small-sized metal-framed plate glass windows and high kickplate to left, bubble awning over storefront, parapet does feature recessed corbelled detailing; built c.1900 (Assessor) but the fire insurance maps indicate that it was built after 1934, but was in place by 1950 when it housed an electric store; currently a retail store; while a later addition, the building does retain sufficient integrity to be considered contributing if period of significance extends to 1950	sufficient integrity
807 Iowa Avenue	67-00338	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick building features corbelled cornice to imitate brackets, segmental-arched window and door lintels, brick quoins on corners, stairway to second floor reached by door to right of storefront, which has a central door flanked by narrow modern windows and largely covered-over storefront, second floor windows covered over; built c.1890 and housed a harness and implement store by 1899, harness and carriage shop by 1907; was until recently the VFW post, now a bar	sufficient integrity
808 Iowa Avenue	67-00581	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick building features brick pilasters at corner that extend above flat parapet, shed-roof overhang with green shake roofing, recessed central entry flanked by large metal-framed plate glass windows; while Assessor estimated a c.1900, the fire insurance maps show that this building was built between 1924 and 1934 when it housed the post office; some modern updates but still presents historic appearance for such a small building	good integrity
809 Iowa Avenue	67-00582	Masonry Commercial	1.5-story brick or tile block building has flat plain parapet, storefront features recessed door to right and tall metal-framed plate glass band of windows with low brick kickplate to left; built c.1925 (Assessor), currently houses Onawa Florist	sufficient integrity
811 Iowa Avenue	67-00583	Masonry Commercial	1.5-story masonry building has a completely covered over storefront that presents a modern appearance but may mask some original details underneath; the Assessor gives a c.1890 date of construction, along with a second date of 1937, which may reflect a major remodeling. The fire insurance maps, however, suggest a date of construction c.1924; currently	insufficient integrity

			houses Onawa Café. Should be re-evaluated if front cover-up is ever removed and original details found to be intact underneath	
812 Iowa Avenue	67-00584	Brickfront Commercial	1.5-masonry building has brick sidewalls and likely brickfront façade but has been covered over with tile façade that features flat aluminum cantilevered awning over storefront that features recessed central entry and metal-framed plate glass windows and low kickplates; the Assessor estimated a c.1900 date of construction with rear warehouse added c.1950; the fire insurance maps confirm a construction date sometime between 1899 and 1907; currently houses Virg's Furniture	marginal integrity
813 Iowa Avenue	67-00339	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick block building has brick corbelled flat parapet that features a nameplate that reads "MANN," two rows of three 1/1 double-hung windows across 2nd floor, Greek key corbelled pattern in brickwork on parapet; modernized metal storefront may cover up older details underneath, recessed store entry to left of metal-framed plate glass windows, door to 2nd floor to left of storefront, recently, the brick on the second floor was painted and shutters were applied over the second floor windows; built c.1905 (Assessor) and housed the Goodwin & Able Hardware Store, later housed barber and tailor shop, a lunchroom, and variety store.	sufficient integrity
816 Iowa Avenue	67-00340	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick block building appears from map data to have been built as a three-unit unified block building. 2nd story of original block features recessed and corbelled panels, with two sets of three tall, narrow windows (recently infilled with glass blocks) with transoms above flanking name plate that reads "Mann's Block," third unit features simpler 2nd story façade and three squat double hung windows, storefront of entire building has been largely covered by continuous plain sheet of metal or wood panels, with cantilevered flat aluminum awning across all three units, which feature modern doors and windows, cover up may mask original details, it appears that the third unit façade was probably updated at a later date, perhaps when it became a movie theater for a time; built c.1895 as Mann's Block, once had dry goods on 1st floor and furnishings store on 2nd shown as grocery and clothing store on 1899 fire insurance map, general store by 1907-13, and a hotel by 1934; later True Value Hardware; now Hardware Hank	sufficient integrity
817 Iowa Avenue	67-00585	Brickfront Commercial	2-story single-unit Commercial building faced with buff-colored brick (recently painted over) building has pilasters at each corner, parapet partially covered up or painted over, two segmental-arched double windows	marginal integrity

			with transom (now infilled) on 2nd floor, storefront has been partially covered but has recessed entry to right and metal-framed plate glass windows to right, may have original details intact under cover ups; remodel may have been done c.1960 (Assessor); built c.1907 (Assessor gave a c.1910 date but map data indicates a date of construction between 1899 and 1907); housed a bakery for many years	
820 Iowa Avenue	67-00586	False-Front Commercial	1-story front-gabled building has stepped parapet, façade faced with brick veneer and features recessed entry to left and modern plate glass window to right; built in 1969 according to Assessor but may be older building that was extensively remodeled in 1969; currently houses barber shop	insufficient integrity
821 Iowa Avenue	67-00341	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick two-unit building built as two separate buildings and later joined on the interior into a single business, right corner unit has three round-arched windows and distinctive brick corbelling in tripartite panels demarcated by brick pilasters, left unit has three rectangular windows across and a more conventional denticulated corbelled cornice, storefront was united with modern remodel that features recessed entry door in right unit with metal-framed plate glass windows across both units; the right unit was built in 1878 by Richard Stebbins for his pharmacy, with the left unit built c.1899, has been Stangel's Pharmacy for many years; has both historical and architectural significance	good integrity
900 Iowa Avenue	67-00587	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick building has plain flat parapet and completely modernized storefront, which features a modern door and multi-pane sidelight to right and two rectangular multi-pane windows to left that are capped with small bubble awnings; built c.1900 (Assessor) but actually an older c.1893 building, currently has modern appearance; currently an accounting business	insufficient integrity
901 Iowa Avenue	67-00342	Neoclassical Commercial	1-story brick building features classical features such as entablature around front and street side of this corner building, brick with concrete trim further defines the classical features including brick pilasters with concrete capitals and bases, long row of windows with transoms along street side, storefront remodeled c.1950 with Art Moderne influence, replacement storefront window; built c.1934 (1910 estimated by Assessor) as the Onawa State Bank; was also The Golden Rule clothing store after the bank moved to a new building in 1961 at 1030 10th Street	good integrity

902 Iowa Avenue	67-00588	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has been completely refaced and remodeled in the modern era to the point that is retains little historic look; built c.1900 (Assessor) and currently houses a fitness center; should be re-evaluated if storefront cover-up is ever removed and original details are found intact, 1950 Assessor card indicates that building received "a new front" in 1960	insufficient integrity
903 Iowa Avenue	67-00589	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick building features denticulated brick corbelling across flat parapet, three rectangular windows across 2nd floor, windows have been reduced, storefront partially covered by sign, with remodeled entry and display windows below, door is recessed to right with 2nd floor stairway door to left; Assessor gives a 1920 date of construction but this is an older building, with fire maps and historic photographs suggesting that an older one-story building (present by 1893) was enlarged with a second story between 1907 and 1913; currently houses dental office	sufficient integrity
904 Iowa Avenue	67-00590	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick building features denticulated corbelled brick cornice with flat parapet, metal beam with rosettes across façade above storefront, which appears to retain original wood-paneled framing, two round posts with Corinthian caps, wood door with side lights, cast iron entry floor made by Paxton & Vierling iron works in Omaha, bubble awning is recent addition; built c.1888 (1900 Assessor); housed the Edward Bakke boot and shoe store from at least 1893 to 1913, and Bakke's Shoe Store by 1950, later an agricultural supply store and currently a quilt store; if storefront is original, this is an extremely rare survival for such a small building (however, a 1989 photograph suggests that it may be a reconstruction).	good integrity
905-11 Iowa Ave.	67-00345	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick block building has four units, unified design features brick pilasters demarcating each store unit and brick corbelled cornice details, steel beam with rosettes spans front above storefronts, each 2nd floor features three tall narrow windows covered by shutters, storefronts are remodeled but feature recessed entries; built by 1893 (c.1900 Assessor) as the Freeland Block, possibly built c.1874 following a fire that destroyed the previous Freeland & Cleghorn store and adjacent buildings; housed (from left to right units) E.G. Ford dry goods with photo gallery on 2nd floor, a millinery, Fred Hger groceries & meat, and drug store in 1899; by 1913, Ford dry goods unit now housed the post office; various retail and office businesses in these units through the years; both historical	good integrity

			and architectural significance as a large block development	
906 Iowa Avenue	67-00344	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick single-unit building features brick corbelled cornice with other brick decorative details on segmental-arched windows on 2nd floor and above storefront, metal beam also above storefront, ribbon windows that featured Luxfer glass panes is now covered over with wood panels, storefront features recessed central door and metal-framed plate-glass windows, door to 2nd floor is to right, two windows on 2nd floor have also been covered with wood boards and third has one pane infilled with panel, brick has been painted blue; built c.1890; housed grocery store by 1893 and was Howard & Bakke Grocers for many years; building's overall integrity has suffered since first inventoried in 1989, it still retains sufficient integrity	sufficient integrity
908 Iowa Avenue	67-00591	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick single-unit building has brick corbelled cornice and three single 1/1 double-hung windows across 2nd floor, storefront has recessed door to left with full-sized modern multi-pane windows to right; brick painted; built c.1900 (Assessor); currently houses beauty shop.	sufficient integrity
910 Iowa Avenue	67-00592	Brickfront Commercial	1.5-story brick building features polychrome brick veneer on façade, brick corbelling on cornice, flat parapet, storefront may not be original but is of historic age and retains very good integrity, storefront features recessed central entry with door having transom and sidelights, metal-framed plate glass display windows with tile covered kickplate, intact ribbon windows above storefront, with cantilevered flat metal awning; built c.1900 (Assessor) but fire maps indicate a c.1913 date of construction; currently houses insurance office and travel office	good integrity
912 Iowa Avenue	67-00346	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick building is faced with dark red pressed brick veneer, segmental-arched windows on 2nd floor are shuttered, rough-faced sandstone sills, decorative brick corbelling on cornice, brick pilasters at corners, limestone name plate on parapet reads "Whiting," storefront partially covered by wood panel cover up but Permastone siding that had been added by the time of the 1989 inventory has since been removed and the original brick exposed, storefront has recessed central entry and wood-framed plate glass windows and kickplates; built in 1893 as the F.E. & E.W. Colby Opera House (on upper floor), later The Whiting Opera House, and lodge rooms on first; still later McFarland Furniture Store	good integrity

913 Iowa Avenue	67-00593	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick building has flat, plain parapet and storefront that features recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows and brick kickplate; built c.1950 (Assessor) but may be older c.1924 building; currently houses chiropractic office with barber shop in basement, which has street-front entry	sufficient integrity
914 Iowa Avenue	67-00325	Romanesque Revival Commercial	2-story masonry building features Sioux Falls Granite, rough-faced stone veneer on façade, which features peaked parapet over main storefront, corbelled dentils, stone pilasters with caps, round-arched windows and doorway on first floor partially covered by wood panel cover up, recessed entryway has tiled walls and ceiling dating from the 1960s, newer door and replacement windows on storefront, name plate on 2nd floor reads "Onawa Bank," important stylish addition to Commercial area; built in 1888; housed the Onawa State Bank until the bank built a new building c.1934 at 901 Iowa Avenue; the old bank building then housed a food wholesaler warehouse and then the Chamber of Commerce but is currently vacant; some potential for individual eligibility if panel cover-up is removed	good integrity
915 Iowa Avenue	67-00594	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has been completely obscured by modern cover-up and modern door and window inserts; built c.1910 (Assessor); currently houses insurance office; should be re-evaluated if cover-up is ever removed and original details found to be intact	insufficient integrity
916 Iowa Avenue	67-00595	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has been covered with modern materials but does retain recessed central entry; built c.1900 (Assessor), fire maps indicate construction between 1899 and 1907; currently mortgage office; should be re-evaluated if modern cover-up is removed and original details are found to be intact	insufficient integrity
917 Iowa Avenue	67-00596	Brickfront Commercial	1-story polychrome brick-veneered building has brick corbelled cornice and brick pilasters flanking remodeled storefront, brick was recently painted several colors, modern cover-up may mask some original features but storefront has modern door and window inserts; built c.1900 (Assessor), fire maps indicate construction between 1893 and 1899; currently houses restaurant	marginal integrity
918 Iowa Avenue	67-00347	Masonry Commercial	1-story single-unit building has recessed central entry flanked by plate-glass windows, pressed metal "brick" veneer siding, ribbon	sufficient integrity

			window area covered over with some potential for intact features underneath, decorative pressed metal cornice across storefront, bracketed metal cornice overhangs building; pressed tin ceiling on interior; built c.1899 when it was a grocery store and a clothing store by 1907-13; historically known as the E.C. Armstrong Clothing and Shoes store	
921 Iowa Avenue	67-00597	Modern Commercial	1-story brick building has flat roof with wide overhang, plate glass storefront; built in 1972 as the First Federal Bank (branch bank)	modern
1004 Iowa Avenue	67-00598	Modern Commercial	1-story convenience store/gas station, low-pitched side gabled store with large metal/plastic awning structure over gas pumps; built in 1994, local residents remember an earlier Standard gas station at this location known as Hills and Sparkys; currently a Sinclair gas station	modern
1005 Iowa Avenue	67-00599	Masonry Commercial	1.5-story masonry building has been largely covered by vertical board cover-up but does have recessed central entry flanked by metal-framed plate glass windows; built c.1920 (Assessor), appears to have been built between 1913 and 1924 according to fire maps, with the original function being auto repair, local residents recall this as Tim's Video, 1950 Assessor card noted Nellie Block's clothing store (dress shop) with apartment above; currently houses tax preparation business (H&R Block); should be re-evaluated if cover-up is ever removed.	insufficient integrity
1009 Iowa Avenue	67-00600	Masonry Commercial	1.5-story masonry building has stepped parapet and pilasters across façade, remodeled storefront includes modern door and windows, building likely including some major infill and presents a modern appearance; built c.1925 (Assessor), 1950 Assessor card identified this as the Seabury McKennon Chevrolet Co. auto sales and service building and noted that it was then 23 years old, which would be a construction date of 1927; the fire maps indicate that it was built by 1934	insufficient integrity
1012 Iowa Avenue	67-00601	False-Front Commercial	1-story building has flat plain parapet masking lower front-gabled roof, façade covered with horizontal boards painted gray, modern door and likely replacement 1/1 windows; built c.1925 (Assessor), lot was vacant in 1913 (fire map), with a 1-story Ladies Rest Room here by 1924 but shown as a store by 1934, 1950 Assessor card identified this as Dr. Frances Gingles doctor's office with an apartment on 2nd floor; local residents remember this as Dr. Gingles' office but also that of Dr. Martin and later a beauty salon and a fish store; currently houses retail space with apartments in rear unit	marginal integrity

1014 Iowa Avenue	67-00602	Modern Commercial	1-story building has plain storefront that has metal and glass door to right and metal-framed plate glass windows to left; built in 1967 according to current Assessor, with the 1950 Assessor card having the added notation that an older building was removed from this lot in 1966, with a new building then added and identified it as a plumbing and heating store; local residents remember this as Sidles Auto Parts and as an antiques store; currently houses furniture store/flea market	modern
1016 Iowa Avenue	67-00603	Masonry Commercial	1.5-story masonry building features massive asphalt-shingled roof overhang that covers most of the façade and overhangs the front door and square windows, was remodeled into a residence and has completely modern appearance; built c.1920 (current Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card identified this as a Chevrolet Garage that was then three years old, so would have been built c.1947, but a further notation indicated that it may have been built in 1945; the fire maps show a one-story office/store here as early as 1913 but this appears to have been a different building; local residents remember this as Francis Keitges' garage and apartment; currently a single-family dwelling	insufficient integrity
1018 Iowa Avenue	67-00604	Brickfront Commercial	1.5-story brick two-unit building has polychrome brick veneer on façade, glass block ribbon window intact and uncovered, storefront features metal and glass doors and windows with brick kickplates; while Assessor gives a 1960 date of construction, the building appears older; however, the fire maps suggest that it was built after 1934, with the 1950 Assessor card indicated that a building was then present and used as Dr. R.H. Martin's office; therefore, a 1940s date of construction appears likely; local residents remember a repair shop, liquor store, antiques, and consignment stores in this building; currently houses antiques store	good integrity
1020 Iowa Avenue	67-00605	Front-Gabled Dwelling	1.5-story front-gabled cottage has enclosed front porch, additions to side, does have wood lap siding and 2/2 double-hung windows on upper story; built c.1920 according to Assessor, but probably older in construction (c.1900); single-family dwelling	marginal integrity
1106 Iowa Avenue	67-00350	Italian Villa Dwelling	2-story brick dwelling is high-style Italian Villa built by A. Nichols for Newell and Julia Whiting, who made their fortune in real estate and various businesses including a general merchandise store, wagon shop, hardware store, and a mill and built this house in 1880-82 in their later years; house later occupied by the John R. Murphy family; built in	Listed in NRHP (1990)

			1880-82 of local handmade pinkish brick, decorative cornices, window caps, sills, and turret are covered with galvanized metal formed to look like stone; currently unoccupied and for sale and should be considered endangered as a result	
1114 Iowa Avenue	67-00606	Colonial Revival Dwelling	2-story side-gabled dwelling features symmetrical fenestration featuring projecting gabled entryway with cornice returns, windows are multi-pane 1/1 double-hung windows, wood lap siding; built c.1920 (Assessor) as a single-family dwelling	good integrity
1118 Iowa Avenue	67-00607	Ranch Dwelling	1-story low-pitched side-gabled roof, brick veneer, attached garage; built 1956 as a single-family dwelling	good integrity
1202 Iowa Avenue	67-00313	Italianate Dwelling	2-story frame dwelling has low-pitched hip roof with wide eave overhang with brackets under eaves, two-story rounded bay window, some 2/2 double-hung windows, hip-roofed portico porch is a modern construction replacing a shed-roofed enclosed porch that was present when house was first inventoried in 1989, current porch has thin spindleposts and fretwork, wood lap siding; built 1870s-80s (1920 Assessor date is incorrect) as single-family dwelling	good integrity
1206 Iowa Avenue	67-00608	Craftsman/Bungalow Dwelling	1-story squat front-gabled dwelling has lower front-gabled enclosed front porch, wide eave overhang, vinyl siding; built c.1920 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	marginal integrity
1212 Iowa Avenue	67-00351	Mission/Spanish Colonial Dwelling	2-story dwelling has wire-brushed brick veneer, buff-colored brick, Craftsman-type vertical pane over single pane windows, hipped roof with massive eave overhang, two-stall garage features hipped roof with curved parapet at apex, projecting brick portico porch also features curved parapets above hipped roof skirt, concrete driveway curves into garage from side street; built c.1920 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling; might have some potential individual eligibility particularly if architect designed	good integrity
1017 Iowa Avenue	67-00349	Neoclassical/Modernistic Public Building	1-story steel-framed brick building, simple classical design, some alteration; built as the U.S. Post Office in 1936-37 by H.W. Underhill Construction of Wichita, KS, Louis A. Simon supervising architect, mural by Lee Allen (student of Grant Wood), federal make-work project; previously determined to be individually ineligible and is not within proposed Commercial district boundary	good integrity

914 Diamond Street	67-00609	Modern Public Building	1-story buff brick veneer, modern doors and windows; built for Onawa City Hall after Christian Church was removed from this lot in 1967	modern
1112 Diamond St.	67-00610	Colonial Revival Dwelling	2-story dwelling; frame, wood lap siding, cornice returns, round-arched stairwell windows, round-arched pedimented porch hoods, shallow rectangular bay windows, central brick chimney; single-family dwelling built 1938; detached garage built 1979	good integrity
1210 Diamond St.	67-00611	Bungalow/Craftsman Dwelling	1-story front-gabled bungalow, stepped down front-gabled enclosed front porch, wood lap siding, wide eave overhang, windows replaced; single-family dwelling built c.1920; detached garage built c.1920	marginal integrity
1214 Diamond St.	67-00612	Front-Gabled Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story dwelling, Masonite siding, modern front porch remodel, triangular wall dormer on side, some replaced/altered windows; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but may be c.1900; detached garage built c.1920	marginal integrity
721 Pearl Street	67-00613	Modern Commercial	two prefabricated metal warehouses built in 1972 and 1996	modern
1205 Pearl Street	67-00614	Ranch Dwelling	1-story modern dwelling, low-pitched side-gabled roof, wood lap siding, attached garage; single-family dwelling built 1976	modern
1002 6th Street	67-00615	Cape Cod Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story side-gabled brick cottage, two small gabled dormers on front roof slope, slightly projecting gabled entry, cornice returns, multi-pane cottage-type windows; single-family dwelling built 1938	good integrity
1008 6th Street	67-00616	Front-Gabled Dwelling	2-story front-gabled frame dwelling, gabled dormers, enclosed front porch, wood lap siding; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but probably older; attached garage	sufficient integrity
1014 6th Street	67-00617	Colonial Revival Dwelling	2-story gable-and-wing, gabled wall dormer over enclosed front porch, massive brick chimney on front gable end, multi-pane windows; wood lap siding, single-family dwelling built in 1937	sufficient integrity
1020 6th Street	67-00618	Front-Gabled Dwelling	2-story front-gabled frame, vinyl siding, enclosed front porch, shed addition on side, likely some replaced/altered windows; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but probably older	marginal integrity

1030 6th Street	67-00619	Ranch Dwelling	1-story hipped Ranch, aluminum siding, garage addition built 1978, some alterations; single-family dwelling built in 1954	marginal integrity
1032 6th Street	67-00620	Front-Gabled Dwelling	2-story low-pitched front-gabled roofline may be alteration, enclosed front porch, paired and single windows, shallow projecting gabled ell on side, vinyl siding; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but appears older; detached garage built c.1920	sufficient integrity
900 7th Street	67-00621	Hipped Cottage Dwelling	1-story truncated hip-roofed square cottage, aluminum siding, enclosed front porch; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but probably older; detached frame garage built c.1920	insufficient integrity
906 7th Street	67-00622	Modern Commercial	1-story brick building, flat roof with 1970s-type mansard roofline but exaggerated overhang and massive in relation to lower level; built 1978 and houses the Monona County Mutual Insurance Company	modern
909 7th Street	67-00623	Modern Public Building	1-story masonry building, flat roof, utilitarian building; built in 1974 as the Monona County Law Enforcement Center and County Jail	modern
910-12 7th Street	67-00624	Modern Commercial	1-story false-front type building, vertical board-sided façade, stepped parapet hides low-pitched gabled roof, modern doors and windows; built in 1973 as a real estate office	modern
1003 7th Street	67-00348	Colonial Revival (Dutch) Dwelling	1.5-story dwelling, gambrel roof, wood siding, multi-pane over single pane windows; nice details, single-family dwelling built c.1900 (Assessor) but probably somewhat later; detached garage built 1997	good integrity
1007 7th Street	67-00289	Hipped Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story pyramidal-hipped roof with flare at eave overhang, hipped dormer on front roof slope, wood lap siding, enclosed front porch, modillion blocks under eaves; shed-roof addition to side; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but probably earlier	sufficient integrity
1015 7th Street	67-00290	Queen Anne Dwelling	2-story steeply pitched hipped roof with lower cross-gabled ells, asphalt roll faux brick siding, paired and single windows, inset two level front porch has turned posts and railing, some Queen Anne details remain; single-family dwelling built 1880s-1890s (c.1920 Assessor date is incorrect)	sufficient integrity
1019 7th Street	67-00291	Prairie School/Revival Dwelling	Large 2-story dwelling, massive hipped roof with eave overhang, hipped dormer on front roof slope, rounded bay window on second floor over	sufficient integrity

			hip-roofed open front porch which has square posts on closed railing, some replacement windows, vinyl siding; built as Congregational Church in 1907 (Assessor), also housed library before Carnegie Library was completed in 1909; later converted into four apartments	
900 block 8th St.	67-00625	Water Tower Public Structure	Cylindrical metal water tower with cone cap and square tapered frame structure; built in 1920 as City of Onawa water tower, with an original capacity of 70,000 gallons	good integrity
900 block 8th St.	67-00626	City Water Plant Public Building	2-story buff-colored brick, modernistic style building built in 1964 as the City Water Plant	good integrity
900 8th Street	67-00627	Modern Commercial	Two warehouses; one milled wood frame with exterior steel siding built in 1960; second pole frame with exterior steel siding built in 2000	modern
911 8th Street	67-00628	Gable-Front-and-Wing Dwelling	2-story gable-front-and-wing dwelling, vinyl siding, enclosed porch 2/2 double-hung windows; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but definitely an older dwelling; detached frame garage built 1988	marginal integrity
945 8th Street	67-00629	Side-Gabled Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story side-gabled cottage has enclosed front-gabled portico entry that is a later addition, shed-roof addition to rear, wood lap siding that may not be original, and replaced and altered windows; single-family dwelling built c.1920 (Assessor) but probably earlier in construction	poor integrity
1017 8th Street	67-00630	Modernistic Public Building	2-story buff-colored brick building has pilasters demarcating rows of tall industrial windows, most of which have been infilled completely or greatly reduced, vintage light fixtures flank each doorway; built in 1933-37 as the City's diesel powered light plant, now also houses senior citizens center; could have some potential for individual eligibility if the window infill involved covering the original windows rather than their complete removal	sufficient integrity
1034 8th Street	67-00631	Brickfront Commercial	2-story brick-faced building has curved canted corner entry, front-gabled roof with wide eave overhang; built in 1942 (current Assessor); 1950 Assessor card indicated that this was an apartment building that was only one year old, or c.1949 in age; local residents remember this as the bus depot and a café; now a bar/lounge and apartment	sufficient integrity
900 block 9th St.	67-00632	Front-Gabled Public Hall	1-story low-pitched front-gabled building has modern cover-up siding; built between 1924 and 1934 according to fire maps as public hall;	insufficient integrity

			currently the Onawa Community Theater; building should be re-evaluated if the cover-up siding is ever removed and original materials found to be intact	
905-07 9th Street	67-00633	Masonry Commercial	1-story flat-roofed rectangular two-section building built c.1930 (Assessor) but has modern appearance; this date is consistent with the rounded corner and glass block window on the north section of building; however, the fire maps indicate the north section had not been built by the time of the 1934 map; the south section perhaps represents Warehouse Building No. 3 of the Green Gable Builders plant as depicted on that map, although this is not certain; the 1950 Assessors card gave a 1941 date for the lumber mill building(s) then on this block but also noted the presence of the R.D. Hunting painting and stamping building that was then "20 years old" on this block; therefore the age of the extant building is uncertain as is its original function(s)	insufficient integrity
906 9th Street	67-00634	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick building has corbelled brick cornice on flat parapet, decorative details in panels over door and windows, Craftsman-type multi-pane over single pane windows to right of door; built in 1936 (current Assessor); 1950 Assessor card identified this as the Telephone office and noted that it was then 11 years old, or c.1939 in construction; local residents recall this as the telephone switchboard building; the 1982 Monona County history book noted that this was later occupied by the Oliver Agency, a long-time insurance business in Onawa; currently houses a law office	good integrity
915 9th Street	67-00635	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick building has corbelled brick detail on parapet, segmental-arched windows on side, rectangular windows on front, 1970s-type shingled hood over storefront; replacement windows, brick painted; built c.1900 (Assessor), with fire insurance maps indicating it was built between 1899 and 1907 as the telephone office, beauty/barber shop currently; interesting narrow building was meant to stand alone given the windows on the sides	sufficient integrity
920 9th Street	67-00636	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has been completely refaced in recent years with cover-up wood siding to the point that it has a modern appearance; built c.1900 (current Assessor); however, 1950 Assessor card carried the notation that this building was added in 1951 by the Monona County Farm Bureau, which remains its current occupant; fire insurance maps show this as a vacant portion of the lot in 1934	insufficient integrity

1013 9th Street	67-00302	Modern Commercial	Was recently still a 2-story frame front-gabled building faced with wood replacement siding and altered storefront representing an older Commercial building; however, it was recently replaced with new building built in 2008 that is one-story in height with a squat front-gabled metal roof; local informants indicated the older building had been a watch fob factory and store dating from Onawa's early history; current building is Stangel Home Medical Equipment	modern
1014 9th Street	67-00637	Front-Gabled Commercial	2-story low-pitched front-gabled building has cover-up siding over soft Turin-made brick and has modern doors and windows; built c.1900 (current Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card identified this as housing the Onawa Sentinel (which it still does to the present day) and then had a blacksmith shop on the adjacent lot, but gave no estimate of its age; fire maps indicate that this building was built between 1899, when this lot was vacant, and 1907, when the Sears Bottling Works was in this 2-story building; prior to 1907, the bottling works was located in an adjacent building to the south that is now non-extant, the bottling works continued to occupy this building through the 1934 fire insurance map but in 1948 it became the home of the Onawa Sentinel newspaper under the ownership of Oliver and Clara Kelley; it remains the Sentinel to the present day; there are also apartments currently on the 2nd floor; building should be re-evaluated if the cover-up siding is ever removed and the underlying masonry walls found to retain sufficient integrity, although the bricks were damaged when the building next door burned.	insufficient integrity
1019 9th Street	67-00638	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has been refaced with Permastone and has modern storefront inserted (but may cover-up some original details); built c.1890 (Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card identified this as the Howard Morley Law Office and had the added note that the building was remodeled in 1955; the fire maps suggest that the building was built between 1883 and 1899, when it was shown as a saloon, by 1907 it was a feed store, which it remained through at least 1913 and was labeled simply as a store on the 1924 and 1934 maps; currently law office; building should be re-evaluated if cover-up siding is ever removed and original materials found to be intact	insufficient integrity
1021 9th Street	67-00639	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick-faced building has brick pilasters demarcating storefront from recessed entryway to left of metal-framed plate glass windows, brick kickplates under windows, modern metal and glass door, cantilevered flat-roof overhang over storefront; built c.1920 (Assessor);	sufficient integrity

			fire maps suggest that this was an older building that was refaced with brick by 1924 or had replaced an older frame building having the same footprint by that date; there was a building of this size on this lot from c.1907-1913 that functioned as a carriage repair shop; after 1924, this was an auto repair shop; to add to the confusion, the 1950 Assessor card for this building indicated that it was then P.A. James Auto Parts store but was only one year old (i.e., c.1949); currently a photo studio	
1023 9th Street	67-00640	Late Victorian Commercial	2-story brick building, three shuttered windows across second floor and modern plate glass windows and modern metal and glass door on first floor, shed-awning over storefront, brick has been painted white, flat parapet features corbelled brick "bracketed" cornice detail, second floor windows feature segmental-arched brick lintels, recently a modern window insert altered the opening for the left second floor window, with the rest of window infilled and shutters moved to either side of new window; aluminum siding also covers sides of building; built c.1910 (current Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card identified this as August Gierman's blacksmith shop and indicated that the building was then 46 years old, or c.1904 in construction, the card had the added note that the building was remodeled in 1962; the fire maps indicate that this building was built between 1899 and 1907, which would be compatible with a c.1904 date of construction; building was shown on the fire maps as a blacksmith, wood working and paint shop (c.1913) and farm implement repair (1924-34); local residents remember this as Ryan Farm Implements, followed by Heisterkamps (see also 1019 10th); currently a liquor package store	marginal integrity
1027 9th Street	67-00641	Modern Commercial	1-story, low-pitched side-gabled large rectangular building; built c.1950 (Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card had a later notation that indicated that the store building once on this site was removed in 1968 and it is likely that the extant building was added shortly thereafter; currently a large retail store and warehouse	modern
1026 9th Street	67-00642	Front-Gabled Commercial	2-story low-pitched front-gabled building has modern windows and doors; built c.1950 (current Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card identified this as a florist business owned by Eva R. Davis and had the added note that the building was added in 1957; local residents remember this as Davis Floral, Clayton Photo, and a beauty shop; remains Clayton Photo and Hair Heaven beauty shop	insufficient integrity
1030 9th Street	67-00643	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has 1970s-type wood-shingled awning	insufficient integrity

			wrapping around and overhanging storefront, modern doors and windows; built c.1940 (current Assessor); the 1950 Assessor card identified this as a Safeway grocery store and indicated it was then 8 years old and therefore built c.1942; remains a grocery store but has been remodeled in more recent years to the point that it presents a modern appearance	
900 10th Street	67-00644	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick building, polychrome brick veneer, decorative brick panel detail across flat parapet, storefront has recessed central entry flanked by metal-framed plate glass windows with brick kickplate, may be original storefront; built c.1920 (current Assessor); 1950 Assessor card identified this as Marjorie Utsman's liquor store building and that noted that it was then 15 years old, or c.1935 in construction; however, fire maps show a one-story brick building at this location from c.1907 through 1934 that housed a hardware warehouse but the construction of extant building strongly suggests a 1920s-30s date of construction; local residents recall the liquor store at this location as well as Stangel Buick and Heartland Cellular, currently houses flea market	good integrity
901 10th Street	67-00645	Modern Commercial	1-story prefabricated pole frame, metal-sided front gabled building; built in 1995 as a body shop known as Main Street Motors	modern
902 10th Street	67-00646	Modern Commercial	1-story brick bank building with massive hipped roof; built in 1997 and replaced a Queen Anne/Foursquare dwelling (67-00308) and a rusticated concrete block Commercial building (67-00307), both of which are now non-extant; currently Iowa-Nebraska State Bank	modern
909 10th Street	67-00647	Modern Commercial	built 2003 as a garage or storage building for Main Street Motors at 901 10th Street	modern
919 10th Street	67-00648	Brickfront Commercial	1-story gable-front-and-wing brick building, peaked parapet on front gable end, modern doors and windows, Tudor/Craftsman-type porch hood over front doorway likely from 1936 remodel of the façade, with a rectangular opening in gable peak having a decorative drip or hood mold detail; built c.1930 (current Assessor); fire maps indicate a construction date between 1924 and 1934, with this building first functioning as a hatchery; the 1950 Assessor card noted that the hatchery building had a rear addition built in 1936 and the front was remodeled that same year; local residents remember this building as the hatchery and later as O'Reilly's Auto Parts store, which it remains to the present day	sufficient integrity

920 10th Street	67-00304	Art Deco/Moderne Commercial	2-story polychrome brick veneered movie theater features Art Deco/Moderne stylistic details in brickwork, glass block slit windows with curved capped light fixtures to right of entry and an elaborate neon and curved metal marquee, double entry doors on either side of ticket booth; built c.1930 (current Assessor); however, it was not yet present at the time of the 1934 fire map; the 1950 Assessor card identified it as Roy Lepovitz's theater, which seated 618 and had a balcony and stage, the card also noted an age of 12 years, or c.1938; it has been operated as the Iowa Movie Theater, for many years and remains in operation to the present day; probably individually eligible and certainly architecturally significant in its own right	good integrity
922 10th Street	67-00650	Brickfront Commercial	1-story polychrome brick veneered building has flat plain parapet, modern metal and glass windows and doors, inset panel below parapet; built c.1920 (Assessor); however, fire maps show no building on this lot other than a dwelling and a very small store building through 1934; the 1950 Assessor card indicates that a building was present by that date but gave no age, the card identified the building as having housed the AAA Farm Bureau, a law office, and a dairy; local residents remember this as a Laundromat, which it was until recently	sufficient integrity
923 10th Street	67-00649	Masonry Commercial	1-story masonry building has garage bay with overhead door to left, center door flanked by small windows, and one plate glass window to right, siding cover-up panel across parapet; built c.1900 (current Assessor); however, fire maps indicate a date of construction between 1924 and 1934 as an auto repair shop and gas station with the canopied pumps out in the street; the 1950 Assessor card identified this as Joseph Stangel's garage, office and display building and then around 25 years in age or c.1925; local residents remember this as Stangel's gas station and auto sales business; it is currently identified in the Assessor record as a service station with bays and shop; however, it no longer has gas pumps	marginal integrity
926 10th Street	67-00651	Brickfront Commercial	1-story, narrow store unit has polychrome brickwork pattern on parapet, recessed door to left and metal-framed plate glass window with brick kickplate to right; built c.1920 (Assessor); however, fire maps show no building on this lot on the 1924-34 maps; 1950 Assessor card identified this as Helen Spearman's building which was then a restaurant and gave an age of 12 years, or a date of c.1938; local residents remember this as the Ross Café and currently the Cool Beans coffee shop	sufficient integrity

928 10th Street	67-00652	Brickfront Commercial	1-story polychrome brick veneered building has plain flat parapet, glass and metal-framed doors and windows; metal cornice overhang over storefront; built c.1920 (Assessor); 1950 Assessor card had added notation that this building was then 31 years old (c.1919) but was later remodeled in 1958 with a 1959 addition; shown on 1924-34 fire maps as a printing business; local residents remember this as a beauty salon and Hills Marine; currently vacant	sufficient integrity
933 10th Street	67-00653	Art Deco/Moderne Commercial	2-story polychrome veneered building is an older building that was remodeled in the 1930s with an Art Deco/Moderne metal paneled storefront and corner entry flat, curving roof overhang, second story façade refaced with brick and windows reduced at that time; built c.1900 (Assessor) but actually built between 1893 and 1899; housed a hotel after the remodel and currently houses apartments and a retail store space	sufficient integrity
1000 10th Street	67-00654	Masonry Commercial	1-story rectangular masonry building has two service station bays with glass-paneled overhead doors, several pass doors, and modern windows; built c.1950 (Assessor), the 1950 Assessor card had an added notation that this was an "old" gas station that was remodeled in 1954, the 1934 fire map suggests that this building was the auto service section of a canopied filling station that is no longer extant and extended out into 10th Street; currently Onawa County Store and gas station	marginal integrity
1010 10th Street	67-00655	Modern Hall	1-story squat gable roofed brick-veneered building; built 1981; Masonic Lodge Hall	modern
1011 10th Street	67-00656	Brickfront Commercial	1-story brick-veneered building has denticulated corbelled cornice, covered-up/altered storefront may cover some original details; built c.1915 (Assessor); fire maps suggest construction between 1924 and 1934 but could also be an older building there by 1899 that was enlarged by 1934; 1950 Assessor card identified it as Benjamin Skidmore's cleaners but gave no age estimate; currently Sanitary Cleaners	marginal integrity
1013 10th Street	67-00657	Masonry Commercial	1-story building has modern cover-up obscuring entire façade, recessed entry flanked by small plate glass windows, cantilevered metal awning over entry; Assessor gives an 1985 date of construction but this appears to be an older building that was remodeled c.1985; fire maps suggest that the building was built in its current configuration after 1934; currently a retail store space; should be re-evaluated if cover up is ever removed	insufficient integrity

1016 10th Street	67-00658	Modern Commercial	1.5-story prefabricated steel building constructed in 1989 according to current Assessor; currently office building	modern
1019 10th Street	67-00309	Masonry Commercial	2-story rusticated concrete block building has tall single and double wide fixed but multi-paned windows across second story, storefront has flat, cantilevered metal awning across, covered ribbon window area, central doorway with metal-framed plate glass windows to either side, name plate on flat parapet reads "Marley;" built in 1909 on site of former agricultural implement store; built by Michael Anthony Marley as an agricultural implement store; later Ryan Implements and then Heisterkamp, Ltd. outdoor power equipment dealer; currently video store	good integrity
1023 10th Street	67-00303	Romanesque Revival Commercial	2-story brick building with stone trim, round-arched main entry with arcaded round-arched windows on second floor; some window alterations but building listed in NRHP for its historical and architectural significance; built in 1900 as the IOOF Hall and Onawa Opera House; currently vacant, for sale, and endangered	Listed in NRHP (1990)
1030 10th Street	67-00659	Modern Commercial	1-story brick and glass bank building; built 1961; remains a bank; originally Onawa State Bank, now U.S. Bank	modern
900 11th Street	67-00660	Craftsman/Colonial Revival Dwelling	2-story broad side-gabled dwelling has broad front-gabled dormer on front roof slope, wide eave overhang, enclosed full-width front porch, multi-pane fixed windows in dormer, 1/1 double-hungs windows, and wood lap siding; built c.1920 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	good integrity
905 11th Street	67-00661	Front-Gabled Dwelling	2-story front-gabled building has short eave overhang and frieze board paired window in front gabled end, full-width open front porch has Queen Anne-style turned spindleposts, front door to left with cottage window to right; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but house is older, probably built 1890s-early 1900s as single-family dwelling	good integrity
906 11th Street	67-00662	Craftsman/Bungalow Dwelling	1.5-story squat side-gabled brick veneered dwelling, wide eave overhang, front-gabled portico over main entry, some window replacements; built in 1922 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	sufficient integrity
911 11th Street	67-00311	Front-Gabled Dwelling	1.5-story front-gabled frame dwelling, Masonite replacement siding, enclosed front porch; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but appears to be an older c.1900 single-family dwelling	insufficient integrity

917 11th Street	67-00663	Front-Gabled Dwelling	1.5-story front-gabled frame dwelling, aluminum siding, some 2/2 windows, some replaced, metal posts on open front porch, newer addition to rear; Assessor gives 1940 date of construction but this is more like a c.1900 single-family dwelling	insufficient integrity
1000-18 11th Street	67-00664	Modern Apartment	3-story masonry box building constructed c.2005 for low income multi-family housing	modern
1008 11th Street	67-00665	Modern Commercial	1-story front-gabled prefabricated metal and pole frame building built in 1989 as a warehouse	modern
1017 11th Street	67-00666	Modern Apartment	3-story masonry box building constructed in 1969 as apartment building	modern
1102 11th Street	67-00667	Modern Commercial	1-story large rectangular masonry building built in 1981 (current (Assessor), although the 1950 Assessor card had the added notation that a new store was added to the site of the former Onawa Hospital in 1963 (perhaps the extant building is an even newer replacement store?); grocery stores in this building have included: Council Oak, Piggley Wiggley, Jubilee, and the current Fiesta Foods store	modern
901 12th Street	67-00668	Side-Gabled Dwelling	1.5-story side-gabled frame dwelling has gabled wall dormers, enclosed front porch, wood lap siding; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but may be more like a c.1900 single-family dwelling	sufficient integrity
904 12th Street	67-00669	Cape Cod Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story broad side-gabled dwelling with two gabled dormers on front roof slope, salt-box gabled projecting front entry vestibule, gabled ell offset to rear, retains multi-pane over single pane windows, wood lap siding; built in 1938 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	good integrity
905 12th Street	67-00670	Front-Gabled Dwelling	2-story tall narrow front-gabled dwelling, paired window in front gable end, single window to left of front door, front porch removed, may have some window alterations/replacements; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but probably closer to c.1900 construction as a single-family dwelling	marginal integrity
908 12th Street	67-00671	Ranch Dwelling	1-story low-pitched hipped roof Ranch style dwelling, wood lap siding, attached garage, recent wood deck added to front entry, new door and garage door added; built in 1959 as single-family dwelling	marginal integrity

915 12th Street	67-00672	Front-Gabled Dwelling	1.5-story front-gabled frame dwelling, wood lap siding, 1/1 windows shed-roofed enclosed front porch, round posts on porch, shaped lintel boards on windows, rear addition, newer concrete block foundation; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but probably a c.1900-10 single-family dwelling	sufficient integrity
919 12th Street	67-00673	Front-Gabled Dwelling	1.5-story front-gabled frame dwelling, wood lap siding, 1/1 windows enclosed front porch appears original to house; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but probably built in early 1900s-10s as a single-family dwelling	sufficient integrity
1012 12th Street	67-00674	Tudor Revival Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story gable-front-and-wing brick cottage has some Tudor Revival influence in end wall chimney and round-arched front door, paired and single windows, polychrome brick veneer; built in 1939 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	good integrity
1020 12th Street	67-00675	Queen Anne Cottage Dwelling	1.5-story cross-gabled frame dwelling has distinctive front-gabled second story porch that features a round-arched highly decorative window opening, inset front porch has turned spindleposts and brackets; Assessor gives 1920 date of construction but this decorative Queen Anne cottage dates from the 1890s-early 1900s; may be individually eligible; historically this was the B.H. Freeland House.	good integrity
901 13th Street	67-00676	Bungalow/Craftsman Dwelling	1.5-story broad side-gabled bungalow has squat gabled dormer on front roof slope, inset front porch is enclosed but may be original, shallow rectangular bay window on side, wood lap siding, wide eave overhang; built in 1927 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	good integrity
905 13th Street	67-00677	Foursquare Dwelling	2-story square building has low-pitched hipped roof that flares at eave overhang, rounded 2-story bay window on side, greatly remodeled with vinyl siding, replaced/altered windows, new front-gabled entry vestibule; wood deck and stairs; built c.1920 (Assessor) or earlier, but modern remodel has impacted integrity; built as single-family dwelling but now two apartments	insufficient integrity

909 13th Street	67-00678	Side-Gabled Cottage Dwelling	1-story side-gabled small dwelling has front-gabled enclosed portico porch, wood lap siding; built c.1920 (Assessor) as single-family dwelling	sufficient integrity
1009 13th Street	67-00679	Church Gothic	1.5-story brick veneered front-gabled building has full 2-story bell tower, Gothic arched and round-arched openings; built in 1954 as St. John's Roman Catholic Church	good integrity
1009 13th Street	67-00680	Ranch Dwelling	1-story low-pitched side-gabled Ranch dwelling built in 2003 as the rectory for St. John's Roman Catholic Church (note: has same street address as the church)	modern
SE corner 11th & Pearl streets	67-00681	Modern Commercial	1-story flat roofed, brick-veneered building built in recent years as the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. office	modern
SW corner 9th &	67-00682	Modern Commercial	1-story side-gabled prefabricated pole frame and metal-clad building built in 2000 and currently the 9th Street Auto Repair shop	modern

[67-00683 is the proposed Onawa Historic Commercial District]

TABLE 2. Property Descriptions and History in Proposed Onawa Historic Commercial District

Address	Historic Name	Year Built	Building History
700 Iowa Avenue	Underhill Law Office	built 1926	Not present on 1924 fire insurance but had been built by the 1934 map; current Assessor reports a specific date of 1926, which may be actual date of construction and certainly fits with the fire insurance map data. Cecil E. and Robert M. Underhill Law Office and then the law office of Robert Underhill's son. Also known as the Underhill & Underhill Law Office. Located at the corner directly south of the courthouse along the north side of Iowa Avenue in the block where a series of small office buildings, many of them law offices were built. This building replaced a small frame dwelling that had been present on the 1913-24 fire insurance maps. Contributes to district.
Vacant Lot in-between 700 and 706 Iowa Avenue was the former site of Leo Hansen's store from about 1900 according to 1950 Assessor card.			
706 Iowa Avenue	Farmers' Mutual Insurance	built c.1926	There was a one-story frame office on this lot on each of the 1913-1934 fire insurance maps. This building may be that office but was refaced with a brickfront probably in the 1920s. The current Assessor gives a 1926 date of construction but this may be something of a default date for all of the buildings along this block because they are similar in size and style. The 1950 Assessor card for this property lists this building with no age but then housing the Farmers' Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Office. Contributes to district.
707 Iowa Avenue	Onawa Carnegie Public Library	built 1908-09	Individually listed in NRHP (1979). Contributes to proposed district.
708 Iowa Avenue	Monona County Abstract Co.	built c.1900	The 1913-1934 fire insurance maps show a one-story frame office on this lot. The 1950 Assessor card gave a date of around 50 years placing construction around 1900, but also noted that it had been remodeled in 1947. Historically, this building has housed the Monona County Abstract Company for many years. While the Permastone veneer and modern door and window somewhat diminish the historic integrity, this building is compatible with the look and feel of the other small office buildings on this block and is considered contributing to the district as a result.
710 Iowa Avenue	Pritchard & Elbert Law Office	built c.1924	There was no building on this lot at the time of the 1913 fire insurance map, but a one-story brick building had been constructed by the 1924 map and conforms to the extant building. The current Assessor gives a 1926 date of construction but this does not correlate with the map data, nor does the 1950 Assessor card which estimated a c.1904 date of construction. Therefore, a c.1924 date appears closest to an actual date of construction for this building, which housed the George W. Pritchard and M. Elbert

			Law Office, then the Pritchard Law Office, and then Mike Jensen's law office. Contributes to district.

Vacant Lots from alley west to 720 Iowa Avenue once had a series of small frame and brickfront office buildings. The easternmost building was removed in 1968 and was owned by the Monona County REA in 1950. Buildings to the west included the office of Albert Burgess, a photo gallery/law office/Dr. Nye's Office, and the Allen & Allen Law Office (George and Sewell Allen, father and son). The buildings that housed Dr. Nye's Office and the Allen & Allen Law Office were still standing in 1989 during the Onawa survey and inventory; however, both buildings were torn down by the time of the 2002 aerial photograph.

720 Iowa Avenue	Onawa Democrat	built in 1890	A one-story brick building that housed a printing business was shown on this lot on the 1893 fire insurance map for the Onawa Democrat printing/publishing business. It is known that William H. Wonder had first published the newspaper in the basement of the Hotel Monona beginning in February 1890, but appears to have moved into this new building later that same year according to a historical exhibit displayed in the Democrat office; the business continues to the present day and has been operated by many generations of the Wonder family. The building façade was remodeled and updated through the years (renovations included ones dating from the early 1900s, the 1920s, 1930s, pre-WWII, early 1950s, 1980s-90s, and again in 2001), but the building certainly has historical if not architectural significance and is contributing to the district as a result.
800 Iowa Avenue	Hotel Monona	built 1889-90	This late 19th century brick hotel is among the landmark commercial buildings in the district and was built as the Hotel Monona in 1889-90. During its heyday, the hotel was the travel and social center of town. It was later converted into apartments. This building is likely individually eligible for both architectural and historical significance and is contributing to the district as a result.
801 Iowa Avenue	Citizens' State Bank	built c.1924	The fire insurance maps show a one-story grocery, then drug, then feed store on this lot through 1913, with the brick bank building represented on the next map dating from 1924; therefore, it was built between 1913 and 1924. The bank was the Citizens' State Bank but was short-lived being the only bank in town to close as a result of the financial crash that resulted in the Great Depression. By the time of the 1934 fire insurance map, the building now housed a store, specifically George Bakke's shoe store, known as Georges' Shoe Store, which operated at the location for many years. The second floor housed the Selective Service Office, Skow Insurance and Real Estate, a beauty shop, and the Beardsley Law Office. Has some potential individual eligibility but certainly is considered contributing to the district.

The lot in-between 801 and 805 was where 803 Iowa Avenue formerly stood. This business was historically J.M. Hull's store, then L.C. Shaeffer's store, and then Shaeffer's Gift Store. Other known occupants included a shoe repair and the railway express office.

805 Iowa Avenue	J.L. Mock Tavern	built c.1893	The fire insurance maps show a two-story brick building on this site as early as 1893 when it housed a billiards and saloon business. It was vacant in 1899, followed by a restaurant in 1907, and a "store" in 1924 and 1934. Local residents remember this as J.L. Mock's Tavern and that it also housed the VFW for a time. Non-contributing to district because of façade alteration.
806 Iowa Avenue	Electric Store	built c.1934	The fire insurance maps show this as an empty lot on the 1934 fire insurance map but the building was built by the time of the 1950 Assessor record when it was listed as the "Electric Store" of O.R. Anderson, Vera Quakenbush, and Leonora Paine. Considered to have marginal integrity and is a late addition to the district. If the period of significance is determined to extend through 1950, then the building should be considered contributing to district.
807 Iowa Avenue	Implement & Harness Shop	built c.1890	This building was present by the 1893 fire insurance map when it was shown as an agricultural implements and harness shop. By 1907, the implement business included a carriage shop, and by 1913 it was simply labeled as a "store." The 1950 Assessor card indicated that it was then Earl Volkert's hardware store and estimated the building's age as "60 years old," which would correspond with the fire insurance map data and suspected construction date around 1890. Considered contributing to the district.
808 Iowa Avenue	Onawa Post Office	built c.1934	This building was constructed between the 1924 fire insurance map, when this lot and the adjacent lot to the east were occupied by a different building that housed a photo shop. The extant building was first shown on the 1934 map when it housed the post office. By 1950 it housed a tavern owned by Archie Anderson. Contributing to district.
809 Iowa Avenue	Store	built c.1924	This building appears to have been built by the time of the 1924 fire insurance map when a one-story brick store was shown on this lot and conforming to the current building. The previous building on this lot had been a frame restaurant, machinery, and then harness and carriage shop. It is possible that this is the older building that was refaced with brick by 1924, but for the present, it is considered to have been built on the site of the older building by 1924. The Assessor estimate of 1925 for this building is consistent with this conclusion. Considered to be contributing to the district.
811 Iowa Avenue	Tin Shop	built c.1924	This building appears to have been built by the time of the 1924 fire insurance map when it was shown as a two-story brick building that housed a tin shop in the rear room of the building. This continued to be the configuration on the 1934 map. The 1950 Assessor card indicates that it was then Sadie Wilson's restaurant with a second floor apartment but did not estimate the building's age. It currently houses the Onawa Café. Non-contributing to district because of façade alteration.

812 Iowa Avenue	Furniture Store	built c.1907	This building was constructed between the time of the 1899 and 1907 fire insurance maps when it was shown as a two-unit building that housed a furniture store in the larger left unit and had a vacant store unit in the smaller right unit. By 1913, it still housed a furniture store but had a barber shop in the right unit. Both units were labeled simply as stores on the 1924 and 1934 maps. The 1950 Assessor card indicated that it was then a grocery store owned at one time by H.W. and J.S. Holbrook but was by then owned by Charles Bisbee on contract. Local residents remember this building best by its current longtime occupant—Virg's Furniture, which occupies the whole building. Building now has marginal integrity but is considered sufficient to be contributing to district.
813 Iowa Avenue	Mann Building	built c.1907	This two-unit block building was built by Mann between the time of the 1899 fire insurance map when the two lots were occupied by smaller buildings and 1907 when the extant building was definitely depicted. The current Assessor estimated a c.1905 date of construction, which is consistent with the map data. In 1907 it housed a hall on the second floor of the west unit and a hardware store on the first floor of the west unit, with the east unit housing barber and tailor shops. The hardware store was still shown on the 1913 map, with the east unit then housing a lunchroom. The hardware store was historically the Goodwin (or Goodburn?) & Able Hardware Store. The 1950 Assessor card indicated that the entire building then housed Gladys Moon's variety store. Considered contributing to district.
816 Iowa Avenue	Mann's Block	built c.1895	This block building was built between 1893 and 1899, when the fire insurance map from that year depicted the extant block building in place with the internal connection with the east unit depicted. In 1907, the buildings were specifically labeled as "Mann's Block." Historically, this three-unit block building first had dry goods on the 1st floor and furnishings on the 2nd of the two main west units and a clothing store in the east unit. By 1907, the west units housed a general store, with the east unit still labeled as a clothing store. The general store remained in the west units through at least 1913, while the east unit had become a movie theater by that date. By 1934, the second floor of all three units had become a hotel. The 1950 Assessor card lists the York Shoe Store in the east unit, with the Steinberg and then the Langton "stores" in the west units. Local residents recall the Red and White Grocery in the west unit and the Coast to Coast Hardware first in the east unit and then later expanding into all three units, which it continues to occupy to the present day. Considered contributing to the district (would be counted as one building).
817 Iowa Avenue	Grocery & Bakery	built c.1907	This building was built between 1899 and 1907 when it was first depicted on the fire insurance maps and housed a grocery and bakery business. By 1913, it had become a pool hall, but by 1950 it had once again become a bakery, operated by Charles

			Thompson and then by Snyder. It remained a bakery (Kuhlman's) until recently. Considered to retain enough integrity to be contributing to the district.
820 Iowa Avenue	Barber Shop	built c.1969	This one-story building is on the site of a former two-story frame building that was present from at least 1893 through 1934. There was a barber shop noted here in the 1950 Assessor card when Bernard Farber was owner, but the current Assessor record gives a 1969 date of construction. The building currently houses a barber shop, so it is uncertain whether this building is older than 1969 and was built between 1934 and 1950, or is a 1969 construction that replaced the older building as shown on the fire insurance maps. Either way, it is considered non-contributing based on integrity and the possibility that it is actually more of a modern addition to the district.
915 9th Street	Telephone Office	built c.1907	This building was not depicted on the 1893-99 fire insurance maps but was present by the time of the 1907 map when it was identified as the telephone office. It remained the telephone exchange office through at least 1934. By 1950, the Assessor card identified this as housing offices for J.F. Cooper, Justice of the Peace, and Lawrence Folsom, real estate. Considered contributing to the district.
821 Iowa Avenue	Stebbins Pharmacy	built 1878-99	The west unit of this now two-unit building was actually built as a single-unit corner building in 1878 by Richard Stebbins for his pharmacy. The east unit was not present on the 1893 fire insurance map when a smaller building occupied this lot but had been built by 1899 when it was depicted as having an internal connection to the west unit store. However, at that time, the east unit had a jewelry store, while the west unit has always been a pharmacy. This division in function remained through the 1913 fire insurance, but by 1924, the two units were now a single drugstore business; however, the 1950 Assessor card indicates that in 1950, the west unit was George Brown's Drugstore, while the east unit was a hardware store with a beauty shop on the second floor. The 1950 card also noted that the building had been remodeled in 1947. The building later became a pharmacy in both units, which it remains to the present day and has been operating as Stangel's Pharmacy and Home Medical Equipment for many years. Considered contributing to district and is counted as a single building.
900 Iowa Avenue	Office	built c.1893	This building appears to have been depicted on the available fire insurance maps as far back as 1893. In 1893-1913, it was labeled as an office building. By 1924-34, it was labeled as a store. The 1950 Assessor card indicated that it was then Fouts Café and also housed a beauty shop. A later note added to the card indicated that the Farm Bureau purchased the building in 1955. Local residents recall the Waples Café before the Fouts Café, then Marlene (Taylor) Gingles' drapery and gift shop, and currently Coberly Accounting. Building has been too altered to be contributing to the district as it now has a modern appearance.

920 9th Street	Monona Co. Farm Bureau	built 1951	This building is a later addition to the district and was built by the Monona County Farm Bureau in 1951 according to a notation added to the 1950 Assessor card for this property. Since 1951, the exterior has been completely refaced with newer materials, and the building has a completely modern appearance. It is considered non-contributing as a result. Still remains the Farm Bureau office to the present day.
901 Iowa Avenue	Onawa State Bank	built c.1934	This one-story bank building was built on this corner lot between 1924 (when there was a smaller but two-story bank on this lot) and 1934 when this building was depicted. It appears possible that this building had just newly opened or was about to open, given that the bank's old location at 914 Iowa was still listed as a bank on the same fire insurance map. 901 Iowa Avenue was still the Onawa State Bank by the time of the 1950 Assessor card, but subsequently became The Golden Rule clothing store in 1961 when the bank built a new building at 1030 10th Street. Architecturally and historically significant building that could be potentially individually eligible and certainly contributes to the district. Prior to the construction of this bank building, the lot had been the site of the pioneer Holbrook Bros. Bank.
902 Iowa Avenue	Moen Clothing Store	built c.1893	This building appears to be depicted on the 1893 fire insurance map when it was labeled as a clothing store, which it remained through at least the 1913 fire insurance map, after which it was simply labeled as a store. The 1950 Assessor card listed this as Belle Ross Moen's Clothing Store, which is how local residents still remember this building. Building was refaced in 1960, and for that reason, is considered non-contributing to the district because of its modern appearance.
903 Iowa Avenue	City Market	built c.1893	This building appears to have been enlarged around 1913 from an older one-story building (shown on the 1893-1907 fire insurance maps) to the extant two-story building. Photographs show that the storefront for the older building was the same on the newer building, which was the City Market in both historic photographs. This building later housed Todd & Son Meat Market, Riggs Jewelry, and then Dr. Reinke's dental office. The 1924-34 maps label it simply as a store. Considered to be contributing to district.
904 Iowa Avenue	Bakke Boot and Shoe Store	built c.1888	Present by at least the 1893 fire insurance map, this building was depicted as a boot and shoe store through at least 1913 after which it was simply labeled as a store. It was likely the boot and shoe store operated by Edward Bakke from 1872 when he took over the pioneer shoe shop of Elijah Walker. It was O.S. Bakke's Shoe Store by the time of the 1950 Assessor card, which also estimated that the building was then 60 years old. Local residents recall this building as the Bakke Shoe Store. It may have been built in 1888 because of a reference in the 1890 Monona County history, which noted that the

			"Bakke Block" was new when the Knights of Pythias rented a hall in 1888 for their lodge rooms. Since the 904 unit is and always was only one story in height, the unit with the hall may have been the adjacent 2-story unit at 906 Iowa Avenue. While these two buildings are of different heights, their floor plans are identical as depicted on the 1890s fire insurance maps. 904 Iowa Avenue is contributing to district.
905-11 Iowa Avenue	Freeland Block	built c.1874	This four-unit, two-story building may have been built in the wake of the 1874 that had destroyed the old Warner & Chapman and Freeland & Cleghorn stores as well as two adjacent businesses. The extant building was labeled as the Freeland Block on the 1893 fire map when it housed (from west to east): dry goods, boots and shoes, grocery and drug stores. The dry goods store was E.G. Ford's store and had a photo gallery on the second floor. By 1899, the boots and shoe store had been replaced by a millinery, with the groceries and meats store operated by Fred Hger. By 1907, the dry goods unit was listed as vacant and by 1913 had been replaced by the post office. The 1950 Assessor card listed F.G. Ford's women's clothing store in the west unit, with Katherine Beck's women's clothing and then Wright Realty in the next unit east, and W.W. Lupton's Rexall Drugstore in the next unit east, with a dentist on the 2nd floor, and Eleanor Steukand's confectionary in the east unit. The 1950 Assessor also included a notation that a new front was added to the Wright Realty unit in 1965. Freeland Block is considered contributing as a single building.
906 Iowa Avenue	Howard & Bakke Grocery	built c.1890	This two-story single-unit building was depicted on the 1893-1913 maps as a grocery store. It was Howard & Bakke Grocery for many years. Later maps depict it simply as a store. The 1950 Assessor card lists this as the Farm Bureau Office on the second floor and estimated the building's age as then 60 years old. Local residents remember this building as the Jividen Hardware store. This building may be part of what is referred to as the Bakke Block in the 1890 Monona County History, which was described as a building built in 1888 and had a hall on the second floor that the Knights of Pythias rented (National Publishing 1890:335). It may be that 904 (the Bakke shoe store building) and 906 Iowa Avenue constitute the "Bakke Block." Considered contributing to district.
908 Iowa Avenue	Dry Goods & Grocery	built c.1900	This building was not present on the 1893-99 fire insurance maps when a much smaller building occupied part of this lot. The extant building was depicted on the 1907 map when it was labeled as a dry goods and grocery store. It continued to house this store through at least 1913, after which the maps simply label this as a store. By the 1950 Assessor card, the building housed Francis McDevitt's hardware store. Local residents also remember this as Willy's Restaurant and later a 2nd Hand Shop. Considered contributing to district.

910 Iowa Avenue	Grocery Store	built c.1913	This one-story building appears to have been built between 1907 when a building with a smaller footprint was present on this lot and 1913 when the fire insurance maps shows a building with the same footprint as the extant building. The 1950 Assessor listed this as the Archie Samson Jewelry store and estimated an age of around 25 years. Local residents remember this as Dr. W.L. Samson's optometry office and as Rigg's Jewelry and Samson's Jewelry. Considered contributing to district.
912 Iowa Avenue	Colby-Whiting Opera House	built 1893	This building was constructed in 1893 as the F.E. and E.W. Colby Opera House (on upper floor), and later became The Whiting Opera House with lodge rooms also on the second floor. Still later it became the Coen/McFarland Furniture Store. The 1893 fire insurance map showed a hardware store on the first floor and an exterior stairway to the second floor on the north side of the building. By 1899, the map still showed a hardware store on the first floor with lodge rooms on the second floor. By 1907-13, the hardware store had been replaced by a dry goods store, with a grocery in the rear unit. By the mid-20th century, the Coen/McFarland Furniture store was in this building. Considered a contributing building and possibly individually eligible.
913 Iowa Avenue	Store/Barber Shop	built c.1924	This building appears to have been built between the 1913 and 1924 fire insurance maps when a 1.5 story building that had a larger footprint was replaced by what was then referred to as a "2" story building with a smaller footprint. Historic photo shows a front-gabled frame building on this lot in the 1890s-early 1900s. The older maps depicting that building as housing a harness shop and later a barber shop, with the later fire insurance maps labeling the subject building simply as a store. Local residents remember this also housing Franklin's Tots and Teens clothing shop. Currently, it houses a chiropractic office, with a barber shop in the basement level. The current Assessor's records give an estimated date of construction of 1950, but this may be more reflective of the storefront remodeling. Considered contributing to district.
914 Iowa Avenue	Onawa State Bank	built 1888	This building was built in 1888 as the Onawa State Bank, which it remained c.1934 when the fire insurance map still labeled this as a bank but also showed the new Onawa State Bank building at 901 Iowa Avenue. Significant architecturally if not also historically and likely individually eligible. Considered contributing to district.
915 Iowa Avenue	Onawa Post Office	built c.1893	This one-story building was first shown on the 1893 fire map as the post office with a confectionary to the rear. By 1899, it housed a stationary and wallpaper store, followed by 1913 with a novelty store through at least 1924. A 1949 photo showed this as Taylor's Variety store, with the 1950 Assessor card noting it as the H.B. Mann Variety Store and also noted that the building was remodeled in 1950. Local residents remember this as Taylor's Variety store. Building no longer retains sufficient integrity in its current remodeled state and is considered non-contributing to the district.

916 Iowa Avenue	Post Office	built c.1907	This building was built between the 1899 fire map when a small building was on this lot and 1907 when the extant building appears to be depicted and housed the post office. By 1913, a harness shop was in this building, with the 1924 and 1934 maps simply labeling it as a store. Local residents also remember William Graff's accounting office later in this building. Considered non-contributing to the district because of modern remodeling.
917 Iowa Avenue	Jeweler	built c.1899	This building was built between the 1893 fire map when a smaller jewelry store was depicted on this lot and 1899 when the current footprint was in place but the store still functioned as a jewelry store. It had become a confectionary by 1907 through 1913, when groceries were also for sale in the business. The 1924 and 1934 maps label it simply as a store. A 1949 photograph shows this as the Gambles Store, and local residents also recall this as Simmons Grocery Store. Building retains only marginal integrity but may be considered contributing to the district.
918 Iowa Avenue	Armstrong Clothing & Shoes	built c.1899	This building appears to have been built between the 1893 map, when a different building was depicted on this lot and 1899 when the extant building appears to be present. It was definitely built by 1907 when the current footprint was depicted. In 1899 it housed a grocery store, and by 1907 through at least 1913, it housed a clothing store. Historically, this was known as the E.C. Armstrong Clothing and Shoes store. Considered contributing to district.
921 Iowa Avenue	First Federal Bank	built 1972	Modern addition to district and considered non-contributing as a result. Replaced an older building on this lot that variously housed a bakery, barber shop, grocery, furniture and music store, jeweler, and tailor shop. That building housed a cash and carry store in a 1949 photograph of this block. Non-contributing because of modern construction.
1004 Iowa Avenue	Sparky's Convenience Store	built 1994	Modern addition to district and considered non-contributing as a result. Built in 1994, local residents remember a Standard gas station at this location known as Hills and later Sparkys. Today, Sparkys is a Sinclair gas station franchise.
1012 Iowa Avenue	Dr. Gingles' Office	built c.1925	False-front commercial building was built c.1925 (Assessor). The lot was shown as vacant on the 1913 fire map, with a 1-story Ladies Rest Room here by 1924 but shown as a store by 1934, 1950 Assessor card identified this as Dr. Frances Gingles doctor's office with an apartment on 2nd floor; local residents remember this as Dr. Gingles' office but also that of Dr. Martin and later a beauty salon and a fish store; currently houses retail space with apartments in rear unit. Integrity is marginal but sufficient to be considered contributing to the district.

900 10th Street	Utsman's Liquor Store	built c.1935	One-story brick building built c.1920 (current Assessor); however, the 1950 Assessor card identified this as Marjorie Utsman's liquor store building and that noted that it was then 15 years old, or c.1935 in construction; the fire maps show a one-story brick building at this location from c.1907 through 1934 that housed a hardware warehouse, but the construction of the extant building strongly suggests that it was built in the 1920s-30s and replaced the older building on this lot; local residents recall the liquor store at this location as well as Stangel Buick and later Heartland Cellular, currently houses flea market. Considered contributing to the district.
919 10th Street	Hatchery Building	built c.1930	This building was originally built as a hatchery built c.1930, with a rear addition made in 1936; fire maps indicate a construction date between 1924 and 1934, with this building first functioning as a hatchery; the 1950 Assessor card noted that the hatchery building had a rear addition built in 1936 and the front was remodeled that same year; local residents remember this building as the hatchery and later as O'Reilly's Auto Parts store, which it remains to the present day. Considered contributing to the district.
920 10th Street	Iowa Movie Theater	built c.1938	Art Deco/Moderne style movie theater retains very good architectural integrity and features a neon and curved metal marquee; built c.1930 (current Assessor); however, it was not yet present at the time of the 1934 fire map; the 1950 Assessor card identified it as Roy Lepovitz's theater, which seated 618 and had a balcony and stage, the card also noted an age of 12 years, or c.1938; it has been operated as the Iowa Movie Theater, for many years and remains in operation to the present day; probably individually eligible and certainly architecturally significant in its own right. Considered contributing to the district.
922 10th Street	AAA Farm Bureau	built c.1950	One-story polychrome brick veneered building was built c.1920 (Assessor); however, fire maps show no building on this lot other than a dwelling and a very small store building through 1934; the 1950 Assessor card indicates that a building was present by that date but gave no age, the card identified the building as having housed the AAA Farm Bureau, a law office, and a dairy; local residents remember this as a Laundromat, which it was until recently. Considered contributing to the district.
923 10th Street	Stangel's Gas Station	built c.1925	One-story masonry building has garage bay with overhead door to left; built c.1900 (current Assessor); however, fire maps indicate a date of construction between 1924 and 1934 as an auto repair shop and gas station with the canopied pumps out in the street; the 1950 Assessor card identified this as Joseph Stangel's garage, office and display building and then around 25 years in age or c.1925; local residents remember this as Stangel's gas station and auto sales business; it is currently identified in the Assessor record as a service station with bays and shop; however, it no longer has gas pumps. Considered contributing to the district.

926 10th Street	Spearman's Café	built c.1938	One-story, very narrow store unit was built c.1920 according to current Assessor record; however, fire maps show no building on this lot on the 1924-34 maps; 1950 Assessor card identified this as Helen Spearman's building which was then a restaurant and gave an age of 12 years, or a date of c.1938; local residents remember this as the Ross Café and currently the Cool Beans coffee shop. Considered contributing to the district.
928 10th Street	Print Shop	built c.1919	One-story polychrome brick-veneered building was built c.1920 (Assessor); 1950 Assessor card had added notation that this building was then 31 years old (c.1919) but was later remodeled in 1958 with a 1959 addition; shown on 1924-34 fire maps as a printing business; local residents remember this as a beauty salon and Hills Marine; currently vacant. Considered contributing to the district.
933 10th Street	Thurston Hardware Store	built c.1899	Original building was built between 1893, when a smaller building was partially on this lot, and 1899, when the current footprint was depicted and the building housed a hardware store in the front (with lodge rooms above) and a tin shop in the rear of the 1st floor. The hardware store was the Thurston Hardware. By 1907 through 1913, the hardware store and tin shop were still present but the lodge rooms were not labeled as such. The tin shop remained in the rear unit through at least 1934, with the front unit labeled simply as a store in 1924 and 1934. The 1950 Assessor card labeled this as Royal B. Everts Hotel and noted that it had been remodeled in 1939. The Assessor also noted a jewelry store and a barber shop on the first floor of the building. The hotel had 18 rooms. The hotel was later known as the Rivera Hotel and Hotel Onawa. It now houses the Fort Onawa Pub. The building's current look reflects the 1930s Art Deco/Moderne remodel, which is considered significant in its own right. Considered contributing to the district.

Historical Architectural Data Base

Data Entry Form for Studies and Reports

Doc. No.: 67-004

Source of Study: ☒ Certified Local Government Project ☐ Section 106 Review & Compliance Project ☐ Historical Resource Development Program Project ☐ Other

Project Reference #: _____

Authors/Editor/Compiler/Originator:
Rogers, Leah D.

Author Role: ☒ Consultant ☐ Private Researcher/Writer ☐ Teacher ☐ Student ☐ Project employee/volunteer ☐ Site Administrator ☐ Other: _____

Title of Work:
Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey and Evaluation of the Commercial District of the City of Onawa, Monona County, Iowa

Year Issued: 2009

Type of Work Performed:
(*check one only*)

Survey:

- ☐ Windshield survey minimum level documentation
- ☐ Reconnaissance survey to make recommendations for intensive survey(s).
- ☒ Intensive survey
- ☐ Mixed intensive and reconnaissance survey

Plan:

- ☐ Planning for Preservation/Survey
- ☐ Community Preservation Plan

Property Study:

- ☐ Iowa Historic Property Documentation Study
- ☐ Historic American Building Survey (HABS)
- ☐ Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)
- ☐ Management or Master Plan
- ☐ Historic Structure Report
- ☐ Feasibility/Re-use Study
- ☐ Architectural/Engineering Plans and Specs.

National Register:

- ☐ Multiple Property Documentation Form

Other (e.g., private research, school project, video): _____

Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey and Evaluation of the Commercial District of the City of Onawa, Monona County, Iowa 67-004

Kind of Work Produced:
(fill in one section only: Report or Monograph or Chapter, etc.)

Report: Published/produced by: Tallgrass Historians L.C.

Place issued: Iowa City, IA

Client: Monona County Historic Preservation Commission

If applicable, include:

Series Title: _____

Volume #: _____ Report #: _____

Monograph: Publisher Name: _____

Place: _____

Chapter: In: _____ First pg. #: _____ Last pg. #: _____

Journal: Name: _____ Vol. _____ No. _____ Pages: _____ to _____

Thesis: Degree (check one): ☐ Ph.D. ☐ LL.D. ☐ M.A. ☐ M.S. ☐ B.A. ☐ B.S.

Name of College/University: _____

Paper: Meeting: _____

Place: _____

Other: _____

Geographic Scope of Study:

☒ City/town ☒ Township(s) ☒ County ☐ Region of Iowa ☒ Statewide ☐ Other: _____

State:	IA	__	__	__
County:	Monona	_____	_____	_____
Town:	Onawa	_____	_____	_____
Township:	83N	____	____	____
Range:	45W	___	___	___

Time Focus: (check any decades that receive particular attention)

☐ before 1830 ☐ 1830s ☐ 1840s ☐ 1850s ☐ 1860s ☒ 1870s ☒ 1880s ☒ 1890s

☒ 1900s ☒ 1910s ☒ 1920s ☒ 1930s ☒ 1940s ☒ 1950s ☒ 1960s ☒ 1970s ☒ 1980/later

Keyword: (Index of any subjects, topics, or people given prominent attention in the report)

City of Onawa
Commercial buildings
Public buildings
Residential buildings
Iowa Avenue
7th through 13th Streets
Romanesque Revival
Late Victorian Commercial
Brickfront/Masonry Commercial
Front Gabled/False Front Commercial
Art Deco/Moderne Commercial
Neoclassical Commercial
Italian Villa
Queen Anne
Craftsman/Bungalow
60 Acre Survey Area