

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa

State Inventory No. 50-01633

New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 50-01703

(November 2005)

Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries
National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE
9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____
 Non-Extant (enter year) ____

1. Name of Property

historic name Western Auto

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 207 1st Ave. W.

city or town Newton vicinity, county Jasper

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 19 Lot(s) Part of 2

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property		If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
Enter number of:		Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	buildings	—	—
—	sites	—	—
—	structures	—	—
—	objects	—	—
<u>1</u>	Total	—	—

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title Downtown Newton, Iowa

Historical Architectural Data Base Number 50-010

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02 COMMERCE/TRADE

02 COMMERCE/TRADE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09F07 Commercial/Artistic Front

foundation 10 CONCRETE

walls (visible material) 02 WOOD

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended

- A Property is associated with significant events.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Jasper
City _____

Address 207 1st Ave. W.
Newton

District Number _____

Site Number 50-01633
50-01703

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Significant Dates

Construction date
1954 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	4	—	—

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathy Jones/Commissioner date 06/15/2012
 organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission telephone 641-792-2787
 street & number 101 W. 4TH ST. S. city or town Newton state Iowa zip code 50208

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet #	___	Frame/slot #	___	Date Taken	___
Roll/slide sheet #	___	Frame/slot #	___	Date Taken	___
Roll/slide sheet #	___	Frame/slot #	___	Date Taken	___

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form

Continuation Sheet

Page 1

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

7. Description

Site Description

The Western Auto building is sited on a tight parcel of land on the south side of 1st Ave. W., southwest of the city square, in the historic downtown of Newton, Iowa in Jasper County with its façade facing north. The building is adjoined on the east by a two-story commercial building dating to ca.1954 and on the west by a one-story building dating to a similar construction period, also with a contemporary façade. On-street parking is located on the north side of the building and a public sidewalk provides access to the building's entrance on the north.

Property Description

The Western Auto building is a one-story, commercial property stretching 129 feet south from its 22 foot frontage on 1st Ave. W. The building is faced in synthetic materials (likely vinyl and a composite wood material) and features an off-set entrance with a series of four, moderate scaled windows. The upper façade wall features composite wood panels applied in a decorative pattern. Typical of commercial buildings, the roof is flat.

A non-historic, pent roof awning currently spans the width of the facade.

Integrity Considerations

Because the alteration to the present appearance occurred less than fifty years ago, the alteration is considered non-historic and a significant breach of the building's historic integrity as it relates to design, workmanship, and materials. This loss cannot be overcome by the retention of integrity as it relates to location, association, and setting. As a result, the building does not bear sufficient historic integrity to be considered a contributing resource to the historic district.

8. Statement of Significance

Due to the complete loss of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, the Western Auto building is considered a non-contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District.

Historical Background

Newton was platted as the Jasper County seat in 1847. The commercial district grew up around the courthouse square with the earliest buildings, which commonly housed both commerce and dwellings, constructed of wood. The development of the downtown from its platting in 1846 to c.1890 is tied to its status as the county seat and the 1867 arrival of the Mississippi-Missouri Railroad. The character of the commercial downtown is recorded in images of the contiguous brick commercial Italianate buildings surrounding the courthouse square.

Iowa Site Inventory Form

Related District Number

50-01703

Continuation Sheet

Page 2

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

Beginning in the 1890s, it was industry, specifically the washing machine industry, that drove Newton's economy and the commercial success of its downtown. Due to the success and longevity of the Maytag Company, its history presents the greatest impact on Newton's downtown commercial district. From 1890-1920, a period in Maytag history marked by the company's incorporation and the development of the first electrically powered washing machine, a number of significant buildings were constructed in the Newton Downtown District. The addition of these buildings (and others) introduced a 20th century architectural sensibility to the district; moving the visual character away from the Late Victorian era Italianate style that had previously dominated the streetscapes.

During the decade of 1920 to 1930, Newton's population nearly doubled. The period is marked by the Maytag Company's ascension to the nation's leading manufacturer of washing machines. The economic prosperity brought by the company's success is reflected in the Newton Downtown Historic District with the construction of some of its most important buildings including the First Newton National Bank (1920) and the Maytag Hotel (1926). Both buildings lend a sense of importance to the downtown district.

The visual character and composition of the downtown district remained generally constant through the Depression era and war years – a period when industry and commerce (including the Maytag Company) were focused on surviving and on supporting the war effort. The boom that came in the wake of Maytag's 1946 introduction of the automatic washing machine was apparent in the Newton Downtown Historic District by the mid-1950s. Between about 1954 and 1963 the downtown buildings underwent dramatic alteration, a nearly wholesale removal of the Italianate façades and replacement with those reflecting a mid-20th century Modern aesthetic. Buildings altered during that period line the streetscapes of the district. In addition to the Victorian era buildings that were re-faced during this time, a number of new buildings (including the Arcade building) were constructed, their stylistic character reflective of the era.

Although the washing machine industry in Newton is now a thing of the past, its mark on the Newton Downtown Historic District is undeniable.

Property History

A two-story brick building resided on this site beginning with 1894 Sanborn through the 1949 revision of the 1927 map. Historic images from 1930 and during the 1954 fire reflect the 19th century, two-story building was destroyed in that fire. Assessor records and city building permits indicate a one-story, 22 x 129-foot, masonry building was built in 1954. That building was remodeled to its present appearance in recent years.

The Western Auto store, which was located at this address at the time of the fire, occupied the newly constructed building.

Continuation Sheet

Page 3

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

This location is of historical significance as the location where the 1954 fire started. The conflagration destroyed or damaged most of one-quarter block of the city and the fire's close proximity to the county courthouse caused considerable concern. The damage wrought by the fire had an impact on the city businesses in this area and altered the visual character of this block.

The fire caused estimated \$400,000 damage to approximately 18 business, clubs and apartments. Those affected were Elks Club, Wilding Plumbing, Switzer's Furniture, Western Auto Supply, and Gale's Dry Cleaner. On the second, floor of Western Auto and Gail's Dry Cleaners the following: Effie's Beauty Shop, the apartment of Fred Watkins, Office of Justice of the Peace, engineer office, small insurance office and Daisy Lunch. Smoke damage to the west was Maid-Rite café and to the east Smart Shop, law office of H. Schultz, Jasper County barbershop, Employment Service office, the Nu Club and an additional two apartments. Heat from the fire cracked windows in businesses across the street.

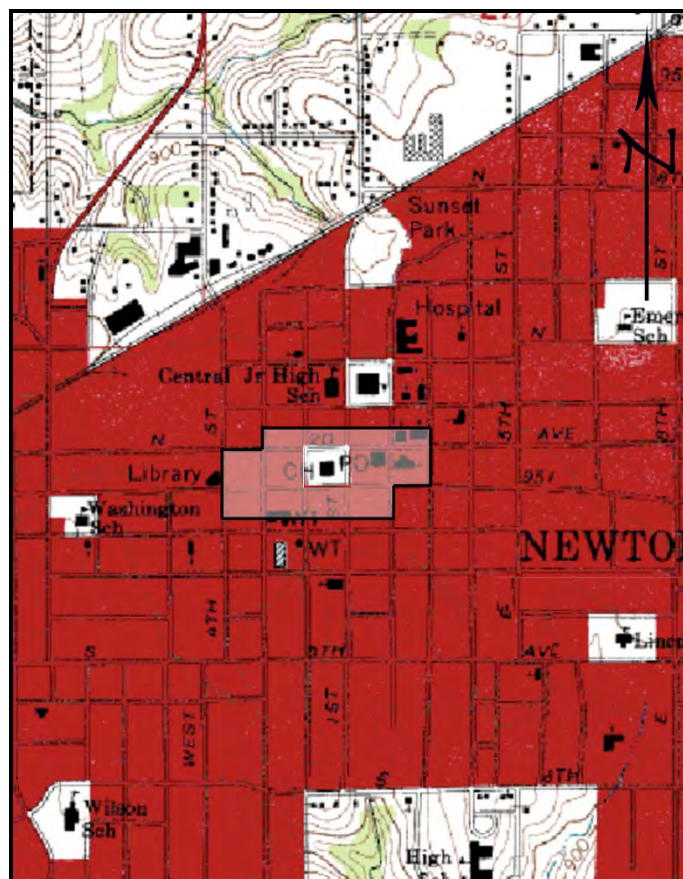
Continuation Sheet

Page 4

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation – Maps

USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP – NEWTON QUAD (1965)



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.trails.com>. Accessed 09/21/2011.)

The location of the Newton Downtown Historic District, within which the resource is site, is indicated.

Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation – Maps

ASSESSORS PARCEL MAP - 2011



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.beacon.schneidercorp.com>. Accessed September 2011)

The location of the resource is indicated.

Continuation Sheet

Page 6

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

PHOTOGRAPHS



View of the resource, looking south across 1st Ave. W.

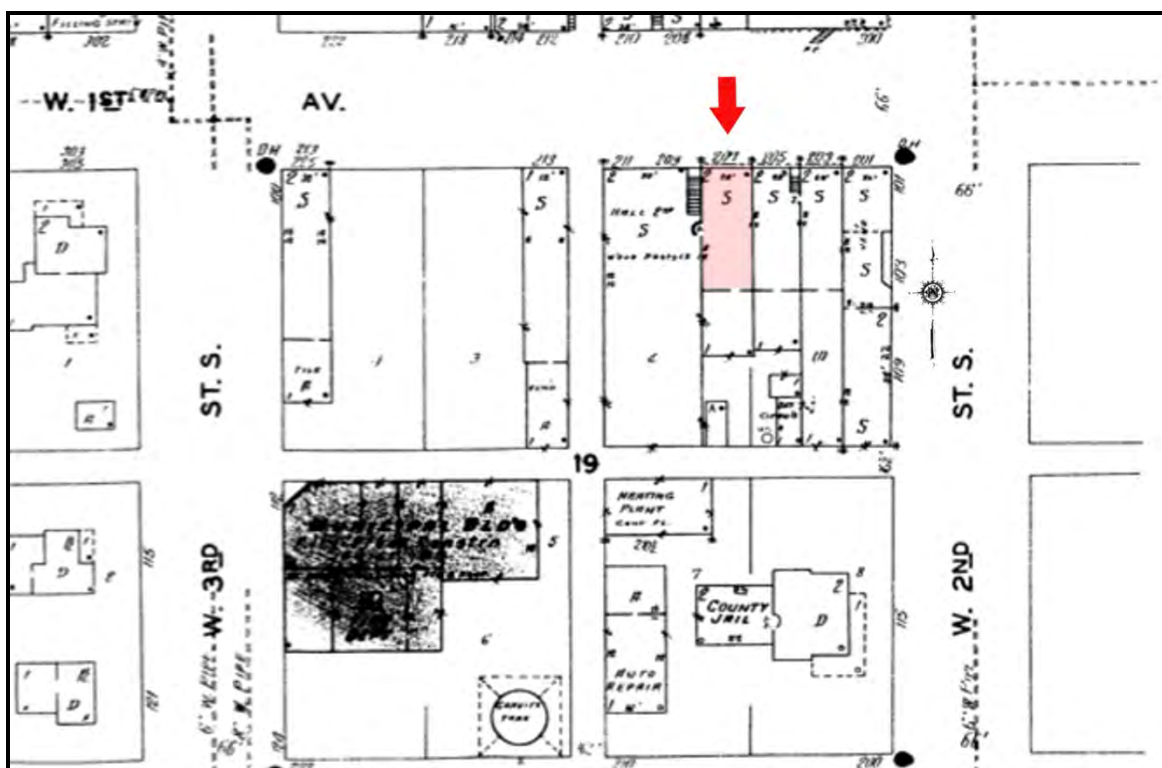
Continuation Sheet

Page 7

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1927



(SOURCE: <http://www.cbpl.lib.ia.us>. Accessed 12/26/2011)

As the 1927 fire insurance map indicates, a two-story structure was located on this site - a building which appears to have been constructed by 1894. The 1949 revision of the 1927 fire insurance map indicates the same building remained at that time.

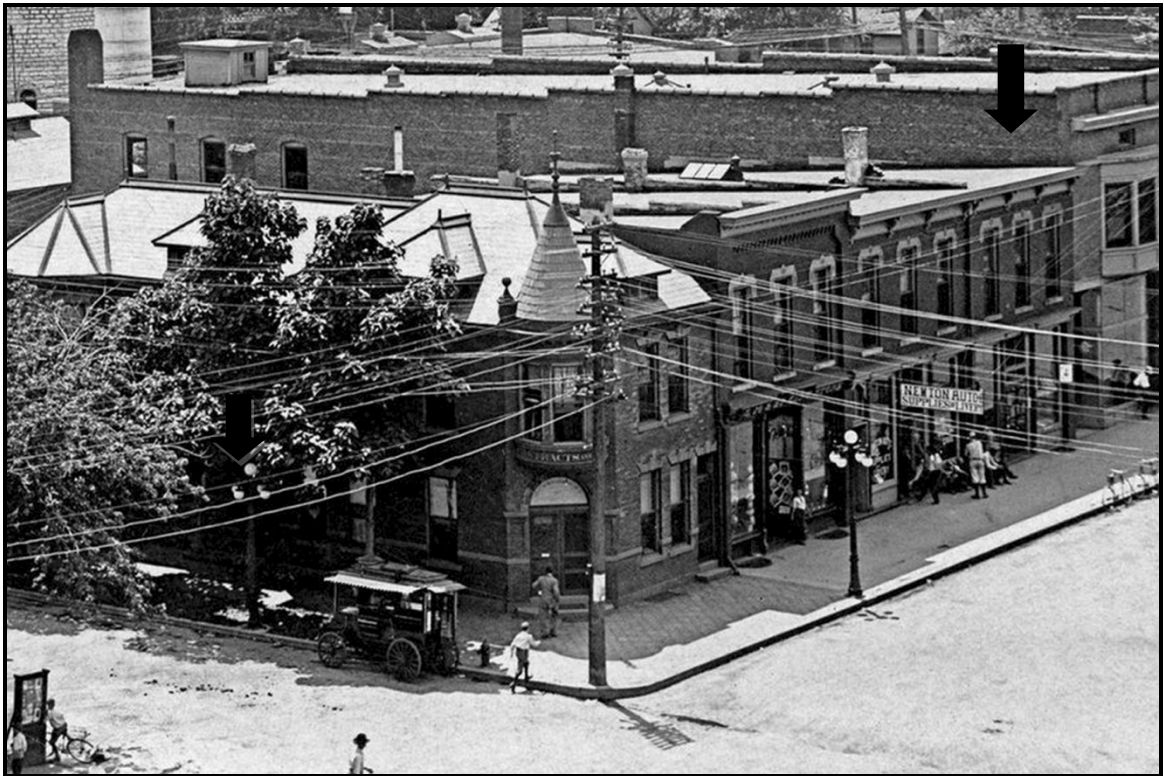
Continuation Sheet

Page 8

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

HISTORIC IMAGE – 1930



(SOURCE: *Jasper County Historical Museum*)

This image documents the southwest corner of the square from the courthouse and looking west at the south side of the 200 block of 1st Avenue West.

Continuation Sheet

Page 9

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

HISTORIC IMAGE – 1954



(SOURCE: Newton Daily News, January 18, 1954)

This photo was taken early during the fire when smoke rolled out of the Western Auto building for 3 hours before flames broke out. Note the architecture of the windows reflects that of the 1930 photograph.

Continuation Sheet

Page 10

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

HISTORIC IMAGE – 1961



(SOURCE: Jasper County Genealogical Society)

The building housing Western Auto (noted) was constructed in 1954 after the fire.

Iowa Site Inventory Form

Continuation Sheet

Page 11

Western Auto	Jasper
Name of Property	County
207 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

9. Reference Resources

Assessor's Record. <http://www.beacon.schneidercorp.com>.

Jasper County Genealogical Society.

Newton Public Library.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. <http://www.cbpl.lib.ia.us>.

State Historic Preservation Office of Iowa.

Resource database. Berry Bennett, Resource Coordinator.