

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 38-00320 New Supplemental

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: _____

Non-extant Year: _____

Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website: <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/statewide-inventory-and-collections/iowa-site-inventory-form.html>

• Property Name

A) Historic name: Hummel Block

B) Other names: Hummel Bros. Drug Store; J.T. Morse & Sons Restaurant; Ladage Drug Corner;

• Location

A) Street address: 629 G Avenue

B) City or town: Grundy Center (Vicinity) County: Grundy

C) Legal description:

Rural: Township Name: _____ Township No.: _____ Range No.: _____ Section: _____ Qtr: _____ of Qtr: _____

Urban: Subdivision: Original Plat Block(s): 26 Lot(s): W 40' of Lot 6

• Classification

A) Property category: *Check only one*

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

B) Number of resources (within property):

If eligible property, enter number of:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	Buildings <u>—</u>
<u>—</u>	Sites <u>—</u>
<u>—</u>	Structures <u>—</u>
<u>—</u>	Objects <u>—</u>
<u>1</u>	Total <u>—</u>

If non-eligible property, enter number of:

— Buildings

— Sites

— Structures

— Objects

— **Total**

C) For properties listed in the National Register:

National Register status: Listed De-listed NHL NPS DOE

D) For properties within a historic district:

Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.

Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.

Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: _____ Historic district site inventory number: _____

E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable:

MPD title

Historical Architectural Data Base #

• Function or Use *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Historic functions

02E COMMERCE/specialty store

11D01 HEALTH CARE/pharmacy

B) Current functions

08E RECREATION & CULTURE/sport facility

• Description *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Architectural classification

09F03 Commercial/Arcaded Block

05C LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04C STONE/Limestone

Walls (visible exterior): 03 BRICK; 04C Limestone

Roof: 15C01 SYNTHETICS/Rubber membrane

Other: _____

C) Narrative description **SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED**

• **Statement of Significance**

A) Applicable National Register Criteria: Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria

- Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. [X] Yes [] No [] More research recommended
Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons. [] Yes [] No [] More research recommended
Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics. [X] Yes [] No [] More research recommended
Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology/history. [] Yes [] No [] More research recommended

B) Special criteria considerations: Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none

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

C) Areas of significance

Enter categories from instructions

02 ARCHITECTURE

05 COMMERCE

D) Period(s) of significance

1893-1963

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1893 [] check if circa or estimated date

Other dates, including renovations

1917; 1950s; 1960s; 1970s

F) Significant person

Complete if Criterion B is marked above

G) Cultural affiliation

Complete if Criterion D is marked above

H) Architect/Builder

Architect

F. (Fridolin) Heer & Son, Dubuque

Builder/contractor

Coutts, J.T., Vinton

I) Narrative statement of significance [X] SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

• **Bibliography** [X] See continuation sheets for the list research sources used in preparing this form

• **Geographic Data** Optional UTM references [] See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments

Table with 8 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, NAD (repeated). Rows 1, 2, 3, 4.

• **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Jennifer A. Price/Consultant Date: June 2018

Organization/firm: EarthView Environmental, Inc./Impact7G E-mail: jprice@impact7G.com

Street address: 310 2nd Street Telephone: 319.594.9513

City or Town: Coralville State: IA Zip code: 52241

• **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** Submit the following items with the completed form

A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:

- 1. Map of property's location within the community.
2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.
3. Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next to each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.
4. Site plan of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:

See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.

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

The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs 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:

SHPO authorized signature:

Date:

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Site Number: 38-00320
Related District Number:

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Hummel Block	Grundy
Name of Property	County
629 G Avenue	Grundy Center
Address	City

This Iowa Site Inventory Form is being prepared for the City of Grundy Center as part of an Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Downtown Revitalization Grant. The building is located in the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the grant project, and the owner of the building at 629 G Avenue is participating in the Downtown Revitalization Grant. The building is also located in a potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District, and this site form provides an architectural/historical evaluation of the property as a contributing building in that potential historic district.

7. Narrative Description

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

This two-story, full basement, flat-roofed, brick and limestone building was constructed in 1910 according to the Grundy County Assessor's records and supported by historical photos. The building is site is approximately one lot. It is located within a commercial block which consists of similar buildings on both the north and south sides of the streets, adjacent to the "Central Block" and County Courthouse. The front doors were moved from their original location on the southwest corner of the building to the central location. They open to the sidewalk on main street, and the back door provides access to the alley. Rectangle in shape, this building features 12 to 14 ft ceilings on the main levels. The main level façade was altered around the 1960's. The storefront features metal-framed windows and an angled, recessed entrance door near the middle.

There are two single and one triple windows on the upper level overlooking main street. There is also a turret with windows on the southwest corner. The original conical roof was removed in the late 1970's but is planned to be replaced with the facade renovation project during the summer of 2018. The windows are six feet tall double hung. The top of the façade contains an ornate cornice with stepped pressed metal. The upper level is brick, but the windows are framed in limestone with arched limestone tops.

The top of the façade detailed moulding.

On the interior, the property is mostly open with 14 foot ceilings with original pressed tin tiles that have been painted black. Floors in the main space are covered with carpet and laminate wood floor; unknown if the original floor remains underneath. The walls were originally brick, then plastered over, then drywall. The ceiling lights are fluorescent.

On the upper level, there are four apartments; three are two-bedroom, and one is one-bedroom. The ceilings are drywall (unknown if the original ceiling character remains), the floors are carpet and tile.

There was a brick addition added one the north side in the 1950's.

(Description taken from Downtown Revitalization Grant Survey site form dated January 2018)

8. Statement of Significance

The Hummel Block is locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in a potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District under Criteria A and C. The Hummel Block, built in 1893, is associated with the first phase of development in the Grundy Center commercial district, during which a number of architecturally significant buildings replaced older buildings that were either torn down, lost in fires, or built on previously vacant lots. The ornate Queen Anne-style Hummel Block was made possible by the town's railroad connections via the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad (later known as the Cedar Rapids & Sioux Falls Branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad), which made building materials, such as pressed brick, cut stone, and cast-iron architectural elements easy to procure. The prosperity of the era also allowed many merchants and property owners like the Hummel brothers to hire architects to draw plans for their store buildings. The Hummel Block, with its Queen Anne brick and cut stone upper wall details and ornate corner

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turret, was designed by F. Heer & Son, an architectural firm in Dubuque, and was built by J.T. Cou tts of Vinton. The Hummel Block also reflects the history of the Grundy Center business community as Grundy Center's "drug corner" from 1893 until the late 1960s, first as the location of the Hummel Bros. Drug Store until 1918, then the Ladage Drug Corner until 1945, then Ehlers Corner Drug Store until 1964.

The building is also a good example of a Property Type III Main Street Commercial Building, according to typologies set forth in the National Register Multiple Property Document, *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture* (Nash 2002). "These buildings date from the succeeding years of a town's commercial growth, with Iowa's commercial districts typically reaching a peak in the very late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The impact of the railroad was reflected in the continued building up of the platted commercial district. Type III buildings are typically multi-story in height and can contain anywhere from one to a number of actual store units. Large block buildings were constructed during this period, with store units often unified along the second floor by a shared façade, cornice, and other details. Type III buildings are most often of masonry construction, usually brick either locally manufactured or shipped in by rail. Many display stylish architectural features" like the Hummel Block, an arcaded commercial block with architectural embellishments on both the main and secondary facades, including the corner turret window, a thoroughly Queen Anne feature. Although its storefront has been completely remodeled, and the two original triangular name/date pediments and conical roof of the turret have been removed, the building retains a good deal of its historic character and has been a landmark building in the commercial district since it was built.

The period of significance is 1893-1963, from the year the Hummel Block was completed to the end of the period of significance for the potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District (see Iowa Site Form No. 38-00318).

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Downtown Revitalization Survey/Iowa Site Inventory Form, January 2018.
"Ehlers Corner Drug Store at Grundy Center is Sold," *Grundy Register*, August 6, 1964.
Grundy County Assessor Record online.
Grundy County Republican, February 9, 1893.
Grundy County Republican, April 13, 1893.
Grundy County Republican, June 22, 1893.
"Hummel Block is Traded," *Grundy County Dispatch*, November 6, 1918.
Nash, Jan Olive. *Iowa's Main Street Commercial Architecture*. Multiple Property Document, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 2002.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Grundy Center, Grundy County, Iowa, 1894, 1902, 1911, 1916, 1928, and 1928, updated to 1939.

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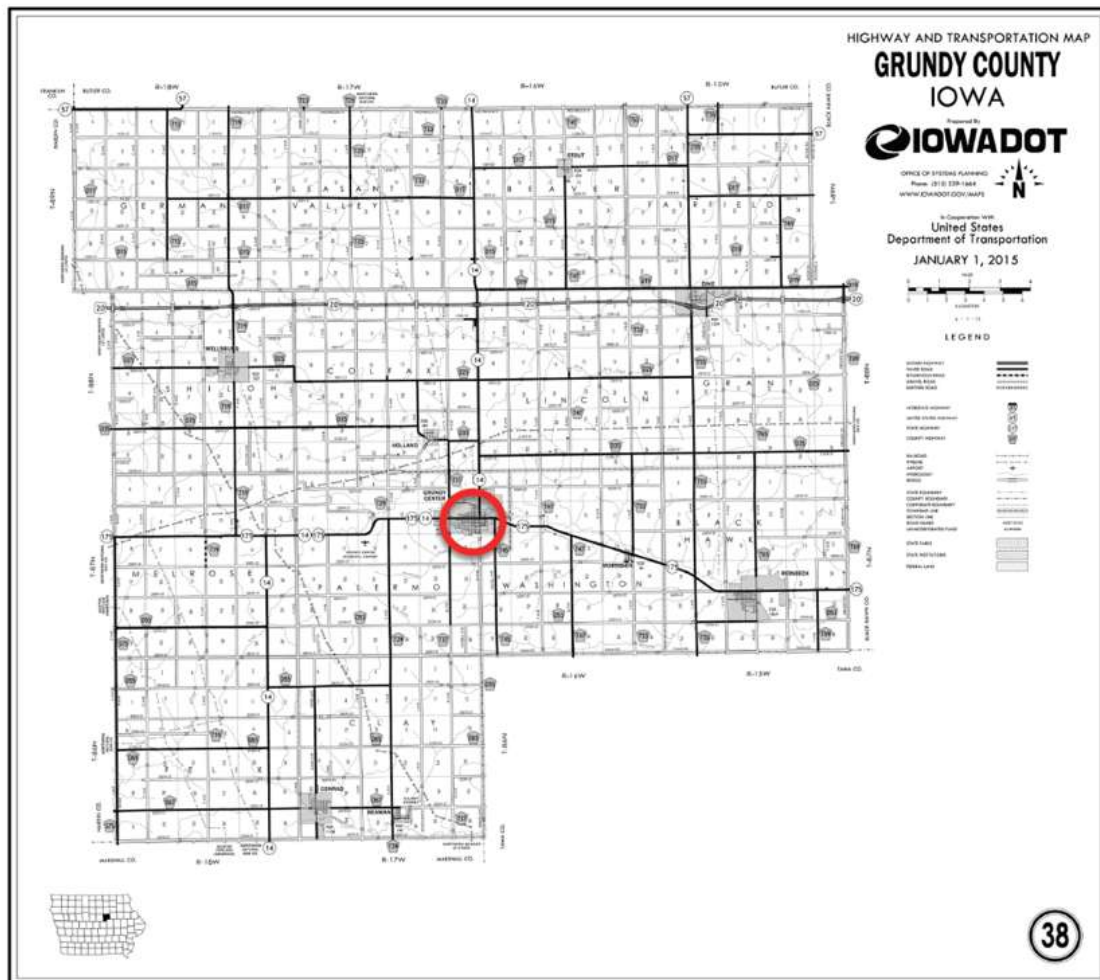
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Hummel Block
Name of Property
629 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City

10. Additional Documentation

General Location Map



Latitude: 42.361759
Longitude: -92.772450

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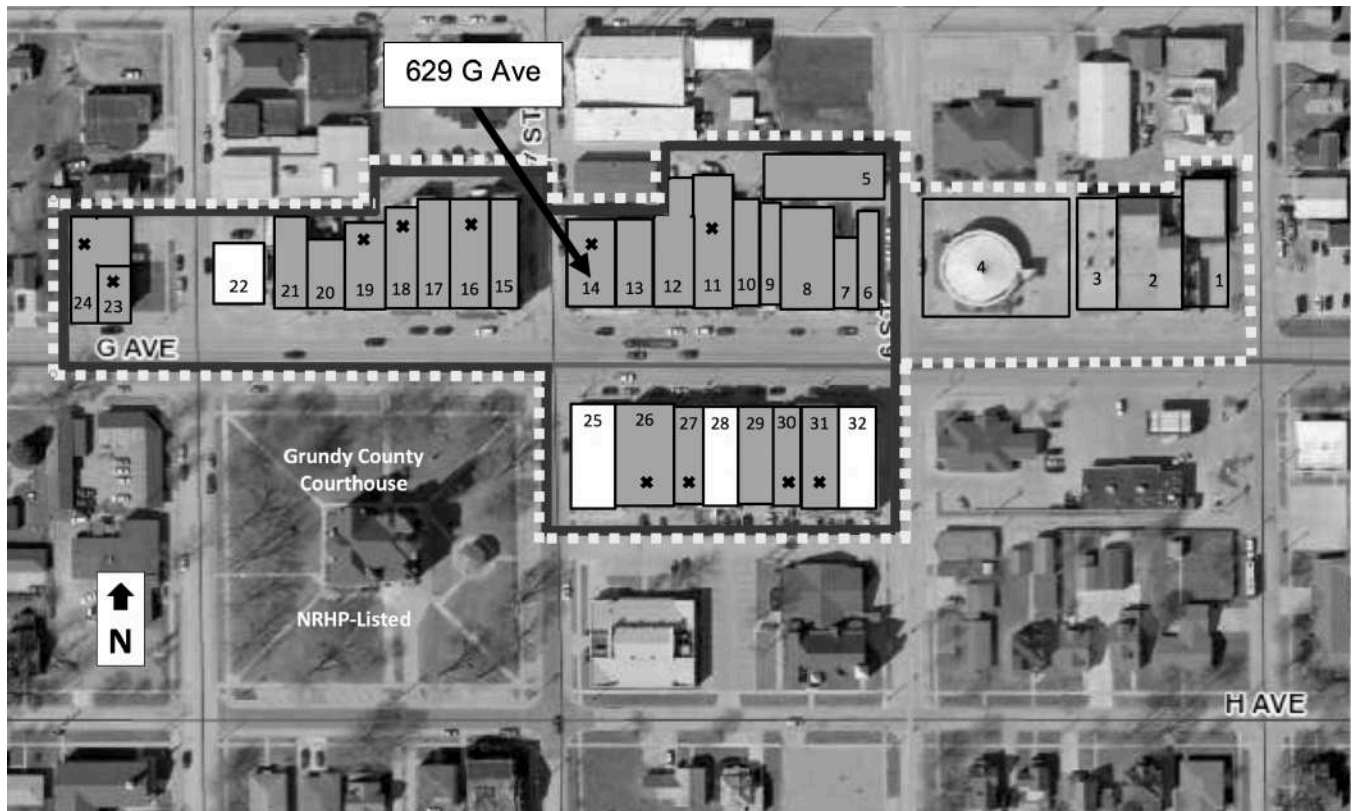
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Hummel Block
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Location in Potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District



(dark boundary = preliminary boundary of potential historic district)

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County
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Current Photographs

(photos by Jennifer A. Price, June 20, 2018)



View northeast

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City



View northeast



View southeast

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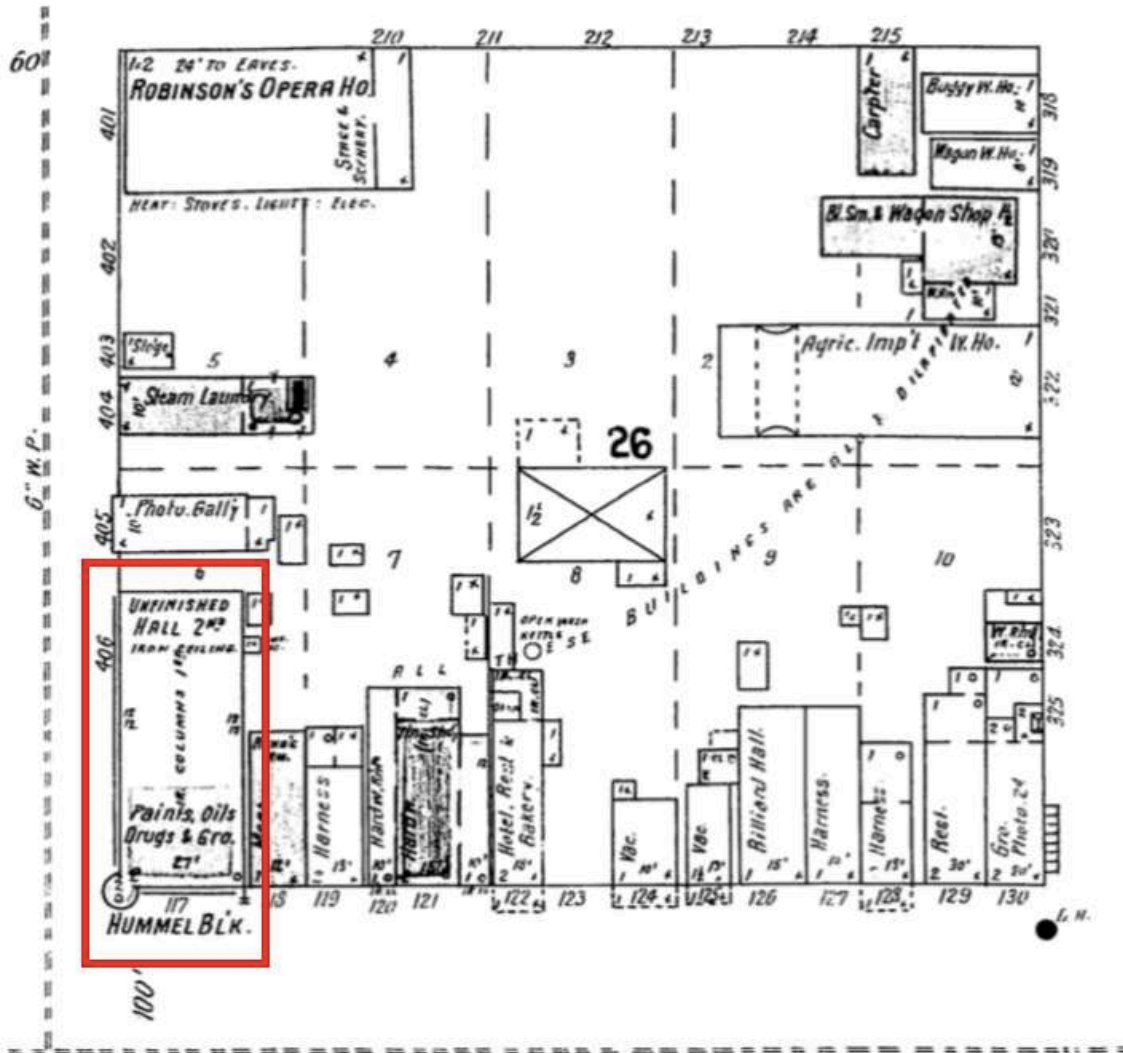
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Historical Documentation



Block 26 shown on the 1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Grundy Center with Hummel Block indicated

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Hummel Block
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The Hummel brothers are making arrangements to commence the erection of a two story brick building 40x100 on the lots occupied by their corner drug store and J. T. Morse & Son's restaurant. An architect from Dubuque will be here this week to submit plans and specifications for their approval. They intend to put up a building that will be an ornament to the town.

Source: *Grundy County Republican*, February 9, 1893

Hummel Bros. have commenced making preparations for the erection of a brick block 40x100 ft. on the corner lots occupied by the corner drug store and restaurant. The plans and specifications by F. Heer & Son of Dubuque, were shown to a REPUBLICAN representative last Tuesday. They present a magnificent appearance on paper and when built of the real material of iron, stone, brick and wood, it will be the most handsome block in town, a credit to the projectors and one in which Grundy Center can take a just pride.

Source: *Grundy County Republican*, April 13, 1893

HUMMEL BLOCK IS TRADED
Jake Stumberg Acquires Fine Business Corner

Dr. W. R. Lynn has traded the Hummel building here to Jake Stumberg for a farm and other property. He also takes the Schaffer theatre here as part payment. The farm consists of 120 acres of land located just over the line in Minnesota, being straight north of Osage, Iowa. Rose Creek, Minnesota, is the trading town.

By this deal Mr. Stumberg acquires an excellent brick block. It was built in 1893 by Hummel Bros. and was occupied by them for many years. A year ago last June Dr. Lynn purchased the building and drug stock from the Hummels, selling the stock at once to the Ladage Drug Co. The building has been considerably altered since that time and a number of improvements have been made. Located as it is on one of the best corners of the town and being of splendid construction, this building is good desirable property. The annual rental from same is \$200 per month.

All the tenants will remain under the new owner, except Otto Frahm, who moves soon to Dike to manage the Leibsohn store at that place.

Possession of the building was given Saturday.

Source: *Grundy County Dispatch*, November 6, 1918

J. T. Coutts of Vinton, has secured the contract for A. Hummel & Co's. new brick block. Work on the basement is progressing nicely.

Source: *Grundy County Republican*, June 22, 1893

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View northeast, c.1915, with Hummel Block on left
Source: Grundy County IAGenWeb



View northwest of Hummel Block, c.1920
Source: Grundy County IAGenWeb

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Detail of entrance and turret window of Hummel Block, c. 1915
Source: Grundy County IAGenWeb

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Bird's-eye view of Grundy Center commercial district, c.1940, with Hummel Block indicated (arrow)
Source: Grundy County IAGenWeb

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Name of Property
629 G Avenue
Address

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City



John Ehlers **John Susich**

Ehlers Corner Drug Store At Grundy Center Is Sold

Sale of Ehlers Corner Drug Store by John Ehlers to John Susich of Monticello was completed Friday, with the new owner taking possession of the store Saturday morning. The store will be called the Susich Corner Drug.

Mr. Susich graduated from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Iowa in 1963. For the past year he has been operating a drug store at Monticello, Iowa.

The new drug store owner is a native of Fort Madison, Iowa, where he graduated from high school, prior to attending the University of Iowa. He has completed his military service requirements with the U.S. Army and is in the army reserve program.

Mr. Susich is married and they have two children, a daughter, Angela, age 2½, and a son, John Scott, age six weeks. The family will move to Grundy Center as soon as housing is available.

John Ehlers has owned and operated the Corner Drug store for the past 19 years. For 11 years the store was operated as a partnership under the name of Ehlers & Nissen. In 1956, Mr. Ehlers bought out his partner, and the store name was changed to Ehlers Corner Drug. Mr. Ehlers has not announced his future plans at this date.

Persinger Will Show Holsteins At Iowa Fair

Francis Persinger of Grundy Center has entered two of his Holsteins from his herd at the Iowa State Fair.

The Brookside Drive-In Opens At Gladbrook

The Brookside Drive-In at Gladbrook has now opened for business, according to an announcement today by owner Emil Wraga.

Source: Grundy Register, August 6, 1964