

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 38-00324 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: Schafer Building

B) Other names: Schafer Bros. Music and Jewelry Store

• Location

A) Street address: 803 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): 24 Lot(s): part of 10

• 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:		If non-eligible property, enter number of:	
Contributing	Noncontributing		
<u>1</u>	Buildings	—	Buildings
—	Sites	—	Sites
—	Structures	—	Structures
—	Objects	—	Objects
<u>1</u>	Total	—	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

See Iowa Site Inventory Form No. 38-00318

Historical Architectural Data Base #

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

A) Historic functions

02E06 COMMERCE/specialty store/jewelry

B) Current functions

02B04 COMMERCE/professional/insurance office

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

A) Architectural classification

09F05 Commercial/Brick Front

05B LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 10A CONCRETE/Block

Walls (visible exterior): 03 BRICK

Roof: 08A ASPHALT/Composition Tile

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

1909-1963

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1909 [] check if circa or estimated date

Other dates, including renovations

F) Significant person

Complete if Criterion B is marked above

G) Cultural affiliation

Complete if Criterion D is marked above

H) Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder/contractor

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 [X] See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments

Table with 8 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, NAD, Zone, Easting, Northing, NAD. 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:

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 1

Schafer Building	Grundy
Name of Property	County
803 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 803 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 building was originally constructed in 1860 as a blacksmith shop and was razed around 1900. The current building was constructed between 1900-1910, according to historical records, and supported by historical photos. The building is located on portions of two adjoining lots. It is located as part of the a combined commercial and residential block, which consists of similar commercial buildings on the both sides of main street adjacent to the "Central Block" and County Courthouse. The front door opens to the sidewalk on main street, and there is a vacant lot east of the building. Rectangle in shape, this building features 12 to 14 ft ceilings on the main and upper levels with tin ceilings. There are three windows on the upper level overlooking main street. The windows are five feet tall (originally seven feet tall) double hung windows, and limestone caps at the tops. The windows have been partially filled in with wood. The top of the façade contains an ornate stepped wood and pressed metal cornice.

The main level façade has been altered multiple times. The storefront features wooden pickets with metal framed windows and entrance door on the east side. There is also a wooden shingle mansard overhang across the front of the entire building.

On the interior, the space is divided to accommodate office space for an insurance agency. The ceilings are bead board (unknown what is above them). Floors appear to be original floors with Douglas Fir tongue-and-groove flooring over the subflooring and floor joist. The walls are mostly original brick on the south side. Some interior walls are not original, but covered in drywall, then plastered over, then fir strips with paneling, then drywall. The ceiling lights are not original.

On the upper level, there is one apartment. The ceilings, walls, lights, and floors are unknown (unable to contact renter).

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

8. Statement of Significance

The Schafer Building 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 Schafer Building, built in 1909, is associated with the beginning of the first phase of development in the potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District, during which a number of architecturally significant buildings replaced older buildings that were lost in the fire of 1879. The Italianate-style Schafer Building 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 featured on the building easy to procure. The prosperity of the era also allowed local merchants like C.A. Schafer to build and own a stylish brick building in which to operate his business. The Schafer Building also reflects the history of the Grundy Center business community as the location of Schafer Bros. Music and Jewelry Store.

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*

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 2

Schafer Building	Grundy
Name of Property	County
803 G Avenue	Grundy Center
Address	City

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 Schafer Building, an Italianate-style brick block with architectural embellishments confined mainly in the upper story, including tall narrow windows with flat decorative crowns and an ornate bracketed metal cornice. The cornice originally featured a central round pediment that read "SCHAFER/1909," but it is nonextant. Despite this missing pediment, many storefront alterations, and infilled upper floor windows, the Schafer Building retains enough of its historic character to be a contributing building in the potential historic district.

The period of significance is 1909-1963, from the year the Schafer Building 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 Forms, February 2018.
Grundy County Assessor Record online.
Grundy County Democrat, August 5, 1909.
Grundy County Democrat, December 2, 1909.
Grundy County Democrat, December 16, 1909.
Grundy Republican, September 2, 1909.
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.
"Potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District," Iowa Site Inventory Form No. 38-00318, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, June 2018.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Grundy Center, Grundy County, Iowa, 1894, 1902, 1911, 1916, 1928, and 1928, updated to 1939.

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

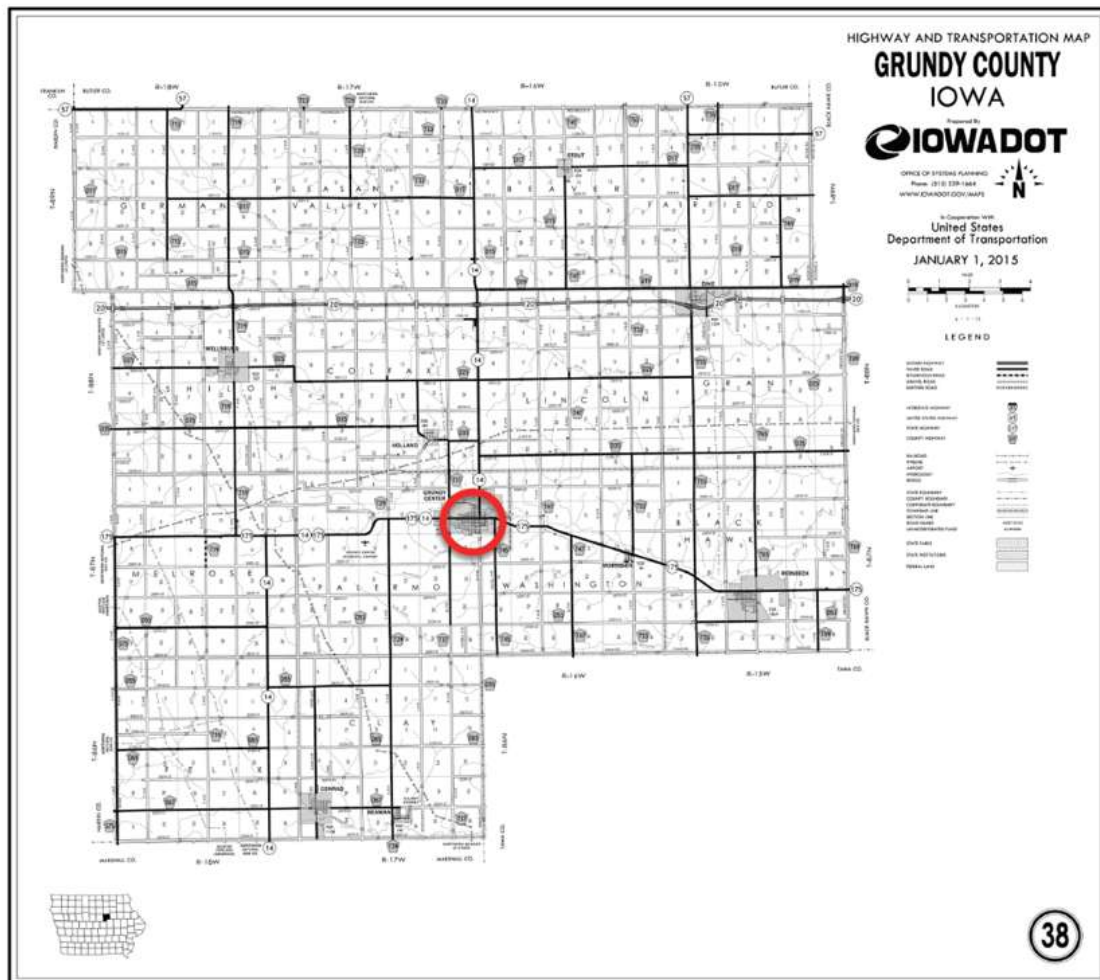
Page 3

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City

10. Additional Documentation

General Location Map



Latitude: 42.361714
Longitude: -92.774254

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

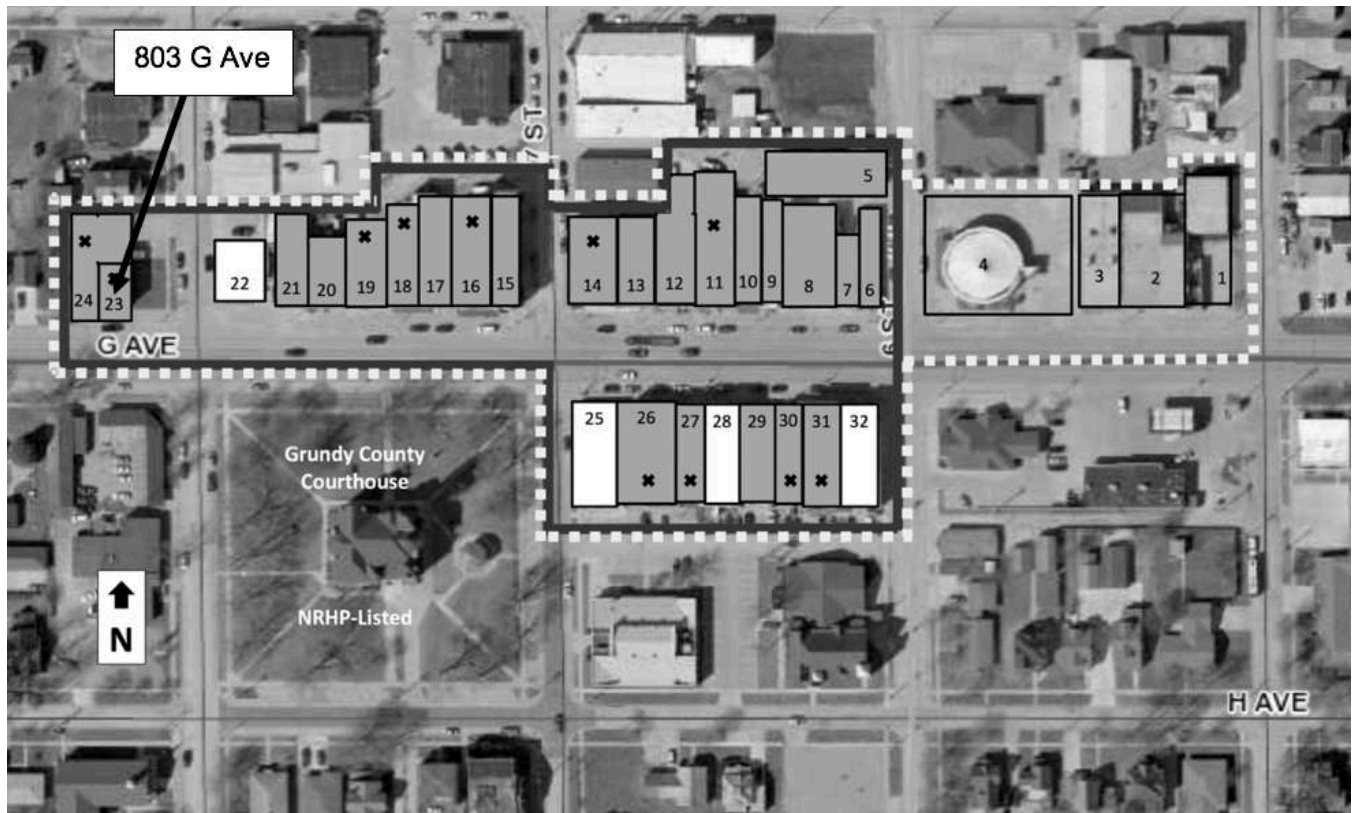
Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 4

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
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Location in Potential Grundy Center Commercial Historic District



(dark boundary = preliminary boundary of potential historic district)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 5

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
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Grundy Center
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Current Photographs

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



View north-northwest

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 6

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City



View northeast

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 7

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City



General view northwest

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

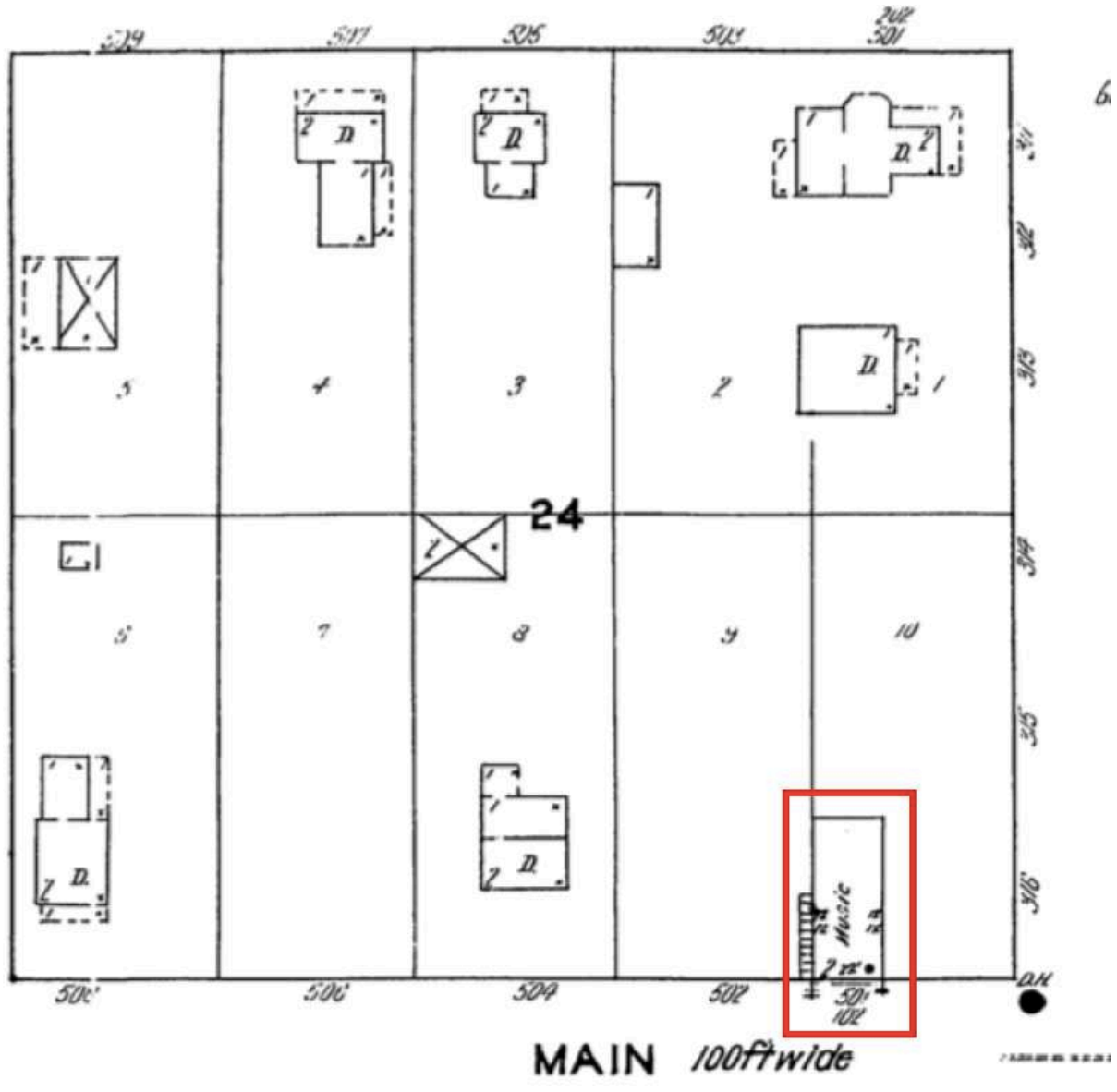
Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 8

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City

Historical Documentation



Block 24 shown on the 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Grundy Center with Schafer Building indicated

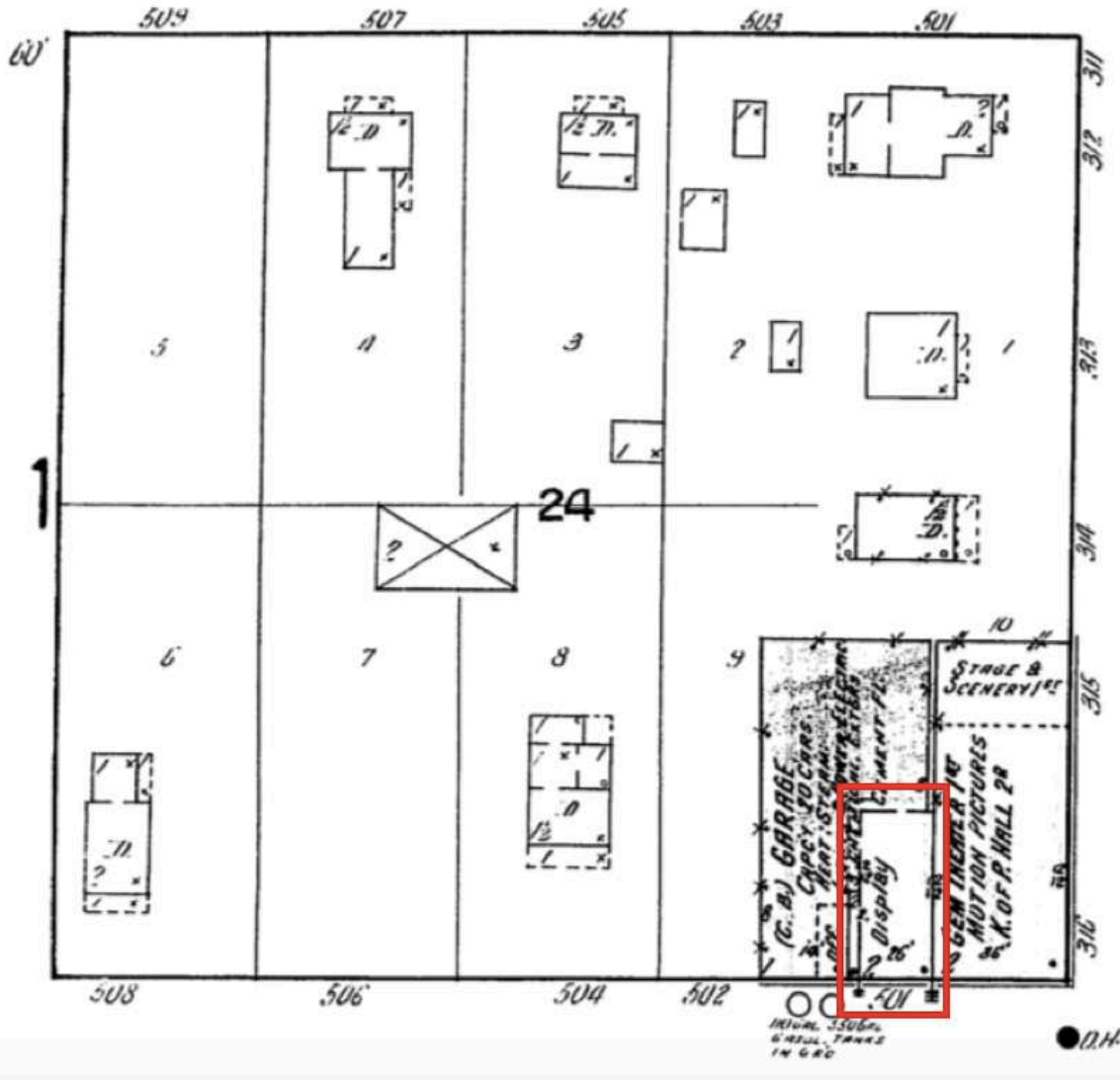
Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 9

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City



Block 24 shown on the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Grundy Center with Schafer Building indicated

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

Page 10

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City

The Fritzel cement gang finished the concrete foundation for the Schafer building Tuesday. The brick work will commence immediately.

Source: Grundy County Democrat, August 5, 1909

The floor for the new C. A. Schafer building on Mainstreet has been laid and it is expected that within a week a big force of workmen will be laying brick and that the walls will go up in a hurry.

Source: Grundy Republican, September 2, 1909

GREETING

To All Grundy Center and Grundy County Friends

The days and months of waiting are at an end; anticipation has given way to realization, we are now ready, after delays and disappointments, to meet and serve our friends in Grundy Center and Grundy county. It is not often that a firm can engage in business with a complete new equipment from the ground up and it is a matter of the keenest pride to us that we are able to come before the people and solicit their favors under such happy auspices. From foundation stone to roof there is not an old or used thing in the establishment. Everything in the store is not only brand new and up-to-date, but it is the very best we could buy. The best is none too good for Grundy county.

Schafer Bros. Music and Jewelry store will handle the highest grade goods and will furnish them at the lowest prices consistent with the best quality. The music department will be under the personal management of A. C. Schafer and will comprise in pianos such standard makes as the Baldwin (none better,) Conover, Cable, Hamilton and many others; Domestic, Standard and New Home sewing machines and repairs and attachments, Columbia and Edison phonographs and records, organs, mandolins, guitars, accordions, violins, strings, etc. Our line in these goods will be kept up to date.

Henry Schafer, who is a first class jeweler, engraver and repair man will handle the jewelry department. This line will include the finest things in jewelry, watches, clocks, silverware and novelties. A specialty will be made of fine repairing and engraving.

A cordial invitation is extended to everybody to come and see us in our splendid new store, and inspect our elegant new goods, whether they buy or not.

Schafer Bros. Music and Jewelry Store
Opposite Columbia Hotel, Grundy Center, Iowa

First advertisement for Schafer Bros. Music and Jewelry Store, 1909
Source: Grundy County Democrat, December 2, 1909

Schafer Building
 Name of Property
 803 G Avenue
 Address

Grundy
 County
 Grundy Center
 City

**A MUSIC AND JEWELRY STORE THAT SELLS
 HIGH GRADE GOODS**

The Place to Buy Christmas Gifts

JEWELRY Is the gift of all gifts for Christmas. There is something personal about it that appeals to everyone. It has the charm that accompanies a little touch of sentiment and the wish 'tho unexpressed that the gift will always serve as a reminder of the giver makes it something to be treasured as a keepsake. We illustrate below a number of the beautiful things which we are showing for Xmas

 <p>Solid Gold and Gold Filled BROOCHES They are pretty ones the very latest in style. Made of the very best quality of material. They are just the thing for a Christmas gift.</p> <p>CLOCKS We have a very complete assortment of these goods. You must see our mantle clocks before you buy your Christmas gift for mother.</p> <p>GENTS WATCH FOBS The very latest designs. All are strickly new. They are nifty lookers and just the thing</p>	<p><i>Edison and Columbia</i> GRAPHAPHONES and PHONOGRAPHS</p> <p>Guitars Mandolins Sheet Music Sewing Machines Pianos! Pianos!</p>	<p>Watches Watches We carry the Waltham and Hamilton Watches. As time keepers they are in the lead of all competitors. Handsome cases at very reasonable prices.</p> <p>CUFF LINKS These make very useful Xmas gifts. They represent quality and long service at a reasonable price. Nothing more suitable.</p> <p>RINGS We have a most complete line of rings. There is no other gift that fills the bill so well at Christmas time as a pretty ring. Our line will most surely please you.</p>  <p>SILVERWARE Knives, Forks, and Souvenir Spoons. We guarantee these goods.</p>
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SCHAFFER BROTHERS
 Music and Jewelry Store

In New Schafer Building
Opposite Hotel Columbia
GRUNDY CENTER
IOWA

Christmas ad for Schafer Brothers Music and Jewelry Store in the New Schafer Building, 1909
 Source: Grundy County Democrat, December 16, 1909

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 38-00324
Related District Number:

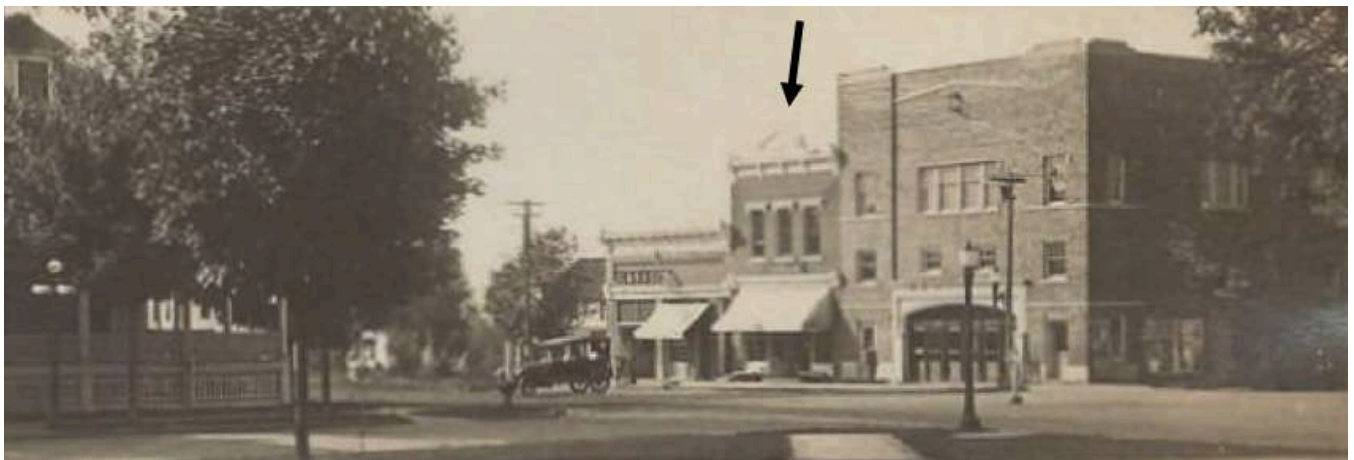
Page 12

Schafer Building
Name of Property
803 G Avenue
Address

Grundy
County
Grundy Center
City



View northwest of Schafer Building (arrow) next to nonextant Gem Theater, 1912
Source: Grundy County IAGenWeb



View northwest of Schafer Building (arrow), c.1920
Source: Grundy County IAGenWeb