

**Site Inventory Form**  
**State Historical Society of Iowa**  
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 50-01625

New  Supplemental

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

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 Larchwood Florist, Inc.

other names/site number Quality Name Brand Furniture; Computer Pro

**2. Location**

street & number 107 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) 20 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
—	buildings	<u>1</u>	—
—	sites	—	—
—	structures	—	—
—	objects	—	—
—	Total	<u>1</u>	—

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)

02E COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty

02E03 COMMERCE/TRADE/dry goods

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

08 MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 03 BRICK

walls (visible material) 03 BRICK

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 Newton

Address 107 1st Ave. W.

Site Number 50-01625  
District Number 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)

05 COMMERCE

**Significant Dates**

Construction date  
1910  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates, including renovation  
1964, 1965, 1977, 1981

**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 Larry Ray Hurto, Commissioner  
organization Newton Historic Preservation Commission  
street & number 101 W. 4th St. S.  
city or town Newton state IA  
date 06-01-12  
telephone 641-792-2787  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Larchwood Florist, Inc.	Jasper
Name of Property	County
107 1st Ave. W.	Newton
Address	City

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## 5. Classification, cont'd.

Larchwood Florist, Inc. is considered a building and counted as a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District.

## 7. Description

### Site Description

Larchwood Florist, Inc. is located on the south side of the Newton city square in the historic downtown of Newton, Jasper County, IA. The building is situated on a tight parcel of land (size of lot 22 feet by 132 feet) near the middle of the block on 1st Ave. W. On-street parking is located on the north side of the building and a public sidewalk provides access to the building on the north.

### Property Description

The front part (north) of Larchwood Florist, Inc. is a two-story building of solid brick construction; the back part is single-story. There are adjoining commercial buildings to the east and west. The store front has a single door in the middle and large display windows on both sides and two small second story windows on the north facade of the structure.

### Integrity Considerations

Larchwood Florist, Inc. retains a generally good level of historic integrity related specifically to a significant modernization movement of the mid-twentieth century, which drastically altered the building's facade. Because the façade alteration dates to 50 years ago, and because it reflects a significant historic period in the history of the community, the present façade is considered historic and its level of integrity as it relates to design, workmanship, and materials is good. As it relates to integrity of location, setting, and association, the building contributes to the integrity of feeling created by the generally intact commercial district found in Newton.

## 8. Statement of Significance

The building is considered a contributing resource to the Newton Downtown Historic District. The building is eligible under Criterion A in association with the history of Newton commerce, significant in its ability to contribute to our understanding of the evolution of the business district and its impact on the economic success of the community of Newton.

### 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

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### **8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.**

the commercial downtown is recorded in images of the contiguous brick commercial Italianate buildings surrounding the courthouse square.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (including the Southern Utilities property) underwent dramatic alteration, a nearly wholesale removal of the Italianate façades and replacement with those reflecting a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Modern aesthetic. Buildings altered during that period line the streetscapes of the district. In addition to the Victorian era buildings that were re-facaded during this time, a number of new buildings 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

This property, which dates from 1910, is listed in the City Directory as the firm of Behner & Behner-Adolph M. Behner and Charles E. Behner, jewelry and pianos. These men were brothers who learned the watchmaking trade in Winona, MN. A. M. Behner is listed in the 1899-1900 City Directory at 105 W. Main; his brother was here by 1903.

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## 8. Statement of Significance, cont'd.

In 1910, Forrest Taylor Patterson, former United States Express Company agent, opened a piano and music store where he sold (and repaired) musical instruments, the New Brunswick phonograph, and four lines of radios. He also tuned pianos. By 1920 his son, Lee F. Patterson, a graduate of Iowa Business College in Des Moines, was selling shoes from this location. The Pattersons were co-owners of the shoe and music store for many years.

In 1939, Mrs. Elna E. Meyer was listed selling ladies' and children's wear here. By 1945 Newton Office Supply Co. was in with Mrs. Meyer, replacing the music store at 107. Mrs. Meyer is listed through 1964.

Larchwood Florist, Inc., of which Carroll C. and Otto L. Warford were the owners, came in in 1964. A new front was put on the store, and Meyer Construction, of Newton, paneled the interior walls and installed a drop ceiling for use as an office and sales room. On April 1, 1973, Richard Dean "Dick" and Connie J. Knoot became owners of the business. Knoot came to Newton from Pella in 1968 to work for the Warford brothers. Larchwood's thrived under Knoot's management, and he saw the need to move to larger quarters. In the spring of 1981, the business was moved to 326 1st Ave. W.

Later that year building owners Doug Fisher, Denis Wilcox, and Knoot remodeled the interior of the building and installed a rear exit at a cost of \$6,000. Then for a dozen years thereafter 107 was Tober's for Fashion, a ladies' ready-to-wear retail outlet, managed by Karen Guffey, Patty A. Thoma, Shelley Kragel, Patty J. Castings, Robin Swisher, and Melinda Herwehe.

Thereafter Quality Name Brand Furniture was at this location.

Today the store is Computer Pro, computer sales, service and repair.

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**11. Additional Documentation - Maps**

**USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - NEWTON – 1965**



(MAP SOURCE: [www.trails.com](http://www.trails.com))

**The approximate location of the proposed historic preservation district is indicated by the outlined and highlighted area.**

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**11. Additional Documentation - Maps**

**PARCEL MAP - AERIAL VIEW - 2011**



(MAP SOURCE: <http://www.beacon.schneider.com>. Accessed Sept. 2011.)

The location of the building is marked with a downward arrow.

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**11. Additional documentation, cont'd.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



(IMAGE SOURCE: Sue Smith - 2011)

View of the resource at 107 1st Ave. W. looking south.



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**11. Additional documentation, cont'd.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



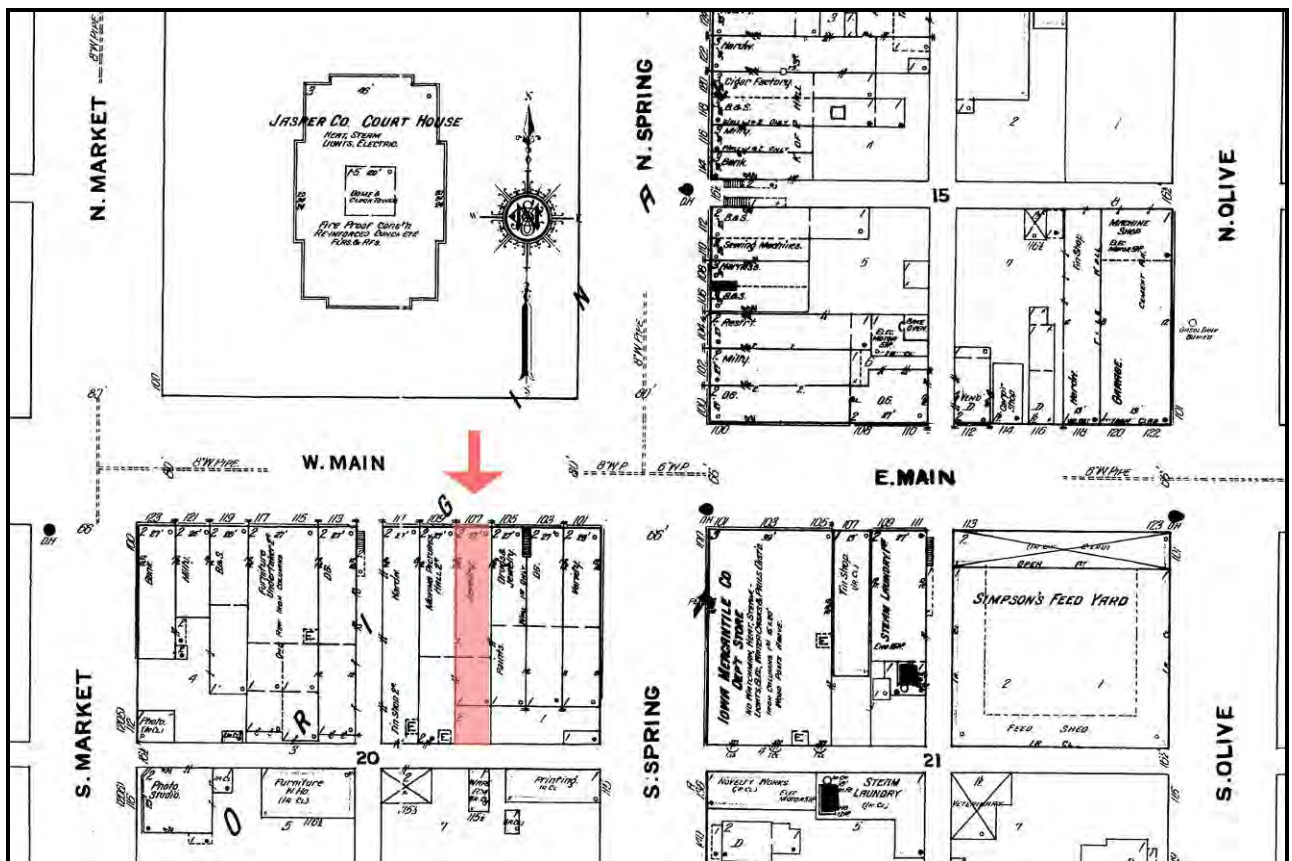
(IMAGE SOURCE: Sue Smith - June 30, 2011)

View of the 100 block of 1st Ave. W. looking southwest. The resource is the third building from the left in this photograph (indicated).

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**11. Additional documentation, cont'd.**

**FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1911**



(MAP SOURCE: Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1911)

The location of the resource is indicated by a downward facing arrow.

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**11. Additional documentation, cont'd.**

**HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1933-39**



(IMAGE SOURCE: Jasper County Historical Society)

This photo from the 1930s shows the Patterson music store at 107 1st Ave. W. It is the white building (indicated) located between the J. C. Penney Department Store and the Nollen South Side Drug Store.

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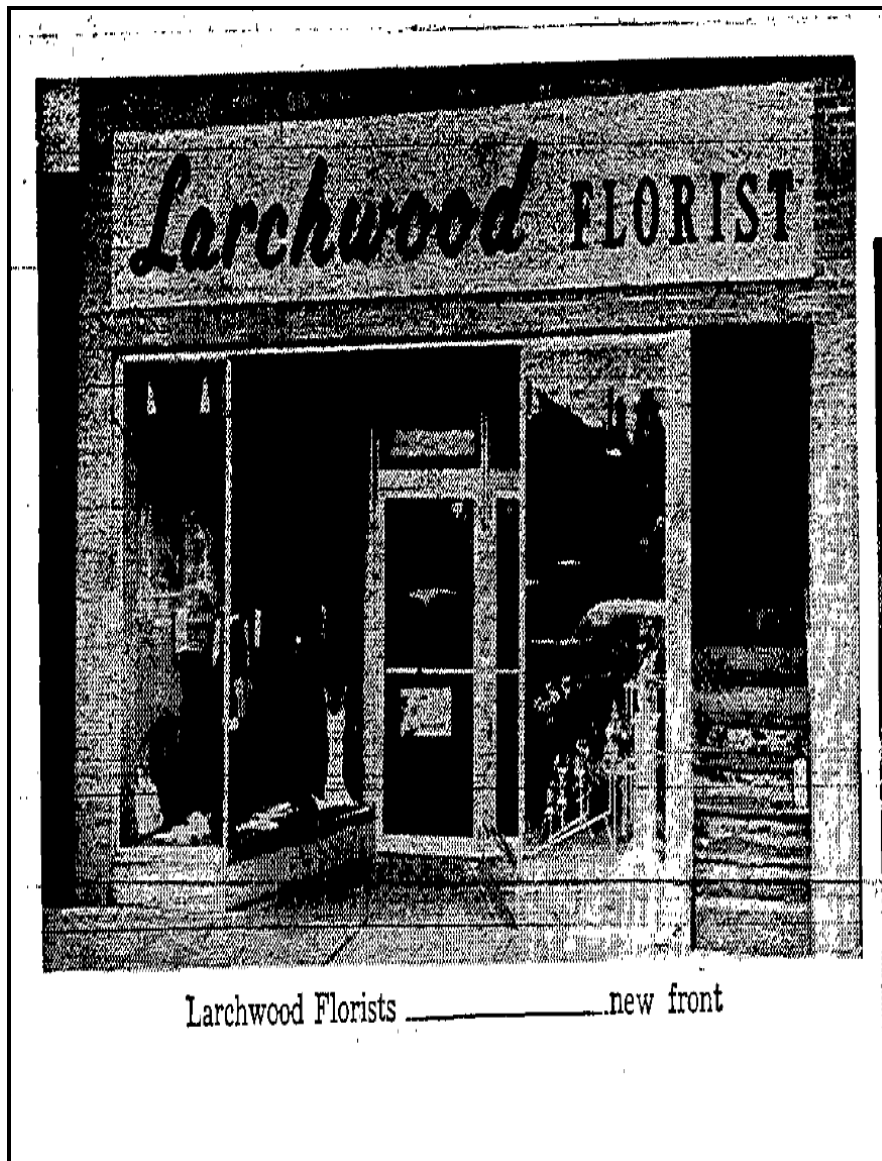
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**11. Additional documentation, cont'd.**

**HISTORIC IMAGES – ca. 1964**



(IMAGE SOURCE: *The Newton Daily News*, January 29, 1965)

View of the resource showing 1964 remodeling of the main entrance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

*Directory Service Co's. Newton City and Jasper County, Iowa Directory 1935.* Newton, IA: Directory Service Company, Publishers.

Larry Ray Hurto, comp. and ed. *A History of Newton, Iowa.* Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1992.

*Keiter Directory Co's. Newton City and Jasper County, Iowa Directory 1929.* Vol. I. Rochester, MN and Norfolk, NE: Keiter Directory Company, Publishers, 1929.

Miss Effie McLellan, comp. *Directory of the City of Newton 1903.* Newton, IA: Published by the Newton Journal.

*1916 City Directory, Newton, Iowa.* Newton, IA: Eyerly Printing Co., 1915.

*Polk's Newton (Jasper County, Iowa) City Directory 1939.* Omaha: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1939.

*Polk's Newton (Jasper County, Iowa) City Directory 1965.* Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1966.

R. L. Polk & Co., comp. *R. L. Polk & Co.'s 1910 Jasper County [Iowa] Directory.* Volume I. Des Moines and Detroit: R. L. Polk & Co., 1910.

*Smith's Directory of Newton and Jasper County, Iowa for 1920.* Dorchester, MA: Edgar Smith, 1920.

J. M. Young, comp. *Newton City Directory. 1899-1900.* Newton, IA: Journal Print, 1899.

*The Daily Herald,* Newton, IA, January 1, 1903.

*The Daily News,* Newton, IA, January 10, 1983.

*The Newton Daily News,* December 18, 1926; January 29, 1965; February 6, 1969; December 29, 1994; March 27, 1995.

### Internet resources

Jasper County Assessor

[www.iowaassessors.com](http://www.iowaassessors.com)

National Register of Historic Places

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

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**9. Major Bibliographic References, cont'd.**

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office

Database of Iowa resources [www.iowahistory.org](http://www.iowahistory.org)  
*Berry Bennett, Inventory & Information Management*

Topographic Maps

Source for USGS Topographic maps [www.beacon.schneidercorp.com](http://www.beacon.schneidercorp.com)