

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

State Inventory No. 50-01641

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 Snook Inn

other names/site number Maralyn's Sandwich Shop

**2. Location**

street & number 221 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) 4 E 44'

**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*

Enter number of:

— buildings  
 — sites  
 — structures  
 — objects  
 — Total

*If Eligible Property, enter number of:*

Contributing      Noncontributing

1      — buildings  
 —      — sites  
 —      — structures  
 —      — objects  
1      — 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)

02G01 COMMERCE/TRADE/café or diner

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02G01 COMMERCE/TRADE/café or diner

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

08 MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

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 221 1st Ave. W.

Site Number 50-01641  
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 1937  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 and Alexa McDowell, Architectural Historian date 04/23/2012  
 organization Newton Historical 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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| Snook Inn        | Jasper |
| Name of Property | County |
| 221 1st Ave. W.  | Newton |
| Address          | City   |

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## 7. Description

### Site Description

The Snook Inn building is sited on a tight parcel of land on the south side of 1<sup>st</sup> 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 west by a two-story commercial building dating to the late-19th century and by a parking lot on the east. 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 Snook Inn is a one-story commercial building faced in blonde brick, stretching 42 feet south from its 23-foot frontage on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Common to this mid-20th century construction period in which architecture drew on Modern principles, the exterior utilizes simple, geometric forms that are emphasized in their application. For example, the brick facing is elongated and laid in a stack bond and the building itself is nearly cubical in form. As constructed, the display windows are expansive, providing a view of the dining counter and stools of the interior. The building's small scale and flat roof combine with the facade features to create a stylistic character clearly tied to the building's mid-20<sup>th</sup> century construction date.

### Integrity Considerations

The Snook Inn retains a very good level of historic integrity related to design, workmanship, and materials. The retention of the form and glazing set in metal framing are particularly important as these elements tie it to its mid-20th century construction period.

The retention of original site within the Newton commercial area and in close proximity to the county courthouse square results in a high level of integrity as it relates to location, association and setting.

## 8. Statement of Significance

The Snook Inn 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 the impact of the business district on the overall 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 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-faced 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

Sanborn maps from 1888-1927 show this site as vacant land but the 1889-1900 Newton City Directory indicates a business was at this site in 1899, Yarham's Agricultural Implement. Sanborn map 1949 revision of the 1927 map does show a restaurant on this site. Assessors records state the building was constructed in 1929.

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

Through city directories and phonebooks, Maralyn's Sandwich Shop was located at this address 1937-1939. B. Snook Sr. opened the Bert Snook Beefburger in 1939. A few years later, the business changed the name to Snook Inn. Rhonda Versteegh purchased the Snook Inn in 2002 and maintained the name Snook Inn. In 2011 after 72 years, the Snook Inn closed.

Per the Newton Daily News, Andy Karr NDN Editor, Thursday, April 28, 2011:

"Rhonda Versteegh has served up plenty of tenderloins and beefburgers in her 25 years working at Snook Inn Sandwich Shop on First Avenue West, but even her quarter century behind the counter represents only a small part in the history of the iconic Newton diner. Locals have been bellying-up to the counter at Snook Inn since 1939 — more than 70 years of quintessential diner-fare like hot beef sandwiches and chicken-fried steak. This Saturday, however, Snook Inn will serve its last meal and pour its last cup of coffee. The diner is closing...The history of Snook Inn is a real family affair. The elder Bert Snook started the business more than 70 years ago and his son, Burt, recalled that it quickly became the center of Snook family life... Over the years, the diner passed through three generations of Snooks from the elder Bert, to his son Burt and then on to Rob Snook."

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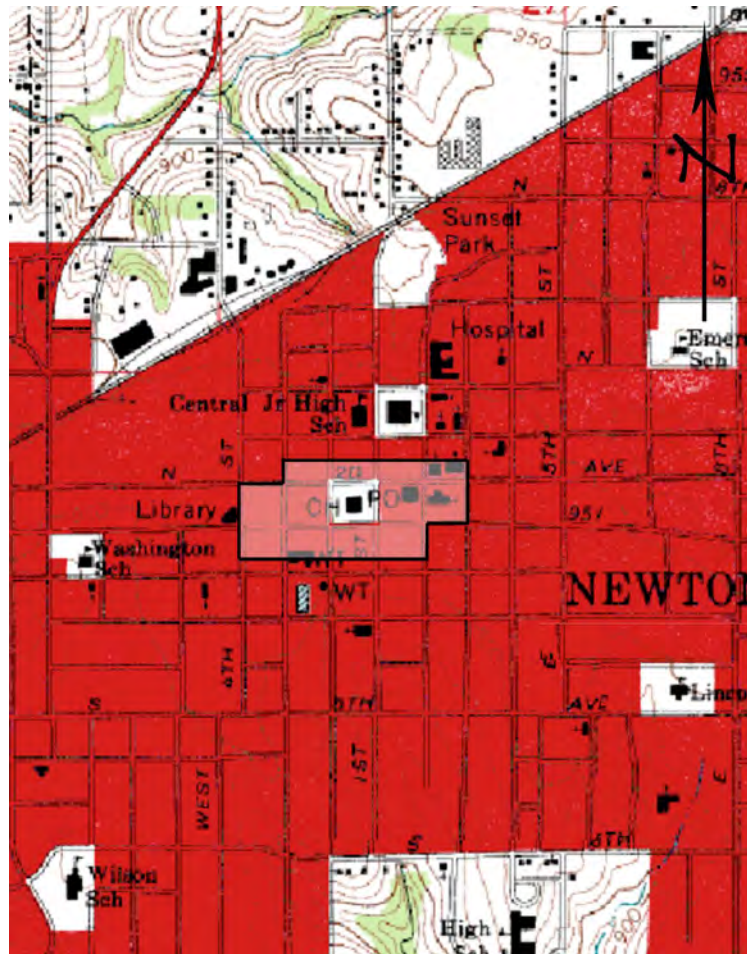
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**11. Additional Documentation – Maps**

**USGS 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP – NEWTON QUAD (1965)**



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

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

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**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.

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

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



View of the resource, looking southwest across 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. W.

(Images by Susan Smith for the Newton Historic Preservation Commission, September 2011.)



Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number **50-01641**  
Related District Number **50-01703**

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

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



View of the resource, looking south across 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. W.

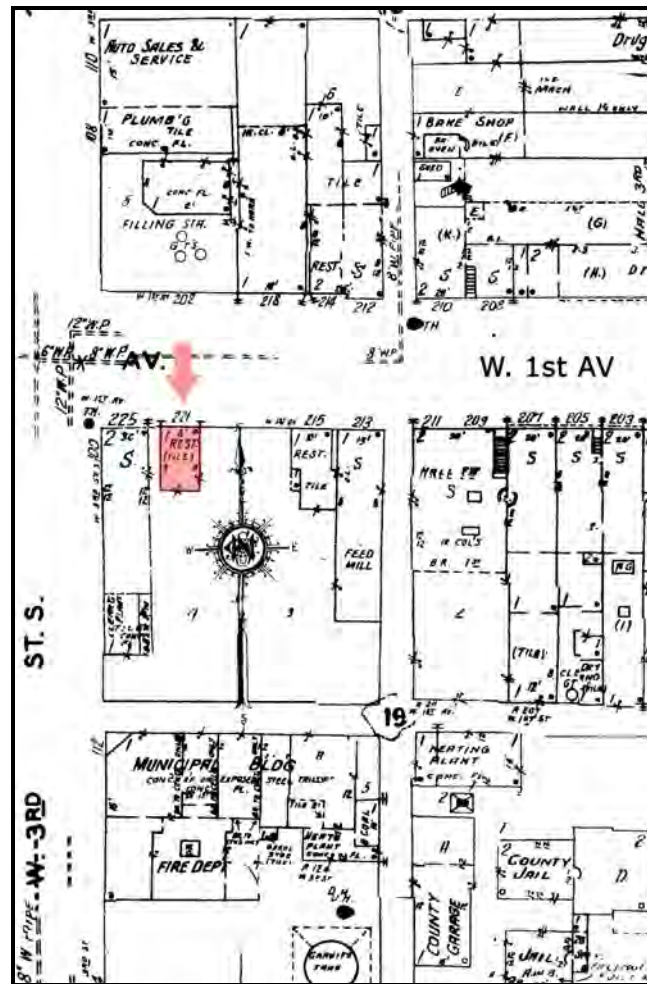
# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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## 11. Additional Documentation, cont'd.

### SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP – 1949 Revision of 1927



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

The present building was located on the site by the time the 1927 fire insurance map was revised in 1949.

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### 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.

Newton Daily News

**72-year-old Snook Inn set to close** By ANDY KARR NDN Editor Created: Thursday, April 28, 2011 11:23 a.m. CDT

<http://www.newtondailynews.com/2011/04/28/72-year-old-snook-inn-set-to-close/abut9/?page=1>