

**Site Inventory Form**  
**State Historical Society of Iowa**  
 (December 1, 1999)

State Inventory No. **52-01071**

New  Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) \_\_\_\_\_

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 Number \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Extant (enter year) \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.

other names/site number Beekman Motor Co., Namur Auto Co., Bashaw's Service Supply Co., Gartner Motor Co.

**2. Location**

street & number 226 S. Clinton Street

city or town Iowa City

vicinity, county Johnson

Legal Description:(If Rural) Township Name \_\_\_\_\_

Township No. \_\_\_\_\_ Range No. \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter of Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town

Block(s) 82

Lot(s) see full legal

**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:

1 buildings  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sites  
 \_\_\_\_\_ structures  
 \_\_\_\_\_ objects  
1 Total

*If Eligible Property, enter number of:*

Contributing Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_ buildings  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sites  
 \_\_\_\_\_ structures  
 \_\_\_\_\_ objects  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 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  
Iowa City Central Business District Study - 2017 UPDATE

Historical Architectural Data Base Number  
52-127

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E01 COMMERCE/TRADE/auto showroom

02E COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09F05 COMMERCIAL/Brick Front

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 04 STONE

walls 03 BRICK

roof 17 OTHER

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 Johnson  
City Iowa City

Address 226 S. Clinton Street

Site Number 52-01071  
District Number

**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*  
1905  check if circa or estimated date  
*Other dates*  
mid-1980s - storefront remodeling

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**

*Architect*  
unknown  
*Builder*  
unknown

**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 Alexa McDowell, Historian

organization AKAY Consulting

date 10/2017

street & number 4252 Oakland Avenue

telephone 515-491-5432

city or town Minneapolis

state MN

zip code 55407

**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 non-contributing 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

Related District Number

Page 1

Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.

Johnson

Name of Property

County

226 S. Clinton Street

Iowa City

Address

City

## 7. Property Description

The Carson & Thatcher Motor Co. building is a 2-story brick commercial building constructed between 1905 and 1912. A one-story building with a similar footprint first appears on fire insurance maps in 1906, indicating the original structure may have been constructed just prior the survey for that map (the building does not appear on the 1899 fire insurance map). In 1912 the building is recorded as a two-story building with an elevator. Given a lack of photographic documentation of the early building, it is fair to assert the possibility that the building was constructed in ca.1905 with a second story addition constructed before 1912. From the time of its construction, the building has been adjoined to commercial structures on its north wall, but unconnected on the south. Today, outdoor seating and a parking lot bound the building on the south.

**Image 01.** View of the building within the context of its streetscape, looking north across S. Clinton Street



(Image by AKAY Consulting, August 2017)

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Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.

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The Carson & Thatcher Motor Co. building is an example of the Commercial Brick Front building form. As described by Svendsen, “the façade (west elevation) has a cornice with wide crown moldings and high parapets on the north and south sides. Four window openings are evenly spaced across the upper level. The window openings have stone sills and lintels with replacement sash configured with uneven upper and lower lights. The storefront was substantially changed in the 1980s with salvaged building parts reused to create an eclectic design. A metal beam separates the two levels with recessed entrances placed on each side of a central display window. The transoms above the doors and the display window have Prairie School style stained glass designs and the brick piers to either side of the central display window have decorative stone capitals. The building measures approximately 25’ across the front and has a depth of 80’.”

The upper story of the south elevation reiterates the façade windows, including stone lintels and sills. A series of stabilizing bars have been inserted along the upper wall, their use indicated by the iron stars bolted to the brick.

In 2017, no significant alteration is apparent from the earlier survey. The storefront is now occupied by Starbucks Coffee and the second story appears to be housing.

**Image 02.** View of the façade (west elevation), looking east across S. Clinton Street



(Image by AKAY Consulting, August 2017)



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**Image 03.** View of the secondary (south) elevation, looking north



(Image by AKAY Consulting, August 2017)

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Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.

Johnson

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## 8. Statement of Significance

The Carson & Thatcher Motor Co. building is a moderately well-preserved example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century building form known as the Commercial Brick Front. As noted in the 2001 survey site form, “because of the substantial rehabilitation of the storefront and the alteration of the upper level windows, the building is not individually eligible for the National Register under Criteria A or C.” Further, due to a significant loss of historic resources adjacent to the resource, no potential for an historic district exists to which the building could be considered a contributing resource.

### Historical Background

The Carson & Thatcher Motor Co. building is representative of the early era of buildings constructed in response to the rising prevalence of the automobile and the demand for products related to that industry. In a one-story form, this building appears on fire insurance maps in 1906. In that year, the building housed a machine shop. The E.R. Thatcher Machine Co. was located in the building at 226 S. Clinton St. in 1909 – one of only two businesses noted in the business directory under the automobile category. Business owners, Elston R. Thatcher and Albert Schinker are noted as the proprietors of the “garage and machine shop” (CD 1909: 246). The business ran an advertisement in the city directory that year, noting their specialization in “Tools, Dies and Models.” The company also sold auto and bicycle supplies in addition to new and “second-hand” automobiles (Figure 01).

By 1911, the business was known as Carson & Thatcher Motor Co. and remained located in the building at 226 S. Clinton Street. Three additional “automobile” related businesses were noted in the directory with Carson & Thatcher: Iowa City Auto Co. (230232 S. Dubuque), H.A. Knease & Sons (11-13 E. Washington), and Lyon Auto Co. (231 S. Dubuque).

Regular change in ownership was commonplace in the early years of the automobile industry. Carson & Thatcher was replaced by Beekman Motor Car Co. by 1915. In that year, the city had nine dealerships and numerous other support service companies – some businesses serving dual functions. In 1918, the building was occupied by Namur Auto Co., dealers for Paige Auto “the most beautiful car in America.” By the following year, Namur had been replaced by Bashaw’s Service Supply Co. By 1926 the building housed the Gartner Motor Company and filling stations were located immediately to the north and at the northeast corner of Burlington and Clinton streets. The building held a number of commercial tenants in later years.

**Figure 01.** Advertisement for E.R. Thatcher Machine Co. – 1909

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**Auto and Bicycle Supplies** **Machinery Made to Order**

**E. R. Thatcher Machine Co.**

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**GARAGE AND MACHINE SHOP**  
• • Tools, Dies and Models a Specialty • •

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**New and Second-Hand Automobiles**

**226 S. Clinton Street** **IOWA CITY, IOWA**

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(SOURCE: *Smith's Directory of Iowa City and Johnson County*, 1909.)

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Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.	Johnson
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### 9. Major Bibliographic References (2001)

Iowa City city directories.

Property Transfer Records, Johnson County Auditor's Office.

Tax Assessor's Records, City of Iowa City Assessor.

Sanborn maps, 1874, 1879, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1906, 1912, 1920, 1926, 1933, and 1933 updated to 1970.

### 2017: References

Iowa City Public Library. Digital Photograph collection. <http://history.icpl.org>.

*Iowa City Then & Now*. Publisher unknown.

Mansheim, Gerald. *Iowa City: an illustrated history*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1989.

*Smith's Directory of Iowa City and Johnson County*. Rock Island, IL: Edgar Smith, Publisher, 1909.

State Historical Society of Iowa. Iowa City. Photograph Collection.

Slonneger, Marybeth. *Finials: A View of Downtown Iowa City*. Iowa City: Hand Press, 2015.

Svendsen, Marlys A. "Survey and Evaluation of the Central Business District." Prepared for the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission, 2001.

Svendsen, Marlys A. "Coast & Sons Building: 52-01051." Iowa Site Form, 2001.

### Timeline: Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.

- 1899 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: Much larger building housing "Dr. C.H. Hobby's Private Hospital"
- 1906 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: 1-story "Machine" on the south portion of the lot formerly occupied by the private hospital (remainder of that parcel occupied by "The Republic Job Printing" building).
- 1909 City Directory: E.R. Thatcher Machine Co.
- 1911 City Directory: Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.
- 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: ?-story "Garage" with a wood roof and an elevator with footprint similar to above.
- 1915 City Directory: Beekman Motor Co.
- 1918 City Directory: Namur Auto Co.

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Carson & Thatcher Motor Co.	Johnson
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- 1919 City Directory: Bashaw's Service Supply Co. (reverse directory)
- 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: 2-story "Garage" with wood roof and elevator with no change in footprint.
- 1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: 2-story "Auto Repair" with elevator; 28-ft. frontage (appears wider than previous footprint).
- 1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: 2-story "Merchandise Warehouse" with elevator, concrete floors on exposed steel; 28-ft. frontage. No change in footprint from 1926. Sub-division of interior space noted.

## 11. Additional Documentation

Full Legal Description: Original Town Plat, Block 82, Commencing at 42' North of Southwest corner of Lot 5, then North 25', East 80', South 25', and West 80' to beginning.

Assessor: PIN #1010380014

Latitude/Longitude: 41.658486/-91.534466

## Parcel Map - 2017

