

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

State Inventory No. 29-03677 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 29-03685
 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 Sickels Laundry and Dry Cleaning
 other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-74

2. Location

street & number 219 N. 7th St.
 city or town Burlington vicinity, county Des Moines
 Legal Description:(If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original City Block(s) _____ Lot(s) 924A–north ½ (S 1/2 of N ½ of E ½ of Out Lot 924

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)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	— buildings	<u>1</u>	— buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	— sites	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	— structures	—	— structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	— objects	—	— objects
	— Total	<u>1</u>	— 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 Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of "East" Downtown Burlington, IA Historical Architectural Data Base Number 29-034

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02A08: Commerce / laundry and dry cleaner</u>	<u>02A08: Commerce / laundry and dry cleaner</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
_____	foundation <u>10B: Concrete</u>
_____	walls (visible material) <u>10A: concrete blk 03 brick facade</u>
_____	roof <u>15C01: synthetics (EPDM) back</u>
_____	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)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A	Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C	Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D	Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Des Moines Address 219 N. 7th St. Site Number 29-03677
City Burlington District Number 29-03685

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 1949 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation 1961, 1966

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 Mary B. Luttenegger and Barb Mackey, volunteers Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date October 22, 2012
street & number City Hall, 400 Washington Street telephone 319-753-8158
city or town Burlington state Iowa zip code 52601

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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Sickels Laundry and Dry Cleaning

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7. Narrative Description

This is a one-story brick commercial building. The exterior walls – brick on the front and concrete on the remaining sides – date to construction around 1949, and the window configuration and style also appears to date to this period. The interior and roof were rebuilt after a 1976 fire. The entry has Colonial trim that likely dates to the 1976 remodel. The two sets of large windows to the south are composed of several smaller horizontal windows. A drive-in bay is located on the north portion of the east (front) elevation. The pent roof likely dates to the 1976 remodel, though the sign mounted on the building has older styling. The free standing aluminum sign along 7th Street in front of the building likewise appears to date to c.1949 construction of the building. The top portion of the sign appears original, with small lights, the Sickels name, and an arrow pointed toward the building. A changeable panel has been added under this portion.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Sickels Laundry and Dry Cleaning appears to contribute historically to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District, which will also include the adjacent blocks within the West Jefferson Street Historic District (listed). The building was Sickels Laundry Service moved here around 1949, a company founded by R.J. Sickels in 1899 closer to the river in downtown Burlington. The move to this location appears to have brought their full operations (laundry and dry cleaning) under one roof. The history is directly related to the business history of the downtown, and it falls within the period of significance for the potential historic district. While interior repairs and roof reconstruction occurred after a July 1976 fire, the exterior design integrity of the building appears to date to earlier 1966 remodeling and be sufficient to convey its significance. Additionally, an older metal sign for Sickels remains in front of the building along 7th Street, with some metal damage and a later changeable panel added. This sign appears to also be a significant feature of the property.

Sanborn maps show that this site was part of Gilbert, Hedge, & Co lumber yard from 1886 through 1931, with their main office at Jefferson and 8th Street. They are still listed at 210 N. 8th Street in 1938. This portion of the property transferred within the Gilbert family in the early 1940s, and then to the Burlington Farm Machinery. N.N. and Minda Bennett purchased the property from Burlington Farm Machinery on November 24, 1948 (Deed book 214, page 604). A later 1955 article states that their location was formerly the home of a tractor agency, but it does not clearly indicate that a building was here previously. It also notes that they had been here for about six years, and ads first appear for the company here in 1949 ("Sickels Laundry Has Modern Plant Here," *Hawk-Eye*, May 21, 1955, 3). The 1947 city directory does not show a building here, and then Sickels Laundry Service is listed at 219 N. 7th Street in the next city directory in 1951. It is managed by John Tweedell. There are four other laundry & dry cleaners listed in the 1951 city directory. Sickels Laundry Company was previously listed in 1947 further downtown at 315 N. 3rd Street with a laundry plant at 126 N. Marshall, and Wayne Lamb was president and general manager. Thus, the shift brought operations under one roof with a new manager. Sickels New Method Laundry was established originally in 1899, and it was located at 306-308 N. Main in 1906. At that time, it was described as the best known and equipped laundry with customers in radius of 200 miles. It was founded by R.J. Sickels. Wayne Lamb bought the business

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from William DuVall and Harry Eden in 1946. Lowell Kisia became plant manager in 1952 (*Burlington Evening Gazette*, March 24, 1906, sec 1, p 16; "Sickels Laundry Has Modern Plant Here," *Hawk-Eye*, May 21, 1955, 3). In the 1960 city directory, Sickels Launderers & Dry Cleaners, Inc. is listed at this address with Lowell Kisia as president-treasurer of the company. A photograph after remodeling in July 1961 shows the freestanding sign in front of the building, with detail on the "newly remodeled front" on the building are less clear ("Remodeling Completed at Sickels Laundry and Dry Cleaners," *Hawk-Eye*, July 30, 1961, 7). An advertisement in March 1966 after a "facelifting" and interior plant improvements show the current façade configuration and window/door details, though with a flat metal awning ("Sickels," *Hawk-Eye*, March 13, 1966, 14). In the 1970 city directory, Sickel's is still listed at this address and Lowell Kisia is still president-treasurer. In 1971, Richard Wischmeier bought the business. A 1973 article notes that the business has occupied this site since 1949, and it had a pick-up station at 1707 Mt. Pleasant ("People you should know," *Hawk-Eye*, December 2, 1973, 33).

Fire struck Sickels Launderers and Sanitone Cleaners at 219 N. 7th Street on July 6, 1976, gutting Burlington's only commercial laundry. Two other places in town offered dry cleaning services, but not laundry. The roof collapsed on the north part, but the south portion of the building and equipment only sustained heat and smoke damage. Operations moved to a temporary location at 103 N. Main and continued while the building was repaired and partially rebuilt. Laundry was trucked to Davenport for washing. The business held their grand opening in their new building on December 2-4, 1976. The current façade appears nearly identical to the photograph featured in their December 1, 1976 ad, which is very similar to the 1966 photograph ("Furious flames devour city's only laundry," *Hawkeye*, July 7, 1976, 1; "Laundry to reopen this fall," *Hawk-Eye*, August 5, 1976, "Sickels Grand Opening," *Hawk-Eye*, December 1, 1976, 13). A building permit for \$35,000 to repair damage was issued in late July 1976, with Carl A. Nelson Company as the contractor. Thus, it appears that the shell of the building was reused, with the interior dating to this 1976 work. Richard Wischmeier then purchased the property at 219 N. 7th on November 5, 1976 from Glenn & Pauline Bennett (Book 340, p.917).

In the 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 city directory; this property is still listed as Sickel's laundry and dry cleaners and is managed by Randy Wischmeier, son of Richard & Margaret Wischmeier.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories, Burlington, Iowa, various dates. On microfiche at the Burlington Public Library

Deed records, per transfer books at Des Moines County Auditor's Office.

Downtown Partners, Inc., a Division of the Greater Burlington Partnership, Burlington, Iowa. Collection of collected historic photographs of downtown Burlington.

Newspapers, various titles and editions. Particular special editions utilized:

Burlington Evening Gazette, March 24, 1906

Daily Hawk-Eye Gazette, September 2, 1938

Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette, August 4, 1942

Burlington Hawk-Eye, July 10, 1962

Burlington Hawk-Eye, July 4, 1976

Sanborn Map Company. "Burlington, Iowa," Fire Insurance Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1886, 1892, 1900, 1931, 1952.

Vertical files. Files on business/industry as well as individual businesses. Burlington Public Library, Burlington, Iowa.

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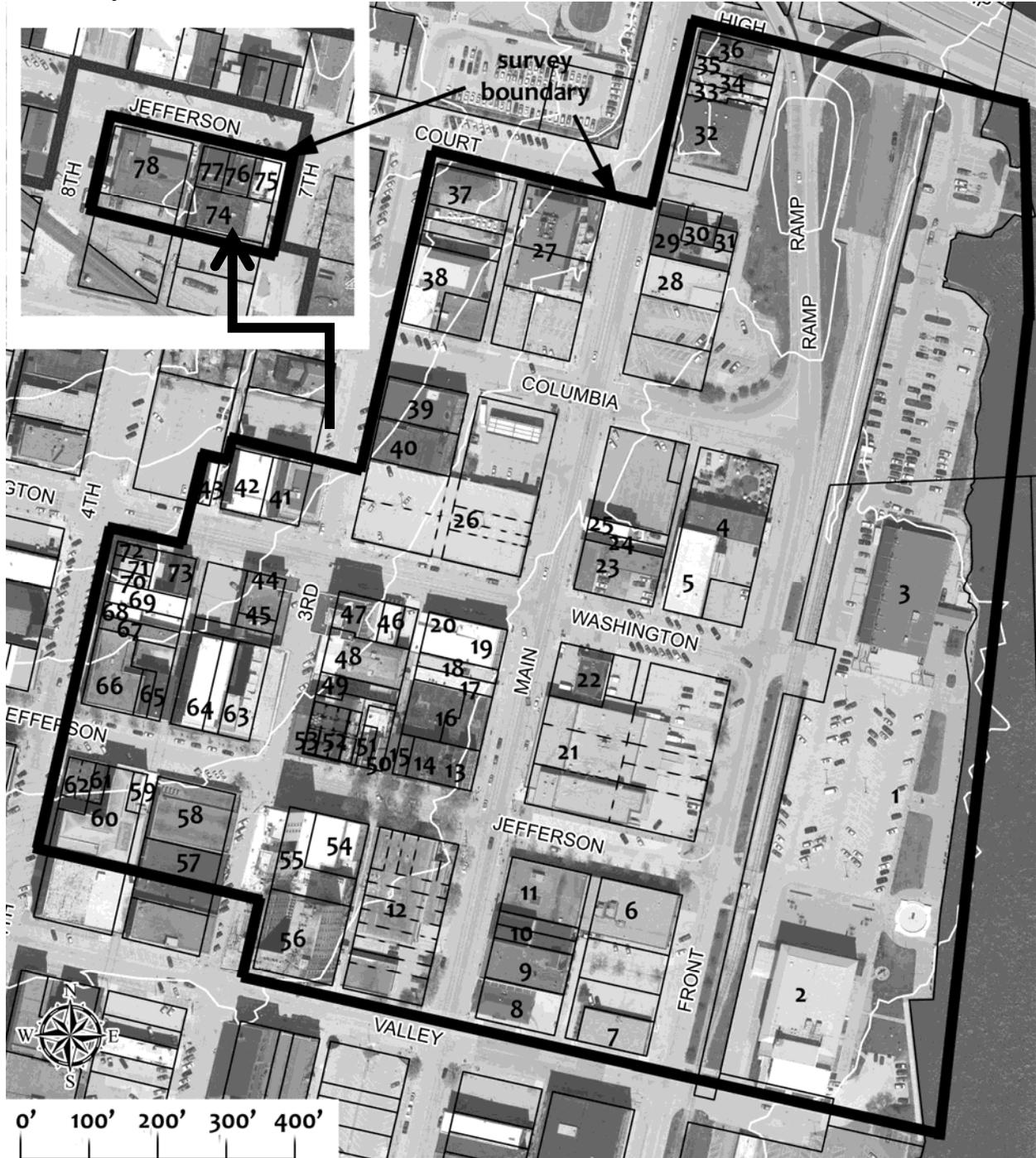
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Location map



Base aerial photography by Aerial Services Inc for Des Moines County GIS Commission, March 2010.

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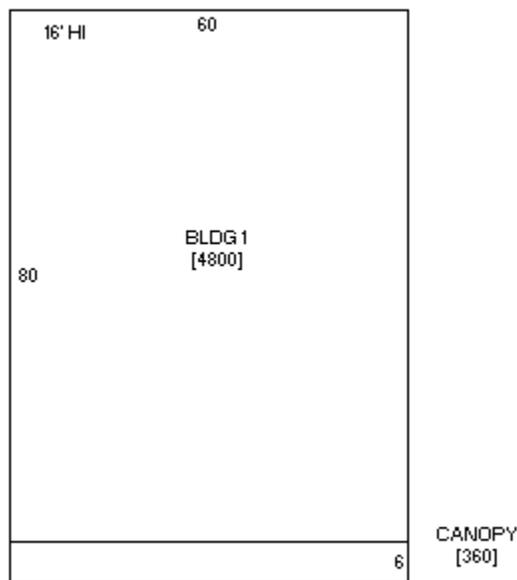
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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Historic images



Signs to Sickels in the 1950s (Downtown Partners collection)

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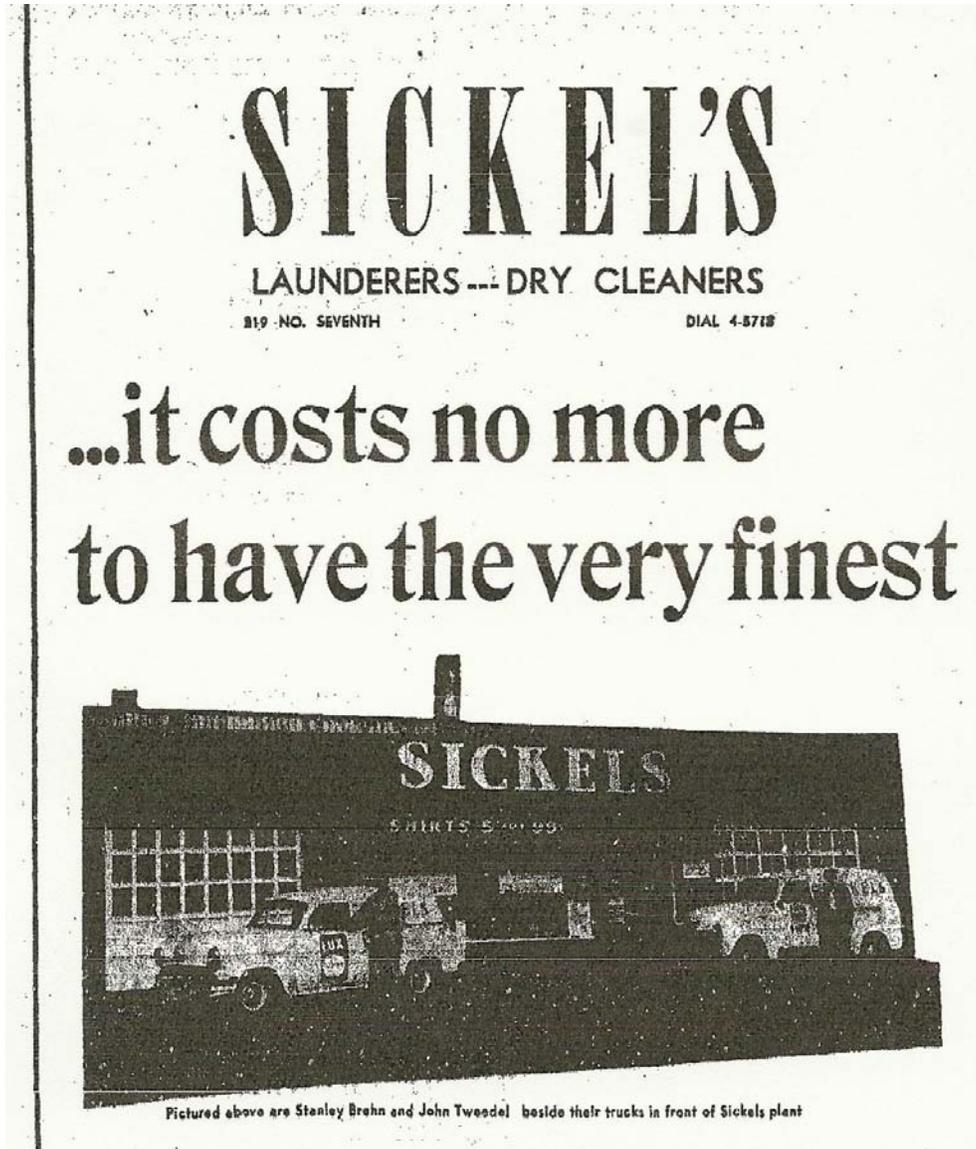
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Sickels in May 1955 (*Hawk-Eye*, May 21, 1955, 3)

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SICKELS

Sanitone
Certified Master Drycleaner

The First Word In Dry Cleaning Service

SICKELS . . . 219 North 7th recently underwent a facelifting, but improvements in the plant have also been made. It now contains the most modern equipment available to give you the finest in dry cleaning and laundry service.

Sickels has been awarded the Certified Master Dry Cleaning Seal by Sanitone. This coveted award is in recognition of fine quality and equipment standards employed by Sickels.

John Tweedell, route salesman on route #1 is trained to help you with your pick-up and delivery needs. John has been a Sickels routeman 14 years.

Left to right: Mary Lou Overton, Karen Cover, Reva Jarosh, Hilda Sadler, are the courteous staff you depend on when you bring or pick-up your order at our main plant for 10% cash and carry discount.

Stan Brehm, route salesman on route #3 is also trained to help you with your pick-up and delivery needs. Stan has been a Sickels routeman 12 years.

Sickels remodel in 1965-66 (HawkEye, March 13, 1966, 14)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-03677-001 – East elevation of building and sign, looking northwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012).

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Photograph 29-03677-002 – Sickels sign, looking northwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012).

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Photograph 29-03677-003 – South and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012).

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Photograph 29-03677-004 – West and south elevations, looking northeast (McCarley, June 20, 2012).