

# Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa  
(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 57-09539

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 (R&C) Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 1. Name of Property

historic name John Blaul's Sons Co. Warehouse

other names/site number BBBB Beverage Co. Building, Rockwell Collins Warehouse, Midwest Food Distributors Building, Great Furniture Mart

## 2. Location

street & number 600 First St SE

city or town Cedar Rapids  vicinity, county Linn

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name \_\_\_\_\_ Township No. \_\_\_\_\_ Range No. \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter of Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 8 Lot(s) Lot 1 & NW 20' Lot 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  
Enter number of:

If Eligible Property, enter number of:  
Contributing Noncontributing

— buildings  
 — sites  
 — structures  
 — objects  
 — Total

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

Historical Architectural Data Base Number

Historical and Architectural Reconnaissance Survey Report for the Downtown and Industrial Corridors in Cedar Rapids, IA

57-001

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02H warehouse  
09A06 food processing site  
09C03 beverage storage  
02E09 furniture store

70 vacant/not in use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

01 no style  
09C02 frame: heavy timber (sawn)  
09D01 roof form: flat  
09F Commercial

foundation 10B poured concrete  
walls (visible material) 03 brick  
roof 08B rolled asphalt  
other 04C limestone sills, accents

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

- 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 Linn  
City Cedar Rapids

Address 600 First St SE

Site Number 57-09539  
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)

02 Architecture

05 Commerce

**Significant Dates**

*Construction date*  
1914  check if circa or estimated date

*Other dates, including renovation*  
1994-6 conversion to furniture store; 2008 flooded

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 Emily Meyer

organization Ryan Companies US, Inc.

street & number 625 First St SE, Ste 460

city or town Cedar Rapids

state IA

date 8/5/09

telephone 319-731-2867

zip code 52401

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Related District Number

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

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Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

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## Narrative Description

The John Blauls Building stands on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> St SE and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, the only remaining warehouse on the block and one of the few examples of early twentieth century industrial design extant in Cedar Rapids. Parking lots flank its south and east sides, and the primary façades abut the sidewalk with no setback. It has four stories and a lower level that extends about two feet above grade. It is constructed of reddish brick with light mortar, with sills and accents of grey limestone. Windows are arranged in regular bands across the north, west and east façades, the south façade being a solid face with the outline of a small neighboring building and the ghost of the original sign still visible on its brickwork. A parapet with a brown ceramic cap surrounds the flat roof.

The entrance is located on the corner in a curved section of wall that represents the only break in the building's rectangular form. Simple brick pilasters are topped with a shallow arch and accented with blocks of limestone at the corners of the entryway. An arched window divided into two vertical lites sits atop a now boarded-over double door. This entry door was originally solid wood, but had been replaced by a metal-framed double door as early as 1928. The curved entry area is further distinguished by a recessed wall plane on the second, third, and fourth levels, and double hung windows with three vertical lites in each pane. These contrast with the smaller, horizontally oriented windows that occupy most of these upper levels.

A second distinct vertical area occupies the other end of the west facade, this one housing the now-boarded dock doors. This door was also altered in the building's early years, its opening enlarged to extend all the way to grade. As with the entry, the upper floors of this area have double-hung windows, these in pairs and still leading onto original metal fire escape landings. A similar bank of balconied double-hung windows with escape ladder exists on the opposite side of the building, though these openings are largely boarded up.

A final break in the horizontal rhythm occurs in the middle of the north façade, where a stairwell is evident in the downward offset of the windows, and a narrow opening with a non-original door leads onto the street.

Only a few of the low, nearly square lower-level windows survive. Those that remain show the three-lite pattern typical throughout the building. The brickwork continues to grade, giving an impression of height to the double-hung windows of the first floor. This level shows the greatest variation in fenestration, with dock doors on three façades. One of these doors, on the north face, was added at a later date in place of a paired window. Most of the first floor's east side is spanned by a modern metal awning.

With the second floor begins the regular pattern of horizontal windows that continues on the two succeeding floors. A good number of the windows have missing panes and signs of deterioration on the frames. Those that are not completely boarded over have original sashes. The horizontal lines are accentuated by limestone sills and the common bond brickwork, with a course of headers every five courses.

A limestone band sets off a signboard area at the top of the building. Square patternwork with limestone corner accents sets off the upper corners of the primary and secondary façades. Spotlights have been added to highlight a modern sign applied over the original, painted lettering. More than one layer of painted signage is visible on the west façade. On the east and, especially, south façades, one can still make out the original inscription "The John Blaul's Sons Co. Wholesale Grocers."

The interior of the building is notable for the huge timber framing and exposed structural underpinnings of the largely open space. Columns, 15"x15" on the first floor and decreasing in width on succeeding floors, mark out five bays across and 10 bays lengthwise. Joists rest upon massive beams that are tied into the columns with steel connectors. Fourth floor framing members cant slightly to create the shallow pitch of the roof. Modern electrical and HVAC have been added on top of interior surfaces, leaving the structure intact and unaltered.

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

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Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

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The layout of interior spaces seems close to what was originally present. Office areas appear to have been divided only by short, wood-paneled walls. These dividers, as well as display cases and decorative column boxing, are not extant on the first floor. An area of tin ceiling and original vault does remain. The effects of 2008 flooding, mainly cosmetic damage and destruction of flooring, are visible on the lower level and first floor. Upper floors, which were not trimmed out, are in all likelihood nearly exactly as they once were. No major alterations are evident on the exterior other than deteriorated windows and doors.

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

The John Blaul's Sons Company Warehouse is a product of the early 20th C. commercial development that occurred along the rail corridor south of Cedar Rapids' central business district. It served as a warehouse and processing facility for food and beverages almost continuously from its construction in 1914 until 1994, when it was converted into a furniture store. This significance within a period of booming commercial development is augmented by its architectural significance as one of the last surviving structures from among dozens of similar warehouses and manufacturing facilities that once lined the rail corridor. This building, as the warehouse of one of Cedar Rapids' largest grocer wholesalers, has local significance for its role in the commercial development of the city and is thus eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. It is also eligible under Criterion C as a relatively unchanged example of warehouse construction from the second decade of the twentieth century.

The John Blaul's Sons Company was a distributor of wholesale groceries, which by the early thirties had a contingent of traveling salesmen covering two thirds of Iowa, as well as neighboring states. The company also dealt in processing food and coffee for retail sale and in importation of foodstuffs from as far as Japan, Norway, Italy, Alaska and the tropical latitudes. Founded in Burlington in the 1860s, Blaul's put down roots in Cedar Rapids with the construction of their modern warehouse, which employed dozens of workers and served as the home office of area salesmen. They continued their operations in this location, distributing their BBBB and Liner brands until the late 1950s. Soon after, the building became home to Midwest Food Distributors, Inc. In 1994 it was converted to a furniture store that took advantage of the open floor plan. This store went out of business and the building was vacant when it was flooded to a depth of about 8 feet in 2008.

The Blaul's Building was one of many warehouses and manufacturing facilities that were built on the block in a period of just a few years. A railroad corridor centered on 4th St with multiple switch yards, sidings and spurs operated by four railroads catalyzed commerce in this area, including at least three other grocery wholesalers of note: Witwer Grocery Company at 905 3rd St SE, Warfield-Pratt-Howell Company at 401 1st St SE, and the Western Grocer Company, just down 1st St from Blaul's. The wholesale warehouses fronting the 500 and 600 blocks of 1st St exemplified the way in which the rail lines stimulated commerce; Blaul's and its neighbors had access to both the Milwaukee line on 1st St and the Illinois Central spur in the alley.

The building now stands as a lone remnant of this period of economic growth. Increased truck transit after WWII decreased the competitive advantage provided by the rail links. Over time surrounding warehouses were replaced by parking lots and modern office buildings, and industrial facilities disappeared or were allowed to deteriorate into brownfields.

The current appearance of the Blaul's building powerfully evokes the pre-war period. The masonry of the simple façade is well preserved and its utilitarian design conveys the function it once filled. The attention to detail evident in the areas of decorative brickwork reflect the aesthetic of the times, in which no structure was purely functional and nothing was built to be temporary. The building's massive timber framing is not common, and it may warrant further study to see how many such structures exist in the region. The interior spaces retain the beauty of their materials and the ease with which the underlying structure can be discerned.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

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## Works Cited

Marshall-Wallace Advertising (compiler). Cedar Rapids. Tru-Art Corporation, 1928.

Cedar Rapids Building Department, Record of building permits, 1997.

Cedar Rapids Directory Notes, 1997.

"Blaul Highly Pleased with Warehouse Here." Cedar Rapids Gazette. January 27, 1915.

"Blaul's Pioneer Among Wholesale Grocers of State." Cedar Rapids Gazette. January 1, 1933.

"Two Outstanding Food Brands." (advertisement) Cedar Rapids Gazette. January 1, 1933.

Bob Drahozal (Karl and Mary Koehler History Center). Provided above sources as well as photos, postcard and letterhead. July 30, 2009.

"Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970." [Online] Available <http://sanborn.umi.com/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK&CCSI=14714n>, July 1, 2009.

Svendsen, Marlys. Historical and Architectural Reconnaissance Survey for the Downtown and Industrial Corridors in Cedar Rapids, IA; Historical and Architectural Database #57-001. Sarona, WI: Svendsen Tyler, Inc., 1997.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA



Exterior, facing East

7/22/09



Exterior, facing West

7/22/09

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form**  
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Site Number **57-09539**  
Related District Number

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

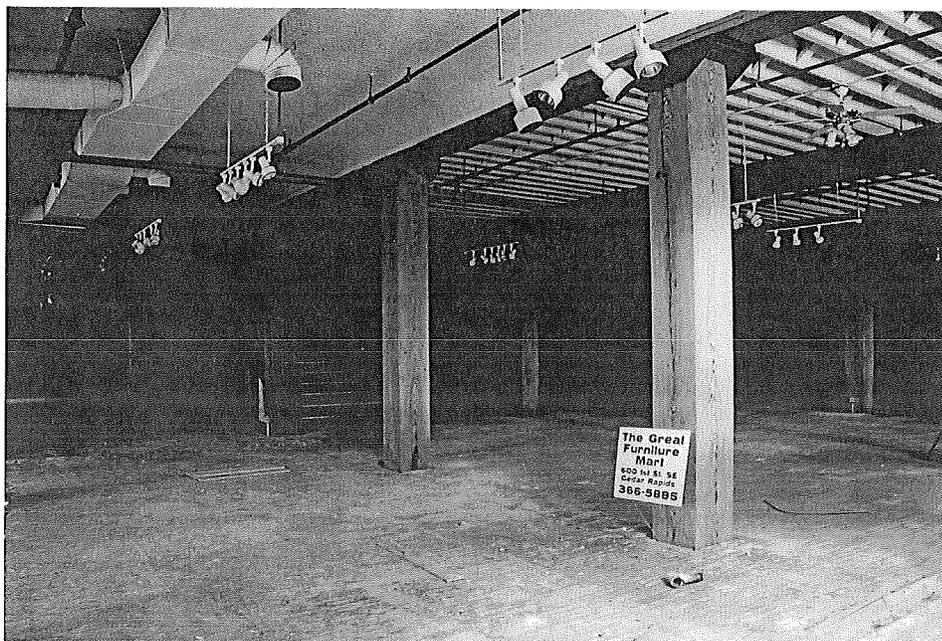
Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA



Exterior, facing South

7/22/09



First floor at entrance, facing East

7/24/09

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

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Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA



Second floor, facing West

7/24/09



Third floor, facing South

7/24/09

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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Related District Number

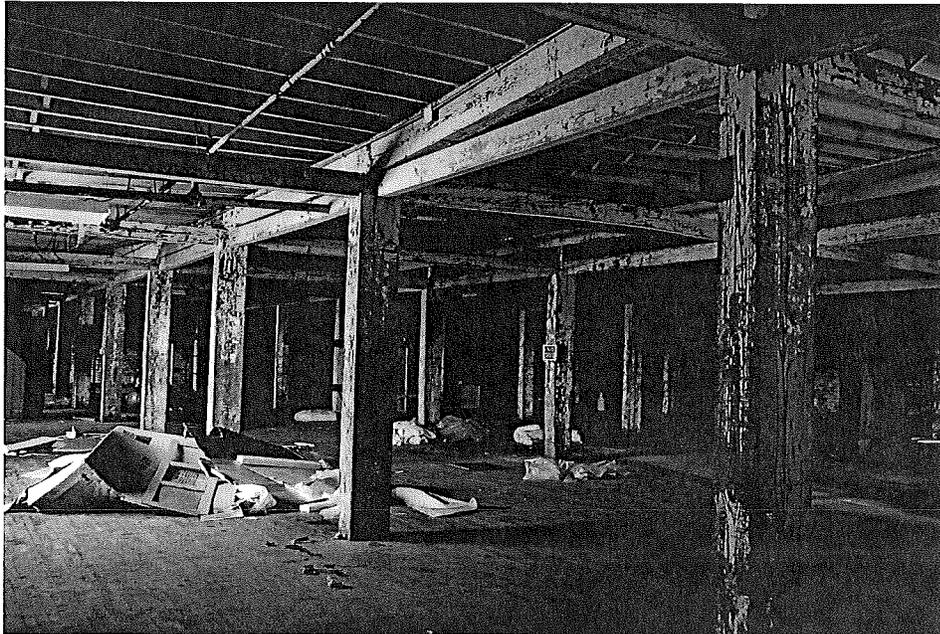
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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

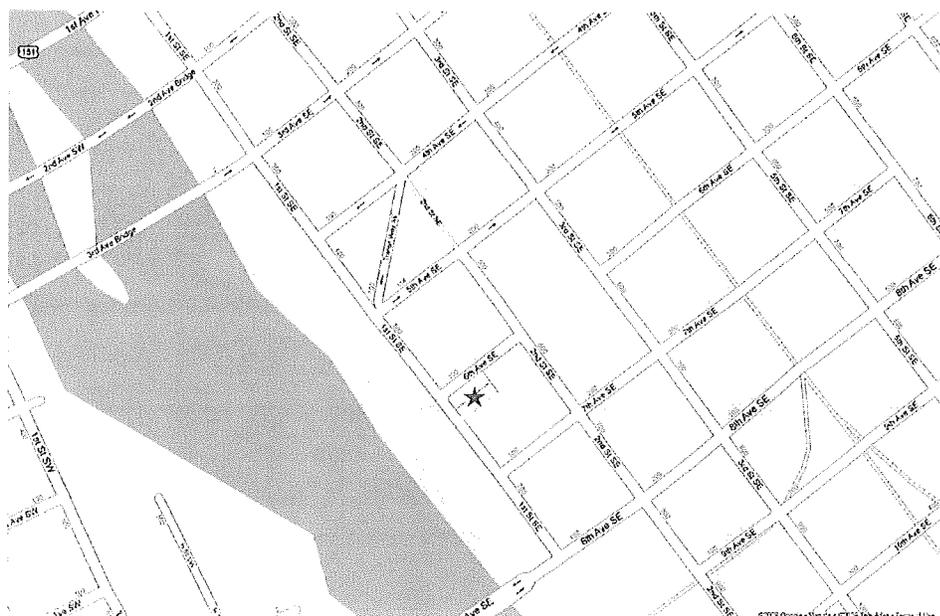
City Cedar Rapids, IA



Forth floor, facing East

7/24/09

Map, John Blaul's Sons Co. Warehouse



★ Location of John Blaul's Sons Co. Warehouse at 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

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

Site Number **57-09539**

Related District Number

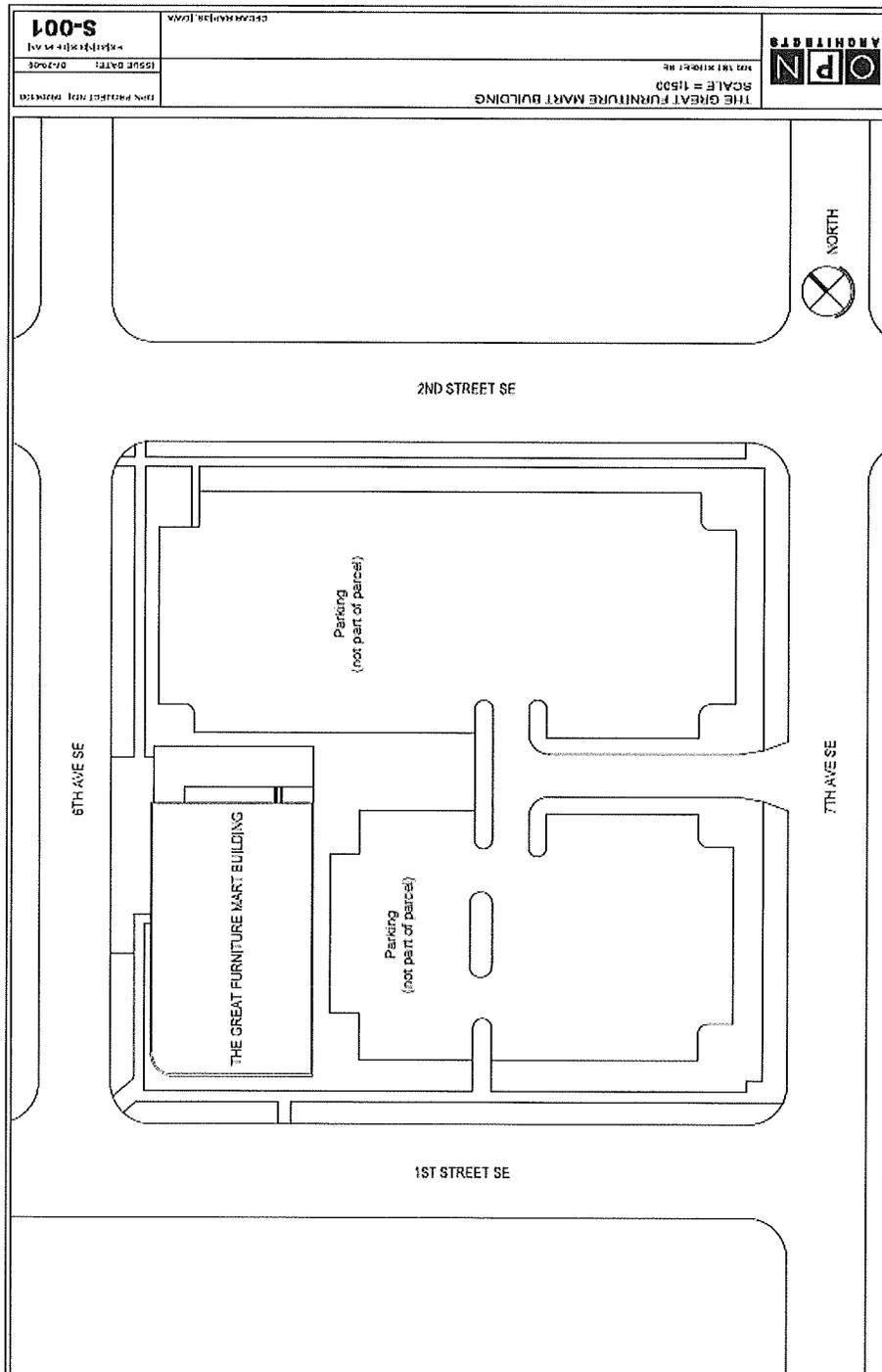
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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA



Site Plan

July 2009

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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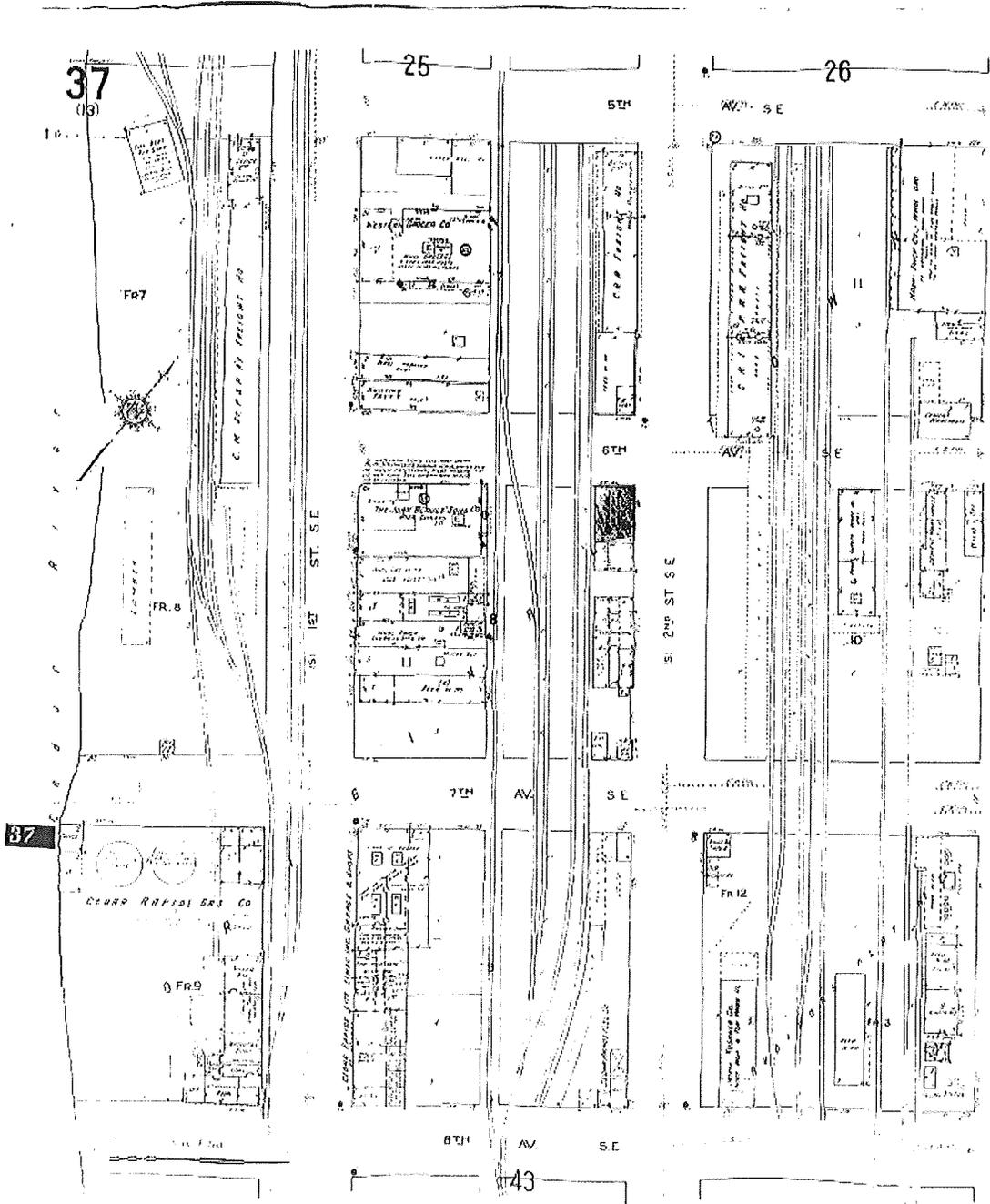
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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

2/4/97 CR DIRECTORY NOTES Page 3

STREET	NBR	SQ	YEAR	OCCUPANT NAME	OWNER or LEASOR	COMPANY OFFICIALS (of added notes)	SERVICE PROVIDED	NOTES
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	0000	Year Constructed - <del>1922</del> 1914				
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1998	Great Furniture Mart		John Kheirallah	wholesale furniture	
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1995	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1995			2dVP. K.M. McMullen, Sec. V. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1993	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1993			2dVP. K.M. McMullen, Sec. V. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1990	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1990			2dVP. K.M. McMullen, Sec. V. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1987	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1987			2dVP. K.M. McMullen, Sec. V. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1980	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1980			Trea. R.N. McMullen, Sec. W.O. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1975	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1975			Trea. R.N. McMullen, Sec. W.O. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1970	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1970			Trea. R.N. McMullen, Sec. W.O. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600	1	1965	Midwest Food Distributors, Inc.		Pres. R. McMullen, VP. Mrs. E. McMullen(w/)	wholesale food	
1st Str. S.E.	600	2	1965			Trea. R.N. McMullen, Sec. W.O. Gray		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1960	Collins Radio Co.			storage	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1954	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres/GM. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1954			VP. Harold Kimball, Sec. Herbert Hratze		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1950	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres/GM. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1950			VP. Mark Blaul		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	3	1950			VP. Harold Kimball, Sec. Milton Blaul		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1950	BBB Beverage Co.		J. Dwight Turner, Mgr	wholesale beer	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1945	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres/GM. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1945			VP. Mark Blaul, 2dVP. Milton Blaul		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	3	1945			Sec. A.F. Sander		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1940	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres/Trea. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	inc. 1915
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1940			1stVP. Mark Blaul, 2dVP. Harold C. Kimball		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	3	1940			Sec. Edward G. Koonz		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1935	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres/Trea. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1929	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1929			Trea/GM. E.B. Kearns		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1925	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres/2dVP. Theodore F. Blaul (w/Louise)	wholesale groceries	
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1925			1stVP. John Blaul, Sec. Edward G. Koonz		

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1st Str. S.E.	600-608	3	1925			Trea/Mgr. E.B. Kearns		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1920	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres. Charles B. Blaul	wholesale groceries	res Burlington
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1920			1stVP. John Blaul, 2dVP. Theodore Blaul		res Burlington
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	3	1920			Sec. E.G. Koonz		res Burlington
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	4	1920			Trea/Mgr. E.B. Kearns		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	5	1920			Buyer Asst Mgr. Theodore (w/Louise)		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1917	John Blaul's Sons Co.		Pres. Charles B. Blaul	wholesale groceries	res Burlington
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	2	1917			1stVP. John Blaul, 2dVP. Theodore Blaul	inc. 1915	res Burlington
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	3	1917			Sec. E.G. Koonz		res Burlington
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	4	1917			Trea/Mgr. E.B. Kearns		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	6	1917			Buyer Asst Mgr. Theodore (w/Louise)		
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	1914-15	no entry				
1st Str. S.E.	600-608	1	prior	no entry				

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

**BUILDING PERMITS (C.R. BUILDING DEPARTMENT) 02-05-97**

<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PERMIT DATE</b>	<b>WORK DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>OWNER(LESSEE)</b>	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>WORK VALUE</b>
<b>1st Str. S.E. (600 - BLAUL BLDG)</b>					
600	03-04-38	remodel	John Blaul Sons Co.	Haegg Roofing	800
600	02-06-51	remodel	John Blaul Sons Co.	day work	2000
600	02-25-63	remodel	Louis Fellman	Wimer Construction	500
600	06-13-63	remodel	Louis Fellman	Wimer Construction	200
600	07-08-64	remodel 1st,2d floors for conveyor belt	Richard McMullen (Midwest Fruit)	Vernon Thompson	499
600	12-27-66	lower new ceiling	Richard McMullen	Vernon Thompson	750
600	02-10-70	new front entry	Midwest Food	Allied Glass	1000
600	12-11-72	reroof	Richard McMullen (Midwest Fruit)	Acherman Inc.	2750
600	01-08-73	reroof	Richard McMullen	Acherman Inc.	2871
600	03-11-81	reroof	Midwest Food Service	Paul & Sons	500
600	05-09-83	reroof	Midwest Food Service	Four Star Roofing	4200
600	10-12-87	reroof	Midwest Food Service	Four Star Roofing	3200
600	04-12-90	reroof	Midwest Food Service	Four Star Roofing	1800
600	08-09-94	install storage rack	Midwest Food Service	Midwest Food Service	180000
600	11-04-94	internal demolition-basement, first floor	John Khairallah	John Khairallah	1000
600	11-23-94	internal demolition	John Khairallah	Duvell Construction	1000
600	12-16-94	build stairs from basement, first & second floors	John Khairallah	Duvell Construction	5000
600	02-06-95	enclosed stairs-basement, two floors	John Khairallah	Duvell Construction	10000
600	05-10-95	add frost protected landing to north side	John Khairallah	John Khairallah	1000
600	03-18-96	reroof	Great Furniture Mart	T & K Roofing	14296

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Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

**BLAUL HIGHLY PLEASED  
WITH WAREHOUSE HERE**  
1-27-1915

Charles Blaul, of Burlington, a member of the wholesale grocery firm of John Blaul & Sons, was in this city yesterday inspecting the new warehouse of the company at First street and Sixth avenue, which has just been completed. Mr. Blaul is highly pleased with the building and says the firm hopes to occupy it about February 15. The firm will cover the territory contiguous to Cedar Rapids and serve it from the local warehouse, and the traveling men covering this section of the state will report to the local offices. Mr. Blaul was optimistic regarding the business outlook and was certain his firm had made no mistake in locating a branch house in this city. He was a guest at the Commercial club membership meeting last night and enjoyed the performance given by the entertainment committee. Mr. Blaul expressed the hope that he would be able to move to Cedar Rapids in the future and make this city his permanent home.

Cedar Rapids Gazette Articles dated 1915 & 1933  
The Karl & Mary Koehler History Center

## Blaul's Pioneer Among Wholesale Grocers Of State

1-1-1933

Food products from the ends of the world converge on the Cedar Rapids market through the medium of John Blaul's Sons, wholesale grocers at 600 First street SE, whose B. B. B. labels are known in almost every city and town in Iowa. The company has maintained headquarters in Cedar Rapids for seventeen years.

When John Blaul launched his little retail grocery business in Burlington nearly seventy-five years ago, the state was one of the infants in the nation's councils. As the state grew, his company expanded and when the need for a wholesale grocery business was felt, the Blaul company filled that need. It is one of the pioneer Iowa companies in that field.

Constantly expanding, the company built large warehouses in Burlington and later established factories where food products were prepared for the retail trade. About the same time, the need for imported foods was noted and the Blaul company soon had orders going to Japan for tea, Alaska, Norway and Europe for fish, Italy for olives, and to the tropics for spices. This phase of the company's business has grown constantly.

Seventeen years ago, Cedar Rapids was chosen for a branch of the company and the large building now occupied by the company was obtained. Salesmen from the Cedar Rapids office now cover about two-thirds of the state, their orders adding to the increasing volume of business which has graced Cedar Rapids markets. Standardized quality has been the watchword of progress in the growth of the Blaul company.

Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

# Two Outstanding Food Brands



**Liner**

You can buy BBBB brand foods, confident that you are obtaining the best the market affords in quality and flavor. BBBB foods are handled everywhere in eastern Iowa by the leading independent grocers, who select their merchandise for its value to their customers. Such a selection makes BBBB foods the best for your table.

In LINER we present a brand that is superior to most food brands on the market, and one that is the equal of many food brands which are presented to you as "extra fancy."

Blaul's are proud of these two food brands and that pride keeps their quality ever uniform.

## John Blaul's Sons Co.

Wholesale Grocers, Coffee Roasters and Manufacturers.

1933



### The John Blaul's Sons Co.

WHOLESALE GROCERS COFFEE ROASTERS  
AND MANUFACTURERS

OFFICERS

THEO. F. BLAUL, PRES. & TREAS.  
MARK BLAUL, 1ST V. PRES.  
H. C. KIMBALL, 2ND V. PRES.  
MILTON BLAUL, SECRETARY

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

DIRECTORS

THEO. F. BLAUL, MRS. EMMA U. I.  
MARK BLAUL, MILTON BLAUL  
H. C. KIMBALL, A. F. SANDER  
MRS. RALPH TODD

During these days of unsettled conditions, quick delivery is of the greatest importance. No expense has been spared to have our Shipping Department thoroughly efficient. We will ship promptly all orders the day they are received providing they reach us before 3 P. M.

THE JOHN BLAUL'S SONS CO.

Advertisements and Letterhead, date unknown  
The Karl & Mary Koehler History Center

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Related District Number

Page 14

Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

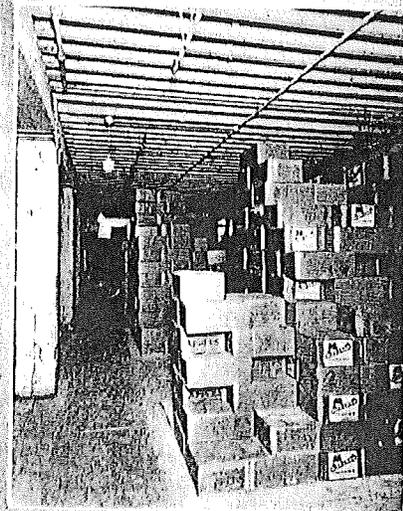
City Cedar Rapids, IA



Upper four pictures  
show views of  
**JOHN BLAUL,  
SONS CO.**  
Wholesale Grocers.

Lower four pictures  
show the Plant and  
three Interior Views  
of the

**HOLLAND  
FURNACE**  
Cedar Rapids Factory



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 15

Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

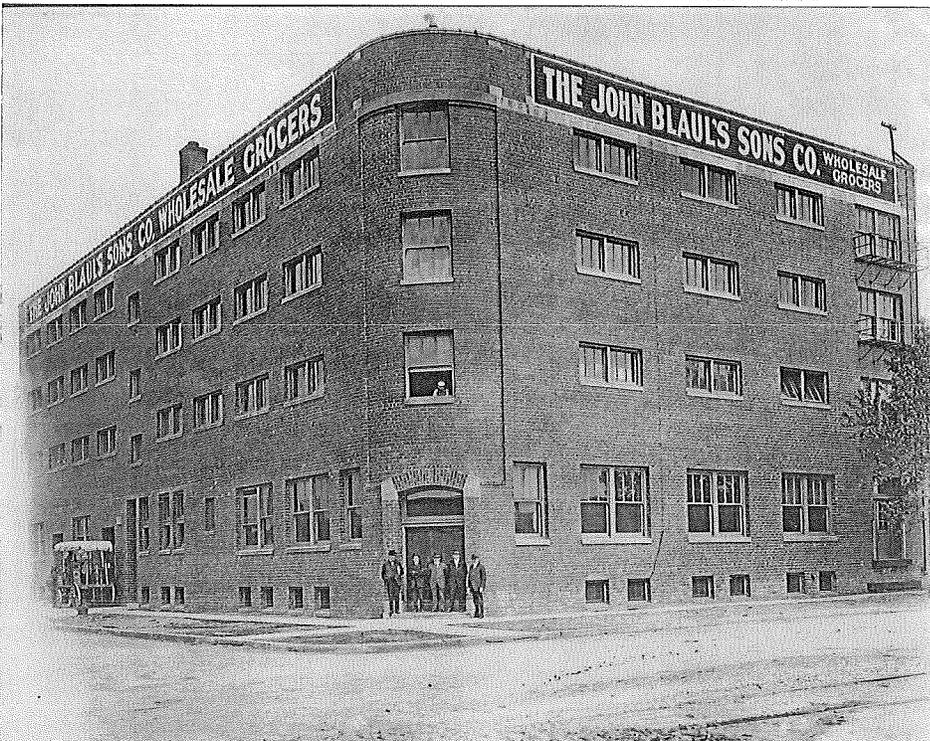
County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA



Photos, dates unknown  
The Karl & Mary Koehler  
History Center



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Related District Number

Page 16

Name of Property John Blaul's Sons Co Warehouse

County Linn

Address 600 1<sup>st</sup> St SE

City Cedar Rapids, IA

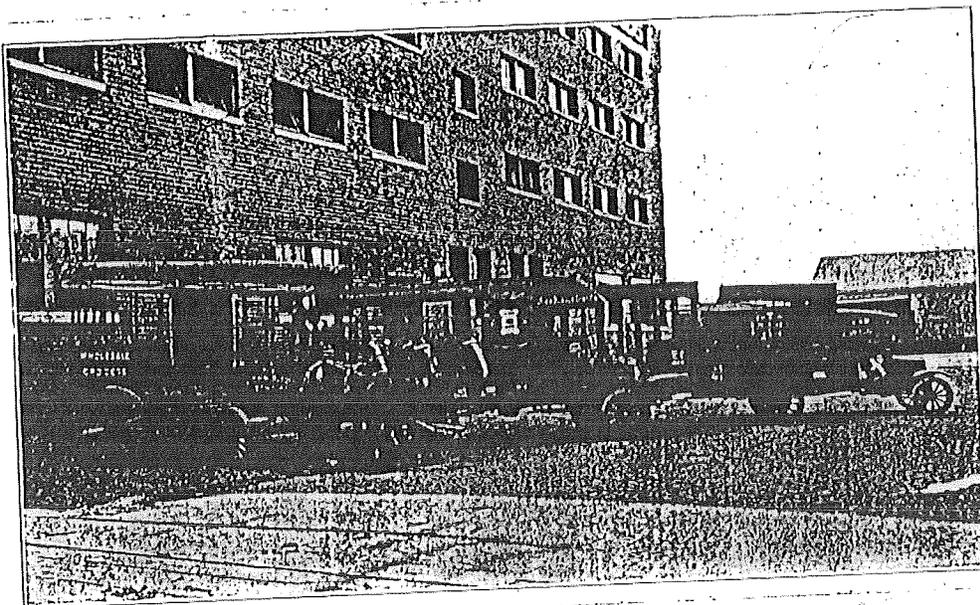


Postcard and photo, dates  
unknown  
The Karl & Mary Koehler  
History Center

**THE JOHN BLAUL'S SONS COMPANY**

600-608 FIRST STREET, S. E. - PHONE 2-2144

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*



797125.2 (can't lend on)