Site Inventory Form

State Inventory No. 22-01332  ☒ New  ☐ Supplemental
Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 22-01381
☒ 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  Fisko Building
other names/site number  Elkader Fitness Center; Hyde Brothers Implement Co.

2. Location

street & number  205 South Main Street
city or town  Elkader  ☐ vicinity, county  Clayton

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name  Township No.  Range No.  Section  Quarter of Quarter
(If Urban) Subdivision  Original Town  Block(s)  Fractional Blk  6  Lot(s) S. 30° 9' Lot 4 N. 10° 3' of Lot 5

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
☒ building(s)  If Non-Eligible Property
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object
Enter number of:  If Eligible Property, enter number of:
buildings  Contributing  Noncontributing
sites  structures  objects

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
Arch. & Hist. Resources of the Elkader Downtown Historic District MPD  22-030

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
02A07 Implement Dealer  02E Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
09F02 Broad Front  foundation  10 Concrete
walls  15G Synthetic Stone (Permastone)
roof  08 Asphalt
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  A Property is associated with significant events.
☐ Yes ☒ No  More Research Recommended  B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
☐ Yes ☒ No  More Research Recommended  C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
☐ Yes ☒ No  More Research Recommended  D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.
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 Person
(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc.
organization  City of Elkader
date  7/2011
street & number  N3834 Deep Lake Road
telephone  715/469-3300
state  WI
zip code  54870

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES
1. **Map:** showing the property’s location in a town/city or township.
2. **Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. **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
1. **Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or non-contributing status)
2. **Barn:**
   a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
   b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
   c. 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: ___________________________
Fisko Building
Name of Property
205 South Main Street
Address

7. Description:

This building is estimated by the Clayton County Assessor to have been built in 1900. However, the building doesn't appear on this site according to Sanborn Maps until sometime between 1913 and 1930. After that time, the 2-story building sustained damage in a fire on January 1, 1947 and further damage in the November 1958 tornado. After being sold to Thor Fisko, Jr. it was rebuilt in 1963 with the second floor removed and the front façade clad in synthetic stone. Its current appearance includes a Broad Front design with wide plate glass display windows flanking the centered entrance. The passage door on the north end of the front likely was previously used for separate access to the upper level. The building was originally constructed as a machinery and implement sales and repair shop but now serves as a fitness center.

8. Significance:

The Fisko Building at 205 South Main Street was built as Broad Front 2-story commercial building to house the Hyde Brothers Implement Co. before World War I. It has lost substantial integrity following rebuilding efforts after fires and the 1958 tornado including removal of the upper level. The building is a noncontributing resource in the Elkader Downtown Historic District because of its loss of integrity and late reconstruction in 1963. The district derives significance under both Criteria A and C. Under these criteria, the district's commercial buildings are associated with the historic contexts developed for the downtown in the "Architectural and Historical Resources of the Elkader Downtown Historic District" Multiple Property Documentation form covering the years 1846 to 1960. The Fisko Building post-dates the period of significance.

Elkader Downtown Historic District Background:

The town of Elkader was laid out in 1846 along the banks of the Turkey River approximately 16 miles upstream from the Turkey River's confluence with the Mississippi River. The town was surveyed and laid out in 1846 with the Original Town Plat filed in June 22, 1846 by Timothy Davis, Chester Sage and John Thompson, friends and business partners, who began operating a sawmill on North Front (Main) Street in 1845 before the town was even platted. By 1849 they had a successful flour mill in operation. The new town was named for Abd el-Kader, an Algerian freedom fighter and world figure who was admired by Davis. The principal building stimulating development in the 1840s and 1850s was the Elkader Mill. After 1860 when the Clayton County voters selected Elkader as the permanent county seat, the downtown saw a variety of merchants set up shops, several hotels open, a number of newspapers begin publication, and small manufacturing concerns get underway in the city center. Elkader numbered 440 residents in 1860.

The new county court house saw its first section completed in 1869 opposite the downtown. New limestone buildings were erected along both North and South Main Street with public halls frequently located on upper floors. During the 1870s and 1880s 2-story brick buildings began replacing frame business houses. A permanent railroad connection was completed by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul RR in 1886 but service remained poor as Elkader was located at the end of a spur rather than along a main line route. A more important transportation improvement during the 1880s was the completion of the Keystone Bridge across the Turkey River in 1880. Its completion prompted a period
of economic vitality and community investment. The community was officially incorporated two years later in 1891 and a new waterworks system and city well were completed in 1896. Electricity was rejected by locals until the end of the decade in 1900, however. In the meantime, new churches were built in 1897 for the Congregationalists on the east side of the river and in 1897-1899 for the Catholics on the west side of the river. Coupled with a series of major fires during the 1890s, the downtown saw a period of rebuilding with a new hotel and bank at the entrance to the business district at the turn of the century. The new opera house was completed on North Main Street while other 2 and 3-story brick blocks appeared both north and south of Bridge Street.

By 1900, Elkader’s population stood at its peak of 1,321 – an increase of 77 percent during the decade of the 1890s. Development continued in the downtown before and after World War I but at a much slower pace. Floods and fires damaged the Elkader Mill in 1902, 1906 and 1908, but it was nevertheless rebuilt by Schmidt Brothers & Co., retaining a key employer and anchor for Elkader’s downtown. The business district began to extend to the west before and after the war with the principal changes seen along West Bridge Street. Here livery stables and wagon shops were replaced by automobile dealerships, implement companies and filling stations. Five stations eventually located along West Bridge with a sixth one block to the south along First Street SW. The national economic depression of the 1930s was coupled by the closing of the Elkader Mill in 1939 following a major fire. Natural disasters after World War I included major floods in 1922, 1947, and 1958 with a tornado destroying section of South Main Street in 1958 as well.

Despite these natural and human made disasters, Elkader saw steady but modest population growth from 1,223 in 1920 to 1,526 in 1960. The impact of the automobile was seen in traffic patterns, parking patterns, and traffic signs and the introduction of electricity saw several generations of street lighting come and go. The popularity of the opera house waned and the first floor became the municipal fire station while two movie houses came and one stayed in the downtown drawing evening crowds for entertainment and shopping. As many as 130 people resided in downtown flats during this period. A good system of inter and intra-state highways connected Elkader and its downtown to other parts of the state and country in a way that railroads had never served the community. By 1960, downtown Elkader was well-established as one of several geographically dispersed retail centers serving Clayton County. Virtually every storefront was filled with start-up businesses or multi-generational family stores as Elkader’s downtown achieved a stable and healthy status for local and countywide residents.

Historic Background for the Fisko Building at 205 South Main Street:

The Fisko Building at 205 South Main Street was built in ca. 1914 for Hyde Brothers Implement Company. The partnership included James T. Hyde and Thomas P. Hyde who had a blacksmith business on this location prior to 1900. Then in 1913 P.J. Hyde joined his brothers to expand sales of farm machinery and implements under the name Hyde Brothers Implement Company. P.J. Hyde became the executive head of the firm and by 1937, he was joined by his sons Edwin and Hugh. The firm sold McCormick-Deering and Farmall implements. The sons took over the business in 1946 when their father retired. On January 1, 1947 the business suffered a major disaster when a sub-zero fire ravaged the building but brothers Edwin and Hugh rebuilt. In 1958 the building was one of 15 in the 100 and 200 blocks of South Main Street that suffered damage when a November tornado struck the area. By 1963 the damaged building was sold to Thor Fisko, Jr. and his wife Barbara. They completed repairs to the building including finishing removal of the damaged second floor and refacing of the front
façade with Permastone. Since then the building has held a number of businesses including Golden Touch Beauty Salon and the law offices of Steve Sauders. The building currently contains Elkader Fitness Center operated by J.P. Zapf.

9. Major Sources:


*Census of State of Iowa* for the years 1856, 1867, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925 as printed by various State Printers.

*Clayton County, Iowa, Memories & Heritage from the Photo Albums of Clayton County*. Elkader, Iowa: The Clayton County Register, 1997.

Downtown Building Survey (73 surveyed buildings) records including survey questionnaires, draft Iowa Site Inventory Forms and digital photographs. Main Street Elkader, 2009.


Downtown Elkader Individual Property Site Maps compiled by Eli Garms, Clayton County GIS, Engineer’s Office, Elkader, November 2010.

Elkader Historical Society/Carter House Museum research file for 205 South Main Street; files focusing on downtown Elkader buildings, businesses, civic leaders and related information. Compiled by Marge Costigan and other museum volunteers. Research files contain hundreds of historic photos, newspaper articles, publication transcriptions, property ownership records, and information from interviews. Digital copies of some research files were loaned to Marlys Svendsen, October 2010 and others were made available in March 2011 for duplication.


“Kleinpell’s Hardware.” *The Elkader Register*, September 10, 1925.


“Pages from the Past”, *Clayton County Register*, June 19, 2001

“Plat of Elkader, June 22, 1846.” Recorder’s Office, Clayton County, Court House, Elkader, Iowa.


Property Transfer Records for Blocks 3 – 10 and Fractional Blocks 3-6 in Town of Elkader, Clayton County Auditor’s Office and Recorder’s Office, Clayton County Court House, Elkader, Iowa.


United States Census,1850-2010, provided by State Library of Iowa and the City of Elkader.
Fisko Building                                         Clayton
Name of Property                                 County
205 South Main Street                             Elkader
Address                                               City

Additional Information:

Full Legal Description: Original Town of Elkader, S. 30 ft. 9 inches of Lot 4 and N. 10 ft, 3 inches of Lot 5, Fractional Block 6.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fisko Building</th>
<th>Clayton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Property</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205 South Main Street</td>
<td>Elkader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photographs:** 205 South Main Street, looking east, and rear overlooking Turkey River, looking southwest (Elkader Downtown Survey Photograph, 10/29/2010, Marlys Svendsen, photographer)