

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

State Inventory No. 29-01128 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 29-03685, 29-0001
 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 Beck Building

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # J-152

2. Location

street & number 611 Jefferson Street

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) west 20' of Lot 796

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 N/A Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02G02: Commerce / saloon

70: Vacant

02E11: Commerce / grocery

02E03: Commerce / clothing store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09F05: Commercial / brick front

foundation 04: Stone

05B: Italianate

walls (visible material) 03: Brick

roof 08B: Rolled 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)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 611 Jefferson Street Site Number 29-01128
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
02: Architecture

Significant Dates

Construction date 1874 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 Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport research by Judy Stevens and Barb Mackey
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date January 31, 2014
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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<u>Beck Building</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
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7. Narrative Description

This is a three-story, three bay, brick Italianate building. It retains several characteristic features of the Italianate style, including tall arch windows, bracketed cornice, and pilasters emphasizing the vertical. The storefront has been remodeled, with a recessed centered single-door entry with large display windows to either side. The storefront cornice has three keystones that were likely above the original first story openings, with large dentils between them and to the side under the continuous stone sill of the second story windows. The three upper bays are framed with pilasters that span both stories. Each window has a keystone in the center of the arch lintel. The second story windows are inset in the brick wall. The center arch window has two small double-hung arch windows within it. The two side second story windows have one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes, and the overall opening is somewhat sculpted within the general arch window opening. Dentils extend under the third story continuous stone sills. Each bay on the third story has two narrow one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The cornice has a pediment in the center, with decorative brackets at the top of each pilaster. Five brick "brackets" are located under the cornice line in each bay.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Beck Building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District (#29-03685). The building was constructed in 1874 by Henry Beck, who then sold it to son John H. Beck, who operated a saloon here in the 1870s and 1880s. A variety of businesses then operated there through the 19th and 20th centuries, contributing to the historic significance of the downtown district. This building is an excellent example of Italianate architecture in downtown Burlington, with tall arch windows, bracketed cornice, and pilasters. It also contributes to the first period of architectural significance for the historic district. The building is currently listed as contributing in the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001).

The building at 611 Jefferson (west 20 feet of Lot 796) was owned by the original Beck family from construction until 1958. A family member also continuously occupied an upper story apartment throughout this period. On July 6, 1873, the *Hawk-Eye* reported that Mr. H. Beck has moved an old building from this lot in preparation to build a three-story brick building (page 4). On September 29, 1874, it was noted that the three-story brick building has a handsome front that will be a decided improvement on this block (page 8). On December 11, 1874, John H. Beck announced that his saloon would open at 611 Jefferson tomorrow, with a free lunch and music in the evening (page 8). This building, along with the corner building at 601 Jefferson, were complete before May 1875, when the center four buildings were proposed for construction (*Hawk-Eye*, May 11, 1875, 8). This was then referred to as John Beck's building. On July 8, 1875, Henry and B. Beck sold the building to John H. Beck. In 1884, John H. Beck continues to be listed as having a saloon at this location. The 1886 Sanborn map, though, shows a vacant store. The 1890 city directory lists Mort G. Steece, druggist, at 611 Jefferson, and John H. Beck, retired, is living at 611 ½ Jefferson. J.H. Beck is then listed with a restaurant here in 1892, and the 1892 Sanborn map indicates a saloon. The 1896 city directory lists John Beck, retired, at 611 Jefferson. He continued to live here with wife Margaretha until his death in the 1925, and then his family continued to live here. Miss Elizabeth G. Beck is also listed as living

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here. John H. Beck was born in Burlington on August 4, 1849, the son of Henry and Barbara Beck. In 1876, he married Margaretha Halmus, and their only child, a daughter, Elizabeth, was born on October 9, 1881. Elizabeth never married. John died on 30 December 30, 1925. Margaretha became an invalid and died on February 3, 1930. On October 27, 1934, the estate of Margaretha transferred the property to Elizabeth Beck. She continued to live here until her death in 1958.

During this period, the storefront space was occupied by a variety of businesses. The 1900 city directory lists A. Mickler's Famous C House. In 1907, Miss Augusta C. Deterick, milliner is listed here. In 1912, Louis Garland operated a men's furnishing store here. It was then noted as vacant in the 1916 and 1920 directories. The 1924 city directory first lists the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company at 611 Jefferson, with C.R. Bettinger as manager. This national grocery store chain was listed at 611 Jefferson and 910 Maple in the 1926 city directory. In 1928, they moved to their new building across the street at 604-606 Jefferson. In 1929, company history notes that A&P had 15,418 stores nationwide, with \$1 billion in sales (<http://aptea.com/our-company/our-history>). The 1930 city directory then lists the property as vacant. In 1933, Don Pease was operating Burlington Creamery Co. at 611 Jefferson St. In 1935, the Quality Food Market is listed here. Fern Tavern is then listed here in 1937 and 1938. Per the 1940 city directory, Rollin J. Cowles was selling electrical equipment at 611 Jefferson St. A women's clothing store, Malley Bros, was then listed here in 1942. Benner Tea Company then used this building as one of their locations in 1945 and 1947. From 1951 to 1957, The China Shop is listed here.

In 1960, ABC Realty Company was operating at 611 Jefferson, offering a completely line of real estate services. Hugh G. Walter Realty was also listed here, as well as Russell G. Strong's mail order house. ABC Realty Company continues to be listed here in 1963 and 1965. By 1968, American Cab Company was here, and they continue to be listed here until 1973. According to the city directory, 611 ½ Jefferson was occupied by Edwin Winkler in 1968, Leonard Talbot in 1971 and was then vacant until 2006. Donald G. Bowen was operating Studio B. Photography at 611 Jefferson in 1975. On August 28, 1978, Christina B. Striegel, single, & Lillian Bergman, single (believed to be relatives of Elizabeth Beck) transferred their interest in 611 Jefferson St. to Alvin & Martha Hertel.

Asian Cravings was the last business located here, and it is currently vacant with apartments on the upper stories.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Brower, Steven. *West Jefferson Street Historic District*. National Register of Historic Places nomination form. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, IA. Listed on April 9, 1991.

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 scanned 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.

Smith, Claudia, and Marie Landon. 1976 survey of sites in Burlington. Iowa Site Inventory forms prepared on file at State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, IA.

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

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
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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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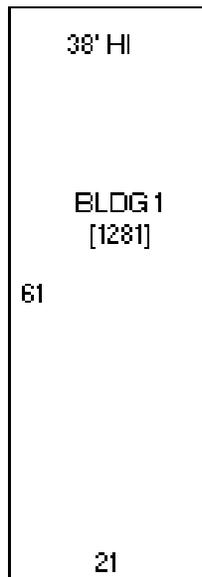
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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Historic images



South side of 500 block of Jefferson in 1977 (Downtown Partners)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-01128-001 – North elevation, looking south (McCarley, July 17, 2013).