

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

**State Inventory No.** 29-01129  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 Stensbeck Building  
 other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # J-146

**2. Location**

street & number 612-614 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) 882A and E 12'4" of Lot 882

**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**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02E: Commerce / specialty store – wallpaper/paints</u>	<u>02D: Commerce / financial business</u>
<u>02E03: Commerce / clothing store</u>	
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09F05: Commercial / brick front</u>	foundation <u>04: Stone</u>
<u>05B: Italianate</u>	walls (visible material) <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08B: Rolled Asphalt</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 checked="" 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 612-614 Jefferson Street Site Number 29-01129  
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 1888  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 Steve Frevert and Barb Mackey  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date January 27, 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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Related District Number 29-03685

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Stensbeck Building

Des Moines

Name of Property

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612-614 Jefferson Street

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## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story brick commercial building. The building originally had two storefronts with a central staircase to the second story. The first story was remodeled into a double-storefront design in 1915, and it has since been remodeled again. The current design appears to date to the 1980s, with multi-color brick, smaller tinted windows, and a central entry. Signage extends across the former transom area. The second story has seven one-over-one-light double-hung windows with stone sills and segmental arch lintels with keystones. Historic photographs show two-over-two-light double-hung wood windows originally. The building retains its Italianate metal cornice with large decorative end brackets, a large bracket above each window, and two smaller brackets between each large bracket. The east side extends along the mid-block side alley, with small windows on the first story and double-hung windows on the second story. There is a newer concrete block garage associated with this property on the parcel to the north and extending behind 614 and 616 Jefferson.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Stensbeck Building appears to contribute historically to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District (#29-03685). The building appears to have been constructed around 1887 as an investment for William and Edward Stensbeck, and Edward continued to own it until his death in 1919. John Renner operated his wallpaper and paint business here from 1894 until his death in 1913, and his sons Frank and John Renner continued the business here through the late 1920s. Various stores occupied the building in the 1930s and 1940s, and then Model Clothing was here from around 1950 into the 1970s. This history contributes to the significance of the district. The building does not appear likely to be individually eligible under Criteria A, B, or C. The building is currently listed as contributing in the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001).

The 1886 Sanborn map has a small one-story cabinet shop at 612, a one-story marble business at 614, and a skinny building at 616 (now part of the 612-614 property). O.M. Burrus had his marble and granite works at 614 Jefferson by 1887 (*Hawk-Eye*, September 11, 1887, p. 3), and upholsterer John Renner was mentioned at 612 Jefferson in the next day's paper. A double-storefront two-story building was likely then built to replace these smaller buildings in this period. The Stensbeck family owned the property at this time. Henry Stensbeck (carpenter in the 1892 directory) transferred Lot 882A to William Stensbeck on October 4, 1886, along with the east 12'4" of Lot 882. He also sold the west 19'8" of the east 32' (building to west, currently 616) to Edward Stensbeck. In March 1888, William Stensbeck transferred the west half of the building (west 7'4" of Lot 882A and east 12'4" of Lot 882, currently 614) to Edward Stensbeck.

While William and Edward owned the property, it is Henry Stensbeck who is reported on February 19, 1888 to be arranging for the construction of a "fine brick block, 40x60 feet" to replace frame structures on the north side of Jefferson and immediately west of the alley between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets ("Building in Burlington," *Hawk-Eye*, February 19, 1888, 1). The *Hawk-Eye* reported that a frame structure was built on the north side of Jefferson just west of 6<sup>th</sup> Street for O.M. Burrus, displaced by the construction of the new building. It noted that he would move into the new building, but he appears to have remained

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in the frame building until the construction of the building on the east side of the alley (*Hawk-Eye*, February 23, 1888, 3). Interestingly, it is then August Stensbeck who is reported to have foundation stone ready for his new building on Jefferson on April 14, 1888 (page 3). On June 23, the *Hawk-Eye* reported that Mr. Stensbeck, "one of our extensive property owners," has had some of the shanties removed from the north side of Jefferson between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets to build a substantial two-story brick building in their place (*Hawk-Eye*, June 23, 1888, 3). On August 9, 1888, the *Hawk-Eye* reported that Mr. Stensbeck's new brick building on Jefferson near 7<sup>th</sup> Street was up to the second story, but they had no idea what he planned to do with the two-feet of vacant land immediately to the west of it ("Mr. Stensbeck's New Block," *Hawk-Eye*, August 9, 1888, 3). This space is shown on the 1892 and 1900 Sanborn maps. Work on the second story proceeded rapidly, and the newspaper reported that the brick work, roof, and cornice are completed on August 29, 1888 (*Hawk-Eye*, August 29, 1888, 3).

This two-story building is then depicted on the 1889 birds-eye view of Burlington. In September 1909, William sold the east half of the building to Edward Stensbeck as well. He continued to own the property until his death in 1919. The 1892 Sanborn map shows a two-story building with central stairs to the second story, with feed at 614 and a saloon at 616 (replaced the three one-story buildings, with the current 616 to the west numbered as 618). There is a small space between this building and the earlier building to the west. The 1892 city directory lists L. Seuffert, Waterloo flour and feed, in the east half (614) and Walz Bernard, restaurant, in the west half (616). Two dwellings sit to the north of the property on the east half of Lot 881, and Edward and Henry Stensbach (sic.) are listed as living at the rear of 614 Jefferson in the 1892 city directory. The 1900 Sanborn map continues to show the space to the west, the central stairs to the second story, and wallpaper/paints at 614 (now 612) and picture frames at 616 (now 614).

In December 1894, John Renner moved his wallpaper business to a "handsome model double store" at 612-614 Jefferson. As noted in the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*: "Where this imposing structure now stands once stood a small frame building in which Mr. Renner was located." ("Big Business," *Hawk-Eye*, December 9, 1894, 3). The 1896-97 city directory lists J. Renner at 612-614 Jefferson, selling wall paper, shades, paints, oils, varnishes, awnings, and hair mattresses. The 1900-01 city directory lists him as selling wallpaper, paints, and oils, and he lived on the second story. The 1900 Sanborn map shows wallpaper/paints at 614 (now 612) and picture frames at 616 (now 614). They continue to be listed at 612-614 through the 1910s and 1920s. The 1912 city directory notes that John Renner & Sons sold wallpaper, paints, oils, glass, window shades, and picture frames. John Renner died in 1913, and the business was continued by his sons Frank and John. In February 1915, they began work on a new storefront, designed by George Washburn and installed by Hansell and Thye. It had a wide recessed central entry, large plate glass windows, and prism glass transoms ("Give Craftsmen Work," *Hawk-Eye*, February 21, 1915, 11). On June 24, 1919, John and Frank Renner bought the building from the estate of Edward Stensbeck, as well as the building to the west at 616 Jefferson. The 1920 city directory lists John Renner's Sons Company at 612-616 Jefferson, adding space in the building to the west. In 1920, they also became the exclusive retailers in Burlington for the rapidly growing Burlington Willow-Ware Shops, making willow baskets and products ("Burlington Firm is Branching Out," *Hawk-Eye*, January 4, 1920, 14). The business continued to grow. In 1922, they doubled their floor space by expanding to the second story with the installation of a staircase. New departments that had been added required additional space, and a toy department was to be added ("Renner's Sons Company," *Hawk-Eye*,

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January 1, 1922, 6). They continued to be listed at 612-616 Jefferson in 1924, and then their listing returned to 612-614 in 1926.

An advertisement for John Renner's Sons at 612-614-616 Jefferson on March 29, 1925 outlined the history of the company. John Renner moved to Burlington from Germany in 1878 and worked for Wyman & Rand. He then started his own business in 1880 in the basement of the (present) Elks building (Nassau Building). He then moved to Jefferson Street, and then moved again to this location. He died in 1913, and his sons Frank and John continued the business ("John Renner's Sons," *Hawk-Eye*, March 29, 1925, 11). John Renner's Sons were last listed at 612-614 Jefferson in 1928. The property was sold at a sheriff sale to Frank W. Kassel on May 23, 1931.

Beginning in 1916 and continuing through the 1930s, a significant number of African Americans lived in the two Stensbeck houses located behind the building (demolished).

The building at 612-614 Jefferson was vacant in 1930, and then Burlington Salvage Company was listed here in 1935. It was then listed as the Burlington Paint and Wallpaper Company, run by Arthur Bloomquist, in 1937 and 1940. He sold paints, wallpaper, and painters' supplies. Frank Kassel sold the building to Alec Goldenberg on November 17, 1941. It was vacant again in 1942. B.F. Goodrich was listed here in 1945 and 1947, selling tires. Model Clothing was then listed here by 1951, and they continued to be listed here into the 1970s. The second story appears remodeled into apartments in the 1950s.

It is now the location of the Financial Adjustment Bureau.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Antrobus, A.T. *History of Des Moines County Iowa and Its People*. Chicago, IL: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915.

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

*Perspective Map of the City of Burlington, IA*. Milwaukee, WI: American Publishing Co., 1889.

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County, Iowa*. Chicago: Acme Publishing Company, 1888.

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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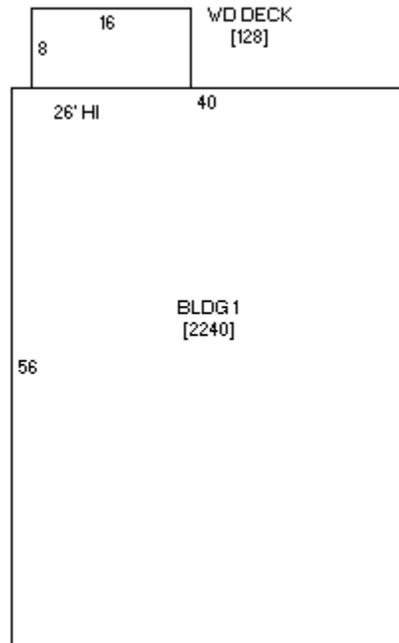
612-614 Jefferson Street

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## Building plan (from assessor's website)



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## Historic images



Building in 1896 (Downtown Partners)

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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**North side of 600 block of Jefferson in 1977 (Downtown Partners)**

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State Historical Society of Iowa  
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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 29-01129-001 – South elevation, looking north (McCarley, July 17, 2013).**