

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

State Inventory No. 29-03665 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 F.W. Foester Blacksmith Shop and Residence
 other names/site number Gottlieb H. Bresser Blacksmith Shop and Residence, Downtown Survey Map # DT-31

2. Location

street & number 113 Court 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) 76 – north ½ (30') – east 30'

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>02E04 Blacksmith</u> | <u>01A01 Residence (2nd floor)</u> |
| <u>01A01 Residence (2nd floor)</u> | <u>01C05 Garage (1st floor)</u> |

7. Description

| Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) | Materials (Enter categories from instructions) |
|---|--|
| <u>09F05: Commercial / brick front</u> | foundation <u>04C Limestone</u> |
| | walls (visible material) <u>03 Brick</u> |
| | roof <u>15C01 Rubber membrane</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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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 113 Court St Site Number 29-03665
City Burlington 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)

05: Commerce

Significant Dates

Construction date 1891 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 David Roed, Commission Member Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport

organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date November 12, 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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|---|-------------------|
| <u>F.W. Foester Blacksmith Shop and Residence</u> | <u>Des Moines</u> |
| Name of Property | County |
| <u>113 Court St</u> | <u>Burlington</u> |
| Address | City |

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story brick building constructed with commercial use as a blacksmith shop on the first story and living quarters for the shop owner on the second story. The building has a limestone foundation and flat rubberized roof. The entry is at the far right/west of the north elevation with a garage door roughly centered on the first story. A six-over-six-light double-hung window is located to the left of both doors. All four openings have segmental arch brick lintels, and the windows have stone sills. A small balcony projects on the second story of the north/front. The second story door enters onto this balcony. Three two-over-one-light double-hung windows are also found on the second story, and these openings also have segmental brick arch lintels and stone sills. The building cornice has decorative brick corbeling and "brackets" along the parapet wall on the north side. The west side has two six-over-six-light double-hung windows on the first story and four two-over-one-light double-hung windows on the second story. The east side has three windows on the first story, with the rear two covered and the front one with six-over-six-light double-hung sashes. Two two-over-one-light double-hung windows are also found on the second story. Sanborn maps show the east windows to be iron-clad with shutters until the 1952 map. There are no windows on the rear (south side) of the building.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The F.W. Foester Blacksmith Shop and Residence appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historic significance in the commercial history of Burlington as a blacksmith shop. The two-story brick building was constructed for F.W. Foester around 1891 as a blacksmith shop on the first story and his residence on the second story. After his death, Gottlieb Henry Bresser bought the building and moved his blacksmith shop into the first story, also living on the second story. He continued to operate a blacksmith/repair shop here until he retired around 1940. With research to date, this building appears to be the only extant building constructed as a blacksmith shop, and it functioned as a blacksmith shop for nearly 50 years. Further assessment of the interior would solidify this final determination, as well as better assess the integrity of the building for potential architectural significance under Criterion C. The building may also be significant under Criterion B for its association with Gottlieb Henry Bresser, a well-known blacksmith and wood carver in Burlington. As the building is separated by demolitions from the core of the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District, it does not appear that it will fall within the boundary for the historic district (see #29-03685).

This property was owned by the Bamford/Strauss family for several years, with them selling it (east 30' of north half and all of south half of Lot 76) to Pauline Trulock on December 6, 1882. She immediately sold it on January 4, 1883 to J. Knoblauch. He sold the east 30' of the north half of Lot 76 to Ida Brummer on October 12, 1883. The 1886 Sanborn map shows an earlier building on this site – a one-story blacksmith shop. On October 18, 1888, Mrs. Brummer sold the property to F.W. Foester. The 1889 birds-eye view does not appear to show a two-story building here. The 1890 city directory lists F.W. Foster as living next door at 119 Court with his blacksmith shop likely in the earlier building here, listed on "Court near Front." The current two-story building was constructed by the 1892 Sanborn map. Thus, it appears built around 1891 by F.W. Foester for his blacksmith shop on the first story and

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residence on the second story. The 1900 census lists F.W. Foester, age 61, widow, as a blacksmith at 113 Court. He was born in Germany and immigrated in 1882. The 1900 city directory lists F.W. Foester as a blacksmith at 113 Court, with residence at the same address. Two other blacksmiths were listed in Burlington – John Fink & Sons (714 Jefferson, one story, demolished) and J. Hagerty & Sons (214 Columbia, one story demolished, and 126 S. 3rd St, one story, demolished). The 1904 city directory lists F.W. “Foerster” with a blacksmith shop at 113 Court and residence at 113 ½ Court.

F.W. Foester then died, and the blacksmith shop is listed at 117 Court with Gottlieb H. Bresser working and living here in the 1906 directory. On November 30, 1907, Foester’s estate (George Smith, et al) sold the property to Gottlieb Bresser. The address shifts back to 113 Court Street by the 1910 city directory. The 1910 census lists G.H. Bresser, age 44, married for eight years, as proprietor of a horse shoeing business, living at 113 Court as well. His household includes wife Sadie (44), son Henry Wright (19, salesman), and son Henry Bresser (5). The 1920 census lists Gottlieb Bresser (age 56, blacksmith) with wife Sadie (54) and son Charles (15, freight house laborer) at 113 Court. The 1926 city directory lists seven “blacksmiths and horseshoers” in Burlington: G.H. Bresser (113 Court, extant), V.T. Champagne (113 Columbia, one story, demolished), E.P. Hagerty (225 S. 3rd St, earlier commercial building, extant), M.W. Hagerty (214 Columbia, demolished), G.V. Sheagren (1515 S. Main), C.W. Sommer (800 Osborn), and Wuellner Repair Shop (rear of 1805 Mason). The 1930 census lists Gottlieb Bresser continuing to live and work at 113 Court. He is listed at age 66 as proprietor of a blacksmith shop, living here with wife Sadie (age 65). The property is valued at \$1,500. The 1931 Sanborn map shows the building as a blacksmith and wagon shop. The 1940 census lists Gottlieb H. Bresser as a widow at age 76, with no occupation noted. The 1940 city directory continues to list him as a blacksmith at 113 Court, living at 113 ½ Court. By 1942, he is listed as still living here, but he has no occupation noted.

Gottlieb Henry Bresser was born in Burlington on April 7, 1864. He worked various jobs, including as a blacksmith at the West Burlington shops. He was also a horseshoer, and he shed many horses in his original location near Valley and Third. He then had a blacksmith shop for 12 years on Valley between 3rd and 4th, prior to the construction of the Schramm & Schmiegl building on that site at the northwest corner in 1907. He then bought the blacksmith shop at 113 Court and moved to this location. His wife Sadie died in 1936, and he continued to live in the apartment over his former shop until his death in 1952. In addition to the blacksmith/repair shop, he was known for his hobby of woodcarving. He carved presidents, prominent local citizens, and family members. He also made intricately carved wood canes. A 1933 article highlighted his statues carved in wood and fabricated with cement. It noted that the apartment above his shop had wooden likenesses of many presidents: McKinley, Lincoln, Washington, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and others. The bust of Calvin Coolidge had been sent to Washington D.C. at the time of his inauguration, returned in a special box from the White House to Bresser. Most of the carvings were cut from solid wood blocks and hand painted by Bresser. Some were framed and hung on the wall like pictures, while other busts were placed on hand carved wood pedestals. He also made cement busts of his parents for their graves at Aspen Grove Cemetery. He first cast a block of concrete and then chiseled it, similar to the process with wood. He also had made other cement busts of prominent local citizens. He worked on his carvings between repairs and sharpening blades in his shop, “beneath a protruding balcony that is part of his home” (“Henry Bresser

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is Dead at 88," *Hawk-Eye*, June 7, 1952, 8; "Sculpture is Spare Time Hobby of 'Village Smithy,'" *Hawk-Eye*, June 25, 1933, 3).

With Gottlieb H. Bresser retiring around 1940, he then rented out the shop space on the first story while continuing to live in his residence on the second story until his death in 1952. The Des Moines County Implement Tractor Service company is listed here in 1942, run by Ward E. Mills and Frank O. Tweed. They continued to be listed at 113 Court in 1945 and 1947. The space was vacant in the 1951 city directory. Gottlieb Henry Bresser died on June 7, 1952.

After his death, the property was changed in title to Henry C. Bresser on July 13, 1953. The 1952 Sanborn map lists the building as storage. Various occupants lived in the building, likely on the second story. Iowa Pasting Service is listed on the first story in 1957. The property was sold to Clarence and Nellie Alter on July 27, 1967.

In 1977, Nellie Alter, a widow, sold the property to Mary Delaney who with her husband Frank Delaney Jr, sold the property to its current owner Frank and Gretchen Delaney III, also owners of 119 Court.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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.

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.

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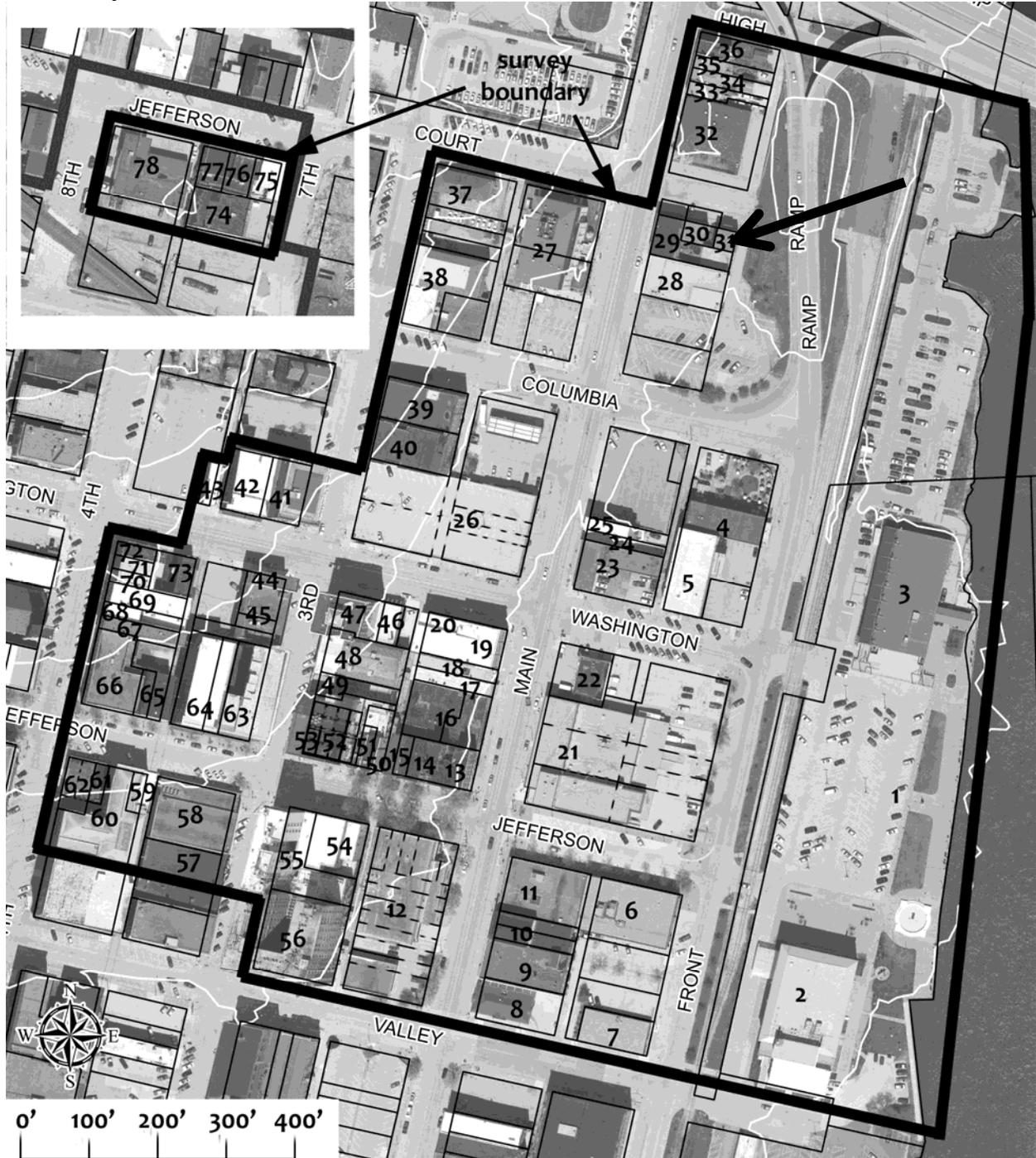
F.W. Foester Blacksmith Shop and Residence
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Des Moines
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Burlington
City

Location map



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

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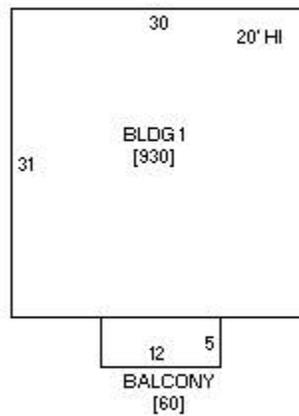
F.W. Foester Blacksmith Shop and Residence
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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Des Moines

Name of Property

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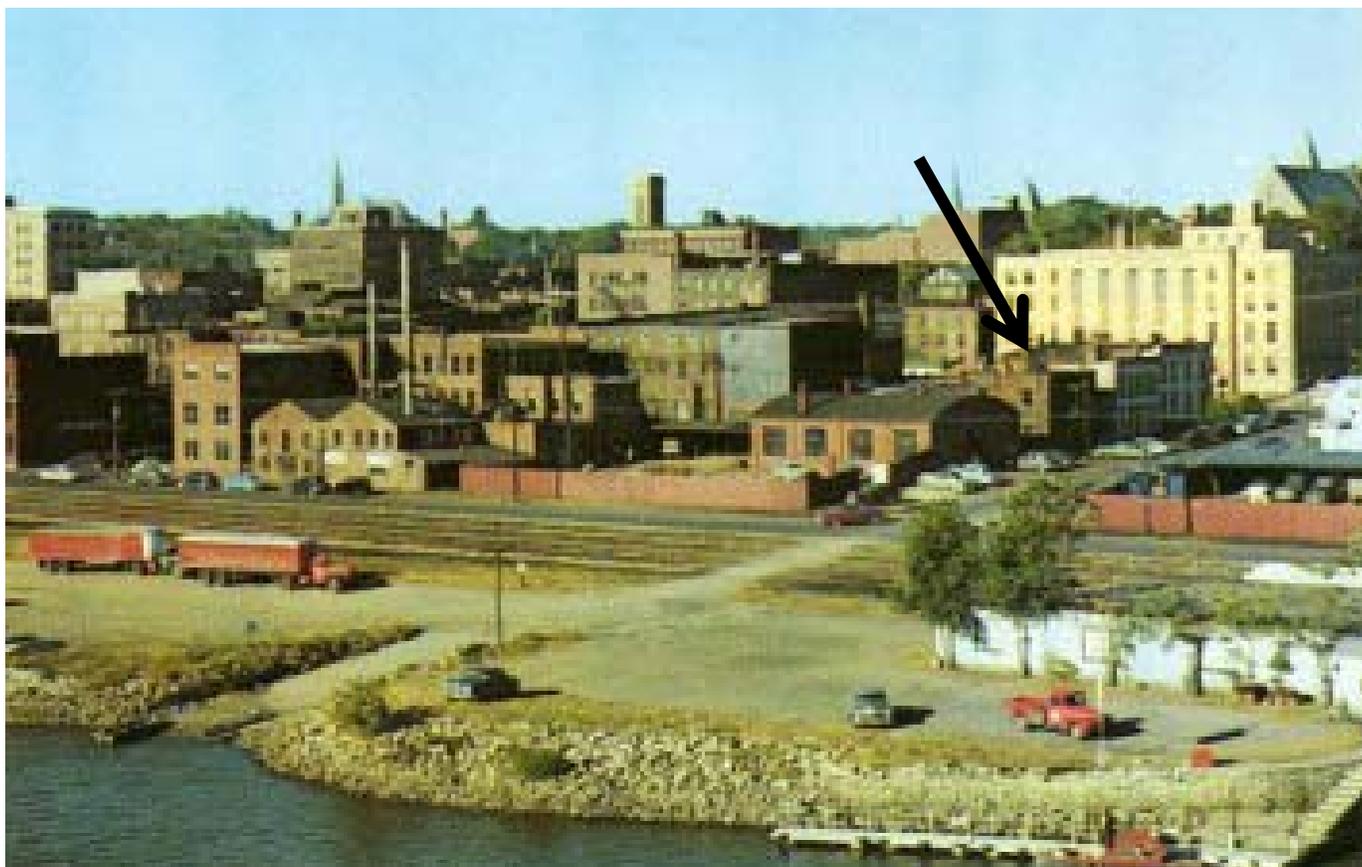
113 Court St

Burlington

Address

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Historic images



Building in 1950s photograph of riverfront (Downtown Partners collection).

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-03665-001 – North (front) and west elevations, looking southeast (McCarley, June 20, 2012).

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Photograph 29-03665-002 – East and north (front) elevations, looking southwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012).

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Photograph 29-03665-003 – South (rear) and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012).