

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

State Inventory No. 29-01244 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 29-03685
 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 Commercial Building

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-10

2. Location

street & number 214-216 North Main 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) 89 -south 40' (south 2/3)

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	_____ 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ sites	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ structures	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ objects	_____ objects
	_____ Total	_____ 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 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>02E: Commerce / Specialty store - Harness</u>	<u>02B04: Insurance Office</u>
<u>02E17 Commerce/Trade - Tobacco / Cigar Store</u>	
<u>02E10 Commerce/Trade - Appliance Sales & Service</u>	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09F05: Commercial building – brick front (clad)</u>	foundation <u>04 Stone</u>
	walls (visible material) <u>03 Brick – clad in panels</u>
	roof _____
	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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 214-216 North Main Street Site Number 29-01244
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)

Significant Dates

Construction date
1870 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation
c.1945, c.1986, c.2000

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 Mary Toal, Volunteer; Angela Adams, Commission Member Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date January 29, 2013
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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7. Narrative Description

This three-story brick commercial building was constructed around 1870, with subsequent middle 20th century rear additions. The façade appears initially remodeled for John H. Ewinger & Son Distributing Company, likely around 1945 when they expanded from only 214 to the full building. The upper story windows were infilled with glass block. The business closed in 1986, and it was remodeled for insurance offices. The upper stories of the façade appear to have been clad in stucco panels at that time, with smaller double-hung windows installed in the six second-story window openings. The first story of the façade then appears remodeled around 2000, when Great River Financial Group acquired the old Arion Restaurant building to the south. Currently, four windows are found on the first story, with entry through the building to the south. The rear elevations reveal that this is an older 19th century building, constructed with a gable roof sloping to either side. The two one-story additions are clad in stucco with a rear entry. The varying depths on the lot indicate their different periods of construction, the 214/south one likely in the 1920s and the 216/north one likely in the 1940s.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

While there is a significant business history associated with this building, the building no longer retains sufficient history integrity to be contributing within the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District due to the later (1986-2000) remodeling work on the façade,

The 1976 survey form indicates that this building was constructed around 1875, with no particular source of the date. It seems likely that the building is slightly earlier, perhaps around 1870. A later 1930 obituary of F.J. Disque notes that he started a saddlery and harness business at 216 N. Main Street after serving in the Civil War. He sold the harness business to George J. Reis in 1888 ("F.J. Disque Passes Away, *Hawk-Eye*, April 22, 1930, 5). Ulrich & Disque are noted under saddlers and harness makers in the 1866 city directory at 39 Jefferson and then in the 1871 city directory at 36 N. Main (old numbering). F.J. Disque & Company advertised as manufacturers and dealers in harness, saddles, collars, whips, horse clothing, etc. with a specialty of the fine harness in September 1874 at 216 N. Main Street (*Hawk-Eye*, September 9, 1874, 1). They are also noted as winning first premium on both double and single harnesses at the state fair that month (*Hawk-Eye*, September 27, 1874, 8). The 1871 city directory lists the cigar and tobacco shop at Dempsey & Heitmeier at 32 N. Main. William G. Hoerr bought out Charles Heitmeier in October 1874, and the business became Dempsey & Hoerr. The notice includes a note that the business will be continued at the old stand, 214 N. Main Street (*Hawk-Eye*, October 14, 1874, 1). A September 1881 newspaper advertisement lists W.H. Dempsey & Company as a cigar manufacturer at 214 N. Main (*Hawk-Eye*, September 23, 1881, 3). The 1886 Sanborn map shows a three-story, two-storefront building on the south 40' of the lot extending half the depth of the lot (~60'), with tobacco and cigars at 214 and harness shop at 216.

The 1892 Sanborn map shows a trunk factory at 214 and harness shop at 216. The 1890 city directory lists Adams & Jacoby, manufacturers of trunks and travelers items at 214 N. Main with George J. Reis, saddlery and harnesses at 216 N. Main. Adams & Jacoby had advertised at 204 N. Main in 1885,

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apparently moving on the block. The same listings are show in the 1892 directory. No listing was shown for 214 in 1896, with Reis still at 216. The fruit and confectionary store of John Corso opened at 214 N. Main by 1900, with George J. Reis remaining at 216. The 1900 Sanborn map continues to show the three-story, double-storefront building at 214-216 N. Main, extending only half the depth of the lot to the alley to the east. George J. Reis continued his harness business at 216 N. Main Street through the 1910s and into the 1920s. In February 1925, George J. Reis advertised his harness collars, whips, shoe tools, and furniture fixtures at 216 N. Main Street for sale, as he "will retire" (*Hawk-Eye*, February 11, 1925, 11).

The Ewinger family had operated a plumbing business in Burlington for several decades by the time that John Ewinger opened a retail plumbing business at 214 N. Main in 1904. Henry Ewinger started in the mill supply business in 1871 in Burlington, expanding into retail plumbing. He then opened an exclusive retail plumbing company under the management of his son John Ewinger ("Ewingers mark centennial," *Hawk-Eye*, September 26, 1971, 25). The business was listed at 320 N. 4th Street in the 1900 and 1904 city directories, and then it moved to 214 N. Main in 1904. The 1907 city directory lists John H. Ewinger at 214, offering plumbing, steam and hot water heating. Henry Ewinger Plumbing and Heating Company (William O. Ewinger, president) is listed at 213 N. 3rd Street. The 1912 city directory lists John H. Ewinger as a plumber at 214 N. Main (wife Ursula), with Wesley Ewinger listed as working for the company. William O. Ewinger continued as president of the Henry Ewinger Plumbing and Heating Company at 213 N. 3rd Street. The 1916 and 1920 city directories continue to list John H. Ewinger as a plumber at 214 N. Main, with Wesley Ewinger listed as working for the company. In the 1920s, John H. Ewinger plumbing continues to operate at 214 N. Main with Wesley F. Ewinger and J.F. Warner listed as the plumbers. John H. Ewinger is then listed as a farmer in the 1926 city directory, and the company is noted as plumbers and supplies. The 1928 city directory lists the company as "plumbing-radio-electric," indicating an expanding retail line. The 1930 city directory lists the company run by Wesley F. Ewinger and Ursula F. Warner, who appears to be his sister (J.F. Warner was listed in 1924). Family stories note that Wesley's wife Gertrude wanted a new washing machine in 1930, and he sold it for a profit before getting it home. So, he then expanded into washing machines as well. John H. Ewinger Company, the Kelvinator Corporation, and the *Hawk-Eye* sponsored a cold cooking school at the Eagle Hall in February 1932, featuring the Kelvinator Electric Refrigerator (*Hawk-Eye*, February 21, 1932, 6). The home appliance department of John H. Ewinger & Son at 214 N. Main held a contest to win a new A.B.C. Washer in November 1933 (*Hawk-Eye*, November 2, 1933, 11). John H. Ewinger & Son is listed with Wesley F. Ewinger as president and manager in the 1935 city directory. They offered plumbing as well as radios and electric appliances, wholesale and retail. The appliance business appears to have then taken over as the main business for the company, with the 1937 city directory dropping the listing for plumbing and noting only electric washers, refrigerators, stokers, and radios. By 1940, the company became John H. Ewinger & Son Distributing Company, dealing in radios, refrigerators, washers, stokers, stoves, ranges, heaters, and electric home appliances. Wesley F. Ewinger continued to run the company, and the same listings appear in the 1942 and 1945 city directories.

After George J. Reis vacated the north half of the building in 1925, several businesses operated here for the next two decades. The space is listed as vacant in the 1928 city directory. Coleman Barngrover

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is then listed at 216 N. Main in 1930, selling building materials. H.M. Larsen Tile Company is also listed here. The 1931 Sanborn map shows that a one-story addition has been built to the rear of 214, with a shed sitting on the east half of the lot behind 216. Ursula Ewinger Warner became Ursula F. Parker by 1933 per her mother's obituary (*Hawk-Eye*, April 13, 1933, 5). In 1935, she is listed as living on the second story of 216 and operating Parker Electric on the first story. Thus, Wesley Ewinger ran the company at 214 and his sister ran the company at 216. Parker Electric continues to be listed at 216 in 1937. A March 1938 ad lists it as Parker Appliance Company, selling Lenard refrigerators (Ewinger sold Gibson and Kelvinator) (*Hawk-Eye*, March 14, 1938). The Parker Appliance Company was run by Ray M. Warner and George VonBehren per the 1940 city directory. The sold Kelvinator Refrigerators, RCA Victor Radios, ABC Washers and Ironers, and Acorn Gas Stoves, and they also offered radio repair. Tripp Typewriter and Adding Machine Exchange is also listed at 216 N. Main in 1940. Parker Appliance Company was the only 216 listing in the 1942 city directory. The company then appears to have evolved with the Utilities Service Company list at 216 N. Main in 1945, run by George VonBehren, Walter C. Fox, and Paul O. Darrah.

In 1945, John H. Ewinger & Son Distributing Company bought the north half of the building at 216 N. Main, expanding into this space from 214 ("Ewingers mark centennial," *Hawk-Eye*, September 26, 1971, 25). The initial façade remodel may have been completed around this time or later by the Ewinger Company. A later 1976 photograph shows the upper story windows filled with glass block, a feature utilized in the 1939 remodel of J.S. Schramm Company. The 1947 city directory lists the company at 214 N. Main, with no listing at 216. The 1951 city directory then lists them at 214-216 N. Main Street. The 1952 Sanborn map shows the one-story concrete block rear addition behind 216, extending not quite to the alley. John H. Ewinger & Son Distributing Company continues to be listed here through the 1950s. By 1960, Thomas E. Ewinger is listed as management with his father Wesley, and the company is known simply as Ewinger's. Brands for sale include Philco-Dexter, Maytag, and Hoover, and products include refrigerators, radios, washers, stoves, ranges, heaters, electric home appliances, televisions, freezers, ironers, and vacuum cleaners. By 1965, it was listed as Ewinger's Appliance Center, run by Wesley F. Ewinger, Thomas E. Ewinger, James J. Ewinger, and Gertrude Lindy. They had expanded into Frigidaire, Amana, and Zenith brands. In the 1970s, it was then known as Ewinger Appliance Center. At their centennial celebration in 1971, the company was noted as managed by Wesley's sons Wesley F. Ewinger, Jr. and Thomas Ewinger and daughter Gertrude Lindy ("Ewingers mark centennial," *Hawk-Eye*, September 26, 1971, 25). The 1976 photograph of the building has a large sign, Ewinger's, across the front. Ewinger Appliance Company continued to operate here into the 1980s, closing in 1986.

According to transfer records, the Ewinger family sold the building to Charles Ruckers in July 1986 for part of the insurance company. In 1989, this business became Great River Insurance Company. The building then became part of the other Great River Financial Group properties on the block. In 2007, they changed their name to Two Rivers Financial Group. Two Rivers Insurance Company continues to operate here, with entry from the building to the south also owned by the financial group.

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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.

Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa. Chicago: Hobart Publishing Company, 1905.

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.

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.

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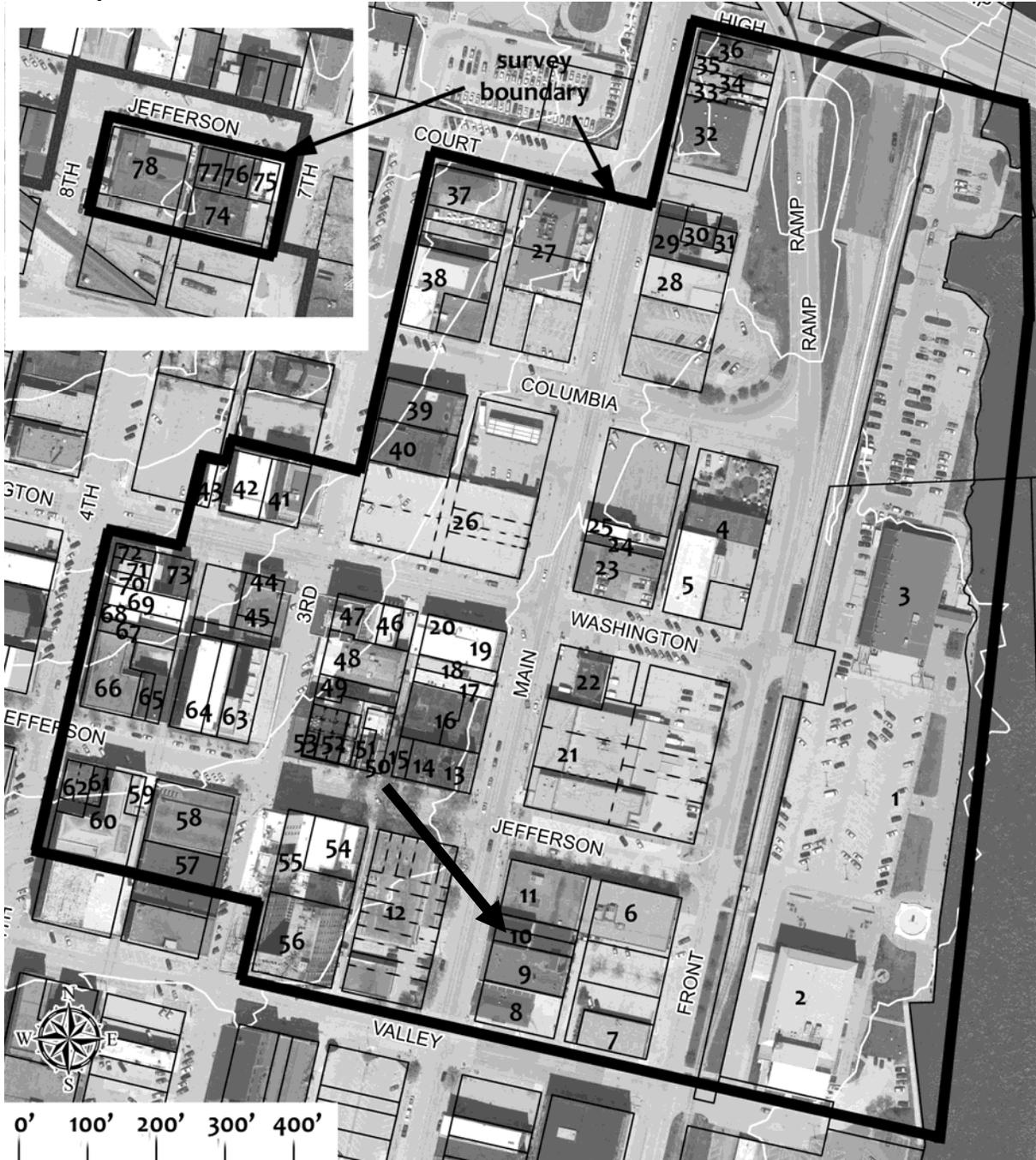
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Location map



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

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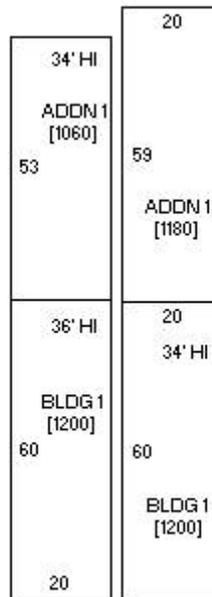
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Building plan (from assessor's website)



(no space)

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Historic images



Edge of building at left in 1977 (Downtown Partners collection)

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View of building at left in February 1982 (American Classic Images)

Online at <http://americanclassicimages.com/>

[Default.aspx?tabid=141&txtSearch=CATAdvancedSearch1%2c15%2c3%2c438&ProductID=27200](http://americanclassicimages.com/Default.aspx?tabid=141&txtSearch=CATAdvancedSearch1%2c15%2c3%2c438&ProductID=27200)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-01244-001 – West elevation, looking east (McCarley, November 15, 2012)

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Photograph 29-01244-002 – East elevation, looking west (McCarley, November 15, 2012)