

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

State Inventory No. 29-03653 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 National Bank of Burlington - Drive-In Bank
 other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-16

2. Location

street & number 307-313 N. Main
 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) Lot 195 and south 20' (1/3) of Lot 196

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 Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of: Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u> _____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ 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>02D02: Commerce / Bank</u>	<u>70: Vacant / Not in Use</u>
<u>11D01: Health Care / Pharmacy</u>	_____
<u>14D10: Transportation / vehicular / bus station</u>	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Modern bank design</u>	foundation <u>10B: Concrete</u>
_____	walls (visible material) <u>05F: Steel 10B: Concrete</u>
_____	roof <u>08B: Asphalt / rolled</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 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 307-313 N. Main Street Site Number 29-03653
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 1957-58 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation 1976, 1987

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 Inez Metzger, commission member Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date November 6, 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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National Bank of Burlington - Drive-In Bank
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7. Narrative Description

This two-story commercial building was constructed as a drive-in bank facility in 1958 for the National Bank of Burlington, located then in the building to the south. The two curb cuts continue to reflect the “in” and “out” drives for the bank. The bank vacated the property in 1974 with the construction of a new building on the block to the south, and this building was converted to commercial use. The first story was originally enclosed in glass. It currently has a later brick storefront with a garage at the west third utilizing the “out” drive for the drive-in bank. This garage is utilized by the current owner, Attorney Steven Hoth. To the left of the garage, there is a recessed entrance with a glass door with a side light on the left and transom above. A bay of five large, aluminum-framed windows extends to the right of the garage with a glass entry door at either end of the set of windows.

Though now painted green, the second retains the original modern design by the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of St. Louis for the drive-in bank. The grand opening article noted: “The exterior features a modern fixed louver or vertical fin treatment with blue and white enameled steel over steel beam and girder and cement block construction” (“New National Bank Pioneering in Drive-In Service for Customers,” *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, May 14, 1958, 6). Corrugated metal with a bay of eleven, closely-spaced windows which each contain four, horizontally stacked window panes with metal frames. Twelve vertical metal fins protrude, perpendicular to the exterior wall on either side and between each window, extending above the building. The fin and window grouping is offset on the second story, shifted to the left/south of center.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The National Bank of Burlington’s Drive-In Bank appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District. The building was constructed to provide modern drive-in services for the National Bank, located in the historic building immediately to the south at the corner. This construction permitted the bank to retain its original downtown location while meeting modern banking needs. The exterior modern design with fins was designed by the nationally prominent Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, based in St. Louis. The firm was a leader in modern bank design and remodeling across the country from the 1940s to the 1970s. While the first story has been converted to retail and garage space, the overall design of the drive-in bank remains understood and the significant upper story façade is largely intact. With the modifications, it is likely that the building would not retain sufficient integrity for individual listing, but further assessment of the interior and first story integrity would need to occur to confirm this analysis.

The earlier history of this site is tied with the history of the buildings to the south of it, the German-American Savings Bank at 200-204 Jefferson (see #29-01082) and John H. Witte & Sons Drug Store at 206-208 Jefferson (see #29-03652). These two buildings were built in 1885. Historic photographs and Sanborn maps show a short three-story Italianate block at 307-309 N. Main and 311-313 N. Main. John H. Witte’s drug store opened in 208 Jefferson in 1887, moving to 206 Jefferson in the mid-1890s. At this time, he bought the building at 307 N. Main, creating a T-shaped store with the main 19’ storefront on Jefferson and a 20’ side storefront on N. Main, wrapping around the corner bank building.

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The business expanded to include a paint factory in the early 20th century. His sons John Jr and William A. Witte continued the business after his death. In 1937, John Witte, Jr. expanded the business west into 208 Jefferson and north into the rear of 309 N. Main, with a café remaining in the front. He was associated with the organization of the National Bank of Burlington in 1933, which leased and then acquired the corner bank building. By 1957, John Witte, Jr. assumed the position of chairman of the board for the bank. This placed the bank and the adjoining property in an unique position for the development of this drive-in bank in 1957-58. The bank acquired the building at 311-313 N. Main, home to the Typewriter Shop and Burlington Tent and Awning Company. They then sold the rear half of the lots to John H. Witte & Sons, who sold the front/east half of their lots at 307-309 N. Main to the bank. Transfer books show that the National Bank of Burlington bought this property from William A. and Hazel W. Witte on November 28, 1957.

The National Bank of Burlington underwent a significant remodeling and expansion program in 1958, with designs prepared by the national bank design firm Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America based in St. Louis. This national firm is credited with spreading modern, progressive bank architecture across the country in the 1950s and 1960s. Construction was completed by local contractor Carl A. Nelson & Company. A new 40 by 80' building was constructed on this site to provide drive-in facilities on the main level and the loan department and director's room on the upper level. Grand opening was held on May 16-17, 1958 for the new drive-in facility on Main Street. Newspaper articles noted: "The exterior features a modern fixed louver or vertical fin treatment with blue and white enameled steel over steel beam and girder and cement block construction." The first story provided two drive-in teller windows as well as two walk-up windows. Banking was conveniently completed from the driver's side of the car. The brick teller stations had bullet proof glass and excellent lighting. A safety deposit vault was constructed in the basement, serving the installment loan department which moved to the second/mezzanine level ("New National Bank Pioneering in Drive-In Service for Customers," *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, May 14, 1958, 6). This was the first specifically built drive-in facility for a bank in downtown Burlington, and it would set the standard for bank improvements at other locations for the next decade. The May 1958 photographs of the buildings show the appearance similar to the current buildings.

Through the 1950s, the banking industry continued to evolved, embracing both modern architecture as well as modern technology. One of the leading innovators and promoters of modern bank design in this period was the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of St. Louis. Qualities of openness and efficiency were heavily promoted through their advertisements and designs. With the increase in the numbers of automobiles and development of suburbs in the late 1940s and through the 1950s, the need to cater to this new lifestyle was recognized throughout the industry. The "drive-up" bank quickly gained popularity in the 1950s, requiring new fixtures and equipment to support the service. The Bank Building & Equipment Corporation of St. Louis developed teller windows for installation on existing exterior walls as well as promoting the shift to the drive-up teller unit located outside the bank, typically under a canopy connecting it to the main building. Their advertisements encouraged financial institutions to focus on a customer friendly bank through openness in design particularly in the lobby, provide a branch bank for the convenience of their customers, include a modern teller station, and incorporate drive-up banking in an existing or new facility. The drive-up (or drive-in, or drive-through) banking was a key component – they noted that if customers can't drive-in, they will just drive by.

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Parking for customers was likewise a focus of providing convenient and efficient service. By May 1957, over 50% of the more than 3,200 American Banking Association member banks had installed or planned either drive-in or parking facilities (Huffaker 2010 – *A Brief History*; Dyson and Rubano 2000: 45-46). Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of St. Louis later designed and built the building for Burlington Federal Savings and Loan Association at 323 Jefferson in 1962-63.

In 1967, the name was changed back to First National Bank. John H. Witte continued as chairman of the board. In July 1970, ten buildings on the west side of the 200 block of Main Street (southwest corner of Jefferson and Main) were condemned by the city, including four owned by the First National Bank of Burlington and six owned by the Witte company. At this time, John Witte was chair of the board of directors for the bank (“Condemn 7 Main Street Buildings,” *Hawk-Eye*, July 23, 1970, 1). The demolition of these buildings resulted in plans in 1972 for a new bank building on this site across Jefferson Street from their current building. The bank became affiliated with Banks of Iowa in 1972. J.H. Witte & Sons, Inc. purchased the First National Bank properties at the northwest corner of the intersection on June 1, 1972, in addition to the building to the north, in exchange for property on the southwest corner of Main and Jefferson. First National Bank built a new building on this site across Jefferson to the south, moving in August 1974 and vacating their main building and the drive-in facility to the north. At this time, the first story was partially enclosed and converted to an extension of Witte Drug, which continued to operate on the rear portion of these lots and around to their main 306-308 Jefferson Street location. In January 1976, John H. Witte & Sons expanded further into this building, gaining an additional 2,100 square feet of space. The paint, hardware, housewares, and garden supplies departments moved into this building, with the first story enclosed by large windows. The interior throughout the interior store was also redecorated, in keeping with the conversion of Jefferson Street into a pedestrian mall with a steamboat theme. A section of the glassed-in former bank drive-in area was reserved for an indoor bus stop, with bus service needing to move off of this block of Jefferson due to the mall improvements. A photograph of the building from this article shows the first story already enclosed with glass, with the “drive-in banking” sign remaining on the building (“Witte plans paint, hardware,” *Hawk-Eye*, January 25, 1976). A color photograph from the late 1970s or 1980s shows the original color scheme of the drive-in bank, as described in the 1958 article.

In January 1979, Witte Drug was sold to Drug Fair Inc of Iowa, who maintained the downtown and Fairway shopping center locations under new management. On July 27, 1979, the bank repurchased their former bank property as well as the original home at 208-208 Jefferson from Witte. The drug store remained at this location for several years. The bank sold their entire holdings to Steve S. and Jo Ellen Hoth, JT on April 3, 1987 for \$111,000. People's Drug and other businesses such as the River Mart later moved into this location.

The building is vacant. According to owner Steve Hoth, the roof is only one year old. The façade was painted in summer 2012. It had been previously painted, covering the original color scheme.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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 collected historic photographs of downtown Burlington.

Dyson, Carol J. and Anthony Rubano. "Banking on the Future: Modernism and the Local Bank," *Preserving the Recent Past 2*. Historic Preservation Education Foundation, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 2000.

Huffaker, Kirk. *Defining Downtown at Mid-Century: The Architecture of the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America*. Website published with research and inventory of buildings, 2010. Became part of the Recent Past Preservation Network in 2011 to maintain website at <http://midcenturybanks.recentpast.org>.

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.

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

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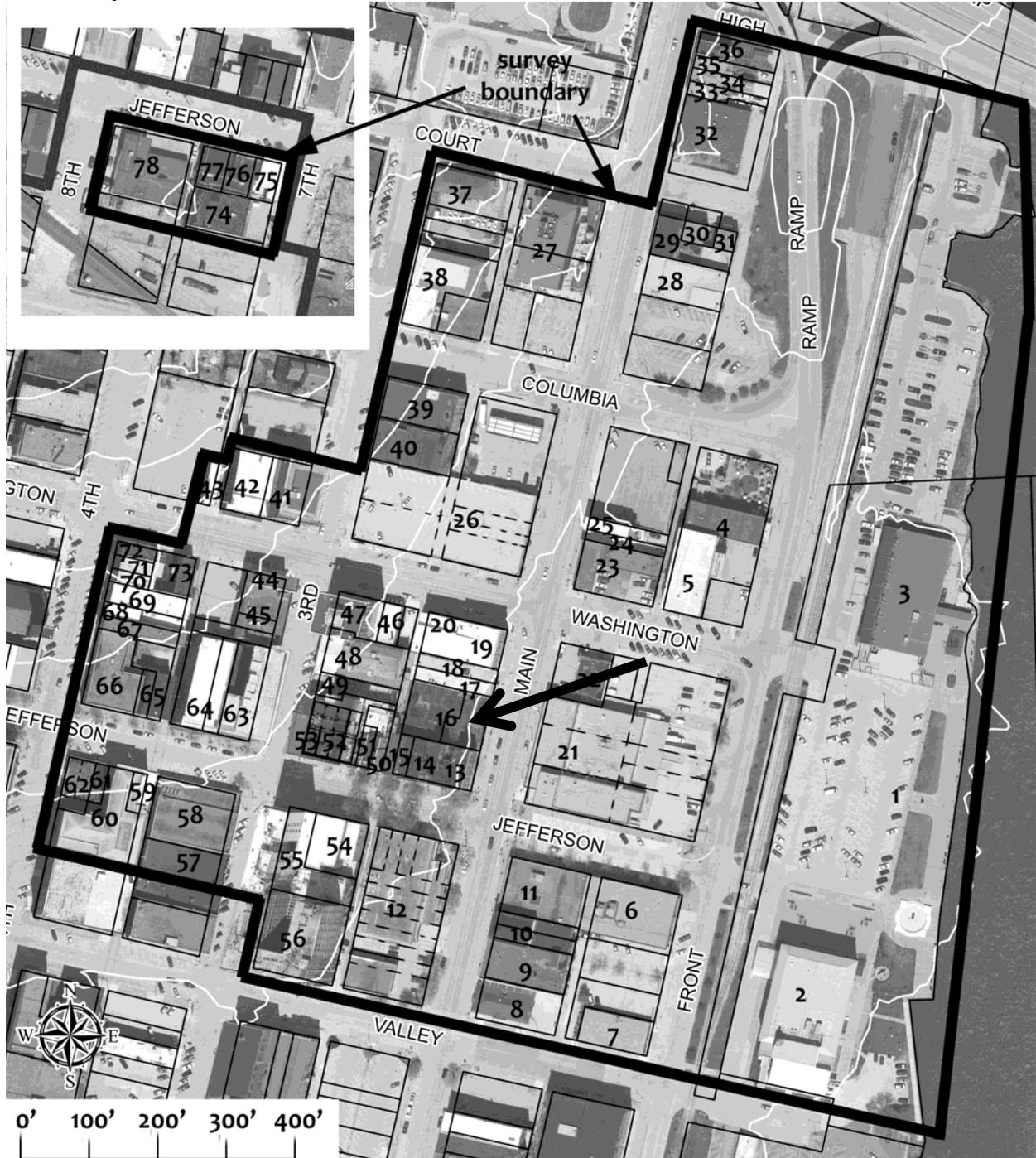
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Location map



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

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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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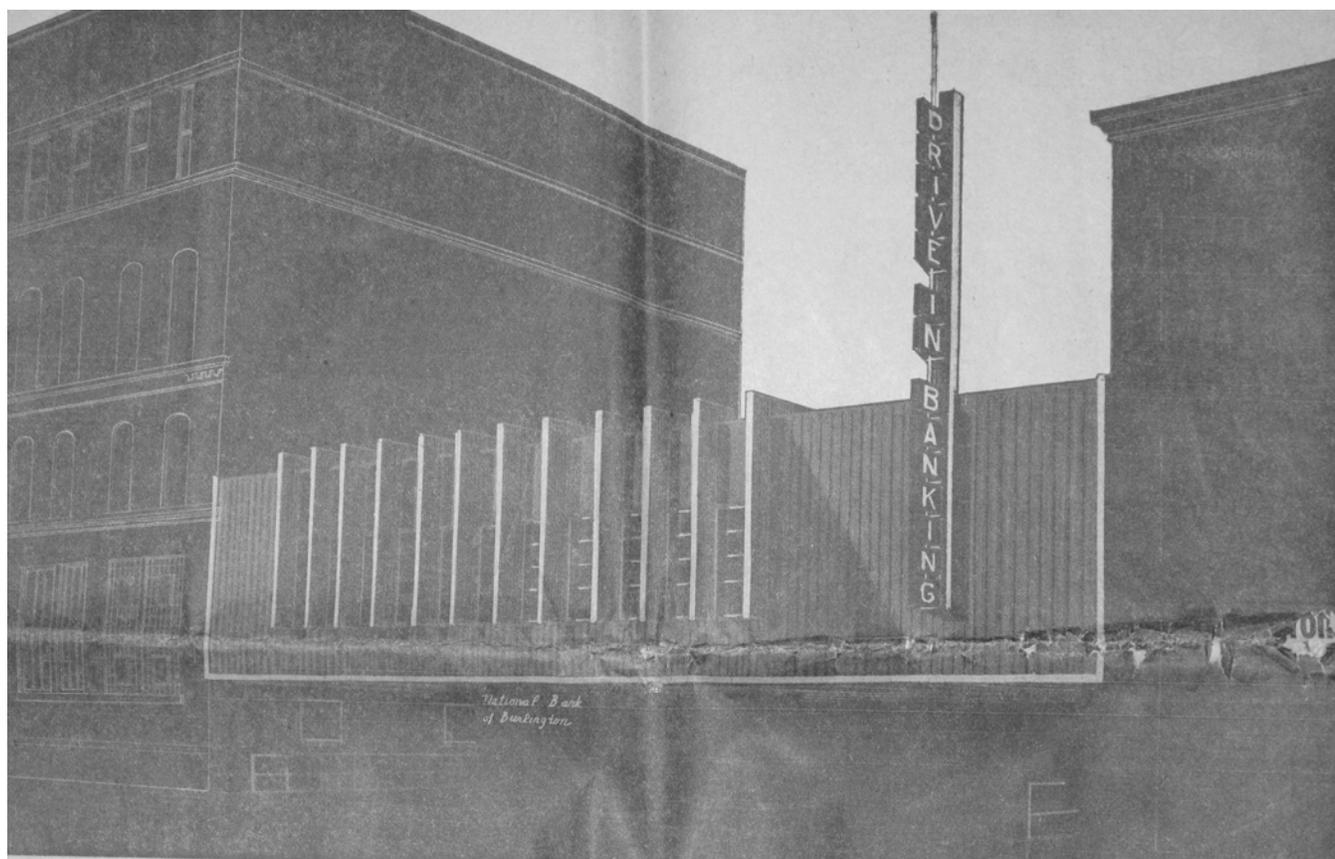
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Historic images



Grand opening for drive-in bank (*Hawk-Eye*, May 14, 1958, 5).

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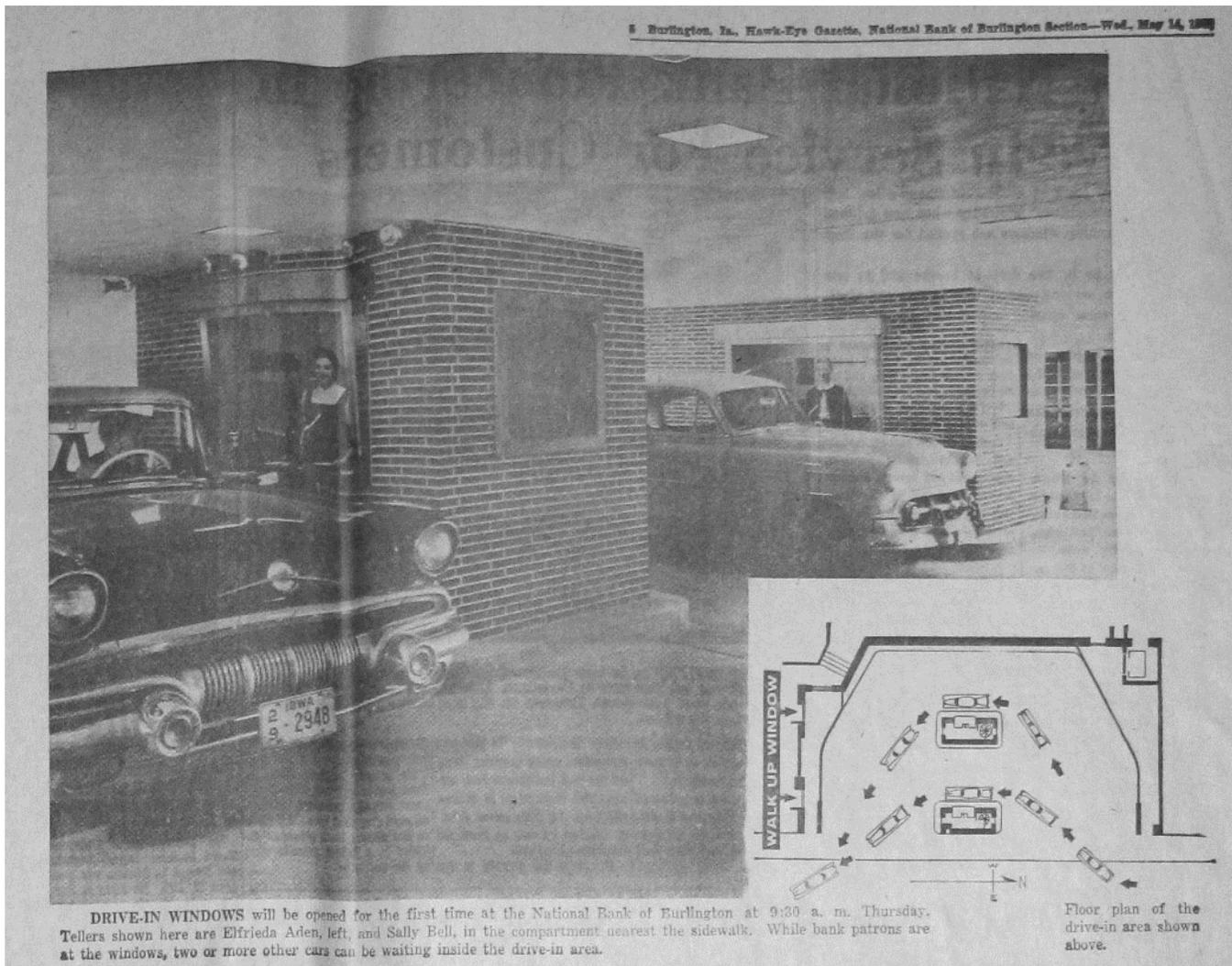
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Grand opening for drive-in bank (*Hawk-Eye*, May 14, 1958, 5).

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Photograph from 1960s showing bank with drive-in facility (Downtown Partners collection).

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View of building in November 1966 (from Carleen Nollen, Burlington, IA).

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Photograph from the 1980s with Witte Drug expanded into this building (Downtown Partners collection).

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-03653-001 – East elevation, looking west (McCarley, November 15, 2012)