

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

State Inventory No. 29-00144 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries 29-00005 (listed), 29-03685 (potential)
 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 Mecke Building
 other names/site number Fred Riepe Grocery, Benteco Kash Store No. 27, Downtown Survey Map # DT- 70

2. Location

street & number 318 N. 4th 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) 26 Lot(s) 442 - south 20.5' of west 1/2

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>02E11: Commerce/Trade - Grocery</u>	<u>02E08 Commerce/Trade - Barber</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09F05: Commercial / brick front</u>	foundation <u>04 Stone</u>
_____	walls (visible material) <u>03 Brick</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 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 318 N. 4th Street Site Number 29-00144
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 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 Susan Beckman and Barb Mackey, volunteers Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date December 27, 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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Mecke Building	Des Moines
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318 N. 4 th Street	Burlington
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7. Narrative Description

This is a three-story brick building. The upper story entry is located at the far left/north of the first story, and it appears originally designed to be shared with the building to the north at 320 N. 4th Street (see #29-00145) though the buildings were constructed by separate owners around the same time. The remainder of the first story has a storefront entry to the left/north of large windows. A storefront cornice extends across this space, with the transom window area under it covered with paneling and used for a sign. The second story has three narrow one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The windows are slightly irregularly space, with the north window narrower than the other two windows. The second and third story windows are setback in a course of brick, and they have segmental arch brick lintels and stone sills – details similar to the corner building at 322 N. 4th Street (see #29-00146). The third story windows have the same brick detail under the sills. Similar to 320, this cornice has been rebuilt, perhaps as part of modernization efforts in the middle of the 20th century. Unlike the two buildings to the north built to the full depth of the lot, this building is only 55' deep, leaving about five feet of space at the rear. A metal fire escape extends up the building within this space on the rear/east side, and it appears to have also served the building to the north at 320. A rear entry and two window openings are found on the first story, set within segmental arch lintels. Two one-over-one-light double-hung windows with segmental arch lintels and stone sills are found on the second and third stories.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Mecke Building appears to contribute historically to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District. The building was constructed in 1874 along with other development at this corner, with various businesses occupying the first story and offices on the second. Notably, Fred Riepe's grocery operated here from around 1886 to 1907, and Benteco Kash Store No. 27 opened as the first downtown location for the chain of grocery store operated by the Benner Tea Company. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as contributing within the Heritage Hill Historic District in 1981.

P.F. Unterkircher owned all of 442 by early 1874, living in the earlier brick house on the east 40' at 313 Washington. On May 18, 1874, he divided the vacant land to the west into four lots, three along 4th Street and one west of his house on Washington. This south lot – 20 by 59'9" – was bought by Augustus Mecke for \$1,800 (*Hawk-Eye*, May 19, 1874, 4). Max Langerbeck built first on the corner lot in summer-fall 1874, engaging Perley Hale, Jr., local architect, to draw plans for the building, and contract was let to D. Bokenkamp for construction (*Hawk-Eye*, July 21, 1874, 8). It is unknown but perhaps likely that he also designed these two buildings to the south. Work was progressing quickly by September on the corner building, and an article notes that excavation for two buildings to the south had started by the two owners of those lots. They are noted to be three stories, corresponding with the building on the corner (*Hawk-Eye*, September 29, 1874, 8). August Mecke was a tailor in Burlington, operating his business in another building in town.

The first business noted as advertising at 318 N. 4th Street was Benedict's Human Hair and Hair Goods, looking for help in the April 22, 1875 *Hawk-Eye* and advertising products for sale in the *Hawk-Eye* on May 16, 1875. Dr. G.H. Patchen is noted as living on the third story in his ad in the *Hawk-Eye*

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on April 12, 1876. In an ad on March 28, 1878 in the *Hawk-Eye*, E. Dunham offered sewing machine repair at 318 N. 4th Street. Mrs. H. Day was then a seamstress at 318 N. 3rd Street per a June 14, 1879 ad. Fatty's barber and bathing room are located here per an August 30, 1879 ad. Then, 318 North Fourth is identified in the 1881-82 City Directory as barber R. Linder, who also had bath rooms. In the 1886 directory, Dr. Phillip C Naumann, physician, practices at 318½ N. 4th, and Mary Tuttle, physician, has her practice at 318 ½ N.4th in 1892 (Naumann moved next door to 320 ½).

The 1884-85 *Iowa State Gazeteer* list the grocery of Frederick Riepe at 318 N. 4th Street. The 1886 Sanborn map shows grocery as the use of the first story, with offices above on the second story. Fred Riepe's grocery is listed here in city directories in 1892, 1900, and 1907. The 1900 census lists Fred Riepe as a 62-year-old widow running the grocery store with son Oscar, age 22. Later history notes that he operated at 318 N. 4th Street for over 20 years, and Oscar chose not to continue the business on his own after his death ("New Benteco Store Opened," *Hawk-Eye*, April 9, 1926, 4).

Minnie Fedder, manicures and massages, is listed at 318 ½ N. 4th St in 1902 and 1907. In the 1910-11 city directory, the Stiefel Brothers Grocery is listed in the first story space. Dr. E.J. Wehman has his office on the second story. Minnie Fedder continues to be listed in one of the upper story units in 1913, working here as a hairdresser. Ernst & Gottlieb, tailors, are also in the building. The 1916 and 1920 city directories list Fred Buser, photographer, at 318 N. 4th Street. Tenants living in the apartments on the upper stories are listed in the 1920s. The estate of Fred Riepe continued to own the building in this period, finally selling it in 1917. Byron A. and Alma Gulick bought it in 1920, and they owned it until their deaths in 1933 and 1951.

The opening of Benteco Kash Store No. 27 at 318 N. 4th Street was announced on April 9, 1926, and it operated here for about 14 years. The location was interesting, as Oscar Riepe had moved on from the family business to end up as head of the Benteco store organization, which was managed by the Benner Tea Company. Thus, he opened this store in the former grocery of his father. This was the first downtown Burlington location for Benteco Kash Stores, which operated eight other locations in Burlington and a total of 27 stores in southeast Iowa and western Illinois. It was also a familiar block for A.J. Benner, as his company started when he purchased the Lorenz tea and coffee business three doors south at 312 N. 4th Street (see # 29-00139) ("New Benteco Store Opened," *Hawk-Eye*, April 9, 1926, 4). The first Benteco Kash Store opened in Burlington on January 2, 1920, with three stores opened that month in town at 425 S. Leebrick, 501 S. Central Ave, and 1021 N. 8th St. A fourth store was opened in Burlington in April at 1123 S. 12th St. These four stores served Burlington until fall 1923 when a fifth store was added at 425 Harrison. By this time, two stores were open in Fort Madison, and stores also existed in Fairfield, Winfield, New London, Washington, Mediapolis, La Harpe (IL), Carthage (IL), Stronghurst (IL). No. 16 was the sixth store then in Burlington, opened in March 1924 at 125-127 N. Marshall. A seventh Benteco Kash Store in town was then opened at 1638 Mt Pleasant Rd in May, No. 17. West Liberty and Wellman were added by the end of the year to bring the total to 19 stores. Five new stores were opened in 1925, including an eighth one in Burlington at 1810 Osborn. Stores No. 26 and No. 27 opened in April 1926. Benteco Kash Store No. 27 operated here at 318 N. 4th St through the 1920s and 1930s, last listed in the 1940 city directory. The 1940 city directory lists 11 locations in Burlington, three of which closed by 1942. Eight locations are left in the 1942 city directory: 425 S. Leebrick, 501 S. Central Ave, 1021-23 N. 8th St, 1123-25 S. 12th St, 829 Harrison, 1810 Osborn,

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622-24 Jefferson, and 135 S. Marshall. They also operated the Benteco Bakery at 125-27 N. Marshall. Various tenants lived on the upper floors from the 1920s to 1940s.

By the 1945 city directory, the Des Moines County Farm Bureau is listed at this address, and they continue to be listed here in the 1951 directory. On June 2, 1951, Jacob A. and Rose Korb bought this building from the Gulick heirs, and he moved his shoe repair business from its long-time location next door at 320 N. 4th Street into this building. He is listed here for a few years before retiring and then dying, with the property passed to his wife Rose and son Sam Korb. They then sold it on August 18, 1958 to Velma and Daniel C. Watson. Velma's Hat Shop is listed here in the 1960 city directory, as well as the Artistic Beauty Shop. Both continue to be listed here through the 1960s. Velma Watson, widow, sold the property in 1977.

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.

Downtown Partners, Inc., a Division of the Greater Burlington Partnership, Burlington, Iowa. Collection of collected 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

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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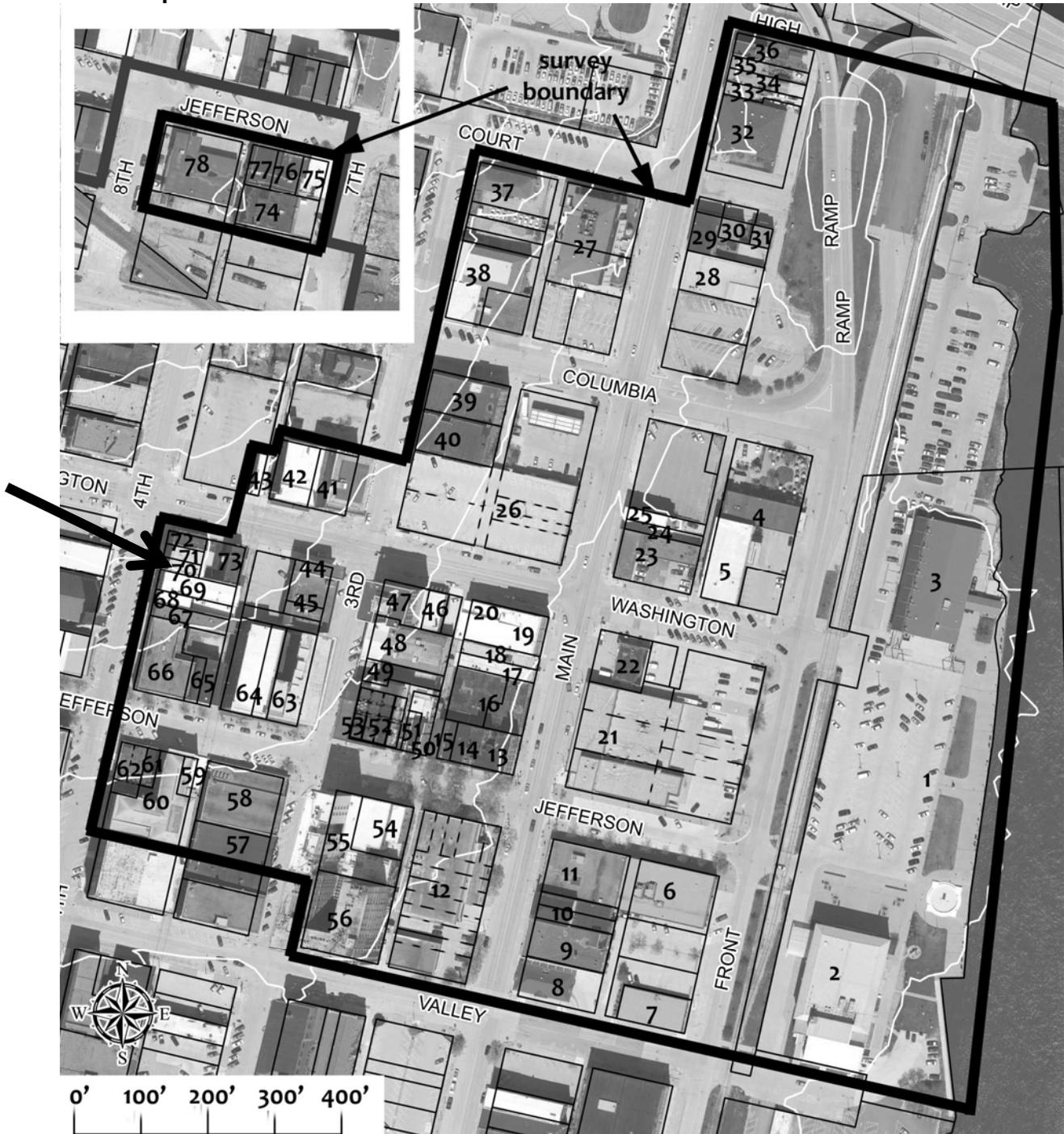
Mecke Building
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Location map



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

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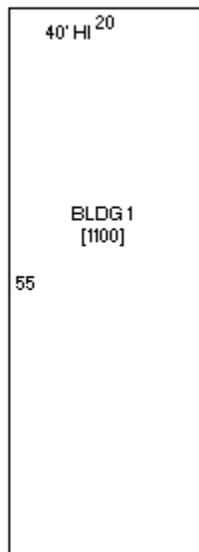
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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Historic images



Building in 1977 (Downtown Partners collection)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-00144-001 – West elevation, looking east (McCarley, November 15, 2012).

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Photograph 29-00144-002 – West elevation, looking east (McCarley, November 15, 2012).

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Photograph 29-00144-003 – East elevation, looking west (McCarley, November 15, 2012).