

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

**State Inventory No.** 29-03668  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 Thomas Motor Company  
 other names/site number Madison Building, Esden Motor Company, Downtown Survey Map # DT-38

**2. Location**

street & number 500-506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) 243, 244

**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:	
	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**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02A03: Commerce / Livery stable</u>	<u>04I03: Government / Water works</u>
<u>02E01: Commerce / Auto showroom</u>	
<u>04I03: Government / Water works</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>10 Concrete</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 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 500-506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Site Number 29-03668  
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 1911  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates, including renovation  
1930 – first addition 1948 – second addition

**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 Kristin Lampe and Barb Mackey, volunteers Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date December 17, 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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Thomas Motor Company

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

500-506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Burlington

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## 7. Narrative Description

This brick commercial building has been erected in sections over a period of several decades. The original two-story building was built around 1911 at 506-508 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on Lot 243. The first one-story addition to the south was built on the west half of Lot 242 south to the corner with Columbia at 500-504 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The second addition was then built to the east of this addition in 1948 on the east half of Lot 242 along Columbia and south of the rear/east portion of the original building.

The original building is two stories high at the front and three stories at the back, owing to the slope of the hillside to the east. Thus, the alley accesses the basement directly, expanding the use of this space. The building faces 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the west. The two-story building is divided into three sections by brick pilasters that have simple brick and stone capitals under the plain wide frieze of the building. The first story has three large bays, with the north/left bay historically a vehicular entrance. It remains used as a truck entrance for the water department, with hinged wood double doors that swing inward and have windows across the top. The center bay has been filled with brick, and it appears to have originally been a large display window. The south/right bay has the main entry to the building with a large window to the left. It has been filled with glass block, perhaps at the time of the 1948 remodel of the building. The door also has glass block surrounding it. The threshold is currently several inches above the level of the sidewalk. Likely during the 1948 remodel, a Moderne aluminum awning was added to the building, with horizontal lines and rounded corners. It continues across the 1930 addition to the south. The second story has two windows within each of the three bays. These windows have stone sills and flared brick lintel with stone keystones and stone ends. All windows have been covered with wood panels. The frieze has three inset brick courses, and the parapet has stone coping. The north side of this section has five windows on the basement level. The left/east two windows have been bricked in. The central window is a two-over-two-light double-hung window, and the right/west windows are two-over-three-light fixed windows. The first story has only four windows, all of which are one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The second story also has four windows, but these have been covered with plywood. All windows have brick sills and segmental arch brick lintels. The right/west two basement windows have an additional stone sill above the brick. The west/right section (approximately 8 feet) of this side of the building the side of the front section, which has a flat/sloped roof in comparison with the gable roof on the remainder of the building to the east. It extends further to the north than the rest of the wall on this side. The south side of this 1911 two-story section is partially obscured at the lower levels by later additions to the south. The first story has two visible windows, one of which is covered with plywood and the other a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. Between these windows is a large entry which has a smaller door set into the right side of the opening. The original entry would have led onto the roof deck of the 1948 addition to the south. The second story is similar to the north side, with one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows with brick sills and segmental arch lintels. The east/rear of the 1911 section is three stories in height, with the basement opening directly to the rear alley. The basement has a central large vehicular entry with a newer roll-up door. Two small windows within segmental arch openings have bricked-in to either side of the central entry. The rear elevation is also three bays, with one window in the central bay and two windows to either side on both the first and second stories. These windows have one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes, brick sills, and segmental arch brick lintels. The left two windows on the second story

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<u>Thomas Motor Company</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>500-506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City

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and one window on the third story are covered by wood paneling. The third story windows are a bit shorter than the second story windows.

The corner one-story section of the building was built in 1930 as display space for new cars, with the slope of the lot resulting in the basement level directly accessible at the east along Columbia. It originally had large plate glass windows and a central entry. Simpler brick pilasters divide the west/front elevation of the building into three bays, with the center section narrower than the side bays. The center bay has an aluminum-framed glass door with a sidelight and transom, and brick infill is found to the south/right. Historic photos show two large display windows to either side of this entry. These windows have been removed, the openings bricked in, and smaller vertical sliding glass windows installed (since 1977). The cornice was also designed to complement the earlier building with inset courses of brick. The aluminum Moderne awning added to the 1911 section extends to this portion of the building, stepping down at the junction at the left by a few feet. The horizontal lines and rounded corners continue on this 1930 building around the south side as well. The corner section (south on west and west on south) projects out slightly further than the remainder of the awning on this section. The south side of the building has also been remodeled, with the brick infill and two sets of sliding windows replacing large display windows on the west half of the first story. Painted wooden panels cover two basement windows below the first story windows. Two pilasters then frame the east half of the building, matching the detail of the west façade. A large vehicular entry to the basement has been reduced in size with wood panels, with a smaller metal door set into the right side of the opening. The opening is topped by a brick and stone lintel in the same style as the second story window lintels on the front of the original 1911 building. Directly above this entrance are two square windows, separated by a mullion, each with a small three-light transom window. Two paired double-hung windows to the right/east have a nine-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes. Two one-over-one-light double-hung windows are found at the basement level at this east end of this section. No openings are visible on the east/rear elevation, covered by the 1948 addition.

The addition built to the east of this 1930 addition occupies the east half of this lot, and it sits south of the rear/east of the original 1911 building, filling in the corner of the overall square footprint. It is one story, with a former parking area on the roof. The one-story building is built on the low section of the lot, with it meeting the basement levels of the older buildings to the west and north. The roof deck is then at the first story level of those buildings. On the south side along Columbia Street, there are three one-over-one-light double-hung windows on the left side and a six-light casement window to the right/east. This window has an exhaust fan set into the top of the opening. A roll-up garage door is in the center of this side of the addition, with a white pedestrian door and a six-over-six-light double-hung window to the right. All windows have concrete sills and brick lintels. The rear (east) of this section contains two six-over-six-light double-hung windows and four large metal windows (four by five-light). The larger windows have four-pane hinged sections in the center. These windows also have concrete sills and brick lintels. There is a metal railing surrounding the roof of this section, as it originally served as a parking area.

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Thomas Motor Company

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Name of Property

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## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Thomas Motor Company building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District. The original two-story section of the building was built by Herbert L. Madison as an investment property around 1911, home to a livery and transfer company in the 1910s. In 1922, it was remodeled and converted for use by the Barton Motor Company. In 1930, Esden Motor Company built the addition to the south corner as a showroom for new cars. Thomas Motor Company then operated here from 1936 to 1956, remodeling the buildings and adding an addition to the east in 1948. The enlarged facilities were then sold to the City of Burlington to use for the Municipal Water Works in 1956, and they continue to use the building for this purpose. The history and evolution of the building contribute to the historic significance of the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural details, simpler 1930 architectural details, and the streamlined aluminum details of 1948 created an architecturally interesting and significant building on this corner, which also contributes to the architectural significance of the potential historic district. While these remaining architectural details are significant, the replacement of the display windows likely has impacted the historic integrity of the building to preclude individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture under Criterion C. However, it may retain sufficient integrity to be listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the automobile industry in the commercial history of Burlington. Further assessment of the interior and research on other remaining automotive buildings in Burlington would solidify this determination.

The 1900 Sanborn map shows houses on this block north of Columbia. The 1910-11 city directory lists residences at this location. In December 1910, Lot 243 (first/main section of building) was sold to H.L. Madison. The original two-story portion of this building was then likely built in 1911. The 1908 city directory lists Herbert L. Madison as a dentist in the Parsons Block and an alderman at large. The 1912 city directory lists the Hawkeye Livery Company at 506-508 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, run by J.M. Burnett and Fred Wendlandt. They were one of three livery companies in Burlington, with Herald & Co at 311 Washington and F.L. & G.L. Unterkircher at Valley and 3<sup>rd</sup> streets. Herbert L. Madison continued to be listed as a dentist in the Parsons Block, so it appears that he built this building for rental income. An advertisement in the *Hawk-Eye* in October 1913 mentions Hawkeye Livery at 506 N. Third St (*Hawk-Eye*, October 14, 1913, 8). The 1916 city directory continues to list Hawkeye Livery at 506-508 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

On September 5, 1916, H.L. Madison sold the building to H.C. Chubb. The 1916 city directory lists Henry C. Chubb in real estate with an office at 309 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. At the start of 1918, Burlington Transfer Company occupied the former Hawkeye Livery building ("Burlington Transfer Company Has Moved," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, January 1, 1918, page 8). The 1916 city directory lists George Tracy as a lawyer (Tracy & Tracy), as well as president of the Hawkeye Artificial Ice & Fuel Company and proprietor of the Burlington Transfer Company. The 1920 city directory lists the Burlington Transfer Company at 506-508 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, managed by Frank J. Tracy. In November 1921, George Tracy was negotiating to buy this building from Henry Chubb, intending to have Barton Motor Company move into this building from their quarters to the south in the old Bennett & Frantz building at the southeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Columbia. These quarters were too small for the auto assembly portion of their business,

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Thomas Motor Company	Des Moines
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which was done to a great extent by the company ("Barton Company will make move to New Quarters," *Hawk-Eye*, November 11, 1921, 16). George S. Tracy purchased the building from Henry Chubb in February 1922, and Tracy family would continue to own this building until 1945. The 1926 city directory lists George S. Tracy as a lawyer (Tracy & Tracy), vice president of Merchants National Bank, and vice president of Burlington Ice & Fuel Company.

The building at 506-508 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street was then remodeled for use in automotive sales, service, and assembly. Barton Motor Company moved into it in June 1922. Gas, air and water pumps were installed on the premises to serve customers, and a three-ton elevator was added to the building ("Official Opening Barton Motor Co. Building," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, June 11, 1922, page 18). The 1924 city directory lists Barton Motor Company, with H.M. Barton, president; W.H. Barton, vice president; and A.D. Mann, secretary. In 1925, the Ford and Lincoln automobile and Fordson tractor franchise of Barton Motor was bought out by A. P. Warming of the Warming Motor Company. Jack Turner continued as sales manager, working previously for Barton until becoming manager upon his death. The Warming Motor Company had operated in town for 10 years. They started in 1915 at 215 Washington where A&E Motor was in 1925, and they built the building at the northeast corner of Main and Washington in 1920 where the Warming Company was located in 1925. They did not intend to occupy this 3<sup>rd</sup> Street building, expecting another motor company to locate there ("Warming Company Will Take Over Ford Franchise," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 3, 1925, page 1). The Barton building then became home to A&E Motor ("Move to New Location," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, August 4, 1925, page 5).

Less than two years later, the Esden Motor Company took possession ("Remodel Room for Esden Co.," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, May 29, 1927, page 4). The 1928 city directory lists Esden Motor Company at 506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, run by James Esden and selling Lincolns and Fords. This company did a booming business, constructing an addition to the building in 1930 to the south at the corner of N. Third and Columbia Streets. This portion was designed as a showroom for new cars. The first floor of the original building was remodeled to house the used car showroom. The company had done \$750,000 in ("Esden Motor Co. Opens New Quarters Tomorrow," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, May 9, 1930, page 8). The c.1931 Sanborn map shows the main two-story building with sales and service on the first story, repairing on the second story, and auto assembling in the basement. It is not updated to show the addition to the south. Esden Motors remained in business until 1932 when the Ford franchise changed hands, with C.T. Hatch moving here from Storm Lake to run the franchise. He has previously run the Ford agency in Storm Lake for four years. To launch the new agency, the Ford company headquarters in Des Moines sent Lee Thomas (formerly of Burlington) and four demonstrators to start a sales drive ("New Ford Agent Here," *Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette*, September 6, 1932, page 5). The 1933 city directory then lists the Hatch Motor Company at 506-508 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

In 1936, Lee A. Thomas purchased the business and started operating Thomas Motors in the building. The 1940 city directory lists Thomas Motor Company at 500-506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, with Lee A. Thomas, president-manager. It was an authorized Ford, Mercury, and Lincoln Zephyr dealer. There were 14 automobile dealers in town in this period. He continued to be listed as a dealer for those three lines through 1945, and in 1947 he was only noted as a Ford dealer. On April 13, 1945, the Tracy family heirs sold the building to Thomas Motor Company. After 12 years as a Ford dealer, he switched to be a Nash authorized dealer. In 1946 and 1947, Thomas bought the remaining portions of lot 244 to the

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east of the 1930 section. A new service department was then built to the east of the 1930 addition, incorporating a parking deck on the roof for new and used cars. The work included newly redecorated stock and parts room, new display room, deck for new and used cars, and remodeled service department. It is likely that the streamlined Moderne aluminum trim was also added to the exterior during this remodeling phase, and it does appear in the July 1948 photograph of the building for the open house. The Thomas Supply Company provided replacement parts for Ford, Chevrolet, Plymouth, and other brands, as well as a complete line of paints. The new 60 by 70 addition incorporated the new repair and service department; added two gasoline pumps, grease and oil facilities, and car washing service; and included waiting rooms, shower and locker facilities for employees, modern office space, and stock of replacement parts ("Thomas Motor Company Open House Friday and Saturday," *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, July 22, 1948, 13). The 1951 city directory lists the Thomas Motor Company as authorized Nash dealers, and Thomas Supply Company is also listed at 500-506 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The 1955 city directory then lists Thomas Motor Company as authorized Chrysler and Plymouth dealers. This company proved to be the most long-lived of any business at the location, occupying the building for 20 years and thereafter moving to other quarters.

The City of Burlington purchased the property from Thomas Motor Company in November 1956 for the new office of the city waterworks. An article on the transaction notes that Lee Thomas received \$70,000 as well as the old building on N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in the sale. The Thomas building would provide much needed larger office space, a maintenance shop, and room for storage. The water company trucks would be able to much better access this building, in comparison with the small alley behind the current building ("New Water Co. Building," *Hawk-Eye*, August 1, 1956, 2). The 1957 directory lists the Municipal Water Works at 500 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, with Mark Driftmier as manager. The 1970 city directory continues to list the Municipal Waterworks Office at 500 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, with Mark Driftmier as superintendent. Over the intervening decades there have been additions, repairs, renovations and improvements made to the site, but the open sprinkler system installed so many years ago over the windows on the original building have remained in place. Burlington Municipal Waterworks still has its headquarters in this building in 2012.

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Thomas Motor Company

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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.

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

*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.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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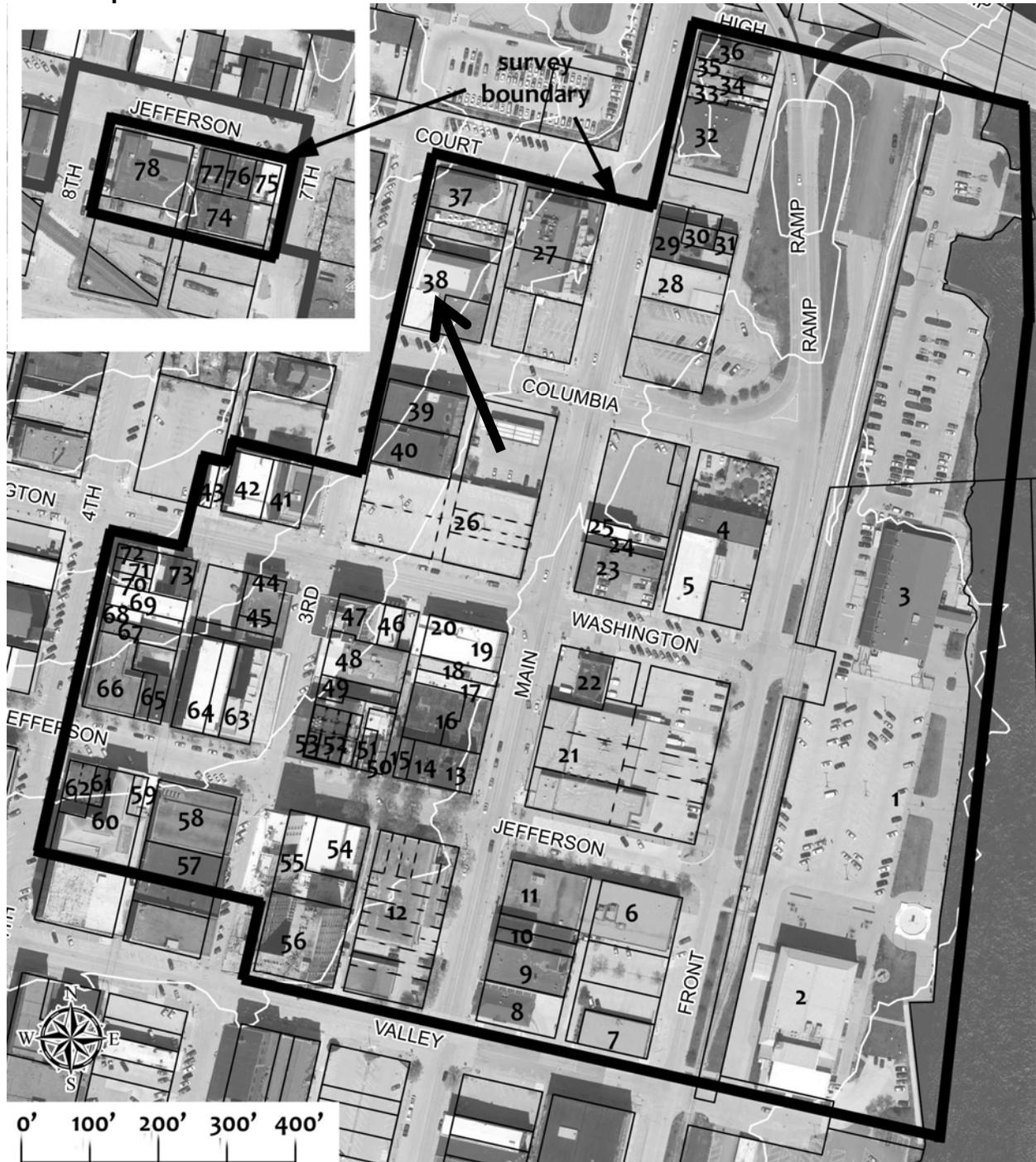
Thomas Motor Company  
Name of Property

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**Location map**



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

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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**Building plan (from assessor's website)**



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## Historic images

BARTON MOTOR CO. SECTION  
**THE BURLINGTON HAWK-EYE.**  
BURLINGTON, IOWA: SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1922.

  
HARRY M. BARTON  
President.



  
WILLIAM H. BURTON  
Vice President.

  
WM. PAEP  
Man. Stock Car Dept.

  
W. H. CLAY  
Traffic Dept.

*Announcing the Opening of the New Home of the*  
**BARTON MOTOR CO.**  
506 NORTH THIRD STREET



*Passenger Cars—Trucks—Fordson Tractors—Lincoln Cars,—Leland Built*

**T**HE BARTON MOTOR COMPANY sales and office organization greets you from this page. The Barton family includes a mechanical force of fifteen persons. Both mechanical and sales departments are organized to give the Ford interests the greatest efficiency that Burlington and Des Moines county may enjoy the greatest possible benefits of Ford Products. Sixty per cent of all cars on Burlington's streets today are Fords. To give this vast force service we have provided the most efficiently equipped building in the west.

We extend a hearty invitation to you to attend on opening days, June 16 and 17. We want you to inspect our new home that you may have definite knowledge of the completeness of our plant.

BARTON MOTOR CO.

  
JACK FENNER  
Salesman.

  
VAN H. BURTON  
Service Manager.

  
ROY D. ANDERSON  
Salesman.

  
WARD OLIVER  
Stock Dept.

  
HAROLD MULLEN  
Salesman.

  
WALTER S. EVERSBACH  
Salesman.

  
C. N. GILBERT  
Man. Truck Dept.

  
ARTHUR H. KAY  
Secretary.

  
LEVI BAGLEY  
Salesman.

  
ROY DEVO  
Salesman.

  
WARD OLIVER  
Stock Dept.

  
MISS GLADYS BIRCH  
Stenographer.

  
A. J. DIXON  
Salesman.

  
JOHN SPRICK  
Salesman.

  
MISS HELPHIE MEYER  
Bookkeeper.

  
A. J. SOYARS  
Salesman.

  
PARKER H. ERICKSON  
Truck Department.

  
MISS CARIE SLEDGE  
Office Assistant.

Hawk-Eye, June 11, 1922, p1 special section

Thomas Motor Company  
 Name of Property

Des Moines  
 County

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 Address

Burlington  
 City

# Thomas Motor Company Open House

## Supply Co. Host to Automotive Men Tonight

The Thomas Motor company and the Thomas Supply company have completed improvements valued at about \$75,000 at their

Columbia and Third street locations and both firms plan open house observances Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Thomas Supply company will have a dinner Thursday at 7:30 p. m. to which automotive dealers and independent garagemen have been invited. There will be music and entertainment. If weather is fair the dinner will be held on an outdoor deck over a new addition to the building.

The Thomas Motor company will hold open house for the public on Friday and Saturday until 9 p.m. both nights.

Featured will be a newly redecorated stock and parts room, a new display room and deck for new and used cars, a remodeled service department, and a new departmental idea in the repair and service rooms.

The Thomas Motor company is the local authorized dealer for Nash cars and will have several new models on display.

The Thomas Supply company handles replacement parts for Ford, Chevrolet, Plymouth and many other makes of cars. Other supplies include General tires, Auto-Lite batteries, Pedric piston rings, Purolator oil filters, Air-tex fuel pumps, Bendix starter devices, Imperial brass fittings and Trico windshield washers and wipers.

A complete line of paints, and paint supplies is also stocked.

Lee Thomas, head of the 2 firms, had the Ford agency in Burlington for 12 years, until he switched to Nash several months ago. The Nash agency also handles Nash parts and replacements.

The new repair and service department is contained in an addition to the old building, 60 by 70 feet, and with 2 floors. The addition of this 8,400 square feet of floor space gives the building a total of 35,000 square feet.

"We believe we have one of the largest and one of the most modernly equipped garages in this part of the country," Thomas said.

The various departments are in



**IT'S A BIG LAYOUT**—General view of Thomas Motor Co., Nash dealers, with new addition on the east. Addition has service department on first floor, parking deck on top, total of 8,400 square feet of floor space. Main building houses sales room, parts' department, and offices. It occupies northeast corner of Third and Columbia streets.



**\$100,000 STOCK**—Parts' department of Thomas Motor company has \$100,000 stock parts and accessories for automobiles of all makes. This part of the business is handled by the Thomas Supply company, a new corporation.

charge of specialists, and each division is indicated by a neon sign. In addition to regular garage services the repair department includes its own radiator repair, core and rebuild shop; upholstery department, body repair and paint shop, speedometer repair department, and a wheel alignment service.

Two gasoline pumps have been added to give gasoline service to customers, as well as grease and oil facilities, and car washing

service. A modern paint room is located on the first floor.

The 2 firms have over 40 employees.

Special features of the new building are waiting rooms, shower and locker facilities for employees, modern office space, and a stock of replacement and repair parts valued at more than \$100,000.

Just about anything from a hubcap to a new motor can be had from the replacement department. The stock includes a full

line of fenders, hoods and other body repair parts.

### Peasants Go Left

Warsaw, Poland —(AP)—Peasants of Poland are joining leftist political parties in increasing numbers.

Organizers for the Polish Socialist party reported a total of 123,800 peasants had joined. These peasants represent 1,500 communal groups and 6,600 village groups. The peasants who have thus signed up with the

Socialists soon will be Communists—at least technically. The Socialists are merging with the Communist Workers party on or about Oct. 1.

### KILLER FISH

Armed with spikes which contain a deadly poison, a fish found in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia has the power of killing humans. It is known as the stonefish and is repulsive in appearance.

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**Building in 1977 (Downtown Partners collection)**

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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 29-03668-001 – West and south elevations, looking northeast (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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**Photograph 29-03668-002 – North and west elevations, looking southeast (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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**Photograph 29-03668-003 – West elevation of original 1911 section, looking east (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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**Photograph 29-03668-004 – West and south elevations of 1930 addition, looking northeast (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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**Photograph 29-03668-005 – South and east elevations of 1948 addition, looking northwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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Photograph 29-03668-006 – East/rear elevations of 1930 and 1948 additions, looking west (McCarley, June 20, 2012).

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Photograph 29-03668-007 – East/rear elevation of 1911 section, looking west (McCarley, June 20, 2012).