

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

State Inventory No. 29-01640  New  Supplemental  
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 29-03522  
 Relationship:  Contributing  Noncontributing  
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries (29-00001)  
 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 Unterkircher Building (undertakers)  
 other names/site number Schramm & Schmiegl factory, Barngrover Glass, 2009-10 Survey Field Site #WH-30

**2. Location**

street & number 219-223 Valley 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) 257 W59'3" & 258 W 59'3"

**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	<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 Survey of the "warehouse district" in Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base Number 29-029

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>07C02: Funerary / funeral room</u>	<u>02E13: Commerce/Carpentry (window supply)</u>
<u>10A02: Industry/Factory</u>	
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05G: Late Victorian/Romanesque</u>	foundation <u>04: Stone</u>
_____	walls (visible material) <u>03: Brick</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 219-223 Valley Site Number 29-01640  
City Burlington District Number 29-03522

**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  
17: Industry

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1896  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates, including renovation 1920

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

**Architect/Builder**

Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Builder Weibley, W.F. (1920 remodel)

**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 Georgette Allen, Volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Consultant, Davenport, IA  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date Feb. 20, 2010  
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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Unterkircher Building

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

219-223 Valley Street

Burlington

Address

City

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a four-story brick Romanesque Revival building. The building is located on the southeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Valley streets, and the round corner turret reflects this corner location. The original building constructed in 1896 was three stories in height, and the original diamond brick detailing along the frieze and parapet is evident between the third and fourth stories. The fourth story was added when a clothing factory moved to this location in 1920. The stringcourse between the first and second story was then reflected between the third and fourth stories, creating a three-part overall design. The main entry is found in the base of the turret, associated with the 223 address. A storefront entry for 217 is found further to the east. While the first story windows are large, they do not follow the traditional "storefront" layout of nearly all glass on this story, reflecting the original use as a funeral business rather than a retail store. Two large vehicular openings are found on the first story of the west elevation, and they appear to be original or early 20<sup>th</sup> century additions. The first (north) opening is visible on a c.1900 postcard. Nine traditional double-hung windows are found between these openings on this side. The double-hung second story windows are designed in pairs, with segmental arch brick lintels and stone sills. The double-hung third story windows are also placed in pairs, though these windows have full arch lintels and stone sills. On both stories, the windows are smaller in the south seven bays of the eight bay west elevation. The fourth story was designed to reflect the other two stories, with double-hung windows placed in pairs with low segmental arch brick lintels and stone sills. The west elevation windows on the fourth story are larger, square windows, designed to provide additional light to the interior per the original plans.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Unterkircher Building appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in the Manufacturing and Wholesale Historic District. It contributes historically and architecturally to this historic district. The building was constructed for the Unterkircher brothers' undertaking business in 1896. In 1920, the fourth story was added when it was acquired as an additional factory site for Schramm & Schmieg (203 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street). It continued to operate as a clothing factory into the 1950s, with stores on the first story. Barngrover Glass moved here in 1954, and they continue to operate in the building. Additionally, the Unterkircher Building is related to the retail/commercial area along this block and to the north. With an expanded retail/commercial historic district along Jefferson Street, this building would likely contribute to this expanded district as well. Finally, the Unterkircher Building also appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The building is associated with three prominent Burlington businesses, and it has operated as a factory/wholesale site since 1920. The building is also an excellent example of Romanesque Revival commercial building, with a rounded corner entry turret, arch windows, and brick molding. The architecture of the building is an excellent and retains strong integrity.

In 1886, 223 Valley was Dan Reinart Wholesale Oysters and Restaurant, plus Charles Wolff Cigars (city directory). The 1872 directory is confusing. Third and Valley is listed as Smith, Scott, and

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<u>Unterkircher Building</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
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<u>219-223 Valley Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
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Company - Cigar and Tobacco Wholesale. It is also listed as McArthur and Eells Livery. 1892 city directory lists 3rd and Valley as Third Street Stables. This appears to be an older building.

Per the 1915 county history: "George L. Unterkircher and his brother conducted business under the firm name of F. L. & G. L. Unterkircher, and soon erected a fine new building at Third and Valley streets, which they occupied in 1896. This building was put up at an expense of sixty-five thousand dollars. Forty thousand dollars was invested in stock, of which thirty-five thousand dollars was particularly devoted to acquiring the highest class of equipment and animals for their livery, which was modern in every respect. Their undertaking establishment also was one of the largest and most up to date in the state. In 1902 they added a large and artistically decorated chapel with a seating capacity of two hundred." This chapel appears to have been located immediately to the east at 217 Valley Street. In the 1914 through 1920 directories, Fred Unterkircher's - Undertaker, Livery and Stables is listed at this address.

In 1920, this building became a factory for Schramm & Schmiegl Dry Goods, located diagonally across the street. Per Margaret Teushner in September 1920: "last February the company had bought the Unterkircher building across the street, that it was being remodeled for a factory to be occupied and working by November 1st, and that a great deal of the present congestion would be relieved" in the current building at the northwest corner of Third and Valley ("Woman is Executive Chief of Business," *Hawk-Eye*, September 20, 1920, 33). The fourth story was added in 1920 as part of this remodel. Architect W.F. Weibley noted he had "in hand the plans for the rebuilding of the Unterkircher building for the new owners, the Schramm & Schmiegl company. The building will receive another story and the work on this fourth story will be taken in hand first, so that the Unterkircher business will not be interfered with until they get ready to move into their new location on Washington street, just west of the Elks' building. The new Schramm & Schmiegl building will have two elevators and many modern improvements, and will represent a very respectable outlay. Architect Geo. Washburn is at work on the plans for the new Unterkircher plant on Washington street." ("Some Building Plans underway at Present," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, January 25, 1920, 11).

The 1931 Sanborn map lists Schramm and Schmiegl clothing factory for "shirt, overall, and overcoat" with "stock on first and third floor, cutting on second floor, and sewing on fourth floor". The building is listed as 219-223 Valley. The 1930 city directory lists the company at 217-223 Valley. The factory continues to be listed here in 1933. In 1937, Schramm & Schmiegl continue to be associated with the 221 address and likely the upper stories. The 219 storefront is listed as Hatch Motor Company. This continued in 1942. By the mid-1940s, it appears that Schramm & Schmiegl vacated this factory. In 1947, Schramm & Schmiegl were listed at 312-320 Valley as wholesale dealers in dry goods and manufacturers of work clothing, cotton gloves, and mittens. They had operated in their main location at 201-205 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (State Site #29-00092) from 1908 until this time. They would remain here until 1960, listed as wholesale dry goods and manufacturers of work clothing.

The 1951 city directory lists the Boy Scouts of America at 219, along with Isman Company, Inc. – clothing manufacturers – who likely operated on the upper stories. L&M Motor Sales, Inc. is located at 223. The 1952 Sanborn map list both "auto sales/service" and "clothing factory" in this building. The

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1954 city directory continues to show the Boy Scouts at 219 and L&M Motor Sales at 223 selling Lincoln and Mercury vehicles. Ross R. Burman was president of the company.

Barngrover Realty incorporated in August 1954, with C.D. Barngrover, Inea Barngrover, and R.E. Barngrover as officers (*Hawk-Eye Gazette*, August 28, 1954). They immediately bought this building from Valley Realty (late R.E. Pettigrew). L&M Motor planned to move, and they planned to retain the other tenants while considering expansion plans ("Barngrover & Son Glass Co. Purchases L&M Building," *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, August 14, 1954, 1). C.D. Barngrover Glass Company had operated at 110 N. Main Street since 1931. They offered wholesale and retail glass and glass block, doors, garage doors, and windows. By November, they had moved to this location (*Hawk-Eye Gazette*, November 13, 1954, 5). In December, they advertised mirrors, glass desk and table tops, storefront glass, windows, auto glass, doors, glass block, Ro-way garage doors, Modernfold doors, and steel casement and industrial windows. The 1955 city directory then listed the Boy Scouts at 219 with Barngrover Glass at 223. This continued in 1957. In 1958, the Yellow Cab and Checker Cab companies moved into 219 with the Boy Scouts office. They continue to be listed here in 1959 and 1960, without the Boy Scouts. Barngrover Glass continued to be associated with 223 Valley.

Barngrover Glass continues to operate in this building in 2010.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

*Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa*. Chicago, IL: Hobert Publishing Company, 1905.

*Burlington Hawk-Eye*, various articles and dates. On microfilm at the Burlington Public Library.

City Directories, Burlington, Iowa, various dates. On microfiche at the Burlington Public Library

*History of Des Moines County, Iowa*. Chicago, IL: Western Historical Company, 1879.

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

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County, Iowa*. Chicago, IL: Acme Publishing Company, 1888.

Sanborn Map Company. "Burlington, Iowa," Fire Insurance Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1886, 1892, 1900, 1931, 1952.

Transfer books, Des Moines County Auditor's Office, Burlington, Iowa

Vertical files, Burlington Public Library, Burlington, Iowa.



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## Historic Photographs



c.1900 - building at left (Des Moines County Historical Society)

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1920s – building at right, after 4<sup>th</sup> story addition (Des Moines County Historical Society)

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**Photographs (digital images)**



**Building, looking southeast  
November 2, 2009  
R.L. McCarley**

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North façade of building, looking south  
November 2, 2009  
R.L. McCarley

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Unterkircher Building  
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**West façade of building, looking east  
November 2, 2009  
R.L. McCarley**