

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

**State Inventory No.** 29-01635  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  
 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 J.H. Ebert & Sons  
 other names/site number 2009-10 Survey Field Site #WH-34

**2. Location**

street & number 313-315 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) 450 E77 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:	
	Enter number of:		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	—	buildings	<u>1</u>	—
<input type="checkbox"/> district	—	sites	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	structures	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	objects	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> object	—	Total	<u>1</u>	—

**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>02E04: Commerce / blacksmith</u>	<u>70: Vacant/Not in Use</u>
<u>10A02: Industry / factory (wagons)</u>	
<u>14D09: Transportation / automotive service/repair</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>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 313-315 Valley Street Site Number 29-01635  
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 1900  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 Inez Metzger, Volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Consultant, Davenport, IA  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date March 31, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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J.H. Ebert & Sons

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

313-315 Valley

Burlington

Address

City

## 7. Narrative Description

This three-story, six-bay brick building was constructed around 1900 as wagon factory and blacksmith shop. The stone foundation is visible around the building. Simple brick detailing extends around the top of the parapet wall and provides the only ornamentation. The two large entries on the façade (north) are historic, with the arch entry at 313 appearing older than the square entry opening at 315. Both retain historic wood doors and transom windows. The three first story windows, six second story windows, and six third story windows have four-over-four-light double-hung wood sashes, stone sills, and segmental arch brick lintels. A metal fire escape runs up the middle of the building, accessing the third bay. Ghosts of painted signs extend across the building between the second and third stories and above the third story. Additional ghosts of painted signs are visible across the majority of the second and third stories on the west side. A one-story store/office associated with this building at 317 has been demolished, and these signs would have been visible above the building. The signs include one for Ebert & Sons and two for Coca-Cola. This west side has a pedestrian door that was cut to enter the one-story building, and it has been filled with brick. A larger loading dock is found about halfway back on this elevation. Three second story windows and one third story window reflect the window designs on the façade. Likewise, the windows on the east side of the building also have four-over-four-light double-hung wood sashes, stone sills, and segmental arch brick lintels.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

John H. Ebert & Sons 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 is one of the earliest extant factories in this historic district. John H. Ebert was associated with F.C. Wehman in manufacturing wagons in a building to the south prior to acquiring this property in 1900. This building was then constructed for this purpose, as visible in the design. John Ebert was joined in business by several sons. As the wagon manufacturing and blacksmith repair business declined, the business shifted to automotive springs by 1920, and J.H. Ebert and Sons continued to operate here. They expanded into janitorial supplies in the 1940s, and they changed their name to Ebert Supply Company in 1950. The building also appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The architecture of the building is an excellent and generally intact example of a factory from the turn of the century with a high degree of integrity. The ghost signs on the west side are also a significant part of the history and architecture of the building.

The 1900 Sanborn map shows that the east 77 ½ feet of Lot 451 was vacant, with an earlier house having been demolished. The map also shows that a one-story building to the south on Lot 452 had been converted to a wagon and blacksmith shop, with the rear portion for painting and varnishing. The 1900 city directory lists Wehman & Ebert at this location (110 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street). On April 6, 1900, F.C. Wehman and John H. Ebert acquired the east 77 ½ feet of Lot 451 to the north of their shop. In the 1902-03 city directory, Wehman & Ebert are listed at 313-15 Valley, with wagon repair and horse shoeing. The 1904-05 directory lists them at 313-15 Valley as central wagon and shoeing shop, and they are listed in business listings under blacksmiths. Wehman & Ebert continue to be listed in 1907. In

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Site Number 29-01635

Related District Number 29-03522

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J.H. Ebert & Sons	Des Moines
Name of Property	County
313-315 Valley	Burlington
Address	City

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1908, the business shifted to J.H. Ebert & Son, wagon makers, at 313-315 Valley. They are one of four business listings under carriages, wagons, etc. The 1910 city directory lists John H. Ebert & Son at 315 Valley, and they are listed under wagon manufacturers. Thus, it appears that this three-story brick building was constructed around 1900, for Wehman & Ebert. By 1915, the company personnel shifted, and it was call J.H. Ebert & Son. In 1915, J.H. Ebert & Son ordered terra cotta from Midland Terra Cotta Company of Chicago (American Terra Cotta Company index). As no terra cotta is found on this building, it appears that it may have been for the one-story office section built at 317 Valley, which has been demolished. The 1916-17 city directory then lists J.H. Ebert and Sons at 317 Valley, and they are listed as wagon makers.

By 1920, the business had evolved from wagons to automobile repair, and it continues to be listed as J.H. Ebert and Sons. John H. Ebert remains associated with the business along with George H., Louis C., Christ F., and E. Ralph Ebert. They specialized in the repair or replacement of auto springs. They continue to be listed here in this manner through 1940. The 1931 Sanborn maps shows this three-story brick building at 313-315 with blacksmith on first story, wood working on the second story, and auto painting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> story. The small one-story office is located at 317 (demolished).

In 1942, the name shifted to Ebert Supply Company in the city directories. However, not until March 27, 1950 did a notice appear in the newspaper that J.H. Ebert & Sons at 313-317 Valley would change their name to Ebert Supply Company, with the same ownership ("Change Firm Name," *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, March 27, 1950, 2). The 1951 city directory lists Ebert and Sons Supply (Janitorial) at this address. On the 1952 Sanborn map, it is indicated as having an auto repair body shop on second floor and a painting shop on third floor. Chris Ebert died, and his estate transferred the property to Elsie and George H. Ebert on January 19, 1955. They then sold it on April 11, 1957 to Ewinger Supply Company, and the business moved to 317 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ewinger Supply (Plumbing) is listed as the occupant in the 1960 city directory. Their main building continues to be listed at 115 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (State Site #29-00091), so they appear to have used this building as storage. The current owner of Ebert Supply explained that the Ebert family and the Ewinger family were related, and they swapped additional property when this building changed hands.

Ewinger Supply then sold this property to Burlington Trading Company on October 17, 1977, who also bought the remainder of Lot 450 and the entire Churchill Drug Company building (100-122 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street) on the west half of this block. This property then has been associated in ownership with this adjacent building since this time. Kevin Bangert purchased the property in 2004 for \$14,300. Presently, it sits vacant.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

*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

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J.H. Ebert & Sons  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

313-315 Valley  
Address

Burlington  
City

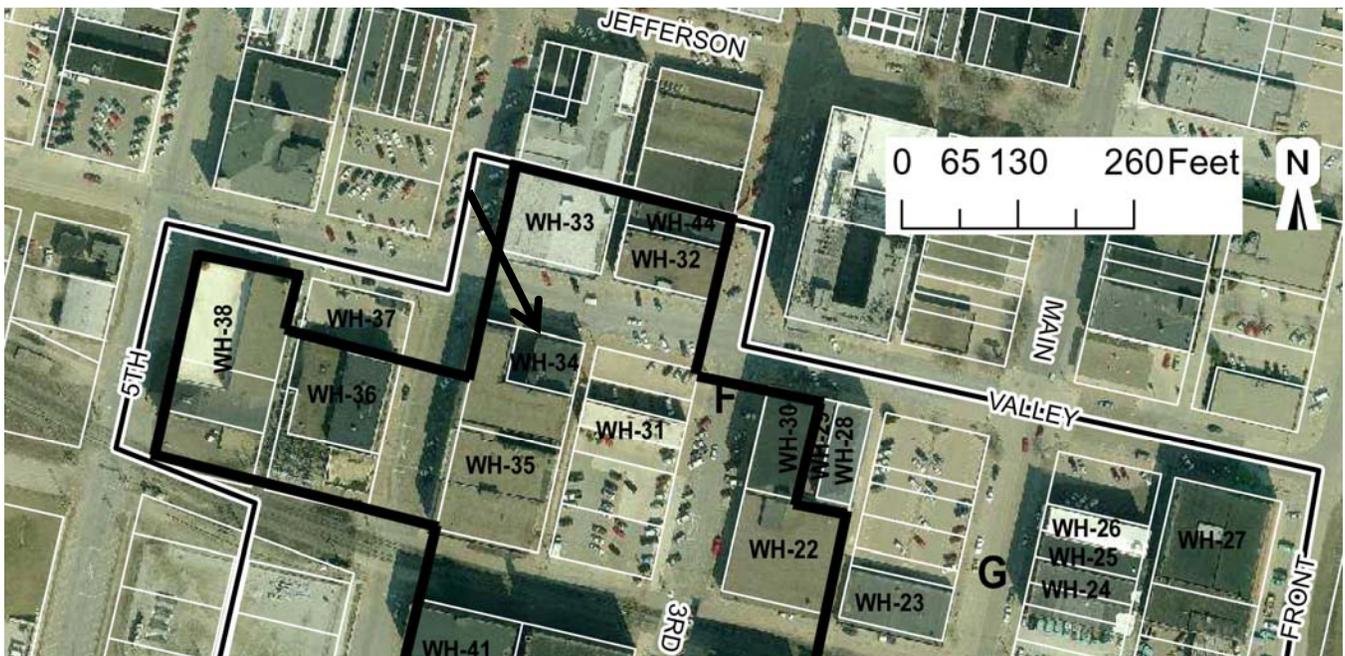
*History of Des Moines County Iowa and Its People.* Chicago, IL: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1915.

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.

## Location map



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J.H. Ebert & Sons  
Name of Property

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County

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## Building plan (from assessor's website)



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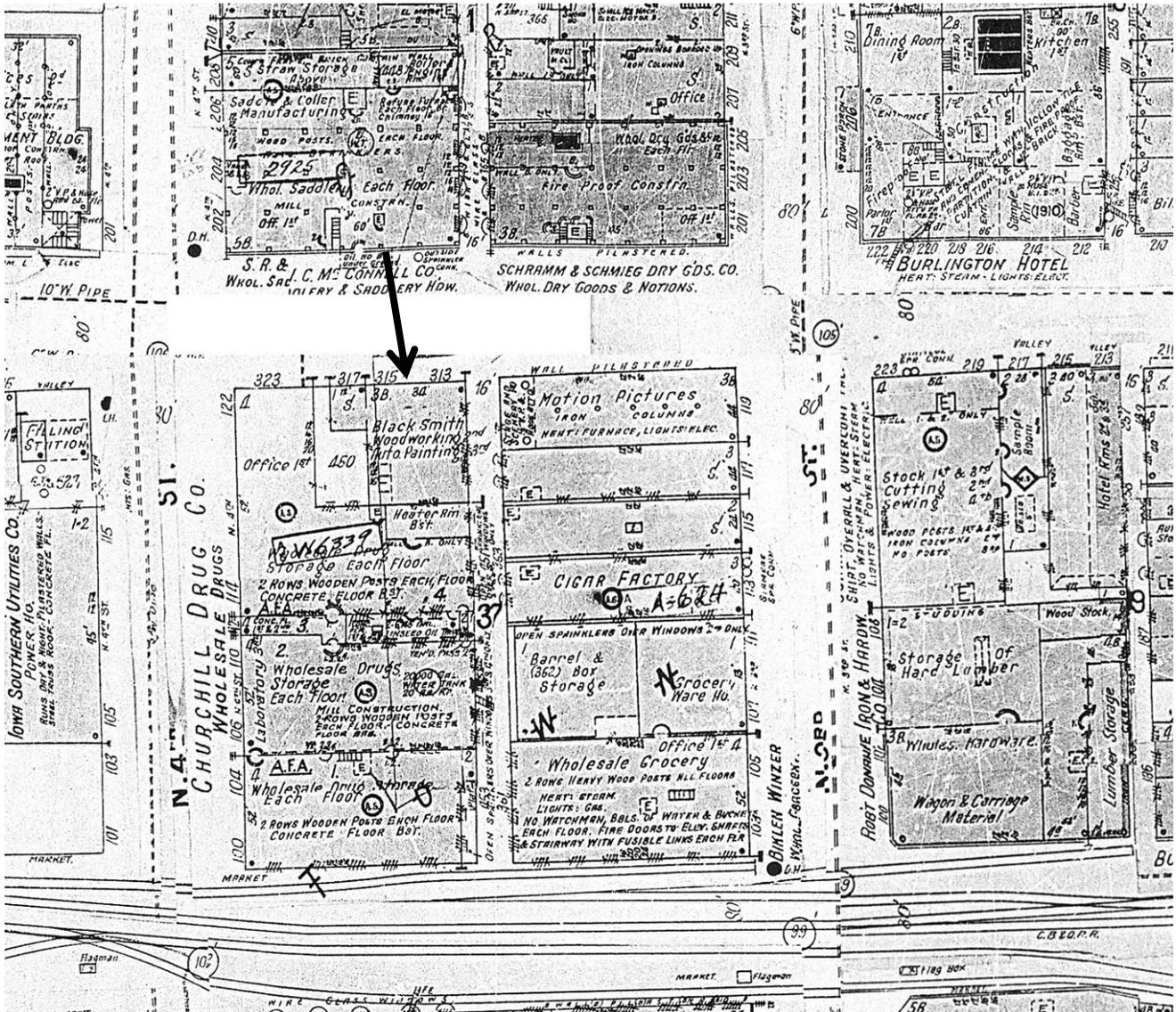
J.H. Ebert & Sons  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

313-315 Valley  
Address

Burlington  
City

## Historic image



Building on 1931 Sanborn fire insurance map (Sanborn Map Company)

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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**Photograph (digital image)**



**Façade of building, looking southwest  
November 2, 2009  
R.L. McCarley**

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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**Façade of building, looking southeast  
November 2, 2009  
R.L. McCarley**