

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

State Inventory No. 29-00206, 29-00207 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 The Spider Web
 other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # J-125

2. Location

street & number 211-213 N. 5th 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) north half of Lot 657

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 N/A *Historical Architectural Data Base Number* _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>08: Recreation and Culture – youth center</u>	<u>02E: Commerce / specialty store</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 <u>08B: Rolled Asphalt</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 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 211-213 N. 5th Street Site Number 29-00206
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 1952 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation 1920s

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 Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport research by David Roed, commission member
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date February 3, 2014
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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<u>The Spider Web</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>211-213 N. 5th Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

The current building on this site is a two-story brick building with a mid-20th century yellow brick façade. The earlier three-story brick building on this site was severely damaged by fire in 1951. The original/front portion of the building was reduced from three stories to two stories, and the façade was rebuilt with the current yellow brick. The storefront is somewhat recessed into the building. Double-door entries are located to the right/north, with panels and a large window to the left/south. A series of transom windows is found across the top. The second story has four one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The south brick wall appears to date to the earlier building. The rear tile-block two-story addition was likely constructed in the 1920s. The first story has a wide vehicular entry that has been filled with brick, and metal windows likely dating to after the 1951 fire are found in the upper openings.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Spider Web building appears to contribute historically to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District (#29-03685). The building was used by various automotive businesses from the 1910s through the 1940s. In 1952, it was partially rebuilt after a fire reduced it to two stories and new façade brick was installed. Thus, the integrity of the building dates to 1952. It was remodeled for The Spider Web, a youth center that operated here until 1994. Social organizations were a key part of the downtown throughout the period of significance for the historic district, typically located on an upper story of a building but also occupying full buildings in some cases. This building contributes to this aspect of the significance of the historic district. The building is currently listed as non-contributing in the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001), as the reconstruction falls after the period of significance for that district. The building may also be individually significant under Criterion A for its association with The Spider Web. Further assessment of the interior would be required for full individual evaluation.

It is possible that the footprint and foundation of this building existed when the J.W. Smither, Steam Bakery and Confectionery, was listed as occupying 207-213 N. 5th Street in the 1882 *Commercial and Statistical Review of the City of Burlington* and 1883 City Directory. Henry Ewinger, Plumbing, Steam & Gas Fitting is listed at 213 from 1892 to 1913 (City Directories). Through this period, it was a three-story building on the Sanborn fire insurance maps and in historic photographs. The next occupants in city directories were all automotive related, including Sheagren-Hunt Autos (1916, 1920), Overland-Knight Co (1924), Tim Vahle Garage (1926), and Obrecht Motors (1928, 1930). The 1930 Sanborn map shows the two-story rear addition, with auto repair on the second story. The building was occupied by Burrus Memorial Company in 1933 and 1935. Hawkeye Motor was here in 1937, and it was vacant in 1940 through 1945. In 1947, Van Osdol Motor Company was listed here, run by Wran Van Osdol. On June 1, 1951, a devastating fire hit the building ("Van Osdol Auto Firm Building, 30 cars, 12 new, Burned," *Hawk-Eye*, June 1951; "Seventh Costly Business Blaze Here Since 1950," *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, August 11, 1952, 8). The 1952 Sanborn map shows the building as two stories with "ruins of fire" noted.

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The next life of this building, resurrected from the ashes, puts it permanently in the journals of Burlington history, as Mrs. Margaret Uffelman and her youth organization, The Student Social Center, Inc., purchased the building on April 2, 1952 (Transfer Book 13, pg. 159). Here she established a permanent location for "The Spider Web", secured with a grant given by philanthropist Emma Catherine Ransom (The Hawkeye, 7-7-13 section: Life-Lifestyles). The building apparently underwent a substantial rehabilitation at this time, including the new façade brick. The Spider Web started as the Student Social Center in 1942 to provide a local place for teenagers to hang out, rather than go across the river to Gulfport. They initially remodeled a room in the Y.M.C.A., and then moved five years later to the Woodmen of the World hall at 321 ½ N. 4th Street and then to various other locations. The board bought the damaged building at 211-213 N. 5th Street on April 2, 1952, and they moved here in May 1953. A color TV, pool, and ping pong tables were moved into the first story, and a dance hall operated on the second story. The kids preferred a live band and were willing to pay a small cover charge, and so Margaret Uffelman arranged for live music. One month in the 1960s, the youth center had 6,000 in attendance. A 2013 article claims that it was the oldest continuously operating youth center in the U.S. and likely the only self-supporting one. It actually made a profit at its peak, due to membership fees, cover charges, pop sales, and gifts and bequests. Uffelman was named Woman of the Year in 1969 by the *Hawk-Eye*. Maxine Lanning took over as director in 1970, and she ran it until 1994 when the non-profit charter ran out. Margaret Uffelman (Mom) was recently inducted in the Iowa Rock and Roll Music Association Hall of Fame for her lifetime achievement with her work at The Spider Web (Bob Saar, "Spider Mom and the Teen-Aged Horde," *Hawk-Eye*, July 7, 2013, Lifestyles section).

Currently, the building is home to Drake Hardware and Software, a computer repair service.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Brower, Steven. *West Jefferson Street Historic District*. National Register of Historic Places nomination form. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, IA. Listed on April 9, 1991.

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 scanned 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.

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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Location map



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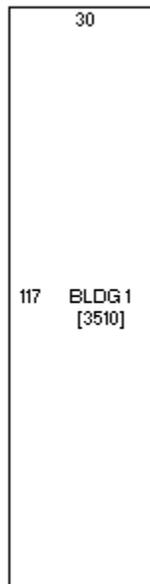
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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Historic images



207-209

211-213

rear of Jefferson building

West side of N. 5th Street in 1910s (Downtown Partners)

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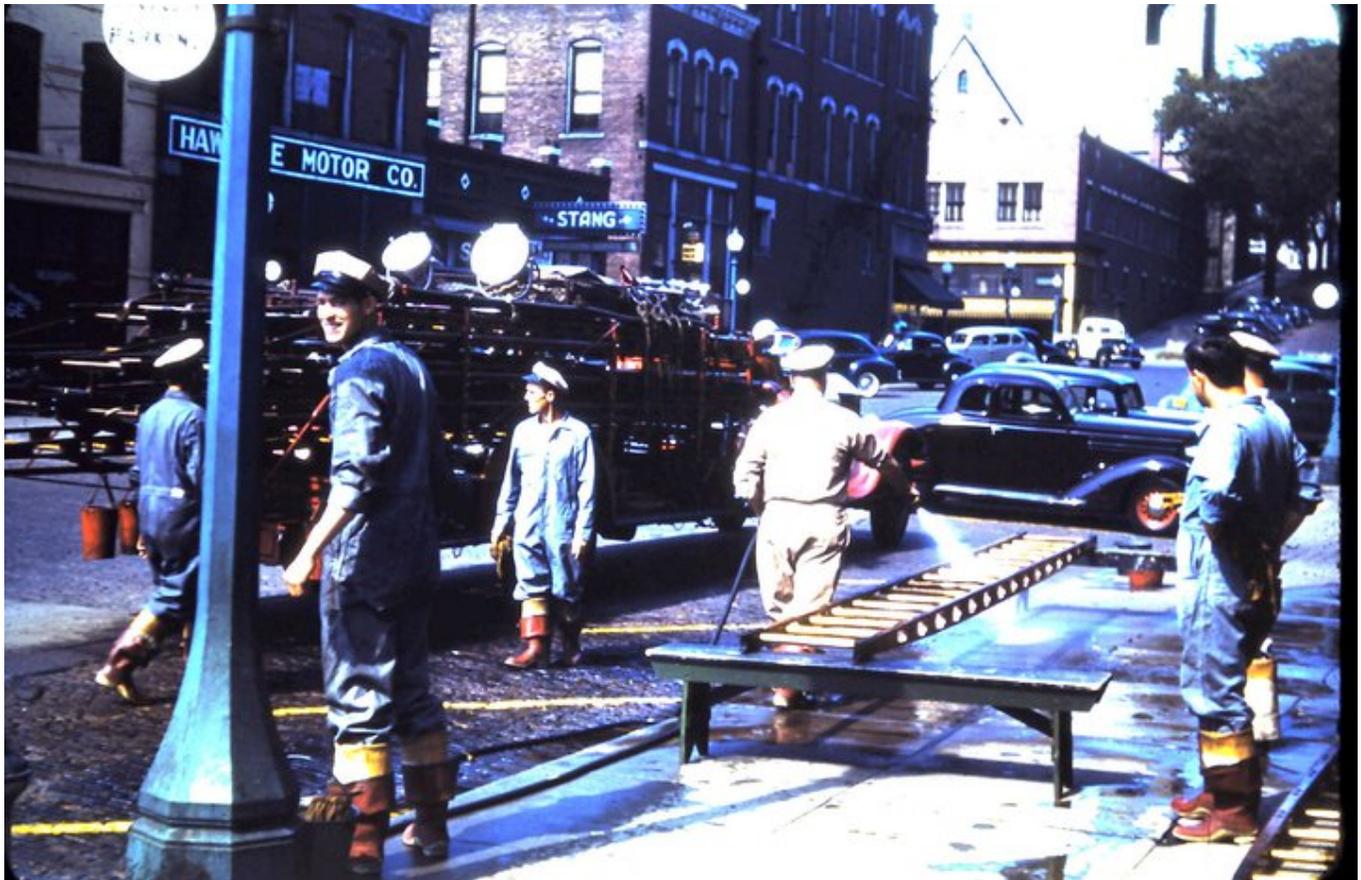
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207

211-213

215

rear of Jefferson building

West side of N. 5th Street in 1930s (Downtown Partners)

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West side of N. 5th Street in 1977 (Downtown Partners)

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-00206-001 – East elevation, looking northwest (McCarley, July 17, 2013).

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Photograph 29-00206-002 – West (rear) elevation, looking northeast (McCarley, July 17, 2013).