

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

**State Inventory No.** 29-01102  New  Supplemental  
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 29-03685, 29-00001  
 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 Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
 other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # J-116

**2. Location**

street & number 411 Jefferson 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) west 30' of Lots 531 and 530

**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>	—
<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	sites	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	structures	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> object	—	objects	—	—
	—	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**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02E09: Commerce / furniture store</u>	<u>02E: Commerce / specialty store - music</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>
<u>06C: Classical Revival</u>	walls (visible material) <u>03: Brick / 17: Other</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 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 411 Jefferson Street Site Number 29-01102  
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 1914-15  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 Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport research by Inez Metzger and Barb Mackey  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date February 14, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 1

---

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

---

Des Moines  
County

---

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

---

Burlington  
City

---

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a four-story building with a Classical Revival façade. Though the core of the building was constructed around 1875, the historic integrity dates to the significant 1914-15 remodel. The building was expanded to four stories, south/rear 40 feet constructed, and Classical Revival façade installed for Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company. The façade was designed for a double-height display space, with white tiles enframing this area. The original 11 by 15 foot first story windows were replaced by shorter windows with white panels above them by the 1940s. The second story windows span the width of the façade, and they provided additional display space. The third and fourth stories are then connected by flat white pilasters with two Ionic pilasters on the center. Large windows are found on each of the stories, providing ample light for the interior display rooms. The top of the building also reflects Classical Revival details in the cornice line, dentils, and parapet. The west elevation along the alley reveals older brick on the lower three stories and the addition of the fourth story in 1914. The windows on this side all appears to have been replaced at this time, with some new window openings cut and others filled. The second and third story windows have six-over-three-light double-hung sashes, while the fourth story windows have six-over-six-light double-hung sashes. The rear third of the building was constructed during the 1914 remodel. The first story has a rear entry and two eight-over-four-light windows. Higher eight-light windows are associated with the original interior balcony. The multi-light windows on each of the upper stories vary, with the shortest on the third story, middle on the second story, and tallest on the fourth story.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District (#29-03685). Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company is significant in the commercial history of downtown Burlington as one of the leading furniture and floor covering businesses in Burlington and southeast Iowa. They operated in town from 1871 to 1985, including from 1915 to 1985 in this building specifically designed for the company. Their floor space spilled into the block to the east for the majority of these years as well. The significant remodel for the company in 1914-15 resulted in an excellent example of the Classical Revival style in downtown Burlington. The style is reflected in the glazed white façade, pilasters, Ionic columns, storefront and building cornice, and other features. The Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company building may also be individually eligible under Criterion A for its association with the company and/or under Criterion C for its architecture. Further assessment of the interior would be required for full individual evaluation. The Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company building is currently listed as contributing in the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001).

This parcel was part of the property originally owned by W.B. Lawrence at the southwest corner of Jefferson and 4<sup>th</sup> streets. Lot 531 extends along Jefferson for this half block, with Lot 530 parallel to the south. On September 23, 1873, the west 30' of Lots 530 & 531 was purchased by C.H. & J.F. Wehmeier. The original three-story, 30' wide, brick building was then reportedly built around 1875. The 1876 city directory list J.M. Swan & Co at 409-411 Jefferson, listed as wholesale notions and wholesale/retail druggists. The 409 address then appears associated with the upper stories, with the

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 2

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

411 Jefferson Street

Burlington

Address

City

stairs at the east side of the building. The 411 address is then associated with the first story retail space. Wehmeier & Brothers is noted in the *Commercial and Statistical Review of the City of Burlington, Iowa* in 1882 as wholesale dealers in flour, and retail dealers in family groceries and supplies at 409 and 411 Jefferson Street. The 1883 directory lists Wehmeier & Brothers, flour and groceries, at 411 Jefferson, while attorneys Clark Marble and T.B. Snyder are listed at 409 along with printer Conrad Lutz. These listings continue in 1886. The 1886 Sanborn map shows a three story building with a two-story outbuilding to the south, which was under separate ownership. Grocery is indicated on the first story, with office on the second story and cigar storage on the third story.

On January 18, 1890, D. Witenhaus purchased the property (north 10' of the west 30' of Lot 530 and the west 30' of Lot 531) from Louis Wehmeier. J.M & H.C. Chubb then purchased it from D. Witenhaus & wife on March 1, 1892. The 1892 city directory lists Latona Mills Coffee & Spices, as well as John J. Walz, restaurant, at 411 Jefferson. The offices of Charles Sponholz, notary and insurance, and Dr. J.C. Fleming, are listed at 409 ½ Jefferson. The 1892 Sanborn map shows grocery on the first story, saloon in the basement, and offices on the second story. In 1900, Iowa Clothing Company is listed at 411 Jefferson. The 1900 Sanborn map shows a clothing store on the first story, saloon in the front portion of the basement, and a bakery in the rear portion of the basement. Chubb Brothers, bakery and confectionery, operated in the storefront immediately to the east at 407 Jefferson, and they appear to have expanded bakery space into this building that they also owned. The property transferred within the Chubb family in 1910. The 1910 city directory lists the Palace Theatre at 409-411 Jefferson, with H.C. Chubb (real estate), C.L. Daggett (watch maker), F.B. Ober, A.C. Davidson (constable), and Order of Owls at 411 ½ Jefferson. The 1912 city directory lists the Palace Theatre at 409 Jefferson, and Albert Hauber (cigar manufacturer), August Lange (constable), Frank B. Ober (justice), and Order of Owls at 411 ½ Jefferson.

On March 4, 1911, Charles Buettner purchased the property (west 30' of Lot 531 and west 30' of the north 10' of Lot 530) from Henry C. Chubb & wife. Charles Buettner then purchased the east 30' (excluding the north 10') of Lot 530 from Boeck & Co. on January 20, 1913. Thus, he had the site of the earlier building as well as the site of the two-story building to the south. Buettner's plans to remodel this building for his furniture and carpet store then spurred the Palace Theatre to seek a new location, ending up constructing a terra cotta clad theater at 314 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in 1914-15 (remodeled for the theater in 1948). This move displaced the Citizen's Water Company, which then built a two-story building also clad in white terra cotta at 314 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street also in 1914-15 (extant, # 29-00141).

On August 5, 1914, the *Hawk-Eye* announced that Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company will begin to tear down the building at 409 Jefferson as soon as possible, having planned a new building there for three years. The old Boeck stable to the south would also be torn down, providing a 30 by 120 foot lot for the new building. Plans and specifications were to be ready this week, and the business hoped to move in by March 1, 1915. The new building was to be four stories in height. The entire front was to be nearly all glass, with large windows planned on each story. A showroom was planned for the first story. In addition to the basement and upper stories, Buettner would also occupy the second and third stories of the building to the east at 407 Jefferson, which they also owned ("Buettners Will Erect a Handsome Building," *Hawk-Eye*, August 4, 1914, 8). In 1924, the store expanded into the storefront of 407 Jefferson as well (*Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 4, 1926, sec 6, p 10). On March 14, 1915, the *Hawk-*

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

---

<u>Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>411 Jefferson Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City

---

Eye noted that Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company will start moving tomorrow to their new building, formerly occupied by the Palace Theater (page 6).

Charles Buettner, a furniture maker, started the business in 1871 in Burlington. He moved to 505 Jefferson when the Samuel Stern Block was completed in 1882 and remained here until this new building was completed in 1915 (*Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 4, 1976, sec 6, p 10). The new building and business was described in the February 1916 issue of *Grand Rapids Furniture Record*. It was noted as completed in August 1915 at a cost of \$75,000. The entire front was clad in white tile, with a strip of green terra cotta between the first and second stories to evoke an unbroken display height for both stories. The first story windows were thus 11 by 15, built flush with the walk. The second story windows, blending into the first story, swung inward for easy cleaning. The first story show room had 16 foot ceilings, with the executive offices at the rear under a balcony for a gift shop. The second story provided display of bedroom and library furniture, with 12-foot ceilings. The third story, with 11-foot ceilings, included blue tinted walls to match the white steel ceiling for display of parlor and living room furniture. The fourth story, with only front windows, provided display for carpet and rugs. Their wholesale and retail floor covering business was noted as the largest in southeast Iowa. The building was equipped with a vacuum heating system and inverted lights. The adjoining three-story building (407 Jefferson) was to be remodeled for the company as well, along with the leased upper story space of the building to the east (405 Jefferson). This would result in two additional 40 by 110 foot showrooms. Charles Buettner remained active at the head of the business that he started in 1871, with sons Herbert R., Arthur R., and Carl F. Buettner also associated with the business ("Forty-Five Years of Furniture Retailing," *Grand Rapids Furniture Record (Grand Rapids, MI)*, February 1916, 147).

The 1916-17 city directory lists Buettner Furniture & Carpet Company at 409-411 Jefferson. The 1920 city directory continues to list Charles, Herbert, Arthur, and Carl Buettner as associated with the company. As noted, in 1924, they expanded east into the 407 storefront as well. By 1926, Charles is no longer listed, with the three sons Herbert, Arthur, and Carl Buettner listed along with daughters Thelka L. and Meta E. Buettner. These five Buettners continued to be listed as associated with the company through 1935. A 1928 ad for the company notes that the business started in 1871 and grown into a strong retail business and one of the largest wholesalers of carpets, rugs, and floor coverings in Iowa ("Buettner Furniture & Carpet Company," *Hawk-Eye*, June 24, 1928, 24). The 1937 city directory lists Buettner Furniture & Carpet Company at 407-411 Jefferson, run by Ida (widow of Arthur), Carl F., Herbert R., Meta E., Paul A. (son of Arthur), and Thelka L. Buettner. They are noted as selling complete home furnishings in 1940. Paul is not listed in 1940 and 1942, but he is then listed again by 1945. The company continued to be run by Ida (widow of Arthur), Carl F., Herbert R., Meta E., Paul A. (son of Arthur), and Thelka L. Buettner per the 1947 city directory. Herbert then died, and his wife Lydia took his place by 1951. Thelka and Carl then died, and Charles A. Buettner was added as partner in the business with Meta A., Ida M., Lydia G., and Paul A. Buettner per the 1955 city directory, along with M.N. Collatt. These six people then are listed with the business into the 1960s.

The July 10, 1962 special edition of the *Burlington Hawk-Eye* included a full page ad for Buettner's with a history of the company as the last page. As noted, the company was founded in 1871 by Charles Buettner, a furniture maker. It was located at the northeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. He manufactured chair seats, legs, and backs, selling parts for a complete chair for 25 cents. The buyer

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

---

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

---

411 Jefferson Street

Burlington

Address

City

---

could then assemble a chair at home for a lower cost. The business grew and free deliveries were offered, delivered on their way home in the evening rather than during the day. The company moved in 1882 to the new building at 505 Jefferson. They occupied three stories of an L-shaped space. They shifted focus to retail and wholesale furniture and continued to grow. In 1914, they built their current building at 411 Jefferson specifically for the business. In 1924, then expanded into the building to the east, occupying the first story of 407 Jefferson and upper stories of the full half block. They also acquired warehouse space. Four generations of the Buettner family were involved in the business to date, and 28 people were employed. They dealt in four main areas of home furnishings – furniture, draperies, floor coverings, and accessory items. The store directory listed upholstered furniture, lamps, occasional tables, gifts, china and crystal, and the bridal gift registry on the first story. The balcony had lamps, lamp shades, and mirrors. The second story had dining room furniture, dinette sets, upholstered furniture, table lamps, occasional tables, pictures and mirrors, juveniles furniture, porch and lawn furniture, card table sets, unfinished furniture, and fireplace equipment. The third story had bedding, bedroom furniture, “Early American” room, drapery materials, Venetian blinds, traverse rods, upholstery materials, boudoir chairs, cedar chests, folding screens, and window shades. The fourth story had carpeting, porch rugs, wall tile, and linoleum and tile (“Buettner’s,” *Hawk-Eye*, July 10, 1962, 104). Buettner’s continued to operate at 411 Jefferson through the 1970s.

On November 2, 1981, the property (west 70' of Lots 530 & 531 – i.e. 405 and 407 Jefferson, as well as 411 Jefferson) transferred from Mary R. Buettner et al to Buettner Enterprises, Inc. Buettner’s closed in 1985. The company then sold it to Eugene Dobroski on October 25, 1985. Deborah Dobroski Bessine & Danny Bessine (JT) purchased the property from Eugene H. & Regina M. Dobroski (h&w) on December 21, 1989. They continue to own the property. It is currently occupied by Weird Harold’s, which primarily sells vinyl records and other music.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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.

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

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

*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.

Spalding, J.L. *Commercial and Statistical Review of the City of Burlington, Iowa* (CSR), compiled and published in 1882 by J.L. Spalding & Co., 1882.

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  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 29-01102  
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 6

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City

**Location map**



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

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 29-01102

Related District Number 29-03685

Page 7

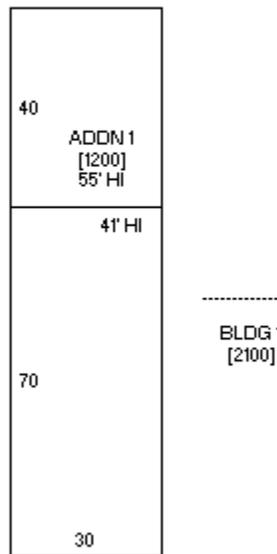
Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City

## Building plan (from assessor's website)



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 29-01102

Related District Number 29-03685

Page 8

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City

## Historic images



Building around 1900 (Downtown Partners)

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 29-01102  
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 9

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City



Building in 1940s (Downtown Partners)

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 29-01102  
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 10

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City



**Building in 1977 (Downtown Partners)**

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 29-01102  
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 11

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City

**Digital photographs**



Photograph 29-01102-001 – North and west elevations, looking southeast (McCarley, January 14, 2014).

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 29-01102  
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 12

Buettner Furniture and Carpet Company  
Name of Property

Des Moines  
County

411 Jefferson Street  
Address

Burlington  
City



Photograph 29-01102-002 – South elevation, looking north (McCarley, July 17, 2013).