

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

State Inventory No. 29-01107 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 Lauer Building
 other names/site number Robinson Drug Company, Downtown Survey Map # J-119

2. Location

street & number 423 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 19.6' of Lot 608

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 N/A Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02E11: Commerce / grocery</u>	<u>02E11: Commerce / grocery (specialty)</u>
<u>02E03: Commerce / clothing store</u>	_____
<u>11D01: Health Care / pharmacy</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>
<u>05B: Italianate</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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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 423 Jefferson Street Site Number 29-01107
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 1867 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 17, 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

<u>Lauer Building</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>423 Jefferson Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story brick building constructed in 1867. The storefront appears to date to the early 20th century, when the building was occupied by Robinson Drug Company. It has a centered recessed entry with large display windows and prism glass transom windows. The second story has three arch windows with simple brick hoods. The building likely originally had six-over-six-light double-hung wood arch windows similar to those remaining at 413-415 Jefferson. The windows appear boarded over in 1977 and have since been replaced with one-over-one-light double-hung windows with arch transoms. Large brick rectangles are found across the frieze/parapet, with small brick "brackets" between each rectangle and large brick "brackets" at each end. This brickwork appears to match the building at 413-415-417 Jefferson constructed in the same year on the block. This detail continues along the west side of the building along 5th Street. Additional brick corbeling also extends under the frieze. This side has a rear side entry and window near the south/rear of the building, and it has five unevenly spaced one-over-one-light double-hung windows with arch transoms on the second story.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Lauer Building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District (#29-03685). The building was constructed in 1867 during a period of construction along this section of Jefferson. It was occupied by grocery stores for several years in the 1870s and 1880s, and then a clothing store operated here in the 1890s and early 1900s. In 1902, Edgar H. Robinson opened Robinson Drug Company in this building, and it continued to operate here into the early 1970s. The building retains the drug company's storefront. The building is a good example of a basic two-story Italianate building constructed during a period of construction in Burlington following the end of the Civil War in 1865, retaining original brickwork and windows. This history and architecture contributes to the significance of the district. The building is currently listed as contributing in the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001). Further assessment of the interior would be required for full individual evaluation.

On July 4, 1866, Thomas Hedge advertised business lots along 97.5 feet of Jefferson Street west of the Lawrence House (401-407 Jefferson) for sale. This appears to include all the property from the Lawrence House to the corner lot (this lot at 423 Jefferson). The earliest transfer book indicates the corner lot owned by A. Lauer (west 19.5 feet of Lot 608). The *Hawk-Eye* reported on March 21, 1867 that two 80-foot deep stores would be built on this block by Mr. Runyan (at 413-415 Jefferson), with a similar store built to the west by Mr. Redding (at 417 Jefferson). Further to the west, another 20' wide store would also be built with similar detail to the three-store block ("Buildings," *Hawk-Eye*, March 21, 1867, 4). This building appears to be this corner building at 423 Jefferson. When fire struck the Lawrence House (formerly Sunderland House) to the east on June 22, 1868, damage was reported to the buildings to the west. Lauer & Son, furthest west at the corner, sustained some damage to building and stock ("Destructive Fire," *Hawk-Eye*, June 23, 1868, 4). On September 23, 1868, A. Lauer & wife sold the building to John Darling. The *Hawk-Eye* reported on September 25, 1868 that A. Lauer has sold his store house on the corner of Jefferson and Fifth streets to Mr. John Darling for \$7,500 (*Hawk-Eye*, September 25, 1868, 4). He appears to have owned this property until his death. He and wife

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 2

<u>Lauer Building</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>423 Jefferson Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City

Cynthia (Gillette) had no children, but they are listed with servant Sarah Kennedy in the 1870 census and nephew William Darling lived in town. John A. Kennedy transferred his interest in the property to Frank A. Gillette on November 29, 1910, and he acquired other interest in the property in 1912 and 1923. Thus, the building appears to have remained in this family until Frank A. Gillette sold it on February 14, 1923 to Edgar Robinson.

The 1872 city directory lists L. Krieg, flour & feed, at 423 Jefferson. L. Krieg is again listed here in 1876, selling flour and feed as well as groceries and provisions. Biklen Candy Manufacturing is listed at 423 ½ Jefferson, likely associated with C.H. Biklen's candy and ice cream parlor at 413 Jefferson. Both businesses are still listed here in 1879. Wagner & Schroeder advertised a grocery store at 423 Jefferson on September 11, 1880 (*Hawk-Eye*, September 11, 1880, 4). Arden's Corner grocery is then advertised here by March 17, 1881 (*Hawk-Eye*, March 17, 1881, 4). The 1883 city directory lists Charles J. Arden, groceries, at 423 Jefferson. Dr. John V. Bean and dressmaker Carrie Hoerr are listed on the second story. These listings continue in the 1886 city directory. Carrie remains on the second story per the 1890 directory, but the first story is then occupied by L. Hirsch & Son, a clothing store. By 1892, L. Hirsch & Son refer to their business as Famous Clothing House. Dr. Franklin H. Wray has moved into the doctor's office at 423 Jefferson. Famous Clothing Co (Hirsch Clothing Co.) continues to occupy 423 Jefferson in the 1896-97 city directory. Dr. H.F. Steinle is listed as a health officer at the southeast corner of 5th & Jefferson.

By the 1900-01 city directory, John F. Freedman & H.E. Olson operated Freedman & Olson Clothing and Gent's Furnishing Goods at 423 Jefferson. P.C. Henry Schmidt is a shoemaker at 423 ½ Jefferson. In the directory, there were ten clothing stores with five in bold print, including Freedman & Olson. The 1902-03 city directory lists Freedman, Olson & Streed at 423 Jefferson. Wm. G. Ruckenbrod is a shoemaker at 423 ½ Jefferson.

Robinson Drug Company, started by Edgar H. Robinson, opened here by July 1902, as an advertisement then appears in the newspaper for the business at 5th and Jefferson streets (*Hawk-Eye*, July 1, 1902, 6). It first appears in the city directory in 1907 at 423 Jefferson. No additional businesses or offices are listed here. Robinson Drug Company continues to operate through 1970. Through this period, there were generally 13-14 drug stores in Burlington, and this one is not highlighted in bold in directory listings. Edgar H. Robinson purchased the building (west 19 ½' of Lot 608) from Frank A. Gillette on February 14, 1923. Edgar H. Robinson ran the company for over 40 years, last listed in the 1947 city directory. The 1951 directory lists his son Kenneth E. Robinson as associated with the company. In 1955 and 1957, Kenneth and wife Vera D. Robinson are listed, and then the listing returns to only Kenneth. Robinson Drug Company continued to be listed here in the 1970 city directory. 423 ½ Jefferson remains vacant until 1965 when Mrs. Alice Robbins is begins to live here. This is listed as her address in 1970 as well.

Kenneth and Vera Robinson sold the building on August 21, 1972 to John H. Witte & Sons, Inc. The Witte family then sold the property to David A. Stiefel on February 22, 1979. It transferred to wife Marcia Stiefel on July 24, 1998. They sold it to DAS Boots LLLP on October 16, 2007. Currently, it is occupied by Nature's Corner, a specialty food market.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

Lauer Building
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

423 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.

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 29-01107
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 4

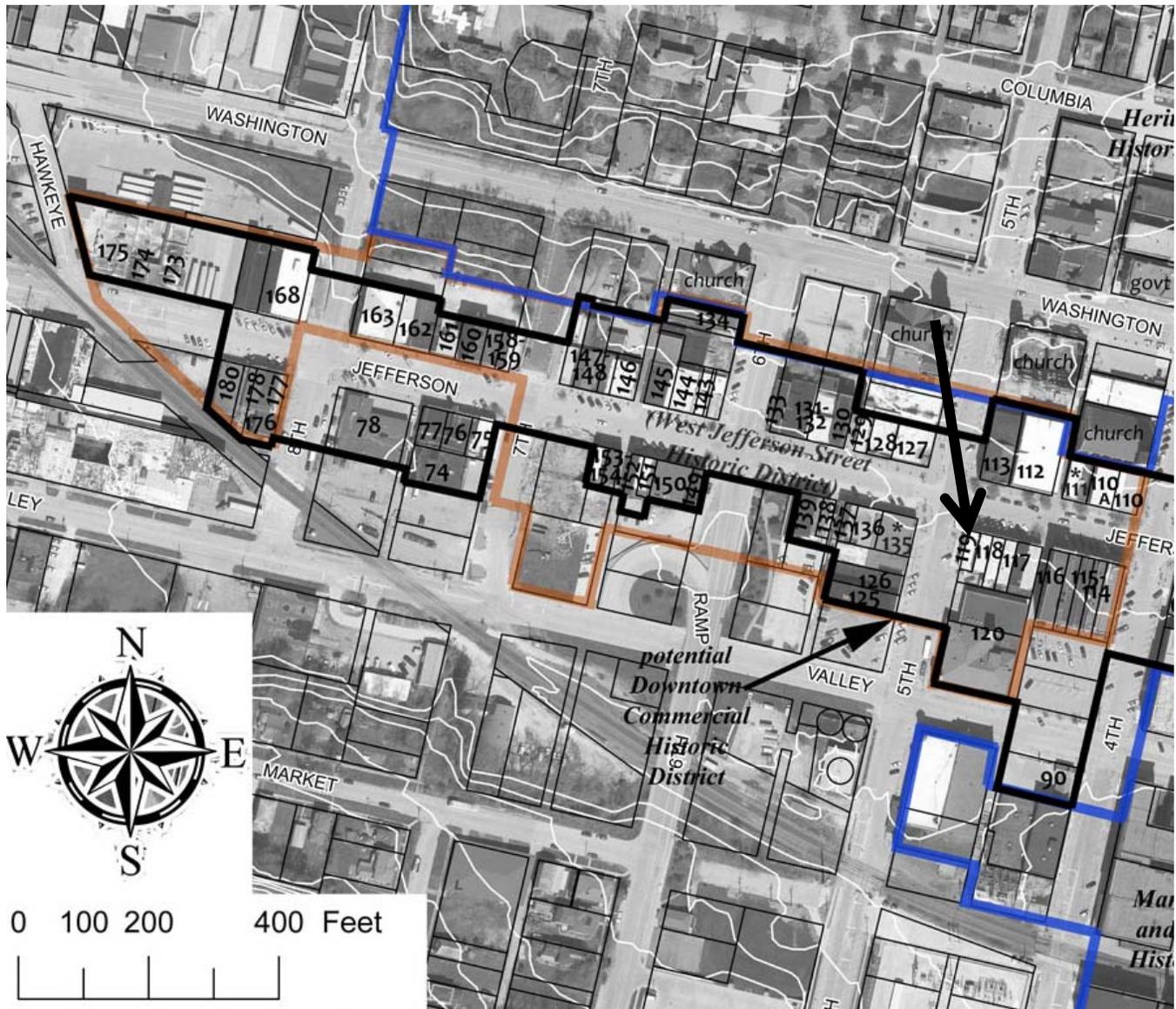
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Name of Property

Des Moines
County

423 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 29-01107

Related District Number 29-03685

Page 5

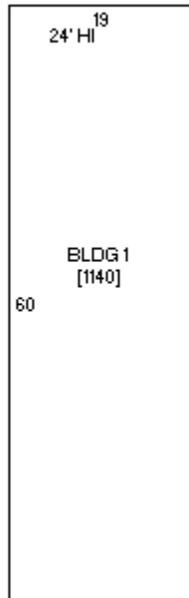
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Name of Property

Des Moines
County

423 Jefferson Street
Address

Burlington
City

Building plan (from assessor's website)



Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 29-01107

Related District Number 29-03685

Page 6

Lauer Building
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

423 Jefferson Street
Address

Burlington
City

Historic images



cropped/enlarged view of 400 block of Jefferson in 1890s, looking west (building at left on end)
(Downtown Partners)

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

Site Number 29-01107
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 7

Lauer Building
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

423 Jefferson Street
Address

Burlington
City



400 block of Jefferson, looking east, around 1949 (building at right) (Downtown Partners)

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

Site Number 29-01107
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 8

<u>Lauer Building</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>423 Jefferson Street</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City



411 413 415 417 419 421 423

West half of south side of 400 block in 1977 (Downtown Partners)

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

Site Number 29-01107
Related District Number 29-03685

Page 9

Lauer Building
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

423 Jefferson Street
Address

Burlington
City

Digital photographs



Photograph 29-01107-001 – North and west elevations, looking southeast (McCarley, January 14, 2014).