

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

State Inventory No. 29-00123 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 Burlington Buick Company
 other names/site number 2009-10 Survey Field Site #WH-10

2. Location

street & number 231 S. Third
 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) 349 and S 1 foot of Lot 350

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 Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		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

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02H: Commerce/Trade - warehouse</u>	<u>02F: Commerce/Trade – retail center</u>
<u>02E01: Commerce/Trade – auto showroom</u>	<u>02A01: Commerce/Trade – office building</u>
<u>02E10: Commerce/Trade – appliance sales & service</u>	<u>01A01: Domestic - residence</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>07B Commercial Style</u>	foundation <u>10B – poured concrete</u>
	walls (visible material) <u>03 - brick</u>
	roof <u>15C01 – rubber membrane</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 231 S. Third Site Number 29-00123
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 1913 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation c.1927 – third story added

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 Steve Frevert, Volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Consultant, Davenport, IA
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date 28 February 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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<u>Burlington Buick Company</u>	<u>Des Moines</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>231 S. Third</u>	<u>Burlington</u>
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

This is the three-story, seven-bay brick building. It was constructed around 1914 as a two-story building for the Chittenden & Eastman Company, who were located at 100-104 S. 3rd Street. The Burlington Buick Company purchased this building in 1927 and added the third story for expanded services associated with their business. The original brick detail with parallel protruding bricks and diamond corner designs was then carried into the third story on the façade (east elevation). The detailing extends up the sides of the façade, across under the third story windows, and across the top of the added third story. The storefront appears to have been remodeled in the 1950s, though a historic garage door remains at the north end. The six-over-six-light double-hung windows on the second story were installed in 2009 during remodeling of the office and residential space. The third story appears to retain original six-over-single-light double-hung windows on the façade.

The south elevation (along Elm Street) has glass block in the first story openings. The street slopes so that the second story is at the level of the rear alley. The original brick detailing of parallel lines of protruded brick with corner diamond detail is visible on this elevation below and above the second story windows. This detail was not repeated along the top of the added third story on this side, perhaps due to the stepped parapet wall and rear sloping roof. The second and third story windows on this side also have six-over-six-light double-hung windows recently installed. A side entry is located into the second story at ground level near the rear of the building on the south side. The north elevation is generally a party wall with the adjacent building, with only the added third story visible on this side.

The rear (west) of the building is two stories in height, the second and third stories as correlates to the façade due to the sloped site. The second story thus was directly accessed from the alley, providing for vehicular access from this side. A large vehicle opening has been further enlarged for a modern garage door on this elevation. Three second story windows have glass block installed. The three third story windows have the same newly installed six-over-six-light double-hung windows as the other elevations of the building.

A small penthouse addition has recently been constructed on the roof. While visible from a distance, it is not visible at street level near the building.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Burlington Buick Company appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in the Manufacturing and Wholesale Historic District centered on 3rd Street from Valley to Elm streets. This was one of a handful of buildings that were developed for automotive uses on this block in the historic district. This business use is seen as compatible with the more industrial nature of this area as opposed to the more retail/commercial area along Jefferson Street. The building was originally constructed by Chittenden & Eastman as a furniture warehouse and is also associated with the historic development of this company. Thus, the building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to this historic district.

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At this time, with research completed to date, it does not appear that the Burlington Buick Company is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Additional research on automotive related buildings in Burlington may highlight significance not currently identified.

The site of an earlier dwelling (1900 Sanborn map), this property was purchased by the Chittenden & Eastman Co. on September 12, 1913 (Transfer Book 7, p. 87). Construction had perhaps already started, as the *Burlington Hawk-Eye* reported on September 23, 1913 that rapid progress was happening at the new Chittenden & Eastman building on Third at Elm – “It is going to be a neat, substantial brick structure that will greatly improve the appearance of that corner” (page 4). It is listed as a warehouse for Chittenden & Eastman from about 1915 to 1922 (city directories). Per the later history, it was a two-story brick building at this time. The majority of the buildings associated with Chittenden & Eastman’s furniture business were located on the block to the north of this building, the 100 block of 3rd Street. This more distant location appears to then have been abandoned with the construction of additional buildings near their original furniture factory at 100-104 S. 3rd Street (see more history on State #29-00117).

The next two decades saw the building used for automobile sales. In the 1924 city directory, it became the home of Burlington Buick Co., which operated here until about 1935 (city directories). The company was listed a few buildings north at 209 S. 3rd Street in the 1922 city directory as the Farmers Motor & Supply Company. Chittenden & Eastman officially sold the property to William Mohnike on May 16, 1927. The history of the company appeared in 1927:

Moving to South Third street, the Mohnike agency continued to expand. It was then known as the Farmers Motor & Supply Company. Six years ago further growth forced the company to expand again. Mr. Mohnike then purchased the property at Elm and Third streets and remodeled it for automobile purposes, using the first floor for display rooms and the second entirely for shop and storage. Since then a third story has been added, which is used as a painting department, and a division was installed for the complete refinishing of cars with Duco.

The shop has the most modern equipment including hydraulic lifting grease rack, valve refacing machines, brake lining machines, lathes, etc., to give the best possible service in the shortest period of time. The company also has installed a power washer on the wash rack, giving quicker and better service. The name of the company was changed to The Burlington Buick Company, a name much more expressive of the business and much more helpful in selling Buicks.

(“Burlington Buick Company,” *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, December 11, 1927, 12)

The 1931 Sanborn map indicates that the ground level was the sales floor, with repairs on the upper floors, which were accessed by the rear alley and an interior ramp. It is shown as a three story building.

The Burlington Buick Company expanded their line to include Oldsmobiles in 1932, having already added Pontiacs and GMC trucks to their line. Harry Nelson was in charge at this time (“Burlington Buick Company Will Sell Oldsmobile,” *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, June 30, 1932, 5). In 1933, the building was sold to the American Savings Bank & Trust at sheriff’s auction (Transfer Book 7, p. 87). The 1935 city directory continues to list the Burlington Buick Company here. The Nelson Motor Co. was at 231 S. Third in 1937 and 1938. This was likely a successor company.

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Abraham and Lillian Lubelchek purchased the property from the bank in 1938 (Transfer Book 7, p. 87); Lubelchek Motor Co. was listed there in 1940 and 1942 city directories. They had previously operated at 215 S. 3rd Street, near the middle of this block, as a used car dealer.

Allen and Bessie Wischmeier bought the building in 1943 (Transfer Book 7, p. 87), and Wischmeier Auto Sales occupied the building starting in 1943 (city directories). A Chrysler ghost sign is visible on the north exterior wall. They continue to be listed here into the early 1950s.

Wischmeier sold the building to Union Supply Co., an electrical appliance dealer, in 1955. Union Supply occupied the building into the 1960s (city directories). By the 1960s, they are listed as selling television equipment.

The property was sold at sheriff's auction for a second time in 1993 (Transfer Book 13, p. 87).

Currently the first floor is occupied by Digital Office Solutions. A new awning was installed in 2004, and the windows were replaced with units of the same style in 2008. The second floor was rehabbed in 2009 as the offices of Preferred Products Corp. At this writing, the third floor is being completed as a residential condominium for the building owners. A new rooftop penthouse has been built to provide access to a rooftop deck. The owner relates that the building was initially two stories, with the third added later. This has been confirmed in the history researched for the project.

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

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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Des Moines

Name of Property

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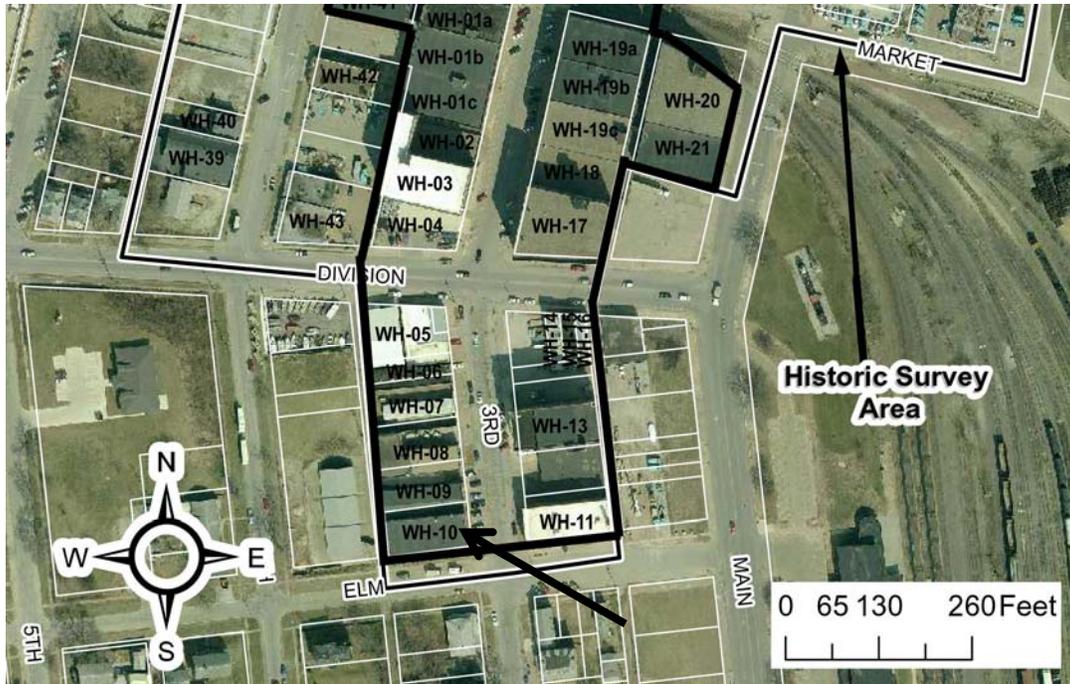
231 S. Third

Burlington

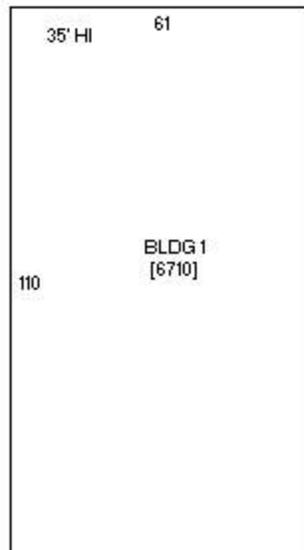
Address

City

Location map



Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Photographs (digital images)



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

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

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Rear of building, looking northeast
January 12, 2010
R.L. McCarley