

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

**State Inventory No.** 29-03657  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 Clara C. Strong Building  
 other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-20

**2. Location**

street & number 205-211 Washington 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) Lot 197 - west 1/2 (60') of north 1/3 (20')

**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 Historical and Architectural Survey of "East" Downtown Burlington, IA Historical Architectural Data Base Number 29-034

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02A01: Commerce/office building</u>	<u>02A01: Commerce/office building</u>
<u>03A04: Social / fraternal organization</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>05G: Romanesque</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 205-207 Washington Street Site Number 29-03657  
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 1886  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, commission member Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date November 6, 2012  
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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Clara C. Strong Building

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

205-211 Washington

Burlington

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City

## 7. Narrative Description

This three-story brick commercial building retains a high level of integrity of the intricate brickwork and detail of the original Romanesque design on the upper stories. According to the current owner, Steve Zager, this original upper façade was restored 10 years ago. The building has a stone foundation. The brick on the first story, with highly visible white mortar, is non-historic, added with the latest storefront remodel. The historic center entry to the upper stories has been retained, with the original storefront spaces to either side now accessed from the interior. The center entry has a red domed canopy and four newer rectangular windows to either side. Three steps lead up to the glass entry door. There is a transom above the glass door and a sidelight to the left of the door with windows surrounding the recessed entry. Black pilasters on the first story protrude between the window pairs, with the original metal columns incorporated into the storefront design and painted an accent color. These columns have simple, unique designs etched into the stone, such as a sunshine, zigzag lines, dots, curved lines, etc. stacked on top of each other. These columns alternate with newer brick pilasters such that there is a pilaster between every window on the first story. A band of old brick from the original façade, topped with a light stone band, divides the first story from the second story which is also divided by a stone band from the third story.

The focal point of the building is the centrally located large windows on the middle of the second story. These two windows have massive and ornate brick arches which are recessed from the exterior wall. Brick dentils enhance the interior of these arches toward the outside edge. The windows are modern replacements, with three vertical sections and full glass within the arch. A circular window is centered above the apex between the two large arches. Below the small circular window there is a light stone band that extends across the bottom of the two brick arches. This band is carried over to the base of the arch at the exterior of these windows as well. The two side sections are slightly recessed from the prominent center section. Two arch windows are located on either side of the center section, which are covered and painted black. There is also a light stone lintel connecting these window pairs at the base of the arches, forming the effect of a transom.

Decorative square brick design enhances the protruding central section of the third story, above and encircling the arches of the three middle arch windows. This brick design is topped with a horizontal band of protruding brick that spans the width of the midsection. There is also square decorative brick in the central section of the parapet, which has a slightly protruded center section in harmony with the design of the building below. The side sections of the third story likewise has two arch windows, above the second story windows. A stone sill band extends across the third story. The third story windows are all covered and painted black, and they are shorter than the windows below on the second story.

The west side extends along the alley for 20 feet, back to the rear/west of the original building at 319-321 N. Main. The profiles of these sides of the two buildings further emphasize their independent nature. There is a side door on the first story. A fire escape goes to a white, metal door on the second floor. Brick-in windows are found to the south of this door and above both of these openings on the third story. Their limestone sills are visible.

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## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Clara C. Strong Building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District. The building was constructed around 1886 by widow Clara (Churchill) Strong as a rental property, with commercial tenants in the first story and offices on the second story. The building was later part of the Churchill Drug Company complex in the 1890s to around 1908, and then part of Burlington Willow Ware Company until around 1914. It was then acquired by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, along with the adjacent building at 319-321 N. Main, with both remodeled for their club rooms and lodge on the upper stories and commercial space remaining on the first story. The detail of the Romanesque architecture is excellent on the upper stories, with arches and decorative brick surfaces intact. This building is recommended for additional research and interior assessment of integrity for a determination of individual significance under Criteria A and C. The window and storefront changes are detrimental to individual listing under Criterion C for architecture, though the Romanesque detail is stronger perhaps than any other building in this current downtown survey area and may be found to outweigh the alterations. Additionally, with its later history associated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles, it may be found to be individually listed under Criterion A along with the building at 319-323 N. Main for this social/fraternal history in Burlington.

On June 7, 1854, John A. Funk bought all of Lot 197 for \$4,200. On November 24, 1863, Mr. Philip Leicht purchased the corner of Lot 197 - approximately 20' x 59'3" for \$3,000 from Funk. This building on the east half of the north third (20') of Lot 197 was to be the home of his retail liquor and cigar business. This business was sold to his son Phil in 1883 for \$13,000, who then owned this section of the lot and the corner building at 323 N. Main until his death in 1925. J. A. Funk continued to own the south two-thirds (60') of Lot 197 (319-321 N. Main) as well as the west half of the north third (roughly 205-211 Washington). This remaining property was sold to Clara C. Strong on May 2, 1884 by George Kriechbaum et al, executor, who is listed as a president of the German-American Savings Bank. Clara C. Strong is also listed as the grantee on May 16, 1885, with title/interest clarified from M.M. Funck. She continued to own this property until 1913. Raynolds and Churchill started their drug store business to the south at 317 N. Main in January 1875, and they moved to the double storefront at 319-321 N. Main around 1885. Clara C. Strong was listed as Clara Churchill, age 23, in the 1880 census in Waterloo, with mother Katherine (age 54) and sister Alice. Francis E. Churchill, age 53, druggist, is listed following them with son Frank (age 21) and son Arthur (age 18), likely indicating there were not in residence. Family tree records on Ancestry.com note that she married Charles Strong on March 15, 1811, who then died on November 18, 1883. Thus, this may have precipitated a move to Burlington to be near family. The 1900 census lists Clara C. Strong, age 40, widow, living in Burlington with mother Katherine, age 74, widow, and son Arthur C., age 17. Thus, the building on the south two-thirds of Lot 197 at 319-321 N. Main appears to have been owned and built by the Churchill family for the wholesale drug store business. The 1886 Sanborn map shows wholesale drugs at 319-321 N. Main, extending fully back to the alley on the west on the south two-thirds of Lot 197, and Raynolds and Churchill are listed here in 1886. The company merged with C. P. Squires & Company in 1889 to create Churchill Drug Company. They would grow to one of the largest wholesale drug companies in the state (Antrobus 1915, Vol. 2: 228-29).

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Clara C. Strong Building

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The 1886 Sanborn shows the west half of the north 20' of the lot, west of the Leicht saloon in the corner building at 323 N. Main, as having a hall on the third story and "to be office building," perhaps indicating it was under construction. It has addresses of 207, 209, and 211 noted. Thus, this building along Washington Street was then perhaps subsequent built in 1886 as a rental property by Clara (Churchill) Strong. The 1892 Sanborn map shows wholesale drugs at 319-321 N. Main with wood posts down the middle of the double building (see #29-03656), a saloon in the Leicht corner section at 323 N. Main, and a vacant store in the separate building at 205-211 Washington, which had a center staircase between four shallow storefronts. Thus, this red brick building appears originally constructed separate from either other building on the lot, though Clara C. Strong owned both 319-321 N. Main and 205-211 Washington. The Burlington Gas Light Company advertised their location as the west storefront – 211 Washington – from July 1886 through 1891. J.C. Koonz advertised lawn mower sharpening at 205 Washington from 1887 to 1891. In March 1892, Albert Goede opened a shoe store at 207 Washington (*Hawk-Eye*, March 22, 1892, 2). F.W. Chamberlin had an office in rooms 3 and 4 at 209 Washington in 1890, and then in rooms 1 and 2 in 1891 (*Hawk-Eye*). In 1893, C. Marble advertised his law office as well as real estate and loans from above 211 Washington. The hall noted on the third story has not been identified to date.

Churchill Drug Company expanded into this building in the 1890s. In June 1899, the company was the only exclusively wholesale drug business in Burlington. Their main building was at 319-321 N. Main, with another building at 205-207-209-211 Washington, and a warehouse at 407-409-411-413 Front Street ("Churchill Drug Company," *Hawk-Eye*, June 11, 1899, 19). This article further notes this portion of Lot 197 as a separate building on Washington. The 1900 Sanborn map then shows the Churchill Drug Company occupying 319-321 N. Main, extending into this building on the west half of the north third of the lot along Washington, with a laboratory on the first story within the full 205-211 storefronts. Clara Strong continued to own the both buildings through this period. In 1907, Churchill Drug Company bought the lot at 110 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St and an older building at 120 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, building on this set of lots in 1907-1908, moving to this location by the 1909 directory.

This move left the large double-storefront building at 319-321 N. Main vacant, as well as the extension to Washington west of 323 N. Main at the corner. Burlington Willow Ware Shops then moved into both sections. The Burlington Willow Ware Shops were incorporated in 1908, with E.A. Florang as E. A. Florang as president, O. E. Florang, vice president, Arthur Schwerin, secretary, and J. H. Schier, treasurer. The latter two bought out interest of the first two members in 1911. In 1915, J. H. Schier was president and manager; F. G. Nelson, vice president; and Arthur Schwerin, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Nelson purchased an interest in the business in 1913. They were located in this "L" shaped building in 1915 at 205-211 Washington Street and also in their new factory at 207-209 N. Main. It was three stories with a basement. They made willow baskets and willow furniture by hand, employing 32 people. It was the only factory of its kind in Iowa – and one of few in country (Antrobus 1915, Vol. 2: 303). During this period, Pauly Brothers saloon operated in the 319 storefront on Main. On November 21, 1913, Clara Strong sold the property to Arthur Schwerin et al, who then transferred it to Burlington Willow Ware on November 26, 1913. It then transferred to H. Wernich on December 16, 1913. The company then moved out of this building around 1915. The 1916-17 city directory lists C.J. Anderson at 319 N. Main, Overland Burlington Company at 321 N. Main, and Phillip Leicht's saloon still at the corner at 323 N. Main. Penn Oil and Supply Company was around the corner at 205

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Washington, with the Fraternal Order of Eagles in the remainder of the building. On May 18, 1914, H. Wernich sold the building to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, with title clarified from Burlington Willow Ware to the Fraternal Order of Eagles on September 12, 1914. This building with frontage at 319-321 N. Main and L to the rear/west half of the north third (20') of the corner section/building was then remodeled for the Eagles' purposes.

The local Fraternal Order of Eagles chapter, Aerie No. 150, was organized on April 29, 1901, and they started with 46 members in Druid's Hall at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Washington (demolished for Medical Arts building). They then moved to the Stern building at Jefferson and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets, briefly to the top floor of American bank building, and then to the Klein building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street opposite Hotel Burlington. When Burlington Willow Ware moved out of the former Churchill Drug building on Main and Washington, they bought their first real estate. The three story building was of good design, and they remodeled the interior for a lodge hall on third story and club room in the L on the second story. They held their formal opening here on October 17, 1916. It was the first home owned by Eagles. When Phillip Leicht died in 1925, they began discussing plans to acquire this corner property at 323 N. Main ("Burlington Eagles Announce Completion of New Building," *Hawk-Eye*, November 29, 1928, 14).

The Sinclair Refining Co. is listed at 205 Washington in the 1920-21 city directory, and the Hedrick Motor Transfer Co. is listed at 207 Washington. There are only two oil companies at this time, with this being the only refining company. Hedrick is the only motor transfer company. It is assumed these are merely offices for these companies. The Eagles Hall is also listed here. They then acquired the corner building at 323 N. Main from Anna Leicht, widow, on April 19, 1927, and the Eagles then owned the entire Lot 197. There was a transfer within the Eagle's on February 15, 1928 to clarify the title for the local organization. They bought it and completed a significant remodel program, with new interior on all three stories and new facades on the east and north side. The frontage extended along Washington for 80 feet, with plans to perhaps eventually extend on red brick part of the building as well (the originally separate building at 205-211 Washington – which is still currently red brick). They now had 700 members. The first story was finished as three commercial spaces on Main and one on Washington. The first occupants were Sawtell Motor Company at 319 N. Main, Ed Hardtman's tailoring shop at 321 N. Main, Jack Peterman's Sandwich shop in the corner at 323 N. Main, and Dr. Johnson on Washington Street side. The second and third stories were occupied by the Eagles – club rooms, lodge rooms, banquet hall, kitchens, and parlors ("Burlington Eagles Announce Completion of New Building," *Hawk-Eye*, November 29, 1928, 14).

By 1930, 205 Washington is then listed as the F.O.E. Hall. J.E. Johnson is listed as a chiropodist or foot doctor at 205 Washington (one of two in town), and E.B. Hartman is a tailor at 207 Washington (one of 10 in town). By 1940, 205 Washington is the office of James E. Johnson, Podiatrist, and 207 Washington continues to be the office of Edward B. Hartman, tailor. There are no podiatrists listed and Johnson is not listed as a doctor but there are 2 chiropodists and he is listed as one of them. He appears to have moved out in the early 1940s.

In 1947, George Hafner real estate is listed at 205, with the F.O.E. Hall at 205 ½ Washington. These listings are the same in 1951 and 1957. By 1961, 205 Washington is the address for Acousticon of Burlington and Elgin Water Conditioners, and there are five water softening services in Burlington. 205

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Clara C. Strong Building

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1/2 Washington is the address for the F.O.E., and there are 11 halls in the city. Charles P. Miller has his chiropractic office at 207 Washington, and he is one of 9 chiropractors. 203 Washington is listed as the office of the Credit Bureau of Burlington, Inc. and the Association of Credit Bureaus of America, Inc.

By 1968, 205 Washington is once again the office for Hafner Real Estate, and there are now 28 real state offices. 205 1/2 Washington continues to be the address of the F.O. E., and there are now only 7 halls listed. 207 Washington is a hearing aid center in 1965, and tax and bookkeeping service in 1968. The Fraternal Order of Eagles continued to be listed at 205 1/2 Washington.

Stephen S. Zager bought the building from the F.O.E. on December 22, 1989, and he is the current owner.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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.

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.

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  
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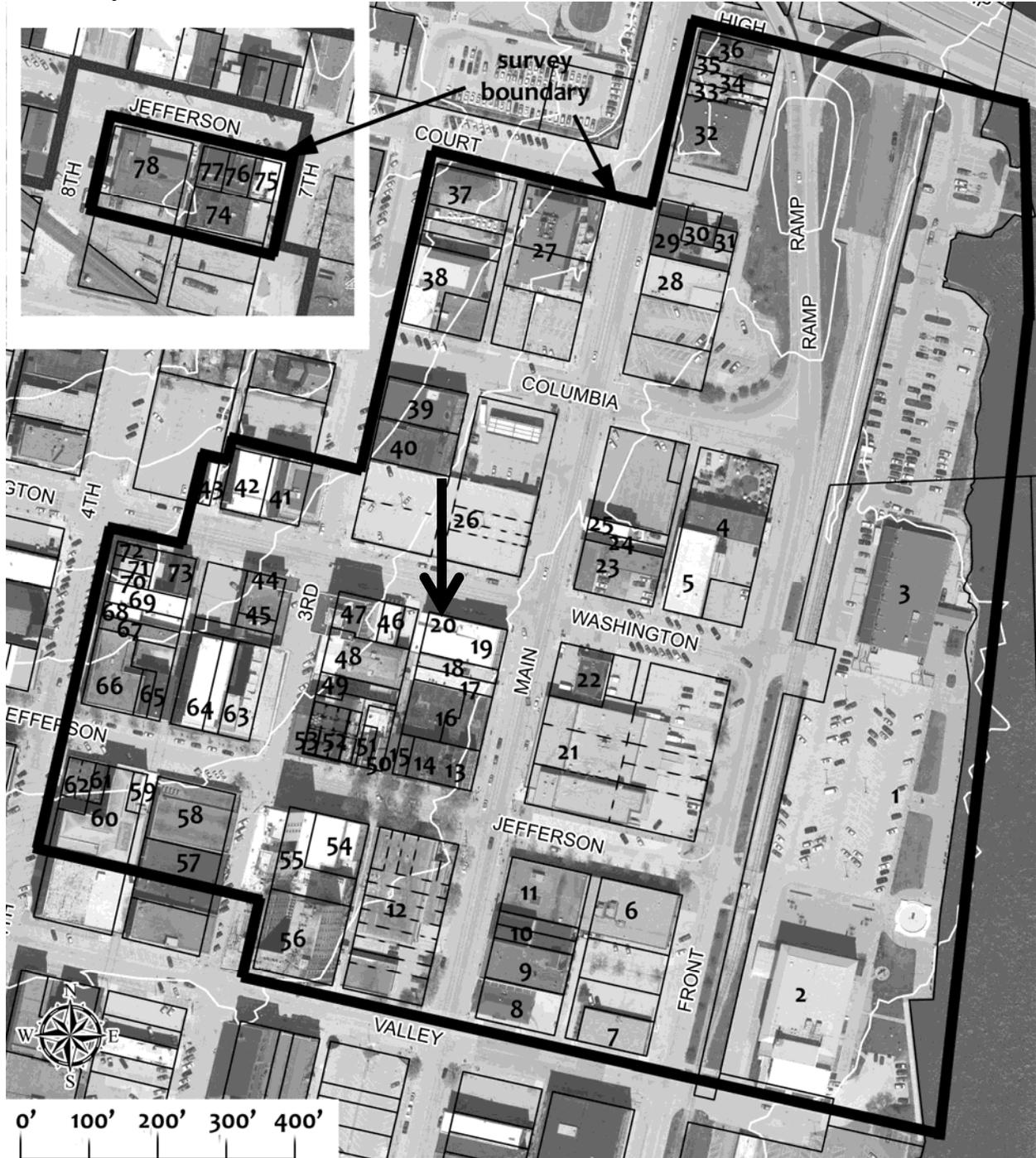
Clara C. Strong Building  
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**Location map**



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

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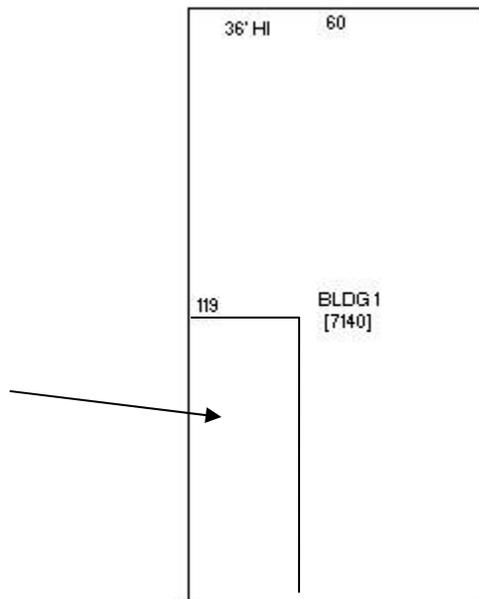
Clara C. Strong Building  
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## Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Name of Property

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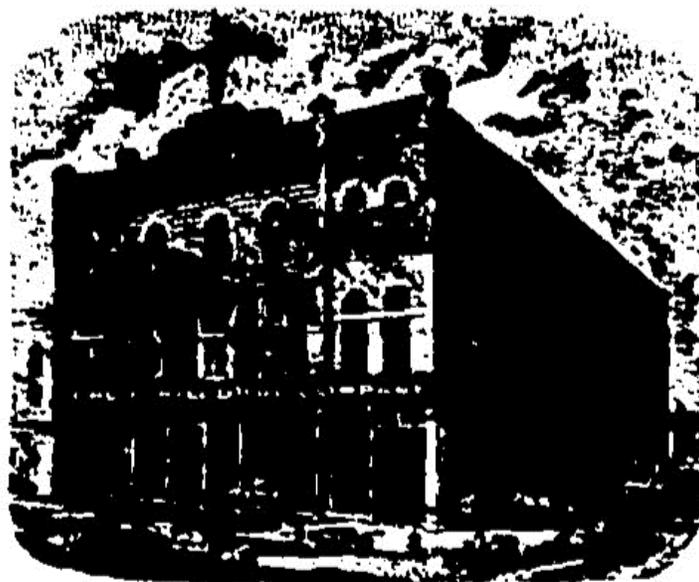
205-211 Washington

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## Historic images



**Churchill Drug Co.—Washington Street Bldg.**

Building in 1899 (*Hawk-Eye*, June 11, 1899, 19)

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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 29-03657-001 – North and west elevations, looking south (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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**Photograph 29-03657-002 – North elevation, looking south (McCarley, June 20, 2012).**

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Photograph 29-03657-003 – Detail of brickwork, looking south (McCarley, June 20, 2012).