

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

**State Inventory No.** 29-01111, 29-01113     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   Sprenger Block  

other names/site number   Downtown Survey Map # J-136, J-137  

**2. Location**

street & number   507-509-511 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 half of Lot 659  

**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>	— 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   N/A      *Historical Architectural Data Base Number* \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

  02E11: Commerce / grocery  

  02E03: Commerce / dry goods - clothing  

  02E: Commerce / specialty store  

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

  70: Vacant  

  01B: Domestic / apartments  

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

  09F05: Commercial / brick front  

  05B: Italianate  

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation      04: Stone  

walls (visible material)      03: Brick  

roof      08B: Rolled Asphalt  

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 507-509 Jefferson Street Site Number 29-01111  
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 1875  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 David Roed and Barb Mackey  
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date February 4, 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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## 7. Narrative Description

The Sprenger Block at 507-509-511 Jefferson was previously treated as a double-storefront building at 507-509 and a single building at 511 Jefferson. The façade of the 511 Jefferson section had been clad in brick at the time of the listing of the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001), and 507-509 Jefferson was treated as a contributing building and 511 Jefferson was treated as a non-contributing building. The façade of 511 Jefferson has been restored, and historic research shows that the buildings were originally constructed as a three-storefront block. Thus, the entire block has been combined on this form.

The building faces Jefferson Street to the north. The original configuration of the building was three storefronts with an upper story entry between the east two storefronts (507 and 509). This general configuration remains, though windows and doors have been replaced. The 507 (east) storefront has a recessed center entry with transom and large display windows. An upper story entry with transom is located between the 507 and 509 storefronts. The 509 (middle) storefront has a recessed center entry with sidelights/transom and large display windows. The transom for each of these entries is covered by wood. The 511 (west) storefront retains a historic metal column and beam. The entry is set at the left/east, with large display windows to the right/west. Transom windows are found on the upper portion of the storefront. Each storefront space has three windows above it on the second story. The windows on the 507 and 509 sections have two-over-two-light double-hung wood sashes, segmental arch lintels with keystones, and a continuous stone sill. Pilasters frame the bay above the upper story entry, with an inset brick panel rather than a window on this section. A pilaster is also found on the east end of the building, and it may be missing at the west end. The upper section of the 511 section was clad in the 1950s with multi-color brick, and it was restored around 2006. The upper story has three two-over-two-light double-hung windows with segmental arch lintels with keystones. The windows appear slightly wider than the other windows on the building. The brick "brackets" and cornice line of this section was also rebuilt to match the remainder of the building.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Sprenger Block appears to be contributing within the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District (#29-03685). The three-storefront building was built in 1875 for Adam Sprenger. A series of businesses operated in each of the three storefronts throughout all three periods of significance for the district, contributing to the historic significance. As noted, the façade of the 511 Jefferson section had been clad in brick at the time of the listing of the West Jefferson Street Historic District (1991, #29-00001), and 507-509 Jefferson was treated as a contributing building and 511 Jefferson was treated as a non-contributing building. Historic research shows that they were constructed as a single building.

Plans for a two-story brick building on this site were announced in May 1875 (*Hawk-Eye*, May 19, 1875, 8). In June, the old blacksmith shop was torn down in preparation for the new block to be built for Adam Sprenger. It was described as a handsome brick business block, 60 feet wide, two stories, with three store rooms. Epstein & Co would vacate their current building and then move back into the west (511) portion when completed. John Johnson was the contractor hired for the project ("Forward,

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March!" *Hawk-Eye*, June 15, 1875, 8). By October 1875, the Sprenger Block was completed. It was described as "a substantial brick structure, with three commodious rooms, which, with the present rapid development of trade in that section of the city, will soon command a rent but little less than rooms of similar capacity down town." The first/east room (507) was occupied by J.H. Schmidt for a saloon. The middle (509) room was rented to W.H. Burge & Co, dealers in second hand furniture. The west room (511) was occupied by Epstein's hide store, who would use the large basement that adapted well with their basement ("Ever Skyward," *Hawk-Eye*, October 5, 1875, 8). On October 28, the *Hawk-Eye* announced that Epstein was moving that week into the new Sprenger Block (page 8). On January 5, 1884, the apparent heirs of Sprenger sold the full three-storefront brick block (west half of Lot 659) to Leopold Link. The Link family continued to own the block until 1911, and then their heirs until 1931.

A number of businesses operated in the 507 (east) storefront. The 1876 city directory lists J.H. Schmidt, saloon, at 507 Jefferson. In 1883, the saloon was run by Benjamin Hesselman. The 1886 Sanborn map shows "teas" as the use for 507 and grocery for the use in 1892, with the 1891 city directory listing grocer J.L. Krieg at 507 Jefferson. The 1892 city directory however lists Mrs C.N. Huston selling musical instruments at 507 Jefferson. The 1896 city directory lists A.G. Warth & Co., groceries. Photographer C.F. Brown was listed at 507 ½ Jefferson in 1896. In 1900, Phillips & Nelius, grocers, were listed here. Grant Phillips, retail grocer, was then listed here in 1904. By 1907, the music store of Hammond Murch was then here, and he was still here in 1910. 507 was noted as vacant in the 1912 city directory, and then Louis Garland was listed as selling clothing here in 1916. In the 1920s, 507 was combined with 509 for the People's Store.

The 509 storefront also had a series of businesses. The second hand store of W.H. Burge & Co is located here per the 1876 city directory. By 1883, 509 was occupied by Gustav Lattner, confectionary, and Lattner Restaurant is listed here in the 1886 city directory. A restaurant is indicated here on the 1886 Sanborn map. The 1890 city directory lists the boots and shoes store of C.T. Krieg at 509 Jefferson. The 1892 city directory lists Frank Buder, meat market, at 509 Jefferson, which is shown here on the 1892 Sanborn map. In 1896, tailor W.M. Schreiber was located at 509 ½ Jefferson. The meat market of Dan Gould is then listed here in 1902, followed by the meat market of H.E. Linneman in 1904. Cigar dealer Gebhard Schupp is then listed at 509 Jefferson in 1907 to 1916. In the 1920s, 509 was combined with 507 for the People's Store.

In contrast, the 511 storefront was occupied by Epstein & Co (furs, hides, etc.) from completion in 1875 through the 1890 city directories. By 1892, they moved to 820 Jefferson. The 511 storefront was then occupied by J.W. Albright, saddlery and harnesses, in 1892. A.J. Anderson then sold musical instruments here in 1896. In 1900, Brem & Mailandt, merchant tailors, was located at 511 Jefferson, and Jacob P. Mailandt is then listed as selling gentlemen's furnishings here in 1902. He continues to be listed here in 1907. Saylor-Neff Co, shoes, was then listed here in 1910. In 1912, Burlington Tea and Coffee Company was located at 511 Jefferson. F.A. Dustman operated the Burlington Tea and Coffee Company here from 1912 to 1930.

Ownership of the three-storefront block was then split for the first time in 1931. The east (507) and middle (509) thirds of the building were sold by Walter Price (referee) to Robert Rundoff and Edna Wolbach, and the west third was sold by Walter Price (referee) to Winona Ballantyne and Helen R.

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Gross on November 28, 1931. Ownership has then transferred divided as such since this date. The east two-thirds were sold by the Rundoff heirs to Harry G. Graner on June 11, 1945, who then owned this portion of the building until 1971. The west third of the building was sold by Ballantyne et al to Lyle and Margaret Gilland on November 15, 1948, who continued to own this portion of the building until 1976. Each of the storefronts generally had independent businesses through this period, and apartments were located on the upper stories.

In the 1930, the Ditty Shop operated at 507 Jefferson (1933), with The Dress Shop opening here by 1935. It continued to be listed here into the 1940s, then known as Bab's Dress Shop in 1945 and 1947. During this time, Ed Smith, dentist, had an office on the upper story (1937-1947). In 1951, Utilities Service Company was listed here, radio and television specialists. The Economy Store then opened here by 1954, and the Burlington Accordion School was located on the second story. The Economy Store continued to operate here through the 1960s.

Katz Meat Market opened at 509 Jefferson by 1933, and it continued to operate here into the early 1940s. In 1945, 509 was listed as vacant. In 1947, Utilities Service Company was listed here, radio and television specialists (and then moved to 507). Matthews Land Company was then at 509 Jefferson by 1951 and through 1957. In 1957, the Shoe Box is also listed here, and it continued to operate here through the 1960s.

Minier Hardware & Supply Company likewise opened at 511 Jefferson by 1933 and continued to operate here into the 1940s. Lyle Gilland established his barber shop here by 1945, and he and his wife Margaret purchased the building in 1948 as noted. He operated a barber shop here still per the 1951 city directory. The Palace Inn and Café then occupied 511 in city directories from 1952 to 1968 (moved here when building at 321 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St was demolished in 1952 for new bank). It was likely during this period that the upper façade was remodeled with solid brick. The estate of Margaret Gilland (wife of Lyle the barber) sold the 511 portion of the building in 1976, and it changed hands many times through the years. Patrick and Frances Jackson purchased the 511 Jefferson section in 2006 (transfer records). They then restored the façade of the building to the original (current) appearance in 2007.

The Area Agency on Aging occupied the 507-509 storefronts most recently, closing here in June 2013 as the agency was reorganized/consolidated.

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## 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.

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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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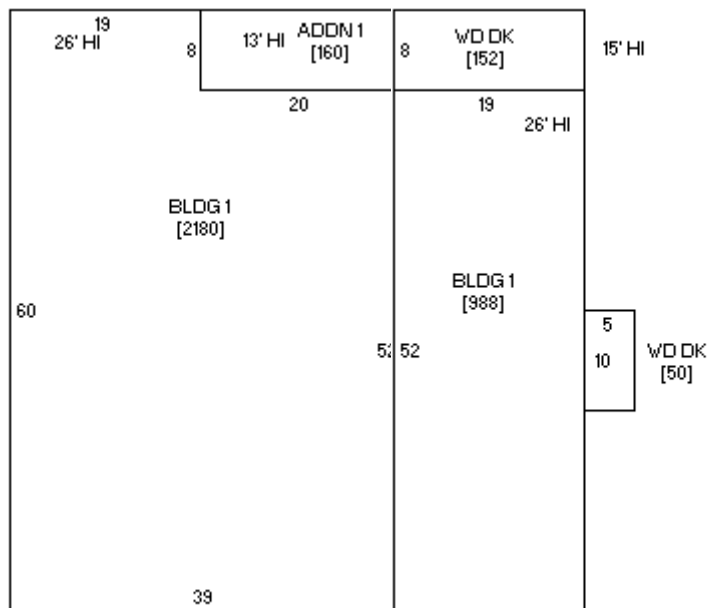
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## Building plan (from assessor's website)





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## Historic images



South side of 500 block of Jefferson in 1971 (Downtown Partners)

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**Clad portion at 511 Jefferson in 1990s (Downtown Partners)**



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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 29-01111-001 – North elevation of 507-509 Jefferson section, looking south (McCarley, July 17, 2013).**

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Photograph 29-01113-001 – North elevation of 511 Jefferson section, looking south (McCarley, July 17, 2013).