

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

State Inventory No. 29-00120 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 Iowa Biscuit Company
 other names/site number 2009-10 Survey Field Site #WH-13

2. Location

street & number 216-220 S. 3rd 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 269, also Lot 270 and Lot 268

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 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>02E02 Bakery</u>	<u>04 Government</u>
<u>10E06 Publishing</u>	<u>70 Vacant upper floors</u>
<u>10G01 Warehouse</u>	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>07B Early 20th Century Commercial Style</u>	foundation <u>04C Limestone/10A Conc Block</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 216-220 S. 3rd Street Site Number 29-00120
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 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 _____

Iowa Biscuit Co.

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 Hal Morton, Volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Consultant, Davenport, IA
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date February 16, 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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Iowa Biscuit Company

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7. Narrative Description

The Iowa Biscuit Company building is a five-story brick factory and warehouse facility. The north, south, and east (rear) sides are finished in standard red common brick, as opposed to the darker red finish brick on the façade (west). The façade has restrained Classical Revival details with stone accents on the brick. The façade is also divided into a traditional three part design, typically identified with commercial and industrial buildings in this period. The façade is divided into three bays horizontally as well. The side bays on the first story are accented with brick quoins on either side of an entry and window. The quoins are connected at the top by a limestone "lintel" to create two defined entry areas. The center bay has two windows with stone sills. The second through fourth stories are identical in design on the façade. The first and third bays are composed of two window openings and the middle bay is a large opening, which appear to have had three windows historically. All the façade windows are covered, so the window style is unknown. The left (north) window opening on these three stories, as well as the ground story, appears to have historically been filled with brick. The fifth story of the façade is set apart from the middle section of the building by protruded soldier brick courses. The windows on the fifth story follow the similar pattern as the windows below, but they are further accented with soldier brick lintels with stone block corners. The brick pilasters from the middle section on either end extend into the fifth story as well, with the addition of center brick and stone detail. The parapet rises slightly towards the center, and the overlaid letters IBC are carved in on a stone circle in the center.

The north side appears to retain original two-over-two-light double-hung wood windows in every opening. Generally, there are 12 windows on each of the five stories, with the center two windows offset slightly to the east from center and accentuated with brick pilasters. The windows have brick sills and segmental arch brick lintels. Additional windows are found on the slightly raised basement story. A faded painted historic sign across the top of building reads: "Iowa Biscuit Co. Wild Rose Brand Crackers."

The south side has an elevator section protruding near the center of the rear (east) half of the building. This section appears original, with two-over-two-light double-hung wood windows on the east side. The west portion of this south elevation has a fire escape with a historic wood door on each story at the far west end. Six two-over-two-light double-hung wood windows are found on the second through fifth stories. The windows are spaced into groups of two. Similar to the north side windows, these windows have brick sills and segmental arch brick lintels. The majority of the first story on this side is covered with the one-story side addition. An addition is depicted here in 1952, though the assessor lists a 1972 for the addition in its current form. It is possible that a later addition was added to the first addition for the current appearance. The west elevation is clad in brick veneer, though the rear (east) is exposed concrete block. The addition does not detract from the larger historic building.

The rear (east) elevation is nearly a full six stories as the basement story is more exposed on this side. A vehicular historic double-door entry in the north (right) bay on the basement story provides direct access into this level from the rear alley. The five windows on each story are spaced into three bays, with two windows, then two windows, and finally one window with a secondary fire escape system. These windows also have two-over-two-light double-hung wood sashes, brick sills, and segmental arch

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brick lintels. The four fifth story windows in the two large bays are divided into two sets of single-sash two-light segmental windows. This detail is carried over onto the north and south side in the rear portion as well. A historic faded painted sign on this elevation reads: "Iowa Biscuit Co."

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Iowa Biscuit Company appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in the Manufacturing and Wholesale Historic District. It contributes historically and architecturally to this historic district. The building is one of the large factories that opened shortly after the turn of the 20th century in this area. The Iowa Biscuit Company operated here from 1915 to 1934. The factory and business was significant within the history of Burlington, and products were shipped across the country. The Midwest Biscuit Company continued the production of crackers, cookies, and cakes in this facility from 1934 until 1955. The building also appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The history of the company is significantly within the local history of Burlington, and the architecture of the building is an excellent and generally intact example of a factory from this period.

The Iowa Biscuit Company opened in space in 1907 next door at 224-226 S. 3rd St. (formerly Warehouse Nos. 2 & 3 of the Burlington Linseed Oil Works), leased from John Blaul's Sons Co. Iowa Biscuit Co. built a new five story state-of-the-art 40,000 square foot facility at 216-220 S. 3rd St. in 1914-1915 on property purchased from John Blaul's Sons Co in 1916. The new facility generated its own light and power. The plant had a capacity of 100 barrels of flour per day, manufactured into crackers and cakes, which were sold through jobbers and wholesale houses, and under the trademark of a wild rose, and the slogan "Sweet and Clean". Employment ranged from 50 to 100, a quarter of which were skilled laborers. The fireproof plant boasted a lunch room for employees and bathing equipment for bakers. Company officers initially included James M. Storrar, President, A.G. Oberle, Vice President, A.H. Riepe, Secretary-Treasurer, and W.A. Baum, Manager. E.C. Gould (President of Gardner & Gould Candy Company) was also listed as a director of Iowa Biscuit Co. ("Home of the Iowa Biscuit Company," *Burlington Gazette*, April 23, 1915, 1; *Antrobus* 1915, Vol 2: 364-5, 437-8, 486-7). The basement level was used to store raw materials, including barrels of molasses, and sacks of flour and sugar. Materials were taken to the upper levels of the building by elevator. On the fifth floor, a machine shook flour from emptied sacks so that they were clean upon their return to the mill. On the fourth floor, machinery stamped and cut cookies before they were manually placed onto racks in one of two large ovens. Marshmallow was also applied to some cookie types. The third floor was for cleaning and packing tin boxes, with product storage on the second floor, along with an ice cream sandwich department. The first floor contained crackers, cookies and cakes ready for sale (Vista Bakery, Inc.). The 1931 Sanborn map shows the Iowa Biscuit Company here in a five-story building.

In 1934, Frank J. Delaney purchased the company and renamed it Midwest Biscuit Co. ("Frank J. Delaney Manager Taggart Biscuit Co.," *Cracker Baker*, 1932; "F.J. Delaney buys Iowa Biscuit Co.," *Cracker Baker*, January 1935, p. 23; "Delaney Rites Pending Here," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, March 12, 1947, p.2, Vista Bakery, Inc.). The 1940 city directory lists them as wholesale bakers of cakes, cookies, and crackers. He was successful at expanding the products offered and outgrew this location.

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He died in 1947 as the new plant was under construction in West Burlington. His sons, Richard and Frank, continued the business at this both locations ("Midwest Biscuit Company," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 4, 1976, sec 4, p 7). The Midwest Biscuit Company continued to own the building at 216-220 S. 3rd Street until 1954. Based on the 1952 Sanborn Insurance Map, it appears that Midwest Biscuit may have leased out storage and/or office space in the S. 3rd St. building to Hedrick Motor Transfer Lines for some of the period. A one-story addition has been constructed on the south side of the building, noted as a motor freight station. No separate listings appear in the city directories for this section of the building (224-226), so it appears to have functioned solely as an addition to the larger building. City directory listings continue to list Midwest Biscuit here through 1955.

By 1956, operations of the Midwest Biscuit Company appear to have moved to West Burlington. The company continued to operate at 3000 Mt. Pleasant Street in 1976. In 1979, Lance, Inc. acquired the Midwest Biscuit Company, eventually changing the name to Vista Bakery in 1995. Production continues today at the 313,000 square foot West Burlington plant, producing its own Vista brand of baked goods, and private label cookies and crackers for 20 to 30 retailers and wholesalers throughout North America. In 2000, production reached 165 million pounds (nearly double the production in 1995).

National Research Bureau, a small business information publishing company, acquired the building in 1956, and continued to operate in the building until 1983. National Research Bureau operated simultaneously out of several buildings around Burlington, and the S. 3rd St. building was not its main office. An advertisement for the company in the *Burlington Hawk-Eye* on July 10, 1962 (page 80) notes the main office at 424 N. 3rd Street. They had operated in Burlington since 1945 and grown to 250 employees since then. Their divisions included National Lithograph Co, Delta Press, M.P. Brown & Co, National Bank Printing Co, and Farm Credit Association. They printed large volumes of promotional materials. Several other small businesses leased space in the building from National Research Bureau, including American News Co., Brayton Chemicals, Inc. (janitorial supplies and insecticides), National Lithograph, Inc., Delta Press, Inc., and National Mailers, Inc.

In 2002, the Des Moines County Public Defenders office opened on the first floor of the building, and the upper floors remain vacant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

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Newspaper articles:

- "Home of the Iowa Biscuit Company," *Burlington Gazette*, April 23, 1915, 1.
- "Iowa Biscuit Company Closed Until March: Has used "quota" of 70 per cent flour for month of February: scarcity of substitutes discussed at meeting of price-fixing committee," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, February 22, 1918, p. 10.
- "Win Boxes of Cakes: George Morris writes about the Iowa Biscuit Company: Bertram Robinson and Edward L. Nichaus also awarded prizes – essays on Y.M.C.A. tours," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, May 16, 1918.
- "Frank J. Delaney Manager Taggart Biscuit Co.," *Cracker Baker*, 1932
- "F.J. Delaney buys Iowa Biscuit Co.," *Cracker Baker*, January 1935, p. 23
- "Delaney Rites Pending Here," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, March 12, 1947, p.2.
- "Midwest Biscuit Company," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 4, 1976, sec 4, p 7
- "Midwest Biscuit Co. to be Sold," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, July 17, 1979, p. 3A.
- "Lance plans purchase of assets of Midwest Biscuit for cash," *Milling & Baking News*, July 24, 1979, p.8.
- "Midwest Biscuit sale complete," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, November 6, 1979, p. 10.
- "New name for bakery," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, July 30, 1995.
- "Vista Bakery launches new era in Burlington," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, January 7, 1996.
- "National Research is sold," *Burlington Hawk Eye*, January 27, 1970.

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. Includes business files for Midwest Biscuit Co. and National Research Bureau.

Vista Bakery, Inc., answers.com website, accessed February 2010.

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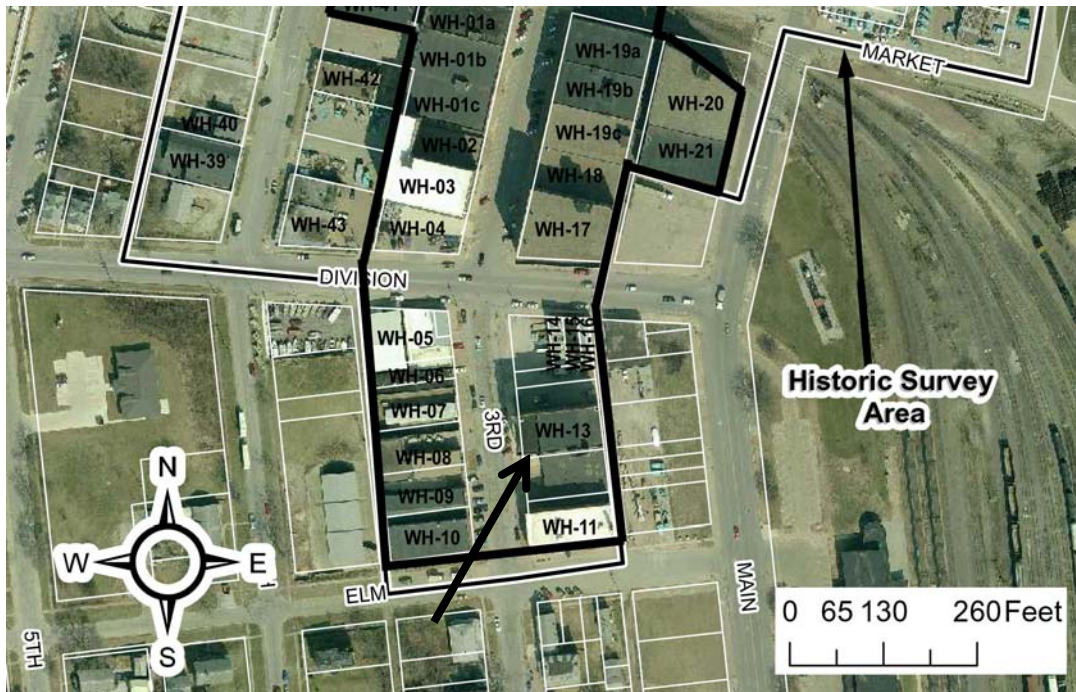
Iowa Biscuit Company
 Name of Property

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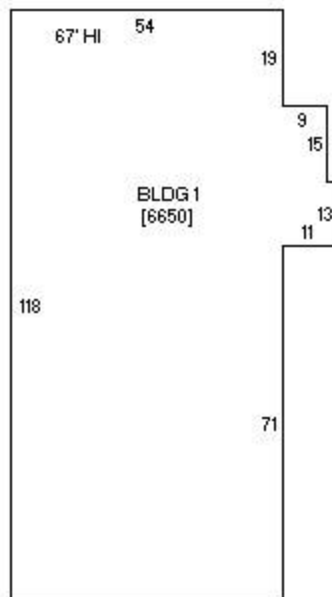
216-220 S. 3rd Street
 Address

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Location map



Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Photographs (digital images)



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

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

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**Detail of IBC logo on façade of building, looking east
November 2, 2009
R.L. McCarley**

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North elevation of building, looking south
November 2, 2009
R.L. McCarley

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Rear (east elevation) of building, looking west
January 12, 2010
R.L. McCarley