

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

State Inventory No. 29-00185 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) _____
 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 John and Mary Gnahn House
 other names/site number Electrical Workers Local #735 IBEW, 2009-10 Survey Field Site #WH-40

2. Location

street & number 127 S. 4th St
 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) 519 N-40' also land in LOT 520

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 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>01A01: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence</u>	<u>01A01: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence</u>
<u>03A02: Social / union hall</u>	<u>02E03: Specialty Store/Dry Goods/Notions</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Victorian / Italianate</u>	foundation <u>04C: Stone/Limestone</u>
	walls (visible material) <u>03: Brick</u>
	roof <u>08A: Asphalt/Shingle</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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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 127 S. 4th St Site Number 29-00185
City Burlington District Number _____

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 1872 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 David Roed , Volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, Consultant, Davenport, IA
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date 03-03-10
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

John and Mary Gnahn House

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

127 S. 4th St

Burlington

Address

City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two story, three bay, Italianate brick house. The house sits on a stone foundation, and it has a low hip roof clad in asphalt shingles. The side passage design includes a single-door entry with sidelights and decorative transom in the south bay. This entry and the windows on the façade exhibit segmental arch stone lintels with shoulders. The windows also have stone sills. The two first story windows have one-over-one-light double-hung sashes, while the second story windows retain four-over-four-light double-hung wood sashes. The center window is a full length opening, accessing the iron balcony. The 1977 survey form notes that the balcony is a modern addition to the façade. The south side of the house has one four-over-four-light double-hung wood window with segmental brick arch lintel on each story. The north side has two windows on each story, though the east window on the second story was converted to an entry accessing a wood fire escape. The second story of the rear (west) elevation has two four-over-four-light double-hung wood windows with segmental brick arch lintels. The two-part one-story hip-roof brick additions on the first story appear to date back to the 19th century, based on the Sanborn maps. The first section has rectangular windows, while the rear section has segmental arch windows, perhaps suggesting it was a summer kitchen later connected to the house.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The John and Mary Gnahn House falls outside any identified or potential historic districts. The house was evaluated in 1977 as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The form noted that the house is “an excellent example of the modest Victorian house with simple embellishment (hood molds) built in Burlington.” A comparison of the 1977 photograph and current appearance show few if any changes since this time. Since this house was surveyed with industrial buildings, little additional context is known about Italianate houses in Burlington within this project. Thus, based on the earlier evaluation within a broader context, it appears that this house would still be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The house was bought by a union organization in 1961, and it was used for this purpose through 2005. This aspect of history within Burlington could be further researched to assess significance under Criterion A for this later use and history of the building.

Transfer books shows that John Gnahn bought this land in January 1872. However, he appears to have been living here, or perhaps one house north, since the 1850s. The house at this location is shown on the 1886 Sanborn map, and it remains with essentially the same footprint through the 1952 Sanborn map. The 1859 city directory lists John Gnahn at 18 S. 4th Street (early numbering). The 1862 city directory lists him on 4th between Division and Market. The 1866 city directory lists him as three north of Division on 4th Street. The 1870 city directory list John Gnahn as living on the west side of 4th Street, three north of Division. The 1872 city directory lists him as three south of Division, likely a misprint. In 1873, he is again listed as three north of Division on 4th Street. In 1874, he is listed as living at 127 S. 4th Street. His business is listed as 206 Jefferson – manufacturing cigars, tobacco, and snuff and selling cut, chewing, smoking tobacco, pipes, and smoking articles. He continues to be listed at 127 S. 4th Street in the 1880s.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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John and Mary Gnahn House

Des Moines

Name of Property

County

127 S. 4th St

Burlington

Address

City

John Gnahn was born in Bavaria in 1814, and he arrived in Burlington in 1844 to establish a cigar and tobacco factory, moving here from Cincinnati. His first wife died, and he married his second wife Mary in 1849. They had four children: John (Colorado), Edward (Burlington, books and stationary), Tillie (Burlington), and Mary (Minnesota). The 1866 directory lists John Gnahn & Company at 32 Jefferson as one of six entries under Cigar Manufacturers. He continues listed here in 1871, with the number of businesses in this category growing to 11. By 1888, John had retired (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County* 1888: 386-87). He died within the next couple years. The 1890 city directory lists Mrs. Mary Gnahn, widow, at 127 S. 4th Street. She continues to be listed here through 1910.

W.F. Sapp is listed here in 1913, followed by John Homolka, a cigar maker for Dehner Cigar Company, listed here in 1916. He bought the house from the heirs of John and Mary Gnahn on June 22, 1917. In October 1919, he sold it to Thomas H. Martin and wife, and they are listed here in the 1920 city directory. They then apparently used it as rental property, with J.W. Owens living here in 1924 and Otto Wright in 1928. This pattern continued with the house sold to Bessie Edgar in 1929. Hazel Willson bought the house in 1934, and Donald Willson is listed here in 1937, 1940, and 1942. Mrs. Hazel Willson is then listed here in 1945 and 1947. She sold the house in 1948 to Elsie Klein, who then used it as a rental property with tenants changing every year. This pattern continued through the 1950s.

In 1961, Elsie Hall sold the house to Sieco Company, who owned it until 2005. They then used the house as a union hall for SIECO (Southern Iowa Electricians and Contractors Organization). This organization is listed in the 1963 and 1966 City Directory as Electrical Workers Local #735 IBEW. The organization operated out of this structure until 2005 when it was purchased by its current owners Michael and Anna Patton. This use reflects the 20th century transition of this area from residential to more industrial uses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Antrobus, A.T. *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

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

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
 State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
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Site Number 29-00185
 Related District Number _____

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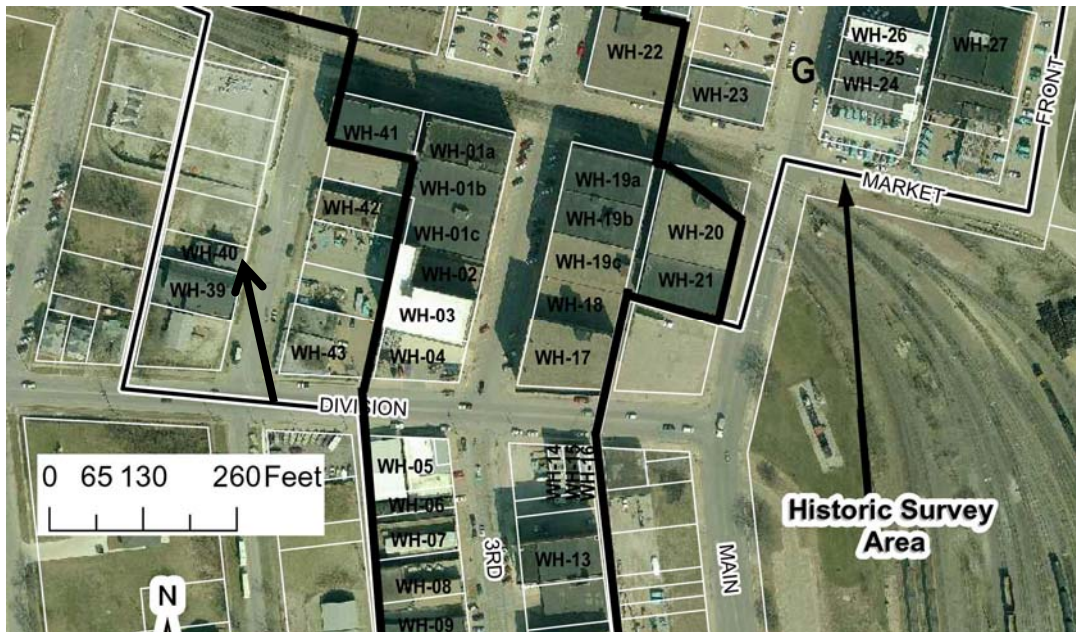
John and Mary Gnahn House
 Name of Property

Des Moines
 County

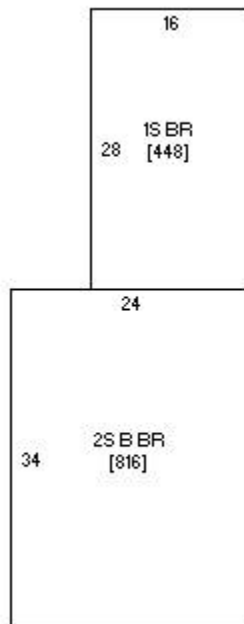
127 S. 4th St
 Address

Burlington
 City

Location map



Building plan (from assessor's website)



**Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet**

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John and Mary Gnahn House
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

127 S. 4th St
Address

Burlington
City

Photograph (digital image)



House, looking northwest
November 2, 2009
R.L. McCarley

**Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet**

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John and Mary Gnahn House
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

127 S. 4th St
Address

Burlington
City



**House, looking southwest
November 2, 2009
R.L. McCarley**

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Site Number 29-00185

Related District Number _____

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John and Mary Gnahn House
Name of Property

Des Moines
County

127 S. 4th St
Address

Burlington
City



**House, looking southeast
January 12, 2010
R.L. McCarley**