

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00758 New Supplemental

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____

Non-extant Year: _____

Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website: <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/statewide-inventory-and-collections/iowa-site-inventory-form.html>

● **Property Name**

A) Historic name Ralph and Fanny Shannon House

B) Other names: West side survey map #WS-048

● **Location**

A) Street address: 315 W. Washington Boulevard

B) City or town: Washington (Vicinity) County Washington

C) Legal Description:

Rural: Township Name: _____ Township No.: _____ Range No.: _____ Section: _____ Quarter: _____ of Quarter: _____

Urban: Subdivision: Original Plat Block(s): 16 Lot(s): 3

● **Classification**

A) **Property category:** *Check only one*

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

B) **Number of Resources (within property)**

If eligible property, enter number of:		If non-eligible property, enter number of:	
Contributing	Noncontributing		
<u>1</u>	Buildings	—	Buildings
—	Sites	—	Sites
—	Structures	—	Structures
—	Objects	—	Objects
<u>1</u>	Total	—	Total

C) **For properties listed in the National Register:**

National Register status: Listed De-listed NHL NPS DOE

D) **For properties within a historic district:**

- Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.
- Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.
- Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: West side residential historic district Historic district site inventory number: 92-00350

Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable:

MPD Title

Historical Architectural Data Base #

Architectural and Historical Survey of the "west side" residential neighborhood in Washington 92-013

● **Function or Use** *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) **Historic functions**

01A01: Domestic / residence

B) **Current functions**

01A01: Domestic / residence

● **Description** *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) **Architectural Classification**

10C: Rambler / ranch

B) **Materials**

Foundation (visible exterior): 03: Brick

walls (visible exterior): 03: Brick

Roof: 08A: Asphalt shingles

Other: _____

C) **Narrative Description** **SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED**

• **Statement of Significance**

A) Applicable National Register Criteria: *Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria*

- Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. Yes No More research recommended
- Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons. Yes No More Research Recommended
- Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics. Yes No More Research Recommended
- Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archeology/history. Yes No More Research Recommended

B) Special criteria considerations: *Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none*

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- B Removed from its original location. F A commemorative property.
- C A birthplace or grave. G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
- D A cemetery

C) Areas of Significance

Enter categories from instructions

Community planning and development

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1950 *check if circa or estimated date*

Other dates, including renovations

F) Significant person

Complete if Criterion B is marked above

G) Cultural affiliation

Complete if Criterion D is marked above

H) Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder/contractor

I) Narrative statement of significance **SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED**

• **Bibliography** *See continuation sheet for the list of research sources used in preparing this form*

• **Geographic Data** *Optional UTM references* *See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments*

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD	Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD
1	_____	_____	_____	2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

• **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Mary Patterson - volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, consultant Date: June 17, 2015

Organization/firm: Washington Historic Preservation Commission E-mail: -

Street address: City Hall, 215 E. Washington St Telephone: 319-653-6584

City or Town: Washington State: Iowa Zip code: 52353

• **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** *Submit the following items with the completed form*

A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:

1. **Map** of property's location within the community.
2. **Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled** on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.
3. **Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next to each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.**
4. **Site plan** of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:

See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs 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: _____

SHPO authorized signature: _____ Date: _____

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<u>Ralph and Fanny Shannon House</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>315 W. Washington Blvd.</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Address	City

Narrative Description

This is a one story brick ranch house built on the south side of W. Washington Boulevard about 1950. The house sits on a poured concrete foundation, and the brick veneer on the house extends down the foundation. A soldier course of brick runs along the base of the walls of the house at the foundation level. The cross gable roof has asphalt shingles, and a wide brick chimney rises above the roof on the west side of the house. The house has sliding windows with aluminum storm windows, with soldier brick lintels and slanted brick sills. There is a small entry porch, built in 1999, with a front gable roof. An attached single car garage sits at the southwest corner of the house, with access via a concrete driveway from the alley south of the property.

The façade, the north elevation, has three sections, with the front gable center section protruding somewhat and containing the entry. There is a small concrete stoop with a front gable roof located toward the right side of the center cross gable section. The railings, balusters, and square support columns are vinyl, and according to a building permit from 1999, a 6 foot by 7 foot porch was added that year. The entry has a wood door with a tall narrow window in the right upper portion of the door, and an aluminum storm / screen door. Concrete quions emphasize the entry surround. To the left of the entry, there is a large tall sliding window with a wood window box below it, supported by brick corbels. Left of the center cross-gable section, the east section has a large tall sliding window with a wood window box below it, also supported by brick corbels. The west section of the north elevation has a wide picture window with a one-over-one-light double-hung window on either side of the larger fixed window. There is a wider wood window box below the window here, supported by brick corbels.

The east elevation has two large tall sliding windows, evenly spaced on this side.

The west elevation has two sections, the side of the main house and the side of the cross-gable rear garage section. On the left/front/north, there is a chimney with brick matching the house, which rises above the roof. Toward the right, there is a smaller sliding window with a sill higher than typical for this house. To the right/south, the garage's west wall protrudes several feet, and at that location, facing north, there is a wood entry door with a four-light window in the upper half of the door, and a wood storm door which has a six pane storm window in the upper part of the door. The west wall of the garage/south section has a one-over-one-light double-hung window and a ten-light steel casement window.

The south elevation, the rear of the house, consists of the attached rear garage on the west/left and the rear of the main section of the house on the right/east. The center third of the south elevation, on the main section of the house adjacent to the garage, has an open covered concrete stoop tucked into the corner formed by the east wall of the garage and the south wall of the house. The flat roof is supported by two decorative metal columns. In the area below the roof, there is a picture window with two one-over-one-light double-hung windows flanking a larger fixed window. The center section of the south elevation to the right/east of the porch has two small sliding windows. At the right/east end of the south elevation, there is a larger tall sliding window.

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The garage extends south from the rear of the house at the southwest corner of the house. It is clad in matching brick veneer as the house, and it sits on a poured concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the gable faces south. There is a single car aluminum garage door on the south elevation. The west elevation has two windows, as described above. The east elevation of the garage has a matching steel casement window to the left/south, and an entry with an aluminum storm / screen door to the right, under the previously described small porch.

In the southeast corner of the lot, beside the alley, there is a small contemporary wood shed. No foundation is visible; it is clad with T-111 wood siding; and the side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The shed faces west, and has a small aluminum jalousie window to the left of the double wood doors. There is a matching small aluminum jalousie window on the south elevation, facing the alley. The other two elevations have no fenestration.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Ralph and Fanny Shannon House appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential “west side” residential historic district in Washington. The house was built in 1950, replacing the earlier Harwood home on this lot. This house was built during the post-World War II development in the neighborhood, which introduced a number of ranch homes. The house was built for successful businessman Ralph Shannon, reflecting the continued development of the neighborhood by businessmen in this later period. With the brick veneer and simple architectural features, this house stands out for its simple yet stylistic design among ranch houses built in the late 1940s and 1950s in the neighborhood.

The house may be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture. The house is an interesting example of a brick veneer ranch house in Washington. Further research on other ranch homes and evaluation of the interior of the house would further solidify this determination.

History / research summary of property

Lot 3 was purchased on June 4, 1887 by James A. Harwood, a shoe store owner. The 1894 Sanborn map shows a different house with two stories and a one story rear addition. The 1894 city directory lists James A. Harwood living at 305 W. Washington, and he and his wife Elizabeth continue to appear in city directories and census listings through the 1941 city directory. They had two children, Thomas William and Fannie. Harwood's shoe store was started in 1876 by James A. Harwood, and son Will joined him in 1910. It became Harwood & Son by 1919 and continued to operate into 1940s until it was sold to Warren & Bristow. Fannie Harwood and Ralph Shannon were married in 1912 and lived elsewhere until 1950. Ralph Shannon worked for the *Evening Journal* in 1906, becoming partner in 1913. In the 1940 census, Ralph Shannon is living on E. Main Street, and he lists his occupation as manager of an ad agency. In the 1941 city directory, the Shannons are living at 921 E. Main Street. Elizabeth Harwood likely lived in the earlier house on this lot until her death in January 1949. On

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October 11, 1949, T.W. Harwood transferred his interest in Lot 3 to Fanny Shannon. A quit claim deed was then filed on April 26, 1950 from Ralph Shannon et al to his wife Fanny Shannon.

The assessor lists a construction date of 1950 for the current brick ranch house on this lot, which seems correct based on this ownership history. The house would have been built then for Ralph and Fanny Shannon in 1950, after she inherited the property from her mother. Ralph Shannon was 62 in 1950, so they lived at this house during their later years. In the 1952 telephone directory, Ralph Shannon is listed at 315 W. Washington Street. The *Washington Evening Journal*, 60th Anniversary Edition, February 27, 1953, page 1, includes a story of the newspaper. The *Evening Journal* was started in 1893 as the *Daily Hustler*, with the name changed in 1894. Orville Elder bought the newspaper in the late 1890s, and he hired Ralph E. Shannon in 1906. Shannon became a partner on August 15, 1913, creating the publishing firm of Elder & Shannon. In 1930, they incorporated as Elder, Shannon & Company. Orville Elder died in 1940, and Ralph Shannon continued in the business. By 1953, the next generation, Dave Elder and Bill Shannon, were carrying on the business. Ralph and Fanny Shannon continued to be listed at this address through 1962, the year that Ralph died at age 74. His obituary says he owned and published the *Washington Evening Journal*. Fannie Shannon is listed in the 1964 city directory as living at 315 W. Washington Street, and is identified as a partner in the *Washington Evening Journal*. She is listed again in the 1967, 1969, and 1972 city directories, where she is the widow of Ralph E., and is now the librarian at the *Washington Journal*.

Fannie Shannon, single, transferred the property to Ruth O. Young on October 1, 1975. Neither woman is listed in the 1976 city directory. On April 3, 1979, Mary E. Hohl, executor for the estate of Ruth O. Young, sold the property to Harley L. and Ruth Davidson. The current owners are Aaron and Frances Batterson.

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Location map



2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary

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Building plan (from assessor's website)

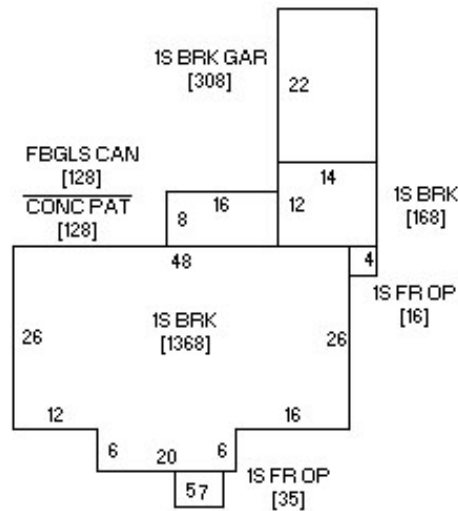


Photo from assessor's website



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Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00758-001 - House, looking southeast (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00758-002 - House, looking southwest (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00758-003 - House, looking northeast (December 2014)