

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00427 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 James and Martha Gordon House

B) Other names: West side survey map #WS-013c

• Location

A) Street address: 311 South Avenue C

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

C) Legal Description:

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

Urban: Subdivision: Addition to Washington Block(s): 5 Lot(s): C (S 56' of Lots 1 & 2)

• 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	<u>1</u>	Buildings
<u>—</u>	Sites	<u>—</u>	Sites
<u>—</u>	Structures	<u>—</u>	Structures
<u>—</u>	Objects	<u>—</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	Total	<u>1</u>	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

01C05: Domestic / garage

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

A) Architectural Classification

09A06: Hipped roof, 2 stories (Foursquare)

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04: Stone

walls (visible exterior): 02A: Weatherboard

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
 D A cemetery achieved significance within the past 50 years.

C) Areas of Significance

Enter categories from instructions

Community planning and development

D) Period(s) of significance

E) Significant dates

Construction date

1911 *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: July 24, 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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James and Martha Gordon House
Name of Property

Washington
County

311 South Avenue C
Address

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City

Narrative Description

This is a two-story frame Foursquare house on the west side of S. Avenue D. The house sits on a cut stone foundation, and it is clad with narrow wood weatherboard siding. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and there are hip roof dormers on the east, south, and north sides of the house. There is a full front porch, an enclosed two story rear porch, and an open rear deck. There is an oriel window on the south side of the house, and a staircase oriel window on the north side of the house. The windows are wood, generally with aluminum storm / screens, and some have wood shutters. A two-car frame garage sits at the west end of the lot with access from the alley.

The façade, the east elevation, has wood steps on the right/north which lead up to the full front porch. The porch floor, railings, square balusters, and square columns are wood, with wood lattice below the porch floor. The entry is located on the right/north, and the historic wood door has a full beveled glass window with egg and dart trim around the window and its original hardware. There is also a wood storm door with eight panes, and a wood pediment is centered above the entry. On the left/south, there is a wide one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with a wood storm window, flanked by shutters. The second story has two evenly distributed one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows flanked by shutters. At the attic level, there is a wide hip-roof dormer with a pair of fixed wood windows. The north facing wall of the dormer has a small ventilation screen at the upper left corner of the dormer wall.

The south elevation faces the alley. On the right/east/front half, there is a wide one-over-one-light double-hung wood window flanked by shutters on the first story. On the left/north half, there is an oriel window with three one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The oriel window has a hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. On the second story, there are two evenly distributed one-over-one-light double-hung wood window flanked by shutters. At the attic level, there is a wide dormer with a pair of single-light fixed wood windows. The east facing wall of the dormer has a small ventilation screen at the upper left corner of the dormer wall.

The north elevation is divided by a ground level entry door and staircase oriel window in the center section. The side entry has a wood door with a window in the upper half of the door and a wood screen door with decorative spindle work. Above the door and extending to the eaves, there is a staircase oriel window with a wide one-over-one-light double-hung wood window protected by a four pane wood storm window. To the left/east, there are no windows on the first story, but the second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window flanked by shutters. To the right, near the rear of the house, the first story has a smaller one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. The second story also has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window, though this window is a typical size on the second story of this house. At the attic level, there is a wide dormer with a pair of fixed single-light wood windows. The west facing wall of the dormer has a small ventilation screen at the upper left corner of the dormer wall. There is one basement window on this side of the house, to the left of the entry door.

The west elevation, the rear of the house, has an open wood deck extending west from the house. The deck has a wood floor, railings, and steps which lead down to the yard. There is a two-story shed-roof rear section on the north/left half. The first story of the addition has a small fixed window to the left of the roughly centered rear entry with a vinyl door and a vinyl storm / screen door. To the right of the door

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Address	City

there a one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl window at the corner, with a similar window on the south elevation also at this corner. On the second story of the addition, there are four one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The second story of the north and south elevations of the addition each have a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. To the right of the addition on the west side of the main section of the house, the first and second stories each have a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window.

The two-car frame garage sits at the southwest corner of the lot, facing east. The garage was built in 1993 per the assessor. It sits on a poured concrete foundation, and it is clad with vinyl siding. The side gable roof is covered with corrugated steel roofing. The east elevation has two aluminum single-car garage doors, and to the right of the garage doors, there is a pedestrian entry with vinyl clad door with a window in the upper half of the door. On both the south and north elevations, there is a centrally located awning window with an exterior screen. There is no fenestration on the west elevation.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The James and Martha Gordon House appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential "west side" residential historic district in Washington. The house was built during the period of development in the early 20th century of the neighborhood with large homes for successful businessmen and retired farmers. This house contributes to that history. The Foursquare house retains a number of original features and few later alterations.

The house does not appear individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. The house does not appear to have particularly architectural or historical significance for individual listing.

History / research summary of property (chronological order, by owner/period):

Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of block 5 in the Addition to Washington were purchased by Hugh Smith in 1875. A brick house was already located on Lots 1 and 2 of the property (corner). Following Smith's death in late 1891, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 were the subject of a dispute, and on September 20, 1893, referees J.T. Anderson, Wm. A. Cook, and Frank Stewart awarded Lost 1, 2, and 3 to Smith's daughter Belle J. Smith. Lot 4 was awarded to the opposing side of the dispute. Smith sold all of Lots 1 and 2 to Lafayette Coop on October 9, 1900, and Coop then sold the property to Peter Courter in May 1902. On October 9, 1909, Courter transferred ownership of Lots 1 and 2 to Edward E. Durst, with a mortgage of \$1500 per the abstract Edward E. Durst was not listed in the 1910-11 city directory. Amos B. Durst, Edward's brother, provided a release of mortgage to Edward on February 10, 1911. On February 15 of that year, only the south 56 feet of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 5, Addition to Washington, were sold to R.G. Jones, a rural mail carrier living in Washington's Ward 3, the southeast quarter of town. This is the first split for this parcel, and the assessor lists a construction date of 1911.

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R.G. Jones, a single man, sold this property (likely with a new house) to James Gordon on February 12, 1912 for \$1,325. This part of the block first appears on the Sanborn map in 1917, and the footprint of the house continues unchanged through the 1943 map. Prior to acquiring the property, the 1910-11 city directory has the Gordon family living nearby at 309 W. Madison Street, and James is President, Sec'y, and Treasurer of Washington County Mutual Telephone Company, and Miss Ella B. Gordon is an operator with the same company. In the 1917 county directory, James is listed as retired and living on South Avenue C (no house number) with his wife Martha and Ella, who is working as a telephone operator. The 1920 census lists the family at this address as James Gordon, age 71, head of the household and home owner with no mortgage, his wife Martha, age 69, and daughter Ella, age 27, single, and a telephone operator. The property was transferred from Gordon to his wife Martha by will on June 21, 1923. In January 1925, the county auditor issued a new plat of Block 5, splitting old Lots 1 and 2 into parcels A, B, and C, with this house/parcel designated as C. The 1926 telephone directory lists Ella B. Gordon at 311 South Avenue C. The 1930 census identifies the residents of 311 South Avenue C as Martha Gordon, age 79, owner of property worth \$4,000, and her daughter Ella, now only 30 years old and working as a "calendress" at the calendar factory. In the 1932 telephone directory, Ella B. Gordon is listed at this address. The 1935 city directory identifies Mrs. Martha Gordon, widow of James, living here, and in the 1938 telephone directory, the listing is for Ella B. Gordon. The 1940 census listing for this address includes Martha Gordon, age 89 and owner of property worth \$3,500, and her single daughter Ella B., age 53 and not working. In the 1941 city directory, Mrs. Martha Gordon, widow of James, is listed as housekeeper, as is Miss Ella Gordon, also a housekeeper.

Martha Gordon died in early 1943 and the property passed to her children: Ella Gordon, M.A. Gordon and his wife Winnie, and Lee Gordon. Ella, single, and M. sold their shares to Lee for \$1.00. The 1952 telephone directory lists L.W. Gordon living at 311 South Avenue B, and this listing is repeated in telephone directories through 1962.

Lee Gordon's will transferred ownership of the property to his children Raymond and Glen Gordon on June 3, 1955. The 1964 city directory lists Anna Gordon, widow of Lee W., living at this address, and she is also listed in the 1967 city directory.

On September 12 1968, the heirs of Lee Gordon sold the property to Harry Kirtley for \$12,000. The 1969 city directory identifies Harry W. Kirtley living here. He is tool engineer for Crane Company. The listing remains the same in the 1972 city directory, and in 1976, the directory continues to list Kirtley, but he is now working as a tool designer at APPO in Fairfield, Iowa.

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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)

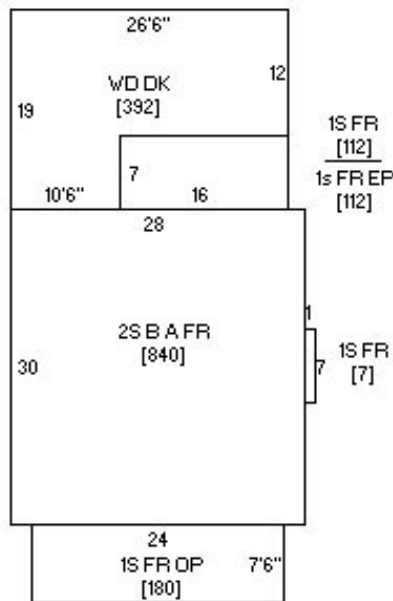


Photo from assessor's website



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Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00427-001 - House, looking southwest (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00427-002 - House, looking northwest (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00427-003 - House, looking northeast (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00427-004 - Garage, looking northwest (December 2014)