

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00739 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 Seneca B. and Nora Dewey House

B) Other names: West side survey map #WS-024

• Location

A) Street address: 221 S. Avenue D

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

C) Legal Description:

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

Urban: Subdivision: Subdivision of Outlot 3 Block(s): _____ Lot(s): S 82.5' of Lot 9 & 10

• 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>2</u>	Buildings	—	Buildings
—	Sites	—	Sites
—	Structures	—	Structures
—	Objects	—	Objects
<u>2</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

01C05: Domestic / garage

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

05D: Queen Anne

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 04: Stone

walls (visible exterior): 09: Asbestos shingles

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

1893 *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: December 30, 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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Seneca B. and Nora Dewey House
Name of Property

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County

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Narrative Description

This is a two-story frame Queen Anne house on the northwest corner of the intersection of S. Avenue D and W. Jefferson Street. The house sits on a stucco-clad stone foundation, and it is sided with asbestos shingle siding. The cross gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The windows are wood with wood surrounds and aluminum storm / screens. There is a gable-roof front porch spanning the façade, and a one-story bay window at the southeast corner of the house. There is also a two-story bay window on the north side of the house. A one-story frame addition extends south from the central wing of the house and wraps around to the rear of the house. A two car frame garage sits northwest of the rear of the house, with access from South Avenue D.

The façade, the east elevation, has a gable-roof porch which spans the area between the southeast corner of the house and the northeast corner. The porch was likely built in the mid-1910s (by the 1917 Sanborn map), and it replaced an earlier porch on the north half of the facade (on the 1909 Sanborn map). The porch floor is wood, and tapered square wood columns sitting on concrete caps on brick piers support the gable-front porch roof. There is a wide wood railing, but the balusters are missing. An arched wood trellis stands at the north end of the porch. The façade is divided into two sections, with the right/north section protruding somewhat. This section has the entry with a historic wood door with a window in the upper half of the door and bulls-eye wood panels above and below the window. It is protected by an aluminum storm door. On the second story, there is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window centered below the east gable. The second/south/left section of the house is somewhat recessed. There is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on the north/right within the porch. At the southeast corner of the house to the left, there is a one-story square bay window set at a 45° angle to the corner/house. The bay window has a cut stone foundation and fluted trim above the windows and at the sides of the bay. There is a narrow one-over-one-light double-hung wood window in each of the angled walls, with a pair of one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows at the center of the bay. Above the first story window to the right, there is another one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on the second story.

The north elevation is divided into three sections by a centered two-story bay window. To the left/east/front, there is a small fixed wood window with a border of small stained glass panes. This window is somewhat higher on the wall than other windows on this side of the house. In the center is the two-story bay window with angled sides and a gable roof. It has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window in each of the angled walls on both the first and second stories. On the first story, the center window is a wide one-over-one-light double-hung wood window, and on the second story is a typical size one-over-one-light double-hung wood window. The corners of the gable overhang the gable walls, but no brackets remain. The right/west/rear is the side of the one-story rear section, which has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on the first story with a smaller one-over-one-light double-hung wood window to the right/west/rear.

The south elevation's first story is obscured by an addition which extends south. This addition appears by the 1931 Sanborn map wrapping around the southwest corner, though the 1909 map shows it wrapping around the corner while the 1917 map shows it more simply extending south. On the second story of the main section of the house, there is a pair of one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows

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centered under the clipped gable. The windows are shaded by a fixed aluminum awning. To the left of these windows and somewhat higher on the wall, there is a fixed four-light wood window. The addition has two types of foundation, plain concrete block and stucco clad. There is a south facing gable roof on the addition. The east elevation of the addition has a two evenly distributed one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The south elevation of the addition faces W. Jefferson Street. It has a pair of centered one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows. The west elevation of the addition has a small one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl window at roughly the center of the wall, and to the left, at the intersection of this wall and the enclosed rear porch, there is small vinyl single casement window. Both windows are placed in openings that were historically larger.

The rear of the house, the west elevation, has an enclosed back porch on the rear of the original one-story rear section. The foundation in this area is a mixture of plain concrete block and stucco covered. The roof of this section of the house appears to have been a hip roof before the extended south addition was built. The enclosed porch has a centrally located aluminum storm / screen entry door with concrete steps and wrought iron railings. To the left of the door, there is a pair of four-light fixed wood windows, with another four-light fixed wood window to the right of the door. This enclosed section projects from the plane of the rear addition to its right, and there is a small single fixed wood window on the south facing wall of the porch.

A frame two-car garage sits northwest of the rear of the house, and it has access from S. Avenue D to the east. The assessor lists 1962 as the construction date. The foundation is not visible, and the garage is clad with V-groove vertical wood siding. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The east elevation has two single-car garage doors, each with a pair of oval windows in the second panel. The south elevation of the garage has, toward the left, an entry with a vinyl door with a nine-light window in the upper half of the door. To the right of the entry, there is a four-light fixed wood window. The west elevation has a four-light fixed wood window toward the left, and a pair of four pane fixed wood windows toward the right. The north elevation has no fenestration.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Seneca B. and Nora Dewey 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 late 19th century of the neighborhood with homes for successful and prominent residents of Washington. This home contributes to this significance. The new porch built in the 1910s was also a common improvement for homes in the neighborhood in this period.

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

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

Ralph Dewey is listed as owner of Lots 9 and 10 in Out Lot 3 in the earliest transfer book. The town of Washington was incorporated on September 29, 1864 when Ralph Dewey was mayor (*History of Washington County 1880*: 553). The 1869 atlas shows a gable-front house roughly centered on Lot 10 facing S. Avenue D. The 1874 Atlas of Washington map shows a house on mid-south Lot 10 facing Jackson St (now S. Avenue D) with a different footprint than the current house (gable-front part plus south side addition?). The 1875 Iowa census describes the family as Ralph Dewey, age 60, working as an insurance agent, his wife Lucinda, also age 60, a son Seneca B., age 31, a jeweler, son Richard P., age 28 and also a jeweler, a daughter Lettie, J., age 24, a milliner, and Sarah E., age 24, wife (of son Almon, who is not listed in this census). The 1880 census lists the family likely living in this house, and Seneca B. is listed as a 26-year-old jeweler and his brother Perry worked in a jewelry store. They are living on Jefferson Street. Ralph Dewey transferred Lots 9 and 10 to his son Seneca B. Dewey on September 23, 1885. He then transferred the north 66 feet of the lots to Sarah A. Coppock on September 23, 1885.

The earlier house was then replaced by the current house by Seneca B. Dewey. In an article titled "Building Statistics," published in late 1890, the Washington Press listed new buildings built by various local carpenters, and included this: "S.B. Dewey, house ... \$1,500" under work done by Wylie & Connor. In the 1893 contractors' list, "S. Dewey, dwelling ... \$1,900" is also listed under contractor Harry Shrader's list. One of these houses may have been the house to the north, though S.B. Dewey did not purchase back that portion of these lots until 1901. The 1894 Atlas of Washington shows a Queen Anne footprint on the south half of Lot 10 and a L-shaped house footprint on the north half of Lot 10. The 1894 city directory lists S.B. Dewey living at 207 S. Jackson Street. There are two houses on the west side of this block, one at 205 S. Jackson and the other at 207. Dewey lived in the second/south house, the one at this location, which was the property that he then owned. The 1895 census lists Seneca B. Dewey in this location, listed after Martha Montgomery who lived across the street. The census lists Seneca B. (41), Sarah L. (34), and Arthur C. (8). The 1900 census provides no addresses, but lists the family as Seneca B. Dewey, head of the household, age 46, with no occupation listed but owner of his home with no mortgage, living here with his wife Nora E. age 39, and their son Claire, age 12, who was entered into the census while visiting the Harry Shrader family on South Avenue C. Elm Grove Cemetery records note a Seneca Beach Dewey, Sarah Elinora (Smouse) Dewey, and A. Clarie Dewey, which appear to be these family members. The 1903 city directory listing for S.B. Dewey gives the address as 219 South Avenue D. His occupation is 'paving promoter', and he lives here with his wife Nora E. and their son Claire. Through this period, S.B. Dewey appears to have been an active leader in the community. He served as president of the Southeast Iowa Horticultural Society in 1905, and he was a common presenter at their annual conventions through this period. The 1910-11 city directory lists Seneca B. and Nora E. Dewey living at 219 S. Avenue D (earlier numbering).

Seneca B. Dewey later died on April 11, 1920. His obituary notes that he was born in Brighton on December 16, 1853 and educated in Washington schools. After attending college in Ohio and living in Albia for a few years, he returned to Washington and opened his jewelry store. He was a successful businessman and active in promoting all the progressive movements in Washington. When he retired

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from business, he devoted his time and resources to active public duties whenever and wherever he was called upon. He was noted as the "father of paving" as he was one of the earliest and most sincere advocates of paving the square and streets of Washington. He was active in the Washington County Chautauqua and served a time as president. He was a member of the park commission for a number of years, and he was noted as a horticultural expert. He encouraged the planting of trees on the streets of the city, and he instructed novices in proper care of trees and shrubs ("Mr. S.B. Dewey Answers Call," *Journal*, April 20, 1920, 5). His wife Nora later died on June 5, 1928.

On October 9, 1915, Dewey sold the property to Louise Libe. The 1917 county directory has Mrs. Adam Libe living at 219 S. Avenue D. The 1917 Sanborn map shows the same footprint for the house as he 1909 map, but a new front porch has been added across the width of the facade. The 1920 census lists Mrs. Louisa Libe, head of the household and owner of the house without a mortgage, age 63 and a widow. She lists no occupation. By the 1930 census, the address has changed to 221 S. Avenue D, and Louisa Libe is still living here, now age 74. She is the home owner, and her property is valued at \$4,000.

Roy A. Libe transferred the property to Caroline Mayhew on December 10, 1934. The 1935 city directory identifies Charles W. Jackson, a driver for Farm Bureau Service, and his wife Anna as the residents here. The 1940 census lists a renter paying \$20 per month, Charles C. Clark, age 45, living here with his family, including his wife Pearl, age 50, and their 14 year old son Robert. Clark is an electrician, and Pearl is working as a seamstress in Ladies Ready to Wear, and Robert is a paper carrier.

John W. Libe et al. sold the property to Rebecca Laubach on January 27, 1941. The 1941 city directory lists Miss Rebecca Laubach, a laundress, as the home owner. Also living here are Oscar Laubach, widower, and C.C. Clark, who is working on a government municipal project in Burlington, Iowa, his wife Pearl, and a son Robert. Rebecca Laubach married Ralph Nicholson. He is listed here in the 1952 telephone directory. The 1954 city directory index also lists Nicholson at this address, with Mrs. Sadie Nicola living at 221 ½ South Avenue D. Telephone directories from 1953 through 1963 continue to list Ralph Nicholson here, and in the 1958 telephone directory, The Party Shop is also listed at this address. The 1964 city directory listing has Ralph Nicholson, clerk at the West End Grocery, as home owner, with Rebecca, his wife, owner of The Party Shop, advertising all occasion wrappings, cards, and invitations. In the 1969 city directory, the information is similar except Ralph is retired. The Party Shop and the Nicholson listing continues unchanged through the 1972 through 1976 city directories.

Nicholsons sold the house in 1989 to Stanley and Sandra Rathmel, who sold it to the current owner, Courtney Murphy, on October 30, 2013.

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Bibliography

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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)

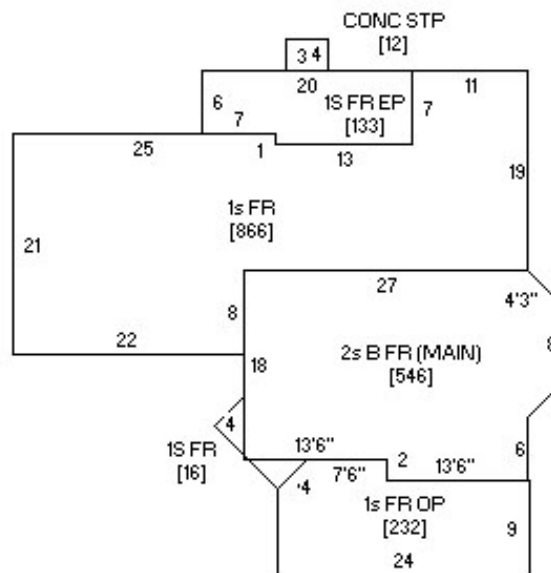


Photo from assessor's website



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Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00739-001 - House, looking northwest (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00739-002 - House, looking west (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00739-003 - House, looking northeast (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00739-004 - Garage and house, looking northeast (December 2014)