

# Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00404  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: Oscar H. and Gertrude L. Davis House

B) Other names: West side survey map #WS-110

• **Location**

A) Street address: 503 W. Main St.

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

C) Legal description:

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

Urban: Subdivision: Keck's Subdivision Block(s):      Lot(s): E 66 Ft. Lot 1

• **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>	<b>Total</b>	<u>1</u>	<b>Total</b>

**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

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

MPD title: Architectural and Historical Survey of the "west side" residential neighborhood in Washington Historical Architectural Data Base #: 92-013

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

**A) Historic functions**

01A01: Domestic / residence

01C04: Domestic / storage shed

**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: Foursquare

**B) Materials**

Foundation (visible exterior): 10A: Concrete Block

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 archaeology/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: Property 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*

1911  *check if circa or estimated date*

*Other dates, including renovations*

1997 rear addition

**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 sheets for the list of research sources used in preparing this form*

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

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

**• Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Deb Dieleman - volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, consultant Date: April 5, 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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**Narrative Description**

This is a two story frame Foursquare house built around 1911 on the southwest corner of W. Main Street and S. Avenue D. It sits on a foundation of rusticated concrete blocks. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has three hip-roof dormers. A historic brick chimney is located near the center of the roof. There is a front porch that wraps around the northeast corner, with entry steps placed at a 45 degree angle to the northeast corner of the house facing the intersection. The house has an oriel window on the east, and a two-story bay window on the north. The windows have wood sashes, wood surrounds, and aluminum storm / screens. There is a later two-car frame garage at the south end of the lot.

The house faces W. Main to the north, with the front porch spans the east half of the façade and wrapping around to span the north half of the east side facing Avenue D. At the northeast corner of the house/porch, wood steps lead up to a wood porch floor with a pediment above the steps. The porch railing and balusters are wood, and there is vertical wood grating below the porch floor. Round wood columns support the pediment and the hip roof of the porch. The porch steps are at a 45 degree angle to the alignment of the house, facing the intersection. On the northwest corner of the house within the porch is a bay window, which is the focal for visitors approaching the house up the steps. The bay window consists of three one-over-one-light double-hung windows, with outside shutters on the right and left windows. The entry is then located to the right/west, with a historic wood door with a single-light beveled windows and an aluminum storm door. The front entry protrudes somewhat from the house with a small vestibule. To the right of the entry on the remainder of the façade outside of the porch, there is a two-story bay window with one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on both the first and second stories of the angled walls and a small leaded glass decorative window placed high on the wall of both stories of the center wall. The second story of the façade has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround with vinyl shutters above the entry and to the left/east of the bay window. A hip-roof dormer is centered on the roof with a pair of two-over-two-light double-hung vinyl windows.

The east elevation faces the side street, Avenue E. The foundation of the southeast corner of the house is modern concrete block. There is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround and vinyl shutters on the first story adjacent to the porch that wraps around the northeast corner. The left/south/rear half of the first story has an oriel window with exposed rafter tails and four small, plain support brackets below the window. There are three one-over-one-light double-hung narrow wood windows in the oriel window, and it has asphalt shingles on its hip roof. On the second story, there are two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds and vinyl shutters, each located above the first story windows. At the attic level, there is a centered hip-roof dormer with a pair of one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows.

The west elevation is divided into three sections by a slightly projected center section. The left/north/front section has a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround on each story. The center section protrudes slightly from the main wall of the house and contains a ground level entry door with a small wood stoop and steps. A one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround is located between the first and second stories on this section. At the attic level, there is a hip roof dormer with a pair of two-over-two-light double-hung vinyl windows. To the right/south, in the third section, there is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround and vinyl

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shutters. The first story of this section on the original house is covered by the rear addition that wraps around this corner. The one story addition has a poured concrete foundation, wood siding, and a flat roof. The roof has a wood railing on the west, south, and east. The left portion of the addition has a pair of one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl window. There is a trio of one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows at the right side of the wall.

The south elevation, the rear of the house, is partially obscured by the rear addition as well. To the right/east of the addition, near the corner of the house, there is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround. The remainder of the first story is covered by the 1997 addition. The right corner of the addition has a small inset porch with wood steps, railing, and floor. There is a steel entry door on the left/west side of the porch, and a single light vinyl casement window on the porch facing south. There is vertical wood siding on the walls in the porch area. There is a group of three one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl windows on the remainder of the south wall of the addition. On the second story of the house, there is an entry door with an aluminum storm / screen door just to the left/west of center, and a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround to its right. Farther to the right/east, there is another one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with wood surround. Both upper story windows have vinyl shutters.

The side gable, two-car garage is located at the south side of the lot with access from Avenue D to the east. The assessor lists a construction date of 1993. It has vertical wood siding and two east-facing single-car aluminum garage doors. It has an entry on the north elevation with a fixed window to the right of the door. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are no other openings in the garage. The garage is a non-contributing building in the potential historic district.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Oscar and Gertrude Davis House appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential residential historic district on the west side of Washington. The house was built around 1911 as an investment, and then sold to Oscar and Gertrude Davis who lived here from 1919 to 1947. Oscar was a farmer with a farm northeast of town, but the couple lived in Washington. The house is one of several large homes built in the neighborhood in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and one of several built during the development of this block in that period. The wrap around porch with corner entry reflects the location of this home on the corner.

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

*History / research summary of property*

This parcel is part of the larger Out Lot 1 that was platted in Western Addition for Joseph Keck's House at 500 W. Washington Blvd to the south, and it is shown as part of that property on the 1874 and 1894 atlases of Washington. Keck's Addition was then platted in November 1902 to subdivide the larger property (Out lots 1 and 2), and this southwest corner at Main St and Avenue D became Lot 1 of the new plat (with lots 2-6 to the west along W. Main). The 1909 Sanborn map shows no construction on

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Lots 1-2. The east 66 feet of Lot 1, Keck's Addition, was sold by Charles H. Keck to E.G. McFarland on February 28, 1910. He then quickly sold this property to E.J. Harmier on March 2, 1910. The 1910 city directory lists Charles Keck living at 408 W. Washington (president of Citizens Savings Banks), and Edward G. McFarland at 1123 S. Iowa Avenue (carpenter). Edward J. Harmier is listed as an attorney and loan agent at 108 W. Main, living on N. Marion near the city limits in the 1910 city directory. The house was then likely built in 1910 or 1911. E.J. Harmier transferred 1/3 interest to Josephine Harmier and 1/3 interest to A.H. Harmier on March 18, 1911, with the three then jointly owning the property. The assessor lists a construction date of 1911. While the house was likely built at this time, none of the Harmiers from 1910 to 1917 appear to have lived in this house. It may have been built as an investment, as was the case with the house at 526 W. Main. The 1917 Sanborn map shows the house as constructed by this date, and the owner at that time did not reside here per the 1917 county directory (unknown if another is listed here).

Edward Harmier was the son of early Washington County residents Bernard and Josephine Harmier. According to the 1895 Census, Bernard Harmier (65) is head of the household residing at Washington, Iowa with wife Josephine Harmier (53) and their children Edward (18), Matilda (16) and Leiwa (12). Bernard Harmier died on October 11, 1898 and is buried at Elm Grove Cemetery, Washington. According to his obituary in the *Kalona New* on October 21, 1898, B. Harmier was one of the county's old settlers. He was born in Prussia and settled in Richmond, Iowa and was engaged in the mercantile business and always a "money maker". He moved to Washington around 1890, where he had been engaged in loaning money and looking after his property interests. His holdings were valued at \$100,000 to \$150,000. He left behind his wife and children, Ed, Matilda, and Louis. The 1900 census lists Josephine Harmier (59) as residing in Washington, Ward 1, with Edward J. (single, born 1876, capitalist), Matilda (22), and Alvisus (18). According to the 1905 census E. J. Harmier (28) is still single and manages the B. Harmier Estate. He operated his law firm in town: 1910 - Harmier Law Office (E. J. Harmier) located at 108 W. Main; 1926 - E. J. Harmier attorney/lawyer at 201 ½ E. Washington; 1932 - E. J. Harmier attorney/lawyer at 201 ½ E. Washington; 1933 - E. J. Harmier attorney at 201 ½ W. Washington; and 1941 - Harmier Real Estate and loans located at 201 ½ W. Washington. According to the marriage records, Edward J. Harmier married Anna May Eagle on May 15, 1915 in Washington. The 1917 county directory lists Edward J. Harmier's occupation as lawyer and farm loans at 722 W. Main. The 1920 Census records still list Edward J. Harmier (43) and wife Anna Harmier (37) living in Washington Ward 1. Josephine Harmier (78) lives with her son-in-law John Maue (48) and wife Matilda Maue (41) in Washington Ward 1, Washington, Iowa.

The Harmiers sold the property (E 66 ft. Lot 1) to John R. Bryson on November 17, 1917. The 1917 county directory lists John Bryson, retired, residing next door at 509 W. Main St. with wife, Nora. They owned that property from October 1914 to November 1917, so they may have moved into this house in 1917. The 1920 census has John R. (62) and Nora Bryson (51) as then renting at 117 ½ S. Marion.

John R. Bryson and wife then sold this property to O. H. Davis on May 9, 1919. The 1920 Census lists Oscar Davis (40) and wife Lula (39) residing at and owners of the home at 501 W. Main St. The 1926 telephone directory lists Oscar Davis with two numbers – one for his house at 503 W. Main and one for his farm located 7 ¼ mi NE on route 1. The 1930 census lists Oscar H. Davis (51, farmer) with wife, Lula G. (49) (address incorrectly listed as 508 instead of 503). The house is valued at \$6,500. The 1935 and 1938 city directories confirm Oscar H. and Lulu G. Davis still residing at 503 W. Main. The 1940 census lists them at 503 W. Main, Oscar H. (60, farm manager) and Gertrude L. (59). The 1941

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city directory also lists Lula as Gertrude and Oscar as a farmer. The death records list Oscar H. Davis's death on February 24, 1947 and burial is at Elm Grove Cemetery, Washington.

The house was transferred from the Oscar H. Davis estate (by will) to Mary Jane Davis on October 18, 1949. Miss Mary J. Davis is listed in the 1954 and 1964 city directories as residing at 503 W. Main St. Mary J. Davis died on July 26, 1966, and she is buried at Elm Grove Cemetery in Washington. Her estate/heirs continued to own the property and use it as a rental. The 1967 city directory lists Dale F. McCrary, who is a salesman for Minneapolis Moline farm equipment, residing at 503 W. Main St. with his wife, Nancy E. and children Joyce A. and Rex. They are listed here in the 1969 directory as well. By 1972, Dale F. McCrary is now a territory manager for White farm equipment. Dale and Nancy continue reside in 503 W. Main St.

The Mary Jane Davis Estate (will) transferred the property (E. 66 ft. Lot 1) to Earl R. Davis on September 17, 1974. Earl R. Davis and wife then sold the property on September 28, 1976 to Neil L. and Diana B. Dufoe. Neil L. and Diane B. Dufoe sold the property to Betty J. Sorg on June 7, 1978.

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*Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington County, Iowa.* Chicago, Acme Publishing Company, 1887.

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**Location map**



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



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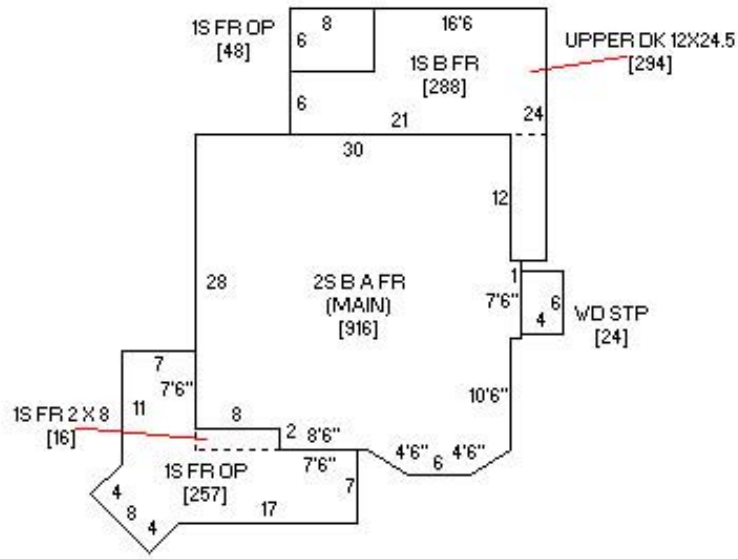
503 W. Main Street

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**Building plan (from assessor's website)**



**Photo from assessor's website**



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**Digital photographs**



**Photograph 92-00404-001 - House, looking southwest (December 2014)**

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**Photograph 92-00404-002 - House, looking southeast (December 2014)**

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**Photograph 92-00404-003 - House, looking northwest (December 2014)**

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**Photograph 92-00404-004 - Garage, looking southeast (July 2015)**