

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00160 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 Alexander and Mary Young Log House

B) Other names: Alexander Young Log Cabin, West side survey map #WS-146

• Location

A) Street address: 800 W Madison Street

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

C) Legal Description:

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

Urban: Subdivision: Southwest Washington Block(s): _____ Lot(s): Out Lot 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:

Contributing Noncontributing

1 Buildings —

 Sites —

— Structures —

 Objects —

1 **Total** —

If non-eligible property, enter number of:

— Buildings

— Sites

— Structures

— Objects

— **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

B) Current functions

01A01: Domestic / residence

08C: Museum

08C: Museum

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

A) Architectural Classification

B) Materials

09A03: side gable log house

Foundation (visible exterior): 04: Stone

walls (visible exterior): 02C Log

Roof: 02B Wood Shingle

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

1840 *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: March 26, 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: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 1

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

Narrative Description

This is a one-and-one-half-story log house built northwest of Washington in Cedar Township by Alexander Young around 1840. In 1912, it was disassembled and moved to its current location in Sunset Park, on the north side of W. Madison Street, where it was reassembled on a new cut stone foundation. The house is built of white oak logs, and it has wood shakes on the gable roof. There are two wood plank doors, one at the front and the other opposite it at the rear of the house. There is a rough stone fireplace and chimney on the west side of the house, reconstructed in 1934 to work properly. The windows are wood, and are screened with 1/4" hardware cloth which is fastened to the window frame with wood strips.

The façade, the south elevation, has the main entry offset to the left/west, with log ends visible to the right at the center indicating an earlier interior division. The wood door opens inward over a wide wood threshold, and there are steel strap hinges holding the door. There is a porcelain doorknob, and above that, a modern deadbolt lock. There is a bronze plaque centered on the door for the listing on the NRHP in 1973. Above the door is another bronze plaque, this one dating to 1912 with the move of the log cabin to Sunset Park. To the left/west of the entry, there is a six-over-six-light double-hung wood window. Both sashes of this window were replaced in 2012 after vandals broke the previous sashes attempting to enter the house. On the right/east half, there is another six-over-six-light double-hung wood window. On the second story there is a six-light wood window located just under the eaves. The east one is above the first story windows, while the west one is slightly to the right/east of the first story window. There is a wood V-shaped rain gutter at the edge of the roof.

The west elevation has a rough stone chimney centered on the wall. To the left/north of the chimney, there is a six-over-six-light double-hung wood window. On the second story, there are two smaller six-light wood windows, one on either side of the chimney. The gable wall is clad with wood boards applied horizontally, not overlapping.

The east elevation has no fenestration on the first story. The gable, which is clad with wood boards as well, there is a six-light wood window.

The north elevation, the rear of the house, has a wood plank entry door slightly right of center, on the west half of the house. On the east/left half, there is a six-over-six-light double-hung wood window.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Alexander and Mary Young Log House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Alexander Young Log Cabin in 1973 under Criteria A and C. The log house was built for Alexander and Mary Young in 1840 on a farm in Cedar Township to the west of Washington. It was donated in 1912 to the Daughters of the American Revolution, who moved it into Sunset Park. It has been operated for educational and historical purposes on this site since 1912.

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 2

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

The Alexander and Mary Young Log House appears to also contribute historically to the potential "west side" residential historic district in Washington. The move of the log house to Sunset Park in 1912 is part of the original development of the park, which is significant within the historic district.

History / research summary of property

The Alexander Young Log House was moved into Sunset Park from rural Cedar Township in 1912. The history of the family and log house is outlined in the 1912 obituary of Robert H. Young. Robert was born in Rush Co, Indiana, in 1831, the son of Alexander and Mary (Davis) Young, natives of Kentucky. The family moved from Kentucky to Indiana in 1829 when Rush County was still on the frontier, and they lived here for 10 years. In 1839, the family journeyed west and made a claim in Cedar Township. The family lived in the dwelling until 1876, when a larger house was built. Alexander Young died in 1869, and Mary died in 1877. Two unmarried sons, Robert H. Young and Alexander H. Young, continued to live on the family farm until their deaths. Robert, Alexander Huston, and James served in the Civil War, and all returned. James died in 1903, and Alexander H. (Huston, as he was known) died in December 1909, leaving only Robert on the family farm. His obituary notes that it is this Young family cabin that the Daughters of American Revolution are planning to moved to Washington and rebuild in Sunset Park. It was noted in January 1912 as perhaps the only log house still standing in Washington County ("Robert H. Young Died Last Evening," *Evening Journal*, January 16, 1912, 7).

The 1887 *Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington County* includes a biography of Alexander Young as well. The biography notes that Alexander Young was born in Fleming County, Kentucky, son of James and Nancy (Smith) Young. He served in the war of 1812. In 1815, he married Mary Davis, daughter of John Davis. In 1829, he moved to Rush County, Indiana, where he farmed for ten years. In fall of 1839, he moved to Louisa County, Iowa, remaining here until spring. In spring 1840, he came to Washington County, where he bought a claim of 160 acres in Cedar Township in Section 34. The family had eight children: James, Robert H. and Aleck H., living on the home place in 1887; Mary M., the wife of John Jayne, of Franklin Township; Martha, the wife of Daniel Jayne, of Washington; Nancy, the wife of Isaac N. Smith, of Oregon; and John D., a carpenter by trade, of California. Alexander Young died on June 18, 1868, and Mary Young died in 1877 (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington County* 1887: 218).

Census records provide similar information on the family. The 1840 census for Cedar Township, Iowa lists the family as having two males age 5-9, one male age 10-14, one male age 15-19, one male age 20-29, and one male 50-59; also one female under 5, one female age 15-19, two females 20-29, and two females age 40-49, making a total of 12 household members. The 1850 census taker lists the family as follows: Alexander Young, age 58, born in Kentucky; Mary, age 57, also born in Kentucky; Jane, age 30, and James, age 23, both born in Kentucky; Robert, age 19, Alexander, age 16, and Mary, age 13, all born in Indiana. In 1860, the family is listed as Alexander Young, age 68, born in Kentucky, his wife Mary, age 67, also born in Kentucky; James Young, age 42 and born in Kentucky; James, age 32, also born in Kentucky; Robert H, age 29, born in Indiana; Alexander H, age 25, also born in Indiana, and Mary A, age 22, born in Indiana. In the 1870 census, the family consists of Mary Young, age 77, James C., age 40, Robert, age 38, Huston, age 35, and Jane C, age 51, and the men's

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 3

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

occupations are listed as farming. In 1880, the census lists James Young, age 53, as head of the household; Jane, a sister, age 61; Robert, a brother, age 48; and Houston, a brother, age 45, who works as a servant. The other men are listed as farmers, and Jane kept house. There is a family story which says that when the "boys" returned from the Civil War, they decided to build their mother a real house so she would not have to cook with a fireplace, and the log house was thereafter used for storage. By 1900, the household consists of James Young, age 72, Robert H., age 68, brother, Alexander, age 65, brother; and Jane C., age 79, a sister. Bert Rittenhouse, age 29, a farmer, Maggie his wife, age 22, and a daughter Ruth, age 1, are also in the household. Rittenhouse is identified as a farmer and renter, while the Young men are listed as retired farmers and property owners. By the 1910 census, Robert, age 79, still living in Cedar Twp., was the only family member remaining on the property.

Alex Miller, editor of the *Washington Democrat*, wrote a column for the 1926 Anniversary Edition of the *Washington Journal* in which he describes how the Young log house came to be moved from Cedar Township to Sunset Park. He writes:

"I had perhaps as much to do with getting the log cabin brought in as anybody, or perhaps I was just a bit more active. I was interested in the log house for years, before it was available. You will note that I have drifted from calling it a log cabin and now call it a log house. Capt. John Alex Young who was related to the "Young Boys" from whom the log house was obtained, always urged us not to call it a log cabin. A log cabin is a house made of round logs, and is built one story high. This was two stories in height, and the logs were beautifully hewn and it had two rooms on each floor.....

I had communicated with the Young Boys but had made no headway toward securing it. The Young Boys were old men, two them having been soldiers ... Capt. John Alex Young was very much interested in our getting the log house, and spoke to the boys quite frequently, but made no headway till one time, they seemed to have the idea that maybe they would not live forever and they sent for me. The D.A.R. early took interest in it. (Mrs. Alex Miller, Ola Babcock Miller, was a past regent of the local chapter of D.A.R.) ...

I negotiated the contract with Huston Young, the contract consisting merely of his word that we might have the house, and my agreement to have it brought to town. The trustees of the Park very readily gave their consent to its location being made where it now is (agreement between Park Board and DAR). Teams were hired, and the logs were taken down one at a time, and each log was marked. They were transported to town and three or maybe four logs had so badly rotted that they were not available. Indeed, they were not in existence...

So I talked to Mrs. Wilson, regent of DAR about it, and she then owned a lot of timber out north. I had permission to go out and get what logs I needed ... I got Henry Farrier and his brother Dave to go out and hew them, and we hauled them to town, and then we were ready to lay it up again as we had torn it down, a log at a time, and each log back where it had been ...

We had brought in the stairway and it was replaced. The floors are the same and the joists are the same ... The D.A.R. had Minick's men build the fireplace out of rough stone, as the old timers were built."

The 1887 biographical album notes that James N. Young was born in Fleming County, KY in 1816 and moved with his parents to Rush Co, Indiana; thus he appears perhaps to be the older son James of Alexander and Mary Young, though his parents are not stated in his biography. If not their son, he was

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 4

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

likely related, as he moved along with the family. He married Sarah Eyestone in Indiana, and they had two sons John Alexander and Haney. Sarah died in 1841, and James remarried in 1843 to Martha Coons. In spring 1844, the family then moved to Washington County, settling in Cedar Township as well. Both sons enlisted in the Civil War, with Haney dying at Shiloh and Captain John Alexander Young returning home. He is later referred to as Capt. Young in several accounts. Capt. Young was farmer, and then county auditor. He then began work for Washington National Bank in 1874, advancing to cashier in 1878 (pages 199-200, 219). In 1905 when the Washington County Historical Society was formed, J.A. Young was treasurer (Burrell 1909, Vol. 1: 364). Thus appears his interest in preserving history and likely contributed to his efforts at getting the log house (apparently of his uncles) secured.

A scrapbook clipping of an article written by Washington Junior College student Harry Montgomery, Jr. and published in the *Washington Evening Journal* mentions the house. "Place Log Cabin – On September 26, 1911, it was decided at a branch meeting to let the Daughters of the American Revolution place the Young log cabin in the park. The location was to be approved by the park board. Probably no citizen worked harder or more tirelessly for this than the late Alex Miller, who personally helped mark every log as it was taken out so that no mistake could be made."

The *Evening Journal* on October 10, 1911 notes that the members of the Daughters of American Revolution have secured an old log cabin, and plan to move it to Sunset Park for historical and educational purposes. The cabin was noted as on the Young farm northwest of the city, and had been donated by Mr. Young. It was expected to be moved as soon as roads would permit and be placed on the west slope in Sunset Park. The D.A.R. expected to need to complete some repairs. On January 29, 1912, the *Evening Journal* reported that the old log cabin on the Young farm west of the city was being disassembled by Charles Deuel, with the work of moving it to begin soon. Volunteers were needed to haul logs into town to be reconstructed in a conspicuous place in Sunset Park.

Once the house had been reconstructed, the D.A.R. took possession. The Young family donated a rope bed, two hand made chairs, a small wooden box about six inches long made by Alexander Young, a string a sleigh bells, and a candle mold. All these items had been used by the family while they lived in the house, and they remain there today. Other local pioneer families in the area donated items to help furnish the house. The D.A.R. held meetings at the house, and held a penny drive for funds to build a new chimney after the first one began to deteriorate. (D.A.R. minutes). Per the NRHP nomination from 1973, the cabin originally had four rooms, but when it was moved the partitions upstairs and downstairs were not rebuilt. In 1934, the fireplace had to be reconstructed so that it would work properly. A large flat stone from the original west entrance to the courthouse was included in the face of the reconstructed fireplace.

In 1982, several logs had almost completely rotted away, so the house was dismantled again, new logs were hewn to replace the rotted ones, and a new roof was built (photos available).

In 2010, numerous leaks in the chinking moved the D.A.R. to apply for an HRDP grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa to fund repairs. In that project, a long range plan was created for maintaining the house, the staircase was stabilized, an ADA path from the parking lot to the house was installed,

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 5

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

and French drains were added on the east and tied to the park's drainage tile system. The chinking had been repaired through another local grant.

Vandals attempted to break into the house in the fall of 2013, but failed. However, two six-over-six-light double-hung wood front windows dating from the 1912 move were broken. A local contractor made replicas of the broken windows and reinstalled them, and at the same time, replaced all the hardware cloth screens which needed repair.

Bibliography

Atlas of Washington County, Iowa. No publisher noted, 1894. In collection of Washington Public Library.

Burrell, Howard A. *History of Washington County, Iowa.* Chicago, IL: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1909. 2 volumes.

City/telephone directories. Washington Public Library. Various years, including 1894, 1903, 1908, 1910-11, 1917, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1941, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1967, 1969, 1972, and 1976.

Fisher, Kathy. *In the beginning there was land : a history of Washington County, Iowa.* Washington, Iowa: Washington County Historical Society, 1978.

History of Washington County, Iowa. Des Moines, IA: Union Historical Co., 1880.

Newspapers, including anniversary/celebration editions on microfilm and/or bound at Washington Public Library:

Washington Gazette, January 6, 1893

Twentieth Anniversary Edition, *Evening Journal*, April 26, 1913

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition, *Evening Journal*, April 3, 1926

Washington County Centennial Edition, *Evening Journal*, July 1936

Souvenir Edition of Washington Centennial, *The Evening Journal*, August 1939

Sixtieth Anniversary Edition, *The Washington Evening Journal*, February 27, 1953

Bicentennial edition, *The Washington Evening Journal*, July 1, 1976

Sesquicentennial edition, *The Washington Evening Journal*, April 13, 1989

Patterson, Mary. Collection of historic postcards, images, and city/telephone directories. Washington, Iowa. Accessed 2014-2015.

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

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 6

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

Sanborn Map Company. *Washington, Iowa*. Fire insurance maps. 1885, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1909, 1917, 1931, 1943.

Souvenir History of Washington, Iowa. Washington, IA: Washington Evening Journal, June 23, 1989.

Washington County Historical Society. Collection of historic postcards and photographs.

Location map



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

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 7

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

Site plan from park



Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 8

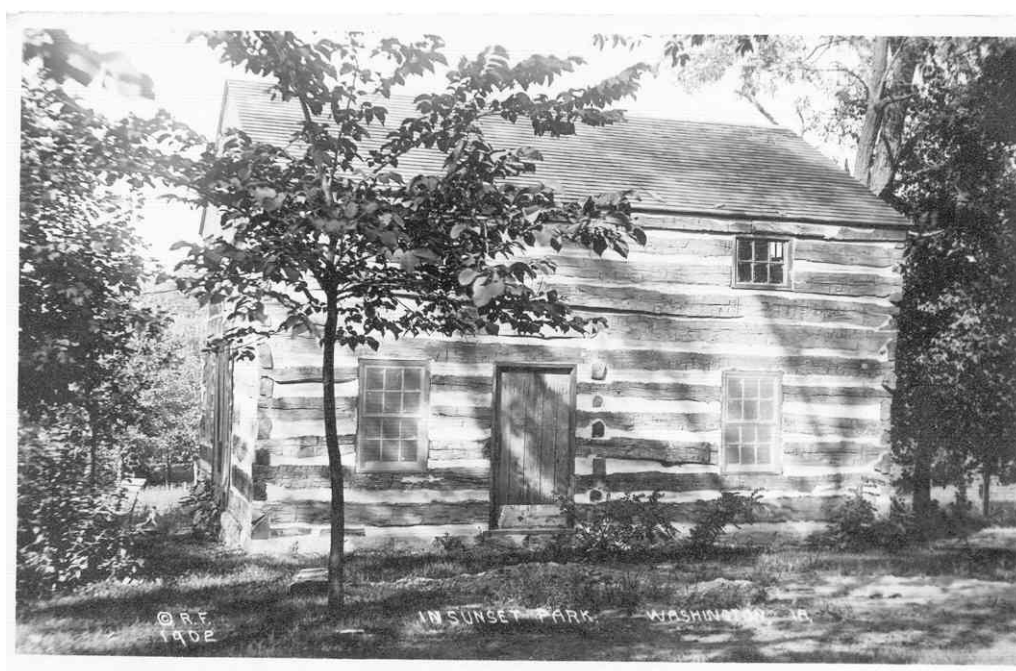
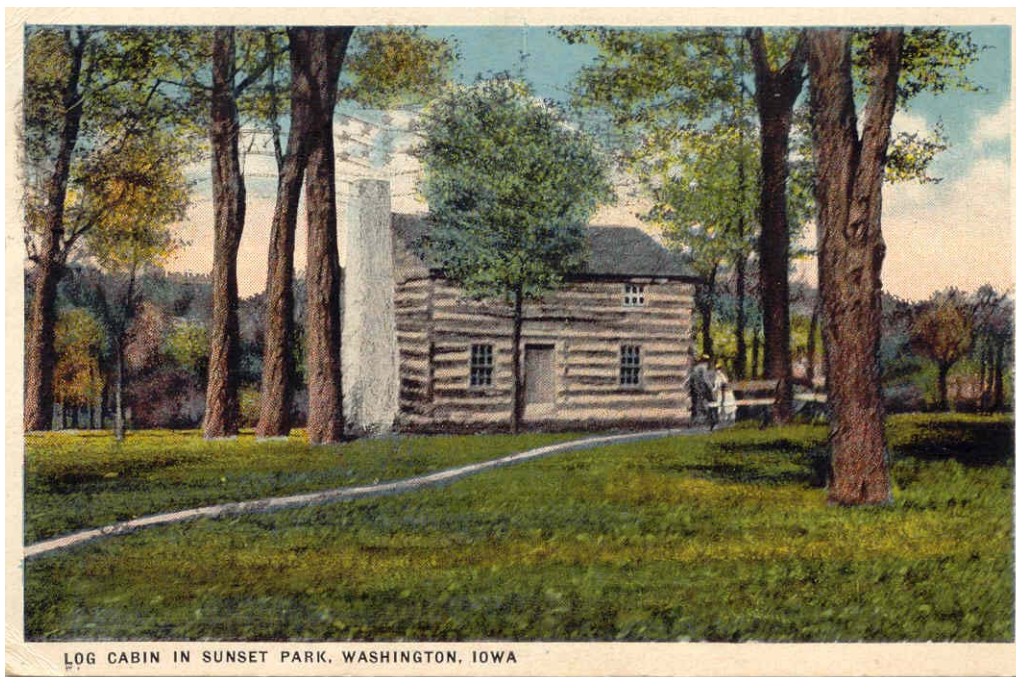
Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

Historic images



Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 9

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City



Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 10

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City

Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00160-001 - Log House, looking northeast (December 2014)

Iowa Site Inventory Form
State Historic Preservation Office
Continuation Sheet

Site Number: 92-00160
Related District Number: 92-00350

Page 11

Alexander and Mary Young Log House
Name of Property

Washington
County

800 W. Madison Street
Address

Washington
City



Photograph 92-00160-002 - Log House, looking south (July 2015)