

Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00769 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 Robert O. and Helen A. Birney House

B) Other names: West side survey map #WS-086

• Location

A) Street address: 728 W Washington Blvd

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

C) Legal Description:

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

Urban: Subdivision: Western Addition Block(s): 7 Lot(s): E 54' of S 106.5' of Lot 6 and W 39' of S 106.5' Lot 7

• 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
	Sites	—	Sites
—	Structures	—	Structures
	Objects	—	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

01C04: Domestic / storage shed

01C05: Domestic / garage

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

A) Architectural Classification

10C Rambler/Ranch

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 10B: Concrete / poured

walls (visible exterior): 15B: Vinyl

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

1951 *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: John Greener - volunteer Rebecca Lawin McCarley, consultant Date: January 21, 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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Robert O. and Helen A. Birney House
Name of Property

Washington
County

728 W. Washington Blvd
Address

Washington
City

Narrative Description

This is a one story frame ranch house on the north side of W. Washington at the northeast corner of Sunset Park. The house sits on a poured concrete foundation, and is clad with vinyl siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house has a side gable roof, with perpendicular gable-front sections at either end. There is an inset front porch centered on the façade between the gable-front sections. All the windows have aluminum storm /screens except the picture window centered on the façade. There is a detached frame garage northwest of the house with access from the street to the south, and a detached frame shed northeast of the house. Both have end gable shed roofs with asphalt shingles, vinyl siding, and concrete foundations.

The façade is divided into three sections. The central section has several concrete steps leading up to an inset porch with a concrete floor. The roof of the house extends forward over the porch, and it is supported by five square wood columns. A wood railing is composed of three horizontal members. There is a wood picture window centered on the wall of the house, consisting of a large center fixed light with a single-light casement window on each side of the larger window. There is a wood storm window on the large center light. There are wood shutters on the picture window composed of two vertical pieces with a space between them and with a cross piece near the top and bottom of the shutter. The entry is at the left/west end of the porch and enters toward the west into the left/west section of the façade. It has a wood door with a aluminum storm / screen door. The left/west section of the house has a gable facing south, and there is a six-over-six-light double-hung vinyl window centered in the wall. The window has vinyl shutters with typical slat construction. The right/east section of the house also has a front gable and has a six-over-six-light double-hung vinyl window with vinyl shutters centered in the wall.

The west elevation is the side of the west gable-front section. On the right/south half, there are two one-over-one-light double-hung window with wood shutters matching the shutters on picture window on the front of the house. At the far left/north end of the west side, there is another one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl window with wood shutters.

The east elevation is the side of the east gable-front section. It has two evenly spaced one-over-one-light double-hung windows without shutters.

The north elevation, the rear of the house, has three sections. On the far left is the rear of the east gable wing, which has a one-over-one-light double-hung vinyl window without shutters. The central portion of the house extends farther back than the gable wings. There are two one-over-one-light double-hung window with wood shutters matching those on the front and west side of house. To the right, the west gable wing of the house is then set back somewhat from the central portion of the house. In this section there is an entry on the far left under the roof of the central section of the house. The wood door has three horizontal windows in the upper part of the door and three wood panels below, and there is an aluminum storm / screen door. It has a concrete stoop and steps. To the immediate right of the rear entry, there is a one-over-one-light double-hung window with wood shutters.

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728 W. Washington Blvd
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Washington
City

The garage sits on a poured concrete foundation, has vinyl siding, and asphalt shingles on its gable-front roof. The assessor lists a construction date of 1975. It is a one-car garage with an aluminum garage door facing the street. The west elevation of the garage has a small window with wood shutters matching the wood shutters on the house. The east elevation of the garage has an entry door with three windows on the top and three panels below, and to the right is a small window with wood shutters. The garage is counted as a non-contributing building.

The small frame shed northeast of the house sits on a poured concrete foundation, has vinyl siding, and asphalt shingles on its gable roof. The west elevation has a small window with wood shutters centered in the wall, and to the left there is an entry door made of vertically installed wood. The shed is not tabulated.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Robert O. and Helen A. Birney House appears to contribute historically to the potential “west side” residential historic district in Washington. The ranch house was built during the period of development of five parcel at the northeast corner of Sunset Park in the early 1950s, and it is significant within this period of later development of the neighborhood. The period of significance for the historic district is anticipated to extend through 1969, so it would fall within this period.

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

History / research summary of property

This house is one of five houses built in the early 1950s from 704 to 730 W. Washington. Lots 6-10 in Block 7 of the Western Addition extend along the north side of Sunset Park designated in the early 1900s, along a continuation of Washington Blvd. Benjamin and Sue Warfel acquired these five lots, as well as Lots 1-5 to the north along W. Main Street, through two purchases in 1880 and 1881. They sold Lots 1-10 to John Watson on December 27, 1890. The 1894 map shows only a house on Lot 3 (currently 717 W. Main). Watson then sold smaller parcels, including parts of Lots 5-6 to Mary L. Stewart in 1898 (built house at 735 W. Main) and his house on Lot 3 with Lot 7 to his daughter Florence E. Patterson on March 29, 1901. John Watson sold a parcel including parts of Lots 4-5-6-7 (not west 45' of Lots 5-6) to J.E. Swift on August 3, 1914, and his heirs sold the parcel to Matilda Marie on March 12, 1920. She and husband John had owned the parcel to the west (west 45' of Lots 5-6) previously, living in the house there at 735 W. Main Street (see #92-00769), with a double-lot depth to W. Washington. They then built the house to the east at 727 W. Main Street (see #92-00790) and moved into this house, also then with a double-lot depth to W. Washington. Dr. John Marie (dentist) and his wife Marie lived in the house on the north part of the lots until their deaths in the 1950s.

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Robert O. and Helen A. Birney House
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728 W. Washington Blvd
Address

Washington
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The house at 728 W. Washington Blvd sits on the south 106.5 feet of the east 54' of Lot 6 and of the west 39' of Lot 7. This portion of the lots was partitioned off from the house at 727 W. Main Street by John Marie, widower, and sold to Robert O. and Helen A. Birney on April 18, 1951. The new lot then faced Sunset Park to the south along an extension of W. Washington. The house was then likely built in 1951, unless Dr. Marie built the house in 1950 and then sold it. The July 1952 telephone directory lists Robert Birney living at 728 W. Washington. The Birneys are listed at this address in every telephone and city directory until 2004. The 1964 city directory lists Robert Birney as a salesman for the Peter Pan Bakery, and Helen is a waitress at the Iowa Cafe. Their children are Jeri K., born in 1949, and Peggy A., born in 1951. In the 1969 city directory, Robert is an employee at River Products, Helen is an office employee at Wards, and only Peggy A. is living with her parents. In 1973, the city directory shows Robert still working at River Products, but lists no employer for Helen, and there are no children living at home.

Bibliography

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

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.

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.

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.

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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)

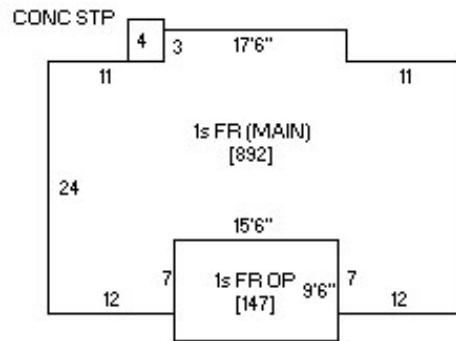


Photo from assessor's website



Digital photographs

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Photograph 92-00769-001 - House, looking northwest (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00769-002 - House, looking northeast (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00769-003 - House, looking southeast (December 2014)

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Photograph 92-00769-004 - Garage, looking northeast (December 2014)