

# Iowa Site Inventory Form

State Historic Preservation Office

(July 2014)

State Inventory Number: 92-00413  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 Minerva Teller House

B) Other names: West side survey map #WS-093

## • Location

A) Street address: 320 W. Main 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: Original Plat Block(s): 6 Lot(s): 5

## • 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>	<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

**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

• **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): 05E: Aluminum

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*

1889  *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: June Henderson / Mary Patterson - volunteers Rebecca McCarley, consultant Date: 6-12-2015

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 B. and Minerva Teller House  
Name of Property

Washington  
County

320 W. Main Street  
Address

Washington  
City

**Narrative Description**

This is a two-story frame Queen Anne house built in 1889 on the northeast corner of the intersection of W. Main Street and South Avenue C. The house sits on a cut stone foundation, and the walls are clad in aluminum siding. The combination hip-gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. A brick chimney remains near the center of the roof. The house retains an original front porch, corner bay window, chamfered corner, side bay window, and overall asymmetrical form.

The house faces Main St to the south. The facade has an original decorative porch that extends about half of the width of the facade, with turned wood columns, arch top braces, droplets, panels, and a gable roof with sunburst siding. The square wood railings date to a later period. The entry is located on the left/west side of the first story within the porch, with a one-over-one-light double-hung window to the right/east. The southwest corner of the first story is chamfered (angled) with a one-over-one-light double-hung window. The south elevation above this window on the second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung window also. The southeast corner of the house has a square bay window that is angled 90-degrees from the corner and projects slightly, with a cut stone foundation. It has a large picture window with a transom on the southeast side, with a one-over-one-light double-hung window on each side of the bay window. The south elevation of the second story of the east half has two one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The gable is slightly setback on the roofline, and it has a decorative wood window and sunburst pattern siding from either side.

The east elevation has two-story bay window that divides the elevation. To the front/south of the bay window, there is a rectangular window on the first story and a one-over-one-light double-hung window on the second story. The bay window has angled sides on the first story, with a one-over-one-light double-hung window on each side. The center is clad in siding. The second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung window on each of the three sides. The gable has gable returns and a small decorative wood window. A rear entry and additional one-over-one-light double-hung windows are found on the east side of the rear section.

The west elevation has three sections. The front/south section is a gable-roof section that projects slightly from the west side. The first story has a small window, and the north side of this section has a one-over-one-light double-hung window. The second story on the west side has a one-over-one-light double-hung window. The southwest corner of the second story has a square oriel window, with the window on the south previously mentioned and siding covering the other two sides. It retains decorative scroll brackets at the base. The middle section of the west side of the house is the remainder of the two-story original house. It has a one-over-one-light double-hung window on the first story and a smaller one-over-one-light double-hung window to its left/north. The second story has two one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The north/third section is the side of the shed-roof rear addition, and it has a one-over-one-light double-hung window. There are three covered basement windows on this side.

The rear/north elevation is largely covered by a one-story rear addition. It sits on a concrete block foundation, with rough faced surfaces. It does not appear on the 1943 Sanborn map, so it was built after this period. The addition has three one-over-one-light double-hung windows on the north side.

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Address	City

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The second story is the rear of the original house, and it has a lower gable on this side. The gable has two one-over-one-light double-hung windows.

A large four-car metal-clad side-gable garage was built along the rear of the property in 1989, per the assessor. It sits on a concrete foundation, and it has a metal roof. There are two two-car garage doors on the north elevation, with one pedestrian door at the west end. There are two small sheds on the property as well. The garage is counted as a non-contributing building.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The James B. and Minerva Teller House appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential “west side” residential historic district in Washington. The house was built in 1889 during the significant period of development of the neighborhood in the last quarter of the 19th century. The house was built by James B. Teller for his family, drawing on the Queen Anne style for a house with decorative features. While the aluminum siding obscures some of these features, the overall design of the house remains significant, retaining some decorative features such as the bay windows, porch, and sunburst gables.

The house does not appear individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. The siding has obscured or removed additional decorative exterior features, impacting the overall integrity particularly for Criteria C. The interior has also been divided into apartments.

*History / research summary of property*

Minerva Teller bought Lot 5 from Francis Evans and wife on March 16, 1889. The *Washington Press*, in an article published on April 3, 1889, says, “Capt. Teller will soon build a nice dwelling.” By December of that year, the *Press* reports, “Captain Teller expects to move into his beautiful house this week.” The 1892 Sanborn map shows the footprint of the house much as it is today except for later rear additions, and a one story outbuilding with a one story porch. The 1894 city directory lists J.B. Teller living at 312 W. Main. The 1885 Iowa census lists the family prior to construction as J.B. Teller, age 61, deputy clerk of district court, his wife Minerva, age 55, and Cora, age 28. The 1897 Sanborn map shows three porches, front, rear, and east side, on the house. The 1900 census identifies the family as James B. Teller, home owner, age 76, working as deputy clerk of district court, his wife Minerva, age 71, and daughter Cora, age 45 and single. The 1902 Sanborn map shows a change of address from 501 to 320 W. Main. The 1903 and 1910-11 city directories list J.B. Teller, wife Minerva, and daughter Cora, at 320 W. Main. Teller lists his occupation in 1903 as deputy county clerk, and in 1910-11 as retired county clerk. In 1910, the census lists J.B. Teller, head, 86, and daughter Cora, 45, living at 316 W. Main Street.

On October 19, 1910, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church purchased the property from J.B. Teller, widower. On April 12, 1912, the Methodist Episcopal Church transferred the property to

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Cordelia A. Ross et al. The 1917 Sanborn map shows the house without the rear one story porch. The 1917 county directory lists George F. Ross at this address. The 1920 census lists George F. Ross, head of the household and home owner, age 69 and single with Celia Ross, his sister, 64 and single at 320 W. Main Street.

On August 2, 1924, M. R. and Mary W. Meek bought the house from C.C. Wilson, executor for George A. Ross. The 1926 telephone directory lists M.R. Meek at this address. The 1930 census lists Marcellus R. Meek, home owner and head of the household, age 71, and Mary W. Meek, wife, age 65, and Violet E. Anderson, servant, age 19, at this address. The 1931 Sanborn map shows a one-and-one-half-story auto garage at the location of the earlier outbuilding. The 1932 telephone directory lists M.R. Meek at 320 W. Main. The 1935 city directory lists Marcellus R. Meek and wife Mary, and Harvey S. Meek and wife, Alma, at this address. Harvey is secretary – treasurer and eng for the Fire Department.

On September 6, 1937, the property was transferred to Marcellus R. Meek from the Mary W. Meek estate. The 1938 telephone directory lists Harvey S. Meek at 320 W. Main. The 1940 census lists Marcellus Meek, head of the household and home owner, age 81, Harvey S. Meek, his son, age 48, and a truck driver for fire department, Alma A. Meek (wife of Harvey), age 45, daughters Evelyn, age 15, and Elizabeth Ann, age 11, and Sadie May Davison, maid, age 36 living at this address. In the 1941 city directory, the information is the same except for the absence of Marcellus Meek.

Harvey Meek sold the property to Grace M. Miller on August 12, 1948, and on July 10, 1951, Alma H. Meek bought it from Grace M. Miller, widow. The 1952 telephone directory lists Mrs. Howard P. Miller living at 320 W. Main Street. The 1954 city directory lists the residents as Mrs. Howard P. Miller and Neil Burton at 320 W. Main, and Mrs. Nola Faulkner, Mrs. Jennie Curl, and Mrs. Irene McKay at 320 1/2 W. Main. Mrs. Howard P. Miller continues to be listed in telephone directories through 1959.

On September 12, 1958, Lois K. Humston, single, bought the property from Alma H. Meek and husband, and Grace M. Miller, widow. Humston is Alma Meek's niece, the daughter of Alma's brother.

The 1960 through 1962 telephone directories list Rose A. Miller and Lois R. Humston at this address. Lois was an employee of the Washington Laundry. In the 1964 city directory, Lois is listed at 320 1/2 W. Main, and is still working at Washington Laundry.

Lloyd S. Humston purchased the property from his daughter, Lois K. Humston, single, on June 30, 1966. The 1967 city directory lists Minnie C. Schroeder living at 320 W. Main. Lois R. Humston, employed at Washington Laundry, living at 320 1/2 W. Main. Also living at 320 1/2 W. Main are Jennie A. Curl, M. Lois Dodds, and Kosette Wells (wid Edgar). None of these residents list an occupation. The 1969 city directory identifies the residents at 320 W. Main as Katherine C. Humston (widow Edgar), Lois R. Humston, a maid at the Washington County Hospital, and Minnie C. Schroeder. Residents at 320 1/2 W. Main are Sally Shalla, a lab technician at Washington County Hospital, and Greg Vasic, news announcer for Washington Farm and Home Radio. The 1972 city directory lists Minnie C. Schroeder, Emma M. Schroeder at 320 W. Main, and Mary Atwood, teacher at Washington High School at 320 1/2 W. Main.

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On March 5, 1973, Lloyd W. and Dorothy L. Miller bought the property from the Lloyd Humston estate. The 1973 city directory lists Minnie C. Schroeder and Emma M. Schroeder at 320 W. Main, and Monica Ann Waldschmidt, a waitress at the Washington Cafe, Nathan E. Brooks, his wife Rita, and their son Nathan, Jr. born in 1970, and Marie Woods living at 320 ½ W. Main. The 1976 directory lists Minnie C. Schroeder at 320 W. Main, and Marie Woods at 320 ½ W. Main #4.

The current owners are Raphael and Linda Gonshorowski, and the house has five apartments.

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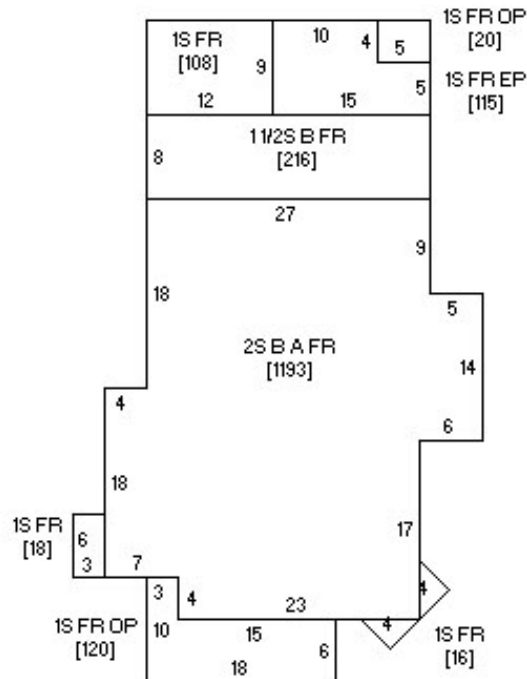
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**Building plan (from assessor's website)**



**Photo from assessor's website**



**Digital photographs**

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Photograph 92-00413-001 - House, looking northeast (December 2014)

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**Photograph 92-00413-002 - House, looking northwest (December 2014)**

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**Photograph 92-00413-003 - House, looking southeast (December 2014)**

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**Photograph 92-00413-004 - Garage, looking southeast (December 2014)**