

Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 92-00535

New Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 92-00349

Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing

Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries

National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____

Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name Fox Theatre

other names/site number Jones Funeral Home annex, Downtown Survey Map # DT- 129

2. Location

street & number 114 East Main

city or town Washington

vicinity, county Washingt

Legal Description:(If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Plat 07 09 E 55 FT

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property
Enter number of:

If Eligible Property, enter number of:
Contributing Noncontributing

—	buildings	—	<u>1</u>	buildings
—	sites	—	—	sites
—	structures	—	—	structures
—	objects	—	—	objects
—	Total	—	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title _____

Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

08A02 Movie Theater

07C02 Funeral home

07C02 Funeral home

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09F: Commercial

foundation _____

walls (visible material) 06 stucco

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended
- Yes No More Research Recommended

- A Property is associated with significant events.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archeology or history.

County Washington Address 114 East Main
City Washington

Site Number 92-005351914
District Number 92-00349

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Significant Dates

Construction date 1913 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Kramme & Carol Ray, commission members Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission date April 1, 2012
street & number 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)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____
Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____
Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____

- See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur 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: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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<u>Fox Theatre</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>114 East Main</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Address	City

This form was prepared as part of a research/survey/nomination project in 2011-2012 funded by a HRDP grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa for the nomination of the Washington Downtown Historic District. The project was primarily structured to develop the nomination for the downtown, with additional research on each building documented on an Iowa Site Inventory form. The information below is taken from the table in the August 2012 draft of the nomination, with additional information documented on the property and photographs in the following sections.

Fox Theatre - 114 E. Main St - State #92-00535 - Map #24 ~ 1 non-contributing building - 1913, 1959, 1999 clad - early 20th century commercial

Historic information:

1913 - Fox Theatre built by George Pratt and son Ralph and Clyde (from Winfield) - lot owned by Ed Fox - opened on January 10, 1914

1914-c.1953 - Fox Theater (Ralph Pratt also operated State Theater from 1931 to 1951) - damage from 1932 fire next door

1959 - bought by Jones Funeral Home - remodeled for hearse garage/access

1959-2000s - part of Jones Funeral Home

2012 - Jones-Eden Funeral Home

Architectural information:

Height: 2 story

Walls: brick

Storefront: entries on left of each storefront - large windows

Windows: 1/1 windows - replaced

Architectural details: buff brick dentils on frieze, segmental arch window lintels

Architect/Builder: -

Modifications: -

7. Narrative Description

The facade was covered with stucco during a remodel by Jones Funeral Home in 1999, which also clad their earlier building to the east. It has a decorative arch applied to the upper part, and has a large garage door to allow hearse storage and access during funerals.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fox Theater, remodeled as the hearse garage for Jones Funeral Home around 1959, is counted as non-contributing in the Washington Downtown Historic District. Though this initial conversion for use by the funeral home falls within the period of significance for the district, the later facade remodel in 1999 has resulted in a loss of historic integrity for both the original building and initial remodel.

This portion of Lot 7 was previously vacant, with a house to the east and a commercial building to the west. On April 20, 1910, Edmund D. Morrison sold the east two-thirds of the west half (22') of Lot 7 to

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E.G. Fox. The Fox Theatre was built then by George Pratt and sons Ralph and Clyde from Winfield on this lot owned by Ed Fox in 1913. It opened on January 10, 1914 with 1,200 people in attendance. It was one of first theaters in state built specifically for motion pictures. It had a high ceiling and sloping floor. The competition put the Lyric out of business within few weeks (Fisher 1978: 426). The theater was damaged in March 1932 with a fire to the building to the west, and it was repaired and reopened.

25th anniversary edition, *Evening Journal*, April 3, 1926 - page 43 (K) – “Washington’s Amusement Places” – Electric Theater Company – Ralph E. Pratt – runs both Fox and Graham theaters – good shows – Fox – six days with three shows daily – Graham – special occasions – good road show – Fox is popular

Evening Journal – Centennial Celebration – August 1939 - page 51 – Pratt Brothers – State and Fox Theatres – started Fox Theatre in Washington in 1914 – rented State Theatre in 1930 – completely remodeled – Ralph Pratt, G.E. Pratt, Clyde Pratt – photo of employees

Washington Evening Journal, 60th Anniversary Edition, February 27, 1953, page 73 – “Washington Theaters Known for Top-Notch Movie Entertainment” – Pratt Brothers – Clyde and Ralph – from Winfield – father was harness maker – open theater there – Electric Theater – September 1911 – 173 seats – too small – built Airdome theatre – outdoor with canvas sides – this year Pratt Bros will open outdoor theater again – open air theater – Waco Drive-in theatre east of Washington on Hwy 92 – 412 automobiles – Pratt Bros took over Fox Theatre on January 10, 1914 – used old Graham Theatre for traveling shows – movies at Fox – took over Graham in 1930 – completely remodeled as State Theatre – 1940 – install push back seats at State Theatre – first in Iowa – add air conditioning – also recently add gas heat – remodel balcony over winter – now operated by Washington Amusement Company – Fox temporarily closed – Waco will be opened this spring – stand for Washington Amusement Company = Waco – Pratt brothers retain financial interest in company – less active role in management – Tommy Tompkins is manager

The Fox Theater continued to be listed at 114 E. Main Street in the 1941 and 1952 directories. No listing was here in 1956.

This building was purchased by the Jones Funeral Home in 1959. It was then remodeled to allow hearse storage and access during funerals. The 1971 photo shows the aluminum siding on the funeral home to the east extending across the top of this building, with an overhead door, double-door entry for pedestrians, and glass block across the storefront. In 1999, it was remodeled to the current appearance with stucco. It continues to serve as part of Jones Funeral Home.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

City/Telephone Directories, Washington. Various publishers, various dates. Available at the Washington Public Library.

Deed Records, Transfer Books, Auditor's Office, Washington County Courthouse, Washington, Iowa.

Newspaper advertisements, various years/dates, on microfilm at Washington Public Library:

Washington Evening Journal

Washington Gazette

Washington Press

Patterson, Mary. Collection of historic images of Washington. Washington, IA.

Sanborn Map Company. "Washington, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1909, 1917, 1931, 1943.

Wagner, William (Des Moines architect). Photographs taken of downtown Washington in 1971. In collection of Washington Historical Society, Washington, Iowa.

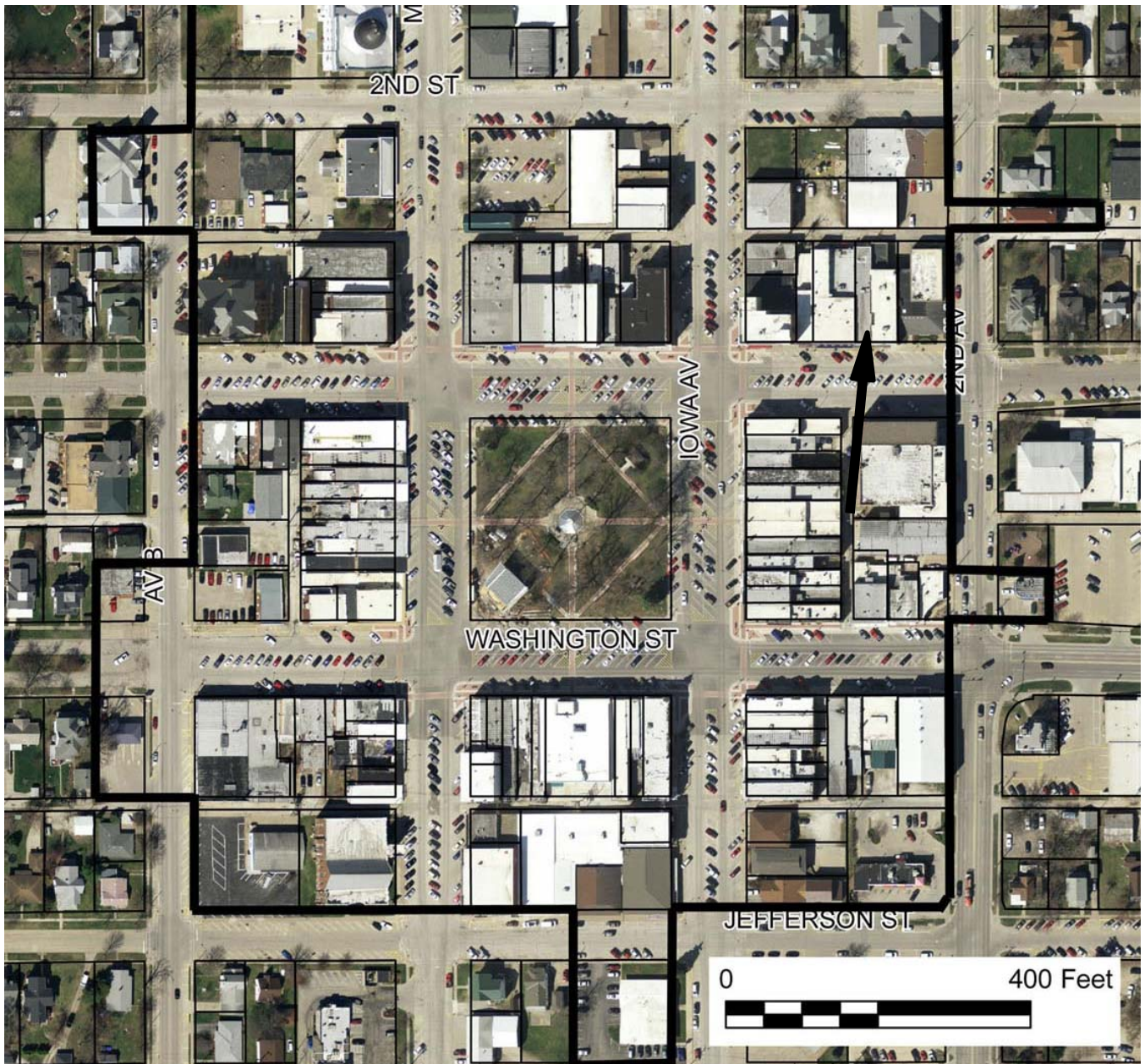
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Name of Property	Washington County
Address	Washington City

Location map



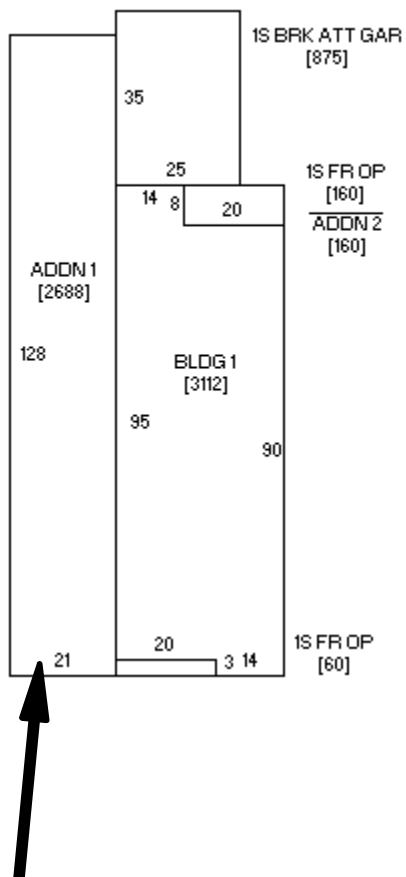
2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary

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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Historic images



Photograph of Fox Theatre (Patterson collection).

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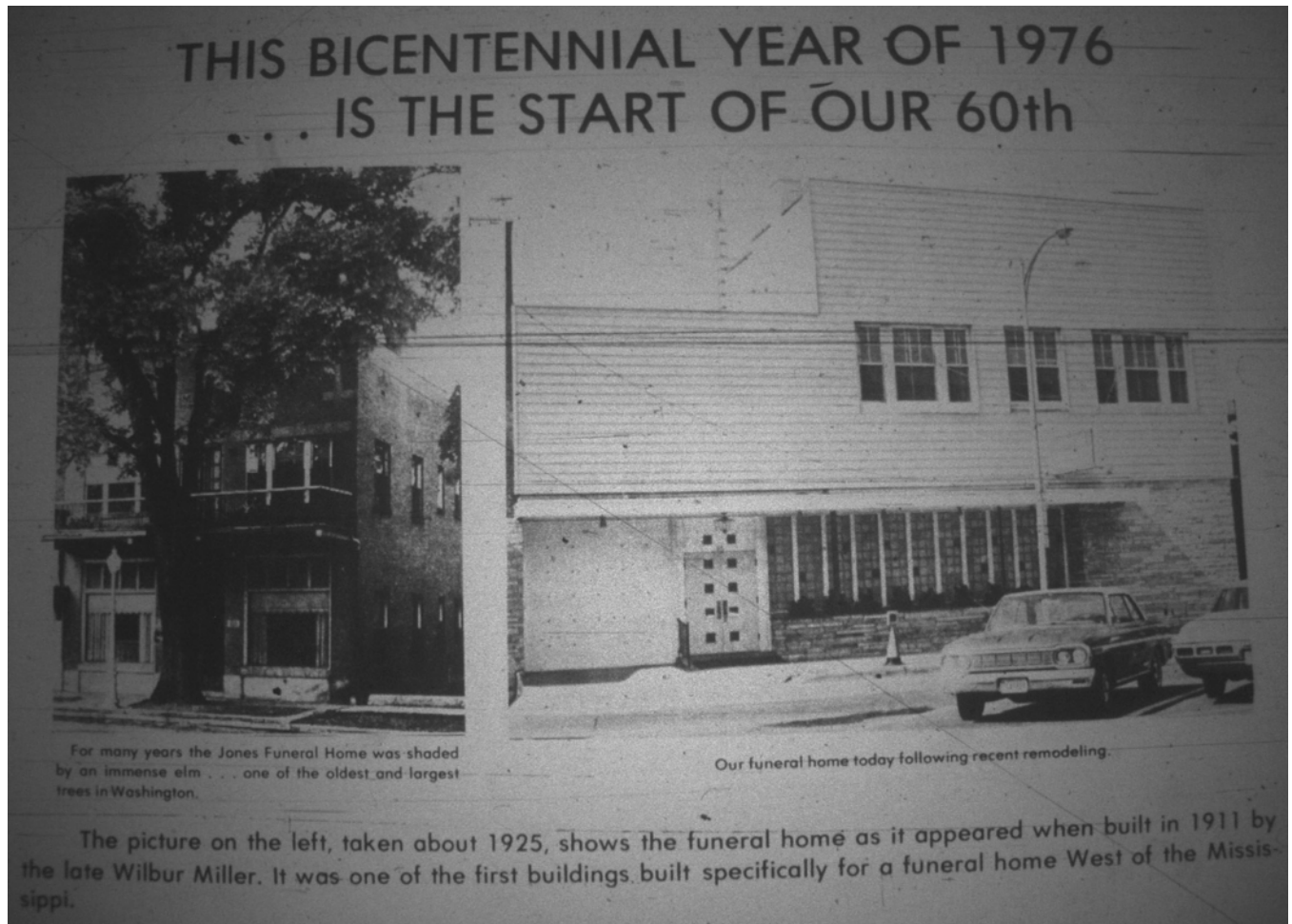
Building in 1971 after 1959 remodel (Wagner 1971).

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Evening Journal, July 1, 1976, p135

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Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00535-001 - South elevation, looking north (McCarley, September 20, 2011)