

Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 92-00536

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 Jones Funeral Home

other names/site number Wilber Miller Undertaking, Downtown Survey Map # DT- 130

2. Location

street & number 116-118 East Main

city or town Washington

vicinity, county Washington

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

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Plat Block 9 Lot E 33 FT (1/2) of Lot 7

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:

— buildings
 — sites
 — structures
 — objects
 — Total

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

Contributing	Noncontributing
—	<u>1</u>
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	<u>1</u>

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)

07 Funeral Home

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

07 Funeral Home

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09F: Commercial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

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 116-118 East Main
City Washington

Site Number 92-00536
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
1911 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation
c.1959, c.1990s

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, commission member Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission date April 9, 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: _____

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<u>Jones Funeral Home</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>116-118 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.

Jones Funeral Home - 116-118 E. Main St - State #92-00536 - Map #25 ~ 1 non-contributing building - 1911, c.1959, 1999 clad - early 20th century commercial

Historic information:

- 1911 - built for Wilbur Miller - undertaking - died in 1917
- 1917-1924 - funeral home of Charles Woodford of Brighton
- 1924-1926 - Jones & McElhinney Undertaking
- 1926-1996 - Jones Funeral Home
- 1996-2010s - Jones-Eden Funeral Home
- 2012 - Jones-Eden Funeral Home

Architectural information:

- Height: 2 story
- Walls: stucco - brick
- Storefront: permastone with vertical windows
- Windows: replaced
- Architectural details: -
- Architect/Builder: -
- Modifications: Historic: c.1959 remodel; Non-historic: 1999 - façade remodel - clad in stucco

7. Narrative Description

The building is a two-story brick structure that was remodeled and clad in stucco in 1999. It has a mock gable attached to the upper portion of the square edifice. The second floor maintains the original fenestration, however the ordinal windows have been replaced with metal framed ones. Permastone remains on the storefront, with vertical windows across to the entry on the west edge.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Jones Funeral Home is counted as non-contributing in the Washington Downtown Historic District. The facade remodel of the building has obscured all historic features and design.

The home of Norman Everson appears to have sat here in the 1880s and 1890s. Sanborn maps show a house here until 1909. On April 20, 1910, Edmund Morrison sold the east half of Lot 7 to Wilber Miller. He had the building designed for his undertaking establishment, with construction lasting nine months beginning in April 1911. It was locally noted as the first building to be designed as a funeral

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home west of the Mississippi River. In February 1912, nearly 2,000 people visited the new building ("The Wilber Miller Undertaking Building," *Evening Journal*, February 17, 1912). In 1917, Wilber Miller died, and Charles Woodford of Brighton bought the business. On January 17, 1919, Emma Miller et al sold the building to Charles S. Woodford et al. In 1924, Charles Woodford died, and Louis Jones took over ownership of the funeral home, with Joseph McElhinney as a financial partner. The 1926 city directory lists Jones & McElhinney Undertaking at 116-118 E. Main. On September 20, 1926, the executors of the McElhinney estate transferred the building to L.A. Jones, and he proceeded as sole owner of the funeral home. It then became the Jones Funeral Home. The Jones Funeral Home is listed here in an 1927 ad and in the 1932, 1935, 1941, 1952, 1956, and 1964 city directories. In 1944, Louis A. Jones' wife Florence and his son Willis joined as business partners. In 1959, they bought the closed Fox Theater at 114 E. Main and converted it for drive-through hearse access. In 1967, the main chapel was remodeled.

April 26, 1913 – *Evening Journal* – 20th anniversary edition - page 25 – Wilber Miller undertaking building – recent improvement – modern funeral service – building designed for business – photo of building – E. Main Street – block off square – began in April 1911 – finished in nine months – two stories – 34 by 90 feet – many details on building and photographs in article

25th anniversary edition, *Evening Journal*, April 3, 1926 - page b – Jones and McElhinney Funeral Home – established by late Wilber Miller – interior planned for efficient funeral home use – latest equipment – Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Jones – also chapel

Evening Journal – Washington County Centennial Celebration – July 1936 - page 111 – Jones Funeral Home – constructed in 1911 by Wilbur Miller – first modern institution of kind in Iowa – photo of building – large elm in front – photos of interior

Washington Evening Journal, 60th Anniversary Edition, February 27, 1953, page 48 – "Washington Has Modern Funeral Homes" – two funeral homes – Jones Funeral Home – built for Wilbur Miller – L.A. Jones worked for Miller then bought business – improvements since buying – shaded by landmark great elm tree - Roger Sherman – Sherman's Funeral Home – in finest of earlier residential building – home of William Scofield – attorney

Bicentennial Edition, *Evening Journal*, July 1, 1976, page 135 – Jones Funeral Home – built in 1911 for Wilbur Miller – photo from around 1925 – building today – photo – bought Fox Theater – converted to indoor parking for cars – also private parking lot in rear of building – Jones to Washington in 1917 – L.A. Jones, Willis Jones, Mrs. Willis Jones

In 1968, Willis Jones bought the Jones Funeral Home from his parents. In 1979, the funeral home was bought by John F. Moenck (who joined the staff in 1977) and Wayne E. Davis (who joined the staff in 1954). In 1989, Davis died, and Moenck continued the business. In 1996, the Jones Funeral Home merged with the Eden Funeral Home, another long-time business in Washington. It then became the Jones-Eden Funeral Home. In 2005, the business was bought by Martin L. Beenblossom (who joined the staff in 1989). In 2008, they expanded into 110 E. Main for a fellowship room (*The Jones-Eden Funeral Home Legacy* - brochure on history for centennial in 2011). They continue to operate at 114-118 E. Main in 2012.

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Name of Property	County
<u>116-118 East Main</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Address	City

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

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.

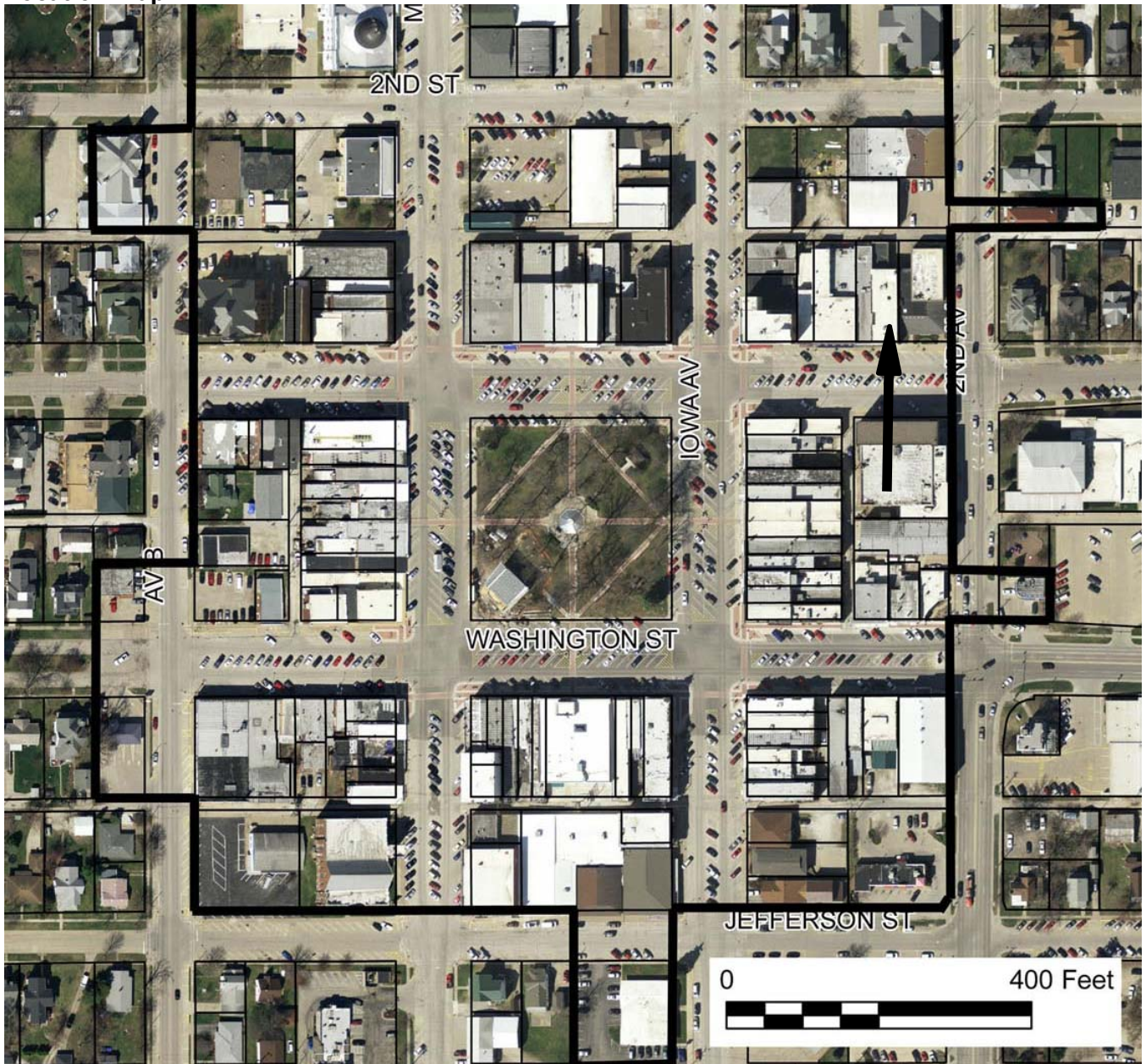
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Name of Property	Washington County
Address	Washington City

Location map



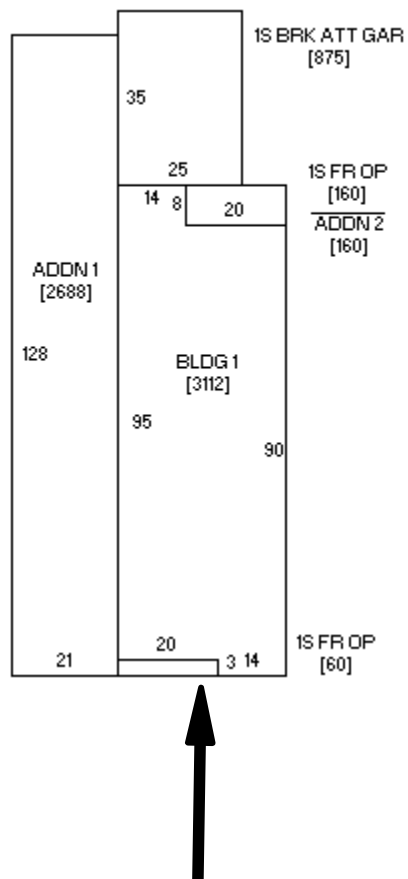
2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary

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Address	Washington

Building plan (from assessor's website)



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Jones Funeral Home

Washington

Name of Property

County

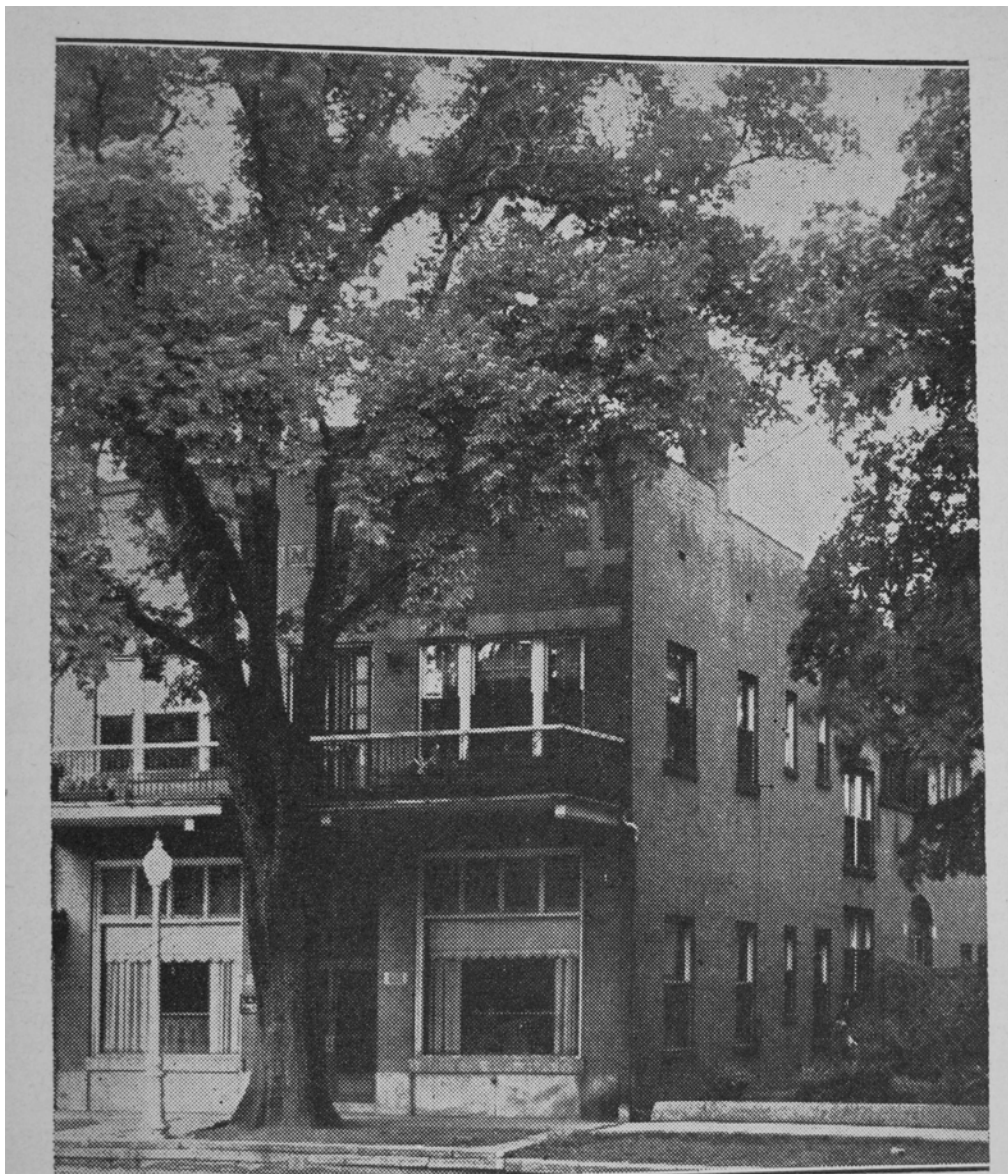
116-118 East Main

Washington

Address

City

Historic images



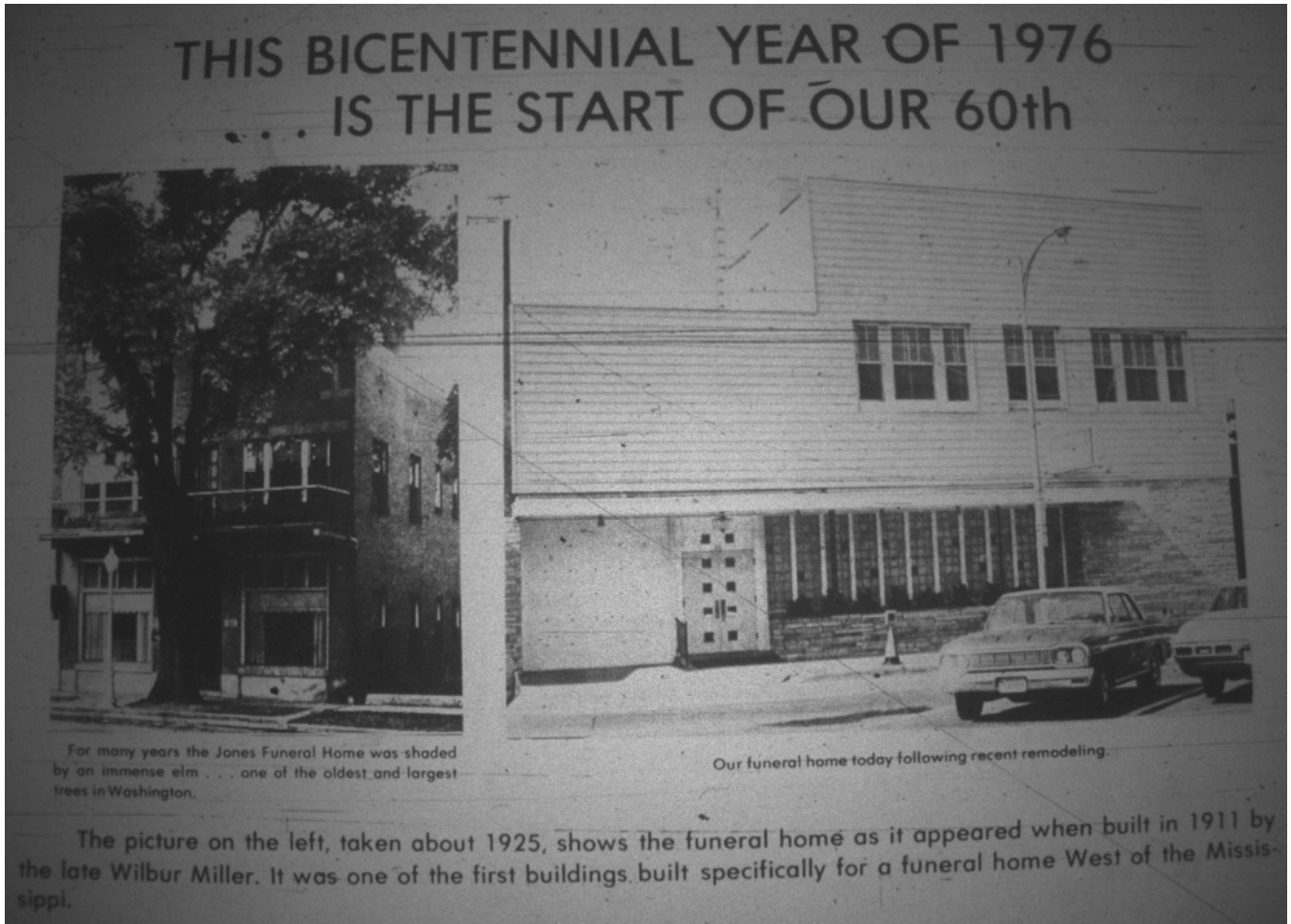
The Jones Funeral Home, shaded by an immense elm one of the oldest and largest trees in Washington

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Evening Journal, July 1, 1976, p135

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Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00536-001 - South and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011).

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Photograph 92-00536-002 - South elevation, looking northeast (McCarley, September 20, 2011).