

# Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 92-00549

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 Washington County Press

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT- 062

## 2. Location

street & number 105 North Marion Avenue

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(s) 7 Lot(s) C (N 22' of S 66' of E 110' lots 7 & 8)

## 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

—      1  
 —      —  
 —      —  
 —      —  
 —      1

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)

02A05: Commerce / newspaper office

02E03: Commerce / specialty - dry goods

02E: Commerce / specialty - shoe store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02E: Specialty Store - consignment

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09F05: Commercial / brick front

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 04: stone

walls (visible material) 03: brick

roof 08A Asphalt

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 105 North Marion Avenue  
City Washington

Site Number 92-00549  
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  
1875-76  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates, including renovation  
1970s

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

”  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Architect

John P. Huskins (Washington, Iowa)

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 Stacy A. Nielsen, volunteer Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport

organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission date May 6, 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>Washington County Press</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>105 North Marion Avenue</u>	<u>Washington</u>
Address	City

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*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.*

**Washington County Press office - 105 N. Marion Avenue** - State #92-00549 - Map #7 ~ 1 non-contributing building (clad) - 1876, c.1970s clad - 1970s commercial

Historic information:

1875-76 - built for H.A. Burrell for Washington County Press newspaper office

1876-1910s - Washington County Press

1910s - Washington Democrat

1926 - Wells-Crail Co. Dry Goods, 1932 - Frazier & Black Printing, 1935 - Putnam and Sons (cloth cutting machines), Al's Shop (tailor and shoe repair), Joe's Shop (shoe and boot repair)

1941 - Putnam Furniture Repair, B & B Alley – duck pin alley, and Putnam and Sons – cloth cutting machines; c.1949-1950s - Leet Meat Market

1964 - Kneen Refrigeration

2012 - The Stone Mill

Architectural information:

Height: 2 story

Walls: brick (clad)

Storefront: entry at far left, large windows

Windows: 1/1 windows - replaced

Architectural details: -

Architect/Builder: -

Modifications: Historic: 1964 - aluminum canopy added to façade; Non-historic: 1970s - building clad in metal siding (after 1971)

## 7. Narrative Description

Built in 1876 by *Washington Press* newspaper editor Howard Burrell, this two-story, brick building was later covered with stucco and is now clad in metal. The first story of the building has been remodeled several times over the years. Windows on the second story had three arch windows with brick or stone keystones. They have been partially filled in and replaced with the current windows. The top of the building had originally a simple brick cornice containing a row of six squares. A metal facade, installed sometime after 1971, now covers the front of the structure. Looking at the front of the building now, to the far left is a modern (but not new) wooden exterior door, leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story. To the right of this door is the recessed first story entry, with a single pane glass, metal framed door. This doorway is set back from the storefront approximately ten feet, with a storefront window to the right. Two matching windows are on the remaining storefront on the east side, creating a fairly large display area. At some point, a large metal canopy was placed above the storefront. Beige, vertical metal siding is present on

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the front the building. The three second story windows have three, horizontal sashes and have wood frames. The sides of the building are not visible. At the rear of the building there is wooden deck above the first floor connecting to the set back second story apartment.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Due to the cladding of the building in metal siding, the Washington County Press building is counted as non-contributing in the Washington Downtown Historic District. If the siding is removed, the building should be re-evaluated for potential contributing status.

The following article ran in the April 13, 1875 edition of the "Washington County Press" -

*"On Monday we bought the lot, 22 x 110, just north of the Corette Block, and propose to build a two-story brick printing house 22 feet front and 80 feet deep. The lower floor, and perhaps the rear part of the e second story, will be used for printing purposed. We propose to make as commodious and "handy" a printing house as there is in Iowa, and intend to put in steam to our job and cylinder presses. Out present quarters are much too small for our business and we hope to be in the new place by the first of September, of not a month earlier.*

*We make this announcement now more particularly for the "benefit" of there up and down the country are owing us. We must have our dues. Can't compel us to keep dunning or put these accounts into the hands of a collector, but please call and settle at an early day, and thus oblige yours truly.*

This article then ran on February 9, 1876 on the "Washington County Press" -

*"We propose to say a few words about the best number known to mathematic, via, No. 1. "That's us."*

*Early in May, 1866, the writer came to this place, bought the Washington County Press from Mr. AR Wickersham, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> of that month issued No. 44, volume 10, of that sheet. The office was in dingy quarter, upstairs, lighted (?) at the east and west ends, festooned with cobwebs and rescued with smoke, beneath a flat roof warranted in summer, to bake a fellow's brains with neatness and dispatch. Only two persons on the force pretended to like the hot office and of course they were the dual "Devils," Johnny Sturges and Frank Lamphere. The type was all old-fashioned and worn; a 7-column Washington hand press was to dishing for good work and the paper was printed on a broken Foster press which, after a various fate, finally went, we believe, into a founder's furnace. There was no job press worth the name in the office. New type was added along, and in a year to two the Rev. Ike Busby, forman, set up a new medium Gordon jobber, and the PRESS received a new dress of long primer, breviary, nonpareil, etc. A year or two later, the office was moved into Everso's Block, and the printers fancied they had been transferred to paradise. With patronage greatly increase, better facilities must be provided. So we put in a Cincinnati Cylinder Press and replaced the jobber with a Gordon of double capacity. Through a new room was rented for the cylinder press, the PRESS was cramped for elbow room, couldn't swing a cat if it wanted to, and hence we bought, last spring, a lot 22x110 feet, handy to the square, and put up the two-story brick structure, the present home of the PRESS.*

*We meant to build a printing-house at once roomy, well lighted, well ventilated and convenient for the making and issue of a first-class country paper worth of a first-class interior town. To supplement and correct our own notions, we visited several good offices elsewhere, and finally decided to build on the federal plan of Hon. John P. Irish's fine office, with modifications and essential improvements availing ourselves of diverse hints taken from the admirable office of Richardson Bros. Davenport-"Democrat". Submitting these perfected or eclectic plans to John P. Huskins, architect, of this city, he built the new PRESS office on paper, and drew the plans and specifications*

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*in his careful, exact manner, and during the progress of building, be kept, "an eye out" in a way to merit our thanks and public acknowledgment. When you are going to build, reader, see John P."*

This article ran in the "Washington County Press" (after completion of the new building – exact date unknown) -

*Do you come in to pay a subscription or what not? Yes, the editor sees you, darts out of his glass house into that magical half-circle, pounces on that Greenbox, and gives the credit with thanks! A passage-way leads fro this anteroom to the press and job room in the rear of the sanctum. The latter is 16x22 feet, having four windows in front and three in the rear, counting the glass door and transom one. This den affords some privacy on busy days, and being made almost literally of glass, affords free passage of light and air. In the press and job room is an elevator to raise and lower forms, and here are all the job type, card and paper cutters, presses, mailing machines, etc. In the walls are recesses guarded by doors, in which rollers and inks are stored. Speaking tubes and copy elevators will ply between the press and composing rooms close to the sanctum rear door, to save editorial mileage, etc.*

*STEAM ENGINE – Our circulation has become so extensive for in this Centennial year we issue a weekly edition larger by several hundred than ever before in the whole history of the PRESS, and besides threading every neighborhood in this county in large numbers the PRESS penetrates 19 states and 6 territories and goes into Canada and to the Gulf, to the Atlantic and Pacific shores, to Alaska and to Germany – that we decided to put in steam. Dan Wilde took the contract to make the works, and he has given us a good job. The Little Giant has turned off two sides of the PRESS, this being the third trial. Last Tuesday p.m. We gave the first matinee, scores of our citizens being present "to see" invisible steam set his Hercules shoulder to a power press. "Hitch your wagon to a star?" Pshaw! That's nothing to hitching steam to a cylinder press. The engine, which is a 4-horse power, gave 20 impressions per minute or 1,200 per hour and ran off the edition in about 90 minutes. On Friday, steam was up beaming and the press running in 15 minutes after the match was scratched. The boiler is an upright, and simple as as a tea-kettle, having no dues threading the water-chamber to get choked up with smoke. Indeed, the concern is so simple, but the most careless printer could hardly blow it up, and no "engineer" will be needed. We believe it will prove an economical investment. A few hat fulls of coal will turn out our edition or run of 10,000 bills. With further trial, we shall have more to say about our Iron Pet. As luck would have it, we found which, when cleaned out, afforded a a good supply of water, and it also serves as a drain for the cellar. Thus are the "good" always rewarded or befriended, by the beneficent peer in this world!*

*The PRESS building is covered with a heavy tin roof (and not with a mortgage), made by J.H. Chilcote, a conscientious man who aimed to do his best, and we believe his work will stand. Andrew Maxwell covered the front fire-wall with artificial stone, the first order he received in this city, and if it withstands the action of frost and rain, it no doubt will , the whole stretch of the fire-walls will probably be topped out in the same way. It is certainly cheap enough and we think it will stand all the tests. E. Walsworth did the inside painting, and when we get through with the joiner, painter and frescoer, we can conscientiously say, or express the confident belief, that there is not in Iowa a sightlier, or more convenient, or more more durable, or better equipped county printing building and the office than those of yours truly, the WASHINGTON COUNTY PRESS.*

*And in closing, we will take this opportunity to acknowledge, with thanks to the generous people of this city and country, the liberal patronage they have bestowed on us, that has made it possible for us to erect this structure to the architecture of the city m and to five ourselves facilities for issuing a paper that our citizens need not be ashamed of. Our theory and effort has always been bent to the making of a strong, full home paper. We cannot rival the New York and Chicago dailies in point of federal news, but we can beat any journal on the planet reporting the news of Washington county, Iowa with its 20,000 or more intelligent, enterprising people. This is a broad field as we at present care to work: and with increased acquaintance, experience and resources, we mean*

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*to make the PRESS year by year a better and better paper, more and more devoted to the welfare and development of this admirable town and county and more and still more worth of a continuance of generous patronage we have over received from our appreciative, liberal public."*

Sanborn maps from 1885 to 1897 show the building as the Press office or as printing. The 1902 Sanborn notes printing on the first story and composing on the second story. The 1910 city directory continues to list the *Washington Press* as located at 105 N. Marion. Printing continued to be the use on the 1909 map. The 1917 Sanborn map shows the *Washington Democrat* as located here - office in front, composing in middle, and print room in back. The *Democrat* later moved to the Bailey Building.

The telephone directory for 1926 lists "Wells – Crail Co. Dry Goods". The 1932 Telephone Directory lists Frazier & Black Printing here. With the 1935 directory lists Putnam and Sons – cloth cutting machines; Al's Shop – shoe repair and tailor; and Joe's Shop – shoe and boot repair at 105 North Marion.

During the year of 1937, between the dates of March 6-18, the property was sold by Anne B. Terry & husband; Mrs. CM Keck & husband; and John Schneider - all representing the Burrell Trust, to Wisie Long. The City Directory for 1941 lists Putnam Furniture Repair, B & B Alley – duck pin alley, and Putnam and Sons – cloth cutting machines. A newspaper ad in 1949 indicates Leet's Meat Market was here, with Theodore Bailey - lawyer - on the second story. The address then shifted from 105 to 107 in the 1950s. The 1954 Telephone Directory listed Leet's Meat Market here, as did the 1956 edition. The Wisie Long estate then sold it to LuLu Frances Ling on October 15, 1957. The 1964 city directory lists Kneen Refrigeration here. The Estate of LuLu Frances Long sold the property to both Edward Thomas and Dorothy M. Gray on October 22, 1968.

## 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.

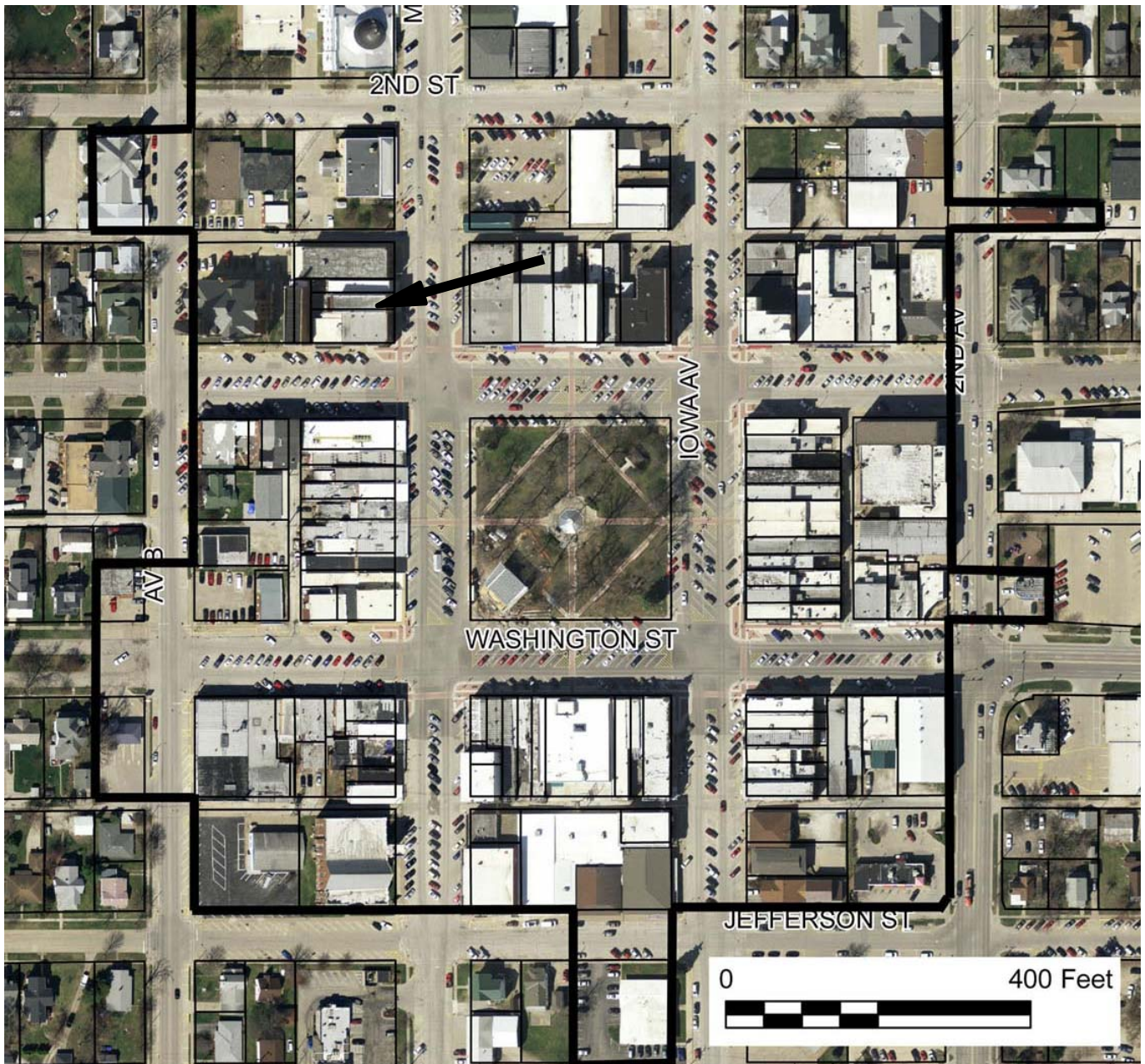
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**Location map**



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

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Washington County Press

Name of Property

Washington

County

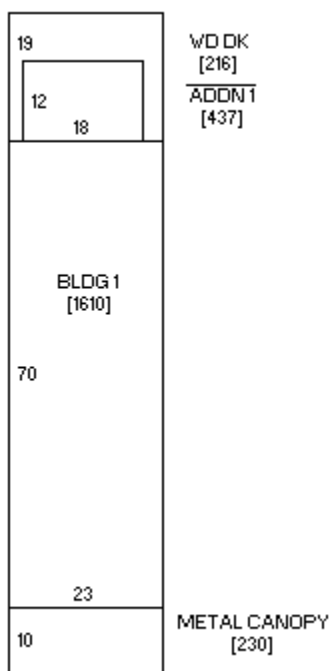
105 North Marion Avenue

Address

Washington

City

## Building plan (from assessor's website)





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Washington County Press

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## Historic images



Building in 1971 (Wagner 1971)

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Washington County Press

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## Digital photographs



Photograph 92-00549-001 - East elevation, looking northwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011).

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Photograph 92-00549-002 - West elevation, looking southeast (McCarley, September 20, 2011).