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

district  □

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)  □

Number of Resources within Property  □

building(s)  □

If Non-Eligible Property

Enter number of:  □

district  □

site  □

structure  □

object  □

If Eligible Property, enter number of:  □

Contributing  □

Noncontributing  □

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)  □

07 Funeral Home  □

07 Funeral Home  □

07 Funeral Home  □

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  □

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)  □

09F: Commercial  □

foundation  □

walls (visible material)  □

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  □

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.
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
c.1959, c.1990s

Other dates, including renovation

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Significant Person

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

1. Map: showing the property’s location in a town/city or township.
2. Site plan: showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. 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

1. Farmstead & District: (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
2. Barn:
   a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
   b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
   c. 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: __________________________
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: -

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
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 the 1927 edition 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.


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.
Jones Funeral Home

Name of Property: Jones Funeral Home
Address: 116-118 East Main
County: Washington
City: Washington

9. Major Bibliographical References


Newspaper advertisements, various years/dates, on microfilm at Washington Public Library:
- Washington Evening Journal
- Washington Gazette
- Washington Press


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Location map

2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary
Jones Funeral Home                          Washington  
Name of Property                             County
116-118 East Main                            Washington  
Address                                      City

Building plan (from assessor’s website)
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

*Evening Journal, August 1939 centennial edition, p85*
Jones Funeral Home

Name of Property: Jones Funeral Home
County: Washington

Address: 116-118 East Main
City: Washington

For many years the Jones Funeral Home was shaded by an immense elm...one of the oldest and largest trees in Washington.

The picture on the left, taken about 1925, shows the funeral home as it appeared when built in 1911 by the late Wilbur Miller. It was one of the first buildings built specifically for a funeral home West of the Mississippi.

Evening Journal, July 1, 1976, p135
Jones Funeral Home                        Washington
Name of Property                        County
116-118 East Main                      Washington
Address                               City

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).