Site Inventory Form

State Inventory No. 92-00165  ☑ 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 Post Office

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-111

2. Location

street & number 115 North Marion Avenue

city or town Washington

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

(If Urban) Subdivision ________ Original Plat ________ Block(s) ________ Lot(s) Lots 1 & 2

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) ☐ district

☐ site ☐ structure

☐ object

If Non-Eligible Property

Enter number of:

building(s) _____

sites _____

structures _____

objects _____

Total _____

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

Contributing buildings _____

sites _____

structures _____

objects _____

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) 04F: Post Office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) 04F: Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) 06A: Beaux Arts

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 04: stone

walls (visible material) 03: brick 04: stone

roof 08B: Asphalt Shingle

other 04C: Limestone decoration

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark “☒” representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ More Research Recommended A Property is associated with significant events.

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ More Research Recommended B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ More Research Recommended C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ More Research Recommended D Property yields significant information in archeology or history.
Criteria Considerations
- 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.
- D A cemetery

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
- 02 Architecture
- 26 politics / Government

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)

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[ ] 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
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 entry.
[ ] 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.

**Washington Post Office - 115 N. Marion Avenue** - State #92-00165 - Map #11 ~ 1 contributing building (A and C) - 1916 - Classical Revival

**Historic information:**
- 1911 - site bought, 1913 - $80,000 authorized, 1916 - new post office completed
- 1916-2010s - post office
- 2012 - Washington Post Office

**Architectural information:**
- Height: 1 story
- Walls: brick
- Storefront: -
- Windows: replaced
- Architectural details: large Ionic columns, frieze with cornice with dentils, brick detail around windows
- Architect/Builder: -
- Modifications: Historic: -; Non-historic: 1980s - windows replaced, handicap ramp on south side

**7. Narrative Description**

This post office was built in 1916 and remains much as it did at the time of its construction, with the exception of modern windows and doors as well as a handicapped accessible entrance added to the south side of the building. Basement exterior is stone, with several window on each side, to provide the basement with natural light. A stairway, centered on the main (east) facade, leads to the main/first story. These stairs have large stone slab on either side, where at one time were topped by glass globe lighting fixtures. Center section of the front is recessed and divided by six iconic columns, that separate it into five bays. The center bay contains the main entrance. The other bays contain large windows that have been partially infilled, and now contain smaller windows. A stone frieze band runs across the entire structure at a level just above the columns. Then is a course of vertical brick with brick diamond detail above the stone band and below the stone cornice with dentils. A low brick parapet wall and hip-roof rise above the cornice. Asphalt shingles cover the hipped roof. The brick and stone details of the facade continue around the east and west sides of the building. The original rear section sits slightly back from the front section on both sides. As noted, a handicap ramp has been added on the south side. The windows have similarly been replaced on both side and the rear elevation. A small gable-roof addition clad in metal with a loading docks extends from the rear (west) elevation.
Washington Post Office

Name of Property: Washington

Address: 115 North Marion Avenue

City: Washington

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Washington Post Office appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the Washington Downtown Historic District.

The property, with this structure, has been owned by the government since its purchase on May 27, 1911. This building was built by the United States Government for the use as the local Washington post office in 1916. In 1911, the postal service received permission to buy a site to construct a building specifically for use as a post office. On March 4, 1913, money was authorized for a new $80,000 federal building on the site. The post office was completed in 1916. In 1926, it was noted that the completion of the building prior to World War I resulted in a better building than would have been possible after the war (April 26, 1913 – *Evening Journal* – page 3; *Evening Journal*, April 3, 1926 - page 39 (G)). The building continues to serve as the Washington Post Office.

9. Major Bibliographical References


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.

Washington Post Office
Name of Property: 115 North Marion Avenue
County: Washington
Address: 115 North Marion Avenue
City: Washington

Location map

2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary
Washington Post Office
Name of Property
115 North Marion Avenue
Address

Washington
County

City

Building/site plan (from assessor's website)
<table>
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**Historic images**

Postcard of building (Patterson collection).
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115 North Marion Avenue, Washington

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Digital photographs

[Image of the Washington Post Office]

Photograph 92-00165-001 - East and north elevations, looking southwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
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City: Washington

Photograph 92-00165-002 - South and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
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Address  
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Photograph 92-00165-003 - East elevation, looking west (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
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Photograph 92-00165-004 - Detail of east elevation, looking west (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
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115 North Marion Avenue

Address:

City:

Photograph 92-00165-005 - West elevation, looking southeast (McCarley, September 20, 2011)