Site Inventory Form
State Inventory No. 92-00519 ☑ New ☐ Supplemental
☐ Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 92-00349
☐ 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 Western Union Telegraph and Express Office
other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-062

2. Location

street & number 206 South Iowa 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) 19 Lot(s) D

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 If Eligible Property, enter number of:
☐ district Enter number of:
☐ site Contributing Noncontributing
☐ structure ☐ sites ☐ sites
☐ object ☐ structures ☐ structures
☐ objects ☐ objects
☐ Total ☐ 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)
10E01: telegraph office 02A: business - accounting office
02E05: hardware store
02E07: photographer

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
09F05: Commercial / brick front foundation 04: stone – 8” limstone
walls (visible material) 03: brick – 8” thick
roof 02: 3-ply compo/wood deck
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.
☒ 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.
☐ 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)

05: Commerce
02: Architecture

Significant Dates

Construction date
1904
☑ check if circa or estimated date

Other dates, including renovation

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder
Architect
unknown
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
organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission
date July 18, 2012
street & number City Hall – 215 E. Washington St
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: ____________
Western Union Telegraph and Express Office - 206 S. Iowa Avenue - State #92-00519 - Map #91 ~ 1
contributing building (A and C) - c.1904 - Queen Anne

Historic information:
1901 - S.W. Brookhart bought older 1 story building (telegraph/express) on W 60' - then bought E 40' in 7-1904
- building then likely constructed
1910 - Western Union Telegraph Office and US Express Office - here roughly from 1904 to at least 1917
1931 Sanborn - wallpaper and paints; 1932 - Dodder Paint Store - also F.L. Broadgate Co. - electrical; 1935 -
McAvoy Beauty Shop
c.1941-c.1960 - Guther Photography
1960s - Novotny's Portrait Studio
2012 - Koller & Co (accountants)

Architectural information:
Height: 2 story
Walls: brick (brown)
Storefront: brick with aluminum windows - recessed entry at left - upper entry at right
Windows: 1/1 wood
Architectural details: oriel window, metal cornice with rosettes and brackets
Architect/BUILDER: -
Modifications: Historic: 1950s/60s - storefront remodel; Non-historic: -

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story buff brick building. The storefront appears remodeled in the 1950s or 1960s, with red brick and aluminum windows. The entry is recessed to the left with the storefront window angled back to the entry. A second story entry is located at the right side of the storefront. The second story has a one-over-one-light double-hung window to the right and a oriel window to the left. The double-hung window has a flared jack brick arch lintel and stone sill. The oriel window has three one-over-one-light double-hung windows. The metal cornice has brackets and rosettes.
Western Union
Name of Property
206 South Iowa Avenue.
Address
Washington
County
City

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Western Union Telegraph and Express Office appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the Washington Downtown Historic District.

An earlier one-story building is shown on the Sanborn maps from 1885 to 1902. Lamphere and Wilson sold the property to B.F. Dixon on September 20, 1900 (west 66' of original lot 4, Block 19 of the Original Plat). S.W. Brookhart purchased it on May 13, 1901. Then on July 22, 1904 S.W. Brookhart purchased the east 40' of lot D (legally described as "Com 66'S of NW corner Lot 3, East40', S22', W40', N22' to POB). Since the earlier one-story building with the express and telegraph office continues to appear on the 1902 map, it is likely that Brookhart then built the current two story building around 1904. Brookhart was a director of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Washington, organized on June 5, 1902 (Burrell 1909, Vol. 1: 374). The Western Union Telegraph Office and the United States Express Office are listed here in the 1910 city directory. The 1917 Sanborn map continues to show the express office as the use of the building.

Brookhart sold the property to T.F. Barker on April 17, 1915. Barker's widow, Clara T., sold property to Charles Barker on July 20, 1928. The 1931 Sanborn map shows Wallpaper and Paint here. 1932 telephone directory lists "Dodder Paint Store" and "FL Broadgate Co (electrical)" at this address. March of 1935 city directory lists "Dodder Paint Store" and 'McAvoy Beauty Salon". Listed at the upstairs apartment, 206 ½, is a Sadee McAoy. In 1936 Frances P. Slosser bought the property from Barker.

Slosser sold the building to Carl H. Guther on April 2, 1941. The 1943 Sanborn map shows photography. Guther Photography is listed in the 1941, 1952 telephone directories and an ad in the Washington Evening Journal May 6, 1952 issue.

Evening Journal, April 3, 1926, 2 – photographs by C.H. Guther - page 35 – The Guther Studio – photographs of Journal – Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Guther


Evening Journal – Centennial Celebration – August 1939 - p 57 – C.H. Guther – photographer


Western Union                                      Washington
Name of Property                                     County
206 South Iowa Avenue.                               Washington
Address                                             City

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.


Western Union
Name of Property: 206 South Iowa Avenue.
Address: 206 South Iowa Avenue.
City: Washington
County: Washington

Location map

2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary
Western Union                                        Washington
Name of Property                                    County

206 South Iowa Avenue.                             Washington
Address                                            City

Building plan (from assessor’s website)
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**Historic images**

![Postcard looking north on S. Iowa from 200 block - building at right (Patterson collection)](image-url)
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Postcard showing building in c.1950s (Patterson collection)
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West side of building in 1971 (Wagner 1971)
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**Digital photographs**

Photograph 92-00519-001 - West elevation, looking east (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
### Iowa Site Inventory Form

**Continuation Sheet**

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*Photograph 92-00519-002 - Detail on west elevation, looking east (McCarley, September 20, 2011)*