Historic name: Sidney S. Smith & Company Garage
Other names/site number: Company D Armory, Downtown Survey Map # DT-038

Location:
Street & number: 222 S. 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), Lot(s)

(If Urban) Subdivision: Original Plat: Block(s): Lot(s): Lot 5 – S 88'

State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]
National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

Classification:
Category of Property (Check only one box):
Building(s) □ District □ Site □ Structure □ Object
Number of Resources within Property
If Non-Eligible Property
If Eligible Property, enter number of:
District Contributing Buildings Contributing Structures Contributing Objects Total
Site Sites Structures Sites Structures Structures Objects Objects Objects Total
Structure Structures Structures Structures Structures Structures Structures Structures Structures Total
Object Objects Objects Objects Objects Objects Objects 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

Function or Use:
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
14D09 Transportation / automotive service or repair
12A02 Defense / armory
08D04 Recreation & Culture / music facility / dance hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
12D09 Transportation / automotive service or repair

Description:
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
09F05 Commercial: Brick Front
Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation
Walls (visible material) 03 Brick
Roof
Other

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

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 archaeology 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)

02 Architecture
05 Commerce

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

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 Mary Patterson, Chair
organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission
date April 2, 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: ___________________________
Sidney S. Smith Garage - 222 S. Marion Avenue - State #92-00574 - Map #110 ~ 1 contributing building (A and C) - 1912 - Classical Revival (simplified)

Historic information:
- 1912 - built by Sidney S. Smith for use as garage on first story and armory for Company D of Iowa National Guard on second story; Iowa National Guard unit on second story from 1912 to 1928
- 1930s-40s - hall on 2nd story; 1916-1922 - Keifer’s Garage; 1926 - Dodge Bros (auto sales); 1932 - Iowa Motor Service
- 1970s-2000s - Ross Motor Company
- 2012 - Ross Auto & Muffler

Architectural information:
- Height: 2 story
- Walls: brick
- Storefront: large opening with wood paneling and small windows
- Windows: 1/1 windows - sets of 3 - replaced
- Architectural details: brick pilasters with stone accents, brick arch detail, inset parapet brick panels, stepped parapet
- Architect/Builder: -
- Modifications: Historic: -; Non-historic: windows replaced

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story brick building sited on the northeast corner of the intersection of S. Marion and W. Jefferson. The first floor is red brick while the second and third stories are tan/yellow brick. The west facing facade is the main facade, and the south facade is also visible, as is the third floor from all four directions. There is a limestone band at the base of the building, another between the first and second stories, and the cornice is capped with limestone.

The west facade faces S. Marion. There are five wide brick pilasters with a limestone base and capital from the second to third stories dividing the main facade into four bays. Between the corner pilasters and the next pilaster there is an arch which extends above the tops of the pilasters and above the third story windows. Inset brick panels are found at the top of each bay between the pilasters. The two large panels have an inset diamond in the center. All of the openings on first floor have wood infill and modern replacement doors and windows. The first floor has the following openings on the main facade,
Sidney S. Smith Garage

The Sidney S. Smith Garage appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the Washington Downtown Historic District.

The 1909 Sanborn map shows two small vacant one story buildings on the site. According to the transfer records, the property was purchased in March 1910 by Wesley Smith. In 1912, this building was constructed at a cost of $30,000 for Sidney S. Smith & Company garage ("Building in 1912," Evening Journal, April 26, 1913, 1). His ad notes that Sidney S. Smith was an automobile dealer with garage and repair shop ("Building in 1912," Evening Journal, April 26, 1913, 10).

The building was also constructed as the Armory for Company D of the Iowa National Guard. They occupied 4,800 square feet on the upper story of the Sidney S. Smith garage, used as drilling space. The company evolved from the Washington Guards, organized on July 31, 1877, which became attached to the Iowa National Guard in 1878. They drilled in the old skating rink (Music Hall) on W. Jefferson and then used the Commercial Club gymnasium. With this construction, they had one of the
Sidney S. Smith Garage                                      Washington
Name of Property  County

222 S. Marion Avenue                                     Washington
Address  City

most complete armories in Iowa ("Company D, Iowa National Guard," *Evening Journal*, April 26, 1913, 17). The company became the 1st Cavalry Squadron of Iowa National Guard in 1915, and they served in World War I. They were reorganized as the war as Troop D, 1st Regiment of Cavalry in Iowa National Guard, and then redesignated in late 1921 as Troop D of 113th Cavalry. In the 1920s, the unit was called to Muscatine during button cutter’s strike riot. They continued to occupy the second story of this building until 1928. They then moved to a barn and building on Elm Grove Road (*Souvenir History of Washington, Iowa* 1989: 69).

On April 15, 1914, Wesley Smith sold the building to his son Sidney Smith. The 1917 Sanborn map shows the building with a garage on the first story with a capacity of 50 cars and as an armory on the second story. Sidney Smith continued to own the building until 1943, with the auto business changing over this period. In 1916, W.J. Keifer moved his garage from Kalona to the armory building, and then moved to 115 S. 2nd Avenue in 1922.


The 1926 telephone directory lists Dodge Bros. Sales and Service at 222 S. Marion. The 1931 Sanborn map identifies a garage on the first story with a capacity of 25 cars, and a hall on the second story. The 1932 directory lists the Iowa Motor Service here, and in the 1935 city directory Little Transfer & Storage is here. Also by 1935, the current occupant, Ross Motor Service, had moved into the garage area, and the Iowa Ballroom occupied the second floor (1935 City Directory). In 1941, the name of the dance hall had changed to The Rendezvous. The building was sold in 1943 to Darrel L. and Avis C. Ross.


The building is currently owned and occupied by Ross Auto and Muffler.
### 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.

### Sidney S. Smith Garage

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**Address**: 222 S. Marion Avenue, Washington

**City**: Washington

#### Location map

2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary
Sidney S. Smith Garage

Washington

222 S. Marion Avenue

Washington

Building plan (from assessor’s website)
Sidney S. Smith Garage  Washington  
Name of Property  County  
222 S. Marion Avenue  Washington  
Address  City  

### Historic images

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Building in 1910s (Patterson collection)
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ROSS MOTOR SERVICE
220 So. Marion Avenue

Ross Motor service has been in this location since 1935. Bob Ross joined his father Darrell Ross in 1946 and is now owner. Bill Deaton became an associate in 1970. They specialize in wheel alignment, tune-ups and general automotive repair.

*Evening Journal, July 1, 1976, p59*
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Address

City

Digital photographs

Photograph 92-00574-001 - West and south elevations, looking northeast (McCarley, September 20, 2011)
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**Address**

**City**

[Photograph 92-00574-002 - West elevation, looking east (McCarley, September 20, 2011)]
Sidney S. Smith Garage                         Washington  
Name of Property                                County  
222 S. Marion Avenue                             Washington  
Address                                          City  

Photograph 92-00574-003 - South and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, September 20, 2011)