1. Name of Property

historic name Commercial Building

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT-152

2. Location

street & number 121 W. Washington Street
city or town Washington

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

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Plat Block(s) Lot(s) Lot 4 – E 24’ of N ½ (66’)

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

<table>
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<th>Category of Property (Check only one box)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>If Eligible Property, enter number of:</td>
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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)

02E09 Commerce / furniture 07C02 undertaking 02E09 Commerce / furniture

02E05 Commerce / hardware

02E11 Commerce / grocery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09F05 Commercial: Brick Front foundation

05D Queen Anne walls (visible material) 03: Brick

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.

☒ 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)

05: Commerce

02: Architecture

Significant Person

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 13, 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: ___________________________
Commercial Building - 121 W. Washington - State #92-00606 - Map #106 ~ 1 contributing building (A and C) - c.1857, c.1892 façade - Queen Anne

Historic information:
1850s-1870s - unknown
1880s-1890s - furniture store, c.1889-1893 - The Bazaar?
1900s - furniture/undertaking, 1910 - McNamara & Son Furniture; 1917 - grocery
1926 - Velvet Ice Cream Parlor; 1931 - Wells-Crail Co Dry Goods; 1934 - Thomassen’s Food Market
established - here in 1930s - moved
c.1940-1950s - Western Auto Associates
1964 - The Sport Shop
2012 - Jazz It Up (gifts and home décor)

Architectural information:
Height: 2 story
Walls: brick
Storefront: store entry at left, upper entry at right
Windows: 1/1 wood
Architectural details: decorative metal cornice, brickwork
Architect/Builder: -

7. Narrative Description

In the 1890s, a new facade covered five storefronts, from 117 to 125 W. Washington Street. Tan brick covers all five facades, and they share a continuous metal cornice and the same window design and details, with somewhat different storefronts. All five of the addresses sharing this common c.1892 facade appear on the 1868 Bird's Eye View drawing of Washington, and they appear to be three brick buildings, with three rooflines. The east building is 117-119 W. Washington, the middle single building is 121 W. Washington, and the west building is 123-125 W. Washington. Thus, their history has been documented on three separate Iowa Site Inventory forms. No information has been identified specifically on the remodeling of these buildings, but the style and detail is consistent with downtown buildings constructed in the 1891-1892 period. The remodeling was completed after the construction of the L. Smouse Block at 101-103 W. Washington in 1891 and prior to 1913, per historic photographs.

The single building in the middle currently has an address of 121 W. Washington. The storefront is aluminum and glass installed, with the east end angled back to the recessed wood and glass entry door
at the left (east). There is a concrete covered bulkhead below the two display windows. At the far right side of the facade is a secondary entry providing access to the second story of this building. The transom area of the storefront is covered with wood and a fabric awning. The second story has three one-over-one-light double-hung windows with segmental arch brick lintels and stone sills. There is no decorative detail on the wood arch of the window sash, as seen on the windows on the building sections to the left and right. The decorative metal cornice that continues across 117-119 and 123-125 crowns the building at 121 as well. It has a central rectangle over each storefront with a triangular pediment above the rectangle and ornamented pilasters/brackets on each side of the pediment and also at the division between the storefronts. There is a ball atop each pilaster, a fan design within the peak of the pediment, and an ornament on the peak. There are regularly spaced smaller brackets on the cornice as well.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This building appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the Washington Downtown Historic District.

All five of the storefronts sharing this common facade appear on the 1868 Bird's Eye View drawing of Washington, and they appear to be three brick buildings, with three separate roofs. Transfer records in Washington before 1866 do not indicate the seller or date of sale, nor do they provide a detailed property description. This property likely belonged to Wm. Wilson, purchased some time before 1866.

Early identified occupants of this building were furniture stores, sometimes combined with undertaking as was a common practice at the time. The 1885 and 1897 Sanborn maps shows a furniture store here. On May 8, 1889, the Gazette noted that The Bazaar was located between J. Harwood (known at 119) and the Horse Shoe Store. On January 6, 1893, the Gazette reported that Sodestrom & Johnston were closing The Bazaar. Fleming Furniture operated on the south side in 1895 (Washington Press). McNamara & Son Furniture are listed here in the 1910 city directory, then moved to 212 S. Marion by 1913 and to 113-115 W. Washington by 1918.

Later occupants include: Velvet Ice Cream Parlor (1926 telephone directory), Wells Crail Company selling dry goods (1931 Washington Journal), Thomassen's Food Market (1935 city directory), Western Auto Store (1941 until at least 1956, according to various directories), Sportshop (1964 city directory), and K'Lyn Children's Clothing (1971 photo).

The current occupant is Jazz It Up gifts and home décor.
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.


<table>
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**Address**

**City**

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**Location map**

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

**Name of Property**  
121 W. Washington Street

**County**  
Washington

**City**

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

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Commercial Building | Washington
--- | ---
Name of Property | County
121 W. Washington Street | Washington
Address | City

Historic images

Looking through Central Park at south side of square, after 1891 construction of L. Smouse block at left (101-103) but before remodel of 117-119, 121, and 123-125 at right (west) end (Patterson collection)
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Building in 1910s (Patterson collection)
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Building in 1920s (Patterson collection)
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Building in late 1930s (Patterson collection)
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Collage of photos of building in 1971 (Wagner 1971)
Commercial Building
Name of Property: 121 W. Washington Street
County: Washington
City: Washington

Digital photographs

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Photograph 92-00606-002 - North elevation of 121 W. Washington, looking south (McCarley, September 20, 2011)