1. Name of Property

historic name  Martin's Modern Cleaners

other names/site number  Downtown Survey Map # DT-112b

2. Location

street & number  211 N. Iowa Avenue

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) north part of Lot 8

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:

- buildings
- sites
- structures
- objects
- Total

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

- 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)

02A08 Commerce / laundry  99 - demolished - vacant lot

7. Description

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

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.

- 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)


Significant Dates

Construction date

1942

☑ check if circa or estimated date

Other dates, including renovation


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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<th>Zone</th>
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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 March 30, 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. This building was demolished prior to the start of the project.

7. Narrative Description

Building was demolished in 2008. It was a one-story concrete block structure, facing Iowa Ave to the east. The building appears built in 1942 for Martin's Modern Cleaners, and it was noted in 1953 as the only drive-thru cleaners in Washington. The entry was centered on the facade (east) with a large window to either side, later boarded over. The 1943 Sanborn map shows a concrete floor within a concrete block building, and a one-story concrete block section extended from the rear. An addition was later built on the west/south, connecting it to the gas station building on the south portion of the lot.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This building was demolished in 2008. Thus, it is not counted in the Washington Downtown Historic District. The 1931 Sanborn map shows a small gas station diagonal to the corner on the south portion of the lot, and the same gas station is shown on the 1943 Sanborn map. The 1943 map also shows a "cleaning plant" at the rear/north of the lot at 211 N. Iowa. Martin's Modern Cleaners was listed here in 1952, 1956, and 1964. They are noted to have moved to a completely modern, drive-in establishment in 1942. In 1953, they were the only drive-in cleaners in Washington. Additional information includes:


By 1969, it is occupied by Watson Cleaners (City Directory). Watson Cleaners had been located at 217 W. Washington in 1964.

A new gas station was built on the south part of Lot 3 in the 1950s. After the gas station closed, the cleaners expanded into the gas station building as well, with a connecting addition.

9. Major Bibliographical References


Newspaper advertisements, various years/dates, on microfilm at Washington Public Library:

Washington Evening Journal
Washington Gazette
Washington Press

Martin's Modern Cleaners

211 N. Iowa Avenue

Location map

2009 aerial photograph (Washington County) – line indicates survey/research area boundary
Martin's Modern Cleaners

211 N. Iowa Avenue

Building plan (from assessor's website)
<table>
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<td>211 N. Iowa Avenue</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historic images**

none identified

**Digital photograph**

Photograph 92-00598-001 - South and east elevations, looking northwest (Patterson, May 20, 2006)