

# Site Inventory Form

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

State Inventory No. 92-00576

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 Col. William B. and Cora Bell Residence

other names/site number Downtown Survey Map # DT- 113

## 2. Location

street & number 102 East Second St.

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) 2 Lot(s) 5 - S 92'

## 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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

### Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property

Enter number of:

— buildings  
 — sites  
 — structures  
 — objects  
 — Total

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <u>1</u>     | —               |
| —            | —               |
| —            | —               |
| —            | —               |
| <u>1</u>     | —               |

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)

01A01 Residence

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

01B01 Duplex

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

05D Late Victorian - Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 04 Stone

walls (visible material) 05E Aluminum

roof 08A Asphalt shingle

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.
- B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- D Property yields significant information in archeology or history.

County Washington Address 102 East Second Street  
City Washington

Site Number 92-00576  
District Number 92-00349

**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  
1886  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)**

| 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 Michael Kramme, commission member Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport  
organization Washington Historic Preservation Commission date April 9, 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**

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- 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**

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
  - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
  - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
  - 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Col. William B. and Cora Bell Residence | Washington |
| Name of Property                        | County     |
| 102 East Second St.                     | Washington |
| Address                                 | City       |

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*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.*

**William B. and Nira Bell House - 102 E. Second St** - State #92-00576 - Map #33 ~ 1 contributing building (A) (house) - c.1886 (house) - Queen Anne

Historic information:

- c.1886 - two-story house built for Col. William B. and Nira Bell (retired)
- 1886-1911 - Col. William B. and Nira Bell - also children - 1910: daughter Cora Wilson and her husband William W. Wilson (ice and coal dealer)
- 1911-1950s - William W. and Cora Wilson (Wilson Coal and Ice Co - N. Marion), also sister Nellie Wilson (renter)
- 1960-2002 - owned by Keith and Evelyn Sanders - lived here in 1964 - divided into duplex
- 2012 - duplex

Architectural information:

- Height: house - 2 story
- Walls: house - frame - asbestos shingles
- Storefront: -
- Windows: 1/1 windows
- Architectural details: cross gable form, bay window
- Architect/Builder: -
- Modifications: -

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story frame Queen Anne house, which faces 2nd St to the south. The overall form of the house is a hip-roof central section with projecting gable-roof sections to each side. The house is clad in some type of wood composite panels/shingles, and it sits on a stone foundation covered in stucco. The roof has asphalt shingles. The main entry is in the recessed portion of the facade, with a small gable-roof entry porch with later metal columns. A double-hung window is located above the window. The windows throughout the house appear to retain one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes. The gable-roof section on the facade has three double-hung windows on the first story with wood paneling above and below the window similar to the detail that would be on a bay window. The second story has two double-hung windows. The east side has no openings on the side of the main hip-roof section (interior stairs), and the gable-roof section has a double-hung window on each story as well as on the south side of the projected section. The enclosed side porch addition wraps around the rear corner, and it has smaller double-hung windows. The west side has a double-hung window on the side of the front gable-roof section, and the first story window has a similar decorative wood panel above and below the window as the south/front. The gable-roof west section has a bay window on the first story

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with similar wood panels above and below the windows. The windows on this bay window appear to have been replaced. The hip-roof of the bay window has dentils and brackets under the eaves. The second story has three double-hung windows grouped together. The rear third of the west side has a rear/side porch with later metal columns. A side entry and smaller/later double-hung windows are found on the first story. A double-hung window is centered on the second story. The rear (north) is primarily the rear gable-roof section of the house. The openings on the first story have been modified, with only a small window remaining and a rear entry on the north side of the enclosed porch addition on the east side. The second story has two double-hung windows.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The William B. and Cora Bell House appears to contribute historically to the Washington Downtown Historic District. It falls within the boundary as it is between other contributing buildings, and William Bell and William W. Wilson are both prominently associated with the business history of Washington.

This house appears built between 1885 and 1892 by William B. and Nira Bell. The 1885 Sanborn map shows a one-story square dwelling. This house was then apparently demolished with the current two-story Queen Anne house constructed, and this current house is shown on the 1892 Sanborn map. At this time, 2nd St was Madison. The assessor lists a construction date of 1886, so this date has been used as it falls in this period. This property transferred to William B. Bell in 1870, and he appears to have continued to own it in the 1890s. His 1887 biography notes that Col. William B. Bell is one of the best known citizens of the county. He was born in 1832 in Ohio and moved to Muscatine, Iowa, in 1854. He moved to Washington in September 1856, and he started a business on the west side of the square - Childs & Bell - wagon and carriage manufacturing and blacksmithing. The partnership was dissolved in 1861, and he built part of the Bell Carriage Factory, which was located on the southeast corner of this intersection (with the house on the northeast corner). He served during the entire length of the Civil War from 1861 to 1865, advancing from captain to colonel. He then returned to the carriage manufacturing business. He continued this business until he retired from it in 1882. He served as postmaster for Washington from 1878 to 1886. He married Nira McDonald and they had four children: Emma (married William A. Wilson, died 1882), George W. (Kansas City), Harry (Washington), and Cora (Washington). Harry served as deputy postmaster for several years (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington County 1887*: 263-265). William then served in the state legislature from 1893 to 1897.

The 1880 census lists William B. (postmaster, 47), with wife Nira C (47), and children Emma (23), George W. (22), Harry (19), and Cora (8) as living on Madison (now 2nd St). H. Bell continued the carriage factory, which is still at the southeast corner of the intersection on the 1892, 1897, 1902, and 1909 Sanborn maps. The 1894 city directory lists W.B. Bell at 100 E. Madison (now 102 E. 2nd St). The 1903 city directory then lists W.B. (retired) and Nira C. Bell at 102 E. 2nd Street. In 1909, Frank Bell was running the carriage factory. The 1900 census lists William Bell (67, retired) with wife Nira C. (70), and Cora (28). Col. Bell was an initial director of the Washington County Historical Society when

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| Address  | City              |

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it formed in June 1905 (Burrell 1909, Vol. 1: 364). The 1910 census lists William Bell (78, widow) as living on 2nd Street with daughter Cora Wilson (38) and her husband William W. (43, proprietor of coal and ice company). The 1910 city directory lists William B. Bell as well as William W. Wilson here, and Wilson worked for Anderson & Wilson coal and ice at 331 N. Marion. This business was established in 1908, and he later bought out Anderson (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, *Evening Journal*, April 3, 1926, 54). William B. Bell died on November 10, 1911.

After William Bell died, William W. and Cora Wilson continued to live in this house. The 1917 county directory lists William W. Wilson, coal and ice dealer, at 102 E. 2nd Street with wife Cora. The 1920 census lists the family at 102 E. 2nd Street: Will W. Wilson (53, coal and ice dealer), Cora (48), brother James (42, assistant at coal and ice company), and sister Nellie (38, chief operator at telephone company). The 1930 census lists William as owning and living at 102 E. 2nd St, which is valued at \$8,000. He is listed as retired at age 63, living here with wife Cora (58), and sister Nellie C. Wilson (51), who is noted as paying \$20 per month in rent. Wilson Coal and Ice continued to operate on N. Marion, and they also sold refrigerators by 1936 (*Evening Journal* – Washington County Centennial Celebration – July 1936 - page 97). The 1940 directory lists W.W. Wilson (73) and wife Cora (68) still at 102 W. 2nd Street, and the house is now valued at \$5,000. Nellie C. Wilson (61, single) is listed with her own household (apartment?) at 102 W. 2nd Street, paying \$15 in rent per month. The 1941 city directory indicates that Wilson was retired, and he lived here with wife Cora. Wilson Coal Company continued to operate on N. Marion in 1953 (*Washington Evening Journal*, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, February 27, 1953, 49). William W. Wilson died in January 1955, and Cora died in July 1957.

Her estate transferred the property to Dora E. Bolar on May 15, 1958. She sold the north 40 feet of the lot off separately, and the Farm Bureau office was built here around 1959. The south portion of the lot with the house was then sold to Keith and Evelyn Sanders on November 22, 1960. The 1964 city directory lists K.W. Sanders at 102 E. 2nd Street. The house was divided into a duplex. In 1965, they acquired the house to the east, which had been converted to the Sunny Haven Nursing Home at 108 E. 2nd Street. They ran this nursing home until 1974, and they sold that property. Sanders continued to own this house until their deaths in 2001 and 2002. It is currently a duplex.

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Col. William B. and Cora Bell Residence

Washington

Name of Property

County

102 East Second St.

Washington

Address

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

City/Telephone Directories, Washington. Various publishers, various dates. Available at the Washington Public Library.

Deed Records, Transfer Books, Auditor's Office, Washington County Courthouse, Washington, Iowa.

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

*Washington Evening Journal*

*Washington Gazette*

*Washington Press*

Sanborn Map Company. "Washington, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1909, 1917, 1931, 1943.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form**  
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Site Number 92-00576  
Related District Number 92-00349

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**Location map**



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

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

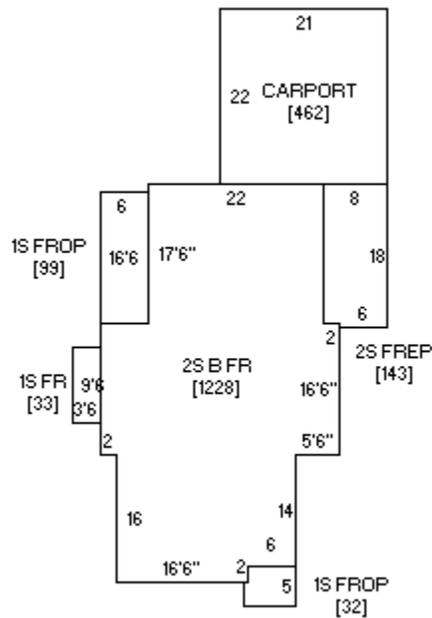
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### Building plan (from assessor's website)



### Historic images

none identified

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**Digital photographs**



Photograph 92-00576-001 - South and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, November 15, 2011)

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Col. William B. and Cora Bell Residence

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Photograph 92-00576-002 - West elevation, looking east (McCarley, November 15, 2011)

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Photograph 92-00576-003 - North and west elevations, looking southeast (McCarley, November 15, 2011)