

**Site Inventory Form**  
**State Historical Society of Iowa**  
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 09-00792

New  Supplemental

Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 09-00621

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 Donovan, Jeremiah and Nora, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW

city or town Waverly

vicinity, county Bremer

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

(If Urban) Subdivision Knott's Addition

Block(s) 56

Lot(s) 5

**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		If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
Enter number of:		Contributing	Noncontributing
—	buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
—	sites	—	— sites
—	structures	—	— structures
—	objects	—	— objects
—	Total	<u>1</u>	— 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

Waverly's NW & SE Neighborhoods Historical & Architectural Survey

09-028

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

01A Single Dwelling

01A Single Dwelling

01C05 Garage

01C05 Garage

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09A05 Pyramidal or Hipped Roof, 1½-story

foundation 10A Concrete/Block

walls (visible material) 05E Metal/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)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | A | Property is associated with significant events.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | B | Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | C | Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended | D | Property yields significant information in archaeology or history. |

County Bremer  
City Waverly

Address 620 5<sup>th</sup> NW

Site Number 09-00792  
District Number 09-00621

**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

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1908  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 \_\_\_\_\_

Blain, George (attributed)

**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 Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc.  
organization for City of Waverly, Historic Preservation Commission  
street & number N3834 Deep Lake Road  
city or town Sarona state WI date 9/2012  
telephone 715/469-3300 zip code 54870

**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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Donovan, Jeremiah and Nora, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
620 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW	Waverly
Address	City

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## 7. Description

This single-family house is estimated to have been built in 1908 according to Bremer County Assessor records. The house form and style are consistent with houses in Waverly built between 1900 and World War I. A house at this address appears in the 1913 city directory listings as occupied by Jeremiah and Nora Donovan. Property transfer records show it was held by Waverly contractor and cement block manufacturer, George Blain from 1902 until 1909 with the Donovans acquiring it in 1912. The Donovans were the first long-term owners for the property. A construction date of ca. 1908 is consistent for this house.

This frame house is an example of a vernacular Pyramidal or Hipped Roof, 1½-story house form. The house has an early rock-faced style concrete block foundation with wide clapboard-style aluminum siding. The block was likely manufactured by the George Blain Cement Block Co. located a short distance to the northeast. A moderate-pitched hipped roof has a flattened peak and gable wall dormers with returning cornices on the front, east and west facades; the eaves have a moderate width. The hipped roof front porch spans the full front with siding installed over the balustrade and skirting. Turned posts extend from the railing to the roof with the entrance centered between matching posts. Fenestration throughout the house includes widely spaced single and paired 1/1 double-hung windows.

A detached frame 1-story garage is located to the rear and opens onto 6<sup>th</sup> St NW. It has a corrugated metal, shed-roofed carport attached on the south side and a small overhead door in the front-gable end. It has a mix of aluminum siding and original beveled wood siding. The Assessor estimates the date for the garage as 1908, the same as the house.

Alterations: aluminum siding (undated); garage changes (undated).

## 8. Significance

The Donovan House at 620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW was built in ca. 1908 and is an example of a vernacular Pyramidal or Hipped Roof, 1½-story house form the post-1900 years. It is also an example of the work of Waverly contractor and cement block manufacturer, George Blain. The house qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the historic district under Criterion C and the garage is considered noncontributing.

Property transfer records show this parcel was held by Waverly contractor and cement block manufacturer, George Blain, from 1902 until 1909. In February 1912, Jeremiah and Nora Donovan acquired the lot and it is believed that Blain had constructed a house on the site by that time. A house at this address appears in the 1913 city directory listings as occupied by the Donovans who became long-term owners for the property. It is believed that the Donovans may have been retired when they purchased the house. Daughters Margaret, a teacher, and Mae resided at home in 1913. The following year, Jeremiah died but Nora and her daughters appear to have continued to reside here. In 1927, Nora transferred the property to Mae and a third daughter, Mabel. Nora passed away in 1933 and the daughters continued to reside here into at least the 1950s.

## 9. Sources

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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*Atlas of Bremer County, Iowa.* Waverly, Iowa: Waverly Publishing Company, 1917.

*Atlases of Bremer County.* microfilm copies of atlases for 1875, 1894 and 1927, Waverly Public Library.

Bremer County History Book Committee. *Bremer County History, 1985.* Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing, 1985.

Grawe, Joseph F. *History of Bremer County, Iowa, Volumes I and II.* Chicago: S.J. Clarke Company, 1914.

*History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa.* Springfield, Illinois: Union Publishing, 1883.

Sanborn Company Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1905, 1915, 1927, and 1927 updated to 1943.

Vertical file collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly building histories, miscellaneous bound volumes in reference collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly city directories, 1899 and 1913.

Waverly Heritage Days historical walking tour brochures for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Waverly Historic Photo Collection, Waverly Public Library.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

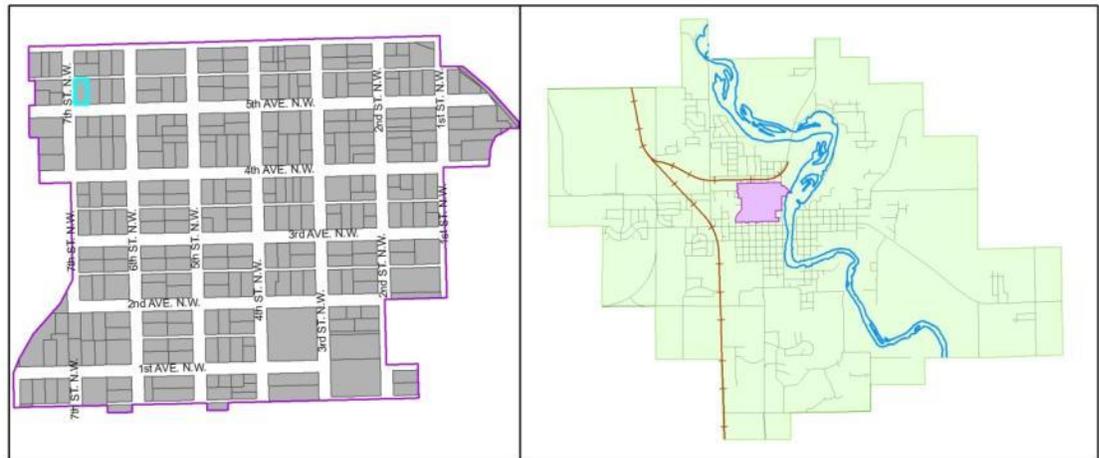
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Donovan, Jeremiah and Nora, House	Bremer
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Site Map: Bremer County GIS Department, 12/2011.

**620 5th Ave NW  
PIN 05-34-485-006**



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Donovan, Jeremiah and Nora, House

Bremer

Name of Property

County

620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW

Waverly

Address

City

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**Photographs:** 620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, looking north and northwest, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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Donovan, Jeremiah and Nora, House

Bremer

Name of Property

County

620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW

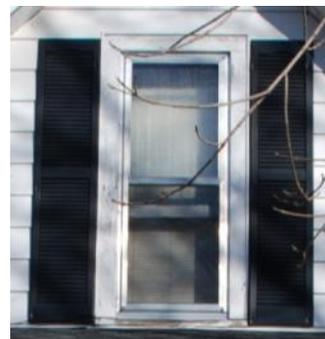
Waverly

Address

City

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**Photographs:** 620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, looking northeast towards the detached garage as well as roof, window, and foundation details, Marlys Svendsen, IHSEMD, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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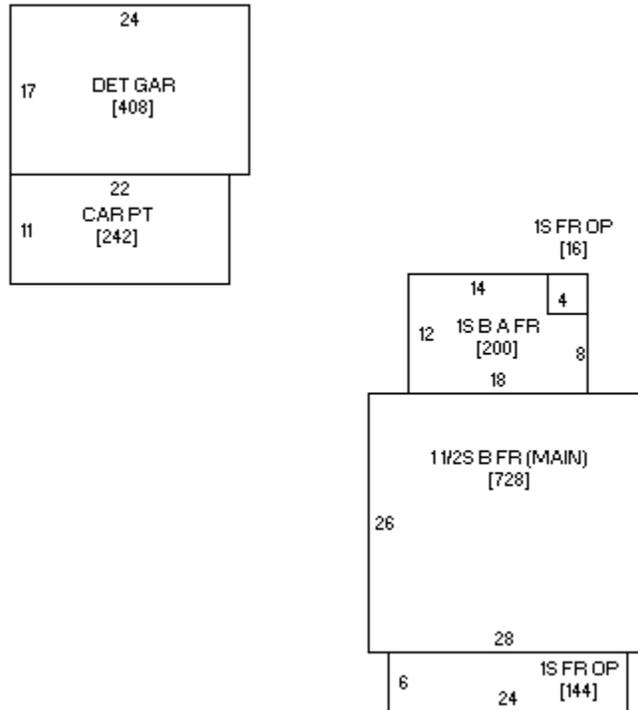
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Additional Information:

Floor plan, 620 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Bremer County Assessor website; available at <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/PhotoEngine/Sketch.aspx?appid=330&keyvalue=0534485006&index=0&size=0>; accessed 10/22/2012



Sketch by [www.camavision.com](http://www.camavision.com)