

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

**State Inventory No. 09-00810**  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 Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House

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

**2. Location**

street & number 516 5<sup>th</sup> Street 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 Harmon & LeValley Add Block(s) 43 Lot(s) South Fr 1/2 Lots 3&4 & alley to south

**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		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	— buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	— sites	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	— structures	—	— structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	— objects	—	— objects
	— Total	<u>1</u>	<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 Waverly's NW & SE Neighborhoods Historical & Architectural Survey Historical Architectural Data Base Number 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 Hipped Roof

foundation 10A Concrete/Block

09A10 1 1/2 Story

walls (visible material) 15B Synthetics/Vinyl

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 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW

Site Number 09-00810  
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*  
1912  check if circa or estimated date  
*Other dates, including renovation*  
1930 - Garage

**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 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 9/2013  
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

Page 1

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Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
516 5 <sup>th</sup> St NW	Waverly
Address	City

---

## 7. Description

This single-family house is estimated to have been built in 1900 according to Bremer County Assessor records. The house form and style are consistent with houses in Waverly built during the World War I period. In this case, the house has a concrete block foundation placing its construction after ca. 1905. A house at this address appears in the 1913 city directory listings as occupied by J.M. Bessmer. Property transfer records show Bessmer and his wife Lena taking ownership in December 1911 and holding the property until 1913. A construction date of ca. 1912 appears to be more accurate with public records.

This 1-story frame house is an example of a vernacular Pyramidal or Hipped Roof, 1-story house form that was popular in Iowa from the 1890s to the 1910s. The house has a rock-faced concrete block foundation with wide clapboard-style vinyl siding. A moderate-pitched hipped roof has a flattened peak with broad gable wall dormers on the north and south facades. The dormers have returning cornices and the main roof has moderate width eaves. An enclosed low-pitched hipped roof porch is centered on the front with a pediment over the centered entrance. The porch has a newer concrete block foundation with the enclosed wall sections and tympanum clad in matching vinyl siding. The upper walls are filled with 1/1 storm windows and the porch entrance is centered on the front. Fenestration throughout the house includes widely spaced single 1/1 double-hung windows of various sizes with a horizontal single light sash on the north wall. The only feature window is the cottage window to the right of the off-set front door to the main house. The horizontal sash in this window appears to have a single light.

A detached frame 1-story garage is located south of the main house. It has a moderate-pitched hipped roof, matching vinyl siding, and a replacement overhead door opening onto 5<sup>th</sup> St NW. According to Assessor records, the garage was built in 1930.

Alterations: vinyl siding (undated); porch enclosure and concrete block installation (undated).

## 8. Significance

The Bessmer House at 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW was built in ca. 1912 is an example of vernacular Pyramidal or Hipped Roof, 1-story house form that was popular in Iowa from the 1890s to the 1910s and frequently built as an infill dwelling form in the Harmon and LeValley Addition after 1910. This house features common elements of variations of this form – the flattened peak and the broad gabled wall dormers. The house qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the historic district under Criteria A and C.

Property transfer records show J.M. Bessmer and his wife Lena taking ownership of this parcel in December 1911 and holding the property until 1913. By the time the 1913 city directory was published the couple resided here and J.M. was working as a mason. He may have been involved in the house's construction. In April 1913 the Bessmers transferred the house to Caroline Dittmer and her husband Fred. The couple likely resided here (though they are not listed in telephone directories of the 1920s) until they sold the property in June 1928 to Lina Oberheu. She held the property until her death in 1948

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

Site Number 09-00810  
Related District Number 09-00621

Page 2

---

Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House	Bremer
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---

when the property was transferred to her heirs who included Meta Oberheu Brandt and her husband Henry. Soon after acquiring this property, Meta and Henry built a new house at 509 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW where they resided into their retirement years in the 1960s. They appear to have held the house at 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW as a rental dwelling until 1978 when Meta, now a widow, sold it to Murel and Josephine Dorman.

### 9. Sources

*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.

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**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 09-00810  
Related District Number 09-00621

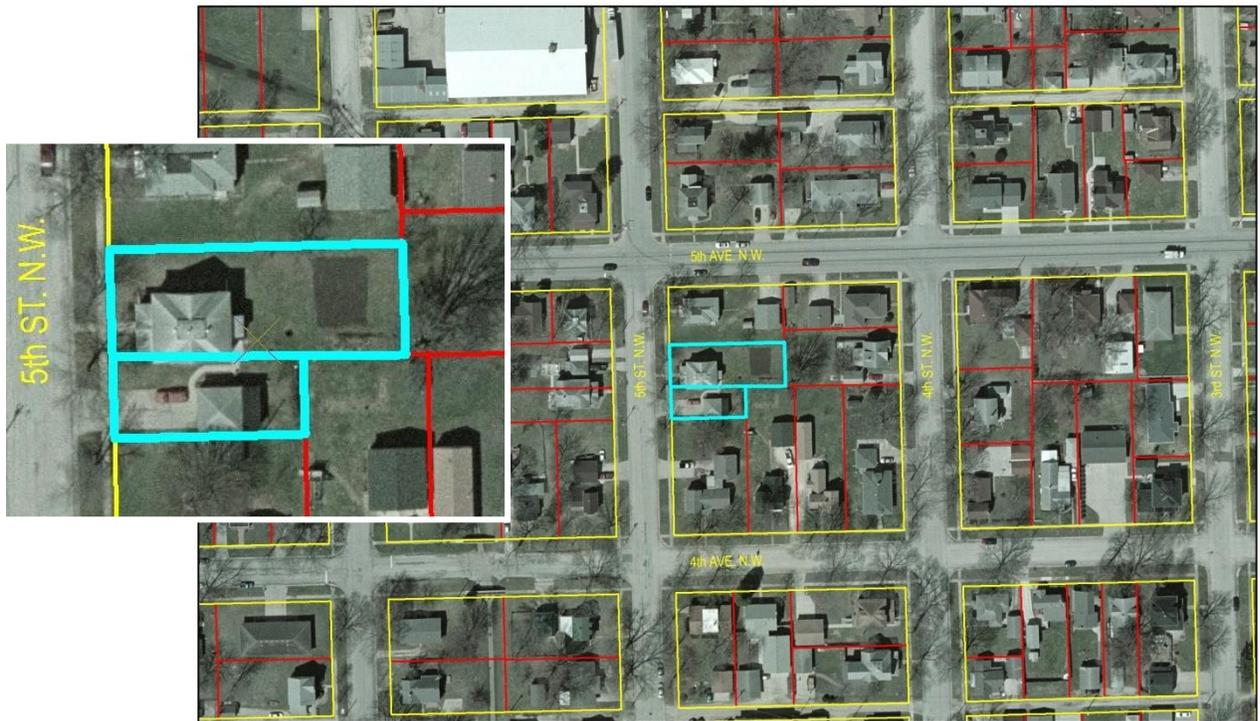
Page 3

Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House  
Name of Property  
516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Address

Bremer  
County  
Waverly  
City

Site Map: Bremer County GIS Department, 12/2011.

**516 5th St NW  
PIN 05-34-492-002**



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

Site Number 09-00810  
Related District Number 09-00621

Page 4

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Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House  
Name of Property  
516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Address

---

Bremer  
County  
Waverly  
City

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**Photographs:** 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW, looking south and northeast, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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

Site Number 09-00810  
Related District Number 09-00621

Page 5

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Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House

Bremer

Name of Property

County

516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW

Waverly

Address

City

---

**Photograph:** 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW, house and garage, looking northeast, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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

Site Number 09-00810  
Related District Number 09-00621

Page 6

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Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House

Bremer

Name of Property

County

516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW

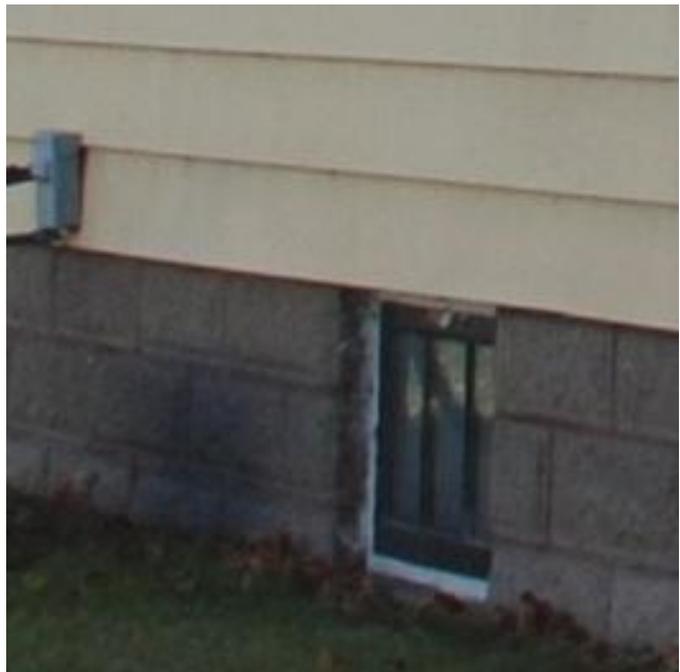
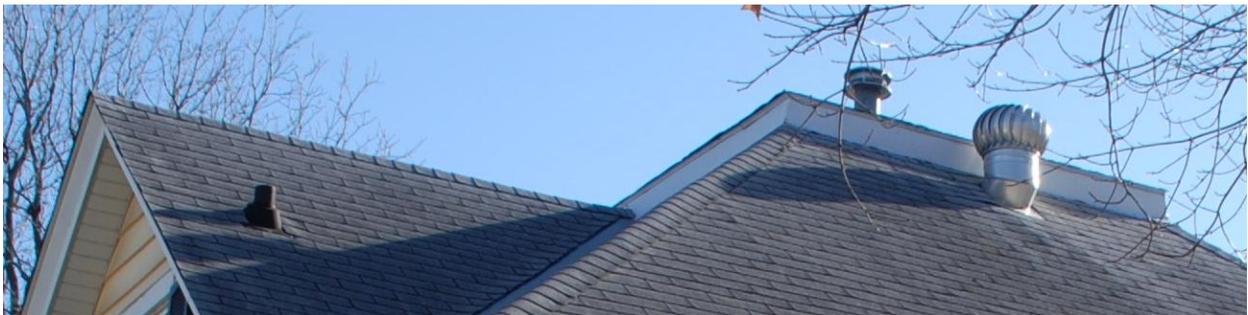
Waverly

Address

City

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**Photographs:** 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW, roof, window, and foundation details, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



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

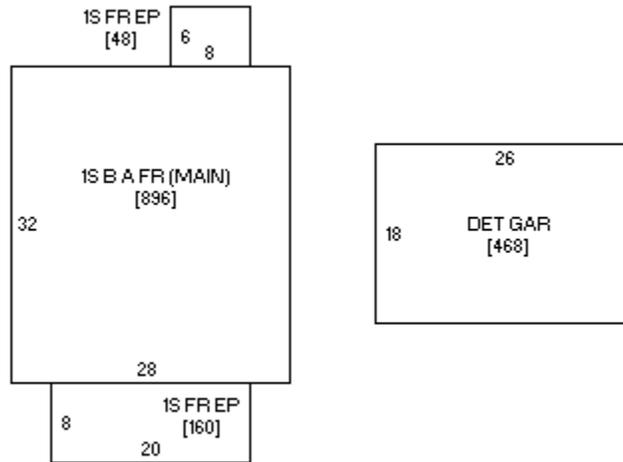
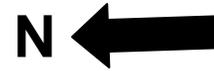
Site Number 09-00810  
 Related District Number 09-00621

Page 7

Bessmer, J.M. and Lena, House	Bremer
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Additional Information:

Floor plan, 516 5<sup>th</sup> St NW, Bremer County Assessor website; available at <http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/PhotoEngine/Sketch.aspx?appid=330&keyvalue=0534492002&index=0&size=0>; accessed 2/6/2013



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