

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

State Inventory No. 09-01439 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) **09-00961**
 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 Oberheu, Wilbert and Blanche, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 108 3rd Ave SW

city or town Waverly vicinity, county Bremer County

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

(If Urban) Subdivision Wm. Sturdevant's Addition Block(s) 3 Lot(s) W 1/2 Lots 5 & 6

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 Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ 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 SW Quadrant Hist. & Arch. Survey Historical Architectural Data Base Number HADB 09-031

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) **Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

01A01 Single Dwelling

01A01 Single Dwelling

01C05 Garage

01C05 Garage

7. Description

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

09A03 Side-Gabled, 1-Story

foundation 16 Clay Tile (Block)

10B Minimal Traditional

walls (visible material) 15B Vinyl

roof 08A Asphalt

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 108 3rd Ave SW

Site Number 09-01439
District Number 09-00961

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
1939 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect
unknown
Builder
unknown

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 date 5/16/2015
 organization Svendsen Tyler, Inc. for the Waverly HPC telephone 715/469-3300
 street & number N3834 Deep Lake Rd. state WI zip code 54870
 city or town Sarona

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: _____

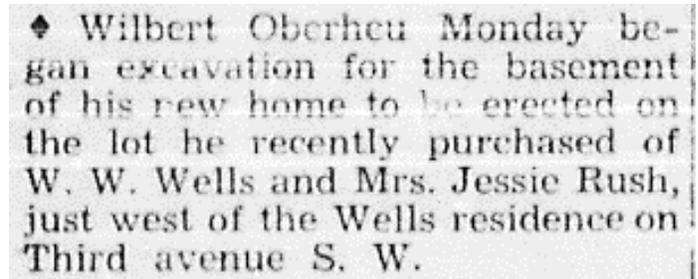
Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Oberheu, Wilbert and Blanche, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
108 3 rd Ave SW	Waverly
Address	City

7. Description

The Wilbert and Blanche Oberheu House at 108 3rd Ave SW is estimated to have been constructed in 1939 according to the Bremer County Assessor's records. The house footprint does not appear on any of the Sanborn Maps. The form and design or typical for a house from the 1930s. Property transfer records show the Oberheu family acquiring the parcel on 9/2/1939. A newspaper account (right) from the *Bremer County Independent* on 10/11/1939 states that construction is beginning making it likely that it concluded later that year or early in 1940, hence ca. 1939 is an appropriate house date.



The house is an example of a vernacular 1½-story Side-Gabled house known as the Minimal Traditional form that became popular for dwellings erected before and after World War II in the southwest quadrant residential neighborhoods. It combines the basic layout of the Federal Housing Administration's "minimum houses" (Plans A and B) that were among five one and two-story house plans developed in 1936 and later modified in 1940 to help guide the construction of efficient, economical and flexible residential development. These concepts were popularized in various plan services during the 1930s and 1940s.

The Oberheu House has a steeply pitched side-gable roof with narrow eaves along the sloped edges and no eaves on the gable ends. The house has a clay tile block foundation likely manufactured at one of the Mason City brick and tile works with narrow-width clapboard style vinyl siding on the walls. The symmetrical front has single 6/6 double-hung windows flanking the centered entrance that is set beneath a gabled entrance hood built into the roof edge. The entrance opening has fluted pilasters to either side of the door and a dentiled cornice above. Other window units in the gable ends are also 6/6 double-hung windows. There is no other ornamentation on the house. The detached two-car garage at the rear of the lot has metal walls, a very low-pitched front-gabled roof, and two separate doors that open onto the alley. It was built in 1968 and is considered non-contributing.

8. Significance

The Wilbert and Blanche Oberheu House at 108 3rd Ave SW is considered a contributing resource in the Sturdevant SW Historic District. Though it has lost some integrity with the installation of synthetic siding and replacement windows, it retains its overall form and window placement. It is among the wave of houses built from the end of the Great Depression through the post-WW II housing boom on vacant lots in the neighborhood. The district qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places as a well-preserved collection of mid and late 19th century and early 20th century architectural styles and vernacular house forms located in Waverly's southwest residential neighborhood. The neighborhood developed as a middle class and working class residential district from the late 1850s through the mid-20th century.

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Historical Background for Waverly¹

Waverly was established in 1853 along the Cedar River in Waverly Township located in southeastern Bremer County. It was designated as the county seat for Bremer County the same year that the county was officially organized and was formally incorporated in 1859. Like most Iowa towns established before the Civil War, growth during the early 1860s was deferred until after the war came to a close. Waverly's first railroad, the Cedar Falls and Minnesota Railroad was extended to Waverly in 1864. Eventually track was also laid for other branch lines and an electric interurban. By 1917 track for branch lines was absorbed by the Chicago and Great Western Railroad and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. Track for the electric interurban – the Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Northern – was laid in 1910 but usage was never as substantial as predicted.

Waverly grew in the manner typical of other Iowa county seats in the late 19th and early 20th century. Its commercial center extended along the east-west route of Bremer Avenue on both sides of the Bremer Avenue Bridge that crossed the L-shaped course of the Cedar River as it passed through the center of town. The county courthouse was located outside of the commercial area on a slight prominence at the east end of Bremer Avenue. Residential districts grew up in the four quadrants formed by the intersecting main street and river. The broad, generally flat profile of both the business district and early residential neighborhoods saw the regular occurrence of flooding resulting in the gradual replacement of most first generation frame building stock. German immigrants were among the largest ethnic group to populate Waverly during the 19th century establishing religious institutions with ethnic affiliations such as St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the northwest quadrant, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in southeast quadrant, and the German Methodist Church.

Bremer County and its county seat of Waverly prospered during the late 19th and early 20th century becoming a retail and professional services center for Bremer County and sections of adjacent Butler County. The county's standing as the "Dairy Spot of Iowa," gave rise to a number of dairy industries including a manufacturing plant operated by the Carnation Milk Products Company for the production of condensed milk in the 1920s. Population stood at 16,300 people in 1900 before the growth rate slowed before World War I. By 1930 population topped 17,000. Expansion of a Lutheran seminary in Waverly first located in the community in 1879 through the relocation of Wartburg College to the community in 1939 was a cultural and economic stimulus for the community. Waverly continued to add a 1,000 people per decade until 1950 when the post-War boom saw growth accelerate to more than 21,000 by 1960. During the past 50 years population has slowed somewhat topping out at 23,325 in 2000.

Historical Background for the Wilbert and Blanche Oberheu House at 108 3rd Ave SW:

The Oberheu House at 108 3rd Ave SW is located in the southwest quadrant of Waverly that includes additions platted by early Waverly settlers, Ira Sturdevant and his son William Sturdevant. The Sturdevant family moved to the unsettled area along the Cedar River in the mid-1850s. Ira received a 40-acre federal land grant based on his military service in the War of 1812. William acquired 80 acres of adjoining land to the north of his father's 40-acre parcel. In 1857 the William Sturdevant's Addition was laid out and in 1860 the Ira Sturdevant Addition was platted. This house is located on Block 3 of William Sturdevant's Addition. Growth remained

¹ The historical background information is largely drawn from the *Waverly, Iowa: An Architectural Heritage*, (Waverly, Iowa: City of Waverly), 1977.

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relatively slow in these subdivisions until after the Civil War. Construction of this house occurred at the end of the Depression decade before housing slowed down as a result of scarcity of materials during World War II.

The Oberheu House was constructed in 1939 according to the Bremer County Assessor's records. This date is consistent with property transfer records and newspaper accounts in the *Bremer County Independent* on 10/11/1939 and 9/13/1939. Property transfer records show that on 9/2/1939, Wayne Wells and Jessie Rush sold this parcel to Wilbert and Blanche Oberheu. The form and design of the house popularized during the Depression years for Minimal Traditional house forms further confirms the date. The article above from the *Bremer County Independent* on 9/13/1939 identifies Wilbert Oberheu as the manager of the Farmers Exchange located several blocks to the east of the new house site. Once completed, the Oberheus occupied the house together until Blanche died in 1983 and subsequently by Wilbert until 1987 when he passed away. The house passed to Michael and Jane McAburd in 1988.

◆ Wilbert Oberheu, manager of the Farmers Exchange, has bought the north lot of the Wells property on First Street S. W. He plans to build a home on the lot, but is not sure that he will build this fall.

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 Auditor's Office, Property Transfer Records.

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

City directories, 1899 and 1913.

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.

Page, William C. *Reconnaissance Historical and Architectural Survey of Black Hawk and Bremer Counties, Iowa, Volume I.* Black Hawk and Bremer Counties Preservation Partnership and State Historical Society of Iowa, August 21, 1992.

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

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

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Address	City

Waverly Heritage Days historical walking tour brochures for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2009.
Vertical file collection, Waverly Public Library.

Wilbert Oberheu house articles

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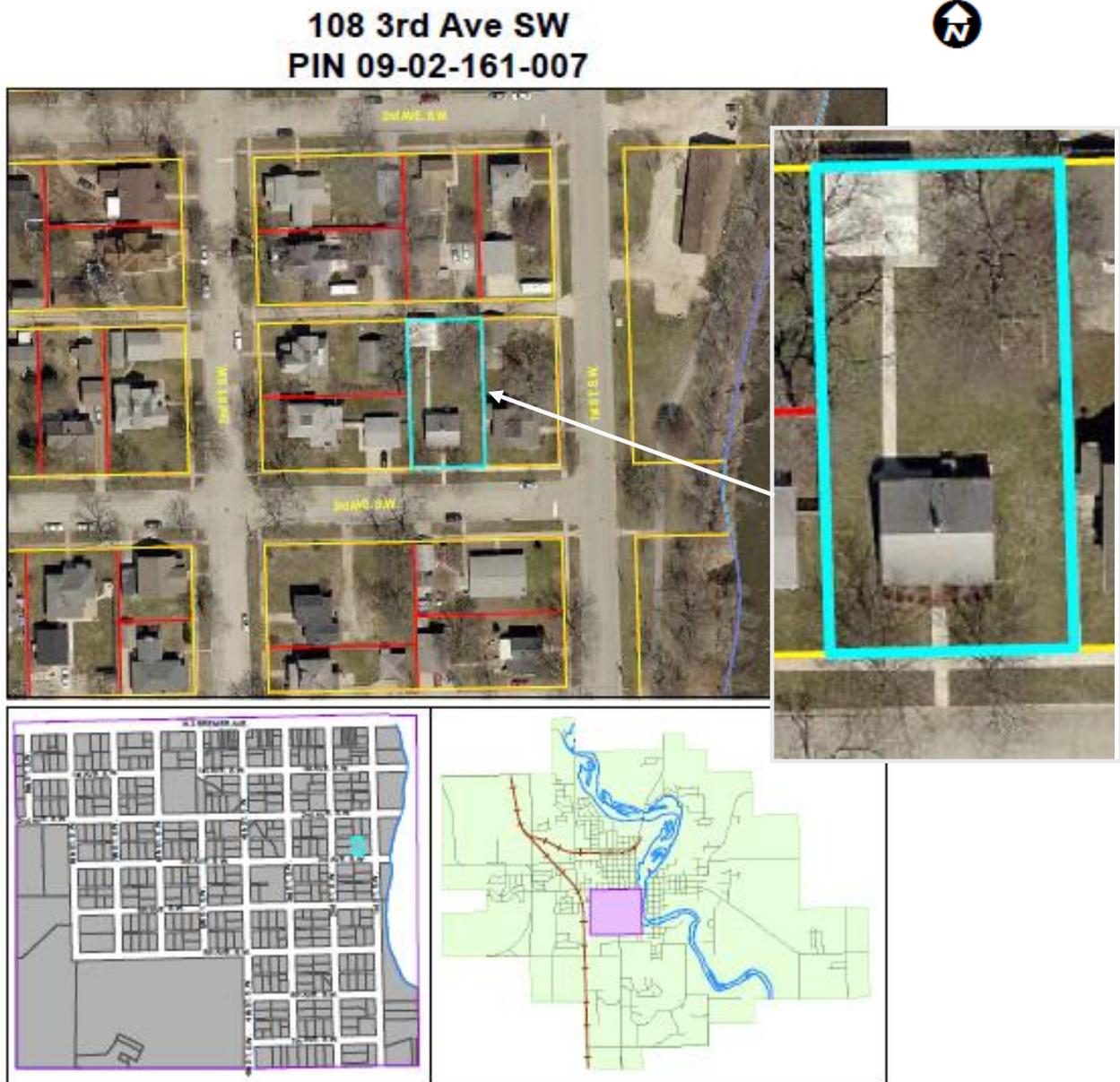
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Additional Information:

Waverly Southwest Quadrant Historical and Architectural Survey Map (Bremer County GIS Department, 3/26/2014).



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Oberheu, Wilbert and Blanche, House

Bremer

Name of Property

County

108 3rd Ave SW

Waverly

Address

City



Photographs: 108 3rd Ave SW, looking north and northwest, **11/28/2014**, Andrew Bell, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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Bremer

Name of Property

County

108 3rd Ave SW

Waverly

Address

City

Photographs: 108 3rd Ave SW, looking northeast and garage looking southwest, **11/28/2014**, Andrew Bell, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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Photograph and Plan: Bremer County Assessor website photograph and plan available at: <https://beaconbeta.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=330&LayerID=3621&PageTypeID=4&PageID=2342&Q=852129772&KeyValue=0902161007>; accessed 5/16/2015.

