

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

State Inventory No. 09-01467 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 Sparks, Elizabeth and Francis R., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 709 West Bremer Avenue

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 Add. Block(s) 19 Lot(s) LOT 2 & E12' LOT 3 & N 1/2 ALLEY

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

2 — buildings
 — — sites
 — — structures
 — — objects
2 — 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)

01A01 Single Dwelling: residence

01C05 Garage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

01A01 Single Dwelling: residence

01C05 Garage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09A06 Hipped Roof, 2-Story

07E02 Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 10A Concrete Block; 03 Brick

walls (visible material) 03 Brick

roof 08 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)

- 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 archaeology or history.

County Bremer
City Waverly

Address 709 W Bremer Avenue

Site Number 09-01467
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)

02 ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

Construction date 1925 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 7/16/2015
organization Svendsen Tyler, Inc. for the Waverly HPC telephone 715/469-3300
street & number N3834 Deep Lake Rd. city or town Sarona state WI 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: _____

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Sparks, Elizabeth and Francis R., House	Bremer
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7. Description

The Elizabeth and Francis R. Sparks House at 709 W Bremer Ave is estimated to have been constructed in 1925 according to the Bremer County Assessor's records. This date is consistent with the building's form and design and property transfer records showing this property sold by Helen M Ellis to Elizabeth Sparks on 4/26/1923. Newspaper accounts further confirm that she and her husband Dr. Francis R. Sparks were building the house during 1924. The house and garage were both in place on the 1927 Sanborn Map. A ca. 1925 date is consistent with the Assessor's record.

The Sparks House is an example of the Craftsman Style Hipped Roof, 2-Story house form. The main house has a moderate-pitched hipped roof with medium width eaves and no dormers. A 1-story low-pitched hipped roof sun room is attached at the east end with an exposed multi-story brick chimney centered on the exterior wall of the main house. The house has a concrete block foundation and walls, both clad in mottled maroon, brown and gray colored brick with matching brick on for the chimney and garage. The brick finish is similar to Mason City pressed brick manufactured during the early decades of the 20th century. The brick is laid in running bond with reddish colored mortar; a rowlock course of brick set beneath the dressed limestone belt course separating the first and second levels. The window sills are made of dressed stone with window boxes installed along the lower level windows. The upper level windows use the belt course for their sills.

Fenestration includes typical Craftsman Style double-hung windows with 4/1 configurations (vertical lights in the upper sash). Windows appear in pairs and groups of three in most locations with single window units on the upper level east façade. The sunroom wing contains four groups of three 4/1 windows on three sides while the first floor of the front façade of the main house has groups of three 4/1 double-hung units flanking the centered entrance. The upper level has pairs of tall 4/1 units flanking a pair of short 4/1 windows above the entrance.

The house has a detached two-bay brick garage with a low-pitched hipped roof located southeast of the house. It is accessed from West Bremer Ave with additional parking in front of the house from the nearly three decades that the house was used as a parsonage for the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1967-1992).

8. Significance

The Elizabeth and Francis R. Sparks House at 709 W Bremer Ave derives individual significance under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a Craftsman Style residence built using the Hipped Roof, 2-Story house form. The building's likely use of Mason City brick and its high level of integrity add to its significance. The house is also significant as a contributing resource in the Sturdevant SW Historic District under both Criteria A and C. The historic 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 Sparks House at 709 W Bremer Ave:

The Elizabeth and Francis R. Sparks House is located along the northern edge of the southwest quadrant of Waverly that includes additions platted by 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. Growth remained relatively slow in these subdivisions with formal incorporation of the community not taking place until 1859. After World War I, a substantial number of new

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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houses were built along West Bremer Avenue and on still vacant lots in William Sturdevant's Addition to the south.

The Sparks House at 709 W Bremer Ave is estimated to have been constructed in 1925 according to the Bremer County Assessor's records. Property transfer records show that the parcel was part of a larger plot of land along the south side of West Bremer Avenue owned by the Nathaniel Ellis family before it was sold by Helen Ellis to Elizabeth D. Sparks, wife of Dr. Francis R. Sparks, on 4/26/1923. Dr. Sparks was a medical doctor in Waverly. It remained in their ownership until 11/10/1943. The couple's son, Francis Wayne Sparks, died during World War II just one year before the Sparks sold the house to Fred and Mabel Wolf on 11/10/1943. After Fred's death, Mabel continued to own the property passing it to William and Janice Lynn on 5/1/1967. They in turn transferred it to the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa for use by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church located next door at 717 W Bremer Ave since 1957. In 1992, the Episcopal Diocese sold the house to Edward and Elizabeth Adams.

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.

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.

Property Transfer Records, Bremer County Auditor's Office.

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.

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

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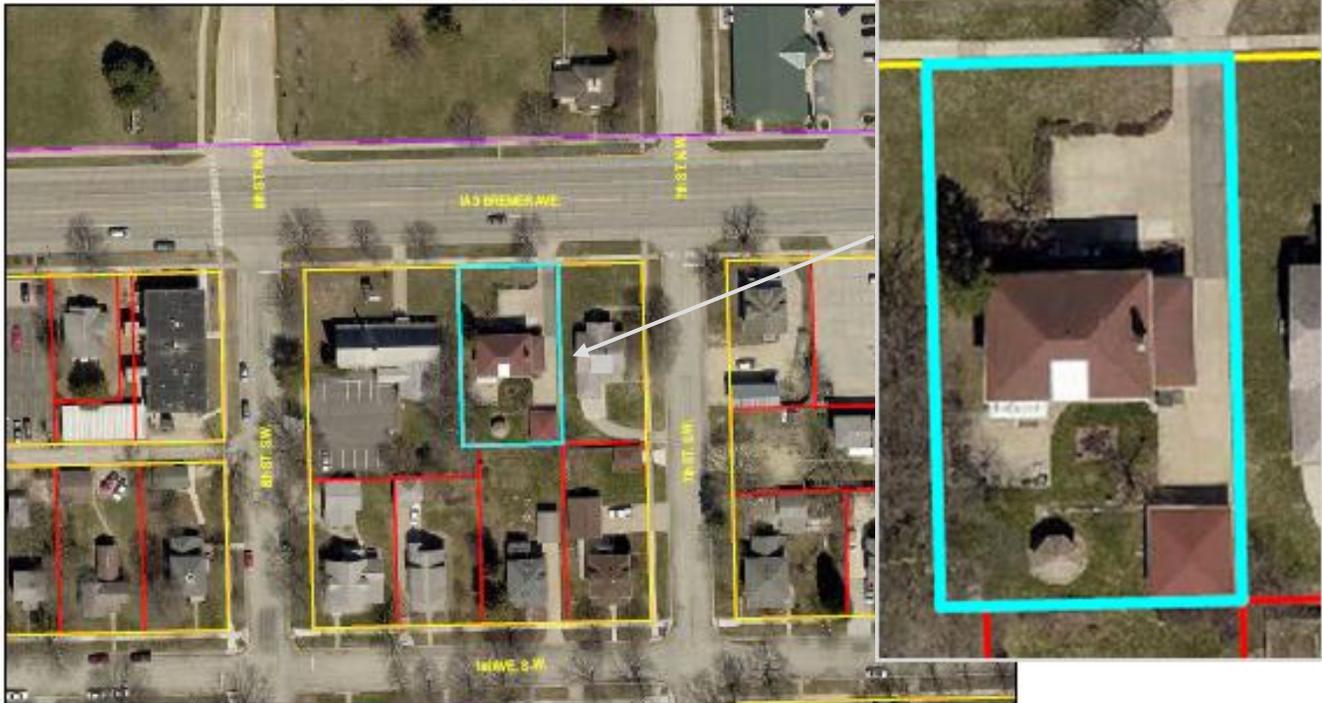
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Additional Information:

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

709 W Bremer Ave
PIN 09-03-276-002



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Bremer

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Photographs: 709 W Bremer Ave, looking south and southwest, **4/7/2014**, Andrew Bell, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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Photographs: 709 W Bremer Ave, looking southeast and porch detail, looking southwest, **4/7/2014**, Andrew Bell, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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Bremer

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Photographs: 709 W Bremer Ave, garage, looking southwest, **4/7/2014**, Andrew Bell, Svendsen Tyler, photographer.



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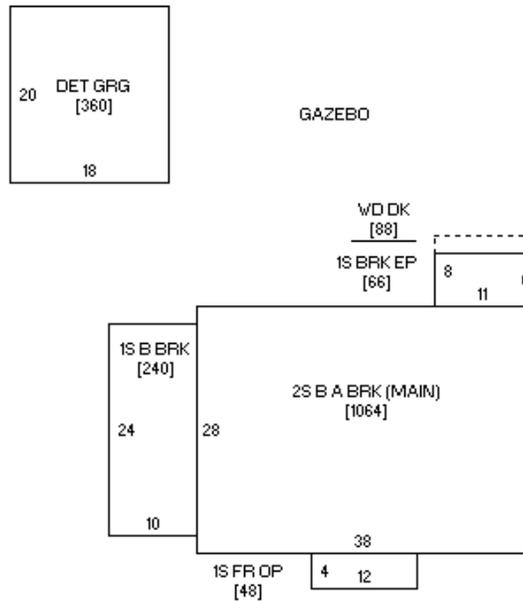
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Photograph and Sketch Plan: Bremer County Assessor website photograph and map available at:
<https://beaconbeta.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=330&LayerID=3621&PageTypeID=4&PageID=2342&Q=1974479060&KeyValue=0903276002>; accessed **7/16/2015**.



Sketch by www.camavision.com