

PH 106-700

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	WASHINGTON
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 28 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Colonel C. J. Wilson House ~~The Conger House~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Jonathan Clark Conger House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
903 East Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: Iowa 52353

CODE: 14

COUNTY: Washington

CODE: 183

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Stephen and Ruth Viggers

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route #3

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
Iowa 52353

CODE:
14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Main and Avenue B

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
Iowa 52353

CODE:
14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

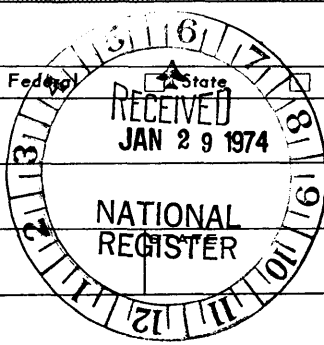
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Conger House was built in two sections in 1848 and in 1867 with a small addition in 1906. The entire structure is composed of brick and was covered by cement sometime in the early twentieth century. The foundations are of brick and stone. The overall plan is asymmetrical with three rectangular gable-roofed sections of varying size, the smallest being the original 1848 structure on the east side. Each roof except that of the 1848 structure, is supported by small brackets accompanied by small scale dentilation below the eaves.

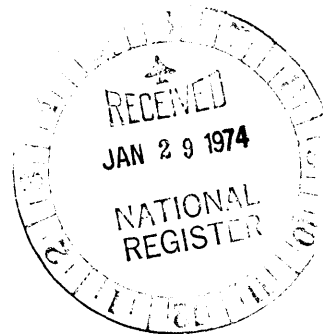
The windows are of varying width and height but are for the most part tall and narrow and arched. Those on the west wing are marked by decorative window hoods.

The front porch of cement and cement block is not original and replaces the wooden porch of the 1870's.

Twenty-three rooms and seven fireplaces may be found on the interior which has remained virtually unaltered since the 1870's. Some alterations were made in 1906 but have been reversed. At that time also a den was added on the west side.

Interesting features of the interior are: the pine woodwork, the walnut staircase, 12-foot ceilings, arched doorways, hard maple floors, front parlor windows to the floor.

Currently under restoration in differing historic periods are the front parlor (1870), the back parlor (1850) and the den (1900). The second floor and basement will be used for museum displays relating to county history. Also under restoration are the gardens.



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5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1848 -- 1867**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Historical</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

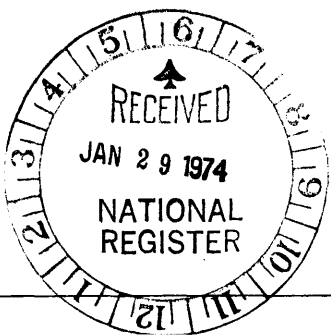
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Conger House was built by a successful nineteenth-century builder, owned by prominent families and will continue in its importance as it becomes an historical museum and meeting place for the citizens of Washington County.

The original portion of the Conger House was built by a teacher and author of the first Washington County History, Nathan Littler. Major additions were made in 1867 by businessman, Jonathan Clark Conger, under the direction of John Patterson Huskins. Huskins, a native of Pennsylvania, also built other Washington residences and such public buildings as the Old South School, the Washington National Bank and City Library. He prepared plans for the County Poor House and supervised the building of the Washington County Courthouse. In addition, Huskins was foreman during the construction of the old State Capitol which burned in 1892. He was also active in politics.

The Conger House became the location of many local social activities when acquired in 1894 by a Conger daughter and her husband, Colonel C. J. Wilson. It was Wilson, also active in politics as a governor's aid and member of the state legislature, who was responsible for the 1906 den addition and minor interior renovation. His collection of Civil War and American Indian mementos anticipated the newly assigned use of the building as a "living" museum and display area for similar artifacts.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Atlas, 1874, 1906.

Burrel, "History of Washington County," Volume I, 1909.

Files: "Washington Press" January 18, 1973

"Evening Journal" Washington, Iowa

Interview with Miss Helen Wilson of 216 East Second, Washington, Iowa, who lived in the house until 1930.

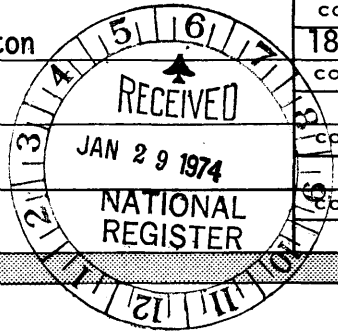
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 17' 34"	91° 41' 35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "		52	40' 55"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two city lots (195 feet by 137.75 feet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Iowa	14	Washington	183
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



15/61030
457246
C6

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Stephen Viggers

ORGANIZATION: **President, Washington County Historical Society** DATE: **April 23, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route #3

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Alvin D. Anderson

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 8 January, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Alfred R. ...
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/28/74

ATTEST:

Ann ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-28-74