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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name WILLEM VAN ASCH HOUSE-HUIBERT DEBOUY COMMERCIAL ROOM  
other names/site number CENTRAL COLLEGE TEMPORARY QUARTERS

2. Location

street & number 1105, 1107, 1109 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  not for publication  
city, town PELLA  vicinity  
state IOWA code 019 county MARION code 125 zip code 50219

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> objects
			<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

James E. Jordan October 15, 1987  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Beth Grosvenor Boland 10/2/87  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

1109 West Washington: single family dwelling  
1105-1107 West Washington: commercial

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

commercial

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Dutch vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other brick

wood

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Willem Van Asch House-Huibert DeBooy Commercial Room is constructed of red brick and was erected as two separate buildings in the mid-1850's. The house consists of a two story, five bay wide, squarish section; the commercial room consists of a one and one-half story rectangular portion; slightly projecting from the house's facade line. These two components are linked by a two story, two bay wide addition dating from 1864.

The complex is one of the best surviving buildings in Pella to exhibit construction techniques early settlers brought with them from their homeland in the Netherlands. This influence can be most clearly seen in the floor-spanning technique; beam anchor systems; window sash configuration; the use of hyphens to agglutinate buildings; and mousetooth (or tumbled) brickwork; also known as "muistanden".

### WILLEM VAN ASCH HOUSE (1109 West Washington Street)

This is a two story, brick load-bearing, single-family dwelling with a one story area at the rear. It measures approximately 24 feet by 34 feet.

The foundation consists of rough stone laid in regular course. The basement floor is dirt. Floor beams for the first floor are logs with clearspan; north to south, from one wall to the other; without posts or intermediate wall support. One and one-fourth inch walnut planks rest directly on top without subfloor.

Brick exterior walls are laid in common bond. Facade (north elevation) is symmetrical and three units wide. Central unit has doorway and window on the first and second floor. Side units each has two windows on both floors symmetrically placed. Lintels are mostly two on four configuration. A one story entry porch is non-extant. Facade features cornice with sawtooth brickwork. Front door is very old, although probably not original. West elevation has doorway (now block-in) on first floor and two irregularly placed windows on the second floor. Rear elevation reflects symmetry of facade. Rear entry porch is also non-extant. East elevation is entirely covered by link addition. West elevation features mousetooth brick ornamentation in gables. Six beam anchors provide support on facade for brickwork. They appear original, feature wrought "x" decorations, and are probably locally forged. Vertical member appears crimped by eye to internal pin. There are also two iron stars on rear elevation which would usually connect with a tie rod system, but, in this case, probably act as beam anchors.

There are four interior chimneys: two slope chimneys (one near southeast, one near southwest corner), two ridge chimneys (one near east and one near west elevation). Chimneys are brick. Slope of rear roof forms a single plane with side gable system. Singles are asphalt.

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HUIBERT DeBOUY COMMERCIAL ROOM (1105 West Washington Street)

This is a one and one-half story, brick load-bearing, commercial room. It measures 40 feet by 18 feet. The roof is side gabled.

The foundation consists of rough stone. The basement floor originally was dirt, now it is concrete. The floor system for the first floor is two and one-half inches by twelve inch beams which clear-span, north to south, from one wall to the other without posts or intermediate wall support. A one and one-half inch walnut deck rests directly on top without subfloor. There is an outside entrance to the basement at the southeast corner.

Brick is laid in common bond. Facade (north elevation) is symmetrical with central door with sidelights flanked by two windows on each side. Lintels and sills are wood on facade; lintels on other elevations are brick headers laid flat. There are seven beam anchors on facade with characteristics which duplicate those mentioned at 1109. East elevation has two beam anchors; rear elevation has seven beam anchors. There is some general mortar decay. Facade window sash are similar to 1109.

Facade features cornice with sawtooth brickwork. West elevation is mostly blocked by link but the Commercial Room is set approximately four and one-half feet in front of the facade line formed by the link and 1109. East elevation has one window in the gable and features mousetooth brickwork in gable. West elevation also features this brickwork but is mostly blocked now by the link. Rear elevation has centrally placed door flanked by two windows, one on each side. Entryway porch is non-extant.

LINK (1107 West Washington Street)

Only brick is visible at grade. There is no basement. North elevation shares facade line with 1109 which, taken together, are set approximately four and one-half feet back from facade line of Commercial room. Link is two story, brick load-bearing walls with a one story area at rear. Link measures approximately 11 feet by 34 feet.

Brick is laid common bond. Facade has central door on first floor now converted into a window. Second floor has two windows with sash similar in material and design to 1109 and 1105 but here they have a four-over-six configuration. Sills and lintels are wood. Height of link conforms to 1109 as does the cornice which duplicates sawtooth detail. West elevation is shared entirely with 1109. South elevation has a central door with sidelights. East elevation has two irregularly placed windows on the first floor and one window on the second floor. Roof is die gable with planes which conform to 1109. There is a one ridge chimney near the east elevation.

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Interior-wise, the complex presents a simple floorplan. The 1105 portion consists entirely of one large room with a small service area enclosed at a later date on the south side. The 1107 portion comprises one room on the first floor and one room on the second floor, although in earlier times a stairway and opening to the second floor existed which are non-extant. The 1109 portion is arranged in a central hall plan with a room flanking on each side and two rooms deep. The stairway originally was exceedingly steep but this was altered in 1976. The floor plan on the second floor has also been altered through removal of wall partitions. Woodwork throughout the complex is quite simple, with the window sash, noted elsewhere, being most interesting.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1854-1868  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

Dutch Settlement  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.**

The Willem Van Asch House and Huibert DeBooy Commercial Room comprise a building complex of considerable significance for the Dutch vernacular architecture of Iowa. The complex is one of the best surviving examples in Pella to illustrate the building influences early settlers brought with them to Iowa from their homeland in the Netherlands. Notable details include mousetooth brickwork (muistanden), floor spanning technique, beam anchors, window sash configuration, and the use of hyphens to buildings. Although built at different times, the three units in this complex share common building influences which combine them into a unified architectural study. The name of the builder is undocumented but the similarity of details at 1105 and 1109 suggest a common source.

Willem Van Asch had 1109 West Washington built in 1885 as a single-family dwelling. Mr. and Mrs. Van Asch were among the original Dutch settlers in Pella. Before occupying their home-to-be, Van Asch agreed to rent the property to the newly organized Central University (the present Central College) desperate for accommodations in Pella. The house served as a school for two years. In 1864 the Van Asches sold the property to DeBooy.

Mr. and Mrs. Huibert DeBooy were also among the original Dutch settlers to Pella. DeBooy engaged in retail trade and about 1856 built the commercial room at 1107 West Washington. This area in West Pella was located near Strawtown (Strooien Stad) where many first settlers quartered temporarily in earth and sod shelters. The Hages Bakery (1111 West Washington) is another substantial brick building in West Pella calling further attention to this neighborhood's early commercial importance. The area is one nine blocks west of the town center.

DeBooy purchased 1109 West Washington in 1864. He proceeded to link it with 1105 through the construction of a connector (1107). DeBooy lived at 1109 until his death in 1911 and Mrs. DeBooy remained there until hers. The complex was there-afterwards used as apartments. In 1974 the Strawtown Corporation bought the property to prevent its demolition. The buildings now serve as retail businesses.

As already mentioned, this complex is a textbook example of building techniques brought to Iowa from the Netherlands. The 1105 and 1109 units both exhibit mousetooth brickwork in the side gables. The 1109 portion is a restrained example while the 1105

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Abstract of Title; 1105, 1107, 1109 West Washington Street; Pella, Iowa.

"Central University of Iowa;" The Pella Gazette; 1 February 1855; p. 2 c. 4-5: "A new two story brick building, having several rooms, was rented." (Willem Van Asch House).

"Hand of Death/DeBooy;" (Obituary); The Pella Chronicle; 28 December 1911, p. 1 c. 5. Front page in English language newspaper.

"Overledend/Huibert DeBooy;" (Obituary); Pella's Weekblad; 29 December 1911, p. 1, c. 1. Front page indicates prominence of DeBooy.

"Sanborn Map Company;" New York. Fire insurance maps picture the area for year 1931 (updated).

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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5	0	6	3	3	0
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4	5	8	3	8	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

East One-Half of Lot 3; Block 30, City of Pella, Iowa

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Those buildings historically associated with the north half of the lots described above (1105, 1107, 1109 West Washington Street) and does not include any outbuildings of any type.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title W. C. Page - Historican (Form by Chris Wilde, Information Officer)  
organization State of Iowa Historical Society date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number Capitol Complex telephone 515/281-4137  
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50319

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portion shows richer detail. Mousetothing is recognized as a standard characteristic of historic Dutch architecture (Morrison; p. 111). Laying brick at a 45 degree angle in the gable was understood to increase a building's watertightness at this critical juncture. The technique adds considerable pattern and visual interest to the brickwork. Construction of the link covered all but about four inches of the mousetothing in the west gable of 1105 and all of it in the east gable of 1109. In the west gable of 1109, the mousetothing occurs at intervals in the gable and demonstrates a residual use of the technique.

The window sash arrangement hold considerable interest. Facade windows exhibit an unusual two-over-four configuration. This allows an entirely open window to comprise only one-third of its area. This appears to be a traditional design transferred to Pella from the homeland. Yerbury noted in 1924 (Old Domestic Architecture of Holland, pp. ix-x), "this form of window only permitted the admission of a very little fresh air. This, however, was not considered a disadvantage in Holland at that period, when people were afraid of dust, fresh air, and sunshine." Window design on other elevations of the building complex show a great variety, partly because of replacements but also reflecting an original dissimilarity.

Dutch building practices in the Netherlands and in portions of the Delaware River Valley in the United States employed a peculiar floor-framing technique. Shank documents several examples where floor beams clear-span buildings without intermediary supports in the basement. ("Eighteenth-Century Architecture of the Upper Delaware River Valley of New Jersey and Pennsylvania") Such a system is also employed at 1109 using oak logs and at 1105 using a two and one-half inch by two and one-half inch timber (see attached "Typical Wall Section" drawing).

Yet another hallmark of traditional Dutch architecture is the employment of beam anchors. This support system appears similar to the tie rod system and provides support to exterior walls. Beam anchors consists, however, of iron pins driven into ceiling beams. The beam anchors do not extend full horizontal width of the building. The iron pins have eyes which, when crimped onto vertical bars, complete the beam anchor device. The vertical bars and eyes are visible on the external wall and traditionally the vertical members were decorated with simple designs. Both units at 1105 and 1109 employ anchor beams and demonstrate use of the system.

Finally, pressures of population and the limited scale of Dutch geography have caused a densely built-up environment in the Netherlands. Franklin notes the common practice of joining disattached buildings together to gain additional floor space. These link additions are called hyphens. The hyphen at 1107 is a fine example of this practice in Pella.

Pella has been the subject of a comprehensive cultural resource survey (CIRALG Architectural Survey; CIRALG Historic Sites Survey). These surveys have placed the Willem Van Asch House-Huibert DeBooy Commercial Room in a community context and have determined the property's architectural significance to be National Register eligible.

Scholarly interest in Iowa has focused on this complex. The Iowa Catalog, Historic

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American Building Survey single out this complex along with the Van Spanckeren House (507 East Franklin) as examples of plank-and-beam floor construction in Pella. The catalog also features the muistanden brickwork at 1105-1109. Still, much work remains to be done in documenting historic architecture in Pella and time is running out. A fine example of muistanden was lost to demolition in the early 1980's at 1106 West Washington.

The Willem Van Asch House-Huibert DeBooy Commercial Room is, in conclusion, one of the finest surviving examples of the vernacular architecture early settlers brought with them to Pella from the Netherlands. The complex is also one of the few surviving examples. The three units in this complex combine into a unified architectural study. The units illustrate mousetooth brickwork, plank-and-beam floor technique, beam anchors, building hyphens, and traditional window configuration.



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Scarff, Prof. E. H.; "Central University of Pella: Reminiscences;" Unpublished MS; 1818; Archives; Learning Resources Center, Central College; Pella, Iowa.

Site Inspection and typical wall section drawings; Bob Reis; 1977.

Site Inspection; W. C. Page; February 1987.

Letter of Correspondence; Wesley I. Shank to W. C. Page; October 1986. Discusses Dutch floor construction techniques, muistanden, and some non-extant examples in Pella.

Telephone Conversation: Wayne Franklin with W. C. Page; February 1987. Prof. Franklin, English Department and American Studies, University of Iowa, has studied and lectured Pella architecture.

Morrison, Hugh; Early American Architecture from the First Colonial Settlements to the National Record; New York; Oxford University Press; 1952; p. 111.

Informant Interview: Jack Boatsma with W. C. Page; Autumn 1986. Mr. Boatsma is Huibert DeBooy's grandson. Boatsma described the DeBooy property from visits during his boyhood and provided antique images of the grounds and buildings.

Informant Interview: Alice Lammers with W. C. Page; Autumn 1986. Ms. Lamers is Archivist of Central College, and Curator of Scholtte House. She assisted in archival research.

Informant Interview: Martha Lautenbac with W. C. Page; Autumn 1986. Mrs. Lautenback's facility at Dutch and her long-time observation of Pella life provided much background material. She also researched Deed Record Books at Marion County Courthouse for property transfer information.

Shank, Wesley I.; "Eighteenth-Century Architecture of the Upper Delaware River Valley of New Jersey and Pennsylvania;" Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians; Vol. XXXI, No. 2, May 1972, pp. 137-144.

Shank, Wesley I.; The Iowa Catalog, Historic American Building Survey; Iowa City; University of Iowa press; 1979, pp. 18, 22 & 110.

Souvenir History of Pella, Iowa; Pella; The Booster Press: 1922, pp. 49, 149, & 166 et passim.

Central Iowa Regional Association of Local Governments: Des Moines; 1978.

"Architectural Survey Data Form;" Stephen J. Stimmel, Surveyor (1974).

"CIRALG Historic Sites Survey Form;" Mock, Historic Surveyor (1978).

Thostenson, Josephine; One Hundred Years of Service; A History of Central, 1853-1953; Central College Bulletin; Vol LIII, No. 5, August 1953.

Yerbury, F. R., editor; "Old Domestic Architecture of Holland;" London; The Architectural Press; 1924, pp. ix-xv.