

# Iowa Site Inventory Form

## State Historic Preservation Office

(January 2016)

State Inventory Number: 07-02047 ☐ New ☒ Supplemental

9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Non-extant Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions carefully, to ensure accuracy and completeness before completing this form. The instructions are available on our website.**

### • Property Name

A) Historic name: Waterloo AME Church

B) Other names: Bess's Chapel AME; Bethel AME Church; Payne Chapel

### • Location

A) Street address: 101 Albany

B) City or town: Waterloo (☐ Vicinity) County: Black Hawk

C) Legal description:

Rural: Township Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Township No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Qtr: \_\_\_\_\_ of Qtr: \_\_\_\_\_

Urban: Subdivision: Shilliams Subdivision Block(s): 4 Lot(s): 4 & 5

### • Classification

A) Property category: *Check only one*

- ☒ Building(s)  
☐ District  
☐ Site  
☐ Structure  
☐ Object

B) Number of resources (within property):

*If eligible property, enter number of:*

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	Buildings	—
—	Sites	—
—	Structures	—
—	Objects	—
<u>1</u>	<b>Total</b>	<u>0</u>

*If non-eligible property, enter number of:*

—	Buildings
—	Sites
—	Structures
—	Objects
<u>0</u>	<b>Total</b>

C) For properties listed in the National Register:

National Register status: ☐ Listed ☐ De-listed ☐ NHL ☐ NPS DOE

D) For properties within a historic district:

- ☐ Property contributes to a National Register or local certified historic district.  
☐ Property contributes to a potential historic district, based on professional historic/architectural survey and evaluation.  
☐ Property *does not* contribute to the historic district in which it is located.

Historic district name: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic district site inventory number: \_\_\_\_\_

E) Name of related project report or multiple property study, if applicable:

MPD title

Twentieth Century African American Civil Rights

Historical Architectural Data Base #

00-313

### • Function or Use *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Historic functions

06A01 RELIGION/Church

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B) Current functions

06A01 RELIGION/Church

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### • Description *Enter categories (codes and terms) from the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions*

A) Architectural classification

09G02 Gable End Church

01 No Style

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B) Materials

Foundation (visible exterior): 10A Concrete Block

Walls (visible exterior): 15B Vinyl Siding

Roof: 08A Asphalt Shingle

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

C) Narrative description ☒ SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

• **Statement of Significance**

**A) Applicable National Register Criteria:** *Mark your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria*

Criterion A: Property is associated with significant events. ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ More research recommended  
Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of significant persons. ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ More research recommended  
Criterion C: Property has distinctive architectural characteristics. ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ More research recommended  
Criterion D: Property yields significant information in archaeology/history. ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ More research recommended

**B) Special criteria considerations:** *Mark any special considerations; leave blank if none*

☒ A: Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. ☐ E: A reconstructed building, object, or structure.  
☒ B: Removed from its original location. ☐ F: A commemorative property.  
☐ C: A birthplace or grave. ☐ G: Property less than 50 years of age or  
☐ D: A cemetery achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**C) Areas of significance**

*Enter categories from instructions*

14B ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

29A SOCIAL HISTORY/CIVIL RIGHTS

**D) Period(s) of significance**

1914-1959

**E) Significant dates**

*Construction date*

1876 ☐ check if circa or estimated date

*Other dates, including renovations*

1914

**F) Significant person**

*Complete if Criterion B is marked above*

**G) Cultural affiliation**

*Complete if Criterion D is marked above*

**H) Architect/Builder**

*Architect*

*Builder/contractor*

**I) Narrative statement of significance** ☒ SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

• **Bibliography** ☒ See continuation sheets for the list research sources used in preparing this form

• **Geographic Data** *Optional UTM references* ☒ See continuation sheet for additional UTM or comments

Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD	Zone	Easting	Northing	NAD
1	15	555661	4706045	WGS84	2		
3				4			

• **Form Preparation**

Name and Title: Amanda K. Loughlin, Historic Preservation Specialist Date: September 5, 2019

Organization/firm: Rosin Preservation, LLC E-mail: amanda@rosinpreservation.com

Street address: 1712 Holmes St. Telephone: 816-472-4950

City or Town: Kansas City State: MO Zip code: 64108

• **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** *Submit the following items with the completed form*

**A) For all properties, attach the following, as specified in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions:**

1. Map of property's location within the community.
2. Glossy color 4x6 photos labeled on back with property/building name, address, date taken, view shown, and unique photo number.
3. Photo key showing each photo number on a map and/or floor plan, using arrows next to each photo number to indicate the location and directional view of each photograph.
4. Site plan of buildings/structures on site, identifying boundaries, public roads, and building/structure footprints.

**B) For State Historic Tax Credit Part 1 Applications, historic districts and farmsteads, and barns:**

*See lists of special requirements and attachments in the Iowa Site Inventory Form Instructions.*

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line**

*The SHPO has reviewed the Site Inventory and concurs 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:

SHPO authorized signature:

Date:

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Related District Number:

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Waterloo AME Church

Black Hawk

Name of Property

County

101 Albany

Waterloo

Address

City

**Geographic Data:**

Lat.: 42.504767 Long.: -92.322525 (Datum=WGS84)

**Bibliography:**

Barnes, Charline J., and Floyd Bumpers. *Iowa's Black Legacy*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.

Eldridge, Mary Beth. "Waterloo Historical Information." Unpublished, 1993. Grout Museum District Archives.

Iowa Site Inventory File, 07-02047, Waterloo AME Church.

McCarley, Rebecca Lawin. "Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of the Northeast Triangle Neighborhood in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa." Survey report. 25 July 2019.

"Golden Anniversary Observance and Program, Payne Memorial AME Church." Souvenir Booklet, 1962. Grout Museum District Archives, A70.1.

Silag, Bill Susan Koch-Bridgford, and Hal Chase. *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa, 1838-2000*. Des Moines: State Historical Society of Iowa, 2001.

*Waterloo Courier*.

**Narrative Description:**

The Waterloo AME Church (1876) is located within the Northeast Triangle Neighborhood in Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa. Specifically, the church resides at the northeast corner of Albany and Mobile streets. The one-story gable-fronted church occupies a double lot within a predominately residential neighborhood. Few houses are within the building's immediate environs. The church is bounded on the west by Mobile Street, on the south by Albany Street, and on the north and east by non-distinct property lines. Across Albany Street to the south is a gravel parking lot; a one-story Minimal Traditional is to the east. The parcel is minimally landscaped. A sidewalk defines the west and south boundaries.

The rectangular is at the southwest corner of its parcel and faces south onto Albany Street. The first story is raised on a rusticated concrete foundation; the main church walls are vinyl over wood clapboard, and the gable roof is asphalt shingle.

The south elevation is relatively unadorned. Centered within the façade is a gable-fronted entry bay. The double doors open onto a set of concrete steps leading up from the sidewalk. The non-historic doors have an elliptical fan light transom. In the east wall of this entry bay is a two-over-two wood window. To the west of the main entry is a single door entry bay at ground level, leading down to the basement. Within this bay's west wall is a single two-over-two window. The building's cornerstone is at the foundation at the southwest corner. The west side reads 1912, while the south side reads 1914, the date the building was relocated to this spot.

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The main west elevation features four evenly spaced historic six-over-one wood windows lighting the sanctuary (the upper sash as three rows of two panes). A window pierces the foundation level below each of these. At the north end of the west façade are two doors. The first is at ground level and leads down to the basement. To the north of this door is a second door inset from the rest of the façade. A set of concrete steps leads up to this door.

The north façade features a one-story shed-roof appendage that spans the width of the façade; its north wall had two one-over-one windows. The north elevation of the sanctuary above this has no openings. A small brick chimney is located at the center of this elevation.

The sanctuary wall of the east façade is identical to the west façade with four windows at the first story and basement. The shed roof appendage protrudes east slightly at the north end of the wall; within its east wall is a single one-over-one window.

The interior was inaccessible on a July 2019 site visit. From the exterior, the building appears to retain good integrity. Although relocated from its original site, the relocation occurred within two years of the founding of the congregation. The building has resided on Albany Street for most of its existence and remains within a residential community. Although the walls are vinyl covered, the foundation and windows remain historic; the building continues to read as a church building, retaining its integrity of feeling and association. Interior integrity needs to be evaluated for a stronger evaluation of integrity.

**Statement of Significance:**

The Waterloo African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was surveyed in early 2019 by Spark Consulting for the intensive-level survey of the Northeast Triangle Neighborhood, a historically black area of Waterloo. This survey built upon a 1985-86 survey by Midwest Research; both surveys identified this building as potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. In July 2019, this property was included in the statewide survey of significant places associated with the twentieth century African American civil rights movement. Although the interior was not available to tour in 2019, the building continues to be locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Black Ethnic Heritage for its association with Waterloo's African American community. Further, its significance in the area of Civil Rights Social History is in its association with the lives of significant leaders in the community who advocated for equality. Specifically, this church is the best extant resource associated with Reverend I.W. Bess. The building's period of significance spans the years the congregation occupied it, 1914 to 1959.

African American migration into Waterloo substantially increased in the first decades of the twentieth century. In early 1912, a committee of the Waterloo Ministerial Association helped form an AME congregation for the new residents. The congregation that eventually became the Waterloo AME Church first met at a house located at the southwest corner of Merimon and Bates streets. This was the first AME church in Waterloo. In September 1913, Rev. Bess was appointed to head the Waterloo AME

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congregation, which continued to meet at 131 Bates Street (no longer extant) where Rev. Bess and his wife resided.

Throughout the fall of 1913 and spring 1914, the AME congregation, which had been formally named Bess's Chapel AME Church, sought a larger building in which to worship. Finally, a site at the northeast corner of Albany and Mobile was secured, but no building was present. The Waterloo Ministerial Association succeeded in convincing the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad to donate the 1876 frame building constructed as the "railroad chapel" for workers. A new foundation was erected in the late spring of 1914, and the frame chapel relocated. Bess's Chapel AME Church was dedicated in July 1914. The church became known as Bethel AME Church, but by the end of the 1920s, it was the Payne AME Church or Payne Chapel. In 1952, a new building campaign began, and the Payne Memorial AME Church was formerly dedicated at the southeast corner of Mobile and Oneida streets. Thus, the congregation formed in 1912 relocated one block north of its home from 1914 to 1959.

Reverend Bess led the church until 1916. He advocated for the advancement of the local African American community. He opened the sanctuary of the church to the neighborhood as a reading room and a gathering space. In 1914, he successfully argued in front of the City Council against proposed racial restrictions to the public bathing beach at Cedar River. Rev. Bess also worked closely with the city police to help establish law and order within the Northeast Triangle Neighborhood. Bess also helped establish a local Masonic lodge for black residents, in an effort to promote civic engagement and wholesome entertainment within his community.

The Waterloo AME Church also is associated with the establishment of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1921, Waterloo AME's Reverend H.C. Boyd was one of the founding members and sat on the executive committee.

The building at the northeast corner of Albany and Mobile streets is significant to the Waterloo community for its association with Rev. Bess and the earliest Civil Rights advocacy within the city. Its eligibility can be better evaluated with an assessment of the interior integrity and with an analysis of comparable properties.

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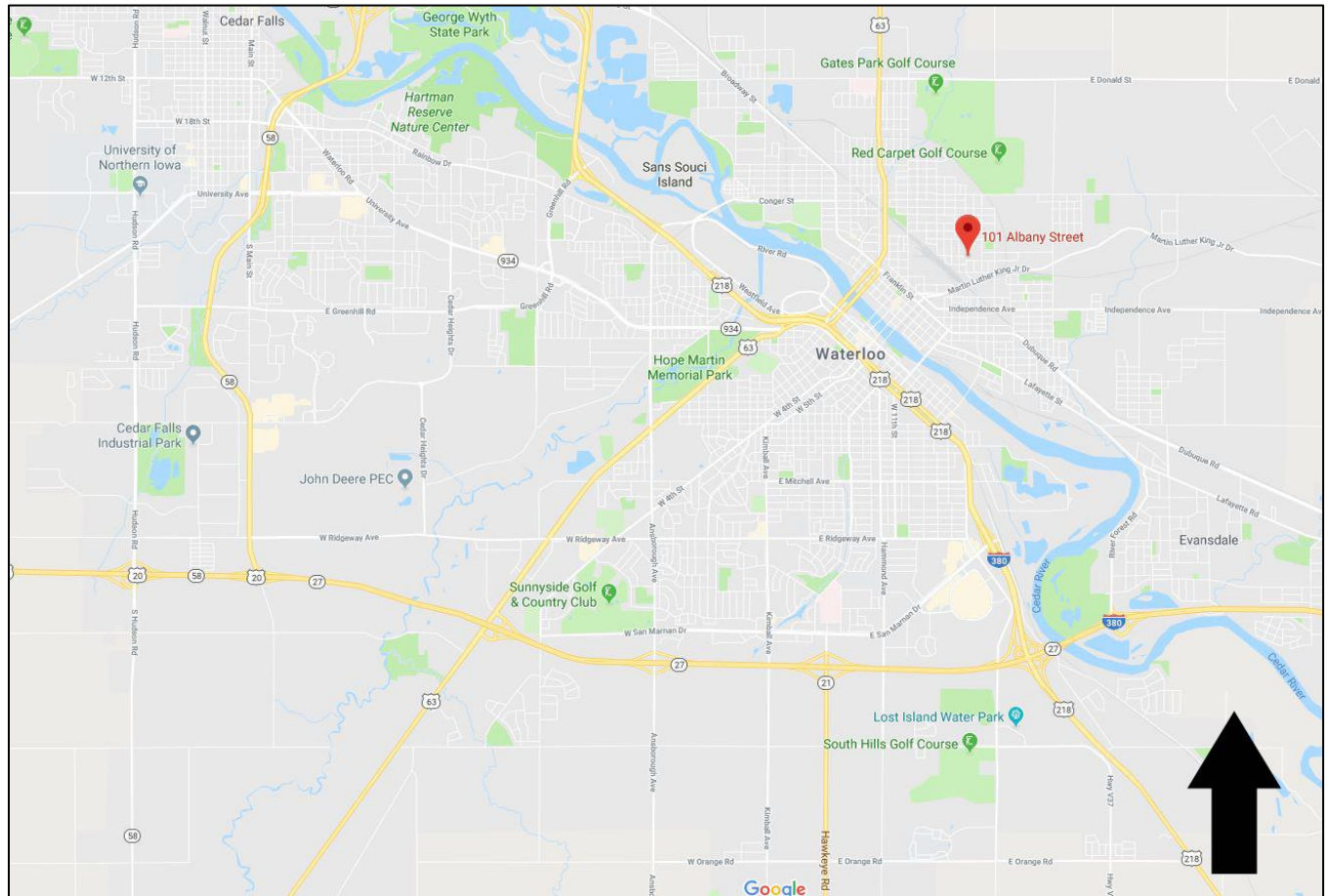
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Black Hawk  
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Waterloo  
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**Figure 1.** Contextual map, showing the location of the Waterloo AME Church. Source: Google Maps.



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**Figure 2.** Site plan of the Waterloo AME Church with boundary outlined in dashed line. Base map from Black Hawk County GIS.





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**Figure 3.** Bess's Chapel circa 1962. From "Golden Anniversary" souvenir booklet.





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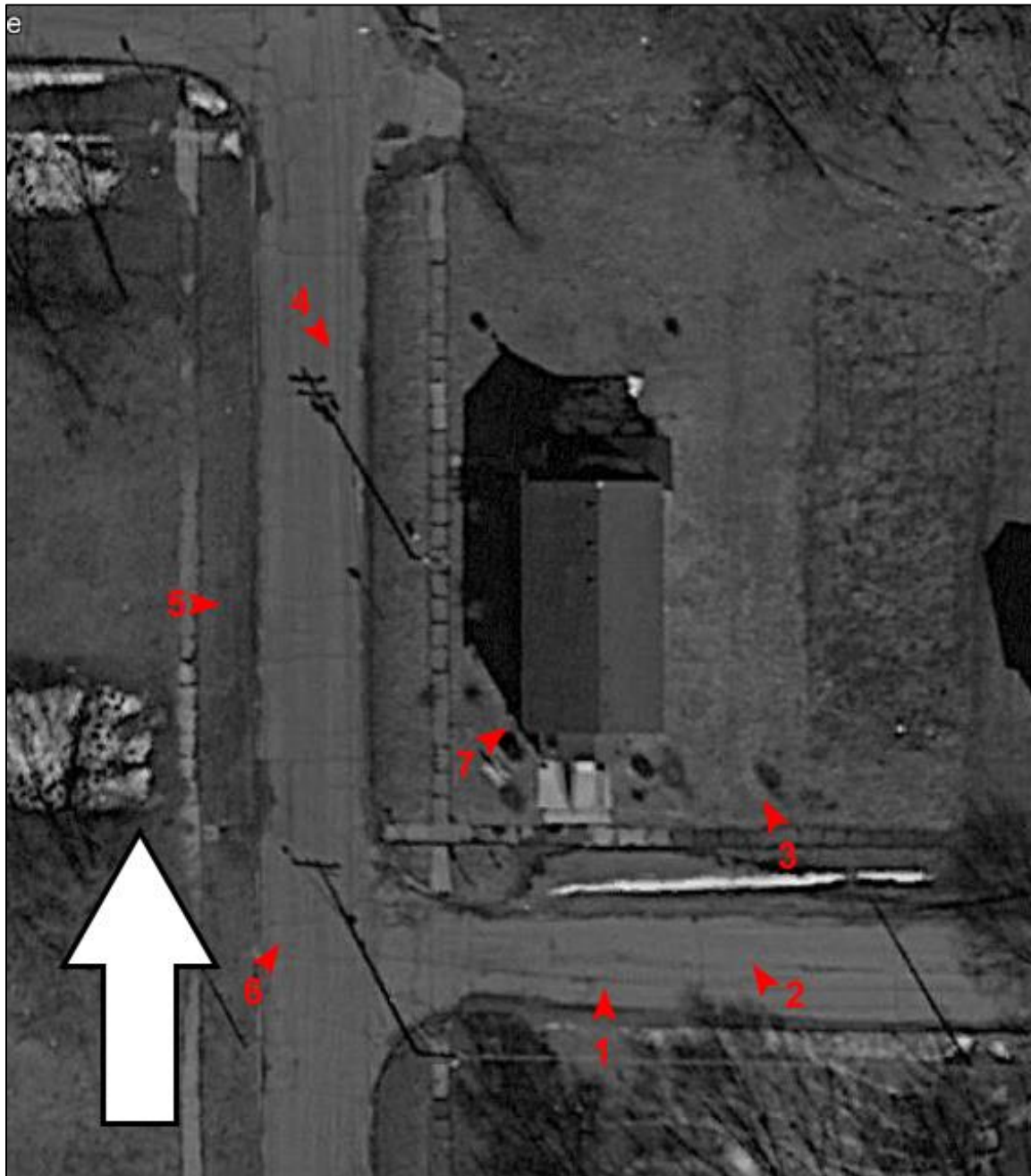
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**Figure 4.** Exterior photo key plan.



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**Photo 1.** South elevation, looking north. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.



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**Photo 2.** South and east elevations, looking NW. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.





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**Photo 3.** East elevation, looking NW. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.



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**Photo 4.** North and west elevations, looking SE. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.





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**Photo 5.** West elevation, looking east. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.





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**Photo 6.** West elevation, looking NE. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.



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**Photo 7.** Cornerstone at the SW corner of the building. July 17, 2019. Rosin Preservation/Loughlin.

