

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (December 1, 1999)

State Inventory No. 70-00178 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 70-01005
 Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries
 National Register Status: (any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE
 Review & Compliance No. _____
 Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name J.O. Martin House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-009

2. Location

street & number 403 W. 2nd Street
 city or town Muscatine vicinity, county Muscatine
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 37 Lot(s) 5 & E25' Lot 4

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:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input 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 _____ Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

A Historical and Architectural Survey of the "West Hill" neighborhood, Muscatine, Iowa 70-016

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>01A01: Domestic / Single residence</u>	<u>01A01: Domestic / Single residence</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05D – Late Victorian -Queen Anne</u>	foundation <u>04-Stone</u>
_____	walls <u>03-Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08A-Asphalt Shingle</u>
_____	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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D	Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Muscatine Address 403 W. 2nd St Site Number 70-00178
City Muscatine District Number 70-01005

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
31: Other – Neighborhood Development

Significant Dates

Construction date 1889 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

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 Jay Brady, Chair
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date November 30, 2005
street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1550
city or town Muscatine state IA zip code 52761

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 non-contributing 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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7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, asymmetrical Queen Anne house built around 1890. The house sits on a stone foundation high above the street. The walls are brick. The hip-roof with several project gables is clad in asphalt shingles. This beautifully proportioned home features prominent two story projected gable sections on the south and east elevations and a center projected gable-roof section that bisects the southeast corner providing a corner focus. The wrap around porch on the south and east elevations has some gable roofs aligned with the bay windows.

The house faces south towards 3rd Street, though the angled corner is oriented to the southeast to the corner of 3rd Street and Linn Street. The wrap around porch appeared on the Sanborn maps between 1912 and 1919, replacing an earlier porch just along the south elevation. This porch may have been incorporated into the newer porch, with matching woodwork. The porch has wood spindle columns with wood rails with turned spindles between columns. Decorative woodwork runs beneath the roof eave between columns. The trim has four intermediate vertical elements per bay with each vertical element extending below the lower horizontal member and tipped by downward finials. A decorative bracket ties the woodwork with the porch column. The west bay of the porch has a gable roof with simple plain eave and cornice. The gable inset is sided with wood arch motif cladding with the house number "403" centered in the inset. The house number is topped by a half circle section and is flanked on each side by quarter circle sections. The east portion of the porch ties into a porch gable section extending perpendicular from the two story projected gable-roof section that bisects the southeast corner of the house. The southeast side of the porch continues the same styling as the rest of the south porch. The gable section of the porch has been screened in on the inside of the historic porch framing and upper trim. Simple, plain vertical framing is used to stiffen the screening. A four light screen door provides entrance into the screened in porch gable section from the open south porch. The southeast porch gable has gingerbread filling the apex of the gable eave. The gable inset has a decorative sunrise siding motif. The vertical frame work for the screen divides the original large single bay into three panels.

The south elevation has a projected gable-roof section on the west portion, and the projected gable-roof section on the southeast corner. The double-door entry is located at the west edge of the south elevation, in the projected gable section. The wood doors each have two horizontal panels below the large single light window. The lower panel is larger and divided into three vertical sections. The doors are set in a wood frame that has an arched wood panel with decorative carvings between the door and the entry hood. The entry hood is segmental brick that drops down below the top of the doors. The other first story windows on this elevation have single-over-single-light double-hung wood windows with segmental arch wood frames with decorative tops and the same slightly projected segmental brick window hoods with shoulders as the door entry. Sills appear to be stone. The second story of the projected gable section has two, two-over-two-light double hung windows separated by a decorative turned column. The windows have a common arch decorative wood top and slightly projected segmental brick hood of same style as the first story. The adjoining bay next to the gable section contains a two-over-two-light double-hung window with segmental arch wood frames with decorative tops and slightly

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projected segmental brick window hood with shoulders. Sills appear to be stone. The gable of the south projected gable section has curved brackets at the intersection between the eave and building. The raptier has decorative curves between the bracket and the fascia. The gable contains a single light window with colored glass surround and post and beam frame. Two large quarter circles form a tie between the window frame and the frieze. The gable is clad in sawtooth wood siding to each side of the window and a grid style cladding above the window.

The southeast two story projected gable-roof section has a two-over-two-light double-hung window with segmental arch wood frames with decorative tops and slightly projected segmental brick window hood with shoulders in its southwest and northeast sides on the first and second stories. The main southeast face has a large single light window with a leaded glass transom window on the first and second stories. The gable of the southeast projected gable section also has curved brackets at the intersection between the eave and building. The raptier has decorative curves between the bracket and the fascia. The gable has a 12 light semi-circular window with carved wood elements in the surrounding cladding in a sort of sunburst pattern.

Front porch continues around the southeast corner to a projected angled bay window with gable-roof on the center portion of the east side. The porch styling is consistent with the south portion of the porch. The east side of the porch is screened in. There is no window in the second story between the projected southeast gable-roof section and the angled bay window on the east side as the house chimney runs through this area. The large angled bay window has a single-over-single-light double-hung window in each of the bay's three sides on both stories. The window frames have decorative carved segmental arch tops. The windows have slightly projected segmental brick hoods with shoulders and stone sills. The gable corners project over the angled bay window with the projections supported by decorative brackets. The gable has a Queen Anne style double-hung window with large single-light window surround by small color lights. It has a decorative column style wood frame. The gable cladding is sawtooth shingles, similar to the south gable. The rear section extends beyond this bay window, recessed from the main side of the house. This space is partially filled by a one-story side porch along the east side of this rear section. The side porch is constructed with the same styling as the south portion of the porch. It appears on the Sanborn maps between 1892 and 1899, before the wrap around porch was constructed. However, the upper woodwork utilizes significantly heavier members taking away from the airy feel conveyed by the south porch. Much heavier bracketing with different pattern is utilized. The porch is enclosed with screening. A single entry is located in the north bay of the side porch. The entry has a wood door with large window. The two single-over-single-light double-hung windows with same decorative segmental arch frames and segmental brick window hoods are located in the second story above the east side porch.

The west elevation has three sections, with an angled bay window centered on the elevation. The south bay has a single-over-single-light double-hung window that is centered between the first and second stories. The center bay is the two-story angled bay window with windows in its front face (southwest) which is angled and the center (west). The north face of the bay is not angled but set perpendicular to the house and does not contain windows. The side windows are single-over-single-light double-hung

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windows on both stories. The center windows are a set of two single-over-single-light double-hung windows with a turned column between the two windows. The windows all have decorative segmental arch wood frames, slightly projected segmental brick window hoods, and stone sills. The projected gable-roof top of the angled bay window is supported by decorative carved corner brackets. The gable does not have a window, and it is clad in sawtooth shingles. The north bay is the side of the rear section of the house. It has four single-over-single-light double-hung windows equally spaced, two in each story. This section originally had a porch along the side of the rear section, but it was removed by 1899 according to the Sanborn maps.

The rear elevation is two stories with two single-over-single-light double-hung windows vertically aligned in the east section of the elevation.

The garage is a post-1960 non-historic vinyl sided garage.

This house has extensive vegetative landscaping camouflaging the hill it sits on. The front and side entrances have older concrete steps with steel pipe handrails. A brick sidewalk leads to the side porch. Two five-globe light posts are set in front of the front and east elevations to provide yard lighting.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The J.O. Martin House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The house also would be a strong contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

The J.O. Martin house retains excellent historical integrity from the 1890s and is an excellent example of late Victorian Queen Anne style architecture with a unique asymmetrical style. Architectural features of note include the angled corner and classic Queen Anne style features – spindle wood work, sunburst window, sawtooth siding, and end gable roofs. While the property is associated with J.O. Martin an early capitalist and J.L. Giesler, real estate and President, German-American Savings Bank, their contributions to the Muscatine community appear not to be especially noteworthy. Little is known about J.O. Martin. J.L. Giesler was president of the German American Savings Bank and involved in several businesses. However there are several remaining houses associated with J.L. Giesler including 601 W. 3rd Street where he lived for the longest period of any in Muscatine. Thus, the J.O. Martin House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under C.

The J.O. Martin House also appears to be a strong contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The house represents a second-generation house as this house succeeds an earlier house in this old block. The house has good historic integrity from around 1890 and is important in the overall evolution of the historic neighborhood and its related social fabric.

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An earlier two-story rectangular I-house with two exterior chimneys appears on the 1883 and 1888 Sanborn maps. This Queen Anne house appears on the 1892 Sanborn map, with only a few historic porch alterations since this period. Allen Broomhall, Muscatine attorney, lived at 403 W. 2nd from 1883 to 1889 prior to moving to 403 W. 4th Street in 1889-1892 and then 417 W. 4th 1891-92 (City Directories). Thus, he appears associated with an earlier house on this site. He died on November 6, 1891 at the age of 57.

John O. Martin bought the property (lots 4 and 5, block 37) at 403 W. 2nd Street on February 1, 1889 from George Denison et ux. (Book of Lots, 21:678) and appears to have constructed the house that is currently present at this address. J.O. Martin, capitalist, is first listed in the 1879 city directory as boarding at the Scott House. The 1880 census shows John Martin, 46 white male, as an editor and publisher. He was born in Indiana, and his wife, Anna L., 35 white female, was born in Ohio. The Martin's had four children, John Jr. - 10, Marl - 7, Hanna - 4, and Harold J. - 11 months. He lived at 1000 Mulberry from 1883 through 1891 and is listed as capitalist for his occupation moving to 403 W. 2nd Street, first listed here in the 1891-92 city directory. This Queen Anne house appears on the 1892 Sanborn map, though a perhaps simplified form may indicate it was under construction. The current form with all bay windows clearly is shown on the 1899 Sanborn map. He remained in the house at 403 W. 2nd though the 1897-98 city directory, listed as capitalist until retirement in 1897. He is not listed in the 1900 city directory.

On October 17, 1898, J.L. Giesler bought the property from Sarah T. Martin and husband (Book of Lots, 30:561) and moved from Wilton, Iowa. James L. Giesler and daughter, Edna, student, was listed at 403 W. 2nd Street in the 1899-1900 city directory with no listing in prior city directories. He was with the stock buying firm of Blanchard, Blackwell & Giesler located at 224 E. 2nd. In 1900, he is listed with his wife Mildred and daughter, Edna, and as president of the German-American Savings Bank (GASB) and Riggs & Co (livestock). Mary (widow of Henry Giesler) is also listed as boarding at 403 W. 2nd. The 1900 Census has James L. Gissler, cashier, age 43, married to Mildred, age 34, for 15 years living at 403 W. 2nd. The Census lists daughter, Edna, age 17, at school; son, Harold, age 13 at school; son James Raymond, age 4; and mother, Mary, age 83, widow. The Giesler's owned the home. In 1902-03 directory, J.L. is also listed with F.O. Block as owner of the Giesler Button Co. located at 125 E. Front & 407 Benham. Henry F. Giessler, 2nd Vice President of the GASB, and wife Kate P. joined Mary (widow of Henry Giesler) and Edna as boarders at 403 W. 2nd. By 1904 Henry F & Kate P Giessler has moved to 702 W. 3rd leaving James L. and Ida A. Giesler at 403 W. 2nd with Edna S. and Harold L. Giesler, students, boarding at 403 W. 2nd. J.L. was still listed as President of GASB, but appears to no longer be associated with the button company. Giesler-Stewart Button Company is the new button company at 116 Walnut owned by Fred Giesler and Frank Stewart. J.L. Giesler lived at 412 W. 3rd from 1907 to 1913, 617 W. 3rd in 1916, 601 W. 3rd from 1919 to his death in 1931 (Oakdale Cemetery Records, Wilton, Iowa). His business interests were extensive: Blanchard, Blackwell & Giesler stock buyers, 1899 to 1904; President of GASB from 1900 to 1907; Vice President GASB, 1907 to 1929; President of Riggs & Co., livestock, 1900 to 1904; President of Commercial Club, 1913; Vice President of Iowa Culvert and Sheet Metal Company, 1913; President J.C. Thomson Installment Co, 1929 to death; Treasurer Iowa Sheet Metal Products Company and Western Grave Vault Co., 1931 to death (City Directories). J. L.

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Giesler, was born on March 17, 1857 in Wilton, Iowa. He began his business career in 1874 as a clerk in the banking-house of J. L. Reed. In 1876 he entered the Farmers and Citizens' Bank at Wilton, as a clerk, and was one of the organizers of the Union Bank in 1878, of which he was made cashier. He is recognized as a successful business man and a representative citizen and by all he is held in the highest regard. His first wife was Miss Sarah F. Stone who died in May 1884 leaving a little daughter, Sarah Edna. He then married Miss Mildred Hilbert. (*Portrait and Biographical Album* 1889: 500).

In 1906, J.L. Giesler sold the property to Adam Wigim and wife Elizabeth (Lots Book 38: 710). J.L. Giesler and wife moved to 412 W. 3rd Street. Adam Wigim is listed as retired in the 1907 directory and is not listed in previous city directories. The 1920 Census lists Adam Wigim, 67, and wife Elizabeth, 43, at 403 W. 2nd with daughter Gertrude, 23, and Edgar Schaffuct as roomer. The Wigims were of Irish descent with both Adam's and Elizabeth's parents listed as from Ireland.

Frank Delaney and brother George purchased the property in 1921 (Lots Book 56: 66) and were listed as farmers in the city directory. The Wigims moved to 210 Linn Street. Frank and George continued living here until 1929 when George sold his half of the property to Frank (Muscatine County Deed/Abstract Records). Frank, retired, and wife Ella F. are listed here in the 1931 City Directory. Frank and Ella continued to live here until 1961.

The house was vacant in 1962. Deed and abstract records indicate that Francis L. Foley purchased the property from the Delaneys in 1963. Richard A. Brooks and wife Beulah lived here in 1963 according to the City Directory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1860, 1880, 1900.

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1856-1959. Available as the Musser Public Library.

Deed/Abstract Records, Recorder's Office, Muscatine County Courthouse, Muscatine, Iowa.

History of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

"Residence of Hon. J.L. Giesler, 403 W. 2nd", Photo, Picturesque Muscatine, 1901, P. 84 – Gen Coll, Musser Public Library – 977.7 P589.

Oakdale Cemetery Records, Wilton, Iowa accessed at
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iamuscat/cemetery/oakdale.htm>

Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1889.

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Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY:
Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1919, 1928. Accessed online at:
Sanborn.umi.com.

Location Map



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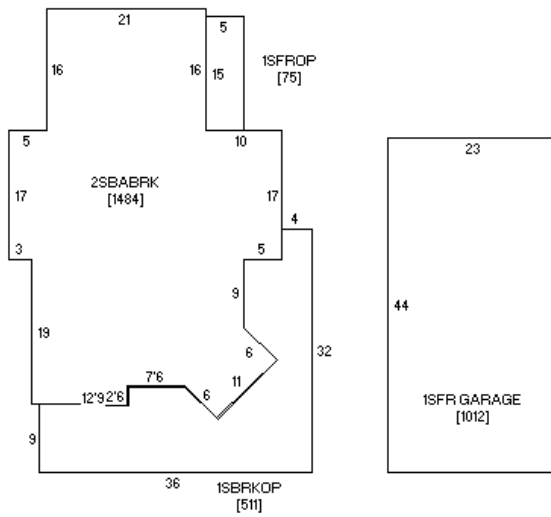
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front – W. 2nd Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

