

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

State Inventory No. 70-01010 **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 Henry Geiss House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-012

2. Location

street & number 415 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) E 5 1/2 Lot 1 & W 2/3 Lot 2

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: Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>2</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>2</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>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>02: Wood Clapboard</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 415 W. 2nd St Site Number 70-01010
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)

31: Other – Neighborhood Development

Significant Dates

Construction date 1904 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 (R.L. McCarley, consultant)
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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Henry Geiss House
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7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, two-bay, asymmetrical Queen Anne house. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are frame, clad in wood clapboard siding. The hip roof with cross gables is clad in asphalt shingles. Most of the windows throughout the house have original single-over-single-light double-hung sashes, wood frames, and wood sills. The two story house has an original one-story rear portion that spans the width of the house.

The front (south) elevation is characterized by two-story angled bay window with a gable roof on the east portion. The full width porch has simple round columns and deep beams spanning between columns. The entry is located in the east portion of the west bay. The wood door has a large arch single light window. A smaller single light rectangular window is set to the west of the door, high on the elevation. The three-sided angled bay window located in the east bay of the elevation has a single-over-single-light double-hung window in each side on both stories. The center window on the first story is a large single-light window with a transom. The center window on the second story is a wider single-over-single-light double-hung window. A single-over-single-light double-hung window is centered in the west bay of the second story. The gable above the bay window is clad with wood clapboard siding and has a Palladian window centered in the gable. The Palladian window features an arched center window with shuttered lower section and adjacent rectangular single-light windows.

The two bay east elevation contains no windows in the south bay and the north bay consists of a two story, angled bay window with a gable roof, similar to the front bay window except in the gable is a rectangular shuttered louver and not a window. Three single-over-single-light double-hung windows around found on each story of the bay window. The single story hip-roof back portion of the house has a single light leaded glass window set high in the elevation adjacent to the center bay window. A single-over-single-light double-hung window is set north of the single light window.

The west elevation has irregularly spaced windows. A side entry door is located slightly north of center of the elevation. Only one window is south of the side door entry and is located high in the elevation and is a single-light by single-light window. One single-over-single-light double-hung window is located towards the back set between the first and second stories. A single light window is located slightly higher and to the north of the side door entry. Two single-over-single-light double-hung windows are in the second story north of the side entry. The single story hip-mansard roof back portion of the house has a single-over-single-light double-hung window to the south and a large thirty-light window at the northwest corner of the elevation on the first story.

The rear elevation consists of the one-story hip roof back portion of the house and the second story of the main portion of the house. A larger single-over-single-light double-hung window is located in the east bay of the first story and a smaller, narrow single-over-single-light double-hung window is located in the middle of the first story. The west portion of the first story contains the rear entry and a large historic,

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thirty-light window. The rear door is wood with a wood panel transom. Two smaller single-over-single-light double-hung windows are located in the second story of the main portion of the house.

The brick garage has a slanted metal roof from south to north. The east and west elevations have no openings. The north elevation contains a single stall wood tilt door located in the west portion of the elevation and single-over-single-light double-hung window high up on the wall in the east portion of the elevation. The door and window has wood frame with an arched wood panel transom beneath segmental brick arch lintels. This garage is depicted on the 1928 Sanborn and may have originated as early as 1905 although it is difficult to discern whether the building depicted on the 1905 Sanborn is the same as the present.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Geiss House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. It appears to be a strong contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

This house has very good historical integrity and is little changed from its start in the early 1900s. The house represents the culmination of the long career of Henry Geiss, long-time local druggist. The house is associated with him later in his life and career when he had the means to have a substantial home constructed. The house at 109 Locust where he spent a substantial period of his life in Muscatine is not extant. His house of business at 209 W. 2nd retains very little of its historic integrity. Henry Geiss was one of the more prominent German settlers in Muscatine and served the community as druggist for 59 years and outlasting much of the competition. While the home is associated with Henry Geiss, long-time, local German druggist, and the German business community, he only lived in this house for the last five years of his life. The two-story, two-bay, asymmetrical Queen Anne house is wonderfully proportioned and is an excellent example of asymmetrical Queen Anne styling. The house retains excellent historic integrity with wood siding, and original wood window sashes and frames. The front gable Palladian window accents the overall composition. Although a wonderful Queen Anne home, there are better examples of Queen Anne styling in Muscatine. Thus the home appears not to be individually eligible under Criteria A, B, or C.

The Henry Geiss House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The home retains excellent historical integrity, is a wonderful example of Queen Anne style architecture, and is associated with a prominent German businessman and long-time local druggist – Henry Geiss.

An earlier 1 ½ story house is shown on the 1899 Sanborn map, with this two-story house constructed by the 1905 Sanborn map. Jacob Martin, traveling salesman for Mull & Sons lived at this house prior to 1900 having moved to this residence from 714 E. 8th in 1895-96. Onier W. Fricke, fireman for the Muscatine N&S RR, and wife, Nettie, was listed at this location in 1900. Arthur W. Davis, wife Mary E,

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and Elizabeth W. (widow of Joseph) is listed at 415 W. 2nd in the 1902-1903 city directory moving to 513 Chestnut by 1904. According to the 1904 city directory, Robert T. LaGrille, a billards proprietor, is listed at 415 W. 2nd Street.

According to the auditor's office transfer books, Martha Geiss was the owner of the property by 1902. In 1904, Henry Geiss, a druggist, lived at 209 W. 2nd Street, but by 1907 he was listed at 415 W. 2nd Street. His wife Martha and daughters Mattie and Nina lived with him at 415 W. 2nd from 1907 to 1912. No occupations are listed for Mattie and Nina. Henry Geiss came to Muscatine from Trier, Germany in 1853, where he was born on December 28, 1831. He was married to Miss Martha C. McGreer on October 23, 1858. He operated a drug store at 209 W. 2nd Street, starting in the 1860s. He lived above the store in the 1870s. From 1883 to 1900, he resided at 109 Locust (non-extant), and from 1900 to 1904 he was again living at his house of business at 209 W. 2nd. He is first listed at this house in 1907. The 1910 Census lists Henry Geiss, 72, Martha, 71, wife, and daughters, Mattie, 37, and Nina, 35, with Henry being a druggist and owning the home. His wife and daughters are listed as having no occupation. In June 1912, he retired and sold the building and his inventory. Henry Geiss died on October 31, 1912 at age 81. His obituary claimed that he was the oldest druggist in the state of Iowa and the second oldest druggist in the United States when he died. He had worked in Muscatine for 56 years (since 1866). His widow, with two daughters, the Misses Mattie and Nina Geiss, survived him. One daughter, Mrs. Nellie Little preceded his death by twenty years (1892). He was affiliated with the local Turners and the Maennerchor for years (Obituary, 1912).

His widow, Martha Geiss, lived here until her death on July 29, 1913. Her obituary indicates that Martha was one of Muscatine's most widely known and prominent women residents having come here as a pioneer in 1852 from Indiana. She was a member of Trinity Episcopal church since 1869 (Obituary, 1913). Her daughters, Nina and Mattie, no occupations, continued to live at 415 W. 2nd after their parents deaths through 1919.

They sold the property to Margaret Zeigler on Jan 13, 1920 (Lots Book 43: 500). Sam Zeigler, farmer, and his wife Margaret lived here briefly in 1921 prior to moving to 612 Sycamore by 1923. According to the 1920 Census, Samuel Zeigler, age 55, was Vice President of a canning company and was married to Margaret, age 46. The 1921 city directory lists Samuel Zeigler as a farmer.

Zeigler sold the house to Harry C. and Nettie Asthalter on December 1, 1922 (Lots Book 61: 1031). Harry C. Asthalter and his wife Nettie moved to 415 W. 2nd from 115 E. 6th Street. The 1923 city directory lists them here, and Harry was superintendent/foreman for McKee & Bliven Button Co. He was associated with the McKee Company for 40 years listed during his residence at 415 W. 2nd as foreman from 1923 through 1952, retiring by 1954 (City Directories). Mr. Asthalter was born March 25, 1880 in Muscatine. He married Nettie Mann on March 25, 1911 in Muscatine. He was a law graduate of the University of Nebraska and practiced law in Chicago for four years. The 1930 Census lists Harry Asthalter, age 49 and married to wife, Nellie, age 48, and son Mark, age 18 at 415 W. 2nd. The Census has Harry as owning the house in 1930. He retired by 1954. Harry and Nettie would continue to live at 415 W. 2nd until he died

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on August 3, 1961 at 81 years of age. He was a Mason, a member of the Shrine, and a member of the Methodist church (Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, 1961).

His widow, Nettie, continued to live at 415 W. 2nd until 1972 (City Directories).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1910, 1920, 1930.

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

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

"Harry C. Asthalter," Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, August 4, 1961, P 11.

"Pioneer Druggist Passes Away Here," Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, October 31, 1912, P 10.

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

"Prominent Muscatine Women Resident Dies," Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, July 30, 1913, P 2.

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.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
 State Historical Society of Iowa
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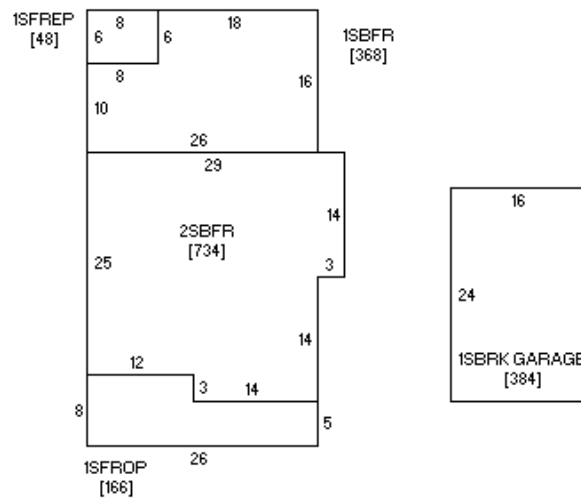
415 W. 2nd Street
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Location Map



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



(front – W. 2nd Street)

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Photograph of building (digital image)

