

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

State Inventory No. 70-00187  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 Lambert-Musser House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-029

**2. Location**

street & number 515 W. Second  
 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) 38 Lot(s) Lot 1 & Ex. E 5'6" 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)	_____	<u>2</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	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>05B: Late Victorian/Italianate</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick (original) 10A: Concrete/Block</u> for some repair
_____	walls <u>02A: Wood/Weatherboard</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  
City Muscatine

Address 515 W. Second

Site Number 70-00187  
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 1866  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates c.1905 – alterations, porch, c.1915 – side addition

**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 Jim Rudisill (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date February 20, 2006

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 Italianate house built around 1866 by Daniel Lambert. The house sets on an assumed brick foundation, although some concrete blocks are visible, especially around the front porch area. The porch was constructed between 1905 and 1912. The remainder of the house has little of the foundation exposed. The walls are frame, clad in narrow lapboard wood siding. The hip roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The 1874 birds-eye view shows that a cupola has been removed since this date, quite possibly in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century at the same time as the other alterations. Cliff Musser bought the house in 1904 and began a series of alterations. The main building has a hip roof leading to the central platform with a series of dormers extending out from the roof surface on several elevations. Musser installed this roof and extended the building's height sometime after 1911. All the windows and doors appear historic, dating to at least the c.1905 alterations, except possibly for the second story porch windows. The dormers were also likely added at this time. Musser constructed the side sunroom addition between 1912 and 1919. A two-story, brick carriage house has been converted into a garage. It sets on the back portion of the lot. The house is located on an elevated corner lot with a short rusticated cement block retaining wall along the front and west elevations.

The front (south) elevation is dominated by a nearly full-width open front porch with a centered enclosed second-story solarium centered on the porch. The one-story front porch is supported in the front by four square wood columns. Railings with turned balusters connect the columns. The porch access is on the west side of the porch. A series of dentils extends along the front of the porch roof. The solarium has a flat roof. A group of four one-over-one-light, fixed or tilt sash windows extends along the front of the solarium. A transom is located above each window. A set of three similar windows is located on each side of the solarium. The windows extend only part way down the wall, with the frame wall covering the lower portion. Three first-story openings, including a centered entry, are located under the porch. The centered entry is located in a protruding enclosure with the entry door centered in the enclosure's front wall. The historic wood door features a nearly full-length single-light, glass insert. Two pilasters, which support an entablature that extends out a short distance, surround the door. A transom is located between the entablature and the door. Two windows are located on each side of the entry on the main face of the house. Each window appears to be centered between the entry and each outside wall. The windows contain one-over-one-light double-hung sashes. Single windows, each containing one-over-one-light-light, double-hung sashes, are located on the second story of the main house on each side of the solarium. The windows are located close to the solarium walls. Pilasters that run from the foundation up to just below the cornice are located at the corners of the house. A double set of brackets on each side of the house corner extends up to the roof overhang. A series of dentils that match the dentils on the front of the porch extend between the corners of the façade. These are original features of the Italianate house. The roof on this elevation contains two gable dormers, likely added around 1905. Each dormer contains a three-over-three-light double-hung window. A c.1915, one-story, flat roof addition on the east side of the main house contains a centered, two-door entrance. The doors both contain at least 15 lights, but more likely 18 lights. A five-light transom is located over the pair of doors. Two multi-light windows flank the entrance. Each window contains eight-over-sixteen-light, fixed sashes. Pilasters that extend from the foundation to the addition's cornice separate each opening.

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A ca. 1911 photograph of the house, which shows the front and west side elevations of the house and a portion of the brick carriage house, includes the constructed solarium, but no third floor addition (Home Record Printing Company, 1911, no page number). The historic solarium appearance is the same as the current view. The current and historic window appearances are the same. The historic roof is different from the current view. The c.1911 house features a pyramidal hip roof with low-sloping sides that meet to form a flat top. An arched top dormer with extended wings is centered in the roof on the front side. No other dormers can be seen in the photo. The appearance on the rest of the house does not appear different from the current view. The two-story, brick carriage house is visible in the background. Its appearance also appears to be the same as the current view.

The east side of the house is composed of the side of the original house with a two-story bay c.1904 window at the rear and the side of the c.1904 two-story rear addition behind the bay window. Additionally, the c.1915 one-story sunroom addition extends from the first story of this façade and covers the front half of the main house's east elevation. The elevation's second story remains exposed, as does the back half of the first story. The rear of the original east elevation has a bay window that replaced an earlier square bay window by 1905. The first-story middle bay window opening appears to have been altered to provide an interior entry into the one-story addition. The second story of the bay window has a pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung windows in the center. The sides contain single one-over-one-light-light, double-hung windows. A shed-roof c.1905 dormer is centered above the bay window. The roof is supported on the corners by pilasters. A pair of windows is present in the dormer. Each window contains three-over-three-light, double-hung sashes. Two openings on the second story are located in front of the bay and above the one-story sunroom addition. The left opening is a typical window with one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. The left opening is a small, single-light, fixed sash window. The c.1904 two-story rear addition extends behind the bay window. A single one-over-one-light-light, double-hung window is centered on the first-story between the bay window and the end of the original wall. A pair of one-over-one-light-light, double-hung windows is found on the second story. A second gable-roof dormer is located to the right of the larger shed dormer on the rear c.1904 addition. It also contains three-over-three-light, double-hung sashes. A short rear wing, built between 1919 and 1928, extends to the north (rear) behind the c.1904 two-story addition. A one-over-one-light, double-hung window is centered on the east wall of this 1920s addition. An overhang covers an entry that is located on the exposed portion of the main house's north wall where it connects to the recessed rear wing. The entry contains a solid, four-panel wood door. The main house roof covers the recessed rear wing.

The east side c.1915 addition covers the first-story in front of the bay window as well as part of the bay window. The east wall of the one-story addition includes a window group with matching ends and three interior windows. Each end window contains a twelve-light, fixed sash. The bottom of each end window opening is filled with regular wood siding that matches the siding on the rest of the house. Three interior windows fill the remaining openings. Each window contains a fixed top sash containing eight lights. The bottom sash, which is probably a casement, contains sixteen sashes. Two window flower boxes extend across the full opening. Pilasters separate the windows on this elevation. Pilasters also divide the north wall of the east side addition into three equal openings. The center opening extends the full length of the

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wall, but is blind. Both the outside and inside openings contain a single twelve-light, fixed sash window. Each window fills about three-fourths of the opening, with the remainder enclosed by a frame wall.

The west side elevation contains the side of the original house, recessed west side of the c.1904 two-story rear addition, and the further recessed side of the 1920s small rear extension. The side of the original house contains a centered brick chimney that likely dates to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Single, one-over-one-light-light, double-hung windows are centered on either side of the chimney and end of the elevation on both the first and second stories. A square pilaster extends up each corner of the wall and widens at the top to provide a base for two pair of double brackets that attach to the roof's wide overhang. One pair of brackets provides support to the end wall while the other pair supports the adjoining side wall. The exposed north wall of the main house section contains single one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on the first and second story. The two windows are centered on the wall and aligned with each other. The west wall of the c.1904 rear addition contains two windows on the first story and two on the second story. The two first-story windows and the left window of the second story are similar in size and design to the other one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on this elevation. The second-story window on the right is about half the height of the other windows. It contains one-over-one-light-light, double-hung sashes. The four windows are located near the edge of the wall, with the opening on each story aligned with each other. Continuing the stair-step configuration, the north wall of the first rear extension is about half the length of the north wall of the main house section. The smaller north wall contains a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window on both the first and second stories. The west wall of a second small 1920s rear extension contains two centered windows, one on each story. Each window matches the typical windows of this elevation in size and design.

The exposed rear (north) elevations have been described with the side elevations. No additional openings are found.

The two-story, brick, rectangular garage is one of the most elaborate carriage houses or garages in Muscatine. Cliff Musser built it between 1905 and 1912, as he remodeled the main house. The 1912 Sanborn map notes that it is an "auto house and stable." It exhibits features of the Prairie School style popular in this period, and it appears to have been designed by an architect or other designer. The garage "faces" Locust to the west, but also extends along the alley to the north. The building features a hip roof that contains centered cross gables in each side of the roof. Each brick wall of the garage, except for the gable end, stops approximately two feet below the cornice of the hip roof. It is unknown what the material is that fills this gap, and it is possible that windows might have originally been located in this space. Three flat brackets at each end of this gap support the wide overhang and built-in gutters of the hip roof.

The front (west) elevation of the garage features a centered opening in the gable end. The opening appears to contain an original sliding door. It includes a three-panel lower section, with each panel in an upper section containing three vertical lights. The lower section of the center panel contains a centered horizontal light. A limestone lintel extends across the entry and is supported on each end by a portion of

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the brick wall that has been extended into the entry. A separate block of limestone tops each extended wall column and the lintel actually rests on those blocks. A pair of six-over-one-light, double-hung windows is centered in the gable above the entry. A stone lintel also extends across this opening and a stone sill is also present.

The north and south elevations of the garage are almost twice the length as the east and west sides. The two-story cross gables on these sides are also about twice the width of the other two gables. The north elevation's cross gable includes the hayloft loading door and two additional windows. The hayloft door is similar to the front entry door. Its two companion windows are centered between the door and the right end of the gable. Each window contains six-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. There is no stone lintel, but each window has a stone sill. The first-story openings are all windows, including three of the typical six-over-one-light design. Two of the typical windows are centered in the gable end of the elevation. The third typical window is located towards the front of the building. Three additional openings are located at the back of the elevation. One opening is at the same height as the first-story openings, but is smaller. It contains a six-over-one-light, double-hung window. The second opening is located below this window and appears to be a feed bin chute opening. The last opening is a short, arched opening in the bottom northeast corner. A formed wood panel or door closes off the opening. The purpose of this opening is unknown, although it might have allowed dogs or other small animals access when the large doors were closed. A stone lintel extends across each of the window openings on this elevation and each window also features a stone sill.

The south elevation (facing the house) also features a wider cross gable and main wall than either the west or east elevations. The upper gable on this side contains three typical six-over-one-light, double-hung windows, equally spaced across the gable. These windows only feature stone sills. Several openings are located on the first story. A pair of similar windows is aligned directly below the center window of the upper gable. Another similar window is centered in the front bay of the elevation, while a pair of smaller six-over-one-light windows is centered in the rear bay. A final window is located in the lower right corner of the elevation. It is assumed it contains a six-over-one-light sash, but the view is blocked by vegetation. Each of these windows includes a stone lintel and sill. The remaining opening on this elevation is an elevated entry that provides access to the garage, a converted carriage house, from the main house. The entry includes a small gabled overhang supported by two wood columns.

The rear (east) elevation contains only a series of four, second-story windows, which extends across the end wall. There is no two-story cross gable on this elevation, although a gable dormer is present on the roof. The four windows each contain six-over-one-light, double-hung sashes, with stone lintels and sills.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Lambert-Musser House and Carriage House appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B & C. They also appear to be contributing buildings in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

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Despite some confusion over dates, attorney Daniel Lambert built the main house likely around 1866. Lambert did not significantly influence the history of Muscatine. City directories indicate Lambert was the sole attorney in his law, insurance and real estate office from 1859 to 1892. From the 1893-94 directory to 1895 he and his son Frank were listed as a partnership that specialized in law, real estate and insurance. The partnership had dissolved by the time the 1897-98 directory was published and by 1900 the Lamberts had moved from Muscatine. Industrialist Clifford Musser acquired the house in 1904, the same year he and his wife Margaret were married. He built the brick carriage house and added the solarium and attic story to the main house. Musser had a major influence in the development of the sash and door industry in Muscatine. He worked eight years for the Muscatine Door and Sash Company and later served for over 50 years on its board of directors. Musser was associated throughout his entire life with the lumber and timber industry and served as a director of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company from 1919 until his death in 1956. He also played a major role in the community's banking industry. He served as president of the Muscatine Bank and Trust Company for 20 years and later was the chairman of the board for the bank for more than 15 years. Musser also had a lifelong interest in agriculture. In 1937 he established the Iowa State College Agricultural Foundation, which operated several demonstration farms throughout the state. Musser also supported a variety of local civic efforts. He was an original trustee of the library board in 1901 and served as its president for several years. He was instrumental in starting the Public Health Nursing service in Muscatine, contributed a fire truck to the city and also contributed a building to the Muscatine Welfare Association. Additionally, the architectural style of both buildings on the property is significant. The original Italianate style of the original house has been altered by Musser's ca. 1915 alterations, but these reflected efforts by the owner to upgrade his property and demonstrate his high social and economic status. The alterations create a basically unique house that is not comparable to other buildings in the neighborhood or community. The remodel added features, such as the solarium, which were the latest modern developments in architectural design and planning. In addition the alterations are now well within the 50-year threshold for historic significance. The elaborate carriage house is also a carefully designed building that utilized the popular Prairie School style. No other similar carriage house is found in the neighborhood or community. Thus, the Lambert/Musser House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B & C.

In addition to its individual significance, the property also contributes to a potential "West Hill" historic district. As a relatively new professional to Muscatine, Lambert likely felt the need to impress on the local residents his economic and social status. Impressions enhanced by such features as a new home in one of the community's elite neighborhoods would have increased his standing and probably boosted his law practice. In turn, his decision to build on West Hill and raise a family enhanced the neighborhood's development and stability. Combined with the continuing development made by other builders, West Hill became more attractive to other potential homeowners. The combination of these factors makes these buildings significant contributors to the history and architecture of this potential historic district.

Although there appears to be a conflict between the local tradition and property ownership records on specific dates, both reference sources agree local attorney Daniel Lambert likely constructed the main house sometime during the early 1860s. Sanborn maps clearly establish Musser as the builder of the

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carriage house and later alterations. Ellen Lambert, Daniel's wife, purchased Lot 1, Block 38, the location of the original house, for \$1055 during an auction on April 26, 1866 (Book 2, page 147). Henry W. Moore, a well-known merchant in the community, was the executor for the Charles Molly (?) estate, which previously owned the land. Though a house was likely on the lot on the time, the price does not indicate the large house that is shown in the 1874 birds-eye view of Muscatine. It is likely the Lamberts built the current house soon after buying the property. Lambert was originally born in Maine around 1833. His wife Ellen was born in Massachusetts around 1841. It is unknown when they arrived in Muscatine, but it probably was sometime between 1856 and 1859. The 1859 directory has them located on the "ws Sycamore Street b 2d & 3d." In the 1866 city directory, Daniel and Ellen Lambert are at "Second NE cor Locust", while the Hills are listed at "Second ns 2 e Locust". This will fit with the current 515 W. Second for the Lamberts and likely 513 W. Second (a non-extant house) for the Hills. The Hills had bought Lot 2 in 1865. The Lamberts are listed in the 1866 to the 1897-98 directories as the residents. Census records also appear to show the Lamberts were initially successful in the community. The 1860 census shows them owning around \$1400 in real estate with an additional personal estate of \$700. The 1870 census shows Lambert with \$16,000 in real estate and \$2000 (?) in personal value. His household includes Ellen (29), Frank (9), Eddie (5), and then William Penn (28, clerk in law office) and H---- Landiss, a German servant (18). Lambert operated his own law, real estate and insurance office in Muscatine from 1859 to 1899. The 1880 census shows the Lamberts continued to live on Second Street, most likely at 515 W. Second. Daniel, 47; his wife Ellen, 37; and sons Frank, 19; and Fred, 8. Daniel's occupation was recorded as a lawyer, while the two sons were both listed in school. Ellen was listed as keeping house. They continue to be listed in city directory here through 1897-98. However, sometime before 1900, the family apparently was dealt a financial setback and Lambert was forced to sell the property at a sheriff's sale. They left Muscatine and moved to Denver, Colorado (1900 census).

Stanhope Fleming acquired the property during the sheriff's sale on June 2, 1899 (Book 1 Sheriff's Deeds, Page 425). He does not show up in any of the city directories from 1897 to 1905. No listings could be identified for this house in the 1900 city directory or census. The 1902-03 city directory specifically identifies it as vacant.

Cliff Musser bought Lot 1 on January 11, 1904 from Stanhope Fleming, widower (Book 34, Page 488). The Musser family was long associated with the Musser Lumber Company and with the Roach & Musser Sash & Door Company. He apparently began modifications to this house that spanned several years. By the 1905 Sanborn map, the rear section with side porches is shown as two-story, same as the remainder of the house. The angled bay window also appears to have been added on the east side, replacing an earlier bay window. By the 1912 Sanborn map, the new front porch has been constructed, with the two-story center section. Most of the windows and the dormers likely date to this period of remodeling around 1905 or 1915. Mahin sold most of Lot 2 on April 8, 1905 to Cliff Musser (about 5.5 feet was sold to the other adjoining property owner). He demolished the house by 1912, which gave him room for a later addition to the house at 515 W. Second. This one-story sunroom addition appears on the Sanborn maps between 1912 and 1919.

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Cliff and Margaret Musser are listed as the residents in the 1904 through the 1956 directories. The Mussers were members of one of the most influential families to have ever lived in the community. The flagship of the family's influence, the Musser Lumber Company, which had been founded in the mid-1800s, continued to operate after the turn of the century. Clifton Musser remained affiliated with the company at the local level, but also continued to work with other timber interests throughout the Midwest and the Northwest through the Mississippi River Logging Company. The Mississippi River Logging Company began to recognize the end of the timber supply in its Wisconsin lands by the late 1890s and began restricting cutting activities. As the supply of logs was depleted, the Musser Lumber Company sold much of its interests to the Fox, Hutchinson & Lake Company in 1903, and then closed and dismantled its mill in 1905. Part of company's land holdings was donated as Musser Park to Muscatine by Clifton. In 1909, the Mississippi River Logging Company was dissolved in Iowa. By 1911, the Musser Lumber Company had been "practically closed up" with its only asset the actual grounds and office. (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 159; "Musser" clippings file, Musser Public Library; Norton 1912: 84-91).

Musser interests in Muscatine also focused on the Muscatine Sash & Door Company, which became the Roach & Musser Sash & Door Company in the early 1900s. Clifton Musser had a major influence in the development of the sash and door industry in Muscatine. He worked eight years for the Muscatine Door and Sash Company and later served for over 50 years on its board of directors. On December 20, 1906, the Roach & Musser Sash and Door Company in South Muscatine closed for several weeks to overhaul the factory and invoice the stock. Business continued to significantly expand through the early 1900s, requiring additional space and new machinery. A second-story addition to house the sash department was constructed as well as large additions to two warehouses. It was described as "Muscatine's greatest plant" which was "the largest mill of its kind in America" in 1909. Nearly 600 workers were employed in the factory (*Muscatine Journal*, December 16, 1909, 36, 44; Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 485; *Muscatine Journal*, June 11, 1906, 5, December 20, 1906: 7).

Clifton Musser was associated throughout his entire life with the lumber and timber industry outside of Muscatine as well. Through the Mississippi River Logging Company, the Mussers were not only linked to Frederick Weyerhaeuser and the Denkmanns but also with such families as the Lairds and Nortons of Winona, Minnesota, the Youngs, Lambs, and Joyces of Clinton, Iowa, the Ingrams, Carsons, and Moons in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Humbirds of Mason, Wisconsin, and Edward Rutledge of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. In January 1900, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company was incorporated with 15 partners to shift interests to logging in the Pacific Northwest, opening an office in Tacoma, Washington. Early in 1903 Weyerhaeuser and his associates agreed to form a new firm, merging all their Idaho properties and naming it the Potlatch Lumber Company. The stockholders selected Charles Weyerhaeuser as president, Henry Turrish vice president, John Kehl, Clifton Musser, Frank Hill Thatcher as directors, and Frederick Bell as secretary. He served as a director of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company from 1919 until his death in 1956. His son, John M. Musser, also worked for Weyerhaeuser interests in St. Paul, Minnesota until his retirement ("Musser" clippings file, Musser Public Library; Potlatch, Idaho historical website).

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<u>Lambert-Musser House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>515 W. Second</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

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The 1910 census continued to record Clifton, 41; Margaret, 35; their son John, 2; and two domestic servants at 515 W. Second. Musser was identified as a sash and door manufacturer. Changes noted in the 1920 census included a daughter, Miriam, 9; and Clifton was now listed as a bank president. Jennie Ruehle, 62; and Georgia Ruehle, 21, also lived in the household as domestic servants. The 1921 through the 1929 city directories continued to record Clifton and Margaret at 515 W. Second and his occupation as president of the Muscatine State Bank. Through the 1930s Musser continued to be identified as the president of the Muscatine State Bank. In the 1940-41 city directory Musser was recorded as the chairman of the board of the Muscatine Bank and Trust Company, the new name for the Muscatine State Bank. That occupation continued to be listed for Musser into the 1950s. The 1956 directory still listed him in that position when he died on October 12.

Clifton Musser played a major role in the Muscatine's banking industry and especially with the First National Bank of Muscatine. The bank was initially founded in 1870 as Silverman, Cook and Company by several local business leaders. The beginning assets for the bank totaled \$25,000. P.M. Musser became a partner in 1875 and the bank's name was changed to Cook, Musser and Company. The company was incorporated in 1896 as Cook, Musser & Company State Bank and Trust Company. The bank had \$75,000 in assets at this time. In 1897 state laws required five directors to be appointed to bank boards and C.R. Musser was elected to join his father and the other bank officers. P.M. Musser was appointed as the bank's first president. The bank's name changed again in 1908 to Cook, Musser & Co. State Bank, with assets of \$1,280,000. The name of the bank was changed again two years later to Muscatine State Bank. There were 152 stockholders at this time and assets surpassed \$1,500,000. Clifton R. Musser was elected to the bank president position in 1919, following the death of his father. In 1920 the bank expanded its building and reported assets of \$4,020,000, nearly triple that of the prior decade. Following the stock market crash of 1929, many banks across the country were forced to liquidate. Muscatine State Bank directors voted to reorganize under a new name, the Muscatine Bank and Trust Company, using the personal assets of stockholders. The action kept depositors from losing a single penny from the reorganization. C.R. Musser assumed the position of board chairman in 1940. During the war years, the bank's assets grew to nearly \$15,000,000. Although C.R. Musser died on October 12, 1956, the banking legacy he helped to establish continued to grow after his death. In 1966 the bank became a national charter bank and changed its name to the First National Bank of Muscatine. In 1971 its assets exceeded \$46,000,000. A new three-story brick building was constructed at 300 E. Second and by the beginning of the next decade, the bank's assets had grown to more than \$100,000,000. In 1990 the bank reported its assets at over \$177,000,000 (History of First National Bank, 1990, Musser Library - Bank File).

Clifton Musser also had a lifelong interest in agriculture. In 1937 he established the Iowa State College Agricultural Foundation, which has evolved into the ISU Agricultural Endowment. According to their website: "Clifton R. Musser, a Muscatine banker, wanted a way to help farmers and their families at a time when they faced many obstacles. He donated nine farms and \$100,000 to the foundation in 1938 and gave three more farms in 1942. Musser's vision was to carry out educational programs to improve agriculture for the benefit of the state of Iowa. The Agricultural Foundation primarily accomplished this mission through the acquisition, management and stewardship of farmland. It owned, leased and sold

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Lambert-Musser House	Muscatine
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land for the use and benefit of young Iowa farm families.” The name changed to the Name changed to Iowa State University Agricultural Foundation in 1961 (Iowa State University Agricultural Foundation website).

In 1946, the General Service Foundation of Illinois was founded and endowed by Clifton R. Musser (1869 to 1956,) and his wife, Margaret Kulp Musser (1875 to 1967). The majority of General Service Foundation's Board is comprised of family members. Since its inception, non-family members have served on the Board of Directors as well, in order to broaden the understanding of issue areas, bring in new ideas and help Trustees and staff increase their effectiveness as grant makers. General Service Foundation's Contribution Policy Aims To: Strengthen innovative institutions; Support visionary leaders;- Take risks on creative new ideas, strategies and solutions;- Target issue areas where other funds are not readily available; Leverage money to make greater impact; and Build community (General Service Foundation website).

Clifton R. Musser was also involved in other community enterprises. He was an original trustee of the board in 1901 and served in that capacity for 56 years. When he died in 1956, he provided a \$500,000 trust for the benefit of various Muscatine institutions and a \$50,000 bequest to the P. M. Musser Public Library. This gift made possible the first addition to and renovation of the original building in 1965. He was instrumental in starting the Public Health Nursing service in Muscatine, contributed a fire truck to the city and also contributed a building to the Muscatine Welfare Association (Muscatine Journal, 1956, 1; Musser Library website). Musser obituary appeared in the *Journal* on October 12, 1956.

Margaret Musser, widow of Cliff, continued to be listed as the resident in the 1958 and 1959 directories. The current owners acquired the property in 1968 from other Musser family members, following Margaret's death in 1967 in Illinois.

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Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Location Map**



