

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

State Inventory No. 70-01014  **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 Emerson and Ella Bowman House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-036

**2. Location**

street & number 706 W 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 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) 5 Lot(s) 7

**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	If Eligible Property, enter number of:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Enter number of:	Contributing      Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ buildings	<u>1</u> _____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ sites	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ structures	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ objects	_____ objects
	_____ Total	<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**

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

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>0901A: House / Front Gabled</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>02A: Weatherboard</u>
_____	roof <u>08A: 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 706 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Site Number 70-01014  
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

1909

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 Jo Ann Carlson, Commission Member (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date 12/15/2005

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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Emerson and Ella Bowman House  
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## 7. Narrative Description

This is a one-story, two-bay, gable-front house. The house sets on a brick foundation. The walls are wood, clad in steel siding. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingle. The house sits at a significantly lower elevation than Second Street. The rear of the house faces the river. A gable-front house is depicted in this approximate location on the 1874 bird's-eye view of Muscatine. It is probable that the current house, however, was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest Sanborn that shows the property is 1928.

The front (north) of the house has a hip-roof porch with square columns across most of the façade. The single-door entry is slightly offset to the right. A one-over-one-light, double-hung window is near the entry to the right, and a slightly narrower, one-over-one-light, double-hung window is to the left of the entrance. There are two paired one-over-one-light, double-hung windows centered on the second story above the porch.

On the east side, there are two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on the first story. The right window is centered on the north half of the wall and the left window is centered on the south half. The east wall of the enclosed rear porch is set flush with the east wall of the main house. The porch wall contains two windows. Each window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The west side has the similar windows as the east elevation. Each one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the first story is centered on one half of the wall. The west side of the porch is also visible on this elevation. An entrance is located on the right side of the wall and a single window on the left. The entrance contains a flush-mounted aluminum combination storm door. The window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

There is a covered porch in the rear. There is a group of four windows across the porch's south wall. Each window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. There is also a set of three windows centered on the second-story's gable end. Each window in the set contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. The center window is slightly taller than the two outside windows.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Emerson and Ella Bowman House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. However, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

It appears that Emerson and Ella Bowman built this house in 1909, after purchasing the property from Edward Niver. Features on the house suggest an early 20<sup>th</sup> century construction date, and the house follows the typical gable-front bungalow form. Emerson was a clothing salesman at the time, though

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worked other occupations in subsequent years. Both Emerson and Ella died at relatively young ages in the 1920s, and the property transferred to his parents, John and Lena Bowman, who lived at the adjacent 710 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and used this property as a rental. None of the Bowmans appear to be particularly significant. No significant event is known to have occurred on the property. In addition, the house is a rather plain front-gable house tucked into a small hillside lot. It retains good integrity, but the architecture does not appear particularly significant. There are numerous similar houses in the neighborhood and community. Thus, the Emerson and Ella Bowman House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Emerson and Ella Bowman House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. This project boosted West Hill's development and contributed to others making the decision to locate in the area. The house retains enough of its original features to contribute historically and architecturally to this potential historic district.

Foundry owner Edward Niver purchased Lot 7, Block 5 on April 22, 1891 for \$200 from Nicholas Barry and Son (Book 22; Page 644). Interestingly, these two men were in a similar line of work, and it is unknown if perhaps this transaction was part of a larger deal. The price appears to indicate no improvements on the property. The 1891 city directory recorded Niver as a resident of 509 E Third and still working at a foundry. In the 1899 city directory Edward Niver was still recorded as the resident of 509 E Third and identified as the proprietor of an iron foundry. The 1900 census confirmed the 606 Chestnut location and listed a large family there, including Edward Niver (head, 52, foundryman), Josephine (wife, 46), Alice (daughter, 18), Julia (daughter, 14), Margaret (daughter, 13), Ira A. Wyant (step-son, 18), Josephine Wyant (step-daughter, 16) and Florence Wyant (step-daughter, 15). Niver also had acquired a parcel at 212 West Fourth Street in 1899 and built his primary family residence there around 1900. Niver continued to be recorded as operating a foundry in the 1910 census, and the household continued to live at 212 W. Fourth Street. The ownership of this lot appears to have merely been a land investment, with the sale price of \$500 in 1909 indicating no improvements.

Interestingly, John and Lena Bowman appears to have lived at the 710 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street location (Lot 8 and E ½ Lot 9) prior to their son Emerson and his wife Ella purchasing the current 706 location (Lot 7). John and Lena's address varies through the 1890s and into the 1900s, not settling at 710 until 1907. However, since they owned this adjacent lot in this period, and the sales price of Lot 7 indicates no improvements, it appears that regardless of the various addresses associated with the house, they lived on the adjacent property, later known as 710 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Lot 8 and E ½ of Lot 9). Lena Bowman purchased Lot 8 and the east half of Lot 9, Block 5, from Abraham Smalley on November 2, 1885 (Lots Book 18: 774). He lived in the next block, at 810 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in this period. The 1889 city directory listed John Bowman at 116 Broadway and identified his occupation as a laborer. He is recorded in the 1889-92 city directory as living in the rear of 116 Broadway and working as laborer. The house on lot 6, on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broadway, is roughly in the location of 116 Broadway, though appears to have later had a W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street address. This address apparently means a building to the rear of the 116 Broadway. In the 1891 city directory John Bowman lived at 796 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and worked as a laborer. John Bowman is listed in the 1893 and 1895 Muscatine City Directories as residing in the rear of 116

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Broadway. Mr. Bowman is also listed as being a laborer in both directories. In the 1899 city directory, John Bowman again was listed at the rear of 116 Broadway. He was still working as a laborer. However, he was listed in the 1899-1900 directory at 796 West Second. This numbering appears to indicate a house further down the block. No occupation for him was listed. Emerson Bowman was recorded at the corner of Broadway and Cherry. He worked for a fence company. John and Lena Bowman were listed in the 1900 directory at 706 W. Second. This is the first clear indication of a 706 address, though it appears not to indicate this house, but a new numbering for their house on Lot 8. John worked as a laborer. Miss Addie Bowman was also listed, with no occupation, as well as Emerson L. Bowman, clerk for B.E. Lilly, a dry goods company. Further confusion over numbering is indicated in the 1900 census, which showed John J. Bowman, a day laborer, as residing at 716 W. Second. The census listed him as the owner of the property. In addition to John, 57, born in Pennsylvania; the household also included wife Lena, 50, a native of Germany; son Emerson, 27, a dry goods store salesman; and daughters Addie, 18; and Flora, 9. The 1902 and 1904 city directories continue to list John and Lena Bowman as the residents of 706 W. Second. Again, this appears to be the house that became known as 710 once addresses became more consistent.

The 1907 and 1908 city directories indicate three houses on this block: 700, 710, and 718. No address is listed for 706 in this period, with John and Lena Bowman listed at 710 in this period. John continued to work as a laborer. They continued to own Lot 8 and the east ½ of Lot 9. Emerson Bowman also lived at 710 West Second and was a clerk in 1908.

Ella Bowman, wife of Emerson, purchased Lot 7, Block 5 on November 17, 1909 for \$500 from Edward Niver (Lots Book 42; Page 299), and she also took out a mortgage for this property (Book 37: 546). This series of transactions, coupled with the lack of a 706 address in 1907 and 1908, suggests that there was no house on the lot at the time of their purchase, and they quickly constructed this house. This is around the time that they married. The 1910 census shows Bowman residences at 706 and 710 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. John Bowman is listed as owning 710 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He is 69, and a laborer of odd jobs. His household includes wife Lena (59) and daughter Flora (19). At 706, Emerson Bowman is listed as owning the house, with wife Ella (22). He is age 36 and working as a salesman in a clothing company. The 1911 directory now lists four houses along this block, at 700, 706, 710, and 718. The 1911 directory identified Emerson Bowman, a clerk at Cohn's, as the resident of 706 W. Second, with John and Lena Bowman the residents of 710 W. Second.

The residents of 706 W. Second were recorded as Emerson and Ella Bowman in the 1913 city directory. He was identified as a substitute mail carrier. John and Lena Bowman were listed as the residents of 710 W. Second in the 1913 directory. He was retired. Emerson Bowman continued to be listed as the resident of 706 W. Second in the 1916 directory, while John Bowman was recorded as the resident of 710 W. Second in the same directory. The 1919 directory listed Emerson and Ella Bowman as the residents of 706 West Second. There was no occupation listed. The 1920 census confirmed Emerson, 45; and Ella Bowman, 32, as the residents and owners of 706 W. Second. They had no children. John, 77; and Lena, 69, were recorded in the 1920 census as the owners and residents of 710 W. Second. Emerson Bowman was listed at 706 W. Second with his wife in the 1921 and 1923-24 city directories.

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Ella L. Bowman died at age 36, buried on September 17, 1923. Emerson L. Bowman died at age 52, buried on July 15, 1925.

The estate of Emerson Bowman transferred lot 7, block 5 to John & Lena Bowman on July 20, 1926. They used this as a rental property. Rex Cassiday was listed as the resident in the 1927 directory. Charles and Mildred Dallas were then recorded there in the 1929 directory. No occupations were listed for either family. Herman and Vivian Hunter were the recorded residents in the 1931 city directory. He worked as a machinist helper for the Rock Island Railroad. Sheet metal worker Harry Eis and his wife Frances were listed as the residents in the 1934 city directory. Harvey and Meta Brown were then listed in the 1936-37 directory. He was a farmer.

John Bowman died at age 91, buried on September 11, 1933, and Lena died at age 88, buried on November 15, 1938. It appears that her heirs then sold this property. Ellen and Joseph Gibney, Addie and Terrance Flynn, and Flora and George Von Dreskey sold the house to Russell J. Bartenhagen on January 27, 1939 (Book 89; Page 246). None of their occupations were identified. Bartenhagen also does not appear to have lived at the house. George and Gladys Davidson were listed as the residents in the 1938-39 and 1940-41 city directories. He worked as a musician. The 1943 and 1946 city directories identified Edwin and Elsie Middleton as the residents. He was a defense worker at the Rock Island Arsenal.

On October 14, 1947, Bartenhagen sold the property on contract to Kurt and Marg Jellinck (no book or page available). The contract was fulfilled and the deed issued to the Jellincks on March 21, 1959 (Book 187; Page 605). They were listed as the residents in the 1949 through the 1961 city directories. Mary was listed as a button sorter for McKee Button in the 1949 directory, while Kurt was identified as a cloth spreader for Muscatine Manufacturing in the 1956 city directory. They continued to live at 706 West Second and work at the same jobs through 1961.

The property transferred to the Jellinck heirs in 1984.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1900, 1910, 1920.

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

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

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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 Related District Number 70-01005

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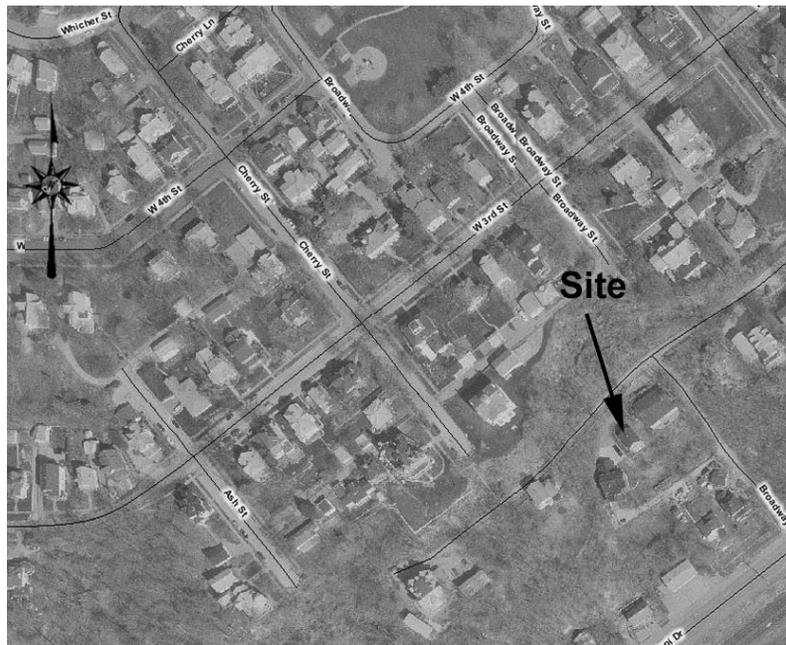
Emerson and Ella Bowman House  
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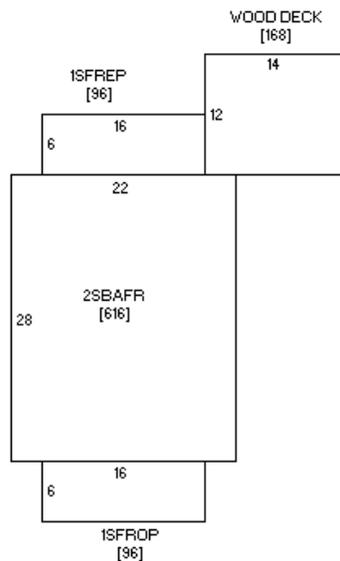
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**Location Map**



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



(front – W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

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## Photograph of building (digital image)

