

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

State Inventory No. 70-00204  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 Robert Jewett House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-041

**2. Location**

street & number 209 W. Third St.  
 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) 54 Lot(s) 3

**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<br>Enter number of: | If Eligible Property, enter number of:<br>Contributing    Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | _____ buildings                              | <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> 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 A Historical and Architectural Survey of the "West Hill" neighborhood, Muscatine, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base Number 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>01B02: Domestic/Multiple dwelling/apartment building</u>   |
| _____  | _____   |
| _____  | _____   |

**7. Description**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions) | <b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions) |
| <u>05B: Late Victorian/Italianate</u>                                    | foundation <u>03: Brick</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 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 Address 209 W. Third Site Number 70-00204  
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  
02: Architecture

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1880  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 Daniel G. Clark; Jim Rudisill (R.L. McCarley, consultant)  
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date January 15, 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 brick house. It sets on a brick foundation. The hip roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house is located on an elevated interior lot that slopes sharply down on the south elevation as a result of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street grading dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a more gradual slope at the back (north) and side elevations. A set of cement steps leads up to the house from Third Street. The building has been converted into a multiple-family apartment house with several entries. Roof gutters are built into the eaves around the entire house.

The front (south) elevation features an open front porch that wraps around and continues down the east side of the house where it joins with a short projecting wing or extension of the main building. Though an earlier front porch is seen on the first 1883 Sanborn map, this wrap around porch appears between the 1919 and 1928 maps. A low-sloping or flat roof covers the porch. Five simple wood columns, each resting on a pier of rusticated cement blocks, support the roof. Ornate, wing-shaped brackets flare out from the columns and extend along the porch's entablature. Small decorative, cornice brackets are located over each column. Larger, weight-bearing brackets are fixed to the brick wall and provide support at the end of the porch roof where it attaches to the house. A full railing with balusters extends along the edge of the porch. The two interior porch columns on the front elevation straddle the porch access steps and create an entry to the porch. The house entry contains a pair of flush-mounted, historic wood doors with glass inserts in the top half. A segmental arch pediment with high-relief crown molds extends across the entry. The high-relief crowns are repeated over the remaining façade openings. These include two historic, one-over-one-light, double-hung wood windows located to the left of the entry. The window closest to the entry is centered on the façade. Three similar second-story windows are located above each corresponding first-story opening. A south-facing entry is also located on the south side of the short wing toward the rear of the east elevation. This entry contains a flush-mounted, non-historic metal door with a transom above it. A similar crown mold is located over this door. A second-story window that is typical of the front-elevation windows is aligned with this entry.

A ca. 1891 photograph shows the south and small portions of the east and west elevations. The front fenestration is unchanged. The ornamentation around the windows and doors also appears the same as the current appearance. The front porch is restricted to the south elevation on the photo and does not extend around to the west elevation. The current porch roof appears to extend farther out than the historic roof. If a new roof was installed, the columns and other portions appear to have been salvaged or reproduced. The porch's ornamental features, including the scrolled lattice brackets, are the same. The historic image however does not show any railing around the porch floor. A railing does extend around the roof perimeter. The current porch supports are also setting on rusticated block piers while in the historic photo they appear to have a wood or possibly brick base. The columns have also been shifted to accommodate the wrap-around portion. Other features that appear on the historic photograph include double roof brackets around the cornice. Two centered chimneys, one on the east elevation and another on the west, are also visible in the historic photo. The photo also shows a square cupola, although it might not have a roof and appears to have a railing around it (Muscatine Journal, 1891, no page)

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The east side elevation has a short wing projecting from near the rear of the main house, and a rear section extends behind this point. The east wall in front of the short wing has a single, second-story opening near the wing. It contains a one-over-one-light, double-hung window with an ornamental hood similar to the other windows. The side of the short wing contains two centered first-story and two-second story windows. Each window is typical of the façade windows. A typical second-story window is also present at the back of the east wall of the house's front section. Two rear additions also contain openings on this elevation. An historic, two-story, brick addition or wing of the original house, which is present on the 1883 Sanborn map, contains two centered, second-story windows. Each of these arch windows matches the one-over-one-light, double-hung design of the other historic windows, but lack the decorative crown molding. The first-story of this addition has been covered by a more recent one-story wood frame addition. A combination roof covers this addition, which does not appear historic and is not shown on the 1946 Sanborn. The east elevation of this addition contains a gable end with a centered, non-historic window group that contains a single-light picture window flanked by two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. The gable end attaches to another section of this addition that extends to the north. This section has a hip roof and connects to the original two-story brick addition/wing. The east wall of the wood frame addition contains a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung, non-historic window.

The west elevation contains an asymmetrical arrangement of features, dominated by a two-story bay window located in the back corner of the original building. A mansard roof, an influence from the Second Empire style, covers the bay and extends up past the original hip roof. All six historic windows of the bay contain identical one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. Five of the six also have the typical high-relief, segmental crown molding seen on the façade windows. The window in the left bay of the first story is missing the molding, which exposes the double rowlock brick arch that is likely above the other windows, but hidden from view by their molding. The only remaining openings of the original building on this elevation are typical first- and second-story windows just to the right of the bay windows. A non-historic two-story addition has been constructed in the narrow corner space between the original house and the original, two-story brick addition. This addition actually appears between the 1919 and 1928 Sanborn maps, but the current wall cladding is more recent. A set of wood stairs lead up the side of this addition to an entry near the addition's attachment to the original building. The entry contains a flush-mounted, non-historic, aluminum, crossbuck storm door and solid metal door. A small one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located to the left of this entry. A first-story entry is located even closer to the addition/original house connection. This entry contains a two-light, aluminum storm door and solid metal door. It also has a one-over-one-light, double-hung window located to the left.

The rear (north) elevation contains four windows in the original brick addition. The first- and second-story windows on the left side of the wall are centered on that half, while the companion windows on the right side are located slightly to the right of their half's centerline. The windows of both halves are aligned with each other. All the windows contain one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes, but only the two second-story windows are similar in size. The left window on the first-story is taller than the others, while the first-story window on the right is shorter. It appears the shorter opening formerly was as tall as the other first-story window, but has been partially closed up, indicating it is not historic. All the windows show the double rowlock arch, but none have the high-relief crown molding. The remaining rear elevation

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openings include a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the first-story north wall of the west addition. The east addition contains an entry on the north wall and a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window centered on the addition's west wall. The entry contains a flush-mounted, non-historic, two-light glass storm door and a solid metal door.

An earlier carriage house has been demolished.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Robert Jewett House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C. It also appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

Muscatine County Sheriff Robert C. Jewett built this house around 1880, probably as an investment, since he does not appear to have lived in it. He was elected county sheriff in 1875 and served until 1880. He then served as city marshal and in various other offices. Jewett does not appear to have made any significant impact on the history of the community. No significant historic event is known to have occurred on the property. However, the house retains a great deal of integrity, especially in the front and sides. Rear additions have altered that elevation, but much of its original exterior woodwork and appearance remains. Several of the alterations that have been done, such as the rusticated cement block piers of the porch, are now historic. While the window crowns, scrolled porch brackets and historic windows and doors create an uncommon architectural appearance for the house, the rear alterations likely prevent this building from being considered individually significant for its architecture. Thus, the Robert Jewett House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B or C.

The Robert Jewett House however does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. Jewett was a respected county peace officer who had been one of the younger pioneers of the community. The construction of an impressive brick structure in an upper class neighborhood of the city would have attracted the attention of the community, especially since he appears to have launched the project as a developer and not a homeowner. His actions, like those of many others who decided to live in "West Hill", helped to maintain its status as a neighborhood of success. This house contributes significantly to the neighborhood's history and architecture.

Robert Jewett, county sheriff, built this house around 1880, according to county land transfer records. Jewett acquired Lot 3, Block 54 from Charles Porter on August 2, 1879 for \$800 (Book 12; Page 607). At the time he purchased the property, the city directory indicates he was living at the "n e cor Walnut and Fourth," the area around the county jail. Porter was located on "Front e of Cedar" in the 1879 directory. Jewett was born in Buffalo, New York on February 27, 1834. He arrived in Muscatine in 1850, following the death of both his parents in 1849. He worked as a cooper when he first arrived in Muscatine and later farmed. He was elected county sheriff in 1875 and served until 1880. The 1880 census, which appears to

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have been taken after Jewett retired from the sheriff's position, identifies him around the East Third street area. Others on the same census page include W.S. Richie, who is listed at "3d nr Mulberry" in the 1879 directory; and J.P Ament, who is located at "3d bet Walnut and Mulberry" in the same directory. The census listed Jewett, 45; his wife Sarah, 33; daughters Ida, 17; Lydia, 14; Adah, 10; and son Willfred, 7. He was identified as running a ferry. No records could be located that would place Jewett either at the new house or on some other property between 1880 and 1882. However, no city directories exist between 1879 and 1883, and it is possible that he built the house in 1880 and lived in it for a couple years before selling it in 1882. After 1882, he served as city marshal and in various other offices. He moved to Keokuk, Iowa around 1893, where he died in 1908.

Jewett sold Lot 3, Block 54 to Mary J. Beach and her husband Benjamin Beach on February 21, 1882 for \$6000 (Book 16; Page 437). The steep increase in price between Jewett's purchase in August 1879 and the sale to Beach in February 1882 shows a new substantial house on the property. Benjamin Beach, a successful businessman and soldier, lived in the house for only four years, from 1882 to 1886. The 1883-86 city directory lists him at 209 W. Third and identifies his occupation as postmaster. He came to Muscatine in 1850 and was initially in the grocery and hardware businesses. A colonel in the Army, he had served in the Mexican and Civil Wars, participating in Sherman's march to the sea as well as in the battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg and Atlanta. He served as postmaster for eight years and supervised the county poorhouse. He also worked as the assessor. He was identified in Richman's 1911 History of Muscatine as Muscatine's " grand old man", (Richman, 1911). However, since he only lived at 206 W. Third for four years, most of his accomplishments occurred while at other residences

Beach sold the house to Laura Lauder and her husband H.J. on April 26, 1886 for \$6000 (Book 21; Page 94). Lauder, an attorney, and his wife are listed in the 1889-92 directory at 209 W. Third. Lauder was born in Montgomery County, New York on May 3, 1850. He arrived in Muscatine after graduating from the State University law department in 1873. He married Laura Cleaver of Keokuk on October 13, 1874. Three children were born to the Lauders, but only their son Frank survived. Lauder was elected city attorney in 1886 and re-elected in 1888 and 1890. He also had held the office of alderman for three terms. He unexpectedly died on April 11, 1891, leaving his widow and young son. Laura and Frank continued to live in the house through 1900, according to the city directories. Frank eventually was identified in the 1900 directory as a travel agent for the Lightning Medicine Company. A roomer, Delmar Eichoff (24, bookkeeper), was also listed. After 1900, Laura and Frank are not listed in any city directories, making it likely they moved from the community. It appears they rented the house to Charles T. and Emma Walker, who are identified as the residents in the 1902-03 city directory. Walker was the president of the Turkish Oil Company.

Laura Lauder sold the house to M.F. and W.S. Berry on June 3, 1903 (Book 36; Page 280). The 1900 census lists Berry as a 59-year-old farmer in Sweetland Township. It appears he moved to town as his retired. His household included his wife Mary (48), daughter Lydia M. (28), daughter Rita (26, teacher), daughter Serena L. (21, teacher), daughter Emma R. (18, school), son Thomas S (17, school), daughter Hazel M. (5), brother Winfield S. (48, farmer). The 1907 city directory listed the same family members with Serena, Lydia and Thomas missing. The 1908 directory showed L. May Berry, who might have been

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Lydia, back as a resident. The 1910 census indicates that the entire clan moved to Muscatine. It lists John W. Berry (head, 69, shell agent for button company), Mary (58), L. May (37), Rita (36, teacher), Rena L. (31, teacher), Emma R. (clerk at cereal company), Hazel M. (15), and W. Scott (58, brother). Those family members continued to be listed in the 1916 directory, with John W. identified as a shell buyer. The 1920 census continued to list most of the family members, with some newer relations added. John W. (79), Mary (68), L. May (47), Rita (45, teacher), Rena L. (41, teacher), and Hazel M (25, teacher). John William Berry died at age 81 in March 1922, and was buried on March 31, 1922. He wife Mary died a year later and was buried on April 21, 1923. The Berry family continued to live in the house. It was between 1919 and 1928 that the wrap-around porch was constructed, and it may have been built by the sisters after their parents died. The eldest daughter, L. May Berry, was listed as head from 1923 to 1937. Fewer family members were listed in the 1927 directory. L. May Berry, no occupation listed; Rena, a teacher; and Rita, a principal, were recorded at 209 W. Third. Rena L. Berry died in 1933, buried on September 13, 1933. Her sisters, Rita and Lydia May Berry continued to be listed through the 1936-37 city directory. The 1930 census does not list any Berry family members at 209 W. Third. Rather, it appears to have Stella and Beulah Thompson living there. However, both the 1929 and 1931 directories record the Thompsons at 203 W. Third, while continuing to show L. May Berry living at 209. The writing on the census report is somewhat unclear and what is interpreted as 209 could be 203. However, since the 1930 census also fails to record Gus Moigneu at 201 W. Third, that report could possibly be incomplete. Lydia May Berry died in 1938, buried on August 16, 1938.

Rita Berry, the apparent last surviving family member, sold Lot 3, Block 54 to Ermina F. Lake on April 24, 1937 (Book 88; Page 77). Lake did not live in the house but rented it to John M. and Bessie Powell. They are first recorded in the 1938-39 city directory. He was a cutter for the Teichmiller Button Factory. The Powells continued to be listed through the 1952 directory.

Lake sold the house on July 24, 1954 to Arthur and Lavona Tutt (Book 189; Page 42). The Tutts also did not live in the house and continued to rent it to the previous tenant. However, the 1954 directory did not list John Powell, but did record Bessie Powell, a nurse, at 2090 W. Third. The 1956 directory did list Bess Powell (wid of John) as the resident. She was identified as the owner of the Little Lincoln Café on Walnut Street. That listing continued through the 1959 directory.

The Tutts apparently transferred the property later, but no county record could be located for the transaction. However, a special warranty deed, which is dated March 16, 1972, is recorded with the Muscatine Records Office, transferring the property from Maurice Lofgren to Gaylord and LaJune Pauley (Book 255; Page 1518).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1856-1959.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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“Colonel Benjamin Beach Answers Final Summons,” *Muscatine Journal*, May 17, 1913, page 7

“Death of H.J. Lauder,” *Muscatine Journal*, April 13, 1891, page 3

*History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879, 607

“Residence of H.J. Lauder,” Historic Photograph, *Muscatine Journal Semi-centennial Edition*, accessed online at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iamuscat/semicent/reslauder.gif>

“Robert C. Jewett Dies At Keokuk Sunday,” *Muscatine Journal*, March 9, 1908, page 5.

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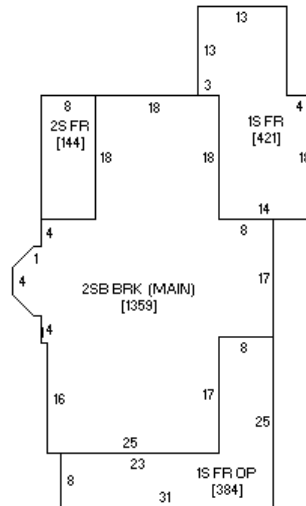
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## Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front – W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

## Photograph of building (digital image)

