

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

State Inventory No. 70-00215  **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 William H. Snyder House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-058

**2. Location**

street & number 311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) 53 Lot(s) E 1/2 Lot 2 & W 1/2 Lot 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	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>	<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>	<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>05B: Late Italianate</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>05F: Metal/steel</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 311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Site Number 70-00215  
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)

031: Other – neighborhood development

02: Architecture

**Significant Dates**

Construction date

1890

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 Diane Mayer Day, commission member (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date 12/7/05

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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

---

William H. Snyder House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

---

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, late Italianate house built around 1890. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are brick. The hip roof is clad in steel. The roof also contains a flat portion at the peak of the house. The Italianate styling consists of the window details, hipped roof, and wide horizontal eaves. Decorative scrolls and dentil work detail the soffitt and area below the eaves.

The front (south) elevation of the residence consists of three bays, of which the entry is on the far left bay. A full porch spans the front of the house and curves around the corner of the house on the far right side. The original full porch was remodeled between 1899 and 1905. The porch is of the Queen Anne style and consists of a round portion with a conical roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. There is also a metal/copper finale on the peak of the round portion of the porch roof. The remainder of the porch roof has a raised area and is clad in metal. The porch also has six columns with decorative scroll work between the railings. The fascia area of the porch has decorative dentil work. The double-door entry on the far left of the house has wood doors with a window in each door. The other two bays contain single one-over-one-light, double-hung wood windows with stone window caps over each window. The second story has three one-over-one-light, double-hung wood windows with the same stone window caps over each window. The frieze and cornice is embellished with scroll brackets under the eaves.

A photograph of the "W.H. Snyder" house appeared in the January 1891 *Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition of the Muscatine Journal*. The house had one-over-one-light double-hung windows and chimneys on either side of the hip roof. The porch shown was straight across the façade, minus the round section on the southeast corner of the porch. Sanborn maps shows that the porch was modified to its current layout between 1899 and 1905.

On the east side of the house, the front porch continues around the corner where the porch meets a window. All of the windows on this side of the house have the same stone window caps atop each window. There is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on each story near the front of the elevation. There is a two-story bay window near the rear of the elevation. It has three one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on each story. The eaves also contain the same decorative scroll brackets that have been used on the front of the house. The rear section of the house is set back from this elevation, with a porch historically along it. There is a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on each story of this section.

The west side of the house has a two-story square bay window at the rear of the elevation. In front of this section, there are two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the first story and three one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the second story. The side of the square bay section facing the street has a side entry with a non-historic door. The other two sides have a one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on the first story. The square bay has one one-over-one-light double-hung wood window on each side on the second story. Again the eaves are constructed the same as the front and east elevations of the house, with scroll brackets.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

---

William H. Snyder House	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
311 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Muscatine
Address	City

---

The rear elevation (north) has two bays on the first floor and two bays upstairs. On the first story, there are two wood one-over-one-light windows. On the second story, there are two aluminum clad one-over-one-light windows. The eave also has brackets. This elevation has two wood windows on both the first and the second floors. On the first floor, the window on the left side is a two-over-two light double hung. The other window is a one-over-one-light double hung. The second floor has two one-over-one light double hung aluminum windows.

The garage appears to be have been built after 1960 and has aluminum siding and asphalt shingles. There is also a cement and brick retaining wall on the front of this property.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

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

William H. Snyder, an express line operator, built this house around 1890, probably as a retirement home for himself and his wife Rebecca. This house was constructed between 1888 and 1892, according to the Sanborn maps, but he had lived here in an earlier house since the 1860s. Snyder was born in Pennsylvania in 1839 and came to Muscatine in 1860. The 1860 census records both William and his father Samuel as residents of the community. His father later moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where he reportedly was the first person killed in the 1863 Confederate raid of that city. William Snyder is not believed to have significantly influenced the history of Muscatine. Also, no significant event is known to have occurred on the property. However, the house does exhibit an unusual combination of Italianate and Queen Anne features and likely was one of the last Italianate-style houses constructed in Muscatine. It retains a high degree of integrity. Thus, the William H. Snyder House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C.

The William H. Snyder House also appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. This Italianate home has been well preserved with little to no change to its exterior for one hundred years. It is a contributing property to an historic district because it holds the character and charm of a past era. The decorative scroll work on the eaves, front porch fascia, and the decorative scroll work between the porch railings also have weathered time and show how much detail was given to this particular house.

William Snyder built this house around 1890, replacing an early house on the lot that he purchased in 1868. William H. Snyder was a prominent citizen in Muscatine, arriving in 1860. He was the son of a minister, Rev. Samuel and Mary Snyder. The 1866 Muscatine city Directory lists W.H. Snyder residing on ns (north side) of Third Street and four w (west) of Pine Street. This would be the approximate location of the neighbor house. He was working as a City Express. William H. Snyder bought this property (E ½ Lot

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

William H. Snyder House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

2 and the W ½ Lot 3) from J.B. Brown on May 12, 1868 (4:136) for \$1500. The price does indicate improvements on the lot. The 1870 census indicates that William H. Snyder (30) ran an express line and had \$2,000 in real estate and \$1,500 in personal property. He lived with his wife Rebecca (26) and son Oattie (6). The 1874 birds-eye view of Muscatine and the 1883 Sanborn map show a two-story house attached to the adjacent house at 309 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The 1883 and 1888 Sanborn maps show a large one-and-one-half-story stable that spans the rear of the property. The 1879 city directory states that W.H. Snyder lives on Third between Pine and Linn and is the proprietor of a livery and feed stable. The 1883 Muscatine City Directory that W.H. Snyder resides at 311 W. Third Street and is employed by the Livery and Van Nostrand. Son, Otto (Oattie) S. Snyder was a boarder at 311 W. Third Street in the 1886-87 Muscatine City Directory. The 1886 Muscatine City Directory also states that William H. Snyder was the proprietor of the livery, sales, and feed stable, 213 West Front Street, in Muscatine and Mr. Snyder resides at 311 W. Third Street. Mr. Snyder's business is located at this same address in the 1889 city directory and lives at 311 W. Third Street. According to his 1889 biography, Snyder had an extensive establishment complete with fine horses, buggies, and carriages. He also kept an elegant hearse and complete funeral outfit. He operates a hack-line, carrying passengers to and from all parts in the city, and also keeps ladies' driving horses (*Portrait and Biographical Album* 1889: 557).

This house was constructed between 1888 and 1892, according to the Sanborn maps. At the same time, the stable at the rear of the property was demolished, with a smaller carriage house constructed. A January 1891 photograph shows the new house. William Snyder is listed as residing at 311 W. Third Street. His business is located at 213 W. Front Street, this business is a livery and feed stable. Oattie Snyder is listed at 311 W. Third Street and as foreman at Snyder's Stable, in the 1889, 1891 and 1893 city directories. The 1895 Muscatine City Directory states that W.H. and Oattie Snyder are living at 213 W. Third Street with W.H. owning the livery and Oattie being the foreman. The 1897 Muscatine City Directory finds W.H. and Otto living in this house. Snyder is also listed as having a telephone in order to be within easy communication with patrons, although it appears this equipment was located at his business and not his residence. William died October 1, 1898 and Rebecca died December 6, 1897 (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 131). Rebecca (Bitzer) Snyder was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on June 18, 1842 (Muscatine Journal, December 6, 1897, pg. 3). William H. Snyder was born on February 1, 1839 in Huntington, Pennsylvania. He came to Muscatine in 1860. Almost immediately, Mr. Snyder took up the express and dray business, which he carried on for ten years and gave it up to enter the livery business. On June 19, 1863, William and Rebecca Bitzer untied in marriage. William and Rebecca had one child, Oattie, who survives. Mr. Snyder was passionately fond of horses and never allowed anyone to abuse one of his animals knowingly. He believed that all horses should be kindly treated and well taken care of. He gained a statewide reputation for having all his stock in the finest possible shape (*Muscatine Journal*, October 1, 1898, pg. 4).

Oattie Snyder purchased this home from his father, W.H. Snyder, on August 19, 1898 for \$1 (32:228). He had worked for his father in the livery business and became the successor of the business when William died in 1898. In 1898, Oattie Snyder married Rosa Hinkhouse. The 1900 census lists Oattie Snyder (35) as the owner of this house and a livery stable keeper. He is listed with his wife of one year, Rose (28). The 1904 Muscatine City Directory finds Oattie and his wife Rose residing at 311 W. Third Street and Oattie is

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 6

---

William H. Snyder House	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
311 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Muscatine
Address	City

---

employed by the livery at 209-211 W. Front Street. The 1907 city directory states that Ottie and Rose are residing at the same address and Ottie is employed at the livery. The 1910 census indicates that Ottie (44) continued to live here with wife Rose (37), and they had no children. Ottie conducted a very extensive livery barn that was also a repository for carriages, buggies, wagons, and harness in 1911 (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: page 131). The city directory has Otto Snyder as the occupant/owner through the 1913 city directory. According to the 1900 census, Rose was born in November 1871, and she died at age 42 according to the cemetery records, which would be around 1914. Ottie apparently remarried quickly after her death. According to the 1900 census, Ottie was born in February 1865, and he died at age 50 according to the cemetery records, which would be around 1915.

Beginning in the 1919 Muscatine City Directory, Mrs. Laura Snyder (widow of Ottie) is listed as the occupant/owner. Thus, it appears that Ottie remarried, quickly and briefly, after Rose Anna's death. She apparently inherited this property upon his death. Laura Snyder was listed in the 1920 census records as the owner of 311 W. Third. According to that listing, she was widowed and was born around 1880 in Iowa. Laura continued live here until 1923.

Laura Snyder, widow of Ottie sold this home to Margaret Lang on November 1, 1923 (Lots Book 61:499). In 1927, the city directories list Henry and Margaret Lang. Henry Lang is listed as being a farmer. The 1931 Muscatine City Directory finds Henry and Margaret Lang residing in this home. There is no occupation listed for Mr. Lang in this directory. The 1937 city directory again finds Henry and Margaret Lang living in this home. Mr. Lang is not identified as having an occupation. The 1938-39 city directory lists Margaret Lang (widow of Henry) as the residents. The 1941 Muscatine City Directory states that Margaret Lang was residing at 311 W. Third Street. She is identified as being the widow of Henry, no other occupation was listed.

Guy Hoover and his wife, Loretta, are listed as occupants in the 1943-1946 city directories. Mr. Hoover is listed as being a Post Office carrier.

George and Bertha Hofman purchased the property on November 16, 1948 from Eliza Greathouse (129:218). It could not be found when Greathouse bought the property, but they owned several properties in Muscatine in this period that they rented to tenants. The 1949 Muscatine City Directory states that Fred and Doris Hocking were residing at this home. Fred is listed as being the treasurer and controller for Grain Processing Corporation. The 1952 city directory lists Robert and Gwendolyn Brose and Jason and Virginia Moore as living in this home. Mr. Brose is identified as being the principal of Washington School. Mr. Moore is listed as being an embalmer for George M. Wittich Funeral Home.

The 1954 Muscatine City Directory identifies Grace Kemble and Fred Diercks as residing in this home. Grace was employed by the Paradise Inn and Fred was the biller for Charles L. Mull and Sons. The 1956 finds Grace Kemble and Charles Wagg residing in this house. Grace is employed at the Paradise Inn and Charles is employed as a millwright for Huttig Manufacturing Company. The 1954 Muscatine City Directory states that Grace Kemble is living at this address and is employed at Paradise Inn. Fred Diercks is also listed as living in this residence. He is identified as being a biller for Charles L. Mull and

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 7

---

William H. Snyder House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

---

311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

---

Sons. The 1956 Muscatine City Directory identifies Grace Kemble as residing here and she is still employed at Paradise Inn. Charles Wagg and his wife, Ramona, are also listed as living in this home. Mr. Wagg is described as being a millwright at Huttig Manufacturing Company. The 1958 city directory, Grace Kemble is listed as the occupant, there is no listing for an occupation. The 1959 Muscatine City Directory states that Grace Kemble resides here and is a waitress at the Palms. No other occupants are listed in either the 1958 or 1959 directories. The 1961 city directory lists this property as vacant. Grace Kemble is listed as purchasing the property on August 4, 1964 from Bertha Hendricks Hofman (Lots Book 210:540).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1870, 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.

Koch, Augustus. *Bird's-eye View of the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa*. Koch, 1874. In the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

*Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1889, 557.

Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County, Iowa, Vol II*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911, 131

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  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 70-00215  
 Related District Number 70-01005

Page 8

William H. Snyder House  
 Name of Property

Muscatine  
 County

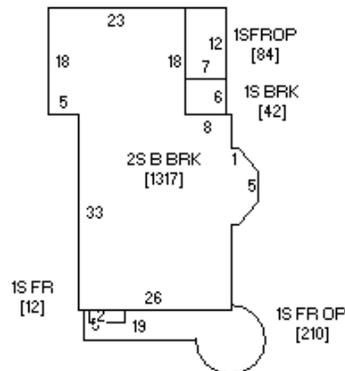
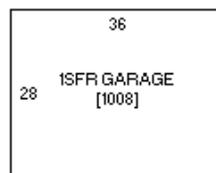
311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Address

Muscatine  
 City

**Location Map**



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



(front – W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 70-00215

Related District Number 70-01005

Page 9

William H. Snyder House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

311 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

**Photograph of building (digital image)**

