

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

State Inventory No. 70-01024 **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 Emily A. Thompson House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-072

2. Location

street & number 407 W. 3rd 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) 52 Lot(s) W 1/2 Lot 4

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)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

If Non-Eligible Property Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of:		
	Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____ buildings	1	1	buildings
_____ sites	_____	_____	sites
_____ structures	_____	_____	structures
_____ objects	_____	_____	objects
_____ Total	1	1	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)

01A01: Domestic / Single residence

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

01A01: Domestic / Single residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09A09 House / Cross Gable

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 03 Brick

walls 05E Aluminum

roof 08A Asphalt Shingle

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="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="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="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 407 W. 3rd Site Number 70-01024
City Muscatine District Number 70-01005

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

31: Other – neighborhood development

Significant Dates

Construction date 1895 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jay Brady, Chair (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date May 30, 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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Emily A. Thompson House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

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7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, two-bay, cross-gable house. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are frame, clad in aluminum. The cross-gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

The front porch is open with two rectangular columns, one at each corner, supporting the flat roof. The east portion of the porch is recessed and is where the entry to the porch and house is located. The porch entry is gained by going up two concrete steps with a metal rail. The porch is enclosed with wood rail that has slender rectangular spindles. The roof eave is plain with vertical cladding. The space between the porch and the ground is enclosed with wood lattice. The house entry is located at the far east side of the elevation, recessed along the side of the house, and has a non-original wood door with diamond single glass window. A large single light window with transom sits at an angle across the chamfered southeast front corner. A single-over-single-light double-hung window is in the front portion of the first story. The second story has three two-light-over-two-light double-hung windows with one above the recessed entry. The front end-gable has a vent with a two-light window above.

The west elevation has a single-over-single-light double-hung window in the front portion of the first story. A two-light-over-two-light double-hung window is about center of the house in the first story. A three window set is located at the rear of the elevation. The middle window is a single light window with the two adjoining windows being two-light-over-two-light double-hung windows. The second story of the elevation has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window above the center window in the first story and a smaller two-light-over-two-light double-hung window at the rear of the elevation. A small single light window is located between the two. The cross gable has a large two-light window. The single story rear addition has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window.

The east elevation has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window above the porch in the front end-gable section of the house. A small single-light window is located high in the first story in front of the cross-gable portion of the house. The cross gable portion of the house has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window. The rear gable section of the house has a side door entry with sloped roof. The door is a wood frame half glass door. Two small two-light-over-two-light double-hung windows are located to the south of the side entry. The second story has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window. The single story rear addition has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window.

The rear elevation has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window in the first and second stories of the east cross gable. The rear single story addition has a two-light side-by-side window. The second story of the main house has a two-light-over-two-light double-hung window centered with a small single light window with window transom at the far west of the elevation. The end gable has a vent. A two-light-over-two-light double-hung window is located in the first story of the west cross gable.

The rear of the house has been substantially altered over the years with the first changes occurring between 1892 and 1899 when the house appears to have been rebuilt. The 1899 Sanborn map shows a

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full width back portion of the house was changed to about two-thirds width with a side porch on the east. The rear side porch appears to have been enclosed by 1905 with front porch wrapped around the southeast corner of the house. The present configuration appears to be constructed between the 1919 and 1928 Sanborns.

The garage is a front-gable with vinyl siding constructed after 1946 as it is not shown on the 1946 Sanborn. The west elevation has a louvered vent. The north elevation fronts the alley and has a stamped aluminum vertically opening garage door. The east elevation has no openings. The south elevation has a door entry at the far west side of the elevation. The door is metal with half glass divided into three lights.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Emily A. Thompson moved here after her husband Robert T.'s death in 1890, and her son Theron lived next door at 405. This house appears to be rebuilt between 1892 and 1899, following a similar trend with the three houses associated with her three sons in the early 1890s. She does not appear to have made any significant contributions to the history of Muscatine. After her death in 1904, her only daughter Ella gained full possession of this house from her brothers, and she lived here in 1912. At this time, her brother Robert L. Thompson moved here and lived here until his death in 1928, and his widow Carrie continued to live here until her death in 1934. While the role of this house as a family home is interesting, it does not appear to be particularly historically significant. The original house has been altered with the aluminum siding and historic alterations. Overall, the basic form and design remain intact, but it is not an example of significant architecture. Thus, the Emily A. Thompson House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Emily A. Thompson House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The house falls within one historic context identified for this historic district: "19th century neighborhood and residential development." The construction or rebuilding of this house in the 1890s followed the construction of her son Theron's house at 405 around 1890, which helped strengthen this neighborhood. The house retains original windows and historic alterations, and it demonstrates the use of the house by multiple generations of the same family- the Thompsons. This house would contribute to the potential West Hill neighborhood district.

Though an older (perhaps c.1878) house may be incorporated into part of this house, the house with its current footprint and features was built (or remodeled) in the 1890s. This footprint, with smaller rear additions, first appears on the 1899 Sanborn map. The rear section became two stories by the 1905 Sanborn map.

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Sam M. Thompson assembled Lot 4 by purchasing from George Jenison on September 2, 1878 (Transfer Book of Lots 4:14) and Charles S. Ogilvie on August 29, 1878 (12:400). The original house on the lot was likely built shortly thereafter.

Emily A. Thompson purchased the west ½ of Lot 4 from Elvira B. Lee on October 16, 1890 for \$2300 consideration (Transfer Book of Lots 3: 23). This does indicate a house on the lot at the time, which is also shown on the 1888 and 1892 Sanborn maps. Emily Thompson was the wife of Robert T. Thompson, who came to Muscatine County in the 1858. In 1872 he bought into the hardware business in Muscatine, which he carried on until 1878, when he retired, and was succeeded by his sons, Theron and William L. They lived for several years on 4th near Chestnut. The 1880 census lists Robert T. (50) with wife Emily (46), Theron (27), B. Ella (22), William L. (18), and Robert L. (13). In the fall of 1883 he engaged in the wholesale and retail seed business, under the title of the Island Seed Company. According to his 1889 biography: "He deals in field, garden and flower seed, bulbous roots, plants, and florists' supplies in their season; also in seed potatoes and seed corn, sweet potatoes and sweet potato plants in their season. The Island Seed Company has steadily extended its business from the start, and is now one of the best known and most reliable seed houses in the country." (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County* 1889: 282). Robert T. Thompson is listed as working at Island Seed and living at 204 W. 4th in the 1886-87 directory, with W.L. Thompson boarding here. Robert Thompson died on February 1, 1890 at age of 59. Her son Theron Thompson had bought the house at 405 W. 3rd Street in 1882, living here and building a new house between 1888 and 1890. He appears to sold or have built houses for his brothers Robert L. and William L. at 312 and 314 W. 4th Street around this time as well. Thus, Emily may have bought this property to be near her son, and then the house was rebuilt between 1892 and 1899, as the other Thompson family members also got new, or substantially remodeled houses. The 1891-92 directory lists Emily Thompson, widow; Ella; Robert L, bicycles; Ed, laborer, bds; and George, laborer, bds. The 1893-94 directory lists Mrs. R.T. Thompson, widow. The 1895-96 directory lists Ella Thompson, clerk Thompson Brothers. The 1897-98 directory lists Emily Thompson, widow, and Ella B. Thompson, bookkeeper Thompson Brothers hardware. The 1899-1900 directory lists Mrs. Emily Thompson. The 1900 - 1904 directories lists Emily A. Thompson, widow of R.T., and Miss B. Ella Thompson, bookkeeper at Thompson Brothers. According to the 1902 lot book, Emilie A. Thompson continued to own this property during this period. Emily died in 1904.

Ella B. Thompson inherited the property and her brothers' interest in the property from Theron Thompson et al. on September 27, 1904 with \$1 consideration (Transfer Book of Lots 4:90). The 1907 through 1911 directories list V. Ella Thompson as bookkeeper at Thompson Brothers. The 1910 Census lists Ella B. Thompson (no age), bookkeeper at hardware store, as owning the house and living with her aunt Catherine Mitchell (73). According to Greenwood Cemetery records, Barbara Ella Thompson died at age 54 on May 29, 1912. Her obituary notes that she was born on December 15, 1857 in Ohio, daughter of Robert T. and Emily A. Thompson who proceed her in death. Two brothers survive her, Theron and Robert L. Thompson. She was a consistent member o the First Methodist Church and a valued assistant in the business conducted by her brother. (Obituary, 1912, P. 10).

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Robert L. Thompson obtained the property on August 4, 1913/June 22, 1912, after sister Ella's death. The 1913 directory lists Robert L. Thompson, manager of the savings department at Hershey State Bank with wife Carrie. The 1919 directory lists Robert L. Thompson, manager of the savings department and assistant cashier at Hershey State Bank with wife Carrie. The 1920 Census lists Robert L. Thompson, Bank Cashier, 53, as owning the property, with wife Carrie M., 52. Katherine Mitchell, Aunt, widow, 88, is also listed. The 1923 and 1927 directories list Robert L. Thompson, as cashier at Hershey State Bank with wife Carrie. Robert L. Thompson died on March 12, 1928. The 1929 through 1931 directories list Mrs. Carrie M. Thompson, widow of Robert. Carrie Thompson died on February 18, 1934. Her obituary indicates that she was survived by two sisters, Mrs. Laura E. Stephens, Davenport, and Mrs. Nellie M. Thompson, Muscatine, and one brother Edwin L. Morehouse, California. According to the 1911 biographical sketch for Theron Thompson, his wife Nellie and Carrie Thompson, wife of his brother Robert L., were sisters. She was born near Buffalo, Iowa on November 28, 1867 and married Robert L. Thompson on November 20, 1890. She was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, the Twentieth Century Club, a charger member of the Day Nursery, and a member of the board of the Old Ladies Home. (Obituary, 1934, P.1).

Carrie M. Thompson transferred this property to R.G. Tipton on Feb 13, 1934, a few days before her death. He then transferred it to Gail Thompson Gibson. She rented it out for a number of years while she and her husband James lived at 1416 Mulberry from 1934 through 1940. Geneva Grace, high school teacher, lived at 407 W. 3rd from 1934 through 1937. The house was vacant in 1938-39. Luther G. Trainer, clerk at the CRI & P railroad and wife Nell were listed here in 1940-41. Mrs. Gail Thompson Gibson, widow of James, lived here from 1943 through 1954. She was the executive secretary of the American Red Cross during this period. There is no listing for Gibson after 1954. William M. Hammon, sales division manager of Home-o-nize Co. and wife Marjorie H., were here in 1954.

Gail Gibson then sold it to Gail and Ralph E. Reuling on February 10, 1955 (Original Town & Additions Transfer Book: 145). William Rissman, manager of the municipal airport, and wife Gwendolyn were listed here in 1956. Mrs. Gwendolyn Rissman, widow of William, was listed here in 1958 and 1959. She was an office worker at Aeroline Flight Services.

Dean L. or Margaret A. Tieke bought it from Reulings on May 31, 1966 (Original Town & Additions Transfer Book:145)

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.

"Death Summons Mrs. Thompson", *Muscatine Journal*, February 19, 1934, P. 1.

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Related District Number 70-01005

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

"Miss Ella Thompson Dies Early Today", *Muscatine Journal*, May 29, 1912, P. 10.

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

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



Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
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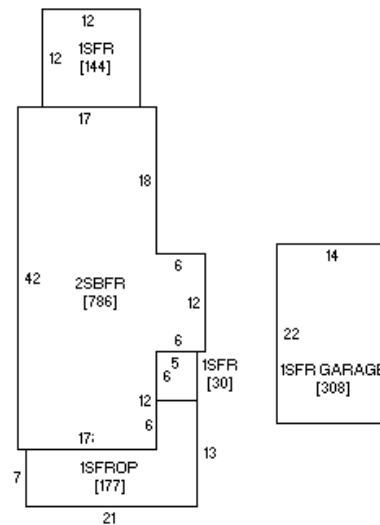
Emily A. Thompson House
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front – W. 3rd Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

