

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

State Inventory No. 70-00371 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 Clark – Blackwell House
 other names/site number William A. Clark House, Field Site #: WH-095

2. Location

street & number 206 Cherry 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) 41 Lot(s) 4 & 5

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>2</u> _____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ sites	_____ _____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ structures	_____ _____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ objects	_____ _____ objects
	_____ Total	<u>2</u> _____ Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).
 Title _____ Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

A Historical and Architectural Survey of the "West Hill" neighborhood, Muscatine, Iowa 70-016

6. Function or Use

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05D: Late Victorian / Queen Anne</u>	foundation <u>04C: Stone / Limestone</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C	Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D	Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Muscatine
City Muscatine

Address 206 Cherry Street

Site Number 70-00371
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)

02: Architecture

31: Other / neighborhood development

Significant Dates

Construction date

1882 check if circa or estimated date

Other dates

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect

Lorenzo D. Cleveland

Builder

George D. Magoon

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 Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date October 30, 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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7. Narrative Description

The Clark-Blackwell House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. This house, designed around 1882 by a noted architect and built by an excellent contractor-builder is a landmark for anyone viewing the bluffs of Muscatine from the riverside of the city. The prominent turrets and other decorative features of the Queen Anne Victorian style of architecture are evident and in contrast to the Greek Revival style of the J.C.B. Warde House that is located across Cherry Street. This house, as well as the carriage house, is made of local red brick with limestone accents, such as window sills and lintels. The house has beautifully crafted stained glass windows, interior cherry and oak wood paneling and seven fireplaces.

The nomination form of 1982 noted: "It is a well-preserved example of a Victorian eclectic style mansion. The house incorporates many stylistic elements into its exterior ornamentation. Located on a double lot at the corner of Cherry and Second Streets, the house, with its matching carriage house, occupies the edge of a prominent elevated setting, which overlooks the Mississippi riverfront to the east, and which visually anchors the southern end of older Muscatine. A massive stone retaining wall surrounds the base of the property and dates from 1882. The house employs a variety of materials, including Baltimore pressed brick (laid in running bond), red granite columns and limestone capitals (which flank the main entrance), limestone sills and lintels, tin and limestone cornice."

The original slate roof material was replaced in 2004 by asphalt shingles on the main body of the house. The slate roof material and tin ridge decoration on the southeast turret roof has been replaced with slate-like modern rubber roofing material, and copper decorative ridges and finial in 2005.

The nomination form of 1982 noted:

"The basic plan is that of a rough rectangle, with two-story angled square cut corner bays projecting from the southwest and southeast corners, and a two story chamfered bay, which projects from the eastern half of the north face. The westernmost corner bay is topped with a pyramidal roof (with paired roof vents) and the easternmost corner bay has a hexagonal turret roof. Chateausque features include the general massing of the house, the elaborate ornamentation, the irregular silhouette, the steeply pitched hip roof and towers and the tall, elaborate chimneys (three are well preserved). Queen Anne elements include the irregularity of form, the recessed porch on the southwest corner bay, the shell motifs in the dormer façade, and the vertical division of the wall surfaces. Egyptoid design elements include the use of the phoenix wing around the porch capitals and the slightly tapered granite columns, which flank the main entrance.

Built upon a raised limestone foundation, capped with a stone water table, the exterior wall surfaces, which are rendered more regular by the use of running brick bond, are broken up vertically on each floor by the inclusion of a narrow stone belt course even with the window sills and a wider stone belt course even with the window lintels. The corner bay facades continue these horizontal delineations around the corners of the house. A bracketed stone cornice is topped with a decorative tin cornice of

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elaborate design. Gabled dormer facades are nearly all glass due to the use of a Palladian-like window, which substitutes a centered shell design for the central arched light.

The interior of the house features well preserved cherry and oak wood trim and wainscoting on the first floor. The cherry wood staircase features ceiling paneling and a large stained glass window of a Hiawatha theme on the stairwell landing. Seven fireplaces retain decorative tile and in some instances, had painted design work. The front entrance includes an air lock entry system. Additional stained glass is also to be found in the inner set of doors in the main entrance and on a back door.

The one and a half story, two bay carriage house, of rectangular plan, is set on a very high foundation alongside the bluff edge. Stone sills and lintels and the brickwork match those in the house, but ornamentation is restricted to a simple, corbelled, bracketed cornice of brick and an ornate belvedere- type vent with a heavy, bracketed hip roof cap. Two plain shed roof dormers are on each side above the cornice line, and a wider hip roof dormer is centered on the façade with stone sill and lintel, the former being incorporated into the cornice line.”

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Clark-Blackwell House was nominated to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December of 1982. It was listed on January 27, 1983. The criterion cited for nomination was architecture and the association with local commerce in the late 19th century. The Clark – Blackwell house is a good example of the manner in which the culture and tastes of the late 19th Century wealthy elite was displayed. The grand size, high quality and style of the house, its prominent location, high on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, have made it a showcase for all to see. The house is significant today for the integrity of its architecture, as well as for its association with a notable architect, a prominent builder and many local craftsmen.

The Queen Anne architectural style of the house and carriage house, the prominence of their location, and the history of the property owners contribute greatly to the potential “West Hill” historic neighborhood district. These buildings define geographically the peak of “West Hill” and illustrate the high standard that was set for quality of design and craftsmanship in the Victorian era.

The nomination form of 1982 notes: “Lorenzo D. Cleveland (1820-1905) practiced his architectural trade from a Chicago office (Cleveland and Jay) 1870-1892, and was responsible for the Lindell Hotel (Springfield), and the Old State Savings Bank (1874, Chicago). As Commissioner of Buildings for the City of Chicago (1879-1893) he was in charge of building the City Hall, supervised the erection of two of the World’s Fair buildings, and lastly supervised the construction of the Auditorium Hotel Annex. In 1882, Mr. Cleveland designed and supervised the construction of the nominated property in Muscatine, Iowa.” It goes on to say “The construction of the house involved noteworthy local craftsmen in addition to a regionally significant architect. George D. Magoon (1825-1909) was the contractor, and was responsible for erecting many local churches, schools, and commercial structures.”

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William A. Clark (1841-1895), the original owner of this house, was born in 1841 on a farm in Wapsinonoc Township, Muscatine County, Iowa. His parents were William and Louisa (Bagley) Clark, who were pioneer farmers. William Clark, Sr. arrived in Muscatine County from New York State in 1837, bought and cleared land, met and married Louisa Bagley in January 1839 and raised a family of nine children. William A. Clark, Jr. is listed in the 1870 Census as a 28-year-old farmer with a personal estate value of \$10,000 and living with his parents and three younger siblings. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Muscatine and first appears in a city directory in 1874. He is listed as a real estate and loan broker. The directories of 1876-77, 1877-78 and 1879 indicate that he was a partner with a brother-in-law, Frank Underwood, in the firm of Underwood and Clark, real estate and loans. He was married in 1871 to Blanche Hawley, daughter of Cyrus Hawley. The 1880 Census shows that they had a five-year-old daughter, Kate. (Muscatine Journal obituary, May 18, 1885). Clark purchased the Cherry Street property on July 15, 1874 from Julia B. Barnhart & husband (Lots Book 10, page 63), and he lived on Cherry Street in the 1870s. According to the *Journal* on April 19, 1882: "Mr. J.P. Walton is moving Capt. Clark's dwelling to the school lots, on reservoir square and the Captain will reside there until his chateau on the bluff is up and ready for occupation, when he thinks of presenting the cottage to some deserving local editor" (*Journal*, April 19, 1882, 2). William A. Clark owned the lot at 408 Broadway in the early 1880s, and it appears that this house is the location where the house was moved. It is unclear if it is this house still on the lot or if it was moved again or demolished.

A deed recorded on June 9, 1883 shows that William A. Clark transferred lots 4 & 5, block 41 to his wife Blanche L. Clark (Deeds / Abstract, Book 18, page 52). Another deed recorded on May 14, 1885 transferred the same property from Blanche L. Clark to William A. Clark, three days before Mrs. Clark died (Lots Book 21: 104). Blanche died on May 17, 1885 at the age of 39. The city directory of 1883-86 shows Captain W.A. Clark, a resident of Muscatine since 1871, a capitalist. He is also listed in the 1886-87 city directory as a capitalist, but he is not to be found in the 1889-91 city directory.

Clark sold the property to L.H. Holmes, who transferred it to J.F. Cole on February 5, 1891. J.F. Cole then sold the house to Rhoda Canon and husband on February 17, 1891 (Lots Book 22, page 600). Josiah Harry Canon is noted as a resident of 206 Cherry Street by city directories from 1895 to 1900. According to an obituary published in the Muscatine Journal, Josiah Harry Canon worked as a druggist in Uniontown and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before traveling to Muscatine in 1856. He married Rhoda Smalley, daughter of Andrew Smalley of Muscatine on April 7, 1858. They had four children, but twin boys died in infancy. Two daughters survived to adulthood. ("J.H. Canon Dead", Muscatine Journal, February 26, 1906, 3). The 1895 city directory lists him as a retired druggist. The city directory of 1897-98 also notes that William E. Bliven is at this address also. He is noted to be employed at Borger & Bliven. The census of 1900 reveals that Mr. Canon was born in June 1832 in Richland County, Ohio. His wife, Rhoda, is shown to be born in March, 1837, also in Ohio. Also in the household in 1900 are Bertha Canon (27), an older adopted daughter of the Canons, and the family of J.H. Canon's son-in-law, William E. Bliven (39), and Canon's daughter, Nellie (37), grandchildren Miriam (10), Helen (5), and Albert L. (2). Also noted is that Mr. Bliven is a partner in a dry goods store.

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Edna D. Blackwell bought the property from Rhoda Canon & husband on January 18, 1900 (Lots Book 33, page 244). City Directories indicate that J.S. and Edna Blackwell were living at 206 Cherry Street from 1904 through 1929, followed by only Edna Blackwell. The 1910 Census shows that J. Scott Blackwell was born in Muscatine in May 1862. His wife, Edna Dennison was born in Muscatine in August 1865. They were married in Muscatine on October 21, 1891. (Iowa Marriages, 1851 – 1900) Mr. Blackwell is identified as a livestock dealer in the 1910 Census Records. Their family is shown to be daughters Margaret (17), Bernice (12) and Adele (7). The 1920 Census reveals that the same individuals are living at 206 Cherry Street. The nomination form of 1982 notes: “A local real estate agent and landowner, Blackwell was most notable for his association with the Muscatine Bridge Company. He served as its head from 1915 until 1930. He was also a director of the German-American Savings Bank for many years.” The city directories, beginning in 1900, show that Mr. Blackwell was involved in a variety of ventures. In 1900 he was listed as a livestock dealer; in 1902 a real estate agent; in 1904 and 1907 a lumberman; in 1908 as president and treasurer of Muscatine Produce Company; in 1911 a capitalist; in 1913 as the president of the Arkansas Southern Railway; in 1919 a livestock dealer. From 1921 through 1927 he was listed as Superintendent of the Muscatine High Bridge and, in 1929, he was the president of the Muscatine Bridge Company. J. Scott Blackwell died in 1930. Edna Blackwell continued to be listed here in city directories until she died in 1943.

The property stayed in the Blackwell family until 1998. After Edna died in 1943, her daughters inherited the property. One of the daughters, Bernice Bowsman, acquired full ownership of the property from her sister, Adele on April 3, 1951 (Deeds / Abstracts, Book 144, page 144). Bernice lived at 206 Cherry Street with her husband, Harry F. Bowsman. They were listed already in the 1946 city directory. Mr. Bowsman was born in 1898 in Xenia, Ohio and moved on to Muscatine in the late 20's. He married Bernice Blackwell on January 19, 1936 in Muscatine. He was the owner and operator of the King dry goods stores in Muscatine and Keokuk, Iowa. He died at age 65 on January 14, 1964 (“H.F. Bowsman Dead at 65; Rites Pending”, Muscatine Journal obituary). Bernice Bowsman continued to live at 206 Cherry Street until her death in 1998 at 100 years of age.

Bernice Bowsman bequeathed the house and its contents to her church, which sold the contents to antique dealers and conducted a silent auction to sell the property in May 1998. The auction was won by Don and Evelyn Lewis of Muscatine. They began immediately to repair some damage to the building caused by neglect over time. Their efforts included brick cleaning and pointing of some of the building's soft brick exterior walls.

After living at 206 Cherry Street for four years, Don and Evelyn sold the property to Roy J. Carver, III in November 2002, who began to restore the house. The original state roof was replaced with an asphalt shingle roof in 2004; however, plans include the restoration of the original slate appearance with a modern rubber material. The southeast turret roof was replaced with this material in 2005. Metal details have also been saved, to be reproduced in copper. The interior of the house at the 3rd story / attic level has been extensively remodeled in 2005 to create a current living space for the Carver family.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

American Institute of Architects Proceedings. 38, (1905), p. 266

“Blanche Clark,” Muscatine Journal obituary, May 18, 1885, page 2

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920

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“H.F. Bowsman Dead at 65; Rites Pending”, Muscatine Journal obituary, January 14, 1964, page 1

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

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

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.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
 State Historical Society of Iowa
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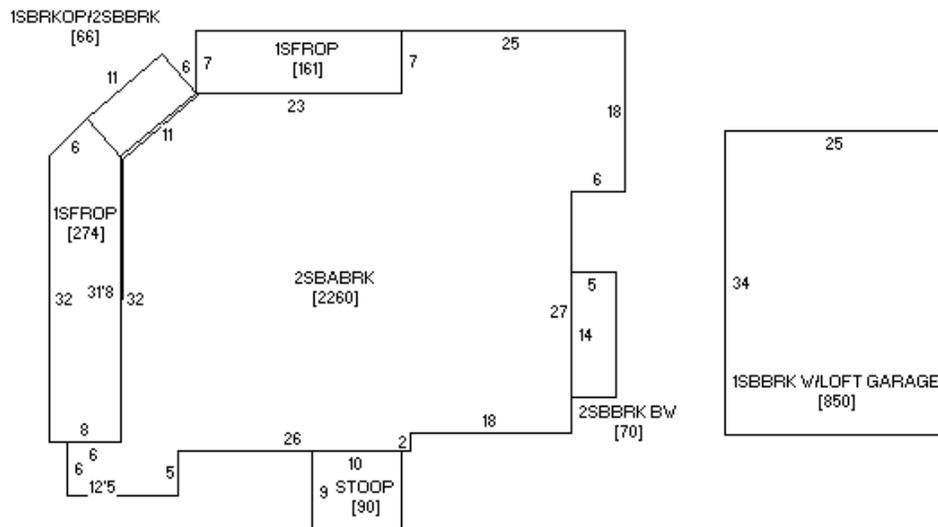
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Location Map



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



(front – Cherry Street)

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Photograph of buildings (digital images)

