

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

State Inventory No. 70-01040 **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 Fitch Swan House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-106

2. Location

street & number 802 W. 3rd 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) W 40' of N 80' of Lot 7

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
	_____ Total	<u>1</u>	_____ Total

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

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

6. Function or Use

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)
_____	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>05E: Aluminum siding</u>
_____	roof <u>08A: Asphalt shingles</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 802 W. 3rd Street Site Number 70-01040
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 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 Barb Sabbath / Rebecca Lawin McCarley, consultant

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date February 20, 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: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

Fitch Swan House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

802 W. 3rd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a one-and-one-half-story, frame house clad in aluminum siding. The house sits on a brick foundation. The side gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The overall form appears unusual, and it is unclear if it was modified historically or just an unusual form, with the aluminum siding cladding any clues. The house was likely built around 1890, and the front “tower” or bay window would be characteristic of this time period. The first Sanborn map to cover the area dates to 1919, and the house is shown with roughly the current footprint. The garage on the west side was added by 1928.

Concrete steps lead to the single door entry that is now recessed on the left (northeast) corner of the façade (north elevation). The entry has a small transom window. The remainder of the first story façade appears to be an enclosed porch. A two-light fixed window with unified transom is centered on this section. A one-over-one-light double-hung window is also found on the east side of this section, within the recessed entry area. A three-sided “tower” projects from the roof above this section of the first story. The center has a one-over-one-light double-hung window. Small one-over-one-light double-hung windows are found on either side of the tower. The garage, built between 1919 and 1928, extends the façade to the west. It is sunk into the ground, roughly at basement level. Concrete retaining wall line either side of the driveway. The garage has a non-historic garage door. A square railing extends around the top of the garage.

The west side elevation appears to be two stories, with the second story likely added to the majority of the elevation. Three evenly spaced one-over-one-light double-hung windows are found on each story of this section. The remainder of the rear gable-roof house continues behind this point. A one-over-one-light double-hung is found on the first story of this section. The garage projects from the lower section of this elevation.

The east side elevation has two one-over-one-light double-hung windows, one on each story, centered under the side gable. The gable projects slightly over the lower stories. A smaller one-over-one-light double-hung is found on the side of the rear section that extend back from the main house.

The rear elevation has the main rear gable section, with a small gable section extending above the rear peak about three feet from the rear of the main section of the house. The rear elevation has a shed-roof porch that across the east two-thirds of the elevation, which is shown on the 1919 Sanborn map. It has been screened in. A one-over-one-light double-hung window is located to the left of the porch. A small one-over-one-light double-hung is centered in the rear gable.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

Fitch Swan House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

802 W. 3rd Street
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Muscatine
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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

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

This house appears to have been built around 1890 by Fitch Swan, though the Merry/Hughes family did own the lot for a number of years previous. The house has elements of the Victorian or Queen Anne style, but it does not appear to be a particularly outstanding example of this style of house. Additionally, the later non-historic siding has altered the historic appearance of the house. Fitch Swan, a local jeweler, bought this lot with the corner lot in 1890, and built a larger house on the corner in 1898, and he moved. A series of subsequent owners lived here, but none appear to be particularly significant. Finally, the house is not associated with any significant events. Thus, the Fitch Swan House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Fitch Swan House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. It falls within one historic context identified for the historic district: "19th century residential and neighborhood development." The construction in 1890 on an empty lot overlooking the Mississippi was part of a trend to construct new houses along this section of the West Hill neighborhood. The construction helped continued to stabilize and develop the neighborhood, and solidify its place in the community as the home of the most prominent citizens.

Historically, Abraham Smalley operated a sawmill on the southwest corner 3rd and Cherry streets. On March 7, 1865, Smalley sold the front (north) 70 feet of Lot 6 and front (north) 80 feet of lot 7 to Benjamin and Elizabeth Hershey. They also operated a sawmill in town, and it is unclear if this property included the mill or if they continued to operate it or stripped it of useful parts. Hershey sold the portions of Lot 6 and 7 to Catherine M. Merry (Murry) on March 11, 1867, along with Lot 8 the same day. Catherine had married David Lowry in St. Louis, who died in 1832, and they had three children: William E. Lowry, Sarah E. (Lowry) Hughes, and Samuel H. (Lowry) Merry. She remarried Dr. Samuel Merry in St. Louis soon after the death of her first husband, and the youngest son apparently adopted his last name. By 1852, they moved to Montpelier Township, Muscatine County, and the family of Sarah and Thomas Hughes also moved with them. Dr. Samuel Merry died on February 26, 1860, and Thomas Hughes also died in 1860 (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 46, 596). The 1860 census listed Catherine M. Merry in Montpelier Township, Muscatine County as a farmer. She owned \$54,300 in real estate. Her household included her youngest two children. Samuel H. Merry was 29 and a student of medicine. Sarah E. Hughes is listed as 38 with \$3,500 in real estate, with her two sons: William H. (11) and Samuel M. (9). Additionally, Daniel (38) and Louisa (37) Albright also lived on the property, owning \$1,000 in real estate. He was a gardener while she was a domestic servant. Finally, Andrew Neurer was listed as a farm laborer, with \$250 in real estate.

After buying the lots in Muscatine in 1867, there is no indication any member of the family built on any portion of the property in Block 41. Biographical records state that Sarah E. Hughes, widow, moved to

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

<u>Fitch Swan House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>802 W. 3rd Street</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

the City of Muscatine in 1862 with her sons. They moved to 715 W. 3rd Street at this time, where they continuous lived until after 1911 (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 46). City directories confirm this, first listing them at this “northeast corner of 3rd and Cherry” in 1869, including Mrs. S.E. Hughes, a widow, and William, a clerk. No listings could be identified for Catherine Merry or Sarah Hughes in the 1870 census. Samuel H. Merry was listed as a physician in Sweetland Township in 1870. By 1874, Mrs. C.M. Merry is also listed with her daughter Sarah and grandsons William and Samuel M., apparently moving to town as she aged. Catherine M. Merry died on September 21, 1874. The 1874 bird’s-eye view of Muscatine shows a house on the rear part of Lot 6 and 7, but no construction on the front portions of these lots or Lot 8, which were owned by Merry.

After Catherine’s death, the property (front halves of Lot 6 and 7, and all of Lot 8) was transferred in family through son William E. Lowry to daughter Sarah E. Hughes on April 28, 1875 (Lots Book 14: 415). City directories continue to list her and her sons at the northeast corner of 3rd and Cherry in 1879. The 1880 census lists Sarah E. Hughes as a 50-something year old widow, William as a 30-year-old dry goods clerk, and Samuel M. as a 27-year-old lawyer. The three continue to live at 715 W. 3rd Street until 1888 when Samuel married and moved to 806 W. 3rd Street, a new house he built on Lot 8. The 1900 census lists Sarah at 715 W. 3rd Street. She is listed as 75, and her 50-year-old son W.H. also lived in her household. As such, it does not appear that she ever lived in the 800 block of W. 3rd Street, and likely never constructed any house on this site. The property (front halves of lots 6 and 7) apparently was transferred into her son William’s name at some point in the 1880s, perhaps around 1888 when her other son Samuel M. built a house on Lot 8.

In April of 1890, a locally prominent jeweler, Fitch W. Swan, purchased the property at 800 – 802 West Third Street (front 80 feet of Lot 7 and front 70 feet of Lot 6) from William H. Hughes (Lots Book 22, page 204-207). At this time, it appears that Fitch Swan built this house on this front half of Lot 7, at 802. According to city directories, Fitch W. Swan was shown to be living at 802 W. 3rd St. until 1898. His occupation in 1892 city directory was a jeweler at 109 W. Second St. He moved to 800 W. 3rd Street in 1899, a large house on the corner lot (Lot 6) that he built in 1898. It is possible that he built this small house at 802 on Lot 7, saving Lot 6 for his anticipated larger corner house. The 1900 Census lists Fitch W. Swan, age 51, at 800 West 3rd Street. He is stated to be a native of Wisconsin. It also lists Mary C. Swan, age 40, a native of Indiana. Mrs. Swan died on November 19, 1902, after a long illness. Later, Mr. Swan purchased an organ for the First Baptist Church as a memorial to his wife, Mary. Mr. Swan married Miss Elsie Corey on May 29, 1907 (Richman 1911: 89).

After Swan, the property was sold three times in quick succession. Swan sold 802 W. 3rd St. (west 40 feet of north 80 ft of Lot 7) to Frank Shoemaker on July 14, 1899 (Lots Book 31: 463). The 1900 census listed Frank (26) and his wife Louise M. (24) at 802 W. 3rd Street. They had no children. He was listed as a bookkeeper at a sawmill, and the 1900 city directory list him as a bookkeeper for Musser Lumber Company. They continue to be listed in the 1904 city directory. On October 24, 1905, the Shoemakers sold the property to E.V. Harrington, a widow (Lots Book 38: 367). The 1907 city directory lists W.H. Harrington here. The 1907 city directory lists W. Howard Harrington and his wife Eva B. His occupation was a motorman.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 6

<u>Fitch Swan House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>802 W. 3rd Street</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

Harrington sold the property to Elizabeth A. Heineman on July 15, 1908 (Lots Book 41: 433). John L. Heineman and his wife Elizabeth are listed here in the 1911 city directory. He was working at Roach and Musser in 1911, and is just listed as a laborer in 1913 and 1916. In the 1919 city directory lists him working at Smoke House (a cigar, etc. store). The 1920 census lists John (54) and Elizabeth (57) Heineman at this address, and they owned the property free of a mortgage. They were both born in Iowa, with John of German ancestry and Elizabeth of Irish ancestry. He is listed as a janitor in a cigar store. According to St. Mary's cemetery records, John died on April 19, 1925 at age 57. The tombstone inscription indicates he was the husband of Elizabeth and a veteran of the Spanish-American War. In the 1927 city directory, Elizabeth was a widow listed as a dressmaker in her home. The 1930s city directories continue to list her as a widow living here. Elizabeth continued to be listed through 1940. She appears to have died around 1941, and the property was transferred through her estate to Retta Glasgow on May 2, 1942 (Lots Book 102: 211).

Retta Glasgow immediately sold it to Gustav and Maxine Schmidt on May 14, 1942, with a release of mortgage contract in 1944 (Lots Book 102: 227; Lots Book 110: 245). Retta was the mother of Maxine Schmidt ("Maxine Schmidt," December 17, 1974). Maxine and Gustav had one daughter Suzanne Schmidt (Kamka). The 1943 city directory lists Gus and Maxine Schmidt at this location. Gus worked for the telephone company in various capacities. In 1949, he was listed as an installer; in 1952, as a repairman; and in 1956 as a storekeeper at the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. Gus died on April 11, 1959 ("Gus Schmidt," Obituary, *Journal*, April 13, 1959). Maxine lived here after the death of Gus until her death in December 1974.

Sherry Shoemaker Bogan bought the house on September 18, 1975, and she still lives there to this day. She has been involved the floral business. She was widowed in 1980. Her late husband Alan Bogan was employed at Stanley Engineering.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1860, 1870, 1880, 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.

"Gustav W. Schmidt," obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, April 13, 1959, 13.

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.

"Maxine Schmidt," obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, December 17, 1974.

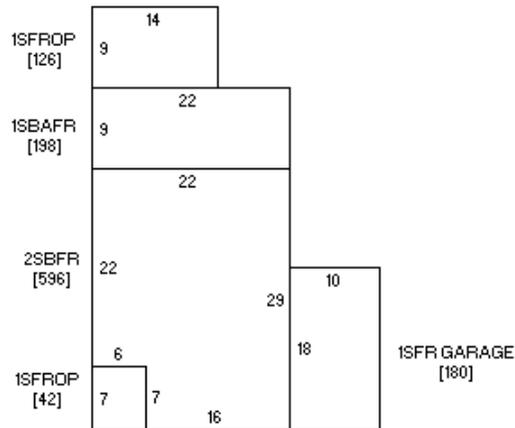
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
 State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-01040
 Related District Number 70-01005

Page 8

Fitch Swan House	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
802 W. 3 rd Street	Muscatine
Address	City

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



(front – W. 3rd Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

