



County Muscatine Address 308 Cherry Street Site Number 70-01108  
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

1899

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 Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, consultant)  
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date January 8, 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, Queen Anne frame house with a one-story wing on the rear. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are clad in clapboards, covered with aluminum siding. The building is two bays square, with a cross-gable roof in the two-story portion. The one story rear wing has a hip roof. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles.

A photograph taken c.1902 (private collection), reveals an attractive house with Queen Anne style detailing, such as fish scale wood shingles and lattice boards on the exterior cladding, a decorative porch over the front entry and a large barn to the west of the house. The current appearance of the house shows that the barn and front porch have been removed and the decorative cladding, and a few windows, have been covered with aluminum siding. The one story rear wing is seen to have had an entry with decorative lattice on a portion of it.

The front, or east facing elevation, is two bays wide, with a front cross gable on the right. The elevation shows a circular, decorative bay of windows on the left, at the southeast corner of the house. The impression is that a full height turret was begun, but stopped after completion of one story. This feature is seen on the historic photograph of 1902. The three windows found here are one-over-one-light, double-hung windows with curved glass panes. The area below and on the sides of the windows are covered with fish scale shingles. The second story shows a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window. To the right is the cross gable front section with a single-door entry, accessed by a set of concrete steps and small stoop. The entablature above the door is decorative, with a row of dentils and a crown molding. To the right is a large one-over-two-light, double-hung window. A paired set of one-over-one-light, double-hung windows with shutters are on the second story above the entry. Above these windows, near the gable end peak, is a large, half circle, fixed window with radial muntins. This window also appears on the historic photograph of 1902.

The south elevation of this building is composed of four segments, or bays. The segment on the far right near the front of the house reveals the circular, decorative bay of windows on the first story as previously described on the southeast corner. Above is found a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the second story and two smaller, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows near the gable peak. The next segment is a two-story angled bay window, projecting three feet from the building and showing a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window in each face, on both stories. The next segment is the south side of a one story rear wing, which shows a one story, screened-in porch, projecting out from the building about eight feet. It has a single entry with concrete steps to grade on its east side. The segment on the far left is one story high and shows the side view of an enclosed back porch.

The historic photograph shows the north elevation, revealing the two story gabled end and a side of the one story rear wing with a back porch. The back porch was not roofed as a separate unit, but as a part of the wing. A band of fish scale shingles was located between the first and second stories, as well as beneath the gable peak. There were five one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on the first and

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second stories and a paired set of two nine-over-one-light, double-hung windows near the gable peak. The current house appearance reveals that three of the double hung windows on the first and second stories on this elevation have been altered. A single one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the right of the second story and a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the first story of the rear one story wing have been replaced by a small, fixed window. Also, a one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the first story of the rear one story wing has been covered by a wooden panel. On the north elevation the brick foundation wall was constructed, according to the historic photograph of 1902, to be covered with soil up to the sills of three 2' x 3' basement windows, which are mounted under the first story floor framing joists. The soil has been removed from the foundation wall on this elevation, making way for the adjacent alley to be paved and abut the basement wall with asphalt. At some point, an access door was cut into the brick basement wall near the east end of the wall. It appears to be sealed and unusable. The back porch has been enclosed and the decorative shingles have been covered with aluminum siding.

The west (rear) elevation shows that the back porch has been enclosed and a modern, sliding patio door has replaced the original entry. The side of the main house on this elevation reveals that there are no windows, and a tall, brick chimney is centered on the sloped, rear roof. At grade near the rear entry, a modern, preformed concrete wall provides support for a concrete slab deck at the rear of the house. The concrete wall has a wrought iron railing on it and continues to the right, providing a retaining wall for a parking area near the garage.

A modern two car, preformed concrete garage is located at the northwest corner of the property and is accessed from the alley, which abuts this property on the north. The modifications to the rear of the house, the addition of the aluminum siding, changes to windows, and the construction of the garage was done after 1960. According to Sanborn maps, the front porch was removed between 1919 and 1928. A recent owner removed aluminum siding from the circular, decorative bay in front, revealing the shingles.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The house at 308 Cherry Street 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 is associated with the name of McQuesten, a highly respected name in Muscatine commercial circles for many years, beginning in the 1860's. William W. McQuesten, along with his partner, S.P. Sawyer, was a successful merchant in the hardware business in Muscatine at a time when availability of materials for building construction was critical to the continued growth of Muscatine County. However, Mr. McQuesten's reputation as a good, honest hardware merchant was primarily a local concern and did not amplify his reputation beyond the Muscatine area. No significant events appear to be associated with this house. Modifications have diminished the integrity of this Queen Anne style house, especially the removal of the front porch. Thus, the McQuesten House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

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The McQuesten House, with its history of members of the McQuesten family, shares lots 4 and 5 of block 48 with the Hatch - McQuesten House at 801 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, but does not share architectural styles with it. The contrast in style (Queen Anne and Italianate) of two buildings that were built over 40 years apart in time enhances the architectural interest in the houses of "West Hill" and contributes to a potential neighborhood historic district. Thus, the McQuesten House appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

This property (lots 4 & 5, block 48) was purchased by Elizabeth McQuesten, wife of William Wirt McQuesten, from John B. Hatch in 1875. The property already had a brick house on the front part of the property at 801 West Third Street, where the McQuestens resided. William W. McQuesten, a native of New Hampshire, began the downtown hardware store in the 1860's, in partnership with S.P. Sawyer. He is credited with selling the first coal burning stove and the first carload of coal in Muscatine. William and his wife, Elizabeth, had five children: Ella, William, Sarah, Fred and Harriet. Ella and Sarah married and moved from Muscatine. Fred died at age 13. Harriet married William Jeschka and later lived at 801 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. William M. McQuesten married Bertha Kulp on September 28, 1897 (Iowa Marriages, 1851-1900 Record) and later lived at 308 Cherry Street by 1908 (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 607).

A historic photograph, published in the Muscatine Journal in 1891, shows the Hatch – McQuesten House at 801 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and a building in the background, to the north, which appears to be a barn. It is located where this building stands at 308 Cherry Street (Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition, 1891, 53). However, a photograph of the house around 1902 indicates construction by this date (Photograph c.1902). No listings have been identified in the city directories at this address (308 Cherry Street) prior to 1900. It is likely that the McQuestens built the house at 308 Cherry Street around that time. Sanborn maps do not cover this block until 1919, so they do not provide any additional information. It appears that the house was used for rental income for a few years. City directories list the names of George M. Wells and his wife, Flora at this address in 1900. Mr. Wells was a department manager at Muscatine Oat Meal Company. The Superintendent of City Schools, W.F. Chevalier and his wife, Mary are listed in 1902 and 1904. Dr. H.J. Dean (eye, ear, nose & throat) is listed in 1907 and Dr. J.S. Kulp, D.D.S. in 1911. Dr. Kulp was Bertha McQuesten's father (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 607). William M. McQuesten and his wife, Bertha are shown to be living at his parent's home at 801 West Third Street in the 1900 and 1904 city directories and at 314 Pine St. in 1907. They are listed at 308 Cherry Street in 1908 and continued living there until his death in 1925. The 1910 Census shows that William McQuesten, age 41, his wife, Bertha, age 37 and their son, Joseph, age 5, lived at 308 Cherry Street. Also, this census reveals that William rented this house from his mother, Elizabeth, who lived next door.

William Wirt McQuesten had died in 1905, and his partnership in the hardware business was passed on to son, William M., who had been working in his father's store since he graduated from Muscatine High School in 1888. According to the *History of Muscatine County, Iowa*, published in 1911 "Mr. McQuesten has gained an enviable reputation as a man of sound business judgment and one whose word is as good as his security" (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 607). The city directories show William and Bertha McQuesten as the occupants of 308 Cherry Street from 1913 until 1924. William died on December 8, 1925, and his wife, Bertha, is then listed as the occupant, along with their son, Joseph, until her death in

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1949. Joseph McQuesten lived at 308 Cherry St. until he died in 1953. The city directories give no indication of Joseph McQuesten's occupation.

The property at 308 Cherry Street was sold to Fred L. and Louise B. Hahn on April 24, 1953, whose son, George B. Hahn and his wife, Patsy lived there until after 1960. George B. Hahn was a salesman for the Hahn Brothers Company, wholesale grocers, according to city directories.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1880, 1910

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1856-1959. Available as the Musser Public Library.

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

Iowa Marriages, 1851 – 1900 Record, Accessed online at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

Photograph. c.1902, Peterschmidt private collection, photographer unknown.

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, 1946. Accessed online at:  
[Sanborn.umi.com](http://Sanborn.umi.com).

*Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition of the Muscatine Journal*, Muscatine, Iowa, January 1891.

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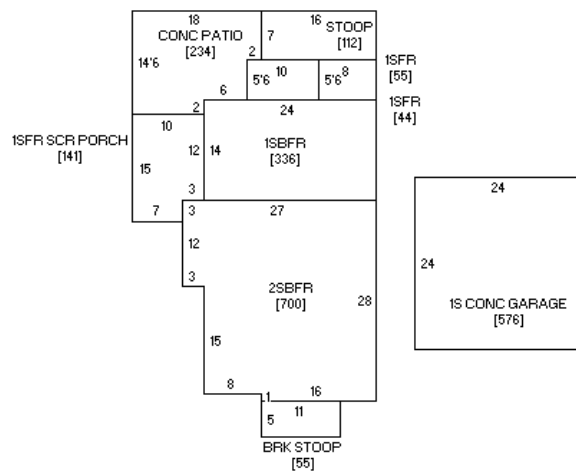
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**Location Map**



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



(front – Cherry Street)

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## Photograph of building (digital image)

