

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

State Inventory No. 70-01110  **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 Renselaar Durkee House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-115

**2. Location**

street & number 310 Chestnut  
 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) 54 Lot(s) N 46' Lot 5 & N 32' E22' 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)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____	Contributing <u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	Noncontributing _____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____	Total
	_____	<u>1</u>	

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).  
 Title A Historical and Architectural Survey of the "West Hill" neighborhood, Muscatine, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base Number 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>05D: Late Victorian/Queen Anne</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>15B: Synthetics/Vinyl</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 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  
City Muscatine

Address 310 Chestnut

Site Number 70-01110  
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 1893  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 Jim Rudisill, Planning & CD Coordinator (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date October 10, 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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Renselaar Durkee House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
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310 Chestnut  
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## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, two-bay, frame T-plan house with some Queen Anne detail. The house sits on an elevated foundation that has been parged on the exterior portion that is above the ground level. The walls are frame, clad in vinyl. According to the Muscatine Planning, Zoning and Building Safety Department, a permit was issued to reside the house (Feb. 19, 2003). Each section of the gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house was completely re-sided in 2003 and does not retain any original details, windows or doors.

The façade includes the eave-oriented east elevation of the side gable wing and the gable-end east elevation of the projecting front gable. The dominant feature of the façade is the two-story, bay window arrangement of the front gable. The bay's first-story center window is a non-historic, 12-light window. The second-story center contains a pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. Both windows of the bay's second-story angled sides and the window of the bay's first-story north angle are one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. A porch with a shed roof extends from the bay window along the entire front of the side wing. The roof projects over a wood deck that provides access to the front entry, which is located in the first-story south angle of the bay. The entry includes a combination aluminum storm door and a non-historic interior door. Although the porch and deck elements are new, the 1899 Sanborn does show a one-story porch in the same location. The remaining openings of the façade include single one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on each story that are aligned along the eave-oriented side of the side wing; and a small attic window that is located in the upper gable of the front bay window. There is a small frieze that separates this upper gable from the lower portion of the bay. No other details appear on the façade.

The south elevation contains the gable-end of the two-story side wing and the end of an enclosed back porch. There are only four openings, all windows, located on this elevation. Two openings are on the second story and two on the first. Each opening contains a one-over-one-light, double-hung window. The two windows on the right of each story are aligned. The remaining first-story window sets outside the other second-story window. There are no frieze or other details.

The north elevation is also relatively featureless. The entire elevation contains only two openings, both one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. There is one window on each story and both are aligned near the rear of the elevation. The only remaining features of this elevation are the elevated foundation, which gradually shortens as it runs towards the back of the house; and a wood retaining wall that extends from the back of the house west to the alley.

The rear of the house contains three openings on the second story and two on the first. A one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located in the gable-end, while a two-over-two-light, double-hung window is located towards the right end of the side wing. At the junction of the gable roof and the side wing, a wood deck has been constructed and what might have originally been a window opening has been enlarged for a door. A one-story enclosed addition extends back from the house. The 1899 Sanborn shows a one-

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story addition extending across nearly two-thirds of the left side of this elevation, with an open porch in the remaining northwest corner. It appears from the Sanborn maps this open porch was enclosed sometime between 1912 and 1919. The enclosed porch includes a one-over-one, double-hung window on the right side and a non-historic entrance door on the left.

There is no garage associated with the property.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The house at 310 Chestnut 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.

Although this c.1893 building continues to show its original basic footprint, it was completely resided in 2003 with vinyl and most likely lost any distinguishing features at that time. None of its windows, with the possible exception of an attic window located in the front gable, appear to be original. Also, the original doors do not appear to have been retained as part of the entries. Both side elevations have an especially reduced number of windows, indicating some openings might have been covered over during the 2003 residing project. The front and back porches/additions both appear on the Sanborn maps, but the front porch is now constructed of non-historic treated wood, while the back addition, like the rest of the house, has lost any historic characteristics because of the recent siding work. The property also does not appear to have any association with any significant individuals or events in the community. The property at 310 Chestnut therefore does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, 310 Chestnut does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district because of its association with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Neighborhood Development. This area of Chestnut Street appears to have been settled by relatively middle class shop owners and professionals and their properties have retained much of the neighborhoods original features. The house at 310 Chestnut provides an excellent example of a building that has retained its original footprint, partially because of the building restrictions created by size and topography of its lot. The recent residing of the house was completed by the property owner in an effort to modernize and improve the property. Despite this work, the house still retains its basic features and provides a good visual link to both 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhoods.

Renselar W. Durkee appears to have constructed this house around 1893. The 1891-92 city directory indicates Durkee and his wife Ruth were living at 116 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, but the 1893-94 directory has them at 310 Chestnut. The probable 1893 construction date is corroborated by the 1892 and 1899 Sanborn maps. No building is shown at this address in the 1892 Sanborn. However, the 1899 Sanborn shows a two-story building with a footprint that is maintained through the 1946 Sanborn and continues to match the current house. It appears a son, also named R.W. Durkee, also lived here. City directories and the

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1900 census show a son, who also used the initials R.W. also lived at the house. The son's first name however was Raymond, age 29, and he was a physician. The 1900 census shows Renselaar Durkee was born in New York in 1836 and was a commercial traveler. His wife Ruth was 63 and born in Ohio. It is not known when they moved to Muscatine. City directories indicate he was a salesman for Dillaways and later became a traveling salesman. Neither the father nor the son was found in any biographical sources. The father apparently died sometime after 1907, but his widow and son continued living in the house until sometime between 1908 and 1911.

By 1911, Harry and May Atkins lived there. The 1911 city directory shows Atkins was a machinist for the Muscatine North & South Railway. Between 1913 and 1927, the city directories list F.E. and Cora McMains in the house. He was a local manager for Standard Oil Company before his retirement in the late 1920s. He apparently died shortly after retiring, but his widow continued to live in the house until around 1929.

The 1934 and 1931 city directories list Frank and Lula Kyes at 310 Chestnut. Kyes was a clerk with the CRI&P Railroad. Harold and Dorothy Koenigsacker were listed there in the 1936-37 directory. Koenigsacker was the chief clerk for Swift and Company. The house was listed as vacant in the 1938-39 and 1940-41 city directories and information from the 1940 directory was unavailable. Between 1943 and 1952, Mrs. Florence Malloy, widow of Jas. Malloy, lived in the house. No occupation was every listed for her. Donald and Mary Fuhlman were also listed at that address in the 1949 and 1952 city directories, indicating the building had been partially converted into an apartment sometime before 1949. Fuhlman was a clerk for Brauds.

The building was again listed as vacant in the 1954 directory. The 1956 directory identified Mrs. Margaret Martin, a nurse and widow of Francis, as living at the house. Lyle and Joan Dahnke were also listed at 310 Chestnut in the 1956 directory, indicating the house continued to be used as an apartment. Dahnke was a factory worker at Universal Crushed Shell. The 1958 and 1961 directories listed only Margaret Martin at 310 Chestnut. The current owner acquired the property in 1998.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1900.

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

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**  
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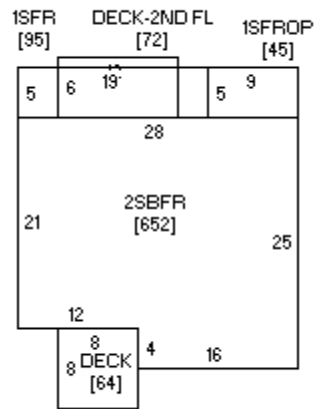
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**Location Map**



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



(front – W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

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## Photograph of building (digital image)

