

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

State Inventory No. 70-01117 **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 Smith-Bomke House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-122

2. Location

street & number 408 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) 79 Lot(s) N 39' 4-3/4" Lot 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>09A01: House / Front-Gabled Roof</u>	foundation <u>10A: Concrete/Block</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 408 Chestnut

Site Number 70-01117
District Number _____

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 1898 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

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date November 14, 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: _____

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

<u>Smith-Bomke House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>408 Chestnut</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, two-bay, gable-front house with a two-story angled bay window on the south side. The house sits on a cement block foundation that appears to be of relatively recent construction. The walls are frame, clad in vinyl. The main gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. A front and rear porch each has a hip roof that is also clad in asphalt shingles. Any original decorative detailing has been removed or covered. A small wood deck has been constructed on the front of the house. This house is similar in design and shape to the adjoining property to the south. Based on reports from the current owners, Sanborn maps and property abstracts, it is believed that this house with built and historically remodeled at the same time as the adjacent 406 Chestnut. It appears the windows are vinyl.

The wood deck on the front (east) elevation is non-historic and provides access to the main entry in the extended front gable. The entry is covered with a small gable roof supported by two brackets at each end. The entry includes a 12-light, non-historic storm door and an interior entry door of unknown age. In addition to the front entry deck, the other façade openings include a one-over-one-light, double-hung window to the left of the entry door on the first story. Two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows are equally on the second story. An attic vent opening is located in the middle of the upper gable. An enclosed porch extends out from the façade, around the house's southeast corner and continues along the south elevation to the cross gable. The porch appears on the Sanborn maps between 1919 and 1928. The east elevation of the porch contains four, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. Three of the windows face east, while the fourth window faces north towards the wood deck.

The porch's south elevation contains six one-over-one-light, double-hung windows in a single row. The two-story angled bay window is located at the rear portion of the original side of the house. The first story of the angled bay of the cross gable contains a one-over-one-light, double-hung window in the center of the wall. A similar window is located above it on the second story. The cut-away side windows of the bay contain similar sashes. The second-story window located in the angled bay contains one-over-one, double-hung sashes. Two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows are located towards the front of the house, above the enclosed porch.

The north elevation contains a side entry with a gable roof covering similar to the front entry. To the left of this entry is a small pair of single-light windows, while a typical one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located to the right of the side entry. The only second-story openings are a pair of typical one-over-one-light, double-hung windows that are located towards the back wall.

The main feature of the rear elevation is an enclosed, one-story porch that extends across the width of the back gable end. The porch contains two window openings on its north wall that have been covered. The west wall contains a back entry door and two, covered window openings on each side of the door. It is unknown if there are any openings on the porch's south wall. The remaining opening on the rear elevation is a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window that is located in the middle of the second story. There is also an attic vent located in the upper gable.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

<u>Smith-Bomke House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>408 Chestnut</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

A ca. 1915, single-vehicle garage is located behind the house. The garage has a gable roof and a wooden overhead door. Its integrity is questionable, because it leans to one side and its original wood siding is deteriorated in several places.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Smith-Bomke 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.

Chockley C. Smith acquired all of Lot 5, Block 79 from Porter Yates and Ella Forbes on September 20, 1898, subsequently building three houses. He rented this property at 408 Chestnut until after he approached retirement. John Bomke, a local dentist born in Muscatine in 1882, bought it in 1920, and the property became owner-occupied. He practiced in the community for 45 years, but was only active in a couple of civic organizations. He died in 1957, after living at 408 Chestnut for about 37 years. Although the Bomkes did not become associated with this property until 20 years after it was built, the long period of time the family lived there established a strong association between them and the house. The house has been extensively renovated, with new vinyl siding and windows and construction of a wood deck in the front. The siding work removed any decorative features that might have been present. No significant event is known to have occurred on the property. Thus, the Smith-Bomke House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Smith-Bomke House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. All four houses currently located on Lot 5, Block 79 appear to have been constructed between 1898 and 1915 by Chockley C. Smith, a local businessman. This construction is a strong example of 19th and 20th Century Neighborhood Development. Smith helped strengthen the neighborhood by allowing new residents to move in and establish strong roots in the area. Since Bomke was a well known professional when the couple bought the property in 1920, their decision helped to maintain the growth of the area and likely encouraged other families to consider the neighborhood for their own family residences. This house is historically significant to this potential historic district.

Chockley C. Smith acquired all of Lot 5, Block 79 from Porter Yates and Ella Forbes on September 20, 1898 (Book 32, Page 339). It appears Yates and Forbes and other family members had acquired the property through a family transaction. Originally, Joseph Yates and L.D. Forbes purchased the property from Shep Smalley, a widower, on October 29, 1891 (Book 24, Page 53). None of the Forbes or Yates involved in these acquisitions appear in the 1870 or later census records, and their relationships are unknown. By 1899, this house appears on the Sanborn maps, suggesting construction soon after Smith acquired the lot.

Census records and city directories show Smith was living at 213 W. Sixth Street at the time he bought the property. He is also listed at 213 W. Sixth Street in the 1900 Census, which notes that he is 35 years

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Smith-Bomke House	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
408 Chestnut	Muscatine
Address	City

old. According to census records, Smith was born in Iowa, but apparently not in Muscatine County. He appears in the 1893-94 directory as a grocer, with his house at the corner of Pine and Sixth. The family moves to 213 West Sixth, according to the 1897 city directory. He is eventually included in the 1899 leading businesses of Muscatine directory (accessed on-line at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iamuscat/businesses1899.htm>). Smith continues working as a grocer until sometime before 1908, when he is identified in that directory as the president of the Richards-Smith Button Company. He continues in the button industry until around 1925 when he retires. After buying Lot 5, Block 79 in 1898, Smith immediately constructed three houses. One was located at 201 W. Fourth and has a legal description of the S 36'9-1/2" of Lot 5, Block 79, and the other has a street address of 406 Chestnut and a legal description of the S 40'4" N 79'8-3/4" of Lot 5, Block 79. The third house that Smith constructed is this house, locally identified as 408 Chestnut and legally described as the N 39'4-3/4" of Lot 5, Block 79. These legal descriptions are actually simplified versions of more detailed survey descriptions that are included on the deeds. Smith appears to have lived only in 201 W. Fourth for any extended period. For the rest of the time he rented the houses to others. He built a fourth house, initially as an addition, at 402 Chestnut around 1915. The legal description of this house is N 23'5-3/4" of the S 60'3" of Lot 5, Block 79.

The houses at 406 and 408 Chestnut appear identical on the 1899 and future maps. Their on-site appearance also appears similar to each other. While some details of the houses were simplified on the 1928 Sanborn map, it does appear that the houses date back to the earlier construction. The 1928 Sanborn map had several revisions along Chestnut Street that suggests map corrections in comparison to 1919 rather than new construction. The angled two-story bay window on the south side of the houses is shown in 1899 to 1919, though simplified and not shown as angled on the 1928 Sanborn map. However, the angled bay windows obviously continues to exist, and the houses overall appears to date to the earlier time frame.

The original residents of the house at 408 Chestnut were likely E.F. Gobble and his wife Amalia. Gobble was a salesman for J.M. Gobble and Company. They first appear in the 1899-1900 and continue to be listed in the 1900 edition. Mrs. C.H. (Laura) Reynolds, a widow of Charles, was listed as the resident in the 1904 directory. No occupation was listed for her. Jas. and Leanna Wier were listed as the residents in the 1907 city directory. His occupation was not identified. Railroad engineer Joseph J. Cain and his wife Minnie were recorded as the residents of 408 Chestnut in the 1908-09 directory. The 1911 city directory identified Ben F. and Kate Bates as the residents in that year. He worked for the Zeigler Canning and Preserving Company. Barber Waite Palmer and his wife Katherine were the recorded residents in the 1913 directory. Another barber, E.M. Ditman and his wife Harriet were listed as the residents in the 1916 directory. Ditman worked at the Hotel Muscatine barbershop. In 1919, Fern and Leora Webster were the tenants, according to that year's directory. Webster was a service manager for Horst and Son.

Between 1920 and 1924 Smith sold three of the properties, including 408 Chestnut, which was sold on December 30, 1920 to J.J. Bomke, a local dentist. Smith retires in 1925. There is no evidence he stayed in the Muscatine area and there is no record of his death in the Muscatine County Records office. The

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 6

<u>Smith-Bomke House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>408 Chestnut</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

1920 census records show Bomke and his wife Edna were already living at that address, indicating they rented the property. John is a 35-year-old dentist, his wife Edna is 31, and no children were listed. The Bomkes, who bought the property at the end of 1920, began being listed as the residents in the 1921 directory. They continued to be identified as the residents through the 1956 directory. Before moving into 408 Chestnut, the Bomkes rented another of Smith's units at 402 Chestnut. They were likely the first residents of that unit, built around 1915. The first listing of Bomke dentistry practice is in the 1908 directory. M.P. Bomke is also listed as a dentist in the 1908 directory, as well as the 1907 directory. The 1907 directory lists a total of 12 dentists in the community. It appears the two Bomkes were brothers, because they are both listed in the directory as living at 412 Grandview, which appears to be the Bomke family home, in the 1910 census. In 1908, when J.J. Bomke opens his practice at a separate location from M.P. Bomke, there are still 12 dentists practicing in Muscatine. The number of dentists in Muscatine maintained a fairly stable level throughout the 1900s. When J.J. Bomke retired in the early 1950s, 13 dentists were still practicing. His obituary identified a membership in the Mason and BPOE as his only outside activities (*Muscatine Journal*, September 14, 1957, P. 6). His wife Edna continued to live at 408 Chestnut after Dr. Bomke died, but like her husband, she also is not identified with any significant contribution to the community. The 1961 directory listed Mrs. Edna Bomke as the only resident.

The Bomkes did not have any children survive them, but Lee and Doris Frazier apparently were named as heirs of Edna Bomke's estate. The Fraziers sold the property on October 22, 1971 to John H. Sr., and Gloria Coulter (Book 255, Page 612).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1870, 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.

"Dr. John Bomke, Dentist Here 45 Years, Succumbs," Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, September 14, 1957, Page 6.

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 Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 8

Smith-Bomke House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

408 Chestnut
Address

Muscatine
City

Photograph of building (digital image)

