

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

State Inventory No. 70-01048  **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 James and Hannah Murphy House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-127

**2. Location**

street & number 207 W. Fourth 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) 79 Lot(s) S 40' E 8-1/2' of Lot 3; & EX E 25' 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)	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 A Historical and Architectural Survey of the "West Hill" neighborhood, Muscatine, Iowa Historical Architectural Data Base Number 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>09A04: House/Side-Gabled Roof, Two-Story</u>	foundation <u>unknown</u>
_____	walls <u>05F: Metal/Steel</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 207 W. Fourth Street

Site Number 70-01048  
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 1869  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 November 29, 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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James and Hannah Murphy House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

207 W. Fourth Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, two-bay, side-gable house. The siding of the house extends to ground level hiding the foundation from view. No one currently lives in the home and efforts to contact the property owner for details on the building, such as the foundation type, were unsuccessful. The walls are frame, clad in aluminum siding. The combination roof is clad in asphalt shingles. A full-width shed-roof addition is attached to the rear of the house. This addition was shown on the early Sanborn maps. The owner appears to be replacing windows at this time.

The front (south) elevation contains a non-descript, asymmetrical façade with five openings. The single-door entry, covered with later siding, is offset to the right, suggesting an center interior wall or a two-entry dwelling originally. With the siding replacement, the two first story window openings were altered. A set of non-historic paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows is found on either side of the entry. The two second-story windows are aligned above the first-story window. The left window is a two-over-two-light, double-hung window, while the right window contains six-over-six-light, double-hung sashes.

The west elevation contains two openings in the end of the original gable end. Both openings are covered at this time. The first-story opening appears to be designed for an entry and is centered in the west wall. The second-story opening is cut for a small window. It is offset to the right of the gable's center. A second entry, with a non-historic door, is located in the west wall of a one-story rear addition.

The east elevation has two openings, both in the gable end of the main house. Each opening is cut to contain windows, but the bottom opening is covered. The second-story window is slightly offset to the left and contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The rear elevation contains two openings in the uncovered second-story of the main house, and one entry and a window in the first story of the addition. The west opening on the second story is a one-by-one-light, hinged, vinyl window. The opening on the east is covered, possibly prior to a similar design window being installed. The rear entry is located on the left side of the addition. It is flush-mounted and contains a one-over-one-light, combination storm door. The first-story window is the same hinged design as the second-story window.

The rear addition is already attached to the house when it first appears on the 1899 Sanborn map. However, the addition is extended farther to the east on the 1905 map. The extended area is the location for the current rear entry.

A detached, two-stall, metal garage is located at the rear of the property. It first appears on the 1928 Sanborn, replacing a smaller building that was more centered on the lot. The current building contains an overhead door on the right bay and a wood panel in the left bay.

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## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The James and Hannah Murphy House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. It might be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

Based on property transfers, it appears that James and Hannah Murphy constructed this house sometime around 1869. None of the individuals appear to have been significantly associated with Muscatine. No significant events were discovered to have occurred at the address. In addition, there has been extensive renovation of the house. While the basic footprint remains the same, the steel siding and new windows that have been installed have seriously diminished its historical integrity. Thus the house does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the James and Hannah Murphy House may be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The c.1869 construction reflects some of the earliest construction in this area, and the overall form of this house remains intact. However, the non-historic siding, covered entry, and first story window changes have impacted this integrity. At the same time, the second story windows and overall form remains clearly distinguishable, and no major features such as a porch have been removed. This house will need to be assessed more closely based on final criterion for the district to establish contributing status. Reversal of some of the changes would likely lead to contributing status.

A number of deed transfers could not be located for this property, but it appears James Murphy owned at least Lot 4, Block 79 by July 15, 1869 (Book 6, Page 377). He later transferred it to Hannah Murphy, who appears to be his wife. No record of the ownership of any portion of Lot 3 could be traced back to either James or Hannah Murphy. However, the house sits fully on the west half of Lot 4. The 1860 census records a Hannah Murphy, 22, an Irish immigrant, working as a servant for W.H. Hubbard. That census also lists James Murphy, 35, and his wife Ann, 40, in Muscatine. However, neither of these appears to be the owners of Lot 4. The census report did show this couple lived next door to Philip Stein, who previous directory research showed to be living at 316 Chestnut at this time. The 1860 census also shows A.J. Fimple living on the other side of Stein from the Murphys.

A.J. Fimple is recorded as granting a quitclaim deed to a James Murphy for Lot 4, Block 79 on July 15, 1869 (Book 6, Page 377). The 1870 census records a James Murphy and his wife Hannah in Muscatine. Both are Irish immigrants, with his age given as 55 and her age at 57. Again, no children are listed and they are not living next to Stein, who was still living on Chestnut Street then. There is also a Hannah Murphy, 30, working as a domestic servant for John Lampe. This is likely the same Hannah recorded in the 1860 census, with a slight age differential. According to the 1874 city directory, James Murphy's residence was listed as being on the "ns 4<sup>th</sup> w. Chestnut." He was identified as a laborer. The 1876-77 directory listed Murphy at 30 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. In the 1879 directory, he is recorded on the "ns 4<sup>th</sup> 2 w of Chestnut." Thus, it appears that he lived in this house at the time. There is a regular deed transfer showing that entire lot was acquired by Hannah Murphy from James Murphy on August 10, 1878 (Book 20, Page 655-

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56). The 1883-86 directory does list Hannah Murphy (widow) at 205 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. She is then listed at 207 W. 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1886-87 and the 1889-92 city directories.

Hannah Murphy sold the E 8-1/2' of S 40' of Lot 3 and Lot 4, Block 79, to W.L. Thompkins on December 6, 1889 for \$1000 (Book 22, Page 75). Because of the price for the property, it is assumed the house was on the property at that time. In addition, the split of the property between the two lots indicates some type of building was involved. The Tompkins appear to have returned the property to Hannah Murphy through a quitclaim deed on February 24, 1891 (Book 6, Page 377).

Mrs. J.B. Nyenhuis purchased the S 40' of E 8-1/2' of Lot 3 (assumed to be the same parcel as transferred between Tompkins and Murphy in 1889) and the W 1/2 of Lot 4, all in Block 79 from Hannah Murphy on May 13, 1891 for \$900. It could not be determined what happened with the E 1/2 of Lot 4, but the 1899 Sanborn map shows a small house on this portion of the lot. It is possible that Hannah Murphy retained this portion of the lot. In the 1891-92 through the 1897-98 directories she is recorded as the resident of 205 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and no listing for 207 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street could be determined. In the 1899-1900 directory, Johanna Murphy (widow) is listed as the resident at 205 W. 4<sup>th</sup>, but in the 1900 directory it is Hannah again, and this time she is identified as the widow of James.

There is no listing identified for 207 W. 4<sup>th</sup> until the 1900 directory, when W.J. Rice and his wife Lizzie are recorded as the residents. Rice works at James & Rice Flour and Feed. Nyenhuis transferred the S 40' E 8-1/2' of Lot 3 and Ex. E25' of Lot 4, Block 79 to her children on March 10, 1904 for "one dollar and love and affection" (Book 36, Page 569). It is eventually fully acquired by William Nyenhuis. He continues to rent the property, with the 1904 directory identifying two tenants: T.H. and Mary Wolf and W.G. and Gertrude Case. Wolf was a concrete worker, while Case's occupation was listed as a driver. The 1907 and 1908-09 directories both listed L.B. and Tillie Lee as the only residents. Lee was a co-partner in Davis and Lee Blacksmith & Wagon Manufacturing. Samuel and Aremita Vanetta were also the only recorded residents of the house in the 1911 and 1913 directories. He was retired.

The 1919 directory identified two different families as tenants in the house, and for the first time, the directory identified two addresses: 207 W. Fourth and 207-1/2 W. Fourth. The residents of 207 were Carl and Nettie Smuck. He worked as a laborer. Edith Anthony, a worker Weis Printing Company, lived in 207-1/2. The 1921 directory recorded Chester and Florence Anthony in 207 and Kenneth Anthony and Mary Nolan in 207-1/2. Chester Anthony was a collar maker for Van Nostrand Saddlery and Kenneth Anthony worked for Huttig. Nolan's occupation was not listed. Separate addresses were dropped in the 1923-24 and 1927 directories, although two different tenants continued to rent the house, with each tenant identified as living on the east or west side. The west side tenants in 1923-24 were A.L. and Irma Long. Long was a mechanic. The east side tenants were A.M. and Millie Meredith. He was a button cutter for the Hawkeye Button Company. The Merediths continued to be listed as the west side tenants in the 1927 directory. Floyd A. and Dorothy Carter were recorded as the east side tenants. He was a railroad section hand. Jas Benedict, a laborer, was the only tenant listed for 207 W. 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1929 directory. Benedict continued to be listed as a tenant in the 1931 directory, but he was joined by Mrs. Nellie Potter, widow of Fetrow, and John Long. No occupation was listed for Potter and Long's was listed

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as hauling. The house was listed as vacant in the 1934 directory. The 1936-37 directory identified only one couple at the house, Dale W. and Sarah Johnson. Johnson was a button cutter for the Dollman Button Shop.

William Nyenhuis sold 207 W. Fourth on September 10, 1938 to Manilla Young (Book 89, Page 151). Young immediately sold the property on September 27, 1938 to Addie and Jesse York (Book 89, Page 177). Neither Young nor York are recorded as a resident in any future directories, indicating the house continued to be rented. The 1938-39 directory listed George and Kath Hartman as the tenants. Hartman's occupation was not identified. Neely C. and Lucy Wymer were recorded as the residents in both the 1940-41 and 1941-42 directories. No occupation was listed for Wymer.

The property apparently was transferred to family members in the early 1940s and on June 29, 1942, it was sold to Eli Rosenberg (Book 103, Page 153). The property was vacant in 1943, but in the 1946 directory Chas E. and Myrtle Graham were listed as the residents. Graham's occupation was not recorded. Myrtle Graham continued to live in the house after her husband died. She is listed in both the 1949 and the 1952 directories. Elmer and Annabelle Truitt were listed as the tenants in the 1954 city directory. He was a factory worker at the Celon Company. The 1956 and 1958 directories listed Mrs. Henrietta Middleton, widow of Jas. T., as the tenant. She was a laborer at the Celon Company.

The property was transferred to Anna and Fannie Rosenberg in 1961 and 1962.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1860, 1870 & 1900.

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

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

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**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 70-01048

Related District Number \_\_\_\_\_

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James and Hannah Murphy House  
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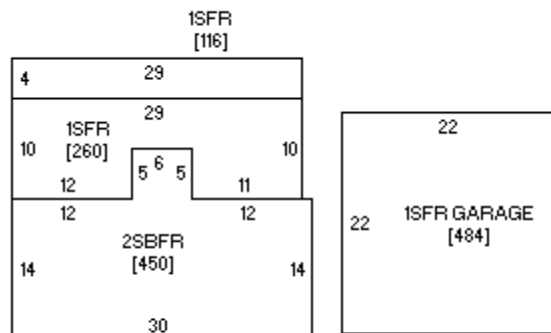
207 W. Fourth Street  
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**Location Map**



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



(front - 4<sup>th</sup> Street)

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## Photograph of building (digital image)

