

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

State Inventory No. 70-01046 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 Eliza Geiger House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-133

2. Location

street & number 206 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) 54 Lot(s) 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:	
	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ 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>09D07: Roof Form/Pyramidal</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</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 206 W. Fourth Street

Site Number 70-01046
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

1906

Other dates

check if circa or estimated date

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 12-12-2005

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

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Eliza Geiger House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

206 W. Fourth Street
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Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a one-story, one-bay, pyramidal roof house with an attached hip roof wing that extends to the rear. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are brick. The hip roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The building is located along the west edge of an elevated lot that shares with an older two-story brick house that is located along the east side of the lot (Iowa Inventory #70-00252). Two auxiliary buildings, a one-story lean-to and a two-story wood barn, are located in the rear of the lot. The lean-to is located behind the two-story gable while the barn is located behind the one-story house. The majority of windows in the house appear to be replacements.

The front (north) elevation contains a screened porch with a flat roof supported by two round columns on each corner. A wood screen door is located in the left corner of the porch. An entry aligned with the screen door is located inside the porch. The entry contains a wood door with a single-light in the upper half. A window might be located to the right of the door, but a full-back swing blocks the view, which is further obstructed by the front screen.

A historic photograph of 204 W. 4th Street in c.1914 shows the northeast corner of 206 W. Fourth, but the photograph does not show enough of the building to determine if there have been any substantial changes. The northeast corner that is shown does not appear to be substantially different than the current appearance. No other historic photograph has been located.

The east elevation extends from the back of the pyramidal towards the rear of the lot. Three building sections are visible, the wall of each section extends past the previous section, creating a stepped appearance for the elevation. A series of openings are located along the entire elevation. A single opening is present in the front section. The opening is centered in section wall and contains a single-light, fixed sash. A segmental arch lintel extends across the opening. The front of the second section contains a wood frame wall. Fishscale shingles are present in the upper portion. A single one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located in this wall. An elevated, north-facing entry is located on the projecting wood frame section. A set of steps leads up to the entrance, which contains an eight-light, wood storm door and a possibly historic wood door with a single light in the top. The adjoining brick portion of the wall contains a pair of windows that contain one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. A segmental arch brick lintel stretches across this and all the window openings on the brick portions of the building. Another single one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located at the back of the brick section. The third section contains a pair of similar windows centered across the brick wall.

The west elevation also shows the three sections, but unlike the stepped appearance seen on the east elevation, the middle section is recessed. Two chimneys are present on this elevation. One is located in the middle of the front section and extends through the roof. A single one-over-one-light, double-hung window is located on each side of the chimney. Similar segmental arch brick lintels as the east elevation are located above each opening. The middle section contains three openings. The two back openings are a joined pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. The third opening, which contains a similar window, is located to the left of this pair. The second chimney, a taller element than the front chimney, is

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located between the middle building section and the back section. The back section of the building contains two windows. The left window is centered in the front half of the section and the right window is centered in the back half of the section.

The rear elevation is not visible because it is too close to the two-story barn. It is assumed there are no openings.

Two auxiliary buildings are located at the back of the property. Both pre-date the construction of this secondary house, and they are described on the survey form for 204 W. Fourth Street (70-00252).

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Eliza Geiger 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.

The house at 206 W. Fourth was built for Eliza Geiger shortly after 1905 on property owned by Jacob J. and Ida Legler, her daughter and son-in-law. The Leglers had moved to the property around 1900. Geiger was a pioneer resident of Muscatine, arriving in the community around 1856 with her family from Ohio. For much of her life she lived in the rural area of Muscatine County with her husband John. She does not appear to have been particularly significant in Muscatine's history. The Geiger house retains much of its integrity, but it does not exhibit any significant architectural features. The combination of two brick buildings and two historic auxiliary buildings on one building lot is unusual, but all the buildings are relatively plain with few architecturally important features. Most properties were split into two parcels when the second house was constructed, but this property remains one parcel though sharing a similar history. In addition, no significant historical event is known to have occurred at this property. Thus, the Eliza Geiger House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Eliza Geiger House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. Geiger apparently had been living with the Leglers since 1904, when her husband died. The decision to build a separate house presented an opportunity for her to enjoy a greater degree of privacy and most likely was viewed as a future investment. Both Geiger and the Leglers obviously believed the neighborhood would continue to grow and built the new house with the idea it would expand the housing stock in the area. His commitment to meet the growing needs of the neighborhood through this expansion helped maintain its growth and development in the early 20th century. This house contributes to the history and architecture of this potential historic district.

John J. Legler bought the property on April 20, 1899 from Emily Thompson, the widow of R.T. Thompson (Book 30, Page 735). No building appears next to 204 W. Fourth in the 1905 Sanborn. The 1912 Sanborn however does show the new building. Its address is listed as 206 W. Fourth, with the barn at the

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Address	City

rear of the lot identified as 204-½ W. Fourth. The barn's address is dropped in the 1919 Sanborn. The house at 206 W. Fourth appears to have been built for his mother-in-law Eliza Geiger a short time after 1905, about five years after the Leglers moved into 204 W. Fourth. Her husband died in 1904, and she likely moved to be near her daughter soon after. Although city directories record her as living at 204 W. Fourth, her obituary identifies her home as 206 W. Fourth (Muscatine Journal, 1911, 4). The 1910 census also provides a 206 W. Fourth address and, in addition, lists her as the owner. Eliza Geiger died in April 1911.

Following her death, the Leglers continued to use the property for family. While Geiger apparently owned the building, she did not purchase any real estate and the Leglers kept ownership the entire time Geiger lived there. After her death, there was no transfer of the building's ownership. The 1913 directory identifies Thomas and Gertrude Brannan as the residents. Brannan is the vice president and managing editor of the Muscatine News Tribune. Brannan is the Leglers' only child. However, they only live there for a few years. By the time the 1919 directory is published, the house at 206 was used as a rental by the Legler family. W. E. and Lucy Terry are living there. Terry was a farmer, perhaps associated with Geigler who continues to be listed as a stockman though he lived in town. The 1920 census lists John J. Legler (livestock dealer, age 63), with wife Ida L. (58), daughter Gertrude L. Brannan (37), granddaughter Margaret Brannan (9), grandson John L. (3), and servant Emma Hyink (53), living at 204 W. Fourth Street. At 206, the 1920 lists Willis E. Terry (64, farmer), with his wife Lucy (64) and daughter Grace (41, music teacher).

A series of residents live at 206 W. Fourth over the next decade. Otto and Anna Mull lived there for several years, according to the 1921 and 1923-24 city directories. Mull was an assistant cashier at the American Savings Bank. The 1927 directory lists Mrs. G.A. Carpenter, widow of Charles, as a resident. No occupation is listed for her. H.X. and Abigal Schaefer lived there in 1929, according to that year's directory. Schaefer was a musician. William Baker, a dairyman, was listed as the resident in the 1931 directory. The house was vacant through much of the rest of the 1930s, according to those directories. Mrs. Margaret Brown, widow of Charles, lived there from 1938 to 1942, according to those directories. She was a teacher at the junior high school. Jas and Margaret Duffield moved in by 1943.

Jacob Legler died in 1946 and his daughter, Gertrude Brannan, apparently acquired the property through the estate. She continued to live in the main house at 204 W. Fourth, which now also had an apartment that was rented. Jas and Margaret Duffield were listed as the residents of 206 W. Fourth in the 1943 to 1952 directories. He was a printer, while she might have been a decorator. The 1954 directory listed Clarence and Grace Strong as the residents. He was an assembler at Home-O-Nize. The 1956 directory listed Russell and Esther Barth as living at that site. He was a baker for Dolly Bakeries. In the 1958 directory, Dimitri and Bertha Nesterenko are listed as the residents of 206 W. Fourth. He was an engineer at Stanley's.

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



(front - 4th Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

