

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

State Inventory No. 70-01049 **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 Frederick Timm House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-134

2. Location

street & number 208 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) E57' of Lot 8

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>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
	_____ Total	<u>1</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>03: Brick (parged)</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 208 W. Fourth Street

Site Number 70-01049
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

1860

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 December 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: _____

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Frederick Timm House
Name of Property

Muscatine
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7. Narrative Description

This is a one-story, gable-front house. The house sets on a brick foundation. The walls are frame, clad in vinyl siding. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. An enclosed front porch has a hip roof that is also clad in asphalt shingles. The building sets on an elevated lot towards the middle of the block. Both the front and back ends of the lot are on short, steep inclines.

The front (north) elevation contains a full-width, one-story, enclosed porch with a group of six windows extending across the front. Each window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. An entry is located inside the porch and two flanking windows are visible. However, the details of the openings are not clear enough to describe because the porch shades obscure the view. The only other opening on the façade is an attic window centered in the upper gable. This window contains a six-light, fixed replacement sash.

The east elevation contains a centered entry flanked by two windows. Each window is centered in either the back or front half of the elevation's wall. The front window is a one-by-one-light, fixed or hinged-sash casement window. The window on the back half of the wall contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. A bay window also extends out from the house's south (rear) portion of the east elevation. Each window in the bay contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The west elevation of the house contains two openings. An additional front opening is in the porch's west wall and contains an entry with a flush-mounted metal storm door with a full-length glass insert. The remaining two openings both are located on the main house wall. The middle opening contains a one-over-one-light, double-hung window. The back window is a cottage window with a single-light, fixed bottom sash and transom.

The back elevation contains two additions, including a lean-to style addition that extends past the west side of the main house. The house is present on the 1883 to the 1946 Sanborn maps and the only rear alterations appear between the 1919 and 1928 maps. From 1883 to 1919, the rear has a small, centered extension with an open porch on the southwest corner. The south end of the porch is flush with the south wall of the house, while its west wall is flush with the house's west wall. On the 1928 map however, the centered rear addition is gone and the open porch on the southwest corner has been enclosed, its south wall is recessed back from the south wall of the house and it projects past the west wall of the house. The only opening on this addition is an entry on the back wall. There are no other openings on the back elevation, with the exception of another attic window in the back gable. This window has the same design as the front attic window. The backside of the extending bay window is also exposed from this elevation. It maintains the same window shape and design as the front attic window.

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Frederick Timm House
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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Frederick Timm 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.

Frederick Timm was a German immigrant who arrived in Muscatine in 1859 and began working as a teamster. He is not listed in city directories under businesses, indicating he apparently worked for others and did not operate his own firm. He appears to have built this house soon after his arrival, around 1860 or the early 1860s. Although he does not appear to have played any prominent role in the history of Muscatine, his death in 1898 was announced in a relatively long notice on page one of the Muscatine Journal. In spite of that, he does not appear to be particularly significant. In addition, no significant historical event that had an impact on Muscatine's history is known to have occurred at this property. The house is also a modest home that contains few architectural features that would distinguish it from similar buildings. The corner bay window is unusual and was probably added around 1900, when the ownership passed to his children after his death in 1898. However, there are many houses in the area that provide a better example of added architectural elements. Its current vinyl siding and non-historic windows also reduce its integrity. Thus, the Frederick Timm House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Frederick Timm House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. Although its non-historic windows and vinyl siding substantially reduce its integrity, the house does provide a good example of owners upgrading their property to maintain status in the neighborhood and meeting the changing needs of their family. Timm initiated these efforts with the construction of the corner bay. The 1883 Sanborn map, which is the earliest available map, shows this house and its footprint stayed remarkably intact during the time the Sanborns were drawn. While other "first generation" houses were replaced with larger buildings, this one remained standing. The house does contribute to the history and architecture of this proposed historic district.

City directories indicate Frederick C. Timm built this house by 1865, about five years after arriving in Muscatine from his native Germany. Both the 1856 and 1859 directories do not list Timm, but the 1866 directory identifies his residence as "Fourth ss 2w Chestnut," which would be this house. He may have built it around 1860, after he arrived in Muscatine in 1859. The record of when he bought the property could not be located. The 1869-70 directory does not list him, but he is also listed in the 1874-75 directory at the Fourth Street location. The 1876-77 city directory lists Timm as living at 94 W. 5th Street, which could be a misprint. The directory for 1878-78 again lists Timm's residence as being on the "ss 4th 2 w Chestnut", which seems to point to a mistake in the 1876-77 directory. The 1883-86 directory listed him at 208 W. 4th and subsequent directories continued to list Fred Timm at the property through the 1897-98 issue. Timm had worked as a teamster in his native Germany and after immigrating to America continued to work in that service. His obituary indicated his wife had died about one year earlier, but did not identify her. Survivors included daughters Mrs. G.M. Young, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Helen and Millie; and sons Fred and Charles, all of Muscatine, although Charles was then stationed with a military

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unit in Louisiana. Timm was noted to be a hard-working man, honest and unassuming and had a number of warm friends who would regret to hear of his death ("Death of Fred C. Timm," *Journal*, October 28, 1898, Page 1).

Timm's estate apparently transferred the property to his children shortly after his death. His son Fred A. Timm, a Muscatine North & South Railroad brakeman, was identified as the resident in the 1899-1900 directory. In the 1900 directory, Fred A. and his sister Helen, whose occupation was not listed, were the residents. In the 1900 census, Helen, 38, was identified as the head of the household and "owner" of the property. She was also listed as being a housekeeper and single. Fred, 30, was also single and worked as a railroad brakeman. Amelia Timm, 31, single, was a bookkeeper. The 1904 directory listed only Helen at the property. Starting in 1900, Amelia Timm Little began acquiring the property from Fred's other heirs, her siblings. The first transfer was for Fred A. Timm's one-fifth interest on June 4, 1900 (Book 33, Page 450). The acquisitions then continued for almost 20 years, ending on April 20, 1919 when she acquired Charles Timm's interest in the property (Book 53, Page 349).

While Little was acquiring the property, a series of tenants lived in the house. Dr. W.S. Norton and his wife Myrta lived in the house in 1907, according to that year's city directory. Norton was a physician who formed an office with his father-in-law. The 1908-09 city directory listed S.C. and Mary Clark as the residents. He was the president of the Muscatine Pearl Company. A. H. and Ida Swinton were living there in 1911, according to the city directory. Swinton was an engineer on the Muscatine N & S Railroad line. The 1913 resident was G.H. Gordon, a weigh master for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, according to that year's directory. The 1916 directory listed Leigh M. and Mabel Addis. The railroad tradition for tenants continued with Addis, who was a fireman on the Muscatine N&S line. William and Freda Lamprecht were listed in the 1919 directory as the residents. He was the owner of the Iowa Auto Company.

On October 22, 1919, Little sold the property to Clarence W. Richard (Book 53, Page 362). Richard and his wife Edna are listed in the 1921 directory as the residents. Richard operated the CER and Sons Packing House.

The Richards sold the property on April 2, 1923 to T.C. Felix (Book 61, Page 253). Felix and his wife Florence, who are identified in the 1923-24 directory as the residents, revived the railroad connection for the property. He was a brakeman for the CRI & P Railroad.

The Felixes did not own the property for long, selling it on October 17, 1925 to John Hoopes. Hoopes, a farmer and his wife Cornelia were living there in 1927, according to the directory for that year. John Hoopes apparently died a short time later, because the 1929 directory lists Mrs. C.L. Hoopes (widow of John) as the resident. Before he died however, the property had been transferred solely to Cornelia on November 15, 1928 (Book 70, Page 599). She continued to be listed as the resident in the 1931 directory.

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Cornelia Hoopes sold the property on January 20, 1934 to Leslie Hoopes, relationship unknown (Book 76, Page 581). The city directories do not list Hoopes or his wife Gertrude as residents, indicating they rented it during the time they owned it. The directories do show Harold and Muriel Finnegan were living there in 1934. He was a driver for Muscatine Coach Lines.

Ina Beckey bought the property on September 27, 1935 (Book 82, Page 230). She also did not live at the property. According to the 1936-37 directory, Mrs. Bertha Halwick, a machine operator, is listed as the resident. In the 1938-39 directory, George and Ella Atkin were listed as the residents. His occupation was not provided in the directory. Ella Atkin continued to be listed in the 1943 directory after her husband died.

Beckey had apparently transferred the property after she acquired it in 1935 because on April 24, 1944 Leroy S. and Jean Peppel transferred it to George J. Peppel, relationship unknown (Book 110, Page 114). George Peppel sold it two months later to Floyd and Alice Brossert (Book 108, Page 359). The Brosserts were listed as the residents in both the 1946 and 1949 city directories and were still the owners when an unusual event led to a brief period of publicity for the house. The Brosserts had moved to a farm near Muscatine in the spring of 1950 and leased the house to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Holladay, Alice Brossert's sister and brother-in-law. When the Holladays moved into 204 W. Fourth, one of their possessions they brought along was a platform rocker they had owned and used for over eight years at their old residence. It was a chair Floyd Brossert had always enjoyed sitting in whenever he and his wife went to visit their relatives. Shortly after the move, Floyd Brossert developed an abdominal ailment and died on March 17. According to a news report in the *Muscatine Journal*, the Holladays' rocking chair mysteriously began rocking on its own six days after Brossert died (Muscatine Journal, 1950, 3). The article reported over 200 people had visited the rocker and everyone had an explanation, ranging from traffic or foot vibrations to soil movement to explain the chair's behavior. The Holladays said they had tried moving the chair to other rooms, weighing it down and trying other measures to stop the rocking, but nothing worked. Shortly after the first article was printed even larger crowds began to appear. On Sunday, April 30, 1950, over 1100 people walked through the house to view the phenomenon. A long line began forming around 2:30 p.m. and it took until 7 p.m. to get everyone through the Muscatine Journal reported the following day (Muscatine Journal, 1950, 1). In the same article, Muscatine High School physics teacher Morton Gailey said he was able to stop the chair for about 30 seconds until a child walked across the room, causing the chair to begin rocking again. Gailey said the chair was so delicately balanced that any vibration would start the rocking. He said even when the chair was taken outside, the rocking would continue because of its balance. The explanation apparently resolved the matter, and after Clyde and Rosa Nettleton bought the house on November 18, 1950 no other reports of chairs rocking on their own surfaced there (Book 136, Page 291).

The Nettletons did not own the property long enough to be included in any directory and sold it on August 22, 1951 to Margaret Waldron (Book 136, Page 381). Teresa Waldron, widow of Patrick, was listed in the 1952 and 1954 directories as the resident. It is unknown what relationship there was between Margaret and Teresa.

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Waldon sold the property on April 13, 1956 to Emil C. and Edith Blaesing (Book 161, Page 98). They were both listed as residents in the 1956 and 1958 directories. They continued to own the property until they both died in the 1960s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1900.

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

"Death of Fred C. Timm" Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, October 28, 1898, Page 1.

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

"Muscatine Residents Agog At Sight of Rocking Chair Which Won't Quit Rocking," *Muscatine Journal*, April 28, 1950, page 1

"Physicist Says Chair Was Motionless Half-a-Minute," *Muscatine Journal*, May 1, 1950, page 1.

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.

Location Map



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Site Number 70-01049

Related District Number _____

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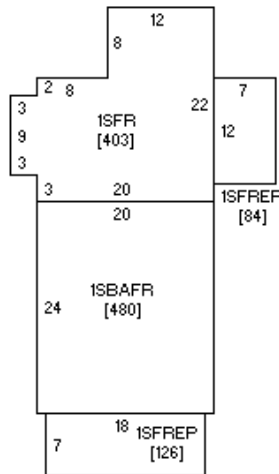
Frederick Timm House
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front - 4th Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

