

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

State Inventory No. 70-00253 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 Gordon-Evans House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-140

2. Location

street & number 308 West 4th
 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) 53 Lot(s) Lot 7 W 23' Lot 8 E 25'

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 Enter number of:	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 _____ 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>01B02: Domestic / Apartment Building</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Victorian / Italianate</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 Address 308 W 4th Street Site Number 70-00253
City Muscatine 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 1854 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

William Gordon

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 Diane Mayer Day, Commission Member (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date December 8, 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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<u>Gordon-Evans House</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
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7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, Italianate house. It sits on a brick foundation. The walls are painted brick. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

The front elevation faces north. It has a wooden porch with columns and decorative crown trim around the porch. The double-door entry is located on the right side of the elevation. There are two one-over-one-light, double-hung wood windows on the first story. The second story has two one-over-one-light; double-hung wood windows above the first story windows. A smaller rectangular window is located high on the second story elevation above the entry. All the windows have decorative stone hoods on the front elevation. The wide eaves and frieze have decorative paired brackets.

The west side has two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the first story. There are two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the second story, and one one-over-one-light double-hung wood window in the attic. The wide eaves and frieze have decorative paired brackets. All of the windows on the west side have wood sills. There are also two basement windows. These windows have four lights and are fixed. On the west side of the addition, there is one one-over-one-light double hung wood window and an entry on the side porch.

The east side has two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the first story of the main section of the house. There are two one-over-one-light double-hung wood windows on the second story, and one one-over-one-light double-hung wood window in the attic. The wide eaves and frieze have decorative paired brackets. The side of the rear addition has one one-over-one-light double hung wood window. The rear addition does not have the wide eaves and frieze or decorative brackets. There is a chimney on the southeast corner of the main house.

One-story additions or extensions of the original house cover the first-story of the rear elevation. The 1899 Sanborn is the earliest map that shows this house, and the additions/extensions are already attached to the house. The main section of the house has an entry on the first story on the south elevation on the back of the house. The second story on the main section of the house has one one-over-one-light double hung window near the southwest corner. The back elevation of the addition contains one one-over-one-light double-hung window on the first story, two one-over-one double-hung windows on the second story, and a basement entry. The 1905 through 1928 (1946) Sanborn maps show that the rear addition and side porch are still there.

There is no garage.

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Gordon-Evans House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It also appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

Scottish immigrant William A. Gordon, Muscatine's first carpenter/builder, built this house around 1854, buying the lots for \$700 in 1853 and selling the portions with the house in September 1854 for \$4,000. Gordon built some of the first permanent buildings in the community in the 1830s and was also later elected sheriff and assessor in the 1850s and 1860s. Contracting continued to be his primary profession until his death in 1877. Charles Evans was the first resident/owner of this house. Although relatively simple in design, the house shows classic Italianate features such as roof brackets, decorative lintels and full-width ornamental porch. Built in 1854, it was one of the first Italianate houses in Muscatine, a style that would continue to be reflected into the 1880s. Much of the integrity of the house is intact, especially its basic footprint, which has remained unchanged since at least 1899, according to Sanborn maps. Thus, the Gordon-Evans House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for the architecture and construction by William Gordon.

The Gordon-Evans House also appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. When he decided to build a new Italianate-style house on West Hill, he not only set the design standard for several years, he also boosted the area's residential and economic potential in the eyes of other residents. This house significantly contributes to the history and architecture of this potential historic district.

William Gordon purchased Lot 7 of Block 53 from Conrad Reiss on March 31, 1853 for \$700 (Book L, pg. 374). Gordon then sold the E ½ of Lot 8 and the W 23' of Lot 7 to Charles Evans for \$4000 on September 4, 1854 (Book N, pg. 431-432). Thus, William Gordon constructed this house, but never lived here. The *Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa* 1889 says that William Gordon was, "one of the very earliest settlers of Muscatine, having for fifty-two years been an honored citizen of that city." He was from Scotland and learned his trade at an early age. He came to America at age 19. After being a journeyman in New York, he had the opportunity to work on the well-known Astor House, the New Exchange of New York, and the magnificent Catholic Church of Paterson, N.J. In the summer of 1836, he went to St Louis with his uncle, Adam Ogilvie, and they continued up the Mississippi, landing on August 10 at what is now Muscatine, but was then only a trading post, known as Bloomington. Only twelve white people were then residents of the town. Mr. Gordon and his uncle located at this point, the former being the first carpenter to settle there (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa* 1889: 437). William Gordon built this house in 1854, then sold it to Evans. According to the 1856 city directory, his residence was in the "northern suburb, opposite Cedar." In the summer of 1857, Capt. Gordon was elected Sheriff of Muscatine County, running as the Democratic candidate. He was twice re-elected and served several years, giving general satisfaction. His address was listed in the 1859 directory records as the "ns 5th b. Walnut & Mulberry." The 1860 census confirmed Gordon as the sheriff and identified him as living at the jail. It is assumed the Fifth Street location was the sheriff's office and house, but this was apparently separate from the county sheriff's office that was located on Fourth Street

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between Walnut and Mulberry. The 1860 census showed that in addition to himself (46) and his wife Eliza (40), he had five children: William, 18; Ada, 16; Mary, 14; Agnes, 11; and Clara, 9. After serving as sheriff for five years, Gordon was elected assessor (1862) and served several years in that position (History of Muscatine, 1889, Page 437). Gordon continued to supervise the construction of many of the city's finest buildings up to 1877, but there is no listing for him in the 1870 census. It is unknown when he died.

William Gordon sold the E ½ of Lot 8 and the W 23' of Lot 7 (this house) to Charles Evans for \$4000 on September 4, 1854 (Book N, pg. 431-432). Evans took out a mortgage to William Gordon on September 9, 1854 (N: 445). He bought the rest of Lot 8 on May 28, 1855 from Augusta Martin and husband (Lots Book O: 422). The 1856 Muscatine City Directory finds Charles Evans, a grocer, residing on the ss of Fourth and w of Pine. The 1859 city directory states that Charles Evans is employed at Wholesale Grocer and lives on ss Fourth between Pine and Linn. His son, Charles Evans, Jr. also lives at this address and works as a clerk at Charles Evans'. The 1866 Muscatine City Directory does not have a listing for either Charles Evans. The 1860 census lists Charles Evans (40) as a grocer with \$4,000 in real estate. His household is large, with wife Harriett A. (39), Henry (20, clerk), Charles (17), Amelia (11), Willie (9), Harry (5), Hattie (2), Martha (2 months), and Adeline Crowe (14), apparently a nanny.

John Bartholomew bought the house from Charles Evans on January 29, 1863 (Lots Book V: 251). He could not be identified in the 1860 or 1870 census. Harriet Bartholomew received from John Bartholomew on November 2, 1868 (Lots Book 4:319). The 1859 city directory identifies Benjamin and John Bartholomew as residing on the nw corner of Mulberry and Sixth Streets. The 1866 Muscatine City Directory states that Alfred and Benjamin Bartholomew live on ss Fourth w of Pine, and both men are felt and gravel roofers. The 1869 Muscatine City Directory lists Benjamin Bartholomew as a roofer and living on the ss Fourth Street between Pine and Linn. William Bartholomew also boards at this address; no occupation is listed for William. The 1870 census lists Harriet Bartholomew as the 54-year-old wife of B. Bartholomew (57, roofing?, \$9,500 in real estate). Their household included William (19, clerk in dry goods store), Hattie (17), Benjamin (8), and Annie (7). The 1874 city directory states that there is only one Bartholomew in the city directory. B. Bartholomew resided on Iowa City Road and no occupation is listed.

Jacob Erb bought the house from Harriet Bartholomew on September 3, 1873 (Lots Book 7:629). The Erb family lived here until the early 1900s. Erb was born on March 2, 1824 in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania to Christian and Elizabeth Witmer Erb. He and his mother moved to Muscatine in 1850. He then moved to California for four years before returning to Muscatine. At this time he began working for S.G. Stein in his lumberyard. He married Susan Funk on January 3, 1861. The 1870 census listed Jacob Erb (46, clerk at lumberyard) with wife Susan (35), Elizabeth (8), Maria (6), E.L. (4), B.J. (2), Susan (8 months) and L.J. Bond (14, domestic servant). The 1876 city directory identifies Jacob Erb living at 33 W. Fourth Street and he is a clerk at S.G. Stein. The 1877 Muscatine City Directory lists Jacob Erb as living on the ss Fourth Street and 3 w of Pine, he is listed as being a clerk for S.G. Stein. The 1879 states that Jacob Erb is living on the ss of Fourth w of Pine, and is a clerk at S.G. Stein. The 1883 Muscatine City Directory lists E. Erb living at this address, he is listed as being a bookkeeper for S.G. Stein. Frank Erb is also listed at this address in the 1883 Muscatine City Directory, he is not

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identified with an occupation. The 1886-87 city directory listed Elmer Erb living there. Elmer worked as a clerk at the drug store. Jacob Erb also lived there and he worked as a supervisor & clerk for Stein's lumber yard. In 1893-94, Mira (daughter) and Jacob Erb lived there. He worked as a manager of Stein's lumber yard. Ed Erb also lived there and he worked as a clerk. Jacob Erb passed away on March 22, 1895. Mr. Erb had worked for Mr. Stein for nearly 39 years. Mr. Erb was also a member of the I.O.O.F. fraternity for 50 years. He was also the treasurer of the Muscatine City and County Mutual Aid Society from its inception. They had nine children and eight of these children survived him (Old Settlers Register, pg. 419).

Susan, Howard, Edward A., Myra and Sue Erb lived there in 1897-98. Susan Erb, widow, lived there in 1900. Others listed in the 1900 census as residents of 308 W. Fourth were three daughters and two sons: Mira, 36; Sue, 30; Edward, 27; Laura, 25; and Howard, 20. Sue was identified as a school teacher, Edward was an express driver and Howard was an assistant superintendent for the electric railroad. No occupations were listed for the others. The 1900 Muscatine City Directory states that Susan (widow of Jacob), Edward A. (driver for Adams Express Company), Howard F. (assistant superintendent of the Muscatine Electric Railway), Laura (no occupation), Myra (no occupation), and Sue (teacher at the Fourth Ward School) all lived at this address. The 1902 city directory lists Susan (widow of Jacob) Edward A. (night clerk for E. S. Express), Howard F. (clerk at Muscatine Electric Railway), Mira (no occupation), and Sue (teacher at the Fourth Ward School) all live at this address. The 1904 and 1907 Muscatine City Directories states that only Susan, Mira, and Sue still live at this address. Susan and Mira have the comments listed after their names as in the 1900 and 1902 city directories. Sue is still a teacher but now she is employed at Franklin School. The 1908, 1911, and 1913 city directories all state that Susan (widow of Jacob), Mira (no occupation), and Sue (teacher at Washington School) reside at this address. The 1910 census recorded Susan, Mira and Sue as the only residents. Susan was identified as the owner in the 1900 and 1910 census reports. Mrs. Erb is listed in the Muscatine City Directories as living here through 1913. The 1920 census listed the three women as residents of 512 Sixth Street.

Mrs. Erb sold the house to S.G. Stein on November 27, 1914 (Lots Book 48:160). The 1916 Muscatine City Directory identify that Dr. A. Raymond and his wife Elizabeth now reside in this home.

Harriet and F.B. Nesper purchased this home on March 26, 1920 from Anna Morrison. (Lots Book 56: 24). No transfer could be identified from Stein to Morrison, but Anna Morrison was a single woman who was involved in real estate in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She built the buildings at 310, 312-314, and 316-318 Pine around 1899. Interestingly, Anna Morrison sold the duplex at 312-314 Pine to Harriet Nesper on January 30, 1920 as well (Lots Book 56: 24). Harriet and her son F.B Nesper resided at 1503 Mulberry Avenue. Mrs. Nesper is listed as the widow of Fred T. Nesper and F.B. is teller at Hershey State Bank. They continued to rent it to tenants. Beginning in the 1919 city directory, J. Adam Reinmund and his wife Eva were listed as living in this house. Mr. Reinmund was listed as one of the owners of the Reinmund and Company. This store sold dry goods, ready to wear items, and phonographs. The 1921 city directory lists Mr. Reinmund and his wife residing in this home. The directory names his wife as Eva E. Mr. Reinmund is still employed with Reinmund and Company. Mr. and Mrs. Reinmund were the occupants in the 1923-24 Muscatine City Directory as well.

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Harriett Nesper died on January 19, 1925. The property was involved in her estate, but a specific transfer was not identified at this time. The 1927 directory had this residence as being vacant. The 1929 Muscatine City Directory found Charles Viner (button cutter) and his wife Elma, Fred Harker (salesman for Muscatine Used Cars Market), and Quentin (driver for City Bottling Works) and his wife, Grace, all living at this address. Charles and Elma continued to live here in 1931 and Elma was only listed in the 1934 directory. The 1936-37 Muscatine City Directory finds Virgil and Caroline Berry residing in this house. Mr. Berry is identified as being a cutter for Pennant Pearl Button Company. The 1938-39 city directory again shows that this residence as being vacant. The 1940-41 through 1943 Muscatine City Directory lists Frank L. Ratel as residing here. His occupation was not listed. The 1946 directory lists Mary C. Dermedy (widow of John) as living at this address. The 1949 city directory lists the address as being vacant.

Thomas Lester purchased this home on October 2, 1950 from R.M. and Katharine M. Meyer (Lots Book 136: 103). At this time, it is unknown when Meyers acquired the property. Beginning in 1952, the residence is shown as being apartments. In 1952, four different people or couples are listed as residing in this house: Larse and Darlene Gilleland (Rock Island Arsenal), Lester Thomas, Maurice and Marie Beeding (Beeding Surplus Store), and Chester and Edna Leum (driver for Midwest Transit Lines). The 1954 Muscatine City Directory states that this residence has four apartments. Clinton Gabriel and his wife Adriana live in Apartment 1. Mr. Gabriel is employed as a carpenter. Apartment 2 is rented by Lester Thomas, he is a packer at Batterson's. Apartment 3 is rented by Robert Roland. He is a driver for Poole Transportation. Apartment 4 is rented by Lester Gray and his wife, Shirley. Mr. Gray is a driver for Port City Taxi. The 1958 directory shows four apartments with one being vacant. The other residents were Lester Thomas, Darrel Wilson, and Donald Day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920.

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1894-1959. Available as the Musser Public Library.

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

Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1889, Page 437.

Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911.

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.

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Site Number 70-00253

Related District Number _____

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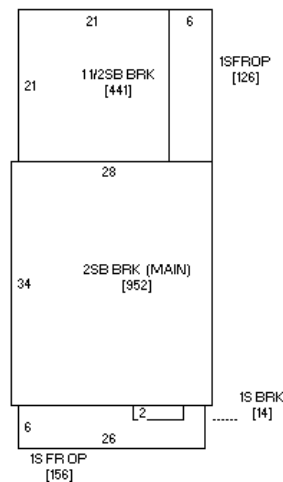
308 W 4th
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Location Map



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



(front - 4th Street)

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Photograph of building (digital image)

