

County Muscatine
City Muscatine

Address 309 Linn Street

Site Number 70-01121
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

1941

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 Diane Mayer Day, Commission member

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date 12/22/05

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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7. Narrative Description

This is a one-and-one-half-story, four-bay, Cape Cod Revival house that was built in 1941. It appears on the 1946 Sanborn map, with the notes that it is clad in brick veneer and has a garage in the basement. The foundation is also clad in brick. The side gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

The front (west) elevation of this residence contains an offset four bays – three are located in the left half of the house and one in the right half. There is a small hip-roof porch with two columns centered on the middle two bays, offset to the left of center. The entry is in the third bay, but still left of center. Two one-over-one light double-hung windows are on the left side of the entry and a single, one-over-one light, double-hung window is on the right side. The windows all have brick sills built out underneath each of them and soldier brick lintels. There is also one basement window that is located on the southwest side of the west elevation. It is an awning window with three lights.

The north side of the house has two one-over-one-light double-hung windows on the first story and a one-over-one-light double-hung window on the second story. An awning has been hung over the second story window. The windows have the same brick sills and lintels as the front windows. The side-gable roof has little to no eaves.

The south side of the house has three one-over-one-light double-hung windows on the first story of varying sizes, with the front being the largest. There is also a one-over-one-light double-hung window in the second story gable. There is also a one-car garage built underneath the first story of the house in the rear portion of the elevation. There is also a basement window located on this elevation. The window is located on the southwest side. This window also has an awning and three lights.

The rear (east) elevation has three bays, with two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows placed on either side of the centered rear entry. These windows are offset. The same sill and lintel detail is apparent on this side of the residence. The rear entry has a small concrete stoop and small overhang over the door. The second story has two dormers with paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows in each dormer. There are also awnings placed over these windows.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Antoon Smit 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.

Antoon Smit, a cabinet maker, built this house in 1941, probably as a retirement home as he was about 64 at the time. He had emigrated from Holland with his wife and four children in 1909, originally buying a home on 5th Street. It appears that his older brother immigrated the prior year. They are later Dutch immigrants in Muscatine, but are not known to be particularly significant, at least during the time they

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were associated with this house. No significant event is known to have occurred on this property. The integrity of this house is good because of its relatively young age. However, there are no unusual or distinctive architectural features on the house and there are other similar style homes located throughout the neighborhood and community. Thus, the Antoon Smit House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Smit House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. This Cape Cod home has been well preserved with little to no change to its exterior for over sixty years. Its construction has also helped to maintain the continued growth and development of the neighborhood into the mid-20th century. This house is a significant contributor to the history and architecture of this potential historic district.

Antoon and Grace Smit purchased the land from Sophia and Stella Wilson on May 19, 1941 for \$500 (Book 97, pg. 369). The 1941 year end edition of the *Journal* included a photograph of this house, completed during the year ("Antoon Smit residence," December 30, 1941, Section 3, Page 6). The Smits are listed as the occupants in the Muscatine City Directory beginning in 1943. Smit is listed as being a cabinetmaker. Mr. Smit was born on May 19, 1877 in Deventer, Holland to David and Stientye Smit. Antoon Smit married Grace Meertens in Holland on December 2, 1900. Mrs. Smit was born on September 24, 1878 in Groningen, Holland to Mr. and Mrs. Pieter Meertens. The 1920 census notes that they lived at 613 W. 5th Street, with their six children. The family with oldest four children immigrated in 1909, and they became citizens in 1917. This makes them some of the latest Dutch immigrants to Muscatine. The 1920 census lists Anton (sic.) (42) as a carpenter at a sash and door mill, wife Grace (41), daughter Christine (18, bookkeeper), daughter Jennie (17, bookkeeper), son Peter (13), son David (12), daughter Grace (6), and son Anton (3). Interestingly, John Smit and his family lived next door and had immigrated from Holland in 1908. Grace Smit passed away on March 22, 1949. Mrs. Smit had been a resident of Muscatine for 38 years and was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church and the Banner Lodge (Muscatine Journal: March 22, 1949, pg. 4). She was survived by three sons: Rev. Pieter Smit of Marshalltown, Iowa, David Smit, of Davenport, Iowa, and Antoon, Jr. of Muscatine and three daughters; Mrs. Edward F. (Christine) Lorber, Mrs. John H. Wickey, and Mrs. Robert A. Bauer all of Muscatine, Iowa. At this time, Antoon Smith, Sr. moved in with his son Antoon, Jr. at 611 W. 5th Street, listed here in the 1949 city directory.

Edward and Christine Lorber (daughter of the Smits) are listed as the occupants of this residence beginning in the 1949 Muscatine City Directory. Mr. Lorber is listed as being a guard at Grain Processing Corporation. The 1952 and 1954 Muscatine City Directories lists the Lorber's living at this same address, but their occupations are different. Christine is listed as being a bookkeeper for Roach and Musser and Edward is listed as being a plumber for Muscatine Plumbing and Heating. Their two sons are also listed as living at this address. Edward Jr. is listed as a teacher in Letts, Iowa (only in the 1952 city directory) and Richard is listed as working in the lab at H.J. Heinz. By the 1952 city directory, Antoon Sr. is listed as living at 309 Linn Street with the Lorbers. He is listed as a cabinet maker. The 1954 Muscatine City Directory finds Antoon Smit, Sr. as living at 207 ½ W. 6th Street with the same occupation. The 1956 Muscatine City Directory lists Christine Lorber as the occupant of the house and as a widow of Edward.

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She is still employed at Roach and Musser. Richard Lorber is still listed here in this directory. The 1956 Muscatine City Directory again shows Antoon Smit Sr. living at 309 Linn Street as well. He is not listed in either the 1958 or 1959 city directories. The 1958 city directory finds Christine still living at 309 Linn Street, but Richard has moved out. Antoon Smit, Sr.'s 1959 obituary states that he died at Muscatine General Hospital. The obituary goes on to say that had lived at 309 Linn Street. Mr. Smit was a well-known retired building contractor when he passed away on August 11, 1959. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed faith. Mr. Smit had been a resident of Muscatine for 50 years. He also was survived by three sons: Rev. Pieter Smit of San Diego, California, David Smit of Davenport, Iowa, and Antoon Smit, Jr. of Muscatine, Iowa and three daughters, Mrs. Christine Lorber, Mrs. John H. Wickey, and Mrs. Robert A. Bauer all of Muscatine, Iowa (Muscatine Journal: August 12, 1959, pg. 9). Christine Lorber is identified as the resident in the 1961 directory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Antoon Smit residence," Muscatine Journal Year-end Review, December 30, 1941, Section 3, Page 6.

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 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.

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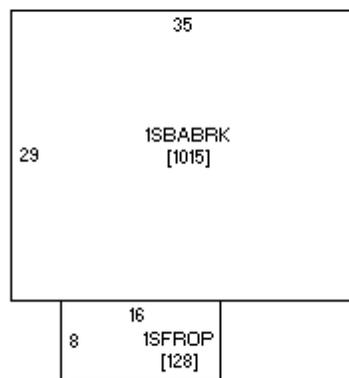
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front – Linn Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

