

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

State Inventory No. 70-01055 **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 Leonard Donahue House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-147

2. Location

street & number 309 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) 80 Lot(s) 3 & 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 _____ 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>09A07: Other/House/Ranch</u>	foundation <u>10A: Concrete/Block</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 309 W. Fourth Street

Site Number 70-01055
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)

Significant Dates

Construction date
1948 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; Jerry Lange, MHPC member (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date December 28, 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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Leonard Donahue House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

309 W. Fourth Street
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7. Narrative Description

This is a one-story, three-bay, ranch house built around 1948. An earlier house on this lot was demolished between 1928 and 1946. The house sits on a cement block foundation. The walls are clad in brick. Both the main gable roof and the back half of the attached garage's gable roof are clad in asphalt shingle. The house is on an interior lot that slopes down at the rear, where a stone retaining wall is located. A short chain link fence also encloses the back yard. The windows and doors all appear to be original. The most recent garage is an attached room that is located on the east elevation, but covers only about two-thirds of the east wall. The front portion of the garage's gable roof is shared with the rest of the house, but the back half of the gable covers only the garage. The front eave extends over the front of the house and creates a center porch area where the recessed middle bay is located. The side eaves are normal while the rear eave also extends over the back of the house. In addition to the attached garage, a separate garage/auxiliary building is located at the rear of the lot.

The front (south) elevation features a recessed center bay that is flanked by two outside bays. The right outside bay contains an attached garage. The front of this bay contains an overhead metal door. The front roof extends over the entire elevation, creating a recessed porch with three metal lattice columns supporting the roof in front of the recessed center bay. The center bay is dominated by a group of five windows with an entry located in the far left corner. The window group contains a single-light, fixed sash picture window in the center of the group. A pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung windows is located on each side of the center window. The entry contains a combination aluminum storm door and what appears to be an original wood door. The remaining openings on the front elevation are both located in the left half of the façade. Each opening contains a pair of one-light sashes. The sashes appear to be either fixed or possibly hinged.

There are seven openings on the west elevation, including two groups of three windows each. One window group is located at the front of the end wall while the second group is off-centered to the left. The seventh opening is also a window that is set slightly to the left of the second window group. Each window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The east elevation also contains a single three-window group on the attached garage's east wall and two pairs of windows on the exposed back portion of the main house's east wall. The garage window group is located at the back of the garage wall while the two pairs of the main house are centered on the exposed wall. The windows in each group have one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The rear elevation has a variety of openings along the entire wall. A single pair of windows is located at both the east and west ends of the wall. The east pair of windows is associated with a group of three windows located a short distance to its right. Collectively, these two window groups are centered on the east half of the back wall. All the windows contain one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. There are only two openings on the back wall's west half. In addition to the pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung,

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outside windows, there is an entry located on the west half's far left edge. The entry contains an aluminum combination storm door and what appears to be an original wood door.

It appears two auxiliary buildings were constructed on the back side of the lot in either the late 1800s or early 1900s. The 1899 Sanborn shows the west auxiliary building while the 1905 map shows both the west section and an east section. The ground was excavated prior to construction so the garage floor was at the same grade as the alley. The lower areas of the garage walls were then covered by backfill. A neighboring building covers the garage's west wall, while backfill hides most of the garage's back wall, leaving only the front and a small portion of the east elevation exposed. The east wall and front of the building is composed of concrete block, but the remainder of the building is believed to be brick. There are four openings in the front, each covered by a solid, metal overhead door.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Leonard Donahue 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.

Donahue, a dentist, appears to have moved to Muscatine between 1946 and 1949, and set up his practice in the Laurel Building. His wife Margaret was a dental assistant and apparently helped in the practice. The Donahues purchased the property on July 23, 1945 from Paul R. Schreurs (Book 112, Page 274). It appears they did not immediately build on it, but eventually constructed the house between 1946 and 1949. The 1946 Sanborn map shows that an earlier house was demolished and no new house constructed by that date. The Donahues are then listed for the first time at 309 W. Fourth in the 1949 city directory. They continued to live there until 1967 when they apparently moved their practice out of the community to an unknown location. No other information could be located on the couple, indicating neither significantly influenced the history of the community during their time here. In addition, the ranch house they built, despite its good integrity, does not contain any unusual or outstanding architectural features that would set it apart from many similar houses in the neighborhood and community. A number of similar houses remain in Muscatine. No significant events are known to have occurred at the house. Thus, the Leonard Donahue House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Leonard Donahue House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. Donahue and his wife were newly arrived residents to the community in the late 1940s and obviously were interested in establishing their business and most likely their family in the area. The relatively quick decision to build a house in this neighborhood was probably influenced by several factors, including proximity to work, stores and possibly schools, although no record has been found the couple had children. The neighborhood's strengths reflected those factors. In turn, the couple's decision to build improved those strengths and likely contributed to continued construction by later

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residents. Because of these associations to the neighborhood's development in the 20th century, this house contributes to the architecture and history of this potential historic district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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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Site Number 70-01055

Related District Number 70-01005

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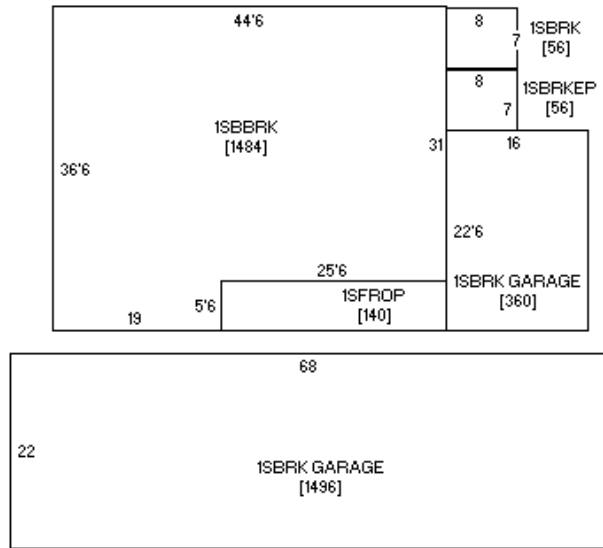
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



Photograph of building (digital image)

