

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

State Inventory No. 70-01062 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 Albert Meisky House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-153

2. Location

street & number 400 West 4th 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) 52 Lot(s) NLY 88' Lot 6

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)	_____	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>01A01: Domestic/Single residence</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>06D: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Tudor Revival</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
<u>09D02: Gable roof</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 400 West 4th Street Site Number 70-01062
City Muscatine 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)

02: Architecture
31: Other- neighborhood development

Significant Dates

Construction date 1939 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 Devin Pettit/ Volunteer (R.L. McCarley, consultant)
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date November 24, 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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Albert Meisky House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

400 West 4th Street
Address

Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a one and a half story three-bay Tudor revival house. The house sits on a brick foundation. The house is clad in wire-cut brick. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

The house at 400 West 4th Street sits on a small terrace, with a small number of steps and metal railing on the front (north elevation). A sidewalk leads to the front steps and concrete stoop. The projected gable-roof entry vestibule has a recessed arch opening framing the entry. There is a massive brick chimney that is located to the left of this vestibule, extending up from the foundation. There are three windows on the first story. Two of them are paired, and they have three-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The other window is on the opposite side of the front entry and is also a three-over-one-light double-hung wood window. The eave along the house is made of wood.

The east elevation of the house has a set of three three-over-one-light double-hung wood windows and an additional window that also has three-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. The second story on this elevation has two paired three-over-one-light double hung windows. There are two basement windows at this elevation.

The west elevation on the first story has a total of four windows with all of them being three-over-one-light double-hung wood windows. The second story has two paired windows that are three over-one-light double hung wood windows. There is also a basement window at this elevation.

The rear (South elevation) of the house has three windows that have one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes on the first story, and the second story has four one-over-one-light, double-hung wood windows.

The only addition to the house is the garage, which is located at the rear (south elevation). Due to elevation changes going to the rear of the property, the roofline of the garage is even with the floor of the first story of the house. This configuration allows the homeowners to use the roof (which is probably made of rolled asphalt), as a patio. There has been added to the rooftop a large trellis to hold various plants. The trellis is made of wood, and the coloring and decorative scheme of the trellis is extended in a wood fence that covers the rest of the back yard (south elevation) and part of the West Elevation. The garage itself is made of cement block and has one bay. There is one entry leading to the outside, and one entry going from inside the garage to inside the house. The roof is mansard in style.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Meisky House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A,B, or C, but it does appear to be a contributing building to a potential "West Hill" neighborhood district.

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<u>Albert Meisky House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>400 West 4th Street</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

The Meisky Home is an example of simplified Tudor Revival architecture. While it has a couple features associated with the Tudor Revival, they appear applied to the Cape Cod house form that was gaining popularity in this period. It has a massive chimney, windows that are put in groups, and a moderately pitched roof, like a Cape Cod Revival house. Most elements of this house appear to be historic, including the basement garage. The 1939 construction date is toward the end of the popularity of this style, and the simplified features on this house are combined with the more traditional Cape Cod Revival house. Though Tudor Revival are not popular in town, this is not a particularly good example of Tudor Revival architecture. There also appear to be no significant people associated with this home, although like many homes in this neighborhood there were well known business and civic leaders who lived in this house over the years. Finally, no important events appear to be associated with this house. Thus the Meisky Home does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

The Meisky Home also appears to be a contributing building to a "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. This house meets the historic context for 20th century neighborhood development, as identified for the West Hill neighborhood. The integrity of the house appears quite good with original windows and no major additions. The garage was built into the hill behind the house, and it does not distract from the form or style of the house. This is also an excellent example of how the West Hill neighborhood developed over the years with this later style of house in contrast to older houses that are in the general area of this house. This lot did not have a house on it until the Meisky's bought the land from Frederick Vetter, who also owned lot 7, so this house is an example of this later, continued period of neighborhood development.

The Meisky House was built in 1939. According to the deed records at the courthouse, Meisky bought lot 6 from Frederick Vetter, which in the past was sold with lot 7, and had remained empty until this point (Lots Book 92: 289). The city directory for 1940 shows Albert Meisky living here with his wife Gertrude. Albert was a lineman for the local power company.

In 1944 Miss Irma Dooley had moved here when she bought the house from the Meisky's (Lots Book 108: 325). Irma Dooley is listed as a widow of Otis, and was secretary of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Association of Muscatine County. Her father, Dorsey B. Addleman, had begun the Addleman Agency in 1903, joined by O.C. Dooly in 1926. The 1920 census lists her as 24 years old in her father's household. Irma Dooley took over the management of the insurance agency in 1930 after both men died. George E. Moore became associated with the company in 1935 ("Mrs. Irma L. Dooly is Owner, Manager of Insurance Firm," *Journal*, December 30, 1938, sec. 4, p. 6). In the 1949 city directory, she is listed as the manager of the Addleman Insurance Agency. Shortly after the time Miss Dooley moved in this house in 1946, the Sanborn Map shows the house the same as today. It notes a garage in the basement, assessed from the rear.

In 1956, Irma Dooley took out a permit to build a duplex at the back of the lot of this property at 310 Linn (Muscatine Journal, Year-End Review, December 29, 1956, sec.3 pg.16). She moved into it later that year. Irma Dooley continued to own this house after she moved out, renting it as well as other half of the

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duplex. Harley Wagner and his wife Jeanette, and Louis Tracek and his wife Catherine all lived here. Mr. Wagner was Sectional Head at Stanley Engineering, and Mr. Tracek was Vice-President of the Celon Company; who manufactured cellulose. Irma Dooley apparently remarried outside Muscatine County in about 1963, when she sold this property to Harley Wagner and his wife, under the name of Irma Barker along with her husband Lincoln (Lots Book 207: 302). Irma Barker and her husband do not show up in any city directories after this point. Meanwhile, Harley Wagner and his wife sell the house the day after they bought it to David and Carole Horney (Lots Book 207: 303).

The current owner is the long time (since 1991) fire chief of the city of Muscatine: Steve Dalbey and his wife Dianne.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- “Building Permits,” Muscatine Journal Year-End-Review 12-29-1956, section 3; pg. 16
- City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1856-1959. Available as the Musser Public Library.
- Deed/Abstract Records, Recorder’s Office, Muscatine County Courthouse, Muscatine, Iowa.
- “Mrs. Irma L. Dooly is Owner, Manager of Insurance Firm,” *Journal*, December 30, 1938, sec. 4, p. 6.
- 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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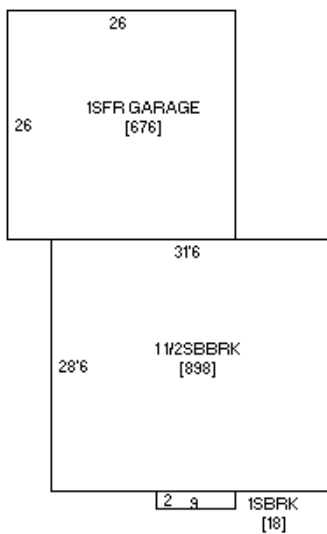
Albert Meisky House
Name of Property

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City

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



(front - W. 4th Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

