

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

State Inventory No. 70-00258 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 Simon and Sarah Kahn House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-167

2. Location

street & number 502 W. 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) 51 Lot(s) N80' 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)	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>05 Late 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 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
City Muscatine

Address 502 W. 4th Street

Site Number 70-00258
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 1868 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 Jay Brady, Chair (R.L. McCarley, consultant)
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date November 30, 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

Page 3

Simon and Sarah Kahn House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

502 W. 4th Street
Address

Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, Italianate side passage house. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are brick. The gable-front roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house sits on a lot that is slightly higher than street level. The main house has an offset rear section. The brick rear first story appears to be original based on matching brick and Sanborn Maps show it has been with the house since at least 1899 when Sanborn coverage of the area starts. The second story of the rear was added after 1946 based on Sanborn map review.

The three-bay front porch features a front gable roof section above the front entrance. The rest of the porch roof is sloped to the front. The roof is supported by four slender turned columns with ornate carved brackets from the columns to a slender lattice just below the roof cornice. The porch woodwork was crafted by using both the scrollsaw and lathe (*Historic Architecture of Muscatine, Iowa* 1977: 47). The front gable section features an ornate carved archway with a smaller curved arch center. The porch has a wood floor that is slightly higher than the adjoining ground. The gap between the ground and the porch floor is enclosed with a wood lattice. Concrete steps lead from the ground level sidewalk to the porch level. The double-door entry is in the west bay. The wood doors have three-quarter length single glass and a single glass rectangular door transom that spans each door. The front windows are single-over-single-light double-hung windows with slightly protruding wood window hoods and sills. The three second-story windows are smaller than the two first story windows. The front gable end eave is bracketed with carved eave brackets in the Italianate style. The gable peak has ornate airy decorative bargeboard at the top of each roof section with a wooden tie between the two roof sections.

The brick east elevation has four single-over-single-light double-hung windows of equal size with two first floor and two second-story windows with the same wood window hoods and sills. The roof eave is bracketed with the brackets the same as the front elevation. The east elevation of the rear section of the house sets back from the east house line and has a two-bay side porch with plain rectangular wood columns and sloped asphalt shingle roof with plain eave. The north bay of the building's rear section has a side entry door featuring narrow double wood doors with three-quarters glass. The south bay of the building's rear section has a single-over-single-light double-hung window with same protruding wood window hood and sill as the rest of the house. The second story of the rear story is a later addition and has wood clapboard siding. A single-over-single-light double-hung window without window hood or sill is centered in the second story. The roof eave is plain.

The brick west elevation has four single-over-single-light double-hung windows of equal size with two first story and two second story windows. The roof eave is bracketed with the brackets the same as the front elevation. The second story of the rear portion of the house features two irregularly spaced single-over-single-light double-hung windows without window hood or sill is centered in the second story. The roof eave is plain.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

Simon and Sarah Kahn House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

502 W. 4th Street
Address

Muscatine
City

The rear elevation features the rear of the main house section and the rear of the back house section. The rear of the main house has two single-over-single-light double-hung windows with wood window hood and sill like the rest of the main house evenly spaced in the area between the east house line and the rear section of the house. The first story rear elevation has two single-over-single-light double-hung windows. The east one has a wood window hood and sill, and the west does not. The rear gable eave has brackets like the rest of the house and a louvered vent set high in the peak. The ornate decorative carvings present in the front elevation are not present in the rear elevation. The rear section of the house has a single-over-single-light double-hung window with wood window hood and sill centered in the first story. The second story addition is wood clapboard with no windows. The rear gable eave is plain.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Simon and Sarah Kahn House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B, or C. However, it does appear to be contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Kahn, a prominent Hebrew family, lived at the house, and after Simon's death Mrs. Kahn constructed and moved to the adjoining 312 Spruce at the rear of the lot. The social history associated with the house does not appear to be significant. With they were a prominent family, they do not appear to have made a significant contribution to the history of Muscatine. The second story addition to the rear section of the house has eroded the historic integrity of the house to a certain degree, though the appearance from the street is generally unaltered. The house retains its historic features including bargeboard and brackets except for the rear addition. The first floor of the rear addition is brick with original wood window frames. The second floor of the addition has plain, simple lines inconsistent with Italianate styling and clapboard siding. Thus, the Simon and Sarah Kahn House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the Simon and Sarah Kahn House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The house is a good example of modest Italianate architecture in this locale and should be noted for the tracery of its bargeboard and porch. The home was home to the Kahn family, and then the Lohr family of German descent with the son, Ralph, eventually residing at 312 Spruce. Thus the house is historically important to the evolution of the neighborhood.

Sarah Kahn bought Lot 6, Block 51, on October 30, 1867 (Lots Book 3: 520). It is likely that they built the house in 1868. Simon Kahn, Sarah's husband, and clothier/tailor was listed at 4th and Spruce in 1869-70 directory. He was born in Wurtenburg, Germany, Sept. 25th, 1819. In 1842, he came to this country, eventually settling in Muscatine in 1855. The 1870 Census lists Simon Kahn, 52, merchant, with wife Sarah, 47, and daughter Matilda, 11. Kahn is listed on the east side of 4th on the south side of Spruce in 1874-75, and at 57 W. 4th in the 1876-77 directory. In the 1879 city directory he is listed as a clothier/tailor residing at southwest corner of 4th and Spruce. By 1883, the address finally became 502 W. 4th Street, and Simon Kahn is listed here as retired until his death on February 8, 1891. His obituary

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Simon and Sarah Kahn House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

502 W. 4th Street
Address

Muscatine
City

notes that he was one of the oldest Hebrew citizens and had been out of business for fifteen years. He was one of the kindest of men ("Death of Simon Kahn", Obituary, *Muscatine Evening Journal*, February 9, 1891, 3).

Sarah Kahn, his widow, lived with Tillie Kahn at this location from 1891 to 1901. The 1900 census indicates that Sarah Kahn, age 76, was born in Germany in 1824 and immigrated to the United States in 1850. She was a widow and had one daughter, Tillie, age 37, who was born in 1863 in Iowa. In late 1900 or early 1901, they built the house at 312 Spruce Street at the rear of Lot 6. Sarah and her daughter Tillie moved to this house. Sarah and Tillie Kahn sold the North 80' of lot 6 (502 W. 4th St) to George Lohr on April 15, 1901 (Lots Book 35: 69).

George H. and Anna C. Lohr, wife, moved to 502 W.4th in 1901 from 411 W. 4th. George Lohr was a post office clerk continuing this occupation until he was retired in 1929. Their son, Ralph, lived with them at this location from 1908 to 1929. The 1910 Census lists George H. Lohr (47, married for 27 years, mail dispatch post officer), Anna C. (wife, age 47, married for 27 years, 1 living child of 2 born), and Ralph, (son, age 16). The census indicates that they own the property. Ralph worked at the Boston Store in 1908, a student in 1911 and then a collector for the Muscatine Journal in 1913. He worked as a salesman in 1916. The 1920 Census lists George H. Lohr, 56, Post Office Clerk; Anna C. wife, 57; and Ralph G. Lohr, son, 26, Music Store Proprietor; at 502 W. 4th St. The Lohrs are listed as German ancestry with George, Anna, and Ralph born in Iowa. Ralph was in the record store business as Lohr and Bristol Records in 1919, Lohr Talking Machine Shop in 1921, Lohr Music Store in 1923-24, and Lohr & Chase Radios in 1927. Finally in 1929 he married Blanche, moved out of his parents' home to 212 Iowa Ave and was working as a salesman. Also in 1929, George retired from the post office. George H. died at age 67 in 1930. Mrs. Anna Lohr, his widow, continued to live at this location until 1945. Anna Lohr died at age 81 in 1945.

Ralph Lohr received the property from George Lohr on April 17, 1944. He would continue to own it until he sold to Donald and Kathryn Massey on November 9, 1966 shortly before his death on August 18, 1967. The property was listed as vacant in 1946. The house was used as a rental property through the 1950s. By 1949 Lawrence Williams, a clerk at Henderson's Rexall Drug Store had moved from 902 Iowa Avenue to 502 W. 4th. By 1952 Williams had moved to 2902 Mulberry and Walter L. Hinkley and his wife Phyllis had moved in. Walter was a draftsman at Stanley Engineering but by 1954 was no longer listed in city directory. By 1954 Floyd T. Martin and his wife Carole had moved from 103 Benham Avenue to 502 W. 4th. Floyd worked as a heat treater at Bendix Aviation in Davenport having moved jobs from his former one at International Harvester Rock Island. Fred W. Havemann and his wife Florence A. moved in 1956. Fred ran the Dog-N-Suds Drive In. Robert H. Seligman and wife Fern I. moved to this location in 1958. Robert was an inkmaker at Celon Co.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1900, 1910, 1920.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00258
Related District Number 70-01005

Page 6

Simon and Sarah Kahn House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

502 W. 4th Street
Address

Muscatine
City

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

“Death of Simon Kahn”, Obituary, *Muscatine Evening Journal*, February 9, 1891, P 3.

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

Historic Architecture of Muscatine, Iowa, 1977.

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



Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
**Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 70-00258
Related District Number 70-01005

Page 7

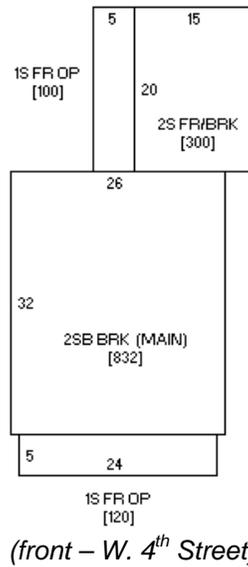
Simon and Sarah Kahn House
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Muscatine
County

502 W. 4th Street
Address

Muscatine
City

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



Photograph of building (digital image)

