

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

State Inventory No. 70-01083 **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 Henry Oberhouse House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-181

2. Location

street & number 517 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) 82 Lot(s) Lot 1

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>07E: Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements/Bungalow/Craftsman</u> | foundation <u>10A: Concrete/cement block</u> |
| _____ | walls <u>03: Brick</u> |
| _____ | roof <u>08: 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 517 W. Fourth Street

Site Number 70-01083
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

1931

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 (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date November 16, 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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Henry Oberhouse House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

517 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a one and one-half-story, two-bay, Craftsman house. The house sits on a cement block foundation. The walls are frame, clad in brick veneer. This is noted on the 1928 Sanborn map. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The projecting eaves on both the main roof and the porch roof contain two to three exposed rafter tails. A basement garage was originally located in the house, but it has been converted to living space. The original driveway into the basement garage remains. The house sets on a corner lot that drops several feet in elevation from the back half to the alley. The windows all appear to be replacement vinyl inserts.

The front (south) elevation has a front-gable enclosed porch that extends to the south. The porch is located on the left side of the elevation and covers about three-fourths of the width. Originally, the porch was open. A set of concrete steps on the right side of the porch provides access to the porch. Inside the porch is the primary entry into the house. The exterior porch door is a one-over-one-light, combination storm door. The interior door is a possibly historic wood door with a single light at the top. A set of three windows is located to the left of the porch door. Each window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. A wide wood lintel extends across the windows and the door. Wide trim boards that match the lintel continue down both sides of the entry. Two attic vents are centered on the gable and above the façade openings. A series of basement casement windows is located under each first-story window or sets of windows of the main house. A pair of two replacement windows is located on the main face of the house and to the right of the porch.

The west side elevation faces Locust Street. Two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows are located in the west wall of the extended front porch. A lintel that is similar in width to the lintel over the façade openings is located above this pair. Wide trim is also located on each side of the windows. The window openings of the side gable of the house are symmetrical. Two large, one-over-one-light, double-hung attic windows are centered just below the gable. Below this pair of windows is a row of small windows containing one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. An entry is located a short distance to the left of this row. A small gable roof covers the entry. The original basement garage driveway is located to the left of this entry, at the basement level. The driveway opening has been framed down to include a single residential access door. The other openings on this elevation are two windows located at each end of the first story of the main side gable wall. Each window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The east elevation contains a short wing that extends out from the south end of the wall. The extension contains a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window centered in the extension. The extension is covered by a gable roof. The main gable end of this elevation contains two attic windows that match the attic windows on the west elevation. A pair of similar first-story windows is located under the left attic window. Two other first-story window openings are equally spaced along the wall to the right of this pair. Each contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. Similar trim board as the other windows is located around this elevation's openings.

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Muscatine
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The rear (north) elevation also contains a short gable wing that extends out from the far left side of the elevation. The extension contains a single one-over-one-light, double-hung window that is centered below the gable. The remaining opening on this elevation is a window located near the right edge of the wall. The window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

Original woodwork remains inside the house, including around doorways, windows and other trim areas.

A detached, metal garage (ca. 1960) is located near the rear of the house.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Henry Oberhouse 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.

Henry and Ruby Oberhouse built this house around 1931. The couple, together with Norbert Oberhouse, Henry's brother, operated the Oberhouse Market from 1925 to 1957. When he and his brother first opened their grocery market there were over 60 grocers operating in Muscatine. That number had been cut to around 45 grocers shortly before leaving the business in 1957. Although a successful businessman, Henry Oberhouse does not appear to have been a significant figure in the history of the community. In addition, no significant historical event appears to be associated with the property. The house is a good example of a late Craftsman style that has been well maintained and retains a high amount of integrity. However, some changes have occurred, such as the replacement windows. Additionally, there are a number of similar houses located throughout Muscatine that show similar integrity and more features characteristic of the style. Thus, the Henry Oberhouse House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B or C.

However, the Henry Oberhouse House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. A young businessman, just starting out in a new trade, constructed the house in response to the success of a new business and to demonstrate his commitment to the neighborhood and its development. Other neighborhood construction was also occurring and the impact of this and other construction strengthened the neighborhood's development in the early 20th century and contributed to a sustained period of neighborhood expansion and growth.

Henry Oberhouse built this house around 1931, according to the property abstract, city directory and Sanborn maps. He bought the property on April 28, 1931 from the Hershey State Bank (Book 73; Page 606). Earlier Sanborn maps do not show a house on the property until the 1946 revision of the 1928 maps. The couple, together with Norbert Oberhouse, Henry's brother, operated the Oberhouse Market from 1925 to 1957. Prior to the grocery business, Henry Oberhouse was a button cutter. City directories identify over 60 grocers operating in the community in 1925 when Oberhouse and his brother first opened their grocery market. Directories also show that number had dropped to around 45 grocers

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
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shortly before Oberhouse left the business in 1957. Oberhouse was a member of St. Mary's Church and was listed as a charter member of Muscatine Post 27 of the American Legion. He was a life resident of Muscatine.

The Oberhouses continued to live at 517 W. Fourth until it was sold on September 27, 1960 to Gale and Edna Sterner (Book 192; Page 417). They sold it to interim buyers Richard and Joy Sujecki on November 18, 1961 (Book 203; Page 89). Arthur Steinbaugh, Jr. and his wife Gladys immediately purchased it from the Sujecki family (Book 203; Page 88). The current owners bought it from the Steinbaugh family in the 1970s.

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.

"Harry P. Oberhouse," Obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, November 4, 1963, Page 9

Location Map



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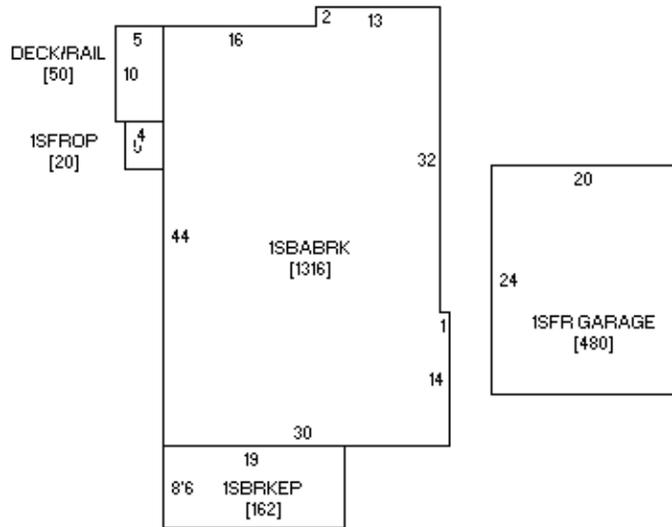
Henry Oberhouse House
Name of Property

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



(front – W. 4th Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

