

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

State Inventory No. 70-01126  **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 John Schmidt House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-184

**2. Location**

street & number 316 Locust 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) 50 Lot(s) 9

**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:	
	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ Total	<u>1</u>	<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**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>01A01: Domestic / Single residence</u>	<u>01A01 Domestic/single residence</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09A01: House / Front-Gabled Roof</u>	foundation <u>10B Poured Concrete</u>
_____	walls <u>02/02E Wood/shake</u>
_____	roof <u>08A Asphalt shingles</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 316 Locust Street

Site Number 70-01126  
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 1858  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 Jean Kerr, volunteer; Jim Rudisill (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date 11/12/05

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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John Schmidt House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

316 Locust Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, one-bay, wood frame, front-gable house. The house sits on a poured concrete foundation, which likely replaced an earlier brick foundation. The walls are wood, clad in shake. The gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. A flat roof on the front porch and a shed roof on a rear addition are also clad in asphalt shingles. The house sets on a terrace that drops off at the front. There are cement steps leading up the porch and wooden steps leading into the porch. A one-story, gabled addition is attached to the rear of the main house, with the small shed addition attached to the rear of the one-story extension.

The front (east) elevation features a one-story enclosed porch that extends out from the front gable and runs along most of the façade. There are seven one-over-one-light double-hung aluminum storm windows with screens located along the front of the porch. Two similar type windows are present on the porch's north wall. The south wall contains a porch entrance, with a similar window as the other porch windows located to the left of the entrance. The entry door is aluminum. Inside the porch, the front door is an aluminum storm door with a wood/glass inside door. There are two sidelights. There are two one-over-one-light double hung wood sashes with aluminum storm window on the lower story. The porch roof is metal covered with asphalt rolled roofing. The upper story has three windows containing one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes with aluminum storms. There is an attic vent window.

The south elevation has a single one-over-one-light double-hung wood window with aluminum storms on the lower story; and two windows with one-over-one-light double-hung wood sashes and aluminum storms on the upper story. These windows are located in the back half of the south wall.

The north elevation has two pairs of similar windows, with two located on the first story and two that are aligned with the first-story openings on the second. Each window contains one-over-one-light double hung wood sashes with aluminum storms. An awning is located over each window.

The rear elevation has an attached, one-story extension that serves as a kitchen with attic area. This might have been an addition at one time, although there is a basement underneath it. There does not appear to be any openings on the north side. Originally a door was present on this elevation, but it has been removed and the opening filled in. The south elevation of the addition does contain an entrance that includes a wood door with a glass panel and an aluminum storm door. A one-over-one-light, double-hung wood window is located to the right of the entrance. There is an added sink/stool where the old pantry once was. It contains a crank-out, single glass window. A single one-over-light, double-hung window is present in the upper right corner of the second story. This window also contains an awning. The Sanborn Map of 1946 shows only one porch off of the rear addition. This is incorrect. There have always been two, like the 1919, 1912, 1905, and 1899 Sanborn Maps show.

The second story of the house had been set up at one time for an apartment and gas and water pipes run up through the ceiling.

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<u>John Schmidt House</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
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Address	City

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The garage was built in 1971. It is a one-story, double-car building, constructed of weatherboard. It has asphalt shingles. There are two garage doors and one pedestrian door. There are two jalousie louvered windows on the south elevation.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The John Schmidt 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.

John Schmidt, a shoe and boot manufacturer, built this house sometime around 1860 as a family residence. An 1874 birds-eye map shows the building on the site. Census records indicate Schmidt was born around 1823 in Germany. Schmidt, the shoemaker, is listed in the 1859 city directory, but not the 1856 directory, indicating he arrived in Muscatine sometime between those two years. He is not listed in any historical biographies and no obituary could be located for him. He does not appear to have made a substantial contribution to the community's history. No significant historical event is known to have occurred on this property. In addition, although the integrity of the house is generally intact, the building is a relatively plain, ordinary gable-front house that matches a large number of similar type homes in the neighborhood and community. The house does not contain any outstanding architectural features or style. Thus, the John Schmidt House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, the John Schmidt House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. A German immigrant, Schmidt represented the same type of enterprising resident that formed a major portion of the city's population in the mid-1800s. He appears to have quickly established himself in the community, purchased property, built a house and became settled in his new life. His decision to locate in the West Hill area helped to boost the area's cultural diversity and as a successful immigrant and businessman, likely encouraged others to consider the same plan. As more of these decisions were made, the neighborhood continued to grow, develop and prosper, boosting the attention for other potential property buyers and prospective home owners. This house contributes to the history and architecture of this potential historic district.

John Schmidt appears to have constructed this house shortly after purchasing Lot 9, Block 50 from John Bantley, pastor of the German Presbyterian Church, on February 16, 1858 for \$800 (Book T, Page 89). Schmidt is identified in the 1859 directory as working at two sites, John Shoemaker's and H. Pfeiffer's. Shoemaker's and Pfeiffer's were two of the six shoe and boot manufacturers listed in the city in the 1859. There were at least 42 shoemakers working either on their own or for one of the manufacturing operations in Muscatine at that time. Interestingly, both Shoemaker and Pfeiffer, along with at least ten of the shoemakers, including Schmidt, lived in the West Hill neighborhood. According to the 1859 directory, Shoemaker's house was located on "Locust b 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>," while Pfeiffer lived on the "ss 5<sup>th</sup> b Locust and

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Spruce." Although the 1859 directory did not identify Schmidt's house, the 1866 directory did record it at "4<sup>th</sup> ss e Broadway." Schmidt and other family members continued to live at 316 Locust for many years. The family is recorded in the 1870 census. In addition to John, 47, and his wife Mary, 46; are: Mary, 12; Susan, 11; George, 9; Audrey, 7; \_\_\_\_\_,5; and Fred, seven months. This house appears to be shown on the 1874 birds-eye view of Muscatine. The various directories list different members of the family, including Mary, widow of John, as residents of the property beginning in 1877. Fred Schmidt apparently practiced medicine, while George maintained the family's shoe operation. The 1900 census lists Marie Schmidt (76, widow) and her daughter Susan (41, single) as living at this address. Marie had 11 children, 8 of which were living. Mary (Marie) apparently died around 1908.

Susan (Susanna) Schmidt, acting as the executor, purchased the property on November 9, 1908 for \$2500 (Book 40, Page 296). She then obtained quitclaim deeds from Audrey, George and Fred on November 20, 1908 (Book 40, Page 318). She is listed as the resident in the 1907 through the 1911 city directories. The 1910 census lists Susanna (57) with her brother John (58, divorced, shoemaker). She then married Henry Seefeldt and they continued to live in the house through the 1927 directory. Seefeldt was identified as a janitor for the T&L Company. The 1920 census lists Henry Seefeldt (64, janitor at printing shop) with his wife Susanna (61) and grandson Lloyd (7) at this address. It may have been afternoon Susanna took ownership of the property in 1908 that some work was done to the foundation (or possibly more extensive work). Susanna transferred the property to her husband on June 22, 1925 (Book 63, Page 618).

Henry Seefeldt, widower, transferred Lot 9, Block 50 for \$1 and other considerations, to Bill Becker on February 16, 1929. It is believed the other considerations were other property. William and Mildred Becker are listed as the residents of 316 Locust from the 1929 to 1949 city directories. During that time, Becker is identified as the custodian for the Masonic Temple and later as working in the maintenance department of the Laurel Building. Mildred Becker is the lone resident recorded at the house in the 1952 through the 1956 city directories. In the 1958 city directory she is listed as the resident along with Joab and Marian Moore. Becker is also listed as working at Home Laundry. There is no occupation listed for the Moores. The property was apparently transferred to Robert Johring in 1959 and Joab and Marian Moore then acquired it in 1961. It is unknown if these were family transfers.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1870, 1900, 1910.

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

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

Koch, Augustus. *Bird's-eye View of the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa*. Koch, 1874. In the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form  
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Related District Number 70-01005

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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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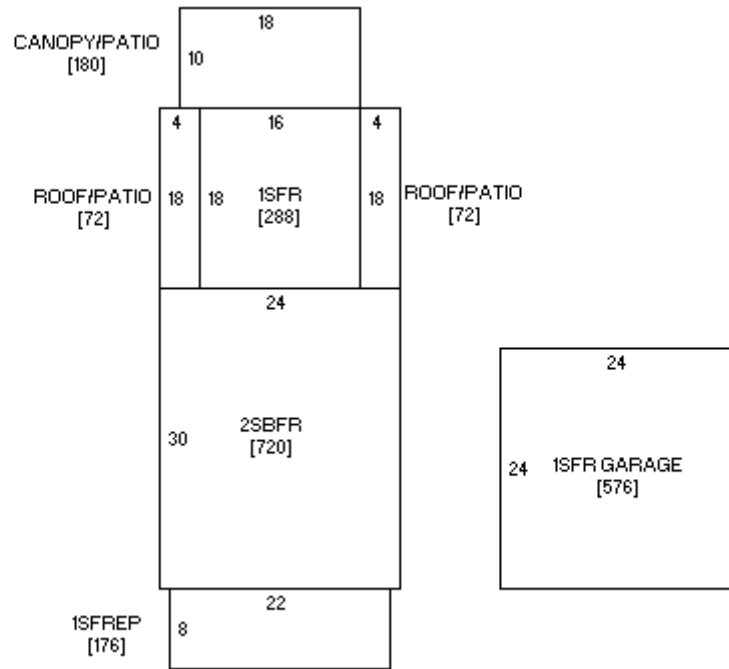
John Schmidt House  
Name of Property

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



(front – Locust Street)

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John Schmidt House  
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## Photograph of building (digital image)

