

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

State Inventory No. 70-01088  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 Will and Mary Edmiston House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-191

**2. Location**

street & number 607 West 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) 83 Lot(s) SW37.5' lots 7, 8 and 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:	
<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**

<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>09A06: Other / House / Four-Square</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>05: Metal</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 Address 607 West Fourth Street  
City Muscatine

Site Number 70-01088  
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 1899  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 Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, consultant)  
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date December 23, 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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Will and Mary Edmiston House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

607 West Fourth Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, Foursquare house with some Queen Anne details. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are wood, clad with clapboards and covered with vinyl clad aluminum siding. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. It is hipped with a flat deck and a large gabled dormer on each side. Though the main roof is a hip roof, gables project on all four sides.

The front, or south elevation, reveals a large, full width porch that is accessed by wide concrete steps, located at the center of the porch. Four round columns with small square capitols support the porch roof and a spindled railing is seen between them. On the left on the first story is a curved bay window with two one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. The bay window is clad in exterior grade wood panel. A single-door entry is centered on the first story. To the right is a large one-over-one light "picture" window with a transom window. In the center of the second story façade is a decorative, oval shaped window. On either side is a pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung wood windows. On the roof there is a large gable dormer with a pent. On the roof gable is a small one-over-one-light, double-hung window, flanked by quarter round, fixed windows. The large windows on this elevation have decorative shutters.

The east elevation has four one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on the first story. There are three one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on the second story. There is a smaller one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the gable.

The west elevation reveals a single-door entry on the left. Then a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window on the first story, then two smaller, fixed, rectangular windows. The second story has two widely spaced, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. Above, in the gable on the west side of the roof has a half-round, fixed window.

At the rear of the house a small, one story, gable-roof addition projecting to the north is found. It appears to be located where a porch was shown on the Sanborn maps of 1928 and 1946. There are seven one-over-one-light, double-hung windows and a single entry in this addition. The entry and one window are on the west side; four windows are on the north side and two windows are on the east side. The rear elevation also shows three, widely spaced, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on the second story. On the face of the rear roof gable is a small, one-over-one-light, double-hung window.

A picket fence surrounds the back yard of this property. There is a square, hipped roof garage at the rear of the property. It has a concrete foundation and weatherboard siding. This garage appears on the 1928 and 1946 Sanborn maps.

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## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Will and Mary Edmiston 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.

The Will and Mary Edmiston House is an excellent example of a c.1900 house with Foursquare and Queen Anne features. However, it is sided in vinyl clad aluminum siding and appears to have a remodeled bay window on the front elevation. Overall, the remainder of the house is intact. However, as a transitional house with these changes, it does not appear that the Edmiston House still retains its integrity of design. Thus, the Will and Mary Edmiston House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The occupants of this house have been notable locally, but have not been significant to Iowa in general or to the Midwest region. Thus, the Will and Mary Edmiston House does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A or B.

The Will and Mary Edmiston House appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The house has curb appeal that speaks of a Midwest style of architecture that is comfortable and welcoming. It has the impressive massing of a two story square building with a full width porch, in addition to the high, hipped roof and large, steeply pitched dormers. It also has small, decorative windows that add to the appeal of the house. Historically, it has sheltered a hard working merchant's family and a retired farmer's family. It is a contributing building to the city of Muscatine as well as to the potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

Only two families lived at this address from 1900 until 1960. The first family was that of Will A. and Mary Arnold Edmiston, who built this house. The west (southwest) half of lots 7 and 8 (which ran east-west), Block 83 were acquired by Mary J. (Arnold) Edmiston from her father, Leonard Arnold (Deeds / Abstracts, Book 26, Page 522) and west (southwest) half of lot 9 (which ran east-west along Fourth Street) from her brother, George Arnold on April 19, 1895. Thus, of the short block on Fourth Street between Broadway and Locust, George owned the east half, back to the alley, and Mary owned the west half by 1895. George had built a house at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Locust in 1883, on the east end of Lots 8 and 9. W.A. Edmiston is shown to be working as a shipping clerk at Gobble's wholesale grocer in the 1886 city directory and living elsewhere in Muscatine. He married Mary (a.k.a. Mae) Josephine Arnold on November 17, 1886 in Muscatine, and he apparently moved in with her and her father. In 1891, Will Edmiston is still working at Gobble's and living at 410 Locust Street, and the 1893 directory lists him at 408 Locust. This appears to be the home of Leonard Arnold, which was setback from 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the west half of lots 7 and 8. Leonard Arnold died on December 28, 1898. The city directories of 1895 and 1897-98 show Edmistons living at 613 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, apparently living in this nearby house while building on other lot. Demolition of the earlier house (Leonard's) may not have occurred until he died in 1898, with this new house built closer to 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the west half of this half of the block in 1899, also permitting the construction of a house at 605 W. Fourth Street (east half of the west half of this block). Will A. Edmiston is listed at 607 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street beginning in the 1900 city directory.

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Will and Mary Edmiston House  
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Mr. Edmiston was born on November 24, 1864 in Fairfield, Iowa, the son of James and Ellen Hampson Edmiston. He married Mary (a.k.a. Mae) Josephine Arnold on November 17, 1886 in Muscatine. He was a salesman and a manager of J.M. Gobble & Co., a wholesale grocery in Muscatine. Mary was born on May 24, 1865 in Muscatine. Her father, Leonard Arnold was a ferry boat operator and steamship captain for many years on the Mississippi River. The 1900 census shows that Will A. Edmiston was 35 years old; his wife Mary J. was 35 and Will's sister Beatrice, at age 14, was living in his household. The couple had had no children. The city directories from 1900 to 1919 list Will A. Edmiston as a salesman at J.M. Gobble & Company. The 1907 city directory shows that Beatrice Edmiston also lived at 607 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The 1910 Census shows that Mr. Edmiston was working in commercial transfer, and he lived here with his wife Mary J., who had 1 child who was not living. The 1920 Census indicates that he was a manager of a wholesale grocery at age 55, and his wife Mary was 54. The Edmiston family lived here until 1921, and moved to California in 1930. Mr. Edmiston died in Los Angeles in October 1944 at 80 years of age. ("W. A. Edmiston," obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, October 17, 1944, 10) Mary Josephine Edmiston died on January 3, 1928. ("Mrs. Edmiston Called by Death", *Muscatine Journal* obituary, January 5, 1928, 5)

In 1921, the property was sold to Jerry G. Klotz. Mr. Klotz was a retired farmer from Louisa County, according to the 1920 Census. He was born on December 15, 1865 in Louisa County, Iowa, the son of John and Emeline Muthhardt Klotz. He married Anna G. Schomberg on May 22, 1895 at Columbus Junction, Iowa ("Jerry G. Klotz", *Muscatine Journal* obituary, March 3, 1959, 12). The 1930 Census shows that Jerry Klotz was 65 years of age and wife, Anna was 56. Also, daughters Mildred (31) and Gertrude (33) and son-in-law Herman B. Lord resided at 607 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Jerry and Anna Klotz first appear at 607 West Fourth Street in the 1921 city directory, along with their daughter, Gertrude, and her husband, Herman B. Lord. In 1920, Mr. Lord became a partner with his brother, Andrew in a business venture making metal advertising signs of all types, eventually selling their product worldwide. Herman was the manager of the Metal Sign Company, which was later known as the Lord Brothers Sign Company. They remained in business in Muscatine until 1974. Mr. & Mrs. Lord remained at 607 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street until 1942, when they moved to Marquette Street. Mr. Lord worked for a time in the mid 1940's as an export sales manager for the Automatic Button Company.

According to city directories from 1941-42 to 1960, Jerry Klotz, his wife, Anna and daughter, Mildred lived at 607 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Mildred G. Klotz never married and is assumed to be part of the Klotz household at 607 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street from 1921 to 1960, even when city directories do not list her. Mildred is listed at this address in the city directories of 1921, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1949, 1954, 1956 and 1959. She was not noted in city directories as having an employer or an occupation, except in 1938, when she was listed as a clerk. Jerry G. Klotz died on March 3, 1959 at age 93. The Klotz family remained here until after 1960. Daughter Mildred G. Klotz died on June 25, 1997 at 98 years of age. She had cared for her parents in their old age and then spent her last 17 years in a nursing home in Muscatine.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

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

"Jerry G. Klotz", Muscatine Journal obituary, March 3, 1959, Page 12

"Mrs. Edmiston Called by Death", Muscatine Journal obituary, January 5, 1928, Page 5

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.

"W. A. Edmiston," obituary, *Muscatine Journal*, October 17, 1944, Page 10

### Location Map



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-01088

Related District Number 70-01005

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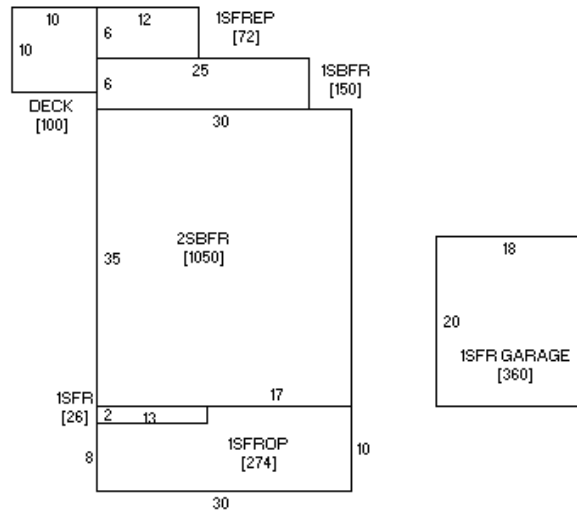
Will and Mary Edmiston House  
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## Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front – W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street)

## Photograph of building (digital image)

