

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

State Inventory No. 70-01145 **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 Mary A. Gordon House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-215a

2. Location

street & number 807 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 Whicher Block(s) 1 Lot(s) Tri Tract NE Cor of Lot 1
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 85 Lot(s) 3 Ex Tri Tract SW Cor

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> | <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> | <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>05D: Late Victorian / Queen Anne</u> | foundation <u>03: Brick</u> |
| _____ | walls <u>05E: Metal/Aluminum</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 807 W. Fourth Site Number 70-01145
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)

31: Other/Neighborhood Development

Significant Dates

Construction date 1860 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 Peterschmidt/Carlson/Rudisill

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date July 20, 2007

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

Mary A. Gordon House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

807 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, Queen Anne style house with wing. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are wood, clad in clapboards, covered with aluminum siding. The gable front roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house is elevated about four feet above West Fourth Street on the south and is accessed in the rear by an alleyway. The property is sloped downward toward the rear, or north. The windows appear to have wood sashes. It appears that this may have been an earlier gable-front house that was remodeled with Queen Anne features around the turn of the century. The current appearance and integrity dates to this reconstruction or remodeling period.

The front, or south facing, elevation reveals a two and a half story gable front building with a shed roof covering a wide porch. At the southwest corner of this elevation is a two-story bay window, which projects forward from the main building a short distance. It was constructed at an angle of about 45 degrees to the plane of the front elevation, similar to a corner tower, and it has a gable roof. The two-story bay window consists of three, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on each story. There is a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window under the porch roof as well as a double-door entry on the right. The double-door entry dates to the same period as the bay windows and porch, though the doors are non-historic with the installation of two full-length wood doors. The original arrangement had smaller doors with transoms. The openings for the two transoms remain as part of the entry's outside framing. Three slender, decorative turned wood columns support the porch roof. Decorative fretwork is seen at the eaves between the columns. There is no handrail. The columns appear to be original, but the original porch floor has been replaced with a cement slab. The elevated portion of the porch deck has also been reduced to about half of its original size and is located in front of the entry and the single window. It has a concrete block foundation. An at-grade concrete pad extends from the elevated portion of the porch to the bay window. On the second story there are two, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. Above the second story, near the gable peak, a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window is seen.

The east elevation of the main house shows four, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. A small wing projecting north is seen at the right of this elevation. A single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window is on this north wing. A single entry, containing a flush-mounted wood door, is also located at the rear of the north wing. Also, the side view of a small, enclosed porch is at the right. There is a row of three, two-light, fixed sash windows on the east side of this porch.

The west elevation reveals a single-door entry in the enclosed porch at the left. Then there is a small one-over-one-light, double-hung window on each story of the wing. On this façade of the main building a full height bay window is seen at the left. There are three, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows on each story and it has a gabled roof. At the right of this elevation is seen the angled two story bay window described as part of the front elevation.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

Mary A. Gordon House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

807 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

At the rear of the house the gabled end of the main house is seen, as well as the gable end of the north wing and the small enclosed porch. This elevation reveals a single, one-over-one-light, double-hung window in the gable ends of both the main house and the wing. This window is located in the upper gable (attic area) of the main house. The enclosed porch shows open roof rafter construction and is supported by concrete block piers. A modern, gable-end, two-car garage is located at the rear of the property and is situated so there is not adequate space for a properly sloped concrete slab between the garage door and the alleyway.

All double-hung windows and entry doors on this house appear to be historic. The windows are covered by aluminum storm sash.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This house was slightly west of the area included in the West Hill survey in 2005-06, conducted by the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission under a CLG grant. It was noted to share a similar history within the houses included in the potential West Hill Historic District and likely be considered a contributing building in the district. This form has been researched and written by the commission in 2007 in preparation for the nomination of the district to the National Register of Historic Places.

The house at 807 W. Third 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.

While an earlier house certainly was located here, it is unclear if this house is part of the current dwelling. As it appears currently, this house was built (or an earlier one remodeled) around 1891 after Mary A. Gordon purchased the property. While she was previously married to a prominent and wealthy man, she does not appear to have made significant contributions to Muscatine while living in this house as a widow. The building does not appear to have been altered a great deal since this period, with the historic porch and other features still present. The installation of the aluminum siding may be covering other Queen Anne features or required their removal. There is nothing particularly significant with the architecture, as many Queen Anne homes are found in this neighborhood. In addition, the property does not appear to have any association with any significant events in the community. Therefore, the property at 807 W. Fourth does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

However, 807 W. Fourth does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district because of its association with 19th and 20th Century Neighborhood Development. The construction or remodeling of the earlier house around 1891 represents an important trend in West Hill to update the neighborhood's appearance. It therefore would contribute both historically and architecturally to a proposed West Hill Historic District.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Mary A. Gordon House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

807 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

A gable-front house was built on this Lot 3 in the late 1850s, though it is unclear if it is part of the current structure. Mary E. Whicher, widow of well-known Muscatine resident Judge Stephen Whicher, owned the property at the time. Dutch immigrant John Verink (also spelled Veerink and Verrink) purchased the two different parcels that now comprise this property from Mary Whicher on two different dates. A tract adjoining Lot 3, which is assumed to correspond to the "Tri Tract NE Cor Lot 1 of Block 1 (Whicher's subdivision), was acquired on October 1, 1860 (Book U, Page 591). He then bought Lot 3 of Block 85 Ex Tri Tract SW Cor, from Whicher on November 20, 1862 for \$500 (Book V, Page 258). The current house does sit on this second tract, and the price paid would seem to indicate a building was on the property when Verink purchased it. Verink was listed at this location in 1859 and continued to be listed in this location through the 1877-78 directory, indicating he was renting the house from Whicher prior to his purchase. Since he was married in 1856, that could also mean the house was built shortly after that and possibly with his agreement to later purchase it, although no such contract or other indication of that was found. The 1874 birds-eye view of Muscatine showed a gable-front house at this location. It was unclear if this house was part of the current structure. The gable-front form with added bay windows certainly suggest that an earlier house was remodeled/updated with modern Queen Anne features. However, the gable-front section seems wider and larger than other gable-front houses dating to the 1850s-1870s in Muscatine.

John Verink was the first person to be identified as a resident of 807 W. Fourth or the nearby neighborhood. The 1859-60 city directory recorded him as a laborer and living at "ns Fourth w of Cherry." This would likely be the present location of 807 W. Fourth. Others listed as residents at this location in the directory included Manus Verink (teamster) and William Verink (no occupation listed). John Verink was also listed in the 1856 city directory, but his residence at that time was ns Seventh w of Cedar." There is only limited information on Verink. He was born in Holland around 1810, worked as a laborer, and married his wife Christina in 1856. Verink and other family members continue to be listed in this location from the 1866 to at least the 1877-78 directory. John died around 1881 and does not appear to have made any significant contributions to the city's history. Christina Verink (widow) continued to be listed as a resident at 807 W. Fourth through the 1891-92 city directory. The 1891-92 listed 809, which should have been 807 W. Fourth or there was an address change. Since Christina Verink's obituary (Muscatine Journal, 1895) mentions step-children Manes and W.B. Verink as surviving her, John Verink must have been previously married. It is possible that a larger gable-front house was constructed on this lot during the time that the Verink family lived here.

Mary Gordon purchased both parcels from Christina Verink, widow, on August 25, 1891 for \$1800 (Book 22, Page 764). The price indicates a substantial house here, supporting that a larger gable-front house may have already been on the lot that was then remodeled by Gordon. It appears the house was remodeled in the 1890s, with the addition of bay windows, perhaps remodeled entry, and new porch. In the 1893-94 directory, the first in which she is recorded as a resident of 807 W. Fourth, Gordon is identified as a widow and no occupation is listed. The 1900 census indicates that she was a 67-year-old widow born in Florida, though other census records note Georgia. The 1900 census indicates she had several children, none of whom were living. Her obituary identified her as dying at the home of J. Linn

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 6

Mary A. Gordon House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

807 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

Hoopes on July 31, 1911 at age 81 (Muscatine Journal, 1911). It did not identify any survivors, but did identify her as the widow of General J.G. Gordon.

John G. Gordon moved to Muscatine County in 1844 and opened a general store, J.G. Gordon & Co., which remained in business for many years. John G. Gordon married his second wife Mary Klein in 1856 and, by her, had one daughter and one son. Based on census and other records, Mary Gordon also had several step-children, although her obituary (Muscatine Journal, 1911), does not mention it. According to the 1860 census, John and Mary Gordon were recorded at their Muscatine residence with eight other people. John G. Gordon was a 48-year-old merchant with real estate valued at \$16,000 and personal estate valued at \$12,000. Mary was identified as being 30 years old. Other Gordons listed, and assumed to be children/stepchildren, included Susan A., 20; Mary C., 19; Maria G., 16; John G., 12; and Anna, 11. Servant Lizzie Geisler, 20; and another female, Margaret Hoague (Sp?), 12, were also listed. This would indicate all of these children were Mary's step-children. Apparently, the same M.A. Gordon (37) appears listed in 1870 with husband J.G. (53, merchant) with 5 daughters and a 4-year-old son. The family was very wealthy, with \$20,000 in real estate and \$10,000 in personal property. John G. Gordon was a highly respected businessman and an influential man in the state. The Governor of Iowa, Ansel Briggs, bestowed the title of general on John G. Gordon in 1874 and appointed him to the command of the Second Division of the Iowa Militia. General John G. Gordon died on January 30, 1877. (Richman 1911: 207). She had lived at 205 Cherry with her husband, moving to 700 West 3rd Street in 1878. Both were large and prominent houses overlooking the Mississippi. The 1880 census lists Mary A. Gordon (46) in Muscatine, with son Alexander G. (14), suggesting all the older children had moved out by then. Mrs. M.A. Gordon, widow, was listed at 702 West 3rd Street from 1886-87 to 1889-92, before being first listed here in 1893-94. The last directory listing her as the resident was the 1908-09 issue.

Rebecca Hoopes purchased the property from Mary Gordon on August 31, 1909 (Book 42, Page 177). Hoopes is not recorded as a resident there in any city directories. The 1910 census listed her as 58, and the head of a household that included two other people – her brother Joseph Linn Hoopes (68, real estate agent) and a boarder Mary A. Gordon (no age). Hoopes owned several other properties in town in the early 20th century. The 1911 edition listed Rev. A. and Olaf Henderson as the residents at 807 W. 4th Street. He was the pastor for the First Congregational Church. The 1913 and 1919 city directories listed Adam and Martha Althus as the residents. He worked as a watchman.

Jessie Althus bought the property from Hoopes on October 21, 1919 (Book 53, Page 365). Adam Althus and later his widow Martha, were listed as residents from 1913 to the 1943 directory. The 1920 census indicated the large Althaus family living here – Adam (59, proprietor harness shop), Martha (59), Jessie (37, teacher), Leta (33, nurse), Laura (26, teacher), Helen (22, bookkeeper), Martha (20), and Kenneth (16). The 1930 census listed Jessie Althaus as the 47-year-old daughter of Adam (69) and Martha (69) Althaus, all living at 807 W. 4th Street. She was listed as a teacher, while her dad worked at a button factory. City directories from 1919 through 1934 listed only Adam Althus and his wife Martha as the residents. He was identified in the 1929 directory as a watchman. Later directories did not list his occupation. Interesting, the 1930 census noted that Adam paid \$25 per month in rent, apparently to his daughter Jessie. Mrs. Martha Althus, widow of Adam, was listed for the first time in the 1936-37

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-01145

Related District Number 70-01005

Page 7

Mary A. Gordon House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

807 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

directory. From the 1938-39 directory through the 1943 directory, Jessie Althaus was listed as the only resident of 807 W. Fourth. She was identified in the directories as a teacher at Franklin School. After the 1943 directory and continuing through the 1959 directory, Jessie Althaus apparently rented an apartment at the house to Thomas and Mary Lewis, because they are listed as residents with Althaus. Lewis worked as a laborer at Walton's Nursery in the 1959 directory.

A.K. and Mary Lewis bought the property on February 27, 1961 (Book 193, Page 413). The current owners acquired it on November 29, 1997 (1997-2403).

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Aged Resident Is Called In Death" (obituary of Mary Ann Gordon), *Muscatine Journal*, August 1, 1911, Page 2.

History of Muscatine County, Iowa: Biographical Section. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1879, 623.
Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1889, 371-372 and 506.

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1860, 1870, 1880. 1900, 1910

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1856-1959. Musser Public Library, Muscatine, IA.

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.

"Died," Obituary of Christina Verink, *Muscatine Journal*, July 1, 1895, 3.

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.

"Well Known Citizen Passes Away Today" (Stephen Whicher obituary), *Muscatine Journal*, July 3, 1907, Page 4.

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

Site Number 70-01145
 Related District Number 70-01005

Page 8

Mary A. Gordon House
 Name of Property

Muscatine
 County

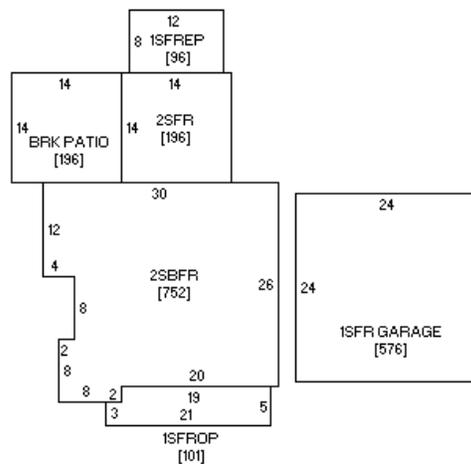
807 W. Fourth Street
 Address

Muscatine
 City

Location Map



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



(front – W. 4th Street)

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-01145

Related District Number 70-01005

Page 9

Mary A. Gordon House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

807 W. Fourth Street
Address

Muscatine
City

Photograph of building (digital image)

