

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 7 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 14 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Alexander Clark House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

203 West Third Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Muscatine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Muscatine

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Muscatine

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Muscatine

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Muscatine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1975
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Alexander Clark property consisted of a sloping area of land (approximately 120' x 60') bound by an alley (west), Chestnut Street (south), West Third Street (east), and a parking lot (north). Three structures, one brick (123-125 West Third) and the others frame (307,307 Chestnut) occupied the property in what is fast becoming a more heavily commercial than residential area. (This encroachment eventually necessitated moving the brick house in order to preserve it.) Still intact on the east and west sides of the lot was a handsome sidewalk composed of 6" square glazed brick with incised patterns on each face. The landscaping for all three buildings was simple: small areas of grass for the frame structures; fir hedges grass and one concrete and one stone retaining wall for the brick.

The brick double house is a two and one-half story gable-roofed rectangle, six bays wide with a front porch and two flat-roofed rear ells. It rests on a gentle slope behind a short concrete retaining wall with its ridge parallel to nearby West Third Street. Masonry and millwork distinguish the building with modest Italianate and classical details: pairs of small brackets and cornice returns at each corner; dentillation (or abbreviated brackets) under the eaves at each gable end; segmental and round arches of brick above 2/2 double hung sash windows. On the front these arches actually "protrude" into the cornice. The bay windows appear on the ground floor of the north and south sides.

The stone window sills are simple dressed and painted white. Today one brick chimney rises from the composite shingle roof. The front porch (added sometime between 1905 and 1919) consists of a pent roof overhang, three heavy square pilasters with capitals, a clapboard rail, and a lower range of lattice work. It is attached at the center of the building and serves to shelter the two central doorways and their flanking windows. Each doorway is topped with segmental arched transoms at the same height as the windows.

The two frame houses originally on the Clark property were two story gable roofed rectangles joined at right angles by a narrow frame addition and a full concrete and wood porch. Each was essentially three bays wide although an additional bay was created at some time by joining the two buildings and installing an extra window. Both buildings were covered by a thick asbestos shingle siding material. Aside from the overall shape and sitting, neither of these frame buildings bore any resemblance to its original clapboard wood shingle roofed appearance.

In May of 1975 the brick structure at 123-125 West Third was moved to 203 West Third. This move was necessitated by the City of Muscatine's plans for the construction of a H. U. D. elderly housing project on the original site of the house. The move, then, was the only means by which the building could be preserved following discussions among the various federal agencies involved including the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Advisory Council.

In addition, great care was taken to assure that the new site for this handsome structure would be compatible with it. Less than one half block from the original site, the new location is residential in use. The house now stands between two residences of similar scale and material and even period of architectural style. In fact, the new location is perhaps more suited to the building due to its high elevation; the building will be used as a museum house and vandalism will be less likely.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexander Clark (1826 - 1891) was an Afro-American political figure, orator, editor, and Mason of broad state and national importance. Historian L. N. Bergmann identifies him as being "the most prominent Negro in Iowa from Civil War days almost to the close of the century."

This historic significance derives to a substantial degree from the pronounced role he played on behalf of Black civil rights. Two activities stand out in particular. First, he vigorously pressed for the enactment of a state Black suffrage amendment when in 1868 he was the guiding spirit in the "Colored Convention" that was called in Des Moines to promote their cause. Second, it was Alexander Clark who successfully led the fight for the admission of Black children in all public schools in Iowa. In 1868, as a consequence of appeals arising from Clark's suit brought against the Muscatine school board for refusing to admit his twelve year old daughter to grammar school, the Supreme Court of Iowa ruled that a pupil could not be excluded from any common school on account of race, nationality, religion, or any other distinctions which would deny equality of educational opportunity.

Of equal significance was Alexander Clark's political prominence. Stumping the state of Iowa as well as most of the Southern states during the Reconstruction Era, his eloquent and powerful oratory for Negro rights and the Republican party soon gained him a reputation as "the colored orator of the West." He served as a delegate to the National Colored Convention held in Washington, D. C. in 1869. This body appointed him chairman of the committee to lay before Congress the bounty and pension claims of colored soldiers and seamen. Furthermore, the designated him to act as the spokesman of the committee that called upon President Grant and Vice President Colfax to extend to them the congratulations of the nation's Black citizens on their election. Along more strictly partisan lines, Clark participated actively in the State conventions of the Republican party. He was vice president of the Republican State Convention of 1869 as well as a delegate at large to the national convention of 1872. In 1873 President U. S. Grant appointed him consul to Aux Cayes, Haiti, a position he declined because of insufficient salary. He later accepted President Harrison's appointment in 1890 to be Minister Resident and Consul General to Liberia, and served there until his death the following year.

Clark's vigorous social leadership also left its imprint on Black communities across the country. As a worker in benevolent organizations, Alexander Clark had few equals. He held the position of Grand Master in the Masonic Order throughout the 1870's over the states of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado. It was Clark who organized all

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

I Primary Sources

A. City Directories

Mahin, John, Muscatine City Directory and Advertiser for 1856. Muscatine:
Printed at the "Enquirer" Office, 1856, page 55.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	663120	4587150
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Robert Veerhusen

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 17, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

207 Broadway Street

TELEPHONE

(319) 263-6379

CITY OR TOWN

Muscatine

STATE

Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

10/1/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/14/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/13/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Clark House ITEM NUMBER Eight PAGE One

the subordinate lodges in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi and assisted in organizing their Grand Lodges. During most of the 1880's Clark also edited and owned the Chicago Conservator, a boldly written newspaper in support of Black rights.

The principal residence of Alexander Clark throughout his productive life was located on his property (Lot 1, Block 55) at West Third and Chestnut Streets in Muscatine. Muscatine County Tax List and Deed records establish that he owned and paid taxes on this lot from 1849 until his death. Prior to mid-1879, Clark and his family lived in a frame dwelling situated on the southeast corner of the lot facing West Third: a building that had existed there since 1839. In June 1878 this home was devastated by fire suspected to have been ignited by arsonists. Within less than a month, however, it was reported that the charred remains were being torn down and that there would be "a handsome new house put up on the site this fall." By December 1878, \$4,000.00 had been put into construction of the new double brick residence and minor repairs made to the older residence on the lot. In the meantime the Clarks lived at 309 Chestnut on the far west corner of their lot. (Figures 6, 7) Evidently, Clark did not move immediately from this spot into what became his new brick house, for two contemporary city directories (Owen's Gazetteer and Directory of Muscatine County [1879]; A. H. Holland, Directory and Business Record of the City of Muscatine for 1883-1886) list Clark's residence as being 309 Chestnut. It seems likely that the family did eventually return to the southeast corner of the lot, however, for the brick building (Figures 3-5) was far superior to the frame structure in materials and appearance. This inference is supported by the signed statements of Mr. Harold Fuller and Mrs. Mable Motier referred to in the attached list of bibliographic sources.

Although the architectural significance of the frame structures which are included in this application might be considered slim, that, of the later double brick house is fairly strong. For the City of Muscatine and for the State of Iowa, this building is a fine and well-preserved example of a vernacular treatment of the Italianate style as it was interpreted by late nineteenth century builders and designers. Italianate segmental arched windows project into the frieze; classical but curved dentilation appears under the eaves; and scroll brackets drop from the corners. The birck Clark house is also one of few double brick houses remaining in Muscatine. With really two houses under one roof, the double nature of the building is revealed by the two adjacent entryways at the front.

In addition to being the property of a prominent citizen the entire Clark property is subtly bounded as a unit by its adjacent ornamental brick walkway. All three Clark residences are on the fringes of what is fast becoming a modern and semi-modern commercial, public facility area of Muscatine.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Clark House ITEM NUMBER Nine PAGE One

Williams' Muscatine Directory, City Guide and Business Mirror Volume I 1859-1860. Muscatine: R. M. Burnett, 1859, page 37.

Root, O. E., Root's Muscatine City Directory. Davenport: Luse & Griggs Publishing House, 1866, page 34.

Holland's Muscatine City Directory for 1869-1870. Chicago: Western Publishing Company, 1869, page 48.

VanPatten's Muscatine City Directory 1877-1878. Muscatine: Tribune Job Office Printers, page 32.

Owen's Gazetter and Directory of Muscatine County, 1879. page 53

Holland, A. H., Directory and Business Record of the City of Muscatine from 1883-1886. Ottumwa, Iowa: Branch Publication Office, page 55.

B. Official Muscatine Courthouse Records

Tax Lists for the City of Muscatine for the years 1854-1891.

Registered Deeds, Volume C, page 61; Volume J, page 107.

Mortgage Register Book, Volume 20, page 133.

C. Newspapers

Muscatine Daily Journal on the following dates:

July 1, 1878, page 4

July 22, 1878, page

December 31, 1878

August 12, 1890

August 25, 1890

October 3, 1890

May 31, 1940

Muscatine Evening Journal, September 18, 1893, page 3.

D. Recollections, Pamphlets, Scrapbooks

Signed statements by Mr. Harold Fuller and Mrs. Mable Motier testifying that their father (Anthony Fuller) stated he carried bricks at age 10 or 12 (1877-1879) for the brick house on Chestnut and Third Street and that he remembered Alexander Clark lived there. In Review Committee file for County 70, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Department of Iowa, B-13 MacLean Hall, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Clark House ITEM NUMBER Nine PAGE TWO

Photograph of Alexander Clark residence prior to June 30, 1878, with brief history of same, in scrapbook prepared for P. M. Musser Library by C. L. Graham, 1908-1910, entitled "Views of Early Muscatine, Pt. #1."

Rev. J. W. Laws, "Oration on the Life of Hon. Alexander Clark," with introductory statement by T. S. Parvin. Pamphlet at Division of Historical Society, State Historical Department of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

II SECONDARY SOURCES

Bergmann, Leola Nelson, "The Negro in Iowa," Iowa Journal of History and Politics. 46 (January, 1948), 50-53, 82.

Simmons, Rev. William J., Men of Mark: Eminent Progressive and Rising, 1887; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1968, pages 1097-100.

Gallagher, Ruth A., "A Colored Convention," The Palimpsest 2:6 (June, 1921), 178-181.

The United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Iowa Volume. American Biographical Publishing Company, 1878, pages 536-541.

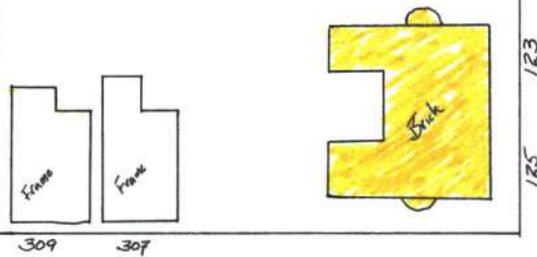
The History of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879, pages 597-598.

Briggs, John E., "Iowa and the Diplomatic Service," Iowa Journal of History and Politics, 19:3 (July, 1921), 321-365.

Comment by the editor, "The Inalienable Right of Education," Palimpsest 8:5 (May, 1927), 183.

Alley

Original location of
Clark Buildings

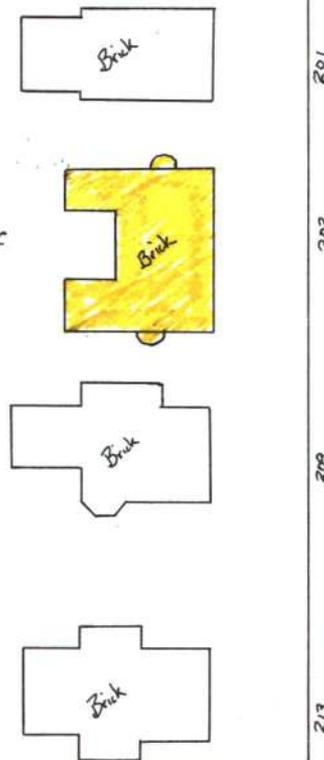


Chestnut Street

West Third Street

Alley

New site for
Clark House



MUSCATINE, IOWA

Building outlines from
1919 Sanborn Fire Maps

Scale 1"=50'





PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property The Clark Property

State Iowa

Working Number 3.21.75.444

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

~~Nothing appears incorrect called~~
~~map for the running~~

CONTROL

OK pl
3.21.75

Has solid Political, social and humanitarian significance.

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
4-2-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Lebovich
4-7-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-8-75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Submit
for Maltby
5.28.75

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back 6.3.75

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

Property Clark, Alexander, House

muscatine

State Iowa Working Number 3.21.75.444
10.7.76.4252

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1, Drawing

CONTROL

OK pl
OK 10.8.76

Movs seem to have preserved the integrity of the house. The historical importance of the property ~~is~~ remains.

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
L. S. Suggs
8 Oct 76

No photo of original ^{site} but I vaguely ^{house} remember it. It is UNFORTUNATE THAT ^{was} SEPARATED FROM STRUCTURES WHICH WERE RELATED BY OWNERSHIP AND OCCUPANCY. HOWEVER, **FRAME**

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBONKA
12 Oct 76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
COB
PO-12-76

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered OCT 14 1976
Federal Register Entry 12-7-76 Re-submit _____ INT:2106-74



Alexander Clark House
Muscatine, Muscatine Co., Iowa
Credit: Hans Muessig

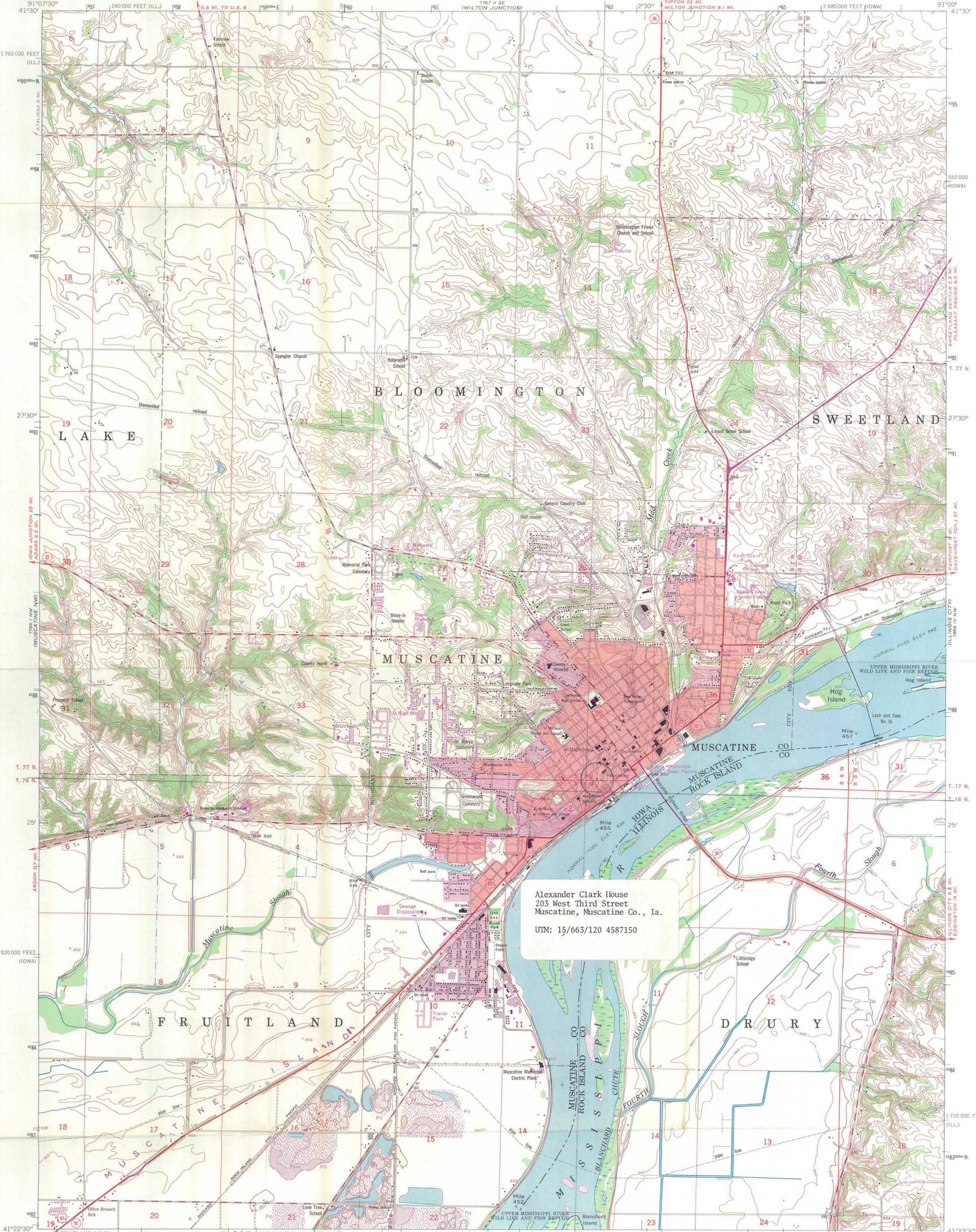
Date: 1976

Negative at: Division of Historic
Preservation, Iowa City, Ia.

Looking northwest OCT 7 1976

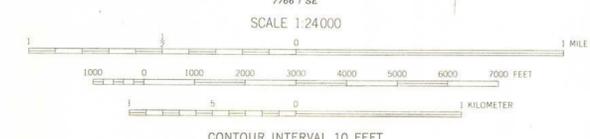
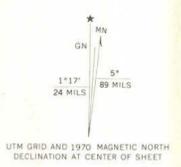
OCT 14 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Alexander Clark House
203 West Third Street
Muscatine, Muscatine Co., Ia.
UTM: 15/663/120 4587150

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCG&S, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952-1953. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Iowa coordinate system, south zone and
Illinois coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242,
IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240,
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MUSCATINE, IOWA-ILL.
NE/4 MUSCATINE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4122.5-W9100/7.5
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 7766 1 NE-SERIES V876



STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

March 18, 1975

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Please find enclosed herewith the completed and approved National Register nomination forms for the Clark Property, Muscatine, Iowa. We would appreciate it very much if you would have your staff review this nomination for National Register status.

Thank you for your courtesies and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Adrian D. Anderson, Director
Historic Preservation Officer

ADA:pah ✓

Enclosures

cc: City of Muscatine
Mrs. Robert Veerhusen



STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

May 16, 1975

Dr. William J. Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

This is to inform you that the Alexander Clark House (Brick) of Muscatine, Iowa has been moved to a new site: 209 West Third Street, Muscatine.

This move was necessitated by the City of Muscatine's plans for the construction of a H. U. D. elderly housing project on the original site of the house. The move, then, was the only means by which the building could have been preserved following discussions among the various federal agencies involved including the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Advisory Council.

In addition, great care was taken to assure that the new site for this handsome structure would be compatible with it. Less than one half block from the original site, the new location is residential in use. The house now stands between two residences of similar scale and material and even period of architectural style. In fact, the new location is perhaps more suited to the building due to its high elevation; the building will be used as a museum house and vandalism will be less likely.

Please consider this an amendment to the National Register nomination form for the Clark Property which was sent to your office earlier this year. Although that nomination form refers to three structures, only the brick structure will actually remain to be considered by the National Register.

Sincerely,



Adrian D. Anderson
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 3 1975

H34-PR

Mr. Adrian Anderson
Director, State Historical Department
Division of Historic Preservation
B-13 MacLean Hall
Lowa City, Iowa 52242

Dear Adrian:

Quite by coincidence, the Alexander Clark property nomination was on my desk for signature when your letter came. Because it has been moved, it would have been automatically delisted under the present policy if it had been registered. Since it has not yet been listed, we are returning it to you for the change of address, new or additional photo coverage, new coordinates on the form, and on the map, a paragraph on the salient points about the necessity for the move, and the appropriateness of the new location.

Sorry to have to put you to the trouble of preparing a new form, but we would be unable to make the necessary review without the additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)

Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National
Register

Enclosure

bcc: DG-Advisory Council

Director's Reading File
DI
PR

FNP: C Herrington:fdf 5-29-75 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR

207 Broadway
Muscatine, Iowa
Sept. 13, 1976

Senator Dick Clark
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Clark:

At the suggestion of the Hon. Fred Schwengel, President of the United States Capitol Historical Society, I am writing to you to request that you work with him and Sen. Culver to secure a listing as a National Historic Site on the National Register for the Alexander Clark House in Muscatine.

The story of Alexander Clark, a Black Leader of the 19th Century, was forgotten for nearly a hundred year, and discovered by a small group of women just before it was slated for demolition for a Low-Rent Housing Development. At that time, it was recommended to the National Register by Adrian Andersen, State Historic Preservation Officer.

In May, 1975, it was moved up the street to a new site, and then another recommendation was submitted for listing on the National Register in April, 1976. At this time we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining such a recognition for what, to my knowledge, is one of three existing houses of 19th Century Black Leaders in the country.

Mr. Schwengel has more information on Alexander Clark, but here is a short statement:

Clark was born a free man in Pennsylvania in 1826, and came to Iowa in 1842. When his daughter, Susan, was refused admittance to Public Schools, he started a series of law suits which resulted in the Iowa Supreme Court decision, 1868, that Iowa schools be open to all children. In 1868 he led the fight for the amendment for enfranchisement to the Iowa Constitution. His son, Alexander, Jr., became the first black to graduate from the University of Iowa (L.L.B. 1879) and Clark received his L.L.B. in 1884 at age 57. He became editor-owner of the Chicago Conservator where his writings on civil rights became part of the political literature of the day. In 1890 he was appointed Minister and Consul General to Liberia by President Harrison. He died in Liberia at his post in 1891. At that time he was called one of the top leading men of his race in the country,

We feel that Iowa was honored to be the home of such an outstanding leader, and hope that his house will be preserved as a monument to the achievements of a Black Leader of the 19th Century and as an inspiration to the youth of the 20th Century.

We will appreciate yours, Sen. Culver's and Mr. Schwengel's help in obtaining National Registry listing for the Clark House.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Veerhusen
Mrs. Robert Veerhusen

cc. Hon. Fred Schwengel

HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA., CHAIRMAN
JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS. CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.
GEORGE MC GOVERN, S. DAK. GEORGE D. AIKEN, VT.
JAMES H. ALLEN, ALA. MILTON R. YOUNG, N. DAK.
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, MINN. ROBERT DOLE, KANS.
WALTER D. HUDDLESTON, KY. HENRY BELLMON, OKLA.
DICK CLARK, IOWA JESSE HELMS, N.C.
COTYS M. MOUSER, CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 19, 1976

Congressional Liaison Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir/Madam:

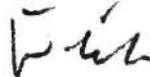
Attached for your consideration is a copy of a letter I received from Mrs. Robert Veerhusen with respect to the efforts of citizens of Muscatine, Iowa to have the Alexander Clark House placed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

I am happy to indicate my interest in this effort, and to ask that it be given every appropriate consideration.

Please direct your reply to my office in the Federal Building, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dick Clark

DC:cb
enclosure

September 28, 1976

Honorable Dick Clark
United States Senator
Federal Building
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Senator Clark:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter on behalf of Mrs. Robert Vechnusen concerning a nomination of the Alexander Clark House to the National Register of Historic Places.

We appreciate your interest and will provide you a reply at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Gary E. Richards
Director

cc: Your Washington Office

LS (2) w/incoming
FNP: CRBraxton; crb: 9-28-76

rec'd 3-21-75
referred to state
6.3.75

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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WILLIAM L. SCOTT, VA.
ROBERT TAFT, JR., OHIO
DEWEY F. BARTLETT, OKLA.

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 28, 1976

William J. Murtaugh
Office of Archeology and
Historical Preservation
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murtaugh:

It has been brought to my attention that the Alexander Clark Home in Muscatine, Iowa, has been submitted to your office for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

I would like to request that you give every appropriate consideration to this nomination.

I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN C. CULVER

JCC:dpt

333 Federal Building
Davenport, Iowa 52801

STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

1 October 1976

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Sir:

The enclosed nomination for the Alexander Clark House, Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa, is submitted for your consideration for the National Register of Historic Places. Procedures used by this office to meet requirements pertaining to public notification and comment have been approved by, and are on file in, your office.

This property was approved at the state level in April, 1976. Much to our embarrassment, we discovered only today that the nomination had not gone forward to your office, contrary to our own beliefs. Therefore, we would appreciate any measures you may be able to take to expedite consideration of the Clark House for the Register.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


Adrian D. Anderson
State Historic Preservation Officer

enc

October 6, 1976

Honorable John C. Culver
United States Senator
333 Federal Building
Des Moines, Iowa 52801

Dear Senator Culver:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter concerning the nomination of the Alexander Clark Home in Muscatine, Iowa, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We appreciate your interest and will provide you a reply at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Everhardt
Director

cc: Your Washington Office

190 (2) w/incoming
FNP:CRBraxton:erb:10-6-76

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **IOWA**

Date Entered **OCT 14 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Clark, Alexander, House	Muscatine Muscatine County

Also Notified

Hon. Dick Clark
Hon. John C. Culver
Hon. Edward Mezvinsky
Regional Director, Midwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Director, State Historical Department
Division of Historic Preservation
B-13 MacLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

880 MMott/row 10/22/76

H34-880

Brayton 10/16
Lutz
Warrington
for
Murtagh
Murtagh
for Rogers
Wood for 10/16
Whelan 10/17

OCT 7 1976

Honorable Dick Clark
United States Senator
Federal Building
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Dear Senator Clark:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Mrs. Robert Veerhusen concerning the nomination of the Alexander Clark House in Muscatine, Iowa, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination for the Alexander Clark House was received by the National Register office, March 21, 1975. It was returned to the State for additional information and we have been advised that the forms are now complete and will be forwarded to the National Register without delay. As soon as we receive the forms on the Alexander Clark House, we will expedite the review of the nomination and advise you immediately if the property is listed in the National Register.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally

Associate

Director

cc: Your Washington Office
bcc:
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Director
State Historical Department
Division of Historic Preservation
B-13 McLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242) w/c of inc.

bcc:
Regional Dir., Midwest)

001-Reading File/ 700/ 760/ 880) 160-Curry) 190) / 190-Dir. Chron.

ENP:MLutz:aep:10/6/76
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

H34-880

OCT 18 1976

Beaton 10/12
Lutz
Col. for
Karrington
Murphy for
Rogers
Wood 10/15
Whitaker 10/15

Honorable John C. Culver
United States Senator
333 Federal Building
Davenport, Iowa 52801

MUSCATINE

Dear Senator Culver:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the nomination of the Alexander Clark House in Muscatine, Iowa, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to advise you that the Alexander Clark House was entered in the National Register on October 14, 1976. A leaflet is enclosed which describes the National Register program.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally

Director

Enclosure

cc:
Your Washington Office

bcc:
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Director
State Historical Department
Division of Historic Preservation
B-13 MacLean Hall
IOWA City, Iowa 52242) a/c of inc.

Regional Director Midwest)
001 - Reading File / 160-Curry) / 190) / 190-Dir. Chron.
700
760 / 880

*(BASIC FILE RETAINED IN *880)*

FNP:M Lutz:lf:10-15-76

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Alexander Clark Home, Muscatine, Iowa.*

TO/FROM: *Bertine Motley*

DATE: *12.21.78 / 3:00 PM*

ADDRESS:

PHONE: *319/362-8521*

STAFF MEMBER: *B. Frandsen*

DIVISION: *N.R.*

REPORT:

*Not at home - left name + telephone #
will call tomorrow.*

@ 1/4/79 (I think)

Ms. Motley replied to my call.

*Explained ~~over~~ that we could not act on her behalf
saying that grants were controlled by State & she
must find matching money for grant.*

*She said that sale of property had been decided
on & she would be working with I.A. staff.*

Wed. Dec. 20th at 3:10 I received a call from:

Bertine Motley 319/362-8521

She has an EMERGENCY

The Alexander Clark House in Muscatine, Iowa is scheduled for demolition Jan. 7th or earlier. House is listed on the Register she says, and she and others want to pull out all stops to save it.

Today, Thurs. Dec. 21, she is appearing on a talk show at station WQAD in Rock Island, IA. from 11:30 - 1:30. She suggested you try to reach her there - use your discretion, but do call, as she has talked to David Hales ofc. about this also. Thanks.

Sally Mayer

*SALLY just want 5741
same to call her - a sentence.*

- 4678

Dorothy Briel

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Alexander Clark House , Muscatine, Iowa

TO/FROM: M. Bowers

DATE: 12.21.78

ADDRESS: Iowa SHPO staff

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: B. Frandsen

DIVISION: NAT.REG.

REPORT:

Marty said that Pat Eckhardt, grants manager, had the most information but she is out today.

Ms. Bertine Motley is the owner of the A. Clark House, (home of national prominent Black activist during reconstruction period, and US Consul to Liberia, etc).

The City of Muscatine has, since the structure was moved in '76 attempted to be lenient with Ms. Motley about bringing the structure up to code. Evidently the foundation was faulty and little work has been done on it since. Iowa has continued to offer her a grant, holding the money while she sought a match. She has not been able to find one as yet. and Iowa has not been able to give her the money needed to bring the house up to minimum code requirements of the City. It faces demolition as an eyesore and public safety hazard as it is not even fenced off and is serious need of stabilization. Ms. Motley does not seem to have the experience to organize a drive for the matching money.

It has been suggested that she sell the structure to someone who can come up with the necessary money, but she seems to have refused this idea, despite the fact that ~~there~~ there are some offers and interested parties.

Her style is to contact everyone, so calling Hales was not unusual, it appears.

Iowa has been very interested in preserving this house but is unable to do so until Ms. Motley either sells or gets organized enough to get the matching funds together.

X

DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
IOWA STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

JAN 20 1979

ADRIAN D. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

January 23, 1979

Mr. John Frisbie
National Trust for Historic Preservation
740 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Frisbie:

We talked on the phone on Tuesday about the plight of the Alexander Clark House in Muscatine, Iowa which is endangered. I asked you if it would qualify for the Trust's funds for endangered properties, and you asked me to supply you with more information upon which to base a judgement. Below follows a brief description of the situation and attached are historical research materials and documentation for the building.

The Alexander Clark House is certainly endangered. The City of Muscatine, after many requests to the owners to repair the building and granting of many "one more chances," lost its patience and voted to demolish the building on December 6, 1978. We intervened and requested a postponement of this demolition until March 6, 1979 to give us time to find a buyer for the building with the desire and ability to restore the building and satisfy the city housing code. This was granted.

We now need a buyer, and a loan from you would certainly encourage one and precipitate the saving of the building. In addition to needing a new owner, the building is in very unstable condition, needing immediate attention to its structure. We have already received approval for a stabilization grant from H.C.R.S. for \$8,000 for this work. Even with this funding, it will be hard to find a buyer willing to take on such a project.

We need to know if you think this property qualifies for a Trust grant and what your program has to offer in the way of terms, interest rates and time frames. Please make a determination soon as time is short to save the building.

I know that only you can determine national significance, but we believe that Alexander Clark, active from early on in the Equal Rights Movement and an Ambassador to Liberia has national significance.

Sincerely,



Patricia Eckhardt
Grants Coordinator



X

7

ALEXANDER CLARK PROPERTY

Alexander Clark (1826-91) was an Afro-American political figure, orator, editor and Mason of broad state and national importance. Historian L. N. Bergmann identifies him as being "the most prominent Negro in Iowa from Civil War days almost to the close of the century."

This historic significance derives to a substantial degree from the pronounced role he played on behalf of the Black civil rights. Two activities stand out in particular. First, he vigorously pressed for the enactment of a state black suffrage amendment when in 1868 he was a guiding spirit in the "Colored Convention" that was called in Des Moines to promote their cause. Second, it was Alexander Clark who successfully led the fight for the admission of black children to all public schools in Iowa. In 1868, as a consequence of appeals arising from Clark's suit brought against the Muscatine school board for refusing to admit his twelve-year-old daughter to grammar school, the Supreme Court of Iowa ruled that a pupil could not be excluded from any common school on account of race, nationality, religion, or any other distinctions which would deny equality of educational opportunity.

Of equal significance was Alexander Clark's political prominence. Stumping the state of Iowa as well as most of the Southern states during the Reconstruction Era, his eloquent and powerful oratory for Negro rights and the Republican party soon gained him a reputation as "the colored orator of the



West." He served as a delegate to the National Colored Convention held in Washington, D. C. in 1869. This body appointed him chairman of the committee to lay before Congress the bounty and pension claims of colored soldiers and seamen. Furthermore, they designated him to act as the spokesman of a committee that called upon President Grant and Vice President Colfax to extend to them the congratulations of the nation's black citizens on their election. Along more strictly partisan lines, Clark participated actively in the State conventions of the Republican party. He was a vice president of the Republican State Convention of 1869 as well as a delegate at large to the national convention of 1872. In 1873 President U. S. Grant appointed him consul to Aux Cayes, Haiti, a position he declined because of the insufficient salary. He later accepted President Harrison's appointment in 1890 to be Minister Resident and Consul General to Liberia, and served there until his death the following year.

Clark's vigorous social leadership also left its imprint on black communities across the country. As a worker in benevolent organizations, Alexander Clark had few equals. He held the position of Grand Master in the Masonic Order throughout the 1870's over the states of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota and Colorado. It was Clark who organized all the subordinate lodges in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi and assisted in organizing their Grand Lodges. During most of the 1880's Clark also edited and owned the Chicago Conservator, a boldly written newspaper in support of Black rights.

3
X

The principal residence of Alexander Clark throughout his productive life was located on his property (Lot 1, Block 55) at West Third and Chestnut Streets in Muscatine. Muscatine County Tax List and Deed records establish that he owned and paid taxes on this lot from 1849 until his death. Prior to mid-1879, Clark and his family lived in a frame dwelling situated on the southeast corner of the lot facing West Third: a building that had existed there since 1839. In June, 1879 this home was devastated by fire suspected to have been ignited by arsonists. Within less than a month, however, it was reported that the charred remains were being torn down and that there would be "a handsome new house put up on the site this fall." In the meantime the Clarks lived at 309 Chestnut on the far west corner of their lot. (Figures 6, 7) Evidently, Clark did not move immediately from this spot into what became his new brick house, for two contemporary city directories (Owen's Gazetter and Directory of Muscatine County (1879); A. H. Holland, Directory and Business Record of the City of Muscatine for 1883-1886) list Clark's residence as being 309 Chestnut. It seems likely that the family did eventually return to the southeast corner of the lot, however, for the brick building (Figures 3-5) was far superior to the frame structure in materials and appearance. This inference is supported by the signed statements of Mr. Harold Fuller and Mrs. Mable Motier referred to in the attached list of bibliographic sources.

The Alexander Clark Property consists of a sloping area of land (approximately 120' x 60') bound by an alley (west),



Chestnut Street (south), West Third (east) and a parking lot (north). Three structures, one brick (125-123 West Third, Figure 3) and the others frame (307,309 Chestnut, Figure 5) occupy the property in what is fast becoming a more heavily commercial than residential area. Even within the boundaries of the lot itself, parking lots intrude on an area where outbuildings, such as stables, once stood. Still intact on the east and west sides of the lot is a handsome sidewalk composed of 6" square glazed brick with incised patterns on each face (Figure 3). The landscaping for all three buildings is simple: small areas of grass for the frame structures; fir hedges, grass and one concrete and one stone retaining wall for the brick.

The brick double house (Figures 3-5) is a two and one-half story gable-roofed rectangle, six bays wide with a front porch and two flat-roofed rear ells. It rests on a gentle slope behind a short concrete retaining wall with its ridge parallel to nearby West Third Street. Masonry and mill work distinguish the building with modest Italianate and classical details: pairs of small brackets and cornice returns at each corner; dentillation (or abbreviated brackets) under the eaves at each gable end; segmental and round arches of brick above the 2/2 double hung sash windows. On the front, these arches actually "protrude" into the cornice. Two bay windows appear on the ground floor of the north and south sides.

The stone window sills are simply dressed and painted white. Today, one brick chimney rises from the composite

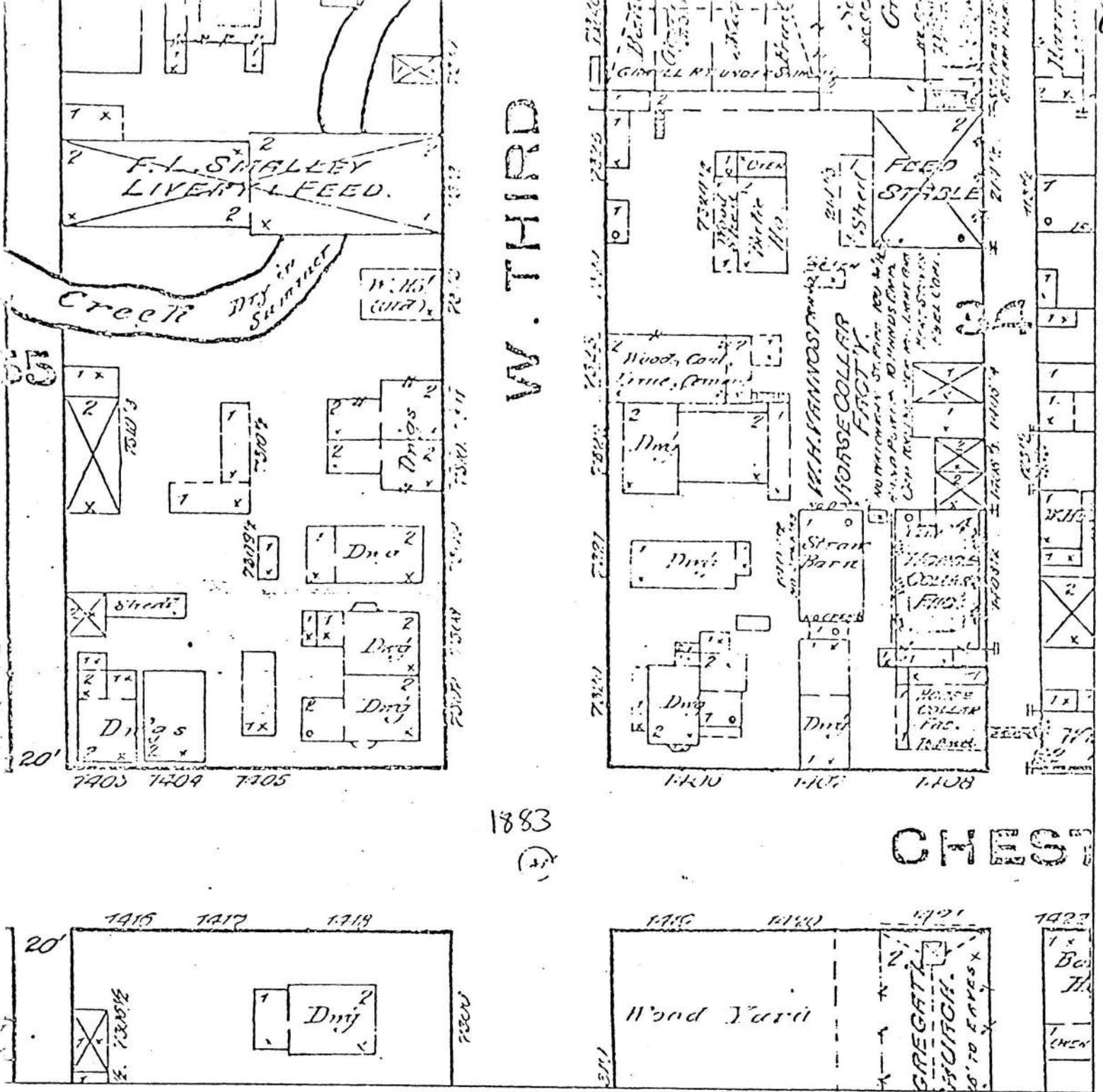
X

shingle roof. The front porch (added sometime between 1905 and 1919) consists of a pent roof overhang, three heavy square pilasters with capitals, a clapboard rail and a lower range of lattice work. It is attached at the center of the building and serves to shelter the two central doorways and their flanking windows. Each doorway is topped with segmental arched transoms at the same height as the windows.

The two frame houses on the Clark property are two story gable roofed rectangles joined at right angles by a narrow frame addition and a full front concrete and wood porch (Figures 6, 7). Each is essentially three bays wide although an additional bay was created at some time by joining the two buildings and installing an extra window. Both buildings are covered by a thick asbestos shingle siding material. The ridge of the far west structure (309 Chestnut) is parallel to the street. Its gable pitch is much lower than that of what is assumed to be its younger neighbor (307 Chestnut) to the east. Both houses have double hung sash windows and the doorway of each is at the right of center. Concrete steps to the side provide approaches to the doorways. At the rear, each building has a one-story pent roofed addition. That of 309 Chestnut was added sometime before 1883 and the other by 1888. 309 Chestnut also shows a two story flat roofed section between the pent roofed addition and the main block. Maps show that this addition has existed since before 1883 also. Each building has one brick chimney near the center of the composite single roof. An additional stack appears in what must have been the summer kitchen of 307.

The foundation of each building is covered with cement. Aside from the overall shape and siting, neither of these frame buildings bears resemblance to its original clapboard wood shingle roofed appearance.

At this point, no investigation of the interior of these buildings has been made. While none of them is unique in Iowa architecture, 307 Chestnut appears to be a very early example of domestic architecture in Muscatine and the brick dwelling at 123-125 West Third a well preserved and handsome example of double house Italianate construction.



1883

FIGURE 1

1883 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP INDICATING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES LOCATED ON ALEXANDER CLARK'S PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF MUSCATINE (BLOCK 55, LOT 1).

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 8 Oct 76 KP
Reviewer: INITIALS: [Signature]
NR
OCT 14 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Clark, Alexander, House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION: 203 W. 3rd St.

CITY, TOWN: Muscatine

STATE: IOWA 19

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

COUNTY code: Muscatine 139

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1 unknown-4 not applicable-7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2 unknown-5 not applicable-8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3 unknown-6 Not applicable-9
No
-Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED Unexcavated
UNALTERED ALTERED Reconstructed Excavated
ORIGINAL SITE MOVED Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- HOUSE

now- MUSEUM

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY) Black history
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Italianate detail*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *Black*

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal *Alexander Clark, 1879-91* OWNER - Black
Political leader, orator, editor and Mason.

events

institutional *Republican Party,*
Iowa Public Schools

Masonic Order
Chicago Conservator

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1879-1891

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

moved, 1975

restored

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Brick, 2 1/2 stories, U-shaped, gabled roof, interior chimney, twin front center entrances each with segmental-arched transom, 1-story front entrance porch, 1-story polygonal side bays, segmental-arched openings, paired cornice brackets at corners; 2-story flat roof rear ell; moved, 1975. Italianate. Double house built for Alexander Clark; political figure, orator, editor, Mason and state's most prominent Black from Reconstruction to his death in 1891. Museum.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

~~*Alexander Clark, the most prominent Black in Iowa during Reconstruction and Gilded Age, built and lived in this house through most of his career.*~~