

PH0077593

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	IOWA
COUNTY:	MUSCATINE
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	1 8 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
~~Octagon House~~ or Sinnett Octagon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Octagon Place of Samuel de Sinnette

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N of Muscatine near IA 38
~~Rural Route 2~~

CITY OR TOWN: Muscatine VIC

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Iowa CODE: 14 COUNTY: Muscatine CODE: 139

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. Chas. G. Sleichter

STREET AND NUMBER: 302 Highland Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Iowa City STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Muscatine STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: IOWA

COUNTY: MUSCATINE

ENTRY NUMBER: 18574

DATE: 1 8 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A combination Italian villa and Greek Revival style this Octagon House is a two story brick building with bracketed eaves, corner pilasters and porch columns. Interesting details are the two-story south bay window area, the eight-sided brick cupola and cast-iron star clamps. The house stands as it did in the mid-nineteenth century--alone, on a knoll and at the end of a tree-lined drive.

All openings are symmetrically placed except on the west side. The main entrance is on the southeast side. The double-hung windows have wood sills. Those on the east side were once floor level and those on the main facades have flanking louvered shutters. Eight Doric-like columns support the entablature and dentiled cornice of the porch. Each corner of the building is accentuated by a 16" cap-like pilaster, a form which is repeated in the cupola.

A 19" wide sandstone random ashlar foundation supports the upper brick walls which range in thickness from 13" to 9". Each of the eight sides is 18 feet long. Ceilings are 12' 8" and, on the second floor, 9' 4". There are eight rectangular, four small triangular rooms and a viewing room in the cupola which is reached by a graceful elliptical stairway. All eight fireplaces are sealed off but the original mantels remain. Transoms appear above each doorway and the original native walnut woodwork has survived though covered in many layers of paint.

An underground tunnel with access through the basement extends quite a distance from the building.

A 1912 frame kitchen addition appears at the rear. The house itself has been painted a light green, the shutters dark green.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1855**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sinnett Octagon House or "Octagon Place" is a particularly graceful and well preserved representative of a particular planning style promoted in the 19th century.

✓ Samuel de Sinnette, decendant of a French aristocratic family of Huguenots who fled to Ireland when the "Edict of Nantes" was revoked by Louis XIV, came to Iowa and bought a 320 acre tract in 1840 and started to build the Octagon House, which he designed, in 1855.

The Sinnettes lived graciously and did much entertaining of visitors and friends in their home. Samuel was a friend and co-worker of Dr. James Wee, early Iowa horticulturalist and fruit grower, who lived on an adjoining farm to the south and east.

Because of the relatively new octagon houses built in the United States, local sentiment is that "Octagon Place" should be preserved. Dr. Chas. Sleichter, present owner, is greatly interested in preserving the house and grounds around it to whatever extent that seems necessary.

The threat to the destruction of the house is the proposed by-pass of U. S. Highway 61 around the City of Muscatine. The Iowa Highway Commission has not yet made a survey for the location of the by-pass, but local interests will have to be vigilant when the planning stage arrives.

As of January 1974 the site will be incorporated into the City of Muscatine due to a passed referendum of annexation November 1972.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"City Museum Committee Views Historic Building." Muscatine Journal, February 25, 1965.
 Gallaher, Ruth A. "Octagon Place." The Palimpsest (Iowa City: The State Historical Society of Iowa), 1948, pp. 33-38.
 Shane, George. "Iowa's Eight-Sided Houses and the Legends Behind Them." Des Moines Register, February 2, 1958.
 Sissel, Dewey Kent. The Octagon Form in Nineteenth Century Domestic Architecture of Iowa, Unpublished Thesis, University of Iowa, 1968.
 Finch, Hortense. Unpublished notes to Davenport Times-Democrat article.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

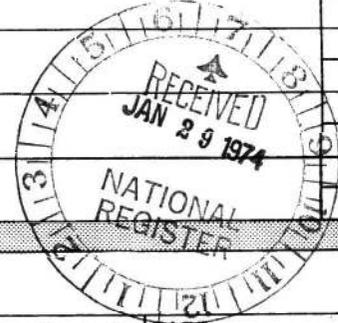
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41	27	75"
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				12"
SW	° ' "	° ' "				50"

UTM
15/64500
4595720

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.3 acres in the fenced area

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James B. Tracy

ORGANIZATION: For Mrs. C. Maxwell Stanley, member of the Board of Advisors, National Trust for Historic Preservation DATE: January 13, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 Laurel Street

CITY OR TOWN: Muscatine STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Adrian D. Anderson</u></p> <p>Title <u>Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>8 January, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>AR Montross</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/18/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Wm. Mustag</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7.17.74</u></p>
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PROPERTY Octagon House on Sennett STATE Iowa

74000802
muscatine

WORKING NUMBER 1.29.74, 160

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 2
MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW
OK

cm
2.4
74

HISTORIAN
Accept
w.r. Linn
4/15/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
*Justification for "aboriginal - historic" +
"landscape architecture" sig?
talked to Elisabeth Foxley - both should be
taken off the form -*
Accept
J. Sherman
4-12-74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
Accept
Cole
7/16/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER
com
7/17

National Register Write-up August 26, 1974

Federal Register entry Sept. 3, 1974

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered July 18 1974



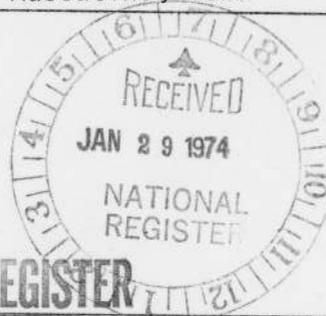
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Octagon House	Octagon Place - of Samuel de Sinnette	<i>July</i> 18 18 1974
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Iowa	Muscatine	Muscatine
STREET AND NUMBER		
R. R. #2		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Colonial Studios	February 3, 1973	Colonial Studios 315 West Third Street Muscatine, Iowa
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

10/2
Front of house, facing east.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Colonial Studios	February 3, 1973	Colonial Studios 315 West Third Street Muscatine, Iowa
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

South Side of House

#20/2



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	IOWA	
COUNTY	MUSCATINE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
000 18	1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:	Octagon House or Sinnett Octagon House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Octagon Place of Samuel de Sinnette

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
Rural Route #2			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Muscatine			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Iowa	14	Muscatine	139

3. MAP REFERENCE

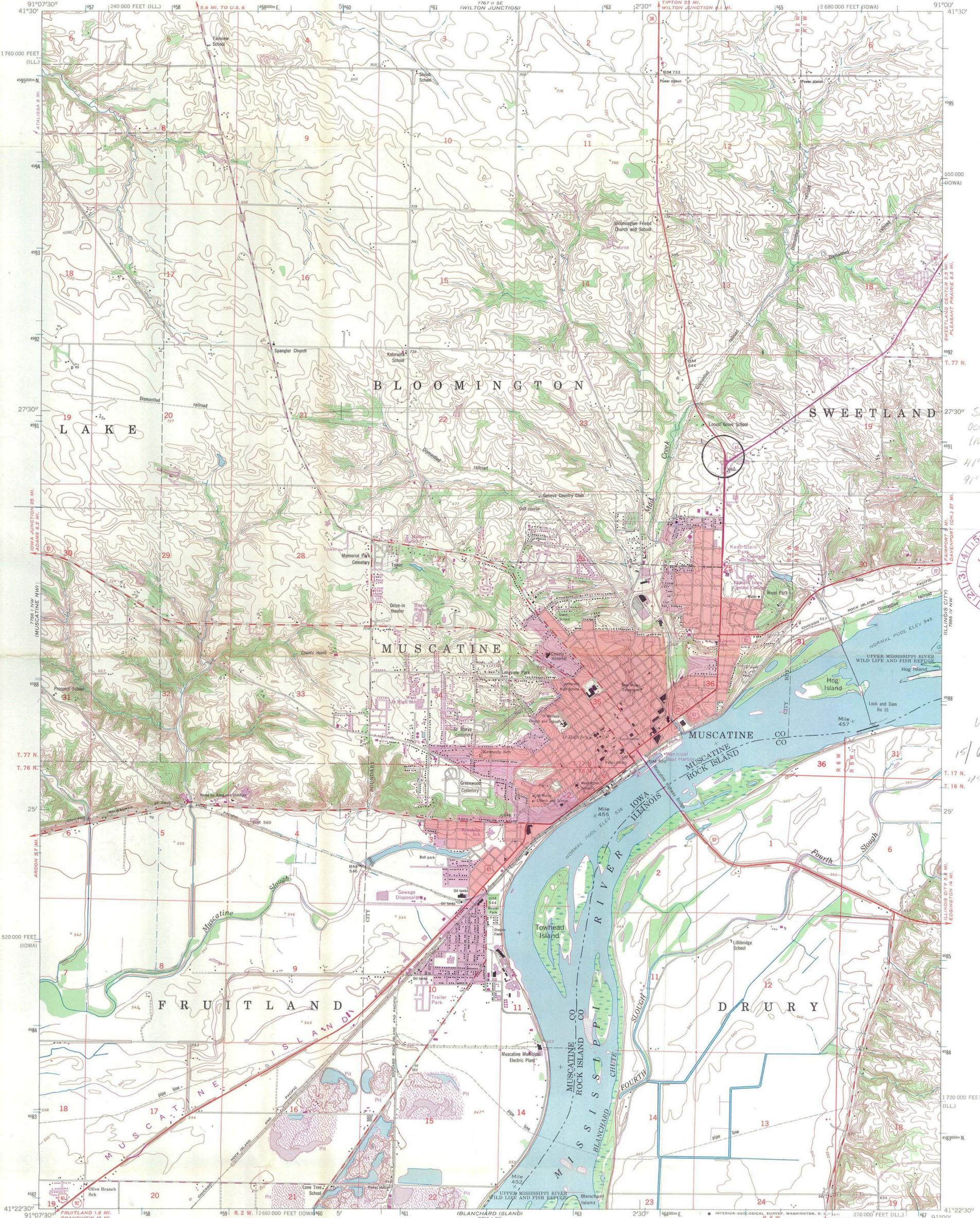
SOURCE:	U. S. G. S.
SCALE:	1:24000
DATE:	1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference. 41° 27' 15" 91° 01' 32"



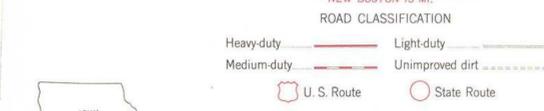
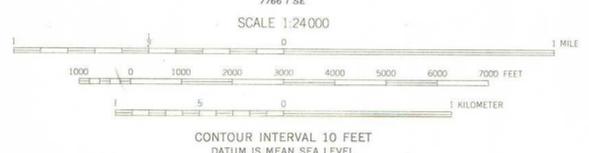
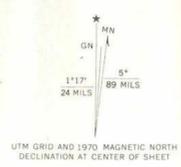


Sinnett
Octagon House
(Muscatine)
41° 01' 12"
91° 01' 50"



UTM
15/664500
1190720
CD

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, 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 I NE-SERIES V876



STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the nomination of the Octagon House, Muscatine County, Iowa to the National Register of Historic Places has been approved by a majority of the State Review Committee for Historic Sites. We recommend transmittal of the nomination forms to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

Leave of Absence
Dr. Robert L. Alexander Date

Marshall McKusick 4 Jan 74
Dr. Marshall McKusick Date

Robert R. Dykstra 10-31-73
Dr. Robert R. Dykstra Date

Wesley I. Shank 14 Aug. 1973
Mr. Wesley I. Shank Date

David Gradwohl 7 AUG 73
Dr. David Gradwohl Date

Gerry Schnepf 1-2-74
Mr. Gerry Schnepf Date

Jack Musgrove Dec 3, 73
Mr. Jack Musgrove Date

Peter T. Harstad 8/28/73
Dr. Peter T. Harstad Date

Adrian D. Anderson 1/8/74
Mr. Adrian D. Anderson Date

COMMISSIONERS

LES LICKLIDER, CHAIRMAN—CHEROKEE
THOMAS A. BATES—BELLEVUE
JIM D. BIXLER—COUNCIL BLUFFS
JOHN G. LINK—BURLINGTON
JOHN C. THOMPSON—FOREST CITY
HERBERT T. REED—WINTERSET
CAROLYN T. LUMBARD—DES MOINES



404-355-1842

FRED A. PRIEWERT, Director
300 Fourth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515/281-5145

An EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Agency

January 22, 1974

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



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Please find enclosed herewith the completed National Register nomination forms for the Naylor House, Polk County, the Octagon House, Muscatine County, the Jonathan Clark Conger House, Washington County, and the Melan Bridge, Lyon County, Iowa.

We would appreciate it very much if you would have your staff review these forms for National Register status.

Thank you for your courtesies and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Shay
Secretary
State Historic Preservation Program
B-13 MacLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

/pas

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE IOWA

Date Entered

July 18, 1974
~~July 18, 1974~~

Name

Location

~~Octagon House of~~ **Sinnett Octagon House**

**Muscatine vicinity
Muscatine County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Harold E. Hughes
Hon. Richard C. Clark
Hon. Edward Mezvinsky
Regional Director, Midwest Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Adrian Anderson
Planner
State Conservation Commission
B-13 MacLean Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242**

PR

MMott/row

7/23/74