

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

State Inventory No. 70-00203 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 Alexander Clark House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-040

2. Location

street & number 203-205 W. Third St. (also 205-207) – originally at 123-125 W. Third St
 city or town Muscatine vicinity, county Muscatine
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 54 Lot(s) (EX N 32' E 22') Lot 4

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 Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	<u>1</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____	_____
	_____	<u>1</u>	_____
	Total	_____	_____
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			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>01B01: Domestic/Multiple dwelling/duplex</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Late Victorian/Italianate</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 203-205 W. Third
City Muscatine

Site Number 70-00203
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

02: Architecture

Significant Dates

Construction date

1878-79 check if circa or estimated date

Other dates

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Alexander Clark

Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder

Mayes & Hinide

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 Daniel G. Clark; Jim Rudisill (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date January 16, 2006

street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1550

city or town Muscatine state IA zip code 52761

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____

- See continuation sheet or attached **photo & slide catalog sheet** for list of photo roll or slide entries.
- Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or non-contributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

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7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, Italianate house. It sets on a brick foundation. The walls are brick. The combination roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house is located on an elevated interior lot that slopes sharply down on the south elevation. There is a more gradual slope at the back (north) and side elevations. The building is arranged as a double house, with front entrances to each side of the building located in the middle bay. Two similar, brick chimneys are located on the back half of the roof at the east and west ends of the building. This building was moved from its original site in 1975 as an alternative to demolition. The back yard has been landscaped with a walking path, vegetation and wood decking.

The front (south) elevation features a symmetrical side gable front with the first-story openings of the middle bay providing separate front entrances to each side of the house. The entrances are accessed from an elevated wood deck that includes a short set of steps on its west side. A railing extends along the steps and the outside of the deck. The two entrances are similar. Segmental arches, created by a double rowlock of brick, crown each door opening. A non-historic, wood door with a center louver is located in each opening. Narrow sidelights flank each door and a transom is present above each door. The tops of the sidelights and transom are arched to follow the general shape of the entrance top. All the remaining openings on the façade are historic, two-over-two-light, double-hung wood windows. Similar, double rowlock arches are located over these windows, as well as the building's remaining door and window openings. The windows have simple stone sills. Two windows on each story are located in each bay of the front elevation. Each opening is aligned with the corresponding opening on the other floor. The roof overhang is supported by a series of brackets along the entire length of the side gable.

The east side elevation features two openings on the first and second stories and an attic window on the gable end. The first- and second-story openings are aligned and each contains a window. The back opening on each story is centered on the back half of the wall. The front window in each row is located to the left of the wall's midline. The attic window, which contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes, is centered in the upper gable. Similar arches and sills as the front are present on all the openings, except for a bay window that is located on the back opening of the first story. The bay window has a flat top and contains arched, one-over-one-light, double-hung wood sashes in each bay. The bay window sets on a foundation that includes single-light, fixed windows in each bay. The remaining first-story window contains one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. A series of brackets supports the roof overhang. This elevation also contains the east parapet wall of a rear extension that projects out from the back wall. Several brackets also support the cornice of the parapet wall, which contains a single, arched one-over-one-light, double-hung window towards the rear of the extension. A second extension projects from the first addition. It appears to be a wood frame addition that was apparently constructed between 1919 and 1928, according to Sanborn maps.

The west side elevation shows the same features and fenestration on its gable end as the east side gable end. The back window of the first story has also been converted to a bay window. The rear extension on this side however is a two-story projection that contains a first-story window with one-over-

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one-light, double-hung sashes on its west wall. A similar, second-story window is aligned directly above the first-story opening. The back portion of this projection features an open porch.

The rear elevation shows the most alteration. A non-historic wood deck extends along the entire width of the back. A relatively steep shed roof extends from the main side gable and covers the east extension. The small wood frame addition is attached to the back of the east extension. The two-story west extension covers most of the west half of the elevation. A pair of one-over-one-light, double-hung, historic windows is located on the first-story and to the left of the east extension. A single, arched, two-over-two-light, double hung window is located on the second story and directly above these first-story windows. A similar second-story window is located just to the left of the two-story west extension. A centered breakfast nook or similar small addition projects out from the first-story's back wall. This addition contains two, rear-facing, non-historic windows with one-over-one-light sashes that appear to be fixed. The rear wall of the west extension contains a first-story entrance on its left side. The entrance contains flush-mounted, non-historic storm and interior doors. The west extension has no second-story openings on its south wall, but a small, second-story window is located on the extension's east elevation.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Alexander Clark House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C on October 14, 1976. Alexander Clark, a free black man, originally constructed the house at 123-125 W. Third in 1878-79. Two other frame buildings were also constructed on the same lot, both apparently facing Chestnut Street. The brick house was moved to its present site in the 1970s after the City of Muscatine decided to construct a public housing apartment building on the site. The brick house was originally listed on the National Register as the only extant building in Muscatine with a strong association to Clark. Although there is some question over whether he actually lived in the house, there is no doubt he constructed the building to replace an earlier frame building that was destroyed by arson. Two individuals also signed affidavits stating their father told them he carried bricks during the construction of the house. The individuals' father further reported that Clark lived there during some periods.

The Alexander Clark House also appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. It is one of the neighborhood's best examples of a post-Civil War Italianate building constructed specifically as a double house. Though it has been moved, it was historically located less than a block away in this neighborhood, and it retains its association with this portion of the neighborhood.

Clark arrived in Muscatine from Pennsylvania in 1842 and built this house for his family from 1878-79 after his earlier house burned. Clark worked first as a barber and then sold cut wood to steamboats. He amassed enough money to become an entrepreneur and real estate dealer and purchased the original lot in 1848. Clark founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Muscatine in 1849, the first west of the Mississippi. He was also the founder of the Prince Hall (black) Masons in Iowa and Missouri. At the

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age of 57, he became the second black to graduate from the University of Iowa's School of Law. His son was the first. Clark is most noteworthy for his efforts to secure a high school education for his daughter, Susan, who had been denied admission to Muscatine High School because she was black. His battle eventually led to the Iowa Supreme Court. Its 1868 decision in Susan's favor established the right of all children to a public school education, perhaps the first "civil rights" decision in the state.

Despite building this duplex house in 1878-79, Clark apparently chose to live at one of the frame houses facing Chestnut. The 1877-78 city directory listed his location as the "es Chestnut 1 n of Third." His occupation was described as "travel agent." The 1879 directory continued to list his location as the "es Chestnut bet. Third and Fourth." His 1879 occupation was recorded as "colored orator." No Alexander Clark could be identified in the 1880 census index. The 1883 directory identified for the first time a modern address for Clark, 309 Chestnut. During this time, it is unknown who actually lived at 123-125 W. Third, although for a short period in the 1880s, Clark rented the house to John B. Lee, and his son, Alfred W., part owners of the Muscatine Journal at this time. Clark is not listed in the 1886-87 or 1889-92 city directories. Clark was editing the Chicago newspaper, *The Conservator*, which he owned, when he was appointed minister and consul general to Liberia in 1890 by President Benjamin Harrison. His salary for the position was \$4000, more than the Iowa governor drew at that time. Clark died in Monrovia the next year and was buried with high honors in Muscatine's Greenwood cemetery. Although there are no directory or census records that provide evidence of Clark ever living in the house, two witnesses have signed affidavits claiming their father had told them Clark did live in the brick house. Harold Fuller and Mable Motier both stated their father, Anthony Fuller, had reported he hauled bricks during the construction of the house when he was 10 or 12 years old. He also reported to them that Clark had lived in the house following its construction. Since the directories were spaced several years apart, and the census was only taken every 10 years, it is reasonable to believe the Fuller report. This would appear the most likely development, since the brick house would have been a more substantial and comfortable home for the family than the older frame house still on the lot at that time.

Clark's heirs sold Lot 1, Block 55 to E.B. Fulliam on September 5, 1893 (Book 24; Page 775). Fulliam then sold it on March 10, 1894 to Edna Blackwell and her husband (Book 26; Page 101). On April 13, 1895, the Blackwells sold the property to Calvin Adams (Book 26; Page 285). During much of this time, the property was apparently used as a rental. The 1899-1900 city directory listed James J. Ryan as the resident of the 123 W. Third side of the duplex. He was not included in the alpha index. The resident on the 125 W. Third side of the house was physician and surgeon Dr. E.K. Tyler. Dr. Tyler continued to be listed at 125 W. Third in the 1900 directory, with Mrs. M. Dreier, widow of Charles, listed at 123 W. Third. No occupation was recorded for her. The 123 W. Third residents from the 1902-03 through the 1908 directory were S.J. Fuller and his wife Estella. Fuller was a shipping clerk at Huttigs. On the 125 W. Third side of the duplex, J.J. Mayes and his wife Sue were recorded as the residents during the same period. Mayes was initially listed as a reporter for the Muscatine News/Tribune and in the 1907 and 1908 directories as the newspaper's city editor. The 1911 and 1913 city directory continued to list Mrs. S.C. Mayes, widow of James J. as the resident of 125 W. Third. Her occupation was recorded as a milliner. The 1911 directory did not list a 123 W. Third, but S.J. Fuller was listed at 121 W. Third. The following year he was again listed at 123 W. Third, so it is assumed the 1911 directory was a typographical error.

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He continued to be listed as a shipping clerk at Huttigs. According to census records, all of these residents were white.

No record could be located for when Adams sold the property, but a referee's deed was issued on November 29, 1915, transferring the property from Emma Freyermuth (by referee R.J. Jackson) to Thomas Beatty (Book 48 (Referee Deeds); Page 365). The house continued to be used as a rental. F.A. Bringer and his wife Florence were listed as the residents of 123 W. Third. He was the owner of Day and Night Garage. The 125 W. Third residents were C.A. and Hazel Richards, along with Sue Mayes. It is unknown if there was any relationship between the Richards and Mayes. Richards worked at the C.E. Richards and Son Meat Market. An occupation was no longer listed for Mayes.

Beatty sold Lot 1, Block 55 to John A. Irwin on March 8, 1917 (Book 50; Page 443). Irwin also continued to lease the house. C.E. Richards and his wife continued to be recorded at 125 W. Third in the 1919 directory. Ben F. and Catherine Bates were listed at 123 W. Third. He work as a salesman at the Ford dealership. The Bates family was still listed at 123 W. Third in the 1921 directory. The 125 W. Third residents were C.L. and Julie Shellabarger. He was identified as being recorded.

The property was sold by Irwin on March 1, 1923 to Anna E. Fuller (Book 61; Page 205). Although most of the residents continued to be tenants, with more apartments identified in the building, Fuller also appears to have been the first owner to actually live in the house. On the first floor of 123 W. Third side of the duplex were J.E. Motier and his wife Mabel. He was a mechanic. The second-floor residents were A.A. and Mamie Brugman. He worked for Cities Service oil. The 125 W Third side of the building also apparently listed owners on each floor. The M.A. and Hael Thomas family lived on one floor, while A.J. Fuller and his wife (Anne) were also located there. Fuller was retired.

The property remained with the Fuller family until they sold it to the City of Muscatine on October 30, 1974 (Book 266; Page 1082).

In the meantime, several residents, who were members of prominent African-American families in Muscatine, also lived in the original house at 203-205 W. Third. This house is demolished. City directories listed Richard Haney as a resident from 1899 through 1907. Haney had been born into slavery in Georgia and arrived in Muscatine shortly after the Civil War. His great nieces and nephews, Beulah and Stella Thompson, Muscatine; Jeff Thompson, Muscatine, continued to live in the house after he died. Stella was still listed as a resident there in the 1959 city directory.

According to the 1976 National Register application form, the area was "fast becoming a more heavily commercial than residential area. This encroachment eventually necessitated moving the brick house in order to preserve it." The relocation of the house to 203 W. Third was done in May 1975, following discussions between the various federal agencies involved, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Advisory Council. It was reported in the nomination form that great care was taken to relocate the house in a suitable new environment. The new site was less than one-half

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block from the original lot and in a residential area. The neighboring buildings are similar in style, scale and material. The two frame buildings were apparently demolished.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1880, 1910, 1920

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

"Former Slave Dies Here This Morning," *Muscatine Journal*, January 11, 1907, page 5.

Nomination Form for Alexander Clark House, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, October 14, 1976

Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1919, 1928. Accessed online at: Sanborn.umi.com.

Location Map



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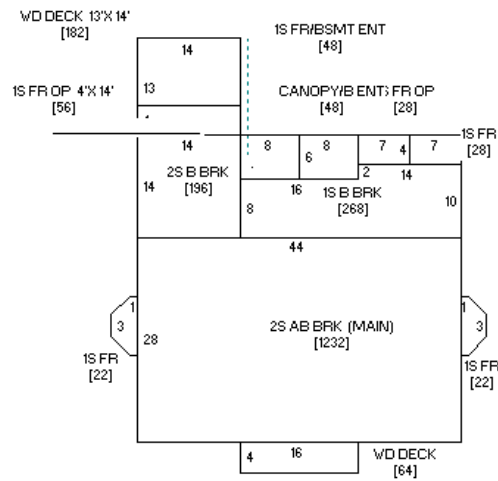
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



(front – W. 3rd Street)

Photograph of building (digital image)

