

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

State Inventory No. 70-01015 **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 John Tomney House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-096

2. Location

street & number 809 West Second Street
 city or town Muscatine vicinity, county Muscatine
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____

 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 41 Lot(s) 3

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
	_____ Total	<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).
 Title _____ Historical Architectural Data Base Number _____

A Historical and Architectural Survey of the "West Hill" neighborhood, Muscatine, Iowa 70-016

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>01A01: Domestic / Single residence</u>	<u>01A01: Domestic / Single residence</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09A03: Other / House / Side-gabled Roof, One Story</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08A & 08B : Asphalt / Shingle and Rolled</u>
_____	other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A	Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C	Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D	Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Muscatine
City Muscatine

Address 809 West Second Street

Site Number 70-01015
District Number 70-01005

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

31: Other-neighborhood development

Significant Dates

Construction date 1852 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect _____

Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date December 11, 2005

street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1550

city or town Muscatine state IA zip code 52761

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

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

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

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

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

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

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

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

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

Comments: _____

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

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John Tomney House
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7. Narrative Description

This is a one-story, side gable, brick house built prior to the Civil War. The house sits on a brick foundation. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house sits on the edge of the bluff, overlooking the river to the south. Thus, the north, now front, elevation is one-story, while the south, "rear" elevation is two-stories. The lot descends via terraces to Second Street on the south. Even though the address of this house is on Second Street, it is accessed from the alley on the north.

The north facing elevation of this house is seen from the alley between West Second and West Third Streets. The sill of the single first story entry is approximately two feet lower than the grade of the paved alley. The center portion of the façade shows a single-door entry in the center with a small porch. A small rectangular window with shutters is to the left and to the right of the entry. The left window has eight lights and the right window has glass block. Above the entry, a non-historic shed-roof dormer with a small, fixed window with shutters is seen. On the left of this elevation is a portion of the house that is set back six feet from the front façade and contains two six-over-six-light, double-hung wood windows that are historic (pre-1960), and protected with aluminum combination storm windows, as are most windows on this building. Fixed shutters are seen on each window on this elevation only. This section is seen on the first Sanborn map to cover the area in 1928. On the right is a single car garage, projecting toward the alley, with the entry sill slightly higher than the grade of the alley. This garage was added to the house after the Sanborn map of 1946 was drafted, since it does not appear there. The garage has a flat roof, clad with rolled asphalt. A short, decorative "X" balustrade is seen on the garage parapet. A non-historic six-over-six-light, double-hung window is located on the east elevation of the garage. There are two identical windows on its west elevation.

The west elevation consists of the garage addition with a basement story and the gable end of the house, the first and basement stories. The two double-hung windows on the first story of the garage are on the left of the west elevation. On the right is seen the gable end of the house, which contains a set of three six-over-six-light, double-hung windows on the first story and a matching set of windows on the lower level. Because of the slope of this lot down from the alley toward the south, the house appears to be two stories tall when viewed from the west or south.

On the east elevation, a single six-over-six-light, double-hung window is located on the first story and the lower level of the gable end of the side section.

The south elevation, facing the river and 2nd Street much below, reveals a house that is four bays wide and two stories high. The first bay contains a single six-over-six-light, double-hung window on each story. The second and third bays show a portion of the house that projects six feet south from the main building and was likely added after 1946. In the second and third bays there are three paired six-over-six-light, double-hung windows on each story. The fourth bay is similar to the first. There is a windowless shed-roof dormer that likely had windows historically in this elevation, centered on the building.

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A small, wood framed, gable end utility shed is located near the house in the rear.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This house does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. However, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

The significance of this house is in its history. It has sheltered the immigrant Tomney family, as well as others who worked as clerks, laborers, tanners and at other jobs that were not high on the pay scale. They worked at the button factories, hardware stores and grocery stores. Later, residents of this little house were more successful, but no less hard working. Thus, the John Tomney House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

The John Tomney House appears to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. Even some of the most prominent houses on West Hill are neither as old as the Tomney House nor as charming. The style of the house is that of a simple cottage. It is located adjacent to one of the landmark houses in the area and yet seems to be very at ease there, contributing to the immediate neighborhood and to the potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

John and Elizabeth (O'Brien) Tomney is recorded as having purchased this property from Henry L. Jennison on October 1, 1852 (Deeds / Abstracts, Book L, page 96). John Tomney is listed in the 1856 city directory as a laborer, living at 16 Second. The 1859-60 city directory states that he is a laborer, living on the north side of Second between Cherry and Ash. The 1860 Census reports that John Tomney is age 44 and his wife, Eliza is age 42. They are both from Ireland and own real estate valued at \$2,000 and personal assets valued at \$150. He is listed as a laborer. There are no children listed in the census report. In a listing of the occupants of St. Mary's Cemetery of Muscatine, John Tomney and his wife, Elizabeth are shown to be from Carlow County in Ireland. Elizabeth died in 1862 (Muscatine County Genealogy website). The 1874 bird's-eye view of Muscatine by Augustus Koch shows a similar small building in the approximate location of 809 W. 2nd Street. No one was identified at this address in the city directories from 1869 to 1887. Mr. Tomney is not listed in city directories from 1869 to 1878. He is listed in the 1886-87 city directory as the first ward alderman and his address is listed at 811 W. 2nd Street (this current house). John Tomney is again listed at 811 West 2nd Street in the 1889 and 1891 city directories and is recorded as retired. John died on October 28, 1895.

A deed transfer record dated September 30, 1897 shows that John Tomney bequeathed the property to Bridget Fanning. She was the wife of James Fanning, a Muscatine County farmer. The Fannings used the property for rental income. Larry P. Flannery and his wife, Mary were listed here in city directories from 1897 to 1903. The 1900 Census shows that Lawrence Flannery was 35 years of age, his wife Mary was age 32, and they had two sons, Michael and Lawrence, ages 9 and 5. The 1900 Census also noted

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that Mr. Flannery worked at a grocery and rented his home. City directories indicate that Mr. Flannery was a clerk at Klepper and Hill grocers.

When Bridget Fanning died on February 5, 1900, the property was passed on to son, John P. Fanning, on January 16, 1902 (Lots Book 34, page 257). The property continued to be operated as a rental in the early 20th century. H.C. Wittmann lived here in 1904, and Mrs. E. Greenwald and J. Heuer in 1907. Mr. Heuer was a button cutter. There are no listings at this address during the period 1908 through 1912, although the 1910 Census records Minerva Riddle (widow) as living at this address, along with her daughter, Gert (32) and grandson, Walter (20). Martin J. Armstrong was listed from 1913 to 1921. The city directories list him as a tinner, working for Thompson Hardware Company. The 1920 Census shows Martin Armstrong to be 54 years of age and that he was a tinner and was renting this property.

John Fanning sold the property to J.A. VanAlstyne on August 4, 1923 (Lots Book 61, page 409) who sold it to K. Elta DeCamp on August 21, 1926 (Lots Book 66, page 587). J.A. VanAlstyne and his wife, Frances, lived at this address as stated in the 1923-24 city directory. Mr. VanAlstyne was a sign painter. Mr. Albert DeCamp is listed in the 1927, 1929 and 1931 city directories as a mail carrier and living elsewhere in Muscatine. C.E. Burroughs lived here in 1927. He was a button sorter for Iowa Pearl Button Co. DeCamp lost the property, during the depression, to the bank holding the mortgage on February 20, 1933. The bank then sold it to Margaret Benedict on August 28, 1935, who soon married C.J. Cehlbach (Lots Book 90, page 105). Names were not found in the address listings of the city directories for either 809 or 811 W. 2nd St for the period 1929 through 1938-39.

C.J. and Margaret Gehlbach sold the property to George J. Koenigsaecker, Jr. on September 30, 1937, and the property soon returned to owner-occupied status (Deeds / Abstracts, Book 90, page 613). Mr. Koenigsaecker, it appears, spent much of the next three years renovating the building. The city directories of 1936-37 and 1938-39 show no names at this address. It was vacant until the city directory of 1940-41, which shows George J. Koenigsaecker, Jr. at this address. George was born in Muscatine on March 4, 1916 and graduated from St. Mathias High School in 1934. He worked for a short time as a serviceman at Montgomery Ward and Co. He soon began work at the W.G. Block Co., a building materials supplier in Muscatine, which was managed by his father, George Koenigsaecker, Sr.. On December 31, 1938 he married Rita Oberhaus, also of Muscatine ("George Koenigsaecker", Muscatine Journal obituary, September 20, 1999, 3). He became manager of the W.G. Block Co. business operation in Muscatine in 1940, succeeding his father, who had been with the company for 40 years. W.G. Block Co. sold coal, gravel, cement, brick and other building materials and, in 1955, purchased the Acme Fuel and Material Co. of Muscatine. George was appointed vice president and manager of that company. In 1958 he was transferred to the general office in Davenport, Iowa where he served as executive vice president. He retired in 1978. He remained at 809 West Second St. until 1958, when he moved to Davenport (Muscatine Journal Clippings File, October 21, 1989, 6A). Mr. Koenigsaecker died in Muscatine on September 19, 1999. In the 1940s, Mr. Koenigsaecker built the two-story addition on the south, as well as the garage. The 1946 Sanborn map does not show these changes, so it was likely in the late 1940s.

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In 1958, George Koenigsaecker sold the property to his sister, Patricia and her husband, John Grosjean of Muscatine. For many years John Grosjean owned and operated a full service gas station and auto repair shop on Mulberry Avenue. The Grosjean family remained at this address until March 2005.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records. United States Census Bureau, 1860, 1900, 1920

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

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

George Koenigsaecker, *Muscatine Journal* obituary, September 20, 1999, page 3

"Home is where the heart is", *Muscatine Journal*, October 21, 1989, page 6A. Muscatine Journal Clippings File: "Citizens."

Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1919, 1928, 1946. Accessed online at: Sanborn.umi.com.

Location Map



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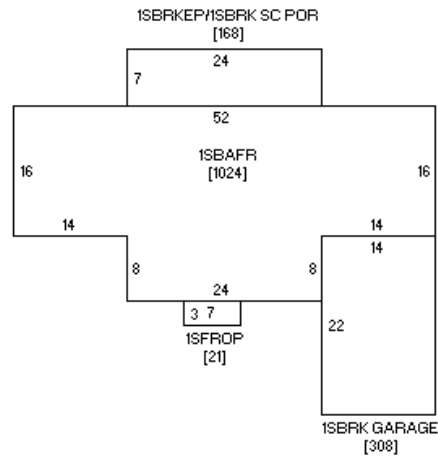
John Tomney House
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Plans of buildings on site (from assessor's office)



("front" – alley between 2nd and 3rd)

Photograph of building (digital image)

