

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

State Inventory No. 70-00218  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 Theron Thompson House  
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-071

**2. Location**

street & number 405 W. 3rd 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) 52 Lot(s) E 1/2 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	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ 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**

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

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05D Queen Anne</u>	foundation <u>03 Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>02 Wood</u>
_____	roof <u>08A Asphalt Shingle</u>
_____	other _____

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A	Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input 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 405 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St Site Number 70-00218  
City Muscatine District Number 70-01005

**Criteria Considerations**

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

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

31: Other – neighborhood development

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1890  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 Jay Brady, Chair (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date May 30, 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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Theron Thompson House	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
405 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Muscatine
Address	City

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## 7. Narrative Description

This is a c. 1890 two-story, two-bay, Queen Anne house. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are frame, clad in wood siding. The cross gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The house replaced an earlier house based on the 1888 and 1892 Sanborn maps.

The front elevation consists of a recessed west bay with the front porch occupying the recessed area. A set of wood steps lead up to the porch. Two rails run up along each side of the steps with turned spindles and rectangular posts with curved egg-shape caps. The porch has three turned columns with two of the three located at the walls of the house and one at the corner supporting the porch roof. The porch is enclosed with wood rail with turned spindles. An arch spans the front and west sides of the porch and supports the porch roof. The space between the porch floor and ground is enclosed with wood lattice. The porch has a porch swing and an older light fixture. The house entry is located in the east portion of the recessed west bay. The entry is a wood panel door with a quarter glass. There is an exterior screen door with decorative bargeboard in the corners of the door framing. To the west of the door is a single-over-single light double-hung window. The porch roof is a continuation of the house roof and is interrupted by a small porch front end gable. The porch gable has a wood frame décor with a square window set in the middle. The window has diamond designs on the front. The front elevation's east bay has a three-sided bay with a large single-light window with window transom. Each side of the bay contain a single-over-single light double-hung window. Decorative brackets support the corners of the second floor above the windows. The second story of the east bay has two single-over-single light double-hung windows that intrude into the front end gable from below and the front end gable has a fish scale siding.

The east elevation has three bays. The south bay has no openings. The center bay is the cross gable section and features a three-sided bay in the first story and an overhanging rectangular section in the second story. The first story bay window has a single-over-single light double-hung window in the two angled outer sides and a smaller single light window set high in the first story. Decorative brackets support the overhanging second story section on the south and north faces. The second story of the cross gable section has two single-over-single light double-hung windows protruding into the gable end. The gable is sided with fish scale siding. The rear bay has a single-over-single light double-hung window in the first and second stories.

The west elevation of the porch shows a curved roof line with a exposed decorative framing between the squared up siding and the roof line. The roof extends up to the cross gable which instead of coming to a peak is squared off. The first story of the west elevation has two larger single-over-single light double-hung windows with a smaller single-over-single light double-hung window set to the rear of the elevation. The second story has two single-over-single light double-hung windows in the center and a smaller single-over-single light double-hung window towards the rear. The gable has a single-over-single light double-hung window and fish scale siding.

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The rear elevation consists of the main two story portion of the house with a large sleeping porch on the second story set on a smaller enclosed door entry foyer on the first story. The first story of the contains a single-over-single light double-hung window on each side of the door entry foyer with the foyer containing a wood panel half glass door and wood screen door. The east elevation of the foyer has a single-over-single light double-hung window. The rear door is accessed by a small open wood porch/deck. The c.1920 sleeping porch has a shallow sloped roof and two single-over-single light double-hung windows in each of its elevations. The second story sleeping porch was constructed between 1919 and 1928 according to Sanborn Maps. Only the first story vestibule was shown prior. The porch appears to have been a screened or open porch at one time and then later enclosed. The main house has a single-over-single light double-hung window to the east of the sleeping porch. The gable has a single-over-single light double-hung window and plain wood siding.

This home has no garage or outbuildings.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Theron Thompson House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. However, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

The Theron Thompson House is a representative example of Queen Anne styling and has excellent historic integrity. The house features exemplary porch detailing, interesting angled porch window and interesting asymmetrical roof line with one gable squared off at top instead of a peak. The house has long association with Theron Thompson, President of Thompson Hardware and prominent Muscatine businessman. His 1911 biography, indicates that he is "Among the wide-awake and progressive business men of Muscatine, Theron Thompson occupies an honored place... the company with which he is identified being known as one of the leading concerns of the kind in this part of the state." He is also president of the Detthof Hardware Company of Muscatine, a director of the Hershey State Bank and a director of the Puritan Ice Company. He appears to sold or have built houses for his brothers Robert L. and William L. at 312 and 314 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street around this time as well. This is the best example of folk Victorian architecture of the houses, and one of the best in Muscatine. Thus, the Theron Thompson House does appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The Theron Thompson House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district. The house has excellent historic integrity and is a fine example of Queen Anne styling. The house also illustrates neighborhood succession having replaced an earlier house in 1890.

Theron purchased the east half of Lot 4, Block 52 from Phoebe Millard on July 5, 1882 (16:564 and 15:99). There is no Millard listed in the 1879 and 1877-78 directories. Theron Thomson was listed at

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Theron Thompson House	Muscatine
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405 W. 3rd in the 1883 directory working at Thompson Brothers hardware. No others are listed with him although the 1911 *History of Muscatine County* indicates he was married at this time. He was listed at corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut in the 1879 directory working at R.T. Thompson and Son. His father, Robert, established a hardware business in 1875 under the title of R. T. Thompson Son & Company. In 1878 he withdrew and the firm became Thompson Brothers, with Theron and William L. Thompson as the proprietors. On March 9, 1882, Mr. Thompson married Miss Nellie Moorehouse, a daughter of Captain Le Grand and Julia Moorehouse (Richman 1911, Vol 2: 153). Theron Thompson is listed as working at Thompson Brothers hardware and living at 405 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1883 to 1899 (City Directories). The listings do not give any specific role for his work at Thompson Brothers other than working there with his brother, W.L. Thompson. The original house is shown on the 1888 Sanborn map, and Theron Thompson constructed this successor house around 1890 as by the 1892 Sanborn the present house was on the property. He appears to sold or have built houses for his brothers Robert L. and William L. at 312 and 314 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street around this time as well. Robert T. Thompson died on February 1, 1890, and he was father to Theron, Barbara Ella, Robert L., and William L. (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 153).

The 1900 city directory lists Theron with wife Nellie and Maynard L. The 1900 Census lists Theron Thompson, age 46, hardware dealer, as owning the home and married to wife Nellie M., 42, with children: Maynard L, son, 16, at school, Lula E., daughter, 11, at school, Gail M., daughter, 6. The 1902-03 through 1931 city directories list Theron, working at Thompson Brothers, and wife Nellie. His brother died in 1906, and the firm was incorporated in 1907 as Thompson Brothers Company with Theron Thompson at its head. The 1908 directory lists Theron as President and Secretary of Thompson Brothers and the 1919, 1927, 1929, and 1931 city directories list him as president of Thompson Brothers. The 1902-03 directory lists Maynard L. as tinner, and Gail M. and Leila E. as students. The 1904 directory lists Maynard as a student. The 1907 directory lists Maynard L. and Leila E. as students. The 1908-09 directories lists Gail M., student, and Maynard L and Leila E as boarding at 405 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 1910 Census lists Theron Thompson, 56, Hardware Merchant, as owning home and married 27 years to wife Nellie M., 52. Also listed is Maynard L, son, 26, Hardware Merchant, Lula E., daughter, 21, library assistant, Gail M., daughter, 16. According to his 1911 biography, "Among the wide-awake and progressive business men of Muscatine, Theron Thompson occupies an honored place.... the company with which he is identified being known as one of the leading concerns of the kind in this part of the state." He is also president of the Detthof Hardware Company of Muscatine, a director of the Hershey State Bank and a director of the Puritan Ice Company (Richman 1911, Vol 2: 153).

Theron Thompson continued to live here and serve as president of Thompson Brothers through 1931. The 1911 and 1913 directories list son Maynard L. as secretary of Thompson Brothers, and daughters Gail W. and Leila E. as boarding. By 1916 Maynard had married wife Elsie and moved to 707 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gail is listed as boarding at 405 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>. In 1919 Gail is listed as secretary at ARC Home Serice CR. The 1920 Census lists Theron Thompson, 66, President hardware co, as owning home and married to wife Nellie M., 62, with Gail M., daughter, 26, secretary, Red Cross. Gail is listed as secretary of Home Service, O'Brien Co. in 1921. By 1923-24 Gail had moved out of the house and Theron and Nellie are only listed until Theron's death in 1934 at age of 81 (Greenwood Cemetery Records).

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Nellie Thompson et al received from Theron Thompson on May 19, 1936 (Transfer Book of Lots Bk 9: 104). Milliam W. Potter, physician, and wife Clara and Robert W. and wife Elberta lived at 405 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1936-37. From 1938 through 1941 Cecil E. Watkins, signal maintainer, and wife Olga lived here.

Jeannette Dean Edmondson purchased the property on January 21, 1941 (land transfer book). Alwyn E. Edmondson, post office clerk, and wife Jeanette lived from 1943 through 1956 and again in 1959. Mabel M. Edmondson, sorter at Pennant Pearl Button was also here in 1943. Donald O. was also listed in 1949 and 1956. Alwyn appears to have retired between 1952 and 1954, as no occupation is listed in subsequent directories. Larry E. Willis, supervisor of Sun Mart Foods and wife Esther was listed in 1958. Alwyn E. Edmondson and wife Jeanette was listed at 413 Cherry in 1958.

Oscar E. Ross or Mary Roberts Ross bought the property from Jeannette Dean Edmondson on May 1, 1959 (Book 188 Page 88).

Donald G. and Rozella E. Ovrebo bought the property from Oscar E. Ross or Mary Roberts Ross on October 23, 1958 (Book 186 Page 372)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1900, 1910, 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.

Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911.

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.



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Site Number 70-00218

Related District Number 70-01005

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Theron Thompson House  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

405 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Address

Muscatine  
City

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## Photograph of building (digital image)

