

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

State Inventory No. 70-00229 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 Stone-Robertson House
 other names/site number Field Site #: WH-084

2. Location

street & number 614 W. 3rd 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) 39 Lot(s) 9 & 10

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:	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

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>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 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 614 W 3rd Street Site Number 70-00229

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

Stone-Robertson House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

614 W. 3rd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, three-bay, central passage, Italianate I-house with a rear ell. The house sits on a brick foundation. The walls are brick. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The main side gable roof has 4 pair of brackets across the front of the house. Each of the four main windows has distinctive lintels, as does the double door entry. There is a double arch window centered on the second story with an arched lintel over it.

A full Italianate porch spans across the front (north) elevation of the house. It has six square posts, four evenly spaced across the front and two on either side mounted on to the brick. Double arches span between the columns with a drop bracket at the midpoint. The porch roof is asphalt shingles. Centered on the first story is a double door entry. The screen doors look to be original wood with carved brackets in the corners, and the front doors also look to be original carved wood doors with the top half a single light fixed window in each door. There are two windows on this first story elevation, on either side of the centered entry. The windows have a wide vertical muntin, with narrower horizontal muntins that create a six-light appearance for these large windows that extend near the porch floor. There is stained glass behind the two windows on the first story. The second story has two windows directly above the first story windows; they are two-over-two-light double-hung replacement windows. In the center of the second story are two paired three-light fixed arch windows with a mullion that continues into the decorative arch lintel. The four windows on this elevation and entry have flat lintels with projected cornices lined by dentil. The brackets along the front eave are paired.

The main part of the house on the west elevation has a brick gable with six pair of brackets. The first story has a bay window with two-over-two-light double-hung replacement windows on each side and paired two-over-two-light double-hung replacement windows on the center. The roof over this bay window has asphalt shingles, two pair of brackets on each side and three pair of brackets across the middle, crown molding, and dentils; this is similar to the lintels of the other windows. The second story window is a two-over-two-light double-hung window with prominent lintel. This window is centered over the bay window, which is centered in the main part of the I-house. The side gable roof is supported by six sets of paired brackets. The rear ell of the house is recessed from the front section on this elevation. This elevation has six brackets on the rear ell roof. There are four windows on this rear part of the west elevation. The first story has two two-over-two-light double-hung windows on each end of this rear section. The second story also has two two-over-two-light double-hung windows directly above the first story windows. The west elevation of the screened-in porch attached to the rear section of the house part of this porch extends across the first story of the rear ell. This porch has a screen door slightly off center of the porch with two wood steps to it. There are three screened panels to the left of the door and four screen panels to the right. This porch has a plain frieze over the door. It has an asphalt-shingled roof.

The east elevation is very similar to the west elevation with the six pair of brackets on the side brick gable of the main section of the house, and the bay window and the single two-over-two-light double-

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

Stone-Robertson House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

614 W. 3rd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

hung window. There is a small section that juts out from the side of the rear ell on this elevation in the corner with the main section of the house. This small section is one story only and has a cornice around the flat roof. A bay window identical to the other two is centered on this section. Above the flat roof portion on the second story of the east elevation are two two-over-two-light double-hung windows on either end of the rear section. Seven brackets also support the rear gable roof. On the other side of this one story section is another two-over-two-light double-hung window on the first story. The screened in porch also has a screen door on this elevation. There is one screened section to the left of the door and two to the right. There are five concrete steps with a metal railing to this door.

The rear (south) elevation has an enclosed porch attached. There are eight screen panels across this elevation. There is a single door entry inside this one-story porch. The rear gable roof of the enclosed porch has a vinyl gable and asphalt shingles. The second story has a double two-over-two-light double-hung window with a mullion between them. They are centered with an entablature in the rear, brick gable. The gable has six brackets, three on each side. The main section of the house where it intersects with the ell has a set of wood French doors on the first story and a one-over-one light double hung window on the second story. There are three brackets supporting this section of the roof.

The two-car garage sits behind the house. It is clad in weatherboards, and has a side gable roof. The garage faces the alley along the back of the house, and the garage door is non-historic. Due to the slope of the landscape there is a cement retaining wall along the alley. The garage is a two-story structure with four windows on the south elevation. The "basement" level has the single doublewide garage door, which is on the cinderblock foundation that is at the alley level. The first story has two windows, one on either side of the building on the left side it is a 12-light fixed window and on the right there is a four-light fixed window. The second story has two windows directly above the other two; these are both four-light fixed windows. There are no windows or doors on the east elevation. The north elevation has four 12-light fixed windows, two on each side and one right over the other. The west elevation has concrete steps with a metal pipe railing that lead up from the alley to a sidewalk that leads to the house. This elevation has two single light casement windows in the foundation on either side of the structure. The first story has two 12-light fixed windows, which are located directly above the basement windows. There is also a wooden pedestrian door all the way to the rear of the building nearest the house. The second story has two 12-light fixed windows also above the first story windows.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Stone-Robertson House appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B. It does not appear to be individually eligible under Criteria A or C. Additionally, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential "West Hill" neighborhood historic district.

Fred Stone, who was the first owner of the house, was a druggist and owner of a lumberyard. The house was sold to William Robertson in 1872. Robertson was a physician, founder of University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1869, one of the original stockholders and member of the first board of directors of

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Stone-Robertson House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

614 W. 3rd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

Muscatine Water Works Company, and President of the Muscatine County Medical Association. He is most notable for his extensive work with “feeble-minded” children in the county poor houses, and he was very influential in promoting the legislation to care for them. Through his efforts, a home was established for their education and care in 1876. The house has stayed in the Robertson family until 1989. The Stone-Robertson House appears individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with William Robertson. This house has strong Italianate traits, with the I-house symmetrical form, porch style, arch windows, lintels, bay windows, and brackets. Although it retains a high level of Italianate integrity, there are several additional examples of this style in the West Hill neighborhood. Thus, the Fred Stone/ William Robertson House does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A or C.

However, the Stone-Robertson House does appear to be a contributing building in a potential “West Hill” neighborhood historic district. It reflects the stately mansions that were being built high above the Mississippi River on the city’s West Hill in the mid 19th Century. The Robertson’s were fairly prominent citizens of Muscatine and they lived in a house to reflect this status. Although there are several updated features such as the replacement windows and the addition of a screened in porch it still has the key features of the Italianate style. This house contributes historically and architecturally to this potential historical district.

Fred Stone purchased part of the property, Lot 9, on May 28, 1851 from Suel Foster (Deed Book J, p 571). He then purchased the other half of the property, Lot 20, on November 26, 1851 from Steven Whicher (Deed Book K, p 189). This house sits primarily on Lot 9, near the Lot 10 line. He may have built the house in 1851 or waiting until 1852. The 1856 city directory shows F.H. Stone, druggist. Fred Stone continues to be listed as the resident of this address until the 1869-70 city directory. In the 1869-70 directory Fred Stone is listed as a druggist with his business located at N 2nd Street near Chestnut, though no business name is indicated.

On April 1, 1869, Stone sold this property to Mary Butler and her husband (Deed Book 5, p 215). They owned it only for three years.

On April 22, 1872, Mary Butler (widow) sold to William S. Robertson (Deed Book 7, p 334). The 1874 birds-eye view of Muscatine clearly shows this house with the two-story side-gable form, rear ell, and west side bay window (Koch 1874). It is in the 1874-75-city directory that William Robertson is listed as the current resident. William Robertson continues to be listed here in the 1876-77 and 1879 directories. He is most notable for his extensive work with “feeble-minded” children in the County Poorhouse, he was very influential in promoting the legislation to care for them and for being one of the founders of the University of Iowa College of Medicine. William Stephenson Robertson was born in Pennsylvania in 1831, where he received his education and training. In 1856, he opened his practice in Columbus Junction, Iowa, where he worked until 1868-69 when he worked briefly in New York. In 1869, he accepted the position as chemical medicine professor at the newly formed department of the State University of Iowa (Iowa City). The University Medical Museum notes that the first professors were not paid, relying on student fees, and often maintained practices in other communities. His son’s 1889

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 6

Stone-Robertson House	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
614 W. 3 rd Street	Muscatine
Address	City

biography also notes that they moved to Muscatine in June 1869. He is listed in the 1870 census in Muscatine and bought this property in 1872. The 1870 census lists W.S. Robertson (age 38, physician), Anna (35), Willie (10), Charles (5), and Lydia (1). (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County* 1889: 332; Census Records 1880; Medical Museum 2002).

William S. Robertson was City and County Physician by 1873, and he turned his attention to the plight of the "feeble minded" children at the Muscatine county poor house. He brought up the subject before the State Medical Society in his annual address as its President in January 1874, and asked the co-operation of that body to that end. It was not until the next meeting that he was appointed to bring up the matter with the legislature. With the action of Dr. Robertson and support from two representatives, an institution was established at Glenwood, Mills County, in 1876 for the education and maintenance of these children, in the existing Soldier Orphans Home. Dr. Robertson was the President of its Board of Trustees. He was also one of the original stockholders and a member of the first Board of Directors of Muscatine Water Works Company, a member of Muscatine County Medical Society, late President of the Iowa State Medical Society, and late President of the Eastern Iowa District Medical Society. The Trustees of Knox College, situated at Galesburg, Ill., conferred on him the honorary A. M. Additionally, he was a state senator and the first president of the Iowa Board of Health (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County* 1889: 332; Medical Museum 2002). The 1880 census lists William S. Robertson (49) with Anna (45), Charles (15), and Nellie (6). In the city directory from 1886-87, W.S. Robertson and Charles Robertson are listed as residents, though it is likely his wife and daughter also lived here. Reportedly, Robertson was lecturing in 1887 when he announced the end of the course, having just recognized the symptoms of brain tumor in himself (Medical Museum 2002). William S. Robertson died on January 20, 1887.

William S. Robertson's family continued to live in this house after his death. In 1889-92 city directory, son Charles Robertson, physician and surgeon, Mrs. W.S. and Miss Nellie (daughter) are the recorded residents. The 1891-92 directory list Miss Nellie and Anna Robertson (widow), and in the 1893-94 Anna Robertson is the only resident listed. Nellie is listed as the sole resident in 1897-98 directory. The 1900 census records confirm that both Anna and Nellie lives at this address. Anna E is listed as a 59-year-old widow with 2 living children (of 5 born). Her daughter Nellie is 26 and in school. Then Mrs. A.E. Robertson and Nellie are listed from the 1899-1900 through the 1916 directory as the residents here. In 1908, Nellie is listed as having the occupation of a vocal teacher. The 1920 census lists Anna E as the head of the household at age 77, with daughter Nellie, age 47 (no occupation, divorced), and grandson William F., age 8.

In 1921, Anna E. (widow of W.S.) and Nellie and her brother, William S. Robertson, are listed as the residents here in the city directories. Anna is not listed in any of the directories from 1923 on. Anna appears to have died with Charles Robertson et.ux transferring the property to Nellie Robertson on May 17, 1923 (Deed Book 28: 605). Nellie, a voice teacher, and William S., a landscape architect / tree surgeon are listed as the resident from 1923 through 1931. In 1938-39 W.S., is now listed as a general contractor / nurseryman and Nellie E. a teacher. The listing continues to be the same through 1946. In the 1949 city directory William S. is indicated as having the occupation of a building contractor /

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00229

Related District Number 70-01005

Page 7

Stone-Robertson House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

614 W. 3rd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

nurseryman. Nellie E. Robertson (unmarried) transferred this property to William Robertson on February 25, 1954 (Deed Book 148, p 440). Nellie and William S. continue to live at this address up through 1966. Nellie E. Robertson died in November 1966 at age 95.

The house remained in the Robertson family until William S. Robertson sold it to Tony and Lorraine Orr in September of 1989 (Deed Book 339, p 1099).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census Records, United States Census Bureau, 1870, 1880, 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.

"Each Turn of A Knob Yields a Peek at History", by John Willard, Quad City Times, September 25, 1977.

Koch, Augustus. *Bird's-eye View of the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa*. Koch, 1874. In the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Medical Museum. "A Century of Caring, 1850-1950." Web exhibit: www.uihealthcare.com/depts/medmuseum/galleryexhibits/centuryofcaring/collegeofmedicine/03firstfaculty.html. 2002. Accessed in March 2006.

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.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00229

Related District Number 70-01005

Page 9

Stone-Robertson House
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

614 W. 3rd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

Photograph of building (digital image)

