

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **DEC 27 1982**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Clark-Blackwell House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 206 Cherry Street _____ not for publication

city, town Muscatine _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 19 county Muscatine code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Harry Bowsman

street & number 206 Cherry Street

city, town Muscatine _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52761

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Muscatine County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Muscatine state Iowa 52761

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clark-Blackwell-Bowsman House is a well-preserved example of a Victorian eclectic style mansion. The house incorporates many stylistic elements into its exterior ornamentation.

Located on a double lot at the corner of Cherry and Second Streets, the house with its matching carriage house occupies the edge of a prominent elevated setting which overlooks the Mississippi riverfront to the east, and which visually anchors the southern end of older Muscatine. A massive stone retaining wall surrounds the base of the property and dates from 1882.

The house employs a variety of materials, including Baltimore pressed brick (laid in running bond), red granite columns and limestone capitals (which flank the main entrance). limestone sills and lintels, tin and limestone cornice, and a slate roof.

The basic plan is that of a rough rectangle, with two-story angled square-cut corner bays projecting from the southwest and southeast corners, and a two-story chamfered bay which projects from the eastern half of the north face. The westernmost corner bay is topped with a pyramidal roof (with paired roof vents) and the easternmost corner bay has a hexagonal turret roof. Chateausque features include the general massing of the house, the elaborate ornamentation, the irregular silhouette, the steeply pitched hip roof and towers and the tall elaborate chimneys (three are well preserved). Queen Anne elements include the irregularity of form, the recessed porch in the southwest corner bay, the shell motifs in the dormer facade, and the vertical division of the wall surfaces. Egyptoid design elements include the use of the phoenix wing around the porch capitals, and the slightly tapered granite columns which flank the main entrance.

Built upon a raised limestone foundation, capped with a stone water table, the exterior wall surfaces which are rendered more regular by the use of running brick bond, are broken up vertically on each floor by the inclusion of a narrow stone belt course even with the window sills and a wider stone belt course even with the window lintels. The corner bay facades continue these horizontal dilineations around the corners of the house. A bracketed stone cornice is topped with a decorative tine cornice of elaborate design. Gabled dormer facades are nearly all glass due to the use of a palladian-like window (which substitutes a centered shell design for the central arched light).

The interior of the house features well-preserved cherry and oak wood trim and wainscoting on the first floor. The cherry wood staircase features ceiling paneling and a large art glass depiction of a Hiawatha theme on the stairwell landing. Seven fireplaces retain decorative tile and in some instances, had painted design work. The front entrance includes an air lock entry system. Additional art glass is also to be found in the inner set of doors in the main entrance and on a back door.

The one and a half story, two bay carriage house, of rectangular plan, is set on a very high foundation alongside the bluff edge. Stone sills and lintels and the brickwork match those in the house, but ornamentation is restricted to a simple corbelled bracketed cornice of brick and an ornate belvedere-type vent with a heavy bracketed hip roof cap. Two plain shed roof dormers are on each side above the cornice line, and a wider hip roof dormer is centered on the facade with stone sill and lintel, the former being incorporated into the cornice line.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Physical Description Continued;

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1882–1930 **Builder/Architect** Lorenzo D. Cleveland, arch., Geo. Magoon, builder.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clark-Blackwell House exemplifies the residential tastes of the late 19th Century wealthy elite in a midwestern river town setting. The new house with its prominent location and high retaining wall reminded a local newspaper editor of "the heights of Quebec." Notable locally for its prominent location, style, and size, the house is significant today for its relative integrity, as well as for its association with a notable architect, noteworthy local artisans, and occupants.

Lorenzo D. Cleveland (1820–1905) practiced his architectural trade from a Chicago office (Cleveland and Jay) 1870–1892, and was responsible for the Lindell Hotel (Springfield), and the Old State Savings Bank (1874, Chicago). As Commissioner of Buildings for the City of Chicago (1879–1893) he was in charge of building the City Hall, supervised the erection of two of the World's Fair buildings, and lastly supervised the construction of the Auditorium Hotel Annex. In 1882, Mr. Cleveland designed and supervised the construction of the nominated property in Muscatine, Iowa.

William A. Clark (1841–1895), the original owner, was born in Muscatine County, and became a local real estate and loan broker. He purchased the Cherry Street property in 1871 and lived in a preceding structure until the present house was built in 1882. He then resided in this house at least through 1886, and was living in New York City by 1889. Clark is representative of the new wealth that was a by-product of local economic development and growth.

The construction of the house involved noteworthy local craftsmen in addition to a regionally significant architect. George D. Magoon (1825–1909) was the contractor, and was responsible for erecting many local churches, schools, and commercial structures. Josiah P. Walton (1826–1899) was a local architect and builder, known throughout central and eastern Iowa for his ability to move or underbuild large brick and frame structures. He moved the preceding structure from the site.

John Scott Blackwell (1862–1930) occupied the Clark House from 1902 until his death (his widow Edna Blackwell lived there through 1943). A local real estate agent and land-owner, Blackwell was most notable for his association with the Muscatine Bridge Company. He served as its head from 1915 until 1930. He was also a director of the German-American Savings Bank for many years.

Harry F. Bowsman, local merchant occupied the house between 1946 and 1963. His widow continues to own the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Continuation Sheet, Item #9, page 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Muscatine Iowa-Illinois

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	6	2	6	8	0	4	6	8	6	6	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4 and 5 in Block 41, City of Muscatine, including house and carriage house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Iowa code 19 county Muscatine code 139

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date December 9, 1982

Historical Building

street & number East 12th and Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Adrian A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 24 November 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 1/27/83

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Withey, Henry F. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

Muscatine County, Iowa, Graves Registration. Des Moines: Work Progress Administration, 1939 (?)

Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing Company, 1889, pp. 277-8, 412-4, 455-6.

American Institute of Architects Proceedings, 38, (1905), p. 266.

Muscatine Daily Journal, 28 January 1881; 11 May 1882; 12 May 1882; 20 February 1930.

Muscatine Daily Journal Annual Review, 16 December 1882, p. 1.