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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	SEP 15 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAR 31 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Samuel Nichols House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

E of Nichols off 7th St

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Nichols

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Muscatine

CODE

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Chris Meacham

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box A

CITY, TOWN

Nichols,

STATE

Iowa 52766

VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Muscatine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Muscatine

STATE

Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Samuel Nichols House is located in a rural area near the town of Nichols. It is a typical 19th-century farmhouse in plan, the main block a two-story rectangle with a one-story rear wing. Most windows have segmental arches and narrow, flat sills. Paired, louvred openings in the gable ends are round-arched. The five-bay main elevation has a center entrance, once covered by a small wooden porch. Surmounting the gable roof are chimneys at each end and a deck from which the metal railing has been lost.

The rear wind has a gabled roof and wall dormers. To each side are attached frame, shed-roofed sections, one of which was originally a bracketted porch with balustrated roof, the other perhaps a summer kitchen.

The house is presently undergoing extensive measures for restoration.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1869-70

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nichols house is representative of early Iowa farmhouses, the next step beyond the settler's first, expedient log dwelling. While not stylistically impressive, its vernacular character is typical of its time and place.

The house was built for Samuel Nichols, who came to Iowa with his family from Ohio in the late 1830's. It replaced a log structure which for nearly 30 years served as both private home, the Lacy Post Office, and as an occasional stopping place for travellers to and from Iowa City and Muscatine. Although Nichols and his wife died within a year or so of the completion of the brick farmhouse, they left, in their children, a legacy which contributed much to the area's development. The town of Nichols was founded in 1871 by Samuel's son, Benjamin F. It was named for the elder Nichols, who had, through "liberal" subscription to Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railroad stock and donation of land for the depot, taken the initial step toward the town's creation. Benjamin ran a store in the new town from 1871 to 1873, then returned to the farm. His son, Townsend, inherited the farm in 1893, and made a substantial living raising cattle, horses and hogs thereon. The property is still owned by descendants of Samuel Nichols.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Richman, Irving B. (ed.) History of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911 (2 vols)

Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1889.  
 "A Peek at the Past," in The Nichols Courier, April 20, 1917.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	4	3	3	8	0	4	5	9	3	1	1	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

C 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

D 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Chris and Diane Meacham

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1, Box A

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Nichols

STATE

Iowa 52766

# 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

*John D. Anderson*

TITLE *Dir. of Historic Preservation*

DATE *9/7/77*

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Watson Cole*

DATE *3.31.78*

DATE *3.15.78*