

Alexander Clark Houses
307-309 Chestnut Street
Muscatine
Muscatine County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-107

HABS
IOWA,
70-MUSCA,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.. 20240

HABS
IOWA,
70-MUSCA,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALEXANDER CLARK HOUSES

HABS No. IA-107

Location: The Alexander Clark Houses at 307-309 Chestnut Street, Muscatine, Iowa are located on the northeast side of Chestnut Street adjoining an alley on the northwest which divides the block.

Present Owner: The City of Muscatine, Iowa
City Hall
Muscatine, Iowa

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: None

Statement of Significance: Alexander G. Clark, (1826-1891), Minister and Consul-General to Liberia and resident of Muscatine, Iowa, resided in this house. Historical significance stems from the fact that Clark was a resident and not because of any notable architecture features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Biographical Notes:

John Clark (born in slavery. Mother and child were both freed by the master, an Irishman)

John Clark married Rebecca Darnes (full-blooded African) and settled in Washington Co., Pennsylvania

Alexander G. Clark was born February 25, 1826 in Washington Co., Pennsylvania and received a limited education.

1839 at age 13, he was sent to Cincinnati, Ohio to learn the barber's trade under an uncle, Wm. Darnes. He attended school at different periods for the next two years.

Oct. he left Cincinnati and went south on the steamer George Washington
1841 as a bartender.

May he came to Muscatine, Iowa, and opened a barber shop.
1842

Winter The one reference to any activity of Clark in the Underground
1842- Railroad was made by J. P. Walton in Evening Journal, March 7,
43 1882. In a public speech Walton told of Mrs. S. E. Hughes and Clark hiding a runaway slave named Jim White, and aiding in his escape.

Oct. 9, Hemarried Miss Catherine Griffin of Iowa City. Miss Griffin was
1848 of African and American Indian descent. She was born in slavery, January 4, 1829, (in Virginia), manumitted at age 3, taken to Ohio, then to Marion, Iowa, by two women who had owned her mother.* She was employed by E. C. Lyons, Esq. of Iowa City at the time of her marriage.

1849 Clark was one of the group who founded the African Methodist Church in Muscatine. This was one of the earliest on the west side of the Mississippi River. He formally joined the A.M.E. Church in 1850, served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Steward, and was Superintendent of the Sabbath School until he left for Liberia.

1849, Clark purchased Lot 1, Block 55 from Wm. Smith Allen.

Sept. He became a member of the Masonic Order by joining Prince Hall Lodge,
1851 No. 1, Saint Louis, Missouri.

During this period he acquired timber land near Muscatine, and began to sell wood for fuel to steamboats going up and down the Mississippi. The profits were reinvested in real estate. Tax records show that he paid taxes on several thousand dollars worth of property yearly.

*Mrs. Paddick and Rachael Cheadle

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

- Sept. 1867 Susan V. Clark (age 12) was denied admission to School #2 in Muscatine by the principal M. Y. Hoopes. This led to a series of law suits, - Alexander Clark vs. the Muscatine Board of Education. The case continued to the Supreme Court of Iowa, where the decision was made, July, 1868, granting Susan Clark, and all children regardless of race, nationality or appearance, the right to attend Common School in Iowa.
- 1863 Clark enlisted in the 1st Iowa Colored Volunteer Infantry, received the appointment of Sergeant-Major; was refused muster because of physical disability, and became active in gathering recruits for Union.
- 1868 Clark was arched, knighted, and elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, becoming Grand Master after the death of H. M'Gee Alexander on April 20, 1868. His jurisdiction extended over the states of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.
- 1868 Feb. 12 Clark was chairman of, and spokesman for, the committee at the first convention of colored men held in Iowa. This led to political equality for the colored men of Iowa, proclaimed as part of the Iowa Constitution of December 8, 1868, two years before the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- 1869 Jan. At the convention in Muscatine, December 31, 1868, Clark was appointed a delegate to the Colored National Convention held in Washington, D.C. At the National Convention he was appointed to the committee which called upon President Grant and Vice President Colfax to extend to them the congratulations of the colored people of the United States.
- 1869 June Clark was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri (colored) Masons.
- 1869 June Clark attended the Republican State Convention of Iowa where he served as one of the Vice Presidents.
- 1869 Oct. Clark was a delegate to the Most Worshipful National Grand Compact of Masons (colored) for the U.S.; held at Wilmington, Delaware.
- 1870 Clark was a delegate to the Republican State Convention of Iowa, and a member of the committee on resolutions. His eloquence led to the title "the colored orator of the west" and to speeches across Iowa and many states in the west and south.
- 1872 Clark was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri (colored) Masons.
- 1872 Clark served as delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

- 1873 Clark was appointed charman of the committee on foreign correspondence for the Grand Lodge of Missouri.
- 1873 Clark was appointed consul at Aux Cayes, Haiti, by President Grant, a position which he refused because of the meager stipend.
- 1874 Clark was re-elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.
- 1876 Clark represented an Iowa convention of colored people at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, to which he was sent for the purpose of preparing statistics for the colored race.
- 1876 Clark was appointed an alternate delegate from Iowa to the National Republican Convention in Cincinnati.
- June 31 1878 The frame house, corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets, originally built by Wm. Brownell of lumber shipped from Cincinnati, and purchased by Clark in September, 1849, was destroyed by fire between 1 and 2 a.m. Prowlers were seen around the house about 1 a.m. One half of the house was occupied by the Clark family, the other half by the Michael Fitzpatrick family. Plans were announced July 22, 1878 to rebuild on the site. At this time the family moved to the frame house facing Chestnut Street on the same lot.
- Sept. 1878 Alexander G. Clark, Jr. entered the University of Iowa (Law School) as its first black student. Alexander, Jr. was a graduate of Muscatine High School (1873) and had worked for the Journal as a compositor. (Alexander Sr. had been denied admission to the University earlier.) In June 1879, Alexander G. Clark, Jr. became the first black to graduate from the University of Iowa (L.L.B.). He attended classes in the year 1879-1880.
- Sept. 4 1879 Catherine Griffin Clark died in Muscatine. Her funeral was recorded as the largest colored funeral ever held in Muscatine. She was buried in Greenwood Cemetery beside her two children who died in infancy.
- April 1881 Clark applied to President Garfield for a State Department position. (Garfield was mortally wounded shortly after the interview.)
- Sept. 1881 Clark was one of eight lay delegates from the U.S.A. to the Methodist Ecumenical Conference which was held in London. (He was elected as the delegate from the A.M.E. Church in St. Louis, March 1880.) Four Methodist Bishops, four elders, and four lay delegates attended. Bishop Carr, South Carolina A.M.E., formerly of Muscatine, was the alternate delegate. Clark sailed from Philadelphia on August 3 or 10.
- 1880's Clark was editor of the Chicago newspaper The Conservator.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

- 1883 Sept. Clark entered the University of Iowa at age 57, and graduated the following June (1884) with an L.L.B. degree.
- 1884 June 20 Clark was admitted to practice law by the Muscatine County Bar Association during a session of the Muscatine Circuit Court. Judge Wm. F. Brannon introduced the motion. This admitted Clark to practice law in all the Courts of the State of Iowa. On June 23, 1884, he was honored at a banquet given by the Bar Association of Muscatine.
- 1884 July 18 Clark opened a law office at 194 S. Clark Street, Chicago.
- 1884-1885 Clark supervised an exhibit of the colored people of Iowa at the New Orleans Fair.
- 1887 Mar. 14 Clark sold The Conservator.
- 1887 May 16 Plans were made to lay new sidewalk around property, 3rd and Chestnut.
- 1887 July 18 Clark was chairman of the meeting at which two groups of Black Masons in Iowa were united and became the _____ Lodge of Iowa.
- 1888 The Evening Journal records that Clark voted in both March 14 and November 6 elections.
- 1889 Aug. 5 The Evening Journal records that A. Clark has not "relinquished his residence since he located here more than forty years ago. He has retained a suite of rooms in the house which was his family residence for a generation and always occupies it while in the city."
- 1890 Aug. 8 Clark was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison as Minister and Consul-General to Liberia at an annual salary of \$4,000. plus stipend.
- Clark was one of thirteen American Ministers from Iowa who were appointed during the period, 1855-1898. (Four Consuls from Muscatine were appointed during this period: George Van Horne, Consul to Marseilles, France, 1866; Samuel McNutt, Consul to Maracaybo, Venezuela, 1890; I. B. Richman, Consul to St. Gaul, Switzerland, 1893; and Frank W. Mahin, Consul to Richenburg, Austria, 1900.) In 1890 Mr. McNutt's salary was recorded as \$2,000. plus fees, the salary of the Governor of Iowa as \$3,000., and the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor as \$1100.
- 1890 Sept. 16 Clark was honored at a Muscatine celebration. (His bond was reported as \$5,000., the largest ever raised in Muscatine, with four cosigners worth collectively over \$1,000,000.)

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

- 1890 Clark was called "one of the leading colored men of the nation."
Oct. 2 The Advance.
- 1890 Clark sailed from New York City to London on the City of Chicago.
Oct. 8
- 1890 Clark took over his office as Minister and Consul-General at
Nov. 5 Monrovia, Liberia. No official communication was ever received
from him.
- 1891 Clark died at Monrovia, Liberia.
May 31
- 1891 George W. Appleton, Muscatine (husband of Rebecca Clark Appleton)
June 11 was notified of the Hon. Alexander G. Clark's death.
- 1892 Hon. Alexander G. Clark was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine.
Feb. 16
- 1893 Newspaper reports indicate that Dr. E. B. Fulliam had purchased
Sept. 16 Lot 1, Block 55 from the Clark heirs. The lot was reported as
having one double-brick house and one double-frame house on it.
- 1940 The Centennial Edition Muscatine Journal reviewed Clark's
May 31 appointment.
- 1958 Muscatine's Mayor Walter J. Conway declared February 25, 1958 as
Feb. 25 Alexander Clark Day.

Rebecca J. Clark, born September 15, 1849, married George W. Appleton, October 14, 1872, a barber in Muscatine who operated his shop with Clark at one time. They lived on Eighth Street until after Clark's death. The Evening Journal, June 2, 1892, reported, "A. Clark has packed up Appleton's Barber Shop furniture and will ship it to Sigourney. George will not resume his trade at present because of ill health." One daughter, Mabel White Appleton, born August 12, 1893, died May 2, 1903. Rebecca died August 24, 1906. Both are buried in Greenwood. One daughter, Mrs. Clara Lieber, of Chicago, survived Rebecca Appleton. Susan V. Clark attended the African School in the A.M.E. Church on E. 7th Street before she entered the 2nd Ward School. She married Rev. Richard E. Holley (Holly) A.M.E. minister and lived with him in many cities in this area. (Muscatine 1876; Champagne, Illinois 1879; Davenport, 1880, 1881; Cedar Rapids 1889, 1906) She died June 4, 1925 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Alexander G. Clark, Jr., Born 1856, graduated from Muscatine High School in 1873. He worked as a compositor for the Evening Journal before he entered the University of Iowa in 1878, received his L.L.B. in 1879. He spent several years in Iowa City, some time in Chicago, later moved to Sigourney-1891. He started a History of Prince Hall Masonry which was finished by S. J. Brown, a Negro attorney of Des Moines after Clark died on July 3, 1939. His widow, Addie, attended Alexander Clark Day in 1958. Both are buried in Oskaloosa.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

B. References Concerning Alexander G. Clark:

Bergman, Leola Nelson. "The Negro in Iowa," Iowa Journal of History and Politics. State Historical Society of Iowa. February, 1969. Iowa City, Iowa. pp. 50-53.

Briggs, John. "Iowa and the Diplomatic Service." Iowa Journal. XIX, State Historical Society of Iowa. July, 1921. Iowa City, Iowa. pp. 321-363.

Gallaher, Ruth A. "A Colored Convention." Palimpsest. Vol. II. State Historical Society of Iowa. May 1921. Iowa City, Iowa. pp. 178-181.

Graham, E. Scrapbook contains pictures of Clark house which burned June 31, 1878. S.C. 977.7 Muscatine Public Library. 1911. (Picture taken by J. Evans 1868).

Gue, Benjamin F. History of Iowa. Vol. III. The Century History Co., 41 Lafayette Pl., New York. pp. 524-525.

Randall, W. J. Little Known Stories of Muscatine. Fairall Service. 1949. Muscatine, Iowa.

Richman, Irving B. History of Muscatine County. S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1911. Chicago. pp. 295, 296, 335, 475, 476.

Simmons, Rev. William J. DD. "Hon. Alexander Clark," Men of Mark-Eminent, Progressive, and Rising. Originally published 1887. Reprinted by Arno Press, N.J. 1969. Chapter LLXIX.

The United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men. The American Biographical Publishing Co. 1878. Chicago, New York. pp. 536-541.

Witter, F. M., Walton, Alice B., Walton, J. P. History of Muscatine County. Western Historical Society, 1879. Chicago. pp. 597-598.

. Palimpsest. "The Inalienable Right of Education." Vol. VIII. May 1927. pp. 182-184.

. Palimpsest. "Iowa at the New Orleans Fair." Vol. VI. March 1925. pp. 77-94.

Eulogy of Alexander G. Clark on file at the Muscatine Public Library.

Muscatine County Court House-decisions concerning law suit Susan V. Clark by her next best friend, Alexander G. Clark vs. the Muscatine Board of Education.

Records of sales of lots in Muscatine, Mortgage of Lot 1, Block 55 - September 1887 to Richmond papers to settle estate.

Muscatine High School Records.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

University of Iowa Alumni Records.

Pictures in Eulogy, U.S. Biographical Dictionary, and in U. of Iowa Alumni record.

Muscatine Evening Journal microfilms on file at the Muscatine Public Library references to Alexander Clark.

1878	July 1 - original house burned July 22	Oct. 22
1879	July 14 July 22 Aug. 9 Aug. 30	Sept. 3 Sept. 4 Sept. 12
1880	Jan. 17 Jan. 21 "Colored Man, the Exodus" editorial by A. Clark Jan. 24 Mar. 7 Apr. 8 May 22 May 29 May 31 June 12 June 19	Aug. Fitzpatrick burglars frightened away on Chest- nut St. from A. Clark residence. Sept. 24 Nov. 8 Nov. 15 Nov. 27 Dec. 30
1881	Jan. 5 Jan. 22 Mar. 7 Mar. 8 Mar. 21 Mar. 31 Apr. 26	July 23 July 26 Sept. 8-refer to Chicago <u>Times</u> Oct. 4 Oct. 7 Oct. 14 Oct. 29 Nov. 11 Dec. 15 Dec. 24
1882	Jan. 5 Jan. 7 Feb. 7 Mar. 2 Mar. 7 paper by Walton Mar. 12 Mar. 24 Apr. 22 May 8 June 5	
1884	Jan. 15 Feb. 2 Mar. 3 May 8 May 24	June 14 June 20-Adm. to Bar June 24-Bar Banquet July 2 July 18

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

1887	Jan. 3. Jan. 4 Mar. 14-sells <u>Conservator</u> Apr. 6 May 16 May 30 June 25 July 18 Aug. 18	
1888	Mar. 5 Mar. 14-voted May 22 Aug. 4	Oct. 1 Nov. 6-voted Nov. 27 Dec. 31-listed as one of largest taxpayers in County
1889	Jan. 18 Jan. 24 Jan. 31 Apr. 26 June 5-Republican caucus	June 12 June 17 Aug. 5-refers to article Aug. 3- residence has always been in Muscatine. Sept. 26 Oct. 7 Oct. 15-application for Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia Oct. 18
1890	Jan. 20 June 30 Aug. 9 Aug. 12-refers to Des Moines Register Sept. 9	Sept. 13 Sept. 16 Oct. 3-quotes <u>The Advance</u> -Oct. 2 Oct. 8 Nov. 4-"Not Encouraging Outlook for A.G.Clark" <u>N.Y. Star</u>
1891	June 11	
1892	Feb. 11 Feb. 15 Feb. 16 June 2	
1893	Sept. 16-sale of Lot 1, Block 55	
1906	Aug. 24-death of Rebecca Clark Appleton	

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

C. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

In September, 1849, Alexander G. Clark purchased Lot 1, Block 55, of the City of Muscatine from Wm. Smith Allen.

Lot 1 is located on the corner of 3rd Street and Chestnut Street and extends along Chestnut Street from 3rd Street to the alley on the northwest side. The lot is 61 feet deep.

Records indicate that Clark also purchased a frame house, originally built by Wm. Brownell, located on the corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets. This house was destroyed by fire in June, 1878. Clark rebuilt on the site and moved to 307-309 Chestnut Street during the building program. Until recently, two structures were located on the property; a red brick house, located on the corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets and the double unit frame structure at 307-309 Chestnut Street discussed in this report. As part of this preservation program, the red brick house, located on the corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets has recently been moved to a new site.

In 1893, Dr. E. B. Fulliam purchased Lot 1, Block 55, from Clark heirs. At this time the lot had both a double-brick house and a double frame house on it.

Since acquisition by E. B. Fulliam, intermediate transactions have undoubtedly taken place but records are incomplete.

On the 30th of October, 1974, Harold J. Fuller and Florence L. Fuller, husband and wife, sold the property to the City of Muscatine who presently retain ownership.

2. Date of Erection:

Records do not indicate the erection date of the double house at 307-309 Chestnut Street. It is known that the house was built prior to July 22, 1878, since Clark moved into this house after his original house, at 3rd and Chestnut Streets was destroyed by fire.

3. Architect or Builder: Unknown.

4. Original Plans, Construction, etc.: None found.

5. Alterations and Additions:

Additions and alterations cannot be accurately determined. Rear porches appear to have been added on after original construction. Interior wall finishes, particularly wallboard finish in several rooms have been added in recent years. Inexpensive carpeting and linoleum have also been added in some locations over original floors.

6. Important Old Views: None found.

D. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Alexander Clark moved into his house following destruction of his original home at 3rd and Chestnut Streets. In all probability, his son, Alexander Clark, Jr., lived in this house prior to attending the University of Iowa Law School in September, 1878. He was the first black student to enter the University of Iowa Law School and also the first black to graduate (LLD).

No other significant events have been recorded relative to this house.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Architectural significance is due primarily to the fact that this is an early Midwestern example of a two-family composite dwelling or duplex. It is, actually, two houses joined together by common wall. Method of construction is typical of other residences in the vicinity. The house has no unusual or distinguishing features.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is poor condition and additions and changes have taken place through the years. Records do not indicate when such modifications occurred and no past photographs have been located. Lean-to porches at the rear, in particular, were probably added after original construction. General neglect and the ravages of time have severely affected use and value. Exterior siding, originally wood lap type, has been covered with an asphaltic sheet type imitation stone siding material which undoubtedly is less attractive than the original. Settlement has occurred in several locations and cracks are visible in exterior foundation walls. This settlement is particularly visible at the center intermediate point between units on the street side. Guttering and downspouts are generally in poor condition and do not allow proper drainage or carryoff away from the building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Overall dimensions are as indicated on the plans.
2. Foundations: Foundations are of stone and brick combination, plastered above grade exterior with cement plaster. Foundations are visible from 12" to approximately 4' above grade.
3. Wall construction: Walls are, generally, full size 2" x 4" dimension lumber at 16" and 24" on center; wood sheeting- 1" x 8"; and lap siding (later covered with an asphaltic imitation stone material). Walls in general are not insulated with wood lath and plaster as the primary interior surfacing material. Wallboard, with wood grain finish, has been applied in recent years to several interior walls. Dry rot is in evidence in certain areas together with indications of previous water infiltration.
4. Framing: First floor framing consists of full size 2" x 8" floor joists placed approximately 16" on center. Second floor joists consist primarily of full size 2" x 6" floor joists placed approximately 16" on center. Roof joists consist of full size 2" x 6" placed approximately 2' on center. Rafters consist of full size 3" x 5" wood framing members spaced approximately 42" on center. Floor joists are supported by interior walls. Floor deflection is in evidence throughout.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

5. **Porches:** Porch floors consist of concrete floors poured over earth fill and supported on the two long sides by the foundation wall of the house and exterior foundation wall of the porch. Earth fill has also been utilized under slabs. Roof over the porches is supported by structural members finished on the exterior with trim lumber making an overall post size of approximately 8" x 8". Two short flights of concrete stairs run from the sidewalk to the concrete porch level. These steps are in relatively poor condition. Supporting columns for the porch roof rest on the concrete floor slab. Porch roof framing consists of 2" x 4" members. Roof sheeting consists of 1" x 6" boards and roofing material of asphalt shingles. Shingles are green color as differentiated from the lighter (off-white) shingles on the main roof of the house. Shingle condition on the front porch is generally poor. Soffit is of 4" boards striated to effect 1 1/2" strips. The paint condition is poor to fair. Improper surface preparation reveals previous painting coats. Porch rail is boxed from the hand level to approximately 2" above the floor.

Rear porches are in extremely poor condition and similar in construction to that above except for exposed sheeting on the underside and no soffit. Roof sheeting on the northeast corner porch appears to have been scrap lumber. Roofing material is of roll roofing turned down 2" to 3" at the edges. Porch slab is of concrete on earth. A wood trellis is used as a partial enclosure for both rear porches.

6. **Chimneys:** One chimney is used on each side, primarily for dissipation of exhaust from original coal burning furnace. A short brick chimney stack extends approximately 2' above the roof of the rear lean-to area of Unit 307.

7. **Openings:**

- a. **Doorways and doors:** Wood paneled doors with glass vision panels are used at the front (street side) of each unit. Doors are 6' 8" high by 2' 8" wide by 1 3/4" thick. Doors are two paneled type with a three sectional transom over. Transom approximates 10" high by 2' 8" wide. The doors are in poor condition, do not fit particularly tight and show evidence of dry rot at the bottom. Quarter inch plywood pieces have been secured to the stiles over the original wood panels. Glass is single strength and stopped with putty. Hardware is of the mortise type, in generally poor condition with pressed steel knobs. Two ordinary hinges are used per door. Sills are of wood with aluminum thresholds at entrance. Sills again show evidence of dry rot and are in poor condition.

A 6' 8" x 2' 6" x 1 3/4" four panel door is located on the east side of the house. The door fits the opening fairly well but shows evidence of dry rot at the bottom. Rear doors to residences are four panel type doors without glass vision panels. Condition of these doors is poor.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

- b. Windows: Windows are wood, double hung, four glass type except for an 18" two light window on the east and upper wall between units at the front. Several windows have screens but these are rusted and in poor condition.

Wood basement windows are approximately 14" high by 24" wide. These windows are in poor condition, show evidence of dry rot and allow excessive water infiltration.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Pitched roofs of the main structure consist of asphalt shingles (off-white color). These shingles are in fair to good condition. The front porch roof is covered with green asphalt shingles which are in poor condition. Rear porch roofs have a lower pitch and utilize rolled roofing (black) which is in poor condition.
- b. Eaves and cornice: Eaves on the high main structure of the house project approximately 6" and have wood trim, fascia and soffit. Condition is poor to fair. A roll type gutter is secured to the fascia with downspouts at certain corners of the house. The porches have no eave projection and roll roofing is turned down approximately 2" to 3" and secured to the siding.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Floor plans are as indicated. Each unit is basically divided into specific areas including living, dining, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom areas.
2. Stairways: Each unit has a stair to the second level, open balustrade is in poor condition with missing balusters. Risers and treads are of wood; covered in recent years with an inexpensive carpet material. Stairs to the basement are open type, made of dimensioned lumber approximately 2' wide and in a dangerous condition.
3. Flooring: The subflooring is of 1" x 6" boards covered with linoleum or plastic tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings were originally of wood lath and plaster. Several rooms have been partially finished in recent years with an inexpensive wallboard. Ceilings in several rooms have been replaced with wood fiber tile secured to original plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Doorways and doors are finished with 4" pine trim.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION: (Continued)

6. Decorative features and trim: None.
7. Notable hardware: None.
8. Lighting: Original wiring was of the knob and tube type. Additional wiring has been installed through the years; primarily Romex. Wiring is in a particularly poor condition and presents a fire hazard. No fixtures remain in the house with the exception of a single inexpensive glass reflector in the hall of Unit 309.
9. Heating: Each unit had its own mechanical system consisting of large converted natural gas hot air gravity flow furnaces with round ducts terminating in floor registers.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The duplex faces the southwest to Chestnut Street and is located directly on the property line. This is in violation of the current city code. The front porch of each unit is adjacent to the sidewalk. Clark House No. 2, (which is currently being relocated) adjoins 307 Chestnut on the southeast and an alley borders the property on the northwest. The rear property line is adjacent to a city parking lot.

Drainage is poor and in some instances water drains toward the structure. The lot slopes from northwest to southeast and from southwest to northeast. Fall to the northeast on the alley side approximates 3'. The lot slopes from northwest to southeast with a fall of approximately 2'.

2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: A concrete walk abuts the property on the front.
5. Landscaping: Seven spirea bushes approximately 3' high and an 8' cedar are located at the property line on the southeast. There is no other landscaping of any consequence.

Prepared by: Roy C. Neumann
Registered Architect
Muscatine, Iowa
April, 1975

See field records for supplemental information and sketch plans.