

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

State Inventory No. 70-00958       **New**    **Supplemental**  
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Commercial Building  
other names/site number Field Site #: FS-013a

**2. Location**

street & number 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St  
city or town Muscatine, Iowa       vicinity, county \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name \_\_\_\_\_ Township No. \_\_\_\_\_ Range No. \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter of Quarter \_\_\_\_\_  
(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town      Block(s) 35      Lot(s) W. 15' Lot 4 & N 69' Lot 3

**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: |                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Enter number of:                    | Contributing                           | Noncontributing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | _____ buildings                     | _____                                  | _____ buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | _____ sites                         | _____                                  | _____ sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | _____ structures                    | _____                                  | _____ structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | _____ objects                       | _____                                  | _____ objects    |
|   | _____ Total                         | _____                                  | _____ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Historical and Architectural Survey and Evaluation of the Downtown Commercial District      70-013

**6. Function or Use**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions) | <b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions) |
| <u>02E: Commerce / Specialty Store</u>                         | <u>02D: Commerce / Financial Institution</u>                  |
| _____  | _____   |
| _____  | _____   |

**7. Description**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions) | <b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions) |
| <u>09F05: Commercial/Brick Front</u>                                     | foundation _____                                      |
| _____  | walls <u>03: Brick</u>                                |
| _____  | roof <u>08B: Asphalt Rolled</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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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  
City Muscatine

Address 207 West Second Street

Site Number 70-00958  
District Number \_\_\_\_\_

**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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

Construction date  
1870s  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates  
c.1938?

**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 February 13, 2005

street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1554

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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 3

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <u>Commercial Building</u><br>Name of Property | <u>Muscatine</u><br>County     |
| <u>207 West Second Street</u><br>Address       | <u>Muscatine, Iowa</u><br>City |

## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a large oriel window added to the second story. Review of an 1866 Graham Collection (GR26, Vol. 1) photo of the block does not show this building. The building was in place by 1879 according to a Graham Collection (GR162, Vol. 4) photo of the block. The 1879 photo shows 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> had a different roof cornice, windows with hoods, a balcony, and no oriel window present.

207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> consists of a c.1870s, two story, commercial building with a storefront that has been extensively modified. The present storefront is from a 1967 remodeling ("New Front for Three Business Firms" Photograph, December 29, 1967, 16). The storefront is modern style storefront with a single light plate glass display window resting on a brick knee wall and the store entry at the east side of the store. The entry door is a typical modern glass retail door with transom above. Second story entry is from the back. The storefront ceiling is plywood sheeting. Subsequently, the metal awning installed in 1967 has been removed, and a new fabric awing shelters the storefront from the elements. The second story is brick and has been remodeled since its construction. The façade appears to have been rebricked and a large trapezoidal oriel window was added. The trapezoidal oriel window addition date has not been determined; it appears in the 1967 photograph but the photograph caption only talks about storefront remodeling, not a oriel window addition. It may have been added around 1938 when the jewelry business moved into this building. The oriel window contains two single-over-single-light double-hung windows facing the street and one single-over-single-light double-hung window in each of the sloping sides of the trapezoidal oriel window. The trapezoidal oriel window is sided with metal. The windows are not original and have metal frames with outer plain wood sills and frame. The roof cornice consists of a soldier brick course framed by slightly projected horizontal rows of bricks above and below. The brick cornice appears to be capped with a metal flashed cap.

The east and west elevations are party walls with the adjacent buildings. The property retained its original footprint through the 1888 Sanborn map. In 1892, a building addition at the back aligned the back wall with the adjoining 209-211 building. This footprint would then stay the same through the 1919 Sanborn map. By the 1928 Sanborn map, the building had another back addition that extended the building to the alley. The rear elevation currently appears to be frame with a stucco finish for the top story and brick on the first story.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The original appearance of 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> has been remodeled two or three times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The rebricking of the façade likely occurred in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, based on the visible detail, which removed the original cornice. The oriel window appears to have been added in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps at the same time as the other façade alterations. These alterations may have been done around 1938 when the jewelry store moved into the building. The storefront was remodeled in

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

---

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Commercial Building</u>    | <u>Muscatine</u>       |
| Name of Property              | County                 |
| <u>207 West Second Street</u> | <u>Muscatine, Iowa</u> |
| Address                       | City                   |

---

1967. With these alterations, it does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

While the building has an interesting commercial history, it is not clear if the building would be a contributing building for architecture or commerce in a potential downtown historic district. While it has lost its integrity from the 1870s, much of the remodeling were prior to 1960, the projected period of significance for the downtown district. However, the storefront was remodeled in 1967. Overall, however, the appearance appears to be typically pre-1960, and it may be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

This building has seen many different uses in its long history. 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> first shows up in the 1889-1892 city directory as a boot/shoe store operated by John Schmidt. By 1892, Frank Reed had moved his toy/novelty store from 211 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> and would remain there under his name through 1913 (City Directories, 1892 and 1899 Sanborn maps). The Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition of the Muscatine Journal in 1891 has this to say about Frank W. Reed: "It was in the later part of 1885 that Frank W. Reed came to Muscatine and quietly opened a small store on West Second Street [211]. It was not long until he became one of the best known business men on the street because of the wonderfully low prices at which he sold his goods. He handles 5 and 10 cent goods chiefly including all kinds of toys, masks, stationery, etc. He also has an immense trade on cigars, making a specialty of Nicholas Kuhnen's finest brands. He sold 68,000 cigars the past year. He has just moved into a new store, a couple of doors east [207] of his old stand, and has a big stock of new goods, and having no rent to pay, and being able to sell as many goods himself as two clerks, he will be in the future, as in the past, the cheapest man in Muscatine to buy goods from." ("Frank W. Reed," January 1891). By 1916, Albers had joined Reed to form Albers and Reed variety store. This firm retailed at 207 through 1937. F.J. Albers lived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story at least in 1923-24.

After being vacant in 1938-39, Vance Jewelry moved in and operated at 207 through 1952. Harold Vance lived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story from 1938 to 1952. It may have been during this period that the façade was renovated, removing the 1870s cornice and added new façade brick and the oriel window. By 1959, Dewey's Natural Foods was at 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"A Line-Up of Fine Carriages on East [West] Second Street" Photograph (Note that the photo caption mistakenly labeled the location as East Second Street), Bicentennial Edition of the *Muscatine Journal*, July 1, 1976, Sec. 3, p. 10.

City Directories, Muscatine, Various publishers, 1869-1959. Available at the Musser Public Library.

"Frank W. Reed," Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition, *Muscatine Journal*, January 1891, 39.

"New Front for Three Business Firms" Photograph, *Muscatine Journal*, December 29, 1967, 16.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <u>Commercial Building</u><br>Name of Property | <u>Muscatine</u><br>County     |
| <u>207 West Second Street</u><br>Address       | <u>Muscatine, Iowa</u><br>City |

Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1919, 1928, 1946. Accessed online at: [sanborn.umi.com](http://sanborn.umi.com).

"Second & Pine Photograph," 1866, GR26 of Graham Photograph Collection, Volume 1. Available at the Musser Public Library.

"Second and Chestnut Photograph," 1879, GR162 of Graham Photograph Collection, Volume 4. Available at the Musser Public Library.

## Location Map



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00958

Related District Number \_\_\_\_\_

Page 6

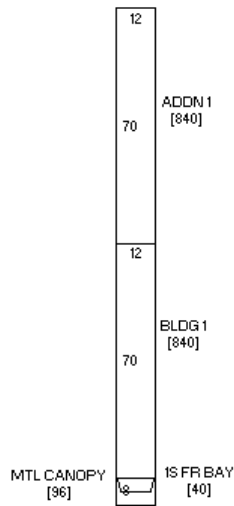
Commercial Building  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

207 West Second Street  
Address

Muscatine, Iowa  
City

### Plan (from assessor's office)



(front – W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St)

### Photograph of building (digital image)

