

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

State Inventory No. 70-00166  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 Daut Grocery Building / Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company Building  
 other names/site number Muscatine Pearl Works , Hills Fair-all Paint Building, Field Site #: FS-016

**2. Location**

street & number 218 West 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) 10 Lot(s) 9

**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)	_____	Contributing _____ Noncontributing _____
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____
	_____ buildings	<u>1</u> _____ buildings
	_____ sites	_____ sites
	_____ structures	_____ structures
	_____ objects	_____ objects
	_____ Total	<u>1</u> _____ 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>02E11: Commerce / Grocery</u>	<u>02E: Commerce / Specialty Store</u>
<u>10A02: Industry/Processing / Factory</u>	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Italianate/Late Victorian</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03:Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08: Rolled Asphalt</u>
_____	other <u>05A: Iron storefront posts</u>

**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 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 218 West 2nd St

Site Number 70-00166  
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)

05: Commerce

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1890  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Devin Pettit, Vice-Chairman M.H.P.C. (R.L. McCarley, Consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date 10/13/04

street & number 215 Sycamore Street telephone 563-264-1550

city or town Muscatine state Iowa 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

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<u>Daut Building / Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>218 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

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## 7. Narrative Description

This is a two story, three bay, brick commercial building with Italianate influence, constructed in 1890. Historically, the address was typically 214 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, as depicted on the Sanborn maps. The first Sanborn map to show a structure here (1892) shows a three story building here, as is depicted in the 1891 *Souvenir of Muscatine, Iowa* (Holmes 1891). Originally, it was similar to the earlier adjacent building, including a similar cornice. The 1899 Sanborn map shows that the building height was reduced to two stories, perhaps suggesting a fire in the 1890s soon after the construction. The existing cornice dates to this early period of modification.

The storefront retains its original cast iron columns. The original storefront configuration shown in the 1891 book had a double-door entry between two large storefront windows and the upper story entry to the right. The storefront openings have been replaced and modified with smaller features, with the additional space covered by wood paneling. Non-historic awnings are centered above the non-historic door and windows. The storefront frieze and cornice appears to be metal with brick accents along the bottom. The second story includes three two-over-two-light double-hung windows with painted stone hoods and sills. These hoods are nearly identical to those on the neighboring building at 212 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. The brick and metal cornice is decorative with arch detailing and dentils across the frieze. Metal finials mark either end of the cornice.

The west elevation includes four segmental-arch windows on the first floor that have been filled-in with wood. There is a historic segmental-arch entry that is partially filled-in with wood roughly in the middle of the elevation. Towards the alley there is a segmental-arch basement window filled-in with wood. This elevation also includes a painted business sign that is non-historic, possibly dating to the 1970s when the paint store moved into this location. The second story includes three double-hung wood windows with segmental arch lintels.

The south elevation includes two segmental-arch basement windows filled-in with wood. There is also a historic entry filled-in with wood, one window closed with an iron shutter, and another window covered with wired mesh. The first story includes three windows with segmented arched lintels; one covered by an iron shutter, the other two are historic made with wood. All these windows have iron sills. The second story has three windows with segmented arched lintels. One window is closed by an iron shutter; the other two are historic made of wood, with an iron shutter on one of the historic windows left open. The windows on the second floor all have iron sills. There is a recently added metal cornice and frieze.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This building appears to be individually eligible under Criterion A for the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the pearl button industry. Additionally, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

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<u>Daut Building / Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
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This building appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company (later the Muscatine Pearl Works). As the pearl button industry grew in Muscatine, a side industry also began, the pearl novelties. This was the first company that focused primarily on these products, though it was joined by competitors in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It continued to be a prominent company within the pearl button industry throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This business continued to operate through 1962, also making it one of the longest businesses of this kind in Muscatine. Though the building has some storefront modifications, it certainly retains sufficient integrity to convey this aspect of its history. The reduction in height of the building from three to two stories occurred prior to the time that the Muscatine Pearl Works moved here. Though it retains several characteristics of the Italianate style, there are several examples of this style in downtown Muscatine. This building is a late example of this style, and with the storefront modifications it does not appear to be a particularly outstanding example of this style. Additionally, it is not particularly associated with a prominent person. Thus, it does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B or C.

Finally, this structure appears to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. It falls within three contexts identified for the district: "Pearl Button Center of the World," "19<sup>th</sup> century Business and Industry," and "20<sup>th</sup> century Business and Industry." Its history with the pearl novelty business is contributing to the downtown district, as well as its overall contributions to the commercial and industrial history of the district.

The building was constructed in 1890; it first appears in the city directories in the 1891-1892 edition, as the Fred Daut Grocery. The building historic address was typically 214 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, though it has been variously listed in city directories and Sanborn maps as 214, 216, 218, and 220 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The building first appears on the Sanborn map in 1892 as a three story building, which is depicted in the 1891 *Souvenir of Muscatine, Iowa* (Holmes 1891). Originally, it was similar to the earlier adjacent building (212 at the time) also owned by Fred Daut, including a similar cornice. The 1899 Sanborn map shows that the building height was reduced to two stories, perhaps suggesting a fire in the 1890s soon after the construction. The existing cornice dates to this early period of modification.

From 1890 until 1900, according to the city directories, this was home to the Fred Daut Grocery. This was next door to his cigar and tobacco business at 212 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The 1892 and 1899 Sanborn maps depict a wholesale grocery business in both 212 and 214 (now 218) W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. This was one of several grocery businesses in this potential district. Fred Daut was not any more well known or significant to Muscatine history than any of the other grocers in this potential district.

The building was empty for a few years, and the Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company moved here by 1907, according to city directories. The Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company was started in 1898 making hat pins, pearl stick pins, pearl buckles, and pearl slides in a small shop on Mulberry Avenue, employing around a half a dozen people. The variety of items made and production increased, and the company moved to W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. The 1905 Sanborn map shows that the office was located on the first story, with the cutting and finishing room on the second story. By the 1912 Sanborn map, the first story was used for the office, soaking, cutting, and finishing, while stock was stored on the second story. The name of the

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company was changed in 1920 to the Muscatine Pearl Works, and incorporated as such. In 1935, after O.A. Hammer became president, modern button manufacturing equipment was added along with the trade name, Luckyday ("Muscatine Pearl Works" 1940: 54). The company expanded again in 1939 by setting up additional space across the street at 227 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and then in 1943 they expanded again into 208 and 206 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. After a fire destroyed their building at 227 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on October 1, 1961, the company moved all their operations to Highway 61 South (Muscatine Fire Department). In 1968, they moved to 1103 Musser Street where they remained until 1985 when they went out of business (Pearl button pamphlet file 1). The Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company, later Muscatine Pearl Works, was the first company to be involved in the pearl novelty business, and it was also the largest.

After being vacant about a year, Central Industries located here in 1964. Central Industries was a small manufacturer of office furniture, started by a former employee of HON (HNI) Industries, Bill Duval. In the early 1970's Hills Fair-All Paint Store located here and is still here. The painted signs on the south elevation possibly date to this period.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories, Muscatine, Various publishers, 1889-1972. Available at the Musser Public Library.

Holmes, R.A. *Souvenir of Muscatine, Iowa*. Muscatine: R.A. Holmes, 1891. Available online at [www.rootsweb.com/~iamuscat/albumtiny.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~iamuscat/albumtiny.htm)

"Muscatine Pearl Works," Muscatine Journal Centennial Edition, May 31, 1940, 54.

"Pearl button industry," Vertical File, Musser Public Library, Muscatine, IA.

Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, N.Y: Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1905, 1912, 1919, 1928, 1946. Accessed online at : [sanborn.umi.com](http://sanborn.umi.com)

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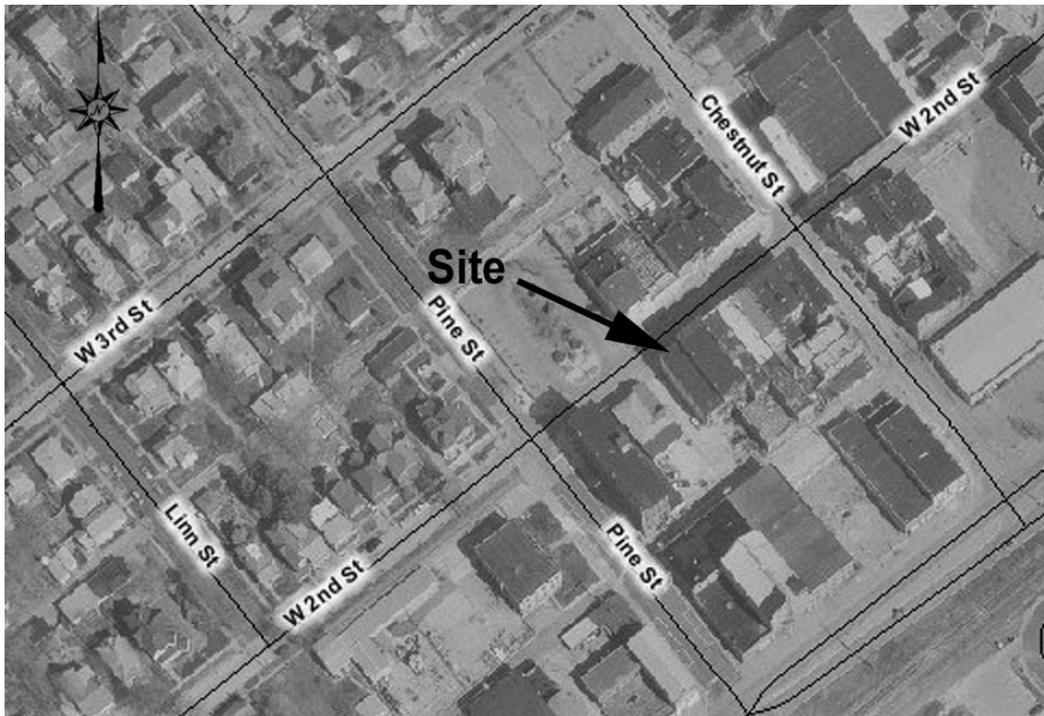
Daut Building / Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company Building  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

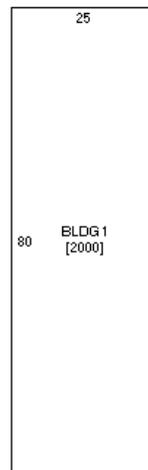
218 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Address

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City

## Location Map



## Plan (from assessor's office)



(front)

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Daut Building / Muscatine Pearl Novelty Company Building  
Name of Property

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218 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
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## Photograph of building (digital image)

