

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

State Inventory No. 70-00158 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 Shamrock Hall
 other names/site number Field Site #: FS-021

2. Location

street & number 128 West Second 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) 11 Lot(s) W24'N100' Lot 10

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

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02E11: Commerce / Specialty Store / Grocery</u>	<u>02E08: Commerce / Specialty Store / Beauty Shop</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Late Victorian / Italianate</u>	foundation <u>04C: Stone / Limestone</u>
_____	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 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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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 Address 128 West Second Street Site Number 70-00158
City Muscatine 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
14C01: Ethnic History - Irish

Significant Dates

Construction date 1868 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 Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, Consultant)
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date October 4, 2004
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

Page 3

<u>Shamrock Hall</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>128 W. 2nd Street</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

7. Narrative Description

“Shamrock Hall” at 128 W. 2nd St. was constructed at the same time as 124 and 126 W. 2nd St. as a single structure. A postcard from c.1900 reveals the original appearance of the front elevation of 128 W. 2nd St., as well as the two adjacent storefronts at 124 and 126 W. 2nd St. (postcard “Second Street, looking East, Muscatine, Iowa”). The three brick buildings shared the same cornice structure, which was highly decorative in the Italianate style. Shamrock Hall still retains its portion of the cornice, with centered pediment with raised letters “SHAMROCK HALL”. All the windows had highly decorative hoods with a keystone detail.

This three-story, three-bay, brick Italianate structure has one-over-one-light double-hung windows on the second and third floors. The decorative, high arched window hoods with keystones have been removed; the patching is visible within the brick. On the west elevation of the building, the brick façade is divided by pilasters into three parts. Each section is two bays wide, with a door in the southern-most (right) section. Four windows and an entry on the first floor on the west side still have their high arch hoods. The windows on the second and third floors on the west side have also had their decorative hoods removed. The stone sills remain. A single window has been bricked in on this side. The highly decorative, bracketed cornice extends across the front of the structure and around the west side elevation. “SHAMROCK HALL” is featured in the front pediment. A photo postcard (postcard c.1900) reveals the original state of the front elevation of 128 W. 2nd St., as well as the two adjacent buildings at 124 and 126 W. 2nd St. The first floor storefront has been remodeled in the 1970’s or 1980’s.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

“Shamrock Hall” does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C at this time, although it appears to be a contributing structure in a potential downtown historic district. Additional research into Shamrock Hall, a social organization, and its connection to the Irish community of Muscatine may reveal that this building is significant individually under Criteria A or B.

Though Shamrock Hall continues to stand as a noteworthy structure anchoring a downtown corner, the integrity of this structure has been somewhat compromised. It does retain its cornice, unlike the adjoining structures. However, the removal of the window hoods, replacement of the windows, and remodeled storefront detracts from the historic character of the structure. These window hoods particularly, as well as the storefront, are key features of the Italianate style. Thus, it does not appear to be individually eligible under Criterion C for architectural significance. Additionally, though associated with an early grocery business in Muscatine, several other buildings also associated with the grocery business after the Civil War remain in town. At this time, the lack of information about Shamrock Hall suggests that it was not a particularly prominent organization within the community. John Byrne and Michael Murphy were noteworthy early citizens, but they do not appear to be particularly prominently associated with this structure. Thus, the building does not appear individually eligible for the National

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

<u>Shamrock Hall</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>128 W. 2nd Street</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C at this time. If additional information is uncovered about Shamrock Hall and its connection with the Irish community in Muscatine, this building may be individually eligible under Criteria A or B. However, integrity would need to be closely examined.

However, Shamrock Hall does retain sufficient integrity to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a landmark building at a key corner in Muscatine, and it contributes architecturally and historically to this potential historic district. Historically, it operated as a grocery store, a traditional business in a downtown. In the early 20th century, a confectionary and tavern continued the commercial tradition of this building.

Shamrock Hall appears to have been constructed around 1868; the Byrne and Murphy grocery store is listed at 2nd and Chestnut in the 1869-1870 directory. Michael Murphy is first listed in Muscatine in 1859 as a saloon owner on Chestnut Street, so it is possible that this structure was built slightly earlier. The 1883 Sanborn insurance map shows a three-story structure used as a grocery store at this location, with "Shamrock Hall" on the third story. The notation for "Shamrock Hall" on the 3rd story appears again in 1888, but disappears by 1892. Subsequent Sanborn maps, from 1888 through 1919 also show that the building continued to be used as a grocery.

In a first person account by Mr. Charles C. Braunwarth in his reminiscences, he indicates that the "Shamrock Hall" building was built by John Byrne and Michael Murphy, the Irish owners of the grocery store (Carlson 1989: 161). According to City Directories, the Byrne and Murphy grocery was located "at the corner of Chestnut and 2nd St" (1869-70 city directory) and more specifically at the southeast corner of 2nd and Chestnut" (1874-75 city directory). Mr. Braunwarth also indicated that the second floor of "Shamrock Hall" was used for "debates, lyceum and society meetings." The Royal Neighbors of America, Woodbine Camp No. 142, the largest woman's lodge in Muscatine with 108 members, was organized in Shamrock Hall in 1895 (Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 430). This was the only reference to Shamrock Hall that could be identified in the city directories and local histories.

A biographical sketch published in 1879 indicates that Byrne and Murphy were "dealers in groceries, provisions, produce, flour, feed, confectionery, fruits, etc." They had been in business for a number of years and had "secured the confidence and patronage of the public generally." John Byrne was born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1836 and immigrated to Muscatine County in 1849. He was "president of the Muscatine Catholic Mutual Aid Society; was alderman of the second ward, and as such exhibited marked executive ability, and performed the duties of that office in an able and efficient manner. Mr. Byrne is highly regarded by his fellow citizens, and is deservedly very popular." Michael Murphy was also described in the same 1879 publication as having been born in Tipperary County, Ireland in 1830, immigrated to the United States in 1847. According to the biography; "Mr. Murphy was elected alderman of the fourth ward for four years; he also filled the office of street commissioner; in both offices he performed his duties in an able and efficient manner. (*History of Muscatine County, Iowa* 1879: 596, 613)

Mr. Henry F. Bodman operated a grocery at 128 West Second for many years after Byrne and Murphy. He began operation at "Shamrock Hall" in about 1889 continuing until 1913 according to the city

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

<u>Shamrock Hall</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>128 W. 2nd Street</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

directories. According to a biography published in 1889, Mr. Bodman bought out the Huttig & Brothers grocery store in 1872. He was operating at the northeast corner of 2nd and Chestnut (133 W. 2nd) in a building that still stands before moved to this location. According to the 1889 biography, he carried a “general line of staples and fancy groceries, fruits, and provisions.” He served in the Civil War as well as a director of the Muscatine City Railroad Company, a member of the Muscatine Common Council and Chief of the Fire Department for two years. According to an 1889 biographical sketch; “Mr. Bodman is an active and reliable business man, enterprising and public-spirited, and enjoys the fullest respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens” (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa*: 308).

According to city directories in the years from 1916 to 1959, the occupants of 128 West Second included a confectioner during the 1920’s and 1930’s and the Belvedere Tavern from 1936 to and after 1959.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Carlson, Jo Ann and Barbara Bublitz, ed. *Muscatine History Notes: From Muscatine newspapers and other sources*. Muscatine: Musser Public Library, 1989.

History of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1889.

Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1911.

Sanborn Map Company. “Muscatine, Iowa,” Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY:Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1919. Accessed online at:Sanborn.umi.com

“Second Street,” Postcard. Chicago: T.C. Co., c.1900. Peterschmidt private collection

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00158

Related District Number _____

Page 6

Shamrock Hall
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

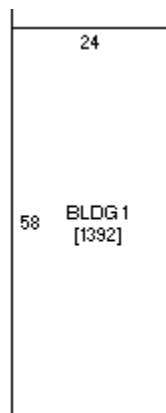
128 W. 2nd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

Location Map



Plan (from assessor's office)



(front – 2nd Street)

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 7

Shamrock Hall
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

128 W. 2nd Street
Address

Muscatine
City

Photograph of structure (digital image)

