

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

State Inventory No. 70-00155  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 Montgomery Ward Department Store  
 other names/site number Field Site #: FS-026

**2. Location**

street & number 117-121 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) 34 Lot(s) W32'E3/4 & W1/4 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:	
	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ 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>04F: Government / Post Office</u>	<u>08C02: Recreation and Culture / Museum / Exhibition</u>
<u>02F: Commerce / Department Store</u>	<u>Hall</u>

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09F07: Commercial / Artistic Front</u>	foundation _____
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>15C: Synthetics / Rubber</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 117-121 West Second Street

Site Number 70-00155  
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

02: Architecture

**Significant Dates**

*Construction date*

1875  check if circa or estimated date

*Other dates*

1929 – Remodel Date

**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 November 5, 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

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<u>Montgomery Ward Department Store</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>117-121 W. Second St.</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

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## 7. Narrative Description

The Montgomery Ward building was created at 117-121 West Second Street in February 1929. At this time, an earlier building was remodeled with the new, and current, façade.

The structure is two stories tall and three bays wide, with the entire second floor façade covered with decorative glazed tile and precast lightweight stone. The four pilasters are topped with glazed, decorative tile in a swagged floral design. The pilasters are then capped with flat stone and a Victorian-like urn shaped finial. The parapet has a silhouette with a Spanish influence. The round, centered pediment atop each bay encloses a round, decorative glazed tile. Several other decorative, square tiles appear in each bay in the space immediately below the parapet. Also, in each bay, two tone green glazed tile are set in a diamond pattern with a tile molding surround. This pattern is approximately two feet high and four feet long, and is repeated above each window in each bay. The windows on the second floor are one per bay and were originally framed with wood and were partially operable. The windows were filled in with small, mosaic sized glazed green and ivory tiles. A recent remodel has replaced these windows and infill with modern, fixed windows with anodized aluminum frames, with an infill on top and sides made of dark green plate glass. A unique feature of these windows and infill is the upper corners of each set. Each upper corner has a radius of approximately eighteen inches to which the infill glass is cut.

The first floor has merchandise display windows across the width of the store. There are two glass door entries. They are each set back from the building front and are flanked by diagonal storefront display windows. All windows and doors are set in modern, anodized aluminum frames. The storefront windows are skirted with dark marble panels from the original Wards store. The storefront is topped with a full width sign in gold yellow lettering on a dark green background. The sign is about thirty inches tall and reads: "MUSCATINE HISTORY AND INDUSTRY CENTER." Below the sign, a modern, fixed green awning is mounted across the full width of the building.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Montgomery Ward Department Store appears individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The tile façade of this structure makes it a unique structure downtown as well as throughout Muscatine. It dates to the 1920s, during a period that many historic buildings were "updated" and "modernized." Both the decorative tile and precast concrete block were considered modern building materials at the time. Though the windows and storefront have been replaced, the building retains this significant façade. Though the earlier businesses may have been significant, the building's appearance and integrity dates to the 1929 remodeling.

Additionally, the Montgomery Ward Department Store appears to contribute to a potential downtown historic district. It falls within one historic context identified for this district: "20<sup>th</sup> century Business and Industry." The 1929 remodeling is significant architectural and historically within this period, reflecting a unique façade as well as the period of "updating" of historic buildings. Additionally, the Montgomery

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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<u>Montgomery Ward Department Store</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>117-121 W. Second St.</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
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Ward store was a significant local business, operating here through 1968. Thus, it appears to contribute to a potential downtown historic district under Criteria A and C.

A c. 1875 three-story Italianate brick building existed on this site prior to the remodeling by Montgomery Ward. Prior owners at this location included two local dry goods merchants. In 1893 the Batterson Department Store purchased this property and remained at this location until 1900, when they moved to East Second Street. In 1908, Reinemund Dry Goods began business here, continuing until 1923. Both of these earlier merchants were well thought of and were prosperous.

On February 9, 1929, Montgomery Ward and Company opened its doors for business at 117-121 West Second Street. "At that time the building was remodeled and a new, attractive front put on." (Muscatine Journal Centennial Edition 1940). The buildings that Montgomery Ward remodeled in 1929 were brick Italianate in style, with high decorative parapet with brackets and high arched hooded windows. The Montgomery Ward building façade was lowered, eliminating the third floor of the old building. The new facing material of the new Montgomery Ward Department Store was glazed tile in subdued tones of green and ivory and was set in a mix of decorative styles. Montgomery Ward remained at 117-121 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street until 1968.

It has recently been renovated as the Muscatine History and Industry Center, a museum focused on the pearl button and other historic industries in Muscatine.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories, Muscatine. Various Publishers, 1860-1959. Available at the Musser Public Library.

"Muscatine Business Directory", Muscatine Journal Centennial Edition. May 31, 1940, 11.

Muscatine, Iowa. *The Pearl City*. Record Printing Co., 1914

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)

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
 State Historical Society of Iowa  
**Iowa Site Inventory Form**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 70-00155  
 Related District Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Montgomery Ward Department Store  
 Name of Property

Muscatine  
 County

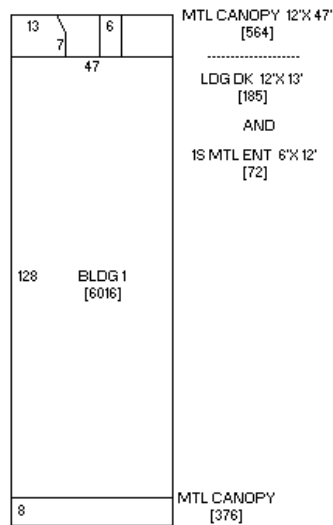
117-121 W. Second St.  
 Address

Muscatine  
 City

**Location Map**



**Plan (from assessor's office)**



(front – 2<sup>nd</sup> Street)

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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Montgomery Ward Department Store  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

117-121 W. Second St.  
Address

Muscatine  
City

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## Photograph of building (digital image)

