

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

State Inventory No. 70-00377 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 Fisher-Foley Tin Shop

other names/site number Field Site #: FS-028

2. Location

street & number 117 Chestnut

city or town Muscatine

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name

Township No. vicinity, county Muscatine
Range No. Section Quarter of Quarter

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town Block(s) 11 Lot(s) S 40' of 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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

<i>If Non-Eligible Property</i>	<i>If Eligible Property, enter number of:</i>
<u>Enter number of:</u>	<u>Contributing</u> <u>Noncontributing</u>
<u>buildings</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>sites</u>	<u> </u>
<u>structures</u>	<u> </u>
<u>objects</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>1</u>

If Eligible Property, enter number of:

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
<u>buildings</u>	<u> </u>
<u>sites</u>	<u> </u>
<u>structures</u>	<u> </u>
<u>objects</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Total</u>	<u> </u>

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)

02A: Commerce/Business / tin shop

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

70: Vacant/Not In Use

10A02: Industry / Factory (cigar/tobacco)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

09D04: Gable roof (side) – commercial/industrial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

03: Brick

roof

15C: Synthetics/Rubber

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 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 117 Chestnut
City Muscatine

Site Number 70-00377
District Number _____

Criteria Considerations

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. | <input type="checkbox"/> E A reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B Removed from its original location. | <input type="checkbox"/> F A commemorative property. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C A birthplace or grave. | <input type="checkbox"/> G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D A cemetery | |

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

05: Commerce

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Significant Dates

Construction date

1866

check if circa or estimated date

Other dates

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 Jim Rudisill, City of Muscatine (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date June 10, 2005

street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1550

city or town Muscatine state IA zip code 52761

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)**FOR ALL PROPERTIES**

1. **Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
2. **Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. **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/slave sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
Roll/slave sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
Roll/slave 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

1. **Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or non-contributing status)
2. **Barn:**
 - a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - c. 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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Name of Property	Muscatine County
Address	Muscatine City

Fisher-Foley Tin Shop

117 Chestnut

7. Narrative Description

This is an early two-story commercial/industrial building. Similar to early buildings of this type, it has a gable roof; in this case, it is a side-gable form. The soft brick is laid in 6:1 common bond. The storefront have been significantly remodeled, with the addition of a non-historic double garage door. The metal I-beam lintel that spans this opening appears to be older, though the support brick wall to the left of the storefront has been rebuilt. A course of rowlock brick extends across the top of the I-beam. Three double hung windows are found on the second story. Two of the windows are covered with plywood, and the third window has vertical three-over-three-light double-hung sashes. Though these are historic, they likely date to the early 20th century. Wood clads the frieze of the building under the front eave. A non-historic metal gutter extends across the front of the roof, and the roof is clad in metal.

The brick wall extends above the roofline on the north side elevation, creating a small gable parapet. The capping on the parapet has deteriorated. Several remnants of early openings and structures are visible on this elevation. Currently, a single-door entry is located on the first story. Patched pockets for rafters are found along the front portion of the building between the first and second stories. These were likely associated with the covered drive that appears on the Sanborn maps next to this building, over the space between this building and 117 Chestnut. A stone sill extends across the top of these patched pockets. Currently, it is difficult to determine what opening was above this sill, as stucco covers portion of this section of the wall. A single-door entry opening is also found on the second story, further back along the elevation. A covered attic window is centered in the gable.

The building slopes back to one-story at the rear. There is a one-story, cement block rear addition attached to the original building. The back wall of the addition abuts against another building that extends from Second Street, leaving only the north elevation of the 117 Chestnut addition exposed. Only two openings are located in the north wall and both are boarded over. The second-floor rear elevation of the original building contains three openings, but they are boarded up.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This commercial building does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. However, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

This two-story brick building does not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criteria A, B, or C. There is no evidence that the early occupants or owners of 117 Chestnut were significant residents of the community. Subsequent owners and occupants included John Zeug Bicycle Shop, Dick Anderson Auto Parts and Muscatine Used Auto. None of those firms or individuals were determined to have had a significant effect on the community. Though this building is representative of early industrial architecture in Muscatine, the significant storefront remodeling and upper window replacement has impacted the integrity of this building as an excellent example of early architecture.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Related District Number _____

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Fisher-Foley Tin Shop

Muscatine

Name of Property

County

117 Chestnut

Muscatine

Address

City

Although 117 Chestnut does not appear to have any individual significance, it does contribute to a potential historic district through its association with 19th and 20th Century Business and Industry. The c.1866 construction of the building occurred immediately after the Civil War. Optimism and joy over the end of the war created enthusiasm for new construction and business development. This is perhaps the only example of early industrial architecture, featuring a side-gable roof format, that has surviving in Muscatine. The early use as a tin shop followed by a cigar factory contributes historically to this district. Among the businesses that operated there after Gremmel's cigar factory were a jewelry store, watch maker, insurance firm, motorcycle shop and used auto parts. The variety of businesses reflects the growing diversity and changing life styles of community residents. The replacement of a bicycle shop with an auto parts business around 1920 was especially revealing of the transportation change that was occurring between the 19th and 20 centuries. Its integrity appears to be sufficient to reflect this history as a contributing building in a historic district.

The building appears to have first been used as a tin manufacturing shop by C.W. Fisher between 1866 and 1869. John Foley apparently continued the shop until around 1883. The location of a tin shop operated by John Foley is described in the 1877-78 city directory as "es Chestnut 4 s of 2d," which would be 117 Chestnut. Barney Schmidt, who operated a boot and shoe factory next door at 115 Chestnut in 1883 was identified as "es chestnut 5 s of 2d" in 1877, further verifying that Foley was in this building. Foley was also listed in the 1874-75 directory as operating a tin shop on "es Chestnut s Second." Foley is not listed in the 1869-70 directory, but tinsmith C.W. Fisher is listed as operating a shop at "es Chestnut, between Front & 2d." It seems likely this is the same location. The location does not carry over to any earlier directory, indicating the most probable construction date for this building is sometime between 1866 and 1869. The two buildings at 117 Chestnut and 115 Chestnut appear to have originally shared a roof, as indicated on the early Sanborn maps and seen in the 1874 *Birds-eye View of Muscatine*. The 1883 Sanborn shows what appears to be such a feature. This would have been remodeled at the time that the third story was added to 115 Chestnut.

The first actual recording of a building at 117 Chestnut comes from the 1883-86 city directory and lists Christopher T. Gremmel, a cigar and tobacco merchant, there. Christopher T. Gremmel is listed as a cigar and tobacco merchant at 117 Chestnut in the 1883-86 city directory. Gremmel had been born in Hanover, Germany in 1860 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1882 (*Muscatine Journal* 1931, 1). He apparently began his business shortly after arriving in Muscatine. His brother Herman had emigrated from Germany in 1872 and also operated a tobacco business. However, his business was located on Second Street, indicating the two were not partners. Gremmel continued to be recorded at the store until 1899.

A jewelry store is listed in the 1899 directory at that location, then C. Giesenhaus is listed with his watchmaker's shop here in the 1900, 1902 and 1904 city directories. John Zeug operated a bicycle shop there between 1905 and 1919. In the 1910 city directory, only Bond Brothers (212 Walnut) and John Zeug are listed under "Bicycles and Bicycle Supplies." Bond Brothers predates Zeug, who also operated from several locations over the course of the business. A motorcycle shop also apparently began operating here around 1919, and by 1921 the changeover to mechanized transportation had been completed with an auto wrecking company setting up shop. Dick Anderson opened an auto parts store in

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Related District Number _____

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Fisher-Foley Tin Shop	Muscatine
Name of Property	County
117 Chestnut	Muscatine
Address	City

the building in 1923 and continued to operate there until 1940, when Muscatine Used Parts opened. It remained at the site through 1960.

In 1962, Wilbur Gremmel, apparently a grand nephew of C.T. Gremmel, began operating the E. Herm Gremmel Wholesale Storage from the building. That business continued to be listed in the directory until 1982. It was likely during this period that the storefront lintel and overhead garage door was installed. There was a remodel of an office there in 1995, but the building has been listed as vacant since the 1980s (Muscatine B&Z Department).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Death Claims C.T. Gremmel," *Muscatine Journal*, October 12, 1931, p. 1.

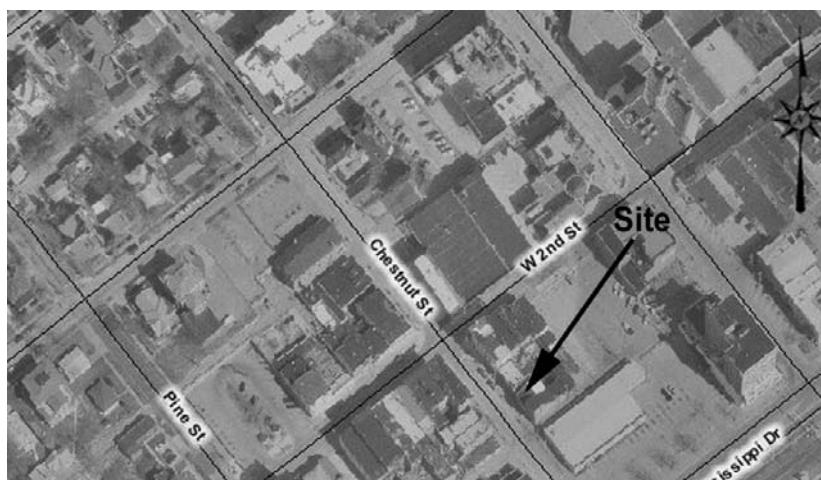
"H.E. Gremmel, 85, Taken By Death; Rites Wednesday," *Muscatine Journal*, November 1, 1943, p. 1.

Koch, Augustus. *Bird's-eye View of the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa*. Koch, 1874. In the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Muscatine Building Permits File, Available at Muscatine Planning, Zoning and Building Safety Department, Muscatine City Hall, Muscatine, Iowa, 2005.

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.

Location Map



Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Related District Number _____

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Fisher-Foley Tin Shop

Muscatine

Name of Property

County

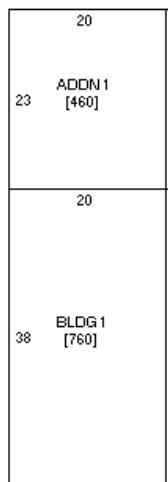
117 Chestnut

Muscatine

Address

City

Plan (from assessor's office)



(front - Chestnut)

Photograph of building (digital image)

