

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

State Inventory No. 70-00976 **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 Gaeta Fruit Store and Confectionary
 other names/site number Field Site #: FS-045

2. Location

street & number 107 Iowa Avenue
 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) 12 Lot(s) 1, 2

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 Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, 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

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02G02: Commerce/Trade/Restaurant/Bar</u>	<u>02G02: Commerce/Trade/Restaurant/Bar</u>
<u>02E02: Commerce/Trade/Bakery</u>	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05: Late Victorian</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08B: Rolled Asphalt</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
City Muscatine

Address 107 Iowa Ave

Site Number 70-00976
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
c. 1885 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates
1940-41 new brick facade

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 Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission (R.L. McCarley, consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date June 22, 2005

street & number 215 Sycamore Street 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

- 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>Gaeta Fruit Store and Confectionary</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>107 Iowa Ave</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

This three-story, two-bay wide, commercial building was constructed around 1885. A number of photos around the turn of the 20th century show this building as an Italianate building. A postcard from c.1908 shows the building had painted brick and an iron balcony (which disappeared after the 1919 Sanborn Map) at the second floor level. The six-over-six-light double-hung arch windows had keystones, and the cornice had large brackets. There were still no oriel windows as of this time (Randleman #530). The oriel windows was likely added soon after this period, perhaps in the 1920s.

The storefront and upper stories were clad in newer brick around 1940-41. The store entry appears to date to this period as well as the access entry (107½) to the second and third floor apartments. Narrow transom windows are located above the entries and display window. The primary, and one remaining older feature of the building façade is the two-story oriel window with decorative scrollwork in the metal cladding. The single-over-single-light double-hung windows of the oriel window and the building façade have sashes that likely date to around 1940-41.

The north side elevation of the building is primarily a party wall with the adjacent Fitzgerald Block. Behind the party wall lies a narrow gap that contains windows at the second and third story level. The south side elevation (behind the party wall) of the building is “stucco” and contains two sets of non-historic single-light double-hung sashes on each floor. The windows are slightly recessed and the second floor windows have masonry sills.

It appears that an addition was added to the rear of the building sometime between 1919 and 1928. No addition is shown on the 1919 Sanborn maps while what appears to be a 20-foot addition shown on the 1928 map. Doors provide access to each floor via a fire-escape on the second and third floors. Transoms are located over the second and third floor doors. Glass block has been installed above the first floor rear entry. Single-over-single-light double-hung sashes are located on the south elevation of the rear façade. The rear wall surface is stucco.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The building does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. With additional research on ethnic groups in Muscatine, particularly Italians, this building should be re-evaluated. However, it appears to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

A number of fruit stores operated in Muscatine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This building does not appear to be associated with a particularly prominent fruit store or person, as can be assessed with current contextual information. The appearance dates to the c.1941 remodeling. It is not a particularly outstanding example of architecture from this period. Thus, it does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C within the current developed

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

<u>Gaeta Fruit Store and Confectionary</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>107 Iowa Ave</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

contexts. However, it may be significant within the ethnic history of Muscatine as additional research is conducted on this historic context.

Louis Gaeta immigrated to Muscatine in 1902, taking over this fruit store by 1908 from another Italian-American. Confectionaries and fruit stores in Muscatine were often operated by Italian immigrants such as the Gaetas. According to the city directory of 1919, there were nine fruit stores in Muscatine, eight of which were owned by Italian-Americans. In addition to Louis Gaeta, Joe and Mike Majoine, Anthony Cirivello, Phillip Lonzaletto, and the three Bisesi brothers all operated fruit stores and/or confectionaries. Several of these surnames are still recognizable today as prominent business and property owners, most notably the Bisesi, Gaeta and Manjoine names. Through mutual support and common language and interest, the Italian immigrants overcame their initial difficulties and became successful and contributing citizens of Muscatine. Further research and context work on the role of Italian immigrants in Muscatine needs to be completed to better understanding the significance of this aspect of the building's history. Thus, more research is recommended to assess the individual significance of this commercial building under Criteria A and B for this context.

Finally, this commercial building appears eligible as a contributing building in a downtown historic district. It appears eligible under one currently identified historic context for this district, "20th century Business and Industry," and may be eligible under a historic context to be developed in 2005-2006, "Cultural/Ethnic Diversity." It reflects the c.1941 period of remodeling, as the building was updated to continue to serve as a fruit store and confectionary. The long history of the family business of a confectionary followed by a tavern contributes historically to this district.

The building was constructed around 1885 and first appears on the 1888 Sanborn map as a three-story building with the designation of a "saloon." The 1883 Sanborn map shows a two-story building at this location. The current building constructed around 1885 was a three-story Italianate building, as seen in early 20th century photographs. The first use in this building was as a boarding house and saloon, by a Mr. Hinkhouse. He continued until 1897, when the city directory shows Mr. Hinkhouse retired and simply living at this building. J.L. Poland was operating a restaurant here by 1900. This was named the Crown restaurant in 1902. In 1904 A. Cirivello was operating a confectionary here, beginning its association with the Italian community. He stayed here until 1908.

In 1908, Louis Gaeta took over the business in this building and started it as a retail fruit store and this continued thru 1913. The Gaeta's lived on the upper floors of this building from 1908 through at least 1934, and by 1936 had moved to the 2000 block of Cedar Street, and the family continues to live in this area to this day. By the 1916 city directory both fruits and confectionary are listed as the business here. Between 1921 and 1927 fruits and groceries is listed and then in 1929 a confectionary alone is listed and this continues until 1940, when Joe Gaeta is listed as being a brewer's agent, along with Louis continuing to be listed with his confectionary here.

It was around 1940-41 that the building was re-bricked, covering many historic features with the exception of the oriel window. This was done in conjunction with the neighboring building at 101 E. Mississippi Drive, which they purchased about this time. The neighboring, connected remodel sports a

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

Gaeta Fruit Store and Confectionary
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

107 Iowa Ave
Address

Muscatine
City

small pediment with "Gaeta." In 1941 Louis is shown to operate a tavern at 107 Iowa and this continues until 1954. Louis is last listed as being associated with the building in 1949, but the name reappears in 1956, as a clerk in a confectionary, that this building is first listed as in this year. The business was listed as a retail confectionary from 1956 to 1979, under the management of Providence Gaeta, who is still listed in 1980 at this address but with no business listed. The Gaeta family is one of three prominent Italian-American families to have businesses in this potential downtown district; the other two families being Manjoine and Bisesi.

In 1981, Mississippi Brewing Company began to operate here, which continues today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"52", June 1877 Historic Photograph, Graham Collection, Musser Public Library, Muscatine, Iowa

"530," circa 1908. Historic Postcard, Randleman Collection, Musser Public Library, Muscatine, Iowa

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1883-1959. Available at the Musser Public Library.

Sanborn Map Company, "Muscatine, Iowa" Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Pelham, NY, Sanborn Map Company 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1905, 1912, 1919, 1928, 1946, Accessed online at sanborn.umi.com

Location Map



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

Site Number 70-00976
Related District Number _____

Page 6

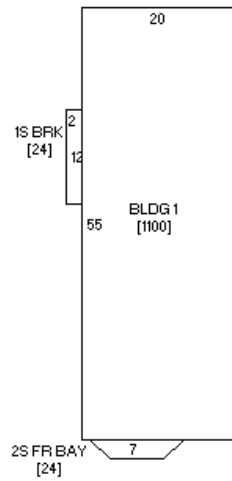
Gaeta Fruit Store and Confectionary
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

107 Iowa Ave
Address

Muscatine
City

Plan (from assessor's office)



(front – Iowa)

Photograph of building (digital image)

