

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

State Inventory No. 70-00947  **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 Commercial Building  
 other names/site number Field Site #: FS-058b

**2. Location**

street & number 131 E. 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) 33 Lot(s) E 1/3 of Lot 5

**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	_____	_____
	<u>1</u> buildings	_____ buildings
	_____ sites	_____ sites
	_____ structures	_____ structures
	_____ objects	_____ objects
	<u>1</u> Total	_____ 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>02E05: Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store/Hardware</u>	<u>02E: Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store/ (flower shop)</u>
<u>02E: Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store/(tobacco)</u>	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Italianate</u>	foundation <u>04: Stone</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>15C: 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 131 E. Second Street Site Number 70-00947  
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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1856  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates 1964

**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 Glenna Howard, volunteer & Jim Rudisill, City of Muscatine (R.L. McCarley, consultant)  
organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date February 13, 2005  
street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1554  
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>Commercial Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>131 E. Second Street</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

---

## 7. Narrative Description

Although it now shares a common façade with 129 E. Second Street, the structure at 131 E. Second Street appears to predate its neighbor by at least 10 years, according to business listings from the 1856 Muscatine City Directory. That listing shows Rocap and Randolph operating a tailoring and clothing business in the building, nearly 10 years before any listing is recording for 129 E. Second Street.

There are no known historic photos from the 1850s or early 1860s that show 131 E. Second, but later historic photos show a handsome, two-story brick building with a diagonal corner entrance. A narrow cornice, which appears to be wood, extends across the façade and along a short portion of the building's east side, providing a graphic division between the first and second floors. The cornice is supported by a series of round columns and what appear to be brackets that extend from the cornice to the columns. The roof cornice is more understated, but does include a set of dentils that run across the width of the façade. It also extends down the east elevation while the lower cornice stops shortly after rounding the east side of the building. The east elevation includes a series of pilasters between the windows. These remain uncovered, as does most of the remaining east elevation. The second floor windows appear to be six-over-six double-hung units, with round hoods. The sills appear to be a stone. In the back set of second-story windows the crown is replaced by a simple rectangular stone that matches the window sills ("Street Scene, 9/10/07," Randleman Collection).

As with 129 E. Second Street, the current condition of the building reflects various alterations that have been completed on the structure. The major alteration has been the installation of metal cladding in common with 129 E. Second Street. This work was completed in 1964, when the owners of the property at 129 E. Second acquired the corner store. Both storefronts were then remodeled to create the single storefront ("Barton's Announce Major Store Expansion Project," December 30, 1963, Page 7). The cladding stretches across the entire second floor of both buildings and runs for a short distance along the east elevation of 131 E. Second. A short metal awning runs below the cladding. This gives the impression that the two buildings are one structure. The historic photos however clearly show 131 E. Second to be an individual structure.

The current storefront maintains the corner, cutaway entry format, though this space appears larger than in the past. The current entry includes a recessed glass door that sets within a right angle created by two storefront windows. Each window rests on a short kick plate. The glass door is surrounded by glass lights.

The cladding on the upper façade extends around the corner to the first bay of the east elevation along Sycamore. The remainder of this elevation shows an older building with a later rear addition that reflects elements of the original building. The original building is divided into six bays by pilasters. Each bay has a one-over-one, double-hung arch window with a decorative hood. One window is longer, and may have historically been an entry. The rear section or sections appear to date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with brick typical of this period. Pilasters also divide these six bays. The window openings are simple, and the sashes are one-over-one, double-hung units.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 4

---

<u>Commercial Building</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>131 E. Second Street</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

---

The current owner reports one of the original columns that supported the lower cornice is intact and continues to support the portion of cladding that extends over the recessed entrance. A metal awning extends out from the cladding to provide additional protection across the entrance. Original windows that have been covered by the façade cladding are still present behind the cladding.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

This building does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C; and it does not appear to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. The remodeled storefront and metal clad second story are non-historic, giving this building a completely non-historic façade appearance. Thus, this building does not retain the integrity to convey its significance either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district. If the metal cladding were removed, this building should be re-evaluated to determine if it is a contributing building, based on the intact historic features behind this cladding. The east elevation retains its historic appearance.

The corner of Sycamore and Second Streets lies at the heart of Muscatine's downtown, and it is not surprising that such a strategic location would have been attractive to businesses. The structure at 131 E. Second has rarely been vacant since it was constructed in the mid-1800s.

While tailors appear to have been the initial occupants of the storefront, a hardware shop appears to have been the major early business, City directories and Sanborn maps show a hardware store in the first floor beginning as early as 1883, although the actual date might have been earlier. After the hardware store closed, the site became a tobacco shop, with various attorneys on the upper floors. The tobacco shop operation continued for several years, until the two buildings were eventually combined and clothing became the primary merchandise sold. Office supplies also were sold at the site. Currently flowers are sold at 131 E. Second, while women's clothing is sold next door.

Although the exterior cladding that was installed on the two buildings in 1964 hides their original storefronts, an inspection indicates much of the original fenestration and other details of the old buildings remain. The current appearance limits the historical integrity of the buildings, but since most of the original detailing has been preserved, that integrity could be restored if the cladding was removed. As restored structures, both buildings would contribute to a historic district through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Business and Industry and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Building and Industry historic contexts. Their transition into a variety of retail businesses provides a good example of how the downtown evolved over the years, with a variety of business activities flourishing and then dying at the site. Such transitions are common in nearly all downtown, but the restoration opportunity of these buildings is relatively unique in Muscatine.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Barton's Announce Major Store Expansion Project," Muscatine Journal Year-end Edition, December 30, 1963, Page 7.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 5

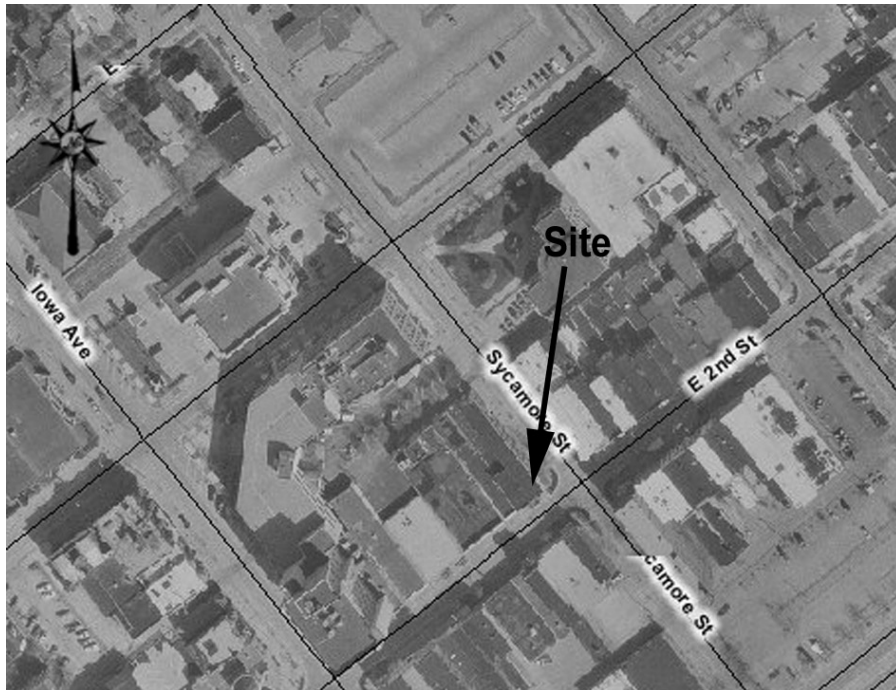
<u>Commercial Building</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>131 E. Second Street</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1856-present. Available at the Musser Public Library.

Sanborn Map Company, New York. Maps of the City of Muscatine dated September 1883, August 1888, October 1892, August 1899, December 1905, February 1912, July 1919, March 1928 and June 1946.

"Street Scene, 9/10/07," Historic postcard, Doug Randleman Collection (loose and bound collection), Musser Public Library, Muscatine, Iowa.

## Location Map



# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Page 6

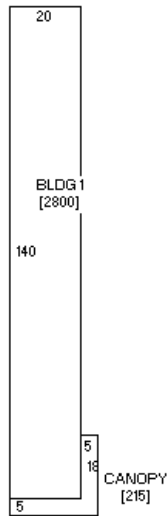
Commercial Building  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

131 E. Second Street  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## Plan (from assessor's office)



(front – Second St)

## Photograph of building (digital image)

