

County Muscatine Address 229 E. 2nd St Site Number 70-00141
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

Significant Dates

Construction date 1921 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 Jay Brady, Chair (R.L. McCarley, Consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date February 21, 2005

street & number 215 Sycamore telephone 563-264-1554

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: _____

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7. Narrative Description

This building is a c.1921 building that either was rebuilt or extensively modified. A two-story building stood at this location from 1883 through 1919. The original building had a long two-story front section with a slightly wider square two-story section in back. This configuration was retained through 1919 according to the Sanborn maps. By 1928 the building had been reconfigured into a three-story building with uniform width front to back. However, close examination of the building's east elevation would indicate that the back section is in fact a two story section and may be part of the original building. The early building features associated with the front 2/3 of the building have been lost.

The storefront is a modern storefront style consisting of a store entry in the west side with a metal clad window system resting on a brick kneewall occupying the rest of the storefront. This design appears to date to a remodeling in 1981. The door is a metal frame glass door with transom above. The three front storefront windows and one side storefront window have non-historic six-light sashes. A newer half circle fabric awning shades the storefront and wraps around the west corner of the building. The second and third stories contain three rectangular windows at irregular spacing. A pair of the windows are clustered in the east half of the building with the third window at the far west extreme of the building. Brick patching above the windows may indicate that the openings have been shrunk. The second story single-over-single-light double-hung wood windows have brick sills. The third story single-over-single-light double-hung wood windows have brick sills and segmental brick arches "lintels" with horizontal brick infill between the rectangular window and the brick arch. The roof cornice is plain and simple in the modern style.

The west elevation is a party wall with the adjoining building.

The east elevation is brick and has irregularly spaced windows filled with glass block. The front 2/3 of the building has a three step roof parapet. The upper story is has four equally spaced windows with the front three windows being 4 x 8 glass block windows and the rear-most window being a single-over-single-light double-hung window. Each of the three glass block windows has a vent in the third row of the glass blocks. The second story has six 4 x 8 glass block windows clustered in two sets of three. The first, fourth, and sixth windows have a vent in the 3rd row of the glass blocks. The fifth window is a single over single light double hung window. The first story has two 4 x 8 glass block windows equally spaced at about 1/3 point in the front 2/3 portion of the building. The storefront wraps around the east portion with a display window located at the front portion of the east elevation. All of the windows have brick sills. The back 1/3 of the building is partitioned from the front 2/3 by a brick chimney joined to a brick pilaster. The back 1/3 is divided into two bays by three brick pilasters including the one adjoining the brick chimney. The spacing of the openings in the first story is irregular with a very tall (10-12 ft) door opening adjacent to (north of) the middle pilaster. The door is a standard modern metal door with the door opening framed with wood and wood panels. A small square glass block window set low in the wall is located to the south of the door. A larger 4 x 4 glass block window is located to the south of the door and set higher than the door. This window contains a vent in its middle. The second story of the back 1/3 portion contains two windows set in the middle of each bay. The south window is a single-over-

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single-light double-hung window, and the north window is a 4 x 8 glass block window of which the 2nd and 3rd rows have been removed for ventilation/air conditioning.

The back elevation is brick with no openings at the first story level. The second story contains a non-original door in the west third and two glass block windows, 8 courses by 4 wide, in the center and east two thirds. The glass block has brick fill above to the segmental brick arch lintel.

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. However, it does appear to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

This 19th century building appears to have been modified around 1921, with a substantial reconstruction. The storefront dates to a later remodeling period, likely in 1981. The overall architecture with the c.1921 façade is non-descript. The building was likely remodeled for one of the pharmacies that operated here in this period, but the pharmacy history does not appear to be particularly significant for individual eligibility. Thus, this building does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C.

The c.1921-modified building appears to be contributing building under Criteria A in a potential downtown historic commercial district for its association with the drug retail business. It falls primarily within one historic context identified for the district: “20th century Business and Industry.” This building’s history is somewhat unique from the perspective that the family owned both a family label store (Bestenlehner’s Drug) and a chain store (Snow White Drug) operated here. The store’s mid-20th Century history as first a radio store and then a radio and television store parallel’s the evolution of radio and T.V. telecommunications in the nation. Thus, it contributes to a potential downtown historic district.

This location was originally used as a saloon as far back as 1869 (city directories). James Weir operated a saloon from 1869 to 1904 at this location. In 1905 a jewelry store was located here (1905 Sanborn). Nierel & Son jewelry was located here in 1907 and then Cornelius Cadle jeweler from 1911 to 1913 (city directories). Ruthenburg (Charles) Clothing Company was here in 1916 having moved from 107 E. 2nd. Ruthenberg would move to 101 W. 2nd St by 1919. Unfortunately this early and rich history especially the Weir Saloon has been compromised by extensive modifications to the front third of the building in the early 1920s.

It appears that the building was reconstructed for the pharmacy business – either the Snow White Drug Store, an early drug store chain here in 1919, or Bestenlehner’s Drug which operated here from 1921 to 1931. Snow White Drug was an early Midwestern drug store chain with several stores in Iowa including Clinton and Muscatine in the late 1910s and early 1920s. Clinton’s store was a two-story building built around 1919 at 512 S. 2nd Street. Bestenlehner’s Drug was opened by Andrew G. Bestenlehner (only Bestenlehner listed) in 1908 at 308 E. 2nd Street. Ignatius J. Bestenlehner was listed in 1911 City

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Directory as being a clerk at A.G. Bestenlehner Drug. By 1916, Andrew Bestenlehner had moved Bestenlehner's Drug to 110 W. 2nd and Ignatius J. Bestenlehner had become the proprietor of the Snow White Drug Store at 308 E. 2nd St. In 1919, Ignatius had moved the Snow White Drug Store to 229 E. 2nd and Andrew continued Bestenlehner's Drug at 110 W. 2nd. In 1921, Andrew Bestenlehner was out of the drug store business, and Ignatius had changed the drug store at 229 E. 2nd from Snow White to Bestenlehner's Drug and would continue at this location through 1929. There was no longer a Snow White Drug in Muscatine after 1921. By 1934, there was no longer a Bestenlehner's Drug.

McDaniels Drug operated by W.K. McDaniel, formerly a clerk at Grimm Drug, 130 E. 2nd, continued the drug store lineage here briefly in the early 1930s through 1934 prior to moving to 115 E. 2nd. By 1936, the Great A&P Tea Co. was located here. The building was vacant in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Schreurs took over The Radio Shop located at 401 E. 2nd in 1931 and would continue at that location until 1943. In 1943, Schreurs Radio & TV moved to 229 E. 2nd and would continue here until 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

GR22, Second West from Cedar Photograph, 1869, 977.7 Graham Photo Collection, Volume 1. Available at the Musser Public Library.

GR160, Second West from Cedar Photograph, 1879, Graham Photo Collection, Volume 4. Available at the Musser Public Library.

GR164, Second East from Sycamore Photograph, 1879, Graham Photo Collection, Volume 4. Available at the Musser Public Library.

GR165, Second East from Sycamore Photograph, 1888, Graham Photo Collection, Volume 4. Available at the Musser Public Library.

OG #A-42, 2nd St at Cedar looking West, C 1906, Grossheim Photo Collection. Available at the Musser Public Library.

OG #A-107, Vol 27, Street Fair, September 10-15, 1900, Grossheim Photo Collection. Available at the Musser Public Library.

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.

Second Street Muscatine, Randallman's Post Card Collection, 1907. Available at the Musser Public Library.

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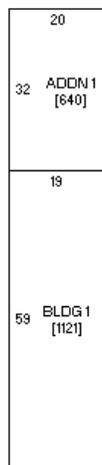
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Location Map



Plan (from assessor's office)



(front - 2nd Street)

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Photograph of building (digital image)

