

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

State Inventory No. 70-00963  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 First Baptist Church

other names/site number Field Site #: FS-084

**2. Location**

street & number 224 East Third Street

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) 32 Lot(s) 7 & N 98' Lot 6

**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)

06A01: Religion / Church

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

06A01: Religion / Church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

07E: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century / Craftsman

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation 10B: Concrete

walls 03: Brick

roof 08B: Asphalt / Rolled

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 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 Address 224 East Third Street Site Number 70-00963  
City Muscatine District Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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)

02: Architecture

**Significant Dates**

*Construction date*

1923

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 Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, Consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date January 13, 2005

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**

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/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**

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

Related District Number \_\_\_\_\_

Page 3

First Baptist Church

Muscatine

Name of Property

County

224 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St

Muscatine

Address

City

## 7. Narrative Description

The First Baptist Church is a two-story brick building with a raised basement on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> St and Cedar. The design has neo-classical elements, with the horizontal emphasis of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Craftsman style. At the same time, multi-story pilasters emphasize the verticality. The overall scale of the building is similar to a commercial block, perhaps reflecting its location on the edge of the downtown commercial district next to City Hall. Brick coursing on all facades is laid in running bond with Flemish style tie back course at every eight courses. A cornerstone is set at the northeast corner of the building with the following carved lettering: "Dedicated to the Glory of God First Baptist Church 1841 – 1922."

The overall building is divided into three parts similar to skyscrapers of the period: a basement story, a middle multi-story section, and a top section. Since the entry is on the corner, both the north elevation along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the east elevation along Cedar Street are primary elevations. The north elevation is divided into seven bays, with six pilasters, one between each of the bays. The east elevation is divided into eight bays, but the center six bays are recessed with five pilasters separating these bays. The entries on the corner, both on the north and east elevation, have been replaced by modern glass and aluminum framed doors. Two sets of six-over-nine-light windows with opaque green stained glass are above the entry between the first and second floor. The center bays on the basement story typically have paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows. A stone water table extends around the building above the basement windows. The pilasters extend the full height of both stories with stone detailing along the middle. An exposed vertical stone panel is framed with brick and rises to a point near the lintels of the second floor windows. They also have stone bases and capitals. Paired windows are located between each pilaster in the center bays. The first story and second story windows are identical, with six-over-nine-light sashes with opaque green stained glass. The opaque green windows on both east and north elevations have cut stone sills, are framed with brick, and feature a small, square cut stone set at the junction of lintel and each jamb. Above the second floor windows and below the projected cornice are two decorative, horizontal bands. The first is a soldier course of brick at the top of the pilasters. The second is a narrow band of stone, resting on the brick soldier course. The end bays have different window configurations, though the windows are the same style, six-over-nine-light windows with opaque green stained glass. Secondary entries are located in each of the end bays on the first story on the north and east elevations. On the south end of the east elevation is a two bay wide section that projects full height from the building. A second aluminum framed double door entry on this elevation is noted, with a set of six-over-nine-light windows above it. This projection also has a set of these windows at first and second floors.

The west section of the building is depicted as a separate rectangular building on the 1928 Sanborn map, though it appears to have been constructed in the same period. This section is slightly set back from the face of the corner building. The same decorative, horizontal banding and cornice lines continues across the north elevation of this section to the west wall of the building. An aluminum framed glass double-door entry is also in the center of this three bay section. Above the entry, between first and second floors is a set of paired windows, similar to the windows on the corner building. They are paired

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First Baptist Church

Muscatine

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224 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St

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with four-over-six-light sashes with opaque green stained glass. Two sets of these windows are also found on each floor, on each side of the entry bay, slightly higher than this bay.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The First Baptist Church appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C and meets Criterion Consideration A. It also appears to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

The architecture of the First Baptist Church follows the simple geometry of the Craftsman style and also relates well with the use of the building. This building is large. It is well proportioned and very functional, a no frills church. Yet, the vertical lines of the exposed stone pilasters separating the stained glass windows rise like temple columns, in contrast to the long horizontals of the parapet and decorative bands. The architectural integrity of the First Baptist Church is intact. This style of architecture as applied to churches is unique to this church in Muscatine. The majority of the churches in town reflect elements of the Gothic style, nearly all have steeples or bell towers. The architecture of the First Baptist Church is very square, reflecting the neighboring downtown rather than typical ecclesiastical architecture. The building appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C and meet Criterion Consideration A, as the significance of the church lies in its architecture.

Additionally, it appears to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. It falls within one context identified for the district: "20<sup>th</sup> century Civic Pride and Accomplishment." The construction in 1923 was near the end of this flurry of building in Muscatine to improve the community, closely following on the heels of the construction of the nearby Masonic Temple in 1920.

Organized in Muscatine in 1841, the congregation of the First Baptist Church constructed a meeting house adjacent to this site on Cedar Street in 1846. The city directory of 1866 shows that the membership of the First Baptist Church was 193. The original building on this site (224 East Third Street) was built in 1864. The dedication was delayed and conducted in 1868, after the Civil War. It was a high roofed, two-story brick building with large brackets and a porch-like entry on Third Street. (*History of Muscatine County 1879*: 531; Photograph #108, Graham Collection). In 1896 this building was remodeled extensively in an attempt to gain space. The membership in 1911 was 970, a five-fold increase from 1866. (Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 329-331; *Greetings from Muscatine* 1981: 26).

In 1903, the First Baptist Church purchased property at the corner of Sycamore and Fourth Street and plans were made to construct a new church at that location. (Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 329-331) However, the church opted to purchase the adjacent Lot 7, Block 32 on Third Street. The 1866-1896 building, in turn, was razed in 1922 (Muscatine Journal: August 28, 1922) to make way for the new brick building, which was built in 1923 at a cost of \$110,000 and is still standing on this site (*Greetings from Muscatine* 1981: 26). The new building was designed to the dimensions of the lot, more than doubling their building floor area.

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First Baptist Church

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According to an August 12, 1983 article: "The 1920 building was constructed during the pastorate of Rev. Rogers. With membership increasing, the number of deacons was increased from seven to twelve during the Rev. George Dawkin's pastorate. In 1927, the Rev. Vernon L. Shontz became pastor and a new organ was installed. The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church was celebrated Oct. 4, 1931, and the mortgage burned. The Rev. Vance H. Webster took the pastorate in May 1936. In the 1940's there was a withdrawal of members to form Calvary Baptist Church. A remodeling project added classrooms in the 1950's. A museum was added under the leadership of the Rev. Richard Mullin in 1976. A restoration and repair project was completed in 1981-82. With a membership of 700 at present, the church maintains a full schedule of activities: missions, Sunday school for all ages, monthly meetings of adult classes, youth groups, a marriage support group, widow's fellowship. The present pastor is the Rev. Thomas Simmons." (*Muscatine Journal*, August 12, 1983, 8).

This building at 224 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street served the membership of the First Baptist Church of Muscatine until 1995, when a new First Baptist Church was built at 3003 Mulberry Avenue. After standing vacant for a few years, the building at 224 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. was sold to Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church in 2000.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References:

"#108 - Baptist Church," E.L. Graham Collection, collected 1908-1910, Musser Public Library, Muscatine.

"1841 – First Baptist Church," *Muscatine Journal Bicentennial Edition*. July 1, 1976, page 2.

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

*History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879.

*Muscatine Journal*. August 28, 1922, page 8.

Randleman, Douglas. *Greetings from Muscatine, a pictorial postcard history*. Muscatine, Iowa: Knott Printers, Inc., 1981.

Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1911.

Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1919, 1928. Accessed online at: [Sanborn.umi.com](http://Sanborn.umi.com)

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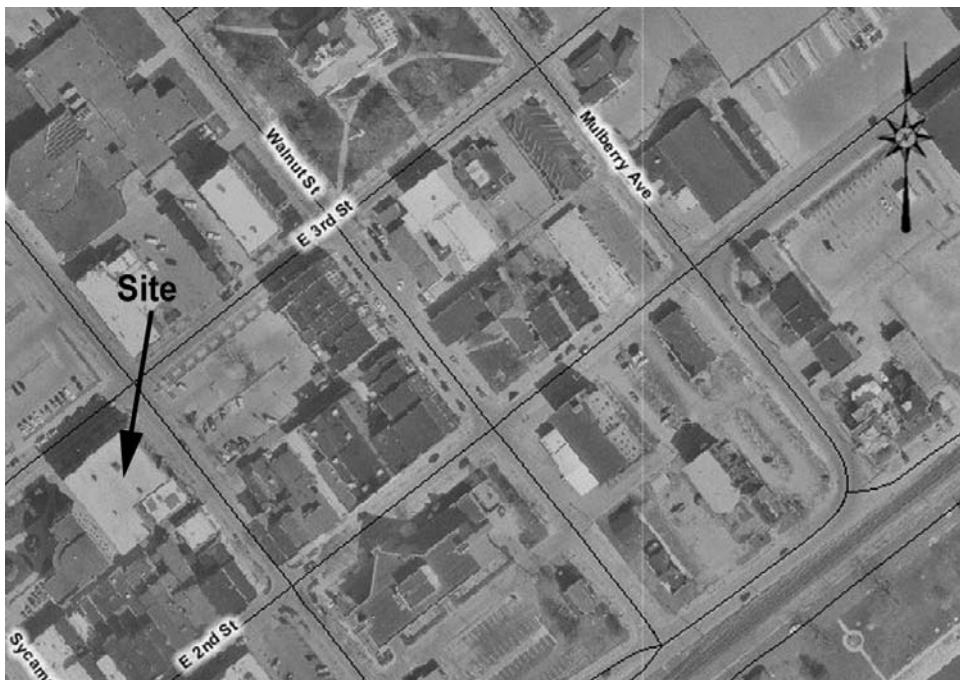
First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

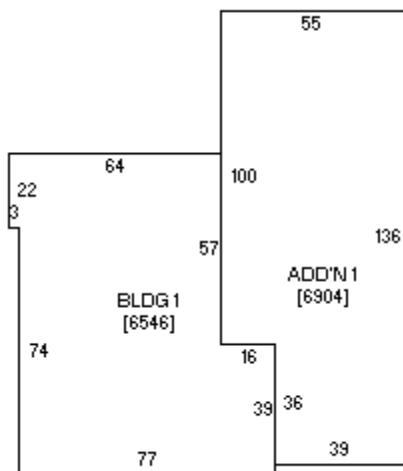
224 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## Location Map



## Plan (from assessor's office)



(front – 3<sup>rd</sup> St)

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First Baptist Church

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**Photograph of building (digital image)**

