

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

State Inventory No. 70-00966  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 Masonic Temple

other names/site number Field Site #: FS-087

**2. Location**

street & number 317 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) 58 Lot(s) 5 & E1/2 LOT 4

**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)

03A04: Social / Fraternal Organization

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

03A04: Social / Fraternal Organization

**7. Description**

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

06C: Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals / Classical

**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 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 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 317 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
City Muscatine

Site Number 70-00966  
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)

02: Architecture  
29: Social History

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

*Construction date*

1920

check if circa or estimated date

*Other dates*

**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 17, 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/slidesheet # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame/slot # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll/slidesheet # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame/slot # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll/slidesheet # \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Masonic Temple  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

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

Muscatine  
City

## 7. Narrative Description

The Masonic Temple at 317 East Third Street is a three-story brick building built in the Classical Revival style. The overall design is divided into three parts: the basement story, the two-story middle section, and the attic story. The basement story is defined by inset horizontal brick detailing and capped with a stone water table. The inset horizontal brick detail continues on the two-story middle section, with pilasters on the south (front) elevation. The bottom of the frieze is defined by two stone bands under the attic story windows. A projected stone cornice with stone dentils and a brick parapet wall define the top of the building.

The front elevation is south facing and has three recessed bays with quoin-like brickwork on the end sections. The brick pilasters on either side of the center bay feature a cut stone capital and base. There is a continuous cut stone water table at the first floor level, which is approximately three feet above the entry threshold. The pilasters' stone base appears to rest on the water table. At the top of the pilasters' capital is a double, narrow horizontal band of cut stone. The modern, aluminum framed double-door entry is centered on the elevation. The words "MASONIC TEMPLE" are incised in flat stone above the entry. Above the name is a decorative, carved stone ledge with brackets and the symbol of Masonry carved thereon. A pair of three-over-three-light windows with three pane transoms are above the decorative ledge. They are set into a stone surround instead of brick. The threshold of the entry doors is six steps above grade and thirteen steps above street level, which makes the building seem higher than its three stories. On the first floor, the first and third bays have two three-over-three-light double-hung windows with a three-light ventilation transom. The second floor has identical windows, without the transom. All windows have cut stone sills and have wood two-light storm sash. A soldier course of brick separates the two bands of stone. This band is continuous around the building. Above each bay is a pair of single windows. These are at the third floor level, above the horizontal stone bands and below a projecting cornice of stone. The stone cornice on this façade projects from the building approximately two feet with oversized dentils and crown molding shapes on its underside. A brick parapet with a stone cap rises above the cornice ledge. A carved cornerstone set in the lowest southeast brick coursing of this façade is inscribed "A.D.1919".

The east elevation is nine bays wide. On the first floor each bay has a pair of three-over-three-light double-hung windows with three pane transom. The second floor shows the same size three-over-three-light double-hung windows without transom and installed in alternate bays, beginning with the first, then the third, fifth, seventh and ninth bays. The other bays are brick, laid to mimic windows; that is, there are vertical rustics where mullions would be found on a window, in the center. Bricks are laid like quoins where pilasters would normally be found; that is, six or seven courses are laid projecting from the building face for the width of the pilaster. Then one course is laid flush with the building face. Then another six and another one, etc. The cut stone water table as described on the front elevation continues across this façade. Below the water table, a double door entry is found below the first bay on the south end of this elevation. It is a modern, aluminum framed door with the threshold near street level in order to accommodate handicapped visitors. Also, at this lower level, smaller, but similar three-over-three-light double-hung windows can be found directly below those on the first floor. All windows are set on cut

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stone sills. Above the second floor windows is a continuation of the stone bands as found on the front elevation. Above the stone bands are five pairs of small, single windows evenly spaced across the façade. The cornice, moldings and parapet above the windows continue as on the front elevation.

The west elevation of this building has four three-over-three-light double-hung windows without transom on the second floor, near the south end. On the first floor, directly below these are four more identical windows with three more toward the north end of the elevation. The lower level at grade has a single entry near the south end and has eight three-over-three-light double-hung windows. The stone cornice, dentils and other stone molding continues on this elevation from the south to cover the four windows of the second floor, where the stone work stops. There is little stone and decorative brickwork on this elevation, as well as on the north elevation.

The north elevation faces an alley and shows three single, steel door exits, one on each level. The threshold of the exit at the lower level is at grade. Also, at this level, are four windows. Two have been filled with brick. One has been filled with plywood. One has been used for ventilation ductwork. On the first floor level are two pairs of three-over-three-light double-hung windows with transoms, two three-over-three-light double-hung windows without transom, and a single steel exit door. The second floor has a single steel exit door. A metal fire escape ladder with counterbalance weight is accessed from both exit doors on the first and second floors. There is no cornice, dentils or moldings on this elevation. A large brick chimney rises above the top of the building parapet on the northwest corner.

The architectural integrity of this building is intact. The only external alterations appear to be the addition of an entry on the east elevation and aluminum replacement doors at the front.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Masonic Temple at 317 East Third Street appears eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Additionally, it appears to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district.

The Masonic Lodge in Muscatine, as its history suggests, has been at the center of Muscatine's cultural activity since the early years of Muscatine's existence. The Masonic strength and influence, at least in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, was in the number of its active members. Many of Muscatine's most prominent citizens were Masons, and through their dedication and leadership, Muscatine prospered. The Masonic Temple at 317 East Third Street appears individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A. The architecture of the Masonic Temple is also a strength of the Muscatine Masonic Lodge. This building has been well designed and built by skilled Iowa architects and craftsmen and its architectural integrity maintained for over eighty-five years, which speaks well for the organization within its walls. The Masonic Temple at 317 East Third Street appears individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C.

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Additionally, it appears to contribute to 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 1920-21 was near the end of this flurry of building in Muscatine to improve the community. This period of civic pride and accomplishment is seen throughout the downtown in new commercial, governmental, and civic buildings. The Masonic Lodge is one of the most prominent of these buildings.

The first Masonic Lodge in Muscatine and the second lodge in the state of Iowa was named Iowa Lodge No. 42 and was chartered on February 4, 1841 by the Missouri Grand Lodge. Bylaws were adopted soon after. On March 16, 1841, the lodge, then without a permanent home, decided to join with the Episcopalians in erecting a building to be used as a church and lodge room. The Masons agreed to build a second story to the church, and the building was completed late in 1841. This was the first Masonic building in the state of Iowa and was used by the Masons for thirteen years. It was in this building that the Grand Lodge of Iowa was formed in December 1842 (Muscatine Journal, May 26, 1921). After the Iowa Grand Lodge was formed, the Muscatine Lodge was granted a new charter in January 1844 as the Iowa Lodge No. 2. DeMolay Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, the first in the state of Iowa, was organized in Muscatine on April 10, 1855. The Electa Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized in Muscatine in May 1867, with 14 members. It is the oldest chapter in Iowa and was first known as Constancy Family Number 85.

In September 1851, a second Masonic Lodge, known as the Humphreys Lodge Number 30 was organized in Muscatine. The name of this lodge was changed in May 1854 to the Hawkeye Lodge Number 30 and remained as such until 1901. The Hawkeye Lodge occupied the third floor of 310 East Second St. from 1866 until 1883, when they moved to a new location at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Second Street.

Theodore S. Parvin of Muscatine was one of the founders of Iowa Lodge No. 2 in Muscatine in 1841. He also was one of the organizers of the State Historical Society and was instrumental in the development of the Masonic Library in Cedar Rapids in 1885. He was elected grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1844, a position he held until his death, except for 1852, when he was elected grand master. For more than 30 years, Mr. Parvin was a writer of historical and biographical articles for the Annals of Iowa and the Historical Record, both published by the State Historical Society. Mr. Parvin edited and compiled the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. In 1860, he edited the *Western Freemason* at Muscatine and, in 1872, *The Evergreen* at Davenport. He was the author of *Templarism in the United States*. (Little Known Stories of Muscatine. Vol. 1) Another Muscatine pioneer, J.P. Walton, was a noted member of the Hawkeye Lodge. In the early 1890's both Muscatine Masonic Lodges changed their meeting place to the third floor of the Cook and Musser building at the corner of Iowa and Second St. The two local lodges consolidated in 1901 and assumed the name of Iowa Lodge No. 2.

After consolidation, the need for more space was obvious. The lodge moved to the third floor of the Stein Music Hall on Second Street in 1902. The Masons remained there until the new building at 317 East Third Street was built in 1921. In 1907, the lodge purchased a 60 x 140 foot lot at the corner of East Third Street and Walnut Street from Dr. E.B. Fulliam for \$10,000. They then purchased an adjacent 30 x 140 foot lot from F.W. Hoefflin for \$4,500. In 1919, funds were raised from all Masonic lodges and design

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of the new building commenced ("New Masonic Home Takes Place Among Finest in State of Iowa," May 26, 1921, p.6).

Earl Jones, of the firm of Keffer and Jones of Des Moines, was the architect for the new lodge. (*Muscatine Journal*, May 18, 1921). This firm began operation in Des Moines in 1881 and was known then as Bell and Hackney. Previously, they have designed some notable buildings, such as the State of Iowa Capitol Building in 1885 and the Iowa State Fairgrounds in 1909. Still practicing architecture in Des Moines, the firm has evolved to be known as Keffer/Overton Architects ([www.k-o.com](http://www.k-o.com)). The Masonic Lodge in Burlington, Iowa was also designed by Keffer and Jones and is similar to the lodge in Muscatine. The general contractor for the Muscatine Lodge was Charles Franklin of Iowa City. G.A. Chaudoin of Muscatine was the electrical subcontractor; Lotspeich & Co. was the heating and plumbing contractor. Lumber was supplied by Muscatine Lumber & Box Company; millwork by Roach and Musser Company of Muscatine; brick and cement by W.G. Block Co.; carpet and draperies by the McColm Co.; other furnishings by Batterson Stores, E.J. Zeidler Store, and the Stein Furniture Store; Hardware by McQuesten Hardware; all of Muscatine.

Construction proceeded throughout 1920 and early 1921, culminating in a formal dedication on May 26, 1921. Cost of the building, excluding furnishings, was in excess of \$104,000. (Randleman 1981: 53). An article in the *Muscatine Journal* ("New Masonic Home Takes Place Among Finest in State of Iowa," May 26, 1921, p.6) estimated the total cost to be \$225,000.

In 1921, when the new temple was built, membership in the women's Masonic organizations in Muscatine was at an all time high. The Electa Chapter Number 32, Order of the Eastern Star, boasted of 408 members, compared to 115 members in 1882. The newly formed Rose Croix Shrine No. 5 claimed a membership of 273.

The Masonic Temple continues to serve the various lodges of Muscatine, though the membership has decreased over the last couple decades.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Masonic Lodge Second in Iowa," *Muscatine Journal Centennial Edition*, May 31, 1940, page 30.

"New Masonic Home Takes Place Among Finest in State of Iowa," *Muscatine Journal*, May 26, 1921, page 6.

Randall, William D. *Little Known Stories of Muscatine*, Volume 1: Published by Friends of the Musser Public Library, 1980.

Randleman, Douglas A. *Muscatine Pictorial Postcard History*. Muscatine: Knott Printers, 1981.

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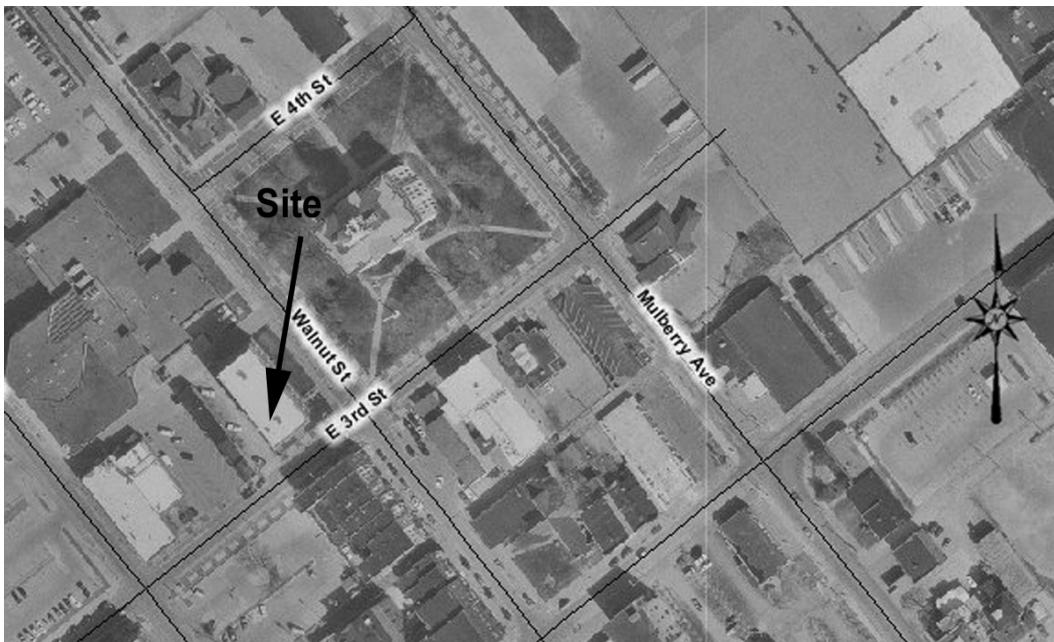
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Richman, Irving B. *History of Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1911.

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)

**Location Map**



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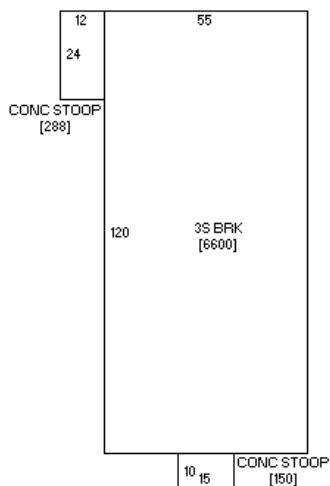
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**Plan (from assessor's office)**



(front – 3<sup>rd</sup> St)

**Photograph of building (digital image)**

