

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

State Inventory No. 70-00617  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-100

**2. Location**

street & number 214 Walnut 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) 31 Lot(s) 7

**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	_____	_____
	_____ buildings	<u>1</u> _____ buildings
	_____ sites	_____ sites
	_____ structures	_____ structures
	_____ objects	_____ objects
	_____ 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**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>10A01: Industry / mill</u>	<u>02E: Commerce / Specialty Store – floor coverings</u>
<u>02G04: Commerce / Restaurant/tavern</u>	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09F05: Commercial / Brick Front</u>	foundation _____
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof _____
_____	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 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 214 Walnut Street

Site Number 70-00617  
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 1866  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 Jim Nepple, member; R.L. McCarley, consultant

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date February 20, 2005

street & number 215 Sycamore 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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<u>Commercial Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>214 Walnut</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

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## 7. Narrative Description

This is a three-story, three bay, brick commercial building. The storefront retains some historic elements, though many have been covered. The store entry is recessed between two storefront windows, with an entry leading to the upper stories on the far right. The entry retains a historic wood door with a large window, and the transom has been clad in wood and an air conditioning unit inserted. The storefront windows have fluted metal columns defining the corners. The windows appear historic, though the transoms have been clad in wood. Angled wood cladding covers the bulkhead and bottom of the corner columns. A metal column also separates the storefront window from the upper story entry at the right. This entry has a shorter non-historic door and remaining height has been clad in wood. A metal I-beam lintel with circular "flower" detailing spans the entire storefront. The second story has a rectangular oriel window that spans the first two bays. Square, circular "flower" detailing is found on the lower portion of the window. Four one-over-one-light double-hung windows are located on the front portion of the oriel window and one-over-one-light double-hung windows are found on either side. The oriel window also has a projected cornice. The one-over-one-light double-hung window to the right of the oriel appears to have been shortened, with brick patching visible below the window. The three third-story arch windows have one-over-one-light double-hung sashes with the upper portion of the arch filled with paneling. The arch is emphasized with projected arch window hood above each window. Pilasters define either side of the building. The brick detailing of the frieze also divides this portion of the building into three bays. Similar to the end pilasters, two wider sections of brick "pilasters" are located along the frieze. The frieze is defined by courses of slightly projected brick along alternating projected rowlock bricks on the top and bottom of the frieze.

The south side elevation along the alley is divided into six bays by brick pilasters. The first four bays appear to date to a different period than the last two bays. Rectangular windows are found on the second and third stories of these four bays. These windows have flat stone lintels and the sill appear to have been removed. Some windows retain historic two-over-two-light double-hung sashes. A double-door entry is found in the fourth bays, and appears to retain historic doors and transom window. The last two bays have window and door openings with segmental brick arch lintels. Two smaller windows in the last bay retain historic six-over-six-light double-hung sashes. This bay also has a larger brick segmental arch lintel that is visible on the first story, though it has been partially filled and replaced with a single car garage door. A non-historic fire escape leads to a second story entry that has been cut into the brick wall next to and below the historic window opening. Star tie-rods are found along the back corner on this elevation.

The rear elevation contains several brick segmental arch openings that have either been filled in or covered. The lot slopes to this rear, and a direct access to the basement is found on this elevation. A single-door entry has been filled in on the lowest level. A newer cut window is found on the third story. Star tie-rods are found at each story in the middle of this elevation.

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<u>Commercial Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
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## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

214 Walnut Street does not appear individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. However, it appears to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. None of the business or people associated with 214 Walnut appear to be particularly significant. Several saloons operated in Muscatine in the 1890s and early 1900s, all closed by prohibition in 1908. Likewise, several feed stores continued to operate well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The architecture is typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Muscatine, with an oriel window likely added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, it does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C.

However, this commercial building does appear to be a strong contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. It falls within two historic contexts identified for the district: "19<sup>th</sup> Century Business and Industry" and "20<sup>th</sup> Century Business and Industry." Its business history of saloons ended with prohibition in 1908 and the building became used for a feed store. Both aspects of this history contribute historically to the potential downtown district.

The precise construction date of this building is unknown. Following the Civil War, Muscatine saw a building boom, and it seems likely that this building was built at this time. The 1866 city directory of Muscatine lists six businesses on the west side of Walnut, most of which were grocery stores. It appears that Hellweg & Harding were located in this building at this time. John Hellweg and Ernest Harding are both listed as grocers in the 1866 directory, and Hellweg lived at the same location as the store. These grocers do not appear in the previous city directory, dated 1859. Likewise, they no longer appear in the subsequent city directory in 1869.

This information is also confirmed by the account of Charles A. Braunwarth, who recalled businesses in Muscatine from the 1860s and late 19<sup>th</sup> century. He notes, moving north on the west side of Walnut across the alley, that the first building was originally the Harding grocery, followed by Mull and Shermans, manufacturers of kitchen cabinets (Carlson 1989: 204). This business could not be found in the 1859, 1866, 1869, or 1874 city directories.

The bird's-eye view of Muscatine from 1874 clearly shows a three-story building at this location. Likewise, an 1882 photograph shows a comparable three-story building at this location. However, the bay window was not on the building at this time (Koch 1874, "170," Volume 4, Graham photographs).

According to the 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the business in the building was the Anchor Mills, with grinding on the first story, purifying on the second story, and cleaning on the third story. However, Anchor Mills are not listed in any city directories, either before or after this date. No mills are listed at this location in the business listings, and no other information could be found on this mill other than a reference by Braunwarth. He noted that the Anchor Mills by the Fath brothers were the occupant of this building following Mull and Shermans (Carlson 1989: 204). The Fath brothers could not be positively

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<u>Commercial Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
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identified in the 1877, 1883-86 or 1886-87 city directories, though they may have been Charles and Jacobo. Anchor Mills continue to be depicted on the 1888 Sanborn map at this location.

The 1892, 1899, and 1905 Sanborn maps show a saloon here. Braunwarth noted that after Anchor Mills, Mike Houch, free lunch, was located here (Carlson 1989: 204). The 1893-94 city directory lists Frank Hautsch at this address, operating a boarding house. It is unclear if these two people were related, with a misspelling in Braunwarth's account. Previously, in 1886-87, Frank Hautsch operated a restaurant and boarding house on W. Front. In the 1895-96 city directory, he is listed as a "saloonist" at 214 Walnut, living in the upper stories. He continued to be listed as wine and liquor dealer and/or operating a saloon at this address through 1904. In 1904, he and his wife lived here, and Frank A. Hautsch, a dentist, boarded at this address.

In the 1907 city directory, Frank J. Binhoff operated a saloon at this address. In the 1904 city directory, he had been listed as a bottler for William H. Fayle, wholesaler for Anheuser-Busch. In 1908-09, Binhoff is listed as residing on the second story, without any occupation. After decades of bitter debate, prohibition was passed in Muscatine in 1908, closing all saloons and liquor dealers. If Binhoff had been operating at this time, he would have been closed. With this change, Fayle also had to change occupations after 1908. In the 1910-1911 city directory, he is listed at 214 Walnut with a flour, feed, and grain store. The second story was rented out to Tort Ellinwood, foreman for Roach and Musser. Though the upstairs tenants changed, Fayle continued his business here through 1919. Braunwarth's account also notes that this building became Fayle's feed store, followed by Kruger (Carlson 1989: 205).

In 1921, Otto G. Kruger moved his feed store to this location and lived on the second story. According to the 1940 Centennial Edition of the *Muscatine Journal*, he began his business in 1908. He was previously located at 500 E. 2<sup>nd</sup>, living on the second story. In the 1940-41 city directory, Kruger is among five retail feed dealers listed. Kruger operated his business here and lived upstairs until around 1952 when he died. The third story was rented out to other tenants.

In the 1954 city directory, the building is listed as vacant, with Bertha Kruger living upstairs. In 1956, Fred's Sport Shop briefly operated here. Schmidt Music Company is listed here in 1958, along with two upstairs tenants. Price's Floor Covering and Drapes moved into this location by 1965. Price Carpeting, Inc. continues to operate in this storefront.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"170," June 1882, Volume 4, Graham photographs. Compiled by Graham for the Musser Public Library.

Carlson, JoAnn, ed. *Muscatine History Notes*. Muscatine: Musser Public Library, 1989. Includes transcript of the reminiscences of Charles C. Braunwarth of Muscatine from the 1860s to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, compiled in the 1920s.

City Directories, Muscatine, Various publishers, 1859-1959. Available at the Musser Public Library.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

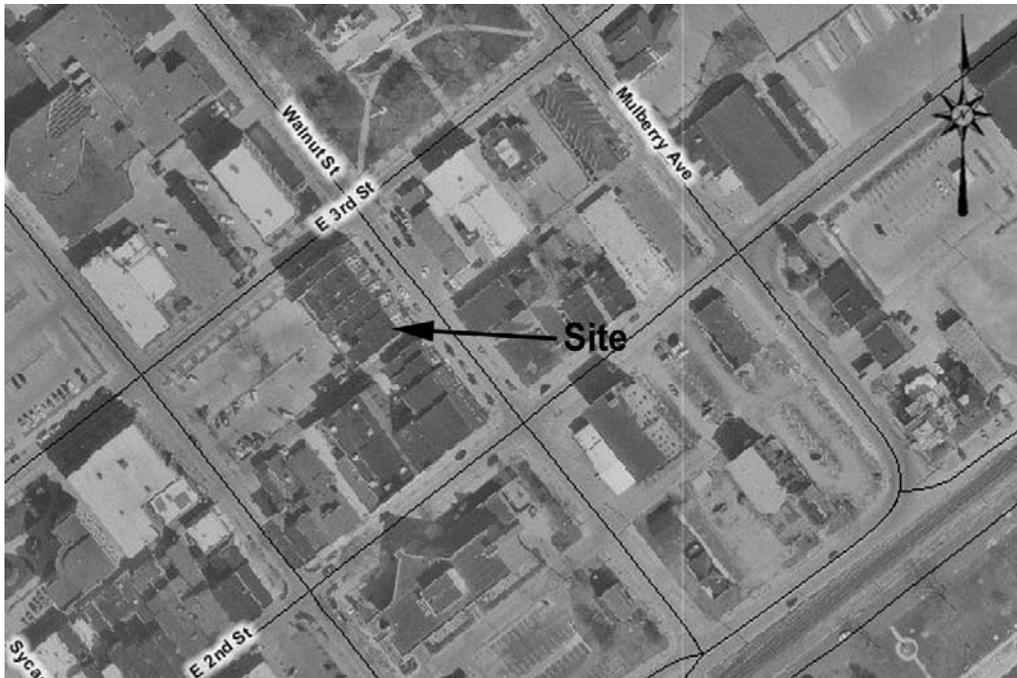
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<u>Commercial Building</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>214 Walnut</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

Koch, Augustus. *Bird's-eye View of the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa*. Koch, 1874. In the collections of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

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](http://sanborn.umi.com).

## Location Map



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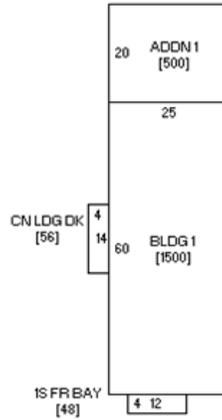
Commercial Building  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

214 Walnut  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## Plan (from assessor's office)



(front - Walnut)

## Photograph of building (digital image)

