

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

State Inventory No. 70-00622  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 Gottbrecht Cigar Factory  
 other names/site number Bridge Grocery, Field Site #: FS-105

**2. Location**

street & number 224 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Block(s) 31 Lot(s) N 20' Lot 6, N 20' E40' Lot 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 Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of: Contributing    Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____ buildings	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ sites	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____ structures	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____ objects	_____ objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____ 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>10A02: Industry / Factory - cigars</u>	<u>02G02: Commerce / Restaurant/tavern</u>
<u>02E11: Commerce / grocery</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 Address 224 Walnut Site Number 70-00622  
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 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 June 21, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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<u>Gottbrecht Cigar Factory</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>224 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 was remodeled in 1957 in conjunction with 222 Walnut. A slightly recessed single-door entry with a transom was installed, with storefront plate glass windows on either side. The bulkhead is clad in permastone. The entry with a glass transom to the upper stories is found on the right side of the storefront. The storefront transom area is clad in vertical metal siding, as is the shared pilaster with 222 Walnut. The second and third stories each have three arch windows. The windows have brick arch lintels with keystones with star details and simple flat sills. The sashes have been replaced, with the upper portion of the arch opening filled in with paneling. The frieze/cornice consists of a slightly projected section of brick with two courses of projected brick above brick "bracket" detailing.

The rear and side walls of the building are brick. The exposed third story wall of the original building has a one-over-one-light double-hung window with a segmental arch brick lintel and paired one-over-one-light double-hung windows with a shared segmental arch brick lintel. A large one-story rear addition was constructed on this building, as well as the neighboring 220 and 224 Walnut, in the early 1920s, between the 1919 and 1928 Sanborn maps. At this time, an open porch remained on the second story. Since the 1946 Sanborn map, this second story porch has also been enclosed. The first story section extends much further back than the enclosed second story porch, about to the alley line. A rear entry is found in this first story addition. A band of four double-hung windows are found in the enclosed second story porch, as well as another entry.

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Gottbrecht Cigar Factory 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.

The Gottbrecht cigar factory operated here from at least 1883 to 1920. Though they maintained a successful business through this period, a number of other cigar factories operated in Muscatine throughout this period. For example, Kaufmann Cigars began operating at 211 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street around 1875, and the business continued with the Eichenauer family from the 1890s to 1963. The Gottbrecht cigar factory does not appear to be particularly prominent within the cigar industry, though additional research on this industry may reveal some additional significant information on this business. Additionally, the Bridge Grocery, while operated by a significant family associated with the grocery business in Muscatine, does not appear to be particularly significant. The Giesenhau's business is associated with other, earlier buildings that remain standing and have greater significance and association with this business. The building continues to reflect its 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture, retaining its upper story window pattern while many other buildings on this block had bay windows added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, it does not stand out as particularly outstanding in Muscatine, particularly with the later storefront modifications. Thus, this building does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at this time.

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<u>Gottbrecht Cigar Factory</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
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However, the Gottbrecht Cigar Factory does appear to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. It falls within two historic contexts identified for this potential district: "19<sup>th</sup> century Business and Industry," and "20<sup>th</sup> century Business and Industry." Its operation for nearly 40 years as a cigar store followed by over 40 years as a grocery store contributes to the historic business context of the downtown district. Additionally, the traditional three-story, brick architecture contributes architecturally to this district.

The precise construction date of this building is unknown. Following the Civil War, Muscatine saw a building boom, and it appears that this building was likely built at this time. The 1866 city directory of Muscatine lists six businesses on the west side of Walnut. No business was specifically identified at this location. 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 (Koch 1874; "170," Volume 4, Graham photographs). In 1869, Mrs. Mary A. Roberts was listed as a tailoress on the west side of Walnut near 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and she may have been located in this building. In the 1869 city directory, Adolph Gottbrecht is listed as a bookkeeper living on the west side of Walnut between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, which is further clarified by the 1874-75 city directory that lists him living 2 from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, or in this building. Neither the business that he is employed with nor Frank Gottbrecht is listed in these early directories. In 1879, Frank G. Gottbrecht is listed as a cigar manufacturer with Schwertfeger's and is also living at 224 Walnut. In the 1883-86 city directory, he is listed as cigar manufacturer at 224 Walnut, where he also lived.

In this period, it appears that Gottbrecht left this location or had not yet truly began his own business. The 1883 Sanborn map indicates a carpentry shop at this location. The business listings of the 1883-86 city directory also list I.A. Kerr at 226 Walnut, though the alphabetical listing put him elsewhere. I.A. Kerr was the first business recalled at this location by Charles A. Braunwarth in his account of businesses in Muscatine from the 1860s and late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Kerr was noted as "burning midnight oil, working on hand power" (Carlson 1989: 205). According to his 1879 biography, he arrived in town in 1875. The 1876-77 city directory lists Isaac A. Kerr as a builder living on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He is only listed at 224 Walnut in the 1883-86 business listings and 1886-87 city directory. The 1886-87 city directory lists I.A. Kerr as a mechanical engineer and modelmaker. By 1889, he had begun a new business on Front Street.

The 1886-87 city directory again lists Frank Gottbrecht as a cigar maker at Schwertfeger's, while he continued to live at 224 Walnut. The 1889-92 city directory lists him as a cigar maker at 224 Walnut, also living at this address. Both the 1888 and 1892 Sanborn maps show a cigar factory at this location. This business was briefly listed as the Challenge Cigar Manufactory in the 1897-98 directory, and he was one of 15 cigar dealers and manufacturers listed at this time. August Gottbrecht served as his bookkeeper, also living here intermittently. Frank Gottbrecht continued to live here and operate the factory until around 1920. The 1919 city directory lists Gottbrecht as proprietor of a cigar store, rather than as a factory. A number of other cigar factories continued to operate in Muscatine in this period; Gottbrecht is one of eleven listed in 1910. Ten continued to be listed in 1923, after Gottbrecht ceased operations.

In 1921, the Bridge Grocery began operations at this location. This grocery was operated by the Giesenhaus family, who had been in the grocery business in Muscatine since 1867. The early location of

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Frederick Giesenhaus was 227 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, which is extant. Frederick's son, Charles A. (born 1861), entered the grocery business with his father by 1889, and the firm became known as Frederick Giesenhaus and Son. Charles A. Giesenhaus continued in the business after his father's death (*Portrait and Biographical Album Muscatine County, Iowa*, 1889: 289). Charles opened Bridge Grocery at this location by 1921, named for its proximity to High Bridge at the end of Walnut and the amount of traffic they received from Illinois over this bridge. In the early 1930s, his daughter Grace M. Giesenhaus took over as manager of the business, though Charles continued to work as a clerk. They lived at 309 E. Front Street throughout this period, and the upper stores were rented to various tenants. In July 1939, the business was sold to Andrew Johnson and his son Ernest, who made several improvements to the store ("Bridge Grocery," May 31, 1940, 28).

The 1940-41 city directory continues to show Bridge Grocery at this location, operated by Andrew and Ernest Johnson. Various tenants lived on the upper stories. They operated the business for about a decade. In 1952, Clifford L. Freyermuth is listed as manager of the Bridge Grocery. Additionally, U.S. Post Office Station No. 2 is listed here throughout the 1950s, beginning in 1952. Bridge Grocery continued to operate here through 1970. The building served as Tony's Tropical Fish store in the 1970s and 1980s before it became part of Jody's Bar and Grill at 226 Walnut in the early 1990s. It remains part of Jody's Bar & Grill today.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Bridge Grocery," Muscatine Journal Centennial Edition, May 31, 1940, 28.

City Directories, Muscatine, Various publishers, 1859-1959. Available at 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.

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

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.

*Portrait and Biographical Album Muscatine County, Iowa*. Chicago: Acme Publishing, 1889.

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.

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00622

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

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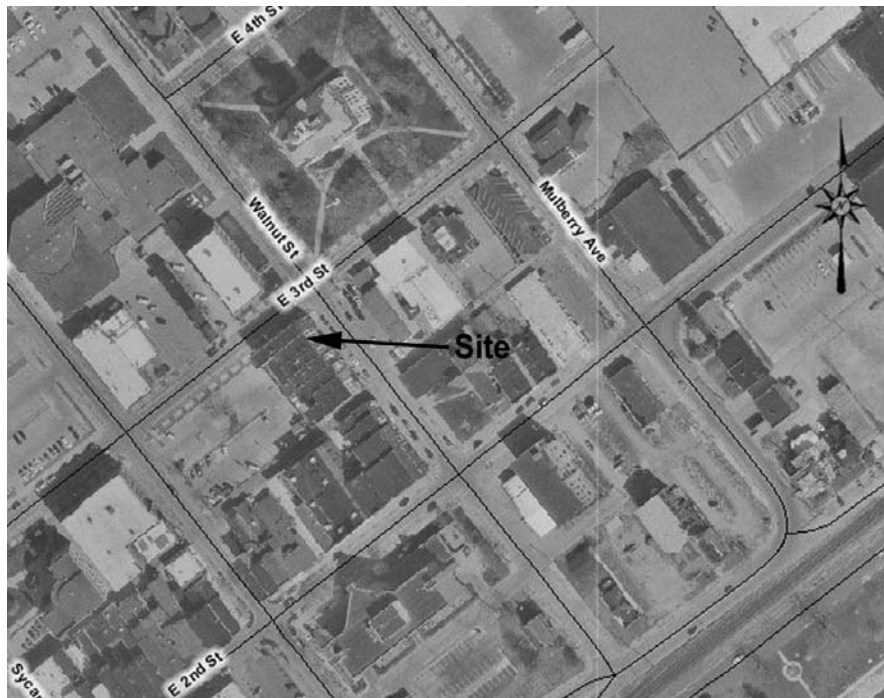
Gottbrecht Cigar Factory  
Name of Property

Muscatine  
County

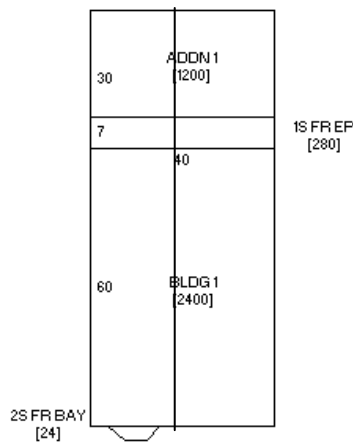
224 Walnut  
Address

Muscatine  
City

## Location Map



## Plan (from assessor's office)



(222 Walnut – 224 Walnut)

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Gottbrecht Cigar Factory  
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## Photograph of building (digital image)

