

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

State Inventory No. 70-00148 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-113

2. Location

street & number 417 East Second 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) 30 Lot(s) E 1/3 LOT 3

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

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>02E: Commerce / Specialty Store / Plumbing Shop</u>	<u>02E: Commerce / Specialty Store / Antique Shop</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>05B: Late Victorian / Italianate</u>	foundation <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	walls <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof <u>08B: Asphalt / Rolled</u>
_____	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 417 East Second Street

Site Number 70-00148
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 Maryrose and John Peterschmidt (Member and Volunteer) (R.L. McCarley, Consultant)

organization Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission date February 12, 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

- 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> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>417 E. 2nd St</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

7. Narrative Description

The building at 417 East Second Street is a two-story, three-bay, brick structure. A double-door entry to the store is located on the right side of the storefront, and a single entry to an upstairs apartment is located to the left. The storefront display windows and entries have large transom windows. A large display window occupies the space between the two entries. A new, fixed awning is located between the display windows and the glass transoms and extends across the width of the building and the adjacent building. Though this storefront appears historic in style, a c.1891 photo reveals a single store entry in the center of the store front, with a display window on each side of the entry. The current first floor storefront has therefore been modified from the original 19th century appearance.

The brick façade is laid in common bond. The windows on the second floor are non-historic four-over-four-light, double-hung in style with modern, aluminum storm windows attached. The windows are slightly smaller than the original windows, as evidenced by the patching below the windows. The window sills were raised to their present level and the gap filled with brick. The windows appear to retain their original decorative lintels. The c.1891 photo reveals a full width balcony, slightly below the second floor window sills. The balcony has since been removed. The parapet is not highly decorative, except that the uppermost brick work is laid in several rows of dentil pattern.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The commercial building at 417 East Second Street does not appear to be 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.

The building does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. Though the Barry Manufacturing Company was a significant local business, the storefront at 419 E. 2nd St, their main office, is more strongly associated with this business than this building. It does not appear to have been associated with any other prominent business or person. Additionally, with the remodeled storefront and upper story windows, it does not appear to be eligible as an outstanding example of an architectural style or type. Several buildings from this period exist throughout downtown Muscatine.

However, this building does appear to be a contributing building in a potential downtown historic district. The two-story brick commercial building is a typical feature of this district, and this building helps anchor the 400 block of E. 2nd, the east end of the downtown area. It primarily falls within one historic context identified for this district: "19th century Business and Industry."

According to a warranty deed filed on May 29, 1866, Isidore Neirel bought from H.Q. Jennison, the "eastwardly 20 feet by 140 feet of Lot 3, Block 30, with half the wall of the three story brick building adjoining, or so much as said 20 feet will cover, not less than four or six inches". (Deed Book 2, p. 225)

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<u>Commercial Building</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>417 E. 2nd St</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

This indicates the presence of an existing three story brick building on the west border of the purchased property. It also indicates that there was no structure at 417 E. 2nd St. in May, 1866. In 1869, a city directory shows the Isidore Neirel residence to be on the “north side of Second Street, between Walnut and Mulberry.” He likely also operated a business on the first story at this time. This would indicate that 417 East Second Street was built by Isidore Neirel between 1866 and 1869. On the 1883 Sanborn map, a three story brick building is shown at 415 E. 2nd Street, which is to the west of the property purchased by Nierel in 1866.

The 1877-1878 city directory shows Neirel Jewelry and residence to be on the north side of 2nd Street, west of Mulberry. Mr. Nierel also maintained a jewelry shop on West 2nd Street, according to the 1859-1860 city directory, and at 214 E. 2nd Street from 1886 through 1892. According to city directories, 417 E. 2nd Street was not continually occupied during the ten year period between 1879 and 1889. At the beginning of this period, 417 E. 2nd Street was occupied by Isidore Neirel and, in 1886, by the Williams Restaurant. According to Sanborn maps, a grocery was located at 417 E. 2nd St. in 1883 and, in 1888, it was shown to be vacant. In June 1889, Barry Manufacturing Co. bought the property from Georgiana and James Williams (Deed Book 21, p. 781), who, according to city directories, operated a restaurant at 417 E. 2nd Street.

According to a city directory, Barry and Son had a salesroom and office at 417 and 419 East 2nd Street in 1883. The main office of Nicholas Barry’s business was located next door at 419 E. 2nd St, and it appears that they were using this building at 417, at least intermittently, in the 1880s, before fully expanding into this building. Nicholas Barry, former superintendent of the gas works, began N. Barry & Sons around 1879 to provide plumbing supplies. Along with his sons, Patrick and Nicholas, Jr., they strove to improve upon modern plumbing and gas fixtures. The company installed piping in homes for gas and water. Barry bought the neighboring property at 419 in 1881 (Deed Book 24, page 112), and the business incorporated as the Barry Manufacturing Company in 1888. The Barry lead trap, with its patented design, became the leading product of the firm by the 1890s. They expanded to the point of opening a branch on Fulton Street in Chicago to manufacture the trap. In 1894, Nicholas, Sr. retired, and the firm was continued by the three sons, Nicholas, Jr., Patrick, and Thomas (Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 50; Lewis 1901: 67-68). On the 1899 Sanborn map, “plumbing” is the use spanning both the buildings at 417 and 419.

A new industry arrived in Muscatine in the late 19th century – the manufacture of pearl buttons. The lack of good equipment design initially limited the gross production of buttons. However, the Barrys’ plumbing company designed a new machine that could produce better buttons with less labor. In 1895, they devoted the company solely to the manufacture of pearl button machinery. They worked on machines for various aspects of button production, including cutting, classifying, hand facing, and drilling. To expand their operations, they moved their production facilities to a large brick building at Mulberry and 3rd Street, keeping their salesroom and office on 2nd Street until the turn of the century.

Various plumbing and heating companies continued to occupy this building after Barry Manufacturing Co. moved. Barry sold the plumbing and heating business (having expanded into button machinery) to Corry and Wernentin Co., who are listed in city directories from 1902 to 1904 at 419 E. 2nd St and then in this building as well (1907). Eppel and Schlosser Co. followed in 1911-1913, then W.J. Watson Co. (1916)

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<u>Commercial Building</u> Name of Property	<u>Muscatine</u> County
<u>417 E. 2nd St</u> Address	<u>Muscatine</u> City

and Crozer Plumbing (1919-1928). In the 1940's, Glatstein Furniture occupied 417-419-421-425 E. 2nd St, probably just using the storefront space in 417 and 419. After a devastating fire in their adjacent main furniture showrooms at 421-425, Glatstein Furniture maintained a presence at 417 and 419 E. 2nd St. until 1949. The Tasty Pastry Bake Shop began operation at 417 E. 2nd St. in 1954 and continued there through the 1950's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

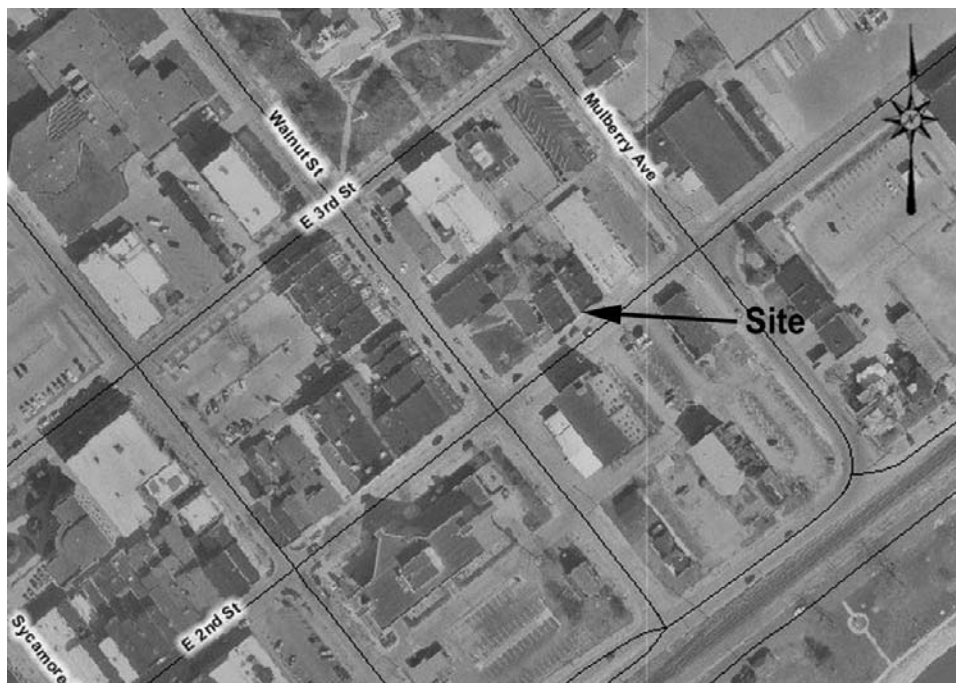
City Directories, Muscatine. Various publishers, 1859-1959. Available at the Musser Public Library.

Deed Books, Muscatine County Recorder's Office, Muscatine County Courthouse, Muscatine, Iowa.

"Office of N. Barry and Son," *Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition of the Muscatine Journal*, Muscatine, IA, January 1891. Photograph online at www.rootsweb.com/~iamuscat/semicent/busbarryoffice.gif

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

Location Map



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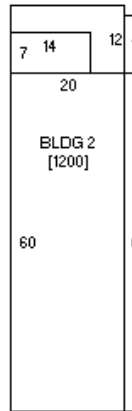
Commercial Building
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

417 E. 2nd St
Address

Muscatine
City

Plan (from assessor's office)



(front – 2nd St)

Photograph of building (digital image)

