

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

State Inventory No. 70-00149 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 Barry Manufacturing Office
 other names/site number Field Site #: FS-114

2. Location

street & number 419 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) W 1/3 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)	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 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
City Muscatine

Address 419 East Second Street

Site Number 70-00149
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

02: Architecture

Significant Dates

Construction date

1876 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>Barry Manufacturing Company Office</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Name of Property	County
<u>419 E. 2nd St</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address	City

7. Narrative Description

The Barry Manufacturing Company office is a two story, three bay, brick structure. Similar to the storefront of the adjacent 417 E. 2nd St, the storefront has been remodeled in a historically sympathetic style. A c.1891 photograph shows that the original configuration consisted of a centered entry with divided light windows on either side and a single door upper story entry on the far left (*Semi-Centennial Souvenir Edition of the Muscatine Journal* 1891). The current storefront retains the single-door upper story entry on the left, but the double-door storefront entry is now adjacent to this entry. The storefront windows and entries have large transom windows. The reconfiguration of the storefront appears to date to the early 1900s; a c.1942 photograph of the building shows this current configuration already in place. The c.1891 photograph also shows a wrought iron balcony at the sill of the second floor center window. The balcony, no longer there, also appears on the 1899 Sanborn map. A new, fixed awning is located between the display windows and the glass transoms and extends across this building and the neighboring 417.

The metal façade and details are also seen in the c.1891 photograph of the building. The front, or south façade is faced with a shaped sheet metal. The metal is of a light gage, light enough so that it can be made into shapes to simulate concrete block and cover the brick wall. Narrow, decorative pilasters stand at the far east and west corners of this elevation. They are also clad with sheet metal. The pilasters are topped with a decorative bracket that is a part of a full width, sheet metal covered, bracketed cornice, which has a triangular, raised pediment in the center. The decoration is Eastlake in style, without rounded decorative elements. The windows on the second floor have non-historic four-over-four-light, double hung sashes with modern aluminum storm windows attached. Each window has a cut stone sill and a decorative, metal clad lintel that mimics the triangular pediment above. The architectural integrity of this structure is very much intact. The addition of an awning and re-glazed and restored display windows on the store front has been carefully and tastefully done by the current owner.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Barry Manufacturing Co. Office at 419 East Second Street appears to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The building and its history also appear to contribute to a potential downtown historic district.

The Barry Company started out as a simple plumbing business at this location in the 1870s. By the 1890s, they had been very successful, and they devoted their business to pearl button machinery, particularly the automatic button cutting machine. The imagination, inventiveness and engineering skills of Nicholas Barry and his sons helped to bring the Muscatine pearl button industry into national prominence and to contribute in a significant way to the economy of the Muscatine area. The Barry Co. also played a role as a significant contributor of their unique skills during World War II. The Barry's formative years at 419 East Second Street was key to their future development and to Muscatine's as well. It was while they were at this location that they developed the first automatic button cutting

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machine. Additionally, their later manufacturing building and office on 4th Street near the railroad tracks, where they operated from the early 1900s through the 1970s, was demolished in 1988. This earlier building stands as the building most strongly associated with this prominent business. Thus, the Barry Manufacturing Company Office appears individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Additionally, the architecture with the metal façade is unique in Muscatine. The cladding certainly makes it unique and worthy of a closer look by anyone passing by. The building's decorative elements are done with care, and even though it is only two stories high, it displays these details well. The details appear to be reflective of the Eastlake style. A few other buildings also have metal facades in downtown Muscatine; this is the only one with the smooth block look. This façade appears in a c.1891 photograph of the building. Thus, the Barry Manufacturing Company Office also appears individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Finally, it appears to be a contributing structure in a potential downtown historic district. It is a key building in the 400 block of E. 2nd St in this district, anchoring the east end of the district. It falls within two historic contexts identified for this district: "19th century Business and Industry" and "Pearl Button Center of the World." Historically, it contributes to this history of downtown Muscatine. The architecture with the metal façade contributes architecturally to this district as a unique element.

Elias and Olivia Kessinger appear to have built this building in the 1870s, and by 1876 a tenant, N. Barry and Sons, was in the building. Elias Kessinger was a lumber merchant who lived in South Muscatine in 1877. Nicholas Barry Sr. was born in Kilmore, Ireland on July 25, 1819 and immigrated to the United States in 1839. He spent his twenties near Cleveland, Ohio, where he operated his own tailoring shop and married Alice Potts in 1847. They moved with westward expansion in 1856 to Rock Island, Illinois, where Nicholas was superintendent of the gas works. In 1868, the Barry family moved to Muscatine, where Nicholas held a similar position with the gas works for eleven years. It appears that he also operated his own plumbing business in this period, as N. Barry and Sons is listed in the 1876-77 city directory at 114 E. 2nd (old address numbering, likely 419 E. 2nd).

Nicholas Barry Sr. bought the 419 East 2nd St. property from Elias and Olivia Kessinger in March 1881 for \$1500. This amount suggests that the building was constructed prior to this date, likely before he began operating at this location. The mortgage was held by G.A. Garretson & Co. (Abstract of property). Along with his sons, Patrick and Nicholas, Jr., Nicholas strove to improve upon modern plumbing and gas fixtures. The company installed piping in homes for gas and water. In 1888, they incorporated the company as Barry Manufacturing Company. Nicholas sold the property to Barry Manufacturing Co. in December 1891 (Abstract of property). 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. They also secured patent rights to a high pressure rotary hydrant, which was sold throughout the country to firefighters and to hydraulic miners. 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).

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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. This building is depicted on the 1899 Sanborn map, with the office continuing to be located at 419 E. 2nd Street. Barry Manufacturing Co. is shown in city directories at 419 East 2nd St. until 1900. By this time, they had also expanded into the neighboring 417 (Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 303; Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 50; Lewis 1901: 67-68).

The main focus of the Barry Manufacturing was on the automatic button cutter. They sold the first button machine to Henry Umlandt, founder of the Automatic Button Company. The Barrys continued to work on their machine, further reducing the number of steps required to produce buttons. About fifty workers were employed by 1901. The advent of this machinery greatly increased production of the button industry throughout the region. In 1904, they patented the double automatic button cutting machine, further increasing production (Carlson 1984: 38, 82; Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 303; Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 50; Lewis 1901: 67-68; Coker 1919: 66). The 1905 Sanborn map shows that the Automatic Button Company has moved into the Barry’s former location at 3rd and Mulberry, and the manufacturing facilities moved to along the railroad tracks at 4th and Poplar (901 E. 4th St). They continued to be located here into the 1970s. The Barry Manufacturing Company building was demolished in December 1988 (“Buttoned up for good,” 1988). This area is now occupied by HNI Co., formerly the HON Company.

Though Barry had competitors in the manufacture of button machinery in the early 1900s, they outpaced these competitors by 1910, listed as the only source of machinery in the 1910-11 directory. By 1911, the Barry Manufacturing Plant was among the largest businesses in Muscatine, and one of the largest of its kind in the country. They employed over 100 people in their three-story, three building plant. In 1915, it reincorporated as the Barry Company for \$500,000 with Nicholas, Jr., Patrick, and Thomas Barry still at the head. With the growth of the business, they expanded their facilities on E. 4th and Poplar, occupying the whole block up to 5th Street. Four of their sons, John C., Robert K, Richard L., and Albert S., became involved in the business in the 1910s and 1920s, continuing it after the deaths and/or retirement of their fathers. During World War II, the Barry Company landed several defense contracts, producing machines for classifying bullets, precision parts for planes and guns, and various cutting tools (Carlson 1984: 38, 82; Richman 1911, Vol. 1: 303; Richman 1911, Vol. 2: 50; Lewis 1901: 67-68, “Historic Dates of Barry Firm are Recalled” 1943). The Barry Co. continued in Muscatine until the 1970’s, when the business was sold to the R.J. Dick Co.

While the product line was manufactured elsewhere in Muscatine, the offices and showroom were maintained at 419 until 1900, and for a time, at 417 East Second Street. A succession of plumbing and heating companies occupied 419 E. 2nd St., as well as 417, after the turn of the century. Barry sold the plumbing and heating business to Corry and Wernentin Co., who are listed in city directories from 1902 to 1904, followed by Eppel & Schlosser Co. from 1908 until 1911, Eppel Plumbing Co. in 1913, W.J. Watson Plumbing & Heating in 1916, and Crozer Plumbing from 1919 until 1937.

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In the 1940's, Glatstein Furniture occupied 417-419-421-425 E. 2nd St. In September 1942, they had a devastating fire in their main furniture showrooms at 421 – 425 East 2nd St. A photograph of the damage also shows the adjacent building at 419 E. 2nd Street, which shows that the storefront configuration has been changed to move both doors into the left bays prior to this date (Photograph c.1942). Glatstein Furniture maintained a presence at 417 and 419 E. 2nd St. until 1949. Tiedemann Paint Store is listed at 419 East 2nd St. in 1952. Then, in 1954, Hankins Plumbing Shop moved in and remained through the 1950's. The current owners of the antique shop, Dave and Leann Manley, have remodeled the storefronts in the past few years, though retaining the second configuration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Buttoned up for good," *Muscatine Journal*. December 21, 1988, 3A.

Carlson, Jo Ann and Barbara Bublitz, ed. *Muscatine History Notes: From Muscatine newspapers and other sources*. Transcribed newspaper articles. Muscatine: Musser Public Library, 1989.

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

Deed Books, Muscatine County Recorder's Office, Muscatine County Courthouse, Muscatine, Iowa.
Warranty Deed, 1881. Recorded in book 24, page 112.
Warranty Deed, 1891. Recorded in book 24, page 77.
Mortgage, 1881. Recorded in book 13, page 750.

Lewis, H.W. *Picturesque Muscatine: a Booklet Descriptive of the "Pearl City" of Iowa*. Muscatine, IA: H.W. Lewis, 1901.

"Muscatine Business Directory," *Muscatine Journal Centennial Edition*. May 31, 1940, 22.

"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

Photograph, c.1942, photographer unknown, Peterschmidt private collection.

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

Sanborn Map Company. "Muscatine, Iowa," Sanborn fire insurance maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1883, 1888, 1892, 1899, 1912, 1919, 1928, 1946. Accessed on line at: sanborn.umi.com

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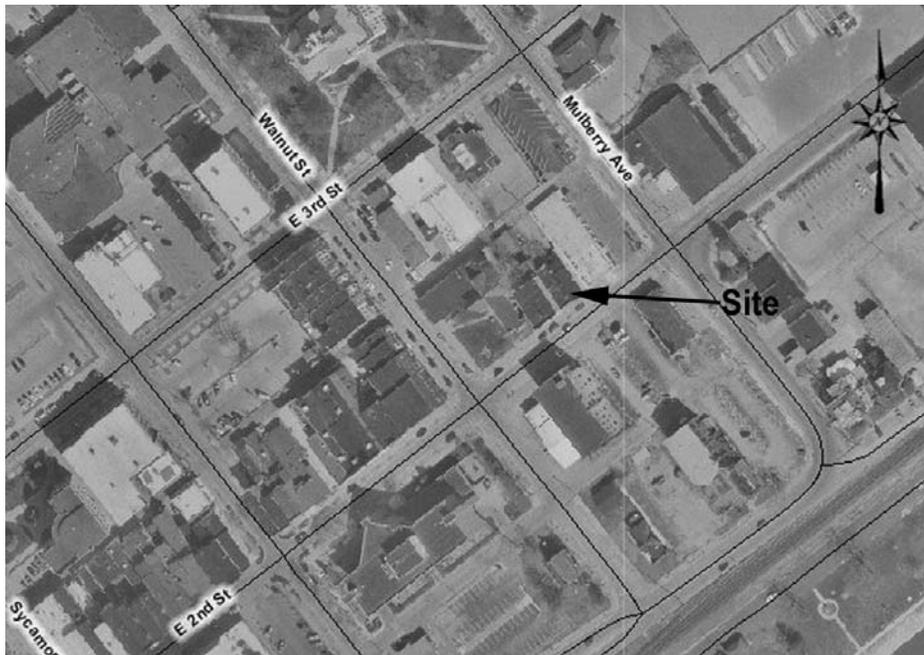
Barry Manufacturing Company Office
Name of Property

Muscatine
County

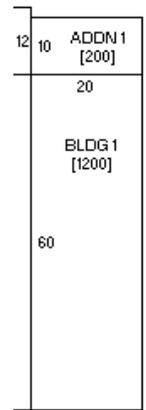
419 E. 2nd St
Address

Muscatine
City

Location Map



Plan (from assessor's office)



(front - 2nd St)

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419 E. 2nd St
Address

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Photograph of building (digital image)

