

1013

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Greenwood Cemetery Chapel
other names/site number Site # 70-00512 or 70-011-302

2. Location

street & number 1814 Lucas N/A not for publication
city or town Muscatine N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Muscatine code 139 zip code 52761

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Rowell J. Sirke July 24, 2001
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action 9/21/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "NA" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/Mortuary

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/Mortuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Stone: Limestone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1901-1912

Significant Dates

1901

1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Zeidler, Henry W.

Howe, J.E.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 1661800 4586980
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Rudisill/Planning & Community Development Coordinator

organization City of Muscatine date August 15, 2000

street & number 215 Sycamore Street telephone 319-264-1554

city or town Muscatine state Iowa zip code 52761

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Muscatine, Iowa

street & number 215 Sycamore Street telephone 319-264-1550

city or town Muscatine state Iowa zip code 52761

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00512
or 70-011-302

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property	County
<u>Greenwood Cemetery Chapel</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Narrative Statement of Description

Summary

The Greenwood Cemetery Chapel is located at the middle of the three main entrances to the cemetery off Lucas Street. The chapel is located in the southwestern portion of the original city.

The Greenwood Cemetery Chapel was a gift to the City of Muscatine from Peter Musser, well-known local philanthropist and businessman, in memory of his wife, Tamson. The gift was initially announced as an anonymous donation at a city council meeting on July 19, 1900. It was later revealed that Musser, who had donated the construction of a library to the city that same year, was the anonymous donor. Construction on the 65' x 35' red pressed brick and limestone chapel was started shortly after, with its dedication on May 12, 1901. The architect of the building was Henry W. Zeidler and the builder was J.E. Howe, both local businessmen.

General Description

The structure has two wings, each with an accompanying tower. The wings are connected by a broad covered driveway that functions as a porte-cochere or arcade for each wing. The Late Victorian-style chapel includes characteristics of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Romanesque Revival modes. These features include a rough-faced asymmetrical facade; deeply recessed windows; colorful bands of alternating brick and stone; high roofs; and wide, semicircular arches over windows and doors. A square belltower is located on the corner of the front-gabled audience room in the east wing.

A second, smaller square tower was completed around 1912 as an addition to the original west wing of the building, and complements the belltower. This smaller tower maintains the Richardsonian Romanesque theme of the structure with additional arched openings, parapeted walls and decorative quoins. Additional features on the backside of this addition may show an influence of the Mission Style. These include a shaped parapet roof and a stylized design suggestive of a quatrefoil window. When the addition was constructed, a basement was dug under a portion of the west wing and a coal-fired boiler installed to provide steam heat. The steam was piped underground to the east wing. This heating system is believed to have replaced an original wood-burning stove because the top of an abandoned chimney is still visible on the east wing roof. Interior evidence of such a structure has either been removed or covered over. A natural gas boiler replaced the original boiler in 1985, but the original radiators are still used to heat the west wing. When the east wing was renovated in 1985, an electric heater was installed in the porte-cochere's attic to replace the steam heating system in that area of the chapel.

The east wing of the chapel includes the audience room, where the actual funeral services continue to be held. It was designed to seat at least 100 people. The west wing was originally divided into rooms that were used for the sexton's office, tool room and a depository for bodies awaiting burial. The west wing addition was added to provide additional office space for the cemetery. The office space has since expanded into areas formerly used for the other purposes. The center of the building is a broad, covered driveway with two arched openings on the Lucas Street facade, but with flat lintels on the cemetery side. The drive provides sheltered access to either wing of the building. Restrooms are located in the west wing, with public access from the outside. A white marble statue of Hope resting on a base of limestone, also donated by Musser, stands outside the chapel's covered driveway and is a contributing resource. Originally the cemetery was open along Lucas Street before an iron fence was installed that connected the three, gated entrances along the street. The fence was removed sometime before 1960 and replaced by a short hedge.

The Greenwood Chapel provides office, maintenance and burial service space for the city-owned Greenwood Cemetery. It is located at 1814 Lucas, which is one of three primary entrances into the cemetery off Lucas Street. The building is a rectangular structure with a 28' x 35' central block and two wings. Each wing features a tower. The central block is a modified porte-cochere that connects the structure's 17' x 35' east wing (audience room) with the 20' x 35' west wing (office/maintenance area).

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00512
or 70-011-302

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property	County
<u>Greenwood Cemetery Chapel</u>	<u>Muscatine</u>
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

General Description (con't.)

The central block and west wing, except for an addition added sometime prior to 1912, share a common roof that is cross-gabled from the center of the audience room's front-gabled roof. A 10-ft wide square belltower is attached to the northwest corner of the audience room, but also connects to the cross-gabled roof. A second front gabled structure extends from the middle of the central block. This gable creates the chapel's main entrance, a large arched opening off Lucas Street that accesses the porte-cochere just east of the west wing. The roof lines on this gable are parapeted and an 18" stone cross finial sets on the roof's peak.

The building is primarily built of locally manufactured red pressed brick with limestone trim. The roof was originally slate, but has been replaced with asphalt shingles. An addition to the original building was completed sometime before 1912. The masonry and style of the addition blends well with the original structure. It is not known if Zeidler or Howe were involved with this addition..

Interior Renovations

Additional interior renovation of both wings was completed in 1985. The most recent renovation work modified the interior of the audience room by replacing the original plaster walls, stained window glass, flooring, electrical and heating systems, doors and trim. Seating is currently by individual chairs. It is not known what the original seating was. The west wing was also renovated in 1985. That work included electrical and plumbing system renovation; replacement of interior walls, floor, ceiling and doors; and window and trim repair. Other interior work completed in the west wing included removal of one wall section and construction of a wall to create a new shop area; renovation of the basement stairway and replacement of the boiler. Ramps were also constructed and doors replaced to improve handicapped accessibility to the restrooms and office.

Lucas Street Facade

The exterior of the chapel has not been substantially altered since the west wing addition was completed. The entire building rests on a limestone and brick foundation, with two tiers of stone above grade providing a contrasting base for the red brick masonry of the building. This contrast in color and material is maintained throughout the structure. Decorative quoins, banded window and door arches of brick and stone on the building's facade and two stone bands that run around the entire chapel maintain this contrast. Bands of stone that form portions of the window and attic vent sills and other coursework add additional contrast to the upper portions of the building.

Porte-cochere - entrances

The primary entrance to the chapel is through a broad, modified porte-cochere off Lucas Street. The covered driveway complements the division of the chapel into two wings with its own dichotomy of design that includes both a traffic drive-through nearest the west wing; and a pedestrian walkway adjacent to the east wing.

The drive-through is part of a front-gabled structure that includes a large grand arch and parapeted walls. Originally, traffic from Lucas Street could enter through the grand arch. Although that is still allowed during funerals, routine cemetery traffic is now rerouted around the building.

The intrados of the drive-through's grand arch is an alternating series of brick and stone that creates a banded appearance, with the bands in the arch capped by a limestone extrados. The arch is supported by short stone columns that rest on more massive piers. Cushion capitals decorated with flowers and other designs top each stone column. On each side of the grand arch is a brick pillar that rests on the top of each arch's base pier.

A round finial of limestone rests on each pillar. A steel rod anchors each pillar to the opposite side of the building. Above the arch is a 15" x 8' stone with the inscription: "19 - GREENWOOD - 00". Two attic vents with stone-capped arches are above the inscription stone.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Porte-cochere backside and interior

The backside of the grand arch's drive-through bay is not arched, creating a larger exit that has a flat lintel supported in the middle by a plain brick pillar. The drive-through bay provides a temporary point for passengers to disembark from their transportation or for the deceased's casket to be removed from the hearse. A beadboard cathedral ceiling rises over 12' above this portion of the driveway.

The east half of the driveway provides a gathering point for the funeral party and access for foot traffic coming off Lucas Street or back from the cemetery proper. The Lucas Street pedestrian traffic passes through an arched doorway that matches the banded design of the building's other arches. However, unlike those arches, which have a round surround, this arched doorway has a flat-topped surround of limestone with ramhorn style ends. Two small limestone piers built into the surrounding walls support this arch.

Belltower

The main exterior entrance to the prominent square belltower opens towards Lucas Street. Two poured-in-place concrete steps access the doorway in the tower's north (Lucas Street) wall. The tower's twin 2'5" x 6'8" exterior wooden doors were installed as part of the restoration project completed in 1985. A segmented pediment of stained glass (replaced as part of the 1985 restoration) extends above the doors over their entire width. The belltower's doorway arch is supported by two small stone pilasters. Similar pilasters support the window arches on the audience room's facade. A block of limestone, approximately 5' x 2', with an inscription that dedicates the chapel to the memory of Tamson Musser is inserted midway between the top of the belltower's doorway arch and the upper tower openings.

One opening is centrally located at the top of each side of the tower. These open windows have unbanded arches and are set on sills that extend as a band around the tower's perimeter. The arch supports are free standing pilasters of stone. The tower has a pinnacled, pyramidal roof topped with a 24" cross. A single 2'4" x 6'8" door in the tower's south wall provides access from the porte-cochere. A single 20" x 5' window with a simple, unbanded brick arch is centrally located in the tower's west wall. Interior access from the belltower's foyer to the chapel's audience room is through an open 3' x 8' wide doorway. A stained glass window arches over this entrance.

Audience Room - Interior

The interior of the audience room was extensively remodeled in 1985. The original flooring, plaster walls, seating, molding and other details were replaced with wallboard, carpeting, chairs and wood trim. New wiring, lighting, fans and climate controls were also added.

All the stained glass windows (both glazing and millwork) were replaced during the 1985 renovation with new stained glass and wood. A new pulpit and funeral bier were also added. The other main entrance into the audience room is directly from the east bay of the porte-cochere. Unlike the cathedral ceiling of the porte-cochere's west section, this bay has a low (8') flat wainscoted ceiling running its entire area.

Access to the audience room from this section is through twin 2'8" x 6'8" wooden doors with an unbanded arch and no visible arch supports. Two 20" x 5' stained glass windows with the same simple arch as the belltower's west wall window are located on either side of the door.

West Wing - Interior

All of the rooms in the chapel's west wing, with the exception of the restrooms, are only accessible from the porte-cochere. Three 3' x 6'8" arched doorways are equally spaced along the wing's east wall (under the porte-cochere). A single 20" x 5' window

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

West Wing – Interior (con't.)

with a simple unbanded brick arch is set between the north door and the wing's north wall. Access to the main office is through the north door.

The interior of the wing was remodeled in 1985, but retains many of its original features, including millwork, work area separation and interior walls. The current office area comprises about half of the wing, with the other half split between maintenance and restroom use.

Originally the wing was equally divided into sexton, maintenance and coffin storage. When the small tower was completed, it included interior connections to the sexton and coffin storage areas through separate doorways. Later, a wall was removed that expanded the connection between the storage area and the tower. There also was a greater emphasis placed on the office usage, with more room being diverted from the sexton and coffin storage uses. Eventually those uses were dropped, with most of the space converted to office use.

The 1985 remodeling effort focused on renovation of the flooring, electrical system, window glass replacement, plumbing and heating systems. The remodeling included installation of ramps to the office door and restrooms to increase handicapped accessibility.

West Wing - Exterior

The west wing's exterior Lucas Street facade closely matches the east wing design. The key features for the wing include a large window in the original wall, just west of the porte-cochere's grand arch; and the small, square tower addition. The flat top, ramhorn surround of the arched walkway found in the east wing is repeated with the large office window lintel. The decorative bands of limestone that highlighted the east wing are also repeated on the west wing facade. Originally, the northwest corner of the building would have ended just west of this large window.

West Wing - Addition

However, the addition completed around 1912 extended this. The square, flat-topped tower was built off the original northwest corner, and a nine-foot wide addition now extends from the tower along the wing's original west wall, ending flush with the chapel's south wall. Doorways to connect the various interior rooms were created in several sections of the original exterior west wall, which became an interior wall with the extension.

The tower juts out toward Lucas Street from the original northwest corner of the building and several of its features match those of the companion belltower in the east wing. A 5' x 4' window on the tower's north wall has a banded, arched surround that matches the Lucas Street entrance of the belltower. Single 20" x 5' windows with simple arches on both the east and west walls of the smaller tower match similar-sized windows in the east wing. The square, flat-topped tower features a shaped roof parapet topped by limestone. A limestone belt surrounds the tower just below the shaped parapets.

The "new" west wall of the chapel, completed as part of the 1912 addition, includes four windows and an attic vent. The fenestration includes two 36" x 5' outside windows and two 20" x 5' inside windows.

Each arch of the two outside windows has a simple brick design, with no banding or pilaster supports. The inside windows have a stone surround that arches over both windows. A brick partition that runs down the center of the arch separates the two windows. The design matches the masonry around the building's attic vents. Two of the vents are set directly over the two inside windows.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

West Wing - Backside (South Wall)

Although less expressive than its facade, the chapel's south wall has several descriptive characteristics that maintain the building's style and theme, as well as a few that add some interesting new ideas. Although the south wall of the west wing addition is basically bare, it does continue the decorative quoin pattern that was previously established on the building. The original southwest corner does not show this decoration, indicating when the addition was built, that decoration was apparently removed to preserve the building's symmetry of features.

West Wing - Original Southwest Wall/1912 Addition

While the original southwest wall contained little, if any, ornamentation, the backside of the addition appears to show a Southwest or California influence on the architect.

That wall section has several door and window openings that maintain the Romanesque Revival mode with simple brick arches capped by stone. The two 3' x 6'6" restroom doors have companion 20" x 5' windows on their sides. One of those windows is located in the original southwest wall of the chapel. The architect may have matched that window with the other companion window, or a "new" window opening may have been created at the time the addition was built. Each window has the same simple arch as the doors and other side windows. A ramp leads up to the restrooms and a three-foot tall, modern wrought iron fence runs along the ramp

However, the most unusual feature of the west wing's south wall is the shaped parapeted roof above the restroom doors. The flat, stairstep roof line is capped by limestone. Just under the top "stair" and midway between the bottom uprights of the parapet, a diamond shaped design has been constructed, with each point of the diamond highlighted by limestone. The rest of the diamond is composed of brick.

The shape of the parapet and the four-cornered image under the roof line, reminiscent of quatrefoil windows, conveys images of the Mission Style common to the southwest region of the U.S. and growing in popularity in the U.S. at the time the addition was completed.

Porte-cochere - Backside

Above the back entrance of the grand arch drive-through is a wooden, attic dormer, with two matching arched attic vents. Unlike the Lucas Street side, there is no arch on the south wall.

Porte-cochere - South Wall

The backside of the grand arch is about 12' wide, with a flat lintel that runs along the entire opening. A 28" x 28" brick column supports this lintel, as well as a companion one that spans the backside of the porte-cochere's east bay. The column also supports a main beam that spans the length of the porte-cochere. A 10"-wide strip of copper along the fascia provides both protection and additional color to the building's backside. Copper is also used for the eave troughs around other parts of the building.

Audience Room - South Wall

The south wall of the audience room has two 20" x 5' windows with simple arches. Above these windows are two attic vents with matching arches. This section of the wall is parapeted.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
**Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet**

Site Number 70-00512
or 70-011-302

Section 7 Page 6

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Audience Room - East Wall

The audience room's east wall is dominated by a gabled, parapeted wall dormer. A set of attic vents with simple arches are set in the dormer, while three 20" x 5' windows with similar arches are equally spaced across the wall. A chimney rises behind the dormer.

Statue of HOPE - A Contributing Resource

Soon after the Greenwood Cemetery Chapel was completed, Peter Musser apparently began planning for a large statue to be placed outside the chapel's entrance.

According to newspaper accounts at that time, Musser contracted with Becke and Wilson, a Muscatine marble works company, to import a block of Italian marble and carve a statue that could give grieving friends and families of the deceased the hope of a future and everlasting life.

The 7' tall statue of "HOPE" was completed in September, 1902 and erected on a 7' tall limestone pedestal in front of the chapel. The figure is of an angel with half-folded wings, its right hand by its side gripping a laurel wreath. The angel's left arm is upraised. The index finger on the left hand originally pointed to heaven and the promise of everlasting life. However, the finger has been broken off and is now missing. There is no inscription or other identifying marks on the sculpture.

"The observer can well imagine that he is reminded and admonished that there may be for him a hope of immortality beyond the grave, where there may be for the victor a crown of life. Thus those that have the sad duty of laying away their dead are cheered by the reminder of the hope of everlasting life and the implied promise that death does not end all," a reporter for the Muscatine Journal wrote in a September 16, 1902 article describing the statue.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

The Greenwood Cemetery Chapel is the oldest and longest-serving public facility still available for group services at a cemetery in Muscatine. It is one of two cemetery chapels in Muscatine to use the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. The Holy Family Chapel at the St. Mary's Church Cemetery also uses the style and has other characteristics similar to the Greenwood Chapel, including parapeted walls and decorative stone and brickwork.

Collectively, the Greenwood Cemetery Chapel provides a historical picture of past mortuary/funeral practices and local architectural development. The chapel's dedication ceremony also provided a glimpse into the development of a new social order that was slowly evolving at the turn of the 19th Century. Newspaper accounts from that time report dedication organizers included an African American minister in the ceremonies. Those efforts helped pave the way for equal rights for all residents and ensured the racial integration of the cemetery.

Greenwood is the largest facility, with towers, a porte-cochere and other details not found in the church chapel or others in the area. The addition of the Statue of Hope is also unique. No other local chapel has a similar, locally carved marble statue from that era present as a supporting resource. As such, the Greenwood Cemetery Chapel qualifies for the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C and satisfies Criterion Consideration A.

The Need

When a death occurred in Muscatine before the turn of the 19th century, grieving family members and other mourners not only suffered the loss of their loved one or friend, but often were faced with the disturbing task of burying that person in foul weather with little or no shelter available for the funeral service.

In 1900 the city council began discussing the possibility of constructing a small building at the city-owned Greenwood Cemetery that would offer cover from poor weather and help reduce some of the stress connected with a death. However, before it could act on that proposal, an anonymous donor stepped forward and announced the gift of the construction of a full-sized chapel, capable of seating at least 100 people. Local businessman and philanthropist Peter Musser was later identified as the donor. He provided the gift in memory of his wife Tamson, who had died about four years earlier.

Mayor Schmidt praised the donation as a "beautiful tribute from a faithful husband to the memory of a noble wife."

Another local resident was also moved to offer his assessment of the donation.

"This is the greatest step forward which was ever taken in behalf of our city of the dead," Rev. H.D. Herr said.

The People

The descriptive and flowery language, although characteristic for that time, seemed to be a creative springboard for local architect and draftsman Henry W. Zeidler, who was hired by Musser to design the chapel. Zeidler, who had studied architecture at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, had developed a successful career in Muscatine. He had already designed Musser's Mulberry Avenue home and other local residences; and would eventually design many buildings in the Muscatine area, including the German Congressional Church, two Methodist churches, Hotel Grand and numerous other buildings. He also designed the Musser Mansion, the three-story residence of Peter Musser's daughter Laura and her husband Edwin McColm. The mansion is now part of the Muscatine Art Center.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet

Site Number 70-00512
or 70-011-302

Section 8 Page 8

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

The People (con't.)

Although Zeidler did limited work beyond the Muscatine area, his reputation apparently was well known and respected by more regional and nationally-known architects. A biographical description of Zeidler from the 1911 History of Muscatine County, Vol. II, reported Zeidler had "acquired a reputation as one of the most capable architects in this part of the state." He was the local architect in charge of construction on both the 1st National Bank building and the Muscatine City Hall, each designed respectively by architects from Chicago and Detroit. Zeidler was also active in local government, having served three terms on the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors.

He died on November 3, 1951 at the age of 92 and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery.

Although he never achieved national acclaim, Zeidler was a trained craftsman who was influenced by many of the national trends and styles used during the turn of the century. The Richardsonian Romanesque style that was the primary design he used for the Greenwood Chapel had been especially favored between 1880-1900. Although it was quickly fading from the national spotlight at the time Musser donated the chapel, Zeidler apparently felt the style's features contributed to the feelings of hope and eternity that Musser wanted the chapel to convey.

The Style

People visiting the chapel today may interpret many of the chapel's visual and structural components as an effort by Zeidler and Musser to demonstrate a faith in the everlasting. Through its exclusive use of masonry construction, the Richardsonian Romanesque style embodies strength and durability. Those signs can symbolize an everlasting life, creating a central, comforting thought for mourners attending a funeral both today and a century ago. The chapel's near lack of applied decorative detail also can represent a spirit free of its worldly treasures; while the colorful bands of stonework, decorative quoins and imaginative use of contrasting bricks and stone could be a reminder of the soul's innate beauty and strength. The arched doorways and windows also provide a sense of uplifting, and through their half-circles, offer a hint of the eternal life to come.

Zeidler undoubtedly was aware the Richardsonian Romanesque mode was slowly losing its appeal to late 19th century Victorians. To enhance interest in his design, Zeidler used features of other styles in the chapel's construction. These auxiliary influences included parapetted walls on the front-sided gables of the main arch; the audience room wing; and the original southwest corner of the building; square towers at two corners; and steeply pitched roofs.

The Benefits & Impacts

According to newspaper accounts from that period, the donation of a cemetery chapel filled a nagging community and social need of the city. In an article in the July 20, 1900 issue of the Muscatine Journal, local council members expressed deep appreciation to the anonymous donor who had offered such a magnificent gift.

"For many years the city has felt the need of just such a chapel as is now proposed, ... and the generosity displayed ... is a thing of which the city should be extremely proud," the newspaper reported.

The next year, following construction of the chapel, the newspaper reported "the building forms a splendid gateway, and one far better than our city ever could have received. It is one of the prettiest buildings in the city."

Residents apparently agreed. When the building was formally dedicated on Sunday, May 12, 1901, it was reported that "thousands of people were massed about the beautiful chapel."

The street railway company kept extra cars moving all day to handle the throng, even though hundreds drove to the cemetery in their own buggies. By mid-afternoon there was such a crowd that many could not get close enough to the speakers to hear them. Most of these people were content to stroll through the cemetery grounds and visit graves or admire the stonework.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

The Benefits & Impacts (con't.)

From the beginning, the chapel's use was non-discriminatory. Dr. C.L. Stafford, pastor of the First Methodist Church made that plain in his closing address.

"And this place open and used along with the services connected with the burial of our dead, will be open to all without restrictions of creed, nationality or color," he told the assembly.

To reinforce the verbal commitment, organizers asked a local black clergyman to participate in the dedication. Given the racial and class attitudes existing at that time, the policy, the caveat and the invitation all seemed remarkably progressive.

Over the years use of the chapel has gradually fallen, as area churches have expanded their halls and other public buildings became available. As the chapel's use dropped, less was spent on maintaining portions of it. Especially hard hit by the decreased use was the audience wing. Eventually, its primary use came to be for storage. In 1985, the city agreed to a complete renovation of the wing's interior. Much of the old flooring and other woodwork was replaced and new stained glass windows were installed.

Wallboard replaced the original plaster. Although the historic interior was lost, the wing now offers an ideal site for small funerals and other activities.

Fortunately, the building's exterior integrity has been preserved with few alterations over the past 100 years.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 10

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Major Bibliographical References

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McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Homes*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, INC., 1984.

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Muscatine Journal. May 9, 1901

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Muscatine Journal. September 16, 1902.

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Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 11

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Verbal Boundary Description

That parcel lying south of Lucas Street; north of Lots 4, 5 & 6 of the Ogilvie Addition of the Greenwood Cemetery; east of Lot 7 of the Ogilvie Addition of the Greenwood Cemetery; and west of a line drawn from the midpoint of the north boundary of Lot 4 of the Ogilvie Addition of the Greenwood Cemetery to Lucas Street; all lying within the Greenwood Cemetery in the City of Muscatine, Muscatine County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the subject church and statue and small adjoining parking area. It does not include any adjacent gravesites.

Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Section Page 12

Name of Property	County
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel	Muscatine
Address 1814 Lucas Street	City Muscatine

Photographs' Description

Name: Greenwood Cemetery Chapel
Address: 1814 Lucas Street; Muscatine, IA 52761
Date: July 14, 2000
Photographer: Jim Rudisill
Negatives: City of Muscatine Community Development Department

View:

1. Chapel front looking south from Lucas Street
2. Southwest corner (1912 addition) and back of chapel – looking east
3. Southeast corner (audience room) and back of chapel – looking west
4. Statue of HOPE

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

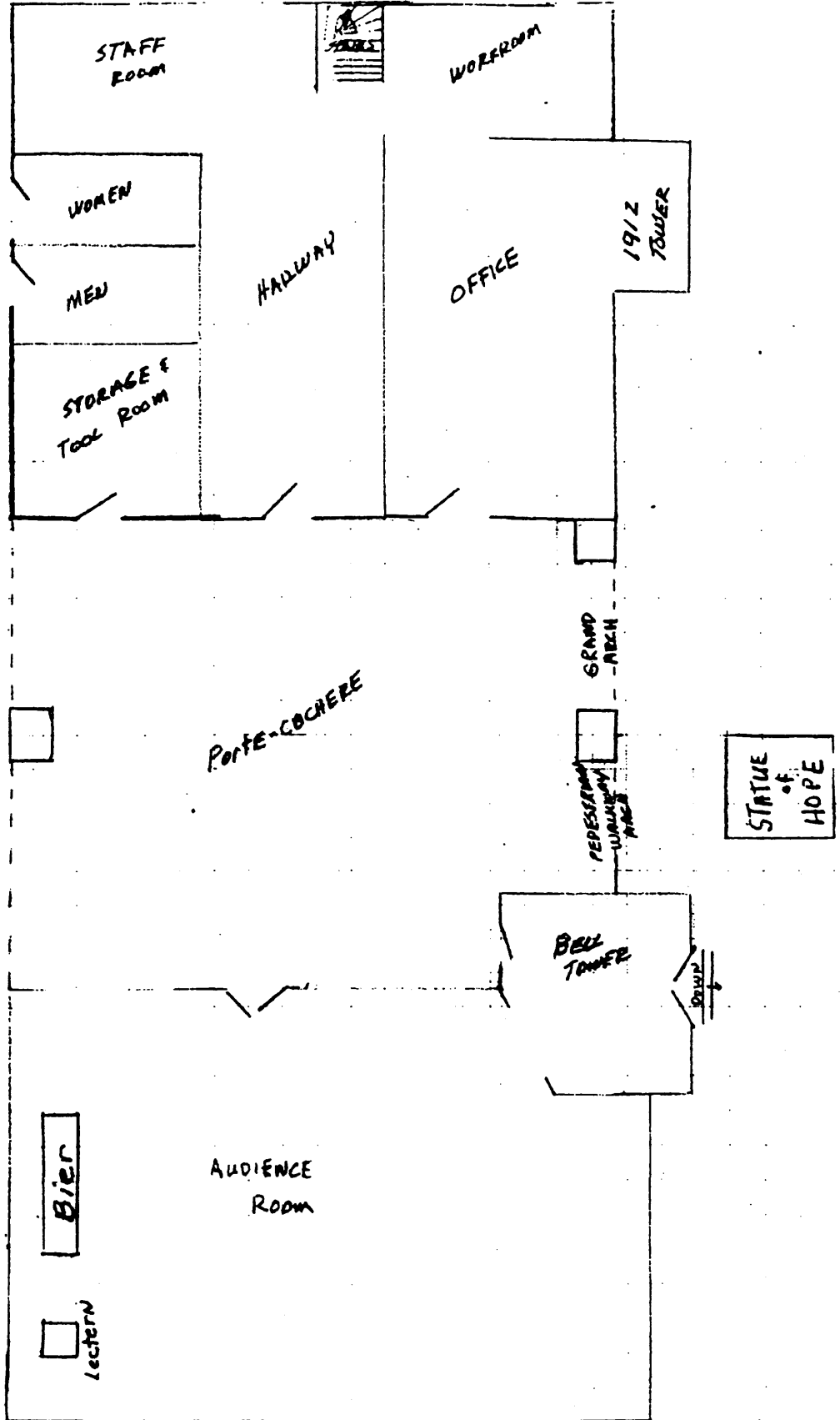
Greenwood Cemetery Chapel
Muscatine County, Iowa

Section number Floor Page 13
 Plan

GREENWOOD CEMETERY
CHAPEL FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 8'

N →



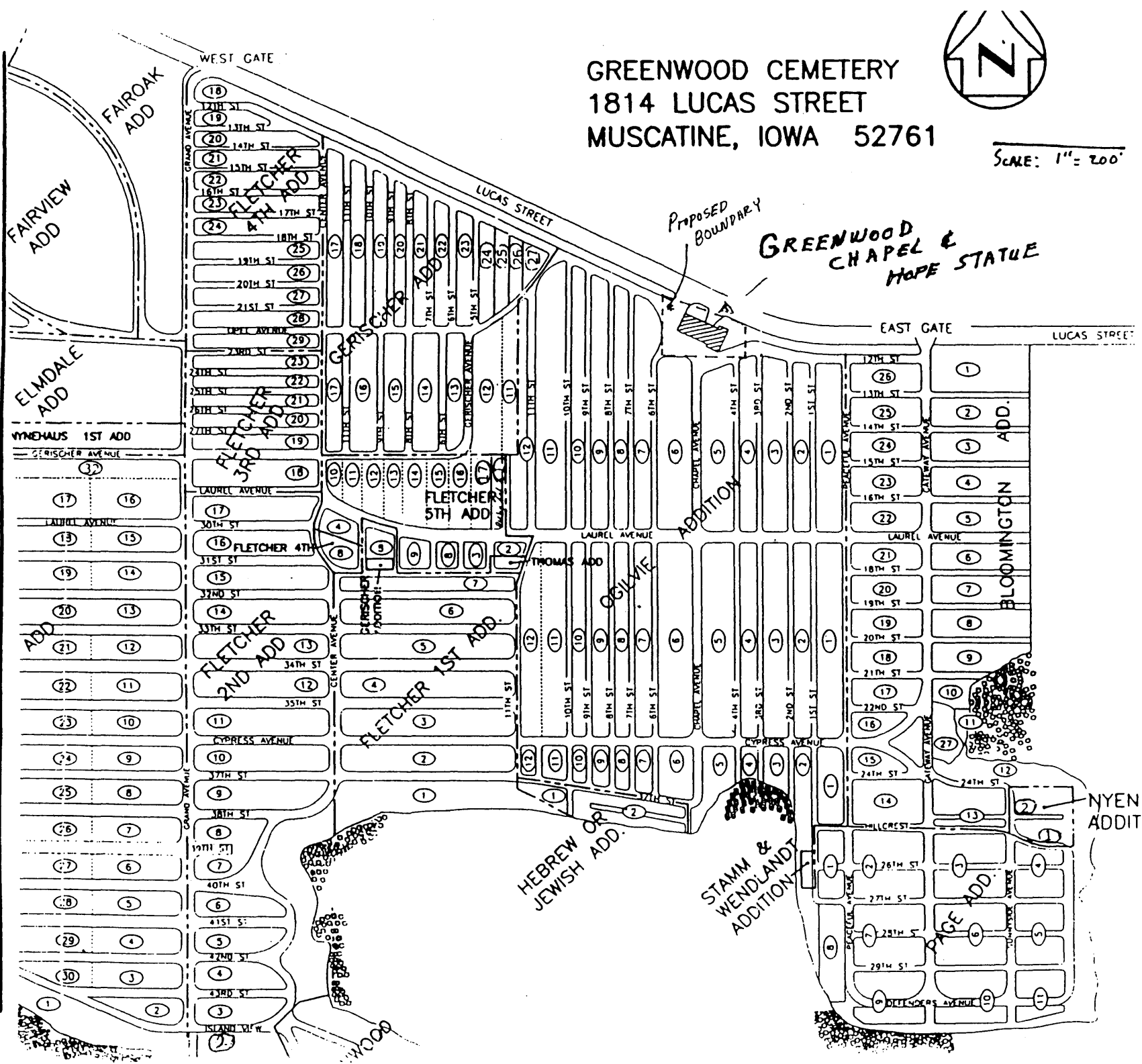
LUCAS STREET

DRAWN: JULY 11, 2000

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Greenwood Cemetery Chapel
Muscatine County, Iowa

Section number 14 Site Page 14
Plan



GREENWOOD CEMETERY
1814 LUCAS STREET
MUSCATINE, IOWA 52761



SCALE: 1" = 200'

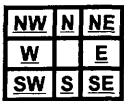
Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

Section <u>Project Location Map</u>	Page <u>15</u>
Name of Property <u>Greenwood Cemetery Chapel</u>	County <u>Muscatine</u>
Address <u>1814 Lucas Street</u>	City <u>Muscatine</u>

MIT/NRCS Iowa 1:24,000-scale DRG Server: 5 m/pixel, center (x,y)=(661681,4587142) Page 1 of 2

MIT/NRCS Iowa 1:24,000-scale DRG server: 5 m/pixel, center (x,y) = (661681,4587142)

[Project Homepage](#) [Iowa Map](#) [Download Options](#)



Click on the image to

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- Zoom IN
- Zoom OUT

or to set a scale of

- 200m pixels
 - 100m pixels
 - 50m pixels
 - 20m pixels
 - 10m pixels
 - 5m pixels *
 - 2.4384m pixels
- (* Current zoom level)

View Width:	Height:
<input type="text" value="600"/>	<input type="text" value="700"/>
pixels	pixels

Submit Changes



PROJECT LOCATION

