

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

Wehner, Nowysz, Pottsichull and Pfiffner

801 day building, Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- RP-1416 MAP # 3

HIST. DIST. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME Davenport Water Co. Pumping Station #2 & H C

Ripley St. Reservoir

ADDRESS 1416 Ripley

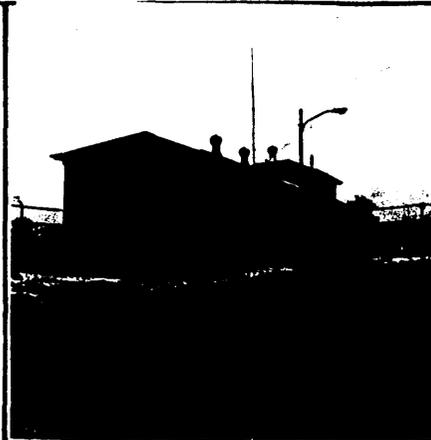
LEGAL DES. McIntosh's Third Addn 15  
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 15 711199014600720 ACREAGE 2.35 ZONE R-4D  
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER City of Davenport

City Hall, Davenport, IA 52801

TITLE H. \_\_\_\_\_  
(IF DIFF)



MAP

SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 2-story central pavilion with 1-story "wings" CONST. DATE c. 1884

MATERIALS Brick, limestone ARCH STYLE Functional Italianate

FENESTRATION Segmental-arched openings - windows filled in

DIST. FEATURES See below

ALTERATIONS Roof modified, cresting removed from pavilion, new entrance & modern pumping machinery.

SITE & RELATED STR. On east edge of reservoir occupying a full city block.

STATEMENT

Pumping Station #2 merits recognition because it is a relatively well-preserved example of an unusual building type. Exterior treatment is similar to that of many late 19th century industrial structures in Davenport: Brick construction, walls articulated as panels by pilasters and simple corbel table. Use of buff brick for window heads is less common on other industrial buildings, and is a reminder that the station was originally more ornate. The 2-story pavilion was built with a crested, mansard roof, and until after 1890, only a 3-panel wing to the south existed. Subsequent additions included the north wing and an extension of the south wing by two panels.

SOURCES

Album of Davenport and Vicinity, Davenport: Huebinger Brothers 1882.

Album of the Three Cities of Davenport, Rock Island and Moline..., Davenport: Huebinger Brothers 1890.

ARCHITECTURE

**SIGNIFICANCE**

This structure is associated with the development of the Davenport Water Company and the growth of the bluff line residential areas in the 1880-1920 period. Because the structure continues its original use and retains most of its integrity its significance is enhanced.

HISTORY

**DESCRIPTION**

The idea for a local waterworks was first proposed in 1856 but it wasn't until 1873 that the Davenport Water Company was organized by Michael P. Donahue. The exclusive private franchise was granted to Donahue and his associates by the City of Davenport. Twenty miles of mains and 245 hydrants were initially installed. The system was used to successfully fight its first fire and promoted as a means for fighting cholera in 1874.

The system had several problems, however. If the hydrants were used in fighting a fire, the water pressure became insufficient for private service. Consequently, in c. 1884 the Company added the Ripley Street Reservoir and Pumping Station No. 2. Station No. 2 supplied the bluff residential area from its 8,000,000 gallon reservoir. Pumping was handled by a vertical set of compound Clapp and Jones Pumps and a set of Duplex Gordon Steam Pumps. (See Continuation Sheet)

**SOURCES**

Donahue, James P., "A Description of the Plant of the Davenport Water Company," Davenport, Iowa: Egbert, Fidler and Chambers, 1892.

Miscellaneous Articles

Davenport Democrat, December 6, 1856; December 3, 1872; January 6, 1873, January 13, 1873, January 17, 1873, March 7, 1873, January 16, 1874, March 2, 1874, April 9, 1874, June 22, 1874, November 21, 1886, February 13, 1813, March 11, 1913 and August 31, 1924. (See Continuation Sheet)

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN:

HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN-ROESLER

SURVEY COMP.

**EVALUATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL**

I. ARCH. EVALUATION good

II. ENVIR. STATURE focus

III. INT. OF CONTEXT fair-good

IV. INT. OF FABRIC good-fair

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

NAT.  STATE  LOCAL  N. ELIG.

**HISTORICAL**

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

A. PRIMARY government-politics

B. SECONDARY public works

II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NAT.  STATE  LOCAL

III. N.R.H.P.

ELIGIBLE  NOT ELIGIBLE

**HISTORIC DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION**

A.  B.  C

**FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY**

1. DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

2. DATE OF STAFF EVALUATION \_\_\_\_\_

|                           |                          |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           | A. ARCHITECTURAL         | B. HISTORICAL            |
| ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NOT ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. N.R.H.P. ACTION

A. STATE REVIEW COMM. APP.  DISAPP.  TABLED  DATE \_\_\_\_\_

B. FEDERAL REVIEW APP.  DISAPP.  TABLED  DATE \_\_\_\_\_

4. D.H.P. SOURCES

COUNTY RESOURCES

W'SHIELD SURVEY

N.R.H.P.

GRANT \_\_\_\_\_

DET. OF ELIGIBILITY

R. & C. \_\_\_\_\_

DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. SUBJECT TRACES

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. PHOTO

1730  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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901 day building, Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION\* 82 - 10 - Davenport Water Company Pumping Station #2Description (Continued)

By 1892 with the two pumping stations operating, 37 miles of water mains in place and 400 hydrants available, the Davenport Water Company was operating at a deficit. The Company continued to compete with private wells and cisterns. Introduction of a mechanical filtering system in 1890-91 made the Water Company's product more saleable.

At the turn of the century new buildings were added to the E. River Drive Pumping Station. Before World War I a good deal of public discussion focused on the Water Company's franchise. The option of public ownership of the waterworks to decrease water rates was the principle subject. A proposed municipal referendum on the subject was held in 1913 and the ownership of Water Company remained private.

Between the world wars, additions were made to the East River Drive Station while changes at Station No. 2 were confined to interior equipment changes. An office structure across the street at 1431 Ripley was built during this period as well. After 1940, three additional overhead water tanks were added by the Water Company and the Bettendorf Water Company was purchased. These water tanks have been replaced more recently.

Sources (Continued)

Obituary, "Michael Donahue," Davenport Democrat, October 3, 1884.

Heyworth, James F., "The Davenport Water Co.," unpublished manuscript, no date, (in Davenport Water Company Collection).

Interview with James Beran, Operations Manager, Davenport Water Company, February, 1982.

CONTINUATION