

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschiull and Pfiffner  
201 day building, Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- 6-E512 MAP # 4

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

NAME Henry H. Smith-J.H. Murphy House H C

ADDRESS 512 E. 6th St.

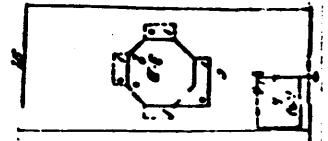
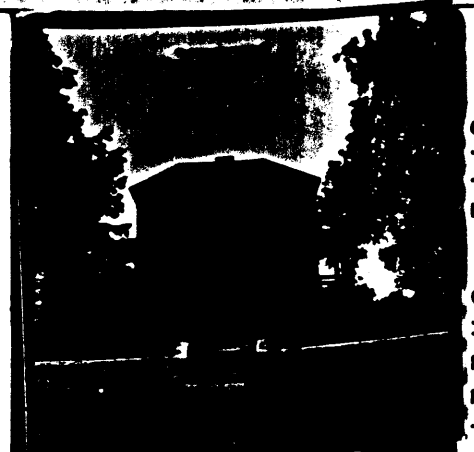
LEGAL DES. LeClaire's 6th Add. 79 2 E 62'  
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 15 710,219,510 14,519,980 ACREAGE -1 ZONE R-6M  
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Ronald F. Duncan, Eileen A. Duncan

512 E. 6th, Davenport, IA

TITLE H. George H. Rettig  
(IF DIFF)



SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 2 story, 8-sided house CONST. DATE 1854  
MATERIALS Wood, stone foundation ARCH STYLE Italianate  
FENESTRATION Rectangular, in plain surrounds w/small cornices  
DIST. FEATURES Shape  
ALTERATIONS Brackets & belyedere removed; modern siding; foundation faced by concrete  
SITE & RELATED STR. Elevated lot w/concrete retaining wall

STATEMENT

The Smith-Murphy House is one of the few remaining octagon houses in Iowa, and the earliest of those that survive built to the precepts of Orson Fowler, the octagon's most influential proponent. This house uses Fowler's recommended "plank wall" construction and a plan adapted from the Howland House, published by Fowler in A Home For All in 1853. Alterations have obscured the original Italianate stylisms, but the basic form remains.

Willett Carroll, Architect

ARCHITECTURE

SOURCES

Oszuscik, Philippe, "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Iowa, 1979, p. 176.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

This building was associated with one of the city's earliest entrepreneurs - Henry H. Smith. Because so few buildings remain from the 1850's boom period, the value of this structure is enhanced. The house's second occupant, J. H. Murphy, was insignificant attorney.

HISTORY

**DESCRIPTION**

Henry H. Smith came to Davenport with his wife Mary in 1850. They opened a general store, "Smith's Philadelphia Variety Store," a short time later. As assistant manager, Mary was the city's first female clerk. In 1867 the Smith's sold the variety store and moved to East Davenport to dabble in agriculture. J.H. Murphy, a partner in the law firm, Martin, Murphy and Suksdorf, moved in after a brief vacancy.

**SOURCES**

- City Directories, 1856-57, 1858-59, 1861-62, 1870-71.
- History of Scott County, Iowa, Inter-State Publishing Co., 1882.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: Martha Bowers

HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN - ROESLER

SURVEY COMP 1981

**EVALUATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL**

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION Good
- II. ENVIR. STATURE Tissue
- III. INT. OF CONTEXT Good
- IV. INT. OF FABRIC Fair

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT.  STATE  LOCAL  N. ELIG.

**HISTORICAL**

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- A. PRIMARY \_\_\_\_\_
- B. SECONDARY \_\_\_\_\_

II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT.  STATE  LOCAL

III. NR.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. NR.H.P. ACTION

- |                       |                               |                                  |                                 |            |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| A. STATE REVIEW COMM. | APP. <input type="checkbox"/> | DISAPP. <input type="checkbox"/> | TABLED <input type="checkbox"/> | DATE _____ |
| B. FEDERAL REVIEW     | APP. <input type="checkbox"/> | DISAPP. <input type="checkbox"/> | TABLED <input type="checkbox"/> | 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 1690-3  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_