

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAR 23 1982

date entered APR 22 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Davenport City Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 226 West 4th Street _____ not for publication

city, town Davenport _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1st

state Iowa _____ code 19 _____ county Scott _____ code 163

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Davenport

street & number 226 West 4th Street

city, town Davenport _____ vicinity of _____ state Iowa 52801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number West 4th Street

city, town Davenport _____ state Iowa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Davenport Historical/Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes _____ no

date Pending 2-81 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records City of Davenport, City Hall, 226 West 4th Street

city, town Davenport _____ state Iowa 52801

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Davenport's City Hall, a three story rectangular structure, stands at the intersection of two major arterial streets in the downtown. City Hall was based on a design by local architect John W. Ross following elimination in a national design competition. The 60' x 145' structure was constructed in 1895 of cut and dressed Ohio Berea sandstone. The roof combines a hipped section running the length of the building with gable sections facing 4th Street, Harrison Street, and the alley on the north. The original pink/gray slate roof was replaced with gray fiberglass shingles in 1979.

Three towers are asymetically placed along the south facade -- a circular tower with conical roof at the southwest corner, a square tower with a steep pyramidal roof at the south east corner, and a square shaped, 5 story bell/clock towers in the center of the south facade. Wall dormers imitating the gable roof details cap the pyramidal roof in the bell/clock tower. Finials originally topped the corner tower and a flag pole was placed a top the bell/clock tower during its early years.

The double hung windows contained single lights and flat arches. On the third floor rectangular, stained glass panels capped the windows. Smooth, rounded stone arches topping the windows extend into the attic floor giving the third floor more attention and weight than the lower floors.

Both major doorways contain semi-circular arches supported by squat columns. The fanlights were originally divided into four lights by wood mullions; narrow wood and glass panels also were placed adjacent to the double doors. Between 1900 and 1980 three different external vestibule designs were used for the doorways. The most recent in the 1950's added a glass block structure on the south opening and closed the doorway on the west facade. In 1980 the doorway openings were altered again with plate glass panels, plate glass doors and aluminum frames on the south facade; and plate glass panels, aluminum panels and aluminum frames for the west opening.

Other decorative details on the exterior are the wood dentils in the cornice of the main roof and towers, the dressed stone string courses, narrow rectangular windows in the attic level, and the carved floral motif in the gable facing 4th Street.

The interior of City Hall was originally modestly decorated and furnished. Oak wainscoating and stenciled walls adorned each floor. Eleven vaults were scattered throughout the fire proof structure. Police headquarters and the police court room were located on the first floor. The second floor contained the clerk, treasurer, City engineer, public works, electrician, street commissioner, assessor and board of public health. Small offices radiated from the "L" shaped central corridor.

On the third floor the City Council Chamber occupied the west facade. The mayor's office, City attorney's office, park commissioners quarters and offices for building and plumbing inspectors were located along the main corridor. All three levels originally contained clay tile floors and were connected by a central, cast iron staircase.

Numerous alterations were made to the interior of City Hall through the years. Most alterations were confined to redecorating and updating of mechanical systems. Other alterations included doorway vestibules in c1900, 1919 and c1950, installation of new windows in 1969, and construction of a two story brick annex on the north side in 1963.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1894-95

Builder/Architect John W. Ross-architect; Morrison Bros.-contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

City Hall is the principal structure associated with local government and politics from its completion in 1895 until the present time. It is associated with important municipal leaders, focuses attention on the political issues of prohibition and socialism which were prominent in the first quarter of the 20th century, draws attention to Davenport's status as a special charter City in Iowa and is one of the few extant examples of the use of Richardsonian Romanesque design in an institutional building in the City.

City Hall, the City's second government headquarters, was constructed during 1894-95. Henry Vollmer, a German-American lawyer, was Davenport mayor during the design, financing, and construction. The \$80,000 building cost was born out of treasury surpluses.

Noteworthy mayors who succeeded Vollmer included Alfred C. Mueller (1910-1916, 1922-24) responsible for initiating work on a City building code, sewer planning and construction, street paving, and most importantly, planning and implementing major improvements along the riverfront. Dr. C.L. Barewald (1920-1922) inaugurated a series of public works projects which had a short term effect on employment and long term effect on enhancing City improvements, i.e. construction of a municipal natatorium, opening of new streets and completion of a major sewer. Barewald's Socialist Party connection is discussed below.

Prohibition was a major Davenport issue from the 1840's until national prohibition in 1919. Temperance activity peaked in the 1880's and again during the Progressive Era between 1906 and 1916. Local reformers and "defenders of drink" disputed the social and legal ramification of the prohibition issue. The Mulct Law (1905) and the Moon Law (1909) were special targets of enforcement. The Davenport Civic Federation, prohibitionists, and the City Council, anti-prohibitionists, debated the issue until the state prohibition amendment was passed in 1916. The 1919 national amendment reinforced the legal provisions, but illegal production and consumption of liquor continued.

Socialism became an important political issue in Davenport from World War I until 1922. German- American voters, disenchanted by the "War Party" Democrats and the prohibition Republicans, turned to the Socialist Party. The election of 1918 resulted in two Socialist aldermen on the City Council. In 1920 in addition to the two aldermen, the Socialist mayoral candidate C.L. Barewald was elected. His Socialist philosophy manifest itself in an aggressive public works program outlined above. He was voted out overwhelmingly in 1922 because of his debt ridden administration. The Socialist movement like abolition and prohibition before it illustrated the role of Germans in local politics.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Davenport East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 7102230 4599580
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

32 feet of lot 10

LeClaire's First Addition, block 46, lot 9, south

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marlys A. Svendsen, Historical Planner

organization City of Davenport

date 1-27-81

street & number City Hall, 226 West 4th Street

telephone (319) 326-7765

city or town Davenport

state Iowa 52801

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Adrian A. Anderson

title Director

date 2-24-82

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

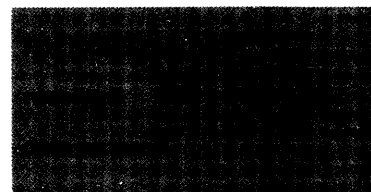
for *Selma Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

4/22/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The most comprehensive changes came in 1979-80 as part of a \$2.6 million rehabilitation of City Hall. Work included the installation of new mechanical and electrical systems, redecorating, rearrangement of floor space, and new furnishings. Moldings and trim were moved and refinished and intact. Sections of wainscoting were placed in public areas. Old corridors were abandoned on some floors and new ones added. As a result, the post-rehabilitation interior bares little resemblance to the original interior or succeeding remodelings.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Davenport's special City Charter Status was part of municipal government life from 1839 on. The 1839 Charter was amended in 1842 and 1848, a new charter approved in 1851, and additional amendments made in 1855 and 1857. The 1851 charter with amendments was in effect when City Hall was erected and continued unchanged until 1975. Status as a Special Charter City has had several important repercussions for Davenport through the years. Taxation powers, road district powers, bonding capacity, freedom to establish special commissions, organizational flexibility, and other special powers have benefited the City. In addition, an attitude of independence from Iowa state government was created by the Special Charter Status. Though it was more fiction than fact, it nevertheless affected political, cultural, and economic relations between Davenport and the rest of Iowa before and after 1900.

Architecturally, City Hall is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style that became popular in the midwest in the 1880's and 90's. Its massiveness and weight in appearance, its rock-faced masonry walls, its round arches, and asymmetrical towers are key elements of this style. During his 30 year career, John W. Ross, City Hall's architect, designed other local structures including Hose Station No. 1 (1877), Davenport Masonic Temple (1887) and numerous schools and private residences in Davenport and Illinois. City Hall is Ross's principal work remaining and one of only a handful of Richardsonian Romanesque buildings still extant in Davenport.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Christiansen, Thomas P., "An Industrial History of Scott County, Iowa," Annals of Iowa April, 1940.

"Unending Battle Against Sin," "Bicentennial Issue," Quad City Times, February 29, 1976.

Davenport City Council Proceedings 1909, 1910, 1912, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1950, 1963, 1969.

Davenport Building Permit records, 1918-1980.

"Davenport's new City Hall Ready for Use," Davenport Democrat, April 14, 1896.

Oszuscik, Philippe, "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa," Vols. I-III, University of Iowa, Ph.D. Dissertation, 1979.

"Drink? 'Sure,' Says Davenport," "Centennial and Fiftieth Anniversary Edition," Davenport Times, July 11, 1936.