

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- 11-W325 MAP # 3

HIST. DIST. _____

NAME Bethel ^{A M E} African Methodist Episcopal Church (H) C

ADDRESS 325 W. 11th Street

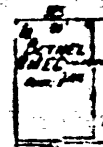
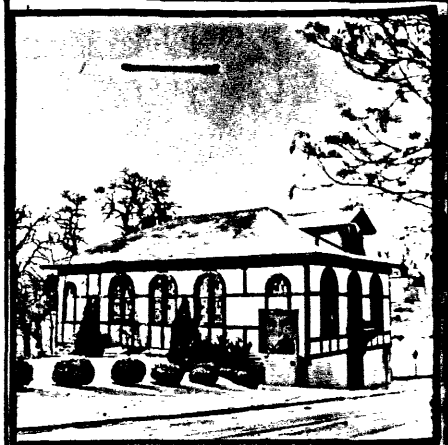
LEGAL DES. McIntosh's 2nd Add. 4 6
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM | 15 | 710,210,5,0 | 14,610,013,0,0 ACREAGE -1 ZONE C-2
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Bethel A.M.E. Church

325 W 11th St.

TITLE H. Davenport, Ia. 52804
(IF DIFF)



SITE SHEET

ARCHITECTURE

DESCRIPTION

FORM Rect. plan on high basement, hipped roof w/gabled dormer CONST. DATE 1909

MATERIALS Concrete, half timber w/stucco ARCH STYLE _____

FENESTRATION Tall round-arched windows w/4 lights of stained glass

DIST. FEATURES Windows, half timberwork, bracketted balcony over North entrance

ALTERATIONS _____

SITE & RELATED STR. Corner lot in late 19th, early 20th century residential area

STATEMENT

The Bethel A.M.E. Church represents an unusual adaptation of the craftsman style to a religious structure. Appropriately for a denomination that stresses simplicity and avoidance of ceremony and symbolism, the building has a domestic, rather than ecclesiastical character. Perhaps the only concessions to traditional religious architecture are the stained glass windows which are set in round arches rather than simple rectilinear frames.

Clausen & Clausen, Architect

SOURCES

HISTORY

...SIGNIFICANCE
...this building focuses attention on the African Methodist Episcopal Church, an organization that served as a focal point in the black community after the Civil War and into the 20th century. Its location in the turn-of-the-century black neighborhood heightens its significance.

DESCRIPTION

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1909 to house the A.M.E. congregation which had formerly located on West 4th Street. The congregation was established in 1875 to provide a separate worship facility for Methodists of the black community. The church, one of several black congregations established after the Civil War, maintained a small membership. After the new Bethel Church was erected in 1909, the membership numbered "50 souls." William W. Williams was pastor at the time and resided in the church parsonage next door.

SOURCES

Downer, Harry E., History of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa, Vol. I, Chicago: S. J. Clark Publishing Co., 1910, p. 616.
City Directories, 1878, 1908, 1909.
"Index of Clausen & Clausen Jobs," Typescript, N.D., Charles Richardson Associates, Davenport.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: Martha Bowers | HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN - ROESLER | SURVEY COMP 1981

EVALUATION

ARCHITECTURAL
I. ARCH. EVALUATION Good
II. ENVIR. STATURE Incident
III. INT. OF CONTEXT Fair
IV. INT. OF FABRIC Good
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. NRHP
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 NRHP
NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NRHP
3 NRHP ACTION
A STATE REVIEW COMM. APP DISAPP TABLED DATE _____
B FEDERAL REVIEW APP DISAPP TABLED DATE _____
4 D.H.P. SOURCES DET. OF ELIGIBILITY
 COUNTY RESOURCES P. S. _____
 W SHIELD SURVEY DAVENPORT A/M SURVEY
 NRHP
 GRANT
5 SUBJECT TRACES _____
6 PHOTO _____
1621-10