

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschiull and Pfiffner

907 clay building, Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- 4-W320 MAP # 1

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

NAME Walsh Flats/Langwith Building H C

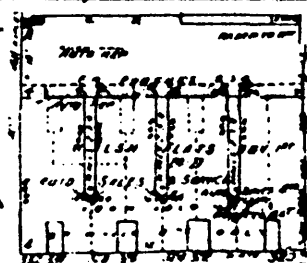
ADDRESS 320-330 W. 4th St.

LEGAL DES. Original Town 21 Lot 1 and S/2 of lot 2  
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 15 70 210710 4 5919 5130 ACREAGE 1 ZONE C-4  
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Thomas S. Douglass & John L. Langwith

TITLE H. J. Kenneth Stringer, Jr.  
(IF DIFF) 325 W. 4th St., Davenport, IA 52803



SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 4 story mixed commercial/residential block CONST. DATE c. 1910

MATERIALS Brick, stone over metal frame ARCH. STYLE Simplified Neoclassical Revival

FENESTRATION Plate glass shopfront 1st; 1/1 beneath slab lintels 2-4th

DIST. FEATURES \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERATIONS Ground floor front faced w/aluminum

SITE & RELATED STR. Flat site on north edge of CBD, between County Courthouse and City Hall

STATEMENT

Walsh flats was originally built to house the unusual combination of automobile sales (1st floor) and apartments. This combination of uses reflects two new trends in building types that appeared in Davenport at the turn of the century: 1. the construction of multiple family apartment buildings with neoclassical features and composition (see also 8I, p.1)\* and 2. the appearance of auto dealership showrooms and garages in response to the arrival of the automobile. Although the sales rooms are no longer used as such, the rear is still used for auto repair, as it was 70 years ago. Above, the apartment floors preserve a high degree of integrity. The floor plan is revealed in the 20-bay main facade, where stairhalls are indicated by two windows and a decorative panel grouped vertically beneath a round keystone arch. There are four of these, indicating the 4-part arrangement of both salesroom area and upper floor apartments.

\*Note: Walsh Flats was inadvertently omitted from the Turn of the Century Apartment Houses Thematic Group. G.A. Hanssen, Architect.

SOURCES

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Davenport, 1910

ARCHITECTURE

**SIGNIFICANCE**

This apartment building was the residence of Davenport's only Socialist Mayor during his tenure in office. Located only one block from City Hall, it is illustrative of the austere lifestyle of Mayor Barewald and symbolic of his party's populist political stance. There are no other buildings associated with his political career (Natorium razed in 1980 and the Kirkwood sewer is scheduled for replacement due to severe deterioration in 1984-85) except City Hall. (4-W226)

**DESCRIPTION**

Dr. C.L. Barewald was the Socialist party candidate in 1918 and 1920. He was elected mayor in 1920 on a ticket advocating several public works projects including the extension of Kirkwood sewer, and construction of a municipal natorium. Barewald's Socialist philosophy did not include public ownership of utilities or service institutions. Barewald's election may have been a result of the disaffection of German voters with the Democratic party's war stand and the Republican party's prohibition stand.

After two years in office and fiscal havoc, Barewald was voted out overwhelmingly. His policies had succeeded in putting hundreds of unemployed back to work, but his spending was not sanctioned by the financially conservative local electorate.

**SOURCES**

Davenport City Council Proceedings, 1920, 1922  
Davenport Times, April 11, 1920

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: TODD R. MOZINGO | HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN - ROESLER | SURVEY COMP 1980

**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 Gov't & Politics  
B. SECONDARY \_\_\_\_\_

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.    
NOT ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P.

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  DET. OF ELIGIBILITY  
 W'SHIELD SURVEY  R. & C. \_\_\_\_\_  
 N.R.H.P.  DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY  
 GRANT \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

5. SUBJECT TRACES \_\_\_\_\_  
6. PHOTO  
1608-4