

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

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

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- 3-W203 MAP # 1

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

NAME American Commercial and Savings Bank (H) C  
~~Davenport Bank and Trust Building~~

ADDRESS 201-209 W. 3rd St,

LEGAL DES. LeClaire's 1st Add. 42 (See cont. sheet)  
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 15 [710,212,70] [45] [9,9] [3,5,0] ACREAGE 1 ZONE C-4  
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER 1st deed holder: Davenport Bank Bldg,  
(See cont. sheet) Corp.

TITLE H. 1st title holder: E.L. Carmody  
(IF DIFF) Davenport Bank and Trust Company  
Davenport, IA 52801



MAP

(See continuation sheet)

SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 10 stories on high basement, 1 1/2 story temple-form "monitor" with shallow pediment, central clock tower CONST. DATE 1927

MATERIALS Limestone over metal frame ARCH STYLE Neoclassic Commercial

FENESTRATION 3-part, rectangular; round-arched; square

DIST. FEATURES Corner pavilions, tall round-arched windows on main banking floor

ALTERATIONS Nothing of significance

SITE & RELATED STR. Corner lot in CBD

ARCHITECTURE

STATEMENT

This somewhat ungainly, conservative office building is by virtue of its size and elaboration a dominant element in Davenport's business district. Architecturally, the bank reads as an unsuccessful attempt to combine Beaux-Arts Neoclassicism with the tall office building, culminating in a clocktower more appropriate found on a county courthouse. Its construction two years after the nearby Kahl Building (3-W326) illustrates the lingering sentiment for classical symbolism that remained among certain local architects and clients - well into the 20th century.

SOURCES

**SIGNIFICANCE** The building is associated with several aspects of Davenport's commercial history. First, the general prosperity of commerce, especially finance, in the city between 1900 and 1930 and, second, the influential position of the American Commercial and Savings Bank, later known as Davenport Bank and Trust Company, in Iowa finance circles. The building has been a much used symbol of Davenport's commercial importance since its erection in 1927.

**DESCRIPTION** In 1869, the German Savings Bank of Davenport was established with Henry Lischer, (Pres. 1869-1893) and H. H. Andersen (Cashier 1869-1893, Pres.-1901) figuring prominently in its early years. The size and prosperity of Davenport's German community contributed to the bank's success. In 1906, Citizen's National Bank was absorbed, a new building was erected in 1911-12 and by 1916, German Savings Bank was the largest bank in Iowa.

Xenophobic nationalism caused the bank to change its name during W.W. I, becoming American Commercial and Savings Bank. Nevertheless, prosperity continued and the Iowa National Bank, Citizens Trust & Savings Bank and Farmers and Merchants Bank were absorbed. Bank clearings in Davenport increased tenfold between 1909 and 1929. Growth was also evident in larger deposits, capital stock, surpluses and new bank buildings. American Commercial and Savings Bank erected this new building in 1927, a sign of the company's prosperity.

**SOURCES** Banking Stands on Firm Basis,"  
 Davenport Centennial & Times Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, Davenport Times  
 July 11, 1936  
 Christiansen, T.P., "An Industrial History of Scott County, Iowa." Annals  
of Iowa (July, 1940)  
 "German Savings Bank of Davenport, Iowa" c. 1912 Pamphlet Collection  
 Putnam Museum, Davenport

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

**EVALUATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL**

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION Poor
- II. ENVIR. STATURE Landmark
- III. INT. OF CONTEXT Fair
- IV. INT. OF FABRIC Excellent

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT.  STATE  LOCAL  N. ELIG.

**HISTORICAL**

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- A. PRIMARY Commerce
- B. SECONDARY Finance

II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

- NAT.  STATE  LOCAL

III. N.R.H.P.

- ELIGIBLE  NOT ELIGIBLE

**HISTORIC DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION**

**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. <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

<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> DET. OF ELIGIBILITY
<input type="checkbox"/> W'SHIELD SURVEY	<input type="checkbox"/> R. & C. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> N.R.H.P.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

5. SUBJECT TRACES \_\_\_\_\_

6. PHOTO

1606-3

1629-6,7,10,11

The Architects Office  
Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschiull and Pfiffner  
801 day building, iowa city, iowa 52840

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

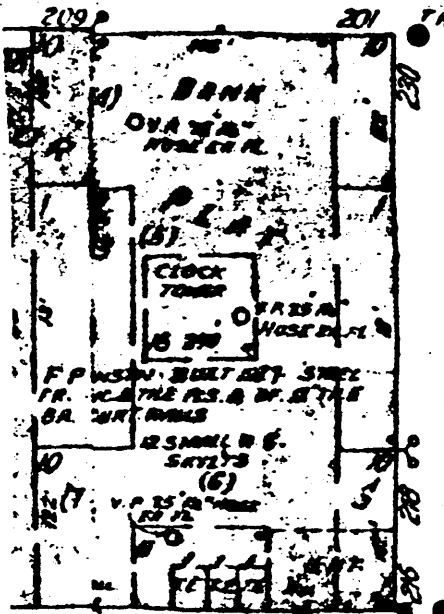
# 82-10- W3-203

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pt of blk 42 com in S/L of 3rd St 110' 7"  
W of NE cor SD blk 42 - W 32' 11.5" - N 150'  
to alley - E 32' 11.5" - N 150' to pt of beg

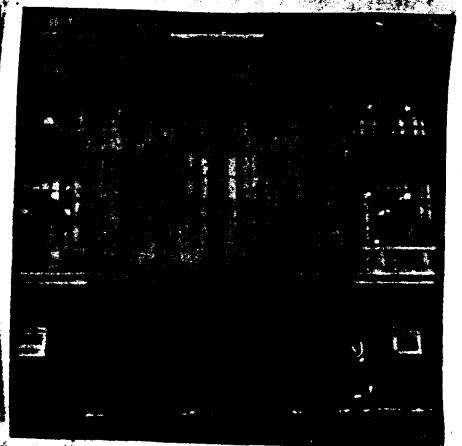
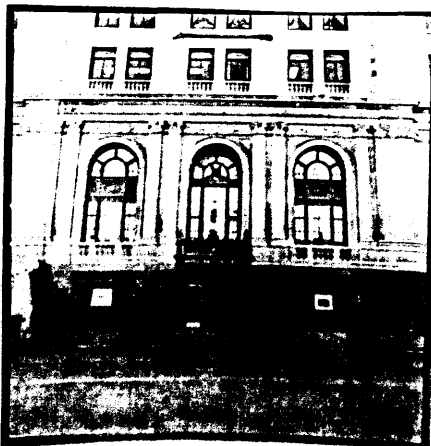
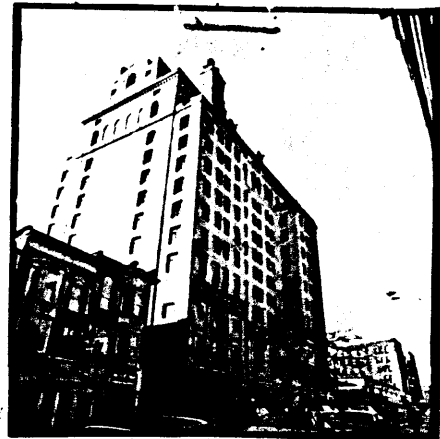
2nd LEGAL DESCRIPTION: E 110' 7" of N/2 of

2nd DEED HOLDER: Davenport Bank and Trust Company  
203 W. Third Street  
Davenport, IA 52801

MAP:



ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



CONTINUATION