

FEB 22

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

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

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE #82-10-MA-S105 MAP #1

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

NAME Lend-A-Hand Club H C

ADDRESS 105 South Main

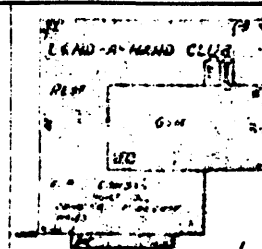
LEGAL DES. Pt. NE 1/4 Sec. 35, Twp. 78, Range 3 described as follows: Beginning at the SE cor. (Cont.)  
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 15 70,23,25 4,59,91,10 ACREAGE -1 ZONE C-4  
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Davenport Levee Commission  
City Hall, 226 W. 4th St., Dav., IA 52801

TITLE H. \_\_\_\_\_  
(IF DIFF.) \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTO



SITE SHEET

ARCHITECTURE

DESCRIPTION

U-plan, 3-story bldg. containing social services and  
FORM resident rooms

CONST. DATE 1923

MATERIALS Reinforced concrete, brick ARCH STYLE Institutional Neoclassical

FENESTRATION Primarily rectangular; some surrounded by round arches

DIST. FEATURES Terracotta, pilasters & cornice; decorative urns on parapet, entrance frame

ALTERATIONS Aluminum sash, glass block in basement, interior remodeling

SITE & RELATED STR. \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT

The Lend-A-Hand building, while not outstanding in terms of style, successfully combines a certain low-key attractiveness with utility. The U-shaped plan (similar to, but with orientation reversed, to the Hotel Davenport and Parker-Putnam Building) allows all residential spaces a full measure of light and air, with collective service elements contained in a rectangular central core. The facade, although modest, is not mean nor overtly institutional, and projects an air of respectability that would have been appropriate for an organization founded to assist and support women working in Davenport.

See also 8-300 form. The property has recently been recommended at state level for nomination to the National Register

SOURCES

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Lend-A-Hand Club Building, built in 1923, is significant for its historical association with the efforts of a local women's social support institution. Its construction on the levee at the foot of Main Street was part of major riverfront improvements completed between 1912 and 1931.

**DESCRIPTION**

The local Lend-A-Hand chapter was first organized in 1888 by members of the King's Daughter Chapter #1. Dr. Jennie McCowen, a prominent local physician and social welfare promoter, was the fledgling organization's leader. The Lend-A-Hand sponsored a variety of services for women living and working away from home. They included rest and reading rooms for young women who worked in the downtown, social programs, educational lectures and vocational guidance. Lend-A-Hand activities were carried out in various rented rooms in downtown buildings between 1888 and 1923.

When the Lend-A-Hand Club Building was completed in 1923, the organization was able to improve programs in the enlarged facility. The new facility housed a women's merchandise exchange, cafeteria, rest and reading rooms, parlor, shower and bath,  
(See continuation sheet)

**SOURCES**

Brownlie, Ruth E., "History of the Lend-A-Hand Club," unpublished paper, December 5, 1953.

Davenport Levee Improvement Commission files, City Hall, Davenport, Iowa.  
Davenport Building Permit Records, 1919-1980

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 Social/Humanitarian

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.	<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

- ☐ COUNTY RESOURCES  
☐ W'SHIELD SURVEY  
☐ N.R.H.P.  
☐ GRANT \_\_\_\_\_

☐ DET. OF ELIGIBILITY

- ☐ R. B. C. \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. SUBJECT TRACES

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. PHOTO

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 \_\_\_\_\_

The Architects Office

Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschull and Pfiffner

901 clay building, iowa city, iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# 82 - 10 - MA-S105

## Description (Continued)

laundry, gymnasium, arts and crafts room, and 88 rooms for rent. Programming sponsored by the Club offered the women patrons instruction on such women's issues as bicycling for women, the pros and cons of women working outside the home, woman's suffrage, and other topics. The Lend-A-Hand Club continued as a women's facility until 1973 when the building was converted to housing for the elderly by the City of Davenport.

## Legal Description:

of Main St. and River Dr., thence South along the east line of Main St. to the north line of the DRI & NW railroad tracks, thence East along the railroad tracks approximately 140 feet; thence North to the south line of River Dr. thence West along River Dr. to the point of beginning.

CONTINUATION