

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- 2-W526 MAP # 1

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

NAME Iowa Reform Building (H) C

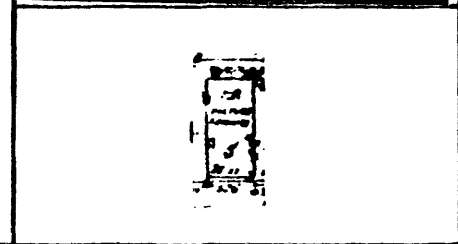
ADDRESS 526 W. Second Street

LEGAL DES. Original Town (See continuati  
SUB-DIVISION 10 sheet)  
BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM  $\frac{1}{4}$  15 [7101840] [4599270] ACREAGE Less than one acre ZONE

OWNER Louise B. Ruhl

Mail to: William H. Huckfeldt  
2815 Oak Street  
Davenport, IA 52804



SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 2 story commercial block with English basement CONST. DATE 1892

MATERIALS Brick with stone and cast iron ARCH. STYLE 19th Century Commercial

FENESTRATION Rectangular, regularly spaced

DIST. FEATURES Decorative brick work in cornice and original cast iron entry & 1st floor

ALTERATIONS Minor changes of the first floor door and windows

SITE & RELATED STR. None of significance

STATEMENT

The building is an extremely well preserved late 19th Century commercial building. The English basement with its areaway and large windows, are a unique feature allowing natural light and ventilation to the basement workrooms and pressrooms for the newspaper office.

ARCHITECTURE

SOURCES

Insurance Maps of Davenport, Iowa. New York Sandborn Map Co., 1886, 1892, 1910, 1920 and 1930.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

This building focuses attention on the German Language press which thrived in Davenport's German-American community from the Civil War until World War II. This building was used for more than 50 years as the publishing house for the Iowa Reform a Democratic and later, independent, German Language newspaper. Publisher and editor, Adolph Petersen lived above the print shop. It is the one of two buildings associated with the foreign press, and the only one associated with the Iowa Reform still standing.

**DESCRIPTION**

Iowa Reform began publishing in July, 1884 as a semi-weekly German language newspaper serving local tri-city Germans. Adolph Petersen, his brother Gerhard, and later Robert Petersen were the publishers and editors of the paper from 1884 until it ceased publication in 1943. The Reform peaked circulation in 1912 with 4,000 subscribers in the hi-state towns. During World War I, most Iowa German papers ceased publication because of anti-German sentiments but the Reform continued by complying with a government requirement that each issue be translated into English and filed with federal censors.

By 1939 the Iowa Reform was the sole surviving German paper in Iowa with a circulation of 3,240. The anti-German attitudes of World War II ended the paper in 1943.

**SOURCES**

Stewart, Ruth, "The Foreign Language Press in Iowa." Federal Writers Project Collection, University of Iowa Library Special Collections, Box #14, c. 1940.  
Christiansen, Thomas P. "An Industrial History of Scott County, Iowa, Annals of Iowa (3) (April, 1940) pp. 259-311.  
"Iowa Reform", Davenport Centennial and Times Fiftieth Anniversary Edition. Davenport Daily Times, July 11, 1936.

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

**EVALUATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL**

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION Local
- II. ENVIR. STATURE Supportive
- III. INT. OF CONTEXT Poor
- IV. INT. OF FABRIC 1

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT.  STATE  LOCAL  N. ELIG.

**HISTORICAL**

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- A. PRIMARY Communications
- B. SECONDARY Settlement

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.  DISAPP.  Tabled  DATE \_\_\_\_\_
- B. FEDERAL REVIEW APP.  DISAPP.  Tabled  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

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

6. PHOTO

1609-3  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Architects Office

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

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# 82 - 10 - 2-W526

LEGAL DESCRIPTION CONTINUED:

Pt of Lot 1 com at SE cor of SD Lot - W79' to beg - N par with  
W/L of Lot 64' W par with S/L of Lot 23.5' - S64' - E23.5' to beg.

CONTINUATION