

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

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

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- FN 728 MAP # 4

HIST. DIST. _____

NAME Fred B. Sharon House H C

ADDRESS 728 Farnam St.

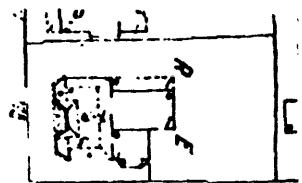
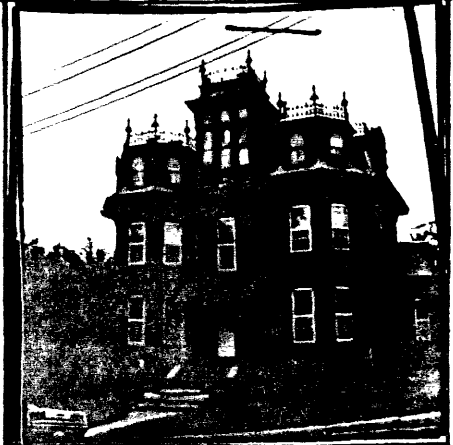
LEGAL DES. LeClaire's 7th 80 6 & 7
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 2 15 710,310,000 5991980 ACREAGE -1 ZONE R-6M

OWNER Diane & Dave Mellot

810 Spaulding Blvd. Davenport 52804

TITLE H. _____
(IF DIFF)



SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 2 story, T-plan, center tower and side wing CONST. DATE 1891

MATERIALS Brick on stone foundation ARCH STYLE Second Empire

FENESTRATION Flat arches main block, round arches in roof dormers

DIST. FEATURES Bell cast mansards, roof cresting

ALTERATIONS Door replaced, aluminum storms, painted uniform color, porch replaced

SITE & RELATED STR. _____

ARCHITECTURE

STATEMENT

The Sharon House is an interesting expression of the Second Empire style. Its relatively late date may account for the overall symmetry of form, but the strong verticality and richly ornamented roofscape are clearly of the Victorian age. The uniform covering of paint partly obscures the original texture of the walls, but does focus attention on the polygonal, bellcast mansards. The wrought iron cresting is particularly noteworthy, as is the tower, with its rather large window area.

SOURCES

Oszuscik, Phillippe, "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Iowa, 1979, p. 319.

SIGNIFICANCE

This building is associated with Fred B. Sharon, a prominent Irish-American and the publisher of the Iowa Catholic Messenger. Because this building is located in the traditional Irish neighborhood, its significance is heightened.

DESCRIPTION

Fred B. Sharon moved to Davenport in 1882 and worked with his brother Thomas L. Sharon in the production of the Iowa Catholic Messenger. In 1888 when Thomas died, Fred took over the job of publisher of the paper. The Messenger was distributed over a large region and under the Sharon brothers leadership became an important Catholic publication.

Fred Sharon was also connected with the city's financial institutions - incorporator and vice-president of Union Savings Bank, 1891-1902; incorporator of Citizens Trust and Savings Bank, 1906; and incorporator and director of the Home Building Loan and Savings Association, 1890-1910. Sharon was also a leader in the Irish-American community through such organizations as the Ancient Order of Hibernian.

SOURCES

Ringold, E. M., "Davenport Irish," Federal Writers Project, June, 1939.
 Downer, Harry E., History of Davenport and Scott County, Iowa, Vol. II, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1910, pp. 1016-1017.

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 Good
- IV. INT. OF FABRIC Fair-Good

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT. STATE LOCAL N. ELIG.

HISTORICAL

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- A. PRIMARY Settlement
- B. SECONDARY Irish

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. & C. _____
- DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
- _____
- _____

5. SUBJECT TRACES

6. PHOTO

82-10-1671-3
1689-9
North & East elevations