

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

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

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
 IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- 3-W326 MAP # 1

HIST. DIST. _____

NAME Kahl Building (H) C

ADDRESS 326 W. ^{3rd} Third Street

LEGAL DES. Original Town 20 W7' 9" of lot
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL Lots 1 & 2 and

UTM / 15 70,209,014,599,4,010 ACREAGE 1 ZONE C-4
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Margaret K. Wurzer
209 Kahl Building, Davenport, IA 52801

TITLE H. _____
 (IF DIFF) _____



SITE SHEET

MAP

(See continuation sheet)

DESCRIPTION

FORM 11 story office building CONST. DATE 1920
 MATERIALS Terra cotta and stone over steel frame ARCH STYLE Commercial
 FENESTRATION Rectangular, occuring in pairs and 3's above plate glass shop fronts
 DIST. FEATURES Capitol Theater inside building
 ALTERATIONS Nothing of importance
 SITE & RELATED STR. Corner lot in CBD

STATEMENT

The Kahl Building is one of the largest and most important structures in the city center. Certainly inspired by, if not directly modeled on such earlier works as Sullivan's Wainwright Building (1890-91), the Kahl uses glazed white terra cotta to embellish pier-&-spandrel facades with classical moldings, medallions, floral panels, and gargoyles. In Sullivanian fashion, the lower stories are quite ornamental, while the office floors above are relatively plain, with decoration confined to recessed spandrel panels. The building culminates in a staccato pairing of small round-arched windows below an elaborate, but not overbearing cornice. Well-preserved and prominently sited, the Kahl Building makes a notable architectural statement in the city's predominantly low-scale business district.

Arthur Ebeling, AIA, Sup. Architect, Walsh-Kahl Construction Co., Builders

SOURCES

ARCHITECTURE

SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY

DESCRIPTION

The Kahl Building was erected in 1920 by Henry "Hummer" C. Kahl, partner in Walsh-Kahl Construction Company. The building contains office space, retail shops, and the Capitol Theater on the interior. The Capitol was made part of the Radio-Keith-Orpheum (RKO) circuit in 1927. The Orpheum Capitol was used by vaudeville shows and for movies. It still operates for theatrical performances and irregularly scheduled movies today.

SOURCES

City Directories, 1919, and 1920.
Obituary, Henry C. Kahl, Davenport Democrat and Leader, January 11, 1931.
Weidenfeller, F. "Monts", Diamond Anniversary, RKO Theaters Coast-to-Coast, "A Brief History of RKO Theaters in the Quad-Cities," Davenport, Iowa, 1931.

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

EVALUATION

ARCHITECTURAL

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION Excellent
- 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 _____
- B. SECONDARY _____

II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

- NAT. STATE LOCAL

III. NRHP

- 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. NRHP 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
- NRHP
- GRANT _____
- DET. OF ELIGIBILITY
- R. & C. _____
- DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
- _____
- _____

5. SUBJECT TRACES

6. PHOTO

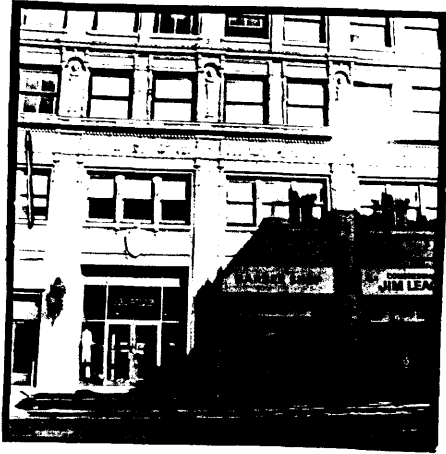
1606-8,9

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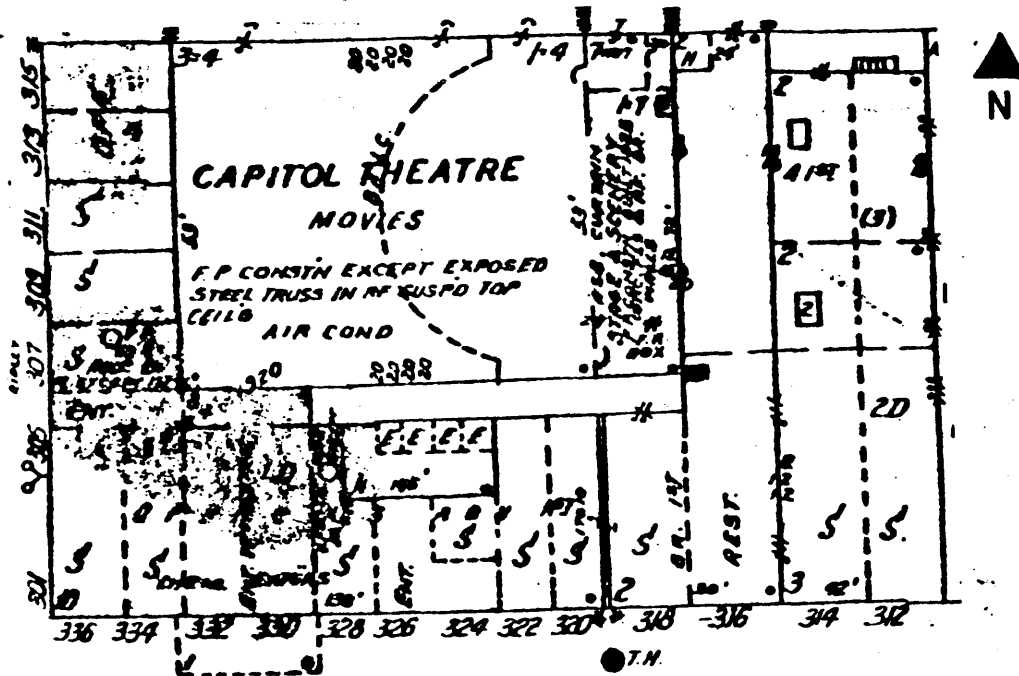
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ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH:



MAP:



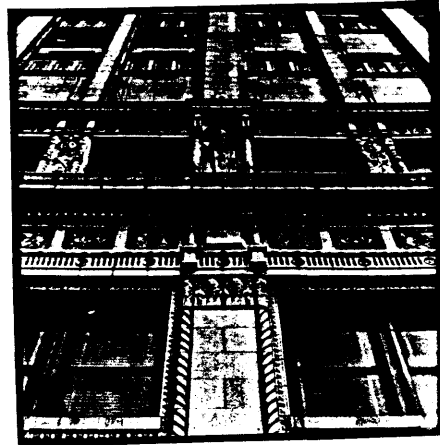
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CONTINUATION