

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 30 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Studio Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

524 East Grand Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Polk

CODE

153

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

X COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

James O'Malley Boyt

STREET & NUMBER

524 East Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50309

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Polk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Des Moines' Heritage: A Survey of Significant Architecture

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Plan and Zoning Commission, Des Moines, Iowa

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Studio Building is a two-story commercial block, built in 1878 and located in an area of small businesses near the State Capitol complex. The building is 80' deep along 6th Street, and 87' across the front (Grand Ave.). This elevation is divided into two distinct sections, 6 and 7 bays respectively. The ground floor has plate-glass windows with large transom lights above, and is separated from the second story by a wide metal cornice. Second-floor windows are 1/1 sash, with flat arches, above which may be seen the remnants of once ornate sandstone hoods. These hoods were cut off flush with the wall when the building was faced with concrete in 1922. Crowning the whole is a wide modillion cornice with triglyphs on the frieze. The cornice is metal across the front, corbelled brick on the east side. Second floor wall and corner pilasters are brick on the east side, alternating brick and sandstone on the front elevation. There are 12 brick chimneys (four in use) along east and west roof edges and down the center of the flat roof.

Exterior alterations: In 1922, the second floor was faced with cement, scored to resemble stone, with a concomitant loss of the window hoods. At this time, it is believed that transom windows were installed in the front of the western portion of the building, to match those already in use. In 1976, the present owner began restoration, first removing the cement facing (to reveal brick heavily gouged and cut to better hold the cement), then repointing and partially sealing the brick. Window detail will also be restored.

The principal interior feature is the nearly 800 feet of balcony, found on both floors. Particularly interesting are the second floor balconies, which have rounded ends. Walls are plaster, covered with drywall with battens; floors and ceilings are wood. The ground floor is divided into three long rooms, the westernmost 46' across, the others about 20' wide. The second floor contains four rooms, each about 20' wide.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Studio Building is an attractive example of late 19th-century commercial architecture, retaining a good deal of its original character although until recently ill-used. The broad cornices are intact, as are the ground floor storefronts, and the curved balconies of the interior are a most unusual feature. Commercial blocks of this age are increasingly rare in Des Moines, particularly in the east side business district, due to a continuing preference for new construction among developers and local entrepreneurs. As a result, the efforts of the present owner to restore and rehabilitate the building have drawn a fair amount of local attention, and may serve as an example to be followed by others in the city.

The Studio Building was built in 1878 for George R. Baker, and has housed a variety of commercial enterprises during its history. Until about 1895, grocers and druggists were prominent tenants. Subsequently, the building contained a series of undertaker's parlors and furniture stores. Presently, advertising, woodworking, weaving, and photographic firms are located in the Studio Building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Des Moines City Directories, 1882-1977.  
Interview with Paul K. Ashby, Des Moines, September, 1976 and December, 1977.  
History of Polk County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1880, p. 942.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	44,916,0	4,60,433,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of De Votie's Subdivision of the East 150½ feet of the South Half of Block 17 of East Fort Des Moines, now included in and forming a part of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, including the lots locally known as 526, 524, 522, and 520 East Grand, Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James O'Malley Boyt

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

524 East Grand Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Des Moines

STATE

Iowa 50309

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Adrian A. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/12/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles H. ...*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11-14-78  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Maudie ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-8-78

1358

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Baker-DeVotie-Hollingsworth Block [New name and boundary increase]

other names/site number Studio Block [previous name]

**2. Location**

street & number 516-526 East Grand Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Des Moines [N/A] vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50309

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Ronald J. Soike, Deputy SHPO, November 14, 2007  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1.10.07