

PH0662593

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 10 1978
DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC

German Bank

AND/OR COMMON

Silver Dollar Tavern

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

342 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Dubuque

CODE

61

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Donna Ginter

STREET & NUMBER

2342 Cherry Street

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa 52001

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Assessor's Office, Dubuque County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The German Bank building is a three-story commercial structure, built in 1901. Side and rear walls are constructed of brick laid in common bond and concrete, stabilized by 1" iron bars. The first floor rear is of rock-faced random ashlar, as is the basement. The inner construction of the front wall is brick, faced on the first story with polished pink granite, and on the upper floors with terracotta. First floor dimensions are 30' x 90'. The upper two floors extend only 50' to the rear. Rear windows and door have segmental brick arches.

The front elevation is extremely well-preserved, even on the storefront level. The first story is extremely simple in design, with a large center display window between flanking entrances separated by flat piers of granite and surmounted by flat, wide lintels of the same material. Just above the lintels is a row of egg-and-dart design, surmounted by a Greek fret and a row of small lions' heads. The original doors and plate glass window have been altered, but appear to be easily restorable.

The exterior of the second and third stories appears to be wholly intact, except for the loss of a balustrade above the cornice. This area is divided into three bays by four freestanding, fluted, banded columns with Corinthian capitals and an entablature of the same order. The center windows are set in bays. All windows are rectangular, with decorative surrounds. The center bays are decorated with scrolls and garlands. The end bays of the second floor feature scroll pediments and imperial German eagles.

The main room of the bank once featured English vein white marble wainscoting, mahogany wood work, and a black-and-white mosaic floor in the public area. Part of the tile floor and the wainscoting are extant, walls above are plastered and papered. The floor area around the bar has been covered with linoleum. The tellers' cages and other office elements were removed when the building was converted into a bar and restaurant. Two vaults at the rear still remain, one used for food storage. Access to the upper floors is by a staircase on the north side of the building. Each floor has two apartments, consisting of kitchen/living area, bedroom, bath and a closet or two. The basement has been converted into a lounge area for fraternal organizations or other groups. Markings on the stone of the walls suggest that the building may have been erected upon the foundation of a previous bank building, built in 1841.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W.G. Williamson & John Spencer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The German Bank is a handsome, and very well preserved, example of commercial architecture, and of the late Renaissance Revival generally. The terracotta embellishments of the upper stories stand in contrast to the almost Greek Revival simplicity of the first floor. Of interest, too, is the fact that the upper floors were from the beginning intended for use as apartments, although this feature was probably not wholly unusual in a city of Dubuque's population density.

The bank's historical significance lies in its association with Dubuque's German community, which in the mid and late 19th century was the city's most prominent ethnic group. Banks such as this, owned by, and catering to, members of particular immigrant groups, were often found in 19th-century Iowa cities: other examples are Cedar Rapids' Bohemian Savings and Loan and Burlington's German-American Savings Bank. Dubuque's German Bank was founded in 1864, by T.H. Thedinga, a businessman and politician who became the city's first German-born mayor in 1862. In 1868, the Bank was moved from a first location on Main Street to the former Dubuque Miners' Bank building. This building was razed in order to build the present structure for the German Bank in 1901. The bank operated until 1932, and has been used as a tavern and restaurant since 1946.

Architects:

John Spencer was born in York, England, in 1856. He attended Cambridge (no degree) before graduating from the South Kensington Art Institute in 1887. Following ten years of architectural practice in England, Spencer came to the US to join the office of W.W. Boyington in Chicago. Spencer's first view of Dubuque was apparently about 1887-8, when Boyington was commissioned to design the Bank and Insurance Building there. After about two years with Boyington, Spencer located permanently in Dubuque.

At least two of Spencer's buildings (the German Bank and the Carnegie-Stout Public Library) were designed in partnership with W. G. Williamson of Chicago, who was born in Scotland in 1861. A partial directory search indicates that Williamson was with Boyington in 1898, and in individual practice on LaSalle Street to at least 1917 (he died in 1922). It is probable that Williamson was with Boyington by the late 1880's, and that he met Spencer at that time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10-300 form for J.H. Thedinga House, Dubuque, Iowa (NR November 1976)
 Childs, C.C. Dubuque County History. Chicago: Western Historical Association, 1880, pp. 622, 886.
 Oldt, Franklin T. Dubuque County History. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Co., 1911, p. 688-9.
 Dubuque Daily Herald, October 22, 1864, October 3, 1884
 Dubuque Enterprise, November 3, 1901

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 9, 1, 8, 9, 0	4, 7, 0, 7, 4, 1, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property is 30' x 113', originally Lot 5, Block 7, Original Town Plat of Dubuque, Iowa. Lot now numbered 10A on Abstract #2845, Dubuque City Assessor's Office.

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

Donna Carter

ORGANIZATION

Dubuque County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

2342 Cherry Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa 52001

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 D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 1/30/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...

DATE 3-28-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William F. Cole*

DATE 3-27-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER