This somewhat ungainly, conservative office building is by virtue of its size and elaboration a dominant element in Davenport's business district. Architecturally, the bank reads as an unsuccessful attempt to combine Beaux-Arts Neoclassicism with the tall office building, culminating in a clocktower more appropriate found on a county courthouse. Its construction two years after the nearby Kahl Building (3-W326) illustrates the lingering sentiment for classical symbolism that remained among certain local architects and clients - well into the 20th century.
SIGNIFICANCE The building is associated with several aspects of Davenport's commercial history. First, the general prosperity of commerce, especially finance, in the city between 1900 and 1930 and, second, the influential position of the American Commercial and Savings Bank, later known as Davenport Bank and Trust Company, in Iowa finance circles. The building has been a much used symbol of Davenport's commercial importance since its erection in 1927.

DESCRIPTION In 1869, the German Savings Bank of Davenport was established with Henry Lischer, (Pres. 1869-1893) and H. H. Andersen (Cashier 1869-1893, Pres.-1901) figuring prominently in its early years. The size and prosperity of Davenport's German community contributed to the bank's success. In 1906, Citizen's National Bank was absorbed, a new building was erected in 1911-12 and by 1916, German Savings Bank was the largest bank in Iowa.

Xenophobic nationalism caused the bank to change its name during W.W. I, becoming American Commercial and Savings Bank. Nevertheless, prosperity continued and the Iowa National Bank, Citizens Trust & Savings Bank and Farmers and Merchants Bank were absorbed. Bank clearings in Davenport increased tenfold between 1909 and 1929. Growth was also evident in larger deposits, capital stock, surpluses and new bank buildings. American Commercial and Savings Bank erected this new building in 1927, a sign of the company's prosperity.

Christiansen, T.P., "An Industrial History of Scott County, Iowa." Annals of Iowa (July, 1940)
German Savings Bank of Davenport, Iowa" c. 1912 Pamphlet Collection
Putnam Museum, Davenport

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

EVALUATION
ARCHITECTURAL
I. ARCH. EVALUATION Poor
II. ENVIR. STATURE Landmark
III. INT. OF CONTEXT Fair
IV. INT. OF FABRIC Excellent
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{\textbullet NAT.} \\
\text{\textbullet STATE} \\
\text{\textbullet LOCAL} \\
\text{\textbullet N ELIG.}
\end{array}
\]

HISTORICAL
I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:
A. PRIMARY Commerce
B. SECONDARY Finance
II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{\textbullet NAT.} \\
\text{\textbullet STATE} \\
\text{\textbullet LOCAL}
\end{array}
\]
III. NRHP ELIGIBLE ☐ NOT ELIGIBLE ☐

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY
1 DATE RECEIVED _______________________
2 DATE OF STAFF EVALUATION

A. ARCHITECTURAL
B. HISTORICAL

ELIGIBLE FOR NRHP ☐ NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NRHP ☐

3. NRHP ACTION
A. STATE REVIEW COMM. APP. ☐ DISAPP. ☐ TABLED ☐ DATE __________
B. FEDERAL REVIEW APP. ☐ DISAPP. ☐ TABLED ☐ DATE __________

4. D.H.R SOURCES
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{\textbullet COUNTY RESOURCES} \\
\text{\textbullet W'SHIELD SURVEY} \\
\text{\textbullet NRHP} \\
\text{\textbullet GRANT}
\end{array}
\]
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{\textbullet DEPT. OF ELIGIBILITY} \\
\text{\textbullet R & C.} \\
\text{\textbullet DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY}
\end{array}
\]

5 SUBJECT TRACES
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{\textbullet DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY} \\
\text{\textbullet R & C.}
\end{array}
\]

6 PHOTO
1606-3
1629-6, 7, 10, 11
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pt of blk 42 com in S/L of 3rd St 110' 7" W of NE cor SD blk 42 - W 32' 11.5" - N 150' to alley - E 32' 11.5" - N 150' to pt of beg

2nd LEGAL DESCRIPTION: E 110' 7" of N/2 of

2nd DEED HOLDER: Davenport Bank and Trust Company
203 W. Third Street
Davenport, IA 52801

MAP:

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: