

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

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

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- MA-S100 MAP # 1

HIST. DIST. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME Dillon Memorial (H) C

ADDRESS South Main Street  
S. Main St., between W. River Drive and  
Beiderbecke Drive

LEGAL DES. \_\_\_\_\_  
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM / 15 71921300 1459911210 ACREAGE -1 ZONE C-4  
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Davenport Levee Improvement Commission  
City of Davenport

TITLE H. \_\_\_\_\_  
(IF DIFF) \_\_\_\_\_



SITE SHEET

MAP

(See continuation sheet)

DESCRIPTION

FORM Superimposed circular basins out of which rises a fluted column on decorative pedestal CONST. DATE 1918-19

MATERIALS Gravite, tile, concrete ARCH STYLE Neoclassical

FENESTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

DIST. FEATURES Lion's heads, swags, memorial plaque, lantern atop column

ALTERATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

SITE & RELATED STR. Near south end of Main Street near levee and Mississippi River

ARCHITECTURE

STATEMENT

The Dillon Fountain, along with Union Station and the Petersen Music Pavilion, was erected as part of a major riverfront development program by the City's Levee Improvement Commission. Located at the foot of Main Street, the fountain was apparently intended to function as a focal point and dramatic terminus. However, the riverfront no longer displays the vitality and activity that characterized it in the 19th century. The fountain thus appears somewhat isolated, but at the same time functions as an effective companion piece to the War Memorial, some 12 blocks north on Main Street.

The fountain was designed in 1918 by Franklin and Arthur Ware, in association with Paul Schulz, all of New York, in response to a competition sponsored by the Levee Improvement Commission. Its Neoclassical style was typical of monuments and public buildings at the time, as well as reflecting Arthur Ware's training at the Ecole Des Beaux-Arts, Paris.

SOURCES

Architecture 32(2), August, 1918  
Withey and Withey, pp. 631-2.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Dillon Fountain was associated with the redevelopment of the downtown riverfront undertaken by the Davenport Levee Improvement Commission and the City of Davenport between 1911 and 1931.

**DESCRIPTION**

The John F. Dillon Memorial Fountain was erected in 1918-19 following a national design competition sponsored by the Davenport Levee Improvement Commission. John Dillon, a successful New York lawyer, legal issues author, and former Davenport resident, left a bequest in his will specifying the construction and location of the fountain. The Dillon Fountain was erected the same year Riverfront Park was renamed "Antoine LeClaire Park." Its location at the foot of Main Street made it the focal point of the intersection as well as the street connecting LeClaire Park and Central (VanderVeer) Park.

**SOURCES**

Architecture, August, 1918, Plates CXXXVII, CXXXVIII, CXXXIX, CXL.  
Levee Commission Minutes, 1918-1919.

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 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. NR.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. NR.H.P. ACTION

A STATE REVIEW COMM.	APP. <input type="checkbox"/>	DISAPP. <input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE _____
B FEDERAL REVIEW	APP. <input type="checkbox"/>	DISAPP. <input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED <input type="checkbox"/>	DATE _____

4. D.H.P. SOURCES

<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> DET. OF ELIGIBILITY
<input type="checkbox"/> W'SHIELD SURVEY	<input type="checkbox"/> R. & C. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> NRHP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
<input type="checkbox"/> GRANT _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

5. SUBJECT TRACES

6. PHOTO  
1606-6

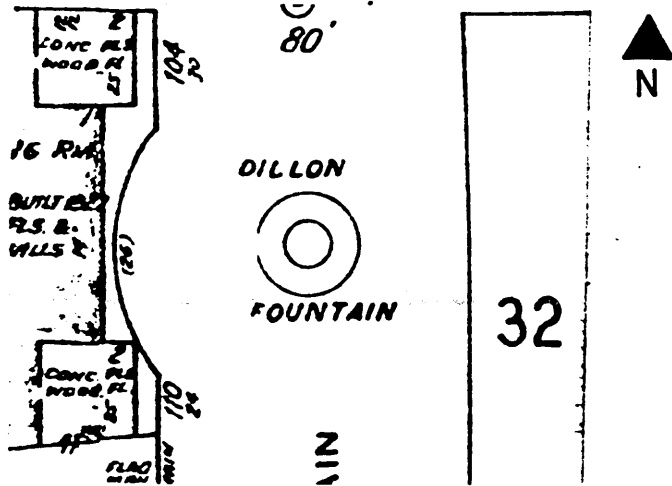
The Architects Office

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MAP:



CONTINUATION