

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office
 Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschiull and Pfiffner
 801 clay building Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
 IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- BR 514 MAP # 3

HIST. DIST. _____

NAME Old City Hall (H) C

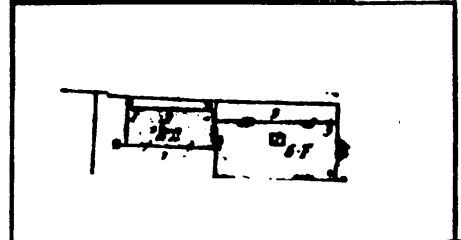
ADDRESS 514 Brady St

LEGAL DES. LeClaire's 2nd 48 5 N 40'
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 2 15 710,240,00 4,599,700 ACREAGE -1 ZONE C-4
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Earl Wessel /Donna L. Wessel
348 River Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722

TITLE H. Harold Hoersch & Wife
(IF DIFF)



SITE SHEET

DESCRIPTION

FORM 3 story, 3-bay commercial/apt. block CONST. DATE 1857
 MATERIALS Brick, pressed metal, stone ARCH STYLE _____
 FENESTRATION 1/1 D.H.S., topped w/projecting cornice 1st, Jack arch lintels above
 DIST. FEATURES 2 story oriel, center front, trabeated entrance
 ALTERATIONS Main facade extensively reconstructed c. 1910; converted to apartments
 SITE & RELATED STR. _____

ARCHITECTURE

STATEMENT

According to Oszuscik (1979) the facade of this building dates from a c. 1910 remodeling that converted the structure from a city hall to an apartment block. It bears no resemblance to architect Willett Carroll's mid-1850's design, nor to his subsequent roof replacement of 1862. Rather, the flush jack-arches, two-story metal oriel and trabeated entrance repeat features found on many commercial buildings and apartment blocks built in turn-of-the-century Davenport. Its significance lies chiefly in its historical associations, and its function as the termination of a short 1850's commercial row.

SOURCES

Oszuscik, Philippe, "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Iowa, 1979, p. 149.

SIGNIFICANCE

Old City Hall is the oldest structure in the city associated with municipal government and politics. Since it was replaced by a new seat of government in 1895, its significance is somewhat diminished. Its age makes it relatively rare, however,

DESCRIPTION

Old City Hall, Davenport's first government headquarters, was built in 1857 not as a seat of government but rather as an engine house for the fire department. Throughout 1857 debate raged in the City Council about a proper site for a new City Hall. Washington Square and the Court House Square were both rejected as sites. In early 1858, Council action adopted the new Engine House's hall as the council chambers and settled other municipal functions in other parts of the building. The structure continued as a fire house as well until the Perry Street station was completed in 1877. Old City Hall was the center of municipal government until the present building was constructed in 1895. During this period a number of significant local industrialists and professionals held the office of mayor including George B. Sargent (1857), Ebenezer Cook (1858-59), Hiram Price (1859), George H. French (1861-62), John L. Davies (1865-66), Michael Donahue (1867-68), John C. Bills (1871, 1882, 1892), Ernest Claussen (1883-1889), and C. A. Ficke (1890-91).

SOURCES

"City Council Proceedings, 1856-58," unpublished, May 25, 1857 - p. 197; June 4, 1857 - pp. 205 & 209; June 13, 1857 - p. 221; June 17, 1857 - p. 225; July 1, 1857 - p. 235; July 8, 1857 - p. 239; July 15, 1857 - pp. 249, 253, Nov. 4, 1857 - p. 334; and January 1, 1858 - p. 413.

Davenport Illustrated, Saengerfest Souvenir, Davenport: Democrat Co., 1898.

"City Council Proceedings, 1856-58," unpublished, May 25, 1857, p. 197.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: Martha Bowers

HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN - ROESLER

SURVEY COMP 1981

EVALUATION

ARCHITECTURAL

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION Fair
II. ENVIR. STATURE Tissue
III. INT. OF CONTEXT Fair
IV. INT. OF FABRIC Poor

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT. STATE LOCAL N. ELIG.

HISTORICAL

I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- A. PRIMARY Gov't./Politics
B. SECONDARY Local Gov't.

II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

- NAT. STATE LOCAL

III. N.R.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

- ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P. A. ARCHITECTURAL B. HISTORICAL
NOT ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P.

3. N.R.H.P. 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 N.R.H.P. GRANT
DET. OF ELIGIBILITY R. & C. DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY

5. SUBJECT TRACES

6. PHOTO 1710-7