

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Site Inventory Form
Continuation Sheet

Site Number __ 82-02586 _____
Related District Number _____

Page __ 1 __

Name of Property _____ Central Fire Station _____ County _____ Scott _____

Address _____ 331 Scott Street _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Central Fire Station is located on part of Lot 10, Block 19 of the Original Town of Davenport. The building is sited on the southeast corner of the intersection of West Fourth and Scott Streets; its façade faces north, with a secondary elevation facing west. The building is currently neighbored by a parking lot on the east, an east-west alley bisecting the block on its south. A public sidewalk runs the perimeter of the block, providing access to the building's pedestrian entrance on Scott Street.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The two-story, freestanding, brick Central Fire Station features a mix of stylistic influences, most notably the Italianate and the Classical Revival. The Italianate is seen in most clearly in the hose tower and the use of a low pitched, hipped roof, the Classical Revival in the pedimented entrance on Scott Street. The classic influence is also exerted in the round arched window heads, with their simplified keystones and a general sense of restraint and control.

The original Fire Station has seen two additions. The first, a small, one-story attachment on the northwest corner of the building. The second addition is a two-story brick structure that accommodates a three-bay garage, with sleeping quarters or office space above. This addition exhibits stylistic elements of 1920s era Art Deco. The use of a similarly colored brick diminishes the impact of the addition, while the stylistic choice complements, rather than replicates, that of the original building. These important choices ensure a restrained visual separation of the addition from the original building, leaving no confusion about the structure's history.

Condition

As a masonry construction, the greatest concern for the Central Fire Station is the condition of its brick, which appears to be in generally good condition. There are some areas of discoloration of the brick and stone, and inappropriate patching in the frieze area of both the body of the building and the towers. It was also noted that the basement window wells are now deeply recessed, indicating the excessive build-up of the parking lot surfacing.

Despite the additions mentioned above and the retrofitting of its windows, the Central Fire Station retains a high level of historic integrity.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The Central Fire Station was constructed in 1901 to house the Davenport Fire Department. The former double engine firehouse was removed at this location to accommodate the new building.

The building has been in service by the Davenport Fire Department from that time.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Central Fire Station was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Then, as remains true today, the building is considered significant under Criterion A in association with the history Davenport government and politics, specifically the history of local fire fighting.

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View of the north and west elevations, looking southeast across the intersection of West Fourth and Scott Streets.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the north and east elevations, looking southwest across West Fourth Street.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the west and south elevations, looking northeast across Scott Street. From this perspective, the three-bay addition to the rear is evident.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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Detail view of the station's towers (west elevation.)

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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Detail view of the west pedestrian entrance. Note the use of classical elements including a pedimented entrance with Ionic columns.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

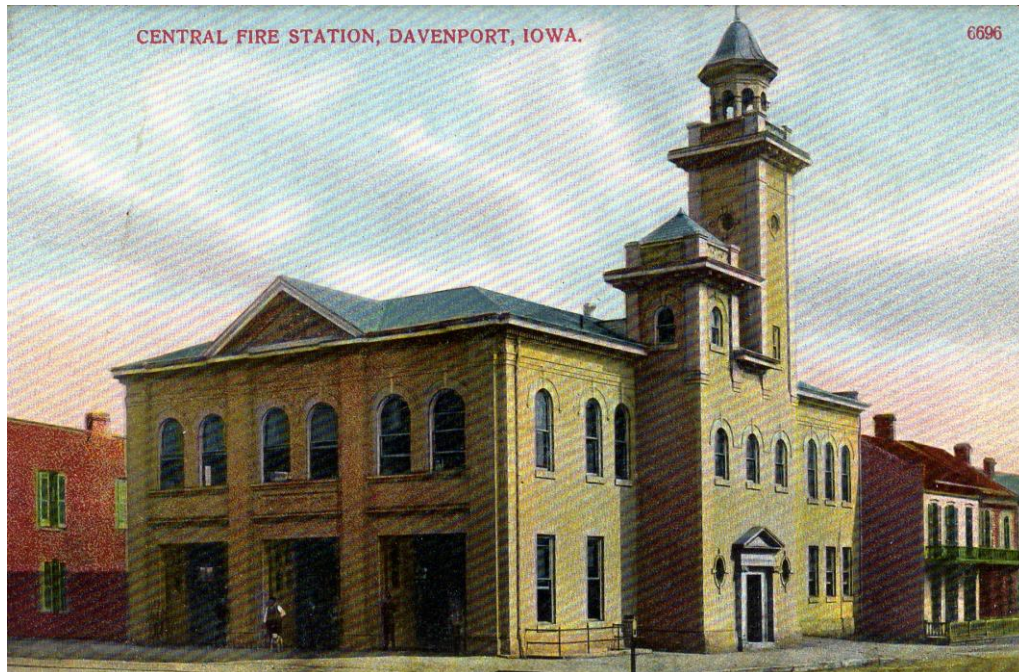
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This undated postcard image documents the Central Fire Station in the early years following its 1901 construction. Note the residential buildings located south of the station; much of the downtown was heavily residential in the early years of the town's history.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting Postcard Collection –Image #08167-021015)

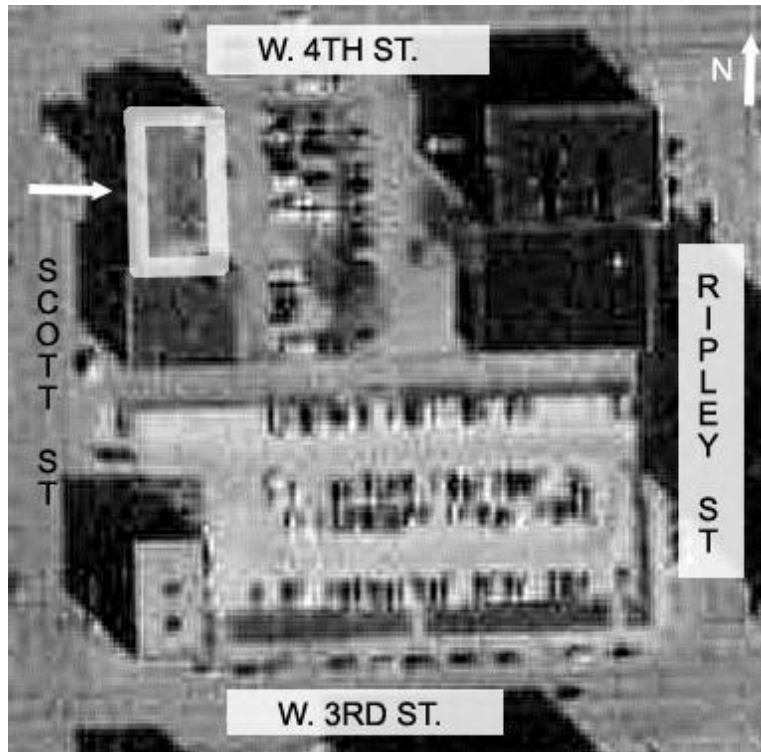
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The arrow indicates the location of the Central Fire Station.

(SOURCE: City of Davenport – Planning Department – 1/2005)

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Special Collections

Davenport Public Library; Richardson-Sloane Special Collections
Davenport City Directory Collection 1890-1940
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection
Quad Cities Photograph Collection

AKAY Consulting Postcard Collection. Boone, Iowa.

Local Publications

Svensden, Marlys. "Davenport, Where the River Runs West: A Survey of Davenport History & Architecture". ND.

Internet Resources

www.scottcountyiowa.com/assessor. Scott County Assessor.