

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

Site Number __ 82-00278 _____
Related District Number _____

Page __ 1 __

Name of Property _____ County _____ Scott _____

Address _____ 202 (202-220) W. 3rd Street _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

The building at 202 (202-220) W. 3rd Street is located on Lots 4 & 5, Block 44 of LeClaire's 1st Addition. The building is sited on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and West Third Streets and covers nearly one-quarter of the block. The building's primary elevations face south and east. It is bound on the west by a two-story commercial structure and on the north by an alley and the Davenport Hotel. A public sidewalk provides access to the building's multiple entrances on West 3rd and Main Streets.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The building at 202 (202-220) W. 3rd Street is a one-story, steel frame construction with a terra cotta skin. The building is divided into five bays on the south and six bays on the east, each appearing to have been designed to accommodate individual businesses. Large display windows dominate the building's elevations, a feat made possible by the steel frame technology coming into common use during this period (1916).

The building features stylistic details clearly evoking the Classical, seen here in the pilasters mounted on stone pedestals and topped by capitals with an egg and dart motif. The Classical becomes stylized in the wave pattern of the cornice, highlighted by colored terracotta discs and diamonds. Mosaic tiles along the bottom edge of the storefronts add to the stylistic impact.

Condition

As the following historic images reveal, the cornice of the building at 202 W. 3rd Street has been significantly altered; a parapet wall and decorative balustrade have been removed. In addition, the original storefronts have been altered by metal panel infill of the transoms and modern tinted glass in the display areas. Despite these changes, the building retains a relatively high level of historic integrity.

An informal inspection of the exterior of the building reveals no significant signs of deterioration. In all likelihood, this is due to the extremely durable nature of the terra cotta that covers the entire exterior. Although terra cotta stands up for very long periods of time, it is difficult to repair and to replace, so care should be taken to properly maintain the structure, thus ensuring a continued good condition.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The local architectural firm of Clausen & Kruse designed the building at 202 W. 3rd Street in 1916 for the estate of W.D. Petersen. The firm was the successor to the tradition begun in 1871 by Frederick G. Clausen. At the time of the building's design, Rudolph Clausen (son of Frederick) and Walter Kruse were in the midst of a very productive era. Other projects included Petersen Memorial Music Pavilion (1924) in LeClaire Park, the Linograph Factory (1919) on W. River Drive, the Walter Emeis Manufacturing Co. Garage and Service Station on Iowa Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets, and the Eagle's building at 324 Scott Street.

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Prior to the construction of the present building, the site was occupied by T.W. McClelland Co., manufacturer of sash, doors, and blinds. It appears that the building at 202 W. 3 rd Street was designed to accommodate multiple businesses; the division of storefronts and historic images indicate that this is the case. The Mecca Café and the Colorado Café both operated from the building, as did multiple cigar retailers including Main Cigar (see historic image) and, the 1940s, United Cigar Stores Co.

Currently the building is home to the offices of the Quad City Steamrollers organization, the law office of John M. Carroll, Blu Clothing, and the Eastern Iowa Center for Problem Gambling.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building at 202 (202-220) W. 3rd Street was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The resource remains significant under Criteria A in its association with the history of Davenport commerce.

The building is also considered significant under Criteria C as an example of early twentieth century commercial architecture and the architectural building material, terra cotta.

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View of the south and east elevations, looking northwest across the intersection of Main and Third Streets.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of south elevation, looking north across West Third Street.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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This 1926 image of the Central Office Building in 1926 shows a glimpse of the building at 202 W. 3rd
sited the east end of the block (see right.)

(SOURCE: Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science – Davenport, Iowa)

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This historic image documents the building at 202 W. 3rd Street in c.1965. When compared to the previous, 1926 image, it appears that a parapet with a decorative balustrade has been removed from the building's roofline.

(HISTORIC IMAGE: Courtesy of Richardson-Sloane Special Collections – Davenport Public Library)

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Judging from the automobiles lining West Third Street, this historic image dates to the late 1940s. The building at 202 W. 3rd Street can be seen at the far right, within the context of its early streetscape.

(SOURCE: Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science – Davenport, Iowa)

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The arrow indicates the location of the building at 202 W. 3rd Street.

(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

Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science – Davenport, Iowa.

Database of SGGM Architects & Interior Designers, Rock Island, Illinois. (John Gere, contact)

Local Publications

Svendsen, Marlys. “Davenport, Where the River Runs West: A Survey of Davenport History & Architecture”. ND

Internet Resources

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