

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

Site Number \_\_ 82-01284 \_\_\_\_\_  
Related District Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_ Young, Colonel Joseph, Block \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Scott \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 502 (502-506) Brady Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Davenport \_\_\_\_\_

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#### SITE DESCRIPTION

The Young Block is located on Lot 5, Block 48 of LeClaire's 2nd Addition. The structure is sited on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Fifth and Brady Streets. The building's primary façade faces east. The building is neighbored on the north by the c.1857 three-story, Wupperman Block/I.O.O.F. Hall, and on the west by the four-story, Walker Flats building, which dates to 1910. A public sidewalk provides access to the building's entrance on Brady Street.

#### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Colonel Young Block is a three-story brick building constructed on what is likely a stone foundation. The mid-nineteenth century structure features stylistic details clearly evoking the Victorian era Italianate style, seen here in the abundance of tall, narrow windows with projecting hoods, which parade across the east elevations of the upper stories. The original cornice, seen in the historic image on page five, was the crowning element of the style.

#### Condition

As a masonry construction, the greatest concern for this building is the condition of its brick, which is in a state of active deterioration. The majority of the exterior brick has been covered with a skim coat (painted green), which is coming off in large areas across the building. A visual assessment of the exposed brick indicates that the building was constructed of a soft brick, which probably accounts for the skim coat application. The brick is showing clear evidence of both joint loss and serious pitting. It should also be noted, that the metal sills and window hoods, which have been painted, are showing signs of rust and corrosion.

The building's storefront level has undergone extensive modifications, including the application of "permastone", a modern concrete composite, used to reface facades to resemble stone. As the name implies, the material is built to last. Numerous structures in Davenport have received this treatment, including St. Anthony's Catholic Church and the Atlantic Hotel, both located in the Davenport Central Business District.

The integrity of the street level elevation is further compromised by the reconfiguration of the building's storefronts. The historic image on page five provides a view of its earliest incarnation. Note that the corner entrance does not appear to be original, but the pier does.

Despite the loss of its original cornice, the upper story elevations retain a high level of historic integrity. This is due to the retention of the window placement and decorative elements. This retention, balances the significant loss of the storefront.

#### PROPERTY HISTORY

As indicated in the 1983 Svendsen/Bowers historical survey, the structure at 502 (502-506) Brady Street was constructed in c.1857, presumably by Colonel Joseph Young who was a land speculator. The three bayed storefront has housed numerous retail and service businesses since its construction, including several saloons and restaurants.

The building is currently vacant.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Young Block was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Then, as is true today, the building was considered locally significant under Criterion C as a rare example of pre-Civil War commercial construction. As noted at the time of its nomination, the building's significance is enhanced by its location adjacent to the Wupperman Block, a structure of similar age and architectural style.

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View of the primary (east) and south elevations, looking northwest across the intersection of Brady and W. 5th Streets.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of primary (south) elevation, looking west across Brady Street.

Note that the south portion of the storefront has been faced in “permastone”.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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This 1880s view looking north on Brady Street from West Fifth, documents the Col. Young Block within the context of its original streetscape. Note the heavy, Italianate cornice, now lost.

(SOURCE: Image courtesy of the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections of the Davenport Public Library)

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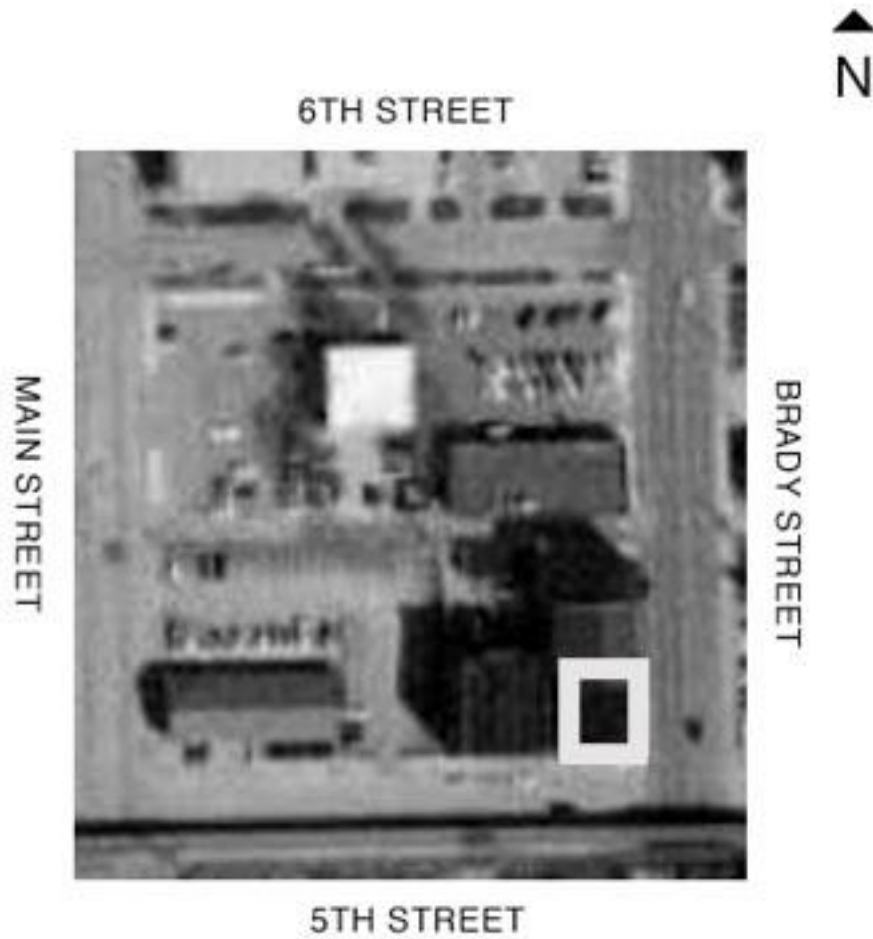
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The white outline indicates the location of the Young Block.

(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 Sciences Archives.

Local Publications

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

Internet Resources

[www.scottcountyiowa.com/assessor](http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/assessor). Scott County Assessor.