

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

Site Number __ 82-05396 _____
Related District Number _____

Page __ 1 __

Name of Property _____ Davenport Bag & Paper Co. _____ County _____ Scott _____

Address _____ 301 E. 2nd Street _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Davenport Bag & Paper Co. building is located on Lot 15, Block 63 of LeClaire's 3rd Addition of Davenport. The structure is sited on the southeast corner of the intersection of East Third and Pershing Streets; its facade faces north. The building is bordered by paved parking lots on the south and the east. An alley runs east-west at its rear. A public sidewalk provides access to the building's entrance at the corner of East Third and Pershing.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Davenport Bag & Paper Co. building is a five-story concrete block structure, constructed on a concrete foundation. The building's character lies in the influence of the Chicago School, seen here in the use of Chicago style windows in the upper stories of the facade. The use of Chicago windows comes out of the technological advancements made in Chicago following the tragedy of the great fire in 1871. They were part of the evolution toward a lightening of the exterior wall and an increase in glazing. This form of window combines a wide, center window, flanked by a pair of narrow windows, to create a greater expanse of glass (see page 3.) As is true in this building, Chicago style windows are generally double-hung 1/1s (meaning, with single panes of glass set one over the other.)

Condition

As a masonry structure, the greatest concern for this building is the condition of its concrete. Generally speaking, the building appears to be in good condition. However, areas of inappropriate joint repair are obvious, though merely a cosmetic issue. Of greater concern are cracking of blocks, suggesting a settlement problem. In addition, the east wall shows signs of joint and material loss in the area where an adjoining structure has been removed

Despite the infill of some windows on the south elevation and at basement level, the Davenport Bag & Paper Company building retains a very high level of historic integrity.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The Davenport Bag & Paper Co. building was constructed in 1907. The business produced paper bags, wrapping paper, and flour sacks. At the time of its construction, the building was touted as a "Fireproof, Reinforced Concrete Bldg." Davenport Bag & Paper Co. became part of a core of manufacturing and warehouse industries that dominated the east end of the Davenport Central Business District from the late nineteenth century through World War I. By 1940 the building housed the Peterson Paper Company.

The building is currently vacant.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Davenport Bag & Paper Co. is considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in association with the history of Davenport commerce and industry. In addition, the building is considered significant under Criterion C as an example of the influence of the Chicago School on industrial construction.

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View of the Davenport Bag and Paper Co. building (aka Peterson Paper Co.), looking southeast across the intersection of Pershing and E. 2nd Streets.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the primary (north) and east elevations, looking southwest across E. 2nd Street.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

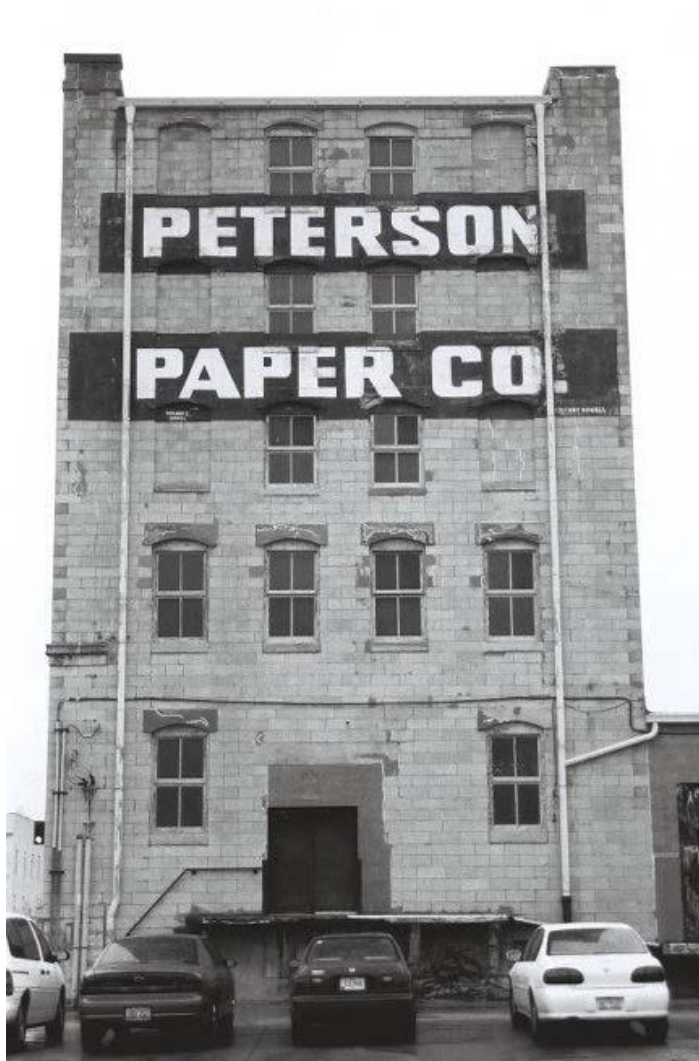
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View of the rear (south) elevation, looking north from the parking lot on the south side of the block.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the Davenport Bag and Paper Co. building within the context of its streetscape (looking east on E. 2nd Street from Pershing.)

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the Davenport Bag and Paper Co. building within the context of its streetscape (looking northeast across East River Drive.)

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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This undated (1907) postcard image documents the “New Fireproof Reinforced Concrete Bldg. of Davenport Bag & Paper Co.” Notice that the building of today looks much as it did when constructed. This image also serves to document the building’s original streetscape.

(SOURCE: AKAY Postcard Collection – Image #08093-010529)

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This undated historic image documents the impact of the Davenport Bag & Paper Co. building on the city skyline.

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

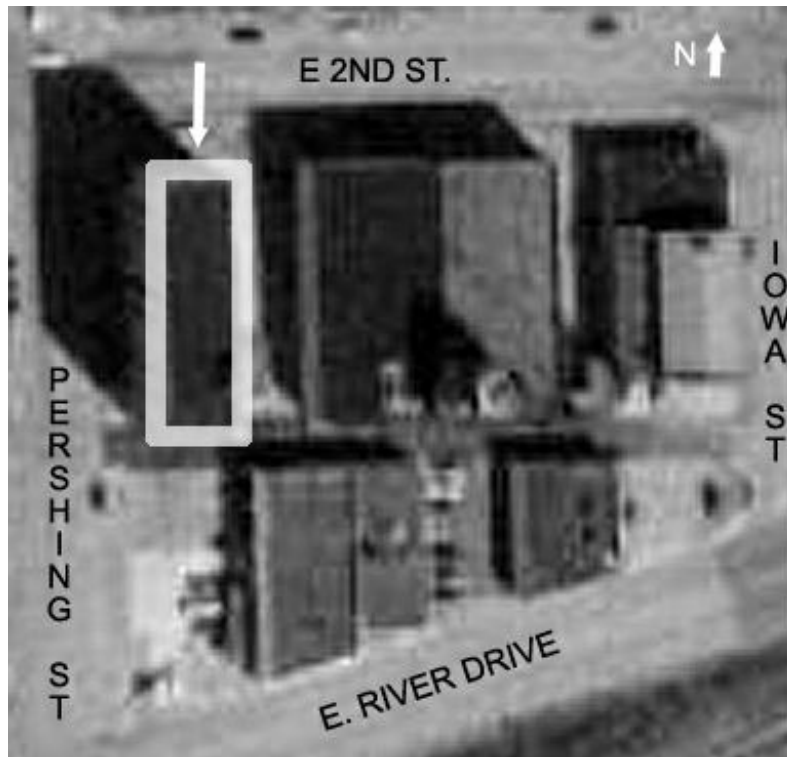
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The arrow indicates the location of the Davenport Bag and Paper Co.

(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

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

Internet Resources

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