

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

Site Number __ 82-01286 ____
Related District Number _____

Page ____ 1 ____

Name of Property _____ Old City Hall _____ County _____ Scott _____

Address _____ 514 Brady Street _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

Old City Hall is located on Lot 5, Block 48 of LeClaire's 2nd Addition. The structure is sited on the west side of Brady Street; its façade faces east. Old City Hall is adjoined on the north by the c.1859, three-story Wupperman Block, and on the north by an alley that bisects the block from east to west. A public sidewalk provides access to the building's entrance on Brady Street.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Old City Hall is a three-story, brick apartment building, constructed on a stone foundation. In its present incarnation, the building combines elements in a manner without a clear architectural precedence. The façade is dominated by a two-story, polygonal oriel window, which is ornamented with fleur-de-lis. Stone, keyed headers and diminutive stone sills, mark the upper story fenestration; the street level fenestration, by flat, wooden headers, now painted. The entrance, located on the west end of the east elevation, features a stone surround. In the absence of a parapet wall, the overhanging, modillion cornice caps the façade.

A view of the rear elevation reveals the use of a half-hip roof; see page four.

Condition

As a masonry construction, the greatest concern for this building is the condition of its brick, which shows no apparent evidence of significant deterioration.

According to the 1979 Ph.D. dissertation, "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa" by Phillippe Oszuscik, the façade of Old City Hall underwent a reconstruction in c.1910. An image of that incarnation follows on page five.

Old City Hall retains a high level of historic integrity as it relates to the c.1910 façade.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The structure at 514 Brady Street was constructed in 1857 to house the Davenport City Hall. In a conversion to an apartment building in c.1910, the structure underwent a dramatic reconstruction, which resulted in its present appearance.

The building continues to function as an apartment building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old City Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, considered significant in its association with the history of local government and politics.

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View of the Old City Hall in the context of its streetscape (looking southwest across Brady Street.)

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of primary (east) elevations, looking west across Brady Street.
The Old City Hall is indicated with an arrowhead.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the rear (west) elevation, looking east from the alley.

Note the half-hip roof of Old City Hall. Judging from the 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, the roof configuration does not appear to be original.

SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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BRADY STREET—LOOKING NORTH FROM FIFTH STREET.

6.

This c.1880 image of “Brady Street looking north from Fifth Street” shows the Old City Hall at left (building with ornate tower) with its original façade, which was dramatically altered in c.1910.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

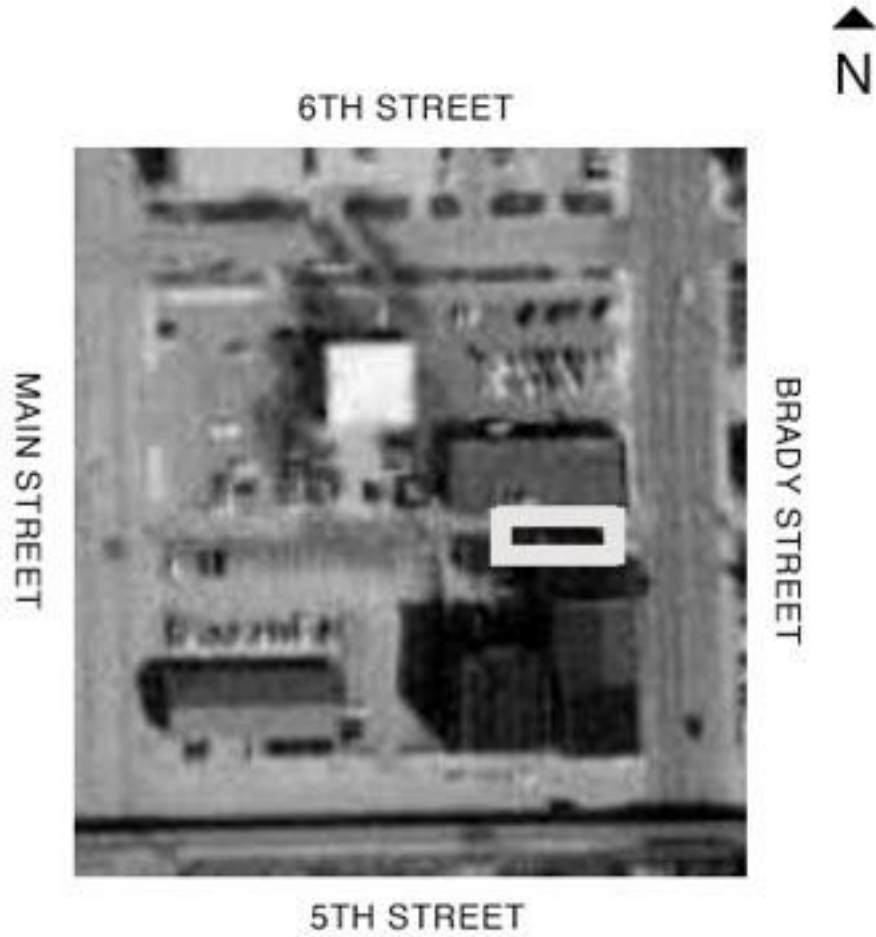
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The arrow indicates the location of Old City Hall.

(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

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

Miscellaneous Resources

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

Internet Resources

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