Name of Property ___ City Market (Bridewell House of Detention) ____ County ___ Scott _____

Address _____ 130 W. 5th Street _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

The City Market is located on part of Lots 1 and 2, Block 48 of LeClaire's 2nd Addition. The structure is sited on the northeast corner of the intersection of West Fifth and Main Streets; its primary elevations faces south and west. The building is neighbored on the east by a parking area 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 West Fifth Street.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The City Market (Bridewell House of Detention) is a one-story, brick structure constructed on a stone foundation. The building's rectangular form is topped by a gable roof; its gable end faces Main Street.

The City Market building is a perplexing structure. The building exhibits a mixture of the formal Greek Revival (west elevation) with the functional appearance more commonly associated with a light industrial or railroad related structure. Adding to the visual confusion is the loss of the east section of the original building, which leaves a partially stepped parapet exposed on that end.

The Greek Revival façade fronting Main Street utilizes brick pilasters and a stepped frieze to organize the elevation into three bays. An oversized, arched opening, with a small, round window above it, dominates the center section. The wooden bulkhead at the base of the window hints at the possibility the opening was formerly a doorway. The outside bays each contain one tall, narrow window featuring the same arched head, keystone, and turned brick lintels as that of the center window.

The north and south elevations of the structure present a much less formal appearance, the focus being on function. Each of the elevations is dominated by a series of openings; comprised of windows, garage doors, and a pedestrian entrance. Window openings feature segmentally arched headers, stone sills, and double-hung windows with 6/6 light configurations. The pedestrian entrances are similar in form, while the garage doors have flat span lintels, with transom glass above the door.

As noted above, the east elevation shows evidence, in the form of ghost marks, that a section of the original building has been razed. The corbiestep parapet wall of the roofline is further evidence of the former space, a fact confirmed by the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and city directory listings.

Condition

As a masonry construction, the greatest concern for this building is the condition of its brick. It is apparent that this building has recently been rehabilitated, evidenced by the good condition of its brick, and the fresh appearance of its windows and painted surfaces. However, the stone foundation shows evidence of deterioration. On the west elevation, the stone is wicking moisture into the brick courses above. If left unchecked, the moisture will lead to joint loss and brick spall.

The City Market building retains a high level of historic integrity and stands as an important example of mid-nineteenth century architecture in Davenport.

PROPERTY HISTORY

As indicated in the 1983 Svendsen/Bowers historical survey, the building at 130 W. 5th Street was constructed in 1872 to house the city market (from which it derives its historic name.) However, by 1886 the building was occupied by the Police Station, with Armory Co. B housed in the east portion of the building, now lost (variously number 120 or 122.) The 1892 city directory identifies Police Station No. 1 as the occupant of 130, with Armory Hall at 120. The police station continued to occupy the west (130) portion of the building into 1892, but by that time the east (120) section housed the "house of detention". It should be noted that the Armory Hall had moved to a freestanding building immediately east. That structure is non-extant.

By 1920 the city directories quit referring to the City Market building as 122-130, which may be an indication that the east portion of the structure had been razed by that time; an unconfirmed assertion.

The Bridewell House of Detention and Patrol Station No. 1 continued to occupy the building through, at least, 1940. The city ambulance station was also housed in the structure from about 1925 though the 1940s.

The building is currently vacant.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The City Market was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, considered significant in its association with the history of local law enforcement.

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View of the south and west elevations, looking northeast across W. 5th Street.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the west and north elevations, looking southeast across Main Street.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

View of the north and east elevations, looking west from near the Walker Flats.

The ghosts of the razed portion of the structure can be seen in this image.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

View of the east and south elevations, looking northwest from West Fifth Street.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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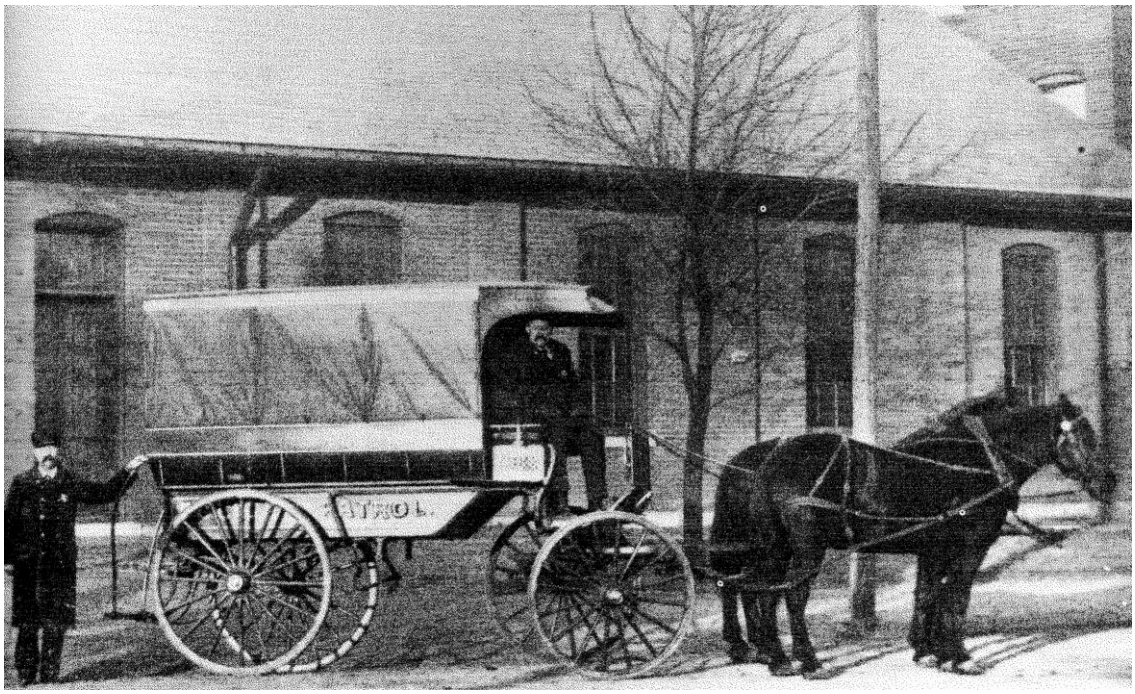

This undated, c.1886 image documents the City Patrol in front of the City Market building. The horse-drawn paddy wagon certainly puts the age of this building into perspective.

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

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The white outline indicates the location of the City Market/Bridewell House of Detention.

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

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