

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

Site Number __ 82-00308 _____
Related District Number _____

Page ____ 1 ____

Name of Property _____ Siemer, J.C.F., House _____ County _____ Scott _____

Address _____ 632 W. 3rd Street _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Siemer House is located on part of Lot 1, Block 17 of the Original Town of Davenport. The structure is sited on the northeast corner of the intersection of W. 3rd and Gaines Streets; its façade faces south. The building is neighbored on the east by the Stahmer House and on the north by a parking lot. A public sidewalk provides access to the building's entrance on West Third Street.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Siemer House is a two-story, brick structure, built on what is likely a stone foundation. The residence features stylistic details of the Late Victorian era Italianate style, seen here in the heavy, large bracketed metal cornice, the tall, narrow profile of the fenestration, and the centralized entrance. The primary façade features a highly symmetrical spacing of windows, five on the upper story and two flanking either flanking the entrance on the ground level. Small wooden headers and sills surround the windows.

Condition

As a masonry construction, the greatest concern for this building is the condition of its brick, which suffers from significant joint loss and brick damage. The bricks of the residence appear to be quite soft, with a great deal of pitting and erosion. In addition, signs of settlement cracking are evident in numerous locations across the Gaines and West Third Street elevations.

It was also noted that the paint on the metal cornice is peeling, resulting in the corrosion of the material underneath and the wooden sills beneath the windows are deteriorating.

Despite the reconfiguration of the building's entrance, the Siemer House retains a high level of historic integrity and remains a significant contributor to this historic streetscape.

PROPERTY HISTORY

As indicated in the 1983 Svendsen/Bowers historical survey, the Siemer House was constructed in 1865, its construction attributed to J.C.F. Siemer, a brickmason who came to Davenport from Schleswig-Holstein in the 1850s. The residence has been occupied by a variety of tenants over the course of its history.

Facilities of the Smith Auto Sales currently occupy the building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Siemer House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as a contributing resource to the West Third Street Historic District. The building was considered significant under Criterion A in its association with the history of Davenport growth and development specific to this portion of West Third Street.

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View of the primary (south) and west elevations, looking northeast across the intersection of W. 3rd and Gains Streets.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the Siemer House and its adjoining neighbor, the Stahmer House.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

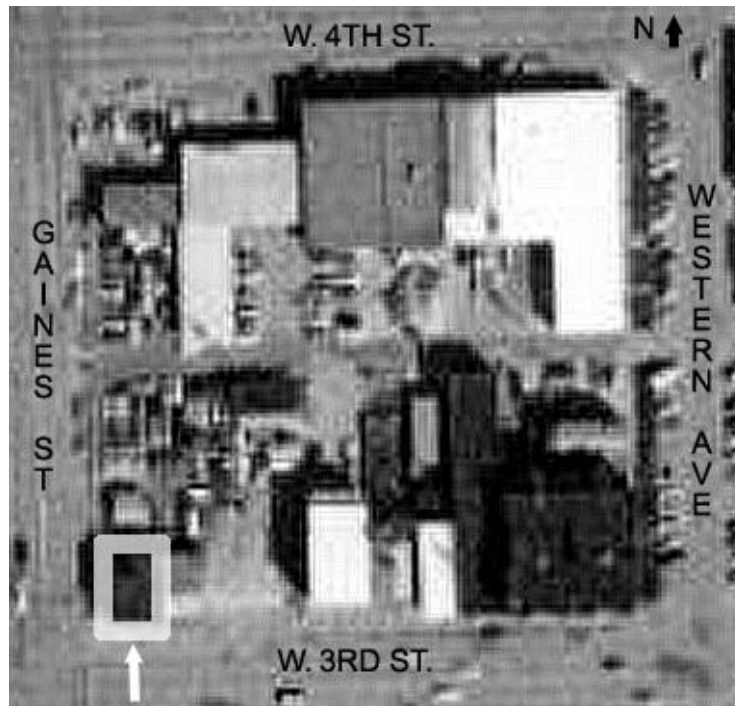
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The arrow indicates the location of the Siemer House.

(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.