

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

Site Number __ 82-01273 _____
Related District Number _____

Page __ 1 __

Name of Property _____ Petersen, W.D., Memorial Music Pavilion _____ County __ Scott _____

Address _____ Beiderbecke Drive _____ City _____ Davenport _____

SITE DESCRIPTION

The W.D. Petersen Memorial Music Pavilion, located on Beiderbecke Drive along the Davenport riverfront, is situated in Lot 1, Block 9 of the Levee Lots.

The structure is sited in LeClaire Park, a public area that runs parallel to the Mississippi River from near the base of Main Street, then westward to the Davenport Municipal Stadium. The pavilion's façade faces east and there is outdoor seating set in a concrete slab in the area immediately east of the structure.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The W.D. Petersen Memorial Music Pavilion is a concrete structure constructed on a raised stone podium. The pavilion is roughly rectangular in shape with a peaked roof leveling out to flat near the north and south walls. The structure features beautiful ornamental details that make it a truly outstanding construction.

With a decidedly exotic character, the Petersen Pavilion stands separate from the restrained Classical Revival architecture that, at the time of its construction, surrounded it (i.e. Union Station, Lend-a-Hand building.) The structure features Corinthian columns with twisted-rope shafts, minaret-shaped pinnacles, iron grated windows, and side niches. Decorative pattern work at the roofline is complex and visually active. Many of the decorative details are finished in vivid colors of blue, green, and gold, set in bold contradiction to the neutrality of the stone. The net result is an exotic and timeless beauty, a welcome surprise in this Midwestern river city.

Condition

The W.D. Petersen Memorial Music Pavilion appears to be very well maintained. There is no apparent deterioration of either construction material or applied ornament; the surface paint is vivid.

The Pavilion retains a very high level of historic integrity.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The pavilion was constructed in 1924 after a design by the locally prominent firm of Clausen & Kruse. Its construction fell within two years of the Municipal Natatorium (1922), the Lend-a-Hand Building (1923), and the Union Station and Burlington Freight House (1924); clearly a period of significant growth and change along the riverfront.

Frederick Clausen, a German immigrant who came to Davenport in 1869, founded the architectural firm of F.G. Clausen in 1871. Clausen's son, Rudolph joined him in the practice in 1904 when the firm became Clausen & Clausen. Known by various names over the course of its one hundred thirty-four year history, including Clausen & Kruse from 1914 to 1925, the firm is responsible for some of Davenport's landmark buildings including the Democrat Building, the Scott County Savings Bank and the Davenport Municipal Stadium (aka John O'Donnell Stadium). Today it is known as Scholtz-Gowey-Gere-Marolf Architects & Interior Designers and is one of the oldest architectural firms in Iowa.

The structure continues to serve the community as a music pavilion.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W.D. Petersen Memorial Music Pavilion was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. At that time, as today, the pavilion was considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an unusual and wonderful example of the Exotic Revival applied to a public music pavilion.

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View looking southwest at the front of the pavilion.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View looking southwest. Note the details of the Exotic Revival, including the minaret-shaped pinnacles at the roofline, the tile frieze, and the ornate, freestanding columns that flank the proscenium.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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View of the rear elevation, looking south from near Beiderbecke Drive.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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Detail view of the north elevation.

Note the ornate detailing of the twisted rope form of both the column shafts and the corner molding.

(SOURCE: AKAY Consulting – November 2004)

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The arrow indicates the location of the W.D. Petersen Memorial Pavilion.

(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

Database of SGGM Architects & Interior Designers. Rock Island, Illinois.

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.