

Accession #1998-18
Davenport Levee Improvement Commission Records
Range 38 Sec. 7
"Riverfront Photos 1911 – 1913"

In October 2007, twenty-three black & white photographic prints were removed from an oversize display board for preservation purposes. Digital images were taken of the board before it was dismantled to create a record of captions and original appearance of the display.

With the exception of two 4 x 5" prints, all images are 3.5 x 6" prints made from bromide negatives. The original images were taken between 1911 and 1913. These prints evidently were made sometime during or after the 1950's based on the text on the display board.

The exact date the display board was created is unknown.
The creator of the display is assumed to be the Davenport Levee Improvement Commission.
The primary purpose of the display is unknown.
The photographer is unknown.

Images are in one acid-free folder with interleaving sheets of archive paper. A digital image of the display was taken before dismantling. This provides evidence of the original arrangement of the display board.

A collection level record was added to the Procite photograph database.

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Subject of Image	Date provided for image
Construction of seawall foot of Main Street West	No date
High water, Riverfront; Main toward Brady; paddlewheel and steamboat visible in image	No date
High water, foot of Scott Street; old Boat Club; Sign on building says Davenport Boat Club	No date
LeClaire Park Area	No date
LeClaire Park fill/ filling operations LeClaire Park	no date
not yet improved - old ferry landing/ riverfront east of Harrison Street	June 22, 1912
Main Street sewer extension – nice view of Davenport's buildings in the background	August 5, 1912
LeClaire Park west of Main Street	August 16, 1912
Foot of Harrison Street; seawall construction foot of Harrison	September 3, 1912
Sewer in LeClaire Park/ sewer extension through LeClaire Park area	September 23, 1912?
View from ferry landing	September 23, 1912
East from Harrison Street/west of Main Street-fill and wall construction	September 30, 1912
Placing sand backing for retaining wall/ foot of Main Street	September 30, 1912
Sewer extension in LeClaire Park Area west of Main Street	October 7, 1912
Ripley Street/LeClaire Park Area – old Boat Club at right	October 14, 1912
LeClaire Park-west from foot Ripley Street/ completed seawall along LeClaire Park; old baot club, foot of Scott Street, center	October 14, 1912
East from foot Ripley Street/ Sea wall west of Main Street	October 14, 1912
LeClaire Park Seawall	October 21, 1912
LeClaire Park fill	October 28, 1912
LeClaire Park Area – west of Main Street/Sloping Levee, LeClaire Park	October 28, 1912
LeClaire Park Oct. 28, 1912 looking east/toward Main Street	October 28, 1912
Taken from Boat Club House; LeClaire Park Wall looking toward Main Street	August 2, 1913
Seawall from flour mill to Government Bridge	April 6, 1914

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DISPLAY "RIVERFRONT PHOTOS 1911-13"

THE PHOTOS DISPLAYED HERE ARE FROM THE FILES OF THE DAVENPORT LEVEE IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION. THEY ARE PRINTED FROM A PACKET OF OLD BROMIDE NEGATIVES WHICH WERE STORED WITH THE COMMISSION'S OLD RECORDS. THEY WERE TAKEN FROM 1911 TO 1913 DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RUBBLE SEA WALL FROM MAIN ST. TO GAINES ST. THIS WALL WAS ACTUALLY BUILT EAST TO ABOUT FEDERAL ST. BUT THE EAST SECTION WAS TORN OUT WHEN LOCK AND DAM NO. 15 & THE GOVERNMENT SEAWALL WAS BUILT.

THESE PHOTOS WILL INDICATE THE TREMENDOUS RIVERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE COMMISSION. PROBABLY THE MOST AMAZING ASPECT OF THIS PROGRAM IS THAT NOT A PENNY OF FEDERAL, STATE OR CITY TAXES HAS BEEN USED IN BRINGING ABOUT THESE IMPROVEMENTS. ALL IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE LEASE OF RECLAIMED LAND TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THE MOST NOTABLE LEASES ARE THE C.M. & ST. P. AND THE D. R.I. & N.W. RAILROADS WHOSE TRACKS ARE LOCATED ON THE LEVEE.

NOTABLE AREAS RECLAIMED FROM THE RIVER AND USED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES ARE PART LINDSEY PARK, LECLAIRE PARK MUNICIPAL STADIUM. THE STADIUM WAS BUILT BY THE COMMISSION IN THE EARLY 1930'S AND OPERATED IT UNTIL THE EARLY 1950'S WHEN IT WAS TURNED OVER TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES ARE NOW CENTERED AROUND THE FILLING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE AREA BETWEEN GAINES AND MARQUETTE STREETS. THIS AREA WILL BE USED FOR MORE RIVERFRONT PARK, INDUSTRIAL SITES AND PARKING.

See "Accession 1998-18 display" for mock up of original arrangement and captions. See also print copy of digital image of original display taken before dismantled.