

Davenport's First Neighborhood Presents

**"Gateway to our Past"**  
**The Gold Coast & Hamburg Historic**  
**District Association Home Tour**

Sunday, September 19, 2004



## About the neighborhood:

What is known today as The Gold Coast and Hamburg Historic District was home to some of the earliest settlers in Davenport. Part of the neighborhood was part of the Original town platted in 1836. Names of town founders like George Davenport and Antoine LeClaire are frequently listed within neighborhood abstracts.

Other themes emerge on today's tour. First, look carefully at the names of the homes' original owners. They are all of Germanic origin. These people were all first or second-generation mid-19th Century immigrants from Germany and Schleswig-Holstein. Arriving in Davenport, many of these immigrants might have spent their first nights at Germania House, originally a hotel and today the German American Heritage Center and also on tour today. Secondly, note how often families moved up the hill as they prospered and could afford more substantial homes. Their movement up the hill coincided with the growth of the business and industrial center downtown. The arrival of elevated train tracks on 5th Street in 1901 was one reason many residents moved to higher ground.

The names of many of the streets you'll be touring have also changed over the years. River Drive was first called First Street, and then changed to Front Street. Second through Fifth Streets were named in honor of Indian tribes. Second was named Sac, Third was named Fox, Fourth was named Ottawa, Fifth was called Chippewa, and Sixth was Pottawattamie. These names were changed sometime between 1841 and 1868.

Many of the north/south streets in and surrounding the neighborhood were named for prominent soldiers of the first decades of the 19th century. Brown, Warren, Gaines, Ripley, Scott, and Brady Street all owe their names to military figures who participated in the Black Hawk War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican-American War.

Western Street is an exception. It marked the halfway point between the east and west boundaries of the town. It was once 100 feet wide, designed as a marketplace. In the 1850's and 60's, Western Street between 4th and 5th Streets, quite near some of our tour homes, was a busy place, with roofed stalls in a market house 40 feet wide and 150 feet long where products from farms and gardens were sold directly to townspeople. One section included a firehouse. Ironically, the market house was destroyed by fire in 1873. The following year, the market moved to the northeast corner of 5th and Main.



## Architecture on Today's Tour:

On today's tour, two types of architectural styles are on display - Greek Revival and Queen Anne.

Five of the homes are Greek Revival. Although this style was prevalent across America from 1825 to 1860, the style continued to be popular in Davenport through 1880. Greek Revival was especially popular in the Midwest. Early 19th century Americans saw good reason to adapt some aspects of Greek Classicism for their homes. Greece's struggle for independence from Turkey was at its height in the 1820's, reminding Americans of their own freedom.

After Greek Independence, archaeologists and architects brought back drawings of the ruins of Athens and other cities; these drawings were published in inexpensive carpenters' handbooks. Greek Revival, with its air of antiquity, brought a sense of permanence and solidity to the spanking new American landscape. Characteristics of the style to look out for on today's tour include: wood or brick construction, impressive doorways with glass paneled sides, green shutters, a rectangular house shape with symmetrically placed windows, and circular top windows- sometimes with ornamental carved stone. Simply stated, these houses imitate the design of a Greek temple, with front roofline and recessed entrance. They may feature pillars across the front or back or, more frequently, only pilasters to give a hint of columns.

Today's tour also includes a home on Ripley Street built in the Queen Anne style (1880-1910). Queen Anne homes are less elaborate than the Victorian style, but still have many similar architectural accents. Common features include a round turret, wrap-around porch with gazebo, bay windows and gables. The exterior emphasis is on horizontal bands of varying textures and materials.

## **Music for Today's Tour**

Music is provided by a Wurlitzer Band Organ, circa 1915. The organ came from a Nebraska merry-go-round. It was also a popular model for skating rinks and fairgrounds.

The band organ contains 5 ranks of pipes which imitate the sounds of trumpets, flutes, strings, cellos, and basses as well as a bass drum, a snare drum and a cymbal. The organ is owned by Tom Dawson of Washington, Iowa.

The Iowa Chapter of the Michigan Antique phonograph Society will display and demonstrate antique radios, phonographs, music boxes, and hand cranked organs from the 1880's to the 1920's including a rare Davenport-made 1922 Tri-City radio. WOC was the first commercial radio station in America west of the Mississippi. In the early days of radio broadcasting, a number of radio manufacturers, including Tri-City Radio, were located in the Quad Cities.

## **Automobiles on Tour Today**

An auto display at Western & 7th Streets is being hosted by members of the Mississippi Valley Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA). The club has about 100 members. To enter cars or motorcycles in AACA meetings they must be at least 25 years old.

The Quad Cities Antique Ford Club has 50 members and welcomes owners of all types of antique autos to its members. It has about 50 members. This club is solely a local club, with no national affiliation.

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**Restrooms** are located at the Center City Ministries building at the corner of Western and 6th Streets and at United Neighbors at the corner of 8th and Harrison Streets.

**Refreshments:** Soft drinks and water are available for sale at 7th and Western Streets.

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### **Walking Through History:**

As visit our neighborhood today, here are some other interesting historic houses you may pass along your way. These homes are not open for tour today.

- 📍 **520 Western Avenue, ca. 1855.** This simple rough stone vernacular outbuilding is one of the few Davenport buildings constructed in stone and represents the early phase of permanent German settlement in the area.
- 📍 **517 West 7th Street Iowa College-The Simeon S. Gillett House, ca. 1848 with additions in 1891 & 1900.** This was the first home of Iowa College, which later moved to the site the present Central High School and then moved to Grinnell to become the present day Grinnell College. Greek Revival building with Colonial Revival additions. Designed by Davenport's first architect, Willet L. Carroll.
- 📍 **426 West 7th Street. The Deidrich J. Harft House, ca. 1905.** Named for the architect. Early 20th Century Craftsman style distinguished by the half-timbered upper story with a tall gabled wall dormer.
- 📍 **625 North Ripley Street The Louis Best House, ca. 1910.** The only Mission style home in the district. It was converted into apartments in 1928 at a cost of \$35,000.

### **Neighborhood Homes for Sale with Open Houses Today:**

- 📍 604 West 5th Street Dan Wittrock, 563-324-0020
- 📍 513 West 8th Street Karen Miranda, 563-323-1266
- 📍 502 West 8th Street Roe Edinger, 563-326-0992





**604 West 5th Street - The Friedrich Hartman Home, ca. 1867  
(Greek Revival)**

Friedrich Hartman was a stonemason. Its original address was actually on Western Street. Friedrich died in 1898 and his wife Margaret in 1900. The home was sold to William C. and Margaret Heuck, the proprietor of a wholesaler and shipper of butter, eggs, milk and cheese.

The house is currently under renovation. A former owner took out hallway walls, creating fluid, open spaces on the first and second floors. Most of the wood floors are original and in good condition.



614 West 5th Street - The Henry Struck, Jr. Home, ca. 1879  
(Greek Revival)

Henry Struck, Jr., was born in Schleswig-Holstein, but came to the United States via New Orleans in 1854 at age two with his parents Johanna and Henry. Henry Junior worked for his father at Struck & Son Hardware, which was located at 325 West 2nd Street. He was also the City Collector from 1886-1890, Scott County Treasurer 1890-1894, and Secretary of the Davenport Savings Bank. Struck, Jr., sold the home to Hans Soenke in 1902 when he moved to 625 Ripley Street (demolished 1910). He built "The Castle" at 615 North Ripley in 1907 as a wedding anniversary gift for his wife. Henry died in 1917.

The current owners have opened up walls on the first floor to create an open floor plan. The updated kitchen was designed by the owners and includes commercial grade appliances, poured concrete and limestone counters and a terra cotta tile floor. Eucalyptus floors grace the dining room, guest bath and front deck. The house is home to the Farmer's Market Patisserie, a bakery/coffee shop.





624 West 5th Street - The Wulf Hahn Home, ca. 1872 (Greek Revival)

This home was built for Wulf Hahn who was a farmer. He had two daughters, Miss Juliana and Miss Emilie Hahn. Hahn sold the house to F. Theodore Blunck in 1900.

The current owner's hobby is reproducing antique wallpaper and an example of his work can be seen in the front hall and parlor. This began when he bought patterns of the Basset & Vollum Wallpaper Company that began in Chicago. The owner of that company, in turn, collected antique French patterns, including some dating back to 1800. The Basset & Vollum Company moved to Galena in 1963, closing in 1990.

The current owner of the Hahn home has silk-screened antique patterns for the Governor's Mansion in Des Moines, the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan, as well as all of the wallpaper featured in the movie "The Bridges of Madison County." For that movie, he reproduced a pattern featured in the 1895 Sears catalogue now known as the Chris Johnson Vesterheim Pattern.





**623 West 6th Street - The Gustav Hageboeck Home, ca. 1869 (Greek Revival)**

Gustav Hageboeck was born in Kierspe, Westphalia, Germany, where his family owned large estates near Cologne. Their fortune was lost during the Napoleonic Wars. Reaction to the revolutionary years of the late 18th century gave rise to repressive governments in much of Europe during the first half of the 19th Century. Gustav was considered a revolutionist and imprisoned for one year in Germany. He came to America in 1852. In 1854, he met and married his wife, Anna Louise, of Lippe, Germany, in St. Louis. They traveled by steamboat to Davenport in 1858. His brother Augustus, a lithographer, followed in 1863.

Gustav began humbly as a joiner, then became a furniture manufacturer, and finally to owning a grocery and crockery business located at 802 West 3rd Street. Their children were Dr. Alfonso Hageboeck, Lina, who was a teacher and later Mrs. H. M. Koehler, and Bertha, who married C.F. Knappe. The house changed ownership several times between Gustav and his brother Augustus. It was sold in 1880 to a Mr. Carstens for \$3,000. Gustav died in 1907, and Anna Louise in 1910.

When the current owner bought the house in 1991, she discovered fragile 50-year old wallpaper rolls in coordinating colors but with different patterns in the attic. She decided to combine the patterns in the lower hallway and staircase. Upon removing one of the switch plates, she discovered fragments of the same wallpaper.





624 Western Avenue - The George Parsons Home, ca. 1880  
(Greek Revival)

The property this house sits on was originally owned by Antoine LeClaire and Captain James May, both founders of Davenport. The home was remodeled in 1917 when it was owned by an attorney, John Chezem. It was purchased in 1925 by a salesman, George Parsons. He and his wife Mabel lived in the home until his death in 1959 and hers in 1961. The house has a more modern look than some other homes in the neighborhood, perhaps in part to its later remodeling.

Greek Revival is the dominant exterior influence. Wood shake siding gives the house a unique "cottage" appearance. Interior doorframes also echo the Greek Revival influence.

The current owner recently remodeled the kitchen in keeping with the age of the home. The wainscoting is original. The double front door was likely a single door originally. The owner found the original door in the basement.





**633 Ripley Street - The Louis Naeckel Home, ca. 1880 (Queen Anne)**

The home was originally built for Thomas Boyd, but the Naeckel family occupied it for many decades. Louis worked for his father, Charles Naeckel, at Charles Naeckel & Sons Paint Store at 405 West 2nd Street. The firm also specialized in wallpaper, glass, and frames. Louis and his wife Clara originally lived at 422 West 5th Street. They were the parents of three children, Carl, Herbert, and Edna.

His father Charles was born at Koenigsberg, Prussia in 1826 and settled in Scott County in 1854. Louis had stock in Iowa Bank & Trust, North West Bank & Trust, and St. Ambrose College. Clara died on February 3, 1938 and Louis followed in 1948. 633 Ripley Street was left to their daughter Edna who had married a man named Anderson.

If the City of Davenport had had its way in the 1890's, the home would not be standing today. The city sought to seize the property in a right-of-way dispute, most likely to cut 7th Street through to Harrison. The Boyd family sued the city. After losing in local court, they took the case to the Iowa Supreme Court, where they won in about 1896.

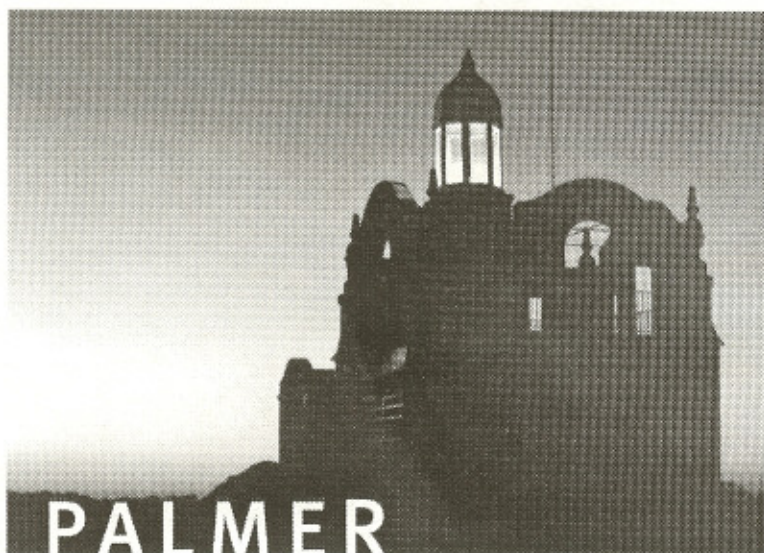




**712 West 2nd Street - The German American Heritage Center, ca. 1862**

The Center began its life as the "Germania Haus" hotel; the building enlarged in 1876 & 1877. At that time it accommodated the thousands of immigrant-settlers that funneled across the river and through Davenport to settle the area and many points west. In addition to sheltering new immigrants, the hotel was a local social spot with a tavern, restaurant, and a fourth floor designed for parties and meetings.

Saved from demolition, it was purchased and rehabilitated by the German American Heritage Center in 1995 as a regional immigration museum, and opened to the public in May 2000. The Center includes many exhibits on early German immigrants to the area and will be open 11 - 4 pm today.



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**Thank you,**

**Mike Ryan, Elmer Tuck, and Debby Chaney.**

**The Historic Mueller Mansion at 6th & Scott,  
ravaged by fire last fall, has a new roof.**

**The Gold Coast & Hamburg Historic District Neighborhood Association  
committee charged with saving this historic home from complete  
destruction has risen to the occasion.**

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and the incredible perseverance and talent of both Elmer and Mike.**

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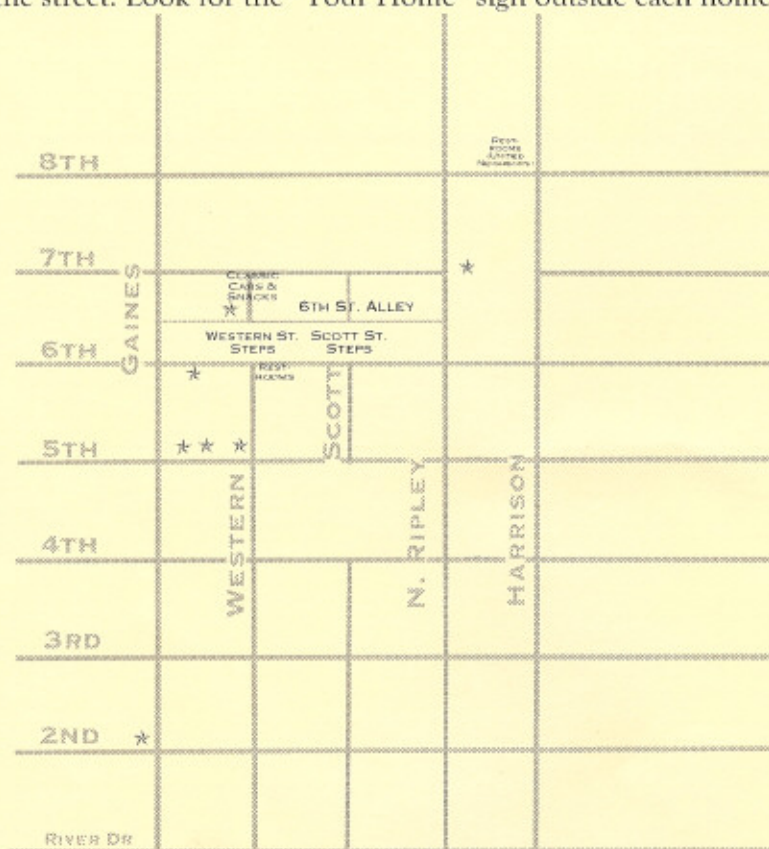
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**Tips on Touring:** Parking is available at the German American Heritage Center and along the streets of the neighborhood. If you are beginning the Tour on the south end of the neighborhood, begin at 604 5th Street and proceed west to along 5th Street. Once you've finished at 624 5th Street, go directly north across the alley and through the garden to 623 6th Street. From there, turn right and go east to the Western Street steps. The next home is located at the top of those steps. After touring 624 Western Street, go north half a block to 7th Street. Go east (right) on 7th Street one long block until it dead ends at North Ripley. 633 North Ripley is located just across the street. Look for the "Tour Home" sign outside each home.



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