
DISCOVER THE GOLD COAST 1840-1900

*A Walking Tour Brochure
of Six Homes
in
Davenport's Most Historic Neighborhood*



**Five to Nine
Ripley to Vine Streets
Davenport, Iowa**

Welcome to The Gold Coast...

Where Davenport began! Located on the south bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, The Gold Coast contains one of the highest concentrations of historically registered properties in the state of Iowa. A variety of simple homes and elegant mansions were built here from the 1840s on primarily by German immigrants who helped create an important city out of a small village.

During the nineteenth century The Gold Coast was the home of prominent physicians, bankers, dry goods and grocery wholesalers, lumber barons, newspaper publishers, brewers and other merchants and manufacturers. Some of The Gold Coast names you may recognize are Petersen, Hanssen, Beiderbecke, Mueller, Steffen, Lorenzen, and Best.

With the age of the automobile people began to build their homes further away from downtown. During the depression many families had to take on boarders and many homes had apartment units built into them. After World War II the housing crunch led to an even greater number of elegant homes being divided into rental units which eventually led to their decline.

Fortunately there is renewed interest in our area today. After years of deterioration The Gold Coast is being rediscovered by families who are reclaiming these historic properties and making them their homes.

As residents of The Gold Coast, we invite you and your families to come take a stroll or drive through our neighborhood and see the many renovation projects currently underway. Be proud of your architectural and historic heritage and help support us in our efforts to bring back Davenport's most historic neighborhood.

Residents of THE GOLD COAST



**The Henry Frahm Residence, ca. 1880
321 West Sixth Street**

This Second Empire home was built by Henry Frahm who together with his father Matthias Frahm, a German immigrant, established one of Davenport's largest breweries. The brewery, which stood adjacent to this home until October of 1992, was connected to the Frahm residence by pipes, allowing the Frahm's to drink their beer on tap in their own home.

Distinctive features include a mansard roof, complex floor plan, and decorative brick details. Three of the original five fireplaces remain intact and much of the decorative inlaid flooring and much of the original woodwork has been preserved. The original 3 1/2 story Empire Tower and porch were removed from from the east side.

Like so many homes on The Gold Coast this house was eventually divided into fifteen separate apartments. After years of neglect it was nearly demolished to make room for parking. Current owners are restoring The Frahm Residence to its former grandeur as a single family residence.



**The Henry Struck Residence, 1895.
703 Ripley Street**

Designed by architect, Benjamin F. Aufderheide, this home is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne Revival style on The Gold Coast. Originally located on the south side of West Fifth Street, the house was moved to make room for the railroad soon after its construction. It was brought to its present location by being drawn by horses up Ripley Street hill.

Distinctive features include the dual corner towers and gables, the millwork and composition panels. Much of the original woodwork and high pocket doors remain intact and some of the original fireplace mantels still remain.

Current owners are completing the arduous task of replacing the porte-cochere and porches. After having been divided into apartments, this home has also been returned to use as a single family residence.



The Iowa College, ca. 1848
517 West Sixth Street

Iowa College was established in 1846 and erected this building two years later. Sponsored by several congregational churches in southeastern Iowa, the young college graduated its first class in 1850. When a new street cut through their West 7th St. site, the college moved near 12th and Main. Hence the name "College Square." In 1859 the college was forced to move again due to street building, this time choosing to move to Grinnell, Iowa, where it then became known as Grinnell College.

Distinctive features include the wide denticular cornice, triangular front pediment and a veranda with semi-circular south side. An east wing was added in 1891 and in 1900 the veranda was constructed making this house a prominent Neo-Classical residence on The Gold Coast.

Current owners are in the process of renovating both the interior and exterior while making this massive house their home for themselves and their eight children.



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**The Charles Beiderbecke Sr. Residence, 1881.
532 West Sixth Street**

This house was the second residence of the city's most important grocery wholesalers in the period between the Civil War and 1900. In addition to the grocery firm, Beiderbecke was also president of Iowa National Bank until his death in 1901 and he also served as a director of the German Savings Bank. As a German immigrant, Beiderbecke was an active leader in the German Turner Society and the German Männerchor. His grandson was the legendary jazz musician, Bix Beiderbecke.

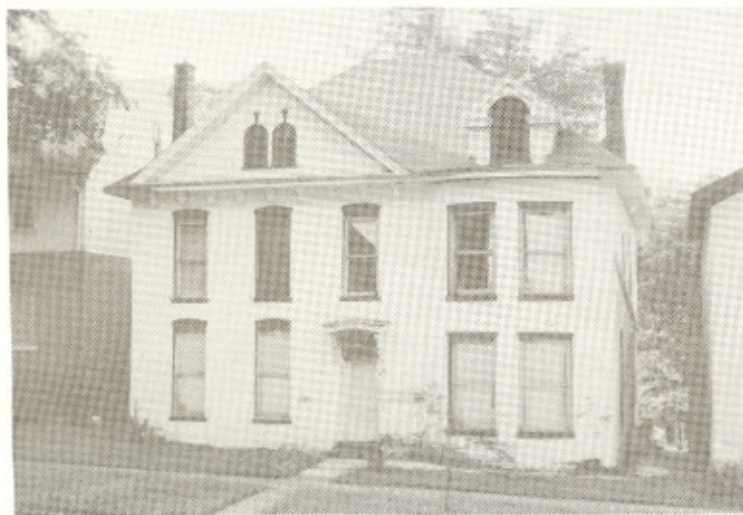
The most elaborate example of Gothic Revival style in Davenport, this house has no less than eight fireplaces, elaborate chestnut and butternut woodwork, hickory front doors and even an orchestra pit. Despite major damage done to the house after it had been four-plexed, the current owners have occupied the home for nearly three years and are near completion in their restoration efforts. Having replicated the original slate roof, completely rebuilt the chimneys, portecochere and the southeast tower, the Beiderbecke home will soon be open to the public as a bed and breakfast.



**The Petersen/Hanssen House, 1878.
"The Riverview" 629 Brown Street**

F. Max D. Petersen was a family member and business partner of J. H. C. Petersen & Sons who owned a major local dry goods store. While building The Riverview, the Petersen brothers spared no expense, commissioning craftsmen from as far away as Belgium. In 1888 the house was sold to local hardware merchant Louis Hanssen who resided here with his wife and ten children until his death in 1916. The home remained in the family until 1939. Gustav Hanssen, Louis' son, became a prominent Davenport architect and designed the "William Weise House" which now sits directly across from The Riverview on West Seventh Street.

A wonderful example of the Italianate architecture on The Gold Coast, the current owners of The Riverview have removed two of the four apartments added in 1939 and have plans to rebuild the original wrap around porch which is no longer extant on the river-side of the house. The house boasts elaborate stone hood molds, barge-boards and roof cresting and much of the original craftsmanship in the interior remains.



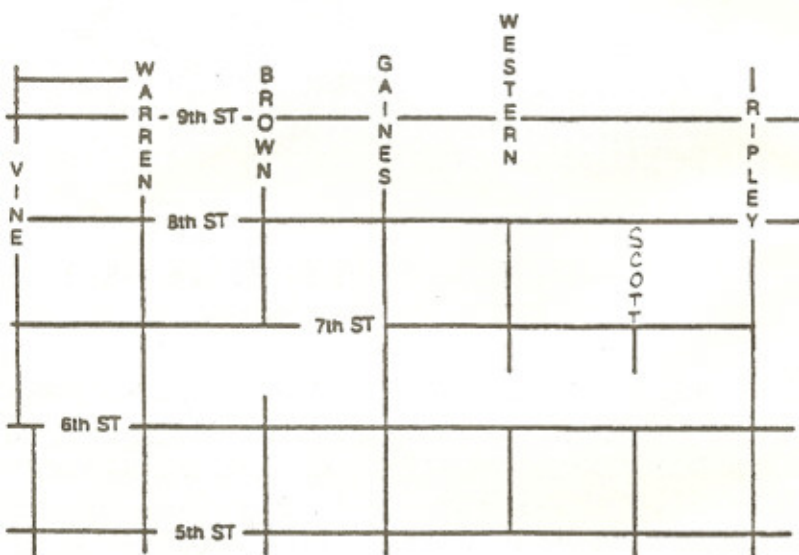
**The Charles Beiderbecke Sr. House, ca. 1870.
619 West Sixth Street**

Built after the civil war, this brick home is another example of the Greek Revival style typical of early homes built on The Gold Coast. During the 1870s, the young grocery wholesaler, Charles Beiderbecke resided here with his family until building his home on West Seventh Street two blocks away. During the 1880s and 1890s, Louis P. Best, vice-president of Davenport foundries resided here and added servants quarters, a formal dining room, master bedroom and bay windows facing south. At this time, the house received a completely new hip roof construction which was meant to harmonize the additions with the existing structure.

The formal dining room which is paneled in quarter-sawn white oak remained intact until the mid-1980s until vandals removed the fireplace mantel. At one time the house contained six apartments with plans for a seventh unit in the attic. These plans were never realized since the house had fallen into a state of disrepair and was eventually scheduled for demolition. The current owner is restoring the house as a single family home.

THE GOLD COAST

Five to Nine
Ripley to Vine
Streets
Davenport, Iowa



For information on The Gold Coast write to:
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