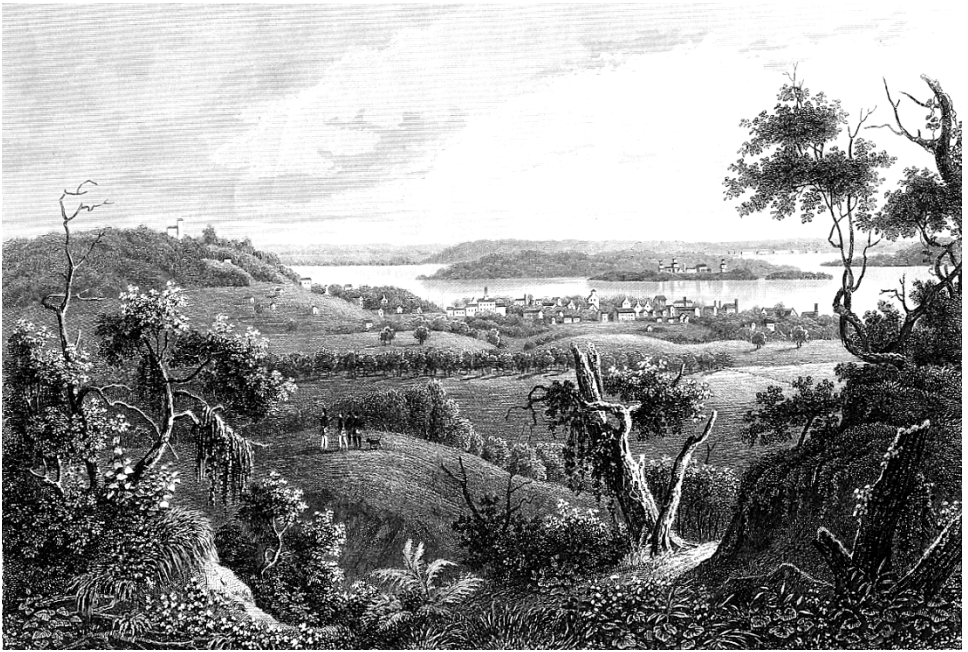


Davenport's First Neighborhood
Davenport, Iowa

2011 Tour of Historic Homes Built To Last: Jewels of The Gold Coast



Saturday, September 24, 2011 – 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, September 25, 2011 – 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Presented by
The Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Association**



The Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Association

Mission Statement:

We, as the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Association, are dedicated to preserving the built heritage of Davenport's First Neighborhood.

Additionally, we collect its histories providing context and understanding of the great importance of this district.

Because all great neighborhoods are made up of people, families, and friends, we organize and sponsor events to bring people together, support the association, and become a more powerful voice within the community.

A sampling of completed association projects include many beautification projects as tree and flower planting; maintaining a park and gazebo, historic lighting and railings; downzoning to a more residential area; designating the area as locally historic; fundraisers such as home tours; social events; meetings, etc.

For more information on the early German settlement and the historic district, contact:

- * GC-HHDA
Box 4904
Davenport, IA 52808

Email: PJ Slobojan – pjs312@q.com
Marion Meginnis – marion_meginnis@msn.com
Sara Bartholomew – sbartholomew@mchsi.com

Or, visit our website at www.davenportgoldcoast.com

- * German American Heritage Center
712 W. 2nd Street
Davenport, IA 52801

Email: infor@germanamericanheritage.org

Committee

PJ Slobojan
David Cordes

Sara Bartholomew
Marion Meginnis

Acknowledgements

The committee wishes to thank the following for their assistance with the 2011 Gold Coast Home Tour:

- ∞ German American Heritage Center
- ∞ Scott County-Bicentennial Building Parking
- ∞ Tour Volunteers and Docents

And very special thanks to:

- ∞ Our advertisers, who purchased space in this brochure.
Show your appreciation – become their customer.
- ∞ Our Tour Homeowners, for so graciously opening their homes today.
- ∞ Friendly House, for the use of their shuttle bus and drivers.

The Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Association gratefully acknowledges the support and media services of United Neighbors, Inc. Their support has been invaluable in helping us to accomplish our goals.



175 Years Ago

Davenport began as a speculative town site in 1836 on the north bank of the Mississippi River opposite two established settlements, Fort Armstrong (a U.S. Army fortification) and Stephenson, IL, now the city of Rock Island. However, the activity of Euro-American explorers, frontiersmen and military strategists preceded Davenport's founding by several hundred years.

The Mississippi River valley was first claimed for Spain by explorer De Soto in 1541. French explorers Marquette and Joliet reclaimed the area for France in 1673. At the end of the French and Indian war in 1763, France ceded the territory east of the river to England and west of the river to Spain. In 1800, possession of the area west of the river passed back to France as a result of the Treaty of San Ildefonso, and in 1803, the land became part of the U. S. as a result of the Louisiana Purchase.

Sovereignty over the region was not settled with the Louisiana Purchase as the English, and the Sac and Fox Indians disputed the U.S. claim and it took the War of 1812 to settle this. Several battles of this war, including the battle of Credit Island, in 1814 were fought in the Davenport vicinity. The U.S. originally designated all lands on the west side of the Mississippi as "Indian Lands". The natives were not eager to leave their lands and as a result, the Blackhawk War broke out in western Illinois. The fighting came to an end as a result of the Blackhawk Treaty, signed in 1832. This treaty was signed by General Winfield Scott after whom Scott County was named, and Chief Keokuk, with Antoine Le Claire as the official interpreter. The treaty stipulated not only that the natives gave up all lands east of the river, but also a fifty mile strip on the west side of the river, which became known as the Blackhawk Purchase.

The land was opened to white settlement in 1833 and in 1836, the town of Davenport was platted and lots became available for purchase. The town extended from Harrison Street on the east to the middle of the block on the west side of Warren Street and from River Drive on the south to Seventh Street on the north. About half of the area now known as the Gold Coast and/or the Hamburg Historic District lies within the original town plat.

Building in the area began mostly along 5th and 6th Streets because of the difficult topography of the bluff. In 1846, Iowa College began in a building on the hill between 6th and 7th Streets, that building was later incorporated into a large residence located at 517 W. 7th Street. The

following decades brought progress and prosperity. A large number of German immigrants settled in the area and built homes, some were small and modest, and others were large mansions, depending on the financial status of the owner. Homes continued to be built through the decades, some replacing older structures that had been lost to fire, or were torn down or moved to make way for newer and larger homes. Presently the oldest remaining houses date mostly to the 1850s.

In many cases, when the original owners of the mansions grew old and died, the homes were divided into apartments. In the beginning, these were prestigious apartments in grand old homes, but as time passed, changing housing standards, a lack of maintenance, and absentee landlords brought a general decline to the neighborhood.

A renaissance sparked by the nation's bicentennial in 1976 brought a renewed interest in history and historic architecture. This in turn has brought many new inhabitants to the area. These "urban pioneers" have invested labor, time, and money, removing many of the apartments and restoring the homes to their original grandeur. Progress in this regard continues as an ongoing effort.

Today, Gold Coast inhabitants enjoy knowing and socializing with their neighbors, living within walking distance to a thriving downtown with many attractions, living in one of the safest neighborhoods in the city, and living in an important historic district that has one of the most important collections of architecturally and historically significant buildings in the city of Davenport and the entire state of Iowa.

We're 175 years old and getting better every day!

Sources include: Davenport, where the Mississippi runs west: A survey of Davenport History & Architecture
By Svendsen, Pffiffer, & Bowers

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc. (SCHPS)

**Regular meetings on the
2nd Thursday of each month.**

Come join us for tours of public and private homes, architectural history, guest speakers, and workshops on restoration activities.



*Antoine LeClaire House
Original artwork by Ward Olson,
Davenport artist*

Membership dues only \$20 annually.

For more information, contact Judy at 563-324-7779.

Why We Believe in Historic Preservation

The Hamburg National Register Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and portions of this district were designated a Davenport Landmark District several years later. This important recognition of this very important historic neighborhood brought the attention necessary to spark interest in many people who saw the potential that existed in the old dilapidated houses and mansions, most of which had been chopped up into apartments and rooming houses. Thirty-two years later, much progress has been made, but it is an ongoing effort and there is still much left to be done.

An historic district is an area that contains significant sites that are important because of historic events that occurred there or well-known people who built or lived in them, or because they are outstanding examples of architectural design and workmanship. The buildings themselves may be monumental in scale or quite small; richly decorated or of the humblest materials; they may be commercial or residential. And, most frequently, historic districts are not places where the streets are lined with grand residences, but interconnected structures that evoke the time span in which they were created. And they all have a special quality worth preserving because they, taken as a whole, define a particular era in the life of a city or locale.

Historic districts reflect pride in the character of neighborhoods and a desire on the part of neighborhoods and the city to protect their assets. Historic districts are an important planning tool for a city, a way to improve the quality of life, and a way to ensure that new development enhances the historic character and scale of a neighborhood.

Historic designation brings about progress through appropriate redevelopment. Across the nation, historic districts compare very favorably to adjacent areas that lack historic designation. Trends or characteristics of historic districts include:

- Lower crime rates
- Higher property values
- Higher percentage of owner-occupied properties
- Fewer absentee landlords
- Greater investment in property and renovations
- Livable, sustainable neighborhoods that are pedestrian-oriented
- Quality of architecture and construction that would be unaffordable today
- An overall character that "This Place Matters" and it was built to last.

Historic districts are neighborhoods that are great places to live, raise a family, and retire.

Welcome to Davenport's Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District.

About the Jipp Home and Grocery 1868 and 1878

The Jipp store was built in 1868 and was the home and business of Christian Jipp, his wife and three children. By 1878 he was able to build the attached house and rear loading dock. The store continued as a grocery for 90 years until 1958 when it was converted to a Laundromat. The Laundromat closed in the early 1980s and was boarded up until Gateway Redevelopment Group (GRG) began its restoration in 2004.

The building now houses the Architectural Rescue Shop, a caretaker apartment, and the GC-HHDA resource center. The shop sells architectural salvage to area home renovators. Sales from the shop help fund GRG's mission of saving abandoned buildings in the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District neighborhood.

GRG is in the process of building a storage barn in the rear of the property to store our overflow stock. In order to give the building an appropriate

feel, the group decided to use repurposed barn board and batten for siding. This summer, our volunteers disassembled a 1930's barn on 53rd Street, salvaging siding, timbers and even chestnut boards that appear to have come from an even older structure. With a goal of recycling as much material as possible, even the roof boards were stripped of their shingles; that material will become new asphalt and reused in road construction.

Thank you for visiting our shop.

NOTES





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614 W. 5th Street, The Henry Struck Home

c 1877, Vernacular Italianate/Greek Revival Style

Henry Struck Jr. liked to build houses. The Gold Coast has him to thank for three structures, the one on tour today as well as a Queen Anne now located at 703 Ripley and "The Castle" at 615 Ripley.

614 W. 5th was the first of Henry's homes; we know the date it was built thanks to a notation in the 1878 Davenport City Directory detailing construction in the previous year. The cost of the "Struck Residence" in 1877, a year before Henry married Johanna Wessel, was \$2100.

Henry C. Struck Jr. was born in Schleswig-Holstein in 1853. He came to America with his parents in 1854. The family lived in New Orleans for a few months then took a steamboat to Davenport in the summer of 1855. His father, Henry C. Struck Sr., worked as a mason and stonebreaker for a year before renting a farm in Scott County. His hard work in agriculture paid off, he eventually bought hundreds of acres and the family prospered.

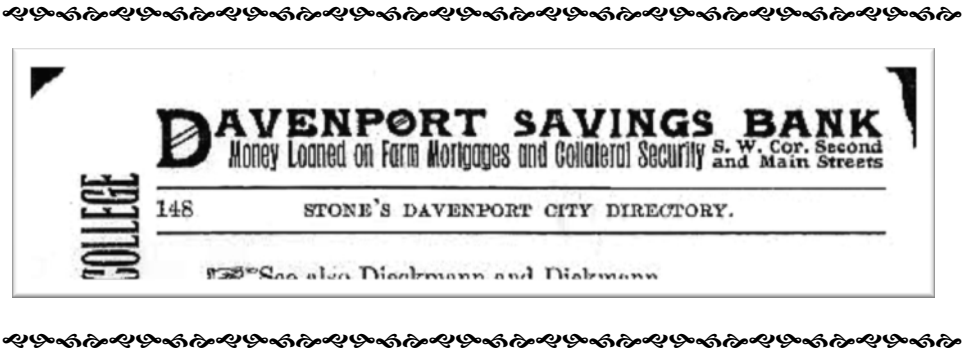
Henry Jr. begin training as a bookkeeper at age 13, working for several Davenport firms until he and his father opened Henry C. Struck & Son, a hardware store, when Henry was 25. Later, he served as city collector, then as county treasurer. In 1892, he became Secretary and Cashier for the Davenport Savings Bank, He eventually rose to the position of Director.

The Strucks lived at 614 W. 5th until they moved into their new home on Ripley in 1897.

614 W. 5th then became home to the Soeke family for the next decade. By 1920, the home had been converted to a duplex; it would remain a two-family home for almost 70 years.

From 1937 to 1971, shoemaker Dominic Giammetta owned the building, occupying one of the units and renting the second to tenants. After 1972, the duplex was not owner-occupied. By 1988, it was one of four houses on the block listed as vacant. In 1999, Mike Gustafson purchased the home and began limited renovations. The current owners purchased it in 2001.

The home is in the only part of the Gold Coast zoned for commercial use. Their plan was to open a coffee shop and chiropractic clinic, as well as retaining residential space. Work began immediately, but a waterline break on the second floor damaged kitchen renovations in 2004. Café D'Marie opened in fall 2010. The building's first floor also houses a massage therapist, open by appointment. The owners continue to maintain a home on the second floor. The opening of a chiropractic clinic is slated for 2012.





604 Gaines Street, The Henning J. Witt Home

c 1892, Queen Anne

The Henning J. Witt Home is one of the best examples of classic Queen Anne residences in the Gold Coast.

Along with the Stoltenberg Home at 911 West 7th, it is one of two homes on tour that have undergone dramatic restoration in the past two years. Despite many years as a multiple dwelling, the home retained many of its handsome features.

604 Gaines was built in 1894 by Henning J. Witt, a soda bottle manufacturer and beer distributor. A widower, Mr. Witt may have built the residence as a wedding home for his second wife and new bride Emma D. Schmidt whom he married in 1896. Mr. Witt retired from the bottling business in 1906, but continued in the management of several other business concerns until his death in 1910.

Emma continued to live on the home with her step son John C. Witt for another twenty five years. John, a lawyer was city attorney for a time and later well-known chairman of the Scott County Democratic Party during the first two elections of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He died of a heart attack at home on the eve of the 1934 election.

After John's death, Emma moved to her daughter's home on Western Avenue and the house stood vacant for two years. Emma died in 1936, and the home began the transformation from a single family residence to an owner-occupied duplex to apartments. By 1945, it was no longer owner-occupied and would not be again for fifty years.

The number of apartments increased as the years passed, rising to as many as eleven by 1949. Since most of the original floor plan was not disturbed, these apartments were likely sleeping rooms with shared bathroom facilities. After 1965, the number of units gradually decreased to three in the 1980's. The home was vacant or near vacant between 1985 and 1991. About that time, it was featured in a "Save this Old House" segment in "This Old House" magazine.

In the mid-90's, a new series of owners began the process of returning it to single family status, but restoration attempts frequently stalled.

It was purchased by Maurice and Lois Woods in 2008, and they have completed a total exterior and interior restoration.

Given its turbulent history, it is remarkable that so much of the original features of the home still exist, including two alabaster and marble fireplaces in the first floor parlor, as well as most of the home's original Eastlake trim and hardware and the barrel vault ceiling above the staircase. Rehab required many hours of stripping paint-laden woodwork, refinishing or replacing all flooring, installation of new bathrooms, repair to all ceilings and walls, removal of inappropriate windows,

major repairs to all exterior surfaces and a new paint scheme as well as all new mechanicals. New etched, leaded or stained glass inserts were created for door transoms, skylights and panels.

During restoration, original stenciling was uncovered in the foyer. The owners reproduced the pattern by creating their own stencils and replicating it by hand on all walls of the room.

A combination of vintage and new features enhanced the restoration, including a 19th century organ used as a bathroom vanity, installation of a vintage faux marble slate fireplace in the dining

room, as well as a new kitchen featuring granite countertops, two stoves and two copper sinks.

Renovation was assisted by funding from the Davenport HAPPEN program and Iowa Historic Tax Credits.





911 W. 7th Street, The Hans Stoltenberg Home

c 1870, Vernacular transitional form of Federal and Italianate Styles

This handsome brick home recently emerged from twenty years of being boarded to become a sparkling home newly rehabbed completely from top to bottom. It is proof that a building can be successfully mothballed for decades and still be returned to useful purpose.

The 1983 historic survey of the neighborhood places construction of this home at 1870. However, the first known resident was Hans Stoltenberg who lived here more than 15 years later. The first recorded owner of the land was Irish emigrant Owen McElvoy, listed as a laborer, who came to Davenport in 1854. In 1867, McElvoy and wife Catherine sold the land to shoemaker Hans Tiedemann. That transaction indicates that there was some sort of structure on the lot since it specified that the McElvoys could occupy it for six months after the sale. During the period in which Tiedemann owned it, his business and residence are listed elsewhere in the city. Tiedemann sold the lot to Hans Stoltenberg in November, 1885.

At age 18, Stoltenberg had emigrated from Germany with his parents and 11 siblings in 1847, coming directly to Scott County to farm. A few years after arrival, his father died, leaving Hans to become one of the largest farmers in the county. In 1885, Hans retired from farming and by 1887 was living at 911 W. 7th and the bustling city of Davenport where he had large real estate investments.

He became a large stockholder and Vice President of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank; his brother Claus served as President. Hans' second wife Elsabel died in 1903, and he died in 1912 at age 83. After Hans died in 1912, the home was occupied for

about five years by William Kroeger, who had taken over operation of what had been the Jipp Grocery at 8th and Gaines.

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One unique feature of the home was that it appears to have included rental property almost from its beginning, noted by 911-1/2 address designations in city directories of the time. Fire maps of the neighborhood show this as a stand-alone building located at the southwest corner of the property. By 1932, the home was not owner-occupied; it would remain rental property for the next 45 years.

In 1942, the home was subdivided into 4 rental apartments. An owner lived in one of the apartments briefly in the early 80's, and a television repair business operated out of the basement. By 1986, the home was unoccupied. It was purchased by a neighbor in 1989, secured against the elements, and left vacant until 2009 when the current owners purchased it and undertook a complete renovation.

911 7th Street is a great illustration of how to properly mothball a building for future renovation. After emptying out 50 cubic yards of waste, the 1989-2009 owners essentially sealed the "envelope," or exterior, of the building to protect it from the elements. These steps included a new roof and soffits, replacement of gutters, tuck-pointing chimneys, and boarding exterior window openings to protect original wooden window sashes.

The current owners had loved the home for many years and wanted a place large enough to host their grandchildren and other extended family. They embarked on a 14-month renovation that included installation of all new mechanicals, including geothermal heating and cooling. They stripped original windows and sashes and installed of missing glass. The effort required extensive repairs to all ceilings, walls

and floors, replacement of several floor joists damaged when the house was converted to apartments and all new plumbing. All woodwork was removed from doors and windows, stripped of many layers of paint, freshly stained, and reinstalled. Vintage pocket doors and hardware were purchased to replace missing items. Badly damaged plaster and lathe was removed from interior walls, revealing the home's original floor plan. The owners restored it with some accommodation to the requirements of a modern family. The next phase is replacement of a large 2-story porch in back.

Restoration of the home was funded in part through Davenport's HAPPEN and 100 Homes programs and through State Historic Tax Credits from Iowa.

NOTES



The history of Isabel Bloom



Born in 1908, Isabel Scherer began sculpting with clay as a young child. Creative and curious she briefly studied painting at the Art Institute of Chicago before studying sculpture at the Stone City Art Colony under American Master, Grant Wood in the early 30's. It was there she met a gifted artist, John Bloom who would later become her husband in 1938.

Inspired by her experience at Stone City, Isabel continued sculpting. In the late 40's and 50's, Isabel began experimenting with her art, replicating the bronze sculpture of the Victorian era using concrete or cast stone.

She developed the technique of "greening" by mixing blue and green dyes with water and fine white powdered cement to resemble the bronze and green shades of Victorian garden sculpture she so admired. In recent years, the selection of finishes has expanded to include weathered bronze, green, vintage rose, garden moss rose, multicolor and verdigris.

The creation of original sculpture for the Isabel Bloom collection rests in the talented hands of designer, Donna Young, Isabel's long-time protégé who continues to preserve Isabel's unique style.

Isabel Bloom
HANDCRAFTED SCULPTURE



Featured in photo: Laura with Bird, Violet, Violet (Small), Pelican, Hugging Children.

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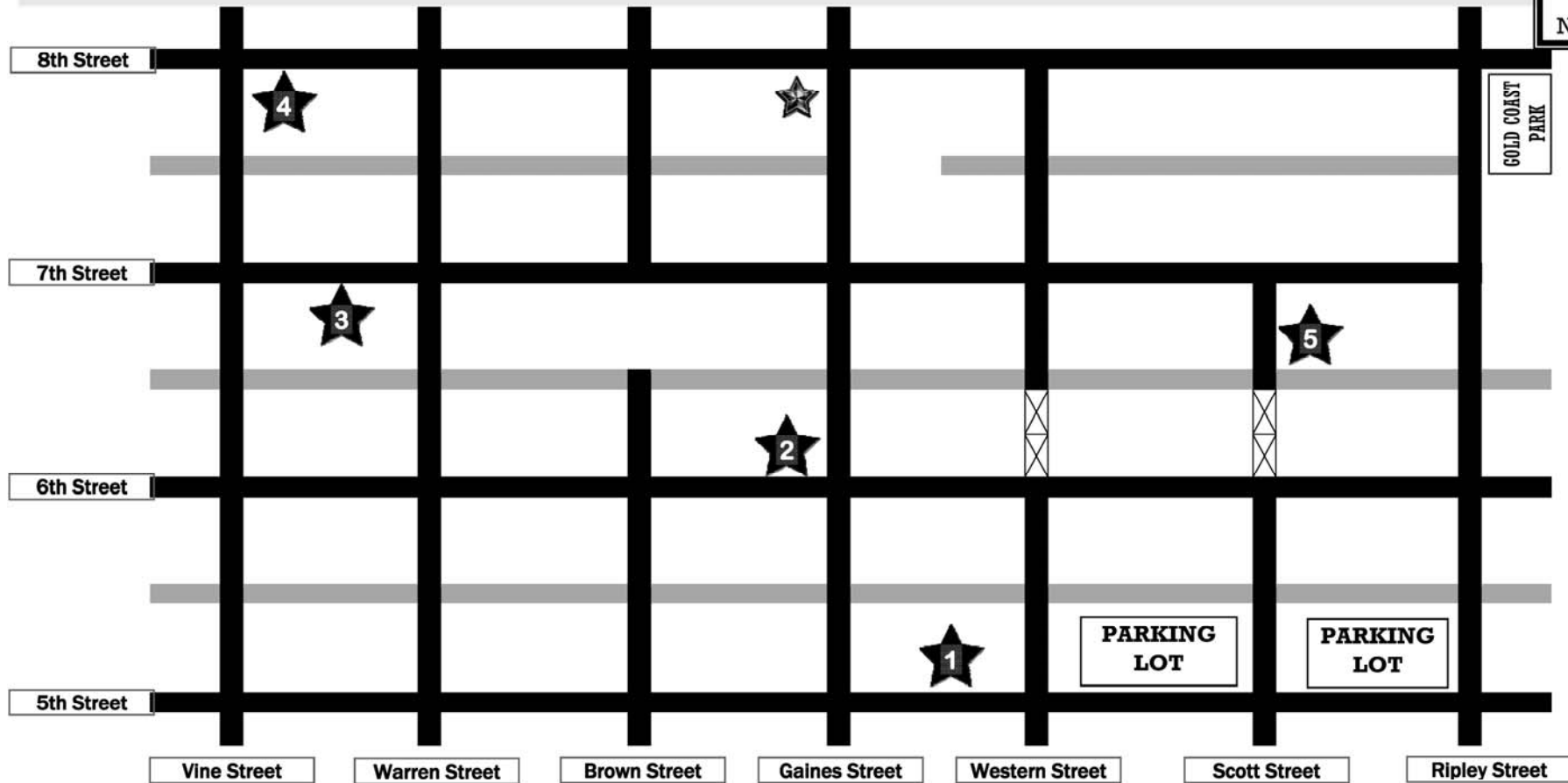
- 1 614 W. 5th Street, The Henry Struck Home;
Café d'Marie – Restrooms Available
- 2 604 Gaines Street, The Henning J. Witt Home
- 3 911 W. 7th Street, The Hans Stoltenberg Home

- 4 927 W. 8th Street, The Peter Bindschaedel Home
- 5 625 Scott Street, The Peter & Eliza Goldschmidt Home
- 6 712 W. 2nd Street, German American Heritage Center
Restrooms Available

★ The Jipp Home & Grocery – Restrooms Available



UNITED
NEIGHBORS



★ 6
↓
To German American
Heritage Center

Scott County
Courthouse



927 W. 8th Street, The Peter Bindschaedel Home c 1870, McClelland Style Davenport 2-1/2 Home

This classic Davenport "Two and a Half" house was home to the Peter Bindschaedel family for seventy years, half its 140 year history. With only six owners, it is the only home on tour that has the distinction of being owner-occupied for its entire 141 years.

Peter Bindschaedel and his wife Elizabeth were German immigrants who arrived in the US in 1853. Their first home was Buffalo, New York; they moved to the growing city of Davenport in 1857.

Peter died at 79 in 1895 and Elizabeth in 1911. Their daughter Emelia, lived with them. For a time she taught school, but she retired soon after her father's death and continued living in the home with her mother. From 1911 until her death in 1941, Emelia is listed as the only resident.



In 1942, John and Isabel Bloom, in search of a studio and space for their growing family, bought 911 W. 8th as their first Davenport home and set about renovating. In a 2001 article, Isabel recalled finding 18 layers of newspaper, likely used as insulation, under the carpeting. She also remembered that the house had been abandoned for many years when they purchased it. Although records of the day indicate otherwise, her comments might speak to the condition of the home when the Blooms purchased it.

John's studio was on the second floor, and Isabel's in the walkout basement where the old kitchen had been. Its large picture window, still in place today, allowed her to watch her boys at play in the front yard.

When the Blooms relocated to the Village of East Davenport, the home was owned briefly by Henry Roundcount, and then the Jones family. That family called 927 home from 1966 until Mrs. Jones died in 2008. It was purchased and renovated by a couple who then sold it to the current owners.



The home's style takes its name from having one basement wall above ground, and the opposite basement wall below ground, a style ideally suited for much of Davenport's river-front real estate and its characteristic cliffs and uneven terrain. Houses

of this type can have the exposed basement wall on the long or short side, and both examples still exist in the neighborhood. This home's basement walkout takes advantage of its longer face which maximizes the amount natural light shining into the basement area.

It is likely that the home once featured a south side porch projecting from the large first floor windows. These "cottage style" windows retain sashes that still lift completely into the second floor walls, allowing egress to the outside.

Recent renovations to the home include removal of old flooring to expose original fir floors, repairs to walls and ceilings, a new kitchen, and installation of new bathrooms on the first and second floor.

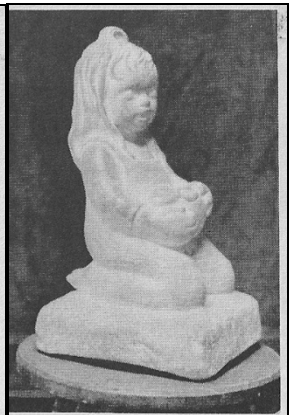
ISABEL BLOOM is a native Iowa artist with studios at 1109 Mound Street, Davenport, Iowa 52803. Telephone: 319/324-5135.

Her sculpture is cast in colored cement with a weatherproof resin finish. Most of the work done in her studio is cast from her original copyrighted molds. Some pieces are accented with Mississippi River pebbles and art glass.

She also has designed and executed commissioned sculpture for libraries, clinics, etc. Her work has been in a number of juried shows throughout the country. Currently her garden sculpture is sold in finer shops from coast to coast.

Only Authorized Sculpture is signed —

Isabel Bloom





625 Scott Street, The Peter & Eliza Goldschmidt Home

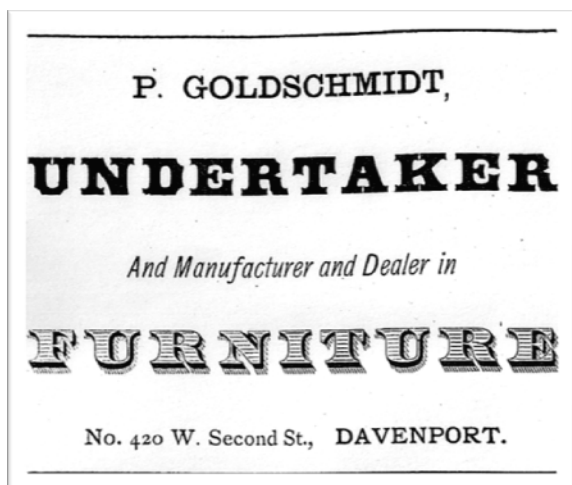
c. 1882, Gabled Italianate Style with later additions

Boasting the best Mississippi River views of any home on today's tour, 625 Scott was likely constructed around 1882. It may have been built as the retirement home for Peter and Eliza Goldschmidt and family.

Peter Goldschmidt made two trips to the US from his native Germany before settling in Davenport in 1852. His wife Eliza was also from Germany, the marriage and emigration occurring within a few months of each other. Peter worked for a cabinetmaker for a little less than a year before opening his own furniture business. He would eventually expand that into the undertaking trade as well; businesses combining both of these lines were not unusual in the 19th Century. The clean air on the quiet 6th Street bluffs must have been a welcome respite from what would have been a very busy, and likely smoky and noisy location of Peter's business at 2nd and Ripley.

Alas, Peter enjoyed his new home for only six years, dying suddenly in 1888. His widow Eliza continued living in the home for another 5 years. We can catch a glimpse of 625 Scott in a circa 1886-87 photo of the first Scott County Courthouse taken while it was being demolished. The photo shows how much the home has been altered from its 1887 profile.

The home's next occupant was Charles Voss and his family. Charles was another German emigrant, described as rising, "through his own efforts... from a humble position to the head of the largest bank in the state." He emigrated in 1867, arriving in Davenport in 1869 to work as a salesman in a dry goods store.



He left Davenport in 1874 for Avoca, Iowa, where he founded a bank. He returned to the city in 1891 to become cashier of the German Savings Bank, and was promoted to President by 1909. It is about this time that the broad front porch of 625 Scott was added. During renovations, the owner found the notation "E. Gertz 1909" carved into a beam. Gertz who was a carpenter working in Davenport at that time.

In 1915, Charles and his wife Louise moved to the posh new

Blackhawk Hotel and for the next 15 years, the residence was home to several families, including Fred Wernentin, a real estate and insurance executive, and Richard Haak, second generation cigar manufacturer.

By 1931 the house is listed with two addresses. For many of the years between 1932 and 1987, the house was not owner-occupied. In 1957, the house was further subdivided into four residences and it became known as the Cascade Apartments.

A neighborhood resident for more than twenty years, its current owner is the only one on today's tour to be part of the "Gold Coast Renaissance" that began in the 1980's. The home was purchased by him in 1987 while in repossession, when much of the neighborhood had become multi-unit rental or group homes. Unknown to him, as he was in the process of purchasing his home, three other families were making the same decision for homes within one block during a six month period, with a goal of returning them to single family occupancy. Those sales and others that followed generated the momentum to begin the process of bringing the District back to the owner-occupied neighborhood you see today.

The view is what drew the owner to 625 Scott. The home required complete restoration. It had been so altered internally that it was difficult to figure out the original floor plan. At times, openings and framing didn't make a lot of sense as to purpose or date of construction. The home's woodwork had been painted and damaged beyond repair and new woodwork was milled to the old profile and installed. Remarkably, most of the narrow oak carpeting floors, circa 1890-1900, were intact and restorable.

The owner has taken many of the rooms back to their original purpose and altering others to fit 21st Century needs. The current dining room, kitchen and bedrooms are in their original locations. All mechanicals were upgraded. Missing parts of the original staircase was repaired with salvaged items.



712 W. 2nd Street, German American Heritage Center
ca. 1862/77, High Victorian Commercial Architecture

In the mid-to-late 1800's millions of German citizens left their homeland and settled as immigrants in the United States. The 1900 U.S. Census documented that over half the citizens in Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota were German immigrants or their descendents. Scott County, where the first passenger railroad crossed the Mississippi River, was the entry point for many immigrants to the upper Midwest region and points west. In 1900, Joseph Eiboeck, a veteran German newspaperman, described Davenport as, "the most German city, not only in the State, but in all the Middle West, the center of all German activities in the State".

The German American Heritage Center began life in 1862 as the William Tell House, a "Gast Haus" or guest house, built to accommodate thousands of immigrants who arrived in the area during the great migration after the Civil War.

In 1868/69, German immigrant and Davenport manufacturer John Frederick Miller, purchased the hotel and operated it first as the Germania House and in 1873 as the Miller Hotel with an accompanying restaurant, billiard parlor and saloon. In

1906, it was renamed the Arcade Hotel and in 1917, the Henry Blessing Boarding House.

In 1924, it was renamed the Standard Hotel, the name in use for the longest period of time. The Standard closed in 1990.

The German immigrant experience is an integral part of the history and fabric of life in Iowa, in the region and in the nation. The German American Heritage Center (GAHC) was formed in 1994 to document and celebrate this heritage. Founded on August 1, 1994 as a private, not-for-profit organization, the German American Heritage Center (GAHC) seeks to preserve the heritage of our German speaking ancestors for present and future generations and to enrich our knowledge of the German immigrant experience.

This structure is the last remaining immigrant hotel of that period in the region and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The GAHC saved the building from deterioration and potential demolition by raising \$1.3 million to restore the exterior of the building and to restore the first and second floors of the four story building for use as a historical center. That work to save this historic treasure and to utilize it as the German American Heritage Center was completed in 2004.

The building was purchased in 1995, partially restored in 1999, and reopened to the public in May, 2000. In October 2009, GAHC debuted a newly expanded space that includes two traveling exhibit spaces; large program facilities; and a new interactive permanent exhibit called the "German Immigrant Experience," which takes visitors on an exploration of what it was like to be an immigrant to this area in the 1800s.

The newest exhibit "In Praise of the Pencil" celebrates the 250th anniversary of the first pencil factory in Germany. The purpose of the exhibit is to enrich public understanding of the significant role of Germany and German-Americans in the development and manufacture of the pencil as an artistic medium, a common tool in many trades, and a useful everyday object.

"In Praise of the Pencil" features:

- Local Pencil Art Show
- The Fantastic Pencil Sculptures of Jennifer Maestre
- Pencil History and Design Timeline
- Famous Pencil Fans
- Pencil Collections
- How Pencils are Made DVD and Illustrated Steps
- Pencil Trivia and more!



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campus village

As a Main Street Iowa program working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Hilltop Campus Village is proud to be a part of the tremendous work done by the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District.

We realize that our efforts to stimulate the revitalization, restoration, and redevelopment of our commercial corridors goes hand-in-hand with their efforts, and we welcome such partnerships.

*Learn more about the Hilltop Campus Village
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NOTES



Tips on Touring

Driving north, the most direct access to the tour area is via Gaines or Ripley. Driving south, find the tour area via Gaines or Harrison.

Parking

Parking is available at the German American Heritage Center, in the parking lots just north of 5th Street between Ripley and Western, and along the streets of the neighborhood.

Shuttle Bus

The Friendly House bus will be traveling the tour route within the neighborhood, free of charge. The bus will stop at each tour home, as well as the Jipp Home & Grocery.

This is a small bus and seating is limited.

Restrooms

Restrooms facilities are available at the following locations:

- ❖ The German American Heritage Center
712 W. 2nd Street
- ❖ The Jipp Home & Grocery
730/732 Gaines Street
- ❖ The Cafe d'Marie
614 W. 5th Street

A Walk through the Gold Coast

We welcome visitors to our neighborhood every season of the year. Free Walking Tour Brochures featuring over 100 homes are available at all stops on today's tour.

TICKET

ADMIT ONE ADULT

\$10.00

Children 12 & Under FREE

When Accompanied By An Adult



- ☐ 614 W. 5th Street, The Henry Struck Home
- ☐ 604 Gaines Street, The Henning J. Witt Home
- ☐ 911 W. 7th Street, The Hans Stoltenberg Home
- ☐ 927 W. 8th Street, The Peter Bindschaedel Home
- ☐ 625 Scott Street, The Peter & Eliza Goldschmidt Home
- ☐ 712 W. 2nd Street, German American Heritage Center

For more information on the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District,
visit our website at www.davenportgoldcoast.com.