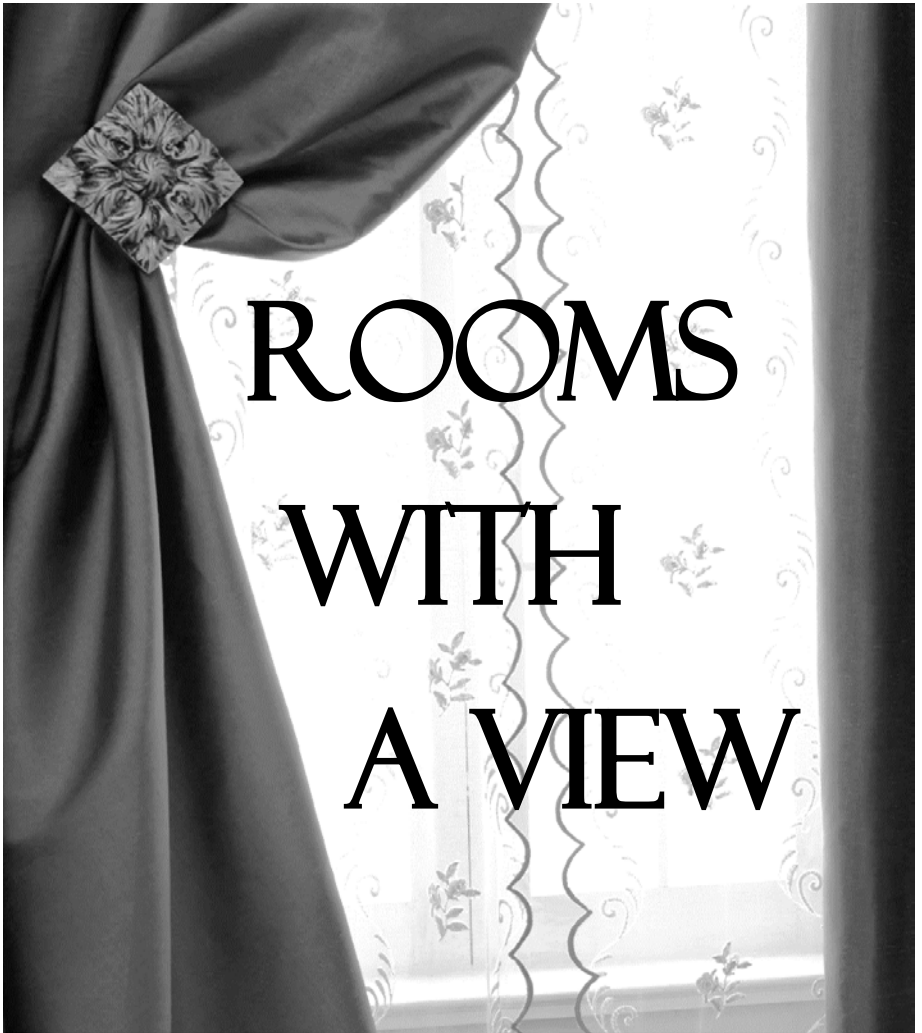


Davenport's First Neighborhood
Davenport, Iowa

**2014 Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic
District**

Home Tour



Saturday & Sunday, September 20-21 – 12:00 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: David Cordes – davidlcordes@gmail.com

Marion Meginnis – marion_meginnis@msn.com

Or, visit our website at www.davenportgoldcoast.org

A Neighborhood Welcome

It's inevitable. It happens every time our neighborhood opens its doors to visitors.

From home and garden tours to holiday teas, we pride ourselves on welcoming our guests and showing them a good time in an environment filled with old world charm and hospitality. We're proud of our homes and the work we have done, and we are happy others can share the experience.

But we know that, sometime during the visit, a visitor will lean in and say, "Can I ask you something? Do you feel safe living here?"

It's a question we've come to expect and to understand.

Officially, we're the Hamburg Historic District, with boundaries reaching from 5th to 9th, and Ripley to Vine Streets. Much of our neighborhood was included in the city's first plat laid out in 1836. Popularly known as "The Gold Coast," we were home to Davenport's German emigrant population. Many of these early residents, starting with little, with hard work became some of the wealthiest residents of the 19th century city. In 1982, a consultant was hired to catalogue historic properties in Davenport. From that effort, the Hamburg Historic District was born and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We all know the fate of many older neighborhoods, whether we live in Davenport or Moline or any other historic Midwestern city. We know many great old houses declined as newer suburbs and shopping and business areas were built away from downtowns. We watched fine single family homes divided into multiple units. Newcomers to Davenport were often advised not to live "south" of Locust.

So we understand the "safe" question when we hear it.

But the Gold Coast managed to exude a charm that trumped all concerns. The neighborhood's beauty and history and, yes, spectacular views, captured the imaginations of people who just couldn't stay away. More than thirty years ago, they begin investing in the area. House by house, the neighborhood began the long journey back to recovery. All of today's tour homes are part of that recovery and several have dramatic stories to tell.

So the answer is "Yes!" we feel safe in our homes and on our streets and we wouldn't trade our eclectic neighborhood for any other in the Quad Cities.

But often, as we've relaxed on our porches, sat up in the morning and looked out our bedroom windows, or greeted our neighbors on evening strolls, we've gazed out over the city below and the river beyond and wondered, "When is the rest of the world going to figure out how great this place is?"

We're finally beginning to believe they have. Almost every week, we hear about a new deal for rehabilitation of another older downtown building. That translates into 1300 apartments housing over 2000 downtown residents. And that kind of growth means new shops and restaurants and other amenities bringing the area back to life.

Downtown Davenport is the hottest development place in the city. We welcome the new energy and look forward to seeing what sort of neighborhood develops along the streets at the river's edge.

As longtime residents of our historic city center, we are excited about the future and what it means for the Gold Coast. We extend a hearty hand of greeting to our new downtown neighbors and businesses and to our tour guests and say:

"Welcome to The Hamburg Historic District, downtown Davenport's 'Uptown' Neighborhood!"

Committee

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Marion Meginnis | David Cordes |
| Sara Bartholomew | John Dodd |
| Glenn Peterson | Jeremy Keninger |
| PJ Slobojan | Pat Miner |

Very special thanks to:

The committee wishes to thank the following for their role in presenting the 2014 Gold Coast Home Tour:

- ⌘ Our advertisers, who purchased space in this brochure.
Show your appreciation – become their customer.
- ⌘ Our Tour Homeowners, for so graciously opening their homes today.
- ⌘ Tour Volunteers and Docents, for their invaluable assistance.

Neighborhood History

Davenport began as a speculative town site 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. 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.

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

**Membership dues only \$15 annually per address,
with newsletter delivery via email.
For US Postal delivery of newsletter,
dues are \$20 per year, per mailing address.**

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.

Thank you for coming out to share our homes and stories.



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.

The ARS is open every Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm and will be open during the tour, as well:

- ☞ Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm
- ☞ Sunday, noon to 4 pm

Thank you for visiting our shop.



Café d'Marie
614 W. 5th St.
Open During Home Tour
Restrooms available



Offering a variety of freshly-prepared light meals, including sandwiches, quiche and desserts, using locally-sourced and seasonal ingredients whenever possible.

Stop in for hot or iced coffees, teas, or a refreshing fruit smoothie.

For mortgages that get you *moving*

ihmvcu.org/StartHere



IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union
You're worth more.

Equal Housing Lender
NMLS ID 463074
Subject to credit approval

615 N. Ripley Street, The Johanna & Henry Struck, Jr. House "The Castle"

c 1909, Early 20th century Exotic Revival movement, with Craftsman and colonial detailing



About the House

The Johanna and Henry C. Struck, Jr. house, "The Castle", 615 Ripley Street was constructed in 1909 at a cost of \$8,500. Designed by Clausen & Clausen, it is one of the most unique homes in Davenport. While castle-form houses had appeared in the U. S. occasionally throughout the last half of the 1800s, they were a novelty as

opposed to a distinct style. The beginning of the twentieth century brought with it both completely new forms of architecture such as the Prairie style as well as renewed interest in revivals of styles from the past, such as Colonial and Georgian. "The Castle" falls into a rarer category known as the Exotic Revival Movement. Other local examples of this architectural phenomenon are the W. J. Wiese House, ca 1895, (Moorish Revival Villa) at 709 W Brown St and the John Schricker house, 1910, (castle-form Italian Villa Revival) at 5418 Chapel Hill Rd.

Historical Background

Henry and Johanna Struck left their mark on the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District, building three houses that all still exist. Henry was a prosperous banker, the cashier of the Davenport Savings Bank. The first house was built in 1877 at 614 W Fifth Street, now Café D' Marie. Then, in 1896 they built a large Victorian Queen Anne style house at 625 Ripley, immediately north of the Castle. This house also had somewhat of a castle like appearance with its towers and turrets. In 1903 the Strucks purchased the adjacent house to the south, the future site of "The Castle".



Birdseye View, The Castle & Grandview, c 1910

It cannot be known with certainty what their motivation was. Perhaps they were thinking of building a smaller home because their two sons were grown and would soon be leaving home.

Perhaps they were interested in the superior view. Local legend says that Johanna longed for her childhood home in Germany and desired a home that would remind her of the castles along the Rhine River.

Whatever the case, it was Johanna that commissioned architects Clausen & Clausen in 1906 to design a new home in the shape of a castle. The house features several painted and fired scenic windows that depict the Rhine river valley, so it seems that the story is likely is rooted in fact.

Although the plans were finished, they sat on the shelf for a few years until the Strucks sold their 1896 home to Louis P. Best in January of 1909. He soon moved the large home to 703 Ripley so he could build a new house as well. Best acquired the remaining three lots at the top of the hill but the Strucks kept the premium 615 Ripley property. All of the buildings were cleared and both the Best residence “Grandview” and Struck residence were built in 1909.



Henry C. Struck, Jr.

“The Castle” nestled into its very picturesque perch on the edge of the bluff at the corner of the new Ripley Street cut. The roofline has an interesting crenelated parapet wall, a tower at the corner, and rich and detailed interior finishes. Sadly, Henry died of a stroke just two years after they moved in and a few years later Johanna moved to her son’s new building, the Norma Apartments. In 1915 the home was occupied by Dr. D. J. McCarthy and in 1918 it was sold to Carl Richter, Jr. a furrier, who lived in the house for many years.

Recent Events

“The Castle” was never cut into apartments as so many of the Gold Coast houses were, and while it was relatively well-maintained, time and the elements had begun to take a toll. In 1999, Steve and Sara Bartholomew bought the house. They have made extensive repairs and improvements since that time. Some



View up the Ripley Street Hill, early 1900s

things are not as obvious as others, such as roofing, boiler, interior gutters, masonry repairs, repointing and waterproofing. Then there is a beautiful new custom kitchen, upstairs office with wood paneling and trim that looks original, garage, patio, landscaping, sun porch remodel, and much more. Steve and Sara have treated the home with the same love and care as the Strucks and Richters. The Gold Coast deeply appreciates their commitment and the resulting impact that it has had on the entire neighborhood.

519 W. 9th Street, The Friedholdt Family Double House

c 1914, Queen Anne Free Classic

Please Note: The house must be entered from the 8th Street Alley



About the House

The Friedholdt family double house was built ca. 1914. While the cost of the home is not known for certain, Hugo reported that he owned the home in the 1915 census and that the value was \$3,000. This seems rather low and by contrast in 1925 the value was reported as

\$12,000, which seems exaggerated. The style of the house is Queen Anne Free Classic. This style was one of several concurrent trends that rejected the excesses and complexities of the Victorian era styles of the late 1800s. The Queen Anne Free Classic style clung to the basic form of the prior Queen Anne style, with complicated roof lines, projecting gables, and projecting bays with chamfered corners, but the exterior finish was simplified and any stylistic elements were based in classical or colonial motifs. Gone were the turned spindles, turned porch posts, fish scale shingles, towers, turrets, etc.

Historical Background

Hugo Friedholdt was aged 24 and single in the 1915 Iowa census. He was employed as an assistant bookkeeper. He lived in the unit with the address 517 W 9th Street and his parents, Bernhard C. and Agnes Spring Friedholdt, with an unmarried daughter, Hedwig, lived in 519. Bernhard C. aged 55, was a retired drug salesman. It is not known which unit was up and which was down. By 1919 Hugo had taken a job as an assistant manager at an iron foundry in Stillwater, Minnesota and had married a woman from that state.

In the 1920 Davenport directory, Bernhard C, Agnes, and Hedwig were now living in 517 and son, Bernhard J. with wife Clara and children, Agnes, Veronica, Bernhard, Jr., and Hazel were residing in 519. In 1921, Bernhard's brother, Walter, and his wife, Esther, also moved in to 519 with Bernhard J. and family, although the directory may have made an error in the unit number. In 1922, Bernhard C. Friedholdt died leaving only Agnes and Hedwig in 517. In 1925, the directory lists Agnes, with daughter Barbara and son Walter and his wife Esther living in 517



Victor Animatograph Medallion

and Bernhard J. and Clara living in 519 with the same children as in 1920 plus two more daughters, Hazel and Anita. The 1925 Census indicates that Bernhard J. is now the owner of the home.

Bernhard J. Friedholdt was the superintendent of the Victor Animatograph Company, an early manufacturer of movie projectors founded in 1910 in Davenport, Iowa by inventor Alexander F. Victor. The company was a large producer of lantern slides, a photographic image on glass that was illuminated from behind. The firm made its first 16 mm camera and movie projector in 1923, the same year that Eastman Kodak introduced the Cine-Kodak. Victor always claimed to be first.



Promotional Photo, Victor Animatograph Company

Most houses built after 1900 in the Gold Coast replaced earlier structures that were demolished to build new homes. Such is not the case at 519 W Ninth Street; the Friedholdt double house is the first structure built on the site.

Recent Events

By the 1930s, Walter was the only family member left in the house and was renting his unit. By 1940 he had moved elsewhere and both units were occupied by renters. By the early 1990s the building had fallen into serious disrepair. The owners were served notice of a “substandard building”, but as taxes were not being paid it eventually became county property. In 1995 the city of Davenport acquired the property through the Urban Homestead program and completed substantial repairs. The property was sold to a new owner, but after a fire in February 2002, the home was again abandoned.

In 2004 the property was purchased by current owners Budd Berg and Rich Scherbarth. The transformation of the property, the result of their vision and determination has been astounding. Most of the work has been completed by their own labor. While they have kept a small rental unit in the back part of the second floor, they combined the front portion of the second story connected via the front staircase in the foyer. This was done in such a way so as to appear that it was the original configuration of the home. The improvements do not stop there, virtually every surface of the home has been reconditioned, both inside and out, resulting in an attractive, comfortable home, in a pleasing setting, surrounded by beautiful landscaping, gardens, and a water feature. New construction added a convenient garage and surface parking spaces accessed from the alley. This is another great example of living in comfort and style in the Gold Coast.



712-714 Western Avenue, The Sarah & Daniel Gould House "Westwin"

1858, Italianate and Greek Revival styles



About the House

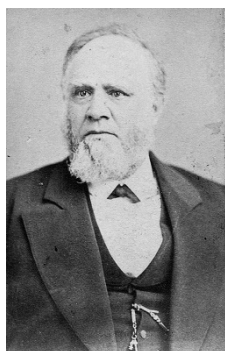
The Sarah & Daniel Gould House is so named for the man who was likely its second owner. It is among the oldest homes in the neighborhood. The brick house is built in the Greek Revival style with a three sided bay and later Stick-style added porches. It is comprised of an earlier

front gabled structure running east/west and a later gabled addition running north/south. A portion of an original wood shingle roof of the earlier structure is visible in the attic.

The house features a three-sided bay and Greek Revival style trim over the windows. The two story porches on the south side are later, likely 1880's additions. Until 1903, its wide front lawn stretched even further to Western Street. Its architect is unknown.

Historical Background

Daniel Gould was a Rhode Island Quaker who came to Davenport with his wife Sara and a partner Robert Steere in 1857. Gould and Steere established a carpet and furnishings store. After Steere moved to Muscatine, Gould opened two stores of his own on the northeast corner of Brady and Second Street. His furniture factory was located on Front Street, today's River Drive, between College and Bridge Streets. He continued in business until retiring in 1881 when he sold the enterprise to a long-time employee. When that store closed in 1901, it was the largest furniture store in Davenport. In addition to this business, he was one of the founders of the German Savings Bank. He was also a longtime member of the Davenport School Board, serving as a director, President, and head of its building committee.



Daniel Gould

**"Now is the Winter of Our Discontent
Made Glorious"**

BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AT

**41 EAST SECOND STREET,
(FORMERLY GOULD & STENZEL)**

Furniture

Of every description can be had, which consist in part of

SOFAS, TETE TETES, LOLLING CHAIRS,
CANE AND WOOD SEAT CHAIRS,
ROCKING CHAIRS, BEDSTEADS,
CHILDREN'S CHAIRS, TABLES, BUREAUS,
And lots of other things, too numerous to enumerate,
all of which will be sold at the lowest cash prices.

CARPETS

Of all kinds, from a rich Velvet to a cheap Ingrain,
with Rugs, Mats, Curtain Stuffs, Window Fixtures
and Shades, Cord and Tassels, &c., &c. Also,

Floor Oil Cloths

The largest stock ever in Davenport, just arrived,
among which are choice patterns.

Mattresses

Constantly on hand, and all kinds of Upholstery
done at short notice. Also,

A New One Horse Wagon for Sale Low.

DANIEL GOULD,

41 EAST SECOND STREET.

Newspaper Advertisement, April 1860, Gould Furniture

Gould came from a long line of Rhode Island Quakers. His namesake, the first Daniel Gould born in America, was mocked and beaten for being a Quaker. Daniel and Sarah were early supporters of the Davenport Unitarian Church, but Daniel maintained a lifelong allegiance to the religion of his forbearers.

According to his obituary, Gould was involved in the Underground Railroad, hiding escaping slaves under the blankets of his carriage or sleigh as he carried them to the next stop on their journey. His obituary is not clear as to whether this activity took place in Davenport or his native Rhode Island.

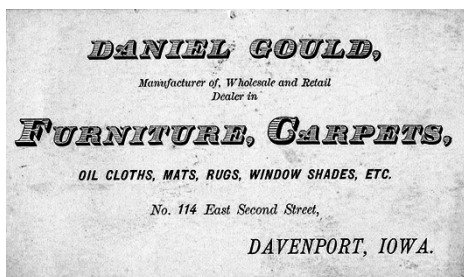
Gould sold the home to Hans and Caroline Thomsen. Thomsen was Bookkeeper for the German Savings

Bank. The Thomsen sold to the McHarg family, who owned the property for almost than 50 years.

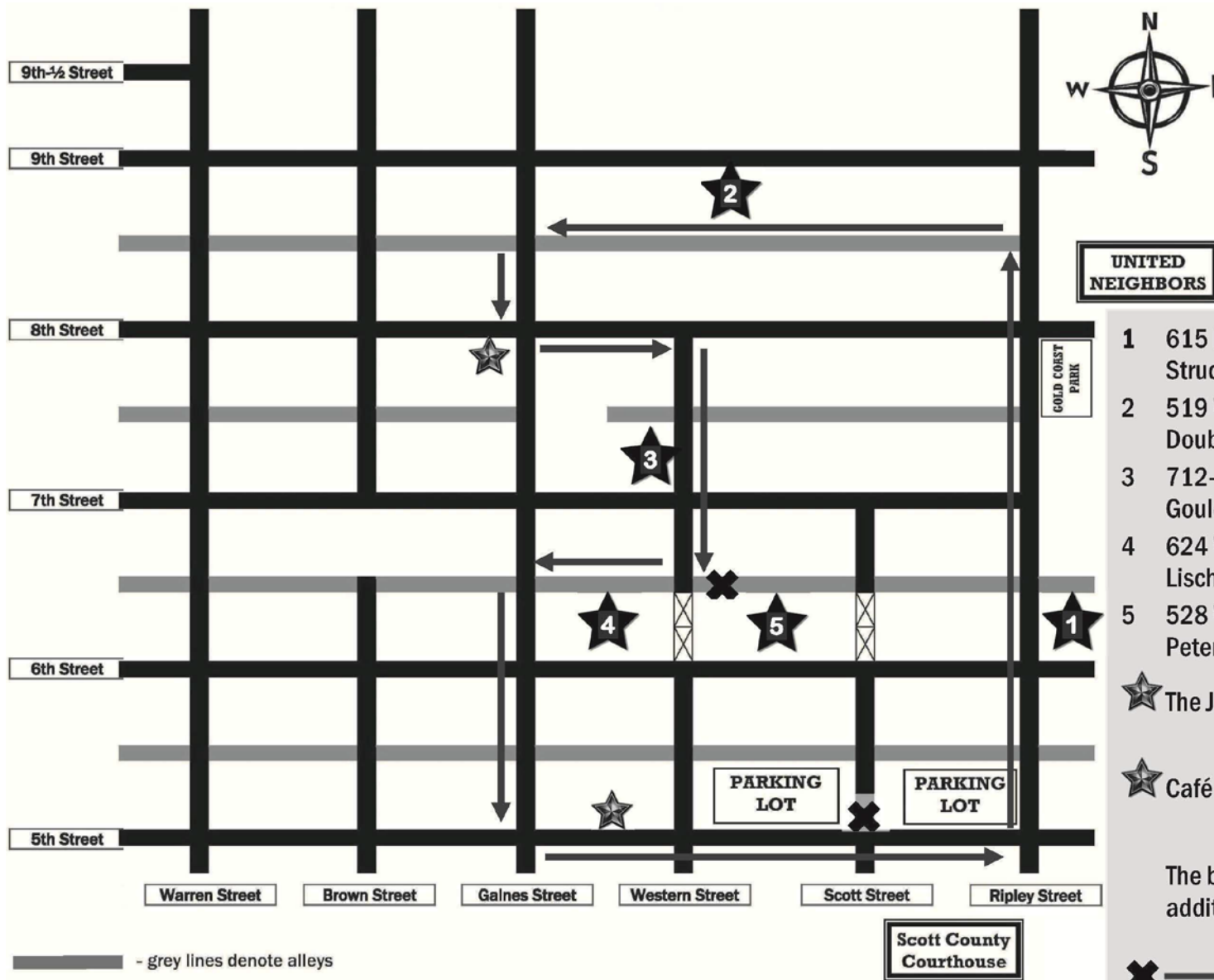
Recent Events

The house includes both the owner's residence and two story rental on the west side. A three year renovation of the interior and exterior has just been completed. All three stories of the owner's home are open for view today, including newly renovated attic space with a spectacular river view. Among the home's many features are vintage lighting, antique furnishings, beautiful stained glass, handmade wallpaper, and two beautiful encaustic tile floors, one in the foyer and the other on the hearth of the painted slate fireplace.

In August, the home was honored with a statewide Preservation at Its Best Award from Preservation Iowa.



Daniel Gould Business Card



- 1 615 N. Ripley St, The Johanna & Henry Struck House
- 2 519 W. 9th St, The Friedholdt Family Double House
- 3 712-714 Western Ave, The Sarah & Daniel Gould House
- 4 624 W. 6th St, The Anna & Henry Lischer House
- 5 528 W. 6th St, The Sara & William Petersen House

★ The Jipp Home & Grocery – Restrooms Available

★ Café d'Marie – Food and Beverage, Restrooms Available

The bus will stop at each location above and additional stops as marked.

✕ → Bus Route and Additional Stop

624 W. 6th Street, The Anna & Henry Lischer House

c 1870, outstanding example of Italianate style



About the House

The Anna and Henry Lischer House is an example of Italianate style, Tuscan Villa variant, architecture. Its asymmetrical front is ornamented by brick pilasters. The semi-circular porch was a later addition when the house was enlarged and a two-story section was added at the northwest corner. Other exterior

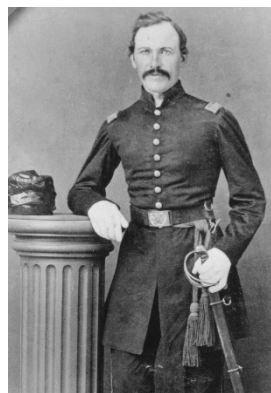
features include wide overhanging eaves and roof brackets and arched second floor windows which are typical of the style. A chemical paint test revealed that the original color was an ochre, or dark mustard. The house was locally landmarked by Davenport in 1993.

Historical Background

The house was built for the Lischer family in 1871 and was designed by architect F. G. Clausen.

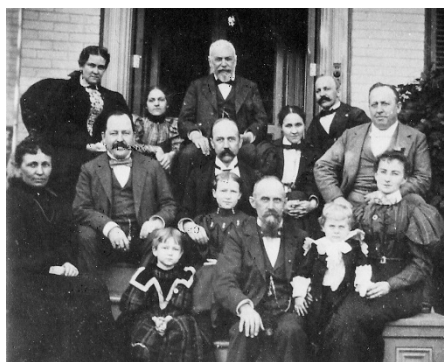
Henry Lischer was the publisher of *Der Demokrat*, a large German language newspaper, and founder of the German Savings Bank. Both Henry (b. 1828) and Anna (b. 1829) were German immigrants whose parents settled in the St. Louis area. Henry began his career in journalism as a teenager there and he and Anna were married in the city in 1853. He came to Davenport in 1856 and bought *Der Demokrat*, returning to St. Louis after the purchase. When the newspaper failed to thrive, he came back to Davenport to live permanently. The lot for 624 W. 6th Street was purchased by Lischer in 1867. For the design of his new house in his new hometown, Lischer chose young architect Frederick George Clausen who has recently arrived from Germany.

F. G. Clausen went on to establish the most prolific architectural firm in Davenport during the late 19th and early 20th century. Working alone and then with other partners including son Rudolph, he designed commercial and residential buildings in many styles. Within the Gold Coast, "The



Henry Lischer in Uniform from the Mexican-American War

Castle,” also on tour today, as well as the nearby “Overview” are part of the Clausen legacy. The Lischer House is believed to be Clausen’s first large architectural project in Davenport. Anna and Henry must have liked what they saw in the young man; three years after the Lischer house was completed, Clausen married their daughter Johanna.



Lischer Family Photo, Front Steps, c 1890

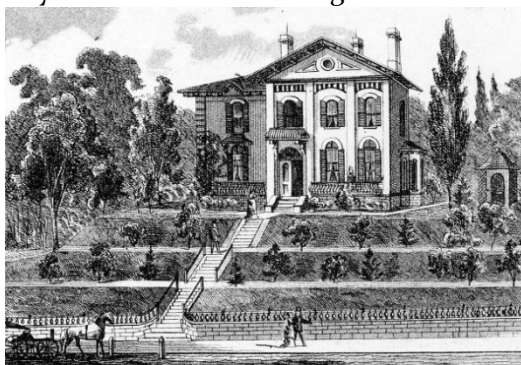
The house is designed with a central hallways on the first and second floors. In most of the house, the wide fir trim originally was painted wood grain. The library, part of the later addition, features quarter-sawn oak trim with an Arts and Crafts design. The front hall originally was decorated with frescoed walls in a trompe l’oeil (“trick of the eye”). Covered by alterations more than 100 years ago, a small fragment of this design has been discovered in the

first floor hallway underneath a piece of circa 1890’s anaglyptic wainscoting.

Recent Events

The house was converted to apartments in the late 1930’s. It was purchased by the current owners in 2006 after it had failed a rental inspection and had been closed by the city. It had been divided into six units, with closets and bathrooms fitted into the 1st and 2nd floor hallways. In returning the home to single family use, the owners removed these obstructions. They have retained and reused as much salvaged material as possible including trim, doors and original fir and oak flooring. A grey and rose marble fireplace in the east parlor and a section of the library bookcases that had been removed from the house were located, purchased, and reinstalled by the new owners. The kitchen and pantry cabinets and the dining room sideboard are items salvaged from buildings that have been demolished. Restoration of the home is ongoing.

In 2011, the house received the State Historical Society of Iowa’s Judith A. McClure Award for outstanding preservation of a residential property.



H. Lischer Residence, Davenport, Iowa – c 1875

528 W. 6th Street, The Sara & William Petersen House

c 1876, Stick Style/Gothic Revival; recent addition of faux Tudor exterior

Please Note: The house must be entered from the 6th Street Alley



About the House

The William and Sarah Petersen House looks very different than it did in 1876 when it was built for its first owner.

No early pictures of the home are known to exist. Underneath the later Tudor Revival stucco, likely added after 1950, is a

wood clapboard home with Gothic windows and arches. From the inside, unusual "coffin-topped" windows and trim are visible. These are original to the home. The house was further modified sometime in its life with an addition at the rear; that is evidenced by part of an old lower wood shingle roofline in the back area of the attic.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1925

Genuine Red Label Nationally
Advised

B-V-D's

All sizes
36 to
46 at
98c

This fine quality raincoat—the
ideal summer union suit for men.
A birthday gift. Limit two to a
customer. No phone or mail or-
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J.H.C. Petersen's Sons Co.

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APRIL 20 MAY 2

Ten *—standard goods
—standard qualities
—at lower prices* **Days**

New Spring Coats and Dresses
Direct from the Makers for
Our 53rd Anniversary Sale

All were purchased at a price concession for this event and are
being sold to our customers and friends at those remarkable An-
niversary sale prices.

The COATS—

\$15

Black and Navy Plaid Tulle and stain-
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crêpe silk. Every coat is brand new, in
size 16 up to 46.

The DRESSES—

\$10.75 \$15.

—and—

Embodying all the new style features—versatile effects, basic effects,
knee flare, chapped necks, lace yokes. Dresses with short or long sleeves,
sleeveless designs.

Materials include plain and printed crepes, georgette and print con-
tributions and also the new printed chignons.

\$10.75 Dresses in sizes—16 to 42.
\$15.00 Dresses in all sizes up to 60.

\$2.00 All-Silk Printed 36-inch
PONGEE

Per yard - - - - - **\$1.39**

LOVELY patterns to select from
in this 36 inch all silk printed
pongee. Three yards in all that
is needed for the average frock and
any of these patterns will make up
into a pretty dress. Only \$20 yards
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—Petersen's Sons Co.

Newspaper Advertisement, J.H.C. Petersen's Sons Co., April 1925

Historical Background

William Petersen was one of the “Sons” in the very successful J. H. C. Petersen & Sons dry good stores. William emigrated from Germany with his family in 1852. The family lived on a farm near Mayesville before moving to Davenport in 1863. When they did move, William and his brother Henry walked the twelve miles to their new home. During the Civil War, he made money selling newspapers and working in his father’s match factory. He later worked as a clerk in several Davenport retail stores. The Petersen family attempted several business concerns that were not successful. But in 1872, with money that William, brother Henry and father Johann had saved, they established a department store which grew to be the largest in Davenport and in the state of Iowa. It was later sold and is today part of the Von Maur Company.

Davenport’s industrial riverfront was changing in the early 20th century, William was active in promoting a conversion to a more recreational area. He served on the Davenport Levee Commission from its beginning, and became known as “The Father of the Levee.” At one point, he used his own money to purchase Maple and Willow Islands, holding them in trust until the city was able to find the funds to purchase them from him for the same price he had paid. This gave the city more control of its riverfront and its development. In 1923, he donated the beautiful LeClaire Park Band Shell, built at a cost of \$60,000, in memory of his deceased daughter Wilma, a thoughtful gift that Davenport still enjoys today.

William and Sarah lived on West 6th Street for about twenty years. About 1895, they moved to a grand Second Empire house at 808 Brady Street, now part of the Palmer College campus. The next occupant of the house was Richard Schricker of Rascher, Schricker & Rascher Hardware.

Recent Events

About 1935, the house began to be converted to apartments, first with an owner in residence and, by 1960, as a rental property with its owners living elsewhere. During recent years, badly managed by absentee landlords, it had become a blighted property and the source of concern for the neighborhood. In 2011, it was purchased by a new owner who converted the two upstairs apartments to a residence while retaining two first floor rental units. The owner’s section is on today’s tour. Bedrooms on the east and west open onto an open concept floor plan with the kitchen, living room and dining room flowing into each other, creating a spacious, airy feel. The views from the front windows look out on the Davenport skyline. Thanks to responsible ownership, William and Sarah Petersen’s house is once again a neighborhood asset.

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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 in the parking lots just north of 5th Street between Ripley and Western, and along the streets of the neighborhood.

Shuttle Bus

A 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, Café d'Marie, and between the parking lots on 5th Street.

This is a small bus and seating is limited.

Restrooms

Restrooms facilities are available at the following locations:

- ❖ The Jipp Home & Grocery
730/732 Gaines Street
- ❖ 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 Neighborhood Architectural Guides, featuring over 100 homes, are available at all stops on today's tour.

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615 N. Ripley St, The Johanna & Henry Struck, Jr. House

☐

519 W. 9th St, The Friedholdt Family Double House

☐

712-714 Western Ave, The Sarah & Daniel Gould House

☐

624 W. 6th St, The Anna & Henry Lischer House

☐

528 W. 6th St, The Sara & William Petersen House

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