

GOLD COAST-HAMBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT ❖ TOUR OF HOMES ❖ 12~4 PM



Davenport's First Neighborhood



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 the association's activities and completed projects include many beautification projects such 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

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Or, visit our website at www.davenportgoldcoast.org

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From the GC-HHDA President

Welcome to the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District. Some of the homes on tour were neglected, abandoned, or facing demolition before their renovation. Our residents believe in Davenport's neighborhoods, investing in inner city historic districts, and preserving the historic fabric of this city.

A big thank-you to the German American Heritage Center for joining our tour. Your ticket will admit you to their fine museum, with interesting traveling and permanent exhibits.

Very special thanks to:

- ❖ Our advertisers, who purchased space in this brochure. Their financial support helps offset the expenses of presenting this tour.
Show your appreciation ~ become their customer.
- ❖ Our Tour Homeowners, for so graciously opening their homes today.
- ❖ The Tour Committee, Volunteers, and Docents, for their countless hours of hard work and invaluable assistance.

And, last but not least, THANK YOU our guests, for attending this tour. We hope you enjoy this glimpse into the past, and look forward to seeing you at the next tour.

Duane E. Timm

President, the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Association



A Gold Coast Sampler

The Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Neighborhood Tour

"A Gold Coast Sampler," this year's tour theme, reflects the variety of house forms open for view. All were popular styles during the decades of the neighborhood's development. They have sheltered many families since their construction.

The neighborhood developed over time and was occupied by people of differing means and family size. A drive down any Gold Coast street showcases an eclectic mix of Foursquare, Queen Anne, and Italianate design as well as simple cottages. Three of this year's homes, perhaps because of their size, remained owner-occupied across time. A fourth was sub-divided to include a small apartment within a larger owner-occupied home. The fifth was split into rental units for fifty years.

Gold Coast neighbors have been inviting others into their homes for 33 years. The first was a 1991 invitation to 200 real estate agents, politicians, and interested individuals. The goal was to show them how a challenged neighborhood could be rescued from wear and decay and restored to a lovely, lively community of homes by industrious and dedicated residents.

Since then, the Gold Coast has continued opening its doors to the public during 22 different home tours. Other events like garden walks and holiday teas have also welcomed visitors.

Perhaps our Tour of Homes is one reason why "Sampler" is an apt word to describe the people who live in the Gold Coast neighborhood. Many of our residents are former tour guests who liked both what they saw and the welcoming people they met.

Diverse in any way that term can be measured, coming from many places or at home here all their lives, many Gold Coast neighbors are actively engaged in the place they call home. We are the living Gold Coast Sampler, and together we repair and create anew not only the structures that comprise Davenport's first neighborhood, but also the relationships that allow all of us to thrive here.

Our sampler blends the shiny colors of our newest residents with the weathered hues of those who have spent decades here. That combination lends strength and beauty to the life of the neighborhood that we love. We hope you love it, too. Welcome to the Gold Coast!



Take A Chance To Take Home Amazing Original Art Celebrating The Home Tour



We have Gold Coast resident Meredith Muskovich to thank for the cross-stitch sampler that celebrates the theme of this year's tour. Encouraged by her mother, she's been knitting, crocheting, and doing needlework since age seven. The framed sampler will be raffled during this year's tour with funds going to the Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District neighborhood association.

Meredith and partner David Plecenik moved to Davenport from Pittsburgh in late 2019. They opted to rent an historic Gold Coast home. They loved the home, its owners, and Davenport's laid-back ambiance.

In 2020 and part of 2021, the pandemic lock down left them isolated in a new town. When life picked up again, they became very active in the Gold Coast neighborhood association. David serves on the board and both he and Meredith are members of this year's tour committee. In 2023, they purchased a Gold Coast home of their own.

When the theme "Gold Coast Sampler" was selected, Meredith's thoughts turned immediately to a cross-stitch sampler. With the committee's blessing, she designed and executed a piece that incorporates the known construction dates of our earliest and latest historic structures, tiny examples of each of the five homes on tour this year, and the dates of the 2024 tour, all surrounded by lovely flowers.

During the tour, the piece will be on display at the Meier Home at 519 W. 8th Street. Raffle tickets will be for sale at two locations: the Meier Home and at the Goldschmidt Home at 625 Scott Street. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The winner will be contacted at the conclusion of the tour.



**Guided Tours of the
Colonel Davenport House**
May to October • Arsenal Island



George Davenport

Ghost Tales

Saturday, Sept. 28th
House Tours: 5:30 p.m.
Spooky Tales: 7:00 p.m.



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OPEN

TUES - SAT
10AM - 4PM



The Johanna (Lischer) & Frederick G. Clausen Home

630 W. 6th Street ❖ c 1865 ❖ Vernacular Italianate/Greek Revival;
McClelland-type house

About the House



The Clausen House is a simple two-story brick building with little exterior ornamentation. It falls under the category of "vernacular" which simply means "architecture concerned with domestic and functional purposes rather than monumental buildings." So, in a sense, it is home grown architecture that is characteristic of a particular region. In this case, the style relates to homes constructed by the T. W. McClelland Company. McClelland was a carpenter who came to Davenport in 1852 and began by manufacturing house parts and then expanded to building homes in Davenport, where population was booming in the mid to late 19th century.

The reasons why F. G. Clausen decided to leave his native Germany in 1869 and come to America and to Davenport are buried in the past. Before leaving Schleswig-Holstein, he had been awarded journeyman status. We know that he began working for the T. W. McClelland Company briefly before opening his own firm. It is unclear if he designed at 630 W. 6th Street. From a newspaper notation that Johanna had received a "royal gift" from her father upon marrying, and the fact that the house was in her name, it is very likely that it was a wedding gift to her.



The Clausen and Lischer families on the steps of 624 W. 6th St., c 1890 with Fritz Clausen and Johanna Lischer Clausen, right, front row. Family Patriarch Henry Lischer is center, back row.

We can only speculate that his close association with the Lischer family brought him in contact with Johanna Lischer and that romance followed. In 1873, Fritz and Johanna married. Henry Lischer bought the southern part of the parcel to the east. We believe that Fritz designed the house that was constructed at 630 W. 6th Street where he and Johanna and their family would live for the next twenty years. A pathway still connects the two family homes.

The house has changed since it was constructed. The front porch

was added after 1892. Prior to that, a narrow roof covered the front entry. It is on the interior that the house goes from ordinary to extraordinary; original painted grain woodwork still exists in many areas and parlor and dining room floors are of patterned wood. The most remarkable feature is the winder staircase in the front hall. No two stairs are parallel; each angles slightly, allowing the assembly to rise to the second floor in a confined space without a landing.

After the Clausens moved next door to live with Johanna's widowed father, the house was occupied by various tenants and owners for the next fifteen years. Beginning in 1917, Phillip and Elsie Wagner lived in the home for more than half a century. Subsequent owners continued its use as a single-family home.

Recent History

The home was purchased by new owners in 2014. The home had been generally well cared for but needed mechanical updates and repairs to plaster walls, ceilings, and to original windows. Carpeting and vinyl tile were removed and wood floors refinished. On the second floor, vintage wallpaper has been retained. A "new-old" kitchen is an added feature. The house is furnished with vintage furniture and light fixtures, a nod to the building's 19th century roots.

In 2023, the house was the primary location for the locally produced film, "House on Rockingham" by Davenport filmmaker Stephen Folker.



Stephen Folker won Best Direction at the Iowa Motion Picture Association, Best Thriller at the PopCon International Film Festival, and was an Official Selection at the Maryland International Film Festival.



The Elise (Hinrichsen) & Peter Goldschmidt Home

625 Scott Street ❖ c 1882 ❖ *Early gabled Italianate style house; modernized with Colonial details and a large wrap-around porch*

About the House



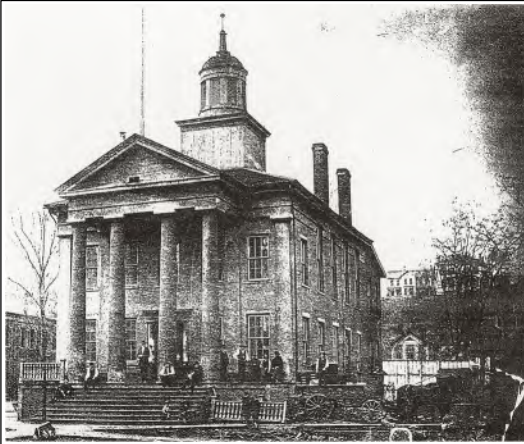
Boasting the best Mississippi River views of any home on today's tour, 625 Scott was likely constructed around 1882. It may have been built as the retirement home for Peter and Eliza Goldschmidt and family.

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; combining these two lines of business was common in the 19th century. Goldschmidt constructed a brick building with 3 store fronts at Ripley and W. 2nd Street that was also the family's residence.

Goldschmidt retired in 1882, selling his business to one of his workers and the family moved to 625 Scott Street. 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 downtown location.

Alas, Peter enjoyed his new home for only six years, dying suddenly in 1888. His widow Eliza continued living in the home with several young adult children 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.



Davenport's early courthouse to the left, with the Goldschmidt home to the right on the bluff.

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, then President in 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 was a Davenport carpenter. 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.

Recent History

The home's restoration was part of the "Gold Coast Renaissance" that began in the 1980's. The owner purchased the repossessed building in 1987, drawn to its magnificent views. Significant alterations made it difficult to determine its original layout. The woodwork had been damaged or painted beyond repair. New woodwork, milled to match the original was installed. Missing parts of the staircase were replaced with salvaged elements. The narrow "oak carpeting" flooring was intact and restorable.

Others were also buying nearby houses. The late 1980s restorations of this home and others were part of the "Gold Coast Renaissance" that began turning a deteriorating and vacant area into a vibrant neighborhood.



The Wilhelmina P. "Minnie" (Haak) & Charles E. Meier Home

519 W. 8th Street ❖ 1905 ❖ American Foursquare/Craftsman style;
Georgian Revival detailing.

About the House



This home is an extremely well preserved and classic example of architecture from the Prairie School, often described as American Four Square. It was built in 1905 for Charles Meier and his wife Minnie Haak.

The home was designed by Davenport architect Deitrich J. Harfst whose neighborhood home still stands at 427 W. 7th Street. A May 1905 newspaper article notes that a tradesman is installing "fine old mission and colonial fixtures"; by June, the newspaper reports that Minnie and Charles celebrated their fifteenth wedding anniversary with "dinner, cards and dancing" in their "beautiful new home."



Minnie and Charles Meier home c 1920.



The family of Elmer and Ruthaline Smith, posing in front of the home in the 1960s, when it still retained most of its original exterior features.

The house was listed in Minnie's name. Her father was Ferdinand Haak, a prominent local cigar manufacturer whose factory still stands at the southeast corner of Western and West 4th Streets which was also designed by Harfst. Charles was co-owner of the real estate and insurance company, Weir and Meier, and vice president of his father-in-law's firm. Both Minnie and Charles were American-born children of German immigrants.

Charles died in 1933, and Minnie continued living in the home until her death in 1942. While it remained owner-occupied throughout its history, the Roseberry family added a second floor apartment in the 1940s. In 1963, the home was sold to Elmer and Ruthaline Smith who raised their family here during a time of dramatic changes in the area. The fortunes of the neighborhood were in decline; many homes were turned into apartments, and the neighborhood suffered from the effects of absentee landlords and high rates of vacancy. Preserving the home,

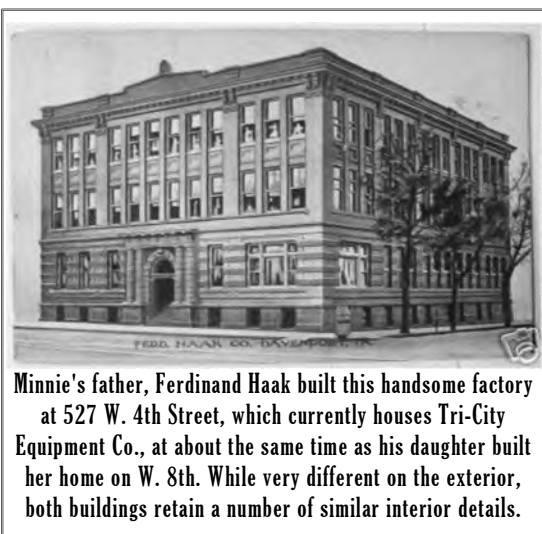
the Smith family was a stabilizing force on 8th Street for almost thirty years.

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Minnie's father, Ferdinand Haak built this handsome factory at 527 W. 4th Street, which currently houses Tri-City Equipment Co., at about the same time as his daughter built her home on W. 8th. While very different on the exterior, both buildings retain a number of similar interior details.

Recent History

In 1997, new owners began the process of restoration, removing some of the later siding to expose original materials and reconstructing the second floor railings. Inside the home, they removed the apartment and reinstalled original features like wooden columns that had been removed from the entry hall during the 1940's conversion and carefully packed away in the attic.

A paper label on one of the capitals identified Chicago Decorators Supply Company in Chicago, Illinois as the provider of many of the interior decorative elements. The firm is still doing business today; ornament found in the 1905 Meier house can be purchased from their catalogue. The capitals and brackets are a wood core covered with wood composite decoration.

The oak, ash and maple woodwork has never required refurbishment, and many original elements remain. Some worth noting include the fireplace andirons and implements, beveled glass windows and the original newel post lamp depicting the biblical character Salome during her "Dance of the Seven Veils." The kitchen was restored using mostly salvaged upper and base cabinets.



The Johanna Frederica (Petersen) & C. H. William Luetje Home

532 W. 8th Street ❖ c 1892 ❖ Queen Anne style; newer Craftsman style porch

About the House



This property was originally owned by John H. C. Petersen, the founder of the J.H.C. Petersen and Sons store, and his wife Johanna E. "Elizabeth" Petersen. Petersen, with sons William, Max, and Henry, built a mercantile and dry goods business that became the largest in Davenport. Eventually, the Petersen store was sold to Harned-Von Maur and continues to this day as Von Maur Department Stores.

In 1885, the Petersens purchased the Lambrite-Iles home at 510 W. 6th Street. They gifted the 532 W. 8th Street property to their daughter, Johanna F. "Frederica" and her husband C. H. Wm. "William" Luetje, who lived there until 1921.

William immigrated from Hanover, Germany in 1869 at age 18. Frederica had arrived in Davenport years earlier, at the age of 2, when her parents came from Schleswig-Holstein. William Luetje and Frederica Petersen were married in 1876. That same year, William opened a grocery store in downtown Davenport; 13 years later, he closed the grocery to open a furniture store. For the last few years of his working life, he was employed by his in-laws' family business, J. H. C. Petersen and Sons, retiring in 1916. The Luetje's raised two sons, Harry and Ben.

Mr and Mrs William Luetje and son, Harry, of Davenport, arrived in New York yesterday from Europe where they have been spending a year, according to word received by local friends. They will return to this city Wednesday.

The Luetje family enjoyed several extended European visits.
This one took place in 1914.

William and Frederica enjoyed European travel and music. They were active in the Turner Society; in 1893, Frederica traveled by train with a host of friends to a national Turner Festival in Milwaukee to participate in the women's chorus.

In 1921, they sold the home at 532 W. 8th Street. In March 1922,

William, Frederica, and son Harry sailed to Europe from New York for an extended visit. Mrs. Luetje never returned to Davenport. She died in Dresden, Germany in May 1923. She was cremated, and her husband and son brought her ashes home for burial in June. William died in early January 1928, following month-long hospital stay.

Claus Dohm who purchased the house in 1921 was a retired Scott County farmer. He passed away less than two years after moving to 8th Street.

Between 1924 and 1957, the house changed ownership frequently. Norene Rice and her family owned the home for 32 years between 1957 and 1989. Norene worked at the Rock Island Arsenal and husband Robert held various positions.

Recent History

The Luetje house was maintained as a single-family home throughout its history and has generally been occupied since it was constructed. "Fritz Wilhelm" is carved into one of the roof timbers. There was a Fritz Wilhelm living on W. 8th Street at the time the home was constructed. He was a carpenter with the firm Lamp and Bertelmann. The home's wood siding was covered with asphalt brick siding around 1938. About 10 years ago, a previous owner removed the asphalt siding and restored the original wood from the west elevation of the home.

The current owners purchased the home in March 2024 and are actively engaged in its restoration. They have just begun what they hope to be a thorough renovation. The first major project completed was refinishing the wood floors on the main level, requiring three different sanders to strip over 900 square feet of original oak flooring. Once the old finish was removed, they took care to match the new stain to the original color of the main staircase, and then sealed and finished the wood for a "new old" floor that will last another generation or two. The front doors have been stripped and repainted, and the owners have added antique brass hardware and newer restoration quality brass hardware where needed.



The Maude Davis & William Goettsch/Bernice Jones Home

537 W. 9th Street ❖ 1915 ❖ *American Foursquare; large front dormer at the attic level; detailing emphasizes horizontal lines*

About the House



During the early part of the 20th century, 9th Street consisted of mostly undeveloped parcels. As homes began appearing, addresses shifted. 537 W. 9th Street, as it is called today, has been occupied by only eight families since it was built over a hundred years ago. Two of these families lived in the house for decades.

The house first appeared in the 1915 city directory; occupants were Frank and Minnie Birkhan. Frank was a machinist at the Rock Island Arsenal during a decade in the city's history when the Arsenal's work force and Davenport's population grew substantially.

By 1919, William Goettsch and his wife Maude resided at the new address, 537 W. 9th Street and would do so for more than forty years.

William Goettsch spent his entire life in Davenport, from his birth in 1886 to his death in 1951. He was a veteran of World War I who married Maude in 1919, the year they moved to 537 W. 9th Street. Maude had children from another relationship; the couple had no children of their own.



The Feiner Fish Company, later the Davenport Fish Company, where William Goettsch worked for more than 40 years. With its brick painted, the building still stands at 1037 W. 3rd Street.

Goettsch was foreman of the Davenport Fish Company for more than forty years. The firm began life as the Feiner Fish Company. The company was dissolved in 1939 and reopened as the Davenport Fish Company.

Recent History

Beginning in 1976, Bernice Jones owned the property. Born in Joliet, Illinois, Jones came to Davenport as a young woman and became a pioneer in Davenport's civil rights efforts. With limited educational achievement, she was employed as a janitor at the Rock Island Arsenal. She availed herself of testing opportunities; the results qualified her for other positions. "From the mop to the top" was the way Jones described her career; she became manager of the Arsenal's Equal Employment Opportunity office, work that took her to other arsenals across the country.

Always engaged in her community, she was mom to her own children as well as foster children whom she later adopted. She was the first female president of the Davenport NAACP and she made sure family members were active participants as well.

The longevity of residents like Jones and Goettsch as well as the size of the home contributed to its continued status as a single-family dwelling with many original elements intact. In 2016, new owners purchased the vacant property. A leaking roof had caused interior damage. The home was updated with new mechanicals and a roof, with special attention paid to restoring and retaining historic elements. Bevel glass doors were repaired, and the somewhat awkward kitchen layout modified while saving historic cabinets. Historic windows and varnished woodwork were left in place.



Bernice Jones was a pioneer in Davenport's civil rights movement.



The Christian H. H. and Fanny (Voigt) Jipp Home and Grocery

732 Gaines Street ❖ 1868/1878 ❖ Vernacular Italianate-Greek Revival

About the House



The Greek Revival-Italianate-Vernacular style of this complex and its combined commercial/residential nature would have been a familiar sight along the city's 19th century neighborhoods. Prior to 20th century zoning laws that favored separation of land uses, corner stores and shops serving nearby residents were commonplace in Davenport. Most often, the owner would also be a neighbor. Such is the case with the Christian Jipp's shop and attached family home.

The shop was built in 1868 and was both the business and the home for Christian Jipp, his wife and three children for ten years. It is possible that the family slept in the attic during this period, accessed by ladder and a ceiling hatch. By 1878, Jipp built the attached family home and rear loading dock. The house would continue as the residence for his daughters until the last one passed away in 1945. The store, sold to a different owner in the early 20th century, was a grocery for ninety years until 1955 when it briefly housed an antique shop and an upholstery shop. In 1958, it was converted to a Laundromat.

The Laundromat closed in the early 1980s and the entire building was boarded.

Recent History

By 2004, it was severely deteriorated and in danger of demolition. In that year, Gateway Redevelopment Group (GRG) was created as a not-for-profit whose goal was saving The Jipp and other neighborhood buildings; restoration of the building began.

The home and grocery complex now include the Architectural Rescue Shop (ARS), a caretaker apartment (not open for view today), and the GC-HHDA resource center. The center features Bassett and Vollum wallpaper based on a 1850s design and handmade by a Gold Coast resident.

The ARS sells architectural salvage to area home renovators. Sales from the shop help fund GRG's mission of saving more abandoned buildings in the neighborhood. The shop now operates primarily as self-service and is open seven days a week during daylight hours.

The group intervenes by direct restoration of buildings or by property transfer to responsible owners who will complete the work. GRG has partially restored the Rebecca Nesbit Cottage at 517 Ripley, once abandoned and in danger of demolition prior to stabilization and rehabilitation. The cottage, believed to be from the late 1850s or early 1860s, will be fully restored as a compact single family residence. The group is currently looking for a partner to complete the rehabilitation.

The Jipp restroom is available for tour goers.



The Jipp family strolls in the garden c 1880s while Papa Christian stands at the front of his shop. Gaines Street is a dirt road and the sidewalk wooden planks.

Courtesy Putnam Museum and Science Center.

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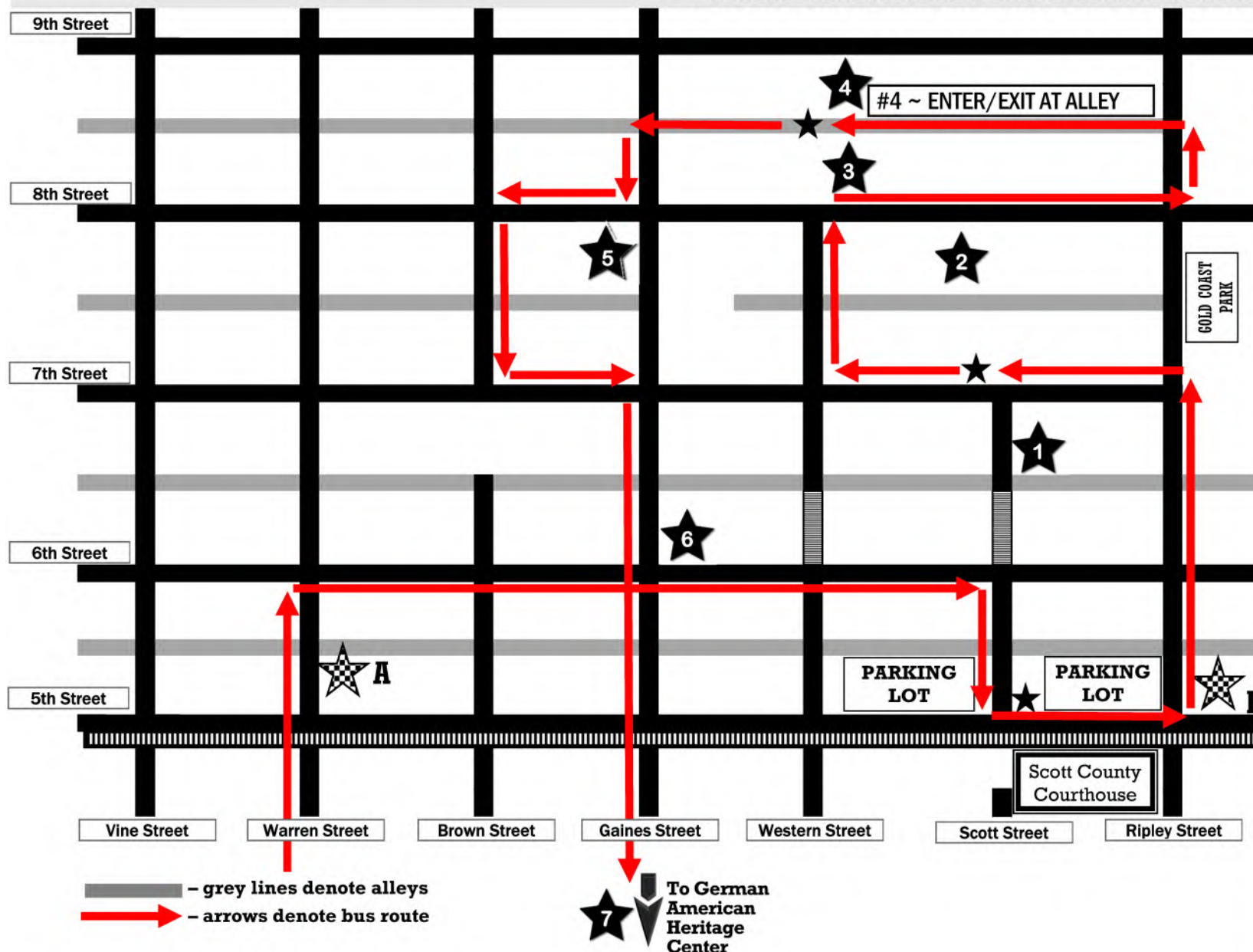
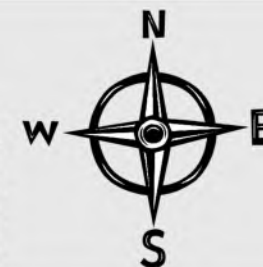
1. 625 Scott Street; The Goldschmidt Home
2. 519 W. 8th Street; The Meier Home
3. 532 W. 8th Street; The Luetje Home
4. 537 W. 9th Street; The Goettsch/Jones Home
5. 730-732 Gaines Street; The Jipp Grocery & Home

6. 630 W. 6th Street; The Clausen Home
7. 712 W 2nd Street; German American Heritage Center

BONUS SITES!



- A. 513 Warren St. ~ Project Renewal Youth Program Expansion Project
 B. 330 W 5th St. ~ Carl Cleve & Son, restored and operated by Robbie Wolfe, "American Pickers."



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

*A bus will be traveling the tour route within the neighborhood, free of charge. The bus will stop at each tour site, as well as between the parking lots on 5th Street.

*Bus stops are located in front of tour locations, with the following exceptions:

- ♦ 625 Scott Street (Bus stop at 7th and Scott)
- ♦ 537 W. 9th St (Bus stop in alley to the south)

*This is a small bus and seating is limited.

*Restrooms facilities are available at the following tour locations:

- ♦ The Jipp Home and Grocery, 730-732 Gaines Street
- ♦ The German American Heritage Center, 712 W. 2nd Street

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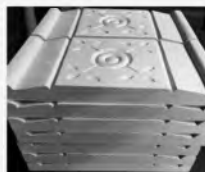
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For more information, contact Merle at 563-445-0844.



The German American Heritage Center

712 W. 2nd Street ❖ 1861 ❖ High Victorian Commercial Architecture

About the Building



The German American Heritage Center began life in 1861 as the William Tell House, a "Gasthaus" or guest house, built to accommodate thousands of immigrants who arrived in the area during the great migration after the Civil War.

In the mid-to-late 1800s, 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 descendants. 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 immigrant experience is an integral part of the history and fabric of life in Iowa, in the region and in the nation.

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. In 1983 the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Standard closed in 1990.

Recent History

In 1994, the German American Heritage Center was incorporated as a private, not-for-profit museum. The Center seeks to "preserve and enrich for present and future generations knowledge of the German immigrant experience and its impact on the American Culture." The Center's focus is cultural programs and immigrant contributions.

The Center seeks to reach out to other cultural groups and demonstrate the contributions immigrants from many countries and from varied backgrounds have made to the ethnic palette which is the United States.



The GAHC when it was the Millers Hotel, c 1880s.

The group purchased the old hotel in 1995. From 1996-1999, the building underwent restoration, including a new roof, historically accurate windows, repaired exterior walls, and restoration of the first-floor interior.

Rehab continued in 2001 with the restoration of the storefronts. 2002 saw the opening of an exhibit focusing on the Turners, an early German American cultural organization.

In 2004, work began on a new stairwell and elevator, allowing the opening of second floor exhibition space in 2005.

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 exhibit progresses through several interactive and intergenerational experiences from an immigrant's journey by sea, train and foot to their final destination in the Davenport area, and goes on to highlight their contributions to the region. It is a great attraction for members and visitors and there are also traveling exhibits to tour in the first-floor space. There are new exhibits often, with two rotating galleries that tell the story of German culture and German-American contributions on a variety of topics. Visit www.gahc.org to plan your visit today!

Current special exhibitions at the museum include Beer Beyond Germany, which explores Germans brewing in the Quad-Cities and how the prohibition impacted these early breweries. Another exhibition, in collaboration with World Relief Quad Cities, looks at current immigrants and refugees, examines the role of different immigration statuses, and shares personal stories of families who have recently immigrated to the United States.



Project Renewal Youth Program Expansion Project

513 Warren Street ❖ 2024 ❖ *Historically sympathetic new construction*

About the Building



Architectural drawing of the in-progress Youth Center, on tour today.

Today's tour of historic buildings also includes an in-progress sneak peek of the neighborhood's newest building, the Project Renewal Youth Center.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, Project Renewal has worked in Davenport since 1974 as a loving presence, empowering children and families to realize their dignity, reach their potential and address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness. The organization was founded by Sister Concetta Bendicente. She was raised in a Chicago orphanage and at age 23, she took her vows as a member of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Concetta made her way to Davenport, answering the call of Father Marv Mottet, who started the Social Action Department in the Diocese of Davenport and enlisted others to help promote social justice.

Begun as a grassroots organization, Project Renewal began operations at the 1864 John Otten House at 906 W. 5th Street, then a condemned cottage, which a small group of volunteers rehabbed. The goal of Project Renewal has always been to live within the neighborhood it serves. In Project Renewal's earliest days, it provided tutoring services for children as well as neighborhood beautification. Sister Concetta died in 1979, but her vision continued.

For the first 20 years, Project Renewal operated on donations and volunteer service. Beginning in 1992, the Board decided to expand and increase fundraising in order to maintain the quality of its service to the community.

Recent History

Today, Project Renewal provides daily contact with neighborhood children through academic support and recreational and social-emotional activities throughout the year in Afterschool and Summer Youth Programs, as well as our resident staff's daily presence.

Staff and volunteers are positive role models for children, reinforcing values needed to live healthy and productive lives. For many struggling with everyday issues, Project Renewal is one of the few anchors in their lives.

As its founder desired, Project Renewal's "boots on the ground" approach and presence contrasts with agencies who work more remotely. Staff live in a neighborhood home and services operate out of another. All services are free. Project Renewal also owns and maintains Sr. Concetta Park, a neighborhood park enjoyed by youth participants and neighborhood families, named in honor of the group's foundress.

Project Renewal also partners with educational institutions to provide a training ground for college, high school, and youth participants through work study, practicum hours for college credit, or simply volunteerism. They grow through leadership opportunities and a chance to engage empathetically with others who may come from a different life experience, creating future leaders in our community, with many going on to work in area schools, non-profits, health care, etc.

Project Renewal has worked with generations of families. Some of its participants have gone on to volunteer or work with the organization after graduation. Programs have grown and adapted based on the needs of the families it serves. As a local, grass-roots youth development program, they help young people create a path for their future. Grown up "kids" have gone on to careers in the military service, federal and city institutions, medicine, creative arts, manufacturing, hospitality and service, among other fields.

Program expansion has pushed the group's current usable space beyond its limits. In 2022, they began an ambitious redevelopment of the property at 513 Warren. The Youth Center will provide expanded program space on the ground floor. On the second floor, two apartments are planned, which will allow staff or volunteers the valuable opportunity to experience life in the neighborhood they are serving.



Mother Teresa, pictured here with Sister Concetta and neighborhood children, visited Project Renewal when she came to Davenport to receive the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award in 1976. This award is presented by the Diocese in collaboration with other organizations to honor a person for their achievements in peace and justice, not only in their country, but in the world.



Carl Cleve & Son Auto Body, restored & operated by Robbie Wolfe, American Pickers
330 W. 5th Street - ❖ 1939-1973 ❖ *Streamline Moderne style*

About the Building



Carl Cleve constructed the first section of his auto body shop on this site in 1939. The primary elevations are of polychromatic matte brick in pleasing colors of red, brown, yellow, rose, and olive. On the south elevation, rows of brick are set slightly proud of the building face to create pilasters and headers. The curving edges of the parapet, topped with a band of concrete add a stylish accent to this simple industrial building.

Prior to constructing the W. 5th street building, Cleve operated out of what he described as a "hole in the wall" location at Ripley and W. 1st Street. Cleve grew up in Louisville; he moved to Davenport after 1914. By 1915, he was married to Rita Gladstone and operating a restaurant/hotel in Walcott.

In 1922, he and a partner opened a fender and radiator shop to service the growing automobile industry at 119 Ripley Street. By 1926, the firm was also advertising auto painting services. Cleve bought out his partner, and in 1931 purchased frame and axle straightening equipment from another firm going out of business. Despite tough times during the Depression, he was able to keep his crew working without layoffs.

Cleve also invested in a row of houses in the 300 block of W. 5th to bolster income from the shop with rental income. These houses along the north side of the street were a combination of small wood frame single-family homes and duplexes; the block was entirely residential and pre-dated the 1900 raising of the nearby railroad tracks. They housed a wide variety of tenants from a rabbi to a carpenter to a student at a nearby college. The most notable tenants were Henry Vollmer Sr. and Jr. The father owned a printing and rubber stamp company. The son became an attorney, then at age 25 the youngest mayor of any U.S. city. Vollmer represented the district in the U.S. Congress for one year beginning in 1914.

In 1939, Cleve began removing rental properties along W. 3rd Street to construct the original section of the building you see today. Family members joined the firm and it was renamed Carl Cleve and Son. In the 1940s, repairs relating to insurance claims became a significant part of the business. Additions are noted in permits dated from 1947-1973. They stayed true to the original Moderne style of the building.

Recent History

The firm celebrated 75 years in business in 1997 under the guidance of Carl's grandson. It opened a second location in Bettendorf in 2007. Business difficulties and tax liability followed. The legacy firm closed and the building was sold at auction in 2020. The purchaser was Robbie Wolfe.

Robbie Wolfe uses the shop to display antique vehicles, "petrolinia," or collectibles relating to gas-powered machines, vintage advertising pieces, and what he calls "mantiques." He also appears with his brother Mike on the "American Pickers" show.

The store normally serves customers by appointment only. It will be open to tour-goers during regular tour hours.

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Cleve touts his services in this 1927 ad from the
Davenport Democrat & Leader when he was at his
original shop location. When he opened in 1922, a
fender straightening and refinishing job cost \$3.50.






EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMS GIFT SHOP

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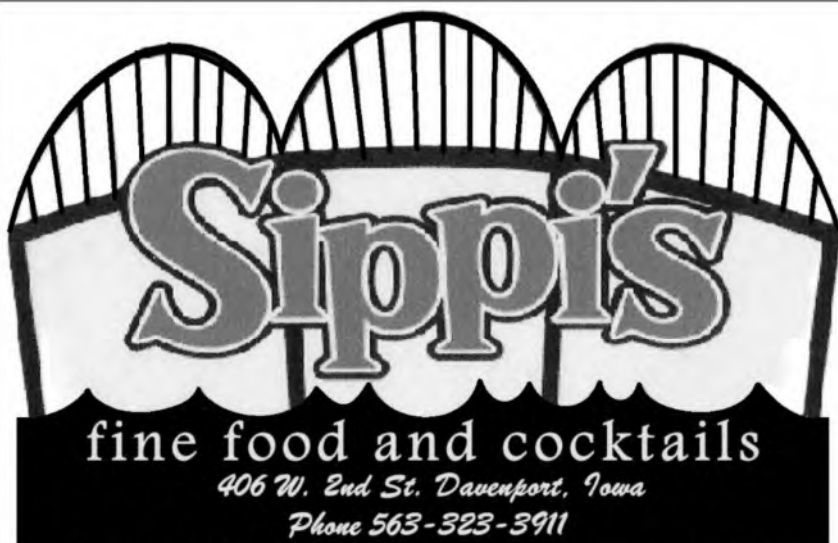
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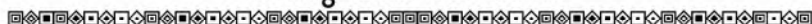
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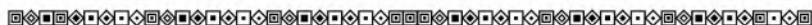
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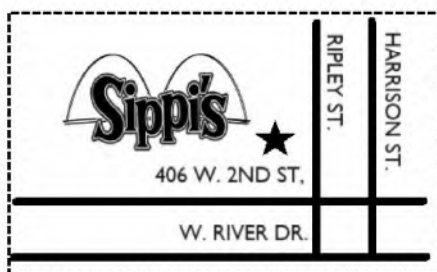


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Tips on Touring

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 site, as well as between the parking lots on 5th Street.

Refer to the map in the middle pages of this brochure.

Bus stops are located in front of tour locations, with the following exceptions:



625 Scott Street (Bus stop at 7th and Scott)



537 W. 9th Street
(Bus stop in alley between 8th Street and 9th Street)

This is a small bus and seating is limited.

Restrooms

Restrooms facilities are available at the following tour locations:



The Jipp Home and Grocery
730-732 Gaines Street



The German American Heritage Center
712 W. 2nd Street

A Walk through the Gold Coast

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German American Heritage Center &
Museum