

NORTHERN DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR



Motor Mart
(Commerce
Building)
520 Nebraska
Street
National Register
of Historic
Places

Construct

ed in 1912 by the C.F. Lytle Co., from a design by company Architect E.F. Henriques, the Motor Mart was constructed for Ralph A. Bennett to display and repair automobiles.

The Motor Mart was one of the first reinforced, poured concrete buildings in Sioux City and was the first to incorporate the innovative plans of Claude A. P. Turner of Minneapolis who patented a new flat slab reinforced framing system. As part of the design, the architect incorporated 1,600 lights into the building's brick and terra cotta facade. Over the years maintenance of the lights became a problem. In 1997, after nearly 50 years of darkness, the exterior lighting was restored. When illuminated at night the effect is spectacular.

A fifth-floor, roof-top garden was added in 1921 and featured large stately Palladian windows and a 9,000 sq. ft. dance floor. From 1923 to the 1940s, most of the nation's famous Big Bands headlined at the Roof Garden (later known as the Skylon). Popular headliners included Lawrence Welk, Glenn Miller, and Gene Krupa.



First Presbyterian Church
6th and Nebraska Streets
This Gothic Revival
styled church was constructed
in 1906 and designed by a
Cleveland, Ohio architectural
firm. The building was
reportedly modeled after the
Studebaker Memorial Church
in South Bend, Indiana.

Notable features include pointed arched windows, battlements along the roofline of the tall bell tower and a sweeping front staircase complete with decorative light fixtures.

The Presbyterian Church has maintained a presence in Sioux City since 1856, the year the first steamboat arrived in this small, but growing town. In fact, the Presbyterians were the first to organize a church society and the first to construct their own meeting hall, a small, wood-frame building along 4th Street between Jones and Jennings Streets.



Sioux City Free Public Library
(Carnegie Place Apartments)
721 6th Street
National Register of Historic
Places

The Sioux City Free Public Library is an example of the work of New York City architect Edward L. Tilton, a nationally recognized figure in the field of library design and designer of the Immigrant Station on Ellis Island, New York.

Begun in 1912 with a \$75,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation, and completed in 1913, the library is one of Sioux City's best examples of the Italian Renaissance architectural style.

As an Italian Renaissance building, the library features a symmetrical facade, prominent arched entry featuring classical motifs, corner quoins, prominent belt courses, and a false hipped roof with a red tiled parapet.

This building served as the public library until 1990. In 1998, this building underwent rehabilitation. It now houses 20 spacious and uniquely designed apartments.



grain Exchange Building
Insurance Exchange Building (Insurance Centre Building)
507 7th street
Historically known as the Grain Exchange, this six story building was constructed circa 1921 by local

architects William Beuttler and Ralph Arnold for the Davidson Realty Co. The building was constructed of reinforced steel and concrete and finished with a tan opaline salt-glazed brick and contrasting white terra cotta, reminiscent of patterns created by Chicago architect Louis Sullivan. The interior

featured mahogany woodwork interlined with marble, and terrazzo floors..

The building features a highly decorative terra cotta cornice with decorative "medallions" in foliage and geometric patterns between each of the piers.

Originally, this building was home to a number of offices including architectural firms, insurance firms, grain dealers, grain companies, and the Department of Agriculture. The building still has its original, hand-operated elevators. Several historic photos of this building are located in the basement breakroom which is open to the public.

Warnock Building (Benson Building)

701 Douglas Street

Eligible - National Register of Historic Places

In 1920 this six story brick and terra cotta building was constructed by W.A. Klinger, for his father-in-law Mr. William Warnock to house his business the Warnock Company. Mr. Klinger had just returned from World War I and later became the owner of a prominent construction company. The Warnock was Klinger's first commercial work. The Warnock Company was in the business of manufacturing sheet metal farm products, and wholesaling automotive supplies. By 1903, Warnock became a Ford dealer and, at one time, the company was credited with being one of the largest Ford dealers in the West. The building's tall storefront windows made an ideal space for displaying the latest Ford models.

At the time of construction, the Warnock building was considered one of the city's finest office buildings and one of the finest buildings in the state for displaying automobiles.

Notable features include terra cotta medallions with the letter "W" flanked by two torches.



Sioux City Auditorium (KCAU-TV)

625 Douglas Street

Designed by local architect

George W. Burkhead

Built in 1909, the community used this building as its

Auditorium until 1945 when it

housed the Tomba Ballroom. In 1955 it became the home of the a TV station which still uses it today. Although the ground floor of this building has been severely altered from its original appearance, vestiges of the old building can be seen above the first floor. Note that the name "Auditorium" is still visible near the roof peak above the brick cornice.



Woodbury County Courthouse

620 Douglas Street

National Register of

Historic Places

National Historic

Landmark

Designed by

local architect William L.

Steele and Minneapolis

architects William

Purcell and George Elmslie, the Woodbury County Courthouse epitomizes the Prairie School style of architecture. Completed in 1918, the courthouse design utilizes materials typical of the Prairie style such as tan

brick and white terra cotta. The building design also includes exterior sculpture by Alfonso Iannelli and interior murals by Chicago artist John W. Norton.

Special features of this outstanding building are almost too numerous to mention. Note particularly the sculpted reliefs including the eagle at the base of the flagpole on the building's central tower and the buffalo heads located on the building's east façade (in the alley). This building's interior is equally impressive. Low ceiling entrances open to a cavernous rotunda with a dome of stained glass. Tall piers capped with gleaming white terra cotta in foliage and geometric patterns are all reminiscent of designs by Chicago architect Louis Sullivan.

The Sullivan influence is not accidental. Together Steele, Purcell and Elmslie (along with fellow-student Frank Lloyd Wright) apprenticed in the offices of Louis Sullivan prior to embarking on their individual professional careers.

In 1996, this building was designated a National Historic Landmark, the nation's highest accolade bestowed on an historic building.



US Federal Courthouse and Post Office (City Hall)
6th and Douglas

The U.S. Federal Courthouse and Post Office, now commonly known as City Hall, was constructed between 1892 and 1896 in the popular Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style by two of the

country's leading architects, Willoughby Edbrooke and William Aiken. This rough-cut stone building resembles a castle - from its arched entrances, and hand carved stone dragons to its high clock tower complete with battlements.

In 1948, the federal government sold the building to the city of Sioux City to use as a city hall. In 1993, the building was dismantled, stone by stone, the tower and foundation stabilized, a new structural system constructed, and the old stones cleaned and re-set. The reconstructed building closely resembles the original design.



Trimble Block (Security National Bank)
6th and Pierce Streets

This red brick, six story office building was originally known as the Trimble Block and was constructed by in 1915 by Sioux City architects William Beuttler and Ralph

Arnold for local businessman W.S. Gilman.

In the 1960s this building was expanded by constructing a west-side, six story addition. At this time, the original cornice was removed.

Williges
613 Pierce Street

Constructed for August Williges in 1929 -30, this two-story terra cotta building was designed by prominent Sioux City architects William L. Steele and George Hilgers. The building

features decorative terra cotta banding along the roof line, at the top of each pier, and around the windows.

August Williges was an important Sioux City business man. He was born in Germany on March 26, 1858. At age fourteen, he was apprenticed to a fur manufacturing plant in Hanover, Germany. Williges emigrated to the U. S. in 1881 when he was in his early twenties, and lived for a short time in New York City and Springfield, Illinois before coming to Sioux City in 1895. In Sioux City, Williges opened a store where he tanned, manufactured, and sold furs. In 1929 - 30 he moved to this location on Pierce Street and eventually expanded his operation to include women's apparel. The Williges store operated here until 1998.



Davidson Building
501 6th Street
National Register of Historic Places

Designed in 1913 by local architect William L. Steele in the Sullivanesque style, the Davidson was the first building in Sioux City

constructed specifically for office use. This building was constructed in buff-colored Roman brick and terra cotta at a cost of \$450,000. Ben, Dave and Abe Davidson came to Sioux City in 1882. They began their business as street vendors selling tin-ware. In 1891 they opened a department store at the southwest corner of 4th & Pierce Streets and

succeeded in becoming among the city's leading businessmen. The department store was demolished in the 1970s and this office building is the only remaining commercial property associated with the Davidson brothers. Notable terra cotta features include, a highly decorative cornice, medallions with lion heads, a shield and floral pattern, and beneath each window, a letter "D" set on a field of 18 carat gold leaf.



Warrior Hotel
6th and Nebraska
Streets
National Register of
Historic Places
Built in 1930 at
a cost of \$1.25 million,
this eleven story, 300
room hotel was
designed by Kansas
City architect Alonzo
H. Gentry, a

nationally renowned hotel designer and architect of Kansas City's railroad station. Its buff-colored brick is accented by off-white terra cotta ornamentation. To signify a place of hospitality, the terra cotta was cast into baskets of flowers and fruit. Note particularly the stylized hawks located above the second floor windows.

Rigadon Ballroom

712 Pierce Street

This building was designed by local architects Willaim Beuttler and Ralph Arnold in the Spanish Revival architectural style at a cost of more than \$50,000. It was constructed by the Davidson Realty Company in 1928 as an addition to their Grain Exchange Building.



YWCA
615 6th Street
Constructed in 1922-23 and
designed by the Sioux City
architectural firm of Beuttler
and Arnold, this building
housed the Young Woman's
Christian Association (YWCA).

Original plans called for the building to be six stories tall, but because of a lack of funding, the YWCA was constructed with only a basement and a ground floor. This building is representative of the Colonial Revival style with red brick trimmed in white Bedford sandstone. The interior of the building features a spacious lobby, a sun parlor, offices, conference rooms, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. A 20 x 60 foot swimming pool, dressing room and showers are located in the basement.