

WESTERN DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

Iowa Public Service Company
Mid-American Energy
509 Douglas Street

Completed in 1980, this modern building was designed as a joint venture between the architectural firms of Rosetti Associates, Detroit, Michigan and FEH Associates, Inc., Sioux City.

This building was designed for use as the local headquarters for the Iowa Public Service Company, later MidAmerican Energy.



Palmer & Co.
Palmer Candy Co. & Palmer
Fruit Co.
209 Douglas Street & 210
Pearl Street

This tall, red brick building was constructed circa 1902 for WB and CE Palmer, owners of Palmer & Co., fruit

wholesalers.

WB and CE Palmer organized their wholesale fruit company in 1893 and by 1898 they began manufacturing candies. The candy company quickly grew to be Sioux City's largest candy manufacturer and one of the largest in the state of Iowa.

In 1914 Palmer & Co. split the candy business from fruit wholesaling and incorporated as the Palmer Candy Co., headquartered in this building, and the Palmer Fruit Co.,

headquartered in a newly constructed warehouse at 210 Pearl Street. The names of both buildings are still clearly visible.



Dymond-Simmons Hardware
Co.
Simmons Hardware Co.
The Battery Building
110 4th Street

Completed in 1906 for the Dymond-Simmons Hardware Co., this large Romanesque Revival-styled warehouse was designed by the New York City architectural

firm of Gordon, Tracy, & Swartwout. Note particularly the tall tower with rooftop battlements and the large arched entrance on the building's south side.

The Dymond-Simmons Company was headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri and manufactured scissors and cutlery under the brand name "Kari Kutter". During the 1930s the company added a line of sporting goods. Between 1944 and 1956, this warehouse was home to the Sioux City Battery Company.

The Bekins Building
6th and Wesley Way
Eligible-National Register of Historic Places

This five-story brick and concrete warehouse was constructed in 1907 by Martin and John Bekins. In 1927 a five-story addition was constructed adjacent to the original building.

Natives of Michigan, John and Martin came to Sioux City in 1891 and opened Bekins Van Lines. Later they were

joined by their older brother, Teake. The company grew from a horse and wagon operation to a transfer and storage company using a fleet of motor trucks with the capacity to move a household full of furniture one hundred miles, in one day with one load. Within two years of opening their business in Sioux City, the Bekins brothers expanded to Omaha. In 1895 Martin Bekins moved to Los Angeles, California and opened the company's second branch office.

Although the Bekins company constructed a number of warehouses in Sioux City, this building was their first and principal warehouse and housed their local offices.

The original building is located in the center of the complex and can be identified by its slightly arched upper floor windows.



U.S. Post Office and
Courthouse
The Federal Building
6th and Douglas
Streets
Eligible - National
Register of Historic
Places

Completed in 1933, the Federal Courthouse and Post Office was designed by local architects William Beuttler and Ralph Arnold under the supervision of government architect James A. Wetmore. This streamlined building is representative of the functional Art Moderne style. The evolution of the Art Moderne movement coincided with the Great Depression of the 1930s. Application of building ornamentation had become an expensive luxury but as this

building illustrates, beauty of line had not. Recently, the federal government completed a restoration of the courtrooms, stairway and other important architectural features. Also, gold leaf was re-applied to the trim in the lobby area returning the area to its former opulence.

Sioux City Municipal Auditorium
401 Gordon Drive

Eligible-National Register of Historic Places

Designed as early as 1938 by Sioux City architect K.E. Westerlind, this building was not completed until 1950 due to material and labor shortages during World War II.

Constructed of light-colored brick with concrete detailing, this streamlined building is characteristic of the Art Moderne architectural style. However the building design does borrow some Art Deco detailing as seen in its curved front with Deco-styled lettering and glass block windows.

Notable features include numerous terra cotta panels on the south façade each representing a figure engaged in a sporting activity, stylized relief sculptures of American Indians located on the north façade, and inscriptions above the east and west entrances reading “Art At Its Highest and Nature at its truest are one and “There is No Greater Conquest Than That Of Self”.