

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The Architects Office

Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschiull and Pfiffner
901 clay building, Iowa city, Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SITE # 82-10- BR-808 MAP # _____

HIST. DIST. _____

NAME B. J. Palmer House H C

ADDRESS 808 Brady St

LEGAL DES. Goldsmith's Add. Lot 1, 2, 3 & S.
8' of Lot 4
SUB-DIVISION BLOCK PARCEL SUB-PARCEL

UTM 15 1023413 4661153 ACREAGE -1 ZONE _____
EASTING NORTHING

OWNER Palmer College Foundation
1000 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803

TITLE H. Same
(if diff)

PHOTO

see continuation sheet

MAP

DESCRIPTION

FORM 3 stories with addition 1874, CONST. c. 1915

MATERIALS Brick, Stone ARCH STYLE Second Empire

FENESTRATION Addition-9/1 D.H.S; leaded beveled glass transoms & fixed lights

DIST. FEATURES 3rd story tower-main house; interior "theme rooms", wrought iron fence; slate roof

ALTERATIONS Wrap around addition-c.1915

SITE & RELATED STR: contiguous with other college buildings, courtyard, green area on S.

STATEMENT

The Palmer House includes the original Dessaint Second Empire house and the wrap around 1 story addition built by the Palmers. The addition is an odd assortment of institutional form with residential features ie. leaded, beveled glass. The interior contains thematic rooms which reflect Palmer's eclectic taste, world travels, and special interests; they include an organ room (containing the WOC radio station's organ used for broadcasting); log room (similar to a mountain lodge complete with whole trees) and oriental room (containing a sunken floor and housing Palmer's extensive oriental collection). The alterations to the original Dessaint House reflect Palmer's peculiar personality, disassociation from the traditional taste of Davenport elite. Viewed in this light, the addition to the house is significant in its own right rather than an alteration.

SOURCES

SITE SHEET

ARCHITECTURE

SIGNIFICANCE

This building focuses attention on the career of a founder of Chiropractic treatment and the country's largest educational institution associated with it - Palmer School of Chiropractic. B.J. Palmer first occupied the building as a residence during the era of the school's founding. Palmer expanded and altered the house during his life, the alterations are a unique reflection of Palmer's eccentric and worldly interests. The period of significance recognized is 1912 (date of occupancy) to 1949 (B.J.'s death).

DESCRIPTION

Louis C. Dessaint, local lumber mill owner, built this house in 1874. Later owners were F.H. Hancock in 1886 and Wm. D. Petersen in 1895. In 1912 B.J. Palmer and his wife Mabel moved into the house which was located adjacent to the first classroom building (now razed) for Palmer School of Chiropractics.

B.J. Palmer was instrumental in establishing chiropractics as a treatment involving manipulation of the spine to promote healing. D.D. Palmer, B.J.'s father, was the discoverer of the philosophy & treatment and B.J. was Chiropractic's main promoter, developing a scientific chiropractic philosophy and technique. B.J. published 35 books that remain the basis of Chiropractic theory today.

Chiropractics gained in popularity dramatically after W.W.I. Enrollment in Palmer school peaked at 2,000 before the Depression. Hard times set the school back and by 1936 only 300 students were in attendance. After W.W.II the school experienced renewed growth. Today, Palmer College is the largest institution of Chiropractic instruction in the world. CON'T.

SOURCES

- Wilk, Chester A., Chiropractic Speaks Out, Park Ridge, ILL: Wilk Publishing Co; 1973.
- "Chiropractic School Tops Seven Enterprises marking Dr. Palmer's Accomplishments during 41 years," Centennial and Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, Davenport Times, 7/11/36.
- Palmer, David D. Three Generations: A Brief History of Chiropractic, Davenport: Palmer College of Chiropractic, 1967.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: TODD R. MOZINGO | HISTORIAN: MARLYS SVENDSEN - ROESLER | SURVEY COMP 1980

EVALUATION

ARCHITECTURAL

- I. ARCH. EVALUATION _____
- II. ENVIR. STATURE _____
- III. INT. OF CONTEXT _____
- IV. INT. OF FABRIC _____
- LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
- NAT. STATE LOCAL N. ELIG.

HISTORICAL

- I. THEME(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE:
- A. PRIMARY Education
- B. SECONDARY _____
- II. LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
- NAT. STATE LOCAL
- III. N.R.H.P
- ELIGIBLE NOT ELIGIBLE
- HISTORIC DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION
- A. B C

FOR DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION USE ONLY

- 1. DATE RECEIVED _____
- 2. DATE OF STAFF EVALUATION _____
- A. ARCHITECTURAL B. HISTORICAL
- ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P.
- NOT ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.H.P.
- 3. N.R.H.P. ACTION
- A. STATE REVIEW COMM. APP. DISAPP. TABLED DATE _____
- B. FEDERAL REVIEW APP. DISAPP. TABLED DATE _____
- 4. D.H.P. SOURCES
- COUNTY RESOURCES
- W'SHIELD SURVEY
- N.R.H.P.
- GRANT _____
- DET. OF ELIGIBILITY
- R. B. C. _____
- DAVENPORT A/H SURVEY
- _____
- _____
- 5. SUBJECT TRACES
- 6. PHOTO

The Architects Office

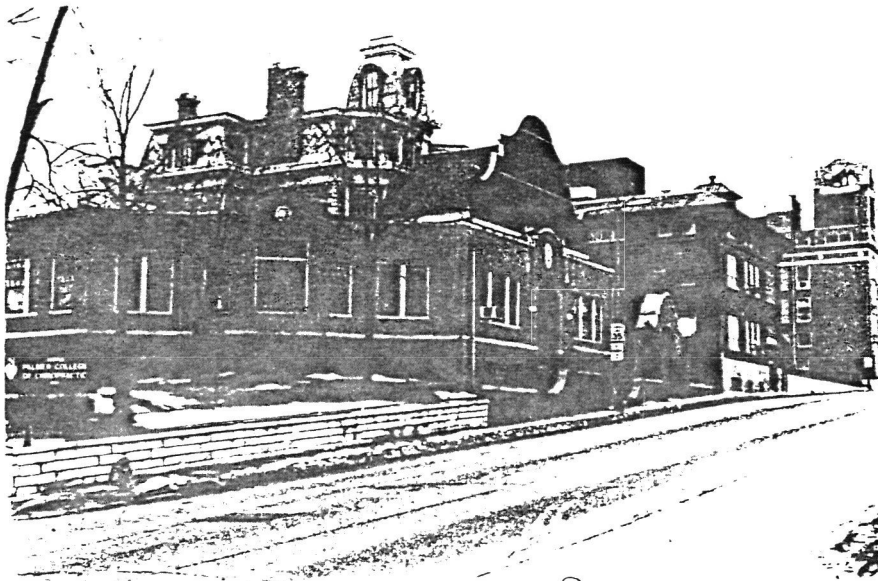
Wehner, Nowysz, Pottschull and Pfiffner

801 dev building Iowa City Iowa 52240

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
IOWA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

82 - 10 - BR-808

Besides Chiropractics, B.J. was also an avid investor in the new radio - television industry after W.W.I. He was the owner of WOC radio station, the first licensed station west of the Mississippi, in 1922. In 1930 Palmer acquired the Des Moines station, WHO. A communications dynasty developed around these two holdings during the 1930's & 40's.



CONTINUATION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

JUN 12 1984

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5 of 7

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Davenport Multiple Resource Area
State Scott County, Iowa

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 41. Murray, Thomas, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 42. Nighswander, Benjamin, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 43. Northwest Davenport Savings Bank | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 44. Palmer, B. J., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 45. Peters, J.C., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 46. Picklum, Frank, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 47. Plambeck, Joachim, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 48. Pohlmann, Elizabeth, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 49. Pohlmann, Henry, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 50. Quickel, Jacob, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Melrose Byers</u> 7/27/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Palmer, B.J., House (Davenport MRA)
Scott County
IOWA

Working No. JUN 12 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85

Date Due: 7-12-84 / 7-27-84

Action: ACCEPT 7-27-84

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



CAMPUS
PALMER COLLEGE
OF CHIROPRACTIC

35
D

B. J. Palmer House

808 Brady

82-10-BR-808

Dennett, Muessig & Assoc., 1984

Davenport MRA

View to northwest

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000149