

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

504 Central Avenue  
Dubuque  
Dubuque County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-U

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IOWA.  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver Colorado 80225

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

## 504 Central Avenue

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HABS No. IA-160-U

**Site Location:** 504 Central Avenue  
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa  
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 7.19  
Cadastral grid: NE1/4 NE1/4 S25 T89N R2E  
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'  
UTM coordinates: 15.691990.4707660  
Lot dimensions: 25.1' x 100': .06 acre  
Lot description: South 25'1" of City Lot 298

**Present Owner:** Vinnie E. Dunbar Squire  
**Present Usage:** 1st floor: restaurant; 2nd and 3rd floors: apartments  
**Present Condition:** good

**Overall Dimensions:** 100' x 24'; 3 stories  
**Orientation:** west  
**Architectural Description:** Plan type: rectangular, three-story  
Foundation: coursed limestone ashlar perimeter walls.  
Structure: wood frame with brick masonry bearing walls.  
Ext. walls: common red brick laid in running bond; perma-stone siding applied to storefront.

**Roof:** flat composition roof with brick parapet walls; steeply pitched hipped roof with flared eaves and slate cladding on corner tower.

**Chimneys:** two corbeled brick exterior chimneys on side.  
**Windows:** all original sash throughout building removed; most of the windows on the top story are paired 1/1 double hung with plain casings and continuous stone sill; heads are pointed arches with double rowlocks alternating with stone blocks and keystone; on the tower and front, the heads are made completely of a white rock-faced stone laid in a stepped pattern; semicircular-headed upper windows replaced with smaller sash; the enframements are plain and the sill is continuous stone; windows in west storefront and first bay of east side are large modern display windows sheltered by a cantilevered cloth awning. At rear of south side, the windows were much larger, with stone slip sills and segmental arched heads of triple rowlocks; now filled with smaller 1/1 double hung windows and framed with small, nonfunctional shutters.

**Openings:** single-leaf aluminum main entrance centrally placed in storefront; single-leaf (replacement) door in dooway at rear of south side.

**Details** : canted rectangular tower, which springs from the 2nd story, on the southwest corner; decorative terra cotta blocks surrounding a date stone above the 3rd story; 2nd and 3rd story windows in the first bay of the front are outlined by a continuous series of rock-faced stones; these stones also form the lintel above the second story window; corbeled brick courses and metal cornice on front parapet; ornamental cast iron exterior stair from 2nd floor along Fifth Street sidewalk.

**Construction Date** : 1891

**Architecture Style**: Queen Anne

**Physical History** : Built in 1891, this three-story brick block first housed the retail grocery store of Frederick Bade on its first floor, with residential apartments on the floors above. Bade operated his grocery business (and, for a brief period around the turn of the century a saloon, as well) in this storefront for over thirty years before closing the shop in the late 1920s. After the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, Jansen's Tavern occupied the first floor and remained here through World War II. Jansen was then replaced by Eppler, who ran a tavern here for only a short time. During the 1960s and 1970s the building housed the Traveler's Cafe; it most recently has been occupied by Judy's Country Inn Cafe. Throughout these tenant changes in the first floor space, the upper levels have functioned as apartments. Other than the replacement of the original storefront with the current permastone facade and the infill of some of the first-floor side windows, the building has remained virtually intact.

**Significance**: With its first-floor storefront and apartments on the upper floors, this building typifies the commercial/residential structures built along Main, Iowa, White and Clay (now Central) streets in the late 19th century. Bade's grocery store and the taverns that followed represent the typical neighborhood establishments. Architecturally, the building is distinguished by its massing and detailing as a relatively modest commercial interpretation of Queen Anne design.

**References**:  
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.  
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.  
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 4-5-9-10.  
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."

**Compiler**: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado  
December 1988.