

City of Davenport

Committee: Public Works
Department: Public Works
Contact Info: Mike Atchley; (563) 327-5149
Ward: 3

Action / Date
PW – 05/07/14

Subject:

Resolution approving the use of condemnation to acquire the property at 510 W. 6th Street.

Recommendation:

Pass the Resolution

Relationship to Goals:

Revitalized Neighborhoods & Corridors

Background:

Pursuant to Iowa Code 364.12A staff hired Integrity Appraisals, LLC to appraise the property at 510 W. 6th Street. The appraiser was not allowed access inside the building so an external appraisal was performed. A copy of the appraisal and an offer by the city for \$34,000, to acquire 510 W. 6th Street was sent to Mr. Gordon L. Muller, by registered mail on March 20, 2014. A copy of the Offer to Acquire was hand delivered on April 9, 2014. Mr. Muller has not communicated with the City since that offer was handed to him.

The subject property is commonly referred to as the Lambrite-Iles-Petersen house. The property is on the national register of historic places, is located in the Hamburg historic local landmark district, and is individually locally landmarked. The Lambrite-Iles-Petersen House was built for Joseph Lambrite circa 1857. Lambrite was a partner with a large saw and planning mill on Front Street, between Scott and Ripley Streets. The property is also associated with Thomas Iles, M.D., a prominent Davenport physician and John H.C. Petersen, who operated J.H.C. Petersen and Sons at 123 West 2nd Street, which was the largest department store in the City of Davenport. The house is a unique surviving early example of the Italianate Villa style in Davenport. In contrast to the block-like form of the Italianate, the Villa Style emphasized asymmetry. Although a front porch and rear service addition were added, it still displays its basic original form and woodwork with quoins and rustication imitating dressed stone. The house was designed by John Crombie Cochrane, a renowned Davenport and Chicago Architect who contributed to the design of the state capitol buildings of both Iowa and Illinois.

The building is abandoned and vacant and was boarded by the City. The property is a nuisance; the structure is in disrepair and the grounds are often unkempt and overgrown.

This important structure may soon be lost if ownership is not gained by a new owner who will rehabilitate it.

Staff seeks permission to proceed with condemnation.