

Awesome Clausen!

Neighborhood homes of Davenport's premiere Victorian architect featured during the 2016 Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Home Tour

F. G. "Fritz" Clausen was Davenport's premiere architect during the last quarter of the 19th century. He arrived in the city as a young German immigrant in 1869 and he never left; he lived in the Hamburg Historic District for sixty-seven years. In addition to designing notable commercial and residential buildings across Davenport, he designed homes for many of his neighbors. His son Rudy joined the firm in 1904. Operating under different names, the company that Clausen founded is still doing business today, the oldest architectural firm in the state of Iowa.

The 2016 tour features six Clausen buildings-- the architect's residence, four other single family homes and an apartment building. Research of historic records prove that five were designed by Clausen; the sixth is attributed to him. The structures were built between 1873 and 1906; the variety of styles and materials reflect both Clausen's skill as a master of his craft and Davenport's architectural tastes of the period. All have undergone extensive restoration and some have never been open to the public. The Architectural Rescue Shop at the Jipp will also be open during the tour.

The Hamburg Historic District, known popularly as "The Gold Coast," was listed in the National Register in the 1980s. It was home to many successful German immigrant families who helped fuel the economic might of 19th century Davenport. By the 1930s, many of the homes had been divided into rentals; the area entered a long decline. In the 1980s, new owners began rescuing vacant properties, restoring the buildings and returning many to single family homes. Today, engaged residents make it one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods. In 2011, it was the first neighborhood in Iowa to be named a "Great Place" by the American Planning Association.

Dates: Saturday, September 17, 10AM-4PM; Sunday, September 18, 12N-4PM.

Tickets: Adults \$10.00. Children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets for sale at all tour homes on day of tour.

Transportation and Parking: Ample parking is available along all neighborhood streets and in the parking lot on the north side of 5th street between Western Avenue and Scott Street. Limited shuttle service will be available, beginning from the parking lot, and circulating through the neighborhood during tour hours.

Homes on Tour: A complete listing and photos begin on page 2.

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Or visit www.davenportgoldcoast.org.

630 W. 6th Street- The F. G. and Joanna Clausen House. (1873) This two-story brick McClelland-style home combines a simple vernacular exterior with unusual interior features like a winder staircase that curves its entire length. Many original details such as original painted-grain woodwork are intact. F. G. Clausen designed the house on property purchased as a wedding present by his father-in-law Henry Lischer who lived next door. The house is decorated with antiques, many dating from the period during which the Clausen family occupied the home.



The F. G. and Johanna Clausen House 630
W. 6th Street

532 W. 7th Street- The Charles and Louise Beiderbecke House (1881) This is second home in the neighborhood for the grandparents of “Bix.” It is built in the “Swiss” or Stick style, a popular design Clausen is crediting with introducing to the city of Davenport. By the 1980s, the home was severely deteriorated and missing many architectural elements. A series of owners lovingly restored missing parts based on historic photographs. It now welcomes guests as the Beiderbecke Inn, a bed and breakfast. The Inn recently received a makeover than includes stunning Bradbury and Bradbury wallpapers.



The Charles and Louise Beiderbecke House
532 W. 7th Street

712 W. 8th Street- The August and Fredrika Warnebold House (1881) August and Fredrika must have loved their view of the Mississippi from this large lot on 8th. The very large brick house with Italianate and Stick influences that Clausen designed for the family replaces an older home they occupied there. The home's scale, its grand spaces and stunning woodwork may remind visitors of the Beiderbecke Inn. Don't miss the three impressive fireplaces on the first floor. The house was purchased by new owners several years ago and restoration is ongoing.



The August and Fredrika Warnebold House
712 W. 8th Street

811 W. 7th Street- The Henry F. and Clara (Klug) Petersen/Adolph and Ida Priester House (1881) This house is attributed to F. G. Clausen based on similarities to other homes he was designing at the time. Another great example of a Stick Style residence with decorative iron roof cresting and a tower facing the river and home to two families who were important to the development of Davenport. As is the case with many neighborhood homes, the house had been converted to apartments. Its current owners have restored its single family layout. Visitors who attended the 2011 home tour or the 2015 Holiday Tea will remember the fabulous Witt House restoration. The same owners have restored the Petersen-Priester home in the same luxurious style. The home is furnished throughout with period pieces.



The Henry F. and Clara (Klug) Petersen/Adolph and Ida Priester House
811 W. 7th Street

705 Gaines Street-The Best Townhouse Apartments (1906) Few apartment buildings were ever constructed in this primarily single-family-home neighborhood. But in 1906, Davenport was growing rapidly, and the lack of “first class” housing was an issue. Clausen and his son Rudy combined their talents to design this Craftsman style four-unit building for Fritz’s good friend and neighbor, entrepreneur Louis Best. In the 1930s, the townhouses were split in two to create eight apartments. The building is being returned to its original four 1600-square-foot residences. On view today is a completely renovated apartment as well as an unrestored unit.



The Louis P. Best Apartments
705 Gaines Street

702 Western Avenue-The Richard and Laura Mittelbuscher House (1903) Fritz and Rudy also joined forces to design this house, an American Foursquare with Colonial Revival elements. This house has been lucky to be owner-occupied for most of its 113 years, with only three primary families in residence during its long history. The current owners have completed a top to bottom refurbishment, including installation of a new kitchen.



The Richard and Laura Mittelbuscher House
702 Western Street

732 Gaines Street—The Jipp Home and Grocery (1868/1878) The store was constructed for Christian H. H. Jipp in 1868 and served as his work place and home to the Jipp family for ten years. In 1878, he built the attached two-story house. The building now houses the Architectural Rescue Shop, operated by Gateway Redevelopment Group, as well as the history room for the Gold Coast. A restroom is available for tour guests.



The Jipp Home and Grocery
732 Gaines Street