



“INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY” NOMINATION

for the

DAVENPORT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**Historic Preservation Commission
City of Davenport, Iowa**

Please Provide the following information: (Please type or print)

Address of the Property: 1730 Wilkes Avenue

Legal Description of the Property: Subdivision Name: Fairgrounds Addition

Block: Block 3 Lot: _____

Historic Name (or proposed historic name): Johnson School

Date listed on *National Register of Historic Places* (if applicable): _____

(If listed, NRHP Site No. #82-10-_____)

NRHP Historic District (if applicable): None

Who is the PETITIONER for Nomination: Owner(s) of Record: X HPC: _____ (check one)

Owner(s) of Record: Dan Howes / Lifetime Fitness Inc.

Owner(s) Address: (Name) Dan Howes / Lifetime Fitness Inc.

(Street) 30007 150th Street

(City, State & ZIP) Long Grove, Iowa 52756

Owner(s) Telecommunications: Work: (563) 445-1055 Home: (563) 285-5201 Mobile: (563) 349-5414

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Current Use of the Property: Institute of Therapeutic Massage and Wellness Day Spa - School

Original Function of the Property: School

The Petitioner shall submit the following information:

- (1) Four 4" x 6" photographs showing all elevations (These will become part of the Commission’s permanent file and cannot be returned.)
- (2) Any historical photographs, if available. (Clear photocopies of the photographs are acceptable at the time of application as long as petitioner brings reprints and/or slides of historical photographs to the meeting for HPC review. These will be returned after consideration of the nomination is complete.)
- (3) Physical Description of the Property: (Applicant may use as many continuation sheets as necessary)

Date of Construction: 1910 Architectural Style: Tudor Revival

Building Materials: Foundation: Brick Walls: Brick

Roof: Tar and gravel Other: Architects were Clausen and Clausen

Distinctive Features: Towers either side of entry with tudor stone arch, grouped windows, diamond decorative brick patterns on façade and parapet.

Alterations: None apparent, other than 1959 addition which provided an all purpose room, stage and kitchen.

- (4) A narrative describing why the property satisfies the “Designation Criteria” listed in Section 17.23.060(2) of the 1990 Municipal Code. Please describe both the property’s present and historic physical appearance as it relates to the definitions of Architectural and Historical significance in contained in Section 17.23.030¹.

The “Designation Criteria” are defined in the 1990 Municipal Code as follows:

Designation Criteria: Section 17.23.060(2). The Commission shall, after such investigation as it deems necessary, make a recommendation to the City Council as to whether a nominated structure or district qualifies for the Local Register. To qualify, a property must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (A) It is associated with events or persons that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history of the city, county, state and/or nation; and/or
- (B) It embodies the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a type, period or method of construction; and/or
- (C) It represents the work of a master builder, craftsman, architect, engineer or landscape architect or possesses high artistic, values.

- (5) A list of major bibliographical references.

“I, petitioner for the nomination of the aforementioned property to the Davenport Register of Historic Properties, do hereby state that all the information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and that there are no negligent or fraudulent misrepresentations of fact. I also understand that fraudulent misrepresentations of fact contained in this nomination form shall be sufficient cause to immediately nullify the nomination process.

Owner(s) of Record or Authorized Agent

Date

¹ Definitions of Architectural and Historical significance can be found in Sections 17.23.030(3) and 17.23.030(19) respectively.

Continuation Sheet:

Johnson School meets criteria “B” for nomination as a City landmark in that it is a good example of the Tudor Revival style in a large institutional building.

The school also meets criteria “C” as it represents the work of an important architectural firm, Clausen and Clausen. This firm was certainly Davenport’s most prominent architectural firm during the period in which the building was constructed.

A summary history of the school follows:

On June 8, 1908 the Davenport Board of Education purchased Block #3 Fair Grounds Addition for the sum of \$5,775.00.

On March 8, 1909 an election for the purpose of approving the sale of bonds in the amount of \$60,000.00 to erect, equip and furnish a school on the site purchased in 1908. Approval of voters was given.

The architectural commission for the school was given to Clausen and Clausen, the City of Davenport’s most prominent architectural firm of the period.

Frederick G. Clausen was born in Eckern Forde in Schleswig, Germany. He studied architecture in his native land and then came to Davenport in 1869. He first worked as a draftsman for contractor-builder T.W. McClelland and then started his own practice in 1871. Frederick Clausen became a member of the Architectural Association of Iowa at its founding in 1885 and was elected to membership in the National American Institute of Architects the same year. In 1903 Clausen became a founding member of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The firm became Clausen and Clausen in 1904 when his son Rudolph joined the firm. This partnership continued until Frederick retired in 1914. Individually and/or together the Clausens designed a number of the City of Davenport’s most prominent buildings.

The firm has since gone through several incarnations and is still in business today (the oldest Iowa architectural firm in existence) as Scholtz-Gowey-Gere-Marolfe. This firm was able to provide planning staff with copies of the original architectural plans for Johnson School.

The new school opened in 1910 as Johnson School. It served students in grades one through eight until 1913 when kindergarten was introduced in the Davenport schools.

Continuation Sheet:

After the Intermediate Schools (Junior High) opened in 1919, Johnson served students for grades kindergarten through grade six.

In the fall of 1940 the school continued as a K-6 school; however, changes were made in how instruction was delivered to grades four through six. Some of the classrooms were renovated to serve as a central library, a science/art room and rooms for teaching math and music. A basement room was equipped to serve as a gymnasium for physical education instruction.

In 1959 an addition to the building provided an all purpose room with a stage and a kitchen. This new room provided a gymnasium, auditorium and lunch room.

At the end of the 2001-2004 school year Johnson School was closed and the building was subsequently sold for commercial purposes. It was purchased by Dr. Dan Howes becoming the Institute of Therapeutic Massage and Wellness.