

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



April 11, 2019

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1820 Grant Street
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Fairmount Crematorium & Mausoleum 3902 Rockingham Rd Davenport, Iowa

Thursday, 11 April 2019 @ 6:30 pm

Fairmount Cemetery was first established as *West Davenport Cemetery* in 1881. Thirty acres were purchased from the James Connelly estate by the newly incorporated West Davenport Cemetery Association. This site was just west of the area called Blackhawk, a mile and a half outside the city limits of Davenport on the Rockingham Road.

The Fairmount Crematorium is historically significant because it was the first in Iowa and the thirteenth built in the United States. Few of the early crematoriums still exist today. Fairmount is currently the sixth oldest in existence in the nation. The crematorium was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. It was designed in 1890 by F. G. Clausen, the premiere architect of Davenport at the time and constructed by the Northwestern Cremation Society (later the Davenport Cremation Society). It is a one story brick building in the Romanesque Revival style. The rounded arched entrance, featuring stained glass sidelights, transom and door is a prominent exterior feature. Inside, in the center of the chapel, is the original wooden catafalque, a system used to lower coffins into the basement for cremation.

The Fairmount Community Mausoleum was the first of its kind in Davenport. It was formally opened in March 1929, constructed by the Heister Mausoleum Company of Bushnell IL. Cary C. Neff designed the mausoleum and supervised the construction. He was employed by the Heister Company and afterward served as the superintendent of Fairmount Cemetery. The mausoleum is constructed of concrete, stone and marble. The exterior is of buff Bedford stone, the interior of variegated light colored polished marble, and the stately corridors are tiled with marble and softened by subdued electric lights and cathedral glass windows. "Entombment in Fairmount Community Mausoleum takes away the awful sting of death, and gives you a heartfelt satisfaction that your loved one lies sleeping within the beautiful marble-lined building where the damp wintry blasts can never reach." (Davenport Daily Times 5 Jan 1928)

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Cassie Steffen for allowing us to tour Hansgen House in Rock Island.

City Cemetery in Davenport is adding a plaque to honor US Veterans buried there. It will hang alongside the German veteran's plaque. If you would like to donate, go to [gofundme – US Veterans Perpetual Plaque](#).

Upcoming SCHPS Events

April 11	Fairmont Crematorium & mausoleum	
May 9	Old St. Joe church	
June 13	Picnic at Schuetzen Park	
July 11	Blackhawk State Park - WPA	
August	NO meeting	
September	Forest Grove School	

The Buchanan school tour is still on hold and will be an additional tour.

***SCHPS is planning a bus trip to Potosi, Wisconsin. It will be a weekday in July and include a lunch and tour of the National Brewery Museum. This will be in conjunction with the German American Heritage Center. Price is to come. Contact Jan Day if you are interested.

Upcoming Local Events

Check out Quad Cities Museum week June 8 – 16!

Twenty-two local museums are offering a variety of activities like special programs or free admission. Visit [qcmuseumweek.com](#) for more information.