

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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March 10, 2022

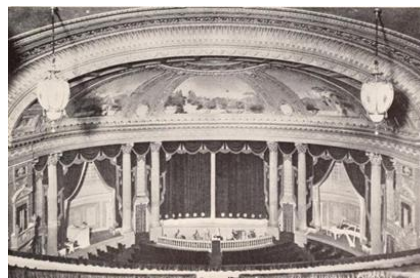
Capitol Theater
330 W 3rd St, Davenport, Iowa

******* Meet at 6 pm outside the theater*******



Part of the Kahl building, the Capitol Theatre opened on December 25, 1920. Builder Henry C. Kahl wanted to provide a 2,500-seat, palace-type theater. He planned a luxurious movie theater larger than any in Davenport or Iowa. When opened, the theater boasted grand pianos, gold leaf decoration, and several chandeliers.

In 1925, a 7-story stage house and stage expansion were constructed. It was designed by the Davenport architectural firm of Clausen & Kruse. Priester Construction Company of Davenport was the general contractor. Terrace Gardens was located in the basement of the Kahl Building below the Capitol Theater from 1921 through 1925. It was managed by Arthur H. Beck and Walter P. Maehr. Advertised as “The Wonder Restaurant of Iowa,” it also featured great bands for dancing and the finest vaudeville acts. Cooled by arctic breezes, a 70 degree temperature was maintained throughout the year.





The Kahl Building

In 1920, the Kahl Building was constructed by Henry Kahl and Walsh-Kahl Construction for \$1.5 million. It was considered high-quality office space and was fully leased before construction was complete. The building is composed of steel frame construction with stone and decorative terra cotta facing materials. The building's sense of height is highlighted by recessing the spandrel panels between the floors and behind the vertical piers. It is considered an "exceptional example of the influence of the Chicago School on commercial architecture." Historically, the building has contained 184 office suites, several retail shops, a restaurant, and the Capital Theater. The lobby walls were faced with Alabama marble that is swirled in pinks, and it featured bronze and copper doors.

There is elaborate ornamentation on the lower floors while the upper floors are relatively plain. The building is capped with a staccato pairing of round-arch windows and an elaborate cornice.

The building is being renovated into the Kahl Lofts, a multi-family affordable housing consisting of a variety of floor plans including studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments.

*****We will tour the Kahl Lofts after the theater.*****

Announcements

We have a new board member! Please welcome Caroline Sipiera...

Consider paying your dues for 2022/23. Send a check to Ferenc Beiwel:

**1820 Grant Street
PM Box 5017
Bettendorf, IA 52722**

Our membership year runs from July through June. Renewing early means there will be no disruption in your household getting the newsletter.

Newsletter via USPS - \$20/year; E-version - \$15/year

Niabi Zoo is hosting a five-day Summer Zoo Camp. There are four different age groups from 4 – 13 years. Call the zoo for more information.

There is a wonderful Lincoln exhibit at Karpeles Museum. They have some great programs for March.

Do you have any ideas for tours? The board is working on the calendar.