
HISTORY OF SMOKESTACK

ALMOST 200 YEARS OF ADAPTIVE RE-USE

NATIVE AMERICAN MOUND AND EARLY SETTLERS' CELEBRATIONS PRE-HISTORY TO 1852

THIS WAS A SACRED SITE TO IOWA'S FIRST PEOPLES, EARLY WHITE SETTLERS RECALLED AN "ENORMOUS MOUND" ON THIS SITE AND SO USED THIS HIGH SPOT FOR SPEECHES, GATHERINGS AND CELEBRATIONS SUCH AS THE 4TH OF JULY FOR MANY YEARS.

SADLY, THE MOUND WAS LEVELED IN 1852 WHEN THE CITY GRADED 7TH STREET. THE BURIAL MOUND



IMAGE OF INDIAN MOUND STATE PARK, ST. PAUL, MN
COURTESY OF MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE

REVEALED NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS, HUNTING TOOLS AND HUMAN REMAINS THAT ALLEGEDLY WERE SENT TO THE SMITHSONIAN.

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THE BIRTHPLACE OF IOWA, 1834:
THE FIRST EXECUTION IN WHAT
WOULD BECOME IOWA ON
JUNE 20, 1834 IS WHY THE BLACK
HAWK PURCHASE BECAME PART OF
THE U.S.A. ON JUNE 28, 1834

ONE MAN WAS MURDERED BY HIS
DUBUQUE LEAD MINING PARTNER,
DUBUQUE'S CITIZENS HELD A TRIAL,
MAKING NATIONAL NEWS AS THE
BLACK HAWK PURCHASE HAD NO
LAWS FOR IT WAS NOT PART OF THE
U.S. OR A TERRITORY. CONVICTED BY
HIS PEERS, THE MURDERER APPEALED,
YET NO ONE HAD JURISDICTION, NOT
EVEN PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON.



PROCESSION TO EXECUTION AT TYBURN, LONDON, ENGLAND
COURTESY OF RHYMES.ORG.UK

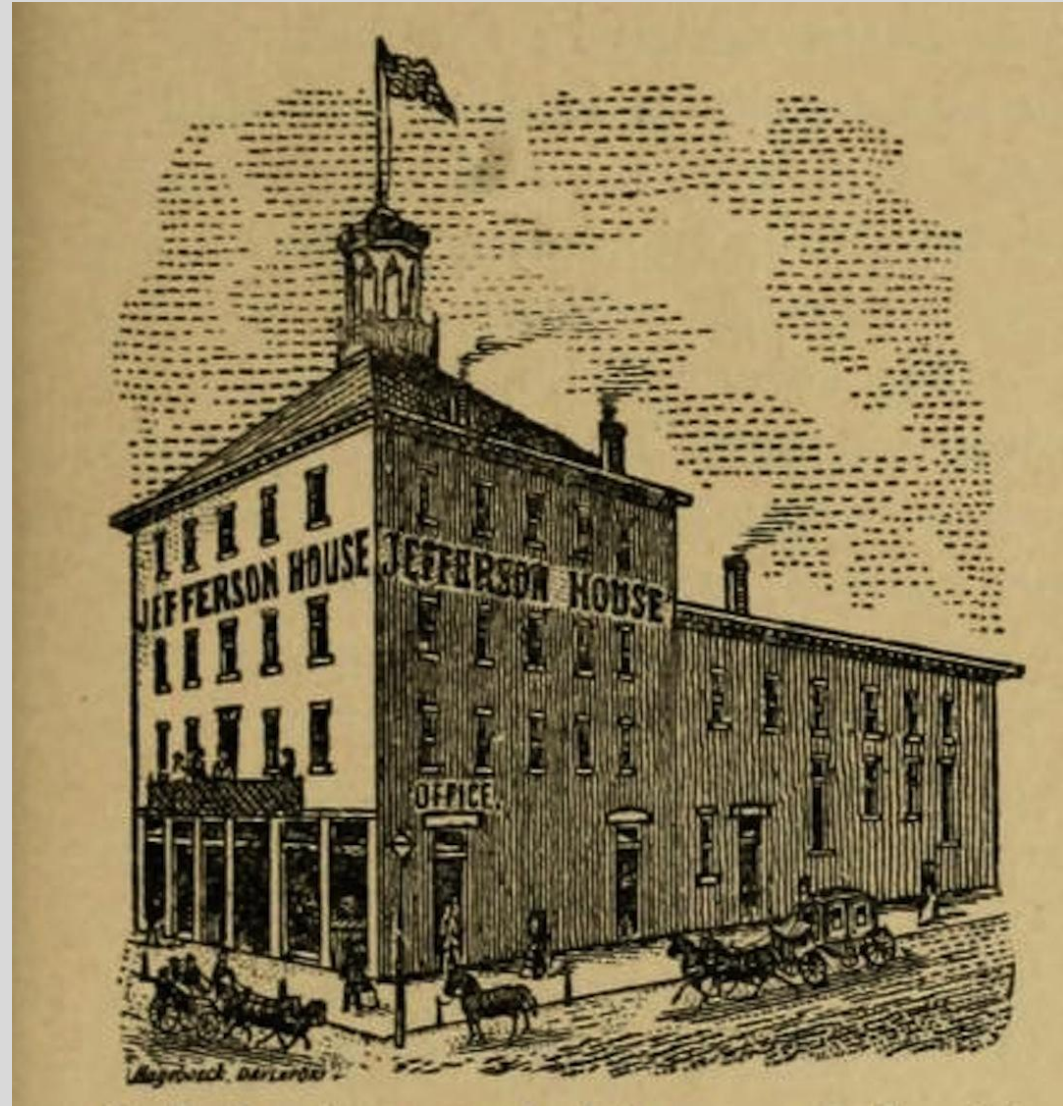
PATRICK O'CONNER WAS EXECUTED JUNE
20, 1834 FOR THE MURDER OF GEORGE
O'KEAF ON THE LARGE MOUND THAT
ONCE STOOD HERE. A THOUSAND
WITNESSED YET DUBUQUE HAD FEWER
THAN 500 CITIZENS. THREE DAYS LATER,
THE BILL WENT TO CONGRESS, PASSED
JUNE 28, AND IT EXPANDED OUR NATION
TO INCLUDE WHAT IS NOW EASTERN IOWA.
THESE EVENTS WERE THE FIRST STEPS TO
IOWA'S 1846 STATEHOOD, MAKING THIS
SITE THE BIRTHPLACE OF IOWA.

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JEFFERSON HOUSE HOTEL 1856 TO 1918

A SWISS-GERMAN IMMIGRANT, JOSEPH GEHRIG BUILT HIS HOTEL HERE, IN THE GERMAN HEART OF DUBUQUE. A WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL, JOSEPH AND HIS SON HENRY MADE IT A BEACON FOR GERMAN IMMIGRANTS COMING TO AND THROUGH IOWA. ONCE FOUR STORIES TALL, BUT MODIFIED BY LATER OWNERS, THE 2ND FLOOR ARCHWAY AND MANY OF THE WINDOWS ARE ORIGINAL TO THE 1856 HOTEL.



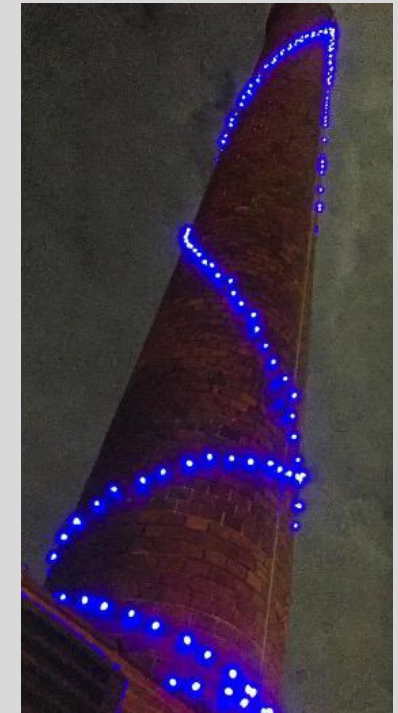
LITHOGRAPH FROM
THE INDUSTRIES OF DUBUQUE
PUBLISHED 1887

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SANITARY MILK COMPANY 1920 TO 1943

LOCAL FARMERS BROUGHT THEIR MILK ON WAGONS INTO DOWNTOWN FOR SANITARY PROCESSING TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF MILK-BORNE DISEASES. THE SMOKESTACK ADDITION WAS BUILT IN 1930 TO POWER AND VENT THE DAILY PASTEURIZATION OF THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF MILK, WHICH WERE THEN BOTTLED ON SITE AND DELIVERED TO HOMES AND BUSINESSES FROM ITS GARAGE NEXT DOOR. A RARE EXAMPLE OF IOWA'S URBAN AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL HISTORY, THIS SITE BRIDGES THE URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE.



1938 ADVERTISEMENT (BOB REDING) & BOTTLE IMAGE
FROM ENCYCLOPEDIA DUBUQUE.ORG
SMOKESTACK IMAGE (C. GROODER);
LIGHTS (SCOTT, LEON, BALLOONS)

HISTORY OF SMOKESTACK

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SANITARY MILK COMPANY
1920 TO 1943

THE SANITARY MILK COMPANY IS THE REASON THIS BUILDING STILL STANDS AS IT STRENGTHENED THE FIRST TWO FLOORS AND BASEMENT OF THE HOTEL WITH 12- TO 20-INCH CONCRETE SLABS. ITS COOLERS AND FREEZERS USED CORK INSULATION AND AMMONIA-BASED REFRIGERATION. THE 2ND FLOOR COOLER DOORS HAVE BEEN IN PLACE FOR 100 YEARS AND SOME OF THE EXTERIOR GHOST SIGNS REMAIN.



IMAGE COURTESY OF
TOKENCATALOG.COM

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FARLEY & LOETSCHER BUILDINGS 1943 TO 1978

THESE ARE LAST BUILDINGS, OF THE FARLEY & LOETSCHER MILLWORK CAMPUS. F&L BOTH USED AND LEASED THIS BUILDING AND THE DAIRY'S FORMER GARAGE NEXT DOOR TO SEVERAL TENANTS, INCLUDING BURKE ALUMATIC, COUNTY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MCCRAY'S CHICKS HATCHERY, AND THE BASEMENT WAS EVEN A FALLOUT SHELTER. F&L ADDED METAL WINDOWS, CUTTING INTO THE DAIRY'S GHOST SIGNS THAT ONCE COVERED MUCH OF THE BUILDING.



BURKE ALUMATIC WINDOWS & DOORS BROCHURE
FOUND IN A WALL ON THE FIRST FLOOR

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WAREHOUSE TO SMOKESTACK 1978 TO PRESENT

AMONG THE LAST KNOWN TENANTS WERE C&T MOTORCYCLES AND FEYE BROTHERS AUTO WAREHOUSE, YET THE BUILDING BECAME DERELICT, AN INDOOR JUNKYARD. THEN A COUPLE FROM BROOKLYN, NY PASSING THROUGH IN 2013 HEARD A CALLING TO THIS ONE SPOT IN DUBUQUE. READY FOR AN ADVENTURE AND WANTING TO SAVE THIS HISTORIC PROPERTY AND ITS UNIQUE BEAUTY FROM THE CITY'S INTENDED DEMOLITION, THEY REALIZED THIS PLACE WANTED TO BE SHARED AGAIN, SO THEY DID, BY CREATING SMOKESTACK.

