

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,
Fluckiger Motor Company Showroom
484 Central Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-T

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-T-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Fluckiger Motor Company Showroom

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Site Location: 484 Central Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 7.18
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 NE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691999.4707480
Lot dimensions : 51.7' x 100': .12 acre
Lot description: City Lot 299

Present Owner: Lavonne Eisbach
Present Usage: 1st floor: retail sales store; 2nd floor: apartments
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 51'6" x 100'; 2 stories
Orientation : west
Architectural Description : Plan type : rectangular, open plan (1st floor) or center hall (2nd floor).
Foundation: reinforced concrete perimeter walls.
Structure : iron frame (1st floor) and wood frame (2nd floor) with brick perimeter walls.
Ext. walls: common red brick laid in running bond.
Roof : flat composition roof with brick perimeter walls and terra cotta coping; wood shake-covered pent roof (installed in 1975) over 1st floor storefront.
Chimneys : none
Windows : painted wood 1/1 double-hung windows on 2nd floor and 1st floor side and rear, all with concrete lug sills, either with brick segmental arch or loose lintel heads; 1st floor storefront consisting of three brick columns framing aluminum fixed-sash showcase windows.
Openings : (replacement) single-leaf anodized aluminum main entrance on extreme right of facade; two garage entrances with sliding doors on north side; both with plain casings and loose lintels.
Details : corbeled brick cornice in a checkerboard pattern.

Construction Date : 1917
Architecture Style: 19th Century Functional
Physical History : Since about the turn of the century, Albert F. Fluckiger [Fluckinger] operated a grocery store on Couler Avenue. In 1917 he built this

two-story brick block on the corner of Fifth and Clay (now Central) streets, next to the Bell Block [HABS No. IA-160-S] to house automobile showroom of his newly formed Fluckiger Motor Company. His building was organized typically for a commercial structure of the time, with the business in the open-plan first floor storefront and residential apartments in the floor above. Fluckiger operated the car dealership successfully out of this corner location, expanding first into the defunct Dubuque Cornice Works building and eventually into the building beyond that [HABS No. IA-160-R]. In the late 1950s Fluckiger was succeeded by the Wilson Brothers Dubuque Inc. auto company, which remained in business here into the mid-1960s.

Significance: Built some two or three decades after nearby commercial structures further north on the Fluckiger Motor Company Showroom displays typical structure and organization, but slightly retardaire detailing for a commercial structure of its period.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 4-5-20-6.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado
December 1988.