

WENZIL TAYLOR

FOOD & BREW



STARTERS

Fried Onion Strings \$ 9.00

Served with Pub Sauce

Curds \$ 12.00

Water's Edge Cheese Curds - Served with Buttermilk Ranch

Egg Rolls \$ 10.00

Four Crispy Pork & Vegetable Egg Rolls - Served with Sweet Chili

Smoked Chicken Wings \$ 15.00

Bone in Wings - House dry Rub - Choice of Sauce

Spinach Artichoke Dip \$ 9.00

Served Warm with Corn Chips

Loaded Pub Fries \$ 8.00

Queso - Applewood Smoked Bacon - Sour Cream

Pub Nachos \$ 13.00

Corn Chip - Pork Carnitas - Queso - Guacamole - Salsa - Sour Cream - Cilantro

Hodge Podge \$ 15.00

Mixed platter of your favorite appetizers

Jalapeño Poppers \$ 9.00

Six crispy breaded jalapeño stuffed with cheese

Boneless Chicken Wings \$ 13.00

Choice of Sauce

Sauces:

- Sweet Memphis BBQ
- Buffalo
- Sriracha Honey
- Sweet Chili
- Carolina Gold BBQ
- Buttermilk Ranch

Each signature dish comes with a side:

SIDES

Fries

Sweet Potato Fries

Onion Strings

House Salad



SIGNATURE DISHES

Wenzil Taylor Smash Burger \$ 14.00

American Cheese - Lettuce - Tomato - Onion - Pickle
Spear - Brioche

Fire Braised Ribs \$ 22.00

St. Louis Style Pork Ribs ½ Rack
House Rub - Sweet Memphis BBQ

Surf's Up \$ 14.00

Beer Battered White Fish - Brioche - Lettuce - Tomato -
Onion - Pickle Spear - Tartar

Cali Chicken Sandwich \$ 14.00

Breaded or Grilled Chicken - Brioche - Provolone -
Guacamole - Applewood Smoked Bacon - Lettuce -
Buttermilk Ranch - Pickle Spear

Classic Reuben \$ 14.00

Corned Beef - Provolone - Kraut - Thousand
Island - Rye Bread - Pickle Spear

Street Tacos \$ 14.00

3 Soft Tortillas - Pork Carnitas - Queso - Cilantro -
Tomato - Onion - Salsa - Sour Cream served with a
side of lime

Rodeo Burger \$ 16.00

Cheese - Onion Strings - Bacon - BBQ Sauce

Mushroom Swiss Burger \$ 16.00

PIZZA

- 12 INCH THIN CRUST
- GLUTEN FRIENDLY CRUST (10 INCH)

Wenzil Taylor Deluxe \$ 17.00

Pepperoni - Sausage - Ham - Onion - Mushroom -
Peppers - Cheese

Taco \$ 17.00

Seasoned beef - Cheese - Lettuce - Tomato - Chips -
Sour Cream - Taco Sauce

Build - Your - Own \$ 12.00

Add \$1.50 for each additional topping

Tomato Sauce - Cheese - Pepperoni - Sausage - Ham -
Seasoned beef - Bacon - Onion - Peppers - Tomato -
Mushroom - Pineapple - Pepperoncini

Hawaiian \$ 16.00

Ham - Pineapple - Pepperoncini - Tomato Sauce - Cheese

Meat Lovers \$ 17.00

Pepperoni - Sausage - Ham - Bacon - Cheese

Chicken Bacon Ranch \$ 17.00

The Mystery Beneath the Limestone: The Legend of the Wenzil Taylor Building

If the walls of the Wenzil Taylor Building could talk, they wouldn't just speak; they would whisper secrets of war, disappearance, and a hidden world beneath the streets of Spillville.

Today, guests walk through our doors to enjoy a meal or a stay in a piece of living history. But beneath the floorboards and behind the 150-year-old brickwork lies a story that feels more like a Hollywood noir than a quiet Iowa afternoon.

1871: A Dream Built in Stone

The story begins with Wenzil Taylor. A veteran of the Civil War, Taylor returned to the rolling hills of Northeast Iowa with a vision. In 1871, he commissioned what would become the crown jewel of Spillville's commercial district: a stunning Italianate-style structure.

Constructed with massive rubble limestone walls and a sophisticated brick facade, it was originally intended to be the town's premier general merchandise store. It was a symbol of progress, a place where the local Czech community gathered for news, supplies, and conversation.

The Vanishing: A Family's Tragic Quest

But the building's founder never got to see his legacy flourish. Shortly after the building was established, Wenzil Taylor simply... vanished.

The records of the time are thin, but the family lore is haunting. It is said that Taylor, perhaps still carrying the weight of his years at war, walked out one day and never returned. His wife and young children embarked on a desperate, years-long journey across the frontier to find him, searching through veteran camps and growing cities, but the trail went cold.

Wenzil Taylor became a ghost in his own house, leaving his name on the lintel but his fate to the winds of history.

The Tunnels and the "Public Enemy"

By the time the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, it had already lived many lives. It had been a general store, a residence, and eventually, the legendary Old World Inn. But it's the era of Prohibition that truly ignites the imagination.

Descend into our basement, and you aren't just entering a cellar; you are entering a network of barrel-vaulted limestone tunnels. While officially used as brewery cellars in the early days, local legend tells a darker story. During the 1920s, when Northeast Iowa was a "wild west" for bootleggers, these tunnels were rumored to be a stop-off point for illicit spirits moving toward Chicago.

The name "Hotel Capone" wasn't just a catchy title. Local stories persist that the "Big Fellow" himself, Al Capone, used the building as a discreet hideout when things got too "hot" in Dubuque or Chicago. With the tunnels offering a perfect escape route and the thick limestone muffling the sounds of the underground, it was the ultimate safe house.

A New Chapter in an Old World

Over the years, the building has seen the rise and fall of empires. It stood tall when the famous composer Antonín Dvořák spent his summers just down the street in 1893. It survived decades of abandonment until a passionate restoration in the 1980s brought the "Old World Inn" to life, serving traditional Czech fare that honored our town's roots.

Today, as the current owner, I (Josh Mason) see myself as a steward of these stories. When you sit in one of the softly lit booths in our limestone tunnels, you are sitting where bootleggers once whispered. When you look up at the original Italianate arches, you are seeing the dream of a veteran who disappeared into the fog of history.

The Wenzil Taylor Building isn't just a place to eat or sleep—it's a place to step back in time.

Come visit us at <http://www.wenziltaylor.com> and see if you can hear the echoes of the past. The mystery is still here, waiting for you to uncover it.

Factual Deep Dive for Your Records:

National Register Info: The building was officially listed on March 21, 1979 (NRHP #79000951 (tel:79000951)).

Architecture: It is the last remaining commercial structure from Spillville's original commercial district. The "Italianate" style is noted for the brick arches and dressed limestone keystones.

The Tunnels: The NRHP nomination specifically mentions the "barrel-vaulted spaces" in the basement, identifying them as rare examples of 19th-century masonry.

The Novak Era: After Taylor's disappearance and the subsequent sale, the building was famously operated by A.A. Novak (son of the town's Bohemian patriarch) until 1908.