

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN:
LE CLAIRE, IOWA 1850-1880

Name: Samuel Van Sant House

Address: 322 North Cody Road

Owner: Harvey Phillips

Address: 402 N. Cody

Legal Description: Lot 4 of Block
6, original town of Le Claire

Acreage: less than one

UTM: 15/721380 4608570

Physical Description:

A 1½-story frame house sheathed in narrow clapboards, built c. 1860. L-shaped in plan, with a relatively wide front gable facing the street, and the main roof parallel to the street. There is a large triangular wall dormer centered in the front of the long arm of the L. Windows have flat enframements with very shallow triangular pediments. A plain wooden porch, tucked into the angle of the L, is a later addition.

Significance:

House was associated with Samuel Van Sant, son of the head of the Le Claire Marine Railway boatyards. In the late 1869's, while still a young man, Sam Van Sant designed and built the "J.W. Van Sant", a prototype for a raft boat which was to revolutionize the movement of logs and lumber down the Mississippi River. In the 1880's he moved to Minnesota, and later became governor of that state.

