

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 678554

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 6 1979  
DATE ENTERED MAY 7 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Cody Road Historic District  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Cody Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Le Claire  
STATE  
Iowa  
*regular pattern along*  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
COUNTY  
First  
Scott  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
multiple ownership (see continuation sheets)  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
VICINITY OF  
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Scott County Courthouse, Auditor's Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
4th Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Davenport  
STATE  
Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Some sixty buildings compose the Cody Road Historic District in Le Claire. They are ranged along both sides of a 9-block stretch of U.S. 67, locally known as Cody Road and the community's principal thoroughfare. The road runs north/south; it is parallel to, and slightly above, the Mississippi River. The road is heavily traveled, being the main road between Clinton on the north and Davenport about 15 miles to the southwest. The district contains both residential and commercial structures, the latter concentrated in the south end and extending north along the east side of Cody Road. Most of the residential structures are found on the west side, facing the Mississippi.

Buildings on the east (river) side of the road typically have high, stone, walk-in basements at the rear, due to the sharp drop of the ground from street level down to the river. North of the main commercial area, buildings on the west side are often situated well above street level, their lots in some cases fronted with stone retaining walls. Buildings in the commercial area, and all those on the east side of the road, are situated quite close to the highway, with sidewalks narrow or nonexistent, and parking haphazard. This latter problem has been "solved" in the cases of certain recent commercial buildings, which are large, pre-fab construction set well back behind large parking lots -- wholly opposite to the general character of the district.

The buildings, commercial and residential, range in age from the 1850's to new construction, the latter particularly evident toward the south end of the district. The houses are generally in good condition, and for the most part occupied; many of the commercial structures are empty, deteriorated, or extensively "modernized", particularly at street level. Foundations are mostly of local limestone (the town was once well-known locally for its lime and sandstone quarries). Commercial structures are for the most part built of locally manufactured soft brick, while residential structures are of wood, brick, and, in a few instances, limestone. The scale is low -- one or two stories (at street level), with the exception of the 3-story Bard Hotel.

Although riddled with intrusions, modernized storefronts, and suffering the effects of deterioration by neglect, the Cody Road district contains the majority of the community's architectural and historic resources. It is safe to say that homogeneity is not characteristic of the district. On the contrary, the historic resources present a cross-section of mid-to-late 19th century residential and commercial building types and forms. The oldest are the remains of Le Claire from the 1850's-1860's period, when the community reached its peak of prosperity and prominence as a river town. These include such forms as (1) the narrow, two story, two or three bay front commercial structure, with a broad, low-pitched gable or half-hip roof, with ridge parallel to the front (106, 110, 125, 229 N. Cody); (2) the front-gable residential or commercial structure (103 S. Cody, 118, 209, and the 600 block (east side) N. Cody); (3) the house with Greek Revival influences (symmetrical front, gable roof ridge parallel to the front (102, 414, 419, 510 N. Cody)); (4) the vernacular Italianate residential form, with

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

## SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1850-1900

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cody Road Historic District is significant both in terms of architecture and of local history. The area contains a rich variety of mid-to-late 19th century architecture and building types, ranging from the simple utilitarianism of working-men's dwellings, and assorted forms of commercial architecture, to relatively "stylish" examples of upper-middle-class residential construction. Such variety of building stock, particularly that which includes structures from the 1850's, is in Iowa concentrated almost exclusively in the eastern third of the state and is found most typically in the river communities which represent Iowa's earliest settlement history. Furthermore, many of these resources can be associated, directly or indirectly, with some of the persons and activities that played major roles in Le Claire's reputation as a small though bustling center of industry and commerce, and, above all, as an important participant in Mississippi River trade and transportation from the mid-1850's to about 1880.

The history of Le Claire began in the mid-1830's, when the first settlers came to the area. By the end of that decade, there were two towns platted, Parkhurst and Le Claire, the former just north of the latter. Parkhurst was eventually incorporated into Le Claire, along with the narrow strip of land between them which during the 1850's was known as "Middletown". Of particular importance in the development of Le Claire was its strategic location at the head of a 15-mile stretch of rock-strewn water known as the Upper Rapids.

From the first, the Mississippi River played a predominant part in the life of Le Claire. Apart from stone quarries and brickyards (there was an abundance of limestone and good clay), early industry was mostly milling -- grist and lumber, the latter of particular importance and longevity. Several fortunes were made in lumber here, and were reflected in the fine residences of such men as William Headley (226 N. Cody), James McCaffrey (208 N. Cody), J.W. Rambo (430 N. Cody) and Alfred Jansen, who built 419 and 414 N. Cody (the former, known as the Old Mill House, was built adjacent to his lumberyard). Several of these houses, displaying Italianate and Greek Revival influences of the mid-19th century, are still among the community's finest architectural resources.

Beginning in the 1850's and continuing into the 1870's, Le Claire's character as a true river town developed. The boatyards, established in the early 1850's by Thomas Lancaster and Levi Chamberlin, were taken over (along with the Old Mill House) in 1862 by J.W. Van Sant, and became the town's second principal employer -- up to 100 men in a population which was in 1860 only 1450. The largest employer was the river itself: generations of Le Claire men earned their living on it, as crewmen, engineers (the Thompson house, a diminutive and attractive example of

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lage, Dorothy. Le Claire, Iowa: A Mississippi River Town. Privately printed, 1976.  
 History of Scott County, Iowa. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1882.  
 Preliminary architectural survey of portions of Le Claire, by Steven Elmets, 1976.  
 Manuscript Census Records for Le Claire, Iowa: 1856, 1861, 1870.  
 Beitz, Ruth, "Le Claire -- Nantucket of the Middle West", The Iowan XII (Spring 1964).  
 Peterson, William J. "Rafting on the Mississippi", Iowa Journal of History and Politics, Vol. 58 (October 1960), pp. 289-320.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 20 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Port Byron, Ill.; Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 72,13,3,0 4,60,92,6,0

B 1,5 72,13,8,0 4,60,91,4,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C 1,5 72,14,4,0 4,60,81,8,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D 1,5 72,14,0,0 4,60,81,8,0

E 1,5 52,12,4,0 4,60,91,0,0

F 1,5 72,12,8,0 4,60,92,6,0

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet Item 7, page 1, paragraph 3.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Alvin D. Anderson*

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 2/23/79

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Archie Atberry*

DATE 5.7.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William D. Bragg*

5.7.79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Cody Road Historic District, Le Claire, Scott County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

Property	Owner	Owner Address	Rating
123 S. Cody	Caroline England	2950 Coastline Dr. Davenport IA	B
121 S. Cody	Gregory Pelo	Le Claire IA 52753	B
110 S. Cody	Kathleen McKnight	922 19th St. Bettendorf IA	B
113-117 S. Cody	Snow Lodge Ma- sonic Temple	113 S. Cody Le Claire IA 52753	C
103 S. Cody	Charles Morgan	103 S. Cody Rd. Le Claire 52753	A
102 N. Cody	Charles Morgan	103 S. Cody Rd. Le Claire 52753	A
101-3 N. Cody	Gregory Pelo	Le Claire 52753	C
105 N. Cody	Gregory Pelo	Le Claire 52753	C
106 N. Cody	Donald Frantz	Le Claire 52753	A
107 N. Cody	City of Le Claire	Le Claire 52753	C
110 N. Cody	Mrs. Bernard Bennett	110 N. Cody Rd Le Claire 52753	A
114 N. Cody	Erwin Pries	114 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
117 N. Cody	James W. Fulmer	Box 139 Le Claire 52753	A
118 N. Cody	Clifford LaRose	118 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
"Hitching Post" cor. N. Cody & Jones	Jon Dittmer	102 3rd St. Princeton, IA	C
119 N. Cody	Country Lane Investors	R.R. 1, Box 2531 Le Claire 52753	C
123 N. Cody	Robert Bernauer	Le Claire, 52753	C
125 N. Cody	Clarence Simonton	Le Claire 52753	A
127 N. Cody	Clarence Simonton	Le Claire 52753	B
129 N. Cody	Clarence Simonton	Le Claire 52753	C
201-3 N. Cody	City of Le Claire	Le Claire 52753	A

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Property	Owner	Owner Address	Rating
207&209 N. Cody	Sneaky Pete's Cowboy Steaks, Inc., c/o Art Bruner	209 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
208 N. Cody	R.D. & Oty I. Danico	1120 Lincoln Rd. Davenport	A
217 N. Cody	Ralph L. Holden	217 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
220 N. Cody	Eleanor Nanke	220 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
226 N. Cody	Steven Wulf	226 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
227 N. Cody	Martin Hanson	127 S. 2nd Le Claire 52753	B
229 N. Cody	A.I. Hellman	1617 Eastmer Davenport IA	A
302 N. Cody	Calvary Chapel	302 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	C
308 N. Cody	Calvary Chapel	302 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	C
316 N. Cody	Randall Bird	316 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
317 N. Cody	Larry C. Ditmer	2408 Great River Rd. Le Claire 52753	C
320 N. Cody	Harvey Phillips	402 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
322 N. Cody	Harvey Phillips	402 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
402 N. Cody	Harvey Phillips	402 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
414 N. Cody	James Rogers	414 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
419 N. Cody	Martin Hanson	127 S. Second Le Claire 52753	A
422 N. Cody	Steven Lahl	422 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A

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Property	Owner	Owner Address	Rating
423 N. Cody	Haessler-Ewoldt Inc.	Le Claire 52753	C
430 N. Cody	Roi Brown	430 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
440 N. Cody	La Verne Koch	Le Claire 52753	B
456 N. Cody	Everett O. Gleason	Le Claire 52753	B
501 N. Cody	Harold Ross	506 Westerfield Dr. Davenport IA	C
504 N. Cody	Richard Taber	504 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
510 N. Cody	Edward J. Thompson	510 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
513 N. Cody	Joseph Haber	2809 Bellevue Ave. Bettendorf IA	B
517 N. Cody	Bert H. Moore	Box 168 Le Claire 52753	B
518 N. Cody	Glen E. Veatch	Box 645 Le Claire 52753	B
521 N. Cody	Arnold Erickson	521 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
537 N. Cody	Melvin Nyenhuis	Box 53 Le Claire 52753	B
543 N. Cody	George W. Seigel	Le Claire 52753	B
603 N. Cody	Frank J. Drechsler	Le Claire 52753	B
606 N. Cody	Anna K. Norton	606 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
607 N. Cody	William H. Reep	R.R. 1 Le Claire 52753	B
622 N. Cody	Erma May Ford	622 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B

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Cody Road Historic District, Le Claire, Scott County, Iowa

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Property	Owner	Owner Address	Rating
627 N. Cody	Alfred Bigos	Box 487 Le Claire 52753	B
628 N. Cody	Katherine Schwartz	628 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
634 N. Cody	Edward Younger	106 Holland Le Claire 52753	B
701 N. Cody	American Legion Post	701 N. Cody, Le Claire 52753	B
714 N. Cody	Phyllis Dearing	714 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
716 N. Cody	Phyllis Dearing	714 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
806 N. Cody	Carl B. Elverd	806 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	A
812 N. Cody	Burton Osborn	812 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B

Addenda:

125-127 S. Cody	City of Le Claire	Le Claire 52753	C
441 N. Cody	Marie Kirby	441 N. Cody Le Claire 52753	B
538 N. Cody Jack & Jill Store	Harold Slagle	2312 N. Zenith Davenport IA	C
613 N. Cody	George Baughman	Le Claire 52753	B
<u>Lone Star</u>	Buffalo Bill Museum	Le Claire 52753	A

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low hipped roof, sometimes with bracketted cornice (114, 208, 226, 716, 806 N. Cody).

The later 19th century structures are also varied. Most typical are the brick "Italianate" commercial blocks, with flat roofs and parapetted fronts, a few retaining the metal cornices which were a ubiquitous feature of the type, and much in evidence along the Main Streets of many Iowa towns (117, 121, 123 S. Cody, 117, 127 N. Cody). Stylistic influences of late Victorian residential construction (Queen Anne, Eastlake, Shingle, and more Italianate) are represented by such houses as 316, 422, and 504 N. Cody. Others are small bungalows (628, 812 N. Cody) or plain, L-shaped front-gable houses (402, 622, 624 N. Cody). Standing as single representatives of their types are the three-story Bard Hotel (207 N. Cody) which hides a front porch behind barnboards; the old city hall (201-203 N. Cody) with its concave hipped roof, pedimented window hoods, and decorative cornices; and the former Presbyterian Church (322 N. Cody), a small frame structure with central entrance/belltower.

It should be noted, finally, that none of the structures and facilities associated with Le Claire's 19th century industrial activity remain.\* These once included the boatyards, several lumber and grist mills, a plow factory and an iron foundry. Another loss was that of a large rock elm near the riverbank, once known as "The Green Tree Hotel", beneath which raftsmen lounged and slept while waiting for steamboats to take them back upriver. Most recently, the Smith-Parrick house, a large brick dwelling once the home of raft pilot John Smith and a significant architectural landmark, was razed and the lot used for a drug store and parking lot.

The boundaries of the district have been drawn to include all the historic resources along Cody Road. East and west boundaries are the rear property lines of the Cody Road properties. On the west, this line is the series of alleys which run parallel to Cody Road. On the east, the rear property lines are established by the railroad right-of-way which runs parallel to the Mississippi River. The north and south boundaries of the district are slightly irregular, reflecting the encroachment of new construction. On the west side of Cody Road, the district begins with 102 N. Cody and extends through 812 North Cody. On the east, the district begins with 125-7<sup>8</sup>. Cody and runs north through 701 North Cody.

Ratings:

- A: pivotal structures, by virtue of age (1860's or before), architectural significance and/or visual prominence
- B: all other buildings which were built around or before the turn of the century, and which are reasonably intact
- C: modern intrusions, or older structures which have to all intents and purposes lost their historic integrity

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\*Indirectly associated, however, is the steamer Lone Star, located at the foot of Jones Street and now used as a museum relic. It was originally built in 1868, but, as was often the case with this type of craft, the wooden superstructure was rebuilt several times over the years. Originally built as a sidewheeler, the Lone Star was later converted to a stern wheel. It was for many years a workboat (indicated by the traditional gray and white of the superstructure) for the Builders' Sand and Gravel Co. of Davenport, and was commanded by Orrin Smith, one of the last generation of Le Claire river pilots. The Lone Star serves today as a most appropriate symbol of Le Claire's 19th century involvement in Mississippi River transportation and commerce.

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Greek Revival architecture, 510 N. Cody), mates, raftmen on the huge lumber rafts floated down river from Wisconsin forests. The "aristocracy" of this group were the pilots -- men who specialized in guiding steamboats and lumber rafts (with and without towboats), at about \$10 a trip, over the treacherous waters of the Upper Rapids. Among these were James McCaffrey (208 N. Cody), George Tromley, Sr. (806 N. Cody), Zachariah Suiter (102 N. Cody), J.W. Rambo (430 N. Cody), J.W. Van Sant (419 N. Cody) and his son, Samuel (320 N. Cody), the latter the designer in 1872 of the steam raftboat which was to revolutionize the moving of logs and lumber down the Mississippi River.

Another industry, though short-lived, was the Owen Plow Factory, which was located in "Middletown" (between Ferry and Holland Streets) from 1851 to 1856. John Owen was the inventor of a bar share plow, specifically designed for cutting through the tough sod of the Iowa prairies. Many of his employees also lived in "Middletown"; relics of their lives are the curious little front-gable houses, on large stone basements, from 537 through 627 N. Cody.

Other remains of Le Claire's enterprises during the boom period are the handful of commercial structures, distinguished from the later, "Italianate" bracketed forms by their low, broad gable or half-hip roofs, ridges parallel to the street, or, in two cases, by narrow front gables (106, 110, 118, 125, 229 N. Cody). One of these, the front-gable frame building at 103 S. Cody, was long a mercantile establishment run by the Schworm family, among the many German immigrants who came to Le Claire in the 1850's. These buildings are particularly noteworthy in that relatively few commercial structures of this age and character remain in Iowa, mostly located in other river cities.

The later decades of the 19th century in Le Claire were characterized by a gradual decline in the industrial and river-oriented activities which had sustained the community's prosperity. Flour and grist mills closed, as the milling industry increasingly was concentrated in the hands of large-scale producers. By the 1870's, the railroads took a firm lead over steamboats in the transportation of passengers and cargo. For a few decades, until the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota were exhausted, there was still a good living to be made in moving lumber down the river, as a raftsman, or as an engineer, captain, or rapids pilot, on the raftboats. Small-scale commerce continued (as witnessed by the construction of brick commercial blocks such as 117, 121, 123 S. Cody, 117, 127 N. Cody). The Bard Hotel (207 N. Cody) and the Gault House (114 N. Cody) offered beds and food to travellers. The Rathmarn family (316 N. Cody), German immigrants, established a pork processing plant, serving the river trade as well as the immediate community. The old Presbyterian Church burned down in 1875 and another, very like the first, was erected on the site (322 N. Cody). Toward the end of the century, Le Claire built a new town hall (301-3 N. Cody), distinguished by its concave, decked hipped roof and decorative

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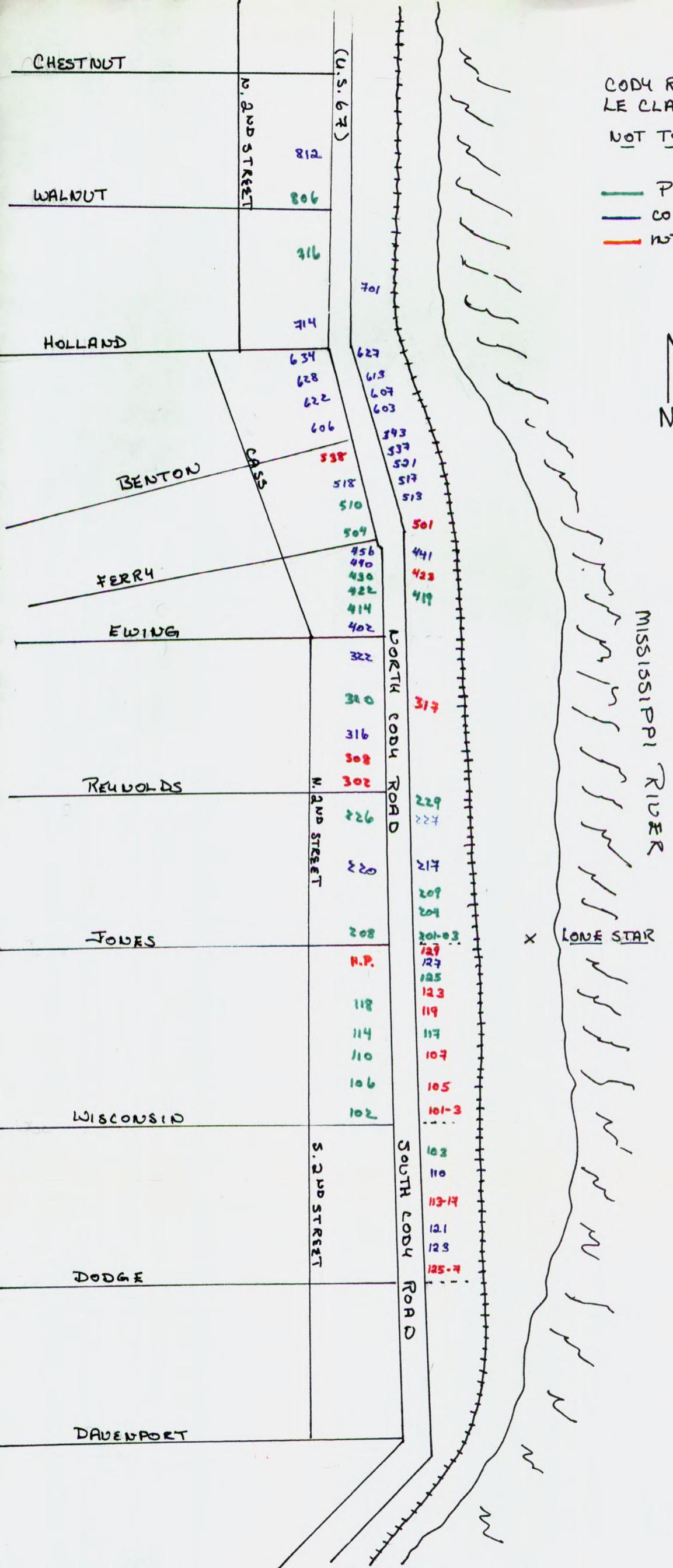
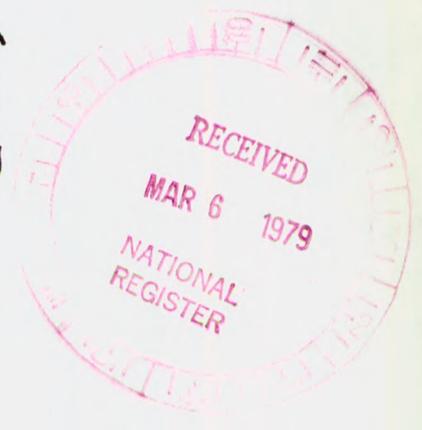
cornice and window detail.

After 1875 however, the town's population declined from 1121 that year to about 700 by 1910. As the importance of the Mississippi River, as an artery of transportation and commerce, waned, so did the fortunes of Le Claire. Unlike other Iowa river towns, such as Burlington, Davenport or Dubuque, Le Claire was unable to develop an alternative economic base. The result was essentially stagnation, which lasted until the 1950's. Since then, the growth of the Quad Cities (Davenport, Bettendorf, Rock Island and Moline) to the south has turned Le Claire into something of a bedroom community for those cities, as demonstrated by the new residential construction on both ends of the Cody Road Historic District, and in the western portions of the town.

CODY ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
LE CLAIRE, SCOTT CO., IOWA

NOT TO SCALE

- PIVOTAL STRUCTURES (A)
- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES (B)
- INTRUSIVE STRUCTURES (C)



X LOWE STAR