

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN:  
LE CLAIRE, IOWA 1850-1880

Name: William Suiter House

Address: 227 Wisconsin

Owner: Lucile Spiess

Address: 227 Wisconsin

Legal Description: West ½ of lot 10,  
block 17, original town of Le Claire

Acreage: less than one

UTM: 15/721200 4608310

Physical Description:

Two-story house with shallow gable roof, with its ridge parallel to the front facade. The front is three bays wide, with center entrance flanked by sidelights beneath a small gable roof. This latter feature postdates an estimated construction date of 1855. Windows are 6/6 sash in flat, plain surrounds. The exterior has been faced with modern siding. The plan is the traditional center-hall, single pile arrangement, with rather recent frame and concrete-block additions at the rear. There is a single brick chimney, centered in the roof ridge.

Significance:

The house was built for William Suiter, born in 1826 and a son of Phillip Suiter, one of the community's original settlers and rapids pilots. William began life on the river as a raft hand, but was piloting boats by the time he was 21, a profession he followed for nearly 40 years. His sons, Mordecai, William and Charles, all born in the 1850's, did not follow their father to work on the river, but instead went into railroading, the form of transportation which was to render the steamboat obsolete.

