

Iowa Site Inventory

Office of Historic Preservation
Iowa State Historical Department
East 12th & Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Site Number 76 N 29 W - 13
District Name Legacy In Stone TR
Map Reference # 44

Identification

1. Site Name Daniel & Nancy Swaford Henderson House
2. Village/Town/City Vic. Earlham Township Jackson County Madison
3. Street Address 8 Miles South of Earlham on P57; 1/4 Mi. West
4. Legal Location 76N 29W 13 SW1/4 SE1/4 *
Urban: subdivision Rural: township block range parcel section subparcel 1/4 section of 1/4 section
(Map 7)
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 405,350 northing 4,581,020; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Katherine Mae Wright
7. Owner(s) Address 408 Indianwood Park Forest Ill. 60460
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Residence Original Residence

Description

9. Date of Construction c. 1856 Architect/Builder unknown
10. Building Type:
 single-family dwelling industrial other institutional religious
 multiple-family dwelling educational public agricultural
 commercial
11. Exterior Walls: clapboard stone brick board and batten shingles stucco
 other Native limestone
12. Structural System: wood frame with interlocking joints wood frame with light members (balloon frame)
 masonry load-bearing walls iron frame steel frame with curtain walls reinforced concrete
 other _____
13. Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated
14. Integrity: original site moved—if so, when? _____
Notes on alterations, additions (with dates and architect, if known) and any other notable features of building and site:
Enclosed shed over east doors; repointed; interior walls may have been removed
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? _____
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other farmstead

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll _____ Frame _____ View _____

*Nomination boundary:

A circle, 150' diameter, with center point located at center point of house. Excludes outbuildings.

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Architectural Significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
 - b. Contributing structure
- Theme(s) Vernacular Architecture
Function: Residential

The Daniel and Nancy Swaford Henderson House is an early example of a vernacular farm residence built of limestone. It is one of several extant asymmetrical massed rectangle houses with raised basement and entrance to the side of the gable fronts. The most notable feature is an extremely long road setback which probably provided an orientation toward a well known grove that had been planted on the farm when the township was first settled.

The 26' x 30' one and one half story gabled house is constructed of locally quarried beige finished cut and rubble limestone. The east main entrance facade has a door on the right one half flight up to the main floor. Beside it to the left is a door one half flight down to the raised basement. There is a window on the left and two small windows in the gable peak. The south facade, toward but not in view of the road one fourth mile away, has an entrance crudely centered under the eaves with flanking windows. The west facade has two first floor windows with two smaller gable windows above and between them. There is a basement window to the left. The north facade has three unevenly spaced windows.

The main entrance facade is constructed of finished cut quarry faced stone. It appears that an attempt was made to lay the stone in courses, but it is not consistently coursed. Other facades are of uncoursed rubble. Joints have been repointed. Quoins and jambs are of finished cut stone with exaggerated quarry face. Lintels and sills are dimension stone with draft lines and tooled surface. Windows are not splayed. The recessed doors have plain paneled reveals and transoms that have been boarded over. The overhanging eaves and verges are closed, but there is no board against the stone.

This house has the same design and a similar size as the David Harris raised basement house style; however, it is crudely built by someone much less skillful than those who built the other stone houses in the county. The irregular placement of the fenestration and the irregular coursing are indications of the lack of skill of the mason.

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Daniel Henderson married Nancy Swaford in 1851. They were among the first three families to settle in the township when they arrived in 1853. In 1854-55, Henderson obtained patent deed to the 160 acre farm. The farm was reported to have an orchard and had one of the finest groves in the state.

21. Historical Significance

- a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register
 - b. Contributing Structure
- Theme(s) Early Settlement

22. Sources

Atlas of Madison Co., Iowa Philadelphia: Harrison & Warner, 1875.

Courthouse Records. Winterset, Iowa: Madison County Recorders' Office.

Mueller, Herman. History of Madison County, Iowa, 2 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915.

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