

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 75 N 28 W - 1.2
District Name Legacy In Stone TR
Map Reference # 16

Identification

1. Site Name John M. Duncan House
2. Village/Town/City Vic. Winterset Township Lincoln County Madison
3. Street Address 1/2 Mile South of Winterset on P69
4. Legal Location 75N 28W 1 NE1/4 SE1/4 *
Urban: Rural: subdivision township block range parcel section subparcel % section of % section
- (Map 3)
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 414,930 northing 4,574,580 Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Jack L. Benoit also Gladys Benoit, Bob Benoit
7. Owner(s) Address Route 3 Winterset IA 50273
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Vacant Original Residence

Description

9. Date of Construction c. 1866 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:
West door closed with stone masonry
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? deterioration
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other farmstead

18. Map

19. Photo 16A

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

Subtheme(s) Function: Residential

The John M. Duncan House is an early example of a vernaculr farm residence built of limestone. It is the only extant single cell house with raised basement and entrance to the side of the gable front. Notable features include the use of very large unsquared rubble and uncoursed broken bond which give an almost wave like appearance to the grapevine joints.

The 12' x 13' one story gabled house is constructed of locally quarried rubble limestone. The west public facade has a door centered under the eaves. The north gabled main facade has a door on the left with steps up to the main floor and one on the right with steps down to the raised basement. The east and south facades each have a small basement window and no other openings.

All facades are constructed of very large unsquared rubble. Quoins and jambs are also large unsquared pieces of rubble. Stonework is uncoursed with broken bond and grapevine joints. Lintels are dimension stone with draft lines, margin lines and finished with a tool with a small round end. The recessed doors are paneled with a single wide board at the top and each side of the reveal. There are no transoms. The only windows are small ones in the raised basement which have wood lintels. Overhanging eaves and verges have closed mitred soffits, and the boards against the stone are also mitred. The interior of the raised basement has grapevine tooled joints and is whitewashed, perhaps to simulate the plastering of the more expensive houses. The house is sited toward the road, but at a long distance from it.

The house is a one room version of the raised basement design used by David Harris, but the stonework indicates that it was not built by him.

21. Historical Significance

—a. Key structure/individually may qualify for the National Register

—b. Contributing Structure

Theme(s): Early Settlement

Daniel Chenowith obtained patent deed to the land in 1850. In 1866 John M. Duncan bought it from Canada Fink. By 1875 Duncan had built the house on the 40 acre farm.

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

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

22. Sources

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