

PH035468x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 24 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 19 1976

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



nh
Mathias Ham House

AND/OR COMMON

Mathias Ham Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2241 Lincoln Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Iowa

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Dubuque

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dubuque City Park Board

STREET & NUMBER

2241 Lincoln Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dubuque County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

720 Central Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This mid-Victorian house brings together a variety of architectural influences in a building of cleanly-dressed ashlar. Its symmetrical main block is square, 2½ stories high. The hipped roof of slate is topped with an octagonal belvedere with windows on each side. Four small gabled dormers, later additions, are centered on each ridge. Two brick chimneys are also later additions. Paired bracketing on the house cornice is repeated on the belvedere.

The side porch, with its Tudor style wooden arches, is supported by octagonal columns, the whole painted white. The Tudor arch is repeated on the front porch, but is flanked by narrower rounded arches of a Romanesque style. Both porches originally had iron railings on the roofs. Romanesque influence is also found in the colored leaded glass fanlight over the double front door, the latter having grooved colonnettes on each side. The double windows are simple 4/4 sashes, painted white, with broad, corniced stone lintels and stone sills.

The interior has 16 rooms, with 14' ceilings featuring plaster rosettes and moldings. The original flooring is 6" pine, the stair rails, newel posts and spindles are of walnut. Interior window shutters fold into the casements. Minor alterations, including the closing of fireplaces and maple flooring on the first floor, were made by the WPA in the 1930's.

This large portion of the structure is actually a later addition (1857) to a much simpler farmhouse constructed in 1839. The original, 6-room house (at the rear of the later addition) is also of limestone, from Nauvoo, with a gable roof and simple paired bracketing on the cornice. The cornice and slate roof were probably added at the time of the 1857 addition. A side porch was added around 1940 to the angle between the two sections.

The house has had no structural changes. It is presently used as a museum.

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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1839, 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ham House is a fine example of large, antebellum residential architecture, and reflects a popular enthusiasm for a rather eclectic architectural style. The contrast between the earlier and later sections reflect the improving fortunes of Mathis Ham, an early Dubuque settler with a wide variety of interests. During his lifetime, he was a farmer, lumberman, brickmaker and shipper, as well as participating actively in the social and political events of his town.

Financial reverses forced Ham to sell portions of the homestead, but the portion containing the house was reclaimed after his death by a daughter. Since 1912, it has served successively as offices and living quarters for superintendents of the City Park Board and a general history museum.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Childs, C.C. History of Dubuque County. Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1880.
 Oldt, F.T. and P. Quigley. History of Dubuque County. Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Society, 1911.
 Horton, Loren.
 Baule, John. The Ham House and the Life of its Builder. Dubuque; Grace Letter Shop, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	6 9 2 9 6 0	4 7 1 1 2 3 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Kenneth Mercer

ORGANIZATION

Dubuque County Historical Society

DATE

21 November 1974

STREET & NUMBER

2241 Lincoln Ave., Box 305

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dubuque

STATE

Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Adrian A. Anderson
 SHPO

TITLE

DATE 5.13.76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Adrian
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/19/76

ATTEST:

Debra S. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE July 16, 1976