

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN:
LE CLAIRE, IOWA 1850-1880

Name: Rambo House
Address: 430 N. Cody Road
Owner: Roi Brown
Address: 430 N. Cody Rd. 52753
Legal Description: Lot 2, Block 5
Davenport & Rogers Addition
to Le Claire
Acreage: less than one
UTM: 15/721360 4608740

Physical Description:

A transitional Greek Revival/Italianate frame dwelling, built c. 1855. Two stories high, three bays across the front, two bays deep. Has cornerboards terminating in molding just under the broad eaves of the hipped roof, large brackets, and center entrance with a triangular pedimented lintel/enframement. Windows on both floors are almost floor-to-ceiling, with straight, molded lintels and flat enframements. A porch, with pent roof supported on slender turned posts (bracketted) extends across the front facade. Protruding polygonal bay on the first floor, south side. The lot is well above street level, surrounded by a stone retaining wall.

Significance:

William Rambo came to Le Claire in 1844, and established a saw mill (Scott and Rambo) south of the town. From 1853 until his death in 1871 he worked as a pilot on the Upper Rapids. His son James W., born in 1844, first worked as a raft hand in 1862. He received his pilot's license the following year. Income from his work as a pilot and from the lumber mill allowed him to invest in Nebraska real estate as well as lead a comfortable life in Le Claire.

