

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 76 N 28 W - 11
District Name Legacy In Stone TR
Map Reference # 37

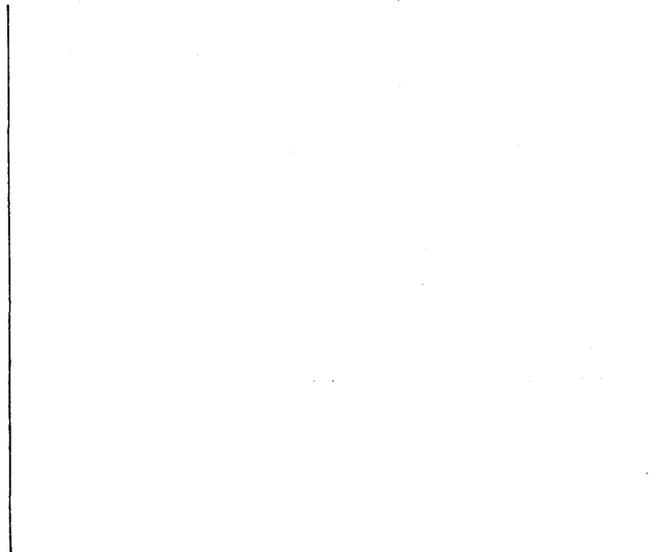
Identification

1. Site Name Seymour Church House
2. Village/Town/City Vic. Winterset Township Douglas County Madison
3. Street Address 4 Miles North on Highway 169; 1 mile West
4. Legal Location 76N 28W 11 NE1/4 NE1/4 *
Urban: subdivision Rural: township block range parcel section subparcel 1/4 section of 1/4 section
- (Map 6)
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 413,060 northing 4,583,590; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Mrs. Andrew Floyd Bennett
7. Owner(s) Address 409 N. 7th Winterset IA 50273
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Vacant house Original Residence

Description

9. Date of Construction 1860's 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:
East addition, mostly below grade
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 farmsted

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

Subtheme(s): Function: Residential

The Seymour Church House is an early example of a vernacular farm residence built of stone. It is one of few extant linear rectangle split level houses, and is unique in its siting and floor plan. It's most notable features are the split level aspect and the siting into the side of a south facing hill below the road and overlooking a stream. It is almost invisible from the road.

The 19' x 26' two and one-half story gabled house is constructed of locally quarried finished cut and rubble limestone. On the north facade toward the road only the second floor is visible. It has a door with flanking windows at ground level and centered under the eaves. On the south facade overlooking the creek, two full stories are in view. There is a door with flanking windows at ground level and second floor windows above the first floor windows. On the west facade there is a centered window at the first floor and attic levels. On the east facade there is first floor door and a centered attic window.

The north and south main facades are constructed of finished cut, quarry faced limestone. The stonework is roughly coursed with random bond and grapevine joints. The other facades are constructed of uncoursed rubble with grapevine joints. Quoins and jambs are roughly cut quarry faced stone. Window treatment consists of protruding dimension sandstone sills with surface texturing and dimension sandstone lintels with draft lines and exaggerated quarry faced texturing. The splayed windows have plastered reveals. The recessed doors are paneled with a single wide walnut board at the top and each side of the reveals. Overhanging eaves and verges are closed with mitred soffits. All interior walls are plastered; and the bottom floor woodwork is slightly more decorative with some use of coving.

There is an associated 9' x 12' underground stone shelter built into the bank north of the house. It has a four foot thick stone wall on the south side.

21. Historical Significance

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

—b. Contributing Structure

Theme(s): Early Settlement

Samuel Stover obtained patent deed to a 160 acre farm in 1854 which he later transferred to Matilda Stover. The 1875 Atlas lists Seymour Church as owner of the 100 acre part of the farm on which the house is located.

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

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

Houlette, William D. "Madison County's Wonderful Stone Houses," The Iowan Vol. 2, No. 6 (August - September 1954) pp. 30-35.

22. Sources

Prepared by: Roslea Johnson
Organization: Des Moines Area Community College
Address: Public & Human Services
2006 Ankeny Blvd
Ankeny, IA 50021
Date: November 1986
Telephone: (515) 964-6310