Name: Dawley House

Address: 127 S. 2nd Street

Owner: ₁ Donald Frantz

Address: 127 S. Second St.,52753

Legal Description: Lot 10 of Block

9 of the original town of

Le Claire

Acreage: less than one

UTM: 15/721310 4608200

Physical Description:

A two-story Italianate house, built of brick on a stone foundation. The shallow hipped roof has four short, wide chimneys symmetrically spaced. The house is three bays across the front, four along the sides. Flat brick pilasters separate the bays on the front and south sides. These have narrow caps just below the level of the cornice. The eaves are rather narrow, with paired brackets. Windows are 6/6 sash with flat lintels and sills. The main entrance is to the left on the front facade. The wooden porch, extending across the front, with its thick chamfered posts, is Gothic Revival in influence and probably of a later date than the 1851 construction date. At the rear is a one-story kitchen wing, also with bracketted hip roof and wooden cornice. A small porch on the south side of this wing is supported on somewhat attenuated columns. A stone retaining wall extends across the south side and rear of the lot, which slopes steeply down to the east.

Significance:

Daniel V. Dawley was born in Vermont in 1811. He worked in Troy, NY and New York City before coming west in 1834. About 1836 he obtained his first river job, that of clerk on the steamer "Hero". For the next 38 years he was employed on the river as either clerk or captain, working such boats as "Galena", "Henry Clay". He was also part owner of the "Golden Era", and worked extensively for the Minnesota Packet Company. He was appointed postmaster at Le Claire in 1881, and died in 1893.

Architecturally, the house is a good example of vernacular Italianate residential construction. Noteworthy features include the pilasters, with their small caps, the Gothic porch and attractive proportions. The rhythm established on the south side between the pilasters and the windows is of particular interest.