

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN:
LE CLAIRE, IOWA 1850-1880

Name: John H. Suiter House

Address: 1220 N. Second St.

Owner: Robert Trujillo

Address: 1220 N. Second St.

Legal Description: Lots 3, 4, and
5 of Block 12, original town of Park-
hurst of the City of Le Claire

Acreage: approx. 1

UTM: 15/712180 4609780

Physical Description:

A two-story house of frame construction on a stone foundation, built in 1855. Because the land slopes downward to the east, the front of the house sits rather high on its foundation. The shallow gable roof has ridge perpendicular to the front. The front elevation is three bays wide, with a center entrance, sheltered by a porch running the full width of the facade. Original wooden porch posts and balustrades have been replaced with wrought iron. The sash windows are set in flat surrounds, with very narrow cornices. The house has been resided, and shutters and metal awnings (on the second story front) added.

Significance:

The house was the home of John H. Suiter, a son of Phillip Suiter, and of the second generation of Suiters on the river. John H. was born in 1822, and came with his parents to Le Claire in 1835. From 1843 until 1875, he worked as a rapids pilot, then retired to manage his rather extensive agricultural and real estate holdings. He achieved local fame in 1864, when, during a time of extremely low water on the river, he was the only Le Claire pilot willing to take rafts down the rapids.

