

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 75 N 29 W -1.2
District Name Legacy In Stone TR
Map Reference # 24

Identification

1. Site Name Hiram C. Smith Milking Shed
2. Village/Town/City Vic. Winterset Township Webster County Madison
3. Street Address 6 Miles West of Winterset on Highway 92
4. Legal Location 75N 29W 1 NW 1/4 NW 1/4*
Urban: subdivision Rural: township block range parcel section subparcel 1/4 section of 1/4 section
- (Map 4)
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 404,420 northing 4,575,790; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name W.A. Anderson (Mrs. Winnie)
7. Owner(s) Address 315 W. Court Winterset IA 50273
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Farm building Original Barn/milking shed

Description

9. Date of Construction c. 1856 Architect/Builder Hiram C. Smith
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 quarried along Middle River in Lincoln 7, NW1/4
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:
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other House, barn with stone lower floor
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

20 x 12
18 x 50

19. Photo

Roll _____ Frame _____ View _____

*Nomination boundary:

A circle, 150' diameter, with center point located at center point of shed. Includes only subject building. Associated house nominated separately.

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Architectural Significance

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

--b. Contributing structure

Theme(s): Vernacular Architecture

Subtheme(s): Function: Agricultural.

The Hiram C. Smith Milking Shed is an early example of a vernacular farm building built of limestone. It is one of few extant farm buildings and may have served as a milking shed. It is a linear rectangle, open on one side and with one end consisting of a door.

The 18' x 48' one story gabled building is constructed of rubble limestone which was probably quarried along Middle River on Smith's property in the northwest quarter of a Section 7, Lincoln Township. The north public facade has three under eave windows. The east facade has a small window centered in the gable peak so that no lintel is needed. The south side is open and has three bays. The west facade has a door all the way across it so that there is no wall.

The north and east facades are constructed of uncoursed rubble with random bond. Mortared joints have no decorative treatment. Only the northeast corner has rubble stone quoins; other corners of the building have a vertical wood member recessed into them. Jambs and sills are of rubble squared with mortar. There are no lintels; instead, wood beams along the top edge of the building serve the purpose and also support the rafters. The window openings have no glass, but have exterior wood covers. Eaves and verges are open and overhang very little. The roof is of wood shingles.

The building is one of the simplest and most roughly constructed buildings in the county. It does not evidence the stone masonry skills used in most of the other stone buildings in the county. Instead it seems likely that the building was built by its farmer/owner. The lintel construction system is found only in this building and the Smith House (75N29W-1.1), suggesting that it was a construction innovation requiring few skills, which might have been used by the farmer/builder.

21. Historical Significance

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

--b. Contributing Structure

Theme(s) Early Settlement

Hiram C. Smith, one of the earliest settlers in the township, obtained patent deed to the 240 acre farm between 1854-56. The land where the stone probably was quarried was purchased in 1856 with Smith obtaining patent deed in 1858. Probably this property was purchased specifically for the stone used to build this building, the Smith House and the bottom story of his large barn.

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

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

22. Sources

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