

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 75 N 27 W - 35-R
District Name Legacy In Stone TR
Map Reference # 14

Identification

1. Site Name Wm. Ogburn House
2. Village/Town/City Vic. Peru Township Scott County Madison
3. Street Address unnamed road, 1 1/2 mi N of East Peru, 1/2 mi west off R21, sec. 35
4. Legal Location 75N 27W 35 SW1/4 NE1/4*
Urban: Rural subdivision township block range parcel section subparcel 1/4 section of 1/4 section
(Map 2)
5. UTM Location: zone 15 easting 422,750 northing 4,566,810; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name John Berch
7. Owner(s) Address Rural Route 1 Peru IA
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present only the walls stand Original Residence

Description

9. Date of Construction c. 1860's Architect/Builder David Harris
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:
15. Related Outbuildings and Property: barn other farm structures carriage house garage privy
 other _____
16. Is the building endangered? no yes—if so, why? burned - only the walls remain
17. Surroundings of the building: open land woodland scattered outbuildings densely built-up commercial
 industrial residential other farmsted

18. Map

19. Photo 14A & 14B

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): Identified Master designer/builder: Harris; Function: Residential.

The William Ogburn House is an early example of a vernacular farm residence built of limestone. It is a symmetrical massed rectangle with entrance centered under the eaves with flanking windows. In spite of having been burned so that only the walls remain, the building is unique because it is the only saltbox residence which Langholz found in his 1975 architectural survey of Madison County. The 1986 architectural survey suggests that it was probably built by David Harris which is another aspect of its significance.

The 18' x 25' one and one half story saltbox gabled house is constructed of locally quarried finished cut and rubble limestone. The south public facade has a door centered under the eaves with flanking windows, as does the north facade. The east facade has no windows, and the west has a window centered in the gable peak.

The main public facade is constructed of finished cut quarry faced stone. The other facades are constructed of rubble. Stone is laid two against one with broken bond within courses. Joints are grapevine tooled. Quoins and jambs are finished cut quarry faced stone with draft lines at the outside edge. Lintels are dimension stone, drafted and textured with a round ended tool. Sills are protruding. Window openings are splayed. Doors were recessed and there were no transoms. Eaves were overhanging and closed. There is a flue within the east gable wall which is topped by a stone chimney at the gable peak. There is a basement under the gabled part of the house, but not under the back. Interior walls are plastered.

The two against one broken bond used in the stonework suggests that it may have been built by David Harris. Harris seems to have been an innovator who used design variations not used by other masons in the county. This apparently was the case with this residence which seems to be the only one in the county with the saltbox shape.

21. Historical Significance

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

—b. Contributing Structure _____

Theme(s): Early Settlement

John C. Culbertson obtained patent deed to 240 acres in 1850-51. It changed ownership several times before William Ogburn bought 80 acres of the land in 1859. The deed was recorded in 1875. The 1875 Atlas indicates the presence of the house on the farm owned by Ogburn.

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

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

22. Sources

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