

Iowa Site Inventory

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

Site Number 75N 29W - 1.1
District Name Legacy In Stone TR
Map Reference # 23

Identification

1. Site Name Hiram C. Smith House
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 NW1/4 NW1/4*
Urban: subdivision block parcel subparcel
Rural: township range section 1/4 section of 1/4 section
- (Map 4) UTM Location: zone 15 easting 404,470 northing 4,575,770; Acreage less than one acre
6. Owner(s) Name Mrs. Winnie Anderson
7. Owner(s) Address 315 W. Court Winterset IA 50273
(Street address) (City) (State) (Zip)
8. Use: Present Storage Original House

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 on Middle River in Lincoln 7, SW 1/4
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 Milking shed & 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 farmstead

18. Map



19. Photo

Roll _____ Frame _____ View _____

*Nomination boundary:

A circle, 150' diameter, with center point located at center point of house. Excludes outbuildings. Associated milking shed 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: Residential.

The Hiram C. Smith House is an early example of a vernacular farm residence built of limestone. It is the only extant single cell residences with entrance to the side of the gable front.

The 12' x 20' one story gabled house is constructed of rubble limestone which was probably quarried along Middle River on Smith's property in the northwest quarter of Section 7, Lincoln Township. The north main facade with normal road setback has the entrance to the west side of the gable front. The west facade has a door under the eaves with a window on the left. The south facade has a window on the left of the gable, and the east has two under eave windows.

All facades are constructed of rubble, roughly coursed with random bond and grapevine joints. Quoins are of rubble, squared at the edges that form the edge of the house. Jambs are of rubble, squared with mortar. A single wood beam across the top of each side wall serves as the lintels and supports the rafters. Sills are of wood and windows are not splayed. Doors are neither recessed nor paneled. Eaves and verges overhang very little and are closed. The roof is of wood shingles. The interior walls have rough mortar over the stone.

The house is one of the simplest and most roughly constructed residences in the county. It does not evidence the stone masonry skills used in the other stone residences in the county. Instead, it seems likely that the house was built by its farmer/owner. The lintel construction system is found only in this house and the Smith Milking Shed (75N29W-1.2), 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 280 acre farm between 1854-56. The relatively large productive farm with the very inexpensive small house suggests that it may have been built very early, perhaps before Smith's marriage. 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 house, a milking shed 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.

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

22. **Sources**

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