

PH0077712

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: IOWA
COUNTY: SCOTT
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 22 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Antoine LeClaire House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
630 East Seventh Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Davenport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: **Iowa** CODE: **14** COUNTY: **Scott** CODE: **163**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Glen Daut

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1222

CITY OR TOWN:
Davenport

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Scott County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
West Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Davenport

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

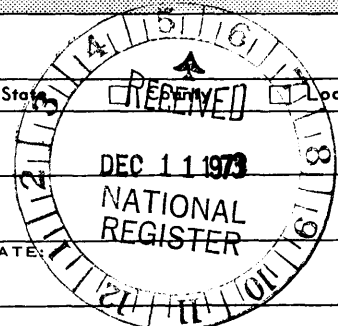
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Davenport

STATE:
Iowa

CODE:
14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: _____
COUNTY: _____
ENTRY NUMBER: _____
DATE: **MAR 22 1974**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An 1855 mansion of the Italian bracketed style, the Antoine LeClaire House is a two story white painted brick building with a monitor. In a state of ill-repair, the LeClaire House nonetheless retains much of its original appearance. On a lot (85' x 260') overlooking the Mississippi River, the building still presents a remarkable view. Three original porches, the lave-brackets and shutters have been removed. Aluminum now covers the underside of the wooden eaves, and the roof is metal. Four of the original 6 chimneys have been shortened and capped. Both the monitor and foundation need immediate attention.

The interior floor plan is basically unchanged. The upper and lower floors matched in room size and arrangement. Each floor consisted of 7 large rooms: 4 in the front, square section of the house, and 3 rooms in the rear wing. There is a large hallway on each floor, in the front (main) section of the house, and a rather impressive original feature is the staircase which winds to the attic. It has wide steps, a gentle rise and a walnut bannister and rail.

Most of the rooms have 12 foot ceilings, with central rosettes which surrounded the gas fixtures, fancy molded borders around the ceilings, original woodwork and shutters. Downstairs, the 4 front rooms were parlors, music room and study. Off the music room is a 5' x 5' alcove which contained LeClaire's private shrine. Rear 3 rooms were dining room, kitchen and cook's room.

Upstairs, the 4 front rooms were bedrooms and sitting rooms while the rear 3 were servants' quarters. There was a maid's staircase leading from the kitchen up to the center room of the servants' quarters. Stairway still exists but has been closed off at top. Center room of servants' section has been split so the house now has 15 rooms instead of the original 14 but this is relatively unimportant since the upstairs rear wing (4 rooms) permanently will be used as a caretaker's apartment and not shown to the public.

House has a huge attic, partial basement and 18 inch brick walls. Joists in attic and basement vary from 2 x 8 to 2 x 10. Support beams range from 4 x 8 to 4 x 10. There is some physical evidence to support the rumored existence of a tunnel which supposedly led from the front of the basement about 3 city blocks to the Mississippi River. There also is fairly strong evidence that a tunnel led from the rear of the basement to at least one outbuilding perhaps 100 feet away. Citizen volunteer groups recently have been forming to help with the excavation of the grounds as well as with restoration of the house itself.

LeClaire's carriage drive wound from 8th and Farnam Streets to his dining room door. Excavation on parcel #3 has uncovered considerable driveway curbing as well as the hard-surfaced drive itself. The circular outline now can plainly be seen.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1855**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Antoine LeClaire who lived in this house (which he had built for him) from 1855-1861, was a colorful pioneer important in development of the upper Mississippi Valley. He was known in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Arkansas, etc. Able to speak 3 languages and 14 Indian dialects, he was a U. S. interpreter and Indian agent, and he had a primary role in negotiation of 22 treaties with Indians of Iowa and Illinois. The noted Sauk chief, Black Hawk, dictated his autobiography to LeClaire.

Well-liked by both Indians and whites, he was given U. S. land grants at Indian requests. These included a square mile at what is now downtown Davenport, Iowa, a square mile at what is now LeClaire, Iowa, and 2 square miles at Moline, Illinois.

LeClaire was the prime founder of Davenport and its leading citizen for 25 years. He established the first church, ferry service, hotel, foundry, etc., here. However, he lived in a rather modest house until 1855, in which year he moved into this mansion, which he had ordered built. Architect and craftsmen unknown to us, but our research continues.

At his urging the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi was built, directly below this house. The house was finished in 1855, the bridge in 1856. This is the bridge that figured in the Effie Afton steamboat lawsuit, which was one of Abe Lincoln's best-known cases. The first locomotive to cross the Mississippi was, appropriately, named the Antoine LeClaire. His previous (frame) house below the bluff on which his mansion sets, was named "Treaty House". He donated it to the Mississippi-Missouri R. R., and it became the first depot west of the Mississippi.

LeClaire was first President of the Old Settlers Society, a philanthropist, a civic leader in every way. We suspect that he may have been involved in the Underground Railroad from 1855 to his death in 1861. He died in this house. His widow, Marguerite, lived here until she died in 1876. The house then became the residence of successive Catholic bishops until 1908 when it was converted to apartments. To summarize, this site was occupied by a leading developer of the upper Mississippi Valley; it is in an historic spot near other historic sites and the house retains many original features of its construction period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackson, Donald, ed., Black Hawk: An Autobiography (Urbana, Illinois 1964); pages 24-28.

Downer, Harry E., History of Scott County.

Snyder, Charles, "Antoine LeClaire, the First Proprietor of Davenport", Annals of Iowa, 3rd ser., XXIII (1941-42), 79-117.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

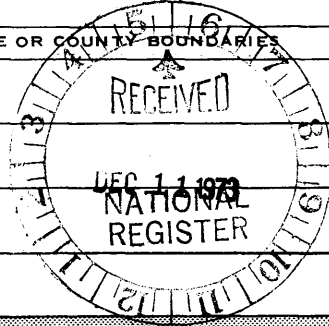
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41°	31'	38"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		90°	33'	56"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
15/703166
4599920

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Glen Daut

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: February 21, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1222

CITY OR TOWN: Davenport STATE: Iowa CODE: 14

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Adrian D. Anderson

Title Historic Preservation Officer

Date 11/5/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/24/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date 3.14.74