

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN:
LE CLAIRE, IOWA 1850-1880

Name: Jacob Suiter House

Address: 214 S. 2nd Street

Owner: Dorothy Randolph

Address: 214 S. 2nd, 52753

Legal Description: Lot 4, Block 15
original town of Le Claire

Acreage: less than one

UTM: 15/721280 4608130

Physical Description:

Two-story brick house on limestone foundation, 3 bays across the front with a low hipped roof, built 1860. A simpler version of the Dawley house (127 S. 2nd), with bracketted cornice and corner pilasters. Windows are 2/2 sash with broad flat lintels and narrow sills. A small wooden porch, supported on very slender turned posts, shelters the centrally-located main entrance. There is a one-story brick kitchen addition, with gable roof, at the rear, and a smaller frame addition beyond this.

Significance:

Jacob Suiter (1828-1904) was of the second generation of Suiters to follow the river trade as a raft and rapids pilot. His account book lists many of the boats he piloted, including "Stillwater", "Eclipse", "Le Claire Belle", and "Silver Crescent". \$10.00 appears to have been the standard rate for a trip over the Upper Rapids during the 1870's.

The house is also of architectural interest. It is essentially a smaller, simpler version of the Dawley House (127 S. 2nd St.), with clean lines and typical bracketted cornice of the vernacular Italianate style.

