

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN:
LE CLAIRE, IOWA 1850-1880

Name: John Smith House
Address: 426 Dodge
Owner: Clifford E. and Patricia Cotton
Address: 426 Dodge
Legal Description: West ½ of Lot 6,
Block 31, original town of Le
Claire
Acreage: less than one
UTM: 15/ 721000 4608250

Physical Description:

Built in the early 1850's, this house is a small brick dwelling, one story, on a low stone foundation. It has a gable roof, with ridge parallel to the front facade. The front is three bays, the side two. The house has a center hall plan, the entrance sheltered by a small, flat-roofed porch supported on slender wooden posts. A wide wooden frieze, beaded at the bottom, runs across the whole of the front facade. Windows have flat stone lintels and sills. There is a small, one-story frame addition on the east side.

Significance:

John Smith, a pilot who won notoriety for his participation in the "Effie Afton" case, lived here early in the 1850's. He was a son of Ira Smith, one of the community's pioneer settlers, and, like many rapids pilots, began his career on the river while still in his teens. After the "Effie Afton" struck a pier of the new railroad bridge at Davenport in 1856, John Smith was hired by the railroad to prove that, properly handled, a steamboat could pass under the bridge without danger. This service to the railroad, a growing competitor of the steamboat trade, earned for Smith a bad reputation among many river captains who refused to hire him as pilot for several years. By the 1860's, however, he was working the river again, and after the Civil War devised the bowboat, a small steamer placed across the front of log rafts to aid in steering.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY see inventory sheets

QUADRANGLE NAME Port Byron, Illinois; Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES see inventory sheets

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see inventory sheets

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Ford

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE Jan. 12, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/13/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *Bill LaBouch*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

March 12, 1979

Property

Houses
RESIDENCES OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEN: THEMATIC

901 reference #5
resources see reverse

State *Iowa*

Working Number *1.23.79.137*

TECHNICAL

Photos *13 + 1*
Maps *41*

CONTROL

OK 1.25.79

HISTORIAN

Accept
B. Frank
3/15/79

This nomination identifies clearly, succinctly, & accurately a segment of this area's population whose contribution to Upper Mississippi commercial life was essential, the rivermen. Decline in river transportation routes, appearance of RR's, brought active harbor/river front and commercial life to a standstill. The identification of homes associated with prominent rivermen in Le Claire & their architectural styling attest to the significance of these individuals & Le Claire. It is unlikely that there are better standing in this town associated with these people.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Brigham
3.16.79

See comment sheet

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

see Bill and Brad's
Comments

Accept
Lebovich
3/19/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up
Federal Register Entry

5-1-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered *APR 13 1979*

79003699 - 79003711



John Smith House
426 Dodge St., Le Claire, Scott
Co., Iowa
Credit: Steven Suiter
Neg. at: SHPO, Iowa City, Iowa
Date: 1978
View: from NW

#30713

APR 13 1979

JAN 23 1979

f4

3 sep

Houses of Mississippi
River Men.
Thematic Resources

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000151