

Workingmen's Houses,
Ann Walsh House
642 Dodge Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-AQ

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-AQ-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Ann Walsh House

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Site Location: 642 Dodge Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 3.17
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691680.4706805
Lot dimensions : 30'x 100' : .07 acre
Lot description: Lot 5 of Newman, Cooper
and Smyth's Subdivision
of Out Lot 695

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 1-1/2-story main block: 24'6"x 16'; front porch: 6'x 16';
1-story rear addition : 12'x 16'; rear porch: 8'x 9'6".

Orientation : northwest

Architectural

Plan type : 1-1/2 story rectangle with 1-story rear additions.

Foundation: stone perimeter walls, earth basement floor.

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: square butt asbestos-cement shingles installed over beveled wood siding.

Roofs : moderately pitched, front gabled roof over main block; hipped roof on porch; shed roof on rear ell; 3-tab asphalt shingles throughout.

Chimneys : none remaining above roofline.

Dormers : none

Windows : painted wood 1/1 double-hung, placed singly or paired; plain casements and slip sills.

Openings : single-leaf front door centered in facade: one light with cross panels; paneled door on north side of ell has 1 light; paneled door at intersection of west and north walls of ell has one light; all have plain casements and sills.

Porches : full width, single-story open front porch, with 2 supporting columns, square stairway newels and asbestos sided apron; 1-story enclosed rear porch offset in south corner.

Details : simply boxed cornices and main block; boxed and molded cornice with a wide fascia on front porch; tapered square columns with abbreviated caps and plinths on front porch.

Construction Date : 1873

Architecture Style: Gable ended box

Physical History : In 1869 Cooper, Newman and Smyth's Addition of the North Part of Out Lot 695 was platted into residential lots by three notable Dubuque land speculators. Four years later Ann Walsh built this 1-1/2 story frame house on Lot 5 for \$600. Walsh did not acquire title to the property - at the standard undeveloped lot rate of \$250 - from Cooper, Newman and Smyth until 1877, perhaps indicating an unrecorded lease. Ann and her husband Patrick, a laborer, lived in the house only a short time before mortgage holders Fanny and Ferdinand Hepp foreclosed and resold it in 1880 to real estate dealers E.W. Duncan and John Waller. Duncan and Waller in turn sold the property to grain dealer Joseph Straney in 1885. For the next century the house was occupied alternately by renters or members of Straney's family, until its acquisition in 1986 by the Iowa Department of Transportation for demolition. Alterations over this time have been relatively minor, involving the installation of new exterior siding and construction of two single-story rear additions.

Significance: Like most of the adjacent structures on Dodge Street, the Ann Walsh House is a gable end box - one of the most common workingmen's house types of the period. But this building differs from the others notably. On a block lined by two-story dwellings, the Walsh House stands out with its 1-1/2 story configuration. Its low roof position limits the second-floor fenestration to a single double-hung window, further distinguishing the building as an early example of its type. Atypically configured and well preserved, the Walsh House is a good example of the workingmen's houses constructed along lower Dodge Street in the 1870s and 1880s.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-49&50.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).
Dubuque Daily Herald: 9 November 1873.

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
May 1988.