

Workingmen's Houses,
James P. Strain House
821 Dodge Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-BE

HABS
IOWA
31-DUBU,
14-BE

**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

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Site Location: 821 Dodge Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 3.21
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691550.4706790
Lot dimensions : 40' X 203' : .19 acre
Lot description: North 40' of Lot 2 of East
130' of Lot 1 of Lot 1 of
Lot 1 of City Lot 725

Present Owner: Margaret M. Sable
Present Usage: single family residence; doll hospital
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 38' x 14'; two stories

Orientation : southeast

Architectural Description : Plan type : rectangular, with cross-gabled side extension and corner porches; two stories.

Foundation: poured-in-place concrete perimeter walls.

Structure : wood frame

Ext. walls: asbestos-cement shingles installed in 1957 over beveled wood siding.

Roofs : moderately pitched, pedimented gable over main block, with identical cross gable over side extension; full pediment on front and pedimented return on rear gable; shallowly pitched hip roofs over corner porches; asphalt shingles or roll roofing throughout.

Chimneys : one brick interior chimney with corbeled cap centered on ridge of main block roof.

Dormers : none

Windows : painted wood 1/1 double-hung throughout, placed singly or paired; fixed-sash diamond window above front porch; plain casings, hood molds and slip sills.

Openings : single-leaf front entrance with narrow transom centered under front corner porch; rear doorway centered on rear corner porch; plain casements.

Porches : single-story, open front porch in east corner; enclosed rear porch in north corner.

Details : boxed and molded cornices on main roofs and pediments; simple, tapered Tuscan corner column on front porch.

Construction Date : 1914

Architecture Style: Gable ended box

Physical History : The south side of Dodge Street was subdivided into residential lots and developed in the 1870s and 1880s. The north side of the street, however, was occupied largely by the extensive lumber mill and storage yards of the Peter J. Seippel Lumber Company. Residential development was thus retarded for some thirty years until Seippel went out of business in the early 1910s. In 1914 prolific Dubuque residential contractor Chris Voelker erected two very similar two-story frame houses for speculative sale on the former site of Seippel's lumber yard. Costing \$3300, this house was slightly smaller and less embellished than the other [HABS No. IA-159-BB], built immediately to the east. James P. Strain was the first occupant of the house, living here for seven years before selling it in 1921 to George Savary. A foreman for the Farley-Loetscher Manufacturing Company, Savary in turn occupied the house until around 1940. That year James McAllister acquired the property and lived here beyond 1970. In 1957 McAllister undertook the most extensive alteration to what is otherwise a relatively intact structure by siding the exterior walls with asbestos-cement shingles.

Significance: "Probably the most extensive [residential] building has taken place in the lower end of the city, in the vicinity of South Dodge Street and Seippel's lumber yards," the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald* reported in 1914. "This for a good many years has been covered with old lumber and used as a dumping ground. Now the site has been cleared of debris and handsome homes have sprung up, through the efforts of C.A. Voelker and other builders." Built that year, the James Strain House is one of the most recent of the workingmen's houses constructed along lower Dodge Street. Its pedimented gables, somewhat more complex roof profile and corner entrance distinguish the building as a later, more sophisticated manifestation of the front gabled boxes built on the street between 1870 and 1920. The house's speculative origin is reflected in its patternbook configuration and detailing.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1899 - 1970.
Dubuque City Building Permit Records: 821 Dodge Street.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-15-1-7.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Dubuque Telegraph-Herald: 27 December 1914.

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