

Workingmen's Houses,
Michael Mahony House
235 South Locust Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-E

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-E-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DRAWINGS

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: 235 South Locust Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 2.11
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691840.4706400
Lot dimensions : 60' x 144' : .20 acre
Lot description: Lot 1 and North 10' of
Lot 2 of Stout's Dubuque
Subdivision of Mineral Lot 53

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

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 18'4" x 32'; 1-story side addition
(with semi-enclosed side porch): 23'9" x 23'3"; front stoop:
5' x 16'10".

Orientation : east
Architectural Description :
Plan type : Georgian I house main block, with an offset
side ell.
Foundation: limestone rubble perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: rectangular butt asbestos shingle siding over
beveled wood siding on main block; wide-exposure
beveled siding on porch of ell.
Roofs : asphalt, T-lock shingles on moderately pitched
side-gabled roof on main block; addition has
front-end gable clad in shingles; shed roof
over porch.
Chimneys : two straddle-ridge, gabled end brick chimneys;
south chimney is corbeled, north capped with a
metal pot.
Dormers : none
Windows : 1/1 double-hung (south of front), 2/2 double-
hung (north bay of front and ell); aluminum
storms, plain casings, slip sills.
Openings : centrally placed paneled front door centered on
front porch; plain board enframingent.
Porches : uncovered concrete stoop with wrought iron
railing centered on main block front; partially
enclosed porch wraps around the east and north
sides of the ell; directly in front the ell the
porch is supported by three wooden posts and
the has a shed roof.
Details : plain board boxed cornices.

Construction Date : 1875

Architecture style: Side gabled box

Physical History : In October 1880 laborer Michael Mahony [Mahoney] purchased Lot 1 of Stout's Addition from Richard Bonson, one of Dubuque's early real estate speculators. Five years earlier Mahony had constructed this two-story frame house, apparently with an unrecorded lease on the property. The Mahony family retained ownership of the house, renting it in the last years, for sixty years after its construction. In 1935 John Mahony, a watchman for the Dubuque Boat and Boiler Works, sold the property to the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. The house was subsequently occupied by John Tuthill until sometime before 1945 and then Geraldine Miller until she sold it in 1984 to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Over this extended occupation, the building has undergone numerous alterations and additions, including: construction of a single-story kitchen addition before 1891; removal of the front porch; construction of a screened porch; construction of a rear pantry; installation of asbestos-cement shingles on the exterior walls; and installation of asphalt shingles on the roofs.

Significance: The Michael Mahony House, though greatly altered, is representative of the workingmen's dwellings built along Southern Avenue (now South Locust Street) in the 1870s and 1880s.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1891, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-33.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Dubuque Daily Herald: 31 October 1875.

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraser Design, Loveland Colorado.
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