

Workingmen's Houses,
Jeremiah Mahoney House
263 Southern Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-V

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-V-

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: 263 Southern Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.25
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 NE1/4 S36 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691870.4705890
Lot dimensions : 46.6'x 214': .23 acre
Lot description: Lot 35 of Mineral Lot 39
Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: main block: 26'8"x 16'8"; front porch: 5'1"x 26'8".
Orientation : southeast
Architectural Plan type : I house
Description : Foundation: grouted fieldstones, parged.
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: metal siding over painted wood beveled siding.
Roof : asphalt shingled, moderately main roof, side gabled; shallowly pitched shed roof over front porch.
Chimneys : single brick interior chimney, knee braced on second floor, now truncated in attic.
Dormers : none
Windows : painted wood 2/2 double-hung throughout, with small 3/1 double-hung on rear; 6-light fixed windows in gables; plain casings, slip sills.
Openings : centrally placed front door; rear door aligned off-center with second story window; bulkhead entrance to basement on southwest side.
Porches : full-length, single-story open porch on front, with shed roof supported by four square wood columns.
Details : boxed cornices on main and porch roofs; other exterior details obscured by metal siding.

Construction Date : c.1880

Architecture Style: vernacular I house

Physical History : Sawmill owner Job S. Randall and Isaac LaBoiteaux divided Mineral Lot 37 on the north side of Southern Avenue and sold Lot 35 of the subdivision to fellow real estate speculator Sarah C. Disney in 1875. Disney held the land for speculative purposes until October 1880, at which time she sold it to Jeremiah Mahoney [Mahony] for \$100. Mahoney, an unmarried laborer,

built this two-story frame house on the lot sometime before 1883. He lived in the house only a short time before selling it back to Randall for \$300. Randall in turn held the property for five years, selling it to John and Elizabeth McGee in 1888. After John's death in March 1906, Elizabeth continued to occupy the house until 1918. At that time Dennis and Kate Moriarity purchased it for \$850. A laborer for the Farley and Loetscher woodworking factory, Moriarity lived in the house until he was forced to sell it 1941 to satisfy unpaid taxes.

Significance: The Jeremiah Mahoney House was constructed similarly to many of the other vernacular structures along Southern Avenue and South Locust Street. Two stories tall and one room deep, with a steep quarter-turn corner stair and a single interior chimney on the center wall, the building presents the classic I house configuration. Though its integrity has been compromised to some degree by the installation of metal siding, the house remains in well-preserved condition.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-22-2-36.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).

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