

Galena Doorways
Jo Daviess County
Galena, Illinois

HABS No. Ill. 178

HABS
ILL,
43-GALA,
14
to
27

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN, HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill. 1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

ENTRANCES AND FACADES
Galena, Jo Daviess County, Illinois

Included with the five doorways on Bench Street measured and completely recorded by the Northern District, is a group of miscellaneous photographs, hereinafter described, which vividly portray the greatness of the lead capitol of Illinois in the decades before the Civil War. Many of these structures merit more complete record.

HOUSE NO. 1 - 104 S. Bench Street.

Date and builder unknown.

This door of the Elizabeth Maxiener frame cottage is said to be the oldest in Galena, having been moved from another dwelling of perhaps the early thirties, judging from its design. The moulded corner board receiving the siding is of interest.

HOUSE NO. 2 - 110 N. BENCH ST.

Date and builder unknown.

This residence situated next to the Presbyterian Church is now owned by a Mrs. Kucera. For many years it was occupied by the Porter family and possibly built by them. The cornice is of unusual elegance and includes a richly carved wood bed mould. With regard to the entrance itself, the wood portions have been raised above the stone lintel in skillful and interesting fashion.

Materials: Stone foundations, steps and lintel; brick walls; white painted pine woodwork.

HOUSE NO. 3 - 611 S. BENCH ST.

Date and Builder unknown.

This Doric porticoed entrance forms a part of the Charles Hemstead residence "stated to have been built prior to 1846". Comparison with known houses of this date in Galena, together with evidence presented by developed form of iron lintels, fence and interior details, suggest a later date. Peculiarities of treatment, resulting from the side hill location, lend special interest to this consistently designed house.

Materials: Painted pine entrance steps and portico; brick walls and cast iron lintels and fence; terraces and foundations, stone.

HOUSE NO. 4 - 226 N. BENCH ST.

Date and builder unknown.

This finely proportioned, arched entrance gives access to the former refectory of the Sister of Mercy Convent. A connecting wing used as a kitchen has disappeared and the main portion has been altered into a two family dwelling. Underneath the refectory, which was never finished inside, is a storage cellar reached by trap door. It is stated that the group was constructed before 1844 and also that it was used by a Protestant sect at a later period.

Materials: Walls brick; foundations, stone; doorframe and door, pine, former white painted, latter black.

HOUSE NO. 5 - 608 S. BENCH ST.

Date and builder unknown.

The Heiko Grimm residence and its neighbor, the Thompson, contain almost identical wood doorways of a kind very frequently built in Galena during the late 1840's. Of beautiful craftsmanship, they are very Greek in design. Early turned wood corner blocks, similar to those of the interior trim, here, are often found. The portico of No. 608 and door of No. 606 are of recent date.

Materials: Painted pine entrance doors, etc; stone lintel and brick walls.

Photographs No. 6 to 11 inclusive were taken of unmeasured structures along Bench Street at the time the five entrances were completely recorded and are briefly described as follows:

Photo No. 6. The present residence of Miss Celia Calderwood is stated to have been built before 1839. Note the detail of the dormers taken directly from Asher Benjamin.

Photo No. 7. The present residence of L. T. LeBron, Jr., first owner probably Peter Klingel, appears without elaborate porch in a sketch of Galena, dated 1844.

Photo No. 8. A delicately beautiful cast iron rail uncovered from an unknown structure by Will Telford and utilized by him as an area barrier back of his shop at time of measurement of entrances. Later removed to Hinsdale, Ill. on account of destruction by autos.

Photo No. 9. This quaint old front is said to date from about 1858 and to have been occupied at different times by the Harmony Lodge of Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Photo No. 10. This photo shows the early Methodist Church on Bench Street (later an Odd Fellows Lodge) in process of destruction by the then Mayor Blum. At the right is a fine old frame house of Gothic - Greek detail.

Photo No. 11. This noble old Bench Street house was built by Ryan, an early pork packer, and contains very interesting cast iron work. The balcony, when compared with photos of the demolished one of the Roberts' house on the highway east of Galena, previously measured, proved to be identical and formed an indispensable source of reference. Until recently, when it was converted into a funeral home by a local undertaker, this mansion was the home of the Ambrose Harneys. Old imported Venetian sidelights at the entrance, impossible of replacement, were destroyed during recent alterations.

Photo No. 12. An early red-brick house on Elk Street at Prospect, which has received a charming later trellised wood porch. Occupied as late as 1897 by Andrew Vohs, ore buyer.

Photo No. 13. An early warehouse on South Main Street in the block south of Booth, typical of many others along the old levee. Note the very fine cast iron bracketed piers.

Photo No. 14. This early home of Nicholas Dowling on Broadway, south of Jackson, is supposed to have been the first stone house in Galena. Just to the south is the Dowling Feed Store, measured by the Survey.

Sources: Statements of L. T. LeBron, Jr. and Historic Galena, Florence Gratiot Bale.

By



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