

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC Hubbard Home

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 310 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Hudson

 NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Illinois

 VICINITY OF
 CODE

 McLean
 COUNTY

 21
 CODE
3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Thomas Gumbrell

STREET & NUMBER 310 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Hudson

VICINITY OF

STATE Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, BLOOMINGTON, McLean County
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bloomington

STATE Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Landmarks in McLean County

DATE

December 1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

IL.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ground plan of the house is T-shaped. The cross bar of the T is two stories high with a simple gable roof aligned north and south. In the center of this part of the house is a door with a small front porch and a single window on either side. Above are three windows. The stem of the T, which is the oldest part of the house, is a story and a half high with a gable running east and west. There is a small bay window in the southeast angle where the two parts of the T join one another. The home is wood construction throughout with clapboard siding.

A photograph of the house in 1885 shows the house to have then had almost exactly its present form.¹ A very complete description of the house as it existed during the youth of Elbert Hubbard likewise suggests that the essentials of this house are as they were in the nineteenth century.²

The stem of the T was constructed in 1857 of local walnut lumber cut by Dr. Silas Hubbard.³ The two story cross bar of the T was built about 1872 in part with materials and labor solicited by Elbert Hubbard as he rode from farm to farm collecting his father's bills.⁴

¹Mary Hubbard Heath, The Elbert Hubbard I Knew: An Intimate Biography from the Pen of his Sister (East Aurora, New York: Roycrofters, 1929), facing page 33.

²Ibid. 65-76, 101-109.

³Ibid. p.46.

⁴Ibid. 101-102

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857, ca. 1872 BUILDER/ARCHITECT See section 7

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was the boyhood home of Elbert Hubbard, one of the most important late nineteenth and early twentieth century American essayists, author of "A Message to Garcia," and founder of The Roycrofters Shops.

1857-1872
 Silas Hubbard, Elbert's father, came to McLean County from Buffalo, New York, in 1855. Elbert was born in Bloomington in 1856. The following year Silas Hubbard moved to Hudson, became the first doctor in that town, and built the east portion of this house. Elbert grew up in this house, attended school in Hudson, and many of his later writings contain scenes drawn from his boyhood surroundings. At the age of sixteen young Hubbard began to travel and sell soap from door to door. He prospered, moved to Buffalo, became a partner in the soap company, and earned a modest fortune.

In 1892, quite suddenly, he gave up the soap business and decided to become a writer. His first important efforts were a series of Little Journeys, each one to the home of some successful or famous person. Eventually he produced 170 such journeys and they became one of the most widely read series of popular essays in the United States in the two decades before the outbreak of the first world war. In 1895 Hubbard brought out the first issue of the Philistine, an iconoclastic journal which soon became the most popular of the so called "little journals" that marked a significant change in American reading habits.

In March, 1899, the magazine printed a short and at the time untitled essay by Hubbard which became known as "A Message to Garcia." The essay was inspired by the journey of Lieutenant Andrew S. Rowen to the Cuban rebel leader leader Calixto Garcia. Only three paragraphs concern Rowen. The remainder of the 1,500 words are an admonition to the workers of the world to act promptly, with energy, and accomplish their assigned task. The work is almost certainly the most widely reprinted essay in American history. By 1913 an estimated 40 million copies had been printed. It was widely reprinted in text books and standard reading for two generations of American school children. By 1939, when the Roycrofters copyright expired, over 80 million copies had been printed and the essay had been translated into every major language in the world.

After returning from a trip to England, in 1895, Hubbard

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

established the Roycroft community at East Aurora. Under Hubbard's direction this artistic community developed a wide range of craft products, particularly finely printed books. At the height of its productivity the Roycroft community employed several hundred craftsmen. The Roycrofters buildings have recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On May 1, 1915 Hubbard boarded the Lusitania remarking, "Well if they sink her....I will have a chance some day to meet the Kaiser in hell."¹ He was perhaps the best known American to go down with the ship.

It is a measure of Elbert Hubbard's importance that since his death he has been the subject of six full length biographies.

¹Freeman Champney, Art and Glory: The Story of Elbert Hubbard (New York: Crown Publishers, 1968), p. 191.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- Dirlam, Kenneth H. The Story of A Message to Garcea. Mansfield, Ohio; n.p., 1960.
- Dirlam, Kenneth H. and Earnest E. Simmons. Sinners, This is East Aurora: The Story of Elbert Hubbard and the Roycroft Shops. New York: Vantage Press, 1964.
- Gumbrell, Tom. "The Hudson Connection: A Story Behind Two Rocks," Pantagraph, 11-27-75, A-5; "The Hudson Connection: Hubbard and his Miracle," Pantagraph, 11-29-75, A-7; "The Hudson Connection: the Eccentric Doctor Silas," Pantagraph, 12-1-75, A-5; "The Hudson Connection: For Love of a Woman," Pantagraph, 12-3-75, A-5; "The Hudson Connection: Then the Lusitania Sailed," Pantagraph, 12-4-75, A-5.
- Hamilton, Charles. As Bees in Honey Drown. South Brunswick, N.Y.: A. S. Barnes and London: Thomas Yoseloff, 1973.
- Heath, Mary Hubbard. The Elbert Hubbard I Knew: An Intimate Biography from the Pen of his Sister. East Aurora: Roycrofters, 1929.
- Shay, Felix. Elbert Hubbard of East Aurora. New York: William H. Wise and Co., 1926.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Balch, David Arnold. Elbert Hubbard: Genius of Roycroft.
New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1940.

Champney, Freeman. Art and Glory: The Story of Elbert Hubbard.
New York: Crown Publishers, 1968.

(cont.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE William D. Walters, Jr.

Asst. Professor

ORGANIZATION Dept. of Geography

DATE

Dec. 20, 1977

STREET & NUMBER Illinois State University

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Normal, Illinois

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered FEB 1 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hubbard House	Hudson McLean County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Edward R. Madigan

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common

Historic Silas and Elbert Hubbard Home and outbuilding

2. Location:

Street and Number

Township

Section

NE cor Walnut and Broadway
City or Town Zip Code

Range ~~22E~~ T25N

28
1/4 Section

Hudson
County

R2E

NE

McLean

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

- District Building
- Site Structure

- Altered Unaltered
- Moved Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

- Private
- Public

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

- Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural Industrial Religious
- Commercial Military Scientific
- Educational Museum Transportation
- Entertainment Park Other (specify)
- Government Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

Condition:

- Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

HOMES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE



7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date:

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | medicine |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. The outbuilding is located to the NE of the home. Also see attached sheets.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Street and number: _____

City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Drury, John. Old Illinois Houses. p. 52-53.



Drury
His Father Was Famous, Too

WALK a block north of the granite marker in Hudson which identifies the house where Melville E. Stone was born, and you will come to another small boulder bearing a bronze plaque with these words: "On this site for 43 years lived, labored, and loved Silas Hubbard, M. D., born May 9, 1821, died May 18, 1917, and Juliana Frances Read, his wife, born November 16, 1829, died December 28, 1924. The children of this home were: Frances Hubbard Larkin, Elbert Hubbard, Daisy Hubbard-Carlock Pollitt, Mary Hubbard Heath, Honor Hubbard Easton." (Punctuation added.)

Although the plaque pays most tribute to Dr. Hubbard, who was a beloved country doctor of the region, the name on it of greatest interest to the sight-seer is that of his son, Elbert. For this plain, gable-roofed dwelling, now painted a pale yellow, was the boyhood home of Elbert Hubbard, writer, editor, master craftsman, philosopher, and famous at the turn of the century as the Sage of East Aurora.

It was in this house that Hubbard grew up and absorbed the



Elbert Hubbard House, Hudson, Built 1850's.

McLean

homely, salty thoughts of the Midwest frontier that were to form the foundation of his philosophy, a philosophy that found full expression in his widely read *A Message to Garcia*. Here, too, he first learned to write—a pursuit which became his chosen profession, which found an outlet in his magazine, *The Philistine*, and in his numerous *Little Journeys* books, and which made him one of the most widely read and widely quoted authors of the early 1900's.

In this house, also, Hubbard learned how to use his own hands in the making of things, a pursuit that led to his founding of the Roycroft Shops at East Aurora, New York. The products of these shops—finely printed books, art objects, articles of hammered brass and copper, embossed and hand-tooled leather novelties, ornamental wrought-iron work, heavy furniture—were familiar objects in homes throughout the country a generation ago.

Elbert Hubbard was born on June 19, 1856, in Bloomington. When "Bert," as the boys called him, was a year old his parents moved to the near-by village of Hudson. Here they occupied the frame house which remains as a memorial to the Sage of East Aurora.

In his biography, *Elbert Hubbard: Genius of Roycroft*, David Arnold Balch writes: "The little gray house in Hudson, to which the Hubbards moved from Bloomington when Elbert was a year old, was so small Mother Hubbard despaired of lodging her growing brood in its cramped quarters. Coral-red honeysuckle and rambler roses overran the clapboards in summer, with lilacs and syringa and flowering almond blooming in profusion just outside the door. The house was situated on the outskirts of the town, and back of it in summer lay the flower-covered prairies and yellow cornfields of Illinois."

When Elbert was sixteen a visitor came to the house in Hudson. That visitor gave Elbert his first start in life. He was Justus Weller, cousin of Elbert, and was head of a soap company in Chicago. Weller gave his young kinsman a job selling soap in Hudson and Bloomington. Elbert was so successful at this that he enlarged his field. He sold Weller soap all over the Midwest. Then he went to Chicago and operated from the headquarters of the Weller firm.

This was followed by his removal to Buffalo, New York, where he became a partner in a soap firm. In a few years, however, he retired from the firm with a small fortune, went to England and met William Morris, returned to America and set up the Roycroft Shops at East Aurora, outside Buffalo, in 1895. There he began the work which brought him national and even international fame.

NAME OF SITE: Hubbard Home ~~(ML-H-68)~~.

NR

LOCATION: 310 Broadway, Hudson

OWNER: Thomas Gumbrell
Phone: 726-1751

POINTS OF INTEREST: Home of Silas Hubbard the first doctor in Hudson and the boyhood home of his son Elbert Hubbard essayest and founder of the Roycroft community at East Aurora, New York.

DATE: East part 1857, west part ca. 1872.

BUILDER: Silas Hubbard was born in 1821 the youngest of nine children of a Chautauqua County, New York, farmer. When silas was nine the family moved to Buffalo. He attended a Methodist boarding school at Lima, New York, the Academy at East Aurora, New York, and, in 1838, went to Meadville, Pennsylvania, to attend Allegheny College. In 1842 he obtained a medical diploma at Castleton, Vermont and returned to Buffalo to practice. For reasons which are still unclear Silas left Buffalo in 1855 and came to Bloomington, Illinois. Here Elbert was born in 1856.

The following year the Hubbard family moved to a farm on the outskirts of Hudson. They remained here only a few months before moving into the town and constructing the east part of this house. Until he retired this was the home and medical office of Silas Hubbard. As his

daughter Mary recalled in her biography, The Elbert Hubbard I Knew:

"All maners of operations were performed at our house, from teeth extraction to amputations. Broken bones were set, and wounds were sewed up or closed with heavy yellow 'sticking plaster.' I can still see little Eddie Ambrose, weak from loss of blood and pain, after crushing his hand in a corn sheller, hiding his face in his mother's shawl, while father cut off his thumb." (p. 48).

In Hudson Elbert Hubbard grew to manhood. Many incidents, scenes and characters of his small town years reappear in Elbert's later writing. At sixteen Elbert became a traveling salesman for J. Weller and Company - Pratical Soaps, a firm owned by his father's relatives. Soon he was the firm's star salesman and later in life some would accuse his carrying soap salesman's tactics into literature. In 1881 Elbert married a girl from Normal and the couple moved to Buffalo where the soap factory was now located. He prospered, became a partner in the rapidly expanding firm, dabbled in the sale of trotting horses and moved to East Aurora, a small town sixteen miles southwest of Buffalo.

Suddenly, in 1892, Elbert Hubbard shattered the bonds of his comfortable middle class existance. He sold his interest in the soap company, attempted briefly to gain a college education, and began writing. His first successful efforts were a series of Little

Journeys, each one to the home of some successful or famous person. Eventually there were 170 such journeys, perhaps the most widely read series of popular essays in the United States in the two decades before World War I. In 1895 Hubbard produced the first issue of the Philistine, one of a series of "little journals that marked a radical shift in the reading habits of the American people. The response to the first issue of 2,500 copies suggested to Hubbard that he had touched a responsive nerve in the reading public. By 1900, before the impact of "Message to Garcia" had been felt, circulation of the Philistine had risen to 52,000.

The magazine was cleverly written, iconoclastic and went after its selected targets with a meat cleaver approach that delighted Elbert's foes and infuriated his foes. Among the institutions attacked by the Philistine were the church, college education, marriage, lawyers, doctors and vaccination. Clergy howled; the intelligentsia huffed. Hubbard reveled in their attacks and regularly printed them in the Philistine. In March, 1899, the magazine printed a short and at the time untitled essay which in the words of Hubbards most recent biographer, "...set off a fair-sized tidal wave that was still eating into remote beaches after Hubbards death and was to wash Hubbard himself a considerable distance off the course he was sailing." (Art & Glory, p.86)

"Message to Garcia" was inspired by the journey of Lieutenant Andrew S. Rowan to the Cuban rebel leader Calixto Garcia. Only three paragraphs concern Rowen. The remainder of the 1,500 words was an admonition to the workers of the world to act promptly and with energy to accomplish whatever task they were assigned. Orders for reprints flooded in. By 1913 it was estimated that 40 million copies had been printed. By 1939, when Roycrofters copyright expired, the total was over 80 million copies. The essay has been translated into every major language of the world. Before the Russo-Japanese War Czar Nicholas ordered copies of Hubbard's essay for all his army officers and Japan responded with orders for officers and enlisted men as well. It was standard reading for two generations of American school children. According to one estimate only the bible has sold more copies. (Gumbrell, Pant., 11-27-75, p. A-5).

In 1895, soon after returning from a trip to England, Hubbard established the nucleus of the Roycroft community at East Aurora. The name came from Samuel and Thomas Roycroft, seventeenth century English bookbinders. From a single hand operated printing press in Hubbards barn the Roycrofters evolved into a complete artistic community which at one time employed

hundreds of workers. Their specialty was finely printed and artistically bound books, but the Roycrofters produced hundreds of different craft items. During his lifetime Elbert Hubbard ruled the community with a firm and not always gentle hand.

By 1915 Hubbard was one of the best known personalities in the country. He had lectured in most of the large and many of the small towns in the United states; he had even for a time played Vaudeville. Thousands had been entertained by Hubbard at East Aurora. While his writings were never popular with literary critics they exerted a powerful influence on the development of American life. As Elbert boarded the Lusitania he remarked to the journalist Melville Stone, "Well if they sink her....I will have a chance some day to meet the Kaiser in hell." (Champney, p. 191). For years many of Hubbords followers were convinced that the Kaiser had ordered the Lusitania sunk in reprisal for Elbert Hubbard's remarks.

Since his death Hubbard has been the subject of at least six full length biographies. Recently the Roycrofters buildings have been placed on the National Register.

STRUCTURE: In many ways this is a typical I-house.

The two story portion has a window on either side of the front door and three on the second floor. As in the Porter and Murphy homes, the window frames are slightly pointed at the top. At some time not long after its construction a small bay window was added in the angle between the front and kitchen wings of the house.

From the writing of Mary Hubbard Heath a good deal is known about the construction of this house.

"Father was a poor farmer, and the demand for his services as a physician became so great, that, in a few months, he sold his farm and going into the woods with the woodsmen, he hewed the walnut trees with which when converted into lumber he built his modest little home across from the Baptist Church." (p. 46).

She goes on to later describe the home and its furnishings in detail. Elbert's room was in the attic along with his father's box of human bones and the baptismal robes of the neighboring church. Although somewhat modified, this room still exists. After fifteen years the two story front portion of the house was added. Again quoting Elbert's sister:

"The little gray house became crowded beyond endurance, though mother tried her best to make the most of its limited accommodations, and she had a plan worked out in her own mind for a two-story upright addition to be built in front of the cottage, which would give her a central front hall, with stairs and a walnut banister, and a parlor with folding doors

opening into the living room on one side of the hall and a roomy bedroom on the other side, while upstairs would be three new chambers, one Frank's room, one for Bert, and a coveted spare room." (p.101).

There was, however, no money. Silas Hubbard had never been a man to press his patients to pay their bills, so Elbert and his mother were forced to go over all of the old books and find people the doctor had treated who might be willing to pay with labor or materials. Elbert then rode all over McLean County exercising his already considerable talents for salesmanship to obtain cash materials and promises of labor. Soon the new part of the house was erected.

REFERENCES

- Freeman Champney, Art and Glory: The Story of Elbert Hubbard (New York: Crown Publishers, 1968).
- H. Kenneth Dirlam and Ernest E. Simmons, Sinners, This is East Aurora: The Story of Elbert Hubbard and the Roycroft Shops (New York: Vantage Press, 1964).
- Kenneth H. Dirlam, The Story of 'A Message to Garcia' Mansfield, Ohio: n.p., 1960.
- Tom Gumbrell, "The Hudson Connection: A Story Behind Two Rocks," Pant. 11-27-75, A-5; "The Hudson Connection: Hubbard: His Miracle," 11-29-75, A-7; "The Hudson Connection: The eccentric Doctor Silas," 12-1-75, A-5; "The Hudson Connection: For the Love of a Woman," 12-3-75, A-5; "The Hudson Connection: Then the Lusitania Sailed," 12-4-75, A-5.
- Charles F. Hamilton, As Bees in Honey Drown (South Brunswick, N.Y.: A.S. Barnes and London: Thomas Yoseloff, 1973).

Mary Hubbard Heath, The Elbert Hubbard I Knew (East Aurora: Roycrofters, 1929).

Felix Shay, Elbert Hubbard of East Aurora (New York: William H. Wise & Co., 1926.







