

2/6/53

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Iowa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 26 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mineral Point Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Roughly loc. for by WI 23, Cooper & Dodge*
Boundaries as shown on appended map

CITY OR TOWN: *Shake Rag St.*
Mineral Point

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Iowa** CODE: **049**

Congressmen to be notified:
Sen. William Proxmire
Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson
Rep. Vernon W. Thomson

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Idle land</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Agnes Gillmann

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Mineral Point** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Iowa County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Dodgeville** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

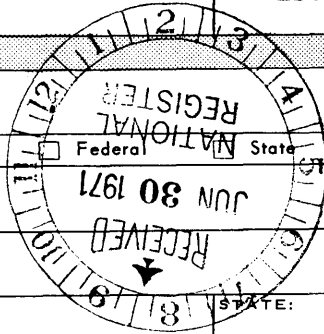
TITLE OF SURVEY: **None**

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Wisconsin**

COUNTY: **Iowa**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mineral Point Hill is a portion of land near the terminus of a high fingerlike prominence which extends in a southwesterly direction, lying between two tributary streams of the Mineral Point Branch of the Pecatonica river system and ending in a point on the east side of the city of Mineral Point. It lies along the southeast side of Shake Rag Street, from which it rises sharply -- some 140 feet within a horizontal distance of approximately 1000 feet -- directly across the street from the fronts of the Pendarvis complex and other early Cornish miners' cottages. /The southwestern half of the nominated property is pockmarked with abandoned surface lead diggings dating back to the 1830's and is the area from which the early lead miners could look back to their homes in the valley and see their wives shaking rags at noon to indicate that it was time for the men to eat their lunches. Among these diggings and elsewhere on the hill are also the surface remnants of once shafted lead mines. Another smaller group of old surface digging remains appears on the eastern slope of the hill. /

The greater part of the nominated-property is covered with an assortment of grasses and weeds, shrubs and bushes, and a few trees of low to medium height, all growing in a more or less natural state. Because of the nature of the terrain, this part of Mineral Point Hill has remained largely unused since the mining days except for intermittent use as grazing land. An immediately adjacent area at the northeast corner of the property is arable, however, and currently under cultivation.

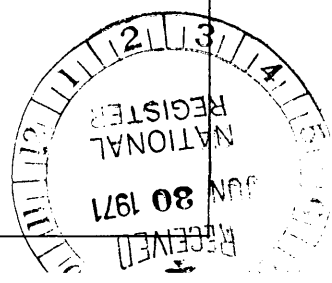
/On the eastern side of the hill is an abandoned stone building, typical of Cornish stonework, which served for a time around 1911-1912 as the office of the New Jersey Zinc Company which operated the nearby Merry Christmas mine. /While not in ruinous condition, the building needs considerable re-
toration, and such work is planned.

At various sites on the hill the vertical shafts of long abandoned underground lead mines, which usually were limited to depths of about 20 to 30 feet, have been filled, leaving only moderate depressions. Near the crest of the hill, however, not a great distance west of the old stone building, the opening of the Merry Christmas zinc mine shaft remains unfilled. This is an inclined shaft -- the only such kind on the hill -- and the surface near the shaft opening has sunk to a dangerous extent so that it has been necessary to fence off an area encircling the entrance as a protective measure. This mine was closed about 1912 and has not been worked since.

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE (See appended map):

Bounded roughly by Copper Street on the north, Wisconsin state trunk highway 23 on the south, Dodge Street on the east and Shake Rag Street on the west.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1830-1855; 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Historical</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

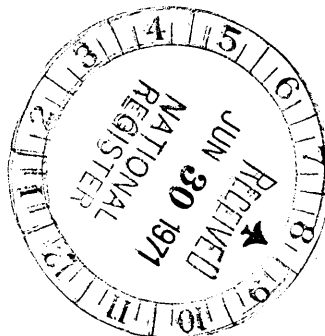
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Mineral Point Hill, which lies within the Mineral Point Historic District, is historical. It is the land on which occurred the original discovery of lead ore around 1825 that attracted the early lead miners, especially those from Cornwall, England, and on which much if not most of the Mineral Point lead mining was done between 1830 and 1855. Its rich ore deposits led to the establishment of the unique city of Mineral Point, beginning at the base of Mineral Point Hill with the settlement of Cornish miners in their exceptionally fine stone houses on Shake Rag Street in the middle 1830's. The city, third oldest in Wisconsin, was the center of political power and location of the most important land office in Wisconsin during most of the Territorial period, 1836-1848.

This hill is also the site of the Merry Christmas zinc mine, opened about 1906, the largest of the few large sphalerite mines in Mineral Point.¹ This was during the period after the lead mining era had passed, when zinc mining became the most important industry of the old lead region and was centered in Mineral Point. The significance of the mines and mining includes both the areas of engineering and industry. That of the Old Stone House which served as the New Jersey Zinc Company's office is architectural as a further good example of Mineral Point's unique stonemasonry.

1. Heyl et. al., "The Geology of the Upper Mississippi Valley Zinc-Lead District," 268.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tri-State Year Book of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa: Lead and Zinc Mines, Comp. & Ed. by Mining Review, Dubuque, Iowa, 1907, 35-40, 89-91.
 Schafer, Joseph, The Wisconsin Lead Region, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1932, 92-109.
 Fiedler, George, Mineral Point, A History, pub. by the Mineral Point Historical Society and the Iowa County Democrat Tribune, Mineral Point, Wis., 1962, passim.
 Heyl, A.V., Jr., et. al., "The Geology of the Upper Mississippi Valley Zinc-Lead District," (Geological Survey Professional Paper 309), U.S. Gov't Printing Office, Washington, 1959, 268.

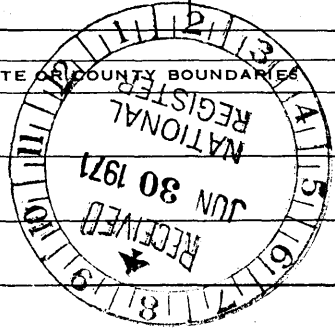
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	N 42° 51' 37"	W 90° 10' 35"		" " " "	" " " "	
NE	N 42° 51' 50"	W 90° 10' 18"				
SE	N 42° 51' 37"	W 90° 09' 57.6"				
SW	N 42° 51' 23"	W 90° 10' 15"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **50**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	STATE:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **May 26, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>James Morton Smith</u> James Morton Smith</p> <p>Title <u>Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin</u> Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>10/26/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William F. Steitz</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>10-20-72</u></p>
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