

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SPP 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON: **Fort Koshkonong - May (Eli) House Site**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Congressmen to be notified:
Sen. William Proxmire
Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson
Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (2nd
Cong. District)**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
407 Milwaukee Avenue East

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Atkinson

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 055
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Fort Atkinson Historical Society See Cont. Sheet 11.11.76

STREET AND NUMBER:
409 Merchant Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Atkinson

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Jefferson

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

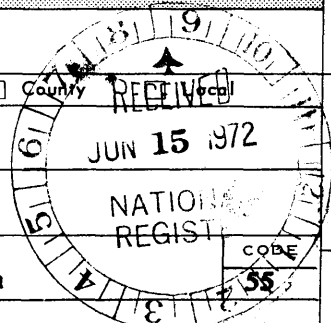
STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Jefferson
ENTRY NUMBER: 14 SPP 1972
DATE: JUN 15 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

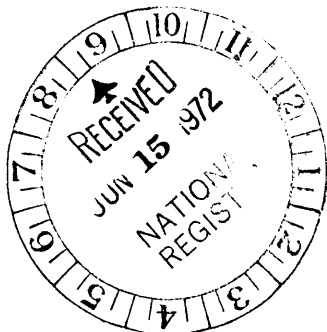
A substantial, sound, well-maintained 2½ story Victorian house, built of cream-colored brick in 1864, the May House stands on the site of a portion of the original Fort Koshkonong. It is quite symmetrical, cruciform (Latin cross) in shape, with some Italianate features, especially in the use of decorative brackets to support the roof overhang, which is wide at both the sides and gable ends of the roof. The brackets are characterized by rather prominent pendants that give the house an unusual appearance.

Except for installation of modern plumbing and utilities there have been no substantial alterations of the house. It is tentatively planned, however, that as restoration, which is partially under way, continues, the interior will be adapted in some ways to provide for use of the house as a Wisconsin Writers Hall of Fame. This is still uncertain, but at best, if such use materializes, it will require no changes exteriorly and only minor ones inside, so that little integrity will be lost.

The approximately one and a half acre lot on which the house stands, part of Fort Koshkonong, erected by General Henry Atkinson during the Black Hawk War in 1832, is now a well-kept large lawn with shade trees and a few ornamental shrubs. No visible remains of the original fort structure exist, but the site is marked by an iron-fenced boulder and plaque as well as by an Official Wisconsin Historical Marker on the southern edge of the property.

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE:

Bounded on the north and east by private properties, on the south by Milwaukee Avenue East and on the west by South Roland Avenue.



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) **1832; 1864**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

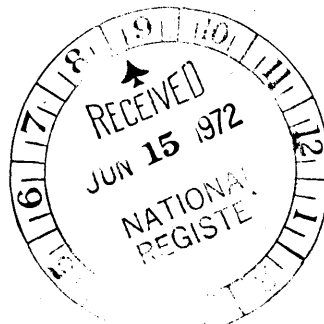
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The principal areas of significance of the fort site are military and Indian history because of associations with the Black Hawk War of 1832. It was during that war that Fort Koshkonong was built on this site by General Henry Atkinson who, with more than 4000 frontier soldiers, had followed Black Hawk up the Rock River from Illinois in an attempt to end the war. After an unproductive sortie east up the Bark River, in which one Private Abraham Lincoln participated as a member of Captain Jacob M. Early's irregular Illinois Rangers, [REDACTED] Atkinson returned and built Fort Koshkonong. In his report to General Winfield Scott on July 17, 1832, General Atkinson wrote, "Whilst lying here we have thrown up a stockade work flanked by four block houses for the security of our supplies and the accomodation of the sick." In addition to General Atkinson himself, notables like Lieutenant Albert S. Johnston, General William Clark, and Colonel Henry Dodge, later to be Wisconsin's first territorial governor, were at the fort during the Black Hawk War. In August 1832, Black Hawk was defeated at the Battle of Bad Axe in southwestern Wisconsin. The fort, later renamed Fort Atkinson, was abandoned soon thereafter. The settlement at the fort site, now a busy small city, took its name from the fort.

The May House, while still an interesting architectural specimen and certainly "one of the finest houses in the village" when it was built, is significant as the home of its builder, Eli P. May. May had come to Wisconsin in 1839, had taught school, farmed, operated a sawmill, studied law, and engaged in various successful real-estate and other commercial operations. He was a stockholder in the Northwestern Furniture Company, the Foundry and Machine Company, and a stockholder, director, and vice-president of the First National Bank. One of the most important figures in the growth and development of Fort Atkinson into a prosperous manufacturing and business community, May was a philanthropist and "one of the pillars of Fort Atkinson society." The fort site and the May House, owned by the Fort Atkinson Historical Society, are assured of permanent preservation and appropriate adaptive use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Jefferson County, Western Publishing Co., Chicago, 1879, 331, 498-510
 Mayne, Dexter D., "The Old Fort at Fort Atkinson," Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings, 1898, Madison, 1899, 197-201
United States Biographical Dictionary, Wisconsin Volume, American Biographical Publishing Co., Chicago, Cincinnati, and New York, 1877, 216-217

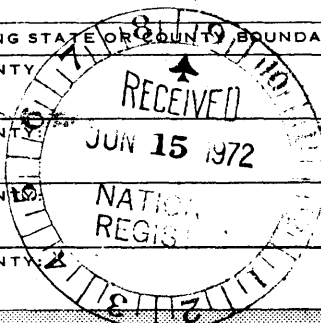
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **12 May 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date: JUN 9 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/14/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9/13/72

in NR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 11 1976
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Property: (May, Eli, House) (Site of Fort Koshkonong), Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County,
Wisconsin

New owner of property: Dr. and Mrs. Richard Larson
311 South Main Street
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538