Form 10-300 (July 1969)		S DEPARTMENT OF TIONAL PARK SERV		NTERIOR		Wisconsin			
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						rized by rath	
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substantial	alteratio	ns of th	e house.	It is tent	atively pla	nned, however	,
tha <mark>t as res</mark>	toration,	which is	partiall	y under way	, continues	, the interio	r
						as a Wiscons	in
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side, so th	at little	integrit	y will be	lost.			
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PERIOD (Check One of More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropriat	e)	
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Communications	X Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

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, Atkinson returned and built Fort In his report to General Winfield Scott on July 17. 1832. Koshkonong. 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.



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Wisconsin

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED NOV 1 1 **1976** DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1 Property: (May, Eli, House) (Site of Fort Koshkonong), Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County,

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