

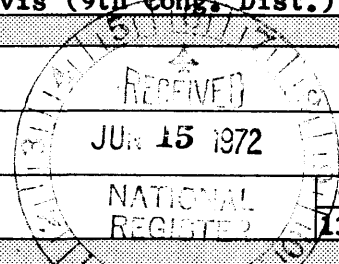
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Waukesha</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>APR 24 1972</b>

1. NAME	
COMMON: <b>Miller-Davidson House</b>	Congressmen to be notified: <b>Sen. William Proxmire</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Fehl, John, House</b>	<b>Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson</b> <b>Rep. Glenn R. Davis (9th Cong. Dist.)</b>

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>N96 W15791 County Line Road</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Menomonee Falls</b>			
STATE <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	COUNTY: <b>Waukesha</b>	CODE <b>133</b>



3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" 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 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Village of Menomonee Falls</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>W156 N8480 Pilgrim Road</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Menomonee Falls</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Menomonee Falls Village Hall</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>W156 N8480 Pilgrim Road</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Menomonee Falls</b>	STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	COUNTY: <b>Waukesha</b>

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Historic American Buildings Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1933-36</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Library of Congress</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Washington</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>District of Columbia</b>	CODE <b>11</b>	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	ENTRY NUMBER <b>9859</b>	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: <b>Waukesha</b>	DATE	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

The Miller-Davidson House faces north and in plan is an inverted T. The horizontal member, constituting the main block, is a two-story structure five bays wide and two bays deep, with walls of locally quarried limestone. The vertical or upright member (south wing) has a first story of plaster-covered stone, a wood-framed second story with clapboard siding, wood porches east and west and, at the south end, a single-story wood-framed sun porch. Evidently only the stone portions are original construction.

The main building's foundation is most unusual and according to the Historic American Buildings Survey report probably was built in this way:

The ground on which the house was to be erected was shaped off in the form of an immense semicircular mound. Over this a vault was constructed of stone approximately 2 feet thick. When this had set, the earth below was removed and the excavated area thus obtained was the basement. Then the walls of the house itself...were built on top of this immense stone vault. Just why this unusual construction occurs is a mystery. Furthermore it is the only house in the entire locality constructed along these lines.

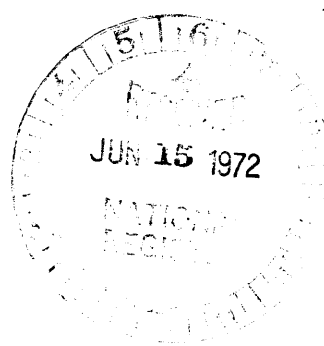
Except for its foundation, the house is typical of its time--modestly Grecian in style. It presents a symmetrical facade with regularly spaced rectangular windows having stone sills and wood lintels and a central entry framed by narrow sidelights and surmounted by rectangular transom lights. A low-pitched gable roof, with ridge paralleling the facade, covers the main house.

Rooms in the north wing are ranged symmetrically east and west of the central stairhall which, on both stories, extends the full depth of this section and gives access to the principal rooms of the south wing. Interiors have been remodeled somewhat over the years, but alterations have not been extensive and the mid-19th century character of the original has not been sacrificed. Furnishings are 18th and 19th century antiques, all in excellent condition.

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC PROPERTY:

Bounded on the north by the Washington-Waukesha County Line Road, on the east by Pilgrim Road, and on the south and west by private properties.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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Continuation Sheet #2 (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

MILLER-DAVIDSON HOUSE

- 7. Paragraph 1 of the description is deleted and rewritten as follows as a matter of clarification:

The Miller-Davidson house faces north and in plan is a T. The main house, which constitutes the horizontal member, built about 1858, is a two-story structure of coursed and rubble limestone, five bays wide and two bays deep. The stone came from the famed quarries at the nearby community of Lannon. The south wing has a first story of plaster-covered stone and a wood-framed second story with clap-board siding. The wing, so far as is known, was added in the middle 1870's. Flanking the wing on either side is a simple, square colon-naded porch. That on the southeast remains open as when it was built, but the one on the southwest side was enclosed and made into a sun porch, perhaps in the 1930's. This alteration is minor and inconspicuous and is not considered to have any significant effect on the integrity of the house.



**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) **c. 1858**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

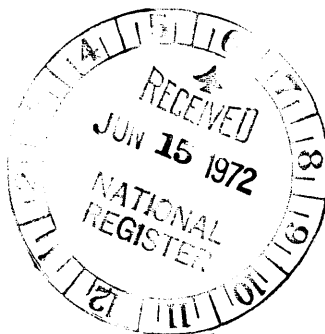
- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <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

One of the older surviving buildings in northeastern Waukesha County, this former residence was built c. 1858 for John Fehl, a German-born farmer. Among later owners were Charles Miller, Milwaukee businessman, and Mrs. Walter Davidson, widow of a president of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company. In 1965 Mrs. Davidson sold her home to the Village of Menomonee Falls, and it now serves as a public museum.

The building is a simple, attractive Greek Revival design, described by Richard W. E. Perrin as "an excellent example of the regional stone farmhouse built in the pre-Civil War days." In the Historic American Buildings Survey report, prepared in the 1930's, Alexander C. Guth praised the house, especially such features as the main doorway--"noteworthy because of its delicate and refined treatment of mouldings"--and the windows--"ideal from the standpoint of proportion"--and made special mention of the vaulted basement-foundation, which is probably quite unique in Wisconsin.

A Wisconsin Registered Landmark, the Miller-Davidson House stands on an 18.5 acre site that also contains a barn and a log cabin that was moved from its original location and refurbished. It is planned that the acreage will eventually be developed as a park site and outdoor museum, with additional historic structures moved to the grounds.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hagen, Lois, "Historic Farmhouse to Be Museum," Milwaukee Journal, June 13, 1965, Part 7, 1, 2.  
 Historic American Buildings Survey, Wisconsin Architecture, Washington, 1965, 54.  
 Link, David E., "Seek to Preserve Pre-Civil War Home," Milwaukee Sentinel, February 27, 1965, Part 3, 1, 3.  
 Nolan, Libbie, "Historic Home Becomes Museum," Waukesha Freeman, May 23, 1966, 5.  
 Nolan, Libbie, "Owners Nurtured Historic House with Loving Care," Waukesha Freeman, June 9, 1966, Section 2, 1.

**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	N 43° 11' 31"	W 88° 06' 26"				
NE	N 43° 11' 31"	W 88° 06' 12"				
SE	N 43° 11' 21"	W 88° 06' 12"				
SW	N 43° 11' 21"	W 88° 06' 26"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **18.5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mary Ellen Wieczykowski, Chairman**

ORGANIZATION: **Milwaukee Landmarks Commission**      DATE: **12 May 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**210 West Michigan Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Milwaukee**      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 M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/24/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4/23/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Waukesha	
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Continuation Sheet #1 (Continuation Sheet)

APR 24 1973

(Number all entries)

MILLER-DAVIDSON HOUSE

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (State)

1971

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

March 1, 1972

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

