

3-18-74

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Dane</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JAN 21 1974</b>

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Old Spring Tavern**

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3706 Nakoma Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Madison**      **2nd Congressional District**

STATE: **Wisconsin**      CODE: **55**      COUNTY: **Dane**      CODE: **025**

#### 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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

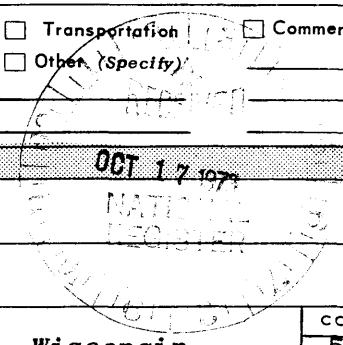
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. William T. Stephens**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3706 Nakoma Road**

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



#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Dane County Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**210 Monona Avenue**

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

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Survey of the Madison Landmarks Commission**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**City Planning Department**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**210 Monona Avenue**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>
COUNTY: <b>Dane</b>
ENTRY NUMBER <b>JAN 21 1974</b>
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

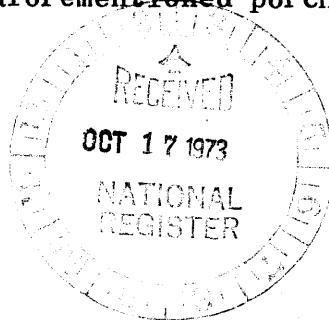
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Old Spring Tavern is a two-story abstracted Greek Revival house built with indigenous reddish-pink brick. The original entry now faces to the rear of the house, and the original door and door framing still is in place. The house is set on the side of a hill, leaving the basement exposed on the southeast side with three openings. In plan the house is a simple rectangle with end chimneys, and the roof is a simple gable with returned eaves in the Greek Revival manner. The original appearance of the house is largely reflected in its current appearance, with the exception of a two-story wood porch which was added in the 1920's. In terms of siting, the old roadway originally passed along the northwest side of the house, now the rear yard area, and the present road to the southeast was built later.

The walls at the first-floor level of the house are twenty-two inches thick, having been built with three layers of brick. Above, the walls were continued in two layers of brick thickness. All posts and beams, and the roof planking, are solid oak. No ridgepole was used in framing the roof.

Substantial interior remodeling was done in the 1920's when two fireplaces were added (there were none originally, only Franklin stoves.) The original pine floors then were replaced with new ones of hardwood. The summer kitchen on the northeast side of the house was converted to a garage, and the aforementioned porch was added.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1854**

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

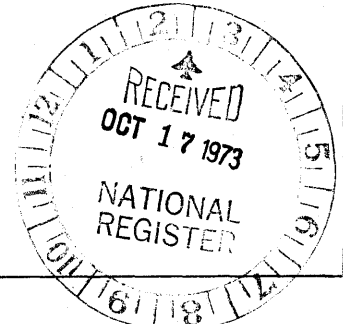
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Old Spring Tavern is significant both for its history and its architecture. Charles C. Morgan built the house in 1854 with brick made from clay found on a nearby slope. Morgan was a businessman who, in partnership with capitalist James W. Gorham, judged the site to be a perfect stopping place on the old Madison-Monroe stagecoach road which led to southwestern Wisconsin's lead mining area. The site's major asset was a large spring behind the house (in its original siting) which served to water horses and oxen. In 1860 Morgan sold the inn and sixty acres to Gorham for \$9,000 in gold, and it became known as "Gorham's Hotel." Soon thereafter, Gorham joined the Union cause in the Civil War and leased the inn. After the war he returned and continued "Gorham's Hotel" until 1895, when he closed the business and used the building as a private residence. Originally, the old stage road passed to the northwest of the house in what is now its rear yard, and the current Nakoma Road was built later between the house and the spring, which is now a duck pond draining into Lake Wingra.

In 1925 the house was sold by the Gorham family to Prof. James G. Dickson, who undertook major interior remodeling and added a two-story Chippendale porch on what is now the front facade of the house. The Dickson family also built a stone wall on the property along Nakoma Road. Mrs. Dickson recently recalled that this wall was designed by and built under the supervision of Frank Lloyd Wright. In 1929 the John Bell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed on the wall a plaque which reads, "Old Spring Tavern. Stage Coach Station On Road To Early Lead Mines. Home of Gorham Family 1860 - 1922. Built 1854."

Architecturally, the house is an excellent local example of the Greek Revival style, examples of which are very rare in the City of Madison. Its pinkish brick also is rare locally, most masonry houses in Madison having been built with buff sandstone or cream-colored brick.

On March 20, 1972, the Old Spring Tavern was designated a landmark by the City of Madison Landmarks Commission.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Madison Landmarks Commission, Landmarks and Landmark Sites Nomination Form for the Old Spring Tavern, February 7, 1972.  
 Newcomb, Rexford, The Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, Chicago (1950). Page 133, and Plate LXXVIII.

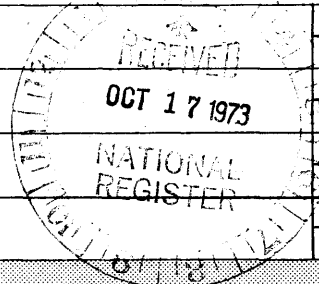
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	N 43	03	02
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	W 89	26	18
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Jeffrey M. Dean**

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society** DATE: **July 26, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **816 State Street**

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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**  
 Director, State Historical Society of Wis.  
 Title: (State Historic Preservation Officer.)

Date: October 10, 1973

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

Al R. Winters  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/21/74

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1/16/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS