

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



80

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Dunroven House

historic Mont-Joy House

and/or common Dunroven House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 7801 Dunroven Road not for publication

city, town Dane vic. vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Howard J. and Virginia R. Koop

street & number 7801 Dunroven Road

city, town Dane vicinity of state Wisconsin 53529

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Courthouse

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

In its present form, the Dunroven House is a grand-scale Colonial Revival cubic farmhouse constructed of sandstone. The front facade is dominated by a prominent two-story giant order portico composed of four fluted wood Corinthian columns and balustrades. Large hipped-roof dormers are set into each of the four sides of the slate-covered hipped roof. Formerly, a porte-cochere was attached to the house at the northwest corner extending from the front portico.

The T-shaped plan is created by the juncture of the later square addition with the earlier rectangle. Two stories high, the original section of the house was oriented north-south on the property. Additions in 1912 included a one-story square infill to the rear as well as the front portion. Two single-story rooms, clapboarded on the exterior, were added to either side of the front facade in 1941.

The dining room and what was formerly an office/library are finished in mahogany wainscoting. Floors are oak, and most interior doors are solid mahogany. Two double-run staircases serve the house from the front living room area, and from the rear kitchen. A 1912 fireplace was moved from the living room to the more centrally-located dining room, and rejoined to the same chimney. Two other fireplaces are located in each of the added single-story rooms off the main living area. Four bedrooms are located on the second floor, while the third floor, once a ballroom, now serves as a recreation room. Hand-painted murals of rural landscapes are still visible in the coved eaves now enclosed by closets.

A short distance to the rear of the house is a small, square, two-story powerhouse constructed of the same stone used for the house. Dressed stone quoins and window rustication, and a prominent crenelated parapet distinguish the otherwise simple design. The first floor once housed a Fairbanks-Morse engine used to generate electricity which was then stored in batteries. The second story functioned as living quarters of a full-time engineer. The structure, whose estimated date of construction is 1912, is now used as a rental property.

Remains of stanchions and foundations from the original dairy farm (latter nineteenth century) still exist on the grounds. Stone walls, some five feet in height, interspersed with red rock from a Baraboo quarry, enclose the buildings on the property.

The Dunroven House is located two and one-half miles northeast of the Village of Dane (pop. 486) on Dunroven Road. The surrounding land is covered by cultivated fields interspersed with woodlands to the northwest.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	Assoc- iation with significant person	
Specific dates	1870 ¹	Builder/Architect				

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

One of few identified sites of significance in rural Dane County, Dunroven House was home of the prominent gentleman farmer Boyce who also figured in state and local politics. Architecturally, the grand-scale farmhouse, manifestly dissimilar to its more modest neighbors, is a sophisticated example of a regional style. The remaining wing of the original farmhouse, also built of coursed sandstone, adds to the visual and historical value of the house.

Architecture. The Dunroven House serves as an example of an aggrandized regional style, the Colonial Revival cube farmhouse, originally built and expanded with locally-quarried stone. Seldom seen in Wisconsin, this Midwestern house type is enhanced by the tonal and textural quality of its sandstone walls. The present form obscures the original two-story rectangular farmhouse, whose more delicate decorative details (finer denticulation, multi-paned casement windows) are still visible toward the rear. Surviving fine panelling in the dining room and former library inside provide a valuable clue to the quality of the original design and the tone of its decoration. With its early twentieth-century giant order portico supported by massive Corinthian columns, the Dunroven House is an impressive element in the rural Dane County landscape. Its size and dignity compared with other farmhouses in the area attest to the prominence of its former owners. Located a short distance to the rear of the house, the crenelated two-story sandstone powerhouse of undetermined date, adds a further note of distinction to the property.

In 1909, the Walnut Hill estate was purchased by E. W. de Bower, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. It was de Bower who built the substantial house that now exists, christening it "Mont-Joy" in honor of his wife. The de Bowers lived only occasionally at the estate, due to his attentions to LaSalle University in Chicago, which he founded and served as its first president. Instead, de Bower used the property as an income producing business for cattle breeding, operated by hired hands. de Bower's most interesting innovations was to convert the old Milk house on the property into an electrical generating plant, providing power for the house and farm operations.² Eventually, however, de Bower turned his interests to property in Texas and sold Mont-Joy.

Association with significant person. Abram Asa Boyce (1821-1894) came to Dane County from New York in 1847.³ He established a farm in the township of Vienna on which he raised tobacco and eventually began a dairy business. Boyce proved successful at agriculture, for within 20 years he increased his land from 80 to 480 acres. Boyce's home, which he termed 'Walnut Hill' is the stone nucleus of the now more substantial Dunroven House. Boyce also proved successful in Dane County politics, serving for 18 years as Justice of the Peace, and also as chairman of the Dane County Board of Supervisors. In addition, he served two terms in the Wisconsin State Legislature, and was influential in the Dane County Republican Party. Boyce owned the property until his death in 1894.⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Review of Dane County, Wisconsin. Chicago, 1893.
 Capitol Times, Madison, Wisconsin, January 8, 1964.
 Public Service Commission, General Correspondence. E.W. De Bower to Harold L. Geisse, October 21, 1916.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.6

Quadrangle name Poynette, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	6	2	9	9	3	5	0	4	7	9	5	1	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The property nominated is located in the NE-1/4 of the SW-1/4 of Sec 6, T9N, R9E in the Town of Vienna, Dane County, Wisconsin. The property commences at Dunroven Road and extends north-eastwards 260 feet, turns left and extends 270 feet, turns left and extends 265 feet, and then turns left again, extending 240 feet to the point of origin at Dunroven Road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mike Koop

organization _____ date May, 1980

street & number 7801 Dunroven Road telephone (608) 595-4560

city or town Dane state Wisconsin 53529

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard W. Hanning

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 10/7/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Carol D. Shuck</i>	date <u>11-28-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <i>Linda Hart McClelland</i>	date <u>11-28-80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Dunroven House, Dane vicinity, Dane County, Wisconsin
Continuation sheet

Item number

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NOTES

- 1) Capital Times, Jan. 8, 1964.
- 2) See E. W. de Bower to Harold L. Geisse, secretary of the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin, Oct. 21, 1916. Contained in Public Service Commission, General Correspondence, at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives.
- 3) A biographical sketch of Boyce is contained in Biographical Review of Dane County, Wisconsin, p. 356-358.
- 4) The activities of de Bower at the Mont-Joy estate is contained in Capital Times, Jan. 8, 1964.