

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977  
DATE ENTERED JUL 28 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Richardson-Brinkman Cobblestone House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Cobblestone House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
607 West Milwaukee Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Clinton  
STATE  
Wisconsin 53525  
VICINITY OF  
First  
COUNTY  
Rock  
CODE  
105

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"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS    | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE          | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED   | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT                   |
|   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL                   |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                     |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                       |
|   |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|   |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. John Brinkman  
STREET & NUMBER  
607 West Milwaukee Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Clinton  
VICINITY OF  
Wisconsin 53525

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Rock County Court House  
STREET & NUMBER  
51 South Main Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Janesville  
STATE  
Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
DATE  
1964  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington  
STATE  
District of Columbia 20540  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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    |   |   |

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Richardson-Brinkman cobblestone house consists of a 1 1/2 story gable-roofed block (18' x 24') facing the north-northwest and a one story gable-roofed wing extending 22' to its right or west-southwest. The two second-story windows on the main block do not line vertically with those below. The house, with Greek Revival features such as a returned cornice, straight wooden lintels, and tooled limestone quoins, was built in 1843 by Alonso Richardson. A stylistically typical recessed entry porch adjacent to the main block and within the right wing is now enclosed. Some of the original window panes have been replaced, but the sash appears to be original. A lower one-story frame wing now extends behind the one-story cobblestone wing; otherwise there are few external changes to the house.

The walls are 16-18" thick. A rubble stone core is faced with cobblestones of assorted, well-blended tones of tan, gray, green and black. They contrast with the buff limestone quoins and with the orange painted wood trim of gables and window frames. The stones, bank-run or possibly river stones, are somewhat larger and more irregular, and so show an earlier style of assemblage, than in other mid-19th century examples (like the Rasey and Munn houses in Beloit). They are placed between horizontal bands of mortar and framed with vertical joints. The mortar has remained very sound, with some later tuckpointing. A limestone water table protrudes slightly over the foundation.

The Larsons, who owned the house from 1916 until 1971, moved those interior partitions which were movable and installed water, plumbing and electricity, doing most of the work themselves. They replaced the original living room ceiling beams, which were sagging, and removed seven layers of wallpaper before replastering. The cream-colored mid-19th century interior window moldings of the parlor are intact however, as are the bark-covered oak ceiling joists in the basement. The low-ceilinged opening between the parlor and the dining room wing has 2' thick walls.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1843

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richardson-Brinkman cobblestone house is significant as one of the finest early examples in southern Wisconsin of this once fairly well represented vernacular style of building. It "very closely resembles the New York prototypes,"<sup>1</sup> according to Richard Perrin. It was built in 1843 by Alonso Richardson on an 80-acre farm soon after he purchased the land from the government.<sup>2</sup> Richardson, who supposedly built other houses in Clinton, eventually moved west, probably to the Dakotas. The present 90 x 190' lot with house and a turn-of-the-century hipped gable horse barn is all that remains of the original farm. After the coming of the railroads in the 1850's, the village of Clinton eventually surrounded the farmhouse.

The house has become the best-known architectural landmark in Clinton. It was purchased in 1975 by a young couple interested in its preservation.

1. Perrin, R. W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 76.

2. Ajango, H., AIA-HABSI survey form, 9/16/64.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Ajango, H., AIA-HABSI Survey Form, September 16, 1964  
 Douglas, Nancy B. and Hartung, Richard P., Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings  
 (Janesville, 1976), 14, 184; illus. p. 15  
 Historic American Buildings Survey, Wisconsin Architecture (Washington, 1965), 20  
 (Narrative by R. W. E. Perrin)  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture (Milwaukee, 1960), 12

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.4  
 UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |            |               |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1,6  | 3,46,8,0,0 | 4,7,1,3,1,4,0 | B |      |         |          |
|   | ZONE | EASTING    | NORTHING      |   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C |      |            |               | D |      |         |          |
|   |      |            |               |   |      |         |          |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
 Nancy Belle Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION  
 Rock County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER  
 P. O. Box 896

CITY OR TOWN  
 Janesville

DATE  
 December 3, 1976

TELEPHONE  
 (608) 756-4509

STATE  
 Wisconsin 53545

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  
*Richard Perry*

TITLE Acting Director  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 1/25/77

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
*W. H. H. H.*

DATE 7/28/77

ATTEST: *Charles Adams*  
 CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7.6.77

