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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property


historic name Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	306 Dahl Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Rhineland	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Oneida	code 085 zip code 54501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title 8/3/09
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House

Oneida

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edward H. Beall

10.7.09

Beall

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

DOMESTIC / secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

DOMESTIC / secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mission / Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE / granite

walls STUCCO

roof METAL / tin

other METAL / iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Name of Property

Oneida
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Liebert, Hans T.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Name of Property

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County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 312453 5056453
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Sproull, Consultant
organization
street & number 1780 Larsen Drive
city or town Rhinelander

state WI

date 11/02/2008
telephone 715-362-0455
zip code 54501

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House

Oneida

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Patricia LaPorte	date	11/02/2008
organization		telephone	715-369-2893
street&number	306 Dahl Street	zip code	54501
city or town	Rhineland	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Rhineland, Oneida County, WI

Description

The Solon and Mathilda Sutliff House is a two and 1/2-story, stucco, Italian Renaissance variant of the Mediterranean Revival style. The house, built in 1923, has a modified rectangular plan, a simple hipped roof, and a side, enclosed porch/solarium. The entire exterior is finished in painted stucco; the roof is Spanish Tite Lock metal, hip tile which has the look of terra cotta; the foundation is built of field rock, probably local granite; and the chimneys are constructed of hard-burnt common brick covered in stucco. The house is slightly elevated from the street level and is connected to the sidewalk with a straight path covering two small terraces to the front door which is in the center of the symmetrical facade of the main body of the house. A small wing on the west side houses the solarium. The interior of the house is appointed with maple flooring and birch woodwork which retains the original finishes specified by the architect in 1923. Also located on the property is a garage constructed of the same design and built in conjunction with the house.

The house is in, what is called locally, the Courthouse District of the City of Rhineland, a neighborhood of small city lots surrounding the Oneida County Courthouse which was built in 1911 and received National Register designation in 1981. The diversity of architectural styles popular between 1890 and 1930 in the neighborhood reflect the historical context of that period when Rhineland was a "boom town."

Although the neighboring residences contribute to a potentially eligible historic district, the Sutliff house stands out by virtue of its excellent condition and because its architectural style is rare in Rhineland and in the state of Wisconsin.¹

The house sits on a corner lot and fronts north onto Dahl Street. Behind the house at the southwest corner of the lot is the garage which echoes the house in design and materials. The driveway from the garage leads to Baird Street. A small courtyard, typical of the Italian Renaissance style, is formed by the rear of the house, the back of the garage and a hedge at the property line. The dwelling is in excellent condition and has had very little alteration since its construction.

The main approach to the front door from the street retains the bones of the original 1923 design by landscape architects Holm and Olson of St. Paul, Minnesota. The large elm trees lining the street in

¹ Barbara Wyatt (Ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986, (CD) (Architecture).

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Rhineland, Oneida County, WI

front of the house and the original plantings from 1923, which included columnar evergreens complimentary to the Mediterranean Revival architectural style, had been lost over the years. Furthermore, in 1995, the current owner installed a foundation planting with species more hardy to the changed environmental and climatic conditions of the region.

True to the placement in the Holm and Olsen design, a set of four stairs in the central walkway ascend from the city sidewalk to a long flat terrace which is flanked on both sides with a lawn which slopes on either side of it to the sidewalk. Three more steps reach a shallow terrace which is built up with a retaining wall and planted with small shrubs on either side of the doorway. Two more steps reach the level of the front entrance. The original brick walkway and stairs, which had disintegrated over time, were replaced by the current owner in 1995 with modern pavers. Also in 1995 an Allen Block retaining wall replaced the original sloping terrace closest to the house; this allowed the current owner to expand the space slightly.

Originally, the backyard was planted in grass and shrubs. In 1992, the current owner created a small garden courtyard adding a patio of brick pavers and steps into door for access to the kitchen pantry. The concrete retaining walls at the south side of the garage and that between house and garage are original.

Although the intent of the original designers of the landscape plan has been somewhat honored over the years, the actual plants and hardscape materials which have replaced the original are sufficiently different to exclude the landscape as a contributing resource to this application.

House, Exterior

The main entry faces north at the front elevation. The front door is not immediately visible as a storm enclosure was added (it appears from old photographs by the original owners) most likely to keep the north winds from entering the house. An original, Mediterranean-style, brass lamp hangs over the front entry.

The original door, built to the design of Milwaukee architect H.T. Liebert's renderings, is still intact within the enclosure and through the juxtaposition of wood panels and glass surrounding it; he created an allusion to classical elements indicative of the Italian Renaissance variant of the style, including columns with capitals topped with an entablature.

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On either side of the doorway are two pilasters topped with corbels meant to mimic elaborate Ionic capitals. The corbels are topped with two square, columnar sections divided with moldings and then topped with a decorative, four-sectioned, dentiled cap and provide support for the balconet outside a grouping of three windows, which although wooden and double hung, allude to Palladio by appearing to be arched at the top. Actually, each of the three windows features a five-light fan over six-light top sash with the bottom sash being simply six-light construction. The two sashes work together to appear to be one long, narrow window. This grouping of windows illuminates the bathroom.

The balconet railing, true to the original drawings of the architect, is painted iron and has two rounded posts at each front corner. It is then divided by a railing of vertical slats supported at their tops and bottoms horizontally. There is a decorative element at the railing's center of an encircled diamond shape.

The smooth stucco of the front elevation, from foundation to cornice, was painted in 1984, changing the color from off-white to a light tan. According to the current owner², this was necessary because the stucco had begun to deteriorate and showed hairline cracks which allowed water to get into the surface material. She went on to say that a special paint material was used to seal the cracks when the painting was done.

The symmetrically-placed fenestration punctuates the front elevation and is indicative of the Italian Renaissance variant of the Mediterranean Revival style with the first-story windows being more numerous and elaborate than those above. There are two groupings of three, wooden, double-hung, equal-height, first-story windows which flank the front entry. The group on the right illuminates the living room and the other the dining room.

The center windows of each of the two groups are wider than those on each side and are divided with eight rectangular panes at the top third of each. The two narrower windows on each side of the center are decorated with four rectangular panes, also in the top third. These groups of three are slightly recessed into the facade with the stuccoed wall surface gently rounded towards them at the top and an inconspicuous sill/frame at the bottoms. Original, symmetrically-placed matching trellises on each side of the front entry, echoing the arched, window-pane divisions of the three windows above the balconet, are attached to the facade and separate the first-story windows from the front door.

² Current owner Patricia LaPorte (2008).

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Rhineland, Oneida County, WI

On the second story, there are two eight-over-eight-light, double-sash wooden windows, symmetrically placed on the facade on either side of the balconet/window feature at the center of the house. The one on the right admits light to the master bedroom. The sills/frames below the windows are slightly more elaborate than those on the first floor, resembling flower boxes. At each lower corner of the sills are decorative tile squares embedded into the stucco. Characteristic of the Italian Renaissance aspect of the architectural style, protruding under each window is a stucco faced rectangular panel, slightly shorter in width than the window, in low relief, onto which a swag is applied. The symmetrical swag-on-panel features are between the first and second story windows but are closer to the latter and contribute to their ornamentation.

Two matching downspouts, at each corner of the front elevation, are secured flush against the house with decorative fasteners. They curve gently from the edge of the wide, overhanging roof over the smooth, outwardly curved cornice which gives the illusion of boxed eaves, finished in stucco, to boxed gutters. Twenty-one "exposed rafters," which are actually separate wood extensions carved decoratively at their tips and attached in the attic to the actual rafters, punctuate the underside of the roof which is finished with a beaded ceiling.

The low-pitched hipped roof is made of interlocking hip tiles of galvanized tin metal which have been painted a burnt reddish orange color. The effect of this painted system gives the appearance of terra cotta. Per the architect's specifications, it is revealed that these tiles were so-called "Tite Lock," manufactured by the Milwaukee Corrugating Company of 36th and Burnham Streets in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. *The History of Milwaukee, City and County*³ goes on to describe the company and its products, "As this company enjoys the distinction of operating the largest sheet metal works in the middle west it offers the trade a class of goods which for quality, workmanship and finish has no equal..." "Titelock" metal shingles constitute a large part of its product, which, because of their superior merits, are specified by leading architects everywhere in this and foreign countries."⁴ Evidence of this claim of quality is borne out by the fact that the original roof of these materials is still in excellent working order after 85 years.

The side/east elevation is stuccoed from the ground level to the cornice and features three basement level windows. At the right of the first level is a grouping of three windows which matches those at the front however they are narrower, four-light-over-one, double hung illuminating the dining room. To the

³ William George Bruce and Josiah Seymour Currey, *History of Milwaukee City and County* (Chicago and Milwaukee: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922), 476-479.

⁴ Ibid.

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left of the elevation is a pair of six-over-six-light, double-hung windows which light the kitchen.

The second story has two, six-over-six-light double hung windows, placed over the bottom two sets of windows. They provide light for the two auxiliary bedrooms. A downspout is slightly to the left of center of the elevation and matches those on the front of the house in its design. The cornice and roof are treated similarly to the front of the building. A one-story, six-foot-wide building extension which provides entry to the kitchen is at the left of the facade and is covered in a rolled rubber roof, installed by the current owner in 1994, which meets the original pent tile roof of materials to match the main roof.

The rear/south elevation is stuccoed from the ground to the cornice as in the front and sides. The building extension, which was visible from the east side and is now on the right side of this elevation, has a door at its center which is reached by two steps from the patio. The door in this spot is a 1992 alteration which replaced a window there. Originally, this same door was on the west side of this building extension and allowed access for the ice salesman to gain entry to the house and place ice in the ice box that was in the house when it was first built. When the ice box was replaced with a modern refrigerator, the entry was no longer needed in the same area and the current owner was able to make a better use of space by moving it. Off-center to the right, above the building extension on the main rear elevation, is an eight-light, two-panel, wooden door, which allows access to the small rooftop from one of the bedrooms and provides light to the same room (the storm window over the door has a 15-light panel).

The center section of the rear elevation displays paired windows or window-door combinations of varying sizes in vertical alignment. A door, which allows entry to the house onto a stairway landing where the stairs go up to the main entry hall and kitchen, and down to the basement, is paired with a six-light-over-one, double-hung window at its left. Centered above this combination is a pair of six-over-six-light, double hung windows which illuminate the stairway landing between the first and second stories of the house. Two, six-light, casement windows, which are in the attic, top off the window-door ensemble of this center part of the rear elevation.

To the right of the door and windows here is a downspout identical to those on the other elevations. The roof and cornice are constructed similarly to the front of the house; however, a second chimney is visible at the top of the roof, slightly off-center to the right and is fully stuccoed.

At the left third of the rear elevation, the stuccoed outline of the living room fireplace's chimney

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
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protrudes from the main plane of the facade and extends above the roof. Two basement windows are symmetrically placed at its base on either side. Directly above them, at the first level illuminating the living room, is one four-over-one-light, double-hung wooden window. Completing the vertical line of windows at each story on either side of the chimney are one, each, four-over-four-light, double hung windows bringing light to the master bedroom at the second level.

The single-story wing at the left of the rear elevation which houses the solarium is fully visible from the west side of the house. At its base are three basement-level windows as well as one window which is at the base of the main west-facing facade. There are three walls to this wing featuring a pair of windows on the south side, a trio of windows at the west and another pair of windows facing north. These windows are not original and were changed by the owner of the house after the Sutliff family and before the current owner, sometime between 1965 and 1983. A tiled pent roof extends from just over the windows on all three sides, over which there is a stuccoed railing with a cap encircling a balcony outside the master bedroom. Centered on the elevation, onto the balcony, is a six-light, two-panel wood door flanked on each side by one six-over-six-light, double-hung window. A downspout matching the others on the house is at the right of this west elevation.

Interior

The interior of the house is remarkably intact with, for the most part, its original plastered walls, woodwork, doors and floors. This fact can be substantiated by comparing what exists today with the original specifications of the architect, which are in the possession of the current owner. The main entry is by way of a central hall, 8 feet wide by 12 feet deep, with staircase leading to the upper floors. To the right is the living room which extends the full 32-foot depth of the house and is about 15 feet across. Off the living room is the 8-foot by 14-foot solarium. To the left of the entry hall is the 15-foot by 12-foot dining room which allows access to the kitchen of approximately the same dimensions. The kitchen can also be entered by a back hallway and exterior door at the center of the house, as well as what used to be the ice-box room (now a pantry) from the exterior door at the rear courtyard garden.

The second floor has three bedrooms and one bathroom. The master bedroom is at the left/west of the second-floor stairway landing and is 15-feet wide (east/west) by 32-feet deep. The bathroom is next to it off the landing at the north side of the house and is about eight-feet wide by eight-feet long. The two other bedrooms, at the east side of the house, measure about 15-feet wide (east/west) by 10-feet deep and sit over the kitchen and dining room. There is built-in cabinetry for a linen closet in the upstairs hallway.

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There is a wide staircase leading into the attic which is used for storage.

The living room is off the central hall to the right through two ten-light French doors ("Long Light Terrace Doors, glazed with clear, crystal glass," per the architect's specifications) and runs the full 32-foot depth of the house. Its main focal point is the fireplace at the south end, flanked symmetrically with a window on each side. The stone mantle is original and according to the architect's specifications was furnished by Mrs. Sutliff. It is made of soft stone, perhaps light sandstone, carved with decorative swags, flowers and swirls and supported by two pilasters and corbels which are reminiscent of those outside on each side of the house's front door. The tiles facing the fireplace opening were replaced by the current owner in the 1990s to try and match the originals which had been badly damaged.

In the living room as well as the dining room, there is a dentiled crown molding of stucco, painted dark to match the walnut-colored stain of the woodwork, "neatly put up and pointed at joints," per the architect. He goes on to specify "wood-paneled Wainscot and panel casings" creating a paneled effect with the woodwork framing, against the plastered walls, at the corners and windows.

The solarium is reached off the living room. It saw the most changes with the woodwork and windows removed by the owner of the house between 1965 and 1983. The current owner removed that the replacement woodwork and tried to replicate the original in the 1990s. The original floor, which is an unusual, thick, ochre-colored stone with delicate maroon veining similar to that of marble and cut into six-inch squares set in mortar and grouted, remains, as well as the two, hinged-sets-of-two, ten-light, glass-paneled doors which when closed, separate the solarium from the living room.

The dining room is entered to the left off the main foyer through doors like those entering the living room. The stuccoed crown molding and paneled-effect woodwork mimics the theme in the living room.

The kitchen is entered from the dining room. The original wood cabinets remain intact, but the floor, sink and appliances were updated in the 1980s and 1990s by the current owner for modern convenience. What was a small room at the back of the house off the kitchen for the original icebox was slightly reconfigured to house a modern refrigerator and to serve as a dry pantry by moving the location of the original door used by the ice salesman to what was a window.

The upstairs bedrooms have had very little alteration and still retain the original closets and woodwork,

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
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painted white. The master bedroom has a large closet of about four feet by six feet at the south end of the room. The two other bedrooms, at the other side (east) of the upstairs hallway are separated by two closets, side by side, one opening into one room and the other opening into the other. The bedroom at the south side has a glass-paned door which opens to the flat roof over what is now the kitchen pantry.

The bathroom is remarkably intact with only the lavatory having been changed over the years. It retains the original toilet, an "Improved-Itasca" by the Rundle-Spence Manufacturing Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; bathtub by Kohler, USA; shower faucet and controls; shower curtain rod; medicine chest and the same ochre-colored, stone floor as was used in the solarium. The architect had specified that scored plaster be used on the shower wall, which although not destroyed is now protected with modern, ceramic wall tile added by the current owner in the 1980s.

The original doors, flooring and woodwork, with their original finishes remain intact and in good condition throughout the house. Per the architect's specifications, the floors were constructed of "thick red birch" and "thick maple" and then finished with "first one coat of shellac" and then two coats of "Pratt and Lambert's No. 61 Floor Varnish." The stairs were of "Wisconsin birch" with a "newel post, railing and balusters to be of same design as shown C-1508, Colonial, of the Curtis Catalogue."

Pine was used for windows and doors with the latter having a birch veneer. Other wood, including the wainscoting in the living and dining areas, was of birch. All remain with their original finishes as specified by the architect, "first a coat of stain in either dark mahogany or walnut, then one coat of shellac. Then finish with two coats of No. 38 Pratt and Lambert's Preservation Varnish."

Many of the original lighting fixtures remain, including the dining room chandelier and the wall sconces in the living and dining areas and in the bedrooms.

Garage (C)

The single-story garage was constructed with the house in 1923 and echoes the design of the house in materials and design. Its garage door faces west and is not original, having been replaced in the early 1990s, but blends well with the building's construction. The door is flanked with trellises which are identical to those on either side of the front door on the main elevation of the house. At the left of the north facade is a four-light, two-panel, wooden door. To its right, is a trio of six-over-six-light, double-hung windows. At the east side are two, six-over-six-light, double hung windows, one to the right and one to the left of center. Centered on the south facade is another trio of windows which matches those on the north side.

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Rhineland, Oneida County, WI

Conclusion

The Solon and Mathilda Sutliff House is remarkable not only for its relative rarity in the state, but by the fact that the house retains very good integrity, having had minimal alterations to its exterior and interior since it was constructed in 1923. The house's original features and materials specified by the architect (and verified through the use of his original blueprints) are exceptionally intact and in a well-maintained state of preservation.

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Section 8 Page 1

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
Rhineland, Oneida County, WI

Significance

The Solon and Mathilda Sutliff House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) criterion C. More specifically, the Sutliff house is being nominated because it is a good example of the Italian Renaissance variant of the Mediterranean Revival style, which according to the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is a relatively rare style within the state and, according to the *Rhineland, Wisconsin: Intensive Survey Report* printed in 1998, is the only local example of this variant of the style. The case for nomination is further enhanced by the fact that the house retains very good integrity, having had few alterations to its exterior and interior since it was constructed in 1923.

The original blueprints for the Sutliff House indicate that the structure was from the design of Hans T. Liebert, brother of Eugene Liebert, who according to CRMP is considered a "master architect" in the state. In fact, based on the dates and the location indicated on these blueprints, it appears that Hans may have been working with his brother in Milwaukee at the time he designed the house in a partnership under the name of Liebert and Liebert.

Liebert's client Solon Sutliff was born in Newaygo, Michigan. He came to Oneida County in northern Wisconsin during the boom years of the lumbering industry, working in Tomahawk and Woodboro before going to work for the Brown Brothers Lumber Company in Rhineland in 1904. In 1908, he established the Rhineland Lumber and Coal Company which eventually was renamed as the Sutliff Lumber and Supply Company.

Local sources⁵ say that Sutliff was a hard-nosed business man who often gave loans to community members who had fallen on hard times, so perhaps it is no surprise that he was a member of the board of directors of the First National Bank, the Oneida National Bank, the Rhineland Building and Loan Association as well as the Thunder Lake Lumber Company. He served as mayor of Rhineland in 1918-1920 and had the Sutliff and Riverside Additions to Rhineland platted in the area of town near the paper mill (which remains in operation today.)

Apparently, Mathilda was Sutliff's second wife. The couple was childless, but local people⁶ can remember their parents attending lavish parties held at the house in the "billiard room" of the home's basement. Sutliff and his wife Mathilda enjoyed an active social life as evidenced from an entry in the

⁵ Current owner Patricia LaPorte (2008).

⁶ Lifelong Rhineland residents Janet DeByle and Glen Maine.

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"City in Brief" section of the weekly newspaper, *The New North*. "Mrs. S.D. Sutliff and Mrs. Charles F. Smith entertained a number of friends at a bridge luncheon at their cottage in Sugar Camp Friday afternoon."⁷

Because of Sutliff's stature in the community, it is no wonder that he and his wife chose this unusual style for their home, which stood out (and continues to) from the more conventional designs in the neighborhood. Today, this highly intact house in a well-maintained state of preservation is still remarkable for its uncommon beauty within the context of the historic neighborhood where it sits, and the entire City of Rhineland.

Historic Context

A detailed historic overview of the City of Rhineland and its built resources was compiled in 1998. The following is derived from that survey as it relates to the life of Solon and Mathilda Sutliff and the home they built at 306 Dahl Street.

The story of the beginning of Rhineland can only be told within the context of the Wisconsin River and the dense white pine forests of Oneida County. In the winter of 1857-58, logging began in the vicinity of Pelican Rapids on the Wisconsin River. John Curran was the first European-American settler of the area. He established a trading post and boarding house for surveyors, "timber cruisers" who were scouting out tracts of timber for lumbering, and others who were bringing in supplies for the lumber camps.

Around 1871, Anderson Brown and his brother-in-law Anson P. Vaughn arrived and envisioned a sawmill powered by the rushing water at Pelican Rapids and the ability to store logs upstream in Fish Lake (later named Boom Lake). However, south of the site, the river was broken by many rapids which would have proven difficult for transporting the cut logs and would require rail transport.

Nonetheless, Brown convinced his family to purchase 1500 acres along the Wisconsin River and the shores of Boom Lake in 1875 which included what would become the City of Rhineland. By deeding half of their holdings to the Milwaukee, Lakeshore and Western Railway (ML&W, later a part of the Chicago and NorthWestern system), the Browns convinced the railway to install a spur line to the Milwaukee to Ontonagan (Michigan). To sweeten the deal, the new village was named in honor of ML&W president, F.W. Rhineland.

⁷ "The City in Brief," *The New North* (July 12, 1923): 3

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In 1882, Brown and his brothers, Webster and Edward, relocated their firm, the Brown Brothers Lumber Company (established 1875), from Stevens Point to Rhineland. That same year, they had the village of Rhineland platted. The brothers constructed a dam and sawmill in 1883 by the rapids, the same site as the current dam and paper mill. Businesses supporting the lumber industry and lumbermen soon appeared in the new settlement. By late 1882, Rhineland had three general stores, a hardware store, a meat market, three hotels, two blacksmiths, a barbershop with a pool table, a drayman, a builder-contractor, an architect, a drug store, a boot-and-shoe shop, a boarding house and a weekly newspaper. There was no saloon, as the Browns and the ML&W prohibited the sale of liquor on any property owned by them or for five years following the purchase of property from them.

By 1885, Rhineland was a community of 1500 inhabitants when Oneida County was organized by separation from Lincoln County.

At the height of the city's logging era, 40 logging camps in the area supplied eight sawmills with a daily capacity of 720,000 feet of lumber, 430,000 shingles and 298,000 lath, according to the *Chicago Herald* of September 29, 1891.⁸ But by 1899, Oneida County's vast stands of timber had been depleted causing four of Rhineland's 10 sawmills to close permanently. Manufacturing of wood products then became the dominant industry transforming the town into a manufacturing center.

By 1923, when the Sutliff House was constructed, the logging "boom days" were over but Rhineland continued to grow through the wood products sector and paper-making. Solon D. Sutliff's fortunes were realized in the context of this industry.

It is possible that Sutliff became acquainted with H.T. Liebert when the architect came to town to build the 1916 section of the Oneida Hotel (extant) on Rhineland's main street, now called Brown Street. The hotel was one of three long-lived hotels in the city from the early twentieth century.

Liebert was no stranger to the Northwoods having worked between 1914-20 in Wausau, and Calumet, Michigan according to his great nephew⁹ who still resides in Rhineland and the 1984 Intensive Survey Report for the City of Wausau. The Wausau survey goes on to report that Liebert designed the St. Mary's School at 321 Grand Avenue in 1914 and later, in 1927, he designed a Mediterranean Revival style house at 923 Fulton Street (extant but altered), which is reminiscent of the Sutliff house.

⁸ T.V. Olsen, *Our First Hundred Years: A History of Rhineland* ([Rhineland, Wis.?]: T.V. Olsen, 1981), 31-32.

⁹ Carl Liebert.

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
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Sutliff and his wife Mathilda chose to locate their house adjacent to the Oneida County Courthouse on Dahl Street, down the hill from the more fashionable East Frederick Street where high-style examples of Queen Anne, Prairie School, Colonial Revival and French Provincial styles were built between 1887 and 1924 by the Brown brothers and other leaders of the community. It appears from the Sanborn maps that the house replaced what might have been a farm house on one of the few large lots in the neighborhood that had not already been used by Rhineland's up-and-coming citizens.

Dahl Street was platted as part of Rhineland's Second Addition in 1888. The Sutliff House was the last to be built there among other historic homes built between 1895 and 1923.

Architecture

The Sutliff House is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a fine and intact example of the Italian Renaissance variant of the Mediterranean style and the only example in the City of Rhineland and one of few in the State of Wisconsin located outside of Milwaukee.

As noted by CRMP, "...Mediterranean Revival buildings are characterized by flat wall surfaces, often plastered, broken by arcading and terra cotta, plaster, or tile ornamentation, sometimes drawing on classical motifs...and red tile roofs with heavy brackets."¹⁰ The survey report describes the style as being drawn from Spanish Colonial America, Spain, Italy, and North Africa. Characteristics common to the style and exhibited at the Sutliff House, are a stucco finish, round-arched windows, tile-clad roofs and balconies, and wrought-iron balconies.

Four Mediterranean Revival buildings exist in Rhineland, including three commercial buildings. The Sutliff House is the only residential example and the only one exhibiting the Italian Renaissance variant of the style. Its symmetrical facade, hipped main roof of metal tile resembling terra cotta and pent roofs of the same tile, deeply-overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, balconet on corbels, panels enriched with swags and small tiles decorating the base of the front, second-story windows support the variant, and build on the main elements of the style.

Mediterranean Revival structures "conjured up romantic images of far-away, long-ago European

¹⁰ Barbara Wyatt (Ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986, (CD) (Architecture).

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countrysides,"¹¹ which was a world of difference from the Queen Annes, bungalows and Colonial Revival styles being constructed in Rhineland and the rest of the state, and as such, was certainly a style of choice by those wishing to make a statement about their tastes and stature in a community. More than likely, this was a contributing factor in the decision of the Sutliffs when deciding to build their home in this style in Rhineland.

In her article, "Inventing Antiquity: The Art and Craft of Mediterranean Revival Architecture," Beth Dunlop explains that in the early 20th Century, American architects were working in the "pure American style which had evolved out of the Midwest's Prairie School of architecture or were directly copying English or European models."¹²

Dunlop says that the Mediterranean Revival style originated in Florida¹³ which perhaps explains its relative rarity in the State of Wisconsin but which also accounts for its allure as a style chosen by those who wished to be noticed.

Dunlop goes on to explain that those who chose to build in the Mediterranean Revival style were looking for credibility by alluding to tried and true architectural motifs. "Mediterranean Revival architecture was a picture-book pastiche offering instant history, imbuing a brand-new place with Old World charm. It came into being as an architecture for an elite - providing immediate ancient European pedigrees to the landed gentry..."¹⁴

Although Dunlop is discussing the use of the style in Florida, she could just as well have been referring to the frontier of Northern Wisconsin where businessmen like Solon Sutliff were making their mark on the local economy of the new town of Rhineland and wanted to show it off.

"More than most others, the Mediterranean Revival style was a picturesque and narrative style, one dependent on art to guide it into being and elaborate phrase-making to tell its story."¹⁵ Indeed, it is these elements of the style exhibited on the Sutliff House which must have inspired the Sutliffs to

¹¹ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, *House Styles in America* (New York: Dovecote Publishers, 1996), 230.

¹² Beth Dunlop, "Inventing Antiquity: The Art and Craft of Mediterranean Revival Architecture," in *The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts*, Vol. 23, Florida Theme Issue (Florida International Board of Trustees on behalf of The Wolfsonian-FIU, 1998), 191-207.

¹³ *Ibid*, 193.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 191.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, 191-2.

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
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choose the Mediterranean Revival style for their home and which, even today, contribute to its stature as a building of note within the community.

Although the Solon and Mathilda Sutliff House is not as grand or elaborate as the Florida mansions discussed in Dunlop's essay, it displays on a smaller scale; in its mostly original, unaltered interior and exterior features, the elements she and CRMP list for the Italian Renaissance variant of the Mediterranean Style. Within the architectural context of the Northern Wisconsin logging town in which it was built, the effect of the house's architecture is striking due to its adherence to the main elements of this unusual style. Consequently, the Solon and Mathilda Sutliff House is believed to be locally significant under the National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent, highly intact example of the Italian Renaissance variant of the Mediterranean Revival style.

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Section 10 Page 1

Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
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Boundary Description

The boundary of the Solon house corresponds to its legal parcel, which is defined as Second Addition, West 85 feet of lots 9 and 10, Block 22.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Solon house consists of the entire lot that has been historically associated with the property.

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Section photos Page 1

Items a-d are the same for photos 1-11

Photo 1

- a) Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda House
- b) Rhineland, Oneida County, WI
- c) Ruth Sproull, June, 2008
- d) Main Facade, view from NW
- f) Photo 1 of 11

Photo 2

- e) Side elevation, view from E
- f) Photo 2 of 11

Photo 3

- e) Side and rear elevations from SW
- f) Photo 3 of 11

Photo 4

- e) Garage from W
- f) Photo 4 of 11

Photo 5

- e) Dining room with view of original chandelier, wall sconces and woodwork, looking E
- f) Photo 5 of 11

Photo 6

- e) Kitchen featuring original cabinetry and hardware, woodwork and dumb waiter, looking NW
- f) Photo 6 of 11

Photo 7

- e) Living room, through 10-light doors with original glass and woodwork, looking W
- f) Photo 7 of 11

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Sutliff, Solon and Mathilda, House
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Photo 8

- e) Living Room fireplace, featuring original mantelpiece, woodwork and floors, looking S
- f) Photo 8 of 11

Photo 9

- e) Staircase, featuring original woodwork, newel post, radiator, and carved plasterwork overhead, looking S
- f) Photo 9 of 11

Photo 10

- e) Bedroom, featuring original woodwork, wall sconce and radiator, looking NW
- f) Photo 10 of 11

Photo 11

- e) Basement fireplace, focal point of what was original party or "Billiard Room", looking S
- f) Photo 11 of 11