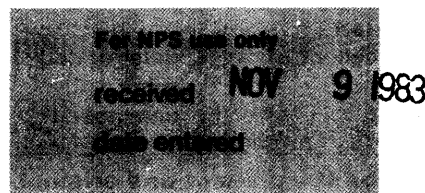


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Gorham P. Vining House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1590 Oakridge Road, not for publication

city, town Neenah vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Wisconsin code 55 county Winnebago code 139

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sommers

street & number 1590 Oakridge Road

city, town Neenah vicinity of state Wisconsin 57956

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 415 Jackson Street

city, town Oshkosh state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

With one-story reconstructed summer kitchen extending to the rear of its gable-end front facade and one-story side wing, the former Gorham P. Vining house has a T-shaped plan. The principal portion of the frame house is composed of one story and attic, trimmed with returning cornices, wide wood entablatures, corner pilasters, and a trabeated doorway off-set to the left (east) side. The side wing to the east is trimmed with matching returning cornices on the east end, corner pilasters, and square wood columns across the open front porch. Windows are generally distributed two per story per wall, supplemented by door openings on the ground story of the gable end and wing. The original shaped wood window heads, and many of the original louvred shutters, are intact. Asphalt shingles now cover the roof, and at present there is one chimney on each ridge.

Photos taken in 1964 document the simple character of the former summer kitchen to the rear. Then seriously deteriorated, the one-story frame section bore no overt references to Greek Revival design; an open porch, spanned by simple posts was included under the gable roof. The rebuilt wing (1965) is similar in size and form, with standard contemporary windows and doors. A low concrete foundation replaces the few courses of rubble formerly visible only under rear portions of the house.

The character of the interior of the main portion of the house has not changed substantially since its construction. The kitchen at the southwest corner of the first story has been remodeled, and a small bedroom at the southeast corner of the second story was converted to a bath. Aside from the depth of the windows and doors and brick interior structure visible inside closets, the interior is unremarkable, and is not considered significant.

An historic photo taken in 1890 shows that the grounds and the house maintain their nineteenth-century appearance. A long unpaved drive still serves the house at the west side of the broad lawn. The immediate area is still agricultural, although the size of the former Vining house property has been reduced to one acre. The large board-and-batten barn to the east once associated with the Vining house is now associated with a recently-constructed house next door, and is not included in the nomination, nor is the board-and-batten garage to the rear (southeast) of the house.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1848, 1857?¹ **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Of the substantial number of houses (mostly rural) in Winnebago County representing the Greek Revival period of construction, the Gorham P. Vining house is perhaps one of the finest and best preserved. With its thick proportions and colonaded side wing, the design resembles "classic" early Greek Revival houses more characteristics of construction farther south in Wisconsin. Retention of the broad lawn and long drive in front of the house, as photographed in 1890, enhance the integrity of feeling of the site.

Original owner Gorham P. Vining, George H. Mansur, and George Harlow were credited with being "the earliest bona fide settlers"² of the Neenah, Wisconsin area. Vining (a native of Massachusetts) first arrived at Watertown, where he took up with George Harlow in search of a desirable location for settlement in "the west."³ The companions reportedly suffered in their journey north through the marshlands of Lake Winnebago, such that Vining was caused to remark that "'he was going to get out of that mud hole, and find some place in Wisconsin where water would run down hill.'"⁴ Winnebago Rapids (later Neenah) was the place where they stopped, two years after Harrison Reed had first purchased land and settled in 1843.

Early in their residency, Vining and Harlow operated and lived in a local grist and saw mill, and in 1846 negotiated the sale of land in the town of Neenah in proximity to the future village and city.⁵ In 1848 and 1857, Vining expanded his holding of farmland along the Ridge Road outside of the developing city of Neenah.⁶ At his death (at the farm) in 1895, the Neenah Daily Times declared him "...a man of good talent, fertile speech, and a ready debator."⁷ The Vining family retained title to the property until 1907.⁸ The current owners acquired the house and its remaining acre of land in 1964.

¹Abstract of Title (the only document available for dating) records original acquisition of land in 1848; records both acquisition of additional property and a \$250.00 mortgage taken by Vining and wife in 1857, the most significant activity recorded in conjunction with the Vining property holdings in T20N R17 E Sections 19 and 20 since the original purchase of land).

²G. A. Cunningham, History of Neenah, 1878, p. 54. ("Bona fide settlers" were apparently those who remained after settling; Harrison Reed apparently did not.)

³Ibid., p. 9.

⁴Ibid., p. 34.

⁵Ibid., p. 12.

⁶Winnebago County Treasurer Tax Sale Records, Vols. I and II, 1844–56, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Area Research Center, Oshkosh, Wisc.

⁷Neenah Daily Times, Monday Evening, March 25, 1895.

⁸Abstract of Title.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cunningham, G.A., History of Neenah, 1878.

Lawson, Publius V., History of Winnebago County, C.F. Cooper & Co., Chicago, 1908.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.13

Quadrangle name Neenah

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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3	8	0	1	8	0
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4	8	9	3	3	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

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 Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date June 1983

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2732

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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 

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date 6/1/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 12/8/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Gorham P. Vining House, Neenah vic., Winnebago Co., WI

Continuation sheet

Item number 10.

Page 1.

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Verbal Boundary Description

A part of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/2 of Sec. 20 T20N R17E, and part of the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Sec. 29 T20N R17E, described as follows: commencing at the point where CTH "S" intersects "N" and the S 1/4 line of said Section, thence S 72° 0' W along the center line of CTH "S" a distance of 118.3 feet to the place of beginning; thence S 18° 0' E a distance of 311.0 feet, thence due W 179.2 feet, thence N 18° 0' W for 259.5 feet to the centerline of CTH "S," thence N 72° 0' E along the line of said road, 170.0 feet to the point of the beginning.