

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

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RECEIVED FEB 8 1980
DATE ENTERED SEP 17 1980

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 5

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
39 <u>Savage House</u> Cooksville vicinity (Dane County)	Mrs. Earl Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
40 <u>Leedle Mill Site & Truss Bridge</u> Cooksville vicinity	Town of Union Wayne Disch, Chairman Croft Road Evansville, WI 53536
41 <u>Cooksville Cheese Factory</u> Cooksville vicinity	Dr. Adolf & Allison Lunde U 188, Leedle Mill Road Route 3 Stoughton, WI 53589
42 <u>John T. Dow House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
43 <u>Cooper-Gillies House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
44 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	James D. & Thomas N. Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
45 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Carl Liedholm Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
46 <u>Champney Brickyard & House Site</u> Cooksville Historic District	Sidney Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
47 <u>Joseph K. P. Porter Farmstead</u> Cooksville vicinity	Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Tait Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
48 <u>Harrison Stebbins House ("Windermere")</u> Cooksville vicinity	Earl & Lavon Keehn Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
49 <u>Richardson Grout House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Harold Porter 6641 Gettysburg Drive Madison, WI 535705

Built of locally quarried limestone block, it is a "five-bay" house, with stright lintels and a central door with lights. The gable ends are raised above the roof line, creating a parapet wall with coping. The stepped gable rises to a pair of chimneys at each end. (The front chimney on the right side has been removed.) Bullseye louvers fronted the attic story. Dances and dancing classes were held upstairs; they contributed to the social life of Cooksville.

A decorative front porch with cresting (still intact) was in place by 1873; back porches were added as well. By 1873 there was also a long frame two-story wing, lower than the main house. Its far end, however, has been removed and replaced with a one story garage, which is not part of the nomination. Other than this the exterior of the house is relatively little altered. The stone needs pointing and the roof needs repairs. An avenue of trees along the two-fifths mile-long entrance from the west was almost obliterated during severe windstorms in 1965 and a few years later.

The Stebbins house is secondarily significant for its association with an early settler who became a locally prominent person. Harrison Stebbins (1820-82), born in Vermont, came to Janesville as one of its first school teachers in 1841. He was county suveyor until 1844, when he purchased his first 240 acres in Porter. He was a commissioner for the location of Territorial Road, Rock County Superintendent of Schools, a member of the state legislature in 1852, a "progressive farmer" and the builder of a gristmill in Stebbinsville on the Yahara River. (The most notable sites which remain in Stebbinsville are the dam and the Gilley-Tofslund octagonal barn (NRHP). The latter was built by a son-in-law of Stebbins.)

(Ag. 1856, pp. 115-116; Atlas, 1873, illus. p. 58; Rock County, 1879, p. 871; Biog., 1889, pp. 715-716; L.R. Porter, Choice Seed, pp. 161-163; Douglas and Hartung, RCHSB, illus. p. 31, pl. 10d, pp. 33, 138.)

48. Richardson Grout house ca. 1848-50
SE SE 8, Porter UTM Reference: (o) 16/319220/4742810
Owner: Harold Porter, 6641 Gettysburg Drive, Madison 53705

Acreeage: less than 1 acre.
(KOC-corrections
rec'd 9/16/80)

This 1½ story vernacular cottage is significant architecturally as an example of grout construction in Rock County, a type of construction of which at least 16 examples are known to survive. Nine are concentrated in Milton, about 13 miles to the east (NRHP: Milton Grout Thematic), and there are two in the Town of Fulton, six and seven miles east. This is the only grout house surveyed in the Town of Porter.

It is a simple gabled cottage, entered at the long side, with a frame porch across the front and a frame saltbox to the rear. Fenestration is simple. There is only one, tall, window on the south side which opens out of the core, and a window on each side of the front door. A central chimney separates the two main rooms.

Scottish-born Alexander Richardson is credited with the construction of the house. The land was deeded from Jonathon Roby to Robert Richardson in December 1849. Supposedly coming from Milwaukee to Cooksville to establish a store, Alexander was said to be enthralled with the view from the ridge and settled to farm here until his death while hauling lumber to nearby Edgerton. The house was eventually passed to members of the Porter family.

(Abstracts; Porter, Choice Seed, P. 191; RCHSB, pp. 10, 139; Raney notes.)