

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 14 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1978

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 Matt Johnson Log House
AND/OR COMMON The Knox House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S of Brantwood off US 8
East side of W. Knox Rd., 1 1/2 mi. south of US 8
CITY, TOWN Brantwood VICINITY OF 7th
STATE Wisconsin CODE 55 COUNTY Price CODE 099

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Donald C. Hoffman
STREET & NUMBER Route 1
CITY, TOWN Brantwood VICINITY OF Wisconsin 54513

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Price County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Phillips STATE Wisconsin 54555

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
DATE 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin
CITY, TOWN Madison STATE Wisconsin 53706

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Matt Johnson Log House is an 18 by 24 foot story-and-a-half log structure built in 1898 of hewn native hemlock. The style of construction is characteristic of Finnish immigrants to Wisconsin: logs are hewn flat on the exposed sides and concave/convex on the other two; they are joined at the corners of the building with full dovetail notches. This construction system provides a tight fit obviating the use of chinking; the cabin is sealed with a minimal amount of moss between the logs. The cabin faces south on a hill among pine and aspen. It exhibits a verticality in its massing and has a steeply pitched gable roof; its walls are log to the roofline.

The south facade of the cabin contains two doorways. Originally there was only one; the easternmost came with later additions to the structure. The north facade contains a single window. Windows on the east facade are arranged symmetrically with two on the first floor and one on the second; the west facade contains two windows, one on each level, both centered. The ground floor contains two rooms, the westernmost being the larger, with a chimney centered in the partition between them. Stairs in the southwest corner of the cabin lead to the second floor, which is a single room.

During the first part of the 20th century additions were made to the front of the log house, and the entire structure was sided with clapboard. Added were a single story log wing, with its gable facing south, followed by a frame shed addition on its east side; a smaller frame addition of similar configuration later was made to the east part of the wing's south facade.

When William Hoffman, brother of the owner, viewed the place in the late 1950s it gave the appearance of a usual 20th-century farmhouse in dilapidated condition. Because they were not salvageable, Hoffman removed the additions; he also removed the clapboard from the structure. The roof required new pine boards as well as asphalt shingles; these, Hoffman would like to replace in time with more authentic wood shingles. Windows and doors were replaced with new and used ones as similar in style as possible to those removed; Hoffman would yet like to replace the 2/2 lights he was forced to remove in his rehabilitation project. Because they were to remain exposed, the logs were given a coat of preservative which darkened them somewhat. Hoffman also placed concrete footings under the building, which previously had stood on piles of rock.

On the interior, Hoffman removed wallpaper and wainscoting on the first floor, leaving the walls exposed. On the second floor, the logs had never been covered. Floors were in bad shape, and he replaced them with pine planking. He rebuilt the crumbling chimney with old and salvaged bricks. The place has been furnished with antiques and artifacts of local historical interest, such as family portraits and hand-loomed rugs made by Finnish women of the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Knox House." Printed broadside published by William Hoffman and available at the house.

Interview with William Hoffman. August 1976.

Kolehmainen, John I. and George Hill, Haven in the Woods: The Story of the Finns in Wisconsin (Madison, 1951).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA see continuation sheet

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40 Quadrangle Scale 1:48,000

UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Name Brantwood, Wis. (see continuation sheet)

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

plc please sheet 12-5-78

NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, Township 35 N, Range 3 E.

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

Gail L. Hunton, Preservation Assistant, and David A. Donath, Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

816 State Street

608/262-3390

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Madison

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

Richard T. Curney

TITLE Director

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

6/8/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles H. ...

DATE

12-8-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

Ruby B. ...

DATE

12-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

UTM references unavailable. Latitude and Longitude as follows:

- a 90° 7' 10" west; 45° 31' 55" north
- b 90° 7' 10" west; 45° 31' 40" north
- c 90° 7' 30" west; 45° 31' 40" north
- d 90° 7' 30" west; 45° 31' 55" north