Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED
JUN 1 4 1978

DATE ENTERED

DEC 8 1978

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SEEI	NSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW T</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES (O COMPLETE NATIONA COMPLETE APPLICABL		S
1 NAME				
HISTORIC Mat	tt Johnson Log House			,
AND/OR COMMON The	e Knox House			
2 LOCATION			,	
STREET & NUMBER	S of Brantwood	offins 8.		
	W. Knox Rd., 1 1/2 mi	eouth of US &	_NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	We Know Rde, 1 1/2 m	south of the t	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
Brantwood	- <u>X</u>	VICINITY OF	7th	
STATE	•	CODE 5.7.3	2 COUNTY 1	CODE
Wisconsin		55 50	<u>Price</u>	099
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION		•	•
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP,	STATUS	PRES	. , Entuse
DISTRICT	•	, XČCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	
XBUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	XWORK IN PROGRESS		PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO ,	MILITARY	_OTHER:
A OWNER OF	PROPERTY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
· 	INOIDAII		•	
NAME .	onald C. Hoffman	i an in the contract of the co		
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	loute 1' relian	$T = \{ (1, \dots, 1) \mid x \in \mathcal{K}^{(p)} \}$		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	•
B	rantwood	VICINITY OF	Wisconsin 54	513
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
	3.33			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	TC .	•	•	
STREET & NUMBER	Register of De	eds		
SINCE! & NUMBER	During Co. 1	. 1	r	
CITY, TOWN	Price County C	ourthouse	STATE	
	Phillips		•	
S PEDDECEN	TATION IN EXIST	INC SLIBVEVS	Wisconsin 54	555
	IAHON IN EAIST	ING BORVEID		
TITLE				
	n Inventory of Histor	ic Places		
DATE 1076		FEDERAL XS	TATE COUNTY 1000	
1976 DEPOSITORY FOR		FEDERAL AS	TATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	
SURVEY RECORDS	State Wistomical So	oiotu of Wissessia		
CITY, TOWN	State Historical So	crety of wisconsin	STATE	
	Madison		Wisconsin	53706



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT X_GOOD

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED X_ALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _RELIGION _ 1400-1499 _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _CONSERVATION _LAW _SCIENCE	
1500-1599AGRICULTUREECONOMICSLITERATURESCULPTURE	
1600-1699 XARCHITECTUREEDUCATIONMILITARYSOCIAL/HUMAN	ITARIAN
1700-1799ARTENGINEERINGMUSICTHEATER	
X_1800-1899COMMERCE X_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTPHILOSOPHYTRANSPORTATION	
1900COMMUNICATIONSINDUSTRYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT X_OTHER (SPECIF	J
INVENTION ethnic	

SPECIFIC DATES

1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Matt Johnson and John Kivekoa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Matt Johnson Log House is locally significant as a good example of Finnish log construction, as part of an important turn-of-the-century Finnish settlement in the cutover, and as a focus of local history in Price County.

The house is built in the substantial and enduring Finnish style of log construction. The size and quality of construction of this identify it as a permanent house rather than a temporary cabin.

Built in 1898 by Matt Johnson and John Kivekoa, recent arrivals from Finland, the house was part of an important Finnish settlement in the Brantwood area. Finns came in large numbers during the 1890s to log, to work in sawmills, and ultimately to try to farm the cutover; <u>Uusi Savo</u>, as the settlement was known, grew rapidly well into the 20th century. Johnson and Kivekoa went to work at the nearby Knox Brothers Saw Mill in the mid 1890s. They built the house on Knox land, and Johnson did not secure title to the tract until 1902.

Johnson and his family farmed their tract until 1910, when they moved on to Alberta, Canada. During this period, the farmstead developed, accruing outbuildings. The Johnson family grew and took in boarders as well; to make room, the log wing was added to the house. Among the boarders was John Urpalainen, the local preacher, who conducted services in the house during this period. After the Johnsons left, the farm passed through a number of ownerships and remained through the first half of the 20th century a relatively successful agricultural operation. By 1950, however, the farm had fallen on hard times. After a tornado destroyed the barn, the owner, Elmer Bischoff, abandoned the place.

Joseph Hoffman bought the deserted farm in 1955, and his brother William began rehabilitation of the house in the early 1960's. He removed all the additions because they had seriously deteriorated and tried to restore the log structure to its original 1898 appearance. Since then he has furnished the place with items of local historical interest and made it a local museum for the Brantwood area.

Today the house is evidence of the persistence and utility of log construction even at the turn of the century, when the United States was rapidly industrializing and urbanizing. It is also a significant artifact of the Finnish settlement of Price County, the visual components of which are fast disappearing. Because it is restored, open to visitors, and the scene of periodic cultural events of the area's Finnish community, the house has become a visual and symbolic focus of Finnish culture in northern Wisconsin and of the local history of Price County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE	S
"The Knox House." Printed broadside published at the house.	
Interview with William Hoffman. August 1976. Kolehmainen, John I. and George Hill, <u>Haven in in Wisconsin</u> (Madison, 1951).	the Woods: The Story of the Finns
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA see continuation s	heet
1.6	uadrangle Scale 1:48,000
UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle Name Brantwood, Wis. (see continuations)	tion sheet)
A B B ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZO	NE EASTING NORTHING
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	6 12-5-78
NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, Township 35	N, Range 3 E.
•	
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Z (Perthe	
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLA	APPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE . CODE COUNTY	CODE
STATE CODE COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE	-
Gail L. Hunton, Preservation Assistant, and Davi	
ORGANIZATION State Historical Society of Wisconsin	April 1978
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
816 State Street	. 608/262-3390 STATE
Madison	Wisconsin 53706
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPE	
NATIONAL STATE	LOCAL X
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation of the National Historic Preservation in the National Register and criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	Krohend O Euroy
TITLE Director	DATE 6/0/70
State Historical Society of Wisconsin FOR NPS USE ONLY	0/8/18/
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NAT	IONAL REGISTER
Charles aftern -	N DATE 12 8.78
DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHED COUT AND HIS TORIC FREDERIVATIO	N KELLEDO UR JAN 2 2 PRINCESON
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL PECISIES	1.DATE /2-5-/8

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

10

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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