

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>
COUNTY: <b>Wood</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**DEC 27 1974**

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Old Ferry Farm**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Wakeley, Robert, Tavern (Wakeley's Tavern)** *is this*

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**West end of Wakeley Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Nekoosa**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Third**

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Wood** CODE: **141**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

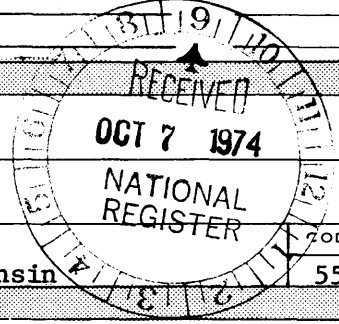
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Charles D. Otto**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**(Wakeley Road) Box 49, Route 2**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Nekoosa**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin** CODE: **55**



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**County Court House, Wood County**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**400 Market Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Wisconsin Rapids**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Wisconsin Historic Preservation Plan, Vol. II, The Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**State Historical Society of Wisconsin**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Madison**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY: Wood  
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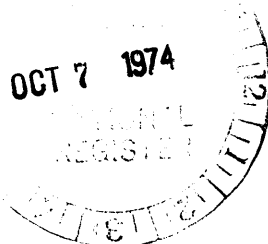
**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wakeley Tavern, also known as Old Ferry Farm, is situated on the Wisconsin River opposite Nekoosa. It is located at the end of a series of rapids and falls which made it a convenient stopping place for river travellers. Near the tavern stood Pointe Basse a flourishing little village in the mid 1800s which became a ghost town in the 1870s when the railroad went through Nekoosa. The Wakeley tavern is the oldest extant building in the area. It was built in 1837 and is a simple two-story frame structure 20' x 30'. There is a hint of a Greek Revival pediment at each end of the house in the rather heavy cornices and the returned eaves. Large Victorian porches which had been added at the front and rear of the house have been removed by the present owners to restore the house more to its original appearance. The present owners have also created French doors on the river side, but the east facade remains much as it must have originally appeared. On a large hill near the house Indian "sporting games" were held, and this hill serves as an Indian burial ground.



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**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1837**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

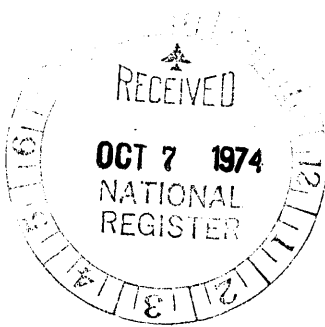
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wakeley Tavern is the oldest extant building in Wood County and the site of the christening of the first white child born in the county. The tavern was built by Robert and Mary Wakeley of Lake George, New York. The Wakeleys arrived in the area by water in 1837, having taken a lumber raft to Cincinnati, a steamboat up the Mississippi, a smaller boat to Portage, and a poled raft up the Wisconsin River. They were forced to stop at Pointe Basse by the rapids and realized that other travellers would be inclined to do likewise. Indeed, their tavern stood at a convenient place for both land and river travellers to break their journey. Not only did it stand at the foot of the rapids, it was also at one of the very few natural fording places in the river. The tavern served as an inn and trading post for trappers, hunters, Indians, lumbermen, traders and settlers. It was an overnight stop on the stagecoach route from Necedah to Stevens Point and was on the military road which ran north from Galena, Illinois. In the 1870s when Pointe Basse began to shrink in size and importance, Robert Wakeley established a cable ferry running from his backyard to Nekoosa, thus the name "Old Ferry Farm." The ferry operated until 1916 when the farm was sold as a private residence.

Wakeley's Tavern is a Wisconsin Registered Landmark.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Built in 1837, Wakeley House Being Restored." Title of an article in newspaper, no place or date given. See: file in Wisconsin Registered Landmarks.  
 "Nekoosa History," Nekoosa Tribune. March 16, 1916.  
 Rudolph, Robert S. Wood County Place Names Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press. 1970, p. 84.  
 Jones, George O., et. al. History of Wood County Wisconsin, Minneapolis: H.C. Cooper, 1923.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

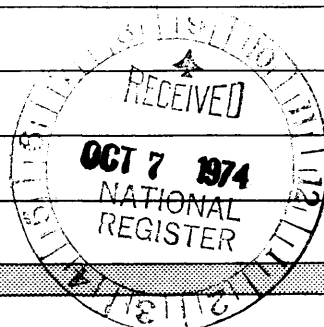
U.T.M.  
 Zone 16  
 269,400 E.  
 4,909,000 N.

UTM  
 OK  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Ellen Threinen and Charlene Stant Engel (edit.) Preservation Planning Assts.  
 ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 13 Aug, 1974  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 CODE: 55

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name James Morton Smith  
 James Morton Smith  
 Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
 Date Oct. 1, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

AR Moorehead  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST:  
W. Monty  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 26 1974