

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 05 1979
DATE ENTERED JAN 8 1980

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
Gratiot House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Rennick Road
CITY, TOWN
Shullsburg
STATE
Wisconsin

S of Shullsburg

VICINITY OF
CODE
55

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second
COUNTY
Lafayette
CODE
065

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
J. W. and Dianne Hatfield
STREET & NUMBER
Star Route
CITY, TOWN
Shullsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin 53586

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lafayette County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
626 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Darlington

STATE
Wisconsin 53530

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
DATE
1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gratiot House is sited near the crest of a hill in the open rolling countryside of Wisconsin's Old Lead Mining Region. It is a two-story coursed ashlar limestone building. The main section's south facade is symmetrical, with a central door. The north facade is composed of two symmetrically placed windows on each floor, with coursed limestone treatment of the walls. The west facade has paired doors on the first and second floors that are emphasized by a two-tiered porch.

A single-story wing to the east, part of the original five-room plan, does not rest on the basement underlying the main section. To this wing was attached a two-story addition in the 1850s. Construction of the addition necessitated the lowering of the floor of the original wing as well as its ceiling to accommodate a room above. The exterior walls of the wing also were built up to the height of the addition. The addition's south facade is a two-opening composition. It extends the horizontal roofline to give the appearance of a completed gable end. The addition is seven feet longer north to south than the original section and projects outward on the north side. On the east side of the addition, fenestration is irregular; a door and two windows punctuate the lower level with only one window on the upper floor. The east corner of the addition forms a hipped roof, while the north facade's roofline is gabled. Originally the addition's north facade was composed of a window and door set into a vertical line west of the gable peak. Another entrance, that led to a stone-lined well, was located on the addition's projecting west wall. Both entranceways were walled-in during the 1970s.

The doors and windows of the main portion have splayed lintels, while second story fenestration is accented with plain wooden lintels. Originally the house had a wood shingled roof and returned eaves. Stove chimneys mark the main section's east and west gable ends.

The porch on the main facade was added during a remodeling in the 1890s. A new porch was constructed on the west facade in 1972, duplicating a structure which dated from the 1890s. In the 1890s a metal roof replaced the wood shingles and the cornice returns were removed.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with historically im- portant personage
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1825, c. 1835, 1840s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gratiot House is significant to the history of Wisconsin as the single remaining building of Gratiot's Grove, once a thriving lead-mining settlement in the southwestern portion of the state. Gratiot's Grove was founded in 1826 on an important wagon and stagecoach route connecting Galena with Chicago; the settlement became a major stopping place during the 1830's. The house is further significant for its association with Henry Gratiot, the founder of Gratiot's Grove and an important entrepreneur, Indian agent, and regional leader in the lead-mining district.¹ The Gratiot House also is significant to the architectural history of Wisconsin as a good vernacular example of the Georgian tradition expressed through local construction methods.

ARCHITECTURE

The Gratiot house represents the continuation of an architectural tradition in the vernacular expression of a pioneer community. By the time the Gratiot House was built, the Georgian styles had been superseded by the Greek Revival in the more settled areas, but early pioneers built their first fine houses in the earlier design modes which had become incorporated into the vernacular building tradition. Thus, many of the permanent houses of the first settlers were simplified versions of older architectural styles. The Gratiot house is a good vernacular example of Georgian influences as interpreted in pioneer Wisconsin. The exterior of the house has been altered only by the additions of porches on the west and south facades (ca. 1890), a new metal, raised-seam roof, and the removal of the cornice returns. On the main section's south facade, five openings across each story show the Georgian desire for a strong symmetrical pattern. Originally the interior was composed of a central stairway that divided each floor into a two-room plan.

The house is an imposing sight, a definite contrast to the small farmhouses of the surrounding rolling agricultural country. Located two miles south of present-day Shullsburg, it is the most distinctive landmark in the area. The Gratiot House is also significant as an example of indigenous American building techniques of the nineteenth century. The coursed ashlar on the main facade and almost rubblestone surface on the remaining sides gives a rich texture to its simple form. Through the use of wood splayed lintels to emphasize the windows and doors, the builder showed a desire for originality. The house is the largest limestone residence in Lafayette County and recalls an era when Gratiot's Grove was a thriving lead-mining settlement.

HISTORY

The Gratiot House is the last standing building of the once active mining settlement of Gratiot's Grove. Founded by Henry Gratiot and his brother Bion, Gratiot's Grove was for a time one of the most important settlements in the Wisconsin lead region.

1. Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, 148

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Gratiot, Henry," in Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography (Madison, 1960), 148

See continuation sheet

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5

Quadrangle Name: Shullsburg, Wis.-Ill.

Scale: 1:24000

Note: Map with UTM ticks not available

~~UTM COORDINATES~~ Coordinates: 42° 33' 09" N
90° 13' 52" W

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Andrea J. Lazarski and David Donath, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

October 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

816 State Street

608/262-8904

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 X

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 Kerner

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 10/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Shuck

DATE 1-8-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Kristin O'Connell*

DATE 1/8/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Gratiot House, Shullsburg vicinity, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Gratiots were of French descent and were related to the influential Chouteau family which had controlled St. Louis from its founding as a French fur-trading post. Henry and Bion Gratiot came upriver to Galena in 1825 and during the next year were able to establish a mining settlement at the Grove, in Winnebago territory, largely due to Henry Gratiot's rapport with the tribe. Identified by the Indians as more French than American, Gratiot was able, with the help of a half-breed Winnebago woman named Catherine Myott, to obtain tribal permission to mine the Gratiot's Grove area. Other whites who had tried to mine these and other rich lead deposits north of the Illinois border were driven out by the Indians.

Because of the distance of their settlement from Galena, the Gratiots, who employed a substantial number of miners and workers, built smelting furnaces at their diggings and began to develop a center there with services not previously available north of Galena. In 1829 Caleb Atwater found twenty families, including those of the Gratiot brothers, living permanently at the Grove; the community boasted several lead smelting furnaces, a post office, and a dry goods store. By the mid- to late 1830s Gratiot's Grove, situated on the transportation nexus that linked Galena with Chicago, was counted the most important place between the two cities. During its boom period Gratiot's Grove produced upwards of \$600,000 worth of lead annually, based on the amount of taxes its smelteries paid the United States Government. By the 1840's the settlement had a population of about 1500, although its number fluctuated due to the seasonal nature of early lead mining.²

Henry Gratiot created a temporary entrepreneurial monopoly in the area. In company with his brother-in-law, William Hempstead, who owned the major lead furnace in Galena, Gratiot purchased large tracts of land in the lead region, which the pair leased to prospecting miners. The ore from these diggings went either to Gratiot's or Hempstead's smelting furnaces. Gratiot directed his interest not only to the production of lead but also to enterprises which supported the lead-mining community's economy. He was a partner in a sawmill in 1829, he opened a general store in Gratiot's Grove, and five years later he built a flour mill which is thought to have been the first in the Wisconsin lead region.

Gratiot's most notable contribution to the lead region, however, was his role in Indian affairs. His relationship with the Winnebago which had enabled him to settle at the Grove placed him in an important position in the territory during the late 1820s and early 1830s. The negotiation of a treaty in 1829 confirmed his position of trust and respect with the Winnebago people and won for him an appointment as Indian agent. He was instrumental in keeping the Winnebago out of the Black Hawk War,³ and other tribes, such as the Rock River Indians, requested his services as emissary to plead their cases before the federal government.

2. Read, Mary J., "A Population Study...."

3. Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, 148

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

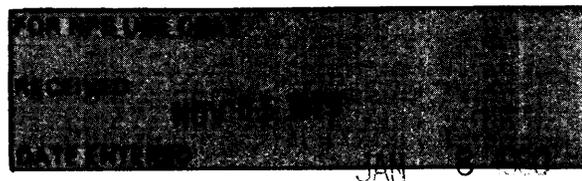
In 1833 Gratiot sold most of his mining interests to his brother Bion and devoted his own energy to farming and other pursuits. It is believed that he built his house around 1835, although it cannot be documented from primary sources. A year later Gratiot died while returning from Washington, D. C. His wife, Susan, continued to live in the house and his son Edward returned to the Grove and lived there also. Edward carried on the family's farming operations and entered the mercantile business. Like his father he was soon involved in a variety of activities and became an important member of the community. He engaged in the lumber trade and opened yards in Platteville, Darlington, and Belmont. He formed a small manufacturing firm and marketed his invention, the "Gratiot Patent Heater," a device used to draw the moisture out of wheat, enabling it to yield a higher quality flour. He also served for four years as treasurer of Lafayette County.⁴

By the 1890s the period of extensive lead-mining in southwestern Wisconsin had passed and Gratiot's Grove, long decayed, was an abandoned boom town. Today all has disappeared with the exception of the Gratiot house. It is probable that the area possesses great potential for historical archeology, and Gratiot's Grove certainly warrants further historical research. Meanwhile the Gratiot house stands as the sole visible reminder of the old lead-region community's heyday.

4. Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Rock....(Chicago, 1901)

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Gratiot House, Shullsburg vicinity, Lafayette County, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract for part of E-1/2 of SE-1/4 of Section 15-1-2, Citizen's Bank and Trust, Warren, Illinois 61087

Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Rock, Green, Grant, Iowa and LaFayette, Wisconsin, Chicago, J. H. Beers and Company, 1901.

Gratiot, Adele DeP., "Adele DeP. Gratiot's Narrative," Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Vol. X, (1888) pp. 261-275.

Gratiot, Susan, Letters of August 11, 1833 to October 4, 1835, Archives, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

"Galena and its Lead Mines," Harper's New Monthly Magazine, #CXC11, (May 1866), pp. 681-696.

History of LaFayette County, Chicago, Western Historical Co., 1881.

History of Shullsburg, Wisconsin, 1827-1927, Shullsburg, Centennial Committee, 1927.

Read, Mary J.. "A Population Study of Driftless Hill Land During the Pioneer Period," unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1941.

Rodolf, Theodore, "Pioneering in the Wisconsin Lead Region," Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. XV, (1900).

Shaefer, Joseph, The Wisconsin Lead Region, Madison State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1932.

Washburne, Elihu B., "Col. Henry Gratiot," Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1888, Vol. X, pp. 235-260.

Maps

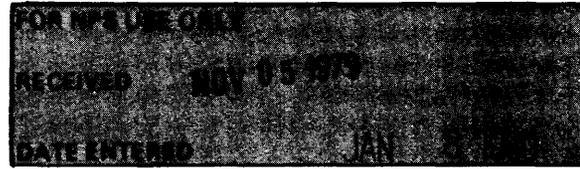
David Dale Owen, Map of Lead Region, 1839.

Chandler, R.W., Map of the United States Lead Mines of the Upper Mississippi River, 1829.

Surveyor's Notes, The U. S. Territorial Survey, 1832, Vol. 1.

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10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the east 1/2 of the S.E.-1/4 of Section 15-1-2:
Commencing at a point in the centerline of the town road which is 2916.63 feet east of the South 1/4 corner of Section 15 T1N, R1E, LaFayette County, Wisconsin; thence east, 215.21 feet along said centerline, thence north 09-degrees 18'E, 780.56 feet; thence west, 185.05 feet; thence south 05-degrees 30'W, 461.54 feet to the point of the beginning, containing 3.53 acres more or less.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

J. W. Hatfield
Star Route
Shullsburg, WI 535