

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME	
COMMON: Church (Benjamin) House	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC: Kilbourntown House	Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. Henry S. Reuss

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Parkway Drive, Estabrook Park 1/8 mi. N. of East Capitol Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee <i>Shawwood</i>			
STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 53212	COUNTY: Milwaukee	CODE: 079

3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Milwaukee County Park Commission	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Milwaukee RECEIVED NOV 19 1971 NATIONAL REGISTER 53233
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 North 9th Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	
STATE: Wisconsin	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Milwaukee County Courthouse	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Milwaukee CODE: 53233 CODE: 55
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 North 9th Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	
STATE: Wisconsin	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Milwaukee ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FEB 23 1972
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	
STATE: District of Columbia	

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Church house, built by Church, a carpenter, in 1843, is a somewhat diminutive Temple style Greek Revival structure. It is a one-story, five-room frame house with an attic. Seriatim, front to rear in the main house, are living room, dining room and kitchen. The front door opens directly into the living room. Symmetrically flanking the living and dining rooms is a small bedroom wing on each side. A stairway leads from the kitchen to the attic.

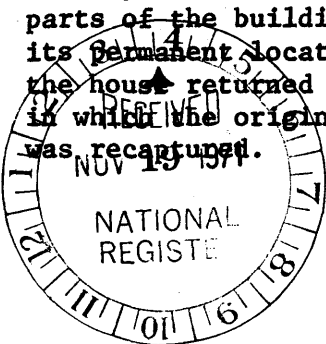
At the front is a Doric tetraprostyle portico with fluted columns which support the entablature. There is no pediment as the portico extension of the main house roof is hipped. The flanking wings also have hipped roofs. The rear is a gable end, however, with pilasters at the corners to support the cornice returns. Between the studs there is brick nogging.

The house was moved in 1939 from its original location to avoid demolition, placed in Estabrook Park, restored, and opened to the public as a museum. The move was a cooperative effort on the part of the Wisconsin Society of Colonial Dames, the Milwaukee County Historical Society, and the Milwaukee County Park Commission. The Colonial Dames undertook the task of furnishing the house appropriately for its period and have continued their interest as custodians. In late 1970 a fire caused internal damage amounting to about \$12,000, with most of the loss confined to the furnishings and minimal damage to the interior structure of the house itself. Repair and restoration of the interior have been in progress during the summer of 1971 and should be completed by late autumn. Concurrently the Colonial Dames are preparing to refurnish the house.

The house is sided with clapboards. The front opening is a plain framed single door with a single vertical panel. The two front windows, one on either side of the door, are plain framed, 6-paned double hung sash. On the side of each wing toward the front of the house is a single, simple, small window which matches the main front windows. Windows on the sides and downstairs rear are single-paned double hung sash, but there is a pair of six-paned double sash windows at the rear of the main house at attic level, quite small in size.

At the time when the Church house was measured for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936, the delineator noted on his drawings that there had been numerous additions to the house over the years that were not in harmony with the original house, and drew detailed plans only of the original parts of the building. When the house was restored after being moved to its permanent location in Estabrook Park, these additions were removed and the house returned to its original state. It is thus a faithful restoration in which the original charm of this early Milwaukee Greek Revival house was recaptured.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. 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) **1843**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

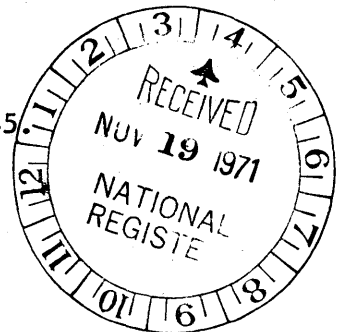
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Perrin, many of Wisconsin's earliest Greek Revival buildings followed details of design which were published in various handbooks, of which one of the most popular was Minard LaFever's "The Young Builder's General Instructor," published in 1829. Perrin goes on to state, "If any of the remaining old Greek Revival houses seems to have an air of quiet dignity and the charm of good proportions and refined detail, its design was probably taken from one of the handbooks of Minard LaFever or his contemporaries."¹

Such a building is the Benjamin Church house, an excellent example of the Temple style of Greek Revival frame houses and one of Milwaukee's oldest and best-known landmarks. It was built in 1843 when the city was still a small settlement and is one of few survivals of its day and probably the only one of its kind in Milwaukee if not in the state as a whole. It is quite small and varies from the more frequently seen Temple style Greek Revival houses in lacking a pedimented portico and having a hipped roof on both house and wings, but there is much refinement of detail in the treatment of cornices, columns and pilasters. Much of its charm and dignity lie in its simplicity as well as its symmetry and excellent proportion. This house is exactly the kind of building that led the late architect, Alexander Carl Guth, to express wonder at the skill with which early day builders in Wisconsin constructed houses with much classical refinement without the benefit of professional architects, the availability of handbooks like LaFever's notwithstanding.²

1. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 28.
2. Guth, "Early Day Architects in Wisconsin," 141-145.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kohler, Ruth de Young, Wisconsin's Historic Sites, The Committee on Wisconsin Women, Kohler, Wis., 1948, 15.
 Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1950, 130, 137.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wis. Chapter, AIA, Milwaukee, 1960, 19.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, 1962, 28-31.
 Guth, Alexander Carl, "Early Day Architects in Wisconsin," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 18: 141-145.

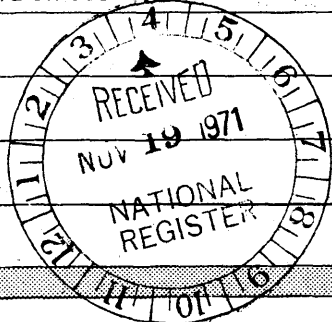
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 43° 05' 27"	W 87° 53' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.2

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **8/19/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 NOV 12 1971

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

Ernest A. Conroy
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 23 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:
William M. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **FEB 8 1972**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

on NR
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 11 1976

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

See
ITEM NUMBER Below PAGE 1

Property: (Church, Benjamin, House,) Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

2. Correct location: Parkway Drive, Estabrook Park
Village of Shorewood, Wisconsin (not City of Milwaukee)

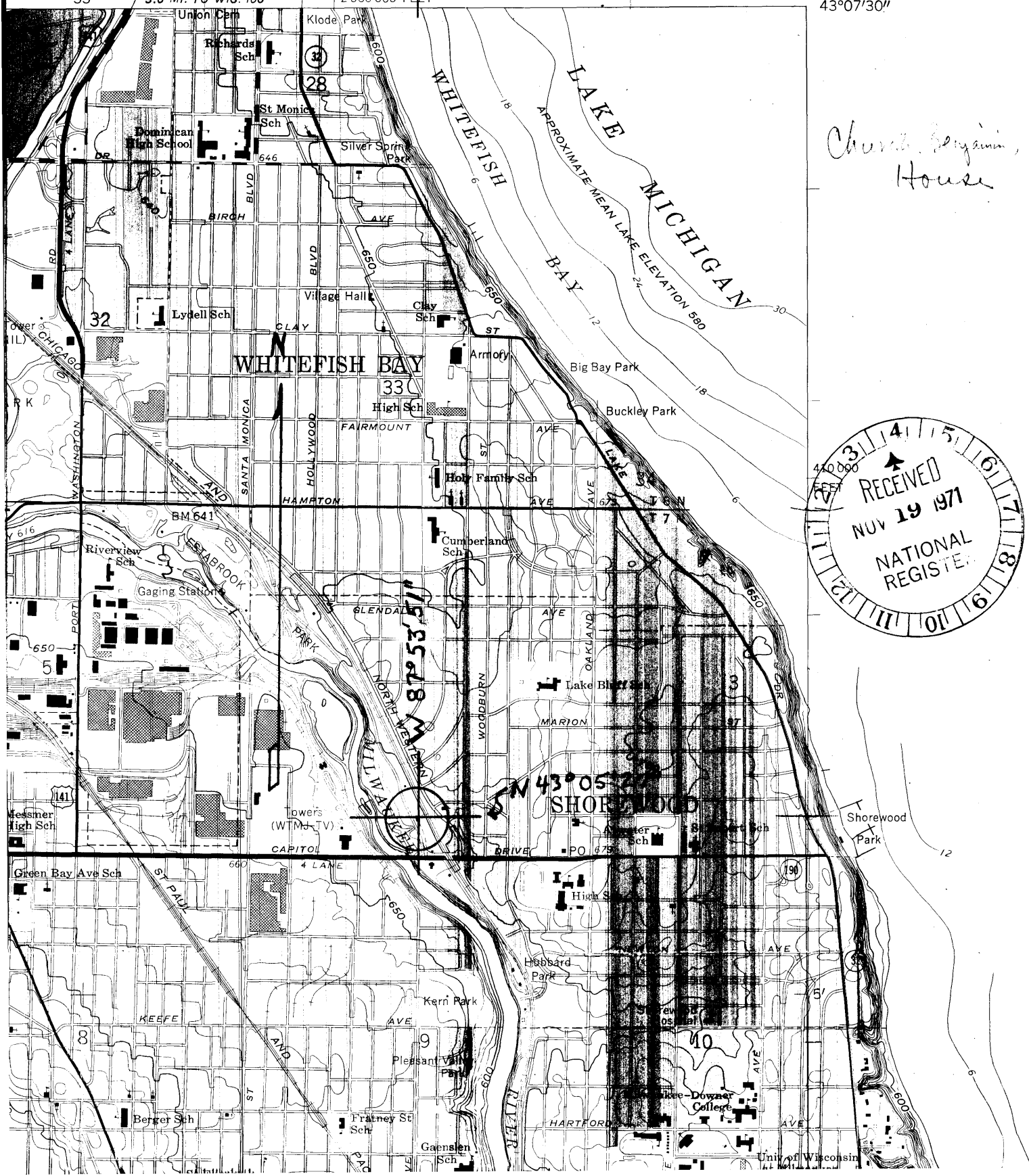
10. U.T.M. Reference (corrected siting): 16/426910/4771130

New U.S.G.S. Quadrangle attached showing both correct siting and U.T.M. reference.

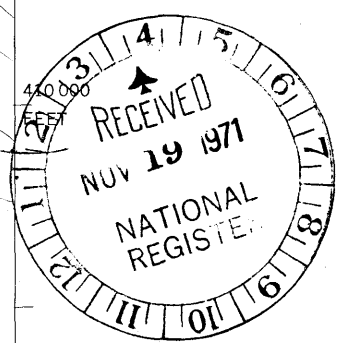
MILWAUKEE QUADRANGLE
 WISCONSIN—MILWAUKEE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(MILWAUKEE 1:62 500)

55' 4.7 MI. TO U.S. 141
 3.6 MI. TO WIS. 100 FOX POINT 2.4 MI.
 2 560 000 FEET 195 5 87°52'30"
 43°07'30"



Chubb Benjamin House



N 43° 05' 20" W
87° 53' 51" W