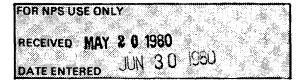
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior

The Eggleston house is a small, vernacular farmhouse of stone rubble construction. The main block is one-and-one-half stories high with a gabled roof of moderate pitch. The stonework is of small, roughly cut pieces of limestone laid up in rows with large dressed stone quoins at the corners. The fornt (southwest) facade contains two large windows of the same width. The two second floor windows are closer together. A red brick exterior chimney was added in the twentieth century. The northwest facade of the main block is pierced by four openings--two windows on thefirst floor, a smaller basement window and a wide, below-grade doorway which has been blocked up. Two windows light the second story of the main block from the back. All windows have wooden sills and lintels and are double-hung. A wide flat board trims the cornice line of the main block.

Behind a doorway in the southeast side of the main block projects a narrow, one-story wing. The windows, cornice, roofline, and stonework of the wing match that of the main section. The front facade of this wing features a doorway close to the main block which is flanked on each side by a window. Two windows light the end of this wing. Marks in the stonework indicate that a porch once graced the front of the wing.

A long, low gabled wing of matching stone extends to the back of the house. A doorway flanked by a window on each side is located close to the southeast wing on the southeast side. A small hood over the door and high concrete steps probably replace and earlier wood frame porch. On the same side of the rear wing, another below grade door with a stone lintel has been partially blocked with bricks, with the remaining opening glazed. The rear (northeast) facade is pierced by the back door and a small wooden linteled window. Concrete steps lead to this door, too, which has a stone lintel. The northwest side of the rare wing has one large, six-over-six window and two smaller openings.

The Eggleston house is located on a rise overlooking US Highway 14. The outbuildings around it are recent construction, including two frame sheds, two large metal barns and a concrete block milking parlor. Old maps indicate that the original farm buildings were located across the street. None of the existing outbuildings are historically significant. Several twentieth century maps also show another farmhouse on the property located close to the norhtwest corner of the farm. This building is also no longer extant.

Interior

The interior of the Eggleston house is more spacious than the exterior suggests. Under the main block and the rear wing are full basements. Heavy radially sawn timbers support the first floor. Piles of boulders several feet thick and set in mortar encircle the thick stone basement walls. A crawl space extends under the southeast wing

The first floor of the house contains six large rooms, a large closet and bathroom. One enters from the door on the main facade into a large living room in the southeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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wing. To the right is a narrow room at the end of the wing with a small closet added later. To the left are three openings through the thick stone walls of the main block. These openings are trimmed with painted and molded wood panels of a simple, but elegant neo-classical design. One opening leads to the plain staircase which is conenclosed by plaster walls and is undecorated. The other two lead into the two rooms in the main section, which are connected to each other by door. Unlike the woodwork in the rest of the house which is very plain, the door and window architecture in these two rooms are Greek Revival in inspiration with multiple moldings and dog-ears at the top corners. The sides of all windows in the house are splayed so that the interior wall openings are larger than the exterior.

A wide archway separates the southeast wing from a large room in the rear wing. Waist-high wainscoting trims this room. To the left are the large walk-in closet, lit by a small window which appears to have been added later, and a large bathroom. Behind the main room is the kitchen with built-in cupboards, and a stairway leading to the basement.

Upstairs in the main block are a wide hall, a front bedroom with built-in closet and a small back bedroom.

The difference in window trim on the main block seems to indicate that that section was built first.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599		ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCAŢIQN	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ARTc	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT attributed to Sereno W. Graves

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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and the state of a state of a state of The Eggleston farmhouse is eligible for the National Register both for its architecture and its history. It is a relatively intact example of stone construction, a folkcraft popular in parts of Dane County inditseearly settlement days but almost lost to modern builders. In addition, its sequence of occupants echoes the historic development in Rutland township.

1. . . .

Architecture

The Egglestone farmhouse is constructed of limestone native to the area. It is one of a smallcluster of five stone farmhouses in the township (a stone barn and a stone 👘 🧎 schoolhouse are also located in this cluster). All seven of these buildings could probably be nominated to the National Register as a thematic group, but this is beyond the scope of this project.

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It is probable that these buildings, including the Eggleston farmhouse, were constructed by Sereno W. Graves. A Vermont native, Graves settled in 1844 on a farm in Section 28, within a mile of Daniel Pond's claim. Graves, a prominent farmer and politician, was probably the most important individual in the Town of Rutland in the 19th century. As a young man in Wethersfield, Vermont, Graves learned the stonemason's trade, an occupation which he practiced in the summers when he was not teaching school. In the Town of Rutland he developed a stone quarry on his property and built for his own family a stone house with Greek Revival detail. In 1860 he built a stone schoolhouse for community on his land at a crossroads hamlet which is still known as "Stone".

The cluster of stone buildings of which the Eggleston farmhouse is a part is a small, isolated group surrounded for several miles by frame farmhouses, most of which have been muchtaltered since their construction. These stone buildings represent a method of construction used by the pioneer American farmers who emmigrated from New England and who used available native materials to construct homes of stability and endurance.

The coursed stone rubble of the Eggleston farmhouse, with its matching mortar, is of a lovely warm color. Although the building lacks stylistic details which would make it more imposing to modern eyes, the building displays a fine quality of craftmanship. The stone walls and mortar remain in excellent condition with only one small crack and above the rear doorway. The stone quoins and boulder wall buttresses in the basement have contributed to the structure's stability.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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In his book on historic Wisconsin buildings, Richard W. E. Perrin (1962:90) a leading Wisconsin architectural historian, pleads for the preservation of Wisconsin's vernacular stone buildings, like the Eggleston farmhouse. He states that "communing functional usefulness assures the preservation of some of the best old stone churches; and residences, but the loss of stone mills and lesser buildings is so rapid that very few will survive unless positive steps are taken to preserve and restore them."

History

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The patterns of ownership of the Eggleston property reflects the historical pattern of settlement in the Town of Rutland. It was first settled by Daniel Pond and his family, one of the first three families in the township, and natives of Vermont, as were many other families in the southern part of Rutland. Later other Yankee families owned the property and developed it into one of the most prosperous farms in the township. In 1893 the Peterson family bought the property. As with many Danish people who made up the major non-English speaking ethnic group in Rutland, Charles C. Peterson and his family had worked their way from penniless farm laborers to prosperous land owners. The Petersons owned the farm for half a century.

Thus the Eggleston farmhouse is a relatively intact representation of the first Yankee settlement in the Town of Rutland, and reflects the gradual rise to economic prosperity of the settlers of this fertile farmland, both Yankee and Dane.

Historical Background

The Town of Rutland, Dane County was first settled permanently in the summer of 1842, when three families took up claims in the southern part of the township along the Janesville and Madison Road (now US Highway 14). These settlers were Joseph Dejean and family, John Prentis and his father, and Daniel Pond, a Vermonter who settled on the land now known as the Eggleston farm. In 1845 many more settlers arrived in the southern part of the town, which because of the previous home of many of these families became known as the "Vermont settlement." The lands of the town were largely burr-oak openings and marshland with no large water sources. Because of this, land speculators were not interested in the area, allowing poorer pioneers to take up claims for the land.

In 1850 the population of the township was largely Yankee. Sixty-nine % of the population (total 759) in 1850 were born in the northeastern United States, 7% were foreign born and all of settlers were English-speaking. The township remained largely a Yankee community throughout the nineteenth century. Gradually a Danish contingent developed so that by 1880 the Danish settlement was quite sizeable.

The soil in the Town of Rutland proved well adapted to farming purposes. By 1850, eighty-five farms in the township produced 19,257 bushels of grain, mostly wheat.

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After the cinch bug devoured thousands of acres of Wisconsin's wheat in the 1850's Rutland's farmers diverisified their production, raising clover, cattle, pork and wool, butter and cheese along with corn and grain. After the turn of the century the major agricultural pursuits included dairying, cattle, and tobacco.

The farm that Daniel Pond settled on quickly became among the most prosperous in the township. In 1850 his farm was valued in the census at \$2,000, a larger sum than most. In that year, his family harvested 400 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of 0 corn;=500 bushels of oats, 150 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 10 bushels upfor the addition his sixty sheep (a very large number) produced 300 pounds of wool and the Pond's five cows produced 100 pounds of cheese and 600 pounds of butter. All of these sums (except for barley and corn) are larger than the average farm in Rutland township.

At that time, the one-and-one-half story section of the stone farmhouse may have already been built. Unfortunately, fluctuations in tax assessments, the large number of mortgages taken out by the farmers in Rutland and the relatively small value of the farmhouses compared to the land make it impossible to ascertain an exact date of the construction from a reading of the records. However, the Greek Revival moldings on the architraves of the fenestration in the one-and-one-half story block indicate that that portion of the house was constructed at a fairly early date.

Daniel Pond lived on the farm with his wife and two children, an older man named Temperance Monger, his son and daughter-in-law and a young single farmer, Stewart Shampmore. In 1954 the Pond farm was bought by the James P. Kniffin family, pioneer settlers from New York who had previously owned a farm valued in 1850 at \$800. James Kniffin and his wife Esther at the time had two nearly-grown children, Mary (age 20) and Lloyd (age 14). Under the Kniffin's ownership the farm continued to prosper. In he 1860 census, it was worth \$4,500, again a value substantially higher than the average. In that year the farm produced 200 bushels of wheat, 1,500 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of oats and 60 bushels of potatoes. The Kniffins also produced 200 pounds of butter and had a small number of pigs, cows and horses.

In 1870 the farm was valued at about \$8,000 and earned \$1,848, \$450 more than the average farm in the township. The Kniffins had a large number of swine (60), and a total crop production similiar to that of 1860. It appears that later the same year James Kniffin, who was then 61, retired from farming, because on October 6 he deeded all of his lands excluding the house and its yard to his son Lloyd, who had been farming on 133 acres in the southwest quarter of Section 32. Four years later the Kniffins were forced by sheriff sale to sell the farm. They had quite extensive holdings however and continued to farm in Rutland. John and Thomas Alsop, prominent farmers who owned much land in northern Rock and Southern Dane Counties, bought the Eggleston property.

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In 1893 Thomas Alsop sold the farm to Charles C. Peterson, one of the Danish immigrants who were forming their small community in the township. Charles C. Peterson was born on a farm in Meribo, Denmark in 1861. Eight years later he came to the United States with his family who secured sixty eight acres in the Town of Rutland. His life followed the pattern of amny poor Scandinavian immigrants to Dane County. At the age of sixteen, he began working as a farm laborer until he had enough cash to rent a farm. In 1889 he purchased eighty acres in the township which sold four years later to buy the Eggleston property, which at that time contained 193 acres. By 1906, Peterson was very prosperous. He had added 160 acres to his holdings, grew nine acres of tobacco, 100 acres of corn, 25 of hay and 50 of oats. In 1883 Peterson married Katie Hansen, who had come to Wisconsin from Denmark four years earlier. They had tenochildren. Peterson, served on the local school board and belonged to the Modern Woodmen. He died in 1915 and his wife died in 1930. The farm remained in the Peterson family until 1944 when it was bought by Cleland S. Baker, president, treasurer and general manager of Baker Manufacturing, the leading industry in Evansville at the time. The farm went through a succession of short-term owners, after the Bakers, until Michael Eggleston sold it to the United States governmet in 1979.

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ITEM NUMBER 9

Atlas of Dane County, in the collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison (1926).

Biographical Review of Dane County, Wisconsin. Chicago (1893).

"Cleland S. Baker, Noted Evansville Industrialist, Dies," <u>Wisconsin State Journal</u> (June 3, 1962).

Commemorative Biographical Record on the Counties of Rock, Green, Grant, Iowa and Lafayette, Wisconsin. Chicago (1901)

- Dane County Tax Records, 1844 to present, in the collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
- Drury, J. This is Dane County, Wisconsin. Madison (1950).
- History of Dane County, Wisconsin (1880).
- History of Dane County, Biographical and Geneological, Madison (1906).

History of Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Territories. Madison (1877).

Keyes, E. <u>History of Dane County, Wisconsin</u>. Madison (1906).

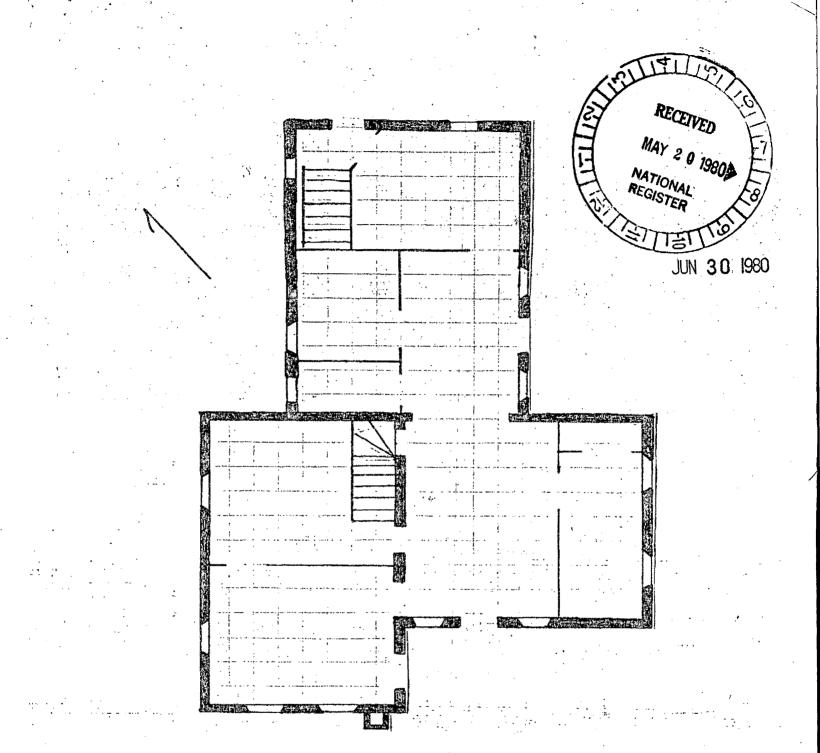
Ligowsky, <u>Map of Dane County</u>, in the collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1861).

Perrin R. W. E. Historic Wisconsin Buildings. Milwaukee (1962).

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EGGLESTON FARIMOUSE First Floor Plan (Not to scale)