


City, Village or Town: 1 Hudson		County: St. Croix	Surveyor: R. LaRowe	Date: 10/4/83
Street Address: 427 St. Croix Street		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: Hudson/Zone 15, easting: 519490; northing: 4980840		Acreage: less than one acre
Current Name & Use: Private Residence		Current Owner: Dr. J. B. Tegner		
Film Roll No. SC 1 SC 37		Current Owner's Address: 5636 Edgewater Blvd., Minneapolis, MN		
Negative No. 32 17		Legal Description: 55417 Lot #12, Block #3, Comstock and Denniston's Addition		
Facade Orient. S				

Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
2 August Johnson Residence <i>House</i>	A	NA			
Dates of Construction /Alteration c. 1902 to 1906	B, E				
Architect and/or Builder: August Johnson	C, D				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master

Possesses high artistic values

Represents a type, period, or method of construction

Engineering

None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons

Assoc. with significant historical events

Assoc. with development of a locality

Other: _____

None Period of significance: _____

Architectural Description and Significance:

Description: Local contractor August Johnson built his two-story vernacular dwelling with an irregular plan which, coupled with the simplified architectural detailing, suggests the transitional phase between Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Built circa 1906, the structure's paramount interest is its unique method of construction, consisting of cobblestones cast in concrete blocks and laid common block pattern with concrete stucco corner boards. The asymmetrical gable roof has a boxed cornice with returns and a concrete

Interior visited? Yes No

Historical Background and Significance:

Background: August Johnson, born in Sweden, came to America in 1887 settling in Stillwater, MN. (E) He made Hudson his permanent place of residence in 1899 and was a contractor/stone mason by trade. Johnson took several years to complete his house at 427 St. Croix Street, casting rubble into concrete blocks in the basement of a grocery store/residence located at 502 St. Croix. (C) Johnson's mastery of the trade is evident in his workmanship and his contemporaries noted that "he gave personal attention to the minutest detail...". (D)

- 5** Sources of Information (Reference to Above)
- A** Miller, Hudson Star-Observer, Hudson, WI Interview, April, 1983.
- B** Date based on general research documentation by R. LaRowe, Project Consultant (see #E)
- C** Anderson, Lawrence. Hudson, WI, Interview April, 1983
- D** Obituary Notice, Hudson Star-Observer, April 2, 1936.
- E** Warranty Deed, St. Croix County Register of Deeds, Hudson, WI, Liber 86/545 May 23, 1902
- F**

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS LDMK WIHP NRHP

other: _____

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: NA

pivotal contributing non-contributing

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

date: 10-4-83 initials: *(Signature)*

eligible not eligible unknown

national state local

Street: St. Croix Street
 Number: 427
 Town: Hudson
 Range:
 Section:
 Map Name: Hudson/North Hudson Intensive Survey Map
 Map Code: SC 37-17

Architectural Statement (cont'd):

frieze set with diamond shaped stones. Windows are 1/1 with lug sills and lintels, some radiating and others rectangular, constructed in the same manner as the edifice. The masonry theme is repeated in the limestone and random rubble foundation which is capped with a beveled concrete watertable. A Queen Anne window is located in the south gable. Round windows are found in the east and west gables while a rectangular window is in the north gable. The closed southside porch, constructed of random stones, has 3/2 windows. A decorative leaded and beveled glass transom is located over a southside window. Interior features include entablature shelf lintels with bead moldings over doors and windows, pocket and hinged doors with raised panels and brass hardware, and an open single landing staircase in the entry hall with a turned spindle railing and newel posts carved with beads, sunflowers, and foliage. Oak is the wood used throughout the first floor while fir woodwork trims the second floor. The house now serves as a multi-family dwelling.

Significance: Random cobblestones set in concrete blocks which are laid in common block fashion is the distinctive characteristic of the transitional vernacular Colonial Revival residence at 427 St. Croix Street in Hudson. Erected around 1906, no other structure in the community rivals the unique construction employed by local constructor/stone mason August Johnson. This is the finest example of this unique type of construction known to exist in Wisconsin and has state level of significance.

Historical Statement (cont'd):

Other examples of Johnson's craftsmanship still standing in Hudson including the City Hall (1927), which is also being nonimated, the Masonic Temple, and the Old Rex Theatre, currently known as the Hudson Theatre. However, the life of August Johnson, his association with the events and development in/of the community are not justifiably significant.